

**SUMMARY REPORT  
FROM THE  
GOLDEN CRAB COMMITTEE MEETING  
Key West, FL  
June 13, 2011**

The Golden Crab Committee met on June 13, 2011, in Key West, Florida. The Committee received a report on Golden Crab Landings from NOAA Fisheries Service. The Committee then discussed NOAA guidance on how to proceed in development of a catch share program in accordance with the Jones Amendment. NOAA GC advised that the Council can continue development of the Golden Crab Catch Shares Amendment, but the Secretary of Commerce cannot currently approve the amendment. Council staff presented a summary of comments received on publication of a control date (Dec 7, 2010) for the Golden Crab fishery.

The Committee reviewed draft Amendment 6 for Golden Crab. (Note: Amendment 6 was previously referred to as Amendment 5, but it should be clarified that CE-BA1 included Golden Crab Amendment 4 and the Comprehensive ACL Amendment includes Golden Crab Amendment 5.) The draft amendment included new text and analysis, including analyses of all eligibility- allocation alternatives (n=69). Council staff presented each action in the amendment and the Committee discussed and made some changes to alternatives, which are recorded in the motions below. The Committee asked for the Golden Crab AP to review the current document with the new analysis, and staff will present the AP recommendations at the next Council meeting.

Council staff was asked to revise Purpose and Need of the draft amendment to better explain how and why the catch share program is the best way to address management concerns for the golden crab fishery. The Committee also requested clarification for several of the actions and how these specifically apply to the fishery and how they are tied to management objectives. Additionally, staff will get information about applying for the Fisheries Finance Program, which would set up a loan program for new entrants and small operations to purchase golden crab catch shares when the program is implemented.

**The Committee made the following motions:**

MOTION 1: REMOVE ACTION 2.

MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

*Action 2 defines substantial participants.*

*This is similar to Action 3, which defines eligibility criteria for initial allocation.*

MOTION 2: REMOVE ACTION 7 FROM GOLDEN CRAB AMENDMENT 6.

MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

*Action 7 defined criteria for program duration.*

*The IPT had recommended that these alternatives do not need to be included in the document, and the Council can make changes at any time for program duration.*

MOTION 3: REMOVE ACTION 8 FROM THE DOCUMENT GOLDEN CRAB AMENDMENT 6.

MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

*Action 8 defined criteria for program review.*

*The IPT recommended that these alternatives do not need to be included in the documents. MSA mandates that the program is reviewed every 5-7 years and this does not need to be analyzed in document.*

MOTION 4: CONSIDER ADDITIONAL ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 10 THAT CAP OWNERSHIP AT 25, 35, AND 45%.

MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

*Action 10 defines share ownership caps. Currently the alternatives include a cap based on the maximum shares allocated initially to an individual; and caps at 55%, 65%, and 75% of total shares.*

MOTION 5: MOVE ACTION 23 TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED SECTION.

MOTION APPROVED.

*Action 23 establishes a guaranteed loan program using funds from cost recovery funds. The Council can apply for a loan program through NOAA for the Fisheries Finance Program.*