

**COUNCIL ACTIONS on
C-7 GULF SECTOR SPLIT AND LLP RECENCY
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
February 10, 2007, Portland, OR**

The Council passed a motion to separate the consideration of an action to divide Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod among sectors from an action to remove latent LLP licenses from the Gulf of Alaska fisheries. The Council requested staff to prepare a draft purpose and need statement for each action for consideration at the March/April meeting, based on the suggestions from the Advisory Panel minutes and public testimony. The Council's rationale for delaying any action was its desire to receive further public input concerning possible purpose and need statements and elements and options for consideration. The purpose and need statement and provisions developed by the Advisory Panel, and included in their minutes, are below.

The Council also received public testimony requesting it to address a perceived problem with the current 300,000 pound trip limit in the Western Gulf pollock fishery. Testifiers asserted that the use of tenders has allowed some participants in the fishery to circumvent the intended effect of the trip limit. The Council received a discussion paper from staff on this issue at its February 2005 meeting. The Council requested staff to bring that discussion paper to the March/April Council meeting for consideration of further action on this issue.

**ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
February 5-10, 2007, Portland, OR**

C-7 GOA Sector Split for Pacific cod and LLP recency

The AP recommends the Council place the GOA LLP license limitation program in a separate amendment package.

PURPOSE AND NEED GOA LLP license limitation program

The proposed amendment would apply threshold landings criteria to fixed gear fisheries in the WGOA and CGOA. 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 fisheries that are fully utilized.

The rationale for this action is concern over the impacts that possible future entry of latent effort would have on LLP holders that have exhibited participation in, and dependence on, the fixed gear groundfish fisheries. Fixed gear vessel owners who have made significant investments, have long catch histories, and are dependant on WGOA and CGOA groundfish resources need protection from those who have little or no recent history and who have the ability to increase their participation in the fisheries.

This requires prompt action to promote stability in the fixed gear sectors of the GOA groundfish fisheries until comprehensive rationalization can be completed.

It is extremely important that this proposed action is implemented concurrently with the GOA Pcod sector splits which are currently under consideration. *Motion passed 18/0.*

PURPOSE AND NEED GOA Sector Split for Pacific Cod

The Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Pacific cod resource is fully utilized. All gear sectors – jig, longline, pot, trawl, catcher vessels and catcher processors, are fully subscribed. The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council has been unable to complete a comprehensive rationalization management plan for the Central and Western GOA. The GOA Pacific cod fisheries have the largest number of participants of any Alaska groundfish fisheries.

The GOA Pacific cod TAC is not subdivided by gear type or between catcher vessels or catcher processor vessels. The result is that there is an intense race for fish between sectors and between harvesters within sectors.

Since the TAC is not divided by gear type, each sector is unable to develop an appropriate management regime for their sector. Also, when all sectors fish at the same time gear conflicts occur.

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 Stellar Sea Lion mitigation measures including the A/B seasonal split of the GOA Pacific cod TAC.

The purposes of the proposed action include elimination of the race for fish between sectors and provision of economic stability for the participants in the GOA Pacific cod fishery who have significant fishery investments and long-term dependence on the resource. Sector allocations will be based on historic dependence, catch history and other socio-economic factors. Allocating Pacific cod amongst sectors will give the sectors additional flexibility to address management needs. Prompt action is needed to promote stability within the GOA cod fishery until comprehensive rationalization or other appropriate management measures can be put in place.

Motion passed 16/4

The minority opposes the inclusion of language referencing the NPFMC's inability to complete a comprehensive rationalization plan in the sector split purpose and need statement. We contend that retaining this reference suggests that the sector split is a default measure, whereas, in fact, rationale for pursuing a GOA cod sector split to address inter-sector competition is fully justified. Signed: John Moller, Lisa Butzner, Tina McNamee, and Michelle Ridgway

GOA Sector Split for Pacific Cod Components and Options

Component 1 – Area

Pacific cod sector split in CGOA & WGOA

Component 2 – Identify and define sectors

Trawl CP	Pot CP
Trawl CV	Pot CV
H&L CP	Jig
H&L CV	

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. 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 AP recommends the Council adopt the following option for determining catch histories:

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

Example	1.	Trawl fleet has a 7 year average % of TAC of 65%	
	2.	Pot fleet has a 7 year average % of TAC of 50%	
	3.	Longline fleet has a 7 year average % of TAC of 25%	
	4.	Jig fleet has a 7 year average % of TAC of 15%	
			Total % of TAC is 155%
		Trawl sector split is 65/155 of annual TAC	
		Pot sector split is 50/155 of annual TAC	
		Longline sector split is 25/155 of annual TAC	
		Jig sector split is 15/155 of annual TAC	

**Decrease the trawl allocation by the allocation to the CGOA rockfish pilot program (during the tenure of that program).

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

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)

Motion passed 20/0