

**D R A F T**  
**ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES**  
**North Pacific Fishery Management Council**  
**August 17–18, 2010**

The following (13) members were present for all or part of the meetings:

Joe Childers	Becca Robbins Gisclair	Ed Poulsen
Mark Cooper	Jan Jacobs	Beth Stewart
Craig Cross	Simon Kinneen	Lori Swanson
Jerry Downing	Chuck McCallum	Anne Vanderhoeven
Tom Enlow	Matt Moir	

### **C-1 SSL Biological Opinion and Environmental Assessment**

The AP recommends that the Council adopt the following as a preferred alternative for a Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA).

RPA Alternative 4: SSL protection with reduced economic impacts on Aleutian Islands cod and mackerel fisheries.

Unless otherwise stated, the existing protection measures in 50 CFR 679 remain in place.

#### Atka mackerel

Remove existing ‘platoon’ system in areas 542 and 543

##### Area 543:

- No fishing inside critical habitat
- Fishing outside critical habitat east of 174 degrees – 30 minutes East longitude
- TAC not to exceed 65% of ABC
- A season Jan 20 to June 10, B season June 10 to Nov 1
- No more than 50% of TAC harvested in A or B season
- No rollover between A and B seasons

##### Area 542:

- No fishing inside critical habitat from 178 degrees – 0 minutes East longitude to 180 degrees – 0 minutes longitude.
- TAC not to exceed 65% of ABC
- Catch inside critical habitat (outside Trawl Exclusion Zones) not to exceed 50% of TAC
- A season Jan 20 to June 10, B season June 10 to Nov 1
- No more than 50% of TAC harvested in A or B season
- No rollover between A and B seasons

##### Area 541:

- Status quo, except A season January 20 to June 10, B season June 10 to November 1

## Pacific cod trawl

### Area 543:

- No cod trawling in critical habitat east of 174 degrees 30 minutes East longitude
- Cod trawling in critical habitat west of 174 degrees 30 minutes from 10 nm and out from February 15 to March 15
- Cod trawl harvest limited to no more than 2.5% of BS/AI ABC

### Area 541 and Area 542 east of 178 degrees West Longitude:

- Trawl cod fishery is A Season only (January 20 to June 10)
- Trawl cod fishery is only east of 178 degrees W to 541 management border
- No inside critical habitat cod fishing west of 178 degrees W to 177 degrees E
- Increase haulout closures to 10 nm for cod trawl between 170 degrees W to 174 W
- Status quo West of 174 W to 178 W

## Pacific cod fixed gear

No additional restrictions on jig gear

### Areas 542 and 543:

- Cod fishery is limited to B season only (June 10 to November 1)
- Critical habitat open outside 3 nm from rookeries and haulouts

### Area 541:

- No new 541 restrictions on fixed gear cod fishing

*[Motion passed 13/1]*

The AP believes that RPA 4 allows for a more effective adaptive management opportunity. Allowing selective fisheries to occur in areas of lower concern provides the potential to contrast the effect of fishing on Steller sea lion stocks. We strongly encourage NMFS and all other sources of cooperative research to fund and develop plans to closely monitor and analyze changes in fisheries and sea lion stocks that may lead to a better understanding of the reasons for change in sea lion stock size throughout the range of the Western DPS.

*[Motion passed 14/0]*