

NEFMC

Party/Charter Limited Entry

An update on stakeholder feedback

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New England Fishery Management Council**

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New England
Fishery Management Council

Background

- Consideration of a Limited Entry (LE) Program has been discussed by the Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP), Groundfish Committee, and Council for years.
- In spring of 2019, the Council held 8 listening sessions to gauge support for developing a LE program.
- Evaluating a LE program is a 2020 Council priority.
- The Council hired Tidal Bay Consulting to develop a strawman for a LE program through stakeholder engagement.



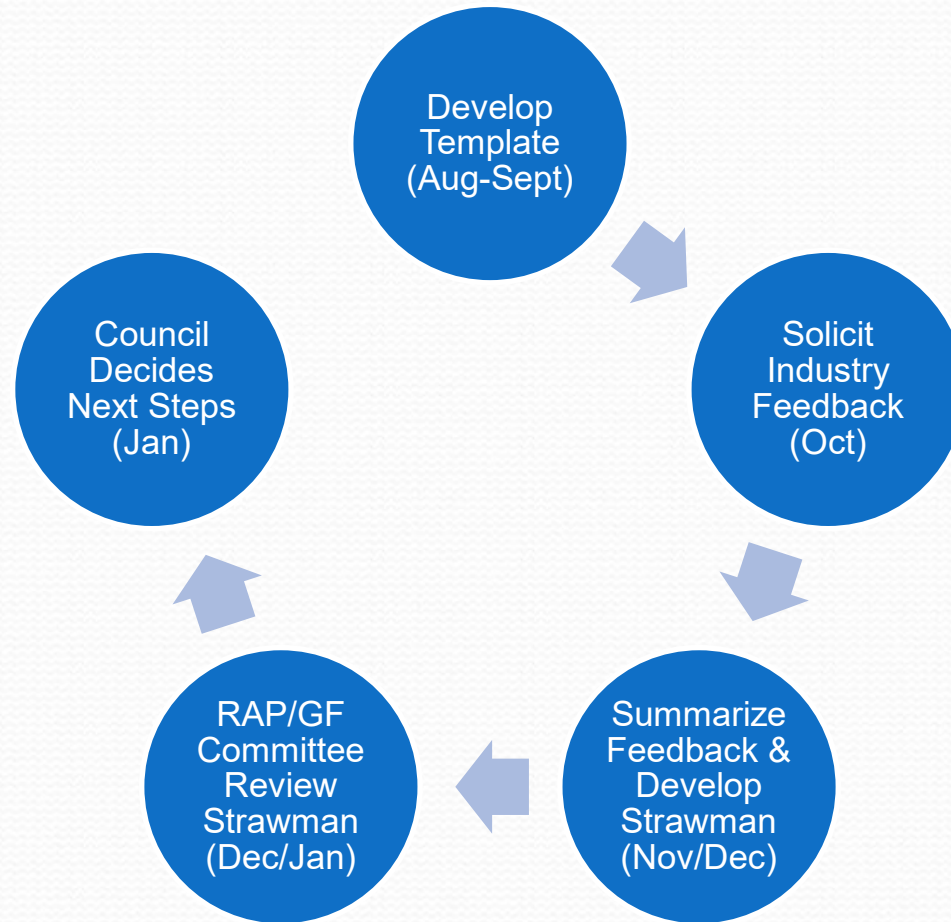
Purpose and Scope

- **Purpose:** Address a 2020 Council priority to develop a strawman limited entry program through soliciting feedback from the Party/Charter (P/C) fishery.
- **Scope:** Recreational groundfish fishing industry in New England (i.e. current and potential for-hire NE Multispecies permit holders – open access). Broad Stock Areas – Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, and Southern New England.

Timeline

- July 2020 - Presented to the RAP
- Sept. 2020 - Announced the public meeting and drafted background document and limited entry template.
- Oct. 5, 2020 – Held a public meeting online
- Oct 27, 2020 - Council priority discussion
- Nov. 2020 – Present a status update to the GF Committee
- Jan. 2021 – Present stakeholder feedback and strawman to GF Committee, RAP, and Council

Process



Stakeholder Feedback

Public Meeting

- October 5
 - 23 attendees
 - Reviewed recent recreational fisheries data
 - Reviewed the limited entry template
 - Solicited feedback using polling and verbal comments
 - Provided information on other opportunities to provide input.
 - Meeting summary will be available online.



Online Feedback Tool

- Open from October 5 – 29
- 74 responses
- Summary report
- Limited entry strawman
 - Preliminary alternatives
 - Highlight areas of agreement/disagreement
 - Provide a basis for analysis

Comment Letters

- Summarized and appended to report.
 - American Sportfishing Association
 - Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association

Table of Contents - Strawman

Program Elements	Options
1. Goals	Access, regulatory stability, prevent overcapitalization
2. Objectives	Biological, management and economic, business
3. Definitions	Vessel types, groundfish stocks, fishing areas
4. Eligibility	Control date, effort-based criteria, catch- and effort-based criteria
5. USCG Requirements	Captain's license, certificate of inspection (COI)
6. Permits	Assign to vessel/operator, categories, transferability, bundling, value, surrender, latent effort, vessel upgrade restrictions
7. New Entrants	Training, cost and affordability, active industry participants, permits
8. Management Measures	Bag limits, size/slot limits, fishing seasons, gear restrictions, areas
9. Reporting	Maintain existing requirements, additional reporting requirements
10. Monitoring and Evaluation	Frequency of program review, review administrator(s)
Other options not considered	

Next Steps

- Recreational Advisory Panel and Groundfish Committee receive the summary report and draft strawman (January 2021)
- Council receives presentation (January 26-28) and decides on the next step(s)
- 2021 Council Priority: "...receive the party/charter limited entry strawman report and decide if an amendment should be initiated."