



D3 BSAI Pacific Cod Pot Gear Cooperative Program

June 2025

Action Memo

Staff: Anna Henry

Other Presenters: Darrell Brannan (Brannan & Associates)

Action Required: Review document and recommend future action if desired

BACKGROUND

In June 2023, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) tasked staff¹ to prepare a discussion paper with information to help the Council address the numerous concerns being encountered by the BSAI pot catcher vessel ≥ 60 ft. (CV) and pot catcher/processor (CP) Pacific cod fisheries and to include data to support the development of a cooperative limited access privilege program (LAPP) for these pot sectors.

The discussion paper² based on the 2023 motion was presented at the June 2024 Council meeting and included information on the following topics: 1) History of relevant Council actions related to Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) pot CV ≥ 60 ft. and pot CP Pacific cod fisheries, 2) Summary of Federal BSAI Pacific Cod Management, 3) MSA Elements of a LAPP, 4) Program Design, 5) Cooperative Structure- including information on Allocations, Processor and community considerations, Ownership and Use Caps, and Sideboard limits, 6) Bycatch and PSC Management, 7) Vessel Crew Considerations, 8) Interaction with other Pacific Cod Sectors, 9) Monitoring Requirements and 10) Safety Considerations.

After reviewing the 2024 discussion paper, the Council requested that staff develop a subsequent discussion paper that focuses on seven topics in greater detail.³ The outline and content of this discussion paper are directly responsive to the specific elements outlined in this Council motion, including sections covering: 1) Cod allocations by harvest area (BS, AI or BSAI), 2) Improved Retention/Improved Utilization (IR/IU) implications of extended seasons and any potential additional avenues to address those concerns, 3) Monitoring issues, 4) Prohibited Species Catch, 5) Processing sector, 6) Additional information on active or inactive LLP license holders with only a BS or AI pot cod endorsement (entity type, location of owner, and recent transfers) for the years 2008-2023, 7) Description of opportunities provided for new entrants in other programs that might be applicable to a program like the one under consideration. An additional section was included to address NMFS management considerations that the agency wanted to highlight at this point in the process.

¹ <https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=3773f458-b562-4da4-93a1-78531c99ff38.pdf&fileName=E%20Motion%20Pot%20cod%20LAPP.pdf>

² <https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=f1eeebdf-f7c1-461a-babc-0d32aa8df7ad.pdf&fileName=D4%20BSAI%20Pot%20Cod%20LAPP%20Discussion%20Paper.pdf>

³ <https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=d5289b89-89a0-4d16-8a20-2500800248c9.pdf&fileName=D4%20Council%20Motion%20FINAL.pdf>