

Final Council Motion Agenda Item C-4
BSAI Cod Trawl Catcher Vessel
February 7, 2019

The BSAI trawl catcher vessel Pacific cod fishery is facing multiple issues simultaneously that are negatively impacting the sustained viability and rational prosecution of the fishery for all its participants. These factors include: decreasing Pacific cod TACs, an increase in the number of participating LLP licenses, the potential for additional new participants, a race among existing participants (often in unsafe conditions), and an increasingly shortened season. The Council initiates action to address the numerous concerns being encountered by the fishery and consider adopting the following purpose and need statement and analytic process:

Purpose and Need Statement

Over the last several years, total allowable catch for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Island has steadily decreased. At the same time, the number of LLP licenses used by trawl catcher vessels to participate in the BSAI non-CDQ trawl Pacific cod fishery has increased. The pace of the fishery has contributed to an increasingly compressed season, resulting in decreased ability to maximize the value of the fishery and negatively impacting all fishery participants (catcher vessels, motherships, shoreside processors, and communities). This race for fish also discourages fishing practices that can minimize bycatch. The potential for continued re-entry of additional entrants could exacerbate these unfavorable conditions and threaten the sustained viability of the fishery. The Council is considering the development of management tools to improve the prosecution of the fishery, including the development of a cooperative-based program, with the intent of promoting safety and increasing the value of the fishery.

To address the Purpose and Need Statement, the Council should develop a scoping document that could be incorporated into a comprehensive BSAI cod trawl catcher vessel management program that includes:

- Allocation of BSAI Pacific cod quota share to BSAI LLP licenses
- Establishing trawl catcher vessel cooperative(s) for Pacific cod
- Recognition of historical AFA cooperative-based cod harvest arrangements since the implementation of pollock cooperatives under the AFA
- Recognition of historical harvest of AFA cod exempt boats
- Recognition of historical harvest of non-AFA boats
- Protections for harvesters, processors, and communities
- Use caps, transfer requirements, and other administrative requirements that apply to quota programs.
- Establishing sideboards to protect limited access GOA and BSAI fisheries
- Consideration of management changes on catcher vessel crew
- Implications for bycatch management, including halibut savings to benefit the health of halibut resource.

The Council establishes a control date of February 7th 2019, that may be used as a reference date for any future management action to address trawl catcher vessel participation in the BSAI Pacific cod fishery.