


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke 
Executive Director

DATE: September 18, 1992

SUBJECT: Community Development Quotas

ACTION REQUIRED

Review status of CDQ program and advise on reserve release for 1992 and CDQ harvest management.

BACKGROUND

The proposed rule incorporating the Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program criteria and procedures has been forwarded by NMFS to the Central Office, but not yet published. Once published as a proposed and then final rule, the State of Alaska will be in a position to evaluate CDQ proposals and recommend which ones to forward for Secretarial review, following consultation with the Council. Upon receipt of such recommendations, the Secretary may release appropriate portions of the CDQ to the eligible applicant(s). NMFS will provide a status report on the proposed rule and the likelihood of using CDQs this year. The State also may have a status report.

There are several issues I need guidance on:

1. How does the Council want to follow through on consultation? The December meeting might be too late to review proposals for 1992. If so, do you just want the proposals distributed so you can comment individually, or should there be a teleconference? Or a special interim meeting? Or delegation to a committee? Any other suggestions?
2. Do you want the entire proposals distributed for review, or just summaries of the key features?
3. Should the CDQ fisheries follow all the restrictions now used to manage the pollock fishery, such as the A-B season TAC split and current seasons, etc? I think the proposed rule now requires that the CDQ fisheries follow all the rules unless specifically exempted by the Council. These decisions would be made annually in September and December for the next year.
4. Does the Council wish to advise the NMFS Regional Director on use or release of the pollock reserves for late 1992?

There are 97,500 mt in the Eastern Bering Sea reserve and 3,870 mt in the Aleutian reserves earmarked for CDQs. Releasing the total of 101,370 mt to CDQs will result in the pollock harvest exceeding the 1,300,000 mt TAC by 38,000 mt. This is still well below the ABC of 1,541,600 mt for the areas combined. Item C-2(a) is a news release on pollock reserve releases.

NEWS RELEASE (92-108)
Steven Pennoyer
907-586-7221

September 9, 1992
9:25a
For Immediate Release

APPORTIONMENTS OF RESERVE TO THE
POLLOCK FISHERY IN THE BERING SEA SUBAREA AND THE PACIFIC COD
FISHERY IN THE BERING SEA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

Amounts of the operational reserve are apportioned to specifications of total allowable catch (TAC) for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI) and pollock in the Bering Sea subarea (BS) of the BSAI. This action allows additional directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using fixed gear, according to Steven Pennoyer, Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region, Juneau, Alaska. It also allows pollock bycatch retention by the offshore component in the BS and additional directed fishing by the inshore component.

The TAC for the BSAI Pacific cod fishery has been increased to 176,700 metric tons (mt). The TAC for the BS pollock fishery has been increased to 1,241,000 mt. The revised amounts available in the second pollock season, which began June 1, 1992, for the inshore and offshore components are 247,390 mt and 459,439 mt, respectively. Amounts remaining for harvest are available on a weekly basis from NMFS.

Fishermen in the offshore component may not conduct directed fishing with any gear for pollock in the Bering Sea subarea (BS) (statistical areas 511 through 530) from 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), September 11, 1992, until 12 midnight, A.l.t., December 31, 1992.

For the duration of this closure to the offshore component in the BS, as measured in round weight equivalents:

Vessels using pelagic trawl gear may not retain at any time during a trip an aggregate amount of all groundfish species or species groups which are closed to directed fishing equal to or greater than 7 percent of the amount of other fish or fish products retained on the vessel at the same time during a trip.

Vessels using gear other than pelagic trawl gear may not retain catches of pollock in an amount equal to or greater than 20 percent of the amount of all other fish species retained on the vessel at the same time during a trip.

This press release summarizes regulatory requirements and is for informational purposes only. For more information concerning regulatory requirements, consult the applicable regulations or contact the Fisheries Management Division, NMFS, 907-586-7228.

**Statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Coordinating Group of CDQ Organizations**

September 22, 1992

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am John Jemewouk from Elim in northwestern Alaska representing the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation. With me at this table are representatives from four other CDQ organizations: Hazel Nelson with the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation; Joe Paniyak with the Coastal Villages Fishing Cooperative in the Yukon/Kuskokwim delta; Alvin Merculief with the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association; Perfenia Pletnikoff with the St. Paul group. A representative from the Yukon Delta CDQ group was unable to attend, but they have given verbal support to these comments. Collectively we represent the interests of all communities who are now in pursuit and are potentially eligible to receive a portion of the pollock CDQ.

I was asked to speak on behalf of this Coordinating Group on topics before the Council at this meeting regarding the CDQ program. We just have few comments and suggestions to make at this time

1. Roe/non-roe split of pollock for the CDQ fishery

- we recognize that there are conservation concerns associated with the roe/non-roe split of the pollock season. We also recognize that each CDQ program will be unique and that it is difficult to apportion the CDQ seasons the same as the the remainder of the pollock fishery in order to obtain the maximum economic benefit for the communities from this program. Consequently, we recommend that the Council provide substantial opportunity for CDQ groups to participate in the roe season.

2. Timing of the CDQ pollock fishery

- we would like the Council to specify that the CDQ is intended to be fished outside the existing olympic pollock fishery conducted within "A" and "B" seasons.

- and similarly, we recommend that the CDQ be allowed to be fished anytime during this open season outside the olympic fishery. The dates for the "A" season last year were from January 20th to April 15th and for the "B" season from June 1 to the end of the year.

3. Bycatch allocation to the CDQ fishery

- we recommend that the Council allocate a proportionate share of all PSC bycatch limits to the CDQ fishery.

- we further recommend that the CDQ share of bycatch PSCs be divided among the groups participating in the CDQ fishery in proportion to the tonnage of pollock allocated (i.e., if a group gets 20% of the pollock CDQ, then 20% of the CDQ bycatch goes to that group).

And lastly, we would like to request that the Council and staff do everything possible to make CDQ fishing a reality for the 1992 season. This first includes a statement by the Council that they expect CDQs to be used in the 4th quarter of this year. In an effort to move the process along expeditiously, we recommend that the Council hold a teleconference immediately following the release of the State's CDQ recommendations and take the least time necessary to make a recommendation to the Secretary.

Thank you.