

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, SSC, and AP Members

FROM: Jim H. Branson  
Executive Director

DATE: December 1, 1987

SUBJECT: Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan

ACTION REQUIRED

- A. Identify fully U.S. utilized groundfish species.
- B. Provide bycatch amounts of fully utilized species from ABC where necessary.
- C. Final approval of ABCs, TACs, DAPs, JVPs, TALFFs, and PSCs for 1988.

BACKGROUND

For the first time in 1985 several groundfish species were fully utilized by domestic fishermen and processors. Three species, sablefish, Pacific ocean perch (POP) and other rockfish, were subsequently designated as DAP fisheries (DAP = TAC) and JVP and TALFF fisheries for them were set at zero.

To allow JVP and TALFF fisheries to continue the Council established a policy that provides small unretainable amounts of fully utilized species to joint ventures and foreign fisheries. The bycatch amounts were subtracted from the acceptable biological catch (ABC) estimate since a buffer existed between the ABCs for these species and their TACs. The TACs (formerly called OYs) had been set below the ABCs to promote rebuilding or economic reasons. The 1985 and 1986 bycatch limits (PSCs) were implemented by emergency rule or by permit conditions.

Since the bycatch of fully utilized species has continued to be an issue, the Council approved a framework procedure for setting groundfish PSC limits for joint venture and foreign fisheries annually without plan amendment or emergency rule and used it in setting the 1987 PSCs. A recap is provided as item D-2(d)(1). The joint venture and foreign bycatch rates for these species are derived from the NMFS Foreign Observer Program. They will be applied during the meeting to the initial 1988 JVP and TALFF apportionments to estimate 1988 bycatch requirements. The plan team has reviewed the observer data and recommends using the rates provided as item D-2(d)(2). They are the same as those used last year except for rockfish, since POP and other rockfish are now managed together. The rationale is described in the November 1987 RAD. The team has recommended that you set aside a minimum of 10 mt of each species to accommodate an inadvertent bycatch of fully utilized species should the calculated requirements fall below this amount, and that the sum of the TAC and PSC not exceed the ABC.

Once the Council has reviewed the initial 1988 ABCs, TACs, PSCs, and apportionments, the figures must receive formal approval. Following the meeting, NMFS will implement them following the procedures outlined in the plan.

Fully utilized species bycatch limits in  
 the Gulf of Alaska 1985-87.

Species	Area	JV PSC	TALFF PSC	Total
<u>1985</u>				
Sablefish	W	245	140	385
	C	545	31	576
Pacific ocean perch	W	53	30	83
	C	98	16	114
Rockfish	GW	--	25	25
<u>1986</u>				
Sablefish	W/C	201	40	241
POP	W/C	31	20	51
Rockfish	W/C	45	10	55
<u>1987</u>				
Sablefish	W/C	408	0	408
POP	W/C	199	0	199
Rockfish	W/C	68	0	68

Estimated Gulf of Alaska bycatch rates for fully utilized species that will be used in managing the 1988 groundfish fisheries.

	<u>Bottom Trawl - All Areas</u>		<u>Midwater Trawl - All Areas</u>		
	<u>Sablefish</u>	<u>All Rockfish</u>	<u>Sablefish</u>	<u>Slope</u>	<u>Pelagic Shelf</u>
JVP	1.99%	4.57%	0.04%	0.09%	0.02%
TALFF	1.99%	4.57%	0.04%	0.09%	0.02%

	<u>W. Gulf Pacific Cod Longline</u>		<u>C. Gulf Pacific Cod Longline</u>	
	<u>Sablefish</u>	<u>All Rockfish</u>	<u>Sablefish</u>	<u>All Rockfish</u>
JVP	6.91%	0.39%	8.41%	0.23%
TALFF	0.05%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%



ALASKA FACTORY TRAWLER ASSOCIATION

4039 21ST AVE. WEST, SUITE 400  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98199  
(206) 285-5139

TELEFAX 206-285-1841  
TELEX 5106012568, ALASKA TRAWL SEA

RECOMMENDED TAC FOR GULF OF ALASKA

	<u>TAC</u>
POLLOCK	90,000
COD	90,000
FLOUNDERS	25,000
OTHER ROCKFISH	16,800
PELAGIC ROCKFISH	3,000
DEMERSAL ROCKFISH	1,250
THORNYHEADS	3,750
SABLEFISH	30,000