



# NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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## Action Memo

**File Number:**Catch 14-003

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**Agenda Date**2/3/2014

**Agenda Number:**C-8

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**Eric Olson, Chairman**  
**Chris Oliver, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT:**  
CDQ Pacific cod Fishery Development - Discussion Paper

**ESTIMATED TIME:**  
4 hours

**ACTION REQUIRED:**  
Receive discussion paper on the potential for a small vessel CDQ Pacific cod directed fishery and take action as necessary.

### BACKGROUND

In October 2013, during the staff tasking agenda item, representatives from the BSAI Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups introduced a proposal to make regulatory changes or exemptions that would encourage local development and participation in the harvest of CDQ Pacific cod allocations in both a directed CDQ Pacific cod fishery and while targeting CDQ and halibut. This proposed fishery would allow CDQ village residents with vessels ranging in size from 16' to 46' in length, mainly using hook-and-line gear, to develop and actively participate in a CDQ village Pacific cod fishery in the BSAI.

The Council chose to move forward on the proposal's request to initiate a discussion paper. They acknowledged the problem statement identified by stakeholders in which the CDQ groups describe regulations that are prohibitive in allowing small hook-and-line vessels to direct fish Pacific cod. In their proposal, the CDQ groups identified regulation changes that they believe would encourage local development and participation in the harvest of CDQ Pacific cod allocations. These four proposed changes include:

1. Exempting vessels between 32' and 46' in length from License Limitation Program requirements while harvesting CDQ Pacific cod.
2. Exempting vessels up to 46' in length from Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements while harvesting CDQ Pacific cod.
3. Aligning observer requirements for hook-and-line catcher vessels targeting CDQ Pacific cod with observer requirements for hook-and-line catcher vessels targeting non-CDQ Pacific cod.
4. Requiring 100% retention of CDQ Pacific cod, on vessels with the exemption in 1) and 2) above, while directed fishing for CDQ halibut and/or IFQ halibut, only if an allocation of CDQ Pacific cod is available to those vessels.

The intent of this discussion paper is to provide the Council with background on the feasibility of developing of a small vessel CDQ fishery for targeting Pacific cod with hook-and-line gear based on the current regulatory landscape of the CDQ fisheries. A first examination of the four changes posed by the CDQ groups does not

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rule out the possibility of any of these changes; however, there are challenges associated with the changes requested in each component. The paper describes some of these challenges, and some potential solutions, if the Council wishes to move ahead with further analysis of this action.