

Proposal: Change the seasonal apportionment of Pacific cod in the BSAI for the large boat pot fleet to 80% "A" season/20% "B" season.

Proposer: UFMA

The purpose of this paper is a short discussion on how the above proposal relates to the goals and objectives tasked to SSL Mitigation Committee.

Objectives:

1. Continue to avoid jeopardy and adverse modification.

Of the bullets under this objective, the last three relate directly to the proposal. This proposal will likely increase the no-fishing time between the end of the "B" season and the beginning of the "A" season. With the shift of TAC from the "B" season to the "A" season, it is reasonable to expect that the "B" season allocation will be caught well before the regulatory end of the "B" season (December 31). It should be noted that the allocation for the "B" season for this fishery has been caught twice previously since the implementation of SSL RPA measures (significant over harvest in the "A" season resulting in reduced "B" season allocation). In 2007, the "B" season allocation was caught and the season ended the first part of October. This occurred as a result of effort by a floater fleet in the St. Matthew area. It is not known at this time if this fishery practice will continue in the future

The proposal would shift effort from an "early winter" time period to a "late or mid winter" time period.

The proposal will likely lessen the total number of fishing days required to harvest the quota.

It should be noted that the proposed TAC shift represents less than a 1% shift of total Pacific cod TAC

2. Encourage development of a sound experimental design for monitoring.

While supportive of this objective, the proposal does not directly address this objective.

3. Minimize adverse social and economic impacts.

The proposal's intent is to provide economic efficiencies for both the harvesting and processing sectors. Harvesting efficiencies should be realized by a shift of TAC to a

time of higher CPUE. Processing benefits should be realized by less labor and plant overhead costs.

The proposal has no apparent effects on other fisheries.

The proposal will affect future Council action, as it relates to the implementation of Amendment 87. Amendment 87 action would initiate a 51%/49% "A" season/ "B" season split of Pacific codTAC for the large boat pot fleet.

4. Minimize bycatch of PSC and other groundfish.

The proposal should not create bycatch issues with other SSL prey species. On the contrary, bycatch of species, such as octopus, should decrease with the shorter fishing period.

5. Promote safety at sea.

The proposal promotes safety at sea by reducing the time that the fishery occurs in early winter.

6. Minimize adverse impacts to threatened and endangered species in the BSAI and GOA.

There are no apparent impacts to other endangered species, and a reduced fishing period should minimize any potential impacts.