

Public Testimony Sign-Up Sheet

Agenda Item C-2(B) GOA P.Cod Split

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	AFFILIATION
1	Tom Evich	Self
2	Buck LAUKITIS	
3	Jeremie Pilkus	Polar Star
4	Linda Kozak	Kodrik Vessel Owner
5	Bob Krueger	Mar Del Norte
6	Kurt Cochran	Flv MARATITO
7	Lori Swanson	Groundfish Forum
8	Brian Robinson	Fishermen's Front
9	David Polushkin	K Bay Fishing Assoc.
10	Mike Alfieri	WGOAIF
11	Matt Hegge	Ocean Bay Assoc
12	Leo Porius Kasprzak	Flv Malka
13	Levi V. May	Fisherman
14	Elia Kuzmin	K-Bay Fishing Assoc member
15	Kenny Down	Freezer Longline Coalition
16	Yakov Reutov	K-Bay Fisheries Assoc.
17	Chris & Ken Holbank	Point Omega
18	Paul Gronholt	AEB
19	Jett Stephan	UFMA
20	Jerry Bongpu	
21	Art Schultz	Lindsey Marie Flv
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23	Therese Peterson	AMCC
24	Julie Bonney	H&DB
25		

NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver *for*
Executive Director
DATE: December 2, 2008
SUBJECT: GOA P. Cod Sector Split

ESTIMATED TIME 6 HOURS (all C-2 items)
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ACTION REQUIRED

Initial review of GOA P.cod Sector Split analysis. Refine components and options for analysis as needed, and determine whether the document will be released for public review.

BACKGROUND

In June, the Council reviewed a draft analysis that examined the environmental, economic, and socioeconomic aspects of the proposed amendment to allocate the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs to the various sectors. The proposed action would allocate the TACs to the hook-and-line catcher vessel, hook-and-line catcher processor, pot catcher vessel, pot catcher processor, trawl catcher vessel, trawl catcher processor, and jig sectors based on catch history or other criteria

The Council made several additions and refinements to the components and options for analysis initial review. Specifically, the Council requested that the analysis include additional data and discussion of the following:

- Percent allocations based on retained catch from 2002-2007 (best 3 or 5 years).
- Percent allocations to pot catcher vessels <60 ft and ≥60 ft, hook-and-line catcher vessels <60 ft and ≥60 ft, hook-and-line catcher vessels <50 ft and ≥50 ft (CGOA only), and a combined <60 ft trawl and pot catcher vessel allocation (WGOA only).
- Preliminary 2008 catch data.
- Seasonal (A season and B season) apportionments of percent sector allocations.
- Discussion of limiting entry to <60 ft LOA catcher vessel sectors by vessels that exceed a capacity (tonnage) limit.
- Discussion of community protection provisions, including mothership processing caps.
- Information on salmon, crab, and halibut bycatch and bycatch rates by each sector.

A revised analysis was mailed to you on November 12. The Executive Summary is attached as Item C-2(b)(1). Additional information on State fishery taxes is attached as Item C-2(b)(2).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This EA/RIR/IRFA examines the environmental, economic, and socioeconomic aspects of the proposed amendment to allocate the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs to the various sectors. The proposed action would allocate the TACs to the hook-and-line catcher vessel, hook-and-line catcher processor, pot catcher vessel, pot catcher processor, trawl catcher vessel, trawl catcher processor, and jig sectors based on catch history or other criteria. The action would result in an amendment to the GOA Fisheries Management Plan (FMP).

The GOA Pacific cod resource is targeted by multiple gear and operation types, principally by pot, trawl, and hook-and-line catcher vessels and hook-and-line catcher processors. Smaller amounts of Pacific cod are harvested by other sectors, including catcher vessels using jig gear. Separate TACs are identified for Pacific cod in the Western, Central, and Eastern GOA management subareas, but the TACs are not divided among gear or operation types. This results in a derby-style race for fish and competition among the various gear types for shares of the TACs. To address these issues, the Council adopted the following Problem Statement in April 2007:

GOA Pacific Cod Sector Split Purpose and Need Statement

The limited access derby-style management of the Western GOA and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries has led to competition among the various gear types (trawl, hook-and-line, pot, and jig) and operation types (catcher processor and catcher vessel) for shares of the total allowable catch (TAC). Competition for the GOA Pacific cod resource has increased for a variety of reasons, including increased market value of cod products, rationalization of other fisheries in the BSAI and GOA, increased participation by fishermen displaced from other fisheries, reduced Federal TACs due to the State waters cod fishery, and Steller sea lion mitigation measures including the A/B seasonal split of the GOA Pacific cod TACs. The competition among sectors in the fishery may contribute to higher rates of bycatch, discards, and out-of-season incidental catch of Pacific cod.

Participants in the fisheries who have made long-term investments and are dependent on the fisheries face uncertainty as a result of the competition for catch shares among sectors. Allocation of the catch among sectors may reduce this uncertainty and contribute to stability across the sectors. Dividing the TACs among sectors may also facilitate development of management measures and fishing practices to address Steller sea lion mitigation measures, bycatch reduction, and prohibited species catch (PSC) mortality issues.

Alternatives, Components, and Options

There are two alternatives currently under consideration. **Alternative 1** is the status quo alternative. **Alternative 2** would allocate the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs among the trawl, pot, hook-and-line, and jig catcher vessel and catcher processor sectors based on historic catch levels and other considerations, and includes the following components:

Component 1: Management areas

The Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs will be allocated among the various gear and operation types, as defined in Component 2 (WG and CG management areas could be treated differently within Component 2).

Component 2: Sector definitions

The Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs will be allocated among the following sectors:

- Trawl catcher processors
- Trawl catcher vessels
- Hook-and-line catcher processors
 - Option: Hook-and-line catcher processors <125 ft
 - Hook-and-line catcher processors \geq 125 ft
- Hook-and-line catcher vessels
 - Option: Hook-and-line catcher vessels <60 ft
 - Hook-and-line catcher vessels \geq 60 ft
 - Option (CG only): Hook-and-line catcher vessels <50 ft
 - Hook-and-line catcher vessels \geq 50 ft
- Pot catcher processors
- Pot catcher vessels
 - Option: Pot catcher vessels <60 ft
 - Pot catcher vessels \geq 60 ft
- Jig vessels

Note: The Council has the option to either give a single allocation to each sector, or to divide any allocation by vessel length based on the option(s) listed above.

Option: Vessels participating in the <60 ft sectors may not exceed a capacity limit to be determined by the Council. The Council directs staff to provide recommendations of options to consider for capacity limits. Vessels that exceed the capacity limit set for the <60 ft sectors will be allowed to participate in \geq 60 ft sectors.

Option: For Western GOA only, create a separate sector for combination trawl and pot vessels <60 ft.

Component 3: Definition of qualifying catch

Qualifying catch includes all retained legal catch of Pacific cod from the Federal and parallel waters fisheries in the Western and Central GOA.

- Catch will be calculated using Fish Tickets for catcher vessels and Catch Accounting/Blend data for catcher processors.
- Under all options, incidental catch allocated to trawl catcher vessels for the Central GOA Rockfish program (currently, 2.09% of the Central GOA Pacific cod TAC) will be deducted from the Central GOA trawl catcher vessel B season allocation.
- All sector allocations will be managed to support incidental and directed catch needs.

Component 4: Years included for purposes of determining catch history

- Option 1 Qualifying years 1995-2005: average of best 5 years
- Option 2 Qualifying years 1995-2005: average of best 7 years
- Option 3 Qualifying years 2000-2006: average of best 3 years
- Option 4 Qualifying years 2000-2006: average of best 5 years
- Option 5 Qualifying years 2002-2007: average of best 3 years
- Option 6 Qualifying years 2002-2007: average of best 5 years

When sectors are divided into subsectors (e.g., by vessel length), the allocation will be calculated using the best set of years for the sector, and the sum of the subsector allocations will equal the allocation to the sector.

The Council directs staff to provide tables that identify catch by sector during the A season and B season in the Western and Central GOA, including: (1) total retained catch by season and qualifying

year, and (2) proportion of total retained catch taken during each season by sector under the set of options provided under Component 4.

Component 5: Allocation of Pacific cod to jig sector

Options include setting aside 1%, 3%, 5%, or 7% of the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs for the jig vessel sector, with a stairstep provision to increase the jig sector allocation by 1% if 90% of the Federal jig allocation in an area is harvested in any given year.

Subsequent to the jig allocation increasing, if the harvest threshold criterion described above is not met during three consecutive years, the jig allocation will be stepped down by 1% in the following year, but shall not drop below the level initially allocated.

The jig allocation could be set aside from the A season TAC, the B season TAC, or divided between the A and B season TACs.

The Council requests that staff continue to work with the State of Alaska and NMFS to explore considerations required to implement possible options for the jig fishery management structure (both State parallel/Federal and State) that create a workable fishery and minimize the amount of stranded quota, focusing on Option 1. Possible solutions that could be explored are:

1. State parallel/Federal managed Pacific cod jig fishery. Federal allocation managed 0-200 miles through a parallel fishery structure. Any State waters jig GHL could (under subsequent action by the Alaska Board of Fisheries) be added to this State parallel/Federal managed jig sector allocation so that the jig sector is fishing off of a single account.
2. State managed Pacific cod jig fishery. Federal management authority delegated to the State of Alaska to manage the Pacific cod jig fisheries in the Western and Central GOA from 0-200 miles.

Component 6: Management of unharvested sector allocations

Any portion of a CV, CP, or jig allocation determined by NMFS to remain unharvested during the remainder of the fishing year will become available as soon as practicable to either:

- Option 1 Other respective CV or CP sectors first, and then to all sectors as necessary to harvest available TAC.
- Option 2 All sectors.

Component 7: Apportionment of hook-and-line halibut PSC (other than DSR) between catcher processors and catcher vessels

- Option 1 No change in current apportionments of GOA halibut PSC.
- Option 2 Apportion the GOA hook-and-line halibut PSC to the CP and CV sectors in proportion to the total Western GOA and Central GOA Pacific cod allocations to each sector. No later than November 1, any remaining halibut PSC not projected by NMFS to be used by one of the hook-and-line sectors during the remainder of the year would be made available to the other sector.
- Option 3 Other apportionment (select amount for each sector). No later than November 1, any remaining halibut PSC not projected by NMFS to be used by one of the hook-and-line sectors during the remainder of the year would be made available to the other sector.

Suboption (can be applied to Options 1, 2, or 3): Change seasonal apportionment by sector.

Component 8: Retention of Community Protections

This component would protect community participation in the processing of Pacific cod, and protect community delivery patterns established by the inshore/offshore regulations.

For each management area, the mothership processing cap will be a percent of the Federal Pacific cod TAC in that area:

Option 1 0%

Option 2 A percentage based on the same qualification criteria as selected for the harvesting sector allocations, but calculated from mothership processing activity.

- Motherships include catcher processors receiving deliveries over the side and mobile floating processors. Motherships do not include inshore floating processors operating at a single geographic location during a given year.

Suboption: For the Western GOA, the combined offshore catcher processor allocations (sum of hook-and-line CP, pot CP, and trawl CP allocations) may be limited to 10%, 15%, or 20%; adjustments to achieve this limit would be applied proportionately to other sectors' allocations.

Component 9

To address Steller sea lion mitigation, bycatch reduction, prohibited species catch mortality, or other conservation and social objectives, potential allocations to any sector based on catch history may be adjusted upwards or downwards by 5% or 10%; this adjustment would be applied proportionately to other sectors' allocations.

Other issues for analysis

The Council requests that staff expand the analysis on Alaskan ownership in the freezer-longline (hook-and-line CP) sector to include percent ownership and gross revenues by Alaskan community.

Background on the proposed action

The proposed action would divide the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs among gear and operation types based on historic dependency and use by each sector. This action may enhance stability in the fishery, reduce competition among sectors, and preserve the historic distribution of catch among sectors. Without sector allocations, future harvests by some sectors may increase and impinge on the historic levels of catch by other sectors.

For example, some fixed gear participants believe that the relatively high catching power of the trawl fleet has limited their ability to maintain their historic catch levels in the Pacific cod fishery. Sector allocations would stabilize the proportion of the catch taken by each sector, allowing participants to better plan their operations. Another concern expressed by some participants is that larger boats, both trawl and fixed gear, are more capable of fishing during the winter months (January/February) of the A season. Harvest opportunities for smaller vessels may be limited if larger vessels quickly catch much of the TAC. The proposed action contains options to establish separate allocations for catcher processor and catcher vessel sectors based on vessel length to ensure that smaller boats have a stable allocation. Finally, some participants are concerned that catcher processors fishing the inshore TACs have the potential to increase their catch and impinge on catcher vessel harvest shares. Sector allocations would protect harvest shares of catcher vessels by creating distinct catcher processor and catcher vessel allocations.

Catch history by each of the sectors from 1995-2008 in the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries is summarized in Table E-1. The table shows that the distribution of retained catch among the sectors has changed substantially over time. In general, the fixed gear sectors have harvested a larger

proportion of the catch during recent years, and the trawl sector has harvested less of the catch. However, there is has been substantial year-to-year variability in catch shares. For example, in the Western GOA trawl catcher vessels have harvested as little as 8.7% of the annual catch (2003) and as much as 77.4% of the catch (1997). Similarly, pot catcher vessels have harvested as little as 4.3% of the Western GOA catch (1997) and as much as 63.4% of the catch (2004). Under the no action alternative, the sectors would continue to race each other for shares of the GOA Pacific cod TACs, and there will likely continue to be substantial annual variability in the distribution of catch among the sectors. The problem statement notes that participants in the fisheries who have made long-term investments and are dependent on the fisheries face uncertainty as a result of the competition for catch shares among sectors. Allocation of the catch among sectors may reduce this uncertainty and contribute to stability across the sectors.

Table E-1 Retained catch and percent of annual retained catch by each sector in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries.

Western GOA

	Hook-and-line CP		Hook-and-line CV		Jig CV		Pot CP		Pot CV		Trawl CP		Trawl CV	
	Catch	Percent of total	Catch	Percent of total	Catch	Percent of total	Catch	Percent of total	Catch	Percent of total	Catch	Percent of total	Catch	Percent of total
1995	5,632	26.2%	35	0.2%	48	0.2%	104	0.5%	2,352	11.0%	587	2.7%	12,704	59.2%
1996	4,369	20.8%	193	0.9%	45	0.2%	*	*	1,689	8.0%	787	3.7%	13,921	66.2%
1997	3,837	16.0%	240	1.0%	5	0.0%	0	0.0%	1,041	4.3%	295	1.2%	18,554	77.4%
1998	3,168	15.0%	22	0.1%	1	0.0%	*	*	2,550	12.1%	276	1.3%	15,007	71.3%
1999	5,116	21.8%	70	0.3%	0	0.0%	1,424	6.1%	1,591	6.8%	623	2.7%	14,673	62.4%
2000	4,706	21.5%	54	0.2%	5	0.0%	*	*	5,107	23.3%	751	3.4%	11,113	50.7%
2001	3,969	27.2%	103	0.7%	157	1.1%	1,038	7.1%	2,538	17.4%	670	4.6%	6,135	42.0%
2002	6,411	36.9%	38	0.2%	193	1.1%	*	*	4,805	27.7%	327	1.9%	5,073	29.2%
2003	4,242	27.0%	47	0.3%	46	0.3%	*	*	9,549	60.8%	340	2.2%	1,367	8.7%
2004	2,893	18.9%	28	0.2%	183	1.2%	*	*	9,718	63.4%	539	3.5%	1,717	11.2%
2005	724	5.9%	281	2.3%	46	0.4%	*	*	6,402	52.2%	217	1.8%	4,441	36.2%
2006	2,691	19.4%	106	0.8%	*	*	0	0.0%	5,918	42.7%	218	1.6%	4,917	35.5%
2007	3,069	23.2%	390	2.9%	2	0.0%	*	*	4,646	35.1%	529	4.0%	4,281	32.4%
2008	3,071	21.5%	479	3.3%	44	0.3%	*	*	5,651	39.5%	378	2.6%	4,600	32.1%

Central GOA

	Hook-and-line CP		Hook-and-line CV		Jig CV		Pot CP		Pot CV		Trawl CP		Trawl CV	
	Catch	Percent of total	Catch	Percent of total	Catch	Percent of total	Catch	Percent of total	Catch	Percent of total	Catch	Percent of total	Catch	Percent of total
1995	134	0.3%	4,546	10.3%	51	0.1%	0	0.0%	13,760	31.2%	2,072	4.7%	23,548	53.4%
1996	710	1.7%	4,491	10.6%	34	0.1%	0	0.0%	10,539	24.8%	2,714	6.4%	23,975	56.5%
1997	*	*	6,401	15.4%	21	0.1%	0	0.0%	8,420	20.3%	770	1.9%	25,895	62.3%
1998	175	0.4%	5,815	14.2%	50	0.1%	0	0.0%	9,208	22.5%	4,447	10.9%	21,214	51.9%
1999	313	0.7%	6,174	14.3%	24	0.1%	2,938	6.8%	12,182	28.3%	1,595	3.7%	19,881	46.1%
2000	209	0.7%	6,529	20.4%	38	0.1%	910	2.8%	11,967	37.4%	1,387	4.3%	10,971	34.3%
2001	*	*	5,684	20.9%	11	0.0%	588	2.2%	3,505	12.9%	2,241	8.2%	15,169	55.8%
2002	1,638	7.0%	6,867	29.5%	3	0.0%	131	0.6%	3,228	13.9%	835	3.6%	10,568	45.4%
2003	1,462	6.1%	3,586	15.0%	16	0.1%	*	*	3,201	13.4%	1,219	5.1%	14,405	60.3%
2004	1,453	5.5%	5,423	20.6%	118	0.4%	0	0.0%	4,916	18.7%	770	2.9%	13,669	51.9%
2005	267	1.2%	4,271	19.3%	137	0.6%	0	0.0%	8,169	36.9%	719	3.2%	8,591	38.8%
2006	897	4.0%	6,183	27.6%	96	0.4%	0	0.0%	8,420	37.6%	877	3.9%	5,922	26.4%
2007	1,376	5.5%	6,341	25.2%	36	0.1%	*	*	8,286	32.9%	590	2.3%	8,220	32.6%
2008	1,755	7.0%	6,115	24.3%	27	0.1%	0	0.0%	5,216	20.7%	631	2.5%	11,465	45.5%

Source: ADFG Fish Tickets and NMFS Blend and Catch Accounting.

While sector allocations may reduce competition among sectors and protect historic catch levels, sector allocations alone may not slow down the race for fish, reduce bycatch, increase product quality, or have a substantial effect on the number of participating vessels. Sector allocations may be a first step toward stabilizing the GOA Pacific cod fishery, and may enable the Council to begin developing a series of GOA management measures to address Steller sea lion issues, halibut PSC usage, and bycatch reduction.

Range of Potential Sector Allocations

The range of potential percent sector allocations of the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs are summarized in Tables E-2 and E-3. The qualification period that includes earlier years (1995-2005) generally favors the trawl catcher vessel sector, particularly in the Western GOA. The qualification period that only includes more recent years (2000-2006 or 2002-2007) generally favors the pot catcher vessel sector, and, to a lesser extent, the hook-and-line sectors. Using each sector's best years reduces the disparities among the options somewhat, but there are still strong differences among the options, depending on the range of qualifying years selected by the Council. For example, depending on which definition of qualifying catch is used, the trawl catcher vessel allocation could range from 26.0% to 46.6% of the Western GOA TAC and 41.3% to 48.1% of the Central GOA TAC. Similarly, the pot catcher vessel allocation could range from 27.9% to 45.7% of the Western GOA TAC and 24.7% to 28.1% of the Central GOA TAC.

Table E-2 Potential percent allocations of the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs

Western Gulf	Period	HAL CP	HAL CV	Jig CV	Pot CP	Pot CV	Trawl CP	Trawl CV
All Cod	1995-2005: Best 7 years	19.7%	0.6%	0.5%	2.2%	27.9%	2.5%	46.6%
	1995-2005: Best 5 years	18.6%	0.7%	0.5%	2.5%	30.4%	2.4%	44.9%
	2000-2006: Best 5 years	21.6%	0.7%	0.7%	2.3%	40.5%	2.6%	31.7%
	2000-2006: Best 3 years	21.4%	0.9%	0.8%	2.7%	41.3%	2.7%	30.2%
	2002-2007: Best 5 years	22.6%	1.2%	0.6%	1.6%	45.7%	2.4%	26.0%
	2002-2007: Best 3 years	22.2%	1.5%	0.7%	1.8%	44.9%	2.5%	26.5%
Central Gulf	Period	HAL CP	HAL CV	Jig CV	Pot CP	Pot CV	Trawl CP	Trawl CV
All Cod	1995-2005: Best 7 years	2.8%	17.3%	0.2%	1.5%	24.7%	5.3%	48.1%
	1995-2005: Best 5 years	3.4%	17.6%	0.2%	2.0%	25.2%	5.6%	45.9%
	2000-2006: Best 5 years	4.2%	20.8%	0.3%	1.0%	25.3%	4.4%	44.1%
	2000-2006: Best 3 years	4.7%	19.4%	0.4%	1.4%	27.9%	4.4%	41.9%
	2002-2007: Best 5 years	5.2%	22.6%	0.3%	0.4%	25.8%	3.5%	42.3%
	2002-2007: Best 3 years	4.9%	21.5%	0.4%	0.5%	28.1%	3.3%	41.3%

Table E-3 Potential percent allocations of the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs under suboptions to split sectors by vessel length

Western Gulf	Period	HAL CP <125	HAL CP ≥125	TRW CP <125	TRW CP ≥125	TRW CV <60	TRW CV ≥60
All Cod	1995-2005: Best 7 years	16.8%	2.9%	1.1%	1.4%	32.8%	13.8%
	1995-2005: Best 5 years	15.4%	3.1%	0.8%	1.6%	30.9%	14.1%
	2000-2006: Best 5 years	18.1%	3.6%	1.4%	1.2%	24.6%	7.1%
	2000-2006: Best 3 years	17.6%	3.7%	1.3%	1.4%	23.6%	6.6%
	2002-2007: Best 5 years	17.5%	5.1%	1.5%	0.9%	21.4%	4.5%
	2002-2007: Best 3 years	17.6%	4.6%	1.6%	0.9%	23.0%	3.5%
Central Gulf	Period						
All Cod	1995-2005: Best 7 years	0.8%	2.1%	1.1%	4.3%	8.0%	40.1%
	1995-2005: Best 5 years	0.8%	2.7%	1.0%	4.6%	8.5%	37.4%
	2000-2006: Best 5 years	0.6%	3.6%	1.7%	2.8%	1.7%	42.4%
	2000-2006: Best 3 years	0.5%	4.1%	1.4%	3.0%	1.7%	40.1%
	2002-2007: Best 5 years	0.8%	4.4%	1.7%	1.8%	1.1%	41.1%
	2002-2007: Best 3 years	0.5%	4.4%	1.4%	1.9%	1.5%	39.8%

Western Gulf	Period	HAL CV <50	HAL CV ≥50	HAL CV <60	HAL CV ≥60	Pot CV <50	Pot CV ≥50	Pot CV <60	Pot CV ≥60
All Cod	1995-2005: Best 7 years	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%	1.4%	26.5%	13.5%	14.4%
	1995-2005: Best 5 years	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	1.0%	29.3%	14.3%	16.1%
	2000-2006: Best 5 years	0.3%	0.4%	0.6%	0.1%	1.4%	39.1%	18.9%	21.6%
	2000-2006: Best 3 years	0.4%	0.4%	0.7%	0.1%	1.4%	40.0%	19.8%	21.5%
	2002-2007: Best 5 years	0.6%	0.6%	1.1%	0.0%	1.7%	44.0%	20.8%	24.9%
	2002-2007: Best 3 years	0.8%	0.7%	1.5%	0.0%	1.5%	43.4%	21.6%	23.3%
Central Gulf	Period								
All Cod	1995-2005: Best 7 years	12.5%	4.8%	16.0%	1.3%	1.5%	23.2%	11.4%	13.3%
	1995-2005: Best 5 years	12.8%	4.9%	16.3%	1.4%	1.4%	23.9%	11.3%	13.9%
	2000-2006: Best 5 years	14.6%	6.2%	19.0%	1.8%	0.6%	24.6%	10.9%	14.4%
	2000-2006: Best 3 years	13.9%	5.5%	18.0%	1.4%	0.7%	27.2%	11.4%	16.4%
	2002-2007: Best 5 years	15.4%	7.1%	20.5%	2.0%	0.5%	25.3%	12.1%	13.7%
	2002-2007: Best 3 years	14.7%	6.9%	19.8%	1.7%	0.5%	27.6%	13.0%	15.2%

Interactions with Fixed Gear Recency Action

In refining the alternatives and options for analysis, the Council may wish to consider interactions between the proposed GOA Pacific cod sector allocations and the GOA fixed gear recency action. A comparison of the components and options currently under consideration for the two actions is found Table E-4. The Council is considering options to add Pacific cod endorsements to fixed gear licenses to limit entry into the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the Western and Central GOA. Pacific cod endorsements could also restrict licenses to using the specific fixed gear type (e.g., pot or hook-and-line) and operation type (catcher processor or catcher vessel) specified on the endorsement. The pot, hook-and-line, and jig catcher vessel sectors could be subject to the endorsement requirement. Pot and hook-and-line catcher processors could also be subject to the Pacific cod endorsement requirement. The Council may wish to make the sector allocation definitions consistent with Pacific cod endorsement sector definitions to ensure that vessels that contributed catch history to the sector allocations have access to those allocations.

Table E-4 A comparison of the components and options included in the proposed GOA Pacific cod sector allocations action and the GOA fixed gear LLP recency action.

COMPARISON OF GULF OF ALASKA ACTIONS		
ACTION	GOA Pacific Cod Sector Allocations	GOA Fixed Gear LLP Recency
PURPOSE OF ACTION	Allocate Western and Central Gulf Pacific cod TACs to the various sectors	(1) Remove latent fixed gear licenses with WG and/or CG endorsements from the groundfish fisheries (2) Add Pacific cod endorsements to licenses to limit entry to directed Pacific cod fisheries in WG and CG
MANAGEMENT AREAS	Western and Central Gulf of Alaska	Western and Central Gulf of Alaska (CG endorsement also includes West Yakutat)
SECTORS	(1) Hook-and-line CVs <u>Option:</u> Hook-and-line CVs <60 and ≥60 <u>Option:</u> Hook-and-line CVs <50 and ≥50 (CGOA) (2) Hook-and-line CPs <u>Option:</u> Hook-and-line CPs <125 and ≥125 (3) Pot CVs <u>Option:</u> Pot CVs <60 and ≥60 (4) Pot CPs (5) Jig (6) Trawl CVs (7) Trawl CPs <u>Option:</u> Combined <60 ft trawl and pot CV (WG only)	(1) Hook-and-line CVs <u>Option:</u> Hook-and-line CVs <60 and ≥60 (2) Hook-and-line CPs <u>Option:</u> Hook-and-line CPs <125 and ≥125 (3) Pot CVs <u>Option:</u> Pot CVs <60 and ≥60 (4) Pot CPs (5) Jig
VESSEL CAPACITY	<u>Option:</u> Vessels participating in the <60 ft sectors may not exceed a capacity limit to be determined by the Council.	<u>Option:</u> Exempt vessels that are both <60 ft and under a capacity limit to be determined by the Council.
QUALIFYING CATCH	All retained catch of Pacific cod from parallel and Federal waters State waters catch is excluded	(1) All retained catch of groundfish from parallel and Federal waters (2) Retained catch from the directed Pacific cod fisheries in parallel and Federal waters State waters and IFQ catch is excluded
QUALIFYING YEARS	(1) 1995-2005: best 7 years (2) 1995-2005: best 5 years (3) 2000-2006: best 5 years (4) 2000-2006: best 3 years (5) 2002-2007: best 5 years (6) 2002-2007: best 3 years	(1) 2000-2005 (2) 2000-2006 (3) 2002-2005 (4) 2002-2006 <u>Option:</u> Include 2007-June 4, 2008 in addition to one of the above qualifying periods
LANDINGS THRESHOLDS	None	(1) 1, 3, or 5 landings during qualifying years (2) 5, 10, 25, or 100 mt during qualifying years
JIG	1%, 3%, 5%, or 7% allocation Step up provision (1%, 2%, or 3%) if allocation is 90% harvested during a given year Step down provision if allocation is not 90% harvested during 3 consecutive years, but allocation will not drop below its initial level	(1) Exempt jig vessels from any LLP requirement (2) Exempt jig vessels from Pacific cod endorsement requirement
OTHER COMPONENTS	Options to allocate hook-and-line halibut PSC to CVs and CPs Options to cap mothership processing shares	Stacked license provisions: (1) Credit catch to stacked licenses; or (2) Divide catch history among stacked licenses

Summary of State and Municipal Fisheries Taxes

The draft EA/RIR/IRFA for the proposed GOA Pacific cod sector allocations includes a description of the State of Alaska Fishery Resource Landing tax, which is levied on fishery resources processed outside of and first landed in Alaska. This description may be found in Section 3.3.4. The State also levies taxes on fishery resources processed in Alaska. Below is a summary of the State and municipal taxes levied on fishery resources, including those processed within Alaska and those processed outside of Alaska.

State Fisheries Business Tax

The fisheries business tax ('raw fish tax') is levied on businesses that process fisheries resources in Alaska or export fisheries resources from Alaska. The tax is based on the value of the raw fishery resource, and the tax rates vary from 1% to 5%, depending on whether the fishery resource is considered 'established' or 'developing,' and whether it was processed by a shore-based or floating processor. Currently, the tax rates for established fisheries are 3% for fishery resources processed at shorebased plants and 5% for those processed at floating processors (AS 43.75.015). Revenues are deposited into the State of Alaska's General Fund, and 50% of revenues are distributed to qualified municipalities. In 2007, the State collected \$17.1 million in fisheries business tax revenues.

State Fishery Resource Landing Tax

The fishery resource landing tax is levied on fishery resources processed outside of and first landed in Alaska, and is based on the unprocessed statewide average price of the resource. The tax is primarily collected from floating processors and catcher processors that process fish outside the State's 3-mile limit and bring products into Alaska for transshipment. Tax rates range from 1% to 3% (AS 43.77.010). All revenues are deposited in the General Fund, and 50% of revenues are distributed to qualified municipalities. In 2007, the State collected \$5.3 million in fisheries resource landing tax revenues.

Municipal Raw Fish Tax

In addition to the State taxes described above, municipalities may collect their own raw fish taxes on landings. Municipal raw fish taxes vary by community, and range from approximately 1% to 3% of the unprocessed value of the fishery resources.

Table 3-38 (revised). Percentage of the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs that could be processed by motherships, based on retained catch during each qualifying period

			Western Gulf	Central Gulf
All cod	1995-2005	Best 7 years	2.24%	1.54%
	1995-2005	Best 5 years	3.13%	2.15%
	2000-2006	Best 5 years	*	*
	2000-2006	Best 3 years	*	*
	2002-2007	Best 5 years	*	0.00%
	2002-2007	Best 3 years	*	0.00%

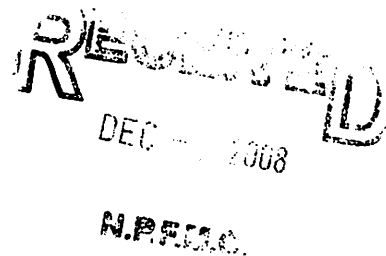
Source: NMFS Blend/Catch Accounting data.

AGENDA C-2(b)
Supplemental
DECEMBER 2008

December 3, 2008

To: North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
6005 W. 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252
Fax: 907-271-2817

From: Craig Cochran
7563 Yaquina Bay Rd
Newport, OR 97365



Re: December 2008 NPFMC Meeting Agenda Item C-2(b): Initial Review of GOA Pacific cod sector split

Dear Chairman Olson and members of the Council:

My name is Craig Cochran and I own/operate/crew the F/V Bay Islander.

I am writing in support of the Pacific cod sector split in the GOA as long as the trawl sector receives their historical catch. The problem and need statement has identified the importance of stabilizing the P cod fishery and I see this sector split as an essential second step towards accomplishing this goal (reducing the number of trawl and fixed gear LLP's in the GOA was the first).

With sector stability comes increased and improved sector accountability. Eliminating the competition from the fixed-gear fleet allows the trawlers to concentrate on their own allocation and to come up with ideas of how to maximize harvests and improve efficiency. Sector management will facilitate annual catch limit and accountability measurement as required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). Participating GOA fishermen would not face reductions in catch due to the actions of vessels outside of their sector and allow the sector to develop strategies to deal with bycatch and protected species issues within sector.

The Kodiak trawl fleet has a vested interest in reducing unwanted bycatch to prolong their fishing seasons and increase their harvesting efficiency with the resultant cost savings and higher revenues, providing economic benefits to the community of Kodiak as well. We have recently been using a halibut excluder which has extended the B season. The B season closed due to TAC this year (not bycatch) for the first time since 2004. With the sector split will come increased trawl fleet cooperation and the sector may be able to coordinate efforts to address conservation goals. One of the issues that the trawl sector will need to confront due to the sector split action is controlling regulatory discards of Pacific cod. Keeping the incidental cod catch under the 20% MRA allowance across all the trawl target fisheries will be a challenge for the fleet if the sector split amendment occurs that would require manage of incidental catch needs within sector.

I support Option 2 for Component 4 (best 7 years, 1995-2005). I do not support Component 9 which is a de facto reallocation of catch history across the different fishing sectors and recommend that the Council delete this component. The P cod sector split action is meant to stabilize the fishery for historical participants, not to reallocate the TAC based on subjective "conservation and social" objectives. Component 9 is inconsistent with

the MSA requirement to protect historic participation. The sector split is not meant to penalize participants due to the regulatory environment that they have been operating under; it is meant to offer stability to the sectors based on historical cod usage and facilitate further develop of management measures to address conservation goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely, *Craig M. Cochran*

December 3, 2008

**To: North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
6005 W. 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252
Fax: 907-271-2817**

**From: Mark Chandler
F/V Topaz
11415 S. Russian Creek Rd.
Kodiak, AK 99615**

Re: Agenda Item C-2(b): Initial Review of GOA Pacific cod sector split

Dear Chairman Olson and members of the Council:

As owner of the F/V Topaz, a Kodiak based trawler, I am writing in support of the Pacific cod sector split in the GOA as long as the trawl sector receives their historical catch. The problem and need statement has identified the importance of stabilizing the P cod fishery and I see this sector split as an essential step towards accomplishing this goal.

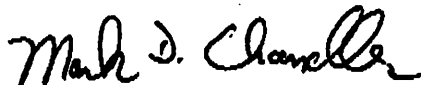
With sector stability comes increased and improved sector accountability. Eliminating the competition from the fixed-gear fleet allows the trawlers to concentrate on their own allocation and work on how to maximize efficiency and allow the sector to develop strategies to deal with bycatch and protected species issues within sector.

The Kodiak trawl fleet has a vested interest in reducing unwanted bycatch to prolong their fishing seasons and increase their harvesting efficiency with the resultant cost savings and higher revenues, providing economic benefits to the community of Kodiak as well. We have recently been using a halibut excluder which has extended the B season. With the sector split will come increased trawl fleet cooperation and the sector may be able to coordinate efforts to address conservation goals. One of the issues that the trawl sector will need to confront due to the sector split action is controlling regulatory discards of Pacific cod.

I support Option 2 for Component 4 (best 7 years, 1995-2005). I do not support Component 9 which is a de facto reallocation of catch history across the different fishing sectors and recommend that the Council delete this component. The P cod sector split action is meant to stabilize the fishery for historical participants. Component 9 is inconsistent with the MSA requirement to protect historic participation. The provisions of Component 9 encourage continuation of a "food fight" between sectors, and is a can of worms the entire industry is better off without.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



F/V HAZEL LORRAINE

202 Center Street
Suite 315-274
Kodiak, AK 99615

Tel: 907-486-7599

Mr. Eric Olson, Chairman
NPFMC
6005 W. 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252
Fax: 907-271-2817



Albert Geiser
42277 Garrison Lk. Rd.
Port Orford, Or
97465

November 28, 2008

Re: December 2008 NPFMC Meeting Agenda Item C-2(b): Initial Review of GOA Pacific cod sector split

Dear Chairman Olson and members of the Council:

My name is Albert Geiser and I own the F/V Hazel Lorraine, based in Kodiak since 1991. I support the GOA Pacific cod sector split as long as the trawl sector receives their historical catch. The Pacific cod split in the Gulf is meant to reduce competition between sectors and enhance stability in the fishery, therefore my support.

Increased costs of fuel, supplies and services, increasingly rationalized west coast fisheries, Stellar sea lion protection measures, and community dependence issues are some of the pressures we are feeling to stabilize our fisheries so we can plan around and depend on the future of our fishing business.

Our boats and crews spend an enormous amount of money each year in and around Kodiak on observers, fuel, groceries, boat supplies and maintenance, equipment and retail services, entertainment. Our boats fish year-round and deliver the majority of the catch that the shoreside plants have benefitted greatly from and now depend upon. The processing plants are consistently within the top 10 Kodiak employers and our deliveries keep the Kodiak processing workforce employed.

Historic trawl participants developed this fishery. We believe fair and equitable sector allocations based on historical catch of legally retained Pacific cod will benefit all Gulf cod boats and their crews, stabilize the fishery and the Kodiak fleet that depends on this high-value fish. This split will, in turn, motivate each sector to take action to maximize their respective harvests and manage their incidental catches by implementing measures to improve efficiency, and reduce regulatory discards.

I support Option 2 for Component 4 (best 7 years, 1995-2005). I do not support Component 9, which is a de facto reallocation of catch history across the different fishing sectors, and recommend that the Council delete Component 9. The P cod sector split action is meant to stabilize the fishery for historical participants, not to reallocate the TAC based on subjective "conservation and social" objectives. Component 9 is inconsistent with the MSA requirement to protect historic participation. The sector split is not meant to penalize participants due to the regulatory environment that they have been operating under; it is meant to offer stability to the sectors based on historical cod usage and facilitate further development of management measures to address conservation goals.

Respectfully,

F/V HAZEL LORRAINE

02 Center Street
Suite 315-274
Kodiak, AK 99615

Tel: 907-486-7599



Mr. Eric Olsen, Chairman
6005 W. 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252
Fax: 907-271-2817

Albert Geiser
42277 Garrison Lk. Rd.
Port Orford, Oregon
97465

November 24, 2008

Re: December 2008 NPFMC Meeting Agenda Item C-2(b): Initial Review of GOA Pacific cod sector split

Dear Chairman Olsen and members of the Council:

My name is Albert Geiser and I own the F/V Hazel Lorraine, based in Kodiak since 1991. I am writing in support of the Pacific cod sector split in the GOA as long as the trawl sector receives their historical catch. The problem and need statement has identified the importance of stabilizing the P cod fishery and I see this sector split as an essential second step towards accomplishing this goal (reducing the number of trawl and fixed gear LLP's in the GOA was the first).

With sector stability comes increased and improved sector accountability. Eliminating the competition from the fixed-gear fleet allows the trawlers to concentrate on their own allocation and to come up with ideas of how to maximize harvests and improve efficiency. Sector management will facilitate annual catch limit and accountability measurement as required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). Participating GOA fishermen would not face reductions in catch due to the actions of vessels outside of their sector and allow the sector to develop strategies to deal with bycatch and protected species issues within sector.

The Kodiak trawl fleet has a vested interest in reducing unwanted bycatch to prolong their fishing seasons and increase their harvesting efficiency with the resultant cost savings and higher revenues, providing economic benefits to the community of Kodiak as well. We have recently been using a halibut excluder which has extended the B season. The B season closed due to TAC this year (not bycatch) for the first time since 2004. With the sector split will come increased trawl fleet cooperation and the sector may be able to coordinate efforts to address conservation goals. One of the issues that the trawl sector will need to confront due to the sector split action is controlling regulatory discards of Pacific cod. Keeping the incidental cod catch under the 20% MRA allowance across all the trawl target fisheries will be a challenge for the fleet if the sector split amendment occurs that would require manage of incidental catch needs within sector.

I support Option 2 for Component 4 (best of 7 years, 1995-2005). I do not support Component 9 which is a de facto reallocation of catch history across the different fishing sectors and recommend that the Council delete this component. The P cod sector split action is meant to stabilize the fishery for historical participants, not to reallocate the TAC based on subjective "conservation and social" objectives. Component 9 is inconsistent with the MSA requirement to protect historic participation. The sector split is not meant to penalize participants due to the regulatory environment that they have been operating under; it is meant to

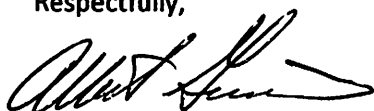
Page 2.

Re: December 2008 NPFMC Meeting Agenda Item C-2(b): Initial Review of GOA Pacific cod sector split

offer stability to the sectors based on historical cod usage and facilitate further develop of management measures to address conservation goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert Geiser", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Albert Geiser, owner

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
6005 W. 4th Ave. Suite 306
Anchorage AK 99501 – 2252

Jim Hamilton
Ocean Peace
4201 21st Ave W
Seattle WA 98199

Dear Chairman Olson and members of the Council:

My name is Jim Hamilton and I have worked as a skipper and vessel manager in GOA trawl fisheries since 1991.

I am supportive of a GOA P. Cod sector split that recognizes the long standing catch history of P. Cod earned through the directed fishery, as well as the legally retained P. cod catch in the flatfish, rockfish and pollock fisheries.

These fisheries not only make significant contributions to the economies of GOA communities, its participants are also taking important steps to improve gear technology, incorporate better fishing practices and create new and better markets for species that are less utilized.

A fair and equitable P. Cod split based on historical catch will give us the ability to make greater progress in the above mentioned areas. Fisheries such as the GOA Rockfish Pilot Program, Amendment 80 fleet and AFA Coops are showing the improvements that can be made when given the ability to self manage. Although sector splits do not create a rationalized fishery, they are a tool for each sector to manage itself and show what can be accomplished.

I support Option 2 for Component 4, which is based on the longest period of historical participation, and Component 3 which awards all retained legal catch, and requires each sector to manage both their incidental and directed cod catch. I ask that you take Component 9 out of the discussion. Allocations should be based on objective criteria such as catch history and historic participation, not on vague and subjective criteria.

Sincerely,

Jim Hamilton

190th Plenary Session
North Pacific Management Council
December 10-16, 2008
Hilton Hotel

December 1, 2008

RE: C-2 (b)

Dear Chairman Olson and Council members,

My name is Leonard Carpenter and together with my wife Anita and family, we own and operate a 36 foot vessel. We primarily jig P. cod, Black rockfish, pelagic rockfish, and also longline P. cod. I am submitting written testimony on behalf of my self, and other jig vessel operators who currently participate in both federal and State water Pacific cod fisheries. Please consider the following comments that we feel may overcome some of the problems associated with overlapping federal and state fisheries, and stranded fish in the State water jig fishery.

Component 5: Allocation of Pacific cod to jig sector

We continue to advocate a 3% initial allocation, with the stairstep up/ down provisions as outlined under this component. We also ask that no ceiling be placed on our allocation.

We also request that the Council directs staff to continue working with the State of Alaska and NMFS to develop a combined state/federal jig fishery from 0-200 miles. Option 1 is probably the best alternative, and would most likely be the easiest to manage of the two options. It would also give NMFS the ability to rollover unharvested jig quota "in season", consistent with Component 6, to other sectors, thereby minimizing stranded quota, yet also ensuring the jig fleet adequate harvesting opportunities throughout the year.

In order to maximize the harvesting potential of the jig fleet and also to create a management plan that is as inclusive as possible to current and new entrants, we also request that the Council exempt jig vessels from all LLP requirements in federal waters. To merely add a P. cod endorsement and/ or jig gear designation to existing LLP's would effectively prohibit 90% of the jig fleet from fishing in federal waters, and would negate any intended opportunities or benefits that a State parallel/ Federal managed jig fishery would provide. *We need a LLP exemption for jig vessels in order for a combined state/ federal jig fishery to work.*

We also support the sub option that outlines the jig machine and hook limits. This mirrors current regulations in the State water jig fishery, and will avoid problems for enforcement that would result from different state and federal regulations.

Thank you for your consideration .

Sincerely,

Leonard and Anita Carpenter
F/V Fish Tale
fishtalerulz@yahoo.com
(907) 486-5149

December 3, 2008

**To: North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
6005 W. 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252
Fax: 907-271-2817**

**From: Jason Chandler
569 Leta St.
Kodiak, Ak 99615**

Re: Agenda Item C-2(b): Initial Review of GOA Pacific cod sector split

Dear Chairman Olsen and members of the Council:

My name is Jason Chandler and I operate the F/V Topaz, a family owned and operated trawler that has been fishing out of Kodiak for 28 years.

I support the GOA Pacific cod sector split as long as the trawl sector receives their historical catch. The Pacific cod split in the Gulf is meant to reduce competition between sectors and enhance stability in the fishery, therefore my support.

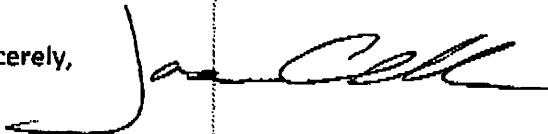
Increased costs of fuel, supplies and services, more and more rationalized west coast fisheries, Stellar sea lion protection measures, and community dependence issues are some of the pressures we are feeling that require that we stabilize our fisheries.

Our vessel and entire crew stays in Kodiak year-round and spends a great deal of money each year in and around Kodiak on observers, fuel, groceries, boat supplies and maintenance, equipment and retail services, entertainment. The Topaz fishes nearly year-round and delivers the majority of the catch that the shoreside plants have benefitted greatly from and now depend upon.

Historic trawl participants developed this fishery. We believe fair and equitable sector allocations based on historical catch of legally retained Pacific cod will benefit all Gulf cod boats and their crews, stabilize the fishery and the Kodiak fleet that depends on this high-value fish. This split will, in turn, motivate each sector to take action to maximize their respective harvests and manage their incidental catches by implementing measures to improve efficiency, and reduce regulatory discards.

I support Option 2 for Component 4 (best of 7 years, 1995-2005). I do not support Component 9, which is a de facto reallocation of catch history across the different fishing sectors and recommend that the Council delete Component 9. The P cod sector split action is meant to stabilize the fishery for historical participants, not to reallocate the TAC. Component 9 is inconsistent with the MSA requirement to protect historic participation.

Sincerely,



North Pacific Fishery Management Council
190th Plenary Session Dec. 10-16, 2008
Hilton Hotel, Anchorage AK
For the record: Testimony of Darius Kasprzak

Dec.3, 2008

RE: C-2 (b) Sector Splits

Mr. Chairman Olsen, Council members, and Secretary,

I'm Darius Kasprzak, a several decade participant of GOA groundfish harvests within all gear sectors, and currently focused on the GOA groundfish/rockfish jig fishery with my 39' FV Malka.

I believe the concept of sector splits to be inconsistent with National Standard #9 (regarding bycatch and conservation measures) by restricting cleaner sectors from competing freely with sectors realizing higher by catch and by catch mortality. I can only approve of sector splits across the board if some substantial incentive is included in the program to entice the dirtier gear sectors (trawl, longline) to convert to the cleaner gear sectors (pot, jig).

Limiting entry to sectors based on vessel capacity:

I encourage the council to continue discussion and consideration of adopting simple gross tonnage measures , instead of solely vessel length, as a means of regulating vessel harvesting capacity. It is far more important to the sustainability of our diverse groundfish fleet to limit a LLP based on the capacity (simple gross tonnage) of the vessel assigned to said LLP, rather than simply reduce the number of LLPs available through LLP recency action. It is imperative to Kodiak's economy that the council not allow the explosive growth of " Super 8" maxed out capacity, cubic shaped and bulbous bow enhanced, extreme weather capable 58' vessels to occur at the expense of myriad smaller capacity vessels.

Component 5: Allocation of Pacific cod to jig sector

Regardless of the council's action on sector splits in general, I support an FMP change to the GOA groundfish jig fishery to facilitate efficiency and profitability for the involved stakeholders. I urge the council to endorse preferably option (2) state managed cod jig fishery (0-200 miles) and, if not feasible, to instead endorse option (1) state parallel/federal managed cod jig fishery (0-200 miles). I recommend setting aside at least 3% of the central and western GOA pacific cod TAC for the jig sector, with the stair step up/down provisions as detailed under this component. In considering our relatively light environmental footprint while providing widespread employment for our coastal communities, I oppose a ceiling for the step up of federal allocation to the jig sector.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely, Darius Kasprzak
Darius Kasprzak
(907) 942-2504 kas_dar@yahoo.com

Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association

December 3, 2008

**P.O. Box 991
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 486-3910
alaska@ptialaska.net**

To: North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
6005 W. 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252
Fax: 907-271-2817

Re: December 2008 NPFMC Meeting Agenda Item C-2(b): Initial Review of GOA Pacific cod sector split

Dear Chairman Olson and members of the Council:

The Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association urges the council to support the Pacific cod sector split in the GOA as long as the trawl sector receives their historical catch. The Kodiak trawl fleet pioneered the cod industry in the GOA. They, many of whom are still active in the fishery, took lots of risks and spent lots of money getting markets and the industry to the current stable level. That investment and commitment should not be overlooked.

The problem and need statement has identified the importance of stabilizing the P cod fishery and I see this sector split as an essential second step towards accomplishing this goal (reducing the number of trawl and fixed gear LLP's in the GOA was the first).

With sector stability comes increased and improved sector accountability. Eliminating the competition from the fixed-gear fleet allows the trawlers to concentrate on their own allocation and to come up with ideas of how to maximize harvests and improve efficiency. Sector management will facilitate annual catch limit and accountability measurement as required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). Participating GOA fishermen would not face reductions in catch due to the actions of vessels outside of their sector and allow the sector to develop strategies to deal with bycatch and protected species issues within sector.

The Kodiak trawl fleet has a vested interest in reducing unwanted bycatch to prolong their fishing seasons and increase their harvesting efficiency with the resultant cost savings and higher revenues, providing economic benefits to the community of Kodiak as well. We have recently been using a halibut excluder which has extended the B season. The B season closed due to TAC this year (not bycatch) for the first time since 2004. With the sector split will come increased trawl fleet cooperation and the sector may be able to coordinate efforts to address conservation goals. One of the issues that the trawl sector will need to confront due to the sector split action is controlling regulatory discards of Pacific cod. Keeping the incidental cod catch under the 20% MRA allowance across all the trawl target fisheries will be a challenge for the fleet if the sector split amendment occurs that would require manage of incidental catch needs within sector.

I support Option 2 for Component 4 (best 7 years, 1995-2005). I do not support Component 9 which is a de facto reallocation of catch history across the different fishing sectors and recommend that the Council delete the

component. The P cod sector split action is meant to stabilize the fishery for historical participants, not to reallocate the TAC based on subjective "conservation and social" objectives. Component 9 is inconsistent with the MSA requirement to protect historic participation. The sector split is not meant to penalize participants due to the regulatory environment that they have been operating under; it is meant to offer stability to the sectors based on historical cod usage and facilitate further develop of management measures to address conservation goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Patrick O'Donnell
Vice-President
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association

December 3, 2008

To: North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
6005 W. 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252
Fax: 907-271-2817

From: William and Keith Burch
P.O. Box 884
Kodiak, AK 99615

Re: December 2008 NPFMC Meeting Agenda Item C-2(b): Initial Review of GOA Pacific cod sector split

Dear Chairman Olson and members of the Council:

Our family owns and operates the F/V Dawn and the F/V Dusk, both of which are long-time Kodiak trawl vessels.

Our father and uncle were among the pioneers of the whitefish fisheries in Kodiak. Like true pioneers they started from scratch and had to adjust along the way. They invested time, money, sweat, and the family assets to get the cod and other bottom fisheries off the ground.

We know things change, and we can respect that. However, it is vital that we remember the people who worked to make the current viable fisheries viable. We don't want to exclude newcomers, but it's important to protect the pioneers of Alaska's fisheries—many of whom are still active in the fisheries. If it wasn't for our father Al and his brother Oral, and many other long-time Kodiak fishermen, there would not be a cod fishery for newcomers to enter. Let's not forget the people who made this all possible.

We wanted to add our personal comments to the following "official" testimony regarding the Council's proposed cod sector split.

Dear Chairman Olson and members of the Council:

We support the GOA Pacific cod sector split as long as the trawl sector receives their historical catch. The Pacific cod split in the Gulf is meant to reduce competition between sectors and enhance stability in the fishery, therefore my support.

Increased costs of fuel, supplies and services, more and more rationalized west coast fisheries, Stellar sea lion protection measures, and community dependence issues are some of the pressures we are feeling to stabilize our fisheries so we can plan around and depend on the future of our fishing business.

Our boats and crews spend an enormous amount of money each year in and around Kodiak on observers, fuel, groceries, boat supplies and maintenance, equipment and retail services, entertainment. Our boats fish year-round and deliver the majority of the catch that the shoreside plants have benefitted greatly from and now depend upon. The processing plants are consistently within the top 10 Kodiak employers and our deliveries keep the Kodiak processing workforce employed.

Historic trawl participants developed this fishery. We believe fair and equitable sector allocations based on historical catch of legally retained Pacific cod will benefit all Gulf cod boats and their crews, stabilize the fishery and the Kodiak fleet that depends on this high-value fish. This split will, in turn, motivate each sector to take action to maximize their respective harvests and manage their incidental catches by implementing measures to improve efficiency, and reduce regulatory discards.

I support Option 2 for Component 4 (best 7 years, 1995-2005). We do not support Component 9 which is a de facto reallocation of catch history across the different fishing sectors and recommend that the Council delete Component 9. The P cod sector split action is meant to stabilize the fishery for historical participants, not to reallocate the TAC based on subjective "conservation and social" objectives. Component 9 is inconsistent with the MSA requirement to protect historic participation. The sector split is not meant to penalize participants due to the regulatory environment that they have been operating under; it is meant to offer stability to the sectors based on historical cod usage and facilitate further development of management measures to address conservation goals.

Sincerely,



William and Keith Burch
Fishing Vessels Dawn and Dusk
Kodiak trawler boats

North Pacific Fishery Management Council 190th Plenary Session
Anchorage, Alaska – Hilton Hotel – December 12, 2008
For the Record – Public Comment of Darius Kasprzak

Re: C2(b) GOA Sector Splits

Chairman Olson, Mr. Secretary and Council Members:

My name is Darius Kasprzak, a dedicated Kodiak jig fisherman, speaking on my behalf and that of fellow GOA jig operators.

Component 9:

Potential sector allocation readjustment (5-10%) addressing Steller sea lion mitigation, bycatch reduction, PSC mortality, or other conservation or social objectives

I oppose the AP's striking of the protective language of Component 9.

Sector splits are largely inconsistent with National Standard #9 regarding bycatch and bycatch mortality reduction. This is due to restricting (fixed) sectors that realize lower bycatch and mortality rates from competing freely against the trawl sector that exhibits higher rates of bycatch and mortality.

Including Component 9, which allows conservation-based adjustments to catch history, is necessary to help mitigate this inconsistency and bring sector split action in line with National Standard #9.

Please reverse the AP's strikeout of Component 9.

Component 5: Allocation of Pacific cod to jig sector

Initial allocation - please remove the AP's strikeout of options from 3% to 7%. High catch rates of up to over 750,000 pounds per week demonstrated during 2003-2005 state water seasons (central GOA) that the jig fleet is capable of catching more than a 1% initial allocation of federal TAC under the right conditions. This is especially conceivable under circumstances of an LLP-exempt jig fleet majority operating on larger biomasses outside parallel waters.

With these points in mind, **we ask that jig options for initial allocation not be limited to 1%.** Any unharvested jig allocation would be made available to the other sectors under component 6 rollover provisions.

Allocation cap - please remove the AP's language designating a jig allocation cap of 3% of the respective Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs. Owing to our small environmental footprint and excellent safety record while providing widespread employment opportunities for our coastal communities, **we would like to see jig allocation cap options of more than a mere 3%.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of these issues.

Sincerely, Darius Kasprzak F/V Malka
(907) 942-2504 kas_dar@yahoo.com



C2(b) handwritten
Paul Gronholdt
Public test.



Resolution 09-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ON THE PROPOSED GULF OF ALASKA PACIFIC COD SECTOR SPLITS.

Whereas, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council will be considering allocating the Pacific cod total allowable catch (TAC) in the Gulf of Alaska among the various sectors; and

Whereas, the Aleutians East Borough communities of Sand Point and King Cove are home to fishermen who depend upon each of the commercial fisheries available to provide revenues to the communities and most importantly to the families within those communities; and

Whereas, the fishermen in these communities participate in the pot and trawl catcher boat sectors of the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska; and


Whereas, the catcher/processor (CP) and catcher vessel longline fleets have taken an increasing share of the Western Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod allocation; and,

Whereas, the catcher/processors and catcher vessel longline fleets do not contribute to the sustainability of local fishery dependent communities as do the local trawl and pot boats which hire crew, support the local processing plant, pay taxes, moorage etc. ; and,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH supports establishing sector allocations for the longline sectors. The allocation should take into consideration by catch reduction, lessening prohibited species catch mortality, other conservation measures and positive social impacts to the fisheries dependent communities.

Approved this 4th day of December, 2008.

ATTEST: 
Tina Anderson, Clerk


Stanley Mack, Mayor