

ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
June 7-10, 2022 - Sitka, AK

C2 BSAI Pcod Small Boat Access

The AP recommends the Initial Review Draft RIR be released for final action with the following preliminary preferred alternative:

Alternative 2: Option 1: < or = 55' LOA with the suboption to keep B season as a jig gear only fishery.

~~*The AP recommends the Council consider a management mechanism for quota to be reopened to the entire U60 sector at a time and manner at which it would be still practicable and possible to harvest.~~

Amendment 1 failed 5-11

Main Motion passed 15-2

Rationale in Opposition to Amendment 1

- *The addition of the amendment could unnecessarily delay final action given that inseason management is in contact with all fishery participants throughout the season and are aware regarding the timing of the fishery (i.e., when and for how long participants can harvest available allocations). This established process will continue under this recommended change; identifying a more prescriptive approach eliminates the flexibility of inseason management.*

Rationale in Favor of Amendment 1

- *This amendment is intended to address the concern that a significant amount of quota allocated to the new $\leq 55'$ sector would go unharvested. It is unclear how any unutilized $\leq 55'$ quota would be reassigned or made available to the whole U60 fleet. It is important for the analysis to look at a reassignment occurring within a reasonable timeframe in order to be able to harvest stranded fish. The new $\leq 55'$ has four or less active participants and has had two harvesters recently, further making it likely that fish may be left in the water. The larger U60 vessels that participate in the fall need notice and time to harvest available fish as they face weather/safety challenges, season disruption that creates crew retainment hardships, and seasonal plant/processor closures later in the year. The current analysis does not provide a potential time frame for confidence that quota reassignment will occur in a practicable manner.*

Rationale in Favor of Main Motion

- *This action is directly responsive to small vessels to help them stay viable and provide some protection from similar sized vessels with higher capacity. It is important to help ensure that small vessels maintain access to fisheries. In this way, this targeted action is similar to purposefully leaving the trawl C season under the P.cod rationalization program in the water for the under 60' fleet.*

- *Inclusion of the suboption helps to preserve opportunity and maintain safety for the jig sector.*

Rationale in Opposition to Main Motion

- *Currently there is a seamless reallocation of cod with no break in the fishery whereas under Alternative 2, it will be difficult for NMFS to determine when to reallocate cod that will go unharvested. This could potentially strand quota and negatively impact other sectors.*
- *Page 36 noted CVs greater than 56' LOA have harvested 79 percent of the sector's final allocation on average. As such, it does not appear that H&L or pot CVs greater than 56' are harvesting a larger portion of the sector's final allocation over time.*