

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Agenda Item C-6  
Congressional Legislation - Aleutian Islands Pollock Fishery  
February 8, 2004

**Motion:**

The Council recommends that an amendment to the BSAI FMP be initiated for an AI pollock fishery. In the development of this amendment, the Council will be cautious that any opening of a directed Aleutian Islands pollock fishery is accomplished in full compliance with all applicable law and not disruptive to existing fisheries to the extent practicable. The Council will avoid taking any action in regards to this fishery which would likely result in an adverse effect requiring a formal consultation under the current Biological Opinion or Endangered Species Act.

It is the Council's intent that this amendment should be developed on a schedule that will address all these considerations. These considerations must be met in order for the fishery to occur. As long as these considerations are met, and if possible, the schedule should mesh with the normal specifications process for a fishery to occur in 2005.

Further, the Council provides the following comments on the potential FMP amendment alternatives:

**Initial Allocation Amount**

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 the Aleut Corporation and in no case should this amount exceed 40,000 mt.

**Optimum Yield Cap and Allocation of Unutilized AI Pollock Allocation**

The following will be analyzed. The pollock allocation to an AI fishery will come from within the OY cap:

Option 1: The pollock allocation to the AI fishery will be funded by a reduction in the EBS pollock TAC. 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.

Option 2: The pollock allocation to the AI fishery will be funded by taking proportional reductions in the TACs for each of the existing groundfish fisheries in the BSAI. Any unused pollock TAC from the AI fishery will be rolled back on a pro-rata basis to the fisheries from where it originated in the same proportions. This should occur at the earliest possible time in the calendar year.

Suboption 2.1: Exempt the BSAI sablefish IFQ fishery from the proportional reduction.

**Use of B Season Allocation**

Option 1: Maintain the current 40/60 percent A/B seasonal apportionment requirement for pollock fisheries. Unutilized B season TAC is addressed in the options above.

Option 2: Defer small vessel participation until a later date 2 or 5 years from now to allow for development of a management program.

**Economic Development Mandate**

Option 1: Require an annual report to the Council along the lines of CDQ reports.

**Mandatory Vessel Activity**

Option 1: Have NMFS staff consult with enforcement and provide the Council with options.

Option 2: Mandatory shoreside monitoring.

**Safety and Efficiency of Small Vessel Operations**

Option 1: No change in Steller sea lion protection measures.

Option 2: Charge the SSL Mitigation Committee to consider changes to the SSL protection measures to allow small pollock trawlers to operate more safely and efficiently. The Council will not take any action which would likely result in an adverse effect requiring formal consultation under the ESA.