

North Pacific Fishery Management Council Motion
F Staff Tasking – BSAI AM 80 Replacement Vessel
June 09, 2026

The Council initiates an analysis for a regulatory and BSAI groundfish FMP amendment to require any Amendment 80 replacement vessel operating in the Gulf of Alaska to be subject to Amendment 80 halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) sideboard limits and to ensure Amendment 80 vessels are subject to the same monitoring requirements when they are operating in the Gulf of Alaska. The Council approves the following purpose and need statement and alternatives for this action:

Purpose and Need Statement

Given declines in coastwide halibut stock status and recent changes to reduce halibut PSC limits for the Amendment 80 sector in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands, the Council is evaluating a conservation measure to eliminate the exemption to Amendment 80 halibut PSC sideboard limits in the Gulf of Alaska. Under current regulations, one Amendment 80 catcher processor vessel (Golden Fleece) is eligible to fish flatfish in the Gulf of Alaska and not be subject to the Amendment 80 halibut PSC sideboard limits in the Gulf of Alaska, due to the vessel's historical participation. While this vessel has not been fishing in the Gulf of Alaska since 2022, it is eligible to be replaced by a different vessel. Current regulations allow the replacement vessel to be exempt from the Gulf of Alaska halibut PSC sideboard limits as long as the replacement vessel is the same length or shorter than the original license allows (≤ 124 feet length overall). Additionally, Amendment 80 vessels are subject to different monitoring requirements when operating in the Gulf of Alaska, which means that current monitoring requirements do not provide the sufficient PSC accounting that is required to monitor compliance with a sideboard. As a result, the Council is also evaluating whether regulation changes are needed to improve catch monitoring in the Gulf of Alaska and ensure consistent requirements for Amendment 80 vessels operating in BSAI and GOA.

Alternatives

Alternatives 2 and 3 are not mutually exclusive.

Alternative 1. No Action

Alternative 2. Remove the exemption from the Gulf of Alaska halibut PSC sideboard limits for an Amendment 80 vessel that replaces the GOLDEN FLEECE.

Alternative 3. Apply Amendment 80 monitoring requirements in the BSAI at 679.93(c) to Amendment 80 trawl catcher processors operating in the Gulf of Alaska.