

Council MOTION

**C1 MRA Adjustments – Final Action**

October 3, 2025

The Council adopts the following alternatives and options for final action with the following revisions (deletions are in ~~strike through~~, and additions are underlined).

Alternative 2 – Revise MRA Regulations

Revise MRA regulations to clarify (1) the definition of a fishing trip, (2) calculations for MRAs, and (3) applications of MRAs. These changes would provide clarification and make minor modifications in how the MRA regulations are currently implemented.

Option 1: Modify the definition of a fishing trip to make it clear that motherships are responsible for the overall MRA of any catcher vessel (CV) delivering unsorted codends.

Option 2: Clarify that MRAs are calculated by fishery management program due to different fishing prohibitions in place for each fishery management program.

Option 4: Clarify that ~~when~~ Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups may use an AFA vessel to harvest Amendment 80 (A80) species, BSAI pollock and BS Atka mackerel MRAs are calculated at the time of the offload and any species open to directed fishing ~~may be used~~ as a basis species for compliance with MRAs.

Option 5: Clarify that MRAs take precedence over improved retention/improved utilization (IR/IU) regulations for CVs delivering catch to a shoreside processor or stationary floating processor when CVs fish in areas with different fishing prohibitions.

Option 6: Update IR/IU regulations for A80 vessels to reflect past Council actions.

Option 7: Revise the definition of directed fishing at 50 CFR 679.2 for vessels participating in the pelagic trawl electronic monitoring program such that vessels deploying pelagic trawl gear are directed fishing for pollock if the amount of pollock is ~~Suboption:~~ 51 percent or greater of total catch.

Alternative 3 – Revise Triggers that End a Fishing Trip

Revise the triggers that end a fishing trip ~~from five to two~~ ~~three triggers~~ in the definition of a fishing trip for catcher processors (C/Ps) and motherships (not including current offload-to-offload species - BSAI pollock, BS Atka mackerel, and weekly reporting period species in the CGOA Rockfish Program). ~~Two~~ The three triggers would be ~~remain:~~ (1) when ~~all~~ any fish or fish product is offloaded, ~~and~~ (2) if the vessel changes authorized gear type, and (3) when a vessel changes FMP area (i.e., when a vessel transits between the GOA and BSAI). Three triggers would be removed: (1) the effective date of a different fishing prohibition in the area the vessel is

fishing, (2) when a vessel enters or leaves an area with a different fishing prohibition, and (3) the end of a weekly reporting period.

Method 1: Use all basis species accumulated on the vessel when calculating MRAs for each trip regardless of fishery closures and protection areas. Clarify that for C/Ps and motherships the lowest MRA applicable during a fishing trip does not apply during the entire trip (by deleting regulations at 679.20 (e)(3)(ii) and 679.20 (e)(3)(vi)).

Clarify that fishing trips can be resumed

#### Alternative 4 – Add Additional Species to an Offload-to-Offload

Add additional species to an offload-to-offload MRA application in the BSAI and GOA for all vessel sectors.

Option 2: Include all groundfish species.

Methods 1 would only apply to C/Ps and motherships.

Method 1: Use all basis species accumulated on the vessel when calculating MRAs for each trip regardless of fishery closures and protection areas. Clarify that for C/Ps and motherships the lowest MRA applicable during a fishing trip does not apply during the entire trip (by deleting regulations at 679.20(e)(3)(ii) and 679.20(e)(3)(vi)).

Clarify that MRA regulations take precedence for CPs and motherships in instances where vessels are required to meet competing standards of MRA and IR/IU regulations.

#### Alternative 6 – Provide Exemptions from MRA Requirements

Provide exemptions in regulation from MRA requirements in cases of medical emergencies, mechanical emergencies, or poor weather that ends a fishing trip.

The Council deems proposed regulations that clearly and directly flow from the provisions of this motion to be necessary and appropriate in accordance with section 303(c).

The Council authorizes the Executive Director and the Chair to review the draft proposed regulations when provided by NMFS to ensure that the proposed regulations to be submitted to the Secretary under section 303(c) are consistent with these instructions.