

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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## NEWSLETTER

### Council Finishes up June-August Meeting

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council reconvened its 97th Plenary Session in Juneau on August 13. This was a continuation of the agenda from the June 24-29, 1991 meeting in Anchorage. The Council took actions on sablefish limited entry, an observer fee program, groundfish amendments, and other items as noted below. Actions at the June portion of the meeting were reported in the newsletter dated July 2, 1991. The Council will meet next in Anchorage on September 23-28, 1991. An agenda will be mailed from the council office on September 5.

### Sablefish and Halibut Management

The Council reviewed options for an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) system for the sablefish fixed gear fisheries and developed the Preferred Alternative described in Attachment 1 to this newsletter. Additional opportunity for public testimony and then final action are scheduled for the September Council meeting. Final action on an IFQ system for the halibut fisheries is also scheduled then. The Council intends that the IFQ alternative for halibut be similar to and compatible with the sablefish system.

If approved, the IFQ plans for sablefish and halibut would be merged and forwarded for Secretarial review sometime this fall. Implementation could occur as early as mid 1993. As part of the Council's motion from the August meeting, two teams will be established to develop details of implementing and enforcing the IFQ programs. A technical team, appointed by NMFS, will work with a team of industry representatives to accomplish this goal.

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The Council is seeking public comment on ways to generate funding from the IFQ program that would defray the costs of implementation and enforcement. This could be through a fee on the transfer of IFQs or through some other mechanism and likely would require a change in the Magnuson Act. Such an approach might also be applied to any potential license or moratorium system for other fisheries.

### Groundfish

The Council took action on Amendment 17/22 to the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Plans. ~~The Council recommended the following changes:~~

1. The Council voted to implement a process to authorize experimental fishing permits. The Regional Director of NMFS would authorize the issuance of such permits after Council consultation. This process will be incorporated into both groundfish plans.
2. The Council voted to re-establish, on a permanent basis, the Walrus Islands groundfish fishing closures in the Bering Sea and Aleutians groundfish plan. This would permanently establish the 12-mile buffer zones around three haulout sites in northern Bristol Bay. The measure would not sunset, but would be reevaluated after five years. The closure will allow for a transit zone around Right Hand Point, which will extend three miles seaward from the shore.
3. The Council voted to rescind Gulf of Alaska reporting Area 68 (West Yakutat Area) and combine it with Area 65. State management of demersal shelf rockfish would now extend westward three degrees of longitude.
4. For purposes of managing the pollock fishery, the Council voted to establish a unique Bogoslof District for which a pollock harvest quota, separate from the Aleutian Islands subarea and the Bering Sea subarea, would be annually specified. Existing Area 515 would be subdivided at 167 degrees west longitude into new Area 518 to the west (the Bogoslof District) and Area 519 to the east (see attached figure). Fishing for pollock in new Area 519 and in other reporting areas of the Bering Sea would be unaffected by any closure of the Bogoslof District. Fishing for other species of groundfish in the Bogoslof District would also be unaffected. An emergency rule will be considered to expedite implementation of the new areas.
5. In order to aid enforcement in differentiating between groundfish and crab pots, the Council voted to require tagging of groundfish pots. It will be the responsibility of the fisherman to use some type of plastic or metallic tag to identify the pot as a groundfish pot; otherwise, it will be assumed to be a crab pot. This will be a regulatory amendment.

With Secretarial approval, these amendments will be in effect for the 1992 fishing year and beyond.

In other action, the Council voted to increase the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for deepwater flatfish in the Central Gulf of Alaska from 25,000 metric tons to 35,000 metric tons for the 1991 fishing year. This increase would be implemented by an emergency rule, and would likely become effective sometime in October. As part of this action, the Council imposed a maximum chinook salmon bycatch rate of .01 percent salmon per metric ton that would close this fishery.

In addition, the Council requested NMFS to proceed with analyzing a proposed measure to framework the setting of quarterly allocations for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands. The Council also passed a motion to request NMFS to post bycatch rates by vessel name in the groundfish fisheries once the data have been reviewed and the observer debriefed.

### **Council Selects Preferred Observer Fee System**

The Council reviewed elements and options of a proposed North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan that would establish a system of user fees to pay for the costs of implementing the observer program. Fees will be collected from the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea and Aleutians groundfish and halibut fisheries, and from the Bering Sea and Aleutians king and Tanner crab fisheries. The key elements are shown in attachment 2. The Council will take additional public testimony on the proposed system at the September meeting and then take final action to send the plan to the Secretary of Commerce.

### **Marine Mammals**

NMFS has drafted proposed amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act and published a Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (DLEIS). The Council will be seeking advice from the public, and its Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee, to develop comments to NMFS at the September meeting. The comment deadline is September 23, 1991.

The Council also requested NMFS to develop proposed regulations for 1992 to protect Steller sea lions, to replace those measures in effect for 1991. These included closed areas around rookeries, a ban on the discharge of firearms around sea lions, and an incidental take quota of 675 animals in commercial fishing operations. The Council will consider taking emergency action in September to have regulations in place for the beginning of 1992.

### **Inshore-Offshore Allocations**

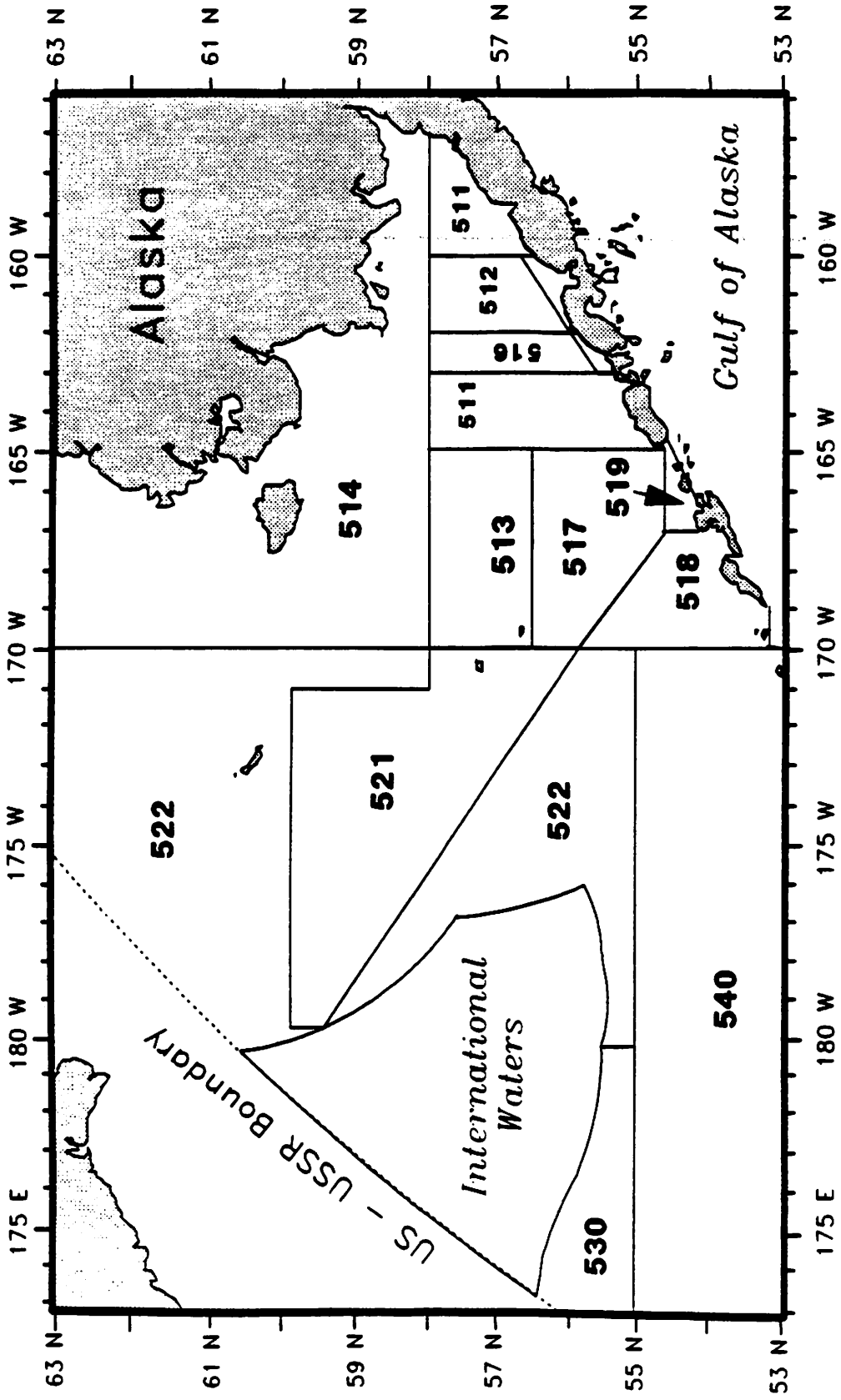
In June the Council approved a suite of measures to address the inshore-offshore issue. These measures were reported in the July 2nd newsletter from the June meeting. The proposed amendment and supporting analyses are being readied for submission to Secretarial review in September. A motion failed at the August meeting to rescind the inshore-offshore decision of June.

### Upcoming Meetings

The Council will meet next beginning on September 23 at 8:00 a.m. in Anchorage. Other meetings scheduled until then include:

<u>Committee/Panel</u>	<u>Beginning</u>
Plan Teams	8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 3-6
IFQ Technical	8:30 a.m., Monday, Sept. 9-10
Plan Amendment Advisory Group	9:00 a.m., Monday, September 16
Marine Mammal Workgroup	9:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 17
Advisory Panel	8:00 a.m., Sunday, September 22
Scientific and Statistical Committee	10:30 a.m., Sunday, September 22
Ad Hoc Bycatch Committee	2:00 p.m., Sunday, September 22
Halibut Regulatory Amendment Advisory Group	6:30 p.m., Sunday, September 22

Please contact the Council office for more information on these meetings.



PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE:  
SABLEFISH LONGLINE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
As Adopted by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
August 14, 1991

**Sec. 1. DEFINITIONS.** ~~Definitions for terms used herein shall be the same as those contained in the~~ Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, except as follows:

- (a) "Person" means any individual who is a citizen of the United States or any corporation, partnership, association, or other entity (whether or not organized or existing under the laws of any state) which meets the requirements set forth in 46 CFR Part 67.03, as applicable. This definition is subject to other restrictions and conditions as set forth in Sec.(2)(c).
- (b) An "individual" shall be defined as a natural person who is not a corporation, partnership, association, or other entity.
- (c) "Quota share" means a percentage of the fixed gear Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for each management area which is based on historical, qualifying landings.
- (d) "Individual fishery quota" (IFQ) means the annual poundage of fish derived by applying the quota share percentage to the annual fixed gear TAC for each management area.
- (e) "Fixed gear" means hook and line gear (which includes longlines, jigging, handlines etc.) and pot gear.
- (f) "Catcher boat" or "catcher vessel" means any vessel which delivers catch or landing in an unfrozen state.
- (g) "Freezer longliner" means any vessel engaged in fishing in the fixed gear fishery which utilizes freezer capacity and delivers some or all of its groundfish product in a frozen state.
- (h) Bona fide fixed gear crew member. Any individual that has acquired fishing time at sea, time being equal to port to port, that is equal to 15 months from any commercial fishing activity for species managed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, International Pacific Halibut Commission, or State of Alaska, and including salmon, herring and crab, with at least 5 months longline fishing will be considered a bona fide fixed gear crew member.

**Sec. 2. FIXED GEAR QUOTA SHARE (QS) AND INDIVIDUAL FISHERY QUOTA (IFQ) SYSTEM FOR SABLEFISH.**

- (a) **AREA.** Quota shares and Individual Fishery Quotas (IFQs) shall be made available for each of the management areas identified for the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska.
- (b) **INITIAL QUOTA SHARE ASSIGNMENT.** Quota Shares and Individual Fisheries Quotas shall be assigned to qualified persons on the following basis:
  - (1) Initial assignments of Quota Shares shall be made to;
    - (i) a qualified person who is a vessel owner who meets the requirements in this section; or
    - (ii) a qualified person who meets the requirements of this section engaged in a lease or other "bare-boat charter" arrangement in order to participate in the fishery. (For instances identified under this section, the qualified person shall receive full credit for deliveries made while conducting the fishery under such a lease or arrangement.)
  - (2) Initial quota share assignments will be made only to persons who meet all other requirements of this section and who have landed sablefish in either 1988, 1989, or 1990.
  - (3) Initial assignments of quota shares shall be assigned to qualified persons based on recorded landings, as documented through fish tickets or other documentation [for fixed gear landings], for the period 1985 through 1990. For each management area, each person will select five (5) years out of six (6) on which to base that person's quota share.
  - (4) The sum of the catch in each person's five (5) selected years for each area shall be divided by the total qualifying poundage of all sablefish harvested for the qualifying period in those selected areas. The resultant percentage shall be that person's quota share for that area.
- (c) **VESSEL CATEGORIES.** Quota shares and IFQs shall be assigned by vessel category as follows:
  - (1) All landings made during the qualifying period by freezer longliners shall be calculated for one category of quota shares.
  - (2) Any person owning freezer longliner quota shares may sell or lease those quota shares to any other qualified person.
  - (3) Fish caught with freezer longliner IFQs may be delivered frozen or unfrozen.

- (4) All landings made during the qualifying period by catcher boats shall be calculated for a separate category of quota shares. There shall be two categories for catcher boats:
- (i) vessels less than 60 feet in length overall.
  - (ii) vessels 60 feet and over in length overall.
  - (iii) those owners of record, which have bought or sold vessels and to the extent that the vessels operations were in the 60 foot and ~~less one year and the next vessel owned was in the 60 plus~~ category or the freezer longliner category, the ownership of record would be able to count all quota caught as if it where harvested by the last vessel owned.
  - (iv) if a quota share recipient owned or leased two or more vessels simultaneously during the qualifying period which landed sablefish, then their allocations will be for each of those vessel classes.
- (5) Following initial allocation [for catcher boats]:
- (i) In order to purchase catcher boat quota share: must be an individual who is a U.S. citizen and either own a fixed gear vessel or be a bona-fide fixed gear crewman.
  - (ii) In order to use catcher boat IFQs: own the QS, be a U.S. citizen, either own the vessel (upon which the IFQs will be used) or be a bona fide crew member, be aboard the vessel during fishing operations, and sign the fish ticket upon landing. Those persons who received initial allocations will be allowed to purchase additional QS/ITQs and must own the vessel upon which the QS are utilized or be a bona fide crew member who is aboard the vessel during fishing operations, and sign the fish ticket upon landing. In the event of sale or transfer of the QS the new owner must comply with 2(c)(5)(iii).
  - (iii) If any person which receives an initial allocation sells or transfers control of the original assignment of QS/IFQs the new owner must comply with Section 2(c)(5).
  - (iv) The Secretary may, by regulation, designate exceptions to sections (i) and (ii) to be employed in case of personal injury or extreme personal emergency which allow the transfer of catcher boat QS/IFQs for limited periods of time.
- (6) Any person owning catcher boat quota shares may sell those quota shares only to an individual who is qualified under (C)(5). Catcher boat quota shares may not be leased. (i.e., annual IFQs cannot be sold)
- (7) Fish caught with catcher boat quota shares may not be frozen aboard the vessel utilizing those quota shares.
- (8) Quota shares or IFQs arising from those quota shares for either vessel category or any management area may not be transferred to the other vessel category or any other management area.



(d) **LIMITATIONS ON OWNERSHIP AND USE OF QUOTA SHARES.**

Each qualified person [or individual]:

- (1) May own, hold or otherwise control, individually or collectively, but may not exceed, one percent (1%) of the combined total for the Gulf of Alaska/Bering Sea Aleutian Islands except that east of 140 degrees west in the Gulf of Alaska (East Yakutat/S.E. Outside) holdings shall not exceed 1% for that management area.
- (2) Any person who receives an initial assignment of quota shares in excess of the limits set forth in paragraph (d)(1) shall:
  - (i) be prohibited from purchasing, leasing, holding or otherwise controlling additional quota shares until that person's quota share falls below the limits set forth in (d)(1) above, at which time each such person shall be subject to the limitations of paragraph (d)(1) above; and
  - (ii) be prohibited from selling, trading, leasing or otherwise transferring any interest, in whole or in part, of an initial assignment of quota share to any other person in excess of the limitations set forth in (d)(1) above.
- (3) For IFQ accounting purposes, sale of catcher vessel caught sablefish to other than a legally registered buyer is illegal. Frozen product can only be offloaded at sites which NMFS can monitor.

(e) **INDIVIDUAL FISHERIES QUOTAS.** Individual fisheries quotas are determined for each calendar year for each person by applying that person's quota share percentage to the annual Total Allowable Catch for each management area. Persons must control IFQs for the amount to be caught before a trip begins.

(f) **VESSEL AND GEAR RESTRICTIONS.**

- (1) No more than one percent (1%) of the combined Gulf of Alaska/Bering Sea Aleutian Island quota may be taken on any one vessel, and no more than 1% of the Southeast Outside/East Yakutat quota may be landed by the same vessel except where persons received initial allocation greater than 1%, that quota may continue to be taken on the same vessel.
- (2) Quota shares and IFQs arising from those quota shares may not be applied to trawl-caught sablefish from any management area or to sablefish harvested utilizing pots in the Gulf of Alaska.

(g) **ADMINISTRATION.** All sales, transfers, or leases of quota shares or IFQ arising from those quota shares must occur in a manner approved by the Secretary. All quota share and IFQ assignments and transfers will be administered by NMFS based on regulations established by the Secretary. The Secretary, in promulgating such regulations, shall hold at least one public hearing in each state represented on the Council and in at least one community in each of the management areas governed by the Council.

- (h) **DURATION.** IFQ harvest privileges are good for an indefinite period of time, except that these privileges may be subject to periodic change, including revocation, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary.
- (i) **DISCARD OF SABLEFISH.** Discard of sablefish is prohibited by persons holding QS and those fishing under the community development quota programs.

**Sec. 3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTAS (CDQs).** No more than 20% of the annual fixed gear ~~Total Allowable Catch for each management area in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI)~~ area shall be made available in that management area for a western Alaska sablefish community quota program. The purpose of the program is to provide the opportunity for disadvantaged western Alaska communities to enter the BSAI area sablefish fishery and thereby assist in the development of a self-sustaining fisheries economy. The program is also intended to complement and work in conjunction with the western Alaska community quota program adopted by the Council for BSAI pollock.

The western Alaska sablefish community quota program shall be implemented through the draft regulations attached. In implementing this program, community development plans shall provide a harvesting preference for residents of the community over any harvesting arrangements with persons who reside outside of the community. Attached are guidelines under which the CDQ program will be implemented.

**Sec. 4. AD HOC WORKING GROUPS.** Two ad hoc working groups shall be established. One by the Council composed of representatives from longline vessel owners, crew members and processors, who would likely be affected by the Council's action on IFQs. The second group will be established by the Alaska Regional Director, NMFS, composed of administration, data management, enforcement, and legal professionals. The groups will develop a detailed implementation plan covering all aspects of carrying out the Council's preferred alternative for a longline (fixed gear) IFQ management program (for sablefish and halibut). All states represented on the Council shall be given an opportunity to provide technical input to the groups.

**Note:** The Council is seeking public comment on ways to generate funding from the IFQ program that would defray the costs of implementation and enforcement. This could be through a fee on the transfer of IFQs or through some other mechanism and likely would require a change in the Magnuson Act.

## GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE WESTERN ALASKA COMMUNITY SABLEFISH QUOTA

### Sec. 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In order to provide fishermen who reside in western Alaskan communities a fair and reasonable opportunity to participate in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands sablefish fishery, to expand their participation in salmon, herring, and other nearshore fisheries, and to help alleviate the growing social economic crisis within these communities, the western Alaska sablefish community quota is established. Residents of western Alaska communities are predominantly Alaska Natives who have traditionally depended upon the marine resources of the Bering Sea for their economic and cultural well-being. The western Alaska sablefish community quota is a joint program of the Secretary and the Governor of the State of Alaska. Through the creation and implementation of community development plans, western Alaska communities will be able to diversify their local economies, provide community residents with new opportunities to obtain stable, long-term employment, and participate in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands sablefish fishery which has been foreclosed to them because of the high capital investment needed to enter the fishery.

### Sec. 2. WESTERN ALASKA SABLEFISH COMMUNITY QUOTA

- (a) The NMFS Regional Director shall hold 20 percent of the annual Total Allowable Catch of sablefish for each management area in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Area for the western Alaska sablefish community quota. These amounts shall be released to eligible Alaska communities who submit a plan, approved by the Governor of Alaska, for its wise and appropriate use. Any of the TAC not released by the end of the third quarter shall be made available for harvest to any individual or vessel providing the person does not own, hold, or otherwise control unused IFQ for that fishing year.
- (b) Not more than 12 percent of the total western Alaska sablefish community quota may be designated for a single community, except that if portions of the total quota are not designated by the end of the second quarter, communities may apply for any portion of the remaining quota for the remainder of that year only.

### Sec. 3. ELIGIBLE WESTERN ALASKA COMMUNITIES

- (a) The Governor of Alaska is authorized to recommend to the Secretary that a community within western Alaska which meets all of the following criteria be a community eligible for the western Alaska community quota program (hereinafter "the Program"):
  - (1) be located on or proximate to the Bering Sea coast from the Bering Strait to the westernmost of the Aleutian Islands or a community located on an island within the Bering Sea, that the Secretary of the Interior has certified pursuant to section 11(b)(2) or (3) of Pub. L. No. 92-203 as Native villages are defined in section 3(c) of Pub. L. No. 92-203;
  - (2) be unlikely to be able to attract and develop economic activity other than commercial fishing that would provide a substantial source of employment;

- (3) its residents have traditionally engaged in and depended upon fishing in the waters of the Bering Sea coast;
  - (4) has not previously developed harvesting or processing capability sufficient to support substantial participation in the commercial groundfish fisheries of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands because of a lack of sufficient funds for investing in harvesting or processing equipment; and
  - (5) ~~has developed a community development plan approved by the Governor, after consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.~~
- (b) Any number of eligible communities may apply under a single development plan. In cases where more than one community applies in a joint application, each community is entitled to its full portion of the quota.

#### **Sec. 4. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANS**

- (a) Within 60 days of the effective date of these regulations, the Governor shall submit to the Secretary, after review by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, criteria which the community must, at a minimum, include in a community development plan to be eligible to participate in the program. The criteria shall include provisions concerning the following:
- (1) amount of quota requested;
  - (2) length of time community is requesting to receive a share of the quota;
  - (3) benefits that will accrue to the community from approval of their plan and release of quota, including how the plan will assist in diversifying the community's economy and provide opportunities for training and employment;
  - (4) how the benefits will be shared within the community;
  - (5) business plan which will provide adequate information to complete a financial feasibility assessment;
  - (6) business arrangements which are entered into between a community and residents who reside outside of the community, provided that residents of a community shall receive a preference for a portion of the harvesting quota over any arrangements for harvesting with persons who reside outside of the community; and
  - (7) Within 30 days of receipt of the criteria from the Governor, the Secretary will approve, disapprove, or return the criteria to the Governor with recommendations for changes necessary to comply with the provisions of this Act, or other applicable law.

#### **Sec. 5. APPROVAL OF PLANS**

- (a) Within 45 days of receipt of an application for a community, the Governor shall review the community's eligibility for the program and the community development plan and forward the application to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for its review and recommendations. The application shall be subject to a public hearing before the Council. If the Council does not review the plan at its next regularly scheduled meeting, the Governor shall then submit the application to the Secretary for designation of a portion of the quota. The Governor shall submit the application to the Secretary within 14 days of Council action or within 14 days of the date of the adjournment of the Council meeting ~~without any action taken on the application, unless the application is withdrawn~~ by the applying community.
- (b) Within 30 days of the receipt of an application approved by the Governor, the Secretary will designate a portion of the quota to the community, if the community development plan satisfies the criteria developed by the Governor and approved by the Secretary, or return the application to the Governor with his reasons for denial.

**North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan  
DRAFT PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE  
(As Recommended by NPFMC 08/16/91)**

**Preferred Alternative:**      Establish a system of user fees to pay for the costs of implementing the Plan.

**Key Elements of Proposed User Fee System**

1. Plan fisheries initially will include Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish and halibut, and BSAI king and Tanner crab fisheries, in both State waters and EEZ areas, and in the donut hole contingent upon federal jurisdiction there.
2. The Plan will be designed to collect fees in a cost effective manner from the participating fisheries to support observers as necessary in those fisheries and incorporate financing of the BSAI crab observer program. It is the intent of the Council that the research plan have standardized data collection procedures for crab and groundfish, standardized observer training for crab and groundfish, and a single infrastructure of administration and that the National Marine Fisheries Service and the State of Alaska together develop the details.
3. The Regional Director, in consultation with the Council, will establish the fee for the fishing year. The fee will be expressed as a percentage, not to exceed 1% of the exvessel value.
4. Although the fees are assessed against all fishing vessels and fish processors, the fees will be collected from all (i.e., onshore and at-sea) processors participating in the plan fisheries. The total fees to be collected from each processor will be the product of the established fee and the estimated exvessel value of fish the processor received from the plan fisheries. In the case of a catcher/processor, fish retained for processing are considered to be received fish. The estimate of exvessel value will be based on the amount of fish by species group received for processing and a fishery-wide estimate of exvessel price by species group. The estimates of exvessel prices will exclude any value added by processing. For the purposes of the user fee system, a fishing operation that delivers fish to a processor outside of the Council's jurisdiction (e.g., Canada, Washington, or Oregon) will be considered to be a processor. Discarded groundfish also will be subject to user fees.

Exvessel price and fish usage data provided by each processor who purchased unprocessed fish in the plan fisheries will be used to estimate the exvessel value for that processor and period. For integrated harvesting and processing operations that do not purchase unprocessed fish, data provided by all processors who purchased unprocessed fish in the plan fisheries will be used to estimate the average exvessel price by species group for that period.

The fee levied on catcher/processors shall be equal to the full amount of the percentage applied to the exvessel value of the harvest. The fee for catcher vessels and processors shall be equal to half of the percentage applied to the exvessel value of the harvest for each, respectively.

5. Each processor that purchases fish from a plan fishery will calculate the quarterly fee payments based on the amount of fish it received, the fee, and the actual exvessel price paid to the fisherman. Other processors who receive fish from a plan fishery will base payments on the amount of fish it received, the fee, and the NMFS published exvessel prices. The fees will be due within 30 days of the end of the fishing quarter on which the fees are assessed. It is the intent of the Council that processors/buyers of fish from a plan fishery be bonded.
6. After each twelve-month period, the actual fee liability of each processor will be calculated by the NMFS. If a processor's fee liability is greater than the quarterly payments that were received, the processor will be billed for the difference and the bill will be due within 30 days. If the quarterly payments exceed the fee liability, the difference will be used as a credit toward future quarterly payments. It would be a violation to make late or inadequate payments. Fee collections will be administered by the NOAA Office of the Comptroller.
7. All fish processors participating in plan fisheries will be required to have a federal permit. Processors will apply for a federal permit annually. The permits will be issued semi-annually to any processor that is current with respect to its fee payments.
8. Any additional information necessary to implement the Plan will be made available through enhanced reporting requirements.
9. Each operation with an observer requirement will be responsible for obtaining observers from the NMFS. The lead time required to obtain an observer will be specified by the Observer Plan.
10. The Council will appoint an Observer Plan Oversight Committee consisting of nine members. Representatives will include three NPFMC members from the three states represented on the Council and six industry representatives from the following groups: factory/trawler, catcher/trawler, shoreside processor, crabber, freezer longliner, and non-freezer longliner.