



## D4 BSAI Pacific Cod Pot Gear Cooperative Program

June 2024

### Action Memo

Council Staff: Sam Cunningham, Anna Henry

Other Presenters: Darrell Brannan (Brannan & Associates)

Action Required: 1. Review discussion paper  
2. Recommend next steps, if desired

### BACKGROUND

The Council requested basic fishery data and a discussion of points that could inform the development of a cooperative-based catch share program for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) pot gear vessels fishing for Pacific cod. The cooperatives under consideration would cover the “pot cod” catcher/processors (CP) sector and the sector of catcher vessels (CV) greater than or equal to 60 feet in length (O60). The Council’s [June 2023 motion](#) included a rationale and 14 bullet points to be covered.

The Council’s request highlighted challenges facing the pot cod sector. At that time (June 2023) these included lower TAC, increased CV participation, concerns about crab bycatch, and a race among existing participants that had shortened seasons and could affect safety.

Staff organized the Council’s requested bullet points by topic, in the context of the early stages of a potential cooperative-management program, or Limited Access Privilege Program (LAPP) under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

- Section 1 overviews recent management actions that are relevant to the BSAI pot cod sectors and provides background on TAC allocation, season length, harvest volume and value.
- Section 2 defines the required and discretionary elements of a LAPP and also compares LAPPs to other examples of cooperative-based programs.
- Section 3 walks through program design elements based on experience with other cooperative-based programs in the North Pacific region. These include allocation methods, processor and community considerations, ownership and use caps, and limitations on “spillover” into other fisheries, among others.
- Section 4 provides data on non-target catch of PSC and non-PSC species within the potentially involved pot sectors, and discusses how bycatch can be or has been treated under previous LAPPs.
- Section 5 discusses considerations related to captains and crew on pot cod vessels.
- Section 6 provides a broad scoping of issues related to how a cooperative-based program for CPs and O60 CVs might affect other BSAI cod sectors (Under 60, trawl and shoreside processing).
- Section 7 discusses potential monitoring needs or requirements and related issues that might arise.
- Section 8 overviews the safety considerations that were highlighted in the Council’s original motion requesting this paper.

Once the Council has reviewed the discussion paper, the next steps could be no further action; request further information from staff in the form of another discussion paper; or initiate an analysis, which requires identifying a purpose and need statement and alternatives.