


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council and AP members
FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director
DATE: January 31, 2008
SUBJECT: American Fisheries Act

ACTION REQUIRED

Review AFA cooperative agreements and end of year cooperative reports

BACKGROUND

Each year, the AFA pollock fishery cooperatives are required to submit year-end reports summarizing their fishing activities from the preceding year. They are also required to submit cooperative agreements for the upcoming fishing year (we have interpreted this requirement such that the cooperatives submit information only if and to what degree such agreements have been modified from existing agreements). Due to the volume of these materials, a few copies of the complete reports will be made available at the meeting, and full copies are available from our offices. Co-op representatives will provide a summary report to the Council at this meeting.



AGENDA C-5
Supplemental
FEBRUARY 2008

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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

January 22, 2008

John Gruver
AFA Intercooperative Manager
United Catcher Boats
4005 20th Avenue West, Suite 116
Seattle, WA 98199

Re: Approval of Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Intercooperative Agreement

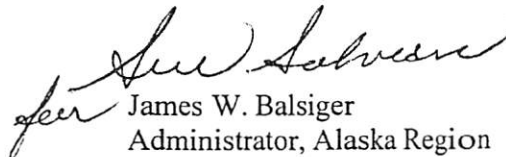
Dear Mr. Gruver,

This letter constitutes an approval of the Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Intercooperative Agreement (ICA) dated November 8, 2007, as amended. The ICA contains a list of the parties to the ICA, conditions associated with monitoring Chinook salmon and non-Chinook salmon bycatch rates in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, measures intended to decrease annual salmon bycatch amounts, enforcement measures, and various other conditions and requirements required under 50 CFR § 679.21. The amendment incorporates revisions to the ICA that NMFS requested following its preliminary review of the ICA submitted on November 29, 2007.

I have determined that this ICA is complete and that it meets the requirements specified in § 679.21(g)(5). Therefore, I approve the ICA as it is described in the enclosure to your November 29, 2007 letter, and as amended January 4, 2008. Under regulations at 50 CFR § 679.21(e)(7)(ix) and § 679.22(a)(10), participants in the ICA are exempt from the salmon savings area closures in the Bering Sea effective today.

Exemption from salmon savings area closures will expire upon termination of the ICA by parties to the ICA, expiration of the ICA (currently specified in section 10 of the ICA as November 1, 2010), or if superseded by a NMFS-approved amended salmon bycatch reduction ICA.

Sincerely,


James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc:
NOAA Office for Law Enforcement
NOAA Office of General Counsel
USCG Office of Law Enforcement

