

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver *Cl Oliver*
Acting Executive Director
DATE: February 2, 2001
SUBJECT: Staff Tasking

ESTIMATED TIME
4 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Review Committees and provide direction as necessary.
- (b) Review tasking and provide direction.

BACKGROUND

Committees

The list of Council Committees is attached under Item D-3(a)(1). Several of these are going to be active over the next few months, including the Crab Rationalization, GOA Rationalization, Observer, and RPA Committees. These Committees subsume a large amount of staff time, and I expect the RPA Committee to meet several times between now and September. I believe that Council direction to most of these Committees is clear at this point and we don't need much further direction right now. One Committee that is yet to be appointed is the CDQ Policy Committee - perhaps the Chairman could benefit from some Council discussion as to the urgency of that Committee and its directions. You also discussed appointing a Research Funding Committee to keep tabs on some of the major, broad funds that are being brought to bear on North Pacific marine issues.

Status of tasking

Between the RPA Committee meetings, and the EIS for the RPAs which must be completed by September, this is obviously going to be a major tasking item. I am allocating the majority of Dave Witherell's and Cathy Coon's time to this project and it will also involve considerable time from Elaine Dinneford and myself. We are also going to have to address the EFH issue as was discussed under B-3, which is also going to be a major project. Since it involves the same staff I just mentioned, I am hopeful we can begin the intense effort on that after we complete the SSL analyses. Those same staff persons will also be involved in any salmon bycatch related initiatives. General NEPA compliance I mentioned briefly under the ED report. As part of that process NMFS is conducting NEPA training for Council and agency staff which will be in Juneau the last week of this month. I will have a better idea of what this process will entail in April.

I expect Crab Rationalization to be a major task in the near future. Formal analysis would not begin until at least April, when we are scheduled to get the Committee's recommendations, but we are already beginning to put together the framework for such an analysis. Our new economist, Maria Tsu, is assigned to this project and I have initiated a short-term contract with Northern Economics to assist in that development as well as

help with the GOA Rationalization Committee. Jane DiCosimo will be working on that latter project, as well as with halibut related initiatives and several other, (relatively) minor projects. Nicole Kimball will be working on halibut related issues as well, and on Observer Program issues and AFA-related amendments that may be initiated. Darrell Brannan has continued to help me on a variety of fronts, including the halibut charter IFQ package, and he is coordinating the AFA report to Congress.

Item D-3(b)(1) is the summary of current staff tasking, again reflecting Existing Projects, Previously Tasked Projects, and Potential New Projects. For reference I carried forward previous groundfish and IFQ proposals under Item D-3(b)(2). I also brought forward the discussion paper from December on salmon bycatch in the GOA - Item D-3(b)(3). I know there has been a lot of interest in some minor amendments to the AFA regulations, which is something we could likely take on between now and April. We also have some funding for AFA and Steller Sea Lions that could be used for outside help in those areas, pending availability of appropriate contractor expertise.

NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS (as of December 2000)

Committee/Workgroup	Council	SSC	AP	Others**
Advisory Panel Nominating	Mace* Council Committee of the Whole			
BSAI Crab Rationalization Committee Appointed 12/15/00 Last Update: 2/2/01 Staff: Chris Oliver/Maria Tsu	Hanson*			G.Blue T.Casey T.Cosgrove J.Garner D.Giles L.Herzog J.Iani F.Kelty L.Kozak B.Paine G.Painter J.Plesha D. Schwarzmiller J.Steele J.Stephan T.Suryan S.Swetzof, Jr. A.Thomson K.Wood-Dibari
CDQ Committee Last update: 5/26/00 Staff: Jane DiCosimo	O'Shea*			S.Bibb (NMFS) L.Cotter (APICDA) B.Edgmon (DCED) E.Glotfelty (YDFDA) L.Jones (ADFG) P.Peyton (BBEDA)

AGENDA D-3(a)(1)
FEBRUARY 2001

*Denotes Chairman

Agency staff will attend meetings as necessary.

NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS (as of December 2000)					
Committee/Workgroup	Council		SSC	AP	Others**
Council/Board of Fish Consultation Committee Last Update: 12/15/00 Staff: Clarence Pautzke/Chris Oliver	<u>Council:</u> Austin Penney Samuelsen	<u>Board:</u> Dersham Miller Nelson			
Crab Interim Action Committee	Austin Balsiger Duffy				
Ecosystems Committee Last update: May 26, 2000 Staff: Dave Witherell	Fluharty* Behnken O'Leary Alcorn (Expert Advisor) Balsiger (Expert Advisor)				Blackburn Childers Kruse (Expert Advisor) Loh-lee Low (Expert Advisor)
Enforcement Committee Last update: 12/14/99 Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Hanson* O'Shea				A.Cain, AFWP J.Gavitt, USFW D. Ito, AFSC S.Meyer, NMFS-Enf. S.Salveson, NMFS-AKR G.Walker, NOAA-GC
Finance Staff: Gail Bendixen/Chris Oliver	Hanson Benton* Balsiger	Austin Duffy	Marasco		

*Denotes Chairman

Agency :) will attend meetings as necessary.

NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS (as of December 2000)

Committee/Workgroup	Council	SSC	AP	Others**																								
GOA Rationalization Committee Last update: 1/09/01 Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Hanson*			S.Aspelund C.Blackburn P.Brogdan D.Childers J.Childers C.Cochran D.Fields A.Fuglvog J.Henderschedt D.Jacobsen M.Martin K.Norosz J.Plesha K.Roemhildt D.Schwarzmilller J.Stephan T.Suryan																								
Halibut Charter IFQ Appointed 3/6/2000 Last update: 2/2/01 Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Dave Hanson*			<table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>Cmtee</u></td> <td><u>Advisors</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>J.Daniels</td> <td>D.Brindle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S.Campbell</td> <td>D.Fields</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T.Evers</td> <td>A.Fuglvog</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J.Goodhand</td> <td>G.Merrigan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B.Huber</td> <td>T.Hinkel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D.Kubiak</td> <td>D.Lane</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A.Mezirow</td> <td>B.Lukaitis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L.McQuarrie</td> <td>M.Lundston</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S.Bone</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>J.Preston</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>R. Ward</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<u>Cmtee</u>	<u>Advisors</u>	J.Daniels	D.Brindle	S.Campbell	D.Fields	T.Evers	A.Fuglvog	J.Goodhand	G.Merrigan	B.Huber	T.Hinkel	D.Kubiak	D.Lane	A.Mezirow	B.Lukaitis	L.McQuarrie	M.Lundston	S.Bone		J.Preston		R. Ward	
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NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS (as of December 2000)				
Committee/Workgroup	Council	SSC	AP	Others**
Halibut Subsistence Last update: 2/2/01 Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Samuelsen*			D.Bill T.Borbridge J.Henzler M.Kookesh F.Lekanof H.Martin
IFQ Implementation Workgroup (Industry) Last update: 2/2/01 Staff: Jane DiCosimo				J.Bruce N.Cohen D.Iverson J.Knutsen A.Fuglvog D.Hicks D.Lane J.Stephan* J.Woodruff
IFQ/CDQ Cost Recovery Committee Last update: 7/29/99 Staff: Jane DiCosimo/Chris Oliver	O'Leary*			B.Alverson J.Kyle J.Merrigan K.Norosz P.Peyton J.Sevier
Council Interim Action Committee	Poll all Council Members			
Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Committee	Behnken Benton*			

*Denotes Chairman
Agency s will attend meetings as necessary.

NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS (as of December 2000)

Committee/Workgroup	Council	SSC	AP	Others**
Observer Advisory Committee (Industry) Last update: 12/14/99 Staff: Chris Oliver/Nicole Kimball	Kyle*			C.Blackburn (V.Chair) P.Cullenberg J.Gauvin J.Iani T.McCabe B. Mikol K.Robinson S.Robinson J.Stephan A.Thomson K.Dietrich (Alt: M.Merklein)
Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee Last update: 12/14/99 Staff: David Witherell				D.Benson L.Farr P. Hanson L.Hendricks K.Kaldestad G.Loncon* G.Painter R.Rogers C.Sterling G.Stewart A.Thomson (non-voting)
Russian (International) Committee (Pending Reconstitution) Staff: Clarence Pautzke/Chris Oliver	Austin Benton Fluharty Lauber* O'Shea Penmoyer Pereyra			

*Denotes Chairman

Agency staff will attend meetings as necessary.

NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS (as of December 2000)				
Committee/Workgroup	Council	SSC	AP	Others**
Socioeconomic Data Committee Last update: 2/2/01 Staff:	Austin*	Criddle Hartman Macinko Marasco		C.Blackburn J.Gauvin J.Iani E.Richardson
SSL Steering Group Appointed 12/13/00 Staff: Chris Oliver	Benton* Austin Balsiger Duffy			
CDQ Policy Committee (Pending Appointment)				
SSL RPA Committee <i>AP Binter</i> (Pending Appointment)				
Research Funding Committee <i>N/A</i> (Pending Appointment)				

*Denotes Chairman
 Agency s will attend meetings as necessary.

Council Staff Tasking Summary (as of February 2001)

Existing Projects	Projected Weeks	A/E%	Comments
FMP Updates	3	100/0	Requires Council staff work in Spring 2001
AFA EIS/Proposed Rule	2	70/30	Requires Council staff work in Feb/Mar
AFA Report to Congress (final)	6	60/40	Final report will require staff work this fall/spring + contracts
EFH/HAPC Stakeholder Process	2	90/10	Council staff to coordinate stakeholder process in early 2001
Halibut Charter IFQ/Community Set-Aside	2	60/40	Direction in February
BSAI pot cod split	1	35/65	Action in February
Cook Inlet bottom trawl ban	1	50/50	Pending submittal to SOC
Halibut Subsistence	2	100/0	Adak issue / BOF in March
Develop RFP's/SOWs for AFA contracts	2	30/70	Requires interaction with ADFG, NMFS, and SSC in Feb/Mar
Observer Program (long-term changes)	3	50/50	Scheduled for April 2001 Agenda
SSL Measures (tasking thru August)	35	50/50	Major project - discuss in February - will require contract help.
GHL Amendments	2	50/50	Finalize for SOC review.

Previously Tasked Projects

CDQ Regulatory Amendment (Administrative)	1		Discuss in February - Policy Committee?
Three separate sideboard pools	4	35/65	Pending Council direction
P.cod reg. Amendments (2)	4	35/65	Pending Council direction - may depend on SSL measures
SR/RE retention	2.5	65/35	Not started
Shark/Skate FMP amendments	2.5	65/35	On hold pending tasking priorities <i>FINAL ACTION</i>
CDQ Reg amendments (omnibus)	?		On hold pending tasking priorities
HMAP	?		On hold pending tasking priorities
<i>Other Species??</i>	<i>2-3</i>		<i>In Rev Oct / Final Dec</i>

Potential New Tasking

Salmon bycatch reduction measures	?		Pending further Council direction - Possible industry solution? Discuss in Feb
Community based QS (GCCC buy in proposal)	4	40/60	Pending Council direction - could be combined with charter IFQ set-aside package
GOA rationalization	?		Major project - pending Council direction & committee appt - Discuss in Feb/April
BSAI Crab Rationalization	12	30/70	Major project - pending Council direction & committee appt (+ contract help)
IFQ amendments	?		Pending Council direction
Other AFA related Measures - MTC proposal	3	80/20	Pending Council direction
Groundfish processing sideboard alternatives	?		Potential major project - Discuss in February
Catch/bycatch disclosure (vessel level)	?		Discussion paper in February
EFH EIS	?		Potential major project - Discuss in April

1999 GROUND FISH AND CRAB PROPOSALS

The Council received 14 plan and regulatory amendment proposals in the 1999 amendment cycle. The following section summarizes these proposals and incorporates comments from the Groundfish and Crab Plan Teams. These proposals are in addition to 10 IFQ proposals that were submitted in the biennial call for IFQ proposals. The halibut and sablefish IFQ proposals will be reviewed by the Council for staff tasking at the December Council meeting.

Overfishing

#1&2 A lengthy three-part proposal by the Center for Marine Conservation identified the need to: 1) establish explicit and precautionary minimum stock size thresholds (MSSTs) for each of the groundfish stocks in the BSAI and GOA; 2) increase the default target stock size to 50% of the pristine stock size; and 3) adopt more conservative harvest control rules. Alaska Marine Conservation Council (AMCC) also submitted a proposal to add MSSTs to the BSAI and GOA FMPs overfishing definitions. The Groundfish Plan Teams ranked these proposals for plan amendments as having the **highest priority** of all submitted in 1999. NMFS AFSC has already identified the need to calculate MSSTs (see Balsiger letter dated August 5 under Supplemental). The Groundfish Plan Teams discussed the need to include status determination criteria (for each stock presently in tiers 1-3). MSSTs will be provided by stock assessment authors beginning in November. Grant Thompson, AFSC, would likely take the lead in preparing the analysis. Initial and final review could be scheduled for April and June 2000.

Bycatch

#3 Dave Fraser submitted a proposal to begin analysis of a comprehensive individual fishing quota program for these fisheries. This proposal was ranked **high** by the Groundfish Plan Teams, recognizing the overcapitalized state of the fisheries, the race for fish, National Research Council support for lifting the Congressional prohibition on development of additional IFQ programs, and crashed *opilio* crab stocks. The Groundfish Plan Teams noted that a comprehensive IFQ program would address many of the problems raised by other groundfish proposals submitted this cycle. The Crab Plan Team also noted that the Board of Fisheries and ADF&G have management difficulties due to high fishing effort on crab stocks. As noted in previous team minutes, analysis should examine other options (such as individual pot quotas, co-ops, restrictive LLP) to address overcapacity, the race for fish, and associated problems. In 1998, the Groundfish Plan Teams also ranked this proposal as a high priority. Analysis of this proposal would require significant staff time and would not likely be scheduled for initial review before April 2001, given previously assigned analyses.

#4 AMCC submitted a proposal to allow public disclosure of catch and bycatch data. The Groundfish Plan Teams noted this proposal is not a plan or regulatory proposal, but ranked it as **high priority** for development into the discussion paper to describe the legal issues and public interest in describing bycatch. The Groundfish Plan Teams further noted that it may more appropriately be submitted to Congress as an MSFCMA amendment or to NMFS and the state of Alaska to develop a data request protocol for public acquisition of currently confidential data. This would not require a significant amount of staff time.

- #5 AMCC also submitted a proposal to establish "true" PSC limits for the Bering Sea pollock fishery, requiring a BSAI regulatory amendment to separate pollock from the pollock/Atka mackerel/"other species" category and to account for pollock bycatch separately. The Groundfish Plan Teams ranked this proposal as having **medium** priority because regulations are currently in place to prevent exceeding overall PSCs. The Groundfish Plan Teams noted that PSCs have not been exceeded by the trawl fleet in recent years. Further discussion can be found on a related issue under proposal #7. The Crab Plan Team noted that the midwater pollock fishery generally catches very few crabs. The team would like more research on unobserved mortality of crabs due to pelagic and bottom trawl gear. This analysis would likely require a low to moderate amount of staff time.
- #6 United Catcher Boats submitted a BSAI plan amendment to: 1) rescind the mandatory August trawl closure and to 2) allow for a chum salmon cap of 42,000 to be managed under the co-op system. The Groundfish Plan Teams ranked this proposal as **low**, noting that the Council is examining an individual bycatch accounting program. This would require a reasonably significant amount of staff time.
- #7 Groundfish Forum submitted a BSAI and GOA regulatory amendment to allow PSC limits to be reapportioned from one fishery category to another within the same gear group during a fishing year, thus providing flexibility to adjust to unforeseen market and fishery conditions. The Groundfish Plan Teams gave a **high** ranking to development of a discussion paper of this proposed change. The Crab Plan Team noted that flexibility could potentially result in crab bycatch limits reaching the caps. The team was particularly concerned that the bairdi caps not be allowed to be adjusted between zones. It was noted that the flexibility may be more important for halibut than crab, and the team suggested that this first be tried with halibut only, if the proposal is recommended for analysis. This analysis would likely require a low to moderate amount of staff time.

GOA management

- #8 Alaska Dragger Association submitted a placeholder proposal for a GOA plan amendment to split the Pacific cod quota by gear (mobile vs fixed) based on the 1995-97 average. The Groundfish Plan Teams noted that this proposal addresses a longstanding problem in the GOA between trawl and fixed gear fisheries and provides greater access for all fishing sectors. This fishery may also see additional effort as a result of the opilio crab situation (see recommendations under #11 and 12). The Groundfish Plan Teams ranked this as **medium** priority. This would likely require a significant investment of staff time, as seen by the work required to develop the BSAI cod split (BSAI Amendment #64).
- #9&10 Alaska Groundfish Databank submitted a GOA plan amendment proposal to: 1) create a 14-day advance registration program for rockfish fisheries; 2) apportion Central GOA rockfish fisheries into several short openings; and 3) allocate rockfish between at-sea and catcher vessels. Groundfish Forum also submitted a GOA plan amendment proposal to create an advance registration program for rockfish fisheries in the Central GOA to prevent TAC shortages/overages and to minimize preemption of shore-based catcher vessels and processors. Its intent is similar to #9, except for designating the advance notice. The Groundfish Plan Teams supported such a registration program, and noted that the Council already recommended a preseason registration program for Western/Central GOA pollock and cod that has not yet been implemented. These proposal would create two additional TACs, but would provide a benefit to the fleet. Industry noted that these proposals are placeholders while industry attempts to resolve quota overages for GOA rockfish and that LLP will impact participation in 2000 and beyond. The Groundfish Plan Teams recommend a

staff review panel (Council, NMFS Regional Office, NMFS AFSC, and ADF&G) for management of GOA rockfish and ranked this proposal as **medium** priority (see related discussion under #10).

- #11 Robert Filiatraut submitted a GOA plan amendment to open the October 1 Pacific cod fishery to the longline fleet instead of trawl fleet and increase the halibut PSC limits for longliners. The Groundfish Plan teams suggested that a direct solution to the lack of halibut PSC later in the fishing year could be addressed under the specifications by shifting more halibut PSC on October 1, but would need the gear split as proposed under proposal #8. This proposal was ranked as **moderate** priority (see related discussion under #8). This would require a low investment of staff time, because the Council can effect a change during final specifications.
- #12 Alaska Dragger Association submitted a GOA plan amendment for a buy-back program for GOA trawlers. This proposal by itself does not reduce the race for fish but should be included for analysis as one tool to reduce overcapitalization. It received a **high** ranking (#3 would address this problem). A buy-back program could require a significant amount of staff time.
- #15 Ocean Beauty submitted a GOA groundfish proposal to: 1) change the season start date for the Central Gulf pollock "C" season from August 20 to September 1; and 2) to release the 4th quarter halibut PSC limit on October 15 to provide equal access to all fishing sectors. The August 20 start date was selected in 1999 as part of the overall Steller sea lion RPA action. Alternative dates were included as part of that recent analysis. While one outcome of the new date may be increased salmon bycatch, there are obvious legal issues related to the proposed action. The second part of the proposal, and the impacts on catcher vessels of preemption of halibut PSC amounts by catcher processors, can be addressed during final specifications. On Oct 1, busy fishing pollock and catcher processor fleet could be fishing other groundfish and using up halibut bycatch, preemption issue but don't want neutral for management, has socioeconomic impacts and would have wide support locally. This was submitted after the committees had met; therefore, there are no ranking or comments. (LATE)

Other

- #13 Scott Jacobsen et al. submitted a BSAI regulatory amendment to allow a 24 inch tunnel in fish pots to allow the use of the gear in the Greenland turbot fishery due to high predation on fish from killer whales. The Groundfish Plan Teams assigned this proposal a **high** ranking as an experimental fishing permit proposal. It would increase the tunnel opening from 9 to 24 inches; the 9 inch size was originally chosen to avoid halibut bycatch and allowed a pot exemption for halibut PSCs. Benefits to this change include: 1) allowing participation by pot vessels in the turbot fishery; 2) providing a better estimate of fishing mortality for Greenland turbot due to orca predation; and 3) allowing the TAC to be taken. Negative impacts include: 1) the possibility of increased bycatch of crab and halibut with this gear configuration; and 2) enforcement problems resulting from the difficulty of determining the actual depth the gear is fished. This may not require a significant amount of staff time, but all EFPs now require a regulatory amendment.
- #14 North Pacific Longline Association resubmitted this proposal from 1998 as a late proposal in this cycle. The proposed BSAI cod split may mitigate the need for this action, but inseason frameworking of season start dates would enhance efficiency. It was ranked low in 1998, but received a **medium** ranking in 1999. Given when shorttail albatross leave the fishing grounds, a delayed start date could

further minimize seabird interactions; however using seabird interactions as a sole justification for this action would make an earlier start date (back to October 1 through frameworking) would be harder to justify. Frameworking this change may not require a significant initial staff investment, but the potential for annual changes may affect staffing.

#16

The Aleut Corporation has requested a Pacific cod allocation for Adak residents. The allocation would be near Seguam Pass for vessels under 60 feet. (LATE)

IFQ Proposals (as of 8/23/99)							
No.	Proposal	Proposer	Species	Area	Amendment	Comments	Rank
1	inc. # blocks to 3 or 4 in Areas 3B and 4	Mack	halibut	both	regulatory	Block program	1
2	unblock portion of blocked halibut quota > 20,000 lb	Whitmire	halibut	both	regulatory	Block program	1
3	inc. # blocks + eliminate B & C Class in Areas 4B,C,D & BS & AI	Dierking	both	both	plan	Block program/vessel class	1
4	inc. # blocks to 4 in Area 4 or increase sweep-up to 10,000 lb per block	Schrader	halibut	BSAI	plan	Block program/sweep-up	1
5	allow hired skippers for medical emergencies	Schrader	halibut	BSAI	plan	transfer provisions	2
6	emergency medical transfer for B-D Class QS	PVOA	both	both	regulatory	transfer provisions	2
7	fish up D Class shares on C Class vessels in Areas 3B and 4A	Wagner	halibut	both	regulatory	Vessel class	1
8	allow vessel cap overage of 10% of remaining poundage before last trip	Lundsten	both	both	plan	Vessel cap overage	3
9	change IFQ meeting cycle	Lundsten	both	both	neither	administration	4
10	allow community-based non-profit regs. to acquire QS	GCCC	both	both	plan	Ownership criteria	not approved

IFQ IMPLEMENTATION TEAM MEETING OCTOBER 10, 1999

The IFQ Implementation Team convened at approximately 1 pm on Sunday, October 10, 1999. Committee members in attendance were Jeff Stephan, chairman, Arne Fuglvog, John Woodruff, Dennis Hicks, Don Iverson, Jack Knutsen, John Bruce, Norman Cohen. Drew Scalzi did not attend. Staff in attendance were: Jane DiCosimo, Steve Meyer, Phil Smith, Jim Hale, John Kingeter, Heather Gilroy. Thirteen members of the public attended.

Phil Smith provided an administrative update on the IFQ program. Jim Hale reported on the status of the omnibus amendment package for IFQ changes, Amendments 54/54 (hired skipper) with anticipation for implementation for the 2000 IFQ season. Jane DiCosimo provided a brief summary of the IFQ weighmaster subcommittee findings. Steve Meyer presented two reports on IFQ enforcement and continued cases of serious violations. A USCG enforcement report was also distributed to committee members.

The main purpose of the meeting was for the committee to review ten IFQ proposals submitted in the 1999 biennial call for IFQ proposals. Committee recommendations on which proposals should be approved for analysis will be reported to the Council at its December meeting. A summary sheet is attached to the minutes.

Westward area

The committee combined its review of proposals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 because they address similar problems in the IFQ fisheries in westward areas (Areas 3B, 4A, and 4B). The Team identified the following problem statement for westward IFQ fisheries:

Five years into the halibut and sablefish IFQ program, a reexamination of the needs of the block program because it appears that it does not protect small boat fishermen in Western Alaska for halibut as originally intended.

The committee recommended that the Council, as its highest priority for IFQ changes, initiate an analysis of the following alternatives for the IFQ halibut fisheries in Areas 3B, 4A, and 4B that were proposed under #1, 2, 3, 4, and 7. The committee noted there may be some merit in combining B and C category QS with A category QS for sablefish only, they did not recommend this for analysis.

Alternative 1: Status quo.

Alternative 2: Block program:

- Option 1: Increase number of blocks from 2 to 4
- Option 2: Unblock all quota shares >20,000 lb
- Option 3: Allow quota shares >20,000 lb to be divided into smaller blocks

Alternative 3: Quota share categories:

- Option 1. Allow D category quota shares to be fished as C category shares.
- Option 2: Allow D category shares to be fished as C or B category quota shares
- Option 3: Combine B, C, and D category quota shares
- Option 4: Combine C and D category quota shares

The issues to be addressed in the analysis include:

- the limit of two quota share blocks has created economic hindrances to catching the entire subarea quotas
- travel to/from fishing grounds resulting in subarea quotas not being reached
- transferring quota shares has resulted in economic hindrances because blocks are now so big due to increases in quotas that cost is too high for resale
- fish down has rendered resale of D class shares boats untenable and safety issue

#5 Part 1 leasing/hired skippers

The committee recognized the merit of addressing fairness issues, and recommended that leasing restrictions are fundamental to the IFQ program and recommended no change to expanding leasing/hired skipper allowances.

#5 Part 2 and #6 medical transfers

The committee noted that while the issue of medical emergency transfers was worthy for Council review, injured QS holders had could transfer their QS to others who could fish them. The committee ranked these proposals as #2 in priority.

#8 overage on vessel cap

The committee supported this proposal to allow an overage on the vessel cap as #3 ranking.

#9 adjust annual cycle

The committee modified proposal #9 to recommend that the Council adjust its biennial IFQ amendment cycle so that IFQ final action occurs in December when IFQ fishermen can attend the Council meeting. The dates for the Council call for IFQ proposals and initial review also would be adjusted as appropriate. This is a policy change by the Council and requires no staff analysis.

#10 community-based non-profit entity as QS holder

A motion to recommend a proposal to allow a community-based non-profit entity to hold quota share failed on a tie vote (4:4). The committee was split on whether to involve the Council in the design of a program to provide access to GOA communities as a QS holding entity or to not create another category of QS holder that would compete with fishermen who are currently eligible to be QS holders.

The overall ranking of proposals grouped into analytical packages by the committee was:

<u>Proposals</u>	<u>Rank</u>
1-4 &7	#1
5 & 6	#2
8	#3
9	#4

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Salmon Bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fisheries 1993-2000

Preliminary data analysis prepared by
 Cathy Coon, Council staff

Pacific salmon, including chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), chum (*O. Keta*), coho (*O. kisutch*), sockeye (*O. Nerka*), and pink (*O. Gorbuscha*) are among the species taken incidentally in the groundfish fisheries within the Gulf of Alaska. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages bycatch of salmon in two groups; the first is chinook and the other 4 species are combined into the 'other salmon' category. Over 95% of the 'other salmon' bycatch consists of chum salmon.

Overview

I examined bycatch location of observed hauls using the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program (NPGOP) database from 1999-2000* (through 10/21/00), and NMFS catch reporting statistics for groundfish rates and number of salmon bycatch (1993-2000*). This paper provides a preliminary spatial and temporal analysis of salmon bycatch within the pollock trawl fisheries between 1993-2000.

All five species of Pacific salmon have been taken in the GOA groundfish fisheries. The 'other salmon' category represents about 60% of the salmon taken by these fisheries. Gulf of Alaska trawlers fishing for groundfish in 1993-2000 reported an average annual bycatch of 19,800 chinook salmon and 25,000 'other salmon'. The fishery with the largest salmon bycatch during this time period is the pelagic trawl pollock fishery.

Temporal distribution of salmon bycatch

Between 1993 and 2000 there is annual variation in the amount of salmon taken as bycatch within the pelagic and non-pelagic pollock trawl fisheries. Bycatch is reported in this document as expanded number estimates.

The number of chinook salmon caught as bycatch in the pollock trawl fishery has increased from 9,550 to 23,500 between 1997

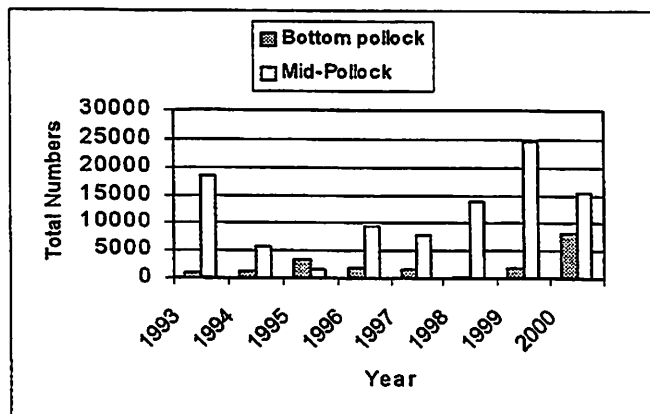


Figure 1. Number of chinook salmon bycatch in the GOA pollock fisheries between 1993-2000.

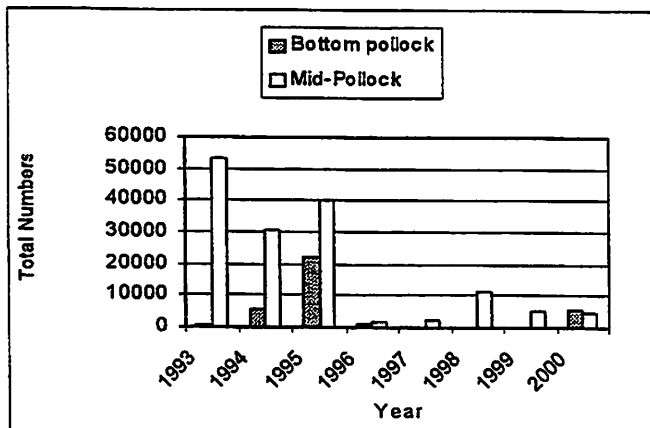


Figure 2. Number of 'other salmon' bycatch in the GOA pollock fisheries between 1993-2000.

and 2000 (Figure 1). There has been a decline from over 54,000 'other salmon' caught in 1993 to just under 10,000 in 2000 (Figure 2).

The pollock fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska are managed on a quarterly basis, with the trawl fishery beginning on January 20th each year. Within the pelagic pollock trawl fishery, salmon bycatch fluctuates by season which can be tracked on a quarterly or weekly basis.

Chinook bycatch is highest (in numbers of fish) in the 1st, 3rd and 4th quarters (Figure 3). Within the 1st quarter bycatch rates are high between February and March with a quarterly average of 4,500 fish. The 3rd quarter had the highest weekly numbers reported between June and July with a quarterly average of 4,100 fish. The 4th quarter had high numbers throughout September to December with a quarterly average of 2,700 fish. The high number of salmon taken as bycatch in each quarter coincides with a lower rate of groundfish harvest as shown using 2000 data in Figure 4. For years 1997-2000 most weeks in October (4th quarter) have had high bycatch reported numbers compared to groundfish harvest levels indicating higher bycatch rates.

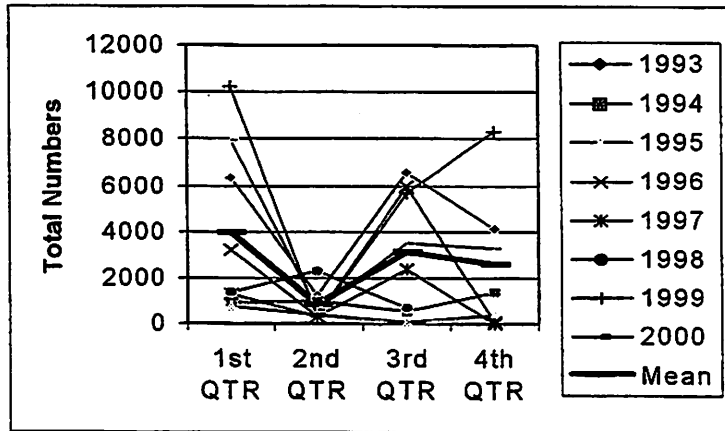


Figure 3. Number of chinook salmon bycatch from the pelagic pollock fishery by quarters 1993-2000.

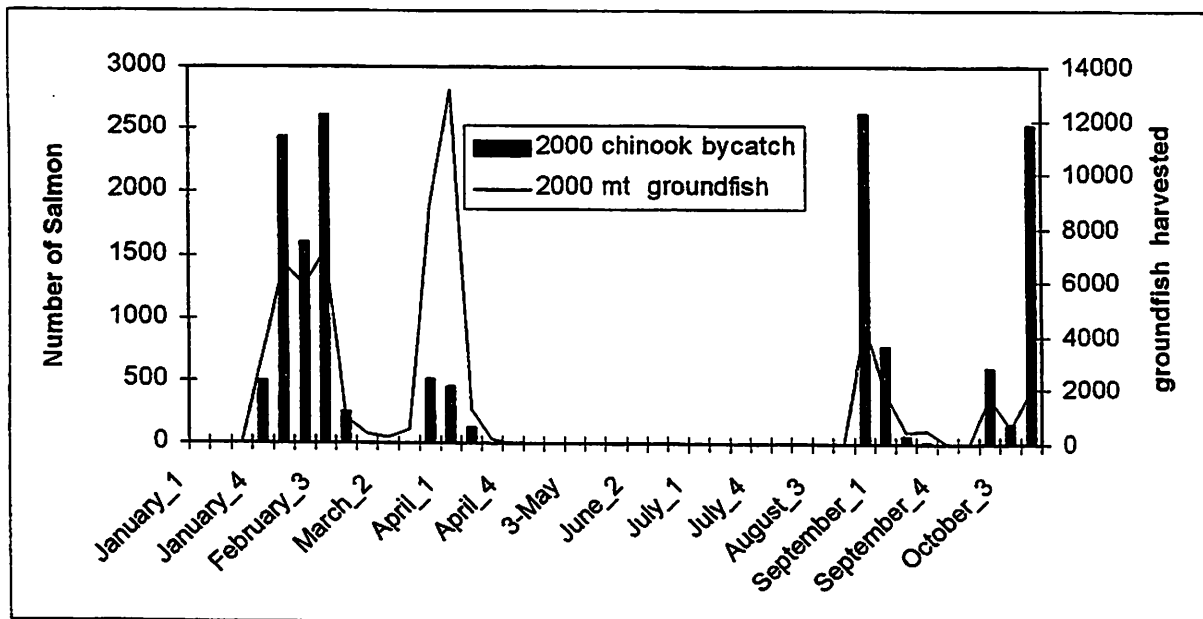


Figure 4. Chinook salmon bycatch and groundfish catch (mt) in the 2000 pelagic trawl fishery.

The highest average number of 'other salmon' bycatch was caught in the 3rd and 4th fishing quarters (Figure 5). Within the 3rd quarter, bycatch rates are highest between the 2nd week of July to the 3rd week of August. The average number of 'other salmon' taken within the 3rd quarter is 13,200 fish. Within 1993-1999 July and August typically have lower harvest levels of groundfish and higher bycatch incidences of 'other salmon', and September for year 2000 indicating high bycatch rates (Figure 6).

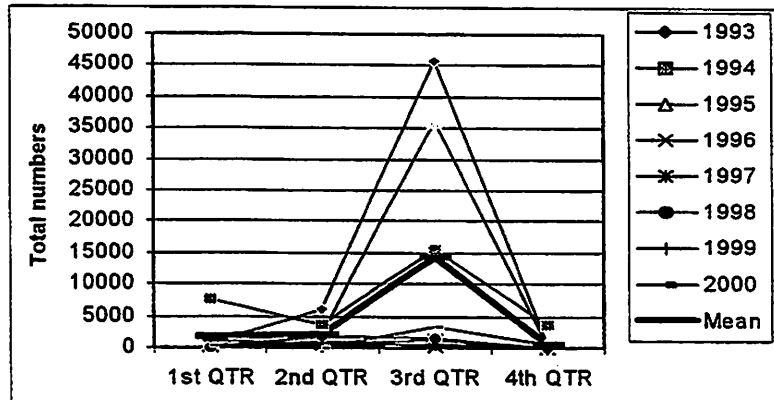


Figure 5. Number of 'other salmon' bycatch in the pelagic pollock trawl fishery by quarters 1993-2000.

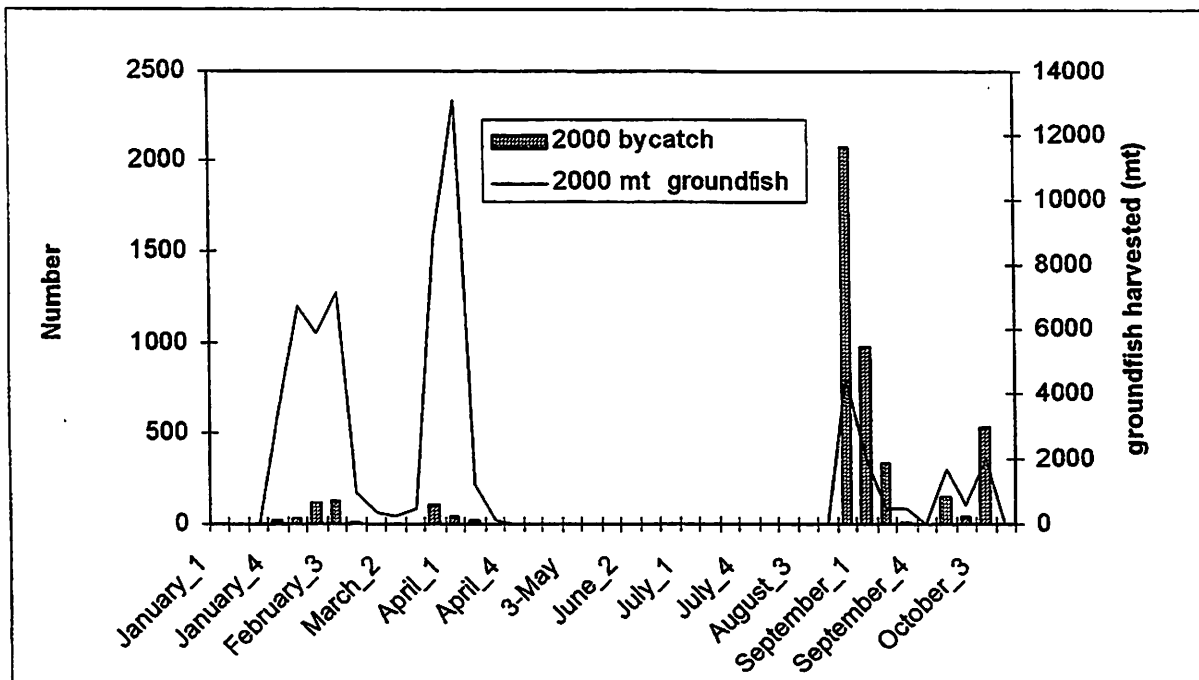


Figure 6. Bycatch of 'other salmon' and groundfish catch (mt) in the 2000 pelagic pollock trawl fishery.

Spatial distribution of salmon bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska pollock fishery

An examination of fishing effort for the pollock trawl fishery (both pelagic and bottom) was done using Geographical Information System (GIS) using 1999-2000 target data from NMFS for salmon bycatch rates (personal communication, Galen Tromble) and locations of the pollock trawl fishery from observed pollock trawls (catch weights equaling fifty percent or greater the overall catch). Although there seems to be a strong temporal component of when salmon bycatch occurs, there is also a spatial component to effort in the pollock fishery by quarter. Most of the observed pollock trawl fishery between 1999 and October 2000 occurred within the Steller sea lion critical habitat areas. The majority of the pollock fishery occurs in the central Gulf of Alaska, predominantly around Kodiak Island. There is some effort in the Western Gulf around Sand Point

and King Cove, and the location of that effort varies by fishing quarter.

The first quarter pollock trawl fishery has observed chinook salmon bycatch that occurred predominantly on the eastern side of Kodiak Island in Shelikof Strait (Figure 7). Within the first quarter, there were 451 sampled chinook salmon in 77 trawls out of 1,264 observed trawls. The third and fourth quarter fisheries occurred on the south end near Alitak Bay, Cape Barnabas, Horses Head, and near Marmot flats. There were 2,380 sampled chinook in 130 of the 753 observed trawls. Within the fourth quarter there were 1,130 chinook observed in 118 out of the 384 observed trawls.

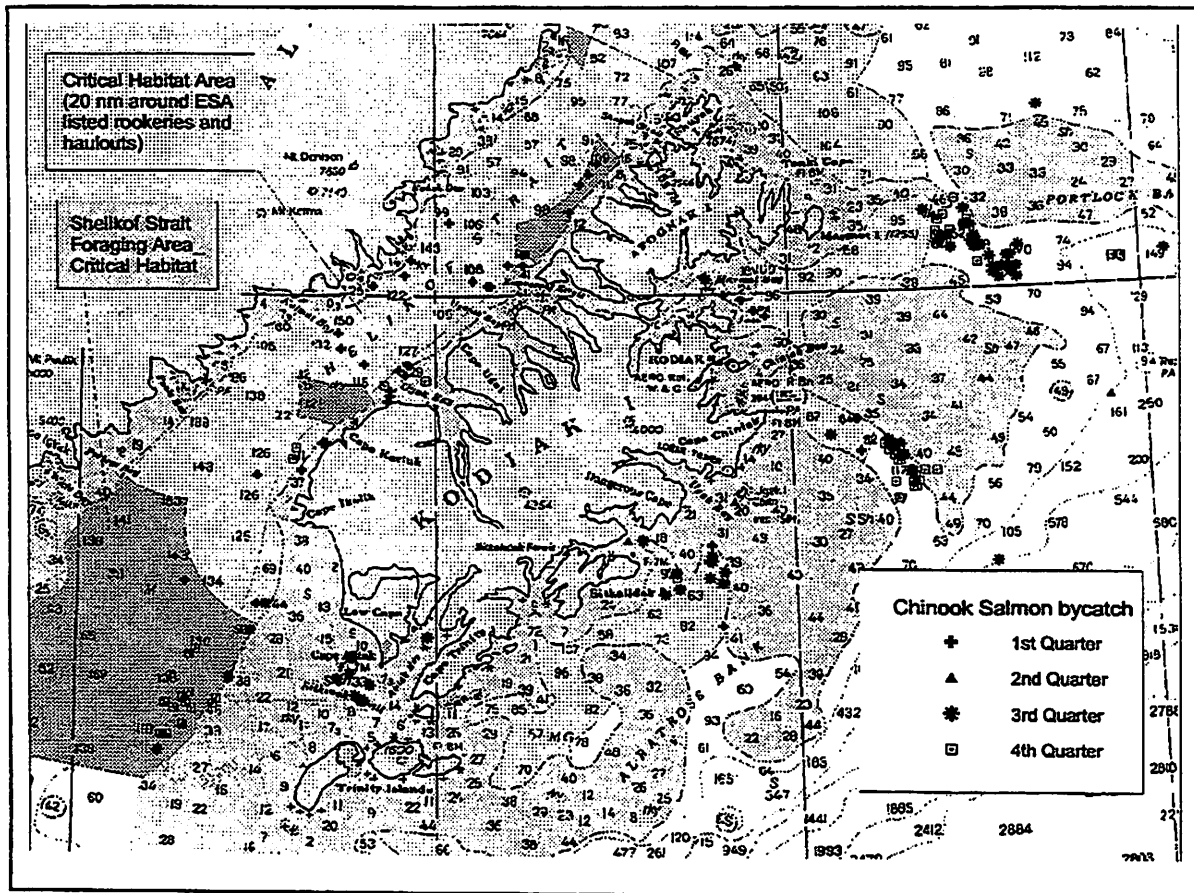


Figure 7. Locations of 1999-2000 chinook salmon bycatch in the pollock trawl fishery near Kodiak Island by quarter.

The locations of 'other salmon' bycatch within the pollock trawl fishery also predominantly occurred near the Kodiak Island region in the central Gulf of Alaska. Most of the bycatch occurred within the 3rd quarter pollock fishery. The effort of the 3rd quarter pollock fishery that had bycatch of 'other salmon' occurred outside the 20 nautical mile (nm) critical habitat areas for Steller sea lions. Most of the effort that had sampled bycatch was near Horses Head and Marmot Flats (Figure 8). For all years in this analysis the 3rd quarter had the highest bycatch amounts, however within 1999-2000 time period both the 3rd and 4th quarters had almost equal amounts of the 'other salmon' category sampled. The 3rd quarter had 590 'other salmon' sampled in 77 of the 1,264 observed trawls. The 4th quarter pollock fishery had 656 'other salmon' sampled in 74 of the 384 observed trawls.

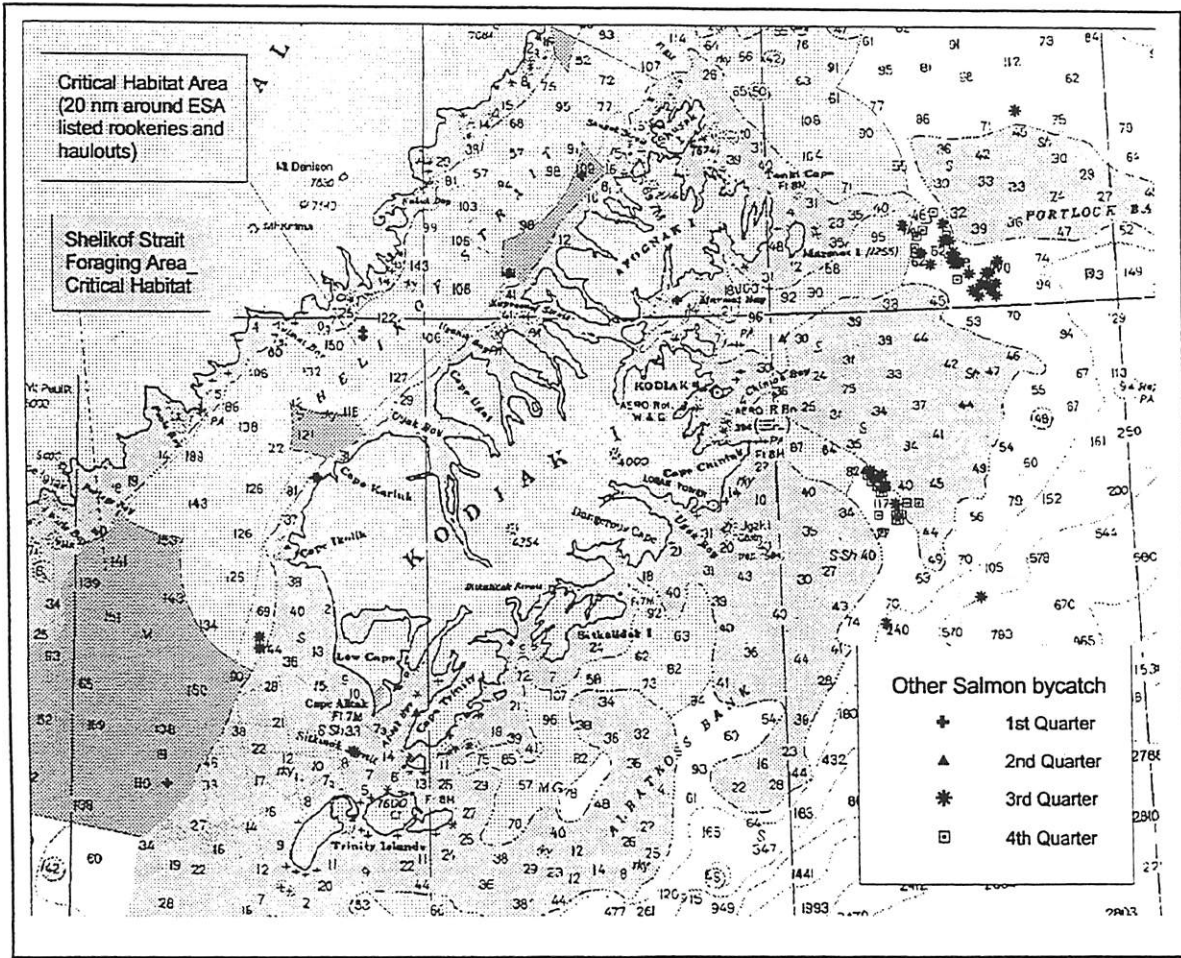


Figure 8. Locations of 1999-2000 'other salmon' bycatch in the pollock trawl fishery near Kodiak Island by quarter.

Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition Halibut IFQ “Buy In” Proposal

**Duncan Fields’ Testimony
February 11, 2001**

Mr. Chairman, members of the Council, my name is Duncan Fields and I’m representing the Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition.

Today, the Coalition again requests the Council to task its staff with initiation of an analysis regarding our proposal for a defined set of coastal communities to be permitted to purchase and hold commercial halibut and sablefish IFQ’s . We would suggest progress reports to the Council in April and June with a full analysis scheduled for the October, 2001, Council meeting. The need for this to move forward, especially in light of the demographic and sociological information about these communities in the halibut charter analysis, is self evident.

I have attached to my testimony a chronological list of Council action on the proposal. The Coalition has worked on this proposal since 1997, with submission of testimony regarding the problems associated with IFQ’s to both the Council and the National Academy of Science. As you are aware, the NRC report “Sharing the Fish” released in 1999 indicated that fisheries dependant communities should be considered for purchase and ownership of IFQ’s. Following the publication of “Sharing the Fish”, the coalition presented the current proposal to the Council in August 1999.

(Refer to attached chronology outline.)

Today you see a single face encouraging you to move our proposal forward. Please remember the numerous public testimonies, written comments, resolutions and other requests over the last 18 months encouraging you to have this issue passed to staff tasking. Please don’t allow inaction to, in fact, be your action denying our proposal.

Thank you

Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition Chronology of Halibut IFQ “Buy In” Proposal

1. Submission of proposal, August 1999.
2. Review of Proposal, IFQ implementation Team – October 1999.
3. Discussion of Proposal and request for Problem Statement – December 1999
4. Review of draft problem statement and supporting information. Request for GOAC³ to provide a discussion paper on proposal. – February 2000.
5. Submission of extensive discussion paper on proposal with draft Options and Issues for Analysis and Draft Problem Statement. Council adoption of problem statement and action to send discussion paper out for public review – June 2000.
6. Receipt of more than 50 comments by communities supporting proposal and requesting that it be tasked to staff. Staff representation that after the halibut charter analysis in February, there could be time to look at the “buy in”. Council decision not to task any additional projects. – October 2000.
7. Additional comments supporting the proposal received by Council. Motion to move proposal to staff tasking for work after the February halibut charter analysis. Council decision to wait on tasking proposal until February 2001 meeting. — December 2000.
8. Additional comments from Bristol Bay Native Corporation supporting IFQ community “buy in” proposal. Request to move to staff tasking with progress reports for April and June and analysis by October. — February 2001.

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 310
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
PHONE (907) 842-5257

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N.P.F.M.C

January 26, 2001

Chris Oliver, Director
North Pacific Fishery Mangment Council
605 Wst 4th Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Enclosed please find resolution no. 2001- 16 passed on October 1-2, 2000 at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bristol Bay Native Association. BBNA, the regional non-profit service arm of the Bristol Bay Region, represents 10,100 members of the Association.

This Resolution represents a formal statement of considered opinion, intent, and resolve of the Association and its members. We have taken this action out of concern for our social, economic, and cultural well being. We communicate these statements to inform you as to our position and to earnestly solicit your assistance in our efforts.

We are interested in hearing your views on these issues.

Sincerely,

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

Terry Hoeffler

Terry Hoeffler
Chief of Operations

Enclosure(s)

Tribal Councils
Served by BBNA:

Aleknagik

Chignik Bay

Chignik Lagoon

Chignik Lake

Clarks Point

Curyung

Egegik

Ekuk

Ikwook

Igiugig

Iliamna

Ivanof Bay

Kanatak

Salmon

Kokhanok

Koliganek

Levelock

Manokotak

Naknek

New Stuyahok

Newhalen

Nondalton

Olsonville

Pedro Bay

Perryville

Pilot Point

Port Heiden

Portage Creek

South Naknek

Togiak

Twin Hills

Ukuk

**BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 310
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576**

Resolution 01-16
By
The Full Board of Directors

A Resolution Encouraging the North Pacific Management Council to Protect the Fishing Interests of Smaller Coastal Communities and to Adopt the Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Proposals for Community Purchase of Halibut and Sablefish IFQ's and Community Set Aside of Halibut Charter IFQ's

WHEREAS: The Bristol Bay Native Association is concerned about the cultural, social and economic needs of tribal members residing in coastal communities; and,

WHEREAS: Our ancestors have depended on the marine resources in and around coastal communities for subsistence and cultural uses for thousands of years; and,

WHEREAS: The Bristol Bay Native Association's tribal members residing in the communities of Ivanof Bay, Perryville, Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, and Chignik Lake have participated in commercial halibut fisheries for more than a century; and,

WHEREAS: The halibut and sablefish IFQ program did not award many pounds of IFQ halibut and sablefish to residents of Ivanof Bay, Perryville, Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon and Chignik Lake; and,

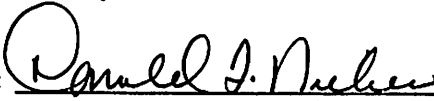
WHEREAS: Many residents of Ivanof Bay, Perryville, Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon and Chignik Lake are unable to afford the purchase of halibut and sablefish IFQ's; and,

WHEREAS: The Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition has presented proposals to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council which would modify the existing IFQ program to allow for the community purchase of halibut and sablefish IFQ's; and,

WHEREAS: The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council is determining whether or not to provide staff analysis for the community IFQ purchase proposals.

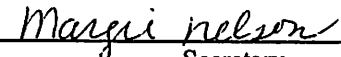
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bristol Bay Native Association requests the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to direct staff to review the Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition's proposal for the community purchase of halibut and sablefish IFQ's; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council is strongly urged to approve the community purchase of halibut and sablefish IFQ's.

Signed: 
President/CEO

CERTIFICATION:

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Bristol Bay Native Association, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly passed by the majority vote of the Full Board of Directors of the Bristol Bay Native Association at a duly called and noticed meeting this 3rd day of October, 2000, and that a quorum was present.

Signed: 
Secretary