

Council Motion

C-7 Gulf of Alaska Pollock and Pacific cod Seasons

June 9, 2018

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and suite of alternatives:

Purpose and Need Statement:

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 re-distributing 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.

Alternative 1. Status quo

Alternative 2. Combine the A and B season into a single season, and combine the C and D season into a single season 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%

Option 2: A Season: 70%; B Season: 30%

Option 3: A Season: 75%; B Season: 25%