

Council Motion E-1 Staff Tasking

BSAI Pot catcher vessel ≥60 ft. and Pot Catcher Processor Cooperative data request

June 11, 2023

The BSAI Pot catcher vessel ≥60 ft. and Pot Catcher Processor Pacific cod fisheries are facing multiple issues simultaneously that are negatively impacting the sustained viability and rational prosecution of the fishery for all its participants. These factors include: decreasing Pacific cod TACs, an increase in the number of participating LLP licenses in the CV sector, the potential for additional new participants in both the CV and the CP sectors, a race among existing participants (often in unsafe conditions), resulting in an inability to control bycatch of crab, and increasingly shortened seasons in recent years. Many of the BSAI Pot catcher vessel ≥60 ft. and Pot Catcher Processor Pacific cod have come before the council asking for relief from the status quo manner in which they prosecute their fishery and see this action as a potential to move forward in a manner that will bring relief and reduce bycatch.

The Council request a discussion paper to request information to address the numerous concerns being encountered by the fishery and to receive data to support development of a cooperative limited access privilege program (LAPP) for these pot sectors to address these concerns.

The discussion paper should include

- Allocation of BSAI Pacific cod quota share to BSAI LLP licenses with a Pacific cod pot gear endorsement
- Consideration of equal shares program for ≥60 ft. Pot CVs
- Consider issuing quota share to owners of active vessels that do not own an LLP
- How this new program will impact the less than 60 ft. CV fleet and ability for new entrants
- History of crab bycatch by CV and CP fleets for the years 2008 through 2022
- History of any deliveries to Motherships or CP's acting as Motherships by ≥60 ft. Pot CVs for the years 2008 through 2022
- History of deliveries and / or catch by CV and CP fleets in the AI for the years 2008 through 2022
- Crab bycatch management
- Establishing separate ≥60 ft. CV and CP cooperative(s) for Pacific cod
- Protections for harvesters, processors, and communities including participation by shoreside processors and communities
- Use caps, transfer requirements, and other administrative requirements that apply to quota programs, including data to support initial range for use and ownership caps
- Establishing sideboards to protect limited access GOA and BSAI fisheries
- Consider impacts of management changes on crew
- Likely monitoring requirements necessary to support a cooperative program that allocates cooperative Pacific cod quota and apportions crab PSC to the cooperative(s) including availability of observers for the CVs to move to the full observer coverage category

The Council establishes a control date of June 11, 2023, that may be used as a reference date for any future management action to address Pot CPs and ≥60 ft. Pot CVs participation in the BSAI Pacific cod pot sector fishery.