

**Status of Regulatory Amendments**  
October 4, 2003

<b>Regulatory Amendment Status:</b> <u>Actions Since June 2003 Council Meeting</u>	<b>Date of Council Action</b>	<b>Start Regional Review of Rule</b>	<b>Transmittal Date of Rule to NMFS Headquarters</b>	<b>Proposed Rule Published in Federal Register</b>	<b>Final Rule Published in Federal Register</b>
<b>Groundfish Regulations</b>					
Amend Eligibility Criteria for the BSAI Pacific cod hook-and-line and pot gear fisheries under Amendment 67	October 2002	PR: 10/22/02 FR: 6/6/03	PR: March 18, 2003  <b>FR: July 2, 2003</b>	April 25, 2003 68 FR 20360  <u>Comment period ended May 27, 2003</u>	<b>July 30, 2003</b> <b>68 FR 44666</b>  <b>Effective August 29, 2003</b>
Amend housing requirements for observers		<b>PR: 6/28/03</b>	<b>PR: July 14, 2003</b>	<b>Sept. 3, 2003</b> <b>68 FR 52378</b> <u>Comment period ends October 3, 2003</u>	
CDQ "other species" management		<b>PR: 7/28/03</b>	<b>PR: September 24, 2003</b>		
Change port codes on Table 14		<b>PR: 9/22/03</b>			
Corrections to definitions of salmon area				<b>July 23, 2003</b> <b>68 FR 43483</b> <u>Comment period ended August 22, 2003</u>	
DSR full retention and donation rule	June 1999 Reconsidered January 2003	PR: 3/13/03			
Fix 620/630 boundary problem for Alitak Bay/Deadman Bay		<b>PR: 6/9/03</b>			
Revised seabird avoidance measures	December 2001	PR: 8/26/02  <b>Final rule in preparation</b>	PR: December 11, 2002	February 7, 2003 68 FR 6386 <u>Comment period ended March 10, 2003</u>	
Revision of at-sea observer communication system requirements	Feb 2000	PR: 11/30/01  Final rule in prep	PR: February 21, 2002  <b>FR: July 22, 2003</b>	July 25, 2002 67 FR 48604 <u>Comment period ended August 26, 2002</u>	

<b>Regulatory Amendment Status:</b> <u><b>Actions Since June 2003 Council Meeting</b></u>	<b>Date of Council Action</b>	<b>Start Regional Review of Rule</b>	<b>Transmittal Date of Rule to NMFS Headquarters</b>	<b>Proposed Rule Published in Federal Register</b>	<b>Final Rule Published in Federal Register</b>
Revision to pollock roe retention standards	February 1999 See NMFS letter dated Jan 30, 2002	PR: 10/24/02  FR: 4/14/03	PR: January 8, 2003  <b>FR: June 9, 2003</b>	February 11, 2003 68 FR 6865  <u>Comment period ended March 15, 2003</u>	<b>July 9, 2003</b> <b>68 FR 40812</b>  <b>Effective August 8, 2003</b>
<b>Halibut Regulations</b>					
Halibut charter boat GHL	February 2000; December 2000	PR: 2/26/01  FR: 3/21/03	PR: October 11, 2001  FR: June 6, 2003	January 28, 2002 67 FR 3867  <u>Comment period ended Feb. 27, 2002</u>	<b>August 8, 2003</b> <b>68 FR 47256</b>  <b>Effective September 8, 2003</b>
Halibut charter boat IFQ	April 2001; October 2001	<b>Analysis received 5/9/03</b>  <b>Proposed rule in preparation</b>			
<b>Crab Regulations</b>					
Amend Eligibility Criteria for the BSAI KTC fisheries under Amendment 10		PR: February 21, 2003  FR: June 6, 2003	PR: March 18, 2003  <b>FR: July 1, 2003</b>	4/29/03 68 FR 22667  Comment period ends 5/14/03	<b>August 5, 2003</b> <b>68 FR 46117</b>  <b>Effective September 4, 2003</b>
Crab LLP license and vessel buyback program	Congress December 2000	<i>Final rule in preparation at HQ.</i>		Dec. 12, 2002 67 FR 76329 Comment period ended Jan. 27, 2003, and subsequently extended until Feb. 27, 2003	

## Status of FMP Amendments

October 4, 2003

FMP Amendment Status: <u>Actions Since June 2003 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
Amend. 66 (GOA): Community Quota Share	April 2002	PR: 5/12/03	<b>PR: August 22, 2003</b>	<b>Sept. 2, 2003 68 FR 52173 <u>Comment period ends November 3, 2003</u></b>		
Amend. 71 BSAI: CDQ administrative changes	June 2002					
Amend. 72/64: IFQ Vessel Clearance and Recordkeeping and Reporting changes <b>Amendment approved: 1/24/03</b>	Apr. 2002	PR: 5/13/02  FR: 4/02/03	PR: October 14, 2002  FR: June 6, 2003	Oct. 29, 2002 67 FR 65941 <u>Comment period ended December 27, 2002</u>	Jan. 24, 2003 68 FR 3485  <u>Comment period ended February 24, 2003</u>	<b>July 29, 2003 68 FR 44473</b>  <b>Effective August 28, 2003</b>
Amendment 75 (BSAI) - Delay applying IR/IU to flatfish species <b>Partially Approved 5/29/03</b>	Oct. 2002	PR: 12-3-02	PR: February 19, 2003	2/28/03 68 FR 9630  <u>Comment period ended April 29, 2003</u>  <b>NOA suppl. April 18, 2003 68 FR 19182</b>	Mar. 28, 2003 68 FR 15144  <u>Comment period ended May 12, 2003</u>	<b>September 2, 2003 68 FR 52142</b>  <b>Effective October 2, 2003</b>
Amendment 77 (BSAI) Pacific cod fixed gear allocation  <b>Decision date 10/22/03</b>	June 2003	<b>PR: 6/24/03</b>	<b>PR: July 15, 2003</b>	<b>July 22, 2003 68 FR 43342</b>  <b><u>Comment period ended Sept. 22, 2003</u></b>	<b>Aug. 18, 2003 68 FR 49416</b>  <b><u>Comment period ends Oct. 2, 2003</u></b>	



Regulatory Amendment Status: <u>Actions Since June 2003 Council Meeting</u>	Date of Council Action	Start Regional Review of Rule	Transmittal Date of Rule to NMFS Headquarters	Proposed Rule Published in Federal Register	Final Rule Published in Federal Register
<b>Notices</b>					
Announcing Receipt of An Application for an Exempted Fishing Permit for Salmon Excluder Devices		March 7, 2003	March 18, 2003		<b>July 31, 2003</b> <b>68 FR 44927</b>
Chiniak Research Area Opening				<b>May 9, 2003</b> <b>68 FR 24468</b>  <u>Comment period ends June 6, 2003</u>	<b>June 23, 2003</b> <b>68 FR 37095</b>  <b>Effective August 1 through September 20, 2003</b>

NMFS and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) recently completed the first phase of the alternative observer deployment project. This project was designed to test a new method of deploying observers that makes use of data sources such as VMS and electronic logbooks. These data sources allow NMFS to make informed decisions as to whether or not to deploy an observer based on very recent effort data.

The project took place in Kodiak and covered the summer rockfish and flatfish trawl fisheries in the Gulf. Boats participating in the project were required to call a contact at PSMFC no less than three hours before they left the dock and to make a good faith effort to use an electronic logbook. They were also required to call PSMFC if they changed fishing areas. In return, participating boats did not need to pay for their observer coverage during the project period..

NMFS received a great deal of cooperation from the fishing industry. Without the support of the fishing fleet as well as the shoreplants to which they delivered their catch, it would not have been possible to make this project work. In spite of the fact that this was a new program taking place in the midst of a fast-paced fishery, there were very few cases where boat crew forgot to call in prior to departure. The majority of the fishing fleet that was eligible to participate in the project did so. Twenty five of the 31 catcher vessels >60 ft that made landings in Kodiak during the project period participated.

NMFS has not yet analyzed the data from this project. However, our preliminary observations show that this method of deploying observers is practical and would lead to more efficient data collection by a given number of observers. Early analysis of patterns of observer deployment in the same fishery during other years indicate that observer coverage has not been representative either temporally or spatially. Especially noteworthy is that observer coverage tends to be concentrated toward the end of the fishery.

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Alaska Region  
Inseason Management Highlights for June – September 2003

September 29, 2003

Andrew Smoker  
Senior Inseason Manager

### **Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands**

#### **Pollock-Bering Sea**

The shoreside and offshore processors are completing their 2003 harvest. Sixteen catcher/processors (c/ps), eight shore plants using eighty six catcher vessels, and three motherships have so far taken 1,258,837 mt of their 1,302,093 mt directed fishery allocation. Two reallocations from the incidental catch account have been forwarded this year, 6,500 mt on August 19, and an additional 4,000 mt that is in the process of being filed in the Federal Register. Catch of 'other' salmon in the catcher vessel operation area has taken the non-CDQ other salmon limit and the chum salmon savings area closed as of September 14, a week prior to the 2002 closure.

#### **Flatfish**

The rock sole/'other flatfish'/flathead sole fishery was closed for the duration of 2003 on July 31. The fishery has taken about 38,863 mt of groundfish and 879 mt of halibut mortality with 17 catcher/processors participating at its peak. Compared to 2002, the 2003 rocksole fishery took about 20% less groundfish with about 6% more halibut. The initial problem for the fleet was due to very high bycatch rates experienced early in the February fishery.

The yellowfin sole fishery including as many as 21 c/ps has taken about 110,000 mt of groundfish and 941 mt of halibut mortality through September 20. The fishery closed on September 25. Over the previous 4 years the fishery has closed in late October due to halibut mortality or not at all.

The Greenland turbot fishery with hook-and-line gear has taken about 2,000 mt of groundfish and generated 21 mt of halibut mortality. The fishery had nine catcher/processors that caught more than 50 mt of groundfish each, compared to 18 in 2001 and 28 in 2000.

Within the trawl turbot/sablefish/arrowtooth flounder target, 8 mt of halibut mortality is in the Greenland turbot target and 45 mt in the arrowtooth target flounder reflecting the general increasing interest in arrowtooth flounder as a target and a declining interest in targeting Greenland turbot with trawl gear.

While the Greenland turbot and arrowtooth flounder fisheries are not open 'directed' fisheries for trawl gear, groundfish and prohibited species catch (e.g. halibut) accrue to those targets as processors retain these 'incidentally' caught species in conjunction with

open fisheries. Targets are created as the incidental species are taken in reporting areas other than where the open fisheries occur.

### **Atka mackerel**

Ten c/ps registered for the B season harvest limitation area (HLA) fisheries in 542 . Of those 10, 8 registered in the 543 HLA. Preliminary catch data indicates the fisheries have about taken the HLA limits. The Central Aleutian District directed fishery closed September 25, the Western Aleutian District closed October 2.

### **Pacific cod**

The c/p hook-and-line fishery opened August 15. The average weekly catch is about 3,200 mt with about 35 c/ps participating. After the reallocation of Pacific cod from jig, trawl and pot gear is complete, the total allocation to hook-and-line c/ps is expected to be 100,311 mt.

The pot fishery opened September 1. Catch has been relatively strong this fall with an average weekly catch of about 750 mt compared to 439 mt in a comparable period in 2002. Effort is expected to decline after the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery opens.

### **Pacific Ocean Perch**

The Aleutian Islands Pacific ocean perch fishery opened June 29. The fishery in each of the three districts lasted about 5-6 days as the fleet, which increased from 5 c/ps in 541 to 8 in 543, progressed out the island chain. The fishery in 543 closed July 16. Across the three districts about 102% of the combined TACs have been taken.

### **Gulf of Alaska**

#### **Trawl gear**

The rockfish fisheries began June 29. The two primary targets are Pacific ocean perch and northern rockfish with a bycatch of sablefish. The Pacific ocean perch TACs were taken at about the 90% level in the Western, Central, and West Yakutat reporting areas. About half the northern rockfish TAC in the Western area and the full TAC in the Central area was taken. Trawl sablefish catch was at or below the apportionments with the exception of the Central area. Overall 5,100 mt of northern rockfish, 10,500 mt of Pacific ocean perch and 1,648 mt of sablefish were taken in July by 12 c/ps and 33 shore delivering catcher vessels.

On October 1 the fifth seasonal trawl fishery commences with the last allocation of halibut mortality for the combined deep and shallow water complex fishery.

The trawl shallow water complex fishery in late July and early August experienced lower halibut bycatch at rates and somewhat lower groundfish catch amounts than had been incurred in recent years. The fishery remained open until September 12. The inshore Pacific cod fishery drove the closure. Last year the fishery closed on August 5.

Halibut mortality taken in the trawl deep water complex was likewise light. The fishery closed on August 2 in 2002. It remains open this year and is expected to close during the fifth seasonal trawl fishery in early October.

### **Pacific cod**

#### **Inshore**

The second season for Pacific cod opened on September 1. Catch rates were exceptionally high. Based on recent experience in the fishery a 2-day fishery was expected to take about 1,500 mt. The 48-hour fishery took about 4,200 mt. Such a high rate is unexpected during the summer. For example the highest daily rate for deliveries in the 2003 winter fishery, when the cod are aggregated for spawning, was 860 mt. Along with the high catch rates of Pacific cod, the fishery took 290 mt of halibut mortality. The inshore Pacific cod TAC has been exceeded by about 1,800 mt, the fishery was placed on prohibited species catch status on September 12, as late reports arrived.

The Western GOA fishery closed with about 300 mt remaining of the annual TAC of 13,905 mt.

#### **Offshore**

On October 1, as the trawl shallow water complex fishery opens, about 800 mt remains in the offshore allocation in the Central GOA. With the relatively early closure of the BSAI trawl fisheries for yellowfin sole and Pacific cod, 11 c/ps have been noted in the area as potential participants. An inseason adjustment has been announced, limiting the fishery to 12 hours.

### **Pollock**

Fourth seasonal fisheries begin on October 1. A 24-hour fishery has been announced for area 630 with plans to close area 610 and 620 by October 4 or 5. Information available at "press time" indicates the fleet may deviate from their expected behavior because of severe weather, which may necessitate a reopening for 630.

### **Skates**

2003 is significant for the accelerated development of a directed fishery for skates in the Central GOA. Both trawl and hook-and-line gears have increased catch. The 2002 catch is 1,135 mt and the 2003 catch over 3,000 mt. The greatest increase is within the hook-and-line shore delivering vessels where their percentage of catch increased from 4% in 2002 to 40% in 2003, in absolute terms, an increase of nearly 30 times.

### **Hook-and-line halibut mortality**

Hook-and-line fisheries for groundfish remained open until August 1, when the second seasonal allowance of halibut mortality was taken. The fishery reopened on September 1 and closed on September 28. The September closure was driven largely by at-sea c/ps



**Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Catch Report**

Through: 20-SEP-03

**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	303	888	585	34%	2
	Pacific Ocean Perch	1,098	1,199	101	92%	133
	Northern Rockfish	59	112	53	52%	2
	Shortraker/Rougheye Rockfish	89	126	37	71%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	625	1,159	534	54%	31
	Sablefish (Trawl)	189	1,233	1,044	15%	18
	Greenland Turbot	2,234	2,278	44	98%	11
X	Pollock, AFA Inshore	598,500	651,047	52,547	92%	26,350
X	Pollock, AFA Catcher Processor	512,530	520,837	8,307	98%	8,381
X	Pollock, AFA Mothership	117,989	130,209	12,220	91%	3,004
	Pollock, Incidental Catch, non-Bogoslof	32,272	40,490	8,218	80%	477
	Pollock, Incidental Catch, Bogoslof	24	50	26	48%	0

**Aleutian Islands**

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Other Rockfish	352	539	187	65%	25
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Eastern	3,762	3,238	-524	116%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Central	2,872	3,090	218	93%	174
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Western	5,354	5,411	57	99%	18
	Northern Rockfish	3,125	5,438	2,313	57%	533
	Shortraker/Rougheye Rockfish (Trawl)	188	538	350	35%	3
	Shortraker/Rougheye Rockfish (Non Trawl)	65	230	165	28%	0
X	Atka Mackerel, Eastern (Other Gear)	10,283	9,753	-530	105%	153
	Atka Mackerel, Eastern (Jig)	0	99	99	0%	0
X	Atka Mackerel, Central	22,936	27,158	4,222	84%	4,776
X	Atka Mackerel, Western	11,509	18,491	6,982	62%	1,219
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	782	1,860	1,078	42%	27
	Sablefish (Trawl)	35	659	624	5%	0
	Greenland Turbot	565	1,122	557	50%	41
	Pollock, Incidental Catch	1,571	1,000	-571	157%	41

**Bering Sea Aleutian Islands**

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Alaska Plaice	9,660	9,250	-410	104%	232
	Arrowtooth Flounder	11,501	10,200	-1,301	113%	480
	Flathead Sole	13,074	17,000	3,926	77%	387

**Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Catch Report**

Through: 20-SEP-03

**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
	Other Flatfish	2,636	2,775	139	95%	44
	Other Species	19,888	29,886	9,998	67%	767
X	Pacific Cod, Catcher Processor (Trawl)	32,763	45,105	12,342	73%	614
X	Pacific Cod, Catcher Vessel (Trawl)	38,735	45,105	6,370	86%	368
X	Pacific Cod, Catcher Processor (Hook-and-Line)	62,497	77,911	15,414	80%	2,570
X	Pacific Cod, Catcher Vessel (Hook-and-Line)	232	292	60	79%	0
X	Pacific Cod (Pot)	13,909	17,822	3,913	78%	900
X	Pacific Cod (Jig)	154	3,839	3,685	4%	0
	Pacific Cod (Hook-and-Line and Pot < 60 ft)	1,477	1,363	-114	108%	0
	Pacific Cod, Incidental Catch (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	292	500	208	58%	5
	Rock Sole	35,056	37,400	2,344	94%	314
	Squid	902	1,675	773	54%	175
	Yellowfin Sole	73,248	71,188	-2,060	103%	2,068
<b>Total:</b>		<b>1,645,336</b>	<b>1,799,565</b>	<b>154,229</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>54,340</b>

This report does not include the CDQ allocated catch.

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.

Other rockfish: all Sebastes and Sebastolobus species except for Pacific ocean perch, northern, shortraker, and rougheye rockfish.

Other species: sculpins, sharks, skates and octopus.

**Gulf of Alaska Catch Report**

Through: 20-SEP-03

**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	11,837	16,788	4,951	71%	0
X	Pollock, 620 Chirikof	17,504	19,685	2,181	89%	0
X	Pollock, 630 Kodiak	8,335	10,339	2,004	81%	0

**Western Gulf**

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Arrowtooth Flounder	7,798	8,000	202	97%	4
	Deep Water Flatfish	27	180	153	15%	0
	Shallow Water Flatfish	143	4,500	4,357	3%	2
	Flathead Sole	430	2,000	1,570	22%	0
	Rex Sole	692	1,280	588	54%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch	2,043	2,700	657	76%	0
	Shortraker/Rougheye Rockfish	192	220	28	87%	0
	Thornyhead Rockfish	314	360	46	87%	2
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	100	510	410	20%	2
	Northern Rockfish	430	890	460	48%	0
	Other Rockfish	104	90	-14	116%	2
X	Pacific Cod, Inshore	13,225	13,905	680	95%	1,149
X	Pacific Cod, Offshore	2,129	1,545	-584	138%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line)	1,711	2,056	345	83%	24
	Sablefish (Trawl)	218	514	296	42%	0

**Central Gulf**

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Arrowtooth Flounder	14,452	25,000	10,548	58%	75
	Deep Water Flatfish	740	2,220	1,480	33%	8
	Shallow Water Flatfish	4,040	13,000	8,960	31%	0
	Flathead Sole	1,483	5,000	3,517	30%	10
	Rex Sole	2,337	5,540	3,203	42%	4
	Pacific Ocean Perch	7,863	8,510	647	92%	0
	Shortraker/Rougheye Rockfish	921	840	-81	110%	2
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	2,193	3,480	1,287	63%	0
	Northern Rockfish	4,719	4,640	-79	102%	0
	Thornyhead Rockfish	730	840	110	87%	2
	Other Rockfish	651	550	-101	118%	0
X	Pacific Cod, Inshore	22,268	20,421	-1,847	109%	7

**Gulf of Alaska Catch Report**

Through: 20-SEP-03

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



**Central Gulf**

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
X	Pacific Cod, Offshore	1,457	2,269	812	64%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line)	5,283	5,152	-131	103%	47
	Sablefish (Trawl)	1,286	1,288	2	100%	0

**Eastern Gulf**

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Shortraker/Rougheye Rockfish	369	560	191	66%	4
	Thornyhead Rockfish	98	800	702	12%	4
	Pacific Cod, Inshore	55	2,160	2,105	3%	0
	Pacific Cod, Offshore	0	240	240	0%	0

**West Yakutat**

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Arrowtooth Flounder	34	2,500	2,466	1%	0
	Deep Water Flatfish	2	1,330	1,328	0%	0
	Shallow Water Flatfish	0	1,160	1,160	0%	0
	Flathead Sole	0	2,900	2,900	0%	0
	Rex Sole	1	1,600	1,599	0%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch	606	810	204	75%	0
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	607	640	33	95%	0
	Other Rockfish	226	150	-76	151%	0
	Pollock	943	1,078	135	87%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line)	1,580	2,026	446	78%	54
	Sablefish (Trawl)	143	294	151	49%	0

**Southeast**

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Arrowtooth Flounder	21	2,500	2,479	1%	0
	Deep Water Flatfish	2	1,150	1,148	0%	0
	Shallow Water Flatfish	3	2,960	2,957	0%	0
	Flathead Sole	0	1,250	1,250	0%	0
	Rex Sole	1	1,050	1,049	0%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch	0	1,640	1,640	0%	0
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	9	860	851	1%	0
	Other Rockfish	16	200	184	8%	0
	Pollock	0	6,460	6,460	0%	0

**Gulf of Alaska Catch Report**

Through: 20-SEP-03

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



**Southeast**

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Demersal Shelf Rockfish	220	390	170	56%	2
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line)	2,853	3,560	707	80%	70

**Entire Gulf**

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Atka Mackerel	382	600	218	64%	3
	Other Species	5,636	11,260	5,624	50%	99
<b>Total:</b>		<b>151,460</b>	<b>236,440</b>	<b>84,980</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>1,578</b>

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.

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, skates, squid, and octopus.





**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  
 OCTOBER 2003  
 Supplemental

October 1, 2003

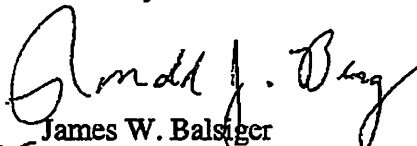
Mr. Trevor Jones  
 Alaska Food Coalition  
 1944 E. Rezanof  
 Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you for your application package, dated September 24, 2003, for a permit under the Prohibited Species Donation (PSD) program. In March 2003, you applied to NMFS to do the same activity under an exempted fishing permit (EFP). NMFS did not approve your EFP application at that time due to conflicts with International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) regulations. Specifically, you propose to retain dead halibut, sorted at sea, on Gulf of Alaska trawl vessels for use in the PSD program. In a letter from me dated March 14, 2003, I explained the legal considerations that prevented NMFS from issuing the EFP. Although these legal considerations that led to the EFP denial have not changed, we are reviewing your PSD permit application and working with the IPHC on my decision.

While your package is under consideration, I encourage you to work with the IPHC and to present your proposal at its annual meeting. The IPHC meets each January to develop annual management measures for the halibut fishery and to review regulatory change proposals from the public. The next annual meeting is scheduled for January 20-23, 2004, in Juneau, Alaska. The deadline for having a proposal considered for the January agenda is October 31. An interim meeting also is scheduled for November 18-19, 2003, in Seattle, Washington. To find more information about the IPHC, you may access their website at <http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/default.htm>. IPHC approval of your proposal may assist us in consideration of your application. We appreciate your continued efforts to reduce the disposal of dead halibut at sea and provide high quality food to underprivileged individuals.

Sincerely

  
 For James W. Balsiger  
 Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 International Pacific Halibut Commission

