

Aleut Corporation Pollock Fishery in the Aleutian Islands

Council's Revised Decision Elements and Alternatives

April 2004 Meeting

1.0 Allocation size

1.1 No action: Determine the appropriate Aleutian Islands pollock TAC each year during the annual specifications process.

1.2 For guidance in determining the allocation amount to the AI pollock fishery, the Council shall consider pollock allocations given to the various groups that participate in the CDQ program in order to recommend a "reasonable amount" of AI pollock to award to the Aleut Corporation and in no case should this amount exceed 40,000 mt.

1.3 The Council shall allocate a combined AI Incidental Catch Allowance and Directed Fishing Allowance equal to the lesser of the ABC or 40,000 mt. This allocation shall be subject to the 40% A season and 60 % B season apportionment required by the Steller sea lion protection measures.

1.4 Beginning in 2005, and until changed, the annual AI pollock TAC shall be the lesser of 15,000 mt or 40% of the AI pollock ABC. One hundred percent of the Directed Fishing Allowance shall be available for harvest in the pollock A season.

2.0 Allocation mechanism

2.1 No action: no regulatory changes

2.2 The pollock allocation to the AI fishery will be funded by a reduction in the EBS pollock TAC if necessary to remain under the 2 million mt OY cap. Any unused pollock TAC from the AI fishery will be rolled back to the EBS pollock TAC. This will occur at the earliest time possible in the calendar year.

2.3 The pollock allocation to the AI fishery will be funded by taking proportional reductions in the TAC amounts from each of the existing groundfish fisheries in the BSAI, without regard to species if necessary to remain under the 2 million mt cap. Any unused TAC amount, surplus to the needs of the AI pollock fishery, will be rolled back to the fisheries from which it originated in the same proportions (and species). This should occur at the earliest time in the calendar year.

2.4 The pollock allocation to the AI fishery will be funded as described above in Alternative 2.3 but exempting the BSAI sablefish IFQ fishery from the proportional reduction.

2.5 If possible, the AI Directed Fishing Allowance (DFA) is to be funded from the difference between the sum of the BSAI groundfish fishery TACs and the BSAI OY cap. No allocation to the AI DFA shall be made from a groundfish fishery TAC unless the difference between the sum of the groundfish fishery TACs and the OY cap is not large enough to fund the AI DFA. If this difference is not large enough to fund the AI DFA, 10% of the allocation to the AI pollock DFA shall be taken from the BSAI rock sole ITAC, 10% from the BSAI yellowfin sole ITAC, and 80% from the Eastern Bering Sea (EBS) pollock ITAC. No later than June 10 (start of the B season), unused AI A season pollock DFA, and the entire AI B season DFA, shall be rolled back to the EBS pollock fishery.

3.0 Monitoring vessel activity

3.1 Status quo (this option imposes only those monitoring and enforcement requirements that would be required if there were no change in regulations).

3.2 "Increased monitoring" alternative. This alternative would have several components (not options). These include:

1. Aleut Corporation must let the NMFS Alaska Region know which vessels are authorized by it to fish in the Aleutians, and these vessels must carry documentation showing they have such permission;
2. If a catcher vessel authorized by the Aleut Corporation fishes in the Aleutians at any time during a trip, all pollock landed by that vessel when the trip ends will be deemed to be Aleutian Islands pollock and debited against the Aleut Corporation quota;
3. AFA requirements extend to catcher-processors and motherships (this extends AFA level observer and scale requirements to CPs under 60 feet and to unlisted AFA vessels);
4. AI pollock may only be delivered to a shore plant with a Catch Monitoring Control Plan;
5. The Aleut Corporation will be responsible for keeping its harvests and its agents' harvests within the AI pollock directed fishing allowance.

3.3 "Observer" alternative. All the requirements of Alternative 3.2 would apply and would require all catcher vessels to have 100% observer coverage.

4.0 Small vessels

4.1 No action. Take no steps to delay ability of Aleut Corporation to introduce to the fishery vessels under 60 feet LOA.

4.2 Defer small vessel participation until a later date 2 (2006) or 5 (2007) years from 2004 to allow for development of a management program.

5.0 Economic development report mandate

5.1 No action: do not require an annual report to the Council.

5.2 Require an annual report to the Council.

5.3 Require an annual report comparable to CDQ reports.

5.4 At its June 2006 meeting, the Council shall review the AI pollock fishery performance, including information on harvest success, development of a small vessel fleet, and progress toward completion of pollock processing capacity to determine if further adjustments to the AI pollock TAC may be appropriate, in light of Section 803 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004 and Senator Stevens' floor language.

(Alternative 5.4 could be combined with either 5.1, 5.2, or 5.3.)

6.0 Chinook salmon bycatch

6.1 No action: AI pollock fishery Chinook salmon bycatch would count against the BSAI Chinook salmon bycatch caps.

6.2 Chinook salmon bycatch in the AI pollock fishery would not count against the BSAI Chinook salmon bycatch caps.