

common usage for such terms. Revisions to these definitions would distinguish among terms associated with apportionments that are derived from larger BSAI catch limits (CDQ reserves and PSQ reserves), acronyms associated with the actual amount of a reserve allocated to individual CDQ groups (CDQ and PSQ), and terms associated with biological categorization and catch accounting (CDQ species and PSQ species). Revising these definitions also would clarify CDQ catch monitoring and accounting requirements, as well as in-season management actions specific to the CDQ fisheries.

The proposed rule would revise the definition of CDQ species so that it refers only to those species allocated among the CDQ groups. The definition currently reads: "CDQ species means any species or species group that has been assigned to a CDQ reserve under § 679.31." This action would change the definition to read: "CDQ species means any species or species group that is allocated from a CDQ reserve to a CDQ group." The term "CDQ species" is used

primarily in § 679.32 to provide instructions for some of the catch accounting regulations that apply to species that are allocated among the CDQ groups. This proposed rule would not directly change any of the CDQ catch accounting requirements in § 679.32. However, because some of the requirements apply to "CDQ species," the revised definition of "CDQ species" would indirectly change these catch accounting requirements to exclude "other species." The only significant change that would occur would be that operators of catcher vessels required under § 679.32(c) to retain CDQ species until delivered to a shoreside processor or floating processor would no longer be required to retain species in the "other species" category (sharks, skates, sculpins, and octopi). The catch of "other species" by these catcher vessels, for purposes of managing the CDQ reserve, could be adequately monitored through the same methods used to estimate catch in the non-CDQ fisheries. These methods include landed catch reports from processors through

shoreside logbooks or weekly production reports and observer data for "other species" catch by vessels with an observer onboard.

This action also would revise the headings of other definitions associated with the CDQ Program. Three definitions beginning with "community development quota" would be revised to use the acronym CDQ in the definitions' heading rather than the full term. These revisions would make the format of these three definitions similar to the format of other defined terms starting with the acronym CDQ. Similar definitions would be grouped together alphabetically, rather than be separated by a variety of non-CDQ related definitions. This change, along with the previously mentioned changes to other definitions, would increase the clarity and consistency of defined terms and offer NMFS and the public greater efficiency when referencing CDQ Program definitions. The proposed revisions to definitions are summarized in Table 1.

TABLE 1. PROPOSED CHANGES TO CDQ AND PSQ DEFINITIONS.

Definition	From	To
Revise § 679.2, heading and definition for "community development quota."	Community Development Quota (CDQ) means the amount of a CDQ species established under § 679.31 that is allocated to the CDQ program..	CDQ means community development quota and is the amount of a CDQ reserve that is allocated to a CDQ group.
Revise § 679.2, heading for definition of "CDQ Program."	Community Development Quota Program (CDQ Program) means the Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program implemented under subpart C of this part..	CDQ Program means the Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program implemented under subpart C of this part.
Revise § 679.2, heading for definition of "CDQ reserve."	Community Development Quota reserve (CDQ reserve) means a percentage of a total allowable catch for groundfish, a percentage of a catch limit for halibut, or percentage of a guideline harvest level for crab that has been set aside for purposes of the CDQ program..	CDQ reserve means a percentage of each groundfish total allowable catch limit established under § 679.20(b)(1)(iii), a percentage of a catch limit for halibut, or a percentage of a guideline harvest level for crab that has been set aside for purposes of the CDQ Program.
Revise § 679.2, definition for "CDQ species." ..	CDQ species means any species or species group that has been assigned to a CDQ reserve under § 679.31..	CDQ species means any species or species group that is allocated from a CDQ reserve to a CDQ group.
Revise § 679.2, heading and definition for "prohibited species quota."	Prohibited species quota (PSQ) means the amount of a prohibited species catch limit established under § 679.21(e)(1) and (e)(2) that is allocated to the groundfish CDQ program under § 679.21(e)(1)(i) and (e)(2)(ii)..	PSQ means prohibited species quota and is the amount of a PSQ reserve that is allocated to a CDQ group.
Revise § 679.2, definition for "PSQ reserve." ...	Not currently defined.	PSQ reserve means the percentage of a prohibited species catch limit established under § 679.21(e)(1) and (e)(2) that is allocated to the groundfish CDQ program under § 679.21(e)(1)(i) and (e)(2)(ii).
Revise § 679.2, definition for "PSQ species." ...	PSQ species means any species that has been assigned to a PSQ reserve under § 679.21(e)(1)(i) and (e)(2)(ii) for purposes of the CDQ program. See also § 679.31(d)..	PSQ species means any species or species group that has been allocated from a PSQ reserve to a CDQ group.

This proposed rule also would amend the introductory paragraph that discusses CDQ reserves, a prohibition relating to calculating maximum

retainable amounts of CDQ catch, and regulations explaining CDQ catch monitoring and accounting in order to consistently use terms defined in

§ 679.2. It would clarify how NMFS would manage groundfish CDQ reserves allocated among CDQ groups, including how NMFS would reconcile changes to