

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Alaska Region  
Juneau, Alaska  
01/09/95

## Status of Regulatory Actions Through January 9, 1995

BSAI "A" season delay to Jan 26	Final regulations effective January 12, 1995
Pribilof Island trawl closure (Amd 21a)	Final regulations effective mid-February, 1995
IFQ omnibus regulatory changes	Proposed regulations being reviewed by WDC Offices

- geographic locations of primary ports;
- require landing and weighing of all IFQ species on first landing of any species;
- hail weights: clarify "weight" with regarding clearance in Bellingham and for landing within Alaska;
- provide for landings in 3 ports in Canada;
- provide for carryover of underage to next year;
- change definition of "trip;"
- clarify that use of catcher vessel IFQ on freezer vessel must not violate catcher vessel length categories; and
- provide for synchronizing the opening of the IFQ sablefish fishery with the IFQ halibut fishery.

Exemption of sablefish H&L gear from 1995 halibut bycatch closures in GOA and BSAI; Exempt jig gear in BSAI	End of comment period on proposed rule is 01-30-95
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Directed fishing standards	Proposed regulations being reviewed in WDC
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## **Status of Regulatory Actions (continued)**

<b>Recordkeeping/reporting</b>	<b>Proposed regulations being reviewed in WDC</b>
<b>1995 Jan-June VIP standards</b>	<b>Final regulations being reviewed in WDC</b>
<b>GOA and BSAI 1995 "Specs"</b>	<b>Final regulations being prepared by Regional Office</b>
<b>Groundfish/crab vessel moratorium (Revised Amds 23/24/4)</b>	<b>Proposed regulations being prepared by Regional Office</b>
<b>Scallop FMP/vessel moratorium</b>	<b>Proposed regulations being prepared by Regional Office</b>
<b>Require processors to use scales to weigh pollock caught in pollock fisheries</b>	<b>Proposed regulations being prepared by Regional Office</b>
<b>Cod end mesh size restrictions</b>	<b>Proposed regulations being prepared by Regional Office</b>
<b>Close part of Zone 1 to trawl fishing to protect RKC in the rock sole fisheries</b>	<b>Emergency rule being reviewed in WDC</b>

COMMISSIONERS:

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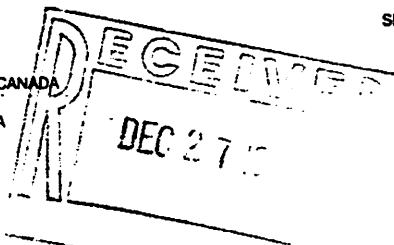
ESTABLISHED BY A CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA  
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

December 19, 1994

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COPY

Mr. Steve Pennoyer, Director  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

Dear Steve:

At the December, 1994 meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Bob Trumble presented the groundfish fishery discard mortality rates for Pacific halibut that we recommend for use as predictors for in-season management in the 1995 groundfish fisheries. These rates were calculated from the most recent data available, collected by observers on board groundfish vessels, using a procedure approved by the SSC. The Commission staff is disappointed that the Council chose not to accept the best available information when it recommended that you use roll-over values from 1994. The values used in 1994 were rolled over from 1993; the Council recommendation means we would use data from 1990 and 1991, rather than data from 1992 and 1993 as a predictor of halibut discard mortality rates in the groundfish trawl and pot fisheries, and a guess for longline made in 1992 by Commission staff on the possible response of the longline fishermen to careful release.

We believe that the Council recommendation is inappropriate, and that the Alaska Region of the National Marine Fisheries Service should use the discard mortality rates presented by the Commission staff. To do otherwise would be equivalent to ignoring recent data and model improvements when setting Acceptable Biological Catch. The Council and the Alaska Region have a history of accepting scientific advice, and should continue in this case.

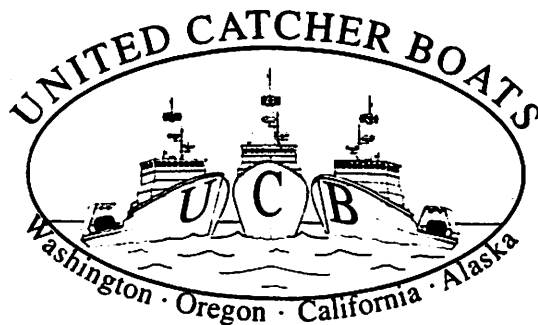
The new careful release requirement for the longline fisheries may indeed have led to discard mortality rates lower than predicted by our calculations. Encouraging continuation of longline efforts to improve careful release is in the best interests of the fleet and the halibut resource. The Commission staff will continue to work with the staff of the Observer Program to update discard mortality rates, using in-season data from 1994 and 1995 and final data from 1994, to the degree that the data are available and scientifically adequate. Hopefully, we will be able to assess the true effects of careful release by summer, so that a new rate may be calculated for the 1995 fisheries.

Sincerely,

Donald A. McCaughran  
Director

cc: Commissioners  
NPFMC

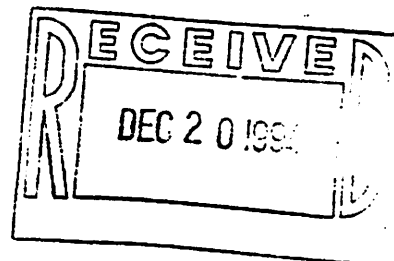
Brent C. Paine  
Executive Director



Steve Hughes  
Technical Director

December 13, 1994

Mr. Clarence G. Pautzke  
Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
P.O. Box 103136  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510



Dear Clarence:

As a follow-up to my discussions with Chris Oliver of your staff and Ron Berg with NMFS, United Catcher Boats is keenly interested in having the 20-mile sea lion rookery closures and the Bering Sea chum salmon cap discussed at the January 1995 Council meeting.

Regarding the rookeries, our interest is to insure that the 20-mile buffer zones do revert to 10-mile buffer zones after conclusion of the pollock "A" season fishery--exclusive of the CDQ fishery duration. We believe this was clearly the Council's intent. To keep the 20-mile zones intact beyond the "A" season fishery is a serious constraint to our shoreside cod fishery, both in terms of reduced cod CPUE and higher halibut bycatch rates.

The chum salmon cap and the triggered five block trawl closure was indeed a bad scene in 1994. It was never intended that chum salmon catches by factory trawlers and factory trawl/CDQ operations could count toward closure of the five block area with the CVOA during the pollock "B" season. It is our hope to have this regulation clarified before the opening of the 1995 "B" season.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

UNITED CATCHER BOATS

Steven E. Hughes  
Technical Director

SEH:sjp

cc: Ron Berg, NMFS Juneau  
Steve Pennoyer, NMFS Juneau  
Rick Lauber, Chairman NPFMC  
UCB Board of Directors

# PRIBILOF ISLANDS AREA HABITAT CONSERVATION ZONE

