

**North Pacific Fishery Management Council Motion
April 3, 2011
Anchorage, Alaska**

C-6 Management of the GOA Pacific Cod Jig Fishery

The Council has adopted the following purpose and need statement for this action:

The Council has taken two recent actions that will potentially increase opportunities for jig vessels. The GOA Fixed Gear LLP Recency action exempts jig vessels, subject to gear limits, from the LLP requirement in the Western and Central GOA. The GOA Pacific Cod Sector Allocation action allocated a percentage of the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs that is higher than the sector's historical catch levels with a staircase provision to increase the allocations if they are fully harvested.

A number of factors have contributed to limiting jig harvests in both state and federally managed fisheries. The timing of the Pacific cod A and B seasons may have limited the participation of jig vessels in the parallel and Federal fisheries of the GOA. Additionally, the State waters jig allocation has gone uncaught in some years, potentially due to the lack of availability of Pacific cod inside three miles.

The jig fishery provides entry level opportunity into GOA fisheries and contributes to a diversified fishing portfolio for combination fishing vessels throughout coastal Alaskan communities. Restructuring management of the jig fishery could ensure that the jig fleet has access to fully harvest both state and federal fisheries allocations.

The Council selected Alternative 2 as the preliminary preferred alternative (PPA):

Alternative 2: Reverse parallel fishery.

Federal openings of the Pacific cod jig fisheries in the EEZ will be concurrent with State of Alaska seasons when the State GHF fishery is opened. Catch in Federal waters during the State GHF season will be deducted from the State GHF allocation. Catch in Federal waters or State waters when the State GHF is not open will be deducted from the Federal jig TAC.

Option: Prohibit the use of any other gear type on board while operators are fishing in the Federal reverse parallel jig fishery.

The Council expressed its intent to delay final action until no sooner than December 2011. This will provide an opportunity for the Alaska Board of Fisheries to comment and take action in October 2011. The Council also requested that staff include a list comparing State and Federal management regulations for the GOA Pacific cod fishery.

The Council requested that staff submit a proposal to the Board by the May 16, 2011 deadline to establish a reverse parallel jig fishery. The Council also requested that staff bring the draft analysis to the Board meeting in October 2011.

Motion passed without objection.