

Amendment 45
Fishery Management Plan for
Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs

Revise the following in Chapter 11 Voluntary Three-Pie Cooperative Program:

1. Modify section 1.8.5 to read as follows (**bold shows additions**):

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1.8.5 Sideboards

Non-AFA vessels that qualify for QS in the rationalized opilio crab fisheries would be limited to their GOA groundfish catch history excluding sablefish. The sideboards would be based on the history of vessels subject to the caps, applied in aggregate, on an area specific basis, and apply jointly to both the vessel and the license.

Vessels with less than 750,000lbs total opilio history during the qualifying years and more than 680MT of total cod history during the qualifying years would be exempt from the GOA Pacific cod sideboard cap.

Vessels with less than 50MT total groundfish landings in the qualifying period would be prohibited from participating in the GOA Pacific cod fishery.

Vessels with less than 0.22% of total Bering Sea opilio catch history from 1996 through 2000 and 20 or more deliveries of pollock harvested in the GOA from 1996 through 2000 would be exempt from the GOA pollock sideboard cap. The percent is of the total Bering Sea *C. opilio* catch history, including both qualified and unqualified catch history from non-AFA crab vessels.

Require that crab co-ops limit their members to their aggregate cod catch in both federal and state waters to the sideboarded amount (provided such a limitation is within the Council's authority). Staff is requested to examine how this integrates with the existing coop structure in the preferred alternative and identification of enforcement options available to the coop which will ensure compliance with parallel fishery limitations.

NMFS will remove non-AFA Pacific cod sideboard limits for hook-and-line catcher/processors in the Central GOA, Western GOA, or both if all eligible participants in a regulatory area sign an affidavit requesting that NMFS remove the sideboard limit. The eligible participants are the holders of LLP licenses with hook-and-line, catcher/processor, and Pacific cod endorsements and do not include owners and operators of sideboarded vessels that do not meet these LLP license requirements. All eligible participants must submit to NMFS, and NMFS must receive, a completed affidavit by [INSERT the date 365 days after the publication in the Federal Register of a final rule implementing Amendment 45]. If the required participants do not agree to the sideboard removal by that deadline, the CR Program GOA sideboard limits will remain in effect and will not be removed.

Sideboards will expire on rationalization of the Gulf of Alaska.

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2. Revisions as necessary to the Table of Contents.