

AMENDMENT 51
to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the
Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area

In chapter 2.0, section 2.1 entitled "History and Summary of Amendments," add the following:

Amendment 51 implemented on [*insert date of implementation*].

- (1) Replaced the three year Inshore/Offshore allocation established with Amendment 38, with the following allocations of BSAI Pollock after subtraction of reserves: 39 percent inshore; 61 percent offshore. That portion of the Bering Sea inshore B-season allocation which is equivalent to 2.5 percent of the BSAI pollock TAC, after subtraction of reserves, shall be made available only to vessels under 125 ft. LOA for delivery to the inshore sector, prior to the Bering Sea B season, starting on or about August 25. Any overages or underages will be subtracted/added as part of the inshore B-season. The rules and regulations pertaining to the CVOA shall remain the same, except that during the B season, operations in the CVOA will be restricted to catcher vessels delivering to the inshore sector. These allocations will remain in effect until December 31, 2001, unless replaced by another management regime approved by the Secretary.

In Chapter 14, entitled "Management Regime," section 14.4.11 Inshore/offshore allocations of pollock, is amended as follows:

14.4.11.4 Allocations

The BSAI pollock TAC, after subtraction of reserves, shall be allocated as follows: 39 percent of the pollock in each subarea for each season will be allocated to the inshore component, beginning in 1999 and continuing through 2001. By the same action the offshore pollock fleet will be allocated 61 percent of the pollock resource beginning in 1999 and continuing through 2001 in each subarea and in each season. In addition, that portion of the inshore B-season allocation which is equivalent to 2.5 percent of the BSAI pollock TAC, after subtraction of reserves, shall be made available only to vessels less than 125 ft. LOA for delivery to the inshore sector, prior to the open access B season, starting on or about August 25. Any overages or underages will be subtracted from or added to the inshore B season allocation.

14.4.11.5 Bering Sea Catcher Vessel Operational Area

A catcher vessel operational area shall be defined as the area of the BSAI east of 167 degrees 30 minutes West longitude, west of 163 degrees West longitude, south of 56 degrees North latitude, and north of the Aleutian Islands. The CVOA shall be in effect during the B season from September 1 until the date that NMFS closes the inshore component B season allocation to directed fishing. Vessels in the offshore component or vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component are prohibited from conducting directed fishing for pollock in the CVOA unless they are participating in a CDQ fishery.

14.4.11.7 Duration.

Inshore/offshore allocations of pollock shall cease to be a part of this FMP either (1) at midnight on December 31, 2001; or (2) earlier if replaced with another management regime approved by the Secretary.