

ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
June 3-4, 7-9, 2021 - Anchorage, AK

D1 BSAI Pcod small boat

The AP recommends that the Council initiate an expanded discussion paper to provide more information on the potential structure and elements of a new small vessel sector that would be eligible to fish the 1.4% jig allocation. The expanded discussion paper should focus on the LLP subarea endorsement as outlined in the June 2021 Small Boat Access Discussion Paper. The expanded discussion paper should explore in more detail potential regulatory boundaries of a Dutch Harbor subarea (e.g., Unalaska Bay and the outside waters from Bishop Pt. to Unalga Pass), ranges for qualifying years for a subarea endorsement (e.g., vessels in the Under 60 sector that have reported at least one landing in the subarea in 7 of the last 10 years), and other elements including but not limited to opt-out provisions (if a vessel chooses to remain in the Under 60 sector and fish outside the subarea), potential options for new entrants to acquire a subarea endorsement, and impacts to rollovers to the Under 60 sector.

Motion passed 17-0

Rationale:

- *Small boat fisheries are essential to the economic livelihood and cultural heritage of Bering Sea fishing communities. For the last number of years, Bering Sea small boat fishermen and communities that depend on Pacific cod have stated that community-based small boat access is being eroded due to the changing nature of the <60' sector in the last decade. These changes are well-documented in Council analyses and include not only a rising number of new entrants since the mid-2000s, but also increased vessel capacities through non-traditional efficiency improvements for the <60 vessel class, all of which contribute to an increasingly compressed fishing season.*
- *Measures the Council has taken in the past to protect small boat sectors and historical participants of Bering Sea Pacific cod fisheries (such as creation of the Under 60' sector itself) are no longer sufficient due to the growing disparity between vessel capacities within the <60' vessel class size. This is having detrimental effects on long-term small boat participants and communities dependent on fixed gear cod fisheries and there is a clear need for new measures to preserve small boat access to Pacific cod fisheries.*
- *The discussion paper highlights a number of options designed to better protect small boat fishermen and minimize unfair competition within the <60' vessel class. Both the discussion paper and public testimony identifies an LLP subarea endorsement option as a well-suited potential to protect historical participants and sustain community-based access over time. An expanded discussion paper is warranted to further flesh out and define details of this particular option, including elements such as the Dutch Harbor subarea boundary lines and set of potential qualifying years.*