



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

File Number:Catch 14-013

Agenda Date10/6/2014

Agenda Number:C11

John Henderschedt, Acting Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod Allocations - Initial Review

ESTIMATED TIME:

2 Hours

ACTION REQUIRED:

Initial Review AI Pcod Allocation and Delivery Requirement

BACKGROUND

For several years, the Council has periodically requested information to help determine the need for community protections in the AI that have evolved due to the implementation of rationalization programs for various fisheries. This rationalization has resulted in excess processing capacity that has been used in the AI Pacific cod fishery.

At the October 2013 meeting, the Council, after reviewing a discussion paper on a catcher vessel apportionment of AI Pacific cod with a regionalized delivery requirement to AI shoreplants, postponed further action on this issue until February 2014. The Council recognized that any proposed action on the AI Pacific cod fishery would be extremely difficult given the uncertainty surrounding this fishery to include:

- Establishing separate OFLs and ABCs for Pacific cod in the BS and AI for the 2014 fishing season
- Changes to the AI Pacific cod fishery from the Steller sea lion mitigation measures, and
- Alaska Board of Fish proposal that would increase the State water GHL Pacific cod fishery from 3 percent to 4.5 percent.

Since then, all three of these issues have been clarified. The Council separated the OFLs and ABCs for Pacific cod in the BS and AI in December 2013. The Board of Fish proposal to increase the State water GHL Pacific cod fishery from 3 percent to 4.5 percent was moved from consideration. New Steller sea lion protection measures are scheduled to be implemented early next year.

Reflecting these changes to the AI Pacific cod fishery, the Council, at its February 2014 meeting, initiated an analysis that would prioritize a portion of the AI Pacific cod to catcher vessels and designate it be delivered to shoreplants in the AI, with some constraints on the amount and dates by which the prioritization and delivery requirement would be removed to prevent standing of AI Pacific cod. To accommodate the AI Pacific cod fishery for trawl CVs, the proposed action would also limit harvest of the A season trawl CV sector's BS Pacific cod allocation so as not to allow the sector to harvest its entire A season allocation in the BS prior to the end of the A season AI Pacific cod fishery.

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The Council is scheduled to review the initial review draft analysis at this meeting, and determine whether to release the document for public review.