

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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C5 BSAI Pacific Cod Trawl Catch Vessel LAPP – Initial Review

December 2020 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Jon McCracken

Other Presenters: Darrell Brannan (Brannan & Associates)

Dr. Mike Downs (Wislow Research Associates)

Stephanie Warpinski (NMFS AKRO SF)

Action Required: 1. Review analysis

2. Provide clarification and adjustments to elements and options,

strawman alternatives.

BACKGROUND

The Council will conduct initial review of an analysis for a Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel (CV) limited access program (LAPP). The proposed program considers allocations of quota shares (QS) to groundfish LLP licenses based on the harvest of targeted BSAI Pacific cod during the qualifying years. The action also considers allocating harvest shares to a processor permit based on processing history of BSAI Pacific cod during the qualifying years. This would yield an exclusive harvest privilege allocation for use in a BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod catch share program cooperatives.

To create the analysis, staff made clarifications and assumptions regarding the Council's October 2019 motion initiating the action (listed in Table 2-2), and developed strawman alternatives (Table 2-1), on which staff is requesting feedback at this meeting. The Council was originally scheduled to provide clarifications and adjustments to some of the elements and options during a preliminary review of the analysis scheduled for June 2020, but was unable to do so due to a curtailed June agenda. Instead, staff have used their best judgement on necessary clarifications, and prepared an initial analysis of the elements and options and two staff-developed strawman alternatives to contrast with the status quo alternative. Depending whether the Council agrees with staff's assumptions or requests a different approach, it may be necessary to bring the analysis back for a second "initial review" before final action.

The purpose of this action is to improve the prosecution of the fishery with the intent of promoting safety and stability in the harvesting and processing sectors, increasing the value of the fishery, providing for the sustained participation of fishery dependent communities, and ensuring the sustainability and viability of the resource. The analysis was made available to the Council and the public in October 2020 (Council December 2020 BSAI Pacific cod Trawl CV LAPP initial review analysis).