C8 Council Motion CDQ Pacific cod directed fishery
February 8, 2014

Initiate an analysis with the following purpose and need statement and alternatives.

Purpose and Need

Current regulations applicable to vessels targeting Pacific cod with hook-and-line gear are prohibitive for the CDQ village small boat fleets. Easing or revising certain regulations may make the development of a Pacific cod fishery more viable and provide additional harvest opportunities for the CDQ village small boat fleets, which may be particularly urgent in light of steep declines in halibut quotas as one measure to mitigate the resulting economic disruption.

Alternatives

Alternative 1. No action. Vessels fishing CDQ halibut are allowed to retain Pacific cod up to 20% of their CDQ halibut landings under the existing maximum retainable allowance (MRA).

Alternative 2. Increase the MRA up to 100% of the CDQ halibut landings for hook-and-line catcher vessels ≤46' length overall that hold Pacific cod CDQ. All Pacific cod caught must be retained and accrues towards the CDQ Pacific cod quotas.

Alternative 3. Create a new CDQ LLP for participating hook-and-line catcher vessels ≤46' length overall. Vessels with the CDQ LLP can participate in the CDQ directed Pacific cod fishery. Limit the number of LLPs each CDQ group would be provided. These LLP licenses would be non-transferable among CDQ groups. All Pacific cod caught must be retained and accrues towards the CDQ Pacific cod allocations. Vessels would be subject to the full coverage observer category consistent with existing full coverage observer requirements.

- Option 1: Place these vessels in the partial coverage observer category. Incidentally caught halibut would accrue against the CDQ PSQ allocation.

- Option 2: Place these vessels in the partial coverage observer category. Require vessels to retain any incidentally caught halibut. Incidentally caught halibut would accrue against the halibut CDQ allocation.

Alternative 4. Exempt hook-and-line catcher vessels participating in the CDQ Pacific cod fishery with ≤46' length overall from groundfish LLP requirements. All Pacific cod caught must be retained and accrues towards the CDQ Pacific cod allocations. Vessels would be in the partial coverage observer category.

The analysis should also consider other alternatives to VMS, such as the GPS electronic monitoring alternative identified on page 8 of the Observer Program Amendments discussion paper from the February 2014 meeting to monitor compliance with Steller sea lion protection measures, EFH, and HAPC closure areas.