

Council Motion

December 11, 2020

C6 BSAI Pot Cod CP

The Council recommends the RIR be released for final review and scheduled for final action with the following additions (**in Bold**) and deletions (~~in strike-out~~).

Purpose and Need

Amendment 85 **to the Groundfish FMP for the BSAI** assigned a portion of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Pacific cod TAC to the pot CP sector with the primary goals of aligning Pacific cod allocations with actual dependency and use and providing stability to all sectors. ~~Three~~ Major changes have occurred since the implementation of Amendment 85, which has resulted in less stability for the dependent vessels on which the Amendment 85 allocation was based:

1. Low crab **and Pacific cod** TACs and consolidation within the crab **and hook-and-line CP** fisheries has provided increased flexibility for pot CPs;
2. The TAC for Pacific cod in the BSAI has decreased over the last several years; and
3. The availability of rollovers to the pot CP sector has declined.

The Council is considering action to eliminate latent capacity in the fishery in order to increase stability for cod dependent pot CPs, to maintain consistently low rates of halibut and crab bycatch, and to ensure that condensed fishing seasons do not result in safety-at-sea concerns.

Alternatives

Alternative 1: No action

Alternative 2: ~~Remove the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod endorsements on CP pot LLP licenses unless the license is credited with a minimum directed landing of 1,000 metric tons in the management area based on the following threshold criteria:~~ **Remove the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod pot gear CP endorsements from LLP licenses unless the vessel(s) named on the LLP license at the time of landing is/are cumulatively credited with a minimum of 1,000 metric tons of retained commercial Pacific cod caught while operating as a CP with pot gear in the BSAI based on the following threshold criteria:**

Option 1: 2005 – 2019

Option 2: 2012 – 2019

Suboptions:

~~A: In any of three years~~

~~B: In any of four years~~