



C8 BSAI Pacific Cod Parallel Waters Limitation

October 2019 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Jon McCracken

Action Required:

1. Review Initial Review draft analysis
2. If desired, identify a preliminary preferred alternative
3. Recommend any changes and release document for public review

BACKGROUND

The Council is considering a proposed amendment that would preclude hook-and-line, pot, jig, and trawl gear vessels from participating in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Island (BSAI) Pacific cod parallel fisheries unless they have a License Limitation Program license with the correct endorsements and a designated Federal Fisheries Permit. The amendment would also require the above Federally permitted or licensed vessels that fish in the parallel fishery to adhere to federal sector and seasonal BSAI Pacific cod closures and would restrict those vessels from surrendering and later reapplying for the Federal Fishery Permit within a specified time period.

The purpose of this action is to address concerns that increased participation in the parallel fishery by vessels without an FFP and/or LLP license may have an impact on long-term participants in the BSAI Pacific cod fishery. Increased parallel fishery participation has the potential to erode historical harvests of those participants who contributed catch history resulting in the Amendment 85 sector allocations and who depend on the BSAI Pacific cod resource. Specifically, this amendment is intended to provide protection for fixed-gear CVs that hold LLP licenses with Pacific cod endorsements and BSAI area endorsements, and trawl gear CVs and C/Ps that hold LLP licenses with BSAI area endorsements, from vessels entering the parallel fishery that do not hold LLP license endorsements for the BSAI area or for Pacific cod.

In addition, State of Alaska attorneys have advised that regulations in State waters cannot differentiate allocations between CVs and C/Ps fishing with the same gear type and in the same administrative area; therefore, in State waters, some Federally permitted vessels can continue to participate in the parallel fishery even though their sector has already been closed to fishing in Federal waters. The proposed action would prevent Federal vessels from continuing to participate in the parallel fishery once their sector is closed for fishing.