

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
C-6 Bering Sea Pacific cod Trawl Participation
June 9, 2018

The Council adopts the following revisions to the Purpose and Need Statement and alternatives. Additions are shown in **bold and underline**.

During development of Amendment 80 to the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Fishery Management Plan, and associated rule making, the Council was silent on the ability of catcher processors defined in Amendment 80 to act as motherships in limited access fisheries. Recent increases of Amendment 80 catcher processors acting as motherships has resulted in an increase in the amount of Pacific cod delivered to Amendment 80 catcher processors, an increase in the number of catcher vessels delivering Pacific cod to motherships, and a decrease in the amount of Pacific cod delivered to shoreside processing facilities. The Council is concerned about the impacts of the recent increases and potential for future growth in offshore deliveries of Pacific cod to Amendment 80 vessels or other vessels operating as motherships, and the potential impacts those increases could have on shoreside processors, communities, and participating catcher vessels. The Council intends to address the activity of vessels acting as motherships.

*In addition, there are **both AFA and non-AFA** 108 licenses endorsed to fish in the BSAI trawl cod fishery including 76 exempt and non-exempt AFA vessels. Information shows a large number of AFA endorsed vessels are not participating, but whose catch history contributes to the AFA Pacific cod sideboard in the Bering Sea trawl cod fishery. ~~These AFA endorsed vessels that are not participating also benefit from secure allocation of pollock.~~ Despite a high level of latency, the pace of the fishery has increased shortening the season, resulting in decreased ability to maximize the value of the fishery and negatively impacting fishery participants. Additional entrants could exacerbate these issues and threaten the viability of the fishery. The Council is considering **options to improve**ing the prosecution of the fishery, with the intent of **promoting safety and** increasing the value of the fishery. ~~by considering limiting entry of vessels that have not participated, or have not participated recently.~~*

Alternative 1. No action

Alternative 2. A catcher-processor may take **directed fishery** deliveries of Pacific cod from catcher vessels participating in the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BSAI) non-CDQ Pacific cod trawl fishery if the catcher processor acted as a mothership and received **targeted** Pacific cod deliveries as follows:

Option 1: Amendment 80 catcher processors acting as motherships during 2015-2017

Sub-option 1.1: in any year

Sub-option 1.2: in any two years

Sub-option 1.3: in any three years

Option 2: Non Amendment 80 vessels acting as motherships during 2015-2017

Alternative 3. The total amount of **Bering Sea subarea** BSAI non-CDQ Pacific cod catcher vessel trawl sector **A season (Option: A and B season)** allocation that can be delivered to Amendment 80 vessels **catcher-processors limited by this action** acting as a mothership is equal to the percentage of trawl catcher vessel sector's **Bering Sea subarea** BSAI Pacific cod delivered to catcher processors acting as motherships relative to the total BSAI **Bering Sea subarea** catcher vessels trawl catch between:

Option 1: 2015-2017

Option 2: 2016-2017

Option 3: 2008-2017

Option 4: 2008-2014

Only the catch of vessels delivering to qualified catcher-processors during the selected Alternative 3 qualifying period would be used as the numerator to determine the catcher-processor's mothership sideboard percentage.

Sub-option 1: A catcher processor that received deliveries from the BSAI non-CDQ Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel sector allocation in 7 or more years during 2008-2017 is not subject to the limitations on receiving deliveries under Alternative 3. Any history of vessels that qualify for this suboption will not count toward any limitation created under Alternative 3.

Alternative 4: Prohibit use of LLP licenses in the BSAI trawl **Pacific** cod fishery that are not attributed a directed **targeted (using fish ticket information)** BSAI trawl cod landing between:

Option 1: 2010-2017

Option 2: 2012-2017

Option 3: 2010-2015

Option 4: 2012-2015

The eight severable Aleutian Islands trawl licenses awarded under Amendment 92 are exempt from prohibitions selected in Alternative 4.

Alternative 5: Establish AFA and non-AFA sector allocations for the BSAI non-CDQ Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel A season.

- **The AFA sector will include AFA-exempt licenses.**
- **Allocations will be made after considering historical distribution of catch between AFA and non-AFA vessels and other possible considerations**
- **AFA and non-AFA catcher vessel sector allocations are applicable in the Bering Sea-subarea when the Bering Sea Sector Limitation is implemented, and BSAI-wide when the Bering Sea Sector Limitation is not implemented. Halibut and crab PSC is allocated pro rata to Pacific cod between AFA and non-AFA catcher vessels annually.**
- **Include a discussion on how the non-AFA cod fishery may also be able to have a cooperative fishing structure and what changes or tools may be necessary.**
- **Include considerations of how an AFA non-AFA split will address concerns identified in the second paragraph of the purpose and need statement.**

Alternative 6: All Amendment 80 vessels not designated on:

(1) An Amendment 80 QS permit and an Amendment 80 LLP license; or

(2) An Amendment 80 LLP/QS license will be prohibited from receiving Pacific cod harvested in the Pacific cod directed fishery in the BSAI and GOA.

The Council establishes a control date of December 31, 2017 that may be used as a reference date for a future management action to limit catcher processor vessels from acting as motherships in the BSAI trawl catcher vessel Pacific cod fishery.