



# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director  
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Mr. Chris Oliver  
Assistant Administrator  
NOAA Fisheries  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
VIA email: [chris.w.oliver@noaa.gov](mailto:chris.w.oliver@noaa.gov)

Dear Mr. Oliver,

I am writing to inform you that the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Pacific cod allocation review has been completed pursuant to the NMFS Fisheries Allocation Review Policy (NMFS Policy Directive 01-119). At its June 2019 meeting, the Council accepted the BSAI Pacific cod allocation review as complete and final with the addition of information suggested by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). The final version is found here: [https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDF/documents/catch\\_shares/Pcod/BSAIPcodAllocationReview2019.pdf](https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDF/documents/catch_shares/Pcod/BSAIPcodAllocationReview2019.pdf)

Overall, the Council noted that the allocations established by Amendment 85 have provided stability for sectors in the BSAI Pacific cod fishery, improved social and economic structures for sectors, and provided entry level and local opportunities for some small vessels (although participation by entry level and small vessels is not uniform across all sectors). Amendment 85 allocations have allowed optimal yield to be achieved on a continuing basis, which is a fundamental objective of Amendment 85 and can be extremely challenging given the variable nature of the fishery and balancing of the Council's Amendment 85 objectives across the nine sectors.

The SSC noted that the document represents the first stand-alone (i.e., not associated with a limited access privilege program review) allocation review for the Council and possibly for the nation. Developing this review required addressing the challenge of selecting and presenting indicators that are useful and insightful about the way different fleets derive benefits from, and are dependent upon, Pacific cod. The review includes measures and graphs to provide snapshot indicators for each fleet, and help to make a very complex evaluation relatively simple to understand. The SSC further suggested that this document is a strong model for future allocation reviews in the North Pacific. In my opinion, it could be a useful approach for other regions as well.

Sincerely,

David Witherell  
Executive Director, NPFMC

cc: Mr. Alan Risenhoover  
Mr. Glenn Merrill  
Regional Fishery Management Councils