



C3 BSAI Pacific Cod Trawl Mothership Analysis

April 2019

Action Memo

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Action Required: 1. Final Action Draft of RIR and SIA– review
2. Select preferred alternatives – as appropriate

BACKGROUND

The Council conducted an initial review of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Pacific cod mothership action during its February 2019 meeting and bifurcated the analysis and slightly revised the purpose and need statement. The action was bifurcated, in part, because of the perceived need to address the mothership issues on a faster timeline than the entire package could be completed. This portion of the bifurcated analysis focuses on limiting catcher-processors (CPs) acting as motherships in the BSAI non-community development quota (CDQ) Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel fishery. In addition to the No Action alternative, limitations considered for the CPs acting as motherships include licensing certain Amendment 80 CPs and non-Amendment 80 CPs when receiving BSAI non-CDQ Pacific cod deliveries from trawl catcher vessels and limiting the amount of BS Pacific cod that could be delivered to the CPs by trawl catcher vessels. A proposed action would also limit retired Amendment 80 CPs from acting as a mothership for Pacific cod in the BSAI and Gulf of Alaska (GOA).

Alternative 2 limits the number of CPs that may take directed BSAI Pacific cod deliveries from catcher vessels in the future. Different options are considered for Amendment 80 CPs and non-Amendment 80 CPs, based on years of participation. Depending on the option selected, between one and seven Amendment 80 CPs could qualify and one non-Amendment 80 CP could qualify.

Alternative 3 would limit the total amount (0% to 11% of the BS portion that generates the BSAI sector allocation) of Bering Sea non-CDQ Pacific cod that could be delivered to CPs acting as a mothership. The amount is determined by the percentage of BS non-CDQ Pacific cod delivered to those CPs during defined qualifying seasons of specific years relative to all non-CDQ trawl CV Pacific cod catch from those seasons and years in the BS. The limit would be managed as a sideboard and the intent is that incidental catches of Pacific cod would not restrict catcher vessel deliveries to CPs acting as a mothership in other target fisheries.

Alternative 4 prohibits replaced Amendment 80 vessels from participating in either the GOA or BSAI fisheries as a mothership. This alternative could be selected in conjunction with Alternative 2 to ensure that any past Amendment 80 vessel could not be used as a processing platform in the North Pacific fisheries. This alternative does not apply to replaced AFA catcher-processors because they are already prohibited from participating in those fisheries as a mothership under the AFA vessel replacement language.