

Council Motion on BSAI Pacific Cod Allocations June 6, 2005

The Council amended its motion on BSAI Pacific cod allocations to modify the following components:

Part 1, Component 4: Sector Catch History Years

Add two options which could be selected with any of the options to determine the sector allocations:

Option 1:

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.

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 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 season for trawl gear.

Provide that any reduction in the overall trawl allocation resulting from the options would be applied only in the B and C seasons for trawl gear:

Suboption 1: Reduction applied proportionately to B and C seasons

Suboption 2: Reduction applied equally to B and C seasons

Part I, Component 5: Allocation of BSAI TAC to Sectors

Add an option to revise the jig sector seasonal apportionments as follows:

5.3: Seasonal apportionment to jig sector: 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)

Part II: Apportionment of BSAI Pacific cod sector allocations to BS and AI subareas

Delete Options 3.3, 3.4, and 3.6 under Option 3.

In addition, the Council requests that staff include a discussion of management measures that can be used to manage the Pacific cod sector allocations in the analysis. This discussion should include the following priorities and management tools:

Priorities:

- Avoid exceeding the Pacific cod overfishing level (OFL)
- Avoid exceeding the Pacific cod Allowable Biological Catch (ABC)
- Avoid closure of the non-Pacific cod fisheries as the result of ‘hard cap’ closures
- Avoid erosion of one sector’s Pacific cod allocation as the result of another sector exceeding its allocation
- Avoid foregone harvest

Management Tools:

- Cooperatives – Highlight the benefits of cooperative management to keep harvest levels at or below associated allocations.
- Incidental Catch Allowance (ICAs) – An ICA for non-Pacific cod fisheries is a useful tool for achieving these objectives. In order to ensure that one sector does not erode another sector's allocations, however, ICAs should be established only at the sector level. For instance, there would be a separate ICA for each trawl sector rather than an overall 'trawl ICA'.
- MRA Limits – MRA restrictions serve to constrain harvest levels and would be useful in addressing priorities #3 and #4.
- PSC Status – This would further constrain Pacific cod bycatch and would be useful in addressing priorities #2, #3, and #4.
- Closure of Non-Pacific Cod Fisheries – In order to avoid exceeding the Pacific cod OFL, NMFS may close any fishery that has a reasonable likelihood of Pacific cod bycatch.