

Final Motion on Steller Sea Lions (C-1)

NPFMC on 6/9/01 at approximately 2 pm

1. Adopt the RPA committee's recommendation as Alternative E, with three options.

- Option 1. Establish a limited fishing zone in the Chignik area (area 4) for fixed gear out to ten (10) miles from Castle Cape to Foggy Cape for vessels under 60 ft.
- Option 2. Establish a limited fishing zone in the Dutch Harbor area (area 9) for fixed gear out to ten (10) miles from Cape Cheerful to Umnak Pass for vessels under 60 ft.
- Option 3. Establish the AMCC zonal approach for GOA Pacific cod. Buffers zones would be established as measured from land as follows:

0-3 nm	3-12 nm	12-20 nm	outside 20 nm
pot vessels with 60 pot limit, jig vessels with a 5 machine limit	pot vessels with 60 pot limit, jig vessels with a 5 machine limit, and longline vessels < 60'	all pot vessels, all jig vessels, all longline vessels	all vessels and gears

Additionally, the RPA Committee, when reviewing the analysis, is directed to examine the opportunity to adjust the alternatives to address:

- 1. The effects of making the Western and Central GOA pollock "C" season start date August 25 vs. the proposed September 1 date.
- 2. The effects of making the W GOA "A" season pollock allocation 30% and "B" season 20% vs. the proposed "A" 25% and "B" 25%

2. Substitute the Leape/Cline proposal for Alternative C. A summary of the Leape/Cline proposal is provided as text in Attachment 1. Therefore, the alternatives for analysis would be as listed below. A table comparing application of management tools under the different alternatives is included as Attachment 2.

- Alternative 1: No Action.
- Alternative 2: The RPA proposed by Leape and Cline.
- Alternative 3: The November 2000 Biological Opinion RPA.
- Alternative 4: The RPA developed by the RPA committee and adopted by the AP, with the options for Chignik and Area 9 fixed gear openings out to 10 nm, and the AMCC zonal approach for GOA Pacific cod..
- Alternative 5: The RPA measures for the 2000 pollock and mackerel fisheries, and seasons and critical habitat limits for Pacific cod (previously called Alternative B).

3. Analyze the effects of expiration or extension of the AFA co-operative regulations within the context of SSL. The intent is to include a qualitative discussion of the importance of AFA regulations in terms of SSL RPAs. No action will be taken as part of the SSL decisions in October, but instead, follow up amendments may be initiated.

4. Include a discussion of VMS and VVS within the analysis.

Attachment 1. Summary of the Leape/Cline Alternative (prepared by staff)

1. TACs would be reduced. Maximum TACs would be established as a % maximum of the ABC as follows:

BS pollock TAC	74.5% of ABC	AI mackerel TAC	33.3% of ABC
BS cod TAC	71.8% of ABC	GOA pollock TAC	44.8% of ABC
AI cod TAC	71.8% of ABC	GOA cod TAC	55.0% of ABC

Note from staff: These numbers are derived from the programmatic groundfish SEIS alternative 2.1 (the “low and slow approach”). The original proposal listed TAC reductions as a range that included SEIS alternative 2.2 (the “short burst approach”). Because ranges would be very difficult to analyze, the numbers from alternative 2.1 were chosen for this analysis, since the approach and closure areas involved appear to be more similar to the rest of the proposal.

2. TACs would be set in a more regional manner. Separate TACs would be established for management areas. The Pacific cod TAC would be split into BS and AI components.

- Bering Sea pollock and cod = 2 areas; east and west of 170 west longitude
- AI mackerel = 3 areas; 541, 542, 543
- GOA pollock and cod = several areas; e.g., 610, 620, 630, Shelikof Strait

3. Four seasons would be established for pollock, cod, and mackerel fisheries. Two week stand-downs would be established between seasons with no rollover of TAC allowed.

January 20 - March 15	25%	June 15 - August 15	25%
April 1 - June 1	25%	September 1 - Dec 31	25%

4. Prohibit all trawling for all species within SSL critical habitat. Critical habitat includes 20 nm buffers around rookeries and haulouts, and foraging areas of Seaguam, Shelikof and the SCA.

5. Limit the amount of cod taken within foraging areas to 10% of survey biomass for cod.

6. Establish a seasonal exclusive area registration. Vessels must register for one fishing area at a time for each pollock, cod, or mackerel season.

7. Establish maximum daily catch limits for vessels fishing in the pollock, cod, or mackerel fisheries. Daily limits would apply both inside and outside of critical habitat, and would be established as follows:

BS pollock	5,000 mt	AI mackerel	300 mt
BS cod	600 mt	GOA pollock	1,000 mt
AI cod	600 mt	GOA cod	400 mt

8. Require VMS coverage on the fixed gear cod fleet fishing inside critical habitat.

9. A zonal approach would be implemented for BSAI and GOA Pacific cod fisheries, with buffer zones that apply to distance from rookeries and haulouts.

0-3 nm	3-10 nm	10-20 nm	outside 20 nm
no fishing	pot vessels with 60 pot limit, all jig vessels, longline vessels < 60'	all pot vessels, all jig vessels, all longline vessels < 60', and catcher longliners >60'	all vessels and gears

10. Prohibit directed fishing for pollock in the Aleutian Islands.

Attachment 2. Table comparing application of management tools under the different alternatives.

Management Tool	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2 Leape/Cline	Alternative 3 BiOp 3 RPA	Alternative 4 RPA Committee	Alternative 5 2000 RPAs
Control Rule	Amendment 56 Tiers	TAC set as a % of maximum ABC	BiOp Global Control Rule	RPA Comm. Global Control Rule	Amendment 56 Tiers
No transit zones	3 nm no-transit zones around principal rookeries.	3 nm no-transit zones around principal rookeries	3 nm no-transit zones around principal rookeries.	3 nm no-transit zones around principal rookeries	3 nm no-transit zones around principal rookeries.
Area Closures	No trawling 10/20 nm from 37 rookeries	Prohibit all trawling in CH/RFRPA. AI closed to pollock fishing.	All CH/RFRPA sites designated as restricted or closed to fishing for pollock, cod, and mackerel.	Specified closures by fishery, area, and gear type. Areas 4, 9, and Seguam closed to fishing for pollock, cod, and mackerel	No pollock fishing in AI area. No trawling 10/20 nm from 37 rookeries
Season Closures	No trawling Jan 1-Jan 20.	No trawling Jan 1-Jan 20. No trawling for pollock 11/1-1/20.	No trawling Jan 1-Jan 20. No trawling for pollock, cod, or mackerel 11/1 - 1/20. No fishing for pollock, cod, or mackerel inside CH 11/1 - 1/20	No trawling Jan 1 1-Jan 20. Closure period between GOA pollock seasons. No trawling for pollock or cod Nov 1- Dec 31.	No trawling Jan 1-Jan 20. No trawling for pollock 11/1-1/20.
Seasons and Apportionments pollock	BSAI - 1/20 (45%), 9/1 (55%) GOA - 1/20-4/1 (25%), 6/1-7/1 (35%), 9/1-12/31 (40%)	four seasons evenly distributed over year with 25% of TAC each season	BSAI - 1/20 (40%), 6/11 (60%) GOA - 1/20 (40%), 6/11 (60%)	AI - 1/20 (100%) BS 1/20 (40%), 6/11(60%) GOA - 1/20-2/25 (25%), 3/10-5/31 (25%), 9/1-9/15 (25%), 10/1-11/1(25%)	BSAI - 1/20, 4/1 (40%); 6/10, 8/20-11/1 (60%) GOA - 1/20-3/1 (30%), 3/15-6/1 (15%); 8/20-9/15 (30%), 10/1-11/1 (25%)
Seasons and apportionments cod	BSAI trawl - 1/20 BSAI fixed -1/1, 1/5, 9/1 GOA trawl -1/20 GOA fixed - 1/1	four seasons evenly distributed over year with 25% of TAC each season	BSAI - 1/20 (40%), 6/11 (60%) GOA - 1/20 (40%), 6/11 (60%)	BSAI trawl - 1/20 (80%), 6/11 (20%) BSAI lonline-1/1(60%), 6/11 (40%) BSAI pot - 1/1 (60%), 9/1 (40%) GOA trawl - 1/20 (60%), 9/1 (40%) GOA fixed - 1/1(60%), 9/1 (40%)	<u>BS trawl + fixed</u> - 1/20-4/30 (40%), 5/1-11/1 (60%) <u>AI trawl + fixed</u> - 1/20-4/30 (40%), 5/1-11/1 (60%) <u>GOA trawl + fixed</u> -1/20-4/30 (40%), 5/1-11/1 (60%)
Seasons and apportionments mackerel	AI - 1/20-4/15 (50%), 9/1-10/31 (50%)	four season evenly distributed over year with 25% of TAC each season	BSAI - 1/20 (40%), 6/11 (60%) GOA - 1/20 (40%), 6/11 (60%)	AI - 1/20-4/15 (50%), 9/1-10/31 (50%)	AI - 1/20-4/15 (50%), 9/1-10/31 (50%)

<u>Management Tool</u>	<u>Alternative 1 No Action</u>	<u>Alternative 2 Leape/Cline</u>	<u>Alternative 3 BIOP 3 RPA</u>	<u>Alternative 4 RPA Committee</u>	<u>Alternative 5 2000 RPAs</u>
Catch Limits inside CH	mackerel: incremental change to 40% inside CH and 60% outside in 2002.	daily catch limits inside and outside CH/RFRPA BS pollock 5000 mt AI pollock 0 mt GOA pollock 1000 mt BSAI cod 600 mt GOA cod 400 mt BSAI mackerel 300 mt	pollock, cod, and mackerel: 4 seasons (1/20, 4/1, 5,11 8/22) inside CH/RFRPA with catch limits based on season and area specific biomass estimates.	SCA pollock 75% of A season harvest prior to April 1 mackerel 70% inside 30% outside of each season apportionment GOA cod: option for AMCC zonal approach for GOA Pacific cod.	mackerel: incremental change to 40% inside CH and 60% outside in 2002. <u>BSAI Pollock:</u> maximum TAC % allowed inside CH/RFRPA sites = 20% in A+B season combined (15% for A + B singly), 4.5% in C season and 7.5% in D season. <u>BS cod:</u> maximum TAC % allowed inside CH = 20% (A), 3.6% (B). <u>AI cod:</u> maximum TAC % allowed inside CH = 20% (A), 48.3% (B). <u>GOA cod:</u> maximum TAC % allowed inside CH = 20% (A), 31.8% (B season).
Monitoring Requirements	Obs. Program all fisheries, and VMS for mackerel fishery.	Observer Program all fisheries, and VMS for cod fixed gear fisheries	Obs. Program all fisheries, and VMS for pollock, cod, and mackerel fisheries.	VMS for pollock, cod, and mackerel fisheries, with small jig vessel exemption	Obs. Program all fisheries, and VMS for mackerel fishery.
Experimental Design	small scale: Kodiak and Seguam localized depletion testing	small scale with well defined and manageable objectives	large scale: 4 sets of restricted/ closed areas for comparison	small scale with well defined and manageable objectives	small scale: Kodiak and Seguam localized depletion testing