

**Aleutian Islands ABC**

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The AI statewater GHL p-cod fishery is currently a percentage of the combined EBS/AI p-cod ABCs. The stock split from BSAI to EBS to AI occurred in 2014. The ADFG proposal makes sense in making the AI GHL a percentage of the AI ABC (and the Area O a percentage of the EBS ABC).

However, ADFG comments only provide two data points for the BOF to consider in selecting an AI GHL percentage (2014 and 2015) with 2014 being the highest percentage ever (and with considerable stranded allocation).

Prior to that split, the annual BSAI p-cod SAFE (Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation) would calculate the AI biomass proportion of total BSAI biomass and what the AI proportion of the BSAI ABC would be (based on distribution of survey biomass).

The reality is that the AI cod ABC has been declining over time while the AI GHL proportion has been increasing – but only due to increases in the Bering Sea cod ABC. The GHL allocation has not been proportional to the trend in actual p-cod biomass in the Aleutian Islands. The AI biomass (and ABC) has generally been decreasing while the GHL proportion has generally been increasing. The BOF should take this into account when selecting a GHL percentage that would not unduly concentrate harvest inside three miles and not result in stranded quota.

Below: Blue bars are AI ABC (percent of BSAI); Red bars are GHL proportion of AI “ABC” (%). Left scale is percentage – for two separate values (% AI of BSAI & %GHL of AI “ABC”).

