

ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
October 1-5 2019 - Homer, AK

E Staff Tasking

AP Motion 1

AP recommends the council start a discussion paper to explore changes to the trip limit on the pollock fishery in the central Gulf of Alaska areas 620, 630, & 640. The paper should explore leaving the limits at status quo (300,000lbs.), increasing the trip limit to 350,000 lbs or 375,000 lbs, having no trip limit, and a three or four trip rolling average of a trip limit.

Motion passed 14-4

Rationale:

- *The current trip limit is dated and does not match the fleet or individual boat size*
- *Violations have risen sharply in the past two years, underscoring the challenges the fleet is having meeting the current trip limits. Evaluating the trip limits should include an assessment of the current financial impacts of these violations on the fleet and the burdens on law enforcement*
- *Changing trip limits would likely result in less regulatory discards and wastage*
- *Under the proposed pollock trawl EM EFP, participating vessels in the GOA will be operating as maximized retention fisheries such that they will be exempt from the current GOA pollock 300,000 lbs. trip limit. Information and data gathered from these EFP vessels will naturally help inform an eventual analysis on potentially changing the GOA pollock trip limit so initiating a discussion paper at this time is appropriate*
- *Area 610 was not included in this action in consideration of small boat interests in that area*

Rationale in Opposition:

- *Increasing trip limits will exacerbate the race for fish and will still be a limit which the fleet will continue to push up against.*

Motion 2

The AP recommends the council starts a discussion paper to change the MRA's in the ~~central~~ Gulf of Alaska area **610**, 620, 630, & 640.

(SKATE status quo 5%) to 7% or 10% on arrowtooth and all sole

COD to 7%,10% or (status quo 20%)on pollock.

(Status quo 5%) 7% or 10% on arrowtooth

POP, and rockfish (5% status quo) 7%, 10% or 13% on pollock , arrowtooth, all sole

*Amendment passed 18-0
Motion as amended passed 17-1*

Rationale:

- *The current MRAs are not representative of what is actually being caught in the fisheries; some interactions are increasing and others are decreasing. As fisheries change, MRAs should be evaluated to assess the potential to decrease regulatory discards and improve utilization of the resource.*

Motion 3

The AP recommends the Council initiate an analysis to correct the federal rulemaking regulations that restricts the use of ecosystem component species to fishmeal only.

Motion passed 18-0

Rationale:

- *Recent rulemaking prohibited the use, processing, and sale of the incidental harvest of squid for anything but fishmeal, which was not consistent with the Council's preferred alternative. This analysis would apply to other ecosystem component species as well.*

Motion 4

The AP recommends the Council to maintain the current season end date of November 15th for Cod within the Rockfish program.

Motion passed 18-0

- *There are no MRA's in the Rockfish program and changing the end date within the program will lead to discards and waste as there are vessels that fish Rockfish after the closure of pollock and Cod on Nov 1st*

Motion 5

The AP recommends that the council Initiate a discussion paper to look at allowing retention of Rockfish outside of the Rockfish Program and eliminating regulatory discards due to seasonal restrictions which include a 5% MRA. This paper should assess allowing vessels that hold Rockfish quota share to retain incidental catch of Rockfish outside of the Rockfish program if they have available quota either per LLP or within a Co-op.

Motion passed 18-0

- *Catcher vessels in the Central gulf are encountering rockfish in areas and fisheries where they have not been encountered before due to changing ocean conditions.*
- *In the pollock fishery, vessels are sorting POP and discarding in one week to stay under the 5% MRA, and the next week when they check into the Rockfish Program, they are targeting the very fish they discarded the prior week.*

- *Evaluating this issue is consistent with the 2019 Groundfish Programmatic Plan which contains General Priority #4- to manage incidental catch and reduce bycatch and waste, Management Objective #14- to improve incidental catch and Management Objective #21- to reduce waste to biologically and socially acceptable levels.*

Motion 6

The AP supports initiating a discussion paper in response to community concerns and small boat access challenges identified in the <60 sector. The discussion paper should review management actions that can provide small boat opportunity and distinguish and protect small boat participants currently competing with larger vessels within the <60 LOA vessel class size. The discussion paper should evaluate options including but not limited to a fishing community allocation, and the potential impact of expanding the jig sector allocation to allow additional small boat fishing opportunity.

Motion passed 18-0

Rationale:

- *Competition among fixed gear participants in the <60 sector has increased for a variety of reasons in the last decade, including increased participation and non-traditional efficiency improvements for the <60 LOA vessel class. Growing disparity between vessel capacities within the <60 vessel class size has detrimental effects on long-term participants and communities dependent on the fixed gear Pacific cod fisheries.*
- *The growth of the <60 sector in the last 15 years has eroded community-based access. Local vessels are being outcompeted due to vessel capacity disparities within the vessel class. There is a need to preserve small boat access given the changing nature of the <60 sector and the adverse impacts this has on the local small boat fleets of BSAI communities*
- *The changing nature of the <60 sector in the last decade has led to an increasingly compressed season and adverse impacts to long-term participants and communities. In 2008, the Federal BSAI cod season for the <60 sector lasted more than 100 days. In 2018, the bulk of the sector allocation was harvested in the first 11 days of the season.*
- *There is a need for the Council to consider community and small boat protections to preserve small boat access for communities dependent by recognizing differences in capacity and historic dependence among sector participants.*

Motion 7

Move to approve June 2019 Minutes.

Motion passed 18-0