

C-3 Aleutian Islands Pacific cod allocation  
Council motion

The Council releases the analysis for public review, with the following changes:

*The American Fisheries Act, BSAI Crab Rationalization, and BSAI Amendment 80 management programs provided benefits to processing vessels that were intended to protect their investments in, and dependence on, the respective fishery resources. Each of these programs has also afforded participants opportunities for consolidation, allowing for increased participation in the non-rationalized BSAI Pacific cod fishery in the Aleutian Islands, thus increasing the risk that the historical share of BSAI cod of other industry participants and communities that depend on shorebased processing in the region may be diminished. The BS/AI cod TAC split and relatively low Pacific cod stock abundance in the Aleutian Islands further increase the need for community protections.*

Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 2: Prior to (options: March 1, 15, 21) the A season trawl CV Pacific cod harvest in the Bering Sea shall be limited to an amount equal to the BSAI aggregate CV trawl sector A season allocation minus the lesser of the AI directed Pacific cod non-CDQ TAC or (options: 3,000 mt, 5,000 mt, 7,000 mt). Directed fishing for AI Pacific cod is prohibited for all vessels except CVs delivering to shoreplants west of 170° longitude in the AI prior to (options: March 1, 7, 15).

The following options are not mutually exclusive:

Option 1: Any amount of the AI Pacific cod non-CDQ TAC above the amount set aside from the trawl CV BSAI allocation may be available to any sector for directed fishing and is not subject to the regional delivery requirement.

Option 2: If less than 50% of the AI Pacific cod non-CDQ TAC has been landed shoreside by (options: February 28, March 7, 15), the restriction on the delivery to other processors and the restriction on the trawl CV sector allocation shall be removed.

Option 3: If less than 1,000 mt of the AI Pacific cod non-CDQ TAC has been landed shoreside by (options: February 21, 28), the restriction on delivery to other processors and the restriction on the trawl CV sector allocation shall be suspended for the remainder of the year.

Option 4: If prior to (options: November 1, December 15), neither the City of Adak nor the City of Atka have notified NMFS of the intent to process Pacific cod in the upcoming year, the Aleutian Islands shoreside delivery requirement is suspended for the upcoming year. Cities can voluntarily provide notice prior to the selected date if they do not intend to process.

Option 5: Any processor that has processed AI Pacific cod in the AI management area in at least 12 years between 2000 through 2014 shall be exempted from these restrictions for processing levels up to 2,000 mt.

Shoreplant is defined as a processing facility physically located on land.

The Council also requests staff explore with NMFS whether there is an approach that would allow community notification and application of the regional delivery requirement specific to the processing capacity of the community.