

TABLE 3.—PROPOSED 2004 SEASONAL AND SPATIAL ALLOWANCES, GEAR SHARES, AND CDQ RESERVE OF THE BSAI ATKA MACKEREL TAC¹

[All amounts are in metric tons]

Subarea and component	TAC	CDQ reserve	ITAC	Seasonal allowances ²			
				A season ³		B season ³	
				Total	HLA limit ⁴	Total	HLA limit ⁴
Western Aleutian District	19,990	1,499	16,992	8,496	5,097	8,496	5,097
Central Aleutian District	28,708	2,153	24,402	12,201	7,321	12,201	7,321
Eastern AI/BS subarea ⁵	10,413	781	8,851	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jig (1%) ⁶ .....	.....	.....	89	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other gear (99%) .....	.....	.....	8,763	4,381	.....	4,381	.....
Total	59,111	4,433	50,244	25,078	.....	25,078	.....

¹ Regulations at §§ 679.20(a)(8)(ii) and 679.22(a) establish temporal and spatial limitations for the Atka mackerel fishery.² The seasonal allowances of Atka mackerel are 50 percent in the A season and 50 percent in the B season.³ The A season is January 1 to April 15 and the B season is September 1 to November 1.⁴ Harvest Limit Area (HLA) limit refers to the amount of each seasonal allowance that is available for fishing inside the HLA (see § 679.2). In 2004, 60 percent of each seasonal allowance is available for fishing inside the HLA in the Western and Central Aleutian Districts.⁵ Eastern Aleutian District and the Bering Sea subarea.⁶ Regulations at § 679.20(a)(8)(i) require that up to 2 percent of the Eastern Aleutian District and the Bering Sea subarea ITAC be allocated to the jig gear fleet. The proposed amount of this allocation is 1 percent. The jig gear allocation is not apportioned by season.**Allocation of the Pacific Cod TAC**

Under § 679.20(a)(7)(i)(A), 2 percent of the Pacific cod ITAC is allocated to vessels using jig gear, 51 percent to vessels using hook-and-line or pot gear, and 47 percent to vessels using trawl gear. Under regulations at § 679.20(a)(7)(i)(B), the portion of the Pacific cod TAC allocated to trawl gear is further allocated 50 percent to catcher vessels and 50 percent to catcher/processors. Under regulations at § 679.20(a)(7)(i)(C)(1), a portion of the Pacific cod allocated to hook-and-line or pot gear is set aside as an ICA of Pacific cod in directed fisheries for groundfish using these gear types. Based on anticipated incidental catch in these fisheries, NMFS proposes an ICA of 500 mt. The remainder of Pacific cod is further allocated to vessels using hook-and-line or pot gear as the following DFAs: 80 percent to hook-and-line catcher/processors, 0.3 percent to hook-and-line catcher vessels, 18.3 percent to pot gear vessels, and 1.4 percent to catcher vessels under 60 feet (18.3 m) length overall (LOA) using hook-and-line or pot gear. The final rule implementing Amendment 77 will split the pot gear sector share of the DFA: 3.3

percent to pot catcher/processors and 15 percent to pot catcher vessels. A final rule implementing Amendment 77 was published on December 1, 2003 68 FR 67086 and will be effective by January 1, 2004.

Due to concerns about the potential impact of the Pacific cod fishery on Steller sea lions and their critical habitat, the Pacific cod fisheries are dispersed by the apportionment of the ITAC into seasonal allowances (see §§ 679.20(a)(7)(iii) and 679.23(e)(5)). For most non-trawl gear the first seasonal allowance, 60 percent of the ITAC, is made available for directed fishing from January 1 to June 10, and the second seasonal allowance, 40 percent of the ITAC, is made available from June 10 to December 31. The regulations implementing Amendment 77 will establish three seasonal allowances for jig gear: the first seasonal allowance, 40 percent of the ITAC, is January 1 to April 30; the second seasonal allowance, 20 percent of the ITAC, is April 1 to August 31; and the third seasonal allowance, 40 percent of the ITAC, is August 31 to December 31. Amendment 77 will also allow the reallocation of any projected unused

portion of a seasonal allowance of Pacific cod for vessels using jig gear to catcher vessels less than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear. No seasonal harvest constraints are imposed on the Pacific cod fishery prosecuted by catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear. For trawl gear, the first season is January 20 to April 1 and is allocated 60 percent of the ITAC; the second season, April 1 to June 10, and the third season, June 10 to November 1, are each allocated 20 percent of the ITAC. The trawl catcher vessel allocation is further allocated as 70 percent in the first season, 10 percent in the second season and 20 percent in the third season. The trawl catcher/processor allocation is allocated 50 percent in the first season, 30 percent in the second season, and 20 percent in the third season. Table 4 lists the proposed 2004 allocations and seasonal apportionments of the Pacific cod ITAC. NMFS and the Council propose that any unused portion of a seasonal Pacific cod allowance will become available at the beginning of the next seasonal allowance.

TABLE 4.—PROPOSED 2004 GEAR SHARES AND SEASONAL ALLOWANCES OF THE BSAI PACIFIC COD TAC

Gear sector	Percent	Share of sector gear total (mt)	Subtotal percentages for gear sectors	Share of gear sector total (mt)	Seasonal apportionment ¹	
					Date	Amount (mt)
<i>Total hook-and-line and pot gear allocation of Pacific cod TAC.</i>	51	89,951	.....	.....		.....
Incidental Catch Allowance .....	.....	.....	.....	500		.....
Processor and Vessel sub-total .....	.....	89,451	.....	.....		.....