



***Illex* Vessel Hold Capacity Framework Action Plan as of 4/19/2023**

<https://www.mafmc.org/actions/illex-vessel-hold-capacity-framework>

Framework Goal: Control additional capacity increases in the *Illex* fishery via baseline and upgrade restrictions on vessel hold capacity. Vessel baselines (on length and horsepower) and upgrade restrictions are part of typical restrictions for federal permits in the Northeast region. For example, a volumetric hold baseline was deemed important for regulating the mackerel fishery due to the high-volume nature of that fishery and an understanding that vessel hold capacity may be dramatically changed even without substantially changing length or horsepower (which are already restricted).

Alternatives to be Considered:

- Requirements for volumetric hold measurements as an additional vessel baseline.
 - Approaches for vessels in Confirmation of Permit History (CPH)
- Upgrade restrictions to vessel hold volume.

Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT)

An FMAT is not being used for this action. NOAA Fisheries staff, including members of the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Monitoring Committee, will be consulted as appropriate.

Draft Timeline – *Subject to change*

April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action initiated
May-June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint AP/Committee meeting to develop alternatives.
June or August 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Framework Meeting 1 to set alternatives and review preliminary analyses.
Summer/early fall 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyses of alternatives
September - November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-final-action AP and Committee Meeting(s)
October or December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Framework Meeting 2 - Final Action by Council

Background:

Existing related provisions for the **mackerel** fishery are provided below ([50 CFR 648.4\(a\)\(5\)\(iii\)](#)):

(H) - Vessel baseline specification.

(1) In addition to the baseline specifications specified in paragraph (a)(1)(i)(H) of this section, the volumetric fish hold capacity of a vessel at the time it was initially issued a Tier 1 or Tier 2 limited access Atlantic mackerel permit will be considered a baseline specification. The fish hold capacity measurement must be certified by one of the following qualified individuals or entities: An individual credentialed as a Certified Marine Surveyor with a fishing specialty by the National Association of

Marine Surveyors (NAMS); an individual credentialed as an Accredited Marine Surveyor with a fishing specialty by the Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors (SAMS); employees or agents of a classification society approved by the Coast Guard pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 3316(c); the Maine State Sealer of Weights and Measures; a professionally-licensed and/or registered Marine Engineer; or a Naval Architect with a professional engineer license. The fish hold capacity measurement submitted to NMFS as required in this paragraph (a)(5)(iii)(H)(1) must include a signed certification by the individual or entity that completed the measurement, specifying how they meet the definition of a qualified individual or entity.

(2) If an Atlantic mackerel CPH is initially issued, the vessel that provided the CPH eligibility establishes the size baseline against which future vessel size limitations shall be evaluated, unless the applicant has a vessel under contract prior to the submission of the Atlantic mackerel limited access application. If the vessel that established the CPH is less than 20 ft (6.09 m) in length overall, then the baseline specifications associated with other limited access permits in the CPH suite will be used to establish the Atlantic mackerel baseline specifications. If the vessel that established the CPH is less than 20 ft (6.09 m) in length overall, the limited access Atlantic mackerel eligibility was established on another vessel, and there are no other limited access permits in the CPH suite, then the applicant must submit valid documentation of the baseline specifications of the vessel that established the eligibility. The hold capacity baseline for such vessels will be the hold capacity of the first replacement vessel after the permits are removed from CPH. Hold capacity for the replacement vessel must be measured pursuant to [paragraph \(a\)\(5\)\(iii\)\(H\)\(1\)](#) of this section.

(I) - Upgraded vessel. See paragraph (a)(1)(i)(F) of this section. In addition, for Tier 1 and Tier 2 limited access Atlantic mackerel permits, the replacement vessel's volumetric fish hold capacity may not exceed by more than 10 percent the volumetric fish hold capacity of the vessel's baseline specifications. The modified fish hold, or the fish hold of the replacement vessel, must be resurveyed by a surveyor (accredited as in paragraph (a)(5)(iii)(H) of this section) unless the replacement vessel already had an appropriate certification.