

# Alternatives and Options for AI Pacific cod Processing Sideboard Analysis

## Revised February 9, 2009

### **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 processing vessels:**

Vessels that received benefits under a rationalization program with a processing element, including: AFA catcher processors and motherships that have not shown continuous processing participation as motherships in the Area 541 and 542 Pacific cod fishery since the implementation of the AFA; processing vessels that contributed history to *C. opilio* BSAI crab processing quota share allocations; and catcher processors that qualified under Amendment 80.

### **Alternatives and options:**

#### **Alternative 1. No action**

#### **Alternative 2. Establish processing sideboards on Pacific cod harvested by catcher vessels in Area 541 or 542**

##### Component 1. 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 each year, across all qualifying years

Option 3. The sideboard limit and/or date would only be established in Area 542.

## Component 2. 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

## Component 3. 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.