

Amendment 125 to the Fishery Management Plans for Groundfish of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Management Area.

1. In Table ES-2, add the language in bold:

<p>Apportionment of TAC</p>	<p>Pollock: The amount of pollock that may be taken with non-pelagic trawls may be limited; pollock TAC shall be divided into roe-bearing (“A” season) and non roe-bearing (“B” season) allowances.</p> <p>Sablefish: Vessels using fixed gear may harvest no more than 50% of the TAC in the Bering Sea and 75% of the TAC in the Aleutian Islands; vessels using trawl gear may harvest no more than 50% of the TAC in the Bering Sea and 25% of the TAC in the Aleutian Islands.</p> <p>Pacific cod: After subtraction of the CDQ allowance, the remaining TAC shall be allocated 1.4% for vessels using jig gear, 2.3% for catcher processors using trawl gear listed in Section 208(e)(1)-(20) of the AFA, 13.4% for catcher processors using trawl gear as defined in Section 219(a)(7) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (P.L. 108-447), 22.1% for catcher vessels using trawl gear, 48.7% for catcher processors using hook-and-line gear, 0.2% for catcher vessels $\geq 60'$ LOA using hook-and-line gear, 1.5% for catcher processors using pot gear, 8.4% for catcher vessels $\geq 60'$ LOA using pot gear, and 2.0% for catcher vessels $< 60'$ LOA that use either hook-and-line gear or pot gear. Allocations may be seasonally apportioned. During the jig sector’s A season only, harvest from catcher vessels $\leq 55'$ LOA that use hook-and-line or pot gear is deducted from the jig vessel sector.</p> <p>Atka mackerel: After subtraction of the CDQ allowance, and incidental catch amount, up to 2% of the eastern Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea TACs will be allocated to vessels using jig gear, the remaining TAC is apportioned among vessels using trawl gear. Allocations may be seasonally apportioned.</p> <p>Aleutian Islands Pacific ocean perch, flathead sole, rock sole and yellowfin sole: After subtraction of the CDQ allowance, and incidental catch amount, the remaining TAC is apportioned among vessels using trawl gear.</p> <p>Shortraker and rougheye rockfish: after subtraction of reserves, the Aleutian Islands TAC will be allocated 70% to vessels using trawl gear and 30% to vessels using non-trawl gear.</p>
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2. In Section 4.1.2.2 Pacific cod, add the language in bold:

The BSAI Pacific cod stock increased to high levels in the mid-1990s, then declined. The 2000 year class was above average, with recruits into the fishery beginning in 2003. Significant uncertainty surrounds the maximum permissible ABC computed in the stock assessment model.

Between 1998 and 2002, the ABC was set below the maximum permissible ABC from the model. In 2003 and 2004, the Council, with advice from the Groundfish Plan Team and the SSC, instead selected an ABC through an alternative ‘constant catch’ approach, as the resulting ABC is at least as conservative as under the previous approach.

The BSAI Pacific cod TAC is not apportioned by area, but is currently allocated after subtraction of the CDQ allowance: 1.4% to vessels using jig gear **and, in the A season, catcher vessels $\leq 55'$ LOA that use either hook-and-line or pot gear**; 2.3% to catcher processors using trawl gear listed in Section 208(e)(1)-(20) of the AFA; 13.4% to catcher processors using trawl gear as defined in Section 219(a)(7) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (P.L. 108-447); 22.1% to catcher vessels using trawl gear; 48.7% to catcher processors using hook-and-line gear; 0.2% to catcher vessels $\geq 60'$ LOA using hook-and-line gear; 1.5% to catcher processors using pot gear; 8.4% to catcher vessels $\geq 60'$ LOA using pot gear; and 2.0% to catcher vessels $< 60'$ LOA that use either hook-and-line gear or pot gear.

The hook-and-line, pot, and jig gear allocations are seasonally apportioned through regulations, with the exception of catcher vessels $< 60'$ LOA that use either hook-and-line gear or pot gear. **In the jig sector’s A season, harvest of Pacific cod by catcher vessels $\leq 55'$ LOA that use either hook-and-line or pot gear is deducted from the jig sector’s A season allowance. After the jig sector’s A season, harvest of Pacific cod from all catcher vessels $< 60'$ LOA that use hook-and-line or pot gear is deducted from the $< 60'$ hook-and-line or pot catcher vessel sector.** The trawl gear allocations are also seasonally apportioned through regulations. Beginning in 1998, 100 percent retention was required for Pacific cod under the IR/IU program.

3. In Appendix A, add the following: Amendment 125, implemented on (insert effective date of amendment), modifies Amendment 85: Amendment 125 revises the Pacific cod jig sector, during the A season, to include catcher vessels $\leq 55'$ LOA that use either hook-and-line or pot gear.