

**North Pacific Fishery Management Council**  
**C8: BSAI Parallel Waters**  
**Council Motion**  
**October 8, 2019**

The Council adopts the following three elements:

1) The Council adopts the following changes to the Purpose and Need statement, with additions noted by bold and underlined text and deletions noted by strike-out:

Purpose and Need

Currently, there are no limits on entry **by federally permitted catcher vessels** into the **Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI)** parallel waters groundfish fisheries, and no limits on the proportion of the ~~Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI)~~ Pacific cod TAC that may be harvested in parallel waters. **Current management inadvertently allows fishing in BSAI parallel waters off a federal Pacific cod TAC even when a sector's federal Pacific cod allocation has been achieved.** There is concern that harvests of Pacific cod in the parallel waters fishery by vessels that do not hold **BSAI groundfish** LLP licenses **or the appropriate Pacific cod endorsement** may continue to increase. **This complicates conservation and management measures which hold sectors to their allocations and circumvents the intent of previous Council decisions regarding license limitation, sector allocations, and catch reporting.** The Council, in consideration of options and recommendations for **federal catcher vessels that participate in** the parallel fishery, **intends to ensure robust catch accounting while considering participation in and reliance on the Pacific cod fisheries** ~~will need to~~ balance the objectives of providing stability to the long term participants in the sectors, while recognizing that new entrants who do not hold Federal **fishery** permits ~~or licenses~~ may participate in the parallel fishery.

2) The Council adopts Alternative 2 as the preliminary preferred alternative, with additions noted by bold and underlined text and deletions noted by strike-out:

Alternative 2: Limit access to the parallel fishery for Federal fishery participants.

**Hook and line and pot** ~~Fixed-gear~~ vessels - require any pot or **hook and line** ~~longline~~ vessel designated on an LLP or FFP to have the appropriate Pacific cod endorsement and area endorsement on the LLP; and the Bering Sea (BS) or Aleutian Islands (AI) area designation and the appropriate gear and operation type designations on the FFP in order to participate in the BS or AI Pacific cod parallel waters fishery.

Trawl gear vessels - require any trawl vessel with an LLP or an FFP to have the appropriate gear and area endorsements on the LLP; and the BS or AI area designation

and the appropriate gear and operation type designations on the FFP in order to participate in the BS or AI Pacific cod parallel waters fishery.

In addition, require the above Federally permitted or licensed vessels that fish in the parallel waters to adhere to Federal seasonal closures of the BSAI sector allocations corresponding to the sector in which the vessel operates.

Vessels with a BS or AI area, gear, and operation type designations specified in this alternative cannot remove these designations from the FFP and can only surrender or reactivate the FFP once every three years.

3) The Council recommends releasing the Initial Review Draft for public review, subject to the changes in the Purpose and Need noted above, and subject to the clarifications and additions recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee, as practicable.