

C-2 (b) – GOA Pacific cod sector splits
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
April 2, 2007

The Council adopts the staff purpose and need statement included on page 9 of the C-2 (b) discussion paper and requests staff to begin the analytic process to include the following components and define issues of concern.

Draft Purpose and Need Statement (including Council changes)

The limited access derby-style management of the Western Gulf and Central Gulf Pacific cod fisheries has led to competition among the various gear types (trawl, longline, pot, and jig) and operation types (catcher processor and catcher vessel) for shares of the total allowable catch. Competition for the GOA Pacific cod resource has increased for a variety of reasons, including increased market value of cod products, rationalization of other fisheries in the BSAI and GOA, increased participation by fishermen displaced from other fisheries, a reduced federal TAC due to the state waters cod fishery, and Steller Sea Lion mitigation measures including the A/B seasonal split of the GOA Pacific cod TAC. The competition among sectors in the fishery may contribute to higher rates of bycatch, discards, and out-of-season incidental catch of Pacific cod. Participants in the fisheries who have made long-term investments and are dependent on the fisheries face uncertainty as a result of the competition for catch shares among sectors. Allocation of the TAC among sectors would reduce this uncertainty and contribute to stability across the sectors. Dividing the TAC among sectors may also facilitate development of management measures and fishing practices to address Steller sea lion mitigation measures, bycatch reduction, and PSC mortality issues.

Component 1 – Area

Pacific cod sector split in CGOA & WGOA

Component 2 – Identify and define sectors

Trawl CP

Trawl CV

H&L CP

H&L CV

Pot CP

Pot CV

Jig

Inshore Trawl CP

Inshore H&L CP

Optional vessel length subdivision for sectors:

- a) Pot CV sector: <60 ft and >=60 ft
- b) All CP sectors: <125 ft and >=125 ft

Component 3 – Qualifying catch

Option 1) For purposes of determining catch history, “catch” means retained legal catch. A sector’s catch history includes all retained legal catch from both the Federal fishery and parallel fishery in the CGOA and WGOA. This includes retained legal catch from both LLP and non-LLP vessels.

Option 2) For purposes of determining catch history, “catch” means retained legal catch excluding fish meal. A sector’s catch history includes all retained legal catch excluding fish meal from both the Federal

fishery and parallel fishery in the CGOA and WGOA. This includes retained legal catch excluding fish meal from both LLP and non-LLP vessels.

Option 3) For purposes of determining catch history, “catch” means Pcod catch retained when the Pcod fishery is open for directed catch. A sector’s catch history includes all Pcod catch retained when the Pcod fishery is open for directed catch from both the Federal fishery and parallel fishery in the CGOA and WGOA but excludes fish meal. This includes retained legal catch when the Pcod fishery is open for directed catch from both LLP and non LLP vessels.

The analysis will also provide each sector’s catch history based on total catch (retained and discarded) where practicable.

Component 4 – Sector catch histories

The Council adopts the following options for determining catch histories:

Each sector is allowed to choose:

Option 1: their best 5 or 7 years (as a percentage of TAC or directed catch) from the years 1995-2005 to obtain an average % of TAC or directed catch for that sector. The sector split would then be based on the relative comparison of these averages.

Option 2: their best 3 or 5 years as a percentage of TAC or directed catch from the years 2000 through 2006 to obtain an average % of TAC or directed catch for that sector. The sector split would then be based on the relative comparison of these averages.

** The CGOA trawl sector allocation will be decreased by the amount of p. cod that is allocated to the trawl rockfish pilot program during the tenure of the program.

New Component X:

Management of incidental cod catch needs for sectors:

Option 1: NMFS will determine the amount of Pacific cod needed to support directed fishing for all other GOA fisheries and reserve that amount off the top before allocating to the sectors.

Option 2: Each sector will be responsible for their own incidental catch needs. NMFS will determine the reserve amount needed within sector each year with the remainder available for directed fishing.

Component 5 – Allocation to Sectors: Allocations to sectors are to be based on catch history (Component 4) except for the jig sector.

The set aside for the jig sector shall be 1%, 3%, 5%, or 7% of the GOA TAC.

- a. shall be taken from the A season allocation
- b. shall be taken from the B season allocation
- c. shall be taken from a and b seasonal allocations

Suboption: Include provision for stairstep increase based on the sector harvesting 90 percent of its allocation. The stairstep increases would be capped at 7 percent of the TAC.

The jig allocation shall be available for harvest by other sectors on August 1, Sept. 1, October 1.

Jig gear quota availability:

This will necessitate a Board of Fisheries review to structure openings and closings in state waters, both in the parallel and actively state-managed Pacific cod fisheries.

Component 6—Allowing harvest of an allocation by other sectors

Trawl sector – when the trawl sectors reach their final allocation of halibut PSC for the year

1. CV trawl sector allocation available to other CV sectors
2.
 - a. CP trawl sector allocation available to other CP sectors
 - b. CP trawl sector allocation available to both CP and CV sectors (CV sector catch accounts to other CV sector allocations first before accounting to the CP sectors allocation)

Longline sector – when the longline sectors reach their final allocation of halibut PSC for the year

1. CV longline sector allocation available to other CV sectors
2.
 - a. CP longline sector allocation available to other CP sectors
 - b. CP longline sector allocation available to both CP and CV sectors (CV sector catch accounts to other CV sector allocations first before accounting to the CP sectors allocation)

Year end harvests by other sectors

Quota not caught by the CV sector y November 1, 15th or December 1st shall become available to:

1. all CV sectors
2. all sectors

Quota not caught by the CP sector by November 1, 15 or December 1st shall become available to:

1. all CP sectors
2. all sectors

C-2 (a) – GOA sideboards

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

April 2, 2007

The Council requests staff to incorporate the following issues into an updated draft of the C-2 (a) discussion paper:

GOA Sideboards

- (1) A list of sideboard limits by fishery and area for the different rationalization programs and describe which sideboard limits have been historically closed preseason to directed fishing and which sideboard limits have been open to directed fishing.
- (2) Describe potential conflicts between the CGOA rockfish pilot program and amendment 80. Do sideboard limits overlap for specific fisheries and if so could some sideboard limits be combined, removed or otherwise modified to maintain the intent of the limits.

AFA sideboards:

Option 1: Maintain the GOA AFA exempted fleet sideboard policy that requires vessels to fish their BSAI Pollock allocation to maintain their exempted status.

Option 2: For GOA AFA exempted fleet allow leasing of BSAI Pollock allocations only during the B season BSAI Pollock fishery (June 10 to November 1).

CGOA rockfish pilot program sideboards:

For the CP CGOA rockfish vessels that participate in the CGOA pilot program and also form cooperatives in the BSAI fisheries under amendment 80, will be exempted from the July 1 to July 14 stand down period before entering the BSAI fisheries.

Crab rationalization sideboards:

On November 1st of each year if the B season Pacific cod quota in the WGOA or CGOA will not be reached by the participating vessels by December 31st then Non-AFA side-boarded crab vessels would be exempt from the B season sideboard provisions for that sub-area and can fully participate.

Crab rationalization sideboards changes to exempted vessel status for Pacific cod:

Option 1: No changes to the exempted status requirements

Option 2: Exempt Non-AFA crab vessels from GOA Pacific cod sideboards if the vessel's Bering Sea Opilio allocation is less than 0.22% and the vessel landed more than 500 MT of GOA Pacific cod from 1996 to 2000.

Sub-option a: To receive exempted status vessel/LLP would forfeit their BS Opilio crab shares

Sub-option b: To receive exempted status vessel/LLP would forfeit their BS Opilio crab shares that are in excess of the 100,000 pound landing threshold during the qualifying years 1996 to 2000.

Crab rationalization sideboards create an exempted vessel status for Pollock;

Option 1: No exempted status

Option 2: Exempt Non-AFA crab vessels from GOA Pollock sideboards if the vessel's Bering Sea Opilio allocation is less than 0.22% and the vessel had 1) 5 Pollock deliveries 2) 10 Pollock deliveries or 3) 20 Pollock deliveries from 1996 to 2000.

An analysis of the number of licenses previously assigned to a vessel qualified for the crab rationalization program that were transferred and later used in the pot cod fishery in the Gulf of Alaska (in state and federal waters).

C-2 (c) – GOA LLP fixed gear recency
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
April 2, 2007

In order to better focus public input, the Council adopts the staff purpose and need statement included on page 7 of the C-2 (c) discussion paper as a draft.

Draft Purpose and Need Statement

Western Gulf and Central Gulf groundfish fisheries are subject to intense competition, particularly in the A season, when fish are aggregated and of highest value. Competition among fixed gear participants in the Western Gulf and Central Gulf fisheries has increased for a variety of reasons, including increased market value of Pacific cod products and a declining ABC/TAC. The possible future entry of latent effort would have detrimental effects on LLP holders that have exhibited participation in, and dependence on, the fixed gear groundfish fisheries. Many fixed gear vessel owners have made significant investments, have long catch histories, and are dependant on WGOA and CGOA groundfish resources. These long-term participants need protection from those who have little or no recent history and who have the ability to increase their participation in the fisheries. The intent of the proposed amendment is to prevent latent fixed gear groundfish fishing capacity that has not been utilized in recent years, from future entry or re-entry into the fisheries. This requires prompt action to promote stability in the fixed gear sectors of the GOA groundfish fisheries, and is expected to be implemented concurrently with the division of GOA Pacific cod among sectors which is currently under consideration.

The Council requests staff expand the ‘Gulf fixed gear LLP’ discussion paper to include additional tables and information to enable the public to provide testimony at the June council meeting in anticipation of Council clarifying issues and options in a subsequent staff analysis. This shall include a summary of the transfers of non-trawl licenses in CGOA and WGOA since 2000.

In addition, the Council will consider the following options in the development of elements and options:

Inshore CP sector provisions

- A) Elect annually to either be considered “inshore” or “offshore”.
- B) One time election to be considered either “inshore or “offshore”.

Multiple Endorsement Provisions

- A) CV’s operating with a qualifying catch history in both the “trawl” and the “non trawl” sectors shall elect annually sector participation.
- B) CV’s operating with a qualifying catch history in both the “trawl” and “non trawl” sectors shall have a one time election of sector participation
- C) CV’s operating with a qualifying catch history in both the “trawl” and “non trawl” sectors shall be able to elect to participate in both sectors in a single season.

C-2 (d) – Western GOA pollock trip limits
North Pacific fishery Management Council
April 2, 2007

The Council adopts the following modified language from the AP motion:

The Council advances for analysis in an EA, the alternatives contained in the discussion paper regarding a 300,000lb limit in a 24 hour period for WGOA pollock.