


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke 
Executive Director

DATE: September 16, 1992

SUBJECT: Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Specifications for 1993

ACTION REQUIRED

- (c) Approve for public review the draft preliminary Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report.
- (d) Adopt for public review proposed specifications for the following:
 - 1. Annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC), initial TAC (ITAC), and domestic annual processing (DAP);
 - 2. Division of the pollock ITAC into the January 1-April 15 ('A' Season) and June 1-December 31 ('B' Season) allowances;
 - 3. Amount of the pollock TAC that may be taken with bottom trawls; and
 - 4. Bycatch allowances, and seasonal apportionments of red king crab, Tanner crab, Pacific halibut, and herring to target fishery (PSC) categories.
- (e) Recommend Vessel Incentive Program (VIP) bycatch rate standards for the first two quarters of the 1993 trawl fisheries.

BACKGROUND

At this meeting, the Council begins the annual groundfish cycle in which it adopts for public review proposed specifications of groundfish amounts and bycatch allowances as listed above. The preliminary SAFE Report, proposed groundfish specifications and the proposed bycatch allowances need to be adopted and made available for public review and comment. On the basis of comments and new information, the Council will adopt final recommendations for the 1993 fishing year at its December 1992 meeting.

SAFE Document

The Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Plan Team met in Seattle on September 1-4 to prepare the draft preliminary 1993 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) which was sent to you on September 10, 1992. Item D-3(c)(1) has Tables 6 - 8 from the executive summary summarizing the biomass, ABCs, and stock status compared to 1992. The Plan Team's sum of recommended ABCs for 1993 is 3.47 million mt (The Council recommended 2.77 million mt for 1992). The largest changes in ABC are increases of 200,000 mt, 15,400 mt and 117,000 mt for pollock in the eastern Bering Sea, Aleutians, and Bogoslof (Area 518), and an increase of 50,200 mt for the Rock sole ABC, and an increase of 308,000 mt in the Atka mackerel ABC. Overall, the status of the stocks continues to appear relatively favorable. Information from this summer's trawl survey is not available to provide new biomass estimates. It will be analyzed this fall and incorporated into the final 1993 SAFE document in November. An environmental assessment also is being prepared.

Adopt proposed initial ABCs, TACs and Apportionments thereof for 1993

Item D-3(d)(1) is a table indicating 1992 ABCs, TACs, and catch statistics (through September 11). Item D-3(d)(2) is a worksheet on which initial 1993 specifications can be filled in. It includes the Plan Team's 1993 ABCs, and will be updated with recommendations of the SSC and AP during the Council meeting. Twenty-five percent of the initial specifications will go forward as interim specifications for management of the 1993 groundfish fisheries until superseded by publication of the Council's final specifications.

Adopt proposed seasonal allowances for the pollock seasons

The FMP requires the Council to apportion pollock in the BSAI between the roe (January 1 - April 15) and non-roe (June 1 - December 31) seasons, as indicated in the worksheet, Item D-3(d)(2). For the past two years, the Council has recommended a 40/60 percent split between the roe and non-roe seasons.

In recommending seasonal allowances of the BSAI pollock TAC, the Council will need to consider the following factors:

1. Estimated monthly pollock catch and effort in prior years;
2. Expected changes in harvesting and processing capacity and associated pollock catch;
3. Current estimates of and expected changes in pollock biomass and stock conditions, conditions of marine mammal stocks, and biomass and stock conditions of species taken as bycatch in directed pollock fisheries;
4. Potential impacts of expected seasonal fishing for pollock on pollock stocks, marine mammal stocks, and stocks of species taken as bycatch in directed pollock fisheries;
5. The need to obtain fishery-related data during all or part of the year;
6. Effects on operating costs and gross revenues;
7. The need to spread fishing effort over the year, minimize gear conflicts, and allow participation by various elements of the groundfish fleet and other fisheries;
8. Potential allocative effects among users and indirect effects on coastal communities; and,
9. Other biological and socioeconomic information that affects the consistency of seasonal pollock harvests with the goals and objectives of the FMP.

Information on these factors is presented in Appendix D of the 1993 SAFE document. Also at this meeting, the Council will consider a proposal to change the start date of the 'B' season (see Agenda Item D-5(b)).

Adopt amounts of pollock that could be taken with bottom trawls

To control the bycatch of crab and halibut, the Council implemented Amendment 16a, which provided for the apportionment of pollock to pelagic trawl gear (i.e., set a limit on the amount of pollock that can be taken in the bottom trawl pollock fishery). In approving this amendment for Secretarial Review in 1990, the Council adopted the 88%-12% split (midwater-bottom trawl) recommended by the Region. The actual percentages from the 1990 fishery were 89%-11%. For 1991, the Council noted that additional pollock harvests with non-pelagic trawl gear likely would be constrained by halibut bycatch, and did not recommend a specific apportionment between pelagic and non pelagic gear. For 1992, the Council again did not recommend a specific apportionment between pelagic and non pelagic gear, primarily because non-pelagic trawl gear took less than 6 percent of the total pollock TAC in 1991.

For the 1992 pollock fishery, this trend did not continue. During the first season of the 1992 pollock fishery, non-pelagic trawl gear accounted for over 13 percent of the total pollock catch. In addition, due to the unexpectedly high bycatch amounts of halibut experienced during the January - February 1992 pollock fishery, the Council held a teleconference on February 26, 1992 and recommended that NMFS implement an emergency rule prohibiting the use of non-pelagic trawl gear for the 1992 pollock 'B' season in an attempt to reduce halibut bycatch.

Regulations require that pollock allocations to non pelagic trawls be based on the following types of information:

1. Bycatch allowances of PSC species;
2. Projected bycatches of prohibited species that might occur with and without constraining amounts of pollock taken with non pelagic trawls; and
3. Costs of a limit in terms of amounts of pollock TAC that may be taken with bottom trawls on the non pelagic trawl fisheries.

Adopt proposed bycatch allowances of Pacific halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab (*C. bairdi*), and herring, and seasonal allowances thereof

The Council will propose for public review bycatch allowances to the following six BSAI trawl fishery categories:

1. Greenland turbot, arrowtooth flounder and sablefish;
2. rock sole and "other flatfish";
3. yellowfin sole;
4. rockfish;
5. Pacific cod; and,
6. pollock, Atka mackerel and "other species".

Item D-3(d)(3) is a table indicating 1992 PSC allocations and seasonal apportionments. Item D-3(d)(4) is a worksheet on which initial 1993 PSC apportionments can be filled in as the meeting proceeds.

The Council may also propose seasonal apportionments of the bycatch allowances. Regulations require that seasonal apportionments of bycatch allowances be based on the following types of information:

1. Seasonal distribution of prohibited species;
2. Seasonal distribution of target groundfish species relative to prohibited species distribution;
3. Expected prohibited species bycatch needs on a seasonal basis relevant to change in prohibited species biomass and expected catches of target groundfish species;
4. Expected variations in bycatch rates throughout the fishing year;
5. Expected changes in directed groundfish fishing seasons;
6. Expected start of fishing efforts; and
7. Economic effects of establishing seasonal prohibited species apportionments on segments of the target groundfish industry.

Information on these factors is presented in Appendices C and E in the BSAI SAFE.

Recommend Bycatch rate standards for the Vessel Incentive Program (VIP)

Under Amendment 19/24, the VIP has been expanded to include all trawl fisheries in both the BSAI and GOA. The new grouping for VIP fishery categories, are as follows:

BSAI

<u>Fishery</u>	<u>PSC Species</u>
Midwater Pollock	Halibut (as a % of groundfish catch)
Bottom Pollock	Halibut
Yellowfin Sole	Halibut Red king crab (number of crab per ton groundfish catch)
Other Trawl	Halibut Red king crab

GOA

<u>Fishery</u>	<u>PSC Species</u>
Midwater Pollock	Halibut
Other Trawl	Halibut

Note that regulations specify that the vessel incentive program for the midwater pollock fishery becomes effective after the directed fishery for pollock by trawl vessels using non-pelagic trawl gear is closed.

At this meeting, NMFS will provide bycatch rates observed during the past two years for these fishery categories. The Council will need to recommend to the Regional Director the bycatch rate standards for these categories for the first two quarters of the 1993 fishery.

Table 6-- Summary of stock abundance, overfishing constraints, and fishing mortality rates for the eastern Bering Sea (EBS), Aleutian Islands (AI), and Bogoslof district (518) in 1993. Biomass and catch are in metric tons.

Species	Area	Biomass ^a	C _{OF} ^b	F _{OF} ^c	F _{ABC} ^d
Walleye pollock	EBS	7,960,000 ^e	2,390,000	0.38	0.31
	AI	277,000	83,100	0.38	0.31
	518	590,000	148,000	0.25	0.31
Pacific cod		825,000	183,000	0.15	0.14
Yellowfin sole		2,660,000	452,000	0.17	0.14
Greenland turbot		292,000 ^f	14,600	0.05	0.02
Arrowtooth flounder		378,000	94,500	0.25	0.18
Rock sole		1,710,000 ^g	311,000	0.18	0.18
Other flatfishes		1,420,000	327,000	0.23	0.16
Sablefish	EBS	11,700	1,840	0.18	0.13
	AI	25,700	4,040	0.18	0.13
POP complex					
True POP	EBS	47,000	2,480	0.11 ^h	0.10 ^h
Others ⁱ	EBS	29,700	1,400	0.05 ^j	0.05 ^j
True POP	AI	260,000	17,200	0.10 ^h	0.09 ^h
Sharp/Northern ^k	AI	94,500	5,670	0.06	0.06
Short/Rougheye ^l	AI	45,000	1,220	0.03	0.03
Other rockfish	EBS	8,000	8,000	0.05	0.05
	AI	18,500	18,500	0.05	0.05
Atka mackerel		1,170,000	771,000	0.51	0.24
Squid		n/a ^m	3,400	n/a ^m	n/a ^m
Other species		793,800	26,600	n/a ^m	n/a ^m

- a. Projected exploitable biomass for January, 1993.
- b. Maximum 1993 catch level allowable under overfishing definition.
- c. Maximum fishing mortality rate allowable under overfishing definition.
- d. Fishing mortality rate corresponding to acceptable biological catch.
- e. B_{MSY} for walleye pollock is 6,000,000 t.
- f. B_{MSY} for Greenland turbot is 439,000 t.
- g. B_{MSY} for the EBS portion of the rock sole stock is 904,000 t.
- h. Fishing mortality rate on fully selected ages only.
- i. Sharpchin, northern, shortraker, and rougheye rockfish.
- j. Weighted average of species-specific rates.
- k. Sharpchin and northern rockfish
- l. Shortraker and rougheye rockfish.
- m. Not available.

Table 7-- Estimates of maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) for 1992 and 1993 for groundfish in the eastern Bering Sea (EBS), Aleutian Islands (AI), and Bogoslof district (518). Where current MSY estimates encompass a range of values, the midpoint has been listed. Figures are in metric tons. Column totals are reported to three significant digits.

Species	Area	MSY	ABC (1992)	ABC (1993)
Walleye pollock	EBS	1,875,000	1,490,000	1,690,000
	AI	145,000	51,600	67,000
	518	n/a ^a	25,000	142,000
Pacific cod		n/a ^a	182,000	178,000
Yellowfin sole		268,000	372,000	372,000
Greenland turbot		23,400	7,000	7,000
Arrowtooth flounder		59,000	82,300	68,000
Rock sole		164,000	260,800	311,000
Other flatfish		144,000	199,600	226,000
Sablefish	EBS	5,400	1,400	1,400
	AI	6,800	3,000	3,000
POP complex				
True POP	EBS	n/a ^a	3,540	2,100
Others ^b	EBS	n/a ^a	1,400	1,400
True POP	AI	n/a ^a	11,700	14,800
Sharp/Northern ^c	AI	n/a ^a	5,670	5,670
Short/Rougheye ^d	AI	n/a ^a	1,220	1,220
Other rockfish	EBS	n/a ^a	400	400
	AI	n/a ^a	925	925
Atka mackerel ^e		n/a ^a	43,000	351,000
Squid		10,000	3,600	3,400
Other species		62,900	27,200	26,600
Groundfish complex		2,760,000	2,770,000	3,470,000

a. Not available.

b. Sharpchin, northern, shortraker, and rougheye rockfish.

c. Sharpchin and northern rockfish.

d. Shortraker and rougheye rockfish.

e. The Plan Team recommends dividing the Atka mackerel ABC among four quadrants, as described in the text.

Table 8-- Summary of stock biomass, harvest strategy, 1993 acceptable biological catch (ABC), and stock condition for groundfish in the eastern Bering Sea (EBS), Aleutian Islands (AI), and Bogoslof district (518). Biomass and ABC are in metric tons.

Species	Area	Biomass ^a	Rate ^b	ABC	Relative abundance, trend
Walleye pollock	EBS	7,960,000	$F_{0.1}$	1,690,000	Moderately high, declining
	AI	277,000	$F_{0.1}$	67,000	Average (?), declining
	518	590,000	$F_{0.1}$	142,000	Average (?), declining
Pacific cod		825,000	$F_{0.1}$	178,000	Moderately high, declining
Yellowfin sole		2,660,000	$F_{0.1}$	372,000	High, stable
Greenland turbot		292,000	F_{777}^c	7,000	Low, declining
Arrowtooth flounder		378,000	$F_{0.1}$	68,000	Very high, increasing
Rock sole		1,710,000	F_{MSY}	311,000	Very high, increasing
Other flatfish		1,420,000	$F_{0.1}^d$	226,000	Very high, stable
Sablefish	EBS	11,700	$F_{0.1}$	1,400	Low, declining
	AI	25,700	$F_{0.1}$	3,000	Average, declining
POP complex					
True POP	EBS	47,000	$F_{35\%}$	2,100	Average, slow increase
Others ^e	EBS	29,700	$F=M$	1,400	Not available
True POP	AI	260,000	$F_{35\%}$	14,800	Average, slow increase
Sharp/Northern ^f	AI	94,500	$F=M$	5,670	Not available
Short/Rougheye ^g	AI	45,000	$F=M$	1,220	Not available
Lycoperid rockfish	EBS	8,000	$F=M$	400	Average, stable
	AI	18,500	$F=M$	925	Average, stable
Atka mackerel		1,170,000	$F=M^h$	351,000	Average, declining
Squid		n/a ⁱ	F_{his}^j	3,400	Not available
Other species		793,800	F_{his}^j	26,600	High, increasing
Groundfish complex				3,470,000	High, stable

a. Projected exploitable biomass for January, 1993.

b. Harvest strategy used to compute ABC.

c. Harvest strategy for Greenland turbot is ad hoc.

d. Rock sole $F_{0.1}$ rate was used as a proxy for this complex.

e. Sharpchin, northern, shortraker, and rougheye rockfish.

f. Sharpchin and northern rockfish.

g. Shortraker and rougheye rockfish.

h. Ratio of catch to start-of-year biomass equals M (0.3); corresponding F is actually somewhat lower (about 0.24).

i. Not available.

j. Fishing mortality rate corresponding to the historic average catch.

BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GROUND FISH
1992 Council Recommended Groundfish Specifications (mt)

Species	Area	Seasons ¹	ABC	TAC	ITAC ²	Seasonal Allowances	DAP	Catch Through 9/7/92
Pollock	EBS	Roe (1/20-4/15)	1,490,000	1,300,000	1,105,000	40%	1,105,000	1,170,763
		Non-Roe (6/1-12/31)					442,000	534,171
	AI 518		51,600	51,600	43,860	60%	663,000	636,592
			25,000	1,000	850		43,860	49,103
						850	128	
Pacific cod			182,000	182,000	154,700		154,700	163,251
Yellowfin sole			372,000	235,000	199,750		199,750	84,025
Greenland turbot			7,000	7,000	5,950		5,950	1,354
Arrowtooth flounder			82,300	10,000	8,500		8,500	8,068
Rock sole			260,800	40,000	34,000		34,000	37,466
Other flatfish			199,600	79,000	67,150		67,150	24,966
Sablefish	EBS		1,400	1,400	1,190		1,190	462
	AI		3,000	3,000	2,550		2,550	1,418
POP complex								
True POP	EBS		3,540	3,540	3,009		3,009	2,763
Other POP complex	EBS		1,400	1,400	1,190		1,190	297
True POP	AI		11,700	11,700	9,945		9,945	9,820
Sharp/Northern	AI		5,670	5,670	4,820		4,820	1,038
Short/Rougheye	AI		1,220	1,220	1,037		1,037	1,241
Other rockfish	EBS		400	400	340		340	364
	AI		925	925	786		786	685
Atka mackerel			43,000	43,000	36,550		36,550	46,185
Squid			3,600	2,000	1,700		1,700	492
Other species			27,200	20,000	17,000		17,000	20,730
BS/AI TOTAL			2,773,355	1,999,855	1,699,877		1,699,877	1,624,619

¹ Only the EBS pollock fishery is seasonally apportioned

² Recommended TAC less 15% reserve (does not include in-season release of reserve)

BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GROUND FISH

1993 Plan Team, SSC and AP recommendations and apportionments (mt)

Species	Area	Seasons	Council	Plan Team	SSC	Seasonal	Advisory Panel	
			ABC 1992	ABC 1993	ABC 1993	Allowance (AP)	TAC	DAP
Pollock	EBS	Roe (1/20-4/15) Non-Roe (6/1-12/31)	1,490,000	1,690,000				
	AI		51,600	67,000				
	518		25,000	142,000				
Pacific cod			182,000	178,000				
Yellowfin sole			372,000	372,000				
Greenland turbot			7,000	7,000				
Arrowtooth flounder			82,300	68,000				
Rock sole			260,800	311,000				
Other flatfish			199,600	226,000				
Sablefish	EBS		1,400	1,400				
	AI		3,000	3,000				
POP complex								
True POP	EBS		3,540	2,100				
Other POP complex	EBS		1,400	1,400				
True POP	AI		11,700	14,800				
Sharp/Northern	AI		5,670	5,670				
Short/Rougheye	AI		1,220	1,220				
Other rockfish	EBS		400	400				
	AI		925	925				
Atka mackerel			43,000	351,000				
Squid			3,600	3,400				
Other species			27,200	26,600				
BS/AI TOTAL			2,773,355	3,472,915				

1992 Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances for the BSAI Trawl Fisheries

Fishery Group	Halibut, Primary	Halibut, Secondary	Herring	Red King Crab	C. bairdi	C. bairdi
	(mt)	(mt)	(mt)	Zone1	Zone1	Zone2
1 Yellowfin sole	743	849	134	75,000	100,000	1,225,000
May-July		424				
August - December		425				
2 Rock Sole & Other Flatfish	660	755	0	85,000	700,000	300,000
First Quarter		566				
Second Quarter		95				
Third Quarter		94				
Forth Quarter		remainder				
3 G. Turbot/arrowtooth/sablefish	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Rockfish	175	200	10	0	0	50,000
First Quarter		20				
Second Quarter		60				
Third Quarter		120				
Forth Quarter		remainder				
5 Pacific Cod	1,343	1,537	29	10,000	75,000	712,500
First & Second Quarter		1,301				
Third Quarter		236				
Forth Quarter		remainder				
6 Pollock/Atka mackerel/"other sp."	1,479	1,692	210	30,000	125,000	712,500
Pollock 'A' Season		1,221		9,600	40,000	228,000
Pollock 'B' Season		471		20,400	85,000	484,500
7 Midwater Pollock	n/a	n/a	573	n/a	n/a	n/a
TOTAL	4,400	5,033	956	200,000	1,000,000	3,000,000

1993 Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances Worksheet
for BSAI Trawl Fisheries

Fishery Group	Halibut, Primary	Halibut, Secondary	Herring	Red King Crab	C. bairdi	C. bairdi
	(mt)	(mt)	(mt)	Zone1	Zone1	Zone2
1 Yellowfin sole May-July August - December						
2 Rock Sole & Other Flatfish First Quarter Second Quarter Third Quarter Forth Quarter						
3 G. Turbo/arrowtooth/sablefish						
4 Rockfish First Quarter Second Quarter Third Quarter Forth Quarter						
5 Pacific Cod First & Second Quarter Third Quarter Forth Quarter						
6 Pollock/Atka mackerel/"other sp." Pollock 'A' Season Pollock 'B' Season						
7 Midwater Pollock						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

STATE OF ALASKA

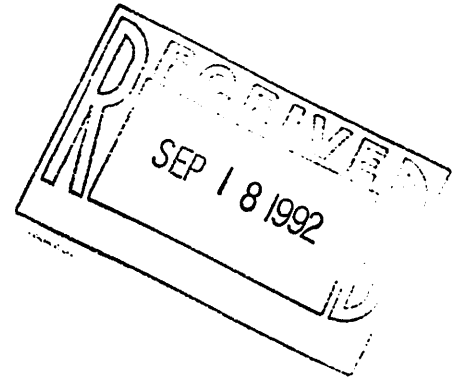
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 3-2000
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-2000
PHONE: (907) 465-4100

September 18, 1992

Dr. Clarence Pautzke
Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery
Management Council
P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, AK 99510



Dear Dr. Pautzke:

Increases in the reported biomass of herring in the Bering Sea following the spring 1992 sac roe fisheries caused the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to increase the herring bycatch caps this summer. NMFS was able to make use of special mis-specification provisions under federal regulations to accomplish the cap adjustment inseason this year. However, NMFS advises that they will be unable to repeat this procedure to revise herring bycatch caps inseason every year.

Bering Sea herring PSC caps are set at the December Council meeting based on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADF&G) biomass forecast at that time. The tendency for the ADF&G forecast to underestimate the subsequent season's biomass has understandably caused concern within the trawl industry.

Several factors have contributed to the tendency for Bering Sea herring forecasts to be less than subsequent inseason estimates. The presence of the very strong 1977-78 year classes in age composition samples during the 1980s caused us to underestimate survival rates, particularly for older-aged herring. In addition, estimates of recruitment tended to be conservative. Finally, forecasts have always been based directly on the previous year's aerial survey biomass estimate, even in years when aerial survey conditions were poor.

The forecast methods for 1993 will be revised to reflect the higher survival rates and to better account for recruitment. The revised analysis will be based on an age-structured assessment model which will allow us to maximize the use of stock assessment information other than aerial surveys, particularly in years when aerial survey conditions are known to be poor. We believe that this revised analysis will correct the chronic tendency for ADF&G forecasts to be less than the following spring's inseason biomass estimate. We recommend that the Council continue to set the Bering Sea herring PSC cap based on the fall biomass forecast.

Dr. Clarence Pautzke

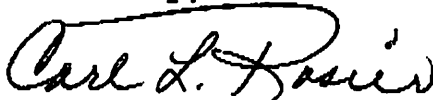
-2-

September 18, 1992

A second alternative that has been suggested would be to use the prior year's inseason estimate for setting the PSC caps. The only reason for using such a one year old biomass estimate for setting the caps would be to account for the tendency of the forecast to chronically underestimate the biomass. It would be far better to simply fix the problem with the forecast. In addition, ADF&G biomass estimates will not be revised inseason if weather precludes aerial surveys during the peak of the run. If a one year old inseason biomass estimate was being used to set bycatch caps in this situation, it is likely that industry would ask NMFS to respecify the caps inseason based on the more recent forecast.

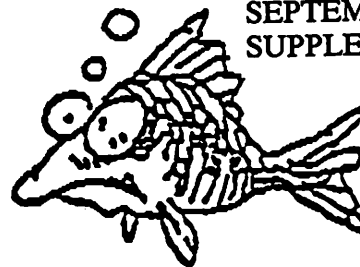
The best herring biomass estimate to use for the Council's initial 1993 bycatch cap specification at the September meeting continues to be the 230,752 metric ton figure that was used for the summer 1992 respecification of the herring PSC cap. ADF&G will provide the revised forecast analysis to the Council before the final PSC caps are specified at the December Council meeting.

Sincerely,



Carl L. Rosier
Commissioner

**North
Pacific
Longline
Association**



September 22, 1992

Mr. Richard B. Lauber, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK

RE: Cod Retention Rates/Directed Fishing Definitions

Dear Rick:

For the first time in a number of years, TAC has been achieved in the BSAI cod fishery. Where a fishery is fully utilized, it has been customary for the Council and NMFS to consider the actual bycatch needs for that species, in other fisheries.

A retention rate of 20% cod is now allowed in the yellowfin sole/flatfish fishery - a figure which likely exceeds actual bycatch needs.

We feel that it would be appropriate for NMFS and the Council to reexamine cod retention rates in the other groundfish fisheries at this time, to be sure that they reflect actual needs. The directed fisheries for cod are now able to harvest the entire TAC.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Thorn Smith

Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish
1993 Council Preliminary Recommendations and Apportionments (mt)

Species	Area / Seasons	1992 ABC	1993 Preliminary Recommendation		
			ABC	TAC	ITAC
Pollock	EBS	1,490,000	1,690,000	1,300,000	1,105,000
	Roe (1/20-4/15)			40%	442,000
	Non-Roe (6/1-12/31)			60%	663,000
	AL	51,600	67,000	51,600	43,860
	518	25,000	33,000	1,000	850
Pacific Cod		182,000	178,000	178,000	151,300
Yellowfin sole		372,000	372,000	200,000	170,000
Greenland turbot		7,000	7,000	7,000	5,950
Arrowtooth flounder		82,300	68,000	10,000	8,500
Rock sole		260,800	311,000	40,000	34,000
Other flatfish		199,600	226,000	79,000	67,150
Sablefish	EBS	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,190
	AL	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,550
POP complex					
True POP	EBS	3,540	2,100 - 3,540	2,100	1,785
Other POP Complex	EBS	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,190
True POP	AL	11,700	11,700 - 14,800	11,700	9,945
Sharp/Northern	AL	5,670	5,670	5,670	4,820
Short/Rougheye	AL	1,220	1,220	1,220	1,037
Other rockfish	EBS	400	400	400	340
	AL	925	925	925	786
Atka mackerel	BS/AI	43,000	117,000	32,000	27,200
Squid		3,600	3,400	2,000	1,700
Other Species		27,200	26,600	20,000	17,000
BS/AI TOTAL		2,773,355	3,126,815 - 3,131,355	1,948,415	1,656,153

James

Council Recommended Preliminary 1993
 Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances for the BSAI Trawl Fisheries

Fishery Group	Halibut, Primary	Halibut, Secondary	Herring	Red King Crab	C. bairdi	C. bairdi
	(mt Mortality)*	(mt Mortality)*	(mt)	Zone1	Zone1	Zone2
Yellowfin sole May 1 - Aug. 2 Aug. 3 - Dec. 31	557	637 239 239	391	75,000	100,000	1,225,000
Rocksole/other flatfish Jan. 1 - Mar. 29 Mar. 30 - June 28 June 29 - Sept. 27 Sept. 28 - Dec. 31	495	566 425 71 remainder	0	85,000	700,000	300,000
Turbot/arrowtooth/sablefish Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	0	0 0	0	0	0	0
Rockfish Jan. 1 - Mar. 29 Mar. 30 - June 28 June 29 - Sept. 27 Sept. 28 - Dec. 31	131	150 15 45 90 remainder	10	0	0	50,000
Pacific cod Jan. 1 - June 28 June 29 - Sept 27 Sept. 28 - Dec. 31	1,007	1,153 976 177 remainder	29	10,000	75,000	712,500
Pollock/mackerel/"o. species" Jan. 1 - April 15 April 16 - May 31 June 1 - Dec. 31	1,109	1,269 916 0 353	210	30,000	125,000	712,500
7 MW Pollock (Herring)	n/a	n/a	1,668	n/a	n/a	n/a
TOTAL	3,300	3,775	2,308	200,000	1,000,000	3,000,000

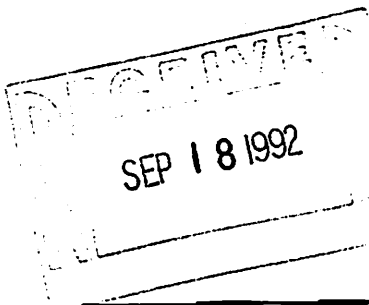
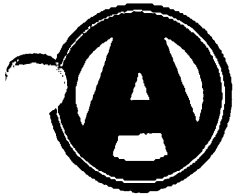
* Assumes IPHC mortality estimate for Trawl Gear of 75%

**Council Recommended Preliminary 1993
PSC Bycatch Allowances for the BSAI Non-Trawl Fisheries**

Fishery Group	Halibut** (mt)	Seasonal Apportion	
		%	(mt)
Pacific Cod	825		
Jan 1 - May 14		65%	536
May 15 - August 31		10%	83
Sept. 1 - Dec. 31		25%	206
Other Non-Trawl*	75		
Groundfish Pot	Exempt		
TOTAL	900		

* Includes Hook & Line Sable Fish, Rock fish and Jig

** Assumes IPHC mortality estimate for Hook & Line Gear of 16%



**ALASKAN
LEADER FISHERIES**
P.O. BOX 569 KODIAK, AK 99615
(907) 486-5780 FAX (907) 486-5789

Mr. Steven Pennoyer
Regional Director
National Marine Fisheries Service

September 18, 1992

Dear Steve,

Enclosed is a position paper developed by the Kodiak Longline Vessel Owners Association in seeking a rational approach to the total utilization of the available fishing quotas in all the Bering Sea-Aleutian Island area affected by halibut bycatch mortality problems. In regards to the Pacific cod fishery that this paper directly addresses, all available data suggests that the combined commercial fleet can take the total allowable catch for 1993 while reducing halibut mortality by all gear types by as much 30% (732 MT).

As both the Director of Fisheries for National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region, and a Commissioner on the International Pacific Halibut Commission, I believe you will take great interest in any overall strategy that:

1. Promotes environmentally progressive fishing techniques.
2. Minimizes halibut bycatch mortality while allowing total utilization of the available quota in any or all directed fisheries.
3. Promote any fishing strategy that enhances the stock abundance and general health of the halibut species.

We appreciate all the work you have done in the past in attempting to promote conservation while maximizing the fullest utilization of the commercial seafood harvests. Many people in the North Pacific fishing industry are tired of the endless political "allocation" of resources and believe that sound management of the resources are still based upon strong conservation, research, and enforcement practices.

Sincerely yours,

Nick Delaney
Alaskan Leader Fisheries

dnu
cc: Rick Lauber



ALASKAN LEADER FISHERIES

P.O. BOX 569 KODIAK, AK 99615
(907) 486-5780 FAX (907) 486-5789

September 18, 1992

TO: Mr. Rick Lauber Mr. Steven Pennoyer
 NPFMC NMFS

FROM: KLVOA Alaskan Leader Fisheries
 Linda Kozak Nick Delaney

SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF PACIFIC COD IN BSAI MANAGEMENT
 AREAS-1993.

GOAL: MINIMIZING HALIBUT MORTALITY BY REDUCTION OF HALIBUT
 BYCATCH LEVELS BY UP TO 30% WHILE ATTAINING FULL
 UTILIZATION OF TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH OF PACIFIC COD.

BACKGROUND: Through the use of readily available fishing techniques the combined U.S. fishing fleet is now able to harvest the entire BSAI Pacific Cod quota with as little as 1500 MT halibut bycatch mortality. This represents a reduction of over 30% or 732 MT over 1992's bycatch levels.

Employing time and area closures, parity in bycatch limits on the two major components of the fleet (longliners and trawlers), and the use of minimizing bycatch gear types (crab pots equipped with triggers), the directed fisheries for Pacific Cod can successfully achieve the total allowable catch (quota) while minimizing unnecessary halibut mortality.

With close co-operation between NMFS, industry work groups, and the commercial fleet, evidence collected from the 1990, 1991, and 1992 fishing seasons indicate that the Cod TAC can be taken with the following limits on halibut by-catch mortalities.

	Min.	Max.
Trawl Gear	750 MT	900 MT
Hook & Line Gear	750 MT	900 MT
Pot Gear	0 MT	0 MT
Total	1500 MT	1800 MT

CONCLUSION: Through the use of conservation practices rather than the process of political allocation, NPFMC and NMFS can allow the full attainment of Pacific Cod in BSAI while decreasing halibut mortality. The Halibut saved by lowering the Halibut mortality in the BS/AI Cod fishery can be used to either obtain full Total Allowable Catch in other groundfish fisheries or strengthen Halibut stocks in the North Pacific and Bering Sea.

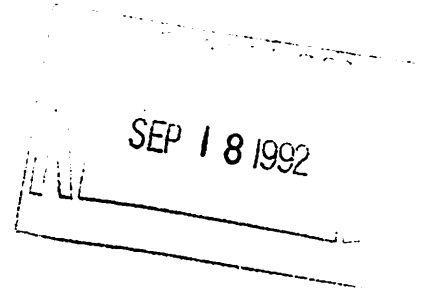


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

AGENDA D-3(e)
SEPT 1992
Supplemental

September 17, 1992

Mr. Richard B. Lauber, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, Alaska 99510



Dear Rick,

Amendment 19 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (BSAI) and Amendment 24 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska were approved by the Secretary of Commerce on July 22, 1992. Implementing regulations are scheduled to be effective October 1, 1992, except for regulations that implement the expanded vessel incentive program that will become effective at the beginning of the 1993 trawl season. The expanded program includes revised fishery definitions that require standard product recovery rates (PRRs) to extrapolate the round weight of retained catch for purposes of assigning vessels to fisheries. A proposed rule to implement PRRs has been submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for review and approval. We believe a final rule establishing PRRs will be effective by January 20, 1993, when regulations implementing the expanded incentive program become effective.

Standard bycatch rate standards for the incentive program fisheries during the first half of 1993 must be published prior to the start of the 1993 fishing year. Attached for the Council's consideration is a table that summarizes 1992 bycatch rate standards recommended by the Council at its June 1992 meeting and observed fishery bycatch rates for the revised fishery categories that are included under the expanded incentive program.

Sincerely,

Steven Pennoyer
Director, Alaska Region



Table 1. 1992 bycatch rate standards and observed bycatch rates, by quarter, of halibut and red king crab in the fishery categories included in the expanded vessel incentive program.

Halibut Bycatch as a Percentage of Allocated Groundfish

<u>Fishery and quarter</u>	<u>1992 Bycatch Rate Standards</u>	<u>1992 Observed Bycatch Rates</u>
BSAI Midwater Pollock		
QT 1	-	0.148
QT 2	.	0.069
QT 3	0.1	0.046
QT 4	0.1	*****
Year to date		0.096
BSAI Bottom Pollock		
QT 1	.	0.861
QT 2	.	0.488
QT 3	0.5	0.185
QT 4	0.5	*****
Year to date		0.633
BSAI Yellowfin sole		
QT 1	-	*****
QT 2	-	0.329
QT 3	0.5	0.395
QT 4	0.5	*****
Year to date		0.357
BSAI Other Trawl Fisheries		
QT 1	-	1.256
QT 2	-	1.480
QT 3	3.0	0.461
QT 4	3.0	*****
Year to date		1.238
GOA Midwater Pollock		
QT 1	-	0.009
QT 2	-	0.006
QT 3	0.1	0.004
QT 4	0.1	*****
Year to date		0.007
GOA Other Trawl fisheries		
QT 1	.	1.965
QT 2	.	2.162
QT 3	5.0	2.519
QT 4	5.0	*****
Year to date		2.115
Zone 1 Red King Crab Bycatch Rates (number of crab/mt of allocated groundfish)		
BSAI yellowfin sole		
QT 1	2.5	*****
QT 2	2.5	1.13
QT 3	2.5	*****
QT 4	2.5	*****
Year to date		1.13
BSAI Other Trawl		
QT 1	-	0.99
QT 2	-	1.60
QT 3	-	0.00
QT 4	-	*****
Year to date		1.02