

Council motion

Measures to support community protections for Central Aleutian Islands communities: Pacific cod processing sideboards June 10, 2008

The Council provides the below parameters to redirect staff in providing analysis of processor sideboard options for Pacific cod harvests in Areas 541 and 542.

Council staff is requested to develop a discussion paper for the Council's consideration that would provide processing sideboard protections for the two central Aleutian Islands communities. The analysis should provide options for Pacific cod sideboards on: (1) American Fisheries Act (AFA) vessels, (2) processing vessels that contributed *C. opilio* history to Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) crab processor quota share allocations (PQS), and (3) Amendment 80 catcher processors acting as motherships.

Draft problem statement:

The American Fisheries Act, BSAI crab rationalization program, and BSAI Amendment 80 program each provide benefits to processing vessels that were intended to protect investments in and dependence on the respective fishery resource. Each of these rationalization programs has afforded opportunities for consolidation, thus freeing some processing capacity to target the non-rationalized BSAI Pacific cod fishery at the expense of other industry and community investments.

Affected resource and areas:

Pacific cod harvested in Areas 541 and 542 from the Federally managed and State parallel fisheries.

Affected vessels:

Vessels that received benefits under a rationalization program with a processing element, including: AFA vessels, processing vessels that contributed history to *C. opilio* BSAI crab processing quota share allocations, and catcher processors that qualified under Amendment 80.

Options for establishing processing sideboards:

Option 1. Sideboard limit

Limit the amount of Pacific cod harvested in Areas 541 or 542 that may be delivered to the affected federally permitted processing vessels by other vessels to:

- Suboption 1. the greatest amount delivered within the range of qualifying years
- Suboption 2. the average annual amount delivered within the range of qualifying years

Option 2. Sideboard date

Limit the date that the affected Federally permitted processing vessels may begin taking deliveries of Pacific cod harvested in Areas 541 or 542 to:

- Suboption 1. the earliest date a delivery was taken in any qualifying year
- Suboption 2. the average earliest date a delivery was accepted in any year, across all qualifying years

Options for qualifying years:

Option 1. Recent history

- Suboption 1. 2005 – 2007 (3-year period prior to 2008)

Suboption 2. 2003 – 2007 (5-year period prior to 2008)

Option 2. Years prior to implementation of the respective rationalization program

Suboption 1. 3-year period prior to program implementation

Suboption 2. 5-year period prior to program implementation

Options for calculating and applying sideboards:

Option 1. Single sideboard

All affected vessels that accept deliveries of Pacific cod harvested in Areas 541 or 542 would be combined under a single sideboard.

Option 2. Program-specific sideboards

A separate sideboard would be established and managed for each of the three groups of rationalized vessels (*i.e.*, AFA, BSAI crab, BSAI Amendment 80) that accept deliveries in of Pacific cod harvested in Areas 541 or 542.