



C6 BSAI Pacific Cod Pot CP LLP Licenses – Initial Review

December 2020 Council Meeting

Action Memo

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Other Presenters: Krista Milani & Alicia Miller (NMFS AKRO SF)

Action Required:

1. Review analysis
2. Consider designating a preliminary preferred alternative

BACKGROUND

The Council will receive an initial review analysis of a potential modification to the License Limitation Program (LLP) license endorsements for catcher-processors (CP) using pot gear to fish for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) areas. The action alternative under consideration would remove “BSAI Pacific cod pot CP” endorsements from LLP licenses that were not credited with at least 1,000 metric tons of cod landings during a defined time period. The Council’s alternative includes options that would apply the 1,000 metric ton threshold to a period running from 2005 through 2019 (Option 1) or from 2012 through 2019 (Option 2). At the Council’s request, NMFS established a control date of December 10, 2019 meaning that any catch occurring after that time might not be considered in regard to evaluating this action alternative. Currently, eight LLP licenses hold the endorsement that allows a CP to fish for Pacific cod in the BS or AI with pot gear. If the Council were to select Option 1 under the action alternative, five LLP licenses would retain the endorsement. Four LLP licenses would retain the endorsement under Option 2.

The BSAI pot CP sector is allocated 1.5% of the initial total allowable catch (TAC) for Pacific cod. That amount can be increased through in-season reallocations of TAC from other gear and operational-type sectors that are not projected to utilize their TAC allocation. Some vessels in this sector also harvest CDQ Pacific cod, and must hold an endorsed LLP license to do so. In recent years, the reduced TAC level for all BSAI Pacific cod sectors has meant that fewer fish are directly available to the pot CP sector and fewer – if any – additional TAC is available through in-season reallocation. As a result, the total volume of the fishery and the length of the fishing season has fallen substantially.