

Status of FMP Amendments
February 8, 2006

FMP Amendment Status: <u>Actions Since December 2005 Council Meeting</u>	Date of Council Action	Start Regional Review	Transmittal Date of Action to NMFS HQ for Review	Proposed FMP Amendment Notice of Availability Published	Proposed Rule Published in Federal Register	Final Rule Published in Federal Register
Amendment 20 (KTC) – Bairdi split	October 2005	PR: 12/2/05	PR: February 13, 2006			
Amendments 62/62: Single Geographic Location and AFA housekeeping	Oct 2002	PR: 10/15/04				
Amendments 65/78 (BSAI) 65/73 (GOA) 12/16 (KTC) 7/9/11 (SCAL) 8/7 (SAL) – Habitat Areas of Particular Concern and Essential Fish Habitat Record of Decision: 8/8/05	February 2005	PR: 4/20/05	PR: January 30, 2006	February 6, 2006 71 FR 6031 <u>Comment period ends April 7, 2006</u>		
Amendment 68 (GOA) – Rockfish Demonstration Project	June 2005	PR: 11/29/05				
Amendment 69 (GOA) – Change “Other species” TAC fixed at 5% Decision Date: 2/16/06	June 2005	PR: 10/7/05 FR: 1/24/06	PR: November 7, 2005	November 16, 2005 70 FR 69505 <u>Comment period ended January 17, 2006</u>	November 29, 2005 70 FR 71451 <u>Comment period ended January 13, 2006</u>	
Amend. 71a (BSAI): CDQ non-fisheries investments	June 2002	PR: 9/12/04				
Amend. 71b (BSAI): CDQ oversight	June 2002					
Amendment 72 (GOA): Remove flatfish IR/IU provisions	April 2003					

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Amendment 79 (BSAI): Groundfish Retention Standard <u>Approved: August 31, 2005</u>	June 2003	PR: 3/30/05 FR: 11/18/05	PR: May 26, 2005 FR: February 7, 2006	June 2, 2005 70 FR 32287 <u>Comment period ended August 1, 2005</u>	June 16, 2005 70 FR 35054 <u>Comment period ended August 1, 2005</u>	
Amendment 84a (BSAI) – Salmon Bycatch ICA	October 2005	PR: 2/1/06				

Status of Regulatory Amendments
February 8, 2006

Regulatory Amendment Status: <u>Actions Since December 2005 Council Meeting</u>	Date of Council Action	Start Regional Review of Rule	Transmittal Date of Rule to NMFS Headquarters	Proposed Rule in Federal Register	Final Rule Published in Federal Register
Groundfish Regulations					
Cape Sarichef Research Restriction	NMFS	PR: October 4, 2005 FR: November 28, 2005	PR: October 7, 2005	October 26, 2005 70 FR 61775 <u>Comment period ended November 25, 2005</u>	January 11, 2006 71 FR 1698 <u>Effective February 10, 2006</u>
Electronic catcher vessel logbook	NMFS	PR: September 9, 2005			
Revise accounting for tagged halibut	NMFS	PR: November 5, 2005			

Status of Regulatory Amendments
February 8, 2006

Regulatory Amendment Status: <u>Actions Since December 2005 Council Meeting</u>	Date of Council Action	Start Regional Review of Rule	Transmittal Date of Rule to NMFS Headquarters	Proposed Rule in <i>Federal Register</i>	Final Rule Published in <i>Federal Register</i>
Halibut Regulations					
IFQ halibut/sablefish Omnibus IV	December 2004	PR: February 6, 2006			
Subsistence Halibut III	December 2004				
Crab Regulations					
Other Actions					
Control date notice for Charter Halibut Fishery	December 2005	December 22, 2005	January 24, 2006		February 8, 2006
Control date notice for BSAU Pacific cod	December 2005	January 3, 2006	January 25, 2006		

Status of Regulatory Amendments
February 6, 2006

Regulatory Amendment Status: <u>Actions Since December 2005 Council Meeting</u>	Date of Council Action	Start Regional Review of Rule	Transmittal Date of Rule to NMFS Headquarters	Proposed Rule in <i>Federal Register</i>	Final Rule Published in <i>Federal Register</i>
Groundfish Regulations					
2006-2007 BSAI groundfish harvest specifications		PR: 10/13/05 FR: 1/2/06	PR: November 25, 2005	December 16, 2005 70 FR 74723 <u>Comment period ended January 17, 2006</u>	
2006-2007 GOA groundfish harvest specifications		PR: 10/18/05 FR: 1/2/06	PR: November 25, 2006	December 16, 2005 70 FR 74739 <u>Comment period ended January 17, 2006</u>	
Revise recordkeeping and reporting requirements for permits	NMFS	PR: October 18, 2005			
Revise requirements for facilitation of observer data transmission, improving support of observers (ATLAS 2)	NMFS	PR: May 24, 2005 FR: September 14, 2005	PR: June 6, 2005	August 8, 2005 70 FR 45638 <u>Comment period ended September 7, 2005</u>	
Revise species codes (Table 2)	NMFS	PR: October 10, 2003 FR: October 12, 2005	PR: June 17, 2005 FR: December 1, 2005	September 1, 2005 70 FR 52060 <u>Comment period ends October 3, 2005</u>	December 19, 2005 70 FR 75080 <u>Effective January 18, 2006</u>

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

Bering Sea Pollock

For 2006, the Chinook Salmon Savings Area limit is 29,000 salmon. During the 2005 A season 26,468 (non-CDQ) and (1,296) CDQ chinook salmon were taken. The 2006 chinook salmon catch of 7,342 salmon through January 28 is tracking higher than the 2005 rate of 5,236 salmon taken through January 29.

Catcher/processors

In 2006, 16 catcher/processors (c/ps) are targeting pollock (17 in 2005) and the fleet average for the first full week is 5,500 mt/day. The 2005 average for the A season was 4,870 mt/day.

Inshore processors

Currently, 49 catcher vessels are targeting pollock (56 in 2005). In 2006, for the first full week of the fishery the shoreside catch averages 4,100 mt/day. The 2005 daily rate for the first full week was 5,000 mt/day.

Motherships

All 3 motherships are currently active. The average for the 2006 A season was about 1,326 mt/day which was the same as 2005.

Flatfish

In 2006, the fishery started with 13 c/ps primarily targeting flatfish (12 in 2005). Most of the effort is targeting rock sole with roe. The catch through January 28, 2006, is 2,000 mt which compares to 1,800 mt through January 29, 2005. In 2005, the first seasonal trawl rock sole fishery opened on January 20 and closed on March 1 due to halibut mortality. Halibut mortality averaged about 10 mt per day for the first 4 weeks and then increased to about 22 mt per day in late February. As in 2005, the 2006 red king crab zone 1 limit is 197,000 crab. The rock sole/other flatfish/flathead sole target has a limit of 121,413 crab in 2006. Zone 1 remained open for the rock sole/other flatfish/flathead sole category in 2005. The red king crab savings subarea (RKCSS) limit is 42,495 under the final harvest specifications. As of January 28, 3,761 mt of red king crab has been taken inside the RKCSS. In 2005, the RKCSS closed on March 8 to non-pelagic trawl gear.

Atka mackerel

As in 2005, six c/ps registered for the 2006 A season harvest limitation area (HLA) fisheries in 543 and 542. NMFS closed the area 541/Bering Sea subarea fishery since the TAC only supports incidental catch amounts. The HLA fisheries started on January 22. The last HLA fishery closes February 21. Currently, most of the effort is in area 542 with 2,100 mt taken inside the HLA and 3,700 mt outside the HLA. In 2005, 99% of the 542 HLA and 20% of the 543 was taken in the HLA. In 2005, the entire area 542 closed on February 17 and area 543 on April 15.

Pacific cod

The hook-and-line, pot and jig fisheries started January 1. Trawl fisheries began January 20.

Hook-and-line C/Ps

As in the 2005 A season, 38 hook-and-line c/ps have checked into the Pacific cod fishery. Catch for 2006 is 24,350 mt through January 28. In 2005, the catch was 24,800 mt through January 29 and the A season closed on February 22. The 2006 A season TAC under the final specifications is 43,690 mt. At the current catch rates, the A season is expected to close the week of February 19 – 25.

Pot

The 2006 fishery for catcher vessels > 60 feet LOA closed on February 3 with 38 vessels taking about 8,200 mt. In 2005, the fishery closed on February 13 with 45 vessels taking about 8,000 mt. In 2006, most of the pot vessels started fishing Pacific cod and they are expected to switch to opilio crab after the Pacific cod closure or the Western GOA Pacific cod fishery. Currently no effort is showing up in the pot c/p fishery.

Trawl

About 24 trawl catcher vessels delivering shore side are targeting Pacific cod (14 in 2005). The total Pacific cod catch through January 28 is 4,000 mt (including pelagic gear and mothership effort). In 2005, the catch was 3,150 mt through January 29 and the A season closed on March 13. Three trawl c/ps are targeting Pacific cod.

Gulf of Alaska

Western GOA Pacific cod

In 2005, the A season fishery for inshore Pacific cod closed on February 24, taking about 10,000 mt. The inshore Pacific cod fishery in the Western GOA has taken about 1,700 mt through January 28. The 2006 A season TAC for the inshore component is 10,876 mt under the final specifications. NMFS set an incidental catch allowance (ICA) of 100 mt to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries and the remaining 10,776 mt as a directed fishing allowance (DFA). As of January 28, inshore deliveries total 1,720 mt. Pot gear has taken 97% and trawl gear 3% compared to the 2005 A season when pot gear took 52%, trawl gear 42%, and hook-and-line gear 5%. Some effort is showing up for the offshore fishery.

Central GOA Pacific cod

In 2005, the A season fishery for inshore Pacific cod closed on January 26, taking about 12,000 mt. The 2006 A season TAC under the final specifications for the inshore component is 15,339 mt, with an ICA of 2,000 mt and a DFA of 13,339 mt. As of January 28, inshore deliveries total 7,200 mt. Pot gear took 44%, trawl gear 22% and hook-and-line gear 34% compared to the 2005 A season when pot gear took 37%, trawl gear 36%, jig gear 1%, and hook-and-line gear 26%. No effort has shown up for the offshore component.

Pollock

Since the inception of a State managed pollock fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS) the GOA Plan Team has recommended that the guideline harvest level (GHL) for the pollock fishery in PWS be deducted from the ABC for pollock in the in the Western/Central/West Yakutat (W/C/WYK) areas. The Plan Team based its pollock ABC recommendation for the W/C/WYK Area on a pollock GHL for the PWS of 910 mt. Following the Council's December 2005 meeting the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) completed a new assessment of the pollock biomass in PWS. In a December 28, 2005 news release ADF&G announced a GHL of 3.64 million pounds (1,650 mt) for the 2006 PWS pollock fishery, a difference of 740 mt for the GHL already considered. NMFS is reducing the 2006 and 2007 ABCs for the pollock fishery in the W/C/WYK area by 740 mt from the Council's recommendation to be consistent with the conservation and management policies for pollock in the W/C/WYK. The Council recommended that the TAC for pollock in the W/C/WYK area be set equal to the ABC, therefore, NMFS is reducing the 2006 and 2007 TACs for pollock in the W/C/WYK area by 740 mt. The 2006 ABCs and TACs for pollock are now 28,918 mt for 610, 30,492 for 620, 18,448 mt for 630, and 1,792 mt for 640.

The pollock fisheries in areas 610, 620, and 630 opened January 20. The fishery in 610 closed after 2 days taking about 55% of the final A season TAC. NMFS reopened the fishery for 24 hours on January 26 and the A season TAC was reached. Currently, the trawl vessels have mostly agreed to wait to target pollock in the Central GOA. The A season pollock fishery in area 630 is expected to close 3 or 4 days after the Central GOA inshore Pacific cod fishery closes. The last couple of years fishing in area 620 has not accelerated until late February or early March.

**Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Catch Report
(includes CDQ)**

Through: 28-JAN-06

**National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting**



Bering Sea

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Other Rockfish	1	426	425	0%	1
	Other Rockfish CDQ	0	35	35	0%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch	0	1,190	1,190	0%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch CDQ	0	105	105	0%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	20	0	-20	0%	0
	Sablefish CDQ (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	0	0	0	0%	0
	Sablefish (Trawl)	4	982	978	0%	3
	Sablefish CDQ (Trawl)	0	87	87	0%	0
	Greenland Turbot	5	2,125	2,120	0%	4
	Greenland Turbot CDQ	0	188	188	0%	0
X	Pollock, AFA Inshore	34,858	647,062	612,204	5%	28,532
X	Pollock, AFA Catcher Processor	46,589	517,650	471,061	9%	38,625
X	Pollock, AFA Mothership	11,027	129,412	118,385	9%	9,288
X	Pollock CDQ	4,097	148,776	144,679	3%	4,097
	Pollock, Incidental Catch, non-Bogoslof (includes CDQ)	2,855	44,857	42,002	6%	2,112
	Pollock, Incidental Catch, Bogoslof (includes CDQ)	0	10	10	0%	0

**Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Catch Report
(includes CDQ)**

Through: 28-JAN-06

**National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting**



Aleutian Islands

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Other Rockfish	15	502	487	3%	8
	Other Rockfish CDQ	0	44	44	0%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Eastern	1	2,849	2,848	0%	1
	Pacific Ocean Perch CDQ, Eastern	0	231	231	0%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Central	112	2,808	2,696	4%	106
	Pacific Ocean Perch CDQ, Central	0	228	228	0%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Western	3	4,703	4,700	0%	3
	Pacific Ocean Perch CDQ, Western	0	381	381	0%	0
X	Atka Mackerel, Eastern (Other Gear)	97	6,868	6,771	1%	94
	Atka Mackerel, Eastern (Jig)	0	69	69	0%	0
	Atka Mackerel CDQ, Eastern	0	563	563	0%	0
X	Atka Mackerel, Central	5,784	32,838	27,054	18%	4,232
	Atka Mackerel CDQ, Central	0	2,663	2,663	0%	0
X	Atka Mackerel, Western	50	18,500	18,450	0%	50
	Atka Mackerel CDQ, Western	0	1,500	1,500	0%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	0	0	0	0%	0
	Sablefish CDQ (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	0	0	0	0%	0
	Sablefish (Trawl)	0	527	527	0%	0
	Sablefish CDQ (Trawl)	0	47	47	0%	0
	Greenland Turbot	0	850	850	0%	0
	Greenland Turbot CDQ	0	75	75	0%	0
X	Pollock	0	15,100	15,100	0%	0
X	Pollock CDQ	0	1,900	1,900	0%	0
X	Pollock, Incidental Catch (includes CDQ)	12	2,000	1,988	1%	8

Note: All weights are in metric tons.

Report run on: February 3, 2006 6:15 AM

Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Catch Report
(includes CDQ)
Through: 28-JAN-06

National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting



Bering Sea Aleutian Islands

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Alaska Plaice	192	8,500	8,308	2%	171
	Alaska Plaice CDQ	0	750	750	0%	0
	Arrowtooth Flounder	573	10,200	9,627	6%	369
	Arrowtooth Flounder CDQ	3	900	897	0%	3
	Flathead Sole	1,200	17,000	15,800	7%	992
	Flathead Sole CDQ	7	1,500	1,493	0%	7
	Northern Rockfish	211	4,625	4,414	5%	194
	Northern Rockfish CDQ	0	375	375	0%	0
	Other Flatfish	390	2,550	2,160	15%	276
	Other Flatfish CDQ	1	225	224	0%	1
	Other Species	3,765	24,820	21,055	15%	1,290
	Other Species CDQ	16	2,190	2,174	1%	6
X	Pacific Cod, Catcher Processor (Trawl)	2,952	42,388	39,436	7%	2,471
X	Pacific Cod, Catcher Vessel (Trawl)	3,986	42,388	38,402	9%	3,217
X	Pacific Cod, Catcher Processor (Hook-and-Line)	24,348	73,193	48,845	33%	5,423
	Pacific Cod, Catcher Vessel (Hook-and-Line)	11	274	263	4%	8
	Pacific Cod, Catcher Processor (Pot)	0	3,019	3,019	0%	0
X	Pacific Cod, Catcher Vessel (Pot)	7,491	13,724	6,233	55%	2,530
X	Pacific Cod (Jig)	0	3,608	3,608	0%	0
	Pacific Cod (Hook-and-Line and Pot < 60 ft)	0	1,281	1,281	0%	0
	Pacific Cod, Incidental Catch (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	72	500	428	14%	0
X	Pacific Cod CDQ	145	14,625	14,480	1%	36
	Rock Sole	2,393	35,700	33,307	7%	2,235
	Rock Sole CDQ	1	3,150	3,149	0%	1
	Rougheye Rockfish	2	207	205	1%	1
	Rougheye Rockfish CDQ	0	17	17	0%	0
	Shortraker Rockfish	2	552	550	0%	1
	Shortraker Rockfish CDQ	0	45	45	0%	0
	Squid (includes CDQ)	0	1,084	1,084	0%	0
	Yellowfin Sole	908	76,500	75,592	1%	758
	Yellowfin Sole CDQ	0	6,750	6,750	0%	0
Total:		154,197	1,980,791	1,826,594	8%	107,154

Other gear in the Atka mackerel fishery includes all authorized gear types except jig.

Other flatfish: all flatfish species, except for Pacific halibut, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, rock sole, yellowfin sole, arrowtooth flounder, and Alaska plaice.

Gulf of Alaska Catch Report

Through: 28-JAN-06

National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries Catch Accounting



Western, Central Pollock

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
X	Pollock, 610 Shumagin	4,206	30,452	26,246	14%	1,893
X	Pollock, 620 Chirikof	10	34,485	34,475	0%	1
X	Pollock, 630 Kodiak	389	18,762	18,373	2%	319

Western Gulf

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Arrowtooth Flounder	42	8,000	7,958	1%	26
	Deep Water Flatfish	0	330	330	0%	0
	Shallow Water Flatfish	1	4,500	4,499	0%	0
	Flathead Sole	16	2,000	1,984	1%	9
	Rex Sole	1	1,680	1,679	0%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch	0	2,525	2,525	0%	0
	Rougheye Rockfish	0	188	188	0%	0
	Shortraker Rockfish	0	155	155	0%	0
	Thornyhead Rockfish	0	410	410	0%	0
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	1	366	365	0%	1
	Northern Rockfish	1	755	754	0%	1
	Other Rockfish	0	40	40	0%	0
X	Pacific Cod, Inshore	1,719	12,417	10,698	14%	382
X	Pacific Cod, Offshore	73	1,380	1,307	5%	73
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line)	0	0	0	0%	0
	Sablefish (Trawl)	0	481	481	0%	0
	Big Skate	1	727	726	0%	1
	Longnose Skate	0	66	66	0%	0

Gulf of Alaska Catch Report

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National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting



Central Gulf

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Arrowtooth Flounder	242	25,000	24,758	1%	145
	Deep Water Flatfish	0	3,340	3,340	0%	0
	Shallow Water Flatfish	176	13,000	12,824	1%	118
	Flathead Sole	22	5,000	4,978	0%	17
	Rex Sole	3	7,340	7,337	0%	2
	Pacific Ocean Perch	7	8,375	8,368	0%	4
	Rougheye Rockfish	0	557	557	0%	0
	Shortraker Rockfish	0	324	324	0%	0
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	9	2,973	2,964	0%	4
	Northern Rockfish	8	3,995	3,987	0%	4
	Thornyhead Rockfish	0	1,010	1,010	0%	0
	Other Rockfish	0	300	300	0%	0
X	Pacific Cod, Inshore	7,235	19,858	12,623	36%	1,600
X	Pacific Cod, Offshore	0	2,206	2,206	0%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line)	0	0	0	0%	0
	Sablefish (Trawl)	0	1,374	1,374	0%	0
	Big Skate	189	2,463	2,274	8%	69
	Longnose Skate	48	1,972	1,924	2%	10

Eastern Gulf

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Rougheye Rockfish	0	262	262	0%	0
	Shortraker Rockfish	0	274	274	0%	0
	Thornyhead Rockfish	0	520	520	0%	0
	Pacific Cod, Inshore	0	2,897	2,897	0%	0
	Pacific Cod, Offshore	0	322	322	0%	0
	Big Skate	0	809	809	0%	0
	Longnose Skate	0	780	780	0%	0

Gulf of Alaska Catch Report

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National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries Catch Accounting



West Yakutat

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Arrowtooth Flounder	0	2,500	2,500	0%	0
	Deep Water Flatfish	0	2,120	2,120	0%	0
	Shallow Water Flatfish	0	2,030	2,030	0%	0
	Flathead Sole	0	2,842	2,842	0%	0
	Rex Sole	0	1,340	1,340	0%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch	0	813	813	0%	0
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	0	205	205	0%	0
	Other Rockfish	0	130	130	0%	0
	Pollock	0	1,691	1,691	0%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line)	0	0	0	0%	0
	Sablefish (Trawl)	0	291	291	0%	0

Southeast

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Arrowtooth Flounder	0	2,500	2,500	0%	0
	Deep Water Flatfish	0	1,030	1,030	0%	0
	Shallow Water Flatfish	0	1,210	1,210	0%	0
	Flathead Sole	0	370	370	0%	0
	Rex Sole	0	2,290	2,290	0%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch	0	1,579	1,579	0%	0
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	0	871	871	0%	0
	Other Rockfish	0	200	200	0%	0
	Pollock	0	6,520	6,520	0%	0
	Demersal Shelf Rockfish	0	410	410	0%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line)	0	0	0	0%	0

Entire Gulf

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Atka Mackerel	2	600	598	0%	0
	Other Skates	123	1,327	1,204	9%	87
	Other Species	97	13,525	13,428	1%	28
Total:		14,621	271,064	256,443	5%	4,797

Deep water flatfish: Dover sole, Greenland turbot, and deepsea sole.

Shallow water flatfish: flatfish not including deep water flatfish, flathead sole, rex sole, or arrowtooth flounder.

Gulf of Alaska Catch Report

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**National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting**



Other rockfish in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas and in the West Yakutat District: slope rockfish and demersal shelf rockfish.

Other rockfish in the Southeast Outside District: slope rockfish.

Slope rockfish: aurora, blackgill, bocaccio, chilipepper, darkblotch, greenstriped, harlequin, pygmy, redbanded, redstripe, sharpchin, shortbelly, silvergrey, splitnose, stripetail, vermilion, and yellowmouth.

In the Eastern GOA only, "slope rockfish" also includes northern rockfish.

Demersal shelf rockfish: canary, china, copper, quillback, rosethorn, tiger, and yelloweye.

Pelagic shelf rockfish: dusky, widow, and yellowtail.

Other species: sculpins, sharks, squid, and octopus.

**Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Prohibited Species Report
(includes CDQ fisheries)**

Through: 28-JAN-06

**National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting**



Chinook Salmon

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	BS Pollock (Pelagic)	Count	7,342	26,825	19,483	27%	5,853
	BS Chinook Salmon PSQ	Count	46	2,175	2,129	2%	46
	AI Pollock (Pelagic)	Count	0	647	647	0%	0
	AI Chinook Salmon PSQ	Count	0	53	53	0%	0
Total:			7,388	29,700	22,312	25%	5,899

Halibut Mortality

Non-Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
X	Pacific Cod (Hook-and-Line)	MT	109	775	666	14%	15
	Non-Pacific Cod (Hook-and-Line)	MT	0	58	58	0%	0
Total:			109	833	724	13%	15

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Pacific Cod	MT	282	1,434	1,152	20%	221
	Rockfish	MT	0	69	69	0%	0
X	Rock Sole, Flathead Sole, Other Flatfish (Trawl)	MT	95	779	684	12%	90
	Pollock, Atka Mackerel, Other Species	MT	23	232	209	10%	21
X	Yellowfin Sole (Trawl)	MT	0	886	886	0%	0
	Turbot/Sablefish/Arrowtooth Flounder	MT	26	0	-26	0%	22
Total:			426	3,400	2,974	13%	354

Trawl and Hook-and-Line Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Halibut Mortality PSQ	MT	1	342	341	0%	1
Total:			1	342	341	0%	1

Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Prohibited Species Report
(includes CDQ fisheries)

Through: 28-JAN-06

National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting



Herring (includes CDQ fisheries)

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Pacific Cod	MT	0	27	27	0%	0
	Rockfish	MT	0	10	10	0%	0
	Rock Sole, Flathead Sole, Other Flatfish	MT	0	27	27	0%	0
	Pollock, Atka Mackerel, Other Species	MT	0	192	192	0%	0
	Pollock Pelagic	MT	1	1,562	1,561	0%	0
	Yellowfin Sole	MT	0	183	183	0%	0
	Greenland Turbot, Arrowtooth, Sablefish	MT	0	12	12	0%	0
Total:			1	2,013	2,012	0%	0

Opilio (Tanner) Crab - COBLZ

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Pacific Cod	Count	0	139,331	139,331	0%	0
	Rockfish	Count	0	44,945	44,945	0%	0
	Rock Sole, Flathead Sole, Other Flatfish	Count	614	1,082,528	1,081,914	0%	614
	Pollock, Atka Mackerel, Other Species	Count	0	80,903	80,903	0%	0
	Yellowfin Sole	Count	0	3,101,915	3,101,915	0%	0
	Greenland Turbot, Arrowtooth, Sablefish	Count	0	44,946	44,946	0%	0
	Opilio Crab PSQ	Count	0	364,424	364,424	0%	0
Total:			614	4,858,992	4,858,378	0%	614

Bairdi Crab, Zone 1

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Pacific Cod	Count	33,037	183,112	150,075	18%	29,024
	Rock Sole, Flathead Sole, Other Flatfish	Count	7,222	365,320	358,098	2%	6,894
	Pollock, Atka Mackerel, Other Species	Count	39	17,224	17,185	0%	31
	Yellowfin Sole	Count	0	340,844	340,844	0%	0
	Bairdi Crab PSQ	Count	0	73,500	73,500	0%	0
Total:			40,297	980,000	939,703	4%	35,949

**Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Prohibited Species Report
(includes CDQ fisheries)**

Through: 28-JAN-06

**National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting**



Bairdi Crab, Zone 2

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Pacific Cod	Count	13,880	324,176	310,296	4%	10,663
	Rockfish	Count	0	10,988	10,988	0%	0
	Rock Sole, Flathead Sole, Other Flatfish	Count	4,314	596,154	591,840	1%	4,314
	Pollock, Atka Mackerel, Other Species	Count	19	27,473	27,454	0%	18
	Yellowfin Sole	Count	0	1,788,459	1,788,459	0%	0
	Bairdi Crab PSQ	Count	0	222,750	222,750	0%	0
Total:			18,213	2,970,000	2,951,787	1%	14,995

Red King Crab, Zone 1

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Pacific Cod	Count	281	26,563	26,282	1%	205
	Rock Sole, Flathead Sole, Other Flatfish	Count	13,816	121,413	107,597	11%	10,137
	Pollock, Atka Mackerel, Other Species	Count	0	406	406	0%	0
	Yellowfin Sole	Count	0	33,843	33,843	0%	0
	Red King Crab PSQ	Count	0	14,775	14,775	0%	0
Total:			14,097	197,000	182,903	7%	10,342

"Other flatfish" for PSC monitoring: all flatfish species, except for Pacific halibut (a prohibited species), flathead sole, Greenland turbot, rock sole, yellowfin sole, arrowtooth flounder.

COBLZ: C. Opilio Crab Bycatch Limitation Zone. 50 CFR 679.21(e) and Figure 13.

Zone 1: Federal Reporting Areas 508, 509, 512, 516.

Zone 2: Federal Reporting Areas 513, 517, 521.

Data is based on observer reports, extrapolated to total groundfish harvest. Estimates for all weeks may change due to incorporation of late or corrected data.

Gulf of Alaska Halibut Mortality Report

Through: 28-JAN-06

National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting



Trawl Fisheries

Deep Water Species Complex

Season	Begin	End	Total Catch	Limit	Limit Remaining	% Taken
1st Season	20-JAN-06	01-APR-06	0	100	100	0%
2nd Season	01-APR-06	05-JUL-06	0	300	300	0%
3rd Season	05-JUL-06	01-SEP-06	0	400	400	0%
4th Season	01-SEP-06	30-SEP-06	0	0	0	0%
Total:			0	800	800	0%

Shallow Water Species Complex

Season	Begin	End	Total Catch	Limit	Limit Remaining	% Taken
1st Season	20-JAN-06	01-APR-06	111	450	339	25%
2nd Season	01-APR-06	05-JUL-06	0	100	100	0%
3rd Season	05-JUL-06	01-SEP-06	0	200	200	0%
4th Season	01-SEP-06	30-SEP-06	0	150	150	0%
Total:			111	900	789	12%

Year-To-Date

Account	Total Catch	Limit	Limit Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
Trawl Fishery	111	2,000	1,889	6%	60

Other Hook-and-Line Fisheries

Season	Begin	End	Total Catch	Limit	Limit Remaining	% Taken
1st Season	01-JAN-06	10-JUN-06	48	250	202	19%
2nd Season	10-JUN-06	01-SEP-06	0	5	5	0%
3rd Season	01-SEP-06	31-DEC-06	0	35	35	0%
			48	290	242	17%

Deep-water species complex: sablefish, rockfish, deep-water flatfish, rex sole and arrowtooth flounder. Shallow-water species complex: pollock, Pacific cod, shallow-water flatfish, flathead sole, Atka mackerel, and 'other species'.

No apportionment between shallow-water and deep-water fishery complexes during October 1 to December 31 (300 mt allocated).

Other hook-and-line fisheries means all hook-and-line fisheries except sablefish and demersal shelf rockfish in the Southeast District.

Halibut mortality for the demersal shelf rockfish fishery, Southeast District is not listed due to insufficient observer coverage.

Two Page Primer – What does the Rockfish Pilot Program Do?

The Program is a 2-year pilot project which permits harvesters to form voluntary cooperatives and receive an exclusive harvest privilege to groundfish species in the Central GOA. Processors can form associations with inshore harvester cooperatives for exclusive processing opportunities. The Program structure is similar to the American Fisheries Act. The Program uses harvests during the 1996-2002 Central GOA rockfish fisheries as the basis for establishing catch history. Catch history is based on vessels with landings of Central GOA rockfish that gave rise to limited licenses (LLPs). Holders of LLPs have their LLPs modified with an endorsement that specifies their catch history. Each year, LLP holders choose to join a cooperative, limited access fishery, or opt-out of the Program with their catch history.

A **cooperative** receives an exclusive harvest privilege based on the sum of the rockfish catch history of the LLPs assigned to the cooperative by its members. LLP holders can receive an exclusive harvest privilege on an annual basis only by joining a cooperative. LLP holders with a catcher/processor (C/P) designation can only form cooperatives with other C/P LLP holders. LLP holders with a catcher vessel (CV) designation can only form cooperatives with other CV LLP holders. Alternatively, LLP holders can choose to fish in a **limited access fishery** within that sector (C/P or CV). The limited access fishery comprises the annual catch amount for the Program that is left after C/P or CV cooperatives form. Finally, LLP holders in the C/P sector can choose to **“opt-out”** of most of the aspects of the Program.

The Program allocates rockfish in the Central GOA, associated secondary species, and an amount of halibut mortality that can be used while fishing under the Program. The CV and CP sector receive different annual allocations according to the following table...

Central GOA Species	CV Cooperatives	CV Limited Access	C/P Cooperatives	C/P Limited Access	C/P “Opt-out”
Primary Species – (95 % of the TAC) POP, Pelagic Shelf, Northern Rockfish	Exclusive allocation	CV sector limit (non-coop)	Exclusive allocation	C/P sector limit (non-coop)	Prohibited from directed fishing in the CGOA rockfish fishery.
Secondary Species – Proportion of July harvest Thornyhead	Exclusive allocation	Reduced incidental catch – Maximum Retainable Amount (MRA)	Exclusive allocation	Reduced MRA	Current MRA
Shorthead & Rougheye Rockfish	Reduced MRA	Reduced MRA	Exclusive allocation	Reduced MRA	Current MRA
Trawl Sablefish	Exclusive allocation	Reduced MRA	Exclusive allocation	Reduced MRA	Current MRA
Pacific Cod	Exclusive allocation	Reduced MRA	Reduced MRA	Reduced MRA	Current MRA
Halibut mortality usage (PSC)	Exclusive allocation	Current GOA PSC limits	Exclusive allocation	Current GOA PSC limits	Current GOA PSC limits

Use caps limit the amount of catch history an LLP holder can have. Catch history cannot be separated from an LLP once it is assigned, effectively limiting the number of LLPs a person can hold. Use caps

also limit the amount of fish a cooperative and C/P vessel can harvest.

Cooperatives within a sector can transfer allocated fish among each other, up to use cap limits. Two C/P LLP holders are required to form a C/P cooperative. CV LLP holders can form cooperatives only in association with a specific group of eligible processors in Kodiak to whom they have delivered a majority of their catch. Rockfish, and other associated groundfish harvested by cooperatives or under the limited access fishery must be delivered to this group of eligible processors in Kodiak.

Five percent (2.5 % to trawl gear, 2.5% to fixed gear) of the Central GOA rockfish TAC is allocated to an entry-level fishery for LLP holders who aren't qualified for the Program. Processors that aren't qualified to receive cooperative and limited access fish can receive entry-level rockfish.

The Program establishes a suite of sideboards that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. **Sideboards apply only in July. Sideboards are limits, NOT allocations.** There are two broad categories of sideboards – those that establish catch limits, and those that prohibit directed fishing. Catch limits are divided further: (1) limits on harvests in other GOA rockfish fisheries; and (2) halibut PSC limits on the amount of halibut mortality that can be used in GOA flatfish fisheries. Once sideboard limits are reached, directed fisheries are closed. **Sideboards would apply in State waters in the “parallel” fishery.** The table summarizes those sideboards...

July Sideboard Limit	CV Sector	C/P Cooperatives	C/P Limited Access	C/P “Opt-out”
Catch limits ... Western GOA POP, Pelagic Shelf, and Northern Rockfish	CV Sector limit – a collective CV limit for each species in each region	Coop specific limit for each species in each region	C/P sector limit – a collective limit for all non-coop C/Ps for each species in each region.	
West Yakutat POP, Pelagic Shelf, and Northern Rockfish				
BSAI Pacific cod	CV Sector limit	N/A	N/A	N/A
Halibut mortality limits ... Western GOA (1) Shallow-water limit, & (2) Deep-water limit	CV Sector limit. (1) shallow-water flatfish closed in that region when limit reached; (2) deep water flatfish closes in that region when limit reached.	C/P Coop specific limit. (1) shallow-water flatfish closed in that region when limit reached; (2) deep water flatfish closes in that region when limit	C/P Non-coop Sector limit (1) shallow-water flatfish closed in that region when limit reached; (2) deep water flatfish closes in that region when limit reached.	
Central GOA (1) Shallow-water limit, & (2) Deep-water limit				
West Yakutat District (1) Shallow-water limit, & (2) Deep-water limit				
Prohibited fishing .. BSAI groundfish (except pollock and IFQ sablefish)	July 1 - 31 prohibited fishing for most flatfish and rockfish	July 1- July 14	From July 1- until C/Ps harvest 90% of the CGOA POP.	N/A
GOA groundfish (except pollock and IFQ sablefish)	N/A	N/A ** (Assuming monitoring requirements met)	(Only for C/Ps with more than 5% of the total C/P POP history)	July 1 - July 14 – unless past activity

Management Challenges with the Rockfish Program

The Rockfish Program is, in many respects a smaller scale, more limited “Mini-GOA Rationalization” project. The Program requires the same regulatory infrastructure, programming, and monitoring and enforcement as larger programs, even though the size of the fleet affected is relatively small.

The challenges for NOAA Fisheries fall into several broad categories: (1) initial allocation of catch history to LLP holders and assigning processor eligibility; (2) creating inseason management programs for catch accounting; and (3) ensuring adequate monitoring and enforcement. These steps need to be well-understood so that the regulatory framework supports these ongoing management needs. Although not exhaustive, the following list details some of the requirements for the Program.

(1) Implementation

- Establish an official record for assigning catch history for LLP holders. This will rely on Council data but must be integrated with our records and computer management system.
- Review and approve applications for catch history, annual allocations, and cooperative transfers.
- Reissue LLPs and Federal Fisheries Permits for catch history and sideboard designations.
- Track use caps.

(2) Inseason Catch Accounting

- Allocate annual harvest amounts to cooperatives, the limited access fisheries, and sideboard limits through the annual specification requirements.
- Develop a new system for linking LLPs and vessel catch. This is the first major program requiring the tracking of LLPs. Currently, there is no data capture of the LLP license(s). Mid-year changes in named vessels further complicate this process.
- Manage three types of sideboard fisheries in the GOA (AFA, Crab Rationalization, and the Program). Several vessels are affected by more than one of these sideboards. The tracking and decision making process for determining which sideboards to deduct are non-trivial.
- Monitor and actively manage many allocation pools (e.g. CV limited access POP; C/P opt-out deep-water halibut PSC sideboard limits in the WGOA). Each separate sub-allocation and sideboard must be monitored carefully, particularly for halibut PSC management.

(3) Monitoring and Enforcement

- Tracking halibut PSC requires expanded observer coverage and additional staffing and support from the observer program in a limited budget climate. We are developing reporting methods to ensure timely catch reporting and reduce staffing requirements.
- The Program would explore the use of vessel specific monitoring plans to ensure proper catch accounting and, hopefully, minimize observer coverage over the long-term. This is the first rationalization program to explore alternative monitoring requirements.

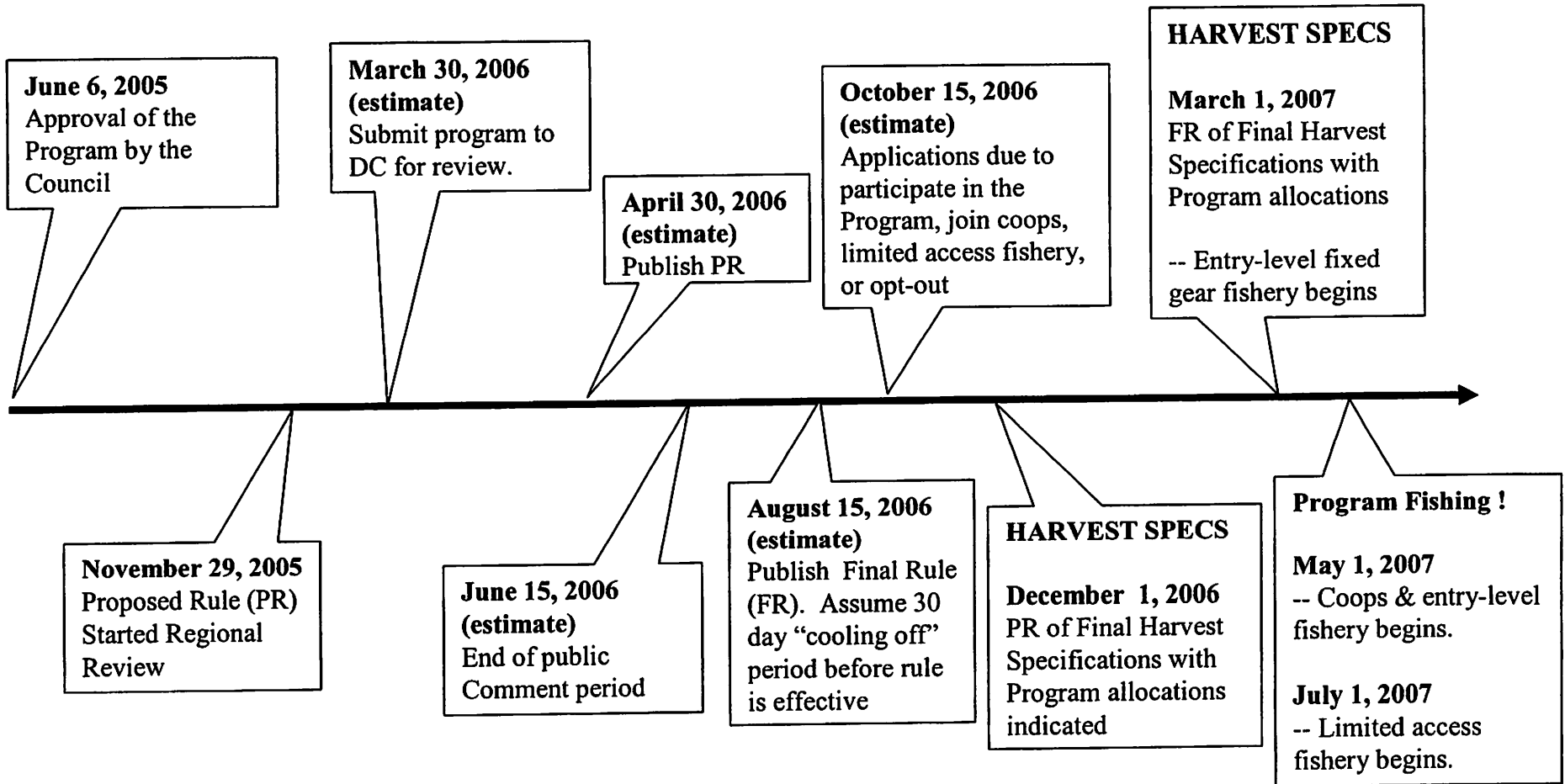
Timelines for Rockfish Program Implementation

Following are two alternative time lines for Rockfish Program implementation. Under both scenarios, we anticipate implementation by March of 2007. Almost all participants in the Program could fully harvest their allocations. The fixed-gear entry-level fishery could be slightly constrained under alternative 2, but given past participation patterns would likely have adequate harvest opportunities.

Y E A R

2006

2007

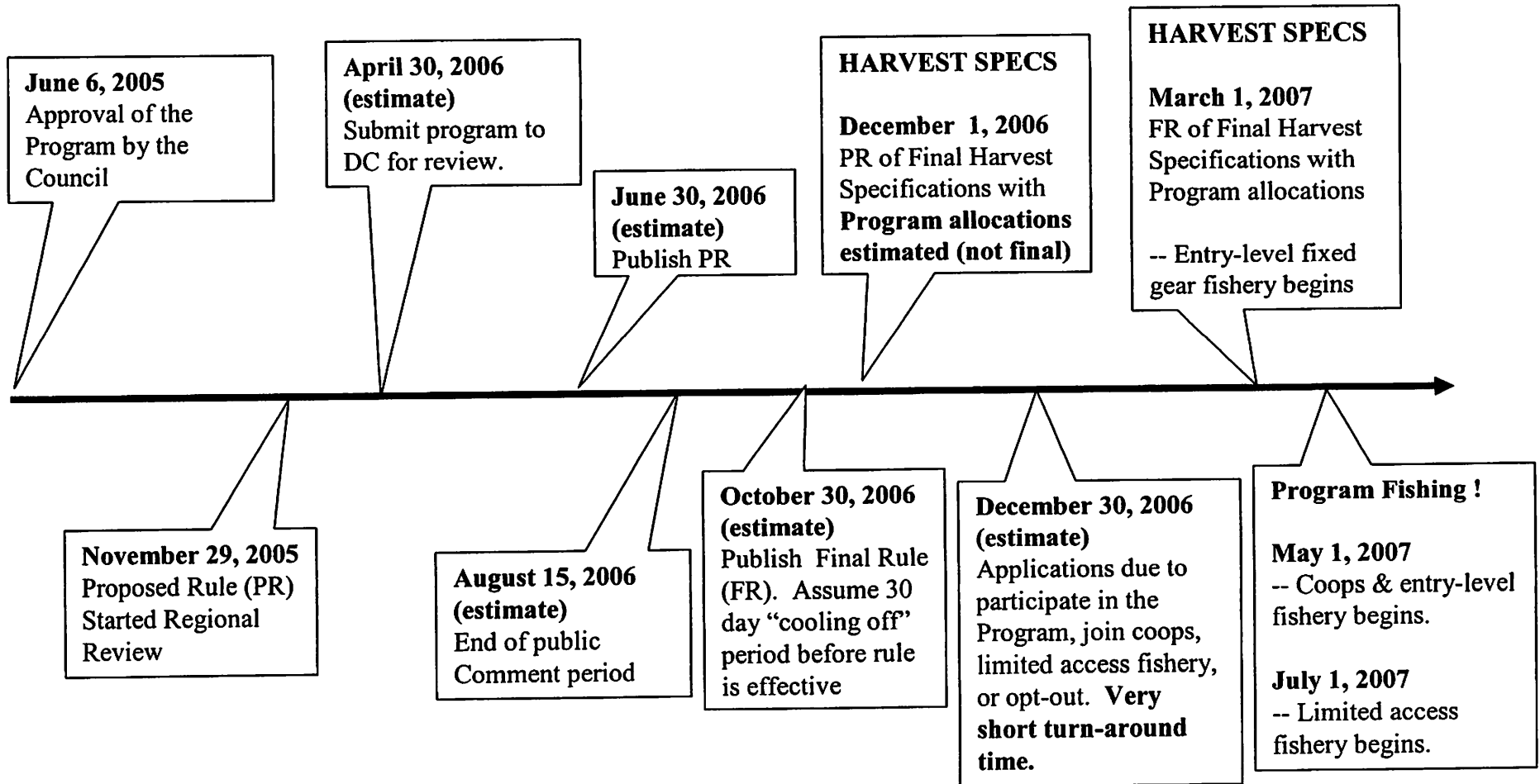


Alternative 1 – Desired Timeline for Rockfish Pilot Program Implementation

Y E A R

2006

2007



Alternative 2 – Possible Timeline for Rockfish Pilot Program Implementation

-- Additional time in Regional Review, DC review, publication of FR --

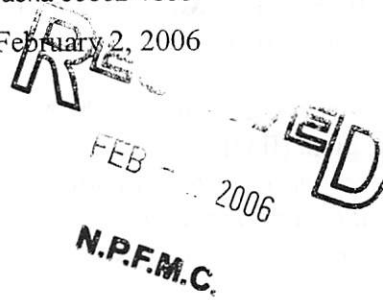


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

AGENDA B-2
FEBRUARY 2005
Supplemental

February 2, 2006



Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Dear Stephanie,

We've recently become aware of the potential application of cost recovery fees to fishing cooperatives under section 304(d)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). We have yet to work with NOAA General Council ^{set} to fully identify legal, policy and operational issues that might arise from this application. Nevertheless, we think the Council should be made aware of the potential cost recovery issues we may encounter, especially as the Council moves forward with development of Amendment 80 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. However, the application of a cost recovery program to fishery cooperatives would not be unique to Amendment 80. Fishing cooperatives established under the American Fisheries Act and the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Pilot Program also could be subject to cost recovery fees under the current MSA. If that is the case, we likely would seek a comprehensive approach for establishing a cost recovery program for the enforcement and management of fishery cooperative allocations generally. We intend to develop a discussion paper to explore the issues associated with the application of the cost recovery program to the fishery cooperative structures developed by the Council and recommend that the Council agenda this topic for discussion at its June 2006 meeting.

MSA Provisions

The MSA at section 304(d)(2)(A) requires the Secretary of Commerce to:

"...collect a fee to recover the actual costs directly related to the management and enforcement of any (i) individual fishing quota [IFQ] program; and (ii) community development quota [CDQ] program that allocates a percentage of the total allowable catch [TAC] of a fishery to such a program."

We implemented cost recovery fee collections for the existing halibut and sablefish IFQ program in 2000 (65 FR 14919, March 20, 2000), and we are currently developing regulations for CDQ cost recovery fees. Also, IFQ cost recovery fees were required for



crab fishing under the implementing regulations for the Crab Rationalization Program in 2005 (70 FR 10174, March 2, 2005). Hence, we have some experience with regulations and fee collection infrastructure needed to comply with this section of the MSA.

Looking in the definitions of the MSA at section 3, we find that the term "individual fishing quota (IFQ)" means a:

"...Federal permit under a limited access system to harvest a quantity of fish, expressed by a unit or units representing a percentage of the [TAC] of a fishery that may be received or held for exclusive use by a person [but does not include CDQs]."

This definition contains several criteria that must be met to be an IFQ. The term "person" is defined later in the same section of the MSA as:

"...any individual (whether or not a citizen or national of the United States), any corporation, partnership, association, or other entity (whether or not organized or existing under the laws of any State), and any Federal, State local, or foreign government or entity of any such government."

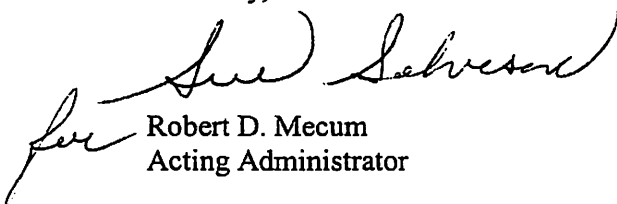
Although not defined in the MSA, the term "permit" generally is understood as a specific allowance for someone to do something, to grant permission or authority to carry out some activity. With respect to fisheries, a regulatory definition of "permit" appears at 15 CFR 904.2 to mean:

"...any license, permit, certification or other approval issued by NOAA under an applicable statute."

Based on these definitions, a Federal permit that specifies an amount of groundfish TAC to a fishing cooperative for its exclusive use could be deemed an IFQ. If such an allocation is an IFQ, mandatory cost recovery fees would apply.

In summary, we anticipate that numerous policy and operational issues will be raised as we continue to assess the applicability of section 304(d)(2) to fishing cooperatives. The fact that cost recovery fees may be required for Amendment 80 and other cooperative structures under consideration or approved by the Council should be recognized as the Council process continues to assess potential costs and obligations associated with rationalization programs. As stated above, we would prefer to find a comprehensive solution and intend to work with the Council to identify specific policy and operational issues. We anticipate that Council consideration of our discussion paper in June will help focus attention on these issues so that we may proceed to address them in as timely a manner as practicable.

Sincerely,


Robert D. Mecum
Acting Administrator