



D2 Western GOA Pollock Vessel Limitations

December 2018 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Staff: Sarah Marrinan
Action Required: 1. Review discussion paper on proposed changes
2. Action as necessary

Background

In December 2017, the Council requested staff evaluate the potential impacts of restricting access in the Western Gulf of Alaska (Area 610) pollock trawl fishery based on vessel size. The analysts were asked to consider the effects of two potential actions:

1. Implementing a vessel size limit of 58 feet (ft) length overall (LOA) in the Western GOA pollock fishery, or
2. Establishing a sideboard limit on catch of pollock by trawl vessels over 58 ft LOA.

The Council is interested in how these management actions might impact participating vessels, processors, and communities. It seeks to understand the extent these measures may protect the historical dependence of 58-ft LOA vessels on the pollock fishery, affect Chinook salmon and halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) rates and use, and protect the communities supported by the pollock fishery in the Western GOA. Specifically, analysts were asked to provide an evaluation of the economic contribution of vessels over and under 58-ft LOA to communities, and historical harvest distributions as well as regulatory changes and external factors that influence participation and harvest by vessel sizes.

In addition to addressing the Council's requests for information on the dynamics of this fishery, this discussion paper also provides an initial evaluation of the potential impacts the proposed restrictions may have on vessels over and under 58 ft LOA (skippers, crew, vessel owners, etcetera), as well as communities, processors, and businesses that are associated with these harvesters.