

Update on BSAI Pacific cod TAC Split and State-water GHL and Parallel Fisheries

In December 2013, the Council adopted separate TACs for the BS and AI populations of Pacific cod. This action was tied to the decision at that meeting by the Scientific and Statistical Committee to management BS and AI Pacific cod as separate stocks due to its concerns about the declining AI Pacific cod population. Table 1 provides the 2014 and 2015 OFL, ABC, GHL, TAC and ITAC for the BS and AI Pacific cod. The 2014 BS Pacific cod TAC was set as 246,897 mt and the AI Pacific cod TAC was set at 6,997 mt. These Federal TACs account for Pacific cod harvests in state water fisheries, which both have a guideline harvest level set to 3% of a combined BS and AI ABC. For 2014, the BS Pacific cod GHL and AI Pacific cod GHL are each 8,103 mt. Starting in 2014, the Board of Fisheries for the State of Alaska established a GHL in State waters between 164 and 167 degrees west longitude in the BS subarea equal to 3% of the Pacific cod ABC in the combined BS and AI.

Table 1 2014 and 2015 OFL, ABC, GLH, TAC, ITAC, and CDQ for AI and BS Pacific cod

2014						
Area	OFL	ABC	GHL (3% of BSAI ABC)	TAC	ITAC	CDQ
AI	20,100	15,100	8,103	6,997	6,248	749
BS	299,000	255,000	8,103	246,897	220,479	26,418
2015						
Area	OFL	ABC	GHL (3% of BSAI ABC)	TAC	ITAC	CDQ
AI	20,100	15,100	8,613	6,487	5,793	694
BS	319,000	272,000	8,613	263,387	235,205	28,182

Each non-CDQ sector will continue to receive its current BSAI Pacific cod allocation (determined under Amendment 85/80), and that allocation could be harvested Pacific cod anywhere in the BS or AI if open to directed fishing (see Table 2). NMFS will be responsible for monitoring each sector's overall BSAI allocation and the BS and AI catch limits for each area, using the existing tools to open and close fisheries. Once the Pacific cod ITAC for either the BS or AI is reached, NMFS will issue a closure notice and all non-CDQ sectors will be required to stop directed fishing for Pacific cod in the closed area. The sectors with remaining allocation will then only be allowed to continue directed fishing in the open area. CDQ Program will have a specific allocation of the TAC in each area, managed separately.

Table 2 BSAI sector allocations for Pacific cod

Sector	%allocation
Jig vessels	1.4
Hook-and-line/pot CV < 60' ft (18.3 m) LOA	2
Hook-and-line CV ≥ 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA	0.2
Hook-and-line CP	48.7
Pot CV ≥ 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA	8.4
Pot CP	1.5
AFA trawl CP	2.3
Amendment 80	13.4
Trawl CV	22.1
Table originates from AI_PCOD_ALLOCATION OCT 2013	