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Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management

Draft Amendment 7 to the 2006
Consolidated Atlantic Highly
Migratory Fishery Management
Plan

August 2013

Individual Bluefin Quotas (IBQs)

Individual Bluefin Quotas (IBQ) for Pelagic Longline Fleet: Objectives

- Limit bluefin landings and dead discards with a hard cap
- Provide strong incentives to avoid bluefin tuna interactions
- Provide flexibility to enable pelagic longline vessels to lease bluefin quota from other vessels
- Balance the objectives of IBQ program with other Amendment 7 objectives, (e.g., optimize fishing opportunities, maintain profitability, minimize impacts on the directed permit categories, and consider the broader objectives of the FMP).

IBQ Related Definitions

- **Quota Share:** *Percentage* of the Longline category quota that is associated with a permitted vessel, based upon the quota share formula and the relevant vessel history
- **Quota Allocation:** *Amount* (mt) of bluefin quota that is associated with a permitted vessel, based upon the relevant quota share(s), and the annual Longline category quota.
- **Calculation of Quota Allocation:** As described above, based upon an individual vessel's quota share (%), and the size of the Longline category quota (mt), a specific amount of bluefin quota (mt) would be allocated annually to a vessel.

IBQ Program Overview

- Quota shares allotted to **active PLL vessels**. Each share would represent a set percentage of the Longline category quota. Based on that percentage, the vessel would also receive an annual Quota allocation (mt of bluefin)
- Quota shares and related allocation use would be **regional** (Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic). Atlantic shares may not be used in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Vessels would need a **minimum amount of quota allocation to depart on a fishing trip** with pelagic longline gear
 - Atlantic minimum required: 0.125 mt whole weight
 - Gulf of Mexico minimum required: 0.25 mt whole weight
- **Landings and dead discards** count toward the IBQ

IBQ Program Overview - continued

- If a vessel catches more bluefin than the amount of bluefin allocation it has, it may finish the trip and land the bluefin, but **must then account for the bluefin landed** by obtaining additional quota allocation through a lease (annual) before another trip can be made
- Temporary **leasing of quota allocation** would be available; Leasing quota would be allowed **between Purse Seine and Longline** category vessels
- Vessels may not depart on a fishing trip w/o sufficient IBQ available
- A vessel's annual quota allocation **would not carry over** from one year to the next
- Permitted Longline category vessels that are not allocated bluefin shares may lease quota

Measures Associated with the IBQ Program

Reduce Dead Discards and Optimize Fishing Opportunity

- NMFS closure of longline fishery
- Elimination of target catch requirement
- Mandatory retention of legal sized dead bluefin

Other Elements of IBQ Program

- Appeals of initial quota shares
- Cost recovery
- Review of program after three years

Vessels Eligible for Bluefin Quota Shares

Two Criteria:

- Vessels that made at least one set using pelagic longline gear between 2006 and 2011 (“active vessels”); AND
- Vessels with a valid Atlantic Tunas Longline category permit as of August 21, 2013 (publication of proposed rule).

Specifics

Proposed Method of Determining Which Vessels get IBQ Shares; and How Much (%) each Share is.

- Active vessels get quota shares
- Bluefin tuna quota share (%) would be based on the **Quota Share Formula, which has two elements:**
 1. A vessel's **designated species landings** (lb) during the six-year period from 2006 through 2011 (NMFS's weighout slips and vessel logbook data); and
 2. **Ratio of bluefin tuna interactions (#) to designated species landings (lb)** (logbook)
- 3 types (sizes) of quota shares: high, medium, low

*Designated species: yellowfin, bigeye, albacore, and skipjack tunas, swordfish, dolphin, wahoo, and porbeagle, shortfin mako, and thresher sharks.

Specifics

Scoring of the two factors that determine quota share (DEIS Table 2.13)

- For each vessel, (161 active vessels) landings/ratio data was compiled
- The data for all vessels was put in a single list, in sequential order according to its value
- The data was divided into three equal groups (high, medium, and low)
- Scores were assigned to each group
- Scores were combined (to derive one value from two factors/scores)

Percentiles	(1) Designated HMS Species Landings (lb)	(2) Ratio of Bluefin Interactions to Designated HMS Species Landings
High (66-100%)	$\leq 367,609$ (Score 3)	< 0.2884 (Score 3)
Med (33 - <66%)	367,608 – 127,075 (Score 2)	0.2884 – 0.9427 (Score 2)
Low (0 - < 33%)	$< 127,075$ (Score 1)	> 0.9427 (Score 1)

Scoring of the two IBQ factors continued

Categories Based on Scores	# Vessels	% of Active Vessels
High (6 – 5)	47	29 %
Medium (4)	71	44 %
Low (3 -2)	43	27 %

What percentage of the quota would each share be?
How much quota (mt) are the shares equivalent to?

Share Bins	Quota Share	Quota Allocation*
high	1.0 %	1.37 mt
med.	0.54%	0.74 mt
low	0.34%	0.47 mt

*Proposed quota allocations derived from proposed baseline Longline category bluefin quota of 137 mt : (e.g., 1 % of 137 mt = 1.37 mt)



New Entrants to Fishery

- Currently, potential new entrants must obtain (purchase) a limited access permit (this aspect would remain unchanged).
- Under Amendment 7, new entrants to the fishery, or inactive permit holders, would either need to purchase a limited access permit that has a quota share or would need obtain bluefin quota allocation through a lease in order to fish.

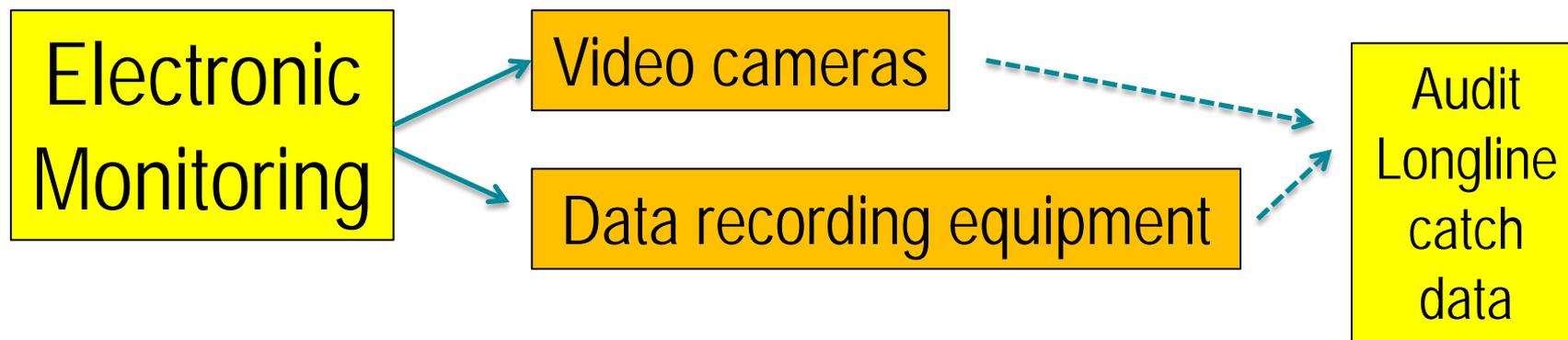
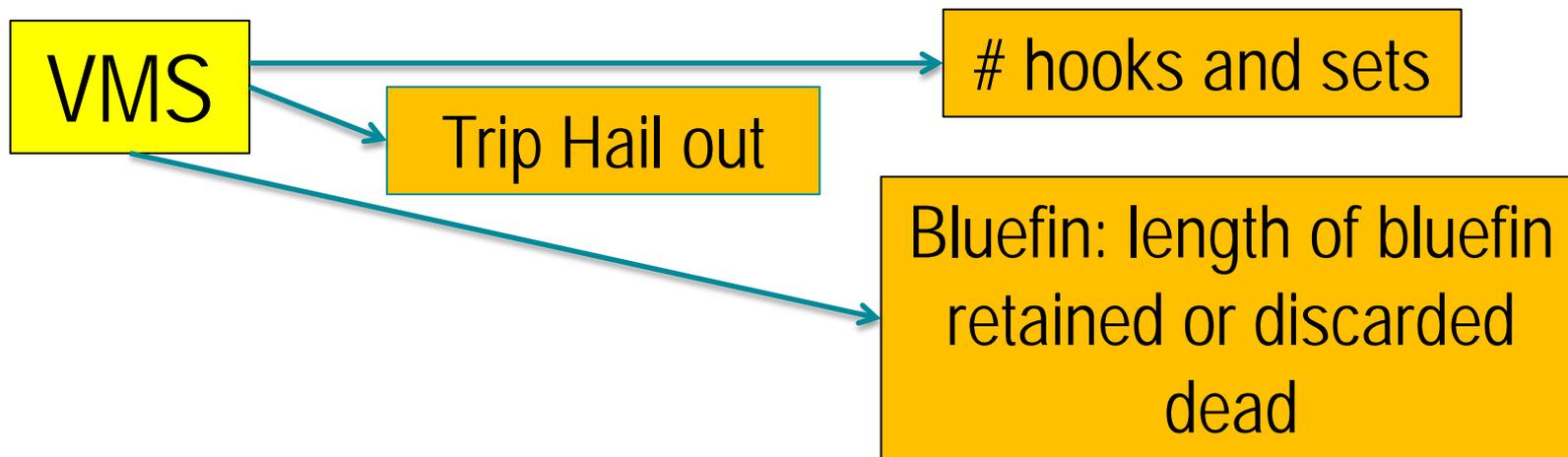
Leasing IBQ Allocation

- Valid from date of lease through end of year
- Subleasing allowed
- Definitions: “Lessor” (vessel from which the IBQ allocation originates) and “Lessee” (recipient vessel)
- Lessor and Lessee conduct the transaction online using NMFS website and database
- Longline vessels responsible for ‘shopping’ for available IBQ allocation (NMFS will not be a broker)

IBQ Program – Phased in Implementation

- **Phase 1: Transition to IBQs and Electronic Monitoring development:**
 - NMFS estimates and accounts for all dead discards proactively on a fleet wide basis at the beginning of the fishing year. IBQ share percentages are then applied to the adjusted longline category quota to account for landings only
- **Phase 2: IBQ and Electronic Monitoring Deployment:**
 - Established: Same as above while vessel installation and trial data collection, storage, and interpretation are refined
- **Phase 3: IBQ and Electronic Monitoring Operational:**
 - IBQ reporting and monitoring fully operational: Landings and dead discards would count toward the IBQ on a vessel by vessel basis

Enhanced Reporting Requirements Details - Longline



Electronic monitoring requirements would be phased in over time.

Electronic Monitoring - Overview

➤ Objectives:

- **Verify the accuracy of counts and identification** of bluefin tuna reported by the vessel owner/operator, as well as observers (audit data)
- Collect video image and fishing effort data that **may be used** in conjunction with other sources of information to **estimate bluefin tuna dead discards**
- **Augment the ability of observers** to fulfill their duties by providing a record of catch during the time periods the observer may be unable to observe the catch directly

Electronic Monitoring – Estimated Costs (NMFS - NOPAT, 2013)

- Annual Fixed Costs - \$ 3,835
 - Purchase and Installation (of a system bought in 2010) - \$3,565 a year (over 5 yr life-span). This includes 4% of the purchase price for maintenance costs and a 7% interest rate on the loan to buy a system
 - Service – 6 per year; 1 hr per service; \$45/hour) - \$ 270

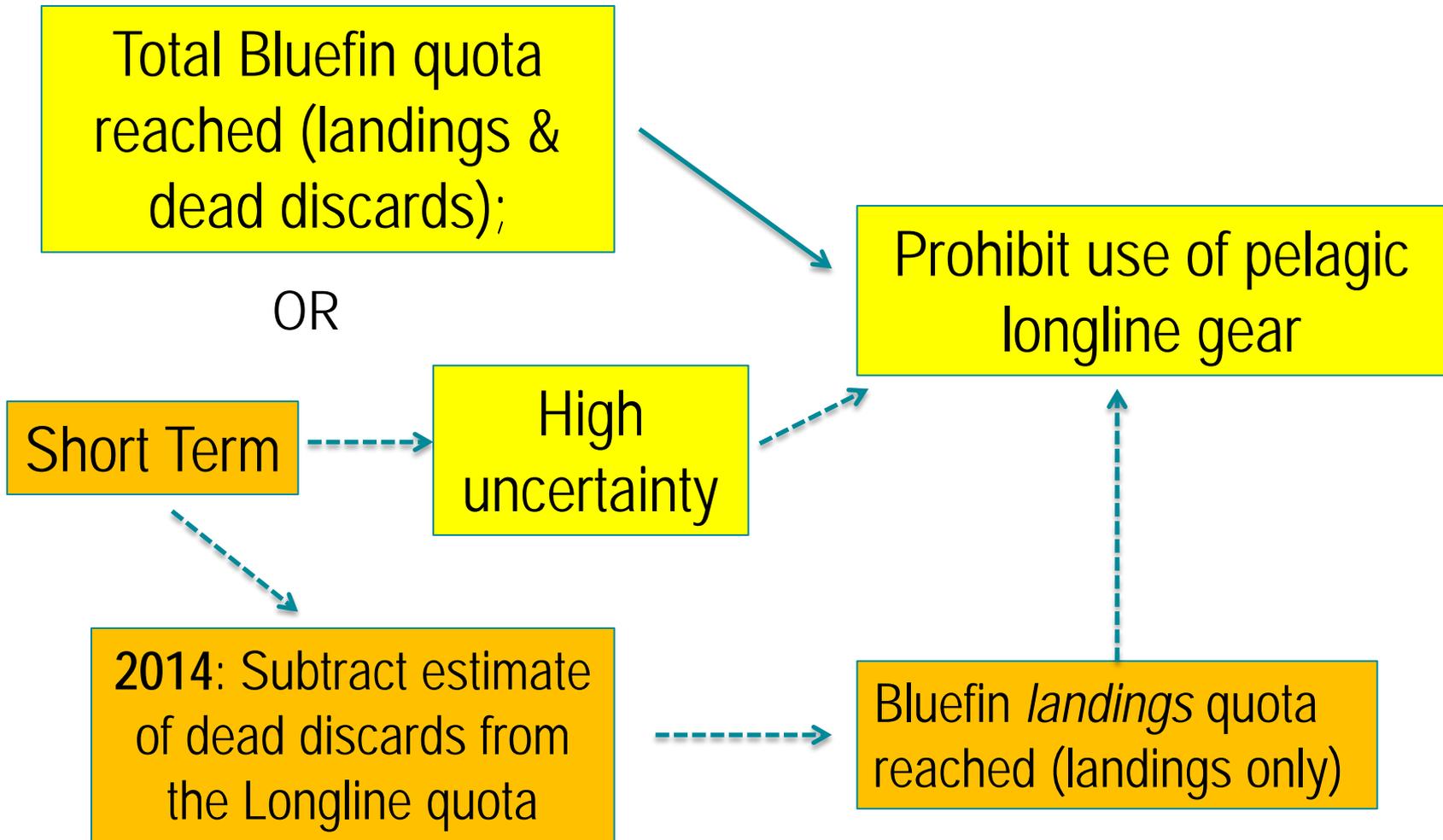
- Variable Costs - \$ 225 per trip
 - Data retrieval - \$45/hour; 2 hr per trip
 - Technician travel - \$0.5/mile; 100 miles for each trip
 - Fishing activity interpretation - \$47/hour; 0.25 hr/trip
 - Catch data interpretation - \$47/hour; 1.5 hr/trip

- Estimate is based upon catch data interpretation of one longline haul per trip

Electronic Monitoring – Phased in Implementation

- Phase 1: NMFS develops and finalizes equipment specification requirements and authorized vendors
- Phase 2: Vessel installation and trial data collection, storage, and interpretation
 - During Phases 1 and 2, landings only count toward the IBQ. Quota allocations = landings only (dead discards taken off the top)
- Phase 3: Implementation complete; landings and dead discards count toward the IBQ

NMFS Closure of the Pelagic Longline Fishery





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Questions?



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