

At its April 2004 meeting, the Council received a report from the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries concerning the future management of Gulf of Alaska State water fisheries and coordination of that management with the management of federal water fisheries under the Gulf of Alaska comprehensive rationalization program. In response to the recommendation of the Board of Fisheries, the Council adopted the following options for allocating a portion of the TAC to the State water fisheries (inside of 3 nautical miles):

1. An amount equivalent to the total annual catch (for each groundfish species/group) from state waters (inside of 3 nautical miles [e.g., parallel and 25% Pacific cod fishery]) by all vessels will be managed directly by the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries as a TAC/GHL equivalent to:
 - a. Highest amount taken in state waters by area;
 - b. Highest amount taken in state waters by area plus 15%;
 - c. Most recent four-year average harvest from state waters.
2. All catch inside of 3 nautical miles by non-federally permitted vessels fishing the parallel fishery, plus all catch under the 25% state water cod fishery and the PWS Pollock fishery remains under the authority of the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries.
3. Only the catch associated with the 25% state water cod fishery and the PWS Pollock fishery remains under the authority of the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries.

These provisions will be substituted for the existing provisions concerning allocations to the State waters fisheries in the elements and option for Gulf rationalization. Staff contact is Mark Fina.