

June 2008- Kodiak, Alaska
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Motion

C-4(b) Gulf of Alaska Pacific Cod Sector Allocations

- ALTERNATIVE 1. No Action.** The Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod TACs would not be allocated to the various gear and operation types.
- ALTERNATIVE 2.** Allocate the Western Gulf (WG) and Central Gulf (CG) of Alaska Pacific cod TACs to the trawl, pot, hook-and-line, and jig catcher vessel and catcher processor sectors based on catch history or other criteria.

Component 1: Management areas

The Western and Central Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod TACs will be allocated among the various gear and operation types, as defined in Component 2 (WG and CG management areas could be treated differently within Component 2).

Component 2: Sector definitions

The Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs will be allocated among the following sectors:

- Trawl catcher processors
- Trawl catcher vessels
- Hook-and-line catcher processors
 - Option: Hook-and-line catcher processors <125 ft
 - Hook-and-line catcher processors \geq 125 ft
- Hook-and-line catcher vessels
 - Option: Hook-and-line catcher vessels <60 ft
 - Hook-and-line catcher vessels \geq 60 ft
 - Option (CG only): Hook-and-line catcher vessels <50 ft
 - Hook-and-line catcher vessels \geq 50 ft
- Pot catcher processors
- Pot catcher vessels
 - Option: Pot catcher vessels <60 ft
 - Pot catcher vessels \geq 60 ft
- Jig vessels

Option: Vessels participating in the <60 ft sectors may not exceed a capacity limit to be determined by the Council. The Council directs staff to provide recommendations of options to consider for capacity limits. Vessels that exceed the capacity limit set for the <60 ft sectors will be allowed to participate in \geq 60 ft sectors.

Option: For Western Gulf only, create a separate sector for combination trawl and pot vessels <60 ft.

Component 3: Definition of qualifying catch

All retained legal catch of Pacific cod from the federal and parallel waters fisheries in the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska.

- Catch will be calculated using Fish Tickets for catcher vessels and Catch Accounting/Blend data for catcher processors.

Component 3 (continued):

- Under all options, incidental catch allocated to trawl catcher vessels for the Central Gulf Rockfish program (currently, 2.09 percent of the Central Gulf Pacific cod TAC) will be deducted from the Central Gulf trawl catcher vessel B season allocation.
- All sector allocations will be managed to support incidental and directed catch needs.

Component 4: Years included for purposes of determining catch history

<u>Option 1</u>	Qualifying years 1995-2005: average of best 5 years
<u>Option 2</u>	Qualifying years 1995-2005: average of best 7 years
<u>Option 3</u>	Qualifying years 2000-2006: average of best 3 years
<u>Option 4</u>	Qualifying years 2000-2006: average of best 5 years
<u>Option 5</u>	Qualifying years 2002-2007: average of best 3 years
<u>Option 6</u>	Qualifying years 2002-2007: average of best 5 years

When sectors are divided into subsectors (e.g., by vessel length), the allocation will be calculated using the best set of years for the sector, and the sum of the subsector allocations will equal the allocation to the sector.

The Council directs staff to provide tables that identify catch by sector during the A season and B season in the Western and Central Gulf, including: (1) total retained catch by season and qualifying year, and (2) proportion of total retained catch taken during each season by sector under the set of options provided under Component 4.

Component 5: Allocation of Pacific cod to jig sector

Options include setting aside 1%, 3%, 5%, or 7% of the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs for the jig vessel sector, with a stairstep provision to increase the jig sector allocation by 1% if 90% of the federal jig allocation in an area is harvested in any given year.

Subsequent to the jig allocation increasing, if the harvest threshold criterion described above is not met during three consecutive years, the jig allocation will be stepped down by 1% in the following year, but shall not drop below the level initially allocated.

The jig allocation could be set aside from the A season TAC, the B season TAC, or divided between the A and B season TACs.

The Council requests that staff continue to work with the State of Alaska and NMFS to explore considerations required to implement possible options for the jig fishery management structure (both State parallel/Federal and State) that create a workable fishery and minimize the amount of stranded quota, focusing on Option 1. Possible solutions that could be explored are:

1. State parallel/Federal managed Pacific cod jig fishery. Federal allocation managed 0-200 miles through a parallel fishery structure. Any State waters jig GHL could (under subsequent action by the Alaska Board of Fisheries) be added to this State parallel/Federal managed jig sector allocation so that the jig sector is fishing off of a single account.
2. State managed Pacific cod jig fishery. Federal management authority delegated to the State of Alaska to manage the Pacific cod jig fisheries in the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska from 0-200 miles.

Component 6: Management of unharvested sector allocations

Any portion of a CV, CP, or jig allocation determined by NMFS to remain unharvested during the remainder of the fishing year will become available as soon as practicable to either:

Option 1 Other respective CV or CP sectors first, and then to all sectors as necessary to harvest available TAC.

Option 2 All sectors.

Component 7: Apportionment of hook-and-line halibut PSC (other than DSR) between catcher processors and catcher vessels

Option 1 No change in current apportionments of GOA halibut PSC.

Option 2 Apportion the GOA hook-and-line halibut PSC to the CP and CV sectors in proportion to the total Western Gulf and Central Gulf Pacific cod allocations to each sector. No later than November 1, any remaining halibut PSC not projected by NMFS to be used by one of the hook-and-line sectors during the remainder of the year would be made available to the other sector.

Option 3 Other apportionment (select amount for each sector). No later than November 1, any remaining halibut PSC not projected by NMFS to be used by one of the hook-and-line sectors during the remainder of the year would be made available to the other sector.

Suboption (can be applied to Options 1, 2, or 3): Change seasonal apportionment by sector.

Component 8: Retention of Community Protections

This component would protect community participation in the Pacific cod processing and community delivery patterns established in the inshore/offshore regulations.

For each management area, the mothership processing cap will be a percentage of the Federal Pacific cod TAC in that area:

Option 1 0%

Option 2 A percentage based on the same qualification criteria as selected for the harvesting sector allocations, but calculated from mothership processing activity.

- Motherships include catcher processors receiving deliveries over the side and mobile floating processors. Motherships do not include inshore floating processors operating at a single geographic location during a given year.

Suboption: For the Western GOA, the combined offshore catcher processor allocations (sum of hook-and-line CP, pot CP, and trawl CP allocations) may be limited to 10%, 15%, or 20%; adjustments to achieve this limit would be applied proportionately to other sectors' allocations.

Component 9

To address Steller sea lion mitigation, bycatch reduction, prohibited species catch mortality, or other conservation and social objectives, potential allocations to any sector based on catch history may be adjusted upwards or downwards by 5 or 10%; this adjustment would be applied proportionately to other sectors' allocations.

Other issues for analysis

The Council requests that staff expand the analysis on Alaskan ownership in the freezer-longline (hook-and-line CP) sector to include percent ownership and gross revenues by Alaskan community.