

## **Proposed Amendment 109 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Management Area**

**Unless otherwise noted, deletions are shown with red-line text and additions are in bold.**

1. Update page numbers in the Table of Contents as needed
2. In the Executive Summary, Table ES-2, the row labeled “Permit” is revised to read “Licenses and Permits” and the description corresponding with this row is revised to read as follows:

All vessels participating in the BSAI groundfish fisheries, other than fixed gear sablefish, require a Federal groundfish license, except for **those exemptions listed in Section 3.3.1,** ~~vessels fishing in the State of Alaska waters; vessels less than or equal to 32’ LOA; and jig gear vessels less than 60’ LOA that meet specific effort restrictions.~~ Licenses are endorsed with area, gear, and vessel type and length designations. Fixed gear vessels engaged in directed fishing for Pacific cod must qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement.

Fishing permits may be authorized, for limited experimental purposes, for the target or incidental harvest of groundfish that would otherwise be prohibited.

3. Section 3.2.4.1 titled “Observer Program,” is revised to read as follows:

At the core of the North Pacific **fisheries** monitoring system is a comprehensive, industry-funded, on-board and on-shore observer program, coupled with requirements for total weight measurement of most fish harvested. All vessels fishing for groundfish with a ~~f~~**Federal Fisheriesing P**ermit in ~~f~~**Federal** waters or in a State of Alaska parallel fishery, and all vessels fishing **for halibut or and** sablefish IFQ in ~~f~~**Federal** or ~~s~~**State** waters, are included in the observer program and may be required to carry one or more observers for at least a portion of their fishing time.

Vessels and processors ~~that have <100% in the partial observer coverage category requirements~~ are subject to an ex-vessel value based fee not to exceed 2%, as implemented and revised through regulations, and are required to carry an observer as determined by NMFS, according to an annual sampling and deployment plan. Vessels and processors ~~that have ≥100% in the full observer coverage category requirements~~ obtain observer coverage by contracting directly with observer providers; to meet coverage requirements in regulation.

Generally, catcher vessels and shoreside processors, when not participating in a catch share program with a transferrable PSC limit, ~~comprise~~**are in the <100% partial observer** coverage category. Catcher processors and motherships, and catcher vessels when participating in a catch share program with a transferrable PSC limit, generally ~~comprise~~**are in the ≥100% full observer** coverage category. **Some exceptions to these classifications are** ~~, with potential exceptions for some <60’ catcher processors, as detailed in regulation.~~ Used in conjunction with reporting and weighing requirements, the information collected by observers provides the foundation for inseason management and for tracking species-specific catch and bycatch amounts.

4. Section 3.3.1 titled “License Limitation Program” is revised to read as follows:

A Federal groundfish license is required for catcher vessels **and** ~~(including~~ catcher/processors) participating in all BSAI groundfish fisheries, other than fixed gear sablefish. However, the following vessel categories are exempt from the license program requirements:

- a. vessels fishing in State of Alaska waters (0-3 miles offshore);
- b. vessels less than or equal to 32 ft LOA; ~~or~~
- c. jig gear vessels less than 60 ft LOA using a maximum of 5 jig machines, one line per machine, and a maximum of 15 hooks per line; **and**
- d. catcher vessels greater than 32 ft LOA but less than or equal to 46 ft LOA that are using hook-and-line gear and are authorized by a CDQ group to fish for groundfish on behalf of that CDQ group.**

Any vessel that meets the LLP qualification requirements will be issued a license, regardless of whether they are exempt from the program or not.

5. In Section 3.7.4.1 titled “Eligible Western Alaska Communities, the only sentence in the section is revised to read as follows:

The list of ~~eligible~~ communities eligible for the CDQ Program is in Section 305(i)(1)(D) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

6. In Section 4.5.4 titled “Community Development Quota Program Communities:”

The fourth paragraph is revised to read as follows:

The eligibility criteria for the CDQ communities are established in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The CDQ communities are comprised of predominantly Alaska Native residents. They are remote, isolated settlements with few natural assets with which to develop and sustain a viable diversified economic base. As a result, unemployment rates are chronically high, which impedes community ~~instability~~.

The sixth paragraph is removed and replaced with the following new paragraph:

The 65 communities eligible to participate in the CDQ Program and their respective managing organizations (“CDQ groups”) are listed in section 305(i)(1)(D) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The CDQ communities are geographically dispersed throughout western Alaska, extending from Atka, on the Aleutian chain, along the Bering Sea coast, to Wales, on the Bering Strait near the Arctic Circle. The combined population of the CDQ communities is approximately 27,700 (U.S. Census, 2010). The CDQ groups, their member communities, and the approximate total population of all communities in each group are listed below.

Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) : APICDA represents the communities of Akutan, Atka, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski, and Saint George . The population of these six communities is approximately 1,300.

Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) : BBEDC represents the communities of Aleknagik, Clark’s Point, Dillingham, Egegik, Ekuk, Ekwok, King Salmon/Savonoski, Levelock, Manokotak, Naknek, Pilot Point, Port Heiden, Portage Creek, South Naknek, Togiak, Twin Hills, and Ugashik. The population of these 17 communities is approximately 5,420.

Central Bering Sea Fisherman’s Association (CBSFA) : CBSFA represents the community of St. Paul which has a population of approximately 480.

Coastal Villages Region Fund (CVRF) : CVRF represents the communities of Chefornak, Chevak, Eek, Goodnews Bay, Hooper Bay, Kipnuk, Kongiganak, Kwigillingok, Mekoryuk, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Newtok, Nightmute, Oscarville, Platinum, Quinhagak, Scammon Bay, Toksook Bay, Tuntutuliak, and Tununak. The population of these 20 communities is approximately 8,570.

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) : NSEDC represents the communities of Brevig Mission, Diomedea, Elim, Gambell, Golovin, Koyuk, Nome, Saint Michael, Savoonga, Shaktoolik, Stebbins, Teller, Unalakleet, Wales, and White Mountain. The population of these 15 communities is approximately 8,730.

Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA) : YDFDA represents the communities of Alakanuk, Emmonak, Grayling, Kotlik, Mountain Village, and Nunam Iqua. The population of these six communities is approximately 3,210.

7. In Section 6.3 titled “Literature Cited,” add the following reference in alphabetical order:

**United States Census Bureau/American Factfinder (U.S. Census). 2010. “DP-1: Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 Demographic Profile Data.” 2010 Census. Accessed on 8/19/2014 from <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>.**

8. In Appendix A, add the following text to Section A.1, Amendments to the FMP, in chronological amendment order (insert amendment implementation date):

**Amendment 109, implemented on \_\_\_\_\_ :**

**Revised provisions regarding the Western Alaska CDQ Program to update information and to facilitate increased participation in the groundfish CDQ fisheries (primarily Pacific cod) by:**

**1. Exempting CDQ group-authorized catcher vessels greater than 32 ft LOA and less than or equal to 46 ft LOA using hook-and-line gear from License Limitation Program license requirements while groundfish CDQ fishing,**

**2. Modifying observer coverage category language to allow for the placement of catcher vessels less than or equal to 46 ft LOA using hook-and-line gear into the partial observer coverage category while groundfish CDQ fishing, and**

**3. Updating CDQ community population information, and making other miscellaneous editorial revisions to CDQ Program-related text in the FMP.**

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skelly 3/31/15

sbibb 4/23/15, 7/9/15; 8/6/15; 8/11/15; 10/20/15;12/2/15; 12/3/15

gaberle 4/30/2015; 7/28/2015

lsmoker 11/30/15