

Omnibus Amendment to Simplify Vessel Baselines

Presentation to MAFMC
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Background

- NRCC Baseline Workgroup 2011
- ANPR published Oct. 5, 2011
- Amendment initiated Aug./Sept. 2013 to:
 - Simplify baseline administration for vessel owners and NMFS
 - Eliminate redundant regulations
 - Maintain fleet diversity and continue to limit capacity
 - Continue to meet the goals and objectives set forth by the Councils in the applicable FMPs

Process and Timeline

Date	Action
June 2014	NEFMC approves draft amendment for public comment
August 2014	MAFMC approves draft amendment for public comment
August-September 2014	30-day comment period on draft amendment
October-November 2014	Councils take final action
December 2014-April 2015	Proposed and Final rulemaking
May 1, 2015	Final rule effective

Alternatives

1. Status quo
2. Eliminate one-time upgrade restriction
3. Eliminate gross and net tonnage from vessel baselines
4. Eliminate both one-time upgrade restriction and tonnages from vessel baselines

Analysis

- Key question: Will alternatives increase vessel size or HP from current fleet? By how much?
 - Comparison: baseline fleet vs. current vs. current max vs. future max
 - # vessels that have used one-time upgrade and maxed vs. # vessels used one-time upgrade and not maxed vs. # vessels remaining

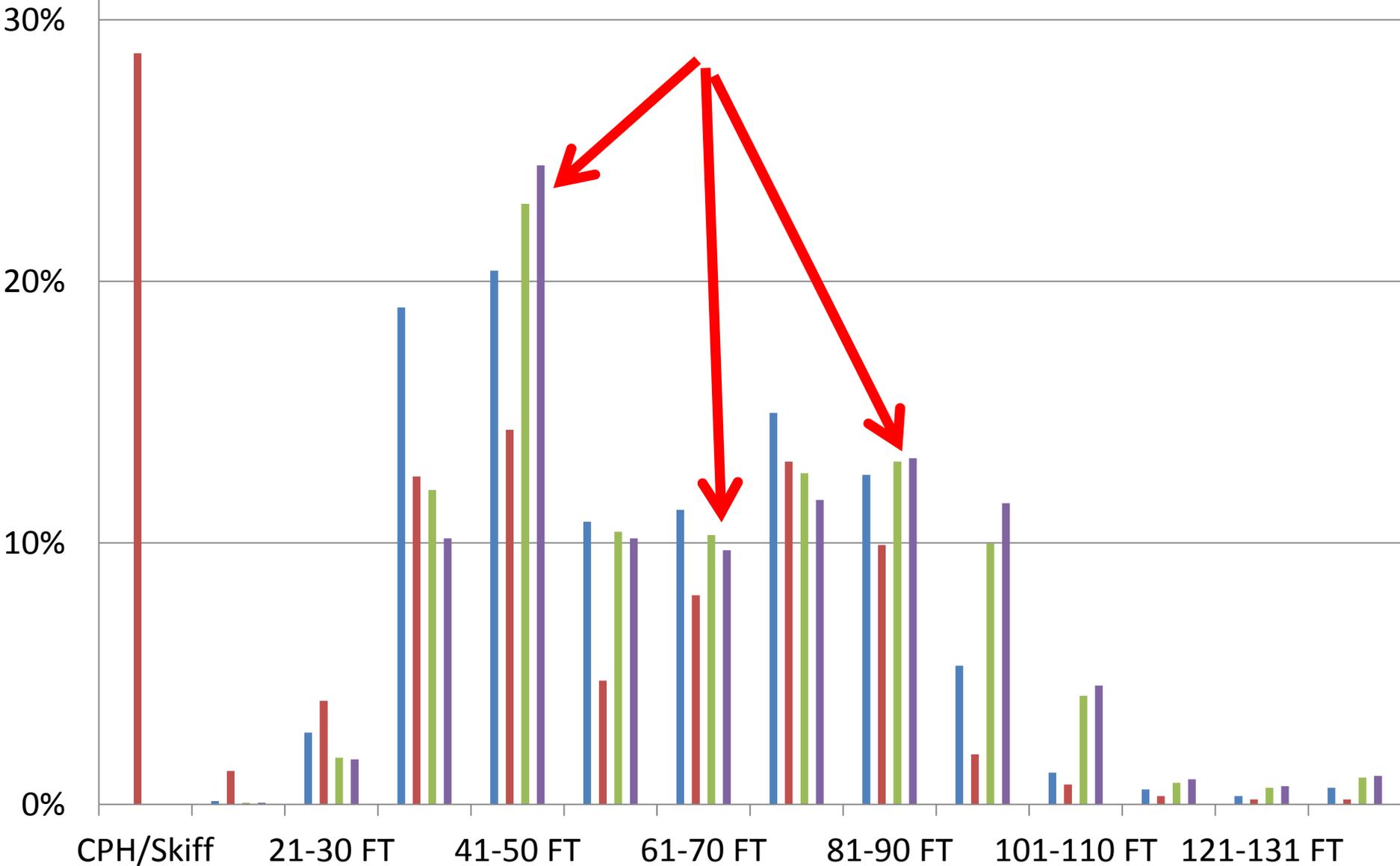
	Length (ft)		Horsepower	
Fishery	% Upgraded	% at Maximum	% Upgraded	% at Maximum
Black Sea Bass	29%	4%	26%	5%
Summer Flounder	28%	2%	28%	7%
Scup	28%	4%	25%	6%
Atlantic Herring	9%	0	6%	1%
Illex Squid	9%	0	9%	1%
Longfin Squid	20%	1%	20%	3%
Atlantic Mackerel	1%	0	1%	0
Mahogany Quahog	63%	8%	58%	12%
Monkfish	21%	1%	23%	5%
NE Multispecies	22%	1%	26%	5%
Atlantic Sea Scallop	48%	4%	45%	11%
Red Crab	20%	0	20%	0
Permit Suites	30%	2%	31%	5%

	Average Length (ft)			
Fishery	Baseline	Current	Current Maximum	Future Maximum
Black Sea Bass	64	61	70	71
Summer Flounder	70	66	77	78
Scup	65	61	71	72
Atlantic Herring	84	78	93	93
Illex Squid	90	80	99	99
Longfin Squid	72	67	79	80
Atlantic Mackerel	77	72	85	85
Mahogany Quahog	41	41	45	46
Monkfish	68	64	74	75
NE Multispecies	57	53	62	63
Atlantic Sea Scallop	84	79	90	92
Red Crab	91	87	100	101
Permit Suites	60	59	66	67

	Average Horsepower			
Fishery	Baseline	Current	Current Maximum	Future Maximum
Black Sea Bass	511	488	609	613
Summer Flounder	540	538	643	648
Scup	503	483	600	604
Atlantic Herring	941	787	1127	1130
Illex Squid	876	807	1051	1052
Longfin Squid	562	542	671	674
Atlantic Mackerel	725	667	869	870
Mahogany Quahog	334	341	389	401
Monkfish	556	548	664	667
NE Multispecies	438	428	522	526
Atlantic Sea Scallop	706	700	838	848
Red Crab	642	619	764	770
Permit Suites	490	492	582	588

Vessel Length Frequency by Permit Suite

■ Baseline ■ Current ■ Current Maximum ■ Future Maximum



Other Potential Impacts

- Additional flexibility from removing tonnages
- Increase replacement vessel options
- Reduce time and costs to permit holders for surveying and documenting baseline and replacement vessel specifications
- Reduce time and costs to NMFS for researching and processing requests

Conclusions

- Negligible impacts to habitat, protected resources, target and non-target species
- Alternative 1 (status quo) would have low negative impacts to human communities
- Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 would have low positive impacts to human communities
- Alternative 4 flexibility > Alternatives 1, 2, 3

Public Comments

- 5 total comments received
- 3 supported proposed action, none opposed
- 2 commenters sought more substantial changes to baseline regulations in this action
- Other suggestions:
 - Remove for vessels <30ft
 - Remove or revise HP and length

Today

- Council approves document for submission to NMFS

Additional Background

Alt. 1: Status quo

- Negligible impacts to habitat, protected resources, target and non-target species
- Low negative impacts to human communities because of continued constraints
 - Continued cost and time burden to permit holders and NMFS
 - 26-28% of permits did not maximize one-time upgrade

Alt. 2: Eliminate one-time upgrade limit

- Negligible impacts to habitat, protected resources, target and non-target species
- Low positive impacts to human communities
 - 26-28% of permits could be further upgraded, additional 70% could upgrade w/o one-time limit
 - May increase replacement vessel options
 - Reduced cost and time burden to permit holders and NMFS to determine upgrade history

Alt. 3: Eliminate tonnages

- Negligible impacts to habitat, protected resources, target and non-target species
- Low positive impacts to human communities
 - Potential additional flexibility to upgrade length
 - May increase replacement vessel options
 - Reduced cost burden to permit holders for surveys
 - Reduced time and cost burden to permit holders and NMFS for verifying tonnage upgrade history

Alt. 4: Eliminate both

- Negligible impacts to habitat, protected resources, target and non-target species
- Low positive impacts to human communities
 - Combines benefits of Alternatives 2 & 3
- Alternative 4 flexibility > Alternatives 1, 2, 3
- NEFMC preferred alternative