North Pacific Fishery Management Council C2 GOA Pollock/Pacific cod Seasons, Allocations Motion June 6, 2019

The Council recommends the following purpose and need statement and alternatives, elements, and options to increase efficiencies for participants in the Gulf of Alaska Pollock and Pacific cod trawl fisheries. Preferred alternatives are in **bold**. New language is <u>underlined</u>.

Purpose and Need Statement:

Evaluation of the pollock and Pacific cod trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska indicates the seasonal distribution of pollock and cod may create inefficiencies for participants and there may be opportunities to improve management of the fisheries. Modifying the seasons or seasonal allocations of pollock and cod could increase fishery yield, particularly for roe quality and quantity of pollock, management flexibility and potentially decrease prohibited species catch. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) intends to improve prosecution of these fisheries while not redistributing allocations of pollock or cod between management areas or participants. The Council understand that this action may have implications for Steller sea lion management measures and would be reviewed consistent with the Endangered Species Act.

Alternative 1. No action. (Status quo)

Alternative 2. Combine the A and B season into a single season (January 20 through May 31) and combine the C and D season into a single season (August 25 through November 1) and allocate pollock among a combined A/B and C/D season 50% to the A/B season and 50% to the C/D season. This change is applicable to areas 610, 620, and 630.

The amount of unharvested pollock that may be reallocated from one season to the following season, or among areas, will remain at the status quo of 20%

Option 1: Increase the amount of unharvested pollock that may be reallocated from

one season to the following season, or among areas, from 20% to:

Sub-option 1: 25% Sub-option 2: 30%

Option 2: Change the start date of a combined C/D pollock season from August

25 to September 1 resulting in a combined season under Alternative 2

that runs from September 1 to November 1.

<u>Alternative 3.</u> Modify the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod allocation for trawl catcher vessels as follows:

Option 1: CGOA A season 23.21444%; B season 18.36967%

WGOA A season 29.62%; B season 8.78%

Option 2: CGOA A season 25.29364%; B season 16.29047%

WGOA A season 31.54%; B season 6.86%

Option 3: CGOA A season 27.37285%; B season 14.21126%

WGOA A season 33.46%; B season 4.94%

The Council deems proposed regulations that clearly and directly flow from the provisions of this motion to be necessary and appropriate in accordance with section 303(c).

The Council authorizes the Executive Director and the Chairman to review the draft proposed regulations when provided by NMFS to ensure that the proposed regulations to be submitted to the Secretary under section 303(c) are consistent with these instructions.