



# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director  
1007 W. 3rd Avenue, Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone 907-271-2809 | www.npfmc.org

## D1 BSAI Pacific Cod Small Boat Access

June 2021 Council Meeting

### Action Memo

Council Staff: Dr. Kate Haapala (Council staff)  
Other Presenters: Krista Milani (NMFS) and Jon McCracken (Council staff)  
Action Required: 1. Receive discussion paper  
2. Determine whether future action is warranted

### BACKGROUND

At the October 2019 Council meeting, the Council tasked a discussion paper in response to community concerns and access challenges that were identified for smaller catcher vessels (CVs) operating in the Bering Sea Aleutian Island (BSAI) Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*) less than 60 ft hook-and-line (HAL) or pot sector. The Council received public comment describing the access challenges that smaller HAL or pot CVs face, which identified an increase in participation within the less than 60 ft HAL or pot sector and inter-sector competition from a subgroup of larger HAL or pot CVs greater than or equal to 58 ft in length overall with increased capacity and efficiencies as the root of small vessel access challenges.

The Council's October 2019 motion directed staff to evaluate "the potential impact of expanding the allowable participants to fish off of the jig sector allocation to small fixed gear catcher vessels (e.g., <57', trip limits up to 15,000 lbs., pot limits less than 25 pots)" as options to potentially address the access challenges facing smaller CVs operating in the less than 60 ft HAL or pot CV sector. This discussion paper provides the Council an opportunity to discuss and give direction on its preference for potential future work related to small vessel access opportunities in the BSAI Pacific cod less than 60 ft HAL or pot sector.