Groundfish Amendment 18
Part 1 of 2 - Alternatives

Rachel Feeney

Council Staff

NEFMC
Groundfish Committee Mtg.
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New England
Fishery Management Council

Outline

" Timeline

" GAP, Cte, and Council initial preferences

  . 1. Accumulation Limits

  . 2. Handgear A Permit Measures

  . 3. Data Confidentiality

  . 4. Inshore/Offshore Gulf of Maine

  . 5. Redfish Exemption Area

Note: GAP preferences pending any updates from their Sept. 2, 2015 meeting.

A18 timeline

2015

Aug. 31	Public comment period ends
Sept. 2	Groundfish Advisory Panel mtg
Sept. 3	Groundfish Committee mtg
9/29 – 10/1	Council mtg – FINAL ACTION
Oct.	FEIS submitted to NMFS

2016

Jan.	Public comment period
May	Possible implementation

PSC cap alternatives (Sect 4.1.2)

GAP 1st preferred

Cte preferred

1 **No Action**. No accumulation limit.

Stock-specific PSC cap

2 At highest level held on 4/7/11 (control date)

3 At 15.5 (recommended by Compass Lexecon)
    3A - Excess PSC split off & redistributed

4 By stock type (GOM/CC/SNE=15%, GB=30, unit=20)
    4A - Cap PSC for all stocks
    4B - Cap PSC for GB cod, GOM cod, & pollock

5 At same level (20), except GB winter flounder (30)

Collective cap for all PSC holdings

Council preferred

GAP 2nd preferred

6 Average of 15.5

How would excess PSC be treated?
(Sect. 4.1.2.2)

Excess current holdings

GAP preferred

Council preferred

Cte - no preferred

A   Can hold permits, but not use excess PSC

B   Must divest permits with excess PSC

C   Can hold permits, but must divest excess PSC

Excess future holdings

GAP preferred

Council preferred

Cte - no preferred

A   Can hold permits, but not use excess PSC

B   Can hold permits, but must divest excess PSC

GAP recommends grandfathering holdings at the day of implementation and that the grandfathering provision would be transferrable.

GARFO implementation questions
(clarification in DEIS recommended)

1. Under Alternative 6, what should happen to excess PSC (in future)? Which stock would have PSC withheld? Who would make the decision (NMFS, permit holder)?

2. Should an entity exceed a PSC cap mid-year, what is the timing for enforcing the cap (mid-year, beginning of the next year)?

GARFO implementation questions
PDT input

Question #1:

Letting permit holder choose wouldn't alter likely impacts:

- ˝ If Alternative 6 is the only cap, market power would likely not be prevented.
- ˝ The combination of Alternative 6 and a 5% permit cap would likely be sufficient to prevent market power.

Question #2:

Enforce at the beginning of the fishing year, to not interfere with distribution and use of ACE. Avoid redistributing PSC mid-year. It is unlikely that an entity could exert market power by temporarily exceeding a PSC cap.

Permit cap alternatives (Sect 4.1.3)

GAP 1st preferred → **1** **No Action.** No accumulation limit.

GAP 2nd preferred

Cte preferred

Council preferred

→ **2** No individual, permit bank or entity can hold over **5%** (about 70) of the limited access Northeast Multispecies permits.

HA sub-ACL alternatives (Sect 4.2.1)

GAP preferred

Cte preferred

Council preferred

1 No Action

2 Create HA permit sub-ACL
(no trimesters, 10% carryover)

Discard accounting
Option A – Annually subtract off of sub-ACL
Option B – No discard accounting

In-season AM – Zero possession limit at...
Option A – 100% catch of sub-ACL
Option B – 90% catch of sub-ACL
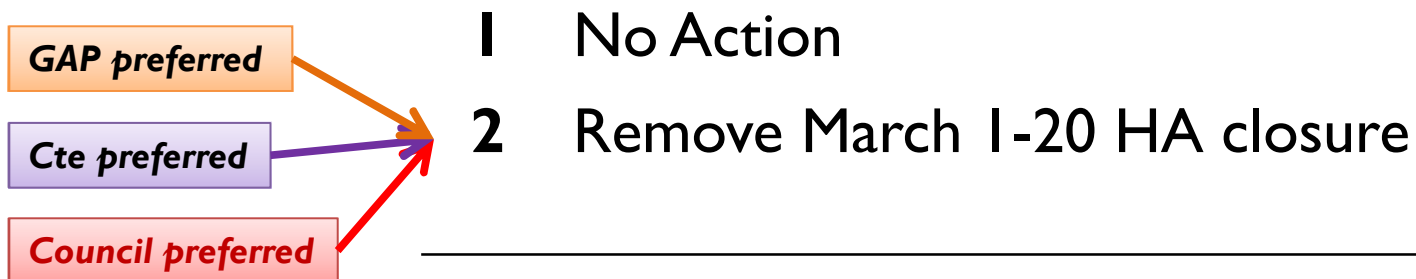
Reactive AM – Subtract overage in future if...
Option A – HA sub-ACL is exceeded
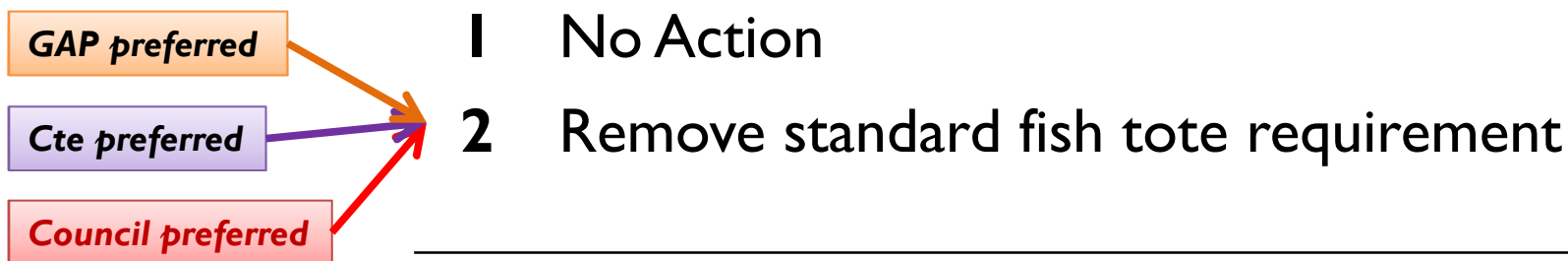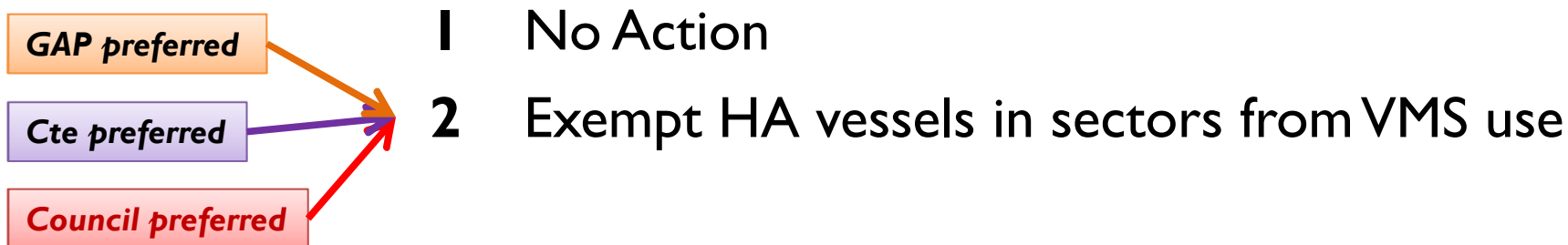Option B – HA sub-ACL and total ACL are
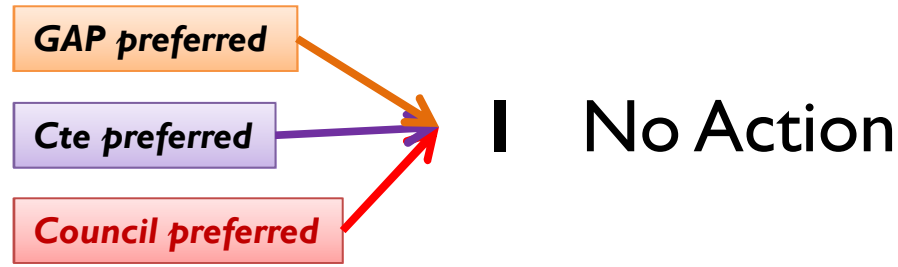
Other HA alternatives

March 1-20 HA Closure (4.2.2)

GAP preferred
Cte preferred
Council preferred

1   No Action

2   Remove March 1-20 HA closure

Standard Fish Tote (4.2.3)

GAP preferred
Cte preferred
Council preferred

1   No Action

2   Remove standard fish tote requirement

Sector VMS Exemption (4.2.4)

GAP preferred
Cte preferred
Council preferred

1   No Action

2   Exempt HA vessels in sectors from VMS use

Data confidentiality alternatives (Sect 4.3)

GAP preferred

Cte preferred

Council preferred

1 No Action

2 Make <u>price</u> data on leasing/moving ACE non-confidential

Inshore/offshore GOM boundary alternatives
(Sect 4.4.1)

GAP preferred

Cte preferred

Council preferred

1   No Action. No Boundary

2   Establish inshore/offshore GOM boundary

Options:
- A - at 70°W
- B - at 70°15'W
- C - along eastern border of GOM/GB Inshore Restricted Roller Gear Area and 12 nm boundary off Maine coast.

Inshore/offshore GOM sub-ACLs alternatives

(Sect 4.4.2)

GAP preferred

Cte preferred

Council preferred

1   No Action. No new sub-ACLs.

2   Create commercial GOM cod sub-ACLs.

Commercial allocation & leasing unchanged.

Catch monitoring:

Observed trips - Vessels may declare into both inshore and offshore GOM areas on a given trip.

Unobserved trips - If vessel declares into more than one BSA, the vessel cannot fish in the inshore GOM area (similar to sector ops plans).

GAP recommends not implementing the Inshore GOM Declaration Plan through regulations.

Alternative 2 cont. determining split

A **No predetermined rule**; set during each specifications process

B Proportional to sub-area **catch**

      sub-Option A – Last 10 years

      sub-Option B – Last 20 years

C Proportional to sub-area **fish distribution**

      sub-Option A – Last 10 years

      sub-Option B – Last 20 years

GOM/GB Inshore Restricted Roller Gear Area alternatives (Sect 4.4.3)

GAP preferred

Cte preferred

Council preferred

1 **No Action.** 12" max for trawl roller gear for all trawls fishing under groundfish FMP. **Potential No Action.** Include all trawls.

2 Align boundary with inshore/offshore GOM line (red).

Declaration time period alternatives (Sect 4.4.4)

GAP preferred

Cte preferred

Council preferred

1   **No Action.** Do not specify time periods.

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2   **Annual.** Each year, vessels declare which area they will fish in.

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3   **Seasonal.** Each trimester, vessels declare which area they will fish in.

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4   **Trip.** Each trip, vessels declare which area they will fish in.

Redfish Exemption Area alternatives (Sect 4.5)

1 **No Action.** FY 2015-2016 exemption remains in place. Future approvals through sector ops plans process.

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2 Establish a Redfish Exemption Area within FMP.

Council preferred

Monitoring
Option A - No action. Use standard observer rate.
Option B - 100% monitoring.

GAP - no preferred

Cte - no preferred