
ADVISORY PANEL C1 MOTION

APRIL 2023



C1 COOK INLET SALMON

The Advisory Panel recommends the Council adopt Alternative 2 for C1: Cook Inlet Salmon FMP Amendment.

Alternative 2: Federal Management of the EEZ with specific management delegated to the State.

Motion passed 13/3 (1 abstain from vote)



ADVISORY PANEL C2 MOTION

APRIL 2023



C2 SALMON BYCATCH REPORTS

Motion

The AP recommends the Council initiate an analysis for the management of chum salmon incidental catch in the BSAI pollock fishery. For an initial analysis, the AP supports all of the recommendations made by the Salmon Bycatch Committee for both a potential Purpose and Need Statement and potential management alternatives. Recognizing the Salmon Bycatch Committee did not reach consensus on proposed Alternative 2 for a hard cap PSC limit, the AP supports inclusion of a PSC limit alternative in an analysis and requests the Council take into account the rationale provided by Committee members on this alternative during their discussion and as outlined in their March 2023 meeting report.

The committee reached consensus to recommend to the Council the following purpose and need statement.

SBC consensus purpose and need

Salmon are an important fishery resource throughout Alaska, and chum salmon that rear in the Bering Sea support subsistence, commercial, sport, and recreational fisheries throughout Western and Interior Alaska. Western and Interior Alaska salmon stocks are undergoing extreme crises and collapses, with long-running stock problems and consecutive years' failures to achieve escapement goals, U.S.-Canada fish passage treaty requirements, and subsistence harvest needs in the Yukon, Kuskokwim, and Norton Sound regions. These multi-salmon species declines have created adverse impacts to culture and food security and have resulted in reduced access to traditional foods and commercial salmon fisheries.

C2 SALMON BYCATCH

The best available western science suggests that ecosystem and climate changes are the leading causes of recent chum salmon run failures; however, non-Chinook (primarily chum) salmon are taken in the Eastern Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery which reduces the amount of salmon that return to Western and Interior Alaska rivers and subsistence fisheries. It is important to acknowledge and understand all sources of chum mortality and the cumulative impact of various fishing activities. Therefore, in light of the critical importance of chum salmon to Western Alaska communities and ecosystems, consideration of additional measures to further minimize Western Alaskan chum bycatch in the pollock fishery is warranted.

The purpose of this proposed action is to develop actions to minimize bycatch of Western Alaska origin chum salmon in the Eastern Bering Sea pollock fishery consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, National Standards, and other applicable law. Recent genetics stock composition information indicates that the majority of non-Chinook bycatch in the pollock fishery is of non-domestic hatchery origin; therefore, alternatives should structure non-Chinook bycatch management measures around improving performance in avoiding Western Alaska chum salmon specifically.



C2 SALMON BYCATCH

The Council intends to consider establishing regulatory non-Chinook PSC management measures that reduce Western Alaska chum bycatch; provide additional opportunities for the pollock trawl fleet to improve performance in avoiding non-Chinook salmon while maintaining the priority of the objectives of the Amendment 91 and Amendment 110 Chinook salmon PSC management program; meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, particularly to minimize salmon PSC to the extent practicable under National Standard 9; include the best scientific information available including Local Knowledge and Traditional Knowledge as required by National Standard 2; take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities including those that are dependent on Bering Sea pollock and subsistence salmon fisheries as required under National Standard 8; and to achieve optimum yield in the BSAI groundfish fisheries on a continuing basis, in the groundfish fisheries as required under National Standard 1.

Council staff organized the alternatives proposed by committee members into the four alternatives presented below. The committee agreed to move forward all conceptual alternatives, and there was consensus on all but one. There was not consensus on the details of Alternative 2, which was the primary point of dialogue for committee members.



C2 SALMON BYCATCH

Alternative 1: No action,

Alternative 2: PSC limit for chum salmon and/or area closures

Option 1: PSC limit of zero chum salmon.

Option 2: PSC limit based on historical (32-year time series) total bycatch numbers.

Option 2a: Closure of directed pollock fishery when bycatch exceeds 22,000 (10th percentile of 1991- 2022 PSC levels)

Option 2b: Closure of directed pollock fishery when bycatch exceeds 54,000 (25th percentile of 1991- 2022 PSC levels).



C2 SALMON BYCATCH

Alternative 2: PSC limit for chum salmon and/or area closures

Option 3: Weighted, step-down PSC limit triggered by a three-river chum index (Kwiniuk, Yukon, Kuskokwim) that is linked to prior years' chum abundance/ANS/escapement and weighted to account for variance in stock sizes across river systems.

Option 3a: If the chum index is average/above average for 3/3 river systems, then the PSC limit is set at 54,000 (25th percentile of 1991-2022 PSC levels).

Option 3b: If the chum index is average/above average for 2/3 river systems, then the PSC limit is set at 22,000 (10th percentile of 1991-2022 PSC levels).

Option 3c: If the chum index is average/above average for 1/3 or 0/3 river systems, then the PSC limit is set at 0.



C2 SALMON BYCATCH

Alternative 2: PSC limit for chum salmon and/or area closures

Option 4: Implement area hard caps in genetic sampling Cluster 1 and/or implement entire area closures in genetic sampling Cluster 1 during the B-season.

Option 4a: PSC limit of 10th percentile of genetic cluster 1 chum PSC during the B Season in Region 1.

Option 4b: PSC limit of 25th percentile of genetic cluster 1 chum PSC during the BSeason in Region 1.

Option 4c: Area Closure of genetic cluster 1 during the entire B-Season (weeks 22-45). • Option 4d: Area Closure of genetic cluster 1 during the B-Season Early Weeks (weeks 22-32).

Option 5 (applies to all): Implement ways for alternative measures to evolve and be refined to protect W. Alaska/Upper and Middle Yukon stocks as real-time genetic sampling becomes available.



C2 SALMON BYCATCH

Alternative 3: Time/area closures (these would be managed by either NMFS or within the IPAs)

Option 1: Establish a Chum Salmon Reduction Plan Agreement (RPA) during the B season requiring pollock vessels to avoid identified subareas in genetic cluster areas 1 and 2 for a specified amount of time based on two triggers being met: 1) an established chum salmon incidental catch rate and 2) historical genetic composition (proportion) of Western Alaska chum salmon to non-Western Alaska chum salmon.



C2 SALMON BYCATCH

Alternative 4: Additional regulatory requirements for IPAs

Option 1: Additional regulatory provisions requiring IPAs to utilize the most refined genetics information available to further prioritize avoidance of areas and times of highest proportion of WAK chums in years of low abundance.

Substitute Motion passed 16/1

Main Motion failed



ADVISORY PANEL C5 MOTION

APRIL 2023



C5 GREENLAND TURBOT

The AP recommends Council take Final Action and selects its preliminary preferred alternative for this action as its final preferred alternative (shown in bold).

Purpose and Need

Whale depredation is precluding directed fishing for Greenland turbot by commercial hook-and-line (HAL) gear vessels in the Bering Sea. Participation in this fishery has been a significant source of income for a number of HAL CP vessels that primarily target Pacific cod. The importance of turbot fishing increased for these vessels as Pacific cod TACs in the Bering Sea saw major declines between 2012 and 2021. Although single pot gear is currently authorized for Greenland turbot, single pots have not been deployed because of their inefficiency in the depth and location where the fishery occurs. A regulatory amendment that would allow vessels to use longline pots when fishing for Greenland turbot would likely resolve the depredation problem and allow this fishery to resume. Other benefits of reduced whale depredation on Greenland turbot could include improved catch accounting for managers, and data quality for the Greenland turbot stock assessment. The use of longline pots could disrupt historic and current participants in the HAL CP and the Amendment 80 sectors should it encourage new entrants with no previous activity in the fishery.



C5 GREENLAND TURBOT

Alternatives

Alternative 1. No action (longline pot gear is not authorized for Greenland turbot in the Bering Sea).

Alternative 2. Authorize the use of longline pot gear when directed fishing for Greenland turbot in the Bering Sea subarea.

Alternative 3. Authorize the use of longline pot gear only for vessels in the HAL CP sector when directed fishing for Greenland turbot in the Bering Sea subarea.

- o **Option 1. Exemption from the 9-inch maximum tunnel opening restriction. (The 9-inch maximum tunnel opening requirement does not apply to longline pots used to directed fish for Greenland turbot in the BS subarea.**

Motion passed 12/5



ADVISORY PANEL D2 MOTION

APRIL 2023



D2 LKTKS PROTOCOL

The AP supports and commends the work of the Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence Taskforce. The AP supports the recommendations and products of the LKTKS taskforce.

The AP recommends the Council consider opening a 45-day period for public review of the Taskforce's recommendations and products to allow for final public review of the work and for the Taskforce to address comments received during that review period.

Motion passed 16/0



ADVISORY PANEL E1 MOTIONS

APRIL 2023



E1 STAFF TASKING

Motion 1 – C Shares

Purpose and Need:

The CVC and CPC shares have a participation requirement of one delivery during the previous 4 consecutive years. With the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, now in its third year, some crew members have not been able to comply with the participation requirement. With the unforeseen circumstance of the recent drastic decline of several BSAI crab stocks and the BSS stock and potential fishery closures or low harvest levels taking place on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic, some crew members have not been able to comply with the participation requirement there will be less opportunity for crew to participate in crab fisheries because of limited numbers of vessels participating in the fishery restricting opportunity or due to pandemic restrictions making it more difficult. This action is needed to protect the crew that have invested in this fishery

Alternative 1 - No action



E1 STAFF TASKING

Alternative 2 - Modify the CVC QS and CPC QS active participation requirements (Options are not mutually exclusive)

Option 1: Restart the recent participation requirement after the pandemic and beginning in 2023/24 only count fishing years where at least 30 BSAI crab vessels fish. Do not count 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, through 2023/2024 toward the recent participation requirement.

Option 2: Give the Regional Administrator the authority to suspend the CVC QS and CPC QS recent participation requirement in years of low BSAI crab quota where few vessels fish (perhaps 30 or less that is a little less than half the current fleet) or due to other unforeseen circumstances (e.g. a pandemic).

Option 3: Expand participation requirements for non-initial issues to match the requirements of initial issues. In other words, within the previous three years, participate in a BSAI crab trip OR participate as crew in at least 30 days of fishing in a commercial fishery off Alaska.

Option 4: Do not revoke any CVC or CPC QS associated with a closed fishery



E1 STAFF TASKING

Alternative 3 - Remove all CVC QS and CPC QS active participation requirements
(Alternative 2 and 3 are mutually exclusive from each other.)

Alternative 4 - Reissue any CVC QS and CPC QS that was revoked between July 2023 and the effective date of the proposed action

Motion passed 15/0

