

**C-5 Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod Set-Aside Adjustment
Final Council Motion
December 07, 2018**

The Council recommends the following purpose and need statement and alternatives and options to modify the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod set-aside established under Amendment 113 to the BSAI groundfish FMP. The preferred alternative is Alternative 4, Option 2.

Purpose and Need

Amendment 113 to the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Fishery Management Plan (BSAI) was intended to address the Council's concern of the continued risk of increased processing participation by rationalized sectors in the non-rationalized Aleutian Island cod fishery. In the first year Amendment 113 was in effect, changes in fishery participation patterns and total allowable catches in the BSAI resulted in the fishery progressing in a manner that may have been counter to the intent of providing community protections in the Aleutian Islands. The Council intends to modify Amendment 113 such that the prosecution of the BSAI Pacific cod fishery aligns with the Council's original objective of addressing the risk that participants in the BSAI rationalized fisheries may diminish the historical share of the BSAI Pacific cod of other industry participants and communities that depend on shoreplant processing in the region.

Alternative 4.

- 1) Prior to March 21, the A season trawl CV Pacific cod harvests in the Bering Sea and trawl CV Pacific cod harvests in the Aleutian Islands except harvests delivered shoreside west of 170° longitude in the AI shall be limited to an amount equal to the BSAI aggregate CV trawl sector A season allocation minus the lesser of the AI directed Pacific cod non CDQ DFA or 5,000 mt.

Upon the closure under the above provision, directed trawl CV fishing for non CDQ BSAI Pacific cod is prohibited for all trawl CVs vessels except trawl CVs delivering shoreside west of 170° longitude in the AI prior to March 21, unless restrictions are removed earlier under 3 or 4 below.

- 2) Prior to March 15 AI directed Pacific cod non CDQ harvests of any sector other than the CV sector delivering shoreside west of 170° longitude in the AI as defined in 1) are limited to the amount of the AI directed Pacific cod non CDQ DFA above minus the amount set aside from the trawl CV BSAI allocation under 1). Catches of those other sectors under this provision are not subject to the regional delivery requirement.
- 3) If less than 1,000 mt of the AI Pacific cod non CDQ TAC has been landed shoreside west of 170 longitude in the AI by February 28 the restrictions under 1) and 2) shall be suspended for the remainder of the year.
- 4) If prior to November 1, neither the City of Adak nor the City of Atka have notified NMFS of the intent to process non CDQ directed AI Pacific cod in the upcoming year, the Aleutian Islands shoreside delivery requirement and restriction on the trawl CV sector allocation is suspended for the upcoming year. Cities can voluntarily provide notice prior to the selected date.

Option 2: Keep the dates the same but allow Pacific cod harvested in the AI to be delivered either shoreside or at sea after March 15, the BS limitation would not apply after March 21 or sooner if the AI Pacific cod TAC is achieved.