

# Catch Shares for the Golden Crab Fishery

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# Program Goal

- Enable the crab fishery to fulfill its potential to deliver high quality live crab anywhere in the world.

# Program Objectives

- Develop catch share management that provides flexibility such that boat repairs and illness do not interrupt the ability of fishermen to make a living.
- Allow for permit stacking on one vessel to maximize efficiency and enable fishing more than one zones in a trip.
- Allow fishermen the ability to sell portions of their harvest privileges via catch shares.
- Allow for increased stewardship opportunities for fishermen to protect corals by allowing for ownership of catch privileges.
- Provide protection for historical participation and traditional fishing grounds by implementing a catch share program that relies on catch history for initial allocation and prevents fishermen exceeding the TAC.

# Eligibility for Initial Allocation

- **Option 1:** Any person holding a current permit as of implementation date (yet unspecified) in any zone is eligible for initial allocation. Eligibility is based on vessel logbook data and varies based on initial allocation formulas under consideration. Catch history is based on currently permitted vessels as of September 2009.

# Vessel Catch History Initial Allocation

- **Option 1:** 2002-08 aggregate catch history by vessel
- **Option 2:** 1995-2008 aggregate catch history by vessel
- **Option 3:** 1998-2008 aggregate catch history by vessel. Vessels with below 5% initial allocation receive an extra 2% per vessel excluding those receiving greater than 30% initial allocation on vessels combined. Extra 2% comes out of highest shareholder. Must have 25,000 pounds aggregate to receive bonus.

# Vessel Catch History Initial Allocation

- **Option 4:** 1998-2008 catch history by vessel and must have catch history since 1998. Vessels below 5% initial allocation receive an extra 5% per vessel...Must have 25,000 pounds aggregate to receive bonus.
- **Option 5:** 2006-2008 catch history by vessel. Vessels fishing between 2007 and 2009 that get less than 10% initial allocation receive an additional 7% per vessel...must have 50,000 pounds aggregate to receive bonus.
- **Option 6:** 2006-08 catch history by vessel. If vessels fished in the last 5 years and received less than 20% initial allocation, 5% bonus...must have 50,000 pounds aggregate to receive bonus...

# Vessel Catch History Initial Allocation

- **Option 7:** 50% catch history + 50% equal allocation
  - Sub-option 1: 1995-2008
    - 1a: Must have 25,000 pounds aggregate to receive equal allocation
    - 1b: Must have 50,000 pounds aggregate to receive equal allocation
  - Sub-option 2: 2005-08
  - Sub-option 3: 2002-08
- **Option 8:** 75% catch history + 25% equal allocation (same sub-options as above)
- **Option 9:** Equal allocation of the TAC
  - Sub-option 1: 11 vessel owners
  - Sub-option 2: 4 active vessels
- **Option 10:** Best 3 years averaged (same sub-options as those under options 7 and 8)

# Permit Catch History Initial Allocation

- Waiting for data to be made available.



# Eligibility for Harvest

- **Preferred Option 1:** Any person holding a current permit in any zone is eligible to participate in the golden crab catch share program. New entrants to the fishery must purchase annual pounds and purchase or lease a permit. There are 11 permits in the fishery and to obtain a permit, someone would have to purchase or lease one of the 11 permits.

# Appeals Process

- **Preferred Option 1:** 1-2% of TAC will be set aside for the appeals process. If set aside is not used, it will be returned back to the overall quota pool and will be redistributed based on the original initial allocation to all share holders. The NMFS Regional Administrator would administer the appeals process. The process will be conducted 90 days after initial allocation and before the bonus is distributed. There will be no hardship clause and the appeals process will rely upon trip tickets to establish additional landings.

# Program Duration

- **Preferred Option 1:** The program will exist in perpetuity unless modified by the SAFMC.

# Program Review

- **Preferred Option 1:** Perform review every 5-7 years. The program reviews would coincide with stock assessments, if possible, so that changes to the program in response to the stock assessment can occur.

# Transferability

- **Preferred Option 1:** Program allows for all or a portion of permanent (quota share) and temporary (annual pounds) sale of quota among all permit holders and those leasing a permit.

# Quota Share Ownership Caps

- **Option 1.** cap on ownership of quota share where the maximum percentage (quota share) initially allocated would serve as the ownership cap.
- **Option 2:** 55%
- **Option 3:** 65%
- **Option 4:** 75%

# Use It or Lose It

- **Preferred Option 1:** Permit owner or person leasing a permit must have used at least 10% of an individual's quota share for one year (fished, quota share sale, or sale of annual lbs) on a cumulative basis during a two year period using a running average.

# Cost Recovery

- As defined by the reauthorized MSA.

\*NMFS cost estimates requested.



# Boat Length Limit

- **Option 1:** Leave boat length limit rule in place.
- **Preferred Option 2:** Eliminate boat length limit rule in the middle and southern zones. (Does not currently apply to the northern zone.)
- Rationale – Greater length is sometime needed after implementation of the RSW system. A larger boat is more efficient. However, the vessel length would be somewhat limited by the catch shares and the quota share ownership cap.

# Zone Issues

- **Preferred Option 1:** Participants can use quota in any zone for which they possess a permit.
- **Preferred Option 2:** Eliminate box in southern zone originally established to protect against very large vessels.
- Rationale – Eliminating the box would allow vessels over 65 feet to participate in that area. Very little fishing has occurred in the Southern Zone, perhaps because of the box, for some time and it is seen as no longer necessary in that the problem that created this solution no longer exists. If you are smaller than 65 feet and have a permit in the Southern Zone, you are currently restricted to fishing in the box and cannot fish outside the box.

# Permit Stacking

- **Preferred Option 1:** Allow for stacking of up to three permits on one vessel so that any zones for which the vessel has a permit can be fished in one trip.

# Monitoring

- **Option 1:** Phase in additional monitoring as necessary based on the economic capacity of the fishery. Explore real-time reporting via electronic monitoring (recording trip tickets and logbook data on a website upon landing).

# Enforcement

- **Option 1:** Consider requiring hail in (at least 3 hrs ahead of time whereby a message could be left or texted in excess of 3 hrs) when landing with location and time or other information deemed necessary by enforcement. The specific hrs of landing and departing are difficult to identify due to weather, tides, and nature of the Gulf Stream. Because crabs are brought in live, time is of the essence. In order to maintain a quality product, landings need to occur immediately upon arrival at the dock. Also, renewing recirculating seawater is not always an option near shore where the water is murky and of low salinity. Therefore, landings need to occur at any time during 24 hrs. Work with LE to determine specifics.

# New Entrants

- **Option 1:** Set aside some amount of annual pounds for new entrants when quota is:
  - Released as part of a violation
  - Lost quota (use or lose provision); and
  - When the TAC exceeds 3 million pounds

# Banking and Borrowing

- **Preferred Option 1:** 20,000 lbs borrowing allowance each year
- **Preferred Option 2:** 20,000 lbs banking allowance each year

\*Are there legal impediments to this?