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FISHERIES

Office of
Sustainable
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Amendment 13

Initial Exploration of Issues and Options

Highly Migratory Species - Advisory Panel Meeting

September 5 & 6, 2018

What is Amendment 13?

An upcoming Amendment to the Consolidated 2006 HMS FMP, *not yet begun*, that may consider (but is not limited to), the following broad topics related to bluefin tuna and related fisheries:

- Respond to the Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) Program Three – year review;
- Other suggestions regarding the pelagic longline fishery (those not related to closed or gear restricted areas that are being considered in a separate action). For example, modify timing of mailing EM hard drive.
- Future of the Atlantic tunas Purse Seine Fishery
- Potential changes to:
 - Bluefin tuna quota allocations (e.g. General Category sub-quota allocations);
 - Other directed bluefin tuna fishery management measures (e.g. allow harpoon use on Charter/Headboat vessels)

Why Will Management Changes be Considered in Amendment 13 ?

➤ Three year review:

- New data, Amendment 7 follow-up, and MSA requirements

➤ Other PLL Fishery items:

- Advisory Panel and public suggestions; Respond to Administration mandate to address redundant, obsolete, or over-reaching regs.

➤ Continuation of the Purse Seine Fishery:

- Advisory Panel and public suggestions; inactive fishery

➤ Changes to the bluefin quota allocations or directed bluefin fishery management:

- Respond to MSA requirement for periodic review of allocations; Respond to Advisory Panel and public suggestions; Potential linkage to pelagic longline or Purse Seine fisheries.

Potential Topics for Consideration Related to the IBQ Program

- Modification of allocation method (e.g., basis of share percentages, annual and in-season allocations, implications of ICCAT quota increase, etc.)
- Authorize Permanent sale of IBQ
 - No or Yes (if yes; who, what, when and where)
- Cap on IBQ shares ownership and/ or usage (i.e., address the MSA provision: “ensure that limited access privilege holders do not acquire an excessive share of the total limited access privileges in the program..”)
- Other changes:
 - Cost Recovery

Modification of IBQ allocation Method – Potential Options

- Status Quo (i.e., high, medium, low tier share percentages);
- Eliminate currently defined shares; Allocate annually to vessels that have fished recently;
- Hybrid of status quo and annual allocation to vessels that have fished recently;
- Develop a new formula to define shareholders;
- Modify requirements regarding regional designation or use (i.e., GOM quota vs ATL quota and accounting rules; only GOM quota can be used to account for GOM bluefin)
- Other options?

Permanent Sale of IBQ – Potential Options

- Status Quo (i.e., no sale of IBQ share; only leasing of IBQ allocation);
- Modify leasing restrictions:
 - Timing – across years
 - Logistical aspects – minimize complexity of transaction
- Allow permanent sale of IBQ shares
 - Sub-Options:
 - Any amount of IBQ
 - Regional Increments (i.e., 0.125 mt or 0.25 mt)
 - Only full percentage amount
 - Allow sale to any entity (e.g., Open access categories, non-fishery interests)
 - Allow sale only to owners of valid longline permitted vessels

Cap on IBQ Shares Ownership or Usage – Potential Options

- Leasing: Status Quo (i.e., cap equivalent to total IBQ allocation);
- Leasing: Lower cap (e.g., set max amount of leased IBQ between 12% and 50% of total amount of IBQ; *12% is maximum an entity leased under IBQ Program*)
- Permanent sale (if allowed): no cap on sale of IBQ;
- Permanent sale (if allowed): cap maximum amount (e.g., set max amount of leased IBQ between 12% and 50% of total amount of IBQ)
- If Permanent sale *not* allowed; cap number of permits owned by an entity;

➤ (current regs require the permit to be associated with a vessel to be allocated IBQ)

➤ MSA 303A provision: “ensure that limited access privilege holders do not acquire an excessive share of the total limited access privileges in the program..”)

Other Aspects of IBQ Program – Potential Options

- Do not require mailing video hard drive at the end of each trip, but mail less frequently (streamline: to reduce time and cost to vessel, because a single trip does not fill the hard drive);
 - Status quo
 - % space is filled
 - Timing (weekly, monthly)
 - No. of trips
- Eliminate requirement that dealer enter dead discards into the IBQ system (the IBQ Program now automatically inputs data from VMS data to account for reported dead discards)
- Other (e.g., think about EM funding in the future)

Potential Topics and Options – Future of Purse Seine Fishery

- Status quo: up to 18.5 % of US quota; Category allocated an amount of quota annually based upon catch during the previous year; guaranteed allocation of 25% (of the 18.5%)
- Sunset the purse seine fishery (reallocate quota)
 - Sub-options
 - Reallocate quota proportionally among bluefin quota categories
 - Reallocate quota to Reserve categories
 - Reallocate quota among bluefin quota categories based on another method.
- Partial or phase-in of sunset of purse seine fishery – sunset at a future date-certain; in the short-term consider:
 - Sub-options
 - Status quo rules: current allocation based on previous year's catch, and leasing
 - Allow to lease quota but not fish
 - Allow to lease quota and only use 25% of maximum quota
 - Allow permanent sale of purse seine quota until sunset date

Potential Topics – Bluefin quota allocations and other directed bluefin fishery topics

- Bluefin quota reallocation;
- General category sub-quota allocations;
- Authorized gears: Harpoon use on Charter/headboat permitted vessels; Ban harpoon use in General category;
- Size/retention limits in Harpoon category;
- Consider different (higher) recreational bluefin limits for headboats;
- Modify filleting at sea rules;
- Streamline vessel and/or dealer reporting;
- Changes to permit process (USCG related regs);
- Remove shortfin mako from 'designated species' (A 7 nomenclature related to IBQ qualification and Cape Hatteras GRA)
- Others?

End of Presentation