

Sustainable Fisheries Committee Report
April 6, 2022
Dr. Greg Stunz, Chair

The Committee adopted the agenda (**Tab E, No. 1**) and approved the minutes (**Tab E, No. 2**) of the January 2022 meeting as written.

Historical Captain Permits Conversion (Tab E, No. 4)

Council staff summarized a new framework action addressing the conversion of historical captain permits into standard for-hire permits. Staff noted that a previous action allowed the replacement of valid or renewable Gulf historical captain coastal migratory pelagics (CMP) and reef fish permits with standard CMP and reef fish for-hire permits. To date, all eligible historical captain permits have been converted into standard for-hire permits. That action also allowed outstanding letters of eligibility for historical captain permits to be used to obtain a permit prior to May 21, 2020. However, new historical captain permits issued based on the redemption of eligibility letters were not eligible for conversion to a for-hire permit at that time.

The present action allows entities who received historical captain permits through the redemption of eligibility letters to convert them into standard for-hire permits. Three entities with a reef fish and a CMP historical captain permit each (for a total of 6 historical captain permits) are eligible for this conversion. NOAA General Counsel noted that the codified text for this action was provided (**Tab E, No. 4c**). The Committee approved the following motion:

The Committee recommends and I so move, **to recommend the Council approve Framework Action: Historical Captain Permits Conversion and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate, giving staff editorial license to make the necessary changes in the document. The Council Chair is given the authority to deem any changes to the codified text as necessary and appropriate.**

Motion carried with one abstention.

Allocation Review Guidelines (Tab E, No. 5)

Council staff gave a presentation on the allocation review guidelines. The review guidelines detail the procedures and discuss criteria to consider during allocation reviews. Allocation review criteria include a review of FMP objectives and evaluations of the status of the stock, acceptable biological catch, annual catch limits and targets, accountability measures, landings histories, quota utilization rates, participation and effort measures, discards, habitat impacts and, social and economic factors.

Committee members asked whether the guidelines, once adopted, could be modified in the future. Staff indicated that the guidelines could be revised at the Council's discretion. The Committee noted that the guidelines presented do not detail guiding allocation principles reflecting the Council's values relative to allocation. Staff noted that although they may need to

be revisited, those principles are addressed in the Council's allocation policy. NOAA General Counsel reiterated the distinction between an allocation review and an FMP allocation amendment. An allocation review is conducted to determine whether or not the initiation of an FMP allocation amendment is warranted. Committee members inquired about the initial start dates for allocation reviews and asked whether the timeline would be adjusted to reflect recently completed and ongoing allocation actions. Staff indicated that the schedule will be periodically updated. Committee members noted that although review guidelines presented can be approved, the drafting of guiding allocation principles that would inform the development of meaningful reallocation alternatives is necessary.

The Committee recommends and I so move, **to approve the Allocation Review Guidelines document.**

Motion carried with no opposition.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.