

revised 5  
Sept. 77

Errata and updating for the Second Draft, Fishery Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery During 1978  
(\* = errata; \*\* = updating)

<u>Page</u>	<u>Change</u>
1-1	Change: 3.2.2 Foreign fisheries 3-10 to 3- <u>19</u> *
1-3	Add: 8.6 Observers 8-3* Change: 8.6 to <u>8.7</u> ; 8-39 to <u>8-40</u> * " 8.7 to <u>8.8</u> ; 8-40 to <u>8-41</u> * " 8.7.1 to <u>8.8.1</u> ; 8-40 to <u>8-41</u> * " 8.7.2 to <u>8.8.2</u> ; 8-40 to <u>8-41</u> * " 8.8 to <u>8.9</u> ; 8-41 to <u>8-42</u> * " 8.8.1 to <u>8.9.1</u> ; 8-41 to <u>8-42</u> * " 8.8.2 to <u>8.9.2</u> ; 8-43 to <u>8-44</u> *
2-1	Para. 1, line 3 add: " <u>fishery (excluding halibut)</u> of the Gulf ..." Between para. 1-2 add new paragraph (see Attachment 1)*
3-12	3rd para., line 3: "Longlines are 300 <u>fathoms</u> in length ..."*
3-64	Table 8 heading: "All Species ( <u>except halibut</u> )"*
3-68	Table 12 heading: "Flounders <u>other than halibut</u> "*
3-70	Table 14 heading: "Other ( <u>except halibut</u> )"*
3-72	Table 15 heading: "All species ( <u>except halibut</u> )"*
3-76	Table 19 heading: "Flounders <u>other than halibut</u> "*
3-78	Table 21 heading: "Other ( <u>except halibut</u> )"*
3-81	Table 22 heading: "U.S. Gulf of Alaska Bottomfish ( <u>excluding halibut</u> ) Catch ..."*
3-143	Delete line 7 (re Appendix II)*
4-3	Table 56, change instantaneous natural mortality rate, M for Cod from 0.7 - 0.9 to <u>0.6</u> **
4-27	Table 57: substitute Attachment 2**
4-34	Substitute Attachment 3**

- 4-35 Para. 2, lines 2-3: "...that natural mortality (M) is 0.6, the MSY of Pacific cod is estimated by the Gulland (1969) equation to be 34,800 to 69,120 ..."\*\*\*  
Para. 3, line 3: change 40,600 to 69,120 mt to 34,800 to 69,120 mt\*\*
- 4-36 Add: attachment 4 re squid  
Para. 3: change 4.7.9 to 4.7.10
- 6-3 Para. 1, lines 1-2: "Accordingly, ABC's for pollock, cod, flounders, squid, and rockfish (delete "and sablefish<sup>2</sup>") are considered ..."\*\*\*  
Between para. 1-2, add new para. (see Attachment 5)\*\*  
Delete footnote 2\*\*
- 6-5 Para. 3, lines 5-6: "three exceptions--are considered equal to ABC. The exceptions are sablefish, Pacific ocean perch ..."
- 6-6 Add new para. at bottom of page (see Attachment 6)\*\*
- 7-2 Table 60: After Atka mackerel, add "Squid 0"
- 7-4 Table 61: substitute Attachment 7\*\*
- 8-7 Table 63: After Atka mackerel add "Squid 000000"
- 8-9, 10 Substitute Attachment 8\*
- 8-18 Table 64: substitute Attachment 9\*\*
- 8-19 Lines 7-8, change to read: "This provision could be dropped in the future if the use of pelagic trawls (see Section (E)(1), below) is implemented and found to be ..."\*\*\*  
Line 11: change (F) to (C)\*
- 8-20 Line 1: change (G) to (D)\*
- 8-38 Para. 1, lines 5-6: "...and catch in metric tons of flounders, Pacific ocean perch, other rockfishes, cod, ... Atka mackerel, squid, and others ..."\*\*\*
- 8-39 Between para. 1-2, add new section: 8.6 Observers (see Attachment 10)\*  
Change 8.6 to 8.7\*
- 8-40 Change 8.7 to 8.8\*  
Change 8.7.1 to 8.8.1\*  
Change 8.7.2 to 8.8.2\*

8-41 Change 8.8 to 8.9\*  
Change 8.8.1 to 8.9.1\*

8-43 Change 8.8.2 to 8.9.2\*

11-7 General Comments, line 7, change: "...prepared by the  
Scientific and Statistical Committee--a matter..."\*

12-4 Change table as follows: \*\*

<u>Species</u>	<u>OY</u>	<u>DAH</u>	<u>FAC</u>
Cod	34.8		19.3
Sablefish	13.0	(no changes)	9.4
Squid	2.0		2.0
Total	234.0		(144.4) <u>1</u> / 274.4

12-11 3rd para. line 7, change: "determination" to  
"deterioration"

Attachment 1

Page 2-1, insert between the 1st and 2nd paragraphs

Even though the International Pacific Halibut Commission is responsible for management of the North American halibut fishery, the potential adverse impact on halibut of a fishery for other groundfish species is so great that it must be taken into account in the management of the groundfish fishery. Therefore, certain pertinent aspects of the halibut resource and the directed fishery it supports are described in this Fishery Management Plan. Throughout this document, the terms "groundfish" and "bottomfish" exclude Pacific halibut unless otherwise noted.

## Attachment 2

Table 57.--The derivation of optimum yield (OY) for Gulf of Alaska groundfish resources, 1,000's mt.

	Species	Shu- magin	Chir- ikof	Kodiak	Yakutat	South- east	Total	% EY
Exploitable biomass	Pollock	357-713	340-680	255-511	78-155	25-51	1055-2110	
	Cod	40-79	17-33	64-128	18-36	5.9-12	145-288	
	Flounders	220	69	277	154	52	772	
	POP			-Unknown-				
	Rockfish			-Unknown-				
	Sablefish			-Unknown-				
	Atka mack. Squid						(110) <sup>1/</sup>	
MSY	Pollock						169-338	
	Cod						34.8-69.1	
	Flounders						67	
	POP						125-150	
	Rockfish						7.6-10	
	Sablefish						22-25	
	Atka mack. Squid						(33) <sup>1/</sup> *2.0	
EY	Pollock						169-338	
	Cod						34.8-69.1	
	Flounders						67	
	POP						50	
	Rockfish						7.6-10	
	Sablefish						17.4-19.8	
	Atka mack. Squid						(33) <sup>1/</sup> *2.0	
ABC	Pollock	<sup>2/</sup> 57.1	54.4	40.8	12.5	4.0	168.8	100
	Cod	<sup>2/</sup> 9.6	4.1	15.3	4.3	1.5	34.8	100
	Flounders	<sup>2/</sup> 20.8	5.7	23.9	12.5	4.1	67	100
	POP	<sup>3/</sup> <5.3	<5.3	<10.4	<16.0	<13.0	<50	<100
	Rockfish	<sup>3/</sup> 0.3	0.2	0.6	3.4	3.1	7.6	100
	Sablefish	<sup>3/</sup> <2.8	<1.9	<3.2	<4.7	<4.9	<17.4	<100
	Atka mack.	<sup>4/</sup> 4.4	3.6	15.8	1.0	0	24.8	75
	Squid	<sup>5/</sup> 0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.0	100
	Others	<sup>6/</sup> 3.9	3.2	4.5	1.9	1.0	14.5	NA
OY	Pollock	57.1	54.4	40.8	12.5	4.0	168.8	100
	Cod	9.6	4.1	15.3	4.3	1.5	34.8	100
	Flounders	10.4	2.8	11.9	6.3	2.1	33.5	50
	POP	2.7	2.7	5.2	8.0	6.5	25.1	50
	Rockfish	0.3	0.2	0.6	3.4	3.1	7.6	100
	Sablefish	2.1	1.4	2.4	3.5	3.7	13.1	75
	Atka mack.	4.4	3.6	15.8	1.0	0	24.8	75
	Squid	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100
	Others	3.9	3.2	4.5	1.9	1.0	14.5	NA
	Total	90.9	72.8	96.9	41.3	22.3	324.2	

<sup>1/</sup> From unsubstantiated report of Soviet Scientists.

<sup>2/</sup> Apportioned on basis of trawl survey data.

<sup>3/</sup> Apportioned on basis of 73-75 Japanese catch.

<sup>4/</sup> Apportioned on basis of 73-75 Soviet catch.

<sup>5/</sup> Apportioned equally to each area.

<sup>6/</sup> Total = 90% of 1977 TAC; apportioned to area on basis of OY of other species.

Attachment 2

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	POP			-Unknown-				
	Rockfish			-Unknown-				
	Sablefish			-Unknown-				
	Atka mack. Squid						(110) <sup>1/</sup>	
MSY	Pollock						169-338	
	Cod						34.8-69.1	
	Flounders						67	
	POP						125-150	
	Rockfish						7.6-10	
	Sablefish						22-25	
	Atka mack. Squid						(33) <sup>1/</sup> >2.0	
EY	Pollock						169-338	
	Cod						34.8-69.1	
	Flounders						67	
	POP						50	
	Rockfish						7.6-10	
	Sablefish						17.4-19.8	
	Atka mack. Squid						(33) <sup>1/</sup> >2.0	
ABC	Pollock	<sup>2/</sup> 57.1	54.4	40.8	12.5	4.0	168.8	100
	Cod	<sup>2/</sup> 9.6	4.1	15.3	4.3	1.5	34.8	100
	Flounders	<sup>2/</sup> 20.8	5.7	23.9	12.5	4.1	67	100
	POP	<sup>3/</sup> <5.3	<5.3	<10.4	<16.0	<13.0	<50	<100
	Rockfish	<sup>3/</sup> 0.3	0.2	0.6	3.4	3.1	7.6	100
	Sablefish	<sup>3/</sup> <2.8	<1.9	<3.2	<4.7	<4.9	<17.4	<100
	Atka mack.	<sup>4/</sup> 4.4	3.6	15.8	1.0	0	24.8	75
	Squid	<sup>5/</sup> 0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.0	100
	Others	<sup>6/</sup> 3.9	3.2	4.5	1.9	1.0	14.5	NA
OY	Pollock	57.1	54.4	40.8	12.5	4.0	168.8	100
	Cod	9.6	4.1	15.3	4.3	1.5	34.8	100
	Flounders	10.4	2.8	11.9	6.3	2.1	33.5	50
	POP	2.7	2.7	5.2	8.0	6.5	25.1	50
	Rockfish	0.3	0.2	0.6	3.4	3.1	7.6	100
	Sablefish	2.1	1.4	2.4	3.5	3.7	13.1	75
	Atka mack.	4.4	3.6	15.8	1.0	0	24.8	75
	Squid	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100
	Others	3.9	3.2	4.5	1.9	1.0	14.5	NA
Total	90.9	72.8	96.9	41.3	22.3	324.2		

<sup>1/</sup> From unsubstantiated report of Soviet Scientists.

<sup>2/</sup> Apportioned on basis of trawl survey data.

<sup>3/</sup> Apportioned on basis of 73-75 Japanese catch.

<sup>4/</sup> Apportioned on basis of 73-75 Soviet catch.

<sup>5/</sup> Apportioned equally to each area.

<sup>6/</sup> Total = 90% of 1977 TAC; apportioned to area on basis of OY of other species.

Replace p. 4-34

#### 4.7.6 Sablefish

##### 4.7.6.1 Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)

Applying the general production model (Pella and Tomlinson, 1969) the MSY for sablefish stocks in the Gulf of Alaska is estimated to be 22,000-25,000 mt (Low, 1976). The upper limit of this range was exceeded in 1972 and 1973; with the development of an ROK longline fishery in 1975 and 1976 MSY was probably exceeded in those years as well.

##### 4.7.6.2 Equilibrium Yield (EY)

After several years of relative stability in catch per hachi, this standard measure of CPUE declined during the early 1970's in all areas of the Gulf of Alaska--Gulf-wide, the decline was about 30 percent from 1970 to 1975. Although this indicator increased 12 percent from 1975 to 1976, it was still 21 percent below the 1970 value.

If by 1970 (after seven years of development of this fishery, with total removals in excess of 55,000 mt) Gulf of Alaska sablefish were near the abundance level which would produce MSY, on the basis of catch per hachi data maximum equilibrium yield in 1976 was 21 percent below MSY, or 17,400-19,800 mt. Considering, however, the increasing experience of foreign fishermen and technological improvements in gear and vessels (e.g. hook size and spacing, bait, soak time, positioning equipment) catch per hachi is likely to decline more slowly than stock abundance. In fact, catch per boat-day (based on reported catch and U.S. surveillance observations), apparently declined 50 percent from 1971 to 1976. Differences in the magnitude of decline in these two CPUE values are not currently reconcilable.

The fact that a unit of longline gear has a relatively small catch potential before it is saturated introduces another possible source of bias when using its CPUE to estimate abundance trends. In this situation, abundance could decrease for some time before it reaches the gear saturation threshold and begins to affect CPUE.

Therefore, the 17,400-19,800 mt estimate of EY based on catch per hachi must be viewed as optimistic and qualified with catch per boat-day and gear saturation factors.



## Attachment 4

Page 4-36, insert between 2nd and 3rd paragraphs

### 4.7.9 Squid

#### 4.7.9.1 Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)

Although no published documentation or current research findings dealing with squid abundance or potential yield are available, incidental catches by commercial fishing and research vessels, and the incidence of squid in the stomachs of fish and marine mammals indicate a large standing stock. MSY is intuitively believed to be greater than 2,000 mt.

#### 4.7.9.2 Equilibrium Yield (EY)

Squid catches have not been reported as a separate unit by the fisheries but are believed to have been only a minor component of the "Other" category. Current EY, therefore, should be equivalent to MSY-->2,000 mt.

Attachment 5

Page 6-3, insert between 1st and 2nd paragraphs (section dealing with ABC)

Concerning sablefish, inasmuch as the most optimistic estimate current EY is 21 percent below MSY, ABC will be set below 17,400 mt (the low end of the EY range) to allow rebuilding.

Attachment 6

Add to bottom of p. 6-6 (section dealing with OY)

Sablefish--ABC for this species was considered to be 17,400 mt. In view of the trend in catch per boat-day and the potential gear saturation problem (see Section 4.7.6.2) which imply that EY may be lower than 17,400 mt, the expectation of dramatic growth in the U.S. fishery for this species, and the economic desirability for increasing the average size of sablefish available to domestic fishermen so that they can enter a larger share of their catch into the smoked-fish market at a substantially higher ex-vessel price, OY will be set at 75 percent of ABC--13,000 mt.

## Attachment 7

Table 61-The derivation of foreign allowable catch (FAC), 1,000's mt.

Species	OY	DAH	FAC
Pollock	168.8	(147.7) <sup>1/</sup> 17.7	(21.1) <sup>1/</sup> 151.1
Cod	34.8	15.5	19.3
Flounders	33.5	9.2	24.3
Pacific ocean perch	25.0	1.1	23.9
Other rockfish	7.6	2.0	5.6
Sablefish	13.0	3.6	9.4
Atka mackerel	24.8	0	24.8
Squid	2.0	0	2.0
Other species	<u>14.5</u>	0.5	14.0
Total	324.0	(179.6) <sup>1/</sup> 49.6	(144.4) <sup>1/</sup> 274.4

<sup>1/</sup> Assuming 130,000 mt delivered to foreign factoryships.

Note: Minor differences between FAC's in this table and total FAC's shown in Table 64-2 are due to rounding. The values in Table 64-2 will apply.

Attachment 8

- (1) 140°W - 147°W -- January 1 - February 15, and November 1 - December 31. *A similar but one-month shorter closure that starts on December 1 is currently in effect for foreign fishermen. This area includes the important "Yakatat" and "W" grounds where halibut concentrate for spawning during November-February. The annual incidental catch in this area has averaged about 9,000 mt. The closure reduces incidental catches of halibut, provides protection against a possible directed fishery on spawning halibut, and prevents disturbance of the spawning grounds. The benefits from the closure cannot be accurately quantified as they depend on the amount of directed (illegal) fishing on halibut and on whether effort is shifted to open areas where the incidence of halibut may be nearly as high (Sec. 3.6.2).*
- (2) 147°W - 157°W -- February 15 - May 15. *This closure is presently in effect for foreign fishermen. This closure and the one preceeding (1, above) are consecutive rather than concurrent so that the fisheries can be conducted in one part or another of the central and western Gulf of Alaska through the winter. This is the most productive area for the North American halibut fishery in the Gulf; over half of the annual catch occurs here. The annual incidental catch in this area has averaged about 1,800 mt. The incidence of halibut in the trawl fishery is highest during*

*the winter and spring (see Section 3.6.2). The closure is designed to reduce the halibut catch by trawls and allow the grounds to remain undisturbed for several months before the opening of the halibut season which usually begins in early May. Benefits from the closure cannot be accurately quantified as they depend on the amount of directed fishery on halibut and on whether effort is shifted to open areas where the incidence may be nearly as high.*

If Option II-B Chosen -- None, except emergency closures adopted under (F) below. *The impetus for domestic groundfish development should not be impeded at the outset; that fishery is not expected to be large enough in 1978 to itself cause irreparable damage to the halibut population.*

Table 64-1. Percentage of OY apportioned to each major statistical area (based on values in Table 57).

	Shumagin	Chirikof	Kodiak	Yakutat	Southeast	Total	Total OY
	----- (%) -----						(1000's mt)
Pollock	33.8	32.2	24.2	7.4	2.4	100.0	168.8
Cod	27.6	11.8	44.1	12.3	4.2	100.0	34.8
Flounders	31.0	8.0	36.0	19.0	6.0	100.0	33.5
POP	10.8	10.8	20.7	31.9	25.9	100.1	25.1
Other rockfish	4.0	3.0	8.0	45.0	41.0	101.0	7.6
Sablefish	15.9	10.9	18.2	26.8	28.2	100.0	13.1
Atka mackerel	17.7	14.5	63.7	4.0	0	99.9	24.8
Squid	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	100.0	20.0
Others	26.9	22.1	31.0	13.1	6.9	100.0	14.5

64-2. Absolute amount of FAC in each major statistical area (Percentages above times total FAC).

	Shumagin	Chirikof	Kodiak	Yakutat	Southeast	Total
	----- (%) -----					
Pollock	(7.1) <sup>1/</sup> 51.1	(6.8) <sup>1/</sup> 48.7	(5.1) <sup>1/</sup> 36.6	(1.6) <sup>1/</sup> 11.2	(0.5) <sup>1/</sup> 3.6	(21.1) <sup>1/</sup> 151.2
Cod	5.3	2.3	8.5	2.4	0.8	19.3
Flounders	7.5	1.9	8.8	4.6	1.5	24.3
POP	2.6	2.6	4.9	7.6	6.2	23.9
Other rockfish	0.2	0.2	0.4	2.5	2.3	5.6
Sablefish <sup>2/</sup>	2.0	1.3	2.3	3.3	0.5 <sup>3/</sup>	9.4
Atka mackerel	4.4	3.6	15.8	1.0	0	24.8
Squid	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.0
Others	3.8	3.1	4.3	1.8	1.0	14.0
Total	(33.3) <sup>1/</sup> 77.3	(22.2) <sup>1/</sup> 64.1	(50.5) <sup>1/</sup> 82.0	(25.2) <sup>1/</sup> 34.8	(13.2) <sup>1/</sup> 16.3	(144.4) <sup>1/</sup> 274.5

<sup>1/</sup> Assuming 130,000 mt taken by U.S. fishermen and delivered to foreign processing vessels.

<sup>2/</sup> Based on the limitation that only 500 mt may come from Southeast because most of DAH is expected from that area.

<sup>3/</sup> Incidental trawl catch only.

Note: Minor differences between total FAC in Table 2, above, and those shown in Table 61 are due to rounding. The values in this Table will apply.

## Attachment 10

Page 8-39, insert between 1st and 2nd paragraphs

### 8.6 Observers

All fishing vessels operating in this management unit will make available, at no cost to the United States, accomodation for one (two on motherships) technical observer. Observers will be assigned to individual vessels and for periods at the discretion of the U.S. Government (for foreign vessels) or the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (for domestic vessels) to: measure catch rates; estimate species, size, and age composition of the catch; collect other biological data; determine location and duration of hauls or sets; and observe gear configuration and performance.



Derivation of Proposed OY's and FAC's in 1978  
for the areas Off Alaska (1,000's mt)

9/9/77  
HAL

Fishery	Species	MSY	Current EY <sup>1/</sup>	ABC	OY	DAH	FAC	(1977) (FAC)
Bering Sea/	Pollock	1,200-1,900	1,000	<1,000	950	0	950	(950)
Aleutian	Yellowfin sole	106	--	106	106	0	106	(106)
Groundfish	Other flounders	139	--	139	139	0	139	(105)
	Rockfishes	110	30	< 30	21.5	0	21.5	(21.5)
	Sablefish	10-20	4.5	<4.5	*4.0	0	*4.0	(6.5)
	Cod	58	--	58	58	0	58	(58)
	Atka mackerel	33	--	24.8	24.8	0	24.8	(2/)
	Herring	50-100	21	18.8	*18.8	10	*8.8	(20)
	Squid	>10	--	10	10	0	10	(10)
	Others	(not applicable)		82.8	82.8	0	82.8	(93.6)
	TOTAL				1,414.9	10	1,404.9	(1,370.6)
Gulf of	Pollock	169-338	169-338	168.8	168.8	17.7 <sup>2/</sup>	151.1	(149)
Alaska	Flounders	67	--	67	33.5	9.2	24.3	(20.5)
Groundfish	Pac.ocean perch	125-150	50	< 50	25	1.1	23.9	(29)
	Other rockfishes	7.6-10	--	7.6	7.6	2	5.6	(4)
	Sablefish	22-25	17.4-19.8	<17.4	*13	3.6	*9.4	(19.5)
	Cod	34.8-69.1	--	34.8	*34.8	15.5	*19.3	(2.3)
	Atka mackerel	.33	--	24.8	24.8	0	24.8	(22)
	Squid	>2	--	2	*2	0	*2	(2/)
	Others	(not applicable)		14.5	14.5	0.5	14	(16.2)
	TOTAL				324.0	49.6	274.4	(262.5)
Bering Sea	<u>C. bairdi</u>	49	--	49	29.5	29.5	0	} (12.5)
	<u>C. opilio</u>	151	--	151	12.5	0	12.5	
	Shrimp	?	< MSY	0	0	0	0	(0)
	Snails (meat)	>3	--	3	3	0	3	(3)
	TOTAL				45	29.5	15.5	(15.5)
GRAND TOTAL					1,783.9	89.1	1,694.8	(1,648.6)

\* Different than that published 9/77 in Federal Register because of new data or analysis.

<sup>1/</sup> When stock is incapable of producing MSY

<sup>2/</sup> Included under "Others"

12

Derivation of Proposed OY's and FAC's in 1978  
for the areas Off Alaska (1,000's mt)

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HAL

Fishery	Species	MSY	Current EY <sup>1/</sup>	ABC	OY	DAH	FAC	(1977) (FAC)
Bering Sea/	Pollock	1,200-1,900	1,000	<1,000	950	0	950	(950)
Aleutian	Yellowfin sole	106	--	106	106	0	106	(106)
Groundfish	Other flounders	139	--	139	139	0	139	(105)
	Rockfishes	110	30	< 30	21.5	0	21.5	(21.5)
	Sablefish	10-20	4.5	<4.5	*4.0	0	*4.0	(6.5)
	Cod	58	--	58	58	0	58	(58)
	Atka mackerel	33	--	24.8	24.8	0	24.8	(2/)
	Herring	50-100	21	18.8	*18.8	10	*8.8	(20)
	Squid	≥10	--	10	10	0	10	(10)
	Others	(not applicable)		82.8	82.8	0	82.8	(93.6)
	TOTAL				1,414.9	10	1,404.9	(1,370.6)
Gulf of	Pollock	169-338	169-338	168.8	168.8	17.7 <sup>2/</sup>	151.1	(149)
Alaska	Flounders	67	--	67	33.5	9.2	24.3	(20.5)
Groundfish	Pac.ocean perch	125-150	50	< 50	25	1.1	23.9	(29)
	Other rockfishes	7.6-10	--	7.6	7.6	2	5.6	(4)
	Sablefish	22-25	17.4-19.8	<17.4	*13	3.6	*9.4	(19.5)
	Cod	34.8-69.1	--	34.8	*34.8	15.5	*19.3	(2.3)
	Atka mackerel	.33	--	24.8	24.8	0	24.8	(22)
	Squid	>2	--	2	*2	0	*2	(2/)
	Others	(not applicable)		14.5	14.5	0.5	14	(16.2)
	TOTAL				324.0	49.6	274.4	(262.5)
Bering Sea	<u>C. bairdi</u>	49	--	49	29.5	29.5	0	} (12.5)
	<u>C. opilio</u>	151	--	151	12.5	0	12.5	
	Shrimp	?	< MSY	0	0	0	0	(0)
	Snails (meat)	≥3	--	3	3	0	3	(3)
	TOTAL				45	29.5	15.5	(15.5)
GRAND TOTAL					1,783.9	89.1	1,694.8	(1,648.6)

\* Different than that published 9/77 in Federal Register because of new data or analysis.

<sup>1/</sup> When stock is incapable of producing MSY

<sup>2/</sup> Included under "Others"

*Commit record: Sablefish 500 name } all others approved.  
Cod 1500 name }*

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Sep.  
1977

Elmer Rasmuson, Chairman  
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

Suite 32, 333 West 4th Avenue  
Post Office Mall Building



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3136DT  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Telephone: (907) 274-4563  
FTS 265-5435

September 20, 1977

## MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

From: Executive Director

Subject: Public Comments on Gulf of Alaska Groundfish  
Fishery During 1978 Management Plan

The following summary comments were prepared after an extensive review of all:

- a. Written material sent the Council and Management Plan Drafting Team
- b. All five public hearings: Petersburg, Seattle, Anchorage, Sand Point, and Kodiak.
- c. All pertinent Council, SSC, and AP discussions and comments.

As you will see, they have been reduced to 'favor' or 'oppose' most issues. The complete transcripts are available for your inspection should you have any questions.



PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY  
DURING 1978

A. OPTIONS

1. Option I-A, which sets the Foreign Allowable Catch (FAC) equal to 90% of the Optimum Yield (OY) minus the Domestic Annual Harvest (DAH). (page 7-3)
  - a. Received no supporting comments.
2. Option I-B(1) which sets  $FAC = OY - DAH$ , and I-B(2) which sets  $FAC = (70\% OY)DAH$ . (pages 7-3, 7-4, 7-5)
3. Option II-A proposes to maximize halibut protection over groundfish development: II-A(1) and II-A(2) (pages 8-2, 8-8, 8-9)
  - a. Supported by the following:
    1. Thomas A. Casey, UFMA
    2. William S. Gilbert, Washington Fish & Oyster Co.
    3. Robert Alverson, Seattle
    4. Scott Stafne, ALFA
    5. New England Fish Company
    6. Bernie Skud, IPHC
    7. Robert Thorstenson, PFI
    8. Alan Otness, PFI
4. Option II-B proposes to fully develop the domestic groundfish fishery at the expense of foreign participation. (page 8-3)
  - a. Favored initially for the domestic industry by:
    1. New England Fish Company
  - b. Favored (if with the orderly development of halibut and groundfish) by:
    1. Kaare Ness

5. Option III-A establishes the DAH for the entire Gulf of Alaska.  
(page 8-5)
  - a. No comments
  
6. Option III-B describes DAH delivered to the shore based plants as counting against the whole Gulf of Alaska quota while pollock DAH delivered to foreign processing vessels be apportioned by major statistical areas.
  - a. Favored by:
    1. Thomas A. Casey, UFMA
    2. Robert Alverson, Seattle
  
  - b. Opposed by:
    1. Martin, OSU
  
7. Option III-C, the DAH for all species will be apportioned to individual major statistical areas. (page 8-5)
  - a. No comments

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY  
DURING 1978

B. GEAR RESTRICTIONS

1. Comments favoring similar domestic and foreign regulations.
  - a. Supported by:
    1. Mr. Gates, fisherman
    2. Thorn Tasker, fisherman
    3. Scott Stafne, ALFA
    4. William S. Gilbert, Washington Fish & Oyster Co.
    5. Robert Alverson, Seattle
  
2. Comments favoring dissimilar regulations for foreign and domestic fishermen.
  - a. Favoring:
    1. William S. Gilbert (one year only)
    2. New England Fish Company
    3. Bernard Skud, IPHC
  
3. Miscellaneous public comments regarding types and restrictions on trawling.
  - a. Favor mid-water trawling for pollock, favor off-bottom trawling for cod and others by: Mr. Gates, fisherman.
  - b. Favor mid-water or pelagic trawls in the gulf by: Robert Ely, KMIDC. (later contradicted, see below)
  - c. Favor mid-water trawling for pollock and grey cod: Mr. Hastings, fisherman.
  - d. Favor off-bottom trawling around major halibut concentration: Thomas A. Casey, UFMA.
  - e. Favor 80 mm. mesh size: New England Fish Company.
  - f. Favor unregulated domestic fleets through 1978. Request that consideration be given long line gear and pots: Mr. Moritz, fisherman.
  - g. Do not believe that longlining conflicts with pot fishing, dragging, or halibut fishing: Mr. Osterback.
  - h. KMIDC will use off-bottom trawls and not mid-water trawls: Robert Ely, KMIDC

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES  
ON THE PROGRESS OF THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
DURING THE YEAR 1921

B. GREAT BIRDS

1. Comments favoring similar domestic and foreign regulations.

a. Reported by

- 1. Mr. J. G. Cooper, Fisherman
- 2. Mr. J. G. Cooper, Fisherman
- 3. Mr. J. G. Cooper, Fisherman
- 4. Mr. J. G. Cooper, Fisherman
- 5. Mr. J. G. Cooper, Fisherman
- 6. Mr. J. G. Cooper, Fisherman
- 7. Mr. J. G. Cooper, Fisherman
- 8. Mr. J. G. Cooper, Fisherman
- 9. Mr. J. G. Cooper, Fisherman
- 10. Mr. J. G. Cooper, Fisherman

2. Comments favoring stricter regulations for foreign and domestic fisheries.

a. Favoring

- 1. Mr. J. G. Cooper (one year only)
- 2. Mr. J. G. Cooper
- 3. Mr. J. G. Cooper
- 4. Mr. J. G. Cooper

3. Miscellaneous public comments regarding laws and regulations on hunting.

a. Favorable comments on regulations for protection of waterfowl and other birds.

b. Favorable comments on regulations for protection of waterfowl and other birds.

c. Favorable comments on regulations for protection of waterfowl and other birds.

d. Favorable comments on regulations for protection of waterfowl and other birds.

e. Favorable comments on regulations for protection of waterfowl and other birds.

f. Favorable comments on regulations for protection of waterfowl and other birds.

g. Favorable comments on regulations for protection of waterfowl and other birds.

h. Favorable comments on regulations for protection of waterfowl and other birds.



PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY  
DURING 1978

C. SEASONAL HARVEST/DOMESTIC ANNUAL HARVEST

1. Support domestic annual harvest equal to 13,000 metric tons for sable fish in Gulf of Alaska off Southeast Alaska and Yakutat:
  - a. Scott Stafne, ALFA
2. Do not support DAH equal to 13,000 metric tons in the same area:
  - a. Thorstenson, PFI
  - b. Bergman, ADF&G
3. Recommend all of OY in Southeast Alaska (4,000 metric tons) be allotted to the domestic and annual harvest:
  - a. Martin, OSU

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY  
DURING 1978

D. TIME, AREA CLOSURES

1. Favoring the prohibition of all foreign longlining east and south of Cape St. Elias.
  - a. Scott Stafne, ALFA
  - b. Thomas A. Casey, UFMA
  - c. Robert Alverson, Seattle
  - d. Chris Christensen, Petersburg
  - e. Olaf Aase, Seattle
  
2. Desire all longlining be prohibited from November through February.
  - a. Scott Stafne, ALFA
  - b. Thomas A. Casey, UFMA
  
3. Request period closures for foreign trawling in the area near Kodiak Island (147° West - 157° West longitude) be extended 16 days, or from February 15 to May 31.
  - a. Scott Stafne, ALFA
  - b. Thomas A. Casey, UFMA
  - c. Bernard Skud, IPHC
  
4. Request trawling be prohibited in shaded areas known as Cross Sound Gully, Salisbury - Cape Edgecumbe and Fairweather Gully.
  - a. Scott Stafne, ALFA
  - b. Thomas A. Casey, UFMA
  - c. Olaf Aase, Seattle
  
5. Oppose the establishment of the closed areas in Southeast Alaska and Yakutat to foreign trawling.
  - a. Japanese Fishing Industry

REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF FOREIGN TRAVEL  
IN THE DISTRICT OF ALBERTA  
1918

ARTICLE 1

1. In enforcing the prohibition of all foreign landings east and south of Cape St. Nicholas.

- a. Robert Staines, M.P.
- b. Thomas A. Casey, M.P.
- c. Robert Alvenson, M.P.
- d. Chris Chisholm, M.P.
- e. Carl Aaga, M.P.

2. Where all landings be prohibited from November through February.

- a. Robert Staines, M.P.
- b. Thomas A. Casey, M.P.

3. Request and travel period closure for foreign travel in the area west of the 117th Meridian (West of 117th Meridian) be extended to days or from February 15 to May 31.

- a. Robert Staines, M.P.
- b. Thomas A. Casey, M.P.
- c. General St. John, M.P.

4. Request and travel be prohibited in shaded areas known as Great Horns Bay, Bellis Bay - Cape Thorsen and Wainwright Bay.

- a. Robert Staines, M.P.
- b. Thomas A. Casey, M.P.
- c. Carl Aaga, M.P.

5. Where and across the landings of the closed areas in Southern Alaska and British Columbia.

- a. Thomas Staines, M.P.

6. Request permission to fish at depths of less than 500 meters for pacific cod in waters west of 157° West longitude.
  - a. Japanese Fishing Industry
7. Request allocation of pacific cod in the area west of 157° West longitude.
  - a. Japanese Fishing Industry
8. Favor all closures listed in Section 8.3.2.3.
  - a. U.S. Coast Guard, Juneau

6. Request permission and license to fish at depths of less than 200 meters for Pacific cod in waters west of 127° West longitude.

a. Japanese Fishing Industry

7. Request and request allocation of Pacific cod in the area west of 127° West longitude.

a. Japanese Fishing Industry

8. Lower and propose all closures listed in Section 1.1.1.

a. U.S. Coast Guard, Japanese

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY  
DURING 1978

E. OY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Propose OY for sablefish be set at 10,000 to 13,000 metric tons.
  - a. Scott Stafne, ALFA
2. Question general increases in 1978 OY's off Southeast Alaska.
  - a. Robert Alverson, Seattle
3. Believe there is no decline in sablefish stocks in the Gulf of Alaska and seriously question reduction of OY.
  - a. Japanese Fishing Industry
4. Believe OY for halibut stocks could be built back to 40 to 50 million pounds.
  - a. Bernard Skud, IPHC
5. Request by New England Fish Company for an allocation guarantee for 10,000 metric tons cod, 8,500 metric tons pollock, 4,000 metric tons flounder in the Gulf of Alaska for 1978.
  - a. New England Fish Company
6. Japanese have requested an allowable catch increase to 200,000 metric tons pollock, 30,000 metric tons pacific perch, 24,000 tons mackerel, and all others at 1977 levels.
  - a. Japanese Fishing Industries
7. Support reduction in OY for flounders from 33,500 metric tons as the 23,900 metric ton foreign allowable catch might jeopardize the halibut resource.
  - a. Washington Department of Fish & Game staff

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ALASKA GOVERNMENT  
ALASKA GOVERNMENT

ALASKA GOVERNMENT

1. Governor and Board of Directors for Alaska State Bank, Inc. to be set at \$10,000,000.
2. Alaska State Bank, Inc. to be set at \$10,000,000.
3. Alaska State Bank, Inc. to be set at \$10,000,000.
4. Alaska State Bank, Inc. to be set at \$10,000,000.
5. Alaska State Bank, Inc. to be set at \$10,000,000.
6. Alaska State Bank, Inc. to be set at \$10,000,000.
7. Alaska State Bank, Inc. to be set at \$10,000,000.
8. Alaska State Bank, Inc. to be set at \$10,000,000.

8. Request OY for pollock, flounders, pacific ocean perch, and other odd fish be reduced by 15% for 1978 for halibut enhancement.

a. Robert Alverson, Seattle

9. Recommend no pacific ocean perch allowable catch in the Gulf of Alaska.

a. Magne Ness, Seattle



PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY  
DURING 1978

F. OTHER COMMENTS

1. Propose that all by-catch be fully utilized.
  - a. New England Fish Company
2. KMIDC announced by-catch plan for 30% of 130,000 metric ton allocation.
  - a. Robert Ely, KMIDC
3. Recommend for foreign allocations all species on the list be allocated to each nation.
  - a. U.S. Coast Guard, Juneau
4. Notation that the Management Plan will place significant additional burdens on U.S. Coast Guard resources.
5. Require all vessels processing fish within the 200 mile limit work under the same set of standards that the industry is bound to: Jim Ferguson, Pelican Cold Storage.
6. Plan should use 15¢ per pound estimate for flounder as opposed to 10¢: Washington Department of Fish & Game staff.





**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center  
Resource Ecology & Fisheries Management  
2725 Montlake Blvd. East  
Seattle, WA 98112

June 30, 1977

JUL 28 1977

Mr. Scott Stafne  
Attorney at Law  
759 Harvard Avenue East  
Seattle, WA 98102

Dear Scott:

I would like to make several comments concerning your letter of June 27 to Jim Branson (copied to Dr. Alverson and me).

In paragraph 2 of page 1, you state that several documents "clearly indicate that sablefish have been overexploited and face the probability of continued decline in future years." For the Gulf of Alaska, I do not now see a clear indication of biological overexploitation. Catch per boat-day is, in my judgment, a valuable index of abundance and it did decline about 50 percent from 1971-74. On the other hand, catch per longline unit, also a commonly used estimator of abundance, shows only the following changes between 1971-74 (from SPP, Appendix 4):

Western Gulf	+ 7.4%
Northwestern Gulf	- 7.4%
Northeastern Gulf	- 14.1%
Southeastern-Charlotte	+ 0.1%
Total for region	- 5.3%

Remember that when MSY is being produced, abundance of the exploitable portion of the stock will be about half that of the virgin stock. One might argue that abundance has been reduced to the point where catch rates may not be economic for American fishermen, but with virtually no U.S. fishing in the past in outside waters we really do not know what our catch rates will be.

At the bottom of the first page of your letter, the annual catches (not catch rate), from 1973-75 quite possibly reflect bilateral regulatory restrictions on the Japanese sablefish fishery as well as (or instead of) declining abundance: in 1973, Japanese longliners were,



for the first time, limited to 25,000 mt of sablefish; in 1975, Japanese trawlers, for the first time, were also limited in their catch of sablefish. By the way, the total sablefish catch in the Gulf in 1975 should be about 24.5 thousand mt rather than the 21 you show--the figure given for Japan in your source (FMP) was only for January-July.

In the second paragraph of page 2, you state that "...1975 and 1976 yielded the lowest catch rates in recent years." What is your source for that?

In the fourth paragraph, you cite the TPP and state "...disturbing evidence that the large increase in the pollock population in the Gulf of Alaska corresponds proportionally with the decline of sablefish and POP." That reference did not say "corresponds proportionally" but instead said that the increase in pollock was "coincident" with the decrease in POP and sablefish, the meaning being concurrent not necessarily caused by. Also, in the quotation in the middle of that paragraph you left out the important caveat "...(and such a relationship is only conjectural at this point)...". In summary, it is a fact that pollock have increased in abundance and POP and sablefish have decreased in abundance. However, any relation between those events is conjectural and if one does exist it could have been caused by any number of phenomena or, more likely, combinations of phenomena. If such a change is a result of changes in the oceanographic ~~eliminate~~<sup>eliminate</sup>, restoration of earlier species balances by trying to manipulate the fishery would be futile, and we would then have to calculate new values of MSY and EY that reflect the new situation. If, however, the change occurred because of uneven exploitation patterns, most ecologists would argue that the change is reversible; once fishing pressure was relaxed on, say, sablefish, they would quickly increase in abundance to former levels even though another species, say pollock, had temporarily ventured into that niche.

With regard to much of what you've said on page 3, I would like to point out that current EY equals MSY for any population that is biologically capable of producing MSY, whether unfished, lightly fished, or fished heavily (i.e. producing MSY). EY is less than MSY only when the stock has been reduced to the point where MSY is no longer attainable. As long as sablefish abundance is at or above that required to produce MSY, the rationale of setting ABC at the low end of the EY range seems, to me, to be as valid as it is for pollock, flounders, or cod.

In the second to the last paragraph on page 3, you mention "...the accelerating decline of sablefish." I can find no evidence of an accelerating decline; in fact, the catch per vessel-day index (the one which indicates the greatest decline in sablefish abundance) dropped the most between 1973 and 1974 and then was almost stable from 1974 to 1975.

As I have promised, we are in the process of reevaluating the condition of the Gulf of Alaska sablefish resource and the second draft of the groundfish FMP has been so annotated. You may well be correct in your assertion that sablefish have been, in the biological sense, overfished; if our analysis confirms that, we will, of course, make appropriate revisions in EY, ABC, and OY.

Sincerely yours,

H. A. Larkins  
Deputy Director

cc: Branson ✓  
Alverson

bc: Low  
Fukuhara

HALarkins:jn

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY  
DURING 1978

A. OPTIONS

1. Option I-A (page 7-3)
  - a. Received no supporting comments.
2. Option I-B: I-B(1) and I-B(2) (page 7-3, 7-4, 7-5)
  - a. Sub-option I-B(2) favored by:
    1. Thomas A. Casey, UFMA
    2. Ed Furia, NEFCO
    3. Scott Stafne, ALFA
    4. Robert Alverson, Seattle
    5. Reid Rogers, NEFCO
    6. Robert Ely, KMIDC
3. Option II-A: II-A(1) and II-A(2) (page 8-2, 8-8, 8-9)
  - a. Preferred and supported by the following:
    1. Thomas A. Casey, UFMA
    2. William S. Gilbert, Washington Fish & Oyster Co.
    3. Robert Alverson, Seattle
    4. Scott Stafne, ALFA
    5. New England Fish Company
    6. Bernie Skud, IPHC
    7. Robert Thorstenson, PFI
    8. Alan Otness, PFI
4. Option II-B (page 8-3)
  - a. Favored initially for the domestic industry by:
    1. New England Fish Company
  - b. Favored (if with the orderly development of halibut and groundfish) by:
    1. Kaare Ness

5. Option III-A

a. No comments

6. Option III-B

a. Favored by:

1. ~~Thomas A. Casey, UFMA~~
2. ~~Robert Alvelson, Seattle~~

b. Opposed by:

1. Martin, OSU

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY  
DURING 1978

B. GEAR RESTRICTIONS

1. Comments favoring similar domestic and foreign regulations.
  - a. Supported by:
    1. Mr. Gates, fisherman
    2. Thorn Tasker, fisherman
    3. Scott Stafne, ALFA
    4. William S. Gilbert, Washington Fish & Oyster Co.
    5. Robert Alverson, Seattle
2. Comments favoring dissimilar regulations for foreign and domestic fishermen.
  - a. Favoring:
    1. William S. Gilbert (one year only)
    2. New England Fish Company
    3. Bernard Skud, IPHC
3. Miscellaneous public comments regarding types and restrictions on trawling.
  - a. Favor mid-water trawling for pollock, favor off-bottom trawling for cod and others by: Mr. Gates, fisherman.
  - b. Favor mid-water or pelagic trawls in the gulf by: Robert Ely, KMIDC.
  - c. Favor mid-water trawling for pollock and grey cod: Mr. Hastings, fisherman.
  - d. Favor off-bottom trawling around major halibut concentration: Thomas A. Casey, UFMA.
  - e. Favor 80 mm. mesh size: New England Fish Company.
  - f. Favor unregulated domestic fleets through 1978. Request that consideration be given long line gear and pots: Mr. Moritz, fisherman.
  - g. Do not believe that longlining conflicts with pot fishing, dragging, or halibut fishing: Mr. Osterback.
  - h. KMIDC will use off-bottom trawls and not mid-water trawls: Robert Ely, KMIDC



PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY  
DURING 1978

C. SEASONAL HARVEST/DOMESTIC ANNUAL HARVEST

1. Support domestic annual harvest equal to 13,000 metric tons for sable fish in Gulf of Alaska off Southeast Alaska and Yakutat:
  - a. Scott Stafne, ALFA
2. Do not support DAH equal to 13,000 metric tons in the same area:
  - a. Thorstenson, PFI
  - b. Bergman, ADF&G
3. Recommend all of OY in Southeast Alaska (4,000 metric tons) be allotted to the domestic and annual harvest:
  - a. Martin, OSU

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY  
DURING 1978

D. TIME, AREA CLOSURES

1. Favoring the prohibition of all foreign longlining east and south of Cape St. Elias.
  - a. Scott Stafne, ALFA
  - b. Thomas A. Casey, UFMA
  - c. Robert Alverson, Seattle
  - d. Chris Christensen, Petersburg
  - e. Olaf Aase, Seattle
  
2. Desire all longlining be prohibited from November through February.
  - a. Scott Stafne, ALFA
  - b. Thomas A. Casey, UFMA
  
3. Request and favor period closures for foreign trawling in the area near Kodiak Island (147° West - 157° West longitude) be extended 16 days, or from February 15 to May 31.
  - a. Scott Stafne, ALFA
  - b. Thomas A. Casey, UFMA
  - c. Bernard Skud, IPHC
  
4. Request and favor trawling be prohibited in shaded areas known as Cross Sound Gully, Salisbury - Cape Edgecumbe and Fairweather Gully.
  - a. Scott Stafne, ALFA
  - b. Thomas A. Casey, UFMA
  - c. Olaf Aase, Seattle
  
5. Oppose and protest the establishment of the closed areas in Southeast Alaska and Yakutat to foreign trawling.
  - a. Japanese Fishing Industry

6. Request permission and desire to fish at depths of less than 500 meters for pacific cod in waters west of 157<sup>o</sup> West longitude.
  - a. Japanese Fishing Industry
7. Request and desire allocation of pacific cod in the area west of 157<sup>o</sup> West longitude.
  - a. Japanese Fishing Industry
8. Favor and propose all closures listed in Section 8.3.2.3.
  - a. U.S. Coast Guard, Juneau

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY  
DURING 1978

E. OY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Favor and propose OY for sablefish be set at 10,000 to 13,000 metric tons.
  - a. Scott Stafne, ALFA
2. Question general increases in 1978 OY's off Southeast Alaska.
  - a. Robert Alverson, Seattle
3. Believe there is no decline in sablefish stocks in the Gulf of Alaska and seriously question reduction of OY.
  - a. Japanese Fishing Industry
4. Believe OY for halibut stocks could be built back to 40 to 50 million pounds.
  - a. Bernard Skud, IPHC
5. Request by New England Fish Company for an allocation guarantee for 10,000 metric tons cod, 8,500 metric tons pollock, 4,000 metric tons flounder in the Gulf of Alaska for 1978.
  - a. New England Fish Company
6. Japanese have requested an allowable catch increase to 200,000 metric tons pollock, 30,000 metric tons pacific perch, 24,000 tons mackerel, and all others at 1977 levels.
  - a. Japanese Fishing Industries
7. Believe and support reduction in OY for flounders from 33,500 metric tons as the 23,900 metric ton foreign allowable catch might jeopardize the halibut resource.
  - a. Washington Department of Fish & Game staff

8. Request and favor OY for pollock, flounders, pacific ocean perch, and other odd fish be reduced by 15% for 1978 for halibut enhancement.

a. Robert Alverson, Seattle

9. Recommend and favor no pacific ocean perch allowable catch in the Gulf of Alaska.

a. Magne Ness, Seattle

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY  
DURING 1978

F. OTHER COMMENTS

1. Propose that all bi-catch be fully utilized.
  - a. New England Fish Company
2. KMIDC announced bi-catch plan for 30% of 130,000 metric ton allocation.
  - a. Robert Ely, KMIDC
3. Recommend for foreign allocations all species on the list be allocated to each nation.
  - a. U.S. Coast Guard, Juneau
4. Notation that the Management Plan will place significant additional burdens on U.S. Coast Guard resources.
5. Propose and require all vessels processing fish within the 200 mile limit work under the same set of standards that the industry is bound to: Jim Ferguson, Pelican Cold Storage.
6. Plan should use 15¢ per pound estimate for flounder as opposed to 10¢: Washington Department of Fish & Game staff.

TAB 5

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN  
DURING 1978.

ERRATA SHEET

Page 1, under A. OPTIONS, number 2 Sub-option I-B2 favored by:

- a. Thomas A. Casey, UFMA
- b. Ed Furia, NEFCO
- c. Scott Stafne, ALFA
- d. Robert Alverson, Seattle
- e. Reid Rogers, NEFCO
- f. Robert Ely, KMIDC

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

## CHAIRMAN

Mr. Elmer Rasmuson  
P.O. Box 600  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Suite 32, 333 West 4th Avenue  
Post Office Mall Building  
Phone: 907-274-4563  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3136DT  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

## COUNCIL ACTIONS REQUIRED ON GULF OF ALASKA GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

#### OPTION II-A

Protect the halibut resources, and develop the U.S. groundfish fishery consistent with that aim and at the expense of foreign participation.

#### OPTION II-B

Allow for full development of U.S. groundfish fishery at the expense of foreign participation. Protect the halibut resource only as consistent with full groundfish development.

These two options are considered the extremes for management objectives. Generally option A has been favored in public comment and Council discussions. It was formally approved by the Advisory Panel. Regulations aimed at some middle ground between the two options are also feasible.

### SEASONAL DIVISION OF DAH

#### OPTION II-A

- (1) No more than 25% of the DAH to be caught between December 1 and May 31.

#### OPTION II-B

- (1) Seasonal division of DAH.

### TIME AREA CLOSURES

#### OPTION II-A

- (2) close U.S. trawl and longline fisheries from 140° to 147° W. longitude from November 1 to February 15.
- (3) close U.S. trawl and longline fisheries from 147° to 157° W. longitude from February 15 to May 15 (it has been recommended that the closing date be moved up to May 31).

#### OPTION II-B

- (2) None except on emergency basis.
- (3) None except on emergency basis.



GEAR RESTRICTIONS

OPTION II-A

(4) From December 1 to May 31 "off bottom" trawls only (no net sonde required).

OPTION II-B

(4) No gear restrictions

MANAGEMENT TEAM COMMENTS ON ADVISORY PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Set sablefish EY at 16,600 mt

MSY=22,000-25,000 mt

	1970-76	1971-76
	c/hachi	c/boat-day
catch rate trend	-21%	-50.3%
current EY	17,400-19,700	10,900-12,400

Boat-day data may have been underestimated in 1971-73 period- if so, decline in catch/boat-day would be less (perhaps -30%). Although Japan reported a 12% increase in catch/hachi from 1975-76, catch/boat-day continued to decline through early 1977. Therefore, ABC should be less than 17,400 mt, the low end of the most optimistic EY range.

2. Set sablefish OY at 13,000 mt

Assuming:

- (a) Current Ey = 17,400
- (b) Desire to rebuild stock to level that will produce low end of MSY range (22,000 mt).
- (c) M = 22; therefore, 78% of unexploited surplus production will accrue to the exploitable bio-mass.

TIME TO RE-BUILD

OY

4 years	16,000 mt
3 years	15,400 mt
2 years	14,000 mt
1 year	11,400 mt

DAH is estimated to be 4,000 - 8,000 mt. Therefore, DAH/FAC schedule could be:

OY	with 30% of OY reserved			no reserve	
	Reserve	DAH	FAC	DAH	FAC
16,000	4,800	4,000	7,200	8,000	8,000
15,400	4,600	4,000	6,800	8,000	7,400
14,000	4,200	4,000	5,800	8,000	6,000
11,400	3,400	4,000	4,000	8,000	3,400

3. No foreign longline south and east of Cape St. Elias;

Using figures in previous table, suballocations of sablefish to areas east of Cape St. Elias (i.e., all of Southeast and that portion of YAKUTAT which provided 84% of that area's Japanese sablefish catch in 1975) would be:

TOTAL OY	84% of Yakutat	Southeastern	E & S of Cape St. Elias
16,000	3,600	4,500	8,100
15,400	3,400	4,300	7,700
14,000	3,200	3,900	7,100
11,400	2,600	3,200	5,800

Assume 75% of DAH will come from Southeastern  
 20% " " " Yakutat  
 5% " " " Kodiak-Shumagin

	OY	(30% reserve)			(no reserve)		
		Reserve	DAH	FAC	DAH	FAC	
SOUTHEAST	4,500	1,500	3,000	0	4,500	0	
	3,300	1,300	3,000	0	4,300	0	
	3,900	900	3,000	0	3,900	0	
	3,200	200	3,000	0	3,200	0	
	3,600	1,100	800	1,700	1,500 (S.E.)		500
					1,600 (Yak)		
					3,100		
	3,400	1,000	800	1,600	1,700 (S.E.)		
					1,600 (Yak)		
					3,300		
YAKUTAT	3,200	1,000	800	1,400	2,100 (S.E.)		
					1,600 (Yak)		
					3,200		
	2,600	800	800	1,00	2,800 (S.E.)		
				1,600 (Yak)			
				4,400			

With 30% reserve and DAH = 4,000, DAH/FAC schedule for east and south of Cape St. Elias would be:

<u>if overall</u> <u>OY is</u>	<u>DAH</u>	<u>FAC</u>	<u>RESERVE</u>
16,000			
15,400	3,800	1,700	2,600
14,000	3,800	1,600	2,300
11,400	3,800	1,400	1,900
	3,800	1,000	1,000

With no reserve and DAH = 8,000, DAH/FAC schedule for east and south of Cape St. Elias would be:

<u>if overall</u> <u>OY is</u>	<u>DAH</u>	<u>FAC</u>
16,000	7,600	500
15,400	7,600	100
14,000	7,100	0
11,400	5,800	0

CONCLUSION: Can not justify prohibition against foreign sablefishing east and south of Cape St. Elias; CAN justify closing all of Southeastern and perhaps that portion of YAKUTAT east of 142° W. (roughly eastern half of YAKUTAT which includes "Fairweather Gully" sanctuary).

*As recommended*  
4. NO foreign or domestic trawling year-round in four sablefish sanctuaries:

Because of known concentrations of foreign trawlers in Yakutat and Southeastern areas, risk of gear conflict with increasing number of domestic longliners is great. Protection from foreign trawlers is believed to be a necessary incentive for expansion of the domestic sablefish fishery to outside waters. Therefore, foreign trawling should be prohibited in sanctuary areas.

There is however, no reason to believe that such a conflict will occur with domestic trawlers and the team feels that constraints on domestic trawlers should not be considered until the risk of domestic gear conflicts is judged to be high. At that time, the entire question of preferential access to particular stocks (sablefish) or grounds (sanctuaries) by different domestic user groups should be evaluated in light of then current circumstances. Therefore, domestic trawling should not now be prohibited in the sablefish sanctuaries.

5. Other waters:

(a) For purposes of more efficient enforcement, the "Salisbury Sound" and "Cape Edgecumbe" areas could be merged into one as follows:

south of 57° 24' N  
east of 137° 00' W  
north of 56° 53' N

This change results in a net enlargement of the sanctuary area of only six (6) minutes of latitude (6 nautical miles) where much of the trawlable ground is inside of 12 miles.

(b) The effect of the sablefish sanctuaries on the ability of foreign trawlers to catch allocated species should be minor. The sanctuaries compose a total area in which roughly 2% of the total Japanese Gulf of Alaska trawl effort (900 of 39,000 hours) and only 4% of their Yakutat-Southeastern trawl effort ((900 of 24,600 hours) was expended. The effect of the sanctuaries on the ability of the foreign setlines to take their allocations of sablefish will be nil -- FAC in Southeastern is 0; FAC in Yakutat will be less than half of that area's OY, but in the one sanctuary there was no more than 10% of the Japanese sablefish catch from Yakutat taken in 1975.

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM COMMENTS ON ADVISORY PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Set sablefish EY at 16,600 mt:

MSY for sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska has been estimated to be 22,000-25,000 mt. Two sets of CPUE data indicate that abundance has declined over the last 7 years to the point where MSY is not now attainable.

Assuming that the fishery was fully developed in 1970 with abundance near the level that would produce MSY, catch per skate information indicates a current equilibrium yield (EY) of 17,400-19,700 mt; catch per boat-day information indicates an EY of 10,900-12,400 mt.

Catch/skate is based entirely on Japanese data; catch/boat-day is based on U.S. surveillance observations for effort and catch reports from Japan. Catch/boat-day, as an indication of relative abundance, has several advantages over catch/skate, but we have found some problems in the boat-day data base that could affect its precision. Until those problems are rectified, we believe that catch/skate should be relied upon while remaining cognizant of the more severe decline in the catch/boat-day trend. Accordingly, the Team believes that ABC should be <17,400 mt (i.e., below the low end of the more optimistic range of EY).

2. Set sablefish OY at 13,000 mt:

Assuming:

- (a) Current EY = 17,400;
- (b) Desire to rebuild stock to level that will produce low end of MSY range (22,000 mt);
- (c)  $M = .22$ ; therefore about 78% of the annual unexploited surplus production will accrue to the exploitable biomass; and
- (d) Average growth and survival:

<u>Expected time to rebuild to MSY</u>	<u>OY</u>
4 years	10,000 mt
5 years	12,000 mt
7 years	14,000 mt
10-11 years	16,000 mt

3. No foreign longlining east of Cape St. Elias:

Using the range of OY given in #2, above, and with a sablefish DAH of 4,000-8,000<sup>1/</sup> mt, the DAH/FAC schedule for the entire Gulf could be as follows (using 4,000 mt DAH if 30% of OY is reserved and 6,000 mt DAH if no reserve is allowed):

---

<sup>1/</sup> NMFS survey of processors in spring 1977 indicated DAH of about 4,000 mt; ALFA projects a minimum DAH of 8,000 mt.

OY	w/reserve			w/o reserve	
	Reserve	DAH	FAC	DAH	FAC
16,000	4,800	4,000	7,200	6,000	10,000
14,000	4,200	↓	5,800	↓	8,000
12,000	3,600	↓	4,400	↓	6,000
10,000	3,000	↓	3,000	↓	4,000

If we assume that 95% of the sablefish DAH will come from Southeastern and the eastern portion of Yakutat, the OY/DAH/FAC schedule for Southeastern plus various portions of Yakutat would be as shown in Table 1.

That portion of Yakutat (in addition to all of Southeastern) which could be closed to foreign fishing for sablefish depends upon (1) the level of OY, and (2) whether or not the 30% reserve concept is applied. The area east of Cape St. Elias could be closed only if OY is set at or lower than 10,000 mt; the area east of 140°W, however, could be closed if any of the 3 lowest OY levels are chosen.

4. No foreign or domestic longlining anywhere in the Gulf of Alaska during November-February:

The Team could find no potential benefit of this proposal to the sablefish resource--i.e., there is no reason to believe that fishing during the spawning period would be any worse than fishing at other times; and, the quest of poor quality of sablefish during the spawning period is an economic one with no biological ramifications (in fact, if condition is poor, market and price factors would be expected to limit the fishery during the spawning period). Therefore, this recommendation should be judged only in the context of halibut protection.

The two winter closures to all foreign fishing (and to domestic fishing if Option II-A is chosen), and the prohibition against foreign longlining landward of the 500 m (272 fathom) isobath are designed to protect halibut--the Team questions the need for additional protection during winter.

With regard to the effects of <sup>a</sup> deepwater longline fishery for sablefish on halibut (i.e., illegal retention of halibut and hooking mortality to those halibut that break loose or are returned to the sea), the team is unable to evaluate its significance and suggests that IPHC present its views directly to the Council before action is taken on this Advisory Panel recommendation. The Team has taken the liberty of notifying IPHC of this suggestion (Larkins to Hoag phone call, September 16). If IPHC believes that this additional measure would reduce significantly the mortality of halibut, the Team recommends that the winter restriction in longlining be included in the FMP. If, on the

Table 1.--OY/DAH/FAC schedule for Southeastern and parts of Yakutat.

If OY for Gulf is:	East of Cape St. Elias				East of 141°W				East of 140°W			
	OY	Reserve	DAH	FAC*	OY	Reserve	DAH	FAC*	OY	Reserve	DAH	FAC*
<u>With 30% reserve</u>												
16,000	8,200	2,500	3,800	1,900	6,600	2,000	3,800	800	6,100	1,800	3,800	500
14,000	7,100	2,100	3,800	1,200	5,700	1,700	3,800	200	5,300	1,600	3,700 <sub>1/</sub>	0
12,000	6,100	1,800	3,800	500	4,900	1,500	3,400 <sub>1/</sub>	0	4,600	1,400	3,200 <sub>1/</sub>	0
10,000	5,100	1,500	3,600 <sub>1/</sub>	0	4,100	1,200	2,900 <sub>1/</sub>	0	3,800	1,100	2,700 <sub>1/</sub>	0
<u>Without reserve</u>												
16,000	8,200	0	5,700	2,500	6,600	0	5,700	900	6,100	0	5,700	400
14,000	7,100	0	5,700	1,400	5,700	0	5,700	0	5,300	0	5,300 <sub>1/</sub>	0
12,000	6,100	0	5,700	400	4,900	0	4,900 <sub>1/</sub>	0	4,600	0	4,600 <sub>1/</sub>	0
10,000	5,100	0	5,100 <sub>1/</sub>	0	4,100	0	4,100 <sub>1/</sub>	0	3,800	0	3,800 <sub>1/</sub>	0

\*Initial FAC; depending on domestic fishery performances, final FAC could be larger because of appointment of reserve.

1/ Less than full DAH to prevent exceeding OY.



other hand, IPHC feels that the two winter closures and the depth restriction are sufficient to alleviate the incidental catch problem, or that the sablefish fishery by itself is not a serious source of halibut mortality, the Team recommends that this restriction not be implemented.

5. No foreign or domestic trawling year-round in four sablefish sanctuaries:

Because of known concentrations of foreign trawlers in Yakutat and Southeastern areas, the risk of gear conflict with increasing numbers of domestic longliners is great. Protection from foreign trawlers is believed to be a necessary incentive for expansion of the domestic sablefish fishery to outside waters. Therefore, foreign trawling should be prohibited in the sanctuary areas. (If there is a FAC for sablefish in the eastern part of Yakutat or Southeastern, this prohibition on foreign trawling in the sanctuaries should also apply to foreign longlining.)

There is, however, no reason to believe that such a conflict will occur with domestic trawlers in 1978 and the Team feels that constraints on domestic trawling should not be imposed until domestic gear conflicts occur or are believed imminent. At that time, the entire question of preferential access to particular stocks (sablefish) or grounds (sanctuaries) by different domestic user groups should be reevaluated in light of then current circumstances. Therefore, domestic trawling should not now be prohibited in the sablefish sanctuaries.

6. Other matters:

(a) For purposes of more efficient enforcement, the "Salisbury Sound" and "Cape Edgecumbe" sanctuaries should be merged into one, as follows:

south of 57°24'N  
east of 137°00'W  
north of 56°53'N

This change results in a net enlargement of the sanctuary area of 6 minutes of latitude (6 nautical miles) where much of the trawlable ground is inside of 12 miles.

(b) The effect of the sablefish sanctuaries on the ability of foreign trawlers to catch allocated species should be minor. The sanctuaries encompass a total area in which roughly 2% of the total Japanese Gulf of Alaska trawl effort (900 of 39,000 hours), and only 4% of their Yakutat-Southeastern trawl effort (900 of 24,600 hours) was expended. The effect of the sanctuaries on the ability of foreign setliners to take their allocations of sablefish will be nil--the FAC in Southeastern is 0; although there will be a FAC in Yakutat, in the one sanctuary there no more than 10% of the Japanese sablefish catch from that area was taken in 1975.

(c) The Team discussed the request of Japan to allow foreign longlining for Pacific cod in the Gulf of Alaska, specifically, west of 157°W. Inasmuch as cod are generally distributed much shallower than sablefish, the prohibition on foreign longlining landward of the 500 m isobath would have to be lifted, at least in the areas where a longline cod fishery is expected to develop.

The major concern about this proposal is the potential effect of longlining in relatively shallow water on halibut--i.e., the potential for illegal retention and hooking mortality. Although the Team is aware of reports of foreign sablefish hooks found in halibut, it was not able to evaluate the mortality implications. Again, the Team recommends that the views of IPHC be solicited before action is taken on this matter; the Team has taken the liberty of so informing IPHC so that it can be prepared to address the Council if desired.

In assessing the impact of sablefish longlining on halibut, it should be noted that the FAC for cod is 19,300 mt and, if not taken by longline, that FAC will likely be taken by trawl. Therefore, the relative impact on halibut by both longlining and trawling for cod should be considered.

NMFS groundfish surveys in the western Gulf of Alaska indicate  
(SEE following tables):

Table 1. -- Average catch rates (pounds per 1/2 hour trawled) of pollock and other principal species captured during bottom trawl survey.

Area (long.)	Depth (fathoms)	Stratum No. (s)	No. of Hauls	SPECIES										Halibut/Cod Ratio	Crab/Cod Ratio
				Pollock	Flathead sole	Turbot	Halibut	Rock sole	Rex sole	Pacific cod	King crab	Tanner crab			
1540	28-40	32	3	116	37	18	52	20	20	3	9	106	21	5.78	14.11
1580	47-48	36	2	Trace	0	12	6	29	29	0	2	0	0	3.00	0.00
	39-89	7	5	1,154	80	54	1	3	2	29	9	9	26	0.03	1.21
	60-108	31	6	763	24	24	2	21	3	120	20	0	27	0.02	0.23
	60-108	33	7	2,146	7	21	0	20	5	20	6	6	39	0.00	1.95
	53-64	35	3	60	0	13	0	0	9	17	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
	117-159	4	16	21	53	199	28	0	0	41	3	3	11	0.68	0.34
	99-134	34	6	193	56	101	8	0	28	85	11	11	2	0.09	0.15
1580	44-209	-	13	42	25	-	44	-	-	253	23	173	-	0.17	0.77
1620	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1620	40-50	41	5	164	4	46	16	281	2	45	42	3	0.36	1.00	
	78-80	40	2	1,473	304	28	20	2	0	71	6	92	0.28	1.38	
	54-61	42	6	41	129	43	6	4	1	231	62	69	0.03	0.57	
1640	46-50	43	2	432	8	167	12	394	1	29	24	24	0.41	1.66	
	55-88	44	7	2,242	4	183	13	96	136	52	34	1	0.25	0.67	
1660	114-122	45	3	1,569	12	1,051	3	0	128	96	0	0	0.03	0.00	
	172-183	46	2	0	1	69	0	0	130	0	0	0	*	**	
1660	59-95	47	4	2,140	104	160	6	81	17	95	5	65	0.06	0.74	
1680	53-81	52	4	6	1	51	18	590	2	149	172	0	0.12	1.15	
	105-128	48	3	2,585	37	157	1	49	104	188	0	0	0.01	0.00	
	162-172	49	2	0	0	42	0	0	156	6	0	0	0.00	0.00	
	210-243	50	2	0	0	16	0	0	61	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	

\* No Halibut and no Pacific cod were caught.  
 \*\* No Crab and no Pacific cod were caught.

Table 2.--Summary table for large Pacific cod catches (pounds per 1/2 hour trawled).

Area (long.)	Depth (fathoms)	Stratum No. (s)	Pacific cod	Halibut/cod ratio	Crab/cod ratio
154°- 158°	60-108 99-134	31 34	120 85	0.02 0.09	0.23 0.15
158°- 162°	44-209	--	253	0.17	0.77
162°- 164°	78-80 54-61	40 42	71 231	0.28 0.03	1.38 0.57
164°- 166°	114-122	45	96	0.03	0.00
166°- 168°	59-95 53-81 105-128	47 52 48	95 149 188	0.06 0.12 0.01	0.74 1.15 0.00

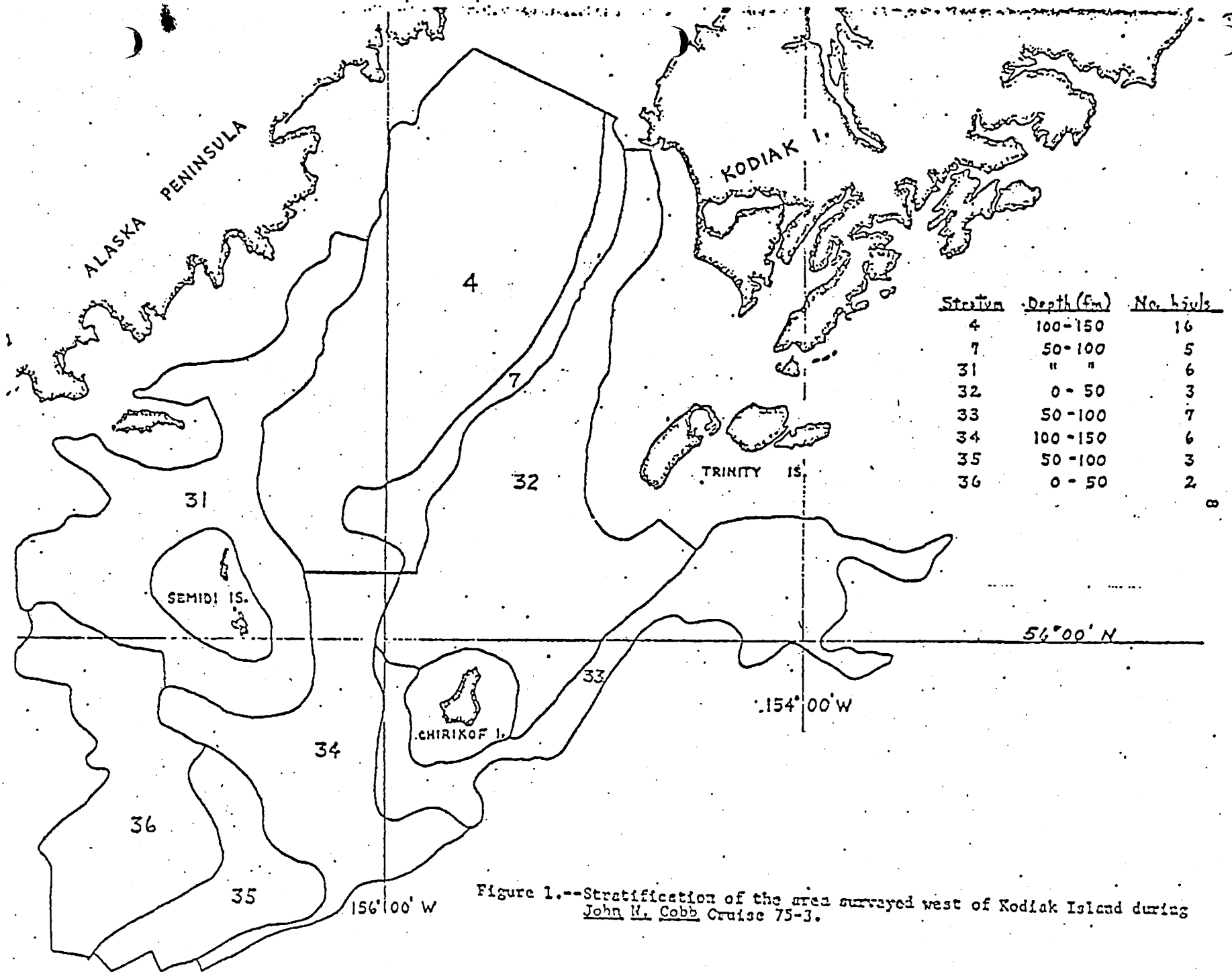
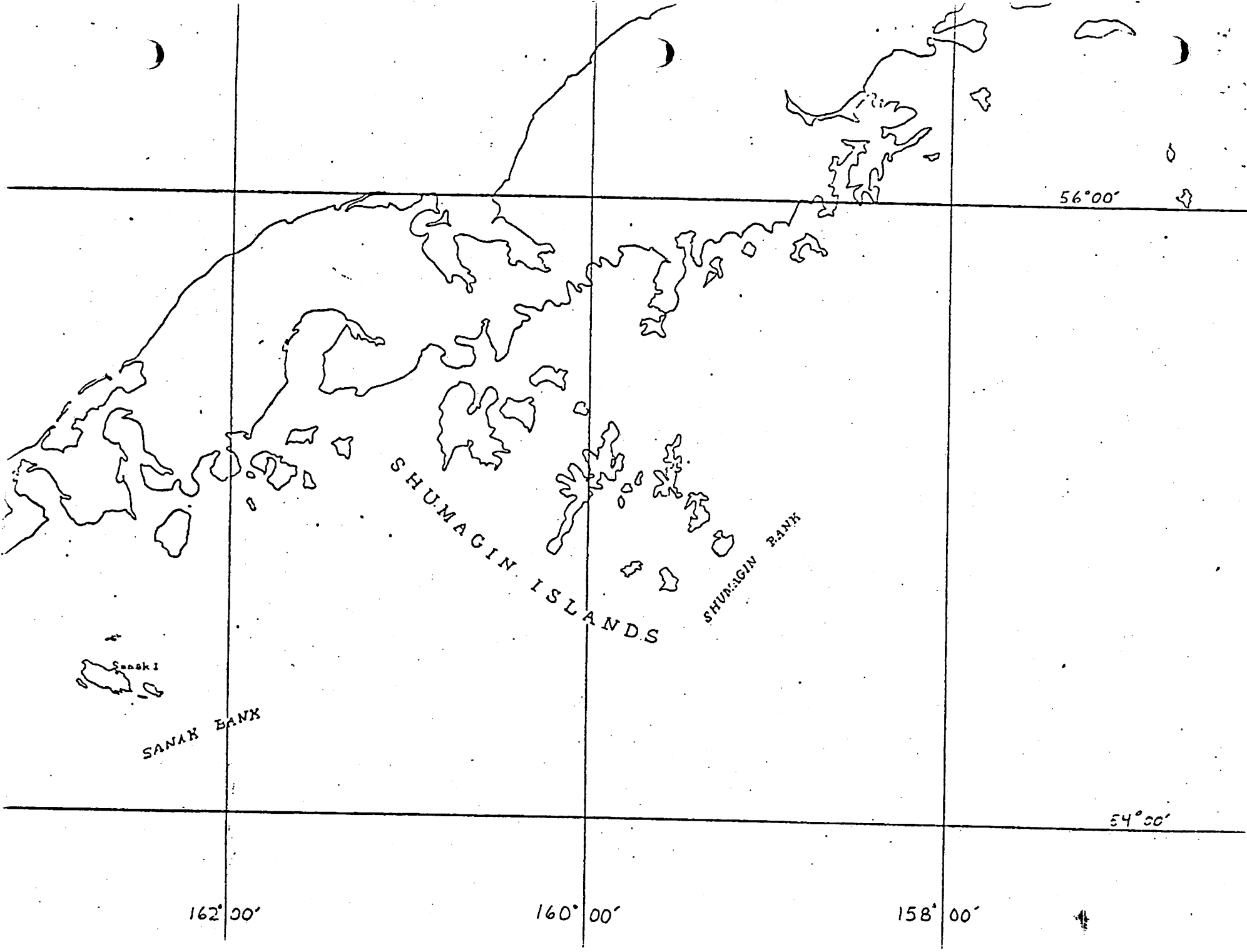


Figure 1.--Stratification of the area surveyed west of Kodiak Island during John R. Cobb Cruise 75-3.



56°00'

SHUMAGIN ISLANDS

SHUMAGIN BANK

SANAK BANK

54°00'

162°00'

160°00'

158°00'

4

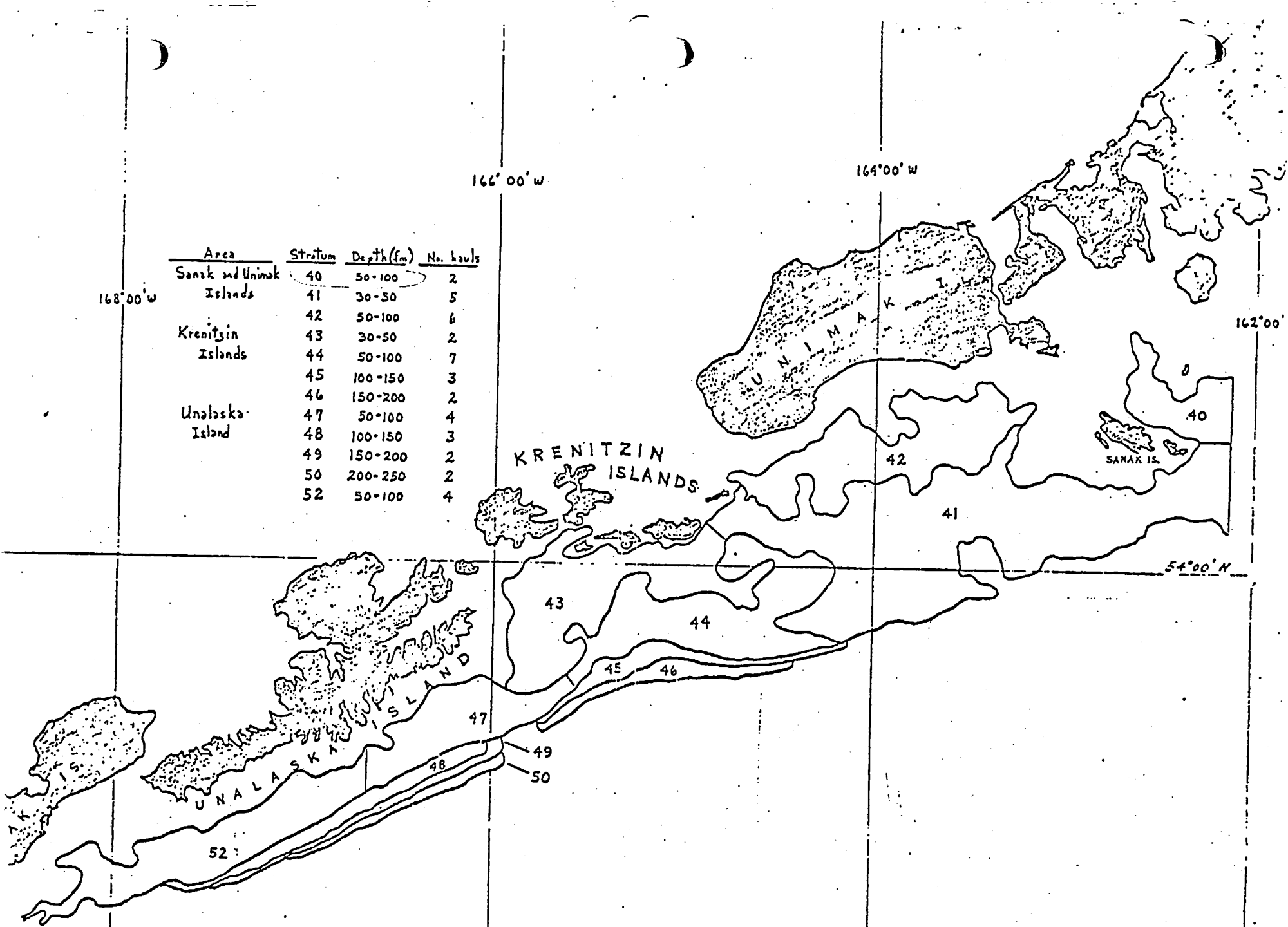
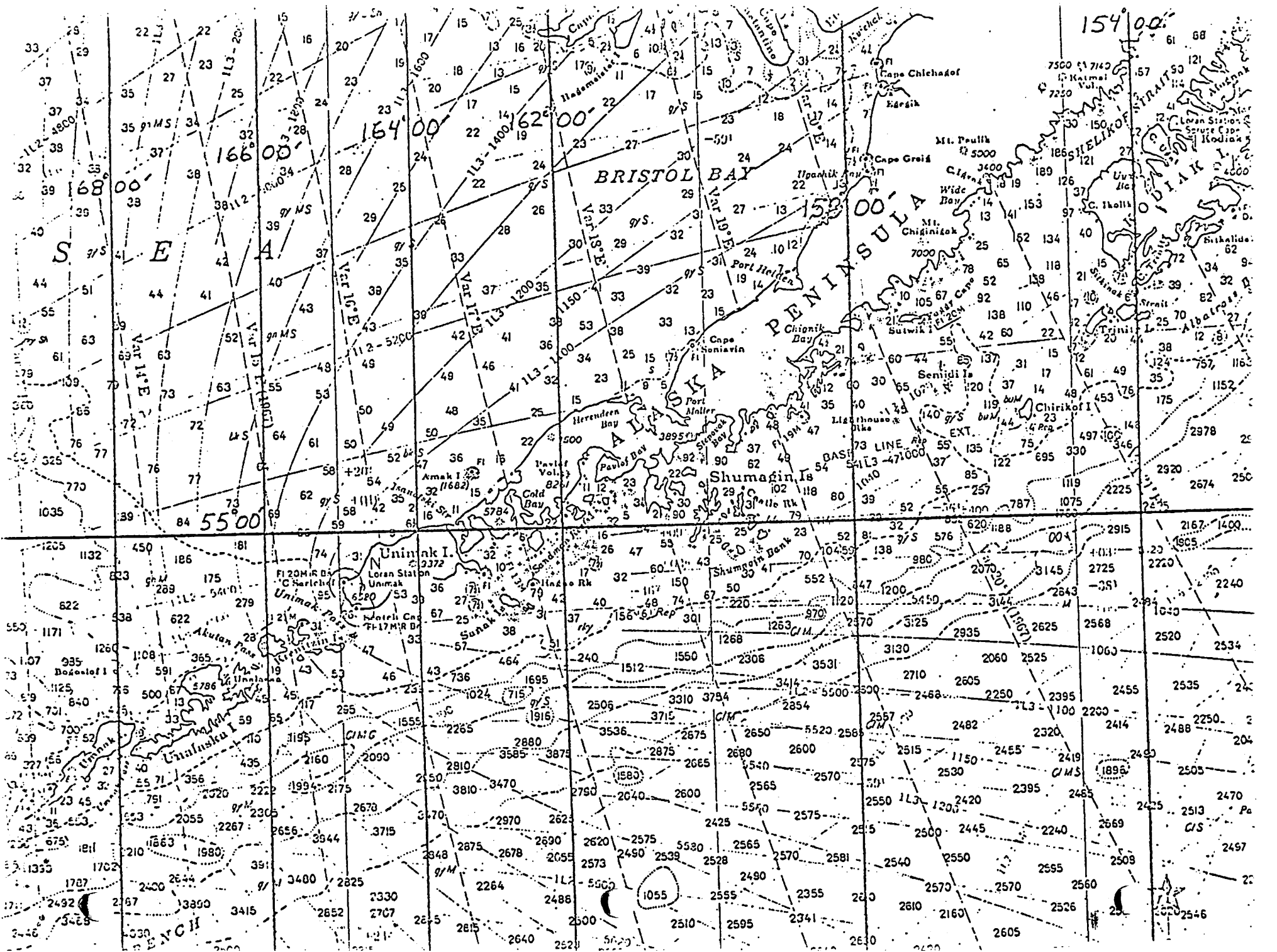


Figure 2.--Sampling strata within the area surveyed during John N. Cobb cruise 74-44





TRUSTEES

DEAN L. KAYLER  
MICHAEL RADOVICH  
DONALD E. REINHARDT  
WILLIAM A. DIGNON  
RICHARD O. PHILLIPS  
KENNETH E. WILLEY  
M. JAY BORNSTEIN  
GARRY D. SHAW  
DALE E. SHERROW, JR.

NORTHWEST FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATED 1951  
911 WESTERN AVENUE  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104  
623-0102

*3*  
JAMES G. FERGUSON PRESIDENT  
REX K. LODER VICE PRESIDENT  
ROBERT H. BOROUGHS SECRETARY  
FRED N. WOODWORTH TREASURER

September 19, 1977

Mr. Elmer Rasmuson, Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
P. O. Box 3136 DT  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Mr. Rasmuson:

Our Association just recently learned that the North Pacific Council is being asked to consider opening areas for U.S. groundfish fishery that have been closed to protect nursery halibut stocks. These areas had long been subject to foreign trawling and it would be too bad to reopen any of these areas before we could ascertain to what degree the closure had been beneficial. It was very difficult to get the foreign fleets to agree to refrain from such fishing and the agreement was based on conservation requirements.

Regardless of the merits in any such requests, it does not seem that the Council should sanction a new U.S. fishery at the expense of another fishery...a measure that could lead to the continued decline and eventual demise of the halibut industry. It would also seem that such an action would be hard to justify to foreign nations who have refrained from fishing for conservation purposes.

Thank you for considering our thoughts.

Sincerely,

NORTHWEST FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

*Donald E. Reinhardt*

D. E. Reinhardt, Chairman  
Government Affairs Committee

DER:ls

SEP 21 1977

5

TITLE 50 Wildlife and Fisheries

Chapter VI - Fishery Conservation and  
Management, National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration,  
Department of Commerce

Part 672 Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska

Proposed Rules

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce

ACTION: Proposed Rules

SUMMARY: This document sets forth proposed regulations for domestic fishing to implement a Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. The plan was prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (16 USC 1801 et seq).

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12:01 a.m. on \_\_\_\_\_, 1978 and shall remain in effect for one year. Comments: on or before \_\_\_\_\_, 1977.

ADDRESS: Comments should be addressed to: Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington, D.C. 20235.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harry Rietze, Alaska Regional Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Box 1668, Juneau, Alaska 99802.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, Pub. L. 94-265, 16 USC 1801 et seq. (hereinafter, the "Act"), authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (the "Secretary") to promulgate regulations implementing fishery management plans prepared by the Regional Fishery Management Councils for their areas of jurisdiction within the 3-200 mile Fishery Conservation Zone established by the Act.

Pursuant to Title III of the Act, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council prepared and submitted to the Secretary a fishery management plan (FMP) for selected groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for plan was published on July 1, 1977 ( FR ) by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The plan was approved on \_\_\_\_\_, 1977. The Final EIS was published on \_\_\_\_\_, 1977.

Published in its entirety below, this FMP supersedes the Preliminary Management Plan (PMP) for the Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fishery <sup>( FR )</sup> and for that portion of the PMP for Sablefish of the Bering Sea and Northeastern Pacific Ocean ( FR ) applicable to the Gulf of Alaska. It covers pollock, cod, flounders, Pacific ocean perch, other rockfish, sablefish, Atka mackerel and all other stocks of squid and finfish (except salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific halibut, herring and tuna) that are distributed or exploited predominantly in the Gulf of Alaska. The taking of halibut by U.S. vessels in a directed fishery is regulated under the auspices of the International Pacific Halibut Commission and is not affected by this FMP or its implementing regulations.

#### Purpose

Four major objectives control the philosophy of management of the groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska:

- (A) Rational and optimal use, in both the biological and socio-economic sense, of the region's fishery resources as a whole;
- (B) Protection of the Pacific halibut resource, currently in a state of decline;
- (C) Orderly development by the U.S. of domestic groundfisheries, consistent with (A) and (B) above; and
- (D) Foreign participation in the fishery consistent with (A), (B),

and (C) above, to take that portion of the optimum yield not utilized by domestic fishermen.

To achieve these objectives the proposed regulations, set forth immediately below, provide for season, gear, area, and catch restrictions for domestic fisheries. (Corresponding regulations for foreign fisheries within the FCZ under this FMP have been proposed in the form of amendments to Part 611, Foreign Fishing Regulations.)

#### Public Comment

A distinction must be noted regarding the subject matter for which public comment is being sought at this time. Comments to the plan itself were solicited, received and responded to at an earlier date. The plan as currently published herewith reflects these comments to every extent consistent with the Act. However, interested parties, Councils and government agencies are now earnestly encouraged to submit written comments, views or data concerning these proposed regulations, which implement the revised plan, to the Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington, D.C. 20235. All such submissions received before \_\_\_\_\_, 1977 will be considered before final action is taken on these regulations.

Issued \_\_\_\_\_, 1977.

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Director, National Marine Fisheries Service

## Part 672 Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska

Sec.

- 672.1 Purpose
- 672.2 Relation to State Laws
- 672.3 Definitions
- 672.4 Harvest Level
  
- 672.5 Time Area Closures
- 672.6 Gear Restrictions
- 672.7 Emergency Closures
- 672.8 Reporting Requirements
- 672.9 Permit Requirements
- 672.10 Penalties

AUTHORITY: 16 USC 1801-1882

672.1 Purpose.

(a) Regulations in this Part implement the FMP for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery adopted by the North Pacific Management Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 1977, and approved by the Secretary of Commerce on \_\_\_\_\_, 1977.

(b) Fishing by domestic fishermen for the following stocks, distributed or exploited predominantly in the Gulf of Alaska, must be conducted in accordance with these regulations: pollock, cod, flounders, Pacific ocean perch, other rockfish, sablefish, Atka mackerel and all other stocks of squid and finfish (except salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific halibut, herring and tuna).

672.2 Relation to State Laws. These regulations recognize that the laws of the State of Alaska, otherwise valid, pertaining to vessels registered under Alaskan law, including landing laws, will continue to apply to the fisheries addressed in these regulations so long as they are consistent with the Act

and the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.

672.3 Definitions. The terms used in these regulations shall have the meanings that are prescribed in Sec. 3 of the Act unless otherwise indicated.

In addition, the following definitions apply:

(a) Authorized officer means:

- (1) Any commissioned, warrant, or petty officer of the Coast Guard;
- (2) Any enforcement agent of the National Marine Fisheries Service;
- (3) Any officer designated by the head of any Federal or State agency which has entered into an agreement with the Secretary or the Commandant of the Coast Guard to enforce the provisions of the Act; and
- (4) Any Coast Guard personnel accompanying and acting under the direction of any person described in subparagraph (1) of this paragraph.

(b) D A H (expected domestic annual fisheries harvest) means expected catch by U.S. fishermen during the calendar year period covered by these regulations.

(c) Directed fishery means a fishery conducted for the purpose of catching one or more designated species.

(d) Director means the Director, National Marine Fisheries Service or his designee.

(e) Domestic fisherman means a person fishing from a vessel of the United States.

(f) Fishery Conservation Zone means the zone contiguous to the territorial sea of the United States, the inner boundary of which is a line coterminous with the seaward boundary of each of the coastal states, and the outer boundary of which is a line drawn in such a manner that each point on it is 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the territorial sea is measured.

(g) Gulf of Alaska means that portion of the FCZ in the North Pacific Ocean, exclusive of the Bering Sea, encompassed by the 170° West longitude on the west and the 132°40' West longitude on the east.

(h) Incidental catch means any catch of fish that is not a primary species being fished for, irrespective of the amount actually caught.

(i) Major statistical area means areas seaward of the State of Alaska previously established under the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission for the general purposes of research, reporting and/or regulation. Usage for domestic fishermen under this FMP is primarily for reporting purposes, and for the following areas:

Shumagin	170-159°W
Chirikof	159-154°W
Kodiak	154-147°W
Yakutat	147-137°W
Southeastern	137-132°40'W

(j) Mesh size means any part of the net, the average of the measurements of any consecutive meshes in any row located at least 10 meshes from lacings measured when wet after use.

(k) Net sonde means an echo sounder mounted on or near the trawl which gives information regarding net depth, net opening height, fish distribution in and below the net.

(l) Off-bottom trawl means a trawl in which the otter boards are in contact with the bottom but the ground rope of the net remains slightly above the bottom.

(m) Pelagic trawl means a trawl in which neither the net nor the otter boards operate in contact with the bottom.

(n) Regional Director means the Regional Director, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, Box 1668, Juneau, Alaska 99802.

(o) Trawl net means any large bag net dragged in the sea by a vessel or vessels for the purpose of fishing.

672.4 Harvest Level.

(a) The 1978 maximum domestic harvest levels (DAH) in the Gulf of Alaska are as follows, of which no more than 25% per species may be taken during the periods January 1--May 31 and December 1--30 combined:

SPECIES	DAH(mt)	25%
Pollock	17,700	4,425
Cod	15,500	3,875
Flounders	9,200	2,300
Pacific ocean perch	1,100	275
Rockfish other than POP	2,000	500
Sablefish		
Atka Mackerel	0	
Other species*	<u>500</u>	<u>125</u>
TOTAL		

\* All other stocks of squid and finfish except salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific halibut, herring and tuna.

(b) Should the cumulative and anticipated catch of any of the named species reach this percentage earlier than May 31, the Regional Director shall notify the appropriate authority at least 48 hours prior to closing and shall publish notice terminating the directed fishery for that species until June 1 and from December 1--30. Should the percentage be reached between December 1--30, the Director shall notify the appropriate authority at least 48 hours prior to closing and shall publish notice terminating the directed fishery for that species until December 31.

672.5 Time Area Closures. The following areas shall be closed to domestic trawling and setlining (for species other than halibut) for the periods specified:

(a) 140°W - 147°W--January 1 - February 15, and November 1 - December 31.

(b) 147°W - 157°W--February 15 - May 31.

672.6 Gear Restrictions.

(a) Mesh size. Minimum mesh size in any trawl shall be no smaller than 80 mm (3.15 inches), stretched measure inside of knots.



(b) Gear type. During the periods January 1 - May 31 and December 1 - 31 only off-bottom trawls may be used in the Gulf of Alaska during times and in areas not otherwise closed to trawling.

672.7 Emergency closures.

672.8 Reporting Requirements. Fishery statistics, including value of the catch, shall be reported within seven days of the date of landing. This information shall comprise the following categories:

(a) Vessel registration/gear licensing: U.S.C.G. doc. no., State agency boat plate no., State marine board no., vessel length, gear type(s).

(b) Landing/fish receipt: port of landing, date of landing, area of catch (compatible with major statistical areas), State agency boat plate no., species and pounds, gear type(s), value of catch, ticket number.

(c) Summaries

(1) Catch by species, by vessel class and gear type, by major statistical area, and by month, etc. should be available to the Council no later than three months after the end of the month of record.

(2) Annual summary reports of final fishery statistics should be available to the Council by July of the following year.

672.9 Permit Requirements.

672.10 Penalties. Any person or vessel found to be in violation of these regulations will be subject to the civil and criminal penalty provisions and forfeiture provisions prescribed in the Act and in 50 CFR Part 621.

5

TITLE 50 Wildlife and Fisheries

Chapter VI - Fishery Conservation and  
Management, National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration,  
Department of Commerce

Part 611 Foreign Fishing Regulations

Proposed Amendments

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed Amendments.

SUMMARY: This document sets forth proposed amendments to the foreign fishing regulations currently in effect for the Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fishery and the Sablefish (Blackcod) Fishery (50 CFR Part 611). The amendments are to implement a Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska, prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (16 USC 1801 et seq.).

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12:01 a.m. on \_\_\_\_\_, 1978 and shall remain in effect for one year. Comments: on or before \_\_\_\_\_, 1977.

ADDRESS: Comments should be addressed to: Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington, D.C. 20235.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harry Rietze, Alaska Regional Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Box 1668, Juneau, Alaska 99802.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, Pub. L. 94-265, 16 USC 1801 et seq. (hereinafter, the "Act"), authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (the "Secretary") to promulgate regulations implementing fishery management plans prepared by the Regional Fishery Management Councils for their areas of jurisdiction within the 3-200 mile Fishery Conservation Zone

established by the Act.

Pursuant to Title III of the Act, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council prepared and submitted to the Secretary a fishery management plan (FMP) for selected groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the plan was published on July 1, 1977 by the National Marine Fisheries Service (\_\_\_\_FR\_\_\_\_). The plan was approved by the Secretary on \_\_\_\_\_, 1977. The plan and Final EIS were published on \_\_\_\_\_, 1977.

The FMP for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska supersedes the Preliminary Management Plan (PMP) for the Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fishery (\_\_\_\_FR\_\_\_\_) and for that portion of the PMP for Sablefish of the Bering Sea and Northeastern Pacific Ocean (\_\_\_\_FR\_\_\_\_) applicable to the Gulf of Alaska. It covers pollock, cod, flounders, Pacific Ocean perch, other rockfish, sablefish, Atka mackerel and all other stocks of squid and finfish (except salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific halibut, herring and tuna) that are distributed or exploited predominantly in the Gulf of Alaska. The taking of halibut by U.S. and foreign vessels in a directed fishery is regulated <sup>d</sup><sub>A</sub> under the auspices of the International Pacific Halibut Commission and is not affected by this FMP or its implementing regulations.

#### Purpose

Four major objectives control the philosophy of management of the groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska:

- (A) Rational and optimal use, in both the biological and socio-economic sense, of the region's fishery resources as a whole;
- (B) Protection of the Pacific halibut resource, currently in a state of decline;
- (C) Orderly development by the U.S. of domestic groundfisheries, consistent with (A) and (B) above; and

(D) Foreign participation in the fishery consistent with (A), (B), and (C) above, to take that portion of the optimum yield not utilized by domestic fishermen.

To achieve these objectives the proposed regulations, set forth immediately below, provide for season, gear, area, and catch restrictions for foreign fisheries within the FCZ. (Corresponding regulations for domestic fisheries within the FCZ under this FMP have been proposed as a new Part 672.)

#### Public Comment

A distinction must be noted regarding the subject matter for which public comment is being sought at this time. Comments to the plan itself were solicited, received, and responded to at an earlier date. The revised plan reflects these comments to every extent consistent with the Act. However, interested parties, Councils and government agencies are now earnestly encouraged to submit written comments, views or data concerning these proposed regulations, which implement the revised plan, to the Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington, D.C. 20235. All such submissions received before \_\_\_\_\_, 1977 will be considered before final action is taken on these regulations.

Issued \_\_\_\_\_, 1977

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, National Marine Fisheries Service

In consideration of the above, and pursuant to the authority contained in Sections 303(c) and 305(a) of the Act (16 USC 1853 & 1855), the following amendments to 50 CFR Part 611 are proposed: revise Sections 611.20, 611.92, and 611.94 to read as follows:

[611.20 -- changes not included here.]

Subpart G - North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea

611.92 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery

(a) Purpose.

(1) Regulations in this Part implement the FMP for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery adopted by the North Pacific Management Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 1977, and approved by the Secretary of Commerce on \_\_\_\_\_, 1977.

(2) Fishing by foreign fishermen for the following stocks, distributed or exploited predominantly in the Gulf of Alaska, must be conducted in accordance with these regulations: pollock, cod, flounders, Pacific Ocean perch, other rockfish, sablefish, Atka mackerel and all other stocks of squid and finfish (except salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific halibut, herring and tuna--which are subject to other regulatory authority or international agreement).

(b) Definitions.

(1) Gulf of Alaska means that portion of the FCZ in the North Pacific Ocean, exclusive of the Bering Sea, encompassed by 170° West longitude on the west and 132°40'W longitude on the east.

(2) Isobath means an imaginary line or a line on a map or chart that connects all points having the same depth below the water surface.

(3) Longline means a stationary, buoyed and anchored line (setline) or a floating free-drifting line, with lures or baited hooks attached.

(4) Major statistical area means areas seaward of the State of Alaska established under the International North Pacific Fishery Commission for the general purposes of research, reporting and/or regulation.

Statistical areas under jurisdiction of this FMP include:

Shumagin	170-159°W
Chirikof	159-154°W
Kodiak	154-147°W
Yakutat	147-137°W
Southeastern	137-132°40'W

(5) Mesh size means any part of the net, the average of the measurements of any consecutive meshes in any row located at least 10 meshes from lacings measured when wet after use.

(6) Net sonde means an echo sounder mounted on or near the trawl which gives information regarding net depth, net opening height, fish distribution in and below the net.

(7) Off-bottom trawl means a trawl in which the otter boards are in contact with the bottom but the ground rope of the net remains slightly above the bottom.

(8) Pelagic trawl means a trawl in which neither the net nor the otter boards operate in contact with the bottom.

(9) Regional Director means the Regional Director, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, Box 1668, Juneau, Alaska 99802.

(10) Time area unit means a geographic area prescribed by the FMP within which specified time, and sometimes gear, restrictions are imposed.

(11) Trawl net means any large bag net dragged in the sea by a vessel or vessels for the purpose of fishing.

(c) Catch quotas.

(1) Totals. The 1978 maximum catch quotas for foreign fishermen in the Gulf of Alaska are as follows, of which no more than 25% may be taken during the periods January 1--May 31 and December 1--30 combined:

Species	Catch quota (metric tons)	
Pollock	151,000	100,500*
Pacific ocean perch	23,900	16,400
Other rockfishes	5,600	3,300
Flounders	24,300	14,300
Sablefish		
Atka mackerel	24,800	17,400
Pacific cod	25,200	12,900
Others (combination)	14,000	9,700

\* [This column and the figures below under (2) Apportionments are based on 70% of OY.]

(2) Apportionments. In addition, the catch quotas are apportioned to individual major statistical areas as follows:

Species	<u>Shumagin/Chirikof/Kodiak/Yakutat/Southeast</u>					
Pollock	33.9	32.3	24.3	7.4	2.4	(mt. in 1,000's)
Pacific ocean Perch	1.8	1.8	3.4	5.2	4.2	
Other rockfishes	.1	.1	.3	1.5	1.4	
Flounders	4.4	1.1	5.1	2.7	.9	
Sablefish						
Atka mackerel	3.1	2.5	11.1	.7	0	
Pacific cod	3.6	1.5	5.7	1.6	.5	
Others	2.6	2.1	3.0	1.3	.7	

(3) Closures. Once a nation's allocation of any species or species group covered by these regulations is exceeded, that statistical area shall be closed to all fishermen of that nation for the remainder of the calendar year. This provision applies separately to setline fleets and trawl fleets. (For example, an overage in trawl catch will result in a closure to all trawlers of that nation but not to that nation's setliners.) Provisions of Sec. 611.12 apply.

(d) Prohibited species. Foreign vessels operating in this fishery must reduce to the minimum their incidental catch of, and may not retain any of the following species or species groups: salmonids, Pacific halibut, shrimp, herring, "Creatures of the Continental Shelf", or scallops.

(e) Open area. The open area for foreign fishing, which includes support operations, in the western Gulf of Alaska beyond twelve nautical miles from the baseline used to measure the Territorial Sea, is between 169°W. longitude and 170°W. longitude.

(f) Time area closures.

(1) The following areas shall be closed to all foreign fishing for the periods specified:

(i) Within the following four protected areas year-round:

(A) Cape Edgecumbe: between 56°53' N. latitude and 57°04' N. latitude east of 136°33' longitude.

(B) Salisbury Sound: between 57°14' N. latitude and 57°28' N. latitude east of 173°00' W. longitude.

(C) Cross Sound Gully: between 57°50' N. latitude and 58°12' N. latitude east of 137°25' W. longitude.

(D) Fairweather Gully: the area bounded by straight lines connecting the following coordinates in the order listed:

<u>North Latitude</u>	<u>West Longitude</u>
58°28'	140°00'
58°48'	138°50'
58°10'	139°11'
58°28'	140°00'

(ii) "Davidson Bank": between 163°04' and 166°00'W north of 53°00'N <sup>year-round,</sup>

(iii) 140°W - 147°W longitude from January 1--February 15, and November 1--December 31.

(iv) 147°W - 157°W longitude from February 16--May 15.

(2) The following areas shall be closed to foreign fishing with nets for the periods specified:

(i) Six "Kodiak Gear Areas", bounded respectively by straight lines connecting each of the following coordinates, in the order listed--



from January 1--May 31 and August 10--December 31:

(A)	<u>North Latitude</u>	<u>West Longitude</u>
	57°15'	154°51'
	56°57'	154°34'
	56°21'	155°40'
	56°26'	155°55'
	57°15'	154°51'
(B)	<u>North Latitude</u>	<u>West Longitude</u>
	56°27'	154°06'
	55°46'	155°27'
	55°40'	155°17'
	55°48'	155°00'
	55°54'	154°55'
	56°03'	154°36'
	56°03'	153°45'
	56°30'	153°45'
	56°30'	153°49'
	56°27'	154°06'
(C)	<u>North Latitude</u>	<u>West Longitude</u>
	56°30'	153°49'
	56°30'	153°00'
	56°44'	153°00'
	56°57'	153°15'
	56°45'	153°45'
	56°30'	153°49'
(D)	<u>North Latitude</u>	<u>West Longitude</u>
	57°05'	152°52'
	56°54'	152°52'
	56°46'	152°37'
	56°46'	152°20'
	57°19'	152°20'
	57°05'	152°52'
(E)	<u>North Latitude</u>	<u>West Longitude</u>
	57°35'	152°03'
	57°11'	151°14'
	57°19'	150°57'
	57°48'	152°00'
	57°35'	152°03'
(F)	<u>North Latitude</u>	<u>West Longitude</u>
	58°00'	152°00'
	58°00'	150°00'
	58°12'	150°30'
	58°19'	151°29'
	58°00'	152°00'

(ii) Three "Kodiak Halibut" areas. In the event that the 1978 U.S. halibut setline fishing season opens after May 10, 1978, the following areas bounded respectively by straight lines connecting in each of the following groups the coordinates in the order listed are closed from 5 days prior to 5 days after the opening of the U.S. halibut setline fishery:

(A) 58°30'N to 59°30'N, between 147°40'W and 150°20'W

(B) 57°40'N to 58°05'N, between 148°50'W and 150°30'W

(C) 55°30'N to 56°25'N, between 155°45'W and 156°30'W

(3) The area landward of the 500 m isobath shall be closed year-round to foreign fishing with setlines.

(g) Gear restrictions.

(1) Net type. During the periods January 1--May 31 and December 1--31 only pelagic trawls, with recording net-sonde devices functioning properly during each two, may be used through the Gulf of Alaska during the time area units not otherwise closed to trawling.

(2) Mesh size. Minimum mesh size in any trawl shall be no smaller than 80 mm (3.15 inches), stretched measure, inside of knots.

(3) Gear type. See paragraph (f), subparagraphs (2) and (3) <sup>above,</sup> which specify type of gear for certain areas and time periods.

(h) Reports. The catch and effort statistics required by Section 611.90(d) shall be reported as follows:

(1) Annual. Each nation whose fishermen operate in the Gulf of Alaska shall report by May 30 of the following year annual catch and effort statistics as follows:

(i) Effort in hours trawled, by vessel class, by gear type, by month, by 1/2° (lat.) x 1° (long.) statistical area;

(ii) Catch in metric tons, by vessel class, by gear type, by month, by  $1/2^{\circ}$  (lat.) x  $1^{\circ}$  (long.) statistical area, by the following species groupings: Rock sole; Flathead sole; Arrowtooth flounder; Other flounders; Pacific ocean perch; Other rockfish; Pacific cod; Sablefish (blackcod); Walleye (Alaska) pollock; Atka mackerel; any other species taken in excess of 1,000 metric tons; and other fishes.

(2) Monthly. In addition to the annual statistical report in (1) above, each nation will report by the end of the following month, provisional fishery information for each month as follows:

(i) Effort in vessel days on the grounds by vessel class and gear type;

(ii) Catch in metric tons by species for flounders, rockfishes, Pacific cod, pollock, sablefish (blackcod), Atka mackerel, and others, for each of the major statistical areas.

(3) Fleet disposition. The operator of each foreign vessel shall report by radio, at least 24 hours in advance, the date, time and position at which fishing activities will begin in the Gulf of Alaska. Similar reports will be made when ceasing fishing activities. Reports will also be required when vessels shift operations to different statistical areas within the Gulf of Alaska.

(i) Cooperative research requirements. Foreign fishery research in which fishing gear is used that is capable of taking commercial quantities of any fishery resource must either be conducted in cooperation with a Federal or State fishery agency or with an appropriate domestic university, or must be covered by a permit issued by the Secretary for a foreign commercial operation.