



# We at the Northeast Seafood Coalition want to share our review of Alternative 5

Five Alternatives were proposed for Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Two Alternatives were identified by the industry as potentially workable platforms from which to build the final suite of management measures. The two alternatives were Alternative 1, which required up to a 65% reduction in days-at-sea (DAS), and Alternative 5, the Northeast Seafood Coalition (NSC) Industry Proposal, which was chosen by the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC).

## Alternative 5 was crafted as a hybrid of Alternative 1 in order to:

- ⊙ Incorporate a combination of phased and adaptive rebuilding strategies to achieve a balance of restrictions and yields.
- ⊙ Modify our existing DAS system to allow a separate class of DAS to target the stocks we are not currently fishing up to potential.
- ⊙ Protect the industry from legitimate legal action by addressing overfishing while allowing fishing at Fmsy, a legal threshold, on most stocks.
- ⊙ Provide stability to the industry by proposing a one time, up front reclassification of DAS without the need to continue to cut DAS each year as was proposed in the phased reduction plans.
- ⊙ Utilize the DAS Reserve Provision of the Amendment 13 document to establish A-class, B-class, and C-class days to create the necessary tools to modify our existing system and to provide future access for all permit holders.
- ⊙ Mitigate and minimize socio-economic impacts by allowing fishermen to redirect effort onto healthy stocks while rebuilding continues on others.
- ⊙ Utilize Capacity Option 9, which requires a minimal landing of 5,000 pounds that produces a smaller starting pool of DAS and results in more days for every full and part time permit holder who relies on groundfish.

## Alternative 5 eliminated several measures that continued to be included in Alternative 1 such as:

- ⊙ The raised footrope trawl;
- ⊙ The 7" requirement for Gulf of Maine flounder gillnets; and
- ⊙ 1-1/2 to 1 DAS counting for Southern New England, which in Alternative 5 was deferred until 2006 to be implemented only "if needed."

Lastly, Alternative 5 created a platform to deal with some important issues such as carry-over days and future access to the fishery. The B-class days allowed the NEFMC to account for carry-over days from fishing year 2003 to prevent what would likely have been additional and substantial days-at-sea reductions to account for carry-over days. Furthermore, permit holders who do not have established baselines should, by industry and council consensus, receive a minimum of 10 B-class days and 78 C-class days in the next groundfish plan framework adjustment. C-class days can be reactivated as stocks recover.

The NSC conducted the following comparison during the NEFMC meeting in November. The comparison is based upon the Amendment 13 analysis completed for Alternative 1 and Alternative 5. The groundfish Plan Development Team is currently completing a final analysis of Alternative 5.

FISHING YEAR	MAXIMUM DAYS AT SEA ALLOCATION FOR ANY FLEET CATEGORY PERMIT HOLDER WHO USED ALL 88 DAYS IN ANY QUALIFYING YEAR		TOTAL ALLOCATED DAYS @ 85% USE RATE (Same use rate applied to Alt. 5 to accommodate a limited DAS leasing program.)		USED DAYS TARGET TO MEET REBUILDING GOALS OF PLAN.		PERCENT REDUCTION OF ALLOCATED DAYS PROPOSED EACH OF 1 <sup>ST</sup> FOUR YEARS OF PLAN. (Total reduction from originally qualified baseline)	
	CAPACITY OPTION # 9	CAPACITY OPTION # 8	ALT. 5	ALT. 1d	ALT. 5	ALT. 1d	CAPACITY OPTION # 9	CAPACITY OPTION # 8
	ALT. 5 Adopted by the NEFMC	ALT. 1d Phased Reduction	ALT. 5 Adopted by the NEFMC	ALT. 1d Phased Reduction	ALT. 5 Adopted by the NEFMC	ALT. 1d Phased Reduction	ALT. 5 Adopted by the NEFMC	ALT. 1d Phased Reduction
2004	<b>52</b>	<b>58</b>	41,280	48,500	34,500	41,050	<b>40%</b> (40%)	<b>34%</b> (34%)
2005	<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>	41,280	41,000	34,500	34,750	<b>0%</b> (40%)	<b>15%</b> (44%)
2006	<b>52</b>	<b>38</b>	41,280	32,000	34,500	28,400	<b>0%</b> (40%)	<b>22%</b> (57%)
2007	<b>52</b>	<b>29</b>	41,280	24,500	<b>34,500</b>	<b>22,100</b>	<b>0%</b> (40%)	<b>23%</b> (67%)

\* NOTE: DAS shown for Alternative 5 are A-class days only. As of May 2004, B-class days will be available through Special Access Programs. The remaining B-regular and B-reserve days will be added through a framework action to be initiated in January.

\*\* NOTE: Reductions in DAS through **Alternative 1** were intended to be permanent baseline reductions. Alternative 5 explicitly refers to all reductions as reclassification of the total effective effort baseline, defined as a permit holder's highest and best fishing year from 1996 through 2001. **Under Alternative 5, days are not lost but are reclassified into separate categories. This is a critical difference concerning future access.**

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