

OVERVIEW

Limited Access Privilege Program Committee Meeting

June 10, 2008
Renaissance Orlando Hotel Airport
5445 Forbes Place
Orlando, FL

At this meeting of the Limited Access Privilege Program Committee, the Committee needs to: (A) hear a presentation on the results of Council staff discussions with tilefish fishermen about LAPs and take action if necessary; (B) hear a presentation from snapper grouper fisherman, Bruce Irwin, on a proposal for a property rights based management program; (C) hear a presentation from Eileen Dougherty on sector allocation programs; and (D) discuss LAP outreach efforts the Committee would like to pursue.

A. Presentation of Tilefish Fishermen Preferences for a LAP Program (Attachments 1-3)

Kate Quigley will provide the LAP Committee with an overview of discussions with tilefish fishermen about their preference for a tilefish LAP program. The Committee needs to discuss if they would like an amendment drafted for a tilefish LAP program. If so, possible alternatives for consideration in an amendment might include:

- Option 1: Status quo
- Option 2: Develop a LAP for the tilefish fishery
- Option 3: Develop guidelines for sector allocation programs
- Option 4: Endorsement with season start date change to September 1st
- Option 5: Permit stacking

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide staff guidance regarding whether a draft amendment should be created and an appropriate timeline for the document.

B. Proposal for a Property Rights Based Management Program (Attachments 4 & 5)

Fisherman Bruce Irwin will present a proposal to the Committee for a property rights based program for a group of south Florida fishermen. The program being proposed will have similarities to sector allocation programs, cooperatives, and Regional Fishery Associations within LAP programs as defined in the MSA. "Sector allocation" refers to a program implemented in New England that allocated a portion of the commercial quota (based on the individuals' catch histories) to a group of commercial fishermen for the purpose of

coordinating harvest and implementing management tools specific to their gear usage, vessel capability, and geographical location. The New England group managed through sector allocation proposes a management plan to NMFS each year for approval and implements that management plan with coordination from NMFS. A sector allocation program implies allocation of a portion of the commercial quota to a voluntary group of fishermen who work together to implement management strategies that differ from management of the rest of the fishery. To implement a sector allocation program, it would be necessary to implement guidelines for sector allocation programs through the amendment process.

Regional Fishery Associations (RFAs) within LAP programs allow fishermen to combine their individual allocations after initial allocation. The RFA then submits a written management plan to NMFS that outlines how the RFA will manage their combined LAPs. NMFS needs to approve this plan annually. The MSA outline several other requirements of RFAs.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide staff guidance regarding whether a draft amendment on sector allocation guidelines should be created and an appropriate timeline for the document.

C. Introduction to Sector Allocation Programs (Attachment 6)

Eileen Dougherty of Environmental Defense will provide the Committee with an introduction to sector allocation programs. Her presentation will focus on programs developed in the Northeast as well as programs in Alaska and the Pacific coast.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: None

D. Discussion of LAP Outreach Efforts (Attachment 7)

Kate Quigley will provide an overview of the LAP DVD prepared by Kate, Gregg, and Kim for distribution to snapper grouper permit holders. Kim Iverson will provide the LAP Committee with an overview of LAP outreach efforts already achieved and ask the LAP Committee what the Committee would like future outreach efforts to entail.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide staff guidance on future LAP outreach efforts.