

COUNCIL MOTION - BSAI AMENDMENT 85 PACIFIC COD SECTOR ALLOCATIONS
Approved April 9, 2006

PART I: BSAI PACIFIC COD SECTOR ALLOCATIONS

ALTERNATIVE 2: Modify the current BSAI Pacific cod allocations among the jig, trawl, and fixed gear (hook-and-line and pot) sectors according to a set of catch history years or other considerations.

Component 1: Sectors for which allocations will be established

- AFA Trawl CPs (AFA 20)¹
Suboption b: Exclude catch history of the nine trawl catcher processors whose claims to catch history have been extinguished by Section 209 of the AFA
- Non-AFA Trawl CPs
- Trawl CVs
- Hook-and-line CPs
- Hook-and-line CVs $\geq 60'$
- Pot CPs
- Pot CVs $\geq 60'$
- Hook-and-line and pot CVs $< 60'$
- Jig CVs

Component 2: Sector Allocations

The $< 60'$ hook-and-line/pot CV sector will only fish from the direct allocation to that sector.

The BSAI Pacific cod TAC that is allocated to the above sectors (as defined in Component 1) is TAC less the CDQ Program reserve. In addition, the annual incidental catch allowance (ICA) for fixed gear is deducted off the top from the aggregate amount of the BSAI Pacific cod TAC allocated to the fixed gear sectors combined. Pacific cod harvested incidentally in non-Pacific cod directed BSAI fixed gear fisheries are attributed to the ICA. The ICA is determined annually by the NMFS Regional Administrator in the annual specifications process and has typically been 500 mt.

Option 2.7: The Council can select percentages for cod allocated to each sector that fall within the range of percentages analyzed.

<60 Hook-and-line/Pot CV	2.0
AFA Trawl CP	2.3
Trawl CV	22.1
Jig CV	1.4
Hook-and-line CP	48.7
Hook-and-line CV $\geq 60'$	0.2
Non-AFA Trawl CP	13.4
Pot CP	1.5
Pot CV $\geq 60'$	8.4
	100.0

¹Refers to the 20 trawl catcher processors listed in Section 208(e) of the American Fisheries Act (AFA).

Component 3: Seasonal Apportionments

Option 3.2 Upon determination of the new overall allocations to the trawl and fixed gear sectors, maintain the current percentage of the ITAC allocated to the A and B seasons for trawl gear and the A season for fixed gear. Provide that any reduction in the overall trawl allocation resulting from the options would be applied only in the C season for trawl gear. If necessary, remaining reductions will be taken from the trawl B season. Provide that any increase in the overall fixed gear allocation resulting from the options would be applied only in the B season for fixed gear.

Option 3.4 Apportion the BSAI Pacific cod jig allocation on a trimester basis as follows:

- 60% (Jan. 1 – April 30)
- 20% (April 30 – August 31)
- 20% (August 31 – December 31)

Component 4: Rollovers between gear sectors

Inseason management would retain flexibility to determine how to reallocate projected unused sector allocations (rollovers), taking into consideration the hierarchy below. NMFS takes into account the intent of the rollover hierarchy and the likelihood of a sector's capability to harvest reallocated quota.

Option 4.2 Projected unused allocations to any sector delivering inshore must be considered for reallocation to other inshore sectors before being considered for reallocation to any offshore sector. The suite of provisions below comprises Option 4.2.

- 4.2.1 Projected unused allocation in the jig sector is considered for reallocation to the <60' fixed gear CV sector on a seasonal basis. The third trimester jig rollover should be available to the <60' fixed gear CV sector on September 1.
- 4.2.2 Any unused allocation from any inshore sector will first be considered for reallocation to the jig sector and/or <60' fixed gear CV sector; then to the hook-and-line CV ≥60' or pot CV ≥60' sector; then to the trawl CV sectors. Any CV allocation that is not likely to be harvested through this hierarchy will be reallocated as per components 4.2.3–4.2.6 below.
- 4.2.3 Projected unused trawl sector allocations are considered for reallocation to other trawl sectors (AFA trawl CP; non-AFA trawl CP; trawl CV) before being reallocated to the fixed gear sectors (hook-and-line CP; pot CP; pot CV ≥60').
- 4.2.4 Reallocation of TAC from the trawl sectors to the pot CP, ≥60' pot CV, and hook-and-line CP sectors will be proportional to the new fixed gear allocations. *(Staff note: In effect, this means reallocated TAC from the trawl sectors will be allocated 83.1% to the hook-and-line CP sector, 14.3% to the ≥60' pot CV sector, and 2.6% to the pot CP sector.)*
- 4.2.5 Projected unused pot sector allocations (CPs and ≥60' CVs) are considered for reallocation to the other pot sector before being reallocated to the hook-and-line CP sector.
- 4.2.6 Projected unused allocations in the <60' fixed gear CV sector, both pot sectors (CP and ≥60' CV), and hook-and-line CV ≥60' are reallocated to the hook-and-line CP sector.

Component 5: CDQ Allocation of BSAI Pacific Cod

The CDQ Program reserve for BSAI Pacific cod shall be removed from the TAC prior to the allocation to all other sectors at the following percentage:

Option 5.1 7.5% (status quo)

Component 6: Apportionment of trawl halibut and crab PSC to the cod fishery group

The total amount of trawl halibut PSC for the non-CDQ fisheries is 3,400 mt, which is apportioned between Pacific cod, yellowfin sole, rocksole/other flatfish/flathead sole, pollock/Atka mackerel/other. Generally, 1,400 mt is apportioned to the cod trawl fishery group, but this amount and actual use can vary annually. A significant amount of Pacific cod is taken incidentally in other trawl fisheries so the PSC use associated with that Pacific cod harvest would be attributed to a fishery group other than cod trawl. Amendment 80 will also allocate halibut PSC to the H&G trawl sector so that the amount of halibut PSC available to the remaining trawl sectors will be reduced. (Status quo)

Component 7: Apportionment of the cod trawl fishery group halibut and crab PSC to trawl sectors

Option 7.2: The annual PSC allocation to the trawl Pacific cod fishery will be apportioned to the cod trawl sectors based on the sector's directed cod fishery harvests during the qualifying period under Component 2.

To determine PSC, the percentage of Pacific cod harvested in the Pacific cod target fishery by the trawl sectors should be calculated on the basis of all Pacific cod catch (1999 – 2003), including that which is designated for fishmeal production.

The intent is that NMFS inseason management will retain flexibility to move PSC among trawl fishery categories if necessary.

Component 8: Apportionment of cod non-trawl halibut PSC

The total amount of non-trawl halibut PSC for the non-CDQ fisheries is 833 mt. The 833 mt is normally apportioned between cod hook-and-line sectors and other non-trawl fisheries during the annual specifications process. Generally, 775 mt is apportioned to hook-and-line cod fisheries and 58 mt to other non-trawl. This component would divide the halibut PSC amount apportioned to non-trawl cod between the hook-and-line CP sector and hook-and-line CV sector (for CVs $\geq 60'$ and CVs $< 60'$ combined).

Option 8.2 10 mt for hook-and-line CV sector, remainder for hook-and-line CP sector
Set the halibut PSC amount for each category in the specification process.

Other provisions:

Trawl sector allocations of Pacific cod will be managed as they are currently, as a soft cap with a directed fishing allowance and incidental catch allowance for each trawl sector, determined by NMFS inseason management. When BSAI Amendment 80 is implemented, the Pacific cod sector allocation for the non-AFA trawl CP sector will be divided between cooperative and non-cooperative vessels using the same formula as other allocated species in Amendment 80, and operate as a hard cap.

AFA trawl catcher vessel cod sideboards would be maintained.

A review of the effects of BSAI Amendment 85 on the < 60 ft hook-and-line and pot catcher vessel sectors will be conducted when the combined harvest of those sectors (including parallel, Federal, and State fishery harvests) reaches a total of 3% of the BSAI Pacific cod ITAC.

PART II: APPORTIONMENT OF BSAI PACIFIC COD SECTOR ALLOCATIONS TO BS AND AI SUBAREAS

The Council voted to remove Part II and its attendant analysis from BSAI Amendment 85 and to initiate a new analysis that examines alternative approaches to apportion BSAI Pacific cod allocations between the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands subareas.