

Council motion on the CDQ Program
October 7, 2005

CDQ Reserve Management

The Council approves the release of the EA/RIR on the management of CDQ reserves for public review, with the following revised alternatives:

Alternative 1: Status Quo. Do not amend CDQ fishery management regulations. CDQ and PSQ transfers between CDQ groups would not be allowed to account for in-season quota overages; CDQ groups would not be allowed to form cooperatives and pool their CDQ allocations; each BSAI TAC category allocated to the CDQ Program would be allocated among CDQ groups; all CDQ group allocations would be managed as hard caps; and changes to those TAC categories allocated to CDQ groups would continue to be made through rulemaking.

Alternative 2: Amend regulations to remove the prohibition disallowing the transfer of CDQ from one CDQ group to another CDQ group to cover overages of groundfish CDQ allocations.

Alternative 3: Amend regulations to: (1) remove the prohibition disallowing the transfer of CDQ from one CDQ group to another CDQ group to cover harvest overages of groundfish CDQ allocations, and (2) allow CDQ groups to form cooperatives and pool their groundfish CDQ allocations for purposes of quota management and monitoring.

Alternative 4: Amend regulations to: (1) remove the prohibition disallowing the transfer of CDQ from one CDQ group to another CDQ group to cover in-season harvest overages of groundfish CDQ allocations, and (2) only allocate target species CDQ reserves among CDQ groups. CDQ target species allocations would be managed as hard caps and unallocated CDQ reserves would be managed as soft caps.

Option 1: Amend regulations to allow the Council to make future modifications to the suite of TAC categories allocated among CDQ groups during the annual groundfish harvest specifications process, rather than through rulemaking.

Alternative 4, Option 1 is identified as the preliminary preferred alternative. The Council requests that staff respond to the SSC comments on the analysis, with the exception of the suggestion to restructure the alternatives.

Blue Ribbon Panel Report and BSAI Amendment 71

The Council requests staff to provide a proposed structure for alternatives and options for a revised Amendment 71 analysis, which incorporates the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel, for consideration at the December 2005 Council meeting.