



BSAI Am. 85
Pacific cod sector allocations

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Nicole Kimball, Fisheries Analyst

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Main actions considered in Part I

- Revise BSAI Pacific cod sector allocations
- Split trawl CP cod allocation into AFA CP and non-AFA CP
- Split trawl CV cod allocation into AFA CV and non-AFA CV
- Split halibut & crab trawl cod PSC among the trawl sectors (i.e., AFA CP, non-AFA CP, AFA CV, non-AFA CV)

Revised cod allocations

(as % of ITAC*)

<u>Sector</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Am. 85</u>
AFA trawl CP	(23.5 all	2.3
Non-AFA trawl CP	trawl CP)	13.4
Trawl CV	23.5	22.1
H&L CP	40.8	48.7
>60' H&L CV	0.2	0.2
Pot CP	1.7	1.5
>60' Pot CV	7.7	8.4
<60' H&L/Pot CV	0.7	2.0
Jig gear	2.0	1.4

*Reduced for CDQ (7.5% of TAC) and State AI cod fishery (3% of ABC).

Note: 2006 BSAI Pcod TAC = 194,000 mt; ITAC = 174,066 mt.

Seasonal apportionment approach

- Season dates do not change under Am. 85
- Trawl sectors overall maintain same % of ITAC in the A and B seasons as status quo; reduction is applied to C season.*
- Fixed gear sectors overall maintain same % of ITAC in the A season; overall increase applied to B season.
- Jig sector changes from 40-20-40% to 60-20-20%. (Overall result when combined with new allocation is 0.08% less ITAC allowed for jig in first half of the year.)

Seasonal apportionments

(as % of each sector's allocation)

Trawl CV:

74% (Jan. 20 - Apr. 1)

11% (Apr. 1 - June 10)

15% (June 10 - Nov. 1)

Trawl CP:

75% (Jan. 20 - Apr. 1)

25% (Apr. 1 - June 10)

0.0% (June 10 - Nov. 1)

H&L CP and >60' CV:

51% (Jan. 1 - June 10)

49% (June 10 - Dec. 31)

Pot CP and >60' CV:

51% (Jan. 1 - June 10)

49% (Sept. 1 - Dec. 31)

Fixed gear <60':

no seasonal apportionment

Jig gear:

60% (Jan. 1 - Apr. 30)

20% (Apr. 30 - Aug. 31)

20% (Aug. 31 - Dec. 31)

Seasonal apportionment summary

- Current guideline from 2001 BiOp is 70% - 30% overall seasonal apportionment of cod allocation
- Current allocation split is 69% - 30.3%. (<60' fixed gear allocation of 0.7% of ITAC is not seasonally apportioned).
- Am. 85 approach results in overall seasonal apportionment of about 68% - 32%.
(Includes assumption that <60' fixed gear does not have seasons and all harvest occurs in first half of the year.)
Approach results in slightly less cod in A season than SQ, due to lower trawl CP allocation and jig allocation.
- All sectors want more cod in the A season

Rollover provisions

- Sector allocations projected to remain unused are reallocated in last season, typically Oct - Dec
- Jig allocation continues to be reallocated to <60' fixed gear sector each jig season
- Unused allocation from an inshore sector is first reallocated to other inshore sectors
- Complex rollover hierarchy; NMFS inseason mgmt retains flexibility to reallocate quota with consideration of hierarchy

Other provisions

- Maintain CDQ allocation of cod at 7.5%
- Apportion halibut & crab PSC to the trawl cod fishery group among: Non-AFA trawl CP; AFA trawl CP; Trawl CV
- Am. 80 establishes amount of halibut & crab PSC to non-AFA trawl CP sector
- Apportion halibut PSC between H&L CP and H&L CV sectors in specs process (start at 10 mt for CV)

Problem statement for Part II

In the event that the BSAI Pacific cod ABC/TAC is apportioned between the BS and the AI management areas, a protocol needs to be established that would continue to maintain the benefits of sector allocations and minimize competition among gear groups; recognize differences in dependence among gear groups and sectors that fish for Pacific cod in the BS and AI; and ensure that the distribution of harvest remains consistent with biomass distribution and associated harvest strategy.

Impetus for action

- Dec 2003 SSC recommendation to split BSAI cod ABC by BS and AI subareas
- 2005 recommendation from Plan Team not to split BSAI ABC until management complications are resolved
- If ABC/TAC was split by subarea in the specifications process, the only sector allocation split allowed under current regs is not satisfactory to most sectors (i.e. does not reflect current harvest distribution by sector)
- State water AI fishery established to support fleet delivering to Adak

Main action considered in Part II

- Split the BSAI Pacific cod sector allocations between the BS and AI subareas, in the event that the BS and AI TACs are split by subarea in a future TAC specifications process
- Four alternatives considered

Alternatives in Part II

Alt. 1: No Action. (Same effect as Alt. 3; only option under current Federal regs).

Alt. 2: Maintain BSAI sector cod allocations and allow each sector to fish its allocation in the BS and/or AI as long as TAC was available in the subarea.

Alternatives in Part II cont'd

Alt. 3: Allocate same percentage of BS ITAC and AI ITAC as determined by BSAI sector allocations.
(Ex: If a sector's allocation is 40% of the BSAI ITAC, it receives 40% of the BS ITAC and 40% of the AI ITAC.)

Alt. 4: (PPA) Establish AI allocations for each sector based on AI catch history during: 1995 – 2002; 1997 – 2003; 2000 – 2003; or 2002 – 2003. Remainder of BSAI sector allocation is allocated to the BS.

Background info

- Best estimate of long-term average biomass distribution is 85% in BS and 15% in AI (Thompson and Dorn, 2005)
- Average % of total BSAI cod harvest in AI:

1995 – 2003:	14.5%
1995 - 2005:	14.1%
2000 – 2003:	17.6% (17.9% w/o CDQ)
2004 – 2005:	12.3% (12.9% w/o CDQ)
- Long-term average harvest distribution is similar to estimate of average biomass distribution

LLP area endorsements by sector

(#) indicates total number of LLPs by sector

Sectors with majority of licenses endorsed for BSAI:

AFA Trawl CP (20)
Non-AFA Trawl CP (29)
Hook & Line CP (44)
>60' Hook & Line CV (9)
Pot CP (8)

*AFA trawl CV (111): half are BS only; half are BSAI

*Jig: N/A

Sectors with great majority of licenses endorsed for BS subarea only:

Non-AFA trawl CV (50)
>60' Pot CV (53)
<60' Hook & line and pot CV (116)

Harvest distribution between BS and AI

- Total AI cod catch has fluctuated in 1995 – 2005, averaging 14% (with and without CDQ)
- 1995 – 1998: CPs harvested more than 80% of the AI cod catch
- 2002 – 2003: CPs harvested just over 40% of the AI cod catch
- Generally, trawl has increased the % of its BSAI cod catch taken in AI in recent years (most notably, trawl CVs)
- Generally, fixed gear has reduced the % of its BSAI cod catch taken in AI in recent years

State water AI fishery

- Implemented in March 2006 (thru 2007)
- $GHL = 3\%$ of BSAI Pacific cod ABC = 5,820 mt in 2006
- State water fishery conforms with overall seasonal apportionments in SSL mitigation measures (70% - 30%)
- LLP not required to fish in State waters
- Majority of catch in 2006 A season harvested by large trawl CVs delivering to floaters

Concerns with Alt. 1 & 3

(equal % in BS and AI)

- In effect, each sector would be allowed 85% of its BSAI allocation in the BS and 15% in the AI
- Does not reflect recent harvest distribution by subarea for any sector
- Fixed & jig sectors harvest more than 85% in BS generally (84 - 96% ave. 2000 – 03)
- Trawl sectors harvest less than 85% in the BS generally (~30 - 70% ave. 2000 – 03)

Concerns with Alt. 2

(fish in either subarea if TAC available)

- Potential to create race for fish in subarea that is most constraining, if sectors want to catch significantly more in that area than the long-term average
- Some sectors operate under a cooperative system (trawl CPs, AFA trawl CV) and are potentially better able to plan fishing year and react to closures in one subarea

Concerns with Alt. 2

(fish in either subarea if TAC available)

- Most flexible alternative for sectors to change fishing patterns inseason in reaction to shifting stock, preferable fishing location, etc.
- Not viable option until we have guidance on how to apply seasonal apportionments generally across the board (to apply to all gear types) in the AI.

Concerns with Alt. 4

(AI allocation based on AI catch history)

- TAC fluctuations will have disproportionate impacts on sectors that are allocated the greatest % of the subarea with the declining TAC.
- It is possible that in a particular year, a sector's AI allocation (in mt) may be $>$ its BSAI allocation. Must then set the sector's AI allocation equal to its BSAI allocation. BS allocation would equal zero. All other sector AI allocations would be adjusted (increased) proportionately to allocate full AI ITAC.

Concerns with Alt. 4

- Several sectors have many participants without an AI LLP. In the case that a sector's BS allocation = 0 due to TAC fluctuations, these participants would not be able to fish BSAI cod without purchasing an eligible license.
- Potential influence on cooperative negotiations for AFA (and non-AFA trawl CP) sectors

Concerns with Alt. 4

- Further dividing AI allocations by season would create several extremely small seasonal sector allocations. Concerns some may be too small to support a directed fishery, specifically for sectors not managed under co-op (e.g., non-AFA trawl CV, <60' fixed gear, H&L CV, pot CP).
- Current (informal) guidance is that NMFS would apply same gear specific seasonal apportionments in AI and BS subareas that each sector is subject to in the BSAI. This may be subject of interest in reconsultation process: whether there could be different gear specific seasonal apportionments in the BS versus AI.

Summary Part I

Part I of Am. 85 approved by Council in April 2006

- Revised BSAI cod sector allocations to mirror catch (account for rollovers)
- Maintained amount allowed in first half of year; mirrored actual temporal distribution
- Implementation expected Jan 1, 2008

Summary Part II

- Each of the existing alternatives triggered concerns; Council agreed that additional analysis is warranted.
- It is expected that the SSL reconsultation process will shed light on temporal and spatial guidelines for the Pacific cod fishery in the AI.
- Council voted to remove Part II and its attendant analysis from Am. 85 and initiate a new analysis that examines alternative approaches to apportion BSAI cod sector allocations between the BS and AI subareas
- Discussion paper to be reviewed by Council in October 2006