

Council Motion
Agenda Item: C-7 Gulf of Alaska Pollock and Pacific Cod Seasons
December 8, 2018

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and suite of alternative(s) options and sub-options for public review. Staff should consider and address comments from the AP and SSC to the extent practicable. The preliminary preferred alternatives are shown in **bold**; (new language is underlined, removed text is in strikethrough):

Purpose and Need

Evaluation of the pollock and Pacific cod trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska indicates the seasonal distribution of pollock and cod may create inefficiencies for participants and there may be opportunities to improve management of the fisheries. Modifying the seasons or seasonal allocations of pollock and cod could increase fishery yield, particularly for roe quality and quantity of pollock, management flexibility and potentially decrease prohibited species catch. The Council intends to improve prosecution of these fisheries while not redistributing allocations of pollock or cod between management areas or participants. The Council understands that this action may have implications for Steller sea lion management measures and would be reviewed consistent with the Endangered Species Act.

Alternatives

Alternative 1. No action (Status quo)

Alternative 2. Combine the A and B season into a single season (January 20 through May 31), and combine the C and D season into a single season (August 25 through November 1) and allocate pollock among a combined A/B and C/D seasons 50% to the A/B season and 50% to the C/D season. This change is applicable to areas 610, 620, and 630.

Option: Increase the amount of unharvested pollock that may be reallocated from one season to the following season, or among areas, from 20% to:

Sub-option 1: 25%

Sub-option 2: 30%

Alternative 3. Modify the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod allocation for trawl catcher vessels among the existing A and B seasons as follows:

Option 1: ~~A Season: 65%; B Season: 35%~~
CGOA A season 23.21444%; B season 18.36967%
WGOA A season 29.62%; B season 8.78%

Option 2: ~~A Season: 70%; B Season: 30%~~
CGOA A season 25.29364%; B season 16.29047%
WGOA A season 31.54%; B season 6.86%

Option 3: ~~A Season: 75%; B Season: 25%~~
CGOA A season 27.37285%; B season 14.21126%
WGOA A season 33.46%; B season 4.94%