Status of FMP Amendments May 30, 2008

FMP Amendment Status: Actions Since April 2008	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 24 (KTC) – Overfishing Definitions	December 2007	NOA: 2/19/08	NOA – March 6, 2008	March 19, 2008 73 FR 14766 Comment period ended May 19, 2008	No implementing regulations	
Amendment 25 (KTC) - North catcher processor owner quota share Approved: April 12, 2007	MSA Reauth. Act January 2007	NOA: 1/22/07 PR: 12/4/07 FR:3/26/08	NOA – January 29, 2007 PR – January 31, 2008 FR- May 1, 2008	February 5, 2007 72 FR 5255 Comment period ended April 6, 2007	February 15, 2008 73 FR 8838 Comment period ended March 17, 2008	May 23, 2008 73 FR 29970 Effective June 23, 2008
Amendment 26 (KTC) – C Share Exemption	December 2007	PR: 2/22/08 FR: 5/21/08	PR – March 14, 2008 FR – June 2, 2008	March 31, 2008 73 FR 15118 Comment period ended May 20, 2008	March 31, 2008 73 FR 16830 Comment period ended May 15, 2008	
Amendment 27 (KTC) – Custom Processing	December 2007	PR: 5/30/08				
Amendment 28 (KTC) – Post delivery transfers	December 2007					
Amendment 30 (KTC) – Arbitration System Changes	April 2008					
Amendment 31 (KTC) – C-Share Active Participation	April 2008					
Amendments 62/62: Single Geographic Location and AFA Housekeeping	Oct 2002					
Amendment 72 (GOA) Add IR/IU trigger for SWFF	April 2003	NOA: 1/28/08	NOA – May 19, 2008	May 28, 2008 73 FR 30598 Comment period ends July 28, 2008	No implementing regulations	

Status of FMP Amendments May 30, 2008

FMP Amendment Status: Actions Since April 2008	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 73/77 Removing Dark Rockfish from the BSAI and GOA FMPs	April 2007					
Amendment 79 GOA Other Species OFL and ABC	April 2008	NOA: 5/11/08	NOA: May 20, 2008	NOA: May 29, 2008 73 FR 30875 Comment period ends July 28, 2008	No implementing regulations	
Amendment 89 (BSAI) Bering Sea Habitat Conservation Approved May 19, 2008	June 2007	PR: 12/5/08	PR – February 19, 2008	February 27, 2008 73 FR 10415 Comment period ended April 28, 2008	March 7, 2008 73 FR 12357 Comment period ended April 21, 2008	
Amendment 78 (GOA) – Rockfish Post-Delivery Transfers	December 2007					
Amendment 90 (BSAI) Post delivery transfers for Amendment 80 cooperatives	February 2008					
Amendments 92/82 to BSAI and GOA FMPS - Trawl License Latency	April 2008					

Status of Regulatory Amendments May 30, 2008

Regulatory Amendment Status: Actions Since April 2008	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 Regulatory Am	endments				
Interagency Electronic Reporting System (second proposed rule will be published)	NMFS	PR1: 12/27/06 FR: 11/6/07	PR1: May 4, 2007	June 29, 2007 72 FR 35748 Comment period ended July 30, 2007	
Revise MRA accounting period for non-AFA C/Ps	December 2006				
Remove check in/out for processors w/VMS	NMFS	PR: 3/4/08	PR: May 12, 2008	PR: May 29, 2008 73 FR 30876 Comment period ends June 30, 2008	
Revision to GOA pollock trip limit	December 2007				
Revisions to MRAs in GOA arrowtooth fishery	October 2007				
CDQ regulation of harvest	MSA requirement Council - June 2007				
CDQ regulation of harvest	MSA requirement Council - June 2007				
Observer Program regulation revisions	April 2008				
Crab IPQ issuance cap correction	NMFS				73 FR 30319 May 27, 2008

Status of Regulatory Amendments May 30, 2008

Regulatory Amendment Status: Actions Since April 2008	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
Halibut Regulations	•				
Subsistence Halibut III	December 2004	PR: 2/14/08	PR: April 1, 2008	April 14, 2008 73 FR 20008 Comment period ends May 14, 2008	
Subsistence Halibut – correct the location of Village of Kanatak tribe from Egegik to Wasilla	June 2007	PR: 5/22/08			
Halibut/Sablefish IFQ: Allow (1) pot longline gear in BS in June for sablefish; (2) temp transfer of IFQs held by mobilized militia	June 2006	PR: 1/23/08 FR: 4/15/08	PR: February 19, 2008 FR: May 2, 2008	March 5, 2008 73 FR 11851 Comment period ended April 4, 2008	May 19, 2008 73 FR 28733 Effective May 19, 2008 and June 18, 2008
Charter vessel moratorium	April 2007				
Area 2C charter vessel GHL management measures	June 2007	PR: 11/29/07 FR 3/27/08	PR: December 12, 2007 FR: May 1, 2008	December 31, 2007 72 FR 74257 Comment period ended January 30, 2008	May 28, 2008 73 FR 30504 Effective June 1, 2008
Facilitate On-Line Access to Hal/Sab IFQ Accounts	NMFS	FR: 4/30/08	FR: May 14, 2008	no proposed rule	FR: June 3, 2008 Effective date July 3, 2008



Regulatory Actions Completed in 2008 May 30, 2008

- •Revision to 2008 harvest specs to integrate Amds. 80/85 (72 FR 71802, December 19, 2007)
- •Revise seabird avoidance measures (72 FR 71601, December 18, 2007)
- •Rescind trawl closure in Chiniak Gully Research Area (73 FR 1555, January 9, 2008)
- •Allow processing of non-IFQ species on vessel w B, D, or D shares onboard (73 FR 8822; February 15, 2008)
- •Implement BSAI Amendment 88 and revise AI Habitat Conservation Area boundary (73 FR 9035; February 19, 2008)
- •Final 2008 and 2009 BSAI groundfish specifications (73 FR 10160; February 26, 2008)
- •Final 2008 and 2009 GOA groundfish specifications (73 FR 10562; February 27, 2008)
- •Pacific halibut annual management measures (73 FR 12280; March 7, 2008)
- •Repeal Vessel Incentive Program (73 FR 12898; March 11, 2008)
- •Adjust 2008 sablefish TAC in W. Yakutat and Southeast Outside Districts (73 FR 14728; March 19, 2008)
- •Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Program: Allow (1) pot longline gear in BS in June for sablefish; (2) temp transfer of IFQs held by mobilized militia (73 FR 28733; May 19, 2008)
- •Amendment 25 (KTC) North catcher processor owner quota share (73 FR 29970; May 23, 2008)
- •Crab IPQ issuance cap correction (73 FR 30319; May 27, 2008)
- •Area 2C charter vessel GHL management measures (73 FR 30504; May 28, 2008)

May 30, 2008

National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region, Inseason Management Highlights

2008 catch is through May 24 unless otherwise stated

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

Bering Sea Pollock

All sectors including CDQ caught their 2008 A season allocation of 387,400 metric tons (mt). In 2008 the same number of vessels participated as in 2007. Sixteen catcher/processors, 79 catcher vessels delivering to inshore processors, 16 catcher vessels delivering to 3 motherships, and 12 catcher/processors in the CDQ sector targeted pollock.

Salmon in pollock fishery

The 2008 Chinook Salmon Savings Area (CSSA) limit is 29,000 salmon. The 2008 A season pollock fishery caught 14,573 non-CDQ and 533 CDQ Chinook salmon. The 2007 A season pollock fishery caught 66,430 non-CDQ and 3,091 CDQ Chinook salmon. In 2007 the CSSA closed for non-CDQ fisheries February 6 to April 15 and September 1 to December 31. In 2008, 240 non-Chinook salmon have been caught compared to 7,360 salmon for the same time period in 2007.

Trawl groundfish catch (metric tons)

	NPT CV	NPT CP	PTR CV	PTR CP
2007	42,405	197,160	305,896	246,787
2008	39,087	192,125	218,654	167,466

Trawl halibut mortality

In 2008 halibut mortality for trawl gear is allocated to BSAI trawl limited access, Amendment 80 limited access, and Amendment 80 cooperatives. Total trawl halibut mortality is 60% of the 2007 trawl halibut mortality for the same time period. For catcher/processors most of the reduction is in the Pacific cod fishery category. Reduced amount are also in the pollock/Atka mackerel/other species, yellowfin sole, and rock sole fishery categories. For catcher vessels the Pacific cod fishery is about 144 mt and the pollock fishery is about 20 mt less than in 2007. The BSAI trawl limited access sector exceeded their 2008 annual halibut mortality limit of 125 mt for the pollock/Atka mackerel/other species fishery category by 18 mt.

Atka mackerel

One catcher/processor in the Amendment 80 cooperative and three catcher/processors in the Amendment 80 limited access sector registered for the 2008 A season harvest limitation area (HLA) fisheries in the Central and Western Aleutian Districts (four in 2007). The catch is well below the HLA limits. As in 2007 not much effort has occurred in Area 543. The registration deadline for the second HLA fisheries is August 1 for the September openings.

Pacific cod

Hook-and-line catcher/processors

In 2008, 36 hook-and-line catcher/processors participated in the Pacific cod fishery (36 in 2007). The A season closed February 8 catching 36,790 mt of the 37,660 mt total allowable catch (TAC). The 2007 A season closed February 12, and 40,343 mt of the 38,419 mt TAC was taken.

Hook-and-line catcher vessels

The fishery for hook-and-line catcher vessels >= 60 ft LOA remains open since no effort has occurred. The 2007 A season closed February 21 catching 157 mt of the 144 mt TAC.

Hook-and-line and pot catcher vessels < 60 feet length overall

NMFS reallocated 400 mt from B season jig gear allocation to the < 60 ft category. The <60 ft fishery reopened April 30 and closed May 6, 2008. Twelve vessels participated (7 pot, 5 hook-and-line).

Jig

In 2008, four vessels started fishing Pacific cod in April and May catching 15 mt. In 2007, three vessels participated in the A season catching 11 mt.

Pot

The 2008 fishery for pot catcher vessels closed January 18 with 43 vessels catching about 6,600 mt of the 6,496 mt A season TAC. The 2007 fishery closed January 26 with 48 vessels catching about 8,077 mt of the 7,203 mt A season TAC.

In 2008, five pot catcher/processors participated in the Pacific cod fishery. The 2008 fishery closed February 20 catching 1,178 mt of the 1,160 mt A season TAC. In 2007, three pot catcher/processors participated in the Pacific cod fishery. This fishery closed February 20, 2007 catching 1,691 mt of the 1,586 mt A season TAC.

Trawl

The 2008 A season for catcher vessels closed March 6 catching 25,885 mt of the 24,932 mt A season TAC. The B season opened April 1 on a TAC decreased by the A season overage to 2,753 mt and closed April 4 taking 3,419 mt. The C season opens June 10 with 4,388 mt remaining for the year. Based on catch data from 2005-2007 about 1,500 mt of Pacific cod is necessary for the incidental catch in other groundfish fisheries for the remainder of 2008. This leaves 2,888 mt for a C season directed fishery. The 2007 A season for catcher vessels closed March 12 catching 25,696 mt of the 25,977 mt A season TAC. The B season opened April 1 on a TAC increased by the A season underage to 3,992 mt and closed April 9 taking 4,448 mt. The C season opened June 10 until the halibut mortality limit was reached September 29.

The Amendment 80 cooperative is controlling their catch. The 2008 Amendment 80 limited access fishery closed for the A and B seasons. The 2008 A season closed for AFA catcher/processors effective March 24 and will remain closed for the B and C seasons. The 2007 A season for all trawl catcher/processors closed March 17 catching 18,010 mt

of the 18,555 mt A season TAC. The 2007 B season fishery opened April 1 until the 11,133 mt TAC was taken May 10. The C season opened June 10 until the TAC was taken August 6.

Greenland turbot

The directed fishery by hook-and-line catcher/processors opened May 1. So far no vessels have participated. In the last few years this fishery has accelerated in July by the hook-and-line catcher processors until effort shifts to the Pacific cod fishery on August 15. In 2007, the Bering Sea fishery close July 14 and the Aleutian Islands fishery remained open.

Gulf of Alaska

Western GOA Pacific cod

The 2008 A season Western GOA inshore Pacific cod fishery closed February 29. A total of 10,429 mt of the 10,502 mt A season TAC was caught by 80 vessels. The percentages by gear are: 37% from pot gear, 21% from hook-and-line gear, and 42% from trawl gear. The 2007 A season Western GOA inshore Pacific cod fishery closed March 8. A total of 10,707 mt of the 10,876 mt A season TAC was caught by 80 vessels. The percentages by gear are: 35% from pot gear, 25% from hook-and-line gear, and 40% from trawl gear. The offshore component closed March 4 in 2008 and February 14 in 2007. About 700 mt of Pacific cod from the State waters South Alaska Peninsula fishery is accounting to the federal allocation. NMFS is working to correct this accounting.

Central GOA Pacific cod

The 2008 A season Central GOA inshore Pacific cod fishery closed February 20 and had a 1 day opener on February 29. A total of 13,941 mt of the 15,350 mt A season TAC was caught by 166 vessels. The percentages by gear are: 29% from pot gear, 32% from hookand-line gear, and 39% from trawl gear. The 2007 A season Central GOA inshore Pacific cod fishery closed February 27. A total of 14,131 mt of the 15,339 mt A season TAC was caught by 163 vessels. The percentages by gear are: 39% from pot gear, 29% from hookand-line gear, and 32% from trawl gear. The offshore component closed March 9 in 2008 and February 14 in 2007.

Pollock Pollock

The A season TAC of pollock in 610 is 3,322 mt. The fishery opened January 20 and closed January 22. NMFS re-opened the fishery for 24 hours, March 3-4, and March 7 until the B season opened March 10. The B season TAC is 3,321 mt for a total A and B season TAC of 6,643 mt. The amount of pollock remaining is 533 mt. The B season fishery closed by regulation May 31.

The A season fishery in Area 620 remained open all A season. Only 4,723 mt of the 6,215 mt A season TAC was caught. The B season TAC is 7,576 mt for at total A and B season TAC of 13,791 mt. The B season opened March 10 and closed March 26. As of March 28 the total 2008 catch is 14,945 mt.

The A season TAC for 630 is 3,069 mt. The 2008 fishery opened January 20 and closed January 22. NMFS re-opened the fishery for 48 hours January 25-27 and February 23-25. The catch exceeded the A season TAC by 1,646 mt. After subtracting the A season overage from the B season TAC 63 mt remains. The B season did not open.

Rockfish

Information on the Rockfish Program can be found at

http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/goarat/default.htm. The directed fisheries for the vessels in cooperatives opened May 1, 2008. The limited access fisheries open July 1. Thirteen vessels have fished for four catcher vessel cooperatives. The current total catch for the cooperative and entry level fisheries is 310 mt of northern rockfish, 332 mt of pelagic shelf rockfish and 1,442 mt of POP.

As in 2007, two catcher/processor cooperatives with five vessels and five shoreside cooperatives with 44 catcher vessels were formed. Seven (four in 2007) catcher/processors and two (three in 2007) catcher vessels elected to participate in the limited access fisheries. Four (seven in 2007) catcher/processors elected to participate in opt out fishery. Five (three in 2007) catcher vessels registered to participate in the entry level fishery. The catch from vessels not registered to participate in the Rockfish Program fishing in State waters will be deducted from the entry level fishery.

The Western GOA Pacific ocean perch, pelagic shelf rockfish and northern rockfish and the West Yakutat Pacific ocean perch and pelagic shelf rockfish will open at noon, July 1, 2008.

Deep and Shallow Water Complex Trawl Fisheries

The trawl deep-water complex fisheries remained open until April 21, 2008. The trawl shallow-water complex fisheries closed March 10, opened March 21, and closed May 21. The next opening for the both complex fisheries is July 1, 2008. For the deep-water complex third season limit 171 mt of halibut mortality is deducted for the rockfish pilot program cooperatives.

Year	Deep CV	Deep CP	Shallow CV	Shallow CP	Total
2007	221	218	438	25	902
2008	197	211	526	44	978

Hook-and-line gear

Halibut mortality for the hook-and-line fleet is at 207 mt of the 250 mt first season allocation. This leaves 43 mt remaining. The second season allocation of 5 mt becomes available June 10. Currently, most hook-and-line vessels in the GOA are participating in the IFQ fisheries which do not accrue halibut mortality to this limit.

Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Catch Report (includes CDQ)

Through: 24-MAY-08

National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries Catch Accounting



Bering Sea

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
JOHO	Other Rockfish (includes CDQ)	29	383	354	8%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch (includes CDQ)	109	3,570	3,461	3%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	89	1,144	1,055	8%	5
	Sablefish CDQ (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	106	286	180	37%	13
	Sablefish (Trawl)	2	1,216	1,214	0%	0
	Sablefish CDQ (Trawl)	17	107	90	16%	0
	Greenland Turbot	40	1,488	1,448	3%	0
	Greenland Turbot CDQ	10	187	177	6%	0
X	Pollock, AFA Inshore	173,570	434,250	260,680	40%	0
X	Pollock, AFA Catcher Processor	130,273	347,400	217,127	37%	0
X	Pollock, AFA Mothership	34,712	86,850	52,138	40%	0
X	Pollock CDQ	37,146	100,000	62,854	37%	0
Λ.	Pollock, Incidental Catch, non-Bogoslof (includes CDQ)	16,643	31,500	14,857	53%	120
	Pollock, Incidental Catch, Bogoslof (includes CDQ)	0	10	10	0%	0

Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Catch Report (includes CDQ)

Through: 24-MAY-08

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 (includes CDQ)	86	497	411	17%	3
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Eastern	926	4,376	3,450	21%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Eastern CDQ	42	524	482	8%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Central	963	4,456	3,493	22%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Central CDQ	15	534	519	3%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Western	742	6,796	6,054	11%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Western CDQ	0	814	814	0%	0
	Atka Mackerel, Eastern ICA	1	1,400	1,399	0%	0
	Atka Mackerel, Eastern (Jig)	0	80	80	0%	0
X	Atka Mackerel, Eastern (Trawl)	7,176	15,933	8,757	45%	1
	Atka Mackerel, Eastern CDQ	1,292	2,087	795	62%	0
X	Atka Mackerel, Central (Trawl)	6,181	21,690	15,509	28%	0
	Atka Mackerel, Central ICA	0	10	10	2%	0
	Atka Mackerel, Central CDQ	1,001	2,600	1,599	38%	0
X	Atka Mackerel, Western (Trawl)	5,991	15,082	9,091	40%	0
	Atka Mackerel, Western ICA	2	10	8	16%	0
	Atka Mackerel, Western CDQ	2	1,808	1,806	0%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	391	1,464	1,073	27%	21
	Sablefish CDQ (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	30	366	336	8%	0
	Sablefish (Trawl)	1	519	518	0%	0
	Sablefish CDQ (Trawl)	0	46	46	1%	0
	Greenland Turbot (includes CDQ)	29	672	643	4%	1
X	Pollock	392	15,500	15,108	3%	0
X	Pollock CDQ	0	1,900	1,900	0%	0
X	Pollock, Incidental Catch (includes CDQ)	326	1,600	1,274	20%	0

Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Catch Report (includes CDQ)

Through: 24-MAY-08

National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries Catch Accounting



Bering Sea Aleutian Islands

Sea->	g Sea Aleutian Islands	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
sons		11,280	42,500	31,220	27%	494
	Alaska Plaice (includes CDQ)	1,769	63,750	61,981	3%	5
	Arrowtooth Flounder	80	8,025	7,945	1%	2
	Arrowtooth Flounder CDQ	8,605	44,650	36,045	19%	21
	Flathead Sole	243	5,350	5,107	5%	2
	Flathead Sole CDQ	462	7,567	7,105	6%	0
	Northern Rockfish (includes CDQ)	1,592	18,360	16,768	9%	64
	Other Flatfish (includes CDQ)	8,952	42,500	33,548	21%	129
	Other Species (includes CDQ)	3,280	3,506	226	94%	0
	Pacific Cod, Catcher Processor (AFA)	•	20,429	11,922	42%	145
	Pacific Cod, Catcher Processor (Amendment 80)	8,507	33,692	4,388	87%	0
	Pacific Cod, Catcher Vessel (Trawl)	29,304	-	•	50%	0
	Pacific Cod, Catcher Processor (Hook-and-Line)	36,923	73,844	36,921	0%	0
	Pacific Cod, Catcher Vessel (Hook-and-Line >= 60 ft)	0	303	303	53%	0
	Pacific Cod, Catcher Processor (Pot)	1,207	2,274	1,067		=
\	Pacific Cod, Catcher Vessel (Pot >= 60 ft)	6,530	12,737	6,207	51%	0
	Pacific Cod (Jig)	15	534	519	3%	7
	Pacific Cod (Hook-and-Line and Pot < 60 ft)	4,595	4,633	38	99%	0
	Pacific Cod, Incidental Catch (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	13	500	487	3%	0
	Pacific Cod CDQ	8,731	18,267	9,536	48%	124
	Rock Sole	40,773	66,975	26,202	61%	1,231
	Rock Sole CDQ	1,694	8,025	6,331	21%	229
	Rougheye Rockfish (includes CDQ)	18	187	169	. 9%	0
	Shortraker Rockfish (includes CDQ)	35	392	357	9%	0
	Squid (includes CDQ)	210	1,675	1,465	13%	0
	Yellowfin Sole	77,469	200,925	123,456	39%	3,678
	Yellowfin Sole CDQ	4,074	24,075	20,001	17%	188
ota		674,698	1,814,830	1,140,132	37%	6,484

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.

For changes to the harvest specifications refer to www.fakr.noaa.gov/2008/hschanges.htm

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

Through: 24-MAY-08

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	14,507	26,825	12,318	54%	0
BS	Chinook Salmon PSQ	Count	533	2,175	1,642	25%	0
AII	Pollock (Pelagic)	Count	66	647	581	10%	0
	Chinook Salmon PSQ	Count	0	53	53	0%	0
Total:			15,106	29,700	14,594	51%	0

Halibut Mortality

Non-Trawl Gear

Sea- Account	Units T	otal Catch	Limit Ren	naining %	6 Taken	Last Wk
sons						Catch
Halibut Mortality (Non-Trawl)	MT	223	833	610	27%	1
Total:		223	833	610	27%	1

Trawl Gear

Sea- Account	Units T	Total Catch	Limit Re	maining %	% Taken	Last Wk
sons						Catch
Halibut Mortality (Trawl)	MT	1,407	3,400	1,993	41%	28
Total:		1,407	3,400	1,993	41%	28

Trawl and Hook-and-Line Gear

Sea- Account	Units Tota	l Catch	Limit Rer	naining %	6 Taken	Last Wk	
sons						Catch	
Halibut Mortality PSQ	MT	68	342	274	20%		6
Total:		68	342	274	20%	=	6

Herring (includes CDQ fisheries)

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units				% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Pacific Cod	MT	0	26	26	1%	0
	Rockfish	MT	0	9	9	0%	0
	Rock Sole, Flathead Sole, Other Flatfish	MT	1	26	25	2%	0
	Pollock, Atka Mackerel, Other Species	MT	0	187	187	0%	0
	Pollock Pelagic	MT	0	1,318	1,318	0%	0
	Yellowfin Sole	MT	53	148	95	36%	0
	Greenland Turbot, Arrowtooth, Sablefish	MT	0	12	12	0%	0
Total:			55	1,726	1,671	3%	0

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

Through: 24-MAY-08

National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries Catch Accounting



Opilio (Tanner) Crab - COBLZ

Trawl Gear

Sea- Account sons	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
Opilio Crab PSQ	Count	8,476	465,450	456,974	2%	117
Opilio Crab	Count	350,789	3,884,550	3,533,761	9%	467
Total:		359,265	4,350,000	3,990,735	8%	584

Bairdi Crab, Zone 1

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
(Bairdi Crab PSQ	Count	3,164	104,860	101,696	3%	486
	Bairdi Crab	Count	123,189	875,140	751,951	14%	3,555
Total:	h		126,353	980,000	853,647	13%	4,041

Bairdi Crab, Zone 2

Trawl Gear

a- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
Edition	Bairdi Crab PSQ	Count	6,951	317,790	310,839	2%	47
	Bairdi Crab	Count	258,970	2,652,210	2,393,240	10%	467
Total:			265,921	2,970,000	2,704,079	9%	514

Red King Crab, Zone 1

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
Red King	; Crab PSQ	Count	2,189	21,079	18,890	10%	824
Red King		Count	58,478	175,921	117,443	33%	7,464
Total:	,		60,667	197,000	136,333	31%	8,288

[&]quot;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.

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National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries Catch Accounting



Western, Central Pollock

Sea-	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk
sons				Quota		Catch
X	Pollock, 610 Shumagin	6,110	17,602	11,492	35%	0
X	Pollock, 620 Chirikof	15,575	19,181	3,606	81%	0
X	Pollock, 630 Kodiak	5,120	13,640	8,520	38%	19

Western Gulf

Sea- sons	A.	ccount	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
32.22.73	Arrowtooth Flounder		2,477	8,000	5,523	31%	
	Deep Water Flatfish		1	690	689	0%	(
	Shallow Water Flatfish		698	4,500	3,802	16%	(
	Flathead Sole		244	2,000	1,756	12%	(
	Rex Sole		118	1,022	904	12%	(
	Pacific Ocean Perch		24	3,686	3,662	1%	(
	Rougheye Rockfish		7	125	118	6%	(
	Shortraker Rockfish		14	120	106	11%	(
	Thornyhead Rockfish		62	267	205	23%	2
5	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish		8	1,003	995	1%	(
0	Northern Rockfish		50	2,141	2,091	2%	(
3	Other Rockfish		7	357	350	2%	(
X	Pacific Cod, Inshore		10,554	17,504	6,950	60%	(
X	Pacific Cod, Offshore		1,843	1,945	102	95%	(
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line)		530	1,512	982	35%	66
	Sablefish (Trawl)		10	378	368	3%	(
	Big Skate		123	632	509	19%	(
	Longnose Skate		9	78	69	11%	(

Through: 24-MAY-08

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		13,702	30,000	16,298	46%	90
	Deep Water Flatfish		163	6,721	6,558	2%	5
	Shallow Water Flatfish		2,908	13,000	10,092	22%	46
	Flathead Sole		1,901	5,000	3,099	38%	6
	Rex Sole		1,670	6,731	5,061	25%	2
	Pacific Ocean Perch		1,498	8,185	6,687	18%	918
	Rougheye Rockfish		105	834	729	13%	2
	Shortraker Rockfish		99	315	216	32%	2
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish		302	3,626	3,324	8%	79
	Northern Rockfish		433	2,408	1,975	18%	93
	Thornyhead Rockfish		89	860	771	10%	5
	Other Rockfish		47	569	522	8%	5
X	Pacific Cod, Inshore		15,255	25,583	10,328	60%	34
X	Pacific Cod, Offshore		1,653	2,843	1,190	58%	0
A	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line)		2,115	4,400	2,285	48%	142
	Sablefish (Trawl)		44	1,100	1,056	4%	22
	Big Skate		779	2,065	1,286	38%	11
	Longnose Skate		440	2,041	1,601	22%	6

Eastern Gulf

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
Rougheye Rockfish		66	327	261	20%	9
Shortraker Rockfish		76	463	387	16%	6
Thornyhead Rockfis		73	783	710	9%	12
Pacific Cod, Inshore		171	2,155	1,984	8%	1
Pacific Cod, Offsho		0	239	239	0%	0
Big Skate	***	27	633	606	4%	0
Longnose Skate		12	768	756	2%	2

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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	12	2,500	2,488	0%	0
	Deep Water Flatfish	0	965	965	0%	0
	Shallow Water Flatfish	0	3,333	3,333	0%	0
	Flathead Sole	0	3,420	3,420	0%	0
	Rex Sole	0	520	520	0%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch	26	1,100	1,074	2%	0
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	0	251	251	0%	0
	Other Rockfish	8	604	596	1%	1
	Pollock	1,152	1,517	365	76%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line)	1,406	1,853	447	76%	84
	Sablefish (Trawl)	0	267	267	0%	0

Southeast

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
Arrowto	oth Flounder	21	2,500	2,479	1%	3
	ater Flatfish	2	527	525	0%	1
	Water Flatfish	0	1,423	1,423	0%	0
Flathead	Sole	0	634	634	0%	0
Rex Sole	e	0	859	859	0%	0
Pacific (Ocean Perch	0	2,028	2,028	0%	0
Pelagic S	Shelf Rockfish	0	347	347	0%	0
Other Re		7	200	193	3%	1
Pollock		0	8,240	8,240	0%	0
Demersa	al Shelf Rockfish	55	382	327	15%	12
Sablefish	h (Hook-and-Line)	1,610	3,220	1,610	50%	201

Entire Gulf

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
Atka Mackerel	Sun Mar November and Property of Statement of State	333	1,500	1,167	22%	0
Other Skates		683	2,104	1,421	32%	9
Other Species		1,131	4,500	3,369	25%	11
Total:		93,660	262,826	169,166	36%	1,912

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.

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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" means Sebastes ciliatus (dark), S. variabilis (dusky), S. entomelas (widow), and S. flavidus (yellowtail).

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

For changes to the harvest specifications refer to www.fakr.noaa.gov/2008/hschanges.htm

Gulf of Alaska Halibut Mortality Report

Through: 24-MAY-08

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-08	01-APR-08	75	100	25	75%
2nd Season	01-APR-08	01-JUL-08	329	300	-29	110%
3rd Season	01-JUL-08	01-SEP-08	0	229	229	0%
4th Season	01-SEP-08	01-OCT-08	0	0	0	0%
Total:			405	629	224	64%

Shallow Water Species Complex

Season	Begin	End	Total Catch	Limit	Limit Remaining	% Taken
1st Season	20-JAN-08	01-APR-08	401	450	49	89%
2nd Season	01-APR-08	01-JUL-08	160	100	-60	160%
3rd Season	01-JUL-08	01-SEP-08	0	200	200	0%
4th Season	01-SEP-08	01-OCT-08	0	150	150	0%
Total:			560	900	340	62%

Year-To-Date

Account To	tal Catch	Limit	Limit %	Taken Last	Wk Catch
			Remaining		
Trawl Fishery	979	2,000	1,021	49%	8

Other Hook-and-Line Fisheries

Note: All weights are in metric tons.

	Season	Begin	End	Total Catch	Limit	Limit Remaining	% Taken
1st Season	(A) 12 (A) 10 (A) 10 (A) 10 (A) 10 (A) 10 (A)	01-JAN-08	10-JUN-08	207	250	43	83%
2nd Season		10-JUN-08	01-SEP-08	0	5	5	0%
3rd Season		01-SEP-08	31-DEC-08	0	35	35	0%
				207	290	83	71%

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.

Gulf of Alaska Halibut Mortality Report

Through: 24-MAY-08

National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries Catch Accounting



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.

The 229 mt 3rd season Deep Water Species Complex reflects 400 mt minus 171 mt for the rockfish pilot program cooperative quota halibut.

Discussion Paper: NMFS Permit Fees NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Region May 23, 2008

In December 2004 former Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), William T. Hogarth, Ph.D., issued Policy Directive 30-120 calling for the establishment of a uniform policy of charging applicants for the administrative cost of issuing permits (Attachment 1). NMFS leadership remains committed to establishing a consistent application of agency policy providing for the assessment and collection of fees that recover the expenses of agency permit processing and issuance. To this end, Samuel D. Rauch, III, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, requested that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) work with the Regional Administrator to develop a plan of action for establishing such fees within the Alaska Region (AKR) (Attachment 2). At the April 2008 meeting, NMFS committed to providing the Council a discussion paper on permit fees for Council consideration and determination whether staff should be tasked to develop an analysis of alternatives consistent with NMFS policy.

Administrative permit fees are a discretionary provision for fishery management plans under section 303(b) (1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Thus, the Council would need to adopt amendments to its fishery management plans authorizing the collection of these fees for the fisheries under its jurisdiction. Adoption of administrative permit fees is not a required action, but it would be a discretionary action by the Council that is encouraged by NMFS Leadership

It should be noted that these administrative permit fees are distinct from cost recovery fees such as those assessed under the Pacific halibut and sablefish IFQ Program and BSAI Crab Rationalization Program. One primary difference in the two types of fees is that monies collected from administrative permit fees are deposited in the Treasury and are not recoverable to NMFS. Additionally, administrative permit fees are non-refundable and collected regardless of whether or not a permit is issued to the applicant. In other words, if an applicant for a permit was determined by the AKR to be ineligible to receive the permit, the associated administrative permit fee would not be refunded to the applicant.

The purpose of this discussion paper is to provide the Council with information about AKR permits that could be subject to fee collection and the estimated cost of issuing each permit that would form the basis of a permit fee. The paper begins with a brief statement of the objective of Policy Directive 30-120 and the legal authorities for the collection of fees to recover administrative costs. This introduction is followed by a brief overview of AKR permits, including a table of estimated fees for each permit not currently covered under a cost recovery program, and a description of the methodology used in the calculation of each fee. The paper concludes with a description of the possible alternatives for fishery management plan (FMP) amendments that would be required and options which the Council could consider should it elect to advance this action for analysis.

Objective

NMFS utilizes permits to identify persons eligible to conduct specific activities in programs regulated by NMFS. In order to obtain a permit, participants must often meet certain eligibility criteria; participants must also submit an application and supporting documentation to obtain the required permit(s). The process of application review, certification and permit issuance carries with it an administrative cost. The decision to charge administrative fees for the recovery of permit processing and issuance expenses historically has been left to each regional council and NMFS regional office. As a result, an inconsistent set of permit fee policies are established around the country. The objective of NMFS Policy Directive 30-120 "is to implement a consistent policy across NMFS of recovering these costs from applicants."

Authority

Section 303(b)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act authorizes NMFS to charge permit fees to recover administrative costs to the extent provided for under a fishery management plan. The authority for NMFS to charge permit fees to recover administrative costs also is contained in various other federal statutes.

The Federal government's policy regarding fees assessed for Government services and for sale or use of Government goods or resources is contained in OMB Circular No. A-25 (Attachment 3). Some of the provisions of OMB Circular No. A-25 that are applicable to permit fees and amounts include:

- OMB No. A-25 applies to all Federal activities that convey special benefits to recipients beyond those accruing to the general public.
- Where a statute prohibits the assessment or a user charge on a service or addresses and aspect of the user charge (e.g. who pays, how much, deposits), the statute takes precedence.
- User fees are to be sufficient to recover full cost to the Federal Government of providing the service, resource or good when the Government is acting as sovereign.
- "Full Cost" includes all direct and indirect costs to any part of the Federal Government of providing a good, resource or service. These costs include but are not limited to:
 - Directed and indirect personnel costs, including salaries and fringe benefits such as medical insurance and retirement
 - Physical overhead, consulting, and other indirect costs including material and supply costs, utilities, insurance, travel, and rents or imputed rents on land, buildings, and equipment

- Management and supervisory costs
- Costs of enforcement, collection, research, establishment of standards, and regulation, including any requirement environmental impact statements
- Full cost shall be determined or estimated from the best available records
 of the agency, and new cost accounting systems need not be established
 solely for this purpose
- Unless otherwise provided by statute, user fee collections are credited to the general fund of the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts
- Legislative proposals that allow agency retention of collections may be appropriate when a fee is levied in order to finance a service that is intended to be self-sustaining.

The first step toward establishing permit fees in the Alaska Region would be for the Council to recommend modifying several of its FMPs under which permits are authorized.

Fishery Management Plans

To authorize collection of permit fees, the following FMPs would need to be amended to allow for the assessment of such fees:

FMP for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area: This FMP includes all species of groundfish (pollock, cod, flatfish, sablefish, rockfish, etc.) fished commercially by vessels using trawl, hook-and-line, pot, jig and other authorized gear. The administrative costs associated with issuing BSAI and GOA sablefish (and halibut) quota share and IFQ permits already are collected under the IFQ cost recovery program and would not be subject to separate administrative permit fees under the proposed action..

FMP for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska essentially mirrors the BSAI groundfish FMP. Some commercial species (black rockfish, blue rockfish, lingcod) are not included in the FMP, but are instead managed by the State of Alaska.

FMP for the Scallop Fishery Off Alaska. This FMP was developed to control fishing effort in the weathervane scallop fishery. Only 9 vessels are permitted under a license limitation program.

FMP for the King and Tanner crab of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands. Most of the administrative costs associated with issuing permits for crab under this FMP are covered under a cost recovery program. However some crab fisheries are not part of the BSAI Crab Rationalization Program and license limitation or other permits may apply to these fisheries. Administrative costs associated with issuance of permits associated with the eight fisheries included in the Rationalization program already are collected under the Crab Rationalization Program's cost recovery fees and would not be subject to separate administrative permit fees under the proposed action.

The FMP for the Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off the Coast of Alaska does not contain federal permitting requirements given the salmon FMP defers management of the commercial troll fishery in Southeast Alaska to the State of Alaska and, under the Pacific Salmon Treaty, the U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Commission.

Table 1 lists the permits authorized under the groundfish, scallop and crab FMPs for which no fees currently are assessed under a cost recovery or other fee program. A brief discussion of these permits follows.

AKR Permits Overview

The Restricted Access Management Program (RAM) implements a majority of the Alaska Region's licensing and permitting programs. Specific duties include calculating and issuing Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) permits in the halibut and sablefish IFQ program and the BSAI Crab Rationalization program, issuing related permits and licenses, processing applications for transfer, hired skippers and other program elements, and implementing cost recovery activities. RAM also oversees implementation of several other licensing programs, including the North Pacific groundfish and crab License Limitation Program (LLP); the Federal Fisheries and Processing Permit Program; vessel, processor, and cooperative permitting under the American Fisheries Act; quota share and cooperative quota issuance under the Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Pilot Program and the BSAI Amendment 80 Program for the non-pollock catcher-processor trawl groundfish fisheries. RAM also issues annual permits for CDQ halibut and associated hired master permits. RAM is also charged with issuing High Seas Fishing Compliance Act (HSFCA) permits.

Additionally, AKR issues permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Exempted Fisheries Permits for experimental fisheries, and Prohibited Species Donation (PSD) Program Permits.

Finally, the AKR, through RAM, administers a subsistence halibut registration program on behalf of eligible coastal residents and members of certain Alaska Native Tribes.

Discussion of Fee Collection Efforts

The AKR conducts cost recovery efforts under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) for the Pacific halibut and sablefish IFQ and BSAI Crab Rationalization programs. Additionally, the AKR collects fees associated with the issuance of High Seas Fishing Compliance Act permits. Fees are not currently charged or collected for the issuance of any other permits, licenses or registrations administered by the AKR.

Table 1 lists those permits, licenses and/or registrations issued by the AKR that are not covered under a cost recovery program. Table 1 also provides a description of the permit, license or registration, an estimated permit fee, and additional comments regarding fee collection policies with regard to specific permits/licenses/registrations. It should be noted that at least two of the AKR management programs may be classified as Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs) and as such are subject to cost recovery efforts under the MSA. These include the Rockfish Pilot

Program and the Amendment 80 Program. AKR staff has estimated permit fees for permits issued under these programs; if FMP and regulatory changes are adopted to assess these fees they would remain in effect until a determination is made by NMFS Leadership that these are in fact LAPPs subject to cost recovery.

Methodology for Establishing Permit Fees

The NOAA Finance Handbook provides clear guidance to all NOAA organizations on the methodology for calculating fees for special products or services, including permits, which convey special benefits to recipients beyond those, received by the general public. The NOAA Finance Handbook provides that charges or fees will be set in consideration of the total costs of providing the product or service. AKR staff must use the NOAA Product/Service Cost Computation Forms and Instructions to identify the appropriate fee for each permit identified for fee collection. Thus, permit fees are set under a specified procedure and the estimated fees would be reviewed by the NOAA Finance Officer for consistency with established protocol.

OMB Circular No. A-25 establishes federal policy on fees assessed for Government services and for sale or use of Government goods or resources. OMB Circular No. A-25 provides that, unless otherwise provided by statute, user charge collections are credited to the general fund of the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts. Legislative proposals that allow agency retention of collections may be appropriate when a fee is levied in order to finance a service that is intended to be self-sustaining.

The NOAA Finance handbook states that "charges or fees should not be established if they would seriously impair the objectives of the program or public policy, nor should they be established in an amount so high as to have that effect." There are several permits and/or registrations issued by AKR RAM and Sustainable Fisheries (SF) Division that the Council may want to consider exempting from administrative permit fees.

Permit fee calculations may be reviewed and revised at any time; however, the Product/Service Cost Computation forms NMFS staff must use to determine the fees must be submitted to Line/Staff Chief Financial /Budget Officer for approval on a biennial basis.

Actions/Alternatives for Council Consideration

The Council could take the following actions with regard to the issue of permit fees to recover administrative costs associated with the issuance of AKR permits not currently under a cost recovery program:

<u>Alternative 1</u>: Status Quo. The Council could choose not to recommend amendments to any of the FMPs for fisheries off Alaska and administrative fees for AKR's issuance of permits would not be collected beyond those associated with LAPP cost recovery programs.

Alternative 2: The Council could choose to amend the groundfish, scallop and crab FMPs to include provisions for the collection of permit fees.

<u>Alternative 3:</u> The Council could choose to amend one or more of the FMPs to include provisions for the collection of permit fees.

Sub-option for Alternative 2 and 3: exempt one or more permits from the collection of permit fees because such fees could seriously impair the objectives of the program or public policy. Permits that the Council may want to consider for exemption might include:

- halibut subsistence program registration and special permits
- exempted fisheries permits (EFP) for experimental fisheries, and
- prohibited species donation (PSD) program permits.

Conclusion

. . . .

The Council has been asked by NOAA Fisheries Leadership to work with the Regional Administrator to develop a plan of action for establishing administrative permit fees in the Alaska Region. This discussion paper has provided an overview of the permits that would be affected by such action. The attached documents provide additional details about the policies and guidelines that govern the establishment and collection of such fees.

To proceed with this action, the Council could request Alaska Region staff to prepare an analysis of the required FMPs and regulatory amendments necessary implement a permit free program.

Attachments (3)

Attachment 1 - NOAA Fisheries Policy Directive

Attachment 2 - Letter to NPFMC from NOAA Fisheries

Attachment 3 - OMB Circular No. A-25 (revised)

Table 1. Alaska Region Permits, Licenses and Registrations for which fees (cost recovery or other) are not currently charged

Management Program	Permit Type	Permits Issued	Estimated Permit Application Fee	Comments
			(rounded to nearest dollar)	
			200	
CDQ Halibut	Annual CDQ Permit	6	\$73.00	
	Hired Master	500	\$65.00	
License Limitation Program	Groundfish License	1826	\$58.00	
	Crab License	347	\$58.00	
	Scallop License	9	\$66.00	
American Fisheries Act		111	\$38.00	Permits issued once with no
				expiration; estimated fee is to cover costs of processing
				replacement application and re-
	Catcher Vessel			issuance of permit
The state of the s		21	\$38.00	Permits issued once with no
		1		expiration; estimated fee is to
				cover costs of processing
				replacement application and re- issuance of permit
	Catcher Processor	3	\$38.00	Permits issued once with no
		3	\$50.00	expiration; estimated fee is to
				cover costs of processing
				replacement application and re-
	Mothership			issuance of permit
		8	\$38.00	Permits issued once with no
				expiration; estimated fee is to
		.		cover costs of processing
		1		replacement application and re-
	Inshore Processor		200.00	issuance of permit Annual permits – potential for
		9	\$98.00	cost recovery if AFA
				determined a LAPP
	Cooperative			determined a Drift 1
Federal Groundfish	Federal Fisheries Permit	1580	\$67.00	Permits issued once every three
reactal Groundlish	1 edelai trisilettes i crimt			years
	Federal Processor Permit	125	\$67.00	Permits issued once every three
	1			years

Management Program	Permit Type	Permits Issued	Estimated Permit Application	Comments
		!	Fee	
			(rounded to nearest dollar)	
Amendment 80		28	\$24.00	Permits issued once with no
				expiration; estimated fee is to
				cover costs of processing
				replacement application and re- issuance of permit
				• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
		1		Potential for cost recovery if
	Quota Share			determined an LAPP
		28	\$48.00	1
	Limited Access			determined an LAPP
		1	\$144.00	
	Annual Cooperative Quota			determined an LAPP
AI Pollock	Authorization	1	\$97.00	
Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Pilot	Cooperative	7	\$83.00	Potential for cost recovery if
Program	Cooperative	,	Ψ0.7.00	determined an LAPP
		17565	\$46.00	
Subsistence Halibut	Rural/Tribal Registration	17565	\$46.00	
	Ceremonial		\$46.00	
	Educational	1	\$46.00	
	Community Harvest	6	\$40.00	
Experimental Fisheries	EFP Permit	3	\$1,229.00	
Prohibited Species Donation	PSD Permit	Approx. 1 every 3 years	\$1,314.00	

Notes:

⁽a) Preliminary estimates of costs associated with issuing different permits that was provided to the Council in March 2008 have been revised to include costs for processing payment of fees and updated postage costs in effect May 2008. Additionally, initial estimates did not include Subsistence halibut permits, CDQ halibut permits, ESP or PSD permits.

⁽b) These are preliminary estimates of costs and have not been approved by NOAA finance officials. They are subject to change based on salary changes, postage costs, and efficiencies in permit issuance.

Department of Commerce • National Oceanic & Atmosph	eric Administration • National Marine Fisheries Service
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERI	ES SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 30-120
	Administration and Operations
	NMFS Permit Fees
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	Certified by: F/P (M. Holliday)
OPR: F/P (M. Holliday)	Certified by: 171 (IVI. Holliday)
Type of Issuance: Renewed 07	
SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:	
POMMINIVE OF WEATPIONS:	

Introduction. The authority for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to charge permit fees to recover its administrative costs is contained in five statutes. Historically, each NMFS permit program individually decided whether or not to use this authority to charge an administrative fee for the recovery of permit processing and issuance expenses. The result is a set of inconsistent permit fee policies around the country. The purpose of this directive is to establish a more consistent agency permit program that recovers the expenses of permit processing and issuance for all permits issued by NMFS to the extent allowed by law.

Objective. Permits are used to identify participants who are eligible to conduct specific activities in programs regulated by NMFS. To receive this benefit, participants must meet certain criteria and submit an application and supporting documentation to a specified NMFS office. The process of application review, certification and permit issuance carries with it an administrative cost. The objective is to implement a consistent policy across NMFS of recovering these costs from applicants. As part of the policy implementation, issues to be resolved include retention of permit fees in NMFS accounts, harmonization of the regional application, review, certification and issuance process, and establishing uniform online application and payment options for applicants.

<u>Authorities and Responsibilities</u>. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:

- (1) Under its authority for administration of the Fisheries Information System, the Office of Science and Technology has responsibility for developing and managing the plan to transition to the new policy of recovering fees for all permits.
- (2) To assist in and monitor the implementation of the policy, a Leadership Council subcommittee is created comprised of the NMFS Chief Information Officer, the directors of the Offices of Science and Technology, Sustainable Fisheries, Management and Budget, Enforcement, and the Northeast Regional Administrator. The subcommittee will be chaired by the director of the Office of Science and Technology.
- (3) The plan should target full implementation of this policy within 18 months of issuance of this directive.

- (4) Technical responsibility for plan development and implementation shall be the responsibility of a project leader, utilizing the Fisheries Information System Professional Specialty Group for Permits and other agency or contract resources as necessary, subject to the spending plan described below in item 5.
- (5) Funding support for the project design and implementation shall come from the Fisheries Information System budget line, as described in a spending plan approved by the Assistant Administrator.

Measuring Effectiveness. Performance metrics developed in the transition plan shall include quarterly reporting to the Assistant Administrator of project status.

References. Procedural directives will be issued to implement this policy as needed.

/S/ Bill Hogarth	12/20/04	
William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.	Date	
Assistant Administrator		
National Marine Fisheries Service		



JAN 2 5 2008

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE Silver Spring, MD 20910

Mr. Chris Oliver
Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Dear Mr. Oliver,

Per our discussion at the recent Council Coordination Committee meeting, this letter requests action from each Council, as appropriate, regarding permit fees. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) established a policy (attached) in 2004 to collect fees in association with all permits. As you know, NMFS may charge permit fees to recover its administrative costs to the extent fees are provided for under a fishery management plan pursuant to section 303(b)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). Historically, decisions whether to charge administrative fees for MSA permit processing and issuance expenses have been made on a case-by-case basis. The result is a set of inconsistent permit fee policies around the country in which fishermen may or may not be charged, or charged differing fees, for similar permits.

My goal is to establish a consistent application of agency policy providing for the assessment and collection of fees that recovers the expenses of permit processing and issuance for all permits issued by NMFS to the extent allowed by law. To achieve this goal, I ask that each Regional Fishery Management Council work closely with their NMFS Regional Administrator to ensure that each of their fishery management plans contains the authority necessary to collect fees and, if not, to amend those plans to provide for the collection of fees. In some cases, fees or the authority for fees for all permits may be in place and no new action necessary.

Please work with your Regional Administrator to develop a plan of action for establishing these fees within your area of jurisdiction. Additionally, implementation of fees around the country will necessitate outreach to the fishing industry to explain the basis for the new fees and I would like to hear your thoughts on how to best accomplish such outreach. I will ask that each Council/Region report on their plans to establish these fees at the next Council Coordination Committee meeting in May.

Sincerely,

Samuel D. Rauch, III

Deputy Assistant Administrator for

Regulatory Programs

Enclosure

Cc: James Balsiger, Regional Administrator







MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Circular No. A-25 Revised

(Transmittal Memorandum No. 1)

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

SUBJECT: User charges

- 1. Purpose
- 2. Rescission
- 3. Authority
- 4. Coverage
- 5. Objectives
- 6. General Policy
- 7. Implementation
- 8. Agency Repsonsibility
- 9. Disposition of Collections
- 10. New Activities
- 11. Inquiries
- 1. Purpose: The Circular establishes Federal policy regarding fees assessed for Government services and for sale or use of Government goods or resources. It provides information on the scope and types of activities subject to user charges and on the basis upon which user charges are to be set. Finally, it provides guidance for agency implementation of charges and the disposition of collections.
- 2. Rescission: This rescinds Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-25, dated September 23, 1959, and Transmittal Memoranda 1 and 2.
- 3. Authority: Title V of the Independent Offices Appropriations Act of 1952 (31 U.S.C. 9701); 31 U.S.C. 1111; and Executive Orders No. 8248 and No. 11,541.

4. Coverage:

- a. The provisions of this Circular cover all Federal activities that convey special benefits to recipients beyond those accruing to the general public. The Circular does not apply to the activities of the legislative and judicial branches of Government, or to mixed-ownership Government corporations, as defined in 31 U.S.C. 9701.
- b. The provisions of the Circular shall be applied by agencies in their assessment of user charges under the IOAA. In addition, this Circular provides guidance to agencies regarding their assessment of user charges under other statutes. This guidance is intended to be applied only to the extent permitted by law. Thus, where a statute prohibits the assessment of a user charge on a service or addresses an aspect of the user charge (e.g., who pays the charge; how much is the charge; where collections are deposited), the statute shall take precedence over the Circular. In such cases (e.g., sale or disposal under Federal surplus property statutes; or fringe benefits for military personnel and civilian employees), the guidance provided by the Circular would apply to the extent that it is not inconsistent with the statute. The same analysis would apply with regard to executive orders that address user charges.
- c. In any case where an Office of Management and Budget circular provides guidance concerning a specific user charge area, the guidance of that circular shall be deemed to meet the requirements of this Circular. Examples of such guidance include the following: OMB Circular No. A-45, concerning charges for rental quarters; OMB Circular No. A-130, concerning management of Federal information resources; and OMB Circular No. A-97, concerning provision of specialized technical services to State and Local governments.
- 5 Objectives: It is the objective of the I Inited States Government to:

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- a. ensure that each service, sale, or use of Government goods or resources provided by an agency to specific recipients be self-sustaining;
- b. promote efficient allocation of the Nation's resources by establishing charges for special benefits provided to the recipient that are at least as great as costs to the Government of providing the special benefits; and
- c. allow the private sector to compete with the Government without disadvantage in supplying comparable services, resources, or goods where appropriate.
- 6. **General policy:** A user charge, as described below, will be assessed against each identifiable recipient for special benefits derived from Federal activities beyond those received by the general public. When the imposition of user charges is prohibited or restricted by existing law, agencies will review activities periodically and recommend legislative changes when appropriate. Section 7 gives guidance on drafting legislation to implement user charges.

a. Special benefits

- Determining when special benefits exist. When a service (or privilege) provides special benefits to an
 identifiable recipient beyond those that accrue to the general public, a charge will be imposed (to recover the
 full cost to the Federal Government for providing the special benefit, or the market price). For example, a
 special benefit will be considered to accrue and a user charge will be imposed when a Government service:
 - (a) enables the beneficiary to obtain more immediate or substantial gains or values (which may or may not be measurable in monetary terms) than those that accrue to the general public (e.g., receiving a patent, insurance, or guarantee provision, or a license to carry on a specific activity or business or various kinds of public land use); or
 - (b) provides business stability or contributes to public confidence in the business activity of the beneficiary (e.g., insuring deposits in commercial banks); or
 - (c) is performed at the request of or for the convenience of the recipient, and is beyond the services regularly received by other members of the same industry or group or by the general public (e.g., receiving a passport, visa, airman's certificate, or a Custom's inspection after regular duty hours).
- 2. Determining the amount of user charges to assess.
 - (a) Except as provided in Section 6c, user charges will be sufficient to recover the full cost to the Federal Government (as defined in Section 6d) of providing the service, resource, or good when the Government is acting in its capacity as sovereign.
 - (b) Except as provided in Section 6c, user charges will be based on market prices (as defined in Section 6d) when the Government, not acting in its capacity as sovereign, is leasing or selling goods or resources, or is providing a service (e.g., leasing space in federally owned buildings). Under these business- type conditions, user charges need not be limited to the recovery of full cost and may yield net revenues.
 - (c) User charges will be collected in advance of, or simultaneously with, the rendering of services unless appropriations and authority are provided in advance to allow reimbursable services.
 - (d) Whenever possible, charges should be set as rates rather than fixed dollar amounts in order to adjust for changes in costs to the Government or changes in market prices of the good, resource, or service provided (as defined in Section 6d).
- 3. In cases where the Government is supplying services, goods, or resources that provide a special benefit to an identifiable recipient and that also provide a benefit to the general public, charges should be set in accordance with paragraph (2) of Section 6a. Therefore, when the public obtains benefits as a necessary consequence of an agency's provision of special benefits to an identifiable recipient (i.e., the public benefits are not independent of, but merely incidental to, the special benefits), an agency need not allocate any costs to the public and should seek to recover from the identifiable recipient either the full cost to the Federal Government of providing the special benefit or the market price, whichever applies.
- No charge should be made for a service when the identification of the specific beneficiary is obscure, and the service can be considered primarily as benefiting broadly the general public.
- b. Charges to the direct recipient. Charges will be made to the direct recipient of the special benefit even though all or part of the special benefits may then be passed to others.

c. Exceptions

- Agency heads or their designee may make exceptions to the general policy if the provision of a free service is an appropriate courtesy to a foreign government or international organization; or comparable fees are set on a reciprocal basis with a foreign country.
- Agency heads or their designee may recommend to the Office of Management and Budget that exceptions to the general policy be made when:
 - (a) the cost of collecting the fees would represent an unduly large part of the fee for the activity; or
 - (b) any other condition exists that, in the opinion of the agency head or his designee, justifies an exception.
- All exceptions shall be for a period of no more than four years unless renewed by the agency heads or their designee for exceptions granted under Section 6c(1) or the Office of Management and Budget for exceptions granted under Section 6c(2) after a review to determine whether conditions warrant their continuation.
- 4. Requests for exceptions and extensions under paragraphs (2) and (3) of Section 6c shall be submitted to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

d. Determining full cost and market price

- "Full cost" includes all direct and indirect costs to any part of the Federal Government of providing a good, resource, or service. These costs include, but are not limited to, an appropriate share of:
 - (a) Direct and indirect personnel costs, including salaries and fringe benefits such as medical insurance and retirement. Retirement costs should include all (funded or unfunded) accrued costs not covered by employee contributions as specified in Circular No. A-11.
 - (b) Physical overhead, consulting, and other indirect costs including material and supply costs, utilities, insurance, travel, and rents or imputed rents on land, buildings, and equipment. If imputed rental costs are applied, they should include:
 - (i) depreciation of structures and equipment, based on official Internal Revenue Service depreciation guidelines unless better estimates are available; and
 - (ii) an annual rate of return (equal to the average long- term Treasury bond rate) on land, structures, equipment and other capital resources used.
 - (c) The management and supervisory costs.
 - (d) The costs of enforcement, collection, research, establishment of standards, and regulation, including any required environmental impact statements.
 - (e) Full cost shall be determined or estimated from the best available records of the agency, and new cost accounting systems need not be established solely for this purpose.
- "Market price" means the price for a good, resource, or service that is based on competition in open markets, and creates neither a shortage nor a surplus of the good, resource, or service.
 - (a) When a substantial competitive demand exists for a good, resource, or service, its market price will be determined using commercial practices, for example:
 - (i) by competitive bidding; or
 - (ii) by reference to prevailing prices in competitive markets for goods, resources, or services that are the same or similar to those provided by the Government (e.g., campsites or grazing lands in the general vicinity of private ones) with adjustments as appropriate that reflect demand, level of service, and quality of the good or service.
 - (b) In the absence of substantial competitive demand, market price will be determined by taking into account the prevailing prices for goods, resources, or services that are the same or substantially similar to those provided by the Government, and then adjusting the supply made available and/or price of the good, resource, or service so that there will be neither a shortage nor a surplus (e.g., campsites in remote areas).

7. Implementation:

- a. The general policy is that user charges will be instituted through the promulgation of regulations.
- b. When there are statutory prohibitions or limitations on charges, legislation to permit charges to be established should be proposed. In general, legislation should seek to remove restraints on user charges and permit their establishment under the guidelines provided in this Circular. When passage of this general authority seems unlikely, more restrictive authority should be sought. The level of charges proposed should be based on the guidelines in Section 6. When necessary, legislation should:
 - define in general terms the services for which charges will be assessed and the pricing mechanism that will be used:
 - 2. specify fees will be collected in advance of, or simultaneously with, the provision of service unless appropriations and authority are provided in advance to allow reimbursable services;
 - 3. specify where collections will be credited (see Section 9). Legislative proposals should not normally specify precise charges. The user charge schedule should be set by regulation. This will allow administrative updating of fees to reflect changing costs and market values. Where it is not considered feasible to collect charges at a level specified in Section 6, charges should be set as close to that level as is practical.
- c. Excise taxes are another means of charging specific beneficiaries for the Government services they receive. New user charges should not be proposed in cases where an excise tax currently finances the Government services that benefit specific individuals. Agencies may consider proposing a new excise tax when it would be significantly cheaper to administer than fees, and the burden of the excise tax would rest almost entirely on the user population (e.g., gasoline tax to finance highway construction). Excise taxes cannot be imposed through administrative action but rather require legislation. Legislation should meet the same criteria as in Section 7b; however, it is necessary to state explicitly the rate of the tax. Agency review of these taxes must be performed periodically and new legislation should be proposed, as appropriate, to update the tax based on changes in cost. Any excise tax proposals must be approved by the Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy at the Department of the Treasury.
- d. When developing options to institute user charges administratively, agencies should review all sources of statutory authority in addition to the Independent Offices Appropriations Act that may authorize implementation of such charges.
- e. In proposing new charges or modifications to existing ones, managers of other programs that provide special benefits to the same or similar user populations should be consulted. Joint legislative proposals should be made, and joint collection efforts designed to ease the burden on the users should be used, whenever possible.
- f. Every effort should be made to keep the costs of collection to a minimum. The principles embodied in Circular No. A-76 (Performance of Commercial Activities) should be considered in designing the collection effort.
- g. Legislative proposals must be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with the requirements of Circular No. A-19. To ensure the proper placement of user fee initiatives in the budget account structure, agencies are encouraged to discuss proposals with OMB at an early stage of development.
- 8. Agency responsibility: Agencies are responsible for the initiation and adoption of user charge schedules consistent with the policies in this Circular. Each agency will:
- a. Identify the services and activities covered by this Circular;
- b. Determine the extent of the special benefits provided;
- c. Apply the principles specified in Section 6 in determining full cost or market price, as appropriate;
- d. Apply the guidance in Section 7 either to institute charges through the promulgation of regulations or submit legislation as appropriate;
- e. Review the user charges for agency programs biennially, to include: (1) assurance that existing charges are adjusted to reflect unanticipated changes in costs or market values; and (2) a review of all other agency programs to

determine whether fees should be assessed for Government services or the user of Government goods or services. Agencies should discuss the results of the biennial review of user fees and any resultant proposals in the Chief Financial Officers Annual Report required by the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990;

- f. Ensure that the requirements of OMB Circular No. A- 123 (Internal Control Systems) and appropriate audit standards are applied to collection;
- g. Maintain readily accessible records of:
 - the services or activities covered by this Circular;
 - the extent of special benefits provided;
 - · the exceptions to the general policy of this Circular;
 - the information used to establish charges and the specific method(s) used to determine them; and
 - the collections from each user charge imposed.
 - Maintain adequate records of the information used to establish charges and provide them upon request to OMB for the evaluation of the schedules and provide data on user charges to OMB in accordance with the requirements in Circular No. A-11.

9. Disposition of collections:

- a. Unless a statute provides otherwise, user charge collections will be credited to the general fund of the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts, as required by 31 U.S.C. 3302.
- b. Legislative proposals to permit the collections to be retained by the agency may be appropriate in certain circumstances. Proposals should meet the guidelines in Section 7b.

Proposals that allow agency retention of collections may be appropriate when a fee is levied in order to finance a service that is intended to be provided on a substantially self-sustaining basis and thus is dependent upon adequate collections.

- Generally, the authority to use fees credited to an agency's appropriations should be subject to limits set in annual appropriations language. However, it may be appropriate to request exemption from annual appropriations control, if provision of the service is dependent on demand that is irregular or unpredictable (e.g., a fee to reimburse an agency for the cost of overtime pay of inspectors for services performed after regular duty hours).
- 2. As a normal rule, legislative proposals that permit fees to be credited to accounts should also be consistent with the full-cost recovery guidelines contained in this Circular. Any fees in excess of full- cost recovery and any increase in fees to recover the portion of retirement costs which recoups all (funded or unfunded) accrual costs not covered by employee contributions should be credited to the general fund of the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.
- 10. New activities: Whenever agencies prepare legislative proposals for new or expanded Federal activities that would provide special benefits, the policies and criteria set forth in this Circular will apply.
- 11. Inquiries: For information concerning this Circular, consult the Office of Management and Budget examiner responsible for the agency's budget estimates.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF C Supplemental National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adm JUNE 2008

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

May 20, 2008

Mr. Chris Oliver, Executive Director North Pacific Fishery Management Council 605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252 MAY 2 1 2008

N.P.P.M.C.

Dear Chris:

We have approved Amendment 89 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area. This amendment was approved on May 19, 2008. This amendment implements the Bering Sea Habitat Conservation Measures, which protect certain areas of the Bering Sea subarea from the potential effects of nonpelagic trawling and provide for future research on the effects of nonpelagic trawling on bottom habitat. A final rule to implement Amendment 89 will follow at a later date.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Mecum

Acting Administrator, Alaska Region



Julie Bonns

Comparing an April 2007 trip to an April 2008 Trip

Vessel D Owned By Burch Brothers of Kodiak, AK

Date	Gross Delivery	Fuel	Fuel % of Gross	Observer
4/25/2007	\$20,241.73	\$3,713.06	18.34%	\$500Based on
				splitting costs btwn many trips
4/9/2008	\$12,546.09	\$7,009.00	55.87%	00.00 Coverage Already Met

Notes:

2007 had 4 crewmembers just about every trip 2008 had 3 crew whenever it was safe to do so

Even though there are fewer crew, because of the cost of fuel and the small amount of fish, crewmember M made 1/2 the money on a 2008 trip as on a similar 2007 trip

No charge for observers in 2008 because the vsl had already gotten it's mandatroy % of observer coverage. Had they not already met coverage there would have been another \$500 taken out of the \$5,468.90 Net to Split

Note about Net Amount: All that is taken off the top is Fuel, Observers and Memberships. This Net Amount is what's available to pay skipper, crew, and ALL other costs of running business.

Net Amount	Number of			
to Split Between	# of Crew	Crew Pay Gross		
Owner and Crew				
\$15,867.34	4	Crewmember M = \$1,428.06	4/25/2007	
\$5,468.09	3	Crewmember M= \$702.46	4/9/2008	

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