Moratorium on Vessels Entering the Fisheries

Beginning on January 1, 1996, a moratorium on harvesting vessels (including harvester/processors) entering the [APPROPRIATE FMP AREA AND FISHERY], other than fixed gear sablefish is in effect. Vessels fishing in State waters will be exempt. The vessel moratorium will last until the Council replaces or rescinds the action, but in any will end on December 31, 1999. The Council may however extend the moratorium up to 2 additional years, if a permanent limited access program is imminent.

Elements of the Moratorium

1. Qualifying Period. In order to qualify, a harvesting vessel must have made a reported landing in one of the designated moratorium fisheries during the period beginning January 1, 1988, and ending February 9, 1992, including landings of moratorium species from State waters. Moratorium species are those managed under Council FMPs and include groundfish (other than fixed gear sablefish) in the BSAI and GOA and BSAI king and Tanner crab. A moratorium qualification for which a vessel moratorium permit has not been issued prior to December 31, 1998, or for which a vessel moratorium permit is not applied for applied for on or before December 31, 1998, will not be eligible for a vessel moratorium permit after that date.

THE REST OF THE FMP LANGUAGE FOR THE MORATORIUM IS UNCHANGED.