Proposed amendment language for the allocation of Atka mackerel to vessels using jig gear - Amendment 34 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area

1. In section 2.1, a summary of Amendment 34 is added to read as follows:

Amendment 34 implemented on [insert date] allocates Atka mackerel to vessels using jig gear. Annually, up to 2 percent of the TAC specified for this species in the eastern Aleutian Islands District/Bering Sea subarea will be allocated to vessels using jig gear in this area.

2. In section 14.4.9 Gear allocations, a new paragraph 14.4.9.4 is added to read as follows:

14.4.9.4 Atka mackerel

The Regional Administrator, in consultation with the Council, will annually allocate up to 2 percent of the TAC specified for Atka mackerel in the eastern Aleutian Islands District/Bering Sea subarea to vessels using jig gear in these areas. The jig gear allocation will be specified during the annual groundfish specifications process based on recent years' catch of Atka mackerel by vessels using jig gear and the anticipated harvest of this species by the jig gear fleet during the upcoming fishing year.