



D3 BSAI and GOA Unused Pacific Cod

October 2019 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Jon McCracken
Other Presenters: Alicia Miller, NMFS (Presenter)
Action Required: 1. Review discussion paper
2. Decide whether to initiate further action

BACKGROUND

In October 2017, the Council requested staff add a module to the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Pacific cod allocation review outlining steps necessary to remove obstacles that impede achieving, on a continuing basis, the complete harvest of Pacific cod allocations in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and add a similar discussion when reviewing the allocations in the Gulf of Alaska. During development of the allocation review, the requested module was determined to be beyond the scope of the BSAI Pacific cod allocation review, and it was instead scheduled to follow as a separate discussion paper. The discussion paper was previously referred to as the 'stranded cod' discussion paper.

The Council specifically requested staff provide an outline of the process for reallocating Pacific cod, and options for NMFS and the State of Alaska's Department of Fish and Game to facilitate the harvest of stranded allocations of Pacific cod in state water (guideline harvest level (GHL)) fisheries by state and federal fishery participants, with a focus on the Aleutian Island Subdistrict (AIS) GHL fishery. Also included in the request was a discussion of impediments to the complete harvest of Pacific cod allocations in the federal fisheries, including specific allocations listed below, and to examine steps to facilitate reallocations of BSAI Pacific cod earlier in the season (e.g., reallocations among the BSAI Groundfish FMP Amendment 85 sector allocations) by NMFS.

- Incidental catch allowance (ICA) for hook-and-line and pot gear in the BSAI
- ICA in the GOA
- GOA Rockfish Program allocation
- Amendment 80 fleet allocation