

**Joint Meeting  
Alaska Board of Fisheries  
and  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
February 4, 1997**

**TAB 2: STATE GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT**

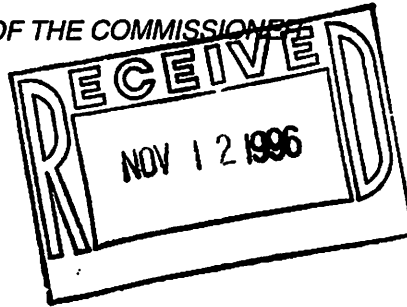
- a. Board of Fisheries action on GOA Pacific cod**
- b. Council actions at December 1996 meeting**
- c. Other fisheries under state/federal management**
- d. Review proposed joint protocol**

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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November 7, 1996



Rick Lauber, Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. <sup>Rick</sup> Lauber:

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) met in Wasilla, October 29-31, to consider proposals for management of groundfish in state waters. I am taking this opportunity to inform you of the results of the board's actions. Before I do that, however, I want you to know that Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff met with the North Pacific Management Council (council) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) staff to ensure that we had an understanding and appreciation of each others management concerns so that they could be communicated to the board before they deliberated on the proposals. Council and NMFS staff were present during the board meeting and were very helpful during deliberations. Jane Di Cosimo represented the council. I want to thank both you and Clarence for making her available.

The board adopted a series of regulations establishing Pacific cod fisheries within the state waters of the central and western Gulf of Alaska. In general terms, there will be directed fisheries for Pacific cod in the territorial sea off of Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik and the Alaska Peninsula areas. The fisheries will open about two weeks after the EEZ "A" season closure. Gear will be limited to pots and jigs, with a limit of five jig machines or sixty groundfish pots per vessel. Each area will be an exclusive registration area. The Alaska Peninsula and Chignik Areas will have a maximum 58-foot vessel size limit. These regulations should provide for a slow paced fishery, allowing the department to ensure catches do not exceed the harvest levels set by the board, as well as keeping the harvest on the population at or below the ABC set by the council.

The harvest levels the board set are fairly reflective of recent harvests in state waters, which have been about twenty percent of TAC. The board also took into consideration factors such as the CDQ, IFQ, and inshore/offshore programs. The harvest level for the Prince William Sound Area will be twenty-five percent of the TAC for the Eastern Gulf Area. The board took a slightly different approach for the remaining areas. Their harvest level will start at fifteen percent of the TAC for the Central and Western Gulf. Once the fisheries in the area have shown that they can harvest that portion of TAC, then the percentage will increase to twenty percent, and similarly to

a maximum of twenty-five percent. The Central Gulf harvest level will be divided, as follows: Cook Inlet-15 percent, Kodiak-50 percent, and Chignik-35 percent. The Western Gulf harvest level will be divided as follows: eastern portion-80 percent, and the western portion-20 percent. These harvest levels are in addition to any harvest that may take place in state waters during the normal joint federal/state "A" season fishery.

The board linked its harvest levels to the council's TAC and ABC so the allowable harvests fluctuate annually based on abundance. This was done to ensure that the state's fishery will not cause any conservation problems. The board also designed the state waters fishery so that management of that fishery will not substantially or adversely affect the council and NMFS' ability to manage its fisheries.

The board did not have enough time to address the territorial sea sablefish fishery. We expect to manage the 1997 fishery, which takes place primarily in the Aleutians and adjacent to the outer coast of the Kenai Peninsula, similar to the 1995 and 1996 fisheries. The allowable harvests for the two areas will be adjusted proportional to any changes the council makes to its TAC. It is my understanding that the TAC for the Aleutians was not taken during the last two seasons. It is my sincere hope that all those involved in that fishery can agree to a territorial sea management plan before the fleet becomes capable of taking TAC. My staff and I are certainly willing to work with the council, NMFS, and other interested parties in achieving an agreement.

The board also discussed the need for dialogue between themselves and the council regarding groundfish and proposed the following two approaches. First, they have designated two Board of Fisheries members, John White and Larry Engel, to serve on a proposed subcommittee of the board and council to facilitate coordination of crab and groundfish issues. Second, they plan to include groundfish discussions at their joint council/board meeting in February.

I hope I have covered those items of immediate interest to you, the council, and the staff. If I have not, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will have department staff present at your December meeting to provide a more detailed explanation of the board's actions and answer questions.

Sincerely,



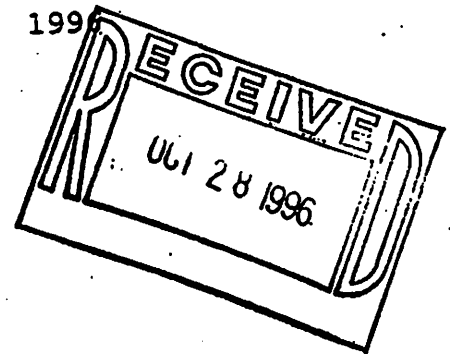
Frank Rue  
Commissioner

cc: David Benton, ADF&G  
Bob Clasby, ADF&G  
Clarence Pautzke, NPFMC  
Earl Krygier, ADF&G



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

October 28, 1996



Larry J. Engel  
Chairman  
Alaska Board of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 197  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Chairman <sup>Larry</sup> Engel:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has provided us a copy of the proposals submitted by interested fisheries groups, communities, and fishing industry representatives pertaining to management of groundfish within the 0-3 mile Territorial Sea. These proposals address a wide range of management measures, including harvest quotas, gear allocations, closed areas, fishing seasons, size limits, area registration, etc. We understand that the Board of Fisheries has scheduled review of these proposals during October 29-31, 1996, when it meets in Wasilla, and might implement some of them as early as 1997.

The Secretary of Commerce, through the NMFS Alaska Region is responsible for management of the Pacific halibut fisheries in and off Alaska waters and for groundfish in the 3-200 mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off Alaska seaward of the Territorial Sea. Our groundfish management responsibilities are governed by two fishery management plans (FMPs): Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska and the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area. Each FMP was prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and approved by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. They contain goals and objectives to which management measures must conform. These measures must also conform to eleven national standards contained in the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

With the exception of the Pacific halibut fishery, Federal fisheries management does not extend to the Territorial Sea. We do not believe, however, that most of our groundfish species exist in State or Federal waters as separate stocks. Most likely, they are a common stock with varying presence in one zone or another, according to the time of year or life cycle stage. Information on stock abundance, obtained by NMFS fishery scientists, pertains to stocks in both the Territorial Sea and the EEZ. Management of any particular stock within one management area affects management in the other area. We believe, therefore, that a strong State/Federal partnership is



needed to assure that these stocks are managed in a manner that does not substantially and adversely affect NMFS's ability to carry out fisheries management authorized by the EMPs.

Accordingly, we suggest the Board of Fisheries might consider the following during its upcoming meeting at Wasilla:

(1) State and Federal fisheries scientists should meet as needed to plan for the collection, compilation, and analysis of stock assessment information in a manner that will maximize the use of available resources, e.g. vessel time, research staff, etc.

(2) The Board of Fisheries should advise the Council of any decision regarding its intended Territorial Sea groundfish harvest quotas for the 1997 fishing year, thus providing the Council information that would be relevant when the Council takes final action on 1997 Federal harvest quotas during its December 1996 meeting.

(3) The Board of Fisheries and the Council should arrange to meet jointly on groundfish matters similar to their annual crab meeting. Perhaps February 1997 would be an appropriate time to initiate such an effort by expanding the joint crab meeting to include discussion of how the two bodies wish to proceed in the future on cooperative groundfish management. Our view is that such discussions should occur before significant management change is implemented (such as separate quotas for State waters) to ensure proper conservation of the resource.

(4) Boundaries of State of Alaska groundfish management areas should be adjusted if necessary to conform with those contained in the Council's EMPs to reduce confusion among the affected industry and to ensure comparable catch information collected from the State and Federal management areas.

We have a cooperative working relationship with the staff of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and have managed effectively certain stocks of groundfish, e.g. rockfish and sablefish, in cooperation with the Department for several years. We look forward to working cooperatively with the Board of Fisheries on groundfish management issues. Certain NMFS staff will attend the Board's Wasilla meeting and will be on hand to respond to questions about our groundfish management programs.

Sincerely,



Steven Pennoyer  
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: Schmitten  
Lauber  
Benton  
Clasby  
Collinsworth  
Balsiger

**STATE OF ALASKA PACIFIC COD FISHERY  
ADOPTED BY  
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
October 1996**

- State waters will open concurrently with the Federal fishery beginning January 1 and remain open until directed fishing for Pacific Cod is closed by NMFS. Prince William Sound will open and close concurrent with directed fishing allowed in the Central GOA.
- Separate state water Pacific cod fisheries will reopen at a later date for harvest with pot and jig gear.
- Exclusive registration areas based on salmon boundaries for the separate state water Pacific cod fishery.
- Gear limits of 60 pots or 5 mechanical jigs per vessel.
- Harvest of Pacific cod for the separate state water fisheries in Kodiak, Chignik and Cook Inlet will be based on a percentage of Central Gulf ABC. Harvest goals will start at 15% and increase to 25% over a 3 year period if fishing production can be substantially achieved.

State fishery GHL as % of Central Gulf ABC:

1997-15%

1998-20%

1999-25%

- Harvest of Central Gulf Pacific cod for separate state water fisheries is proportioned to each area as follows:

Cook Inlet	15%
Kodiak	50%
Chignik	35%

- Harvest of Pacific cod for the separate state water fishery in the South Peninsula will be based on a percentage of Western Gulf ABC. Harvest goals will start at 15% and increase to 25% over a 3 year period if fishing production can be substantially achieved.

State fishery GHL as % of Western Gulf ABC:

1997 - 15%

1998 - 20%

1999 - 25%

- Harvest of Pacific cod for the separate state water fishery in Prince William Sound will be equivalent to 25% of the Eastern Gulf ABC.

- Seasons for separate state water fisheries:

- Prince William Sound ..... Open 7 days after directed federal Central Gulf season through Dec. 31. Pot gear will be allocated 60% of the harvest and jig gear 40%. Unharvested jig gear allocation will be available to pot gear after October 1.
- Cook Inlet ..... Open 7 days after directed federal season through April 7 and June 15 through Dec. 31 for pot gear. Open 7 days after the directed federal fishery through Dec. 31 for jig gear. Pot gear and jig gear will be allocated equal portions of the GHL with unharvested portions available to either gear type after September 1.
- Kodiak ..... Open 2 weeks after directed federal season through Dec 31. Jig gear and pot gear will be allocated equal portions of the GHL with unharvested portions available to either gear type after September 1.
- Chignik ..... Open April 15 through June 15 and August 1 through December. 31.
- South Peninsula ..... Open 2 weeks after directed federal season through December 31.

- Vessel Limits.

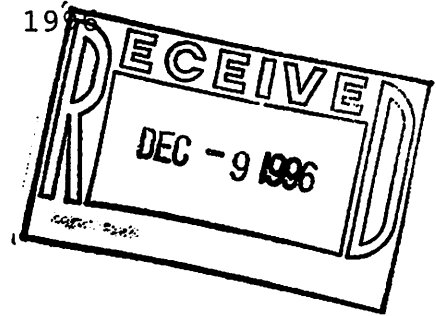
Prince William Sound	None
Cook Inlet	None
Kodiak	None
Chignik	58 feet overall length
South Peninsula	58 feet overall length

- The department may relax regulations regarding gear limitation, exclusive registration, or vessel size limit if harvest goals are not obtained by October 31.
- Buoy tags will be required for pot gear.
- In the Kodiak Area, catcher processors may process no more than 25,000 pounds (round weight) each calendar week.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

December 6, 1996



Richard B. Lauber, Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Rick,

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF), during its October 29-31, 1996, meeting in Wasilla, adopted a series of regulations establishing Pacific cod fisheries for pot and jig gear in State waters in the Gulf of Alaska without consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). Traditionally, the State has conformed its management of cod fisheries in State waters to Federal management in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) under the Council's Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Management Plan (FMP). The BOF's action would allow a Pacific cod fishery for pot and jig gear in State waters at a time when the cod fishery would be closed in Federal waters after the total allowable catch (TAC) is taken. The new BOF regulations include framework harvest specifications for Pacific cod that will be based on the Council's annual specifications for TAC and/or acceptable biological catch as follows:

Prince William Sound	= 25 percent of the Eastern Regulatory Area ABC;
Central Gulf	= 15 percent of the Central Regulatory Area ABC; and
Western Gulf	= 15 percent of the Western Regulatory Area ABC.

These amounts will be available only to vessels using pot or jig gear. Once these fisheries have shown that they can harvest the designated portion of the ABC, the BOF intends that the percentages in the Central and Western Gulf will be increased to 20 percent, and then subsequently to 25 percent. The BOF also adopted a series of other regulations, including registration areas and vessel size limits.

We are concerned about the process taken by the BOF to accomplish its Pacific cod management regime. The BOF apparently anticipated that the Council would adjust harvest amounts available in Federal fisheries in response to BOF actions.





Because the BOF took these actions unilaterally, choosing not to consult or work cooperatively with the Council in advance, the Council now must decide how to react to the Board's decisions. The Council, with the public, should evaluate the biological, economic, social, management and enforcement consequences of the BOF actions and determine whether these actions adversely affect the achievement of optimum yield as defined in the Gulf of Alaska FMP. Depending upon the Council's analysis and findings, the Council may be required to modify the FMP and/or implementing regulations, or to take other appropriate action. The Council certainly must consider reducing its TAC specifications for Pacific cod for 1997 and future fishing years if the BOF action stands and we are to avoid overruns of the acceptable biological catch.

However the Council may choose to react to these recent actions of the BOF, it ought to be clear that unilateral action in shared-management fisheries by the BOF, or by the Council for that matter, is simply not good business. In this regard, I would encourage the Council to invite the BOF to meet with the Council to discuss these recent actions and develop an understanding about how the two bodies will work together in the future to deal with issues of mutual concern and avoid this kind of problematic situation.

Sincerely,



Steven Pennoyer  
Administrator, Alaska Region

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke  
Executive Director



<p>ESTIMATED TIME 11 HOURS (all D-1 items)</p>
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DATE: December 3, 1996

SUBJECT: Board of Fisheries action to initiate state Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska

**ACTION REQUIRED**

Review of Board of Fisheries action to initiate state water fisheries for Pacific cod in the GOA.

**BACKGROUND**

The Council and Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) are scheduled to meet on Friday, December 13 at 8 a.m. via telephone conference to discuss state groundfish management. The BOF initiated state water fisheries for Pacific cod in the GOA at its meeting in October 1996. The details of the management plan approved by the BOF are attached as Item D-1(a)(1). The BOF action sets the state Pacific cod fishery at 15% of the federal TAC for the Western and Central Gulf and 25% of the Eastern Gulf TAC for 1997. The Central Gulf fishery will be apportioned: Cook Inlet 15%, Kodiak 50%, and Chignik 35%. The state Western and Central Gulf fisheries will increase to 20% in 1998 and 25% in 1999, if state landings meet the harvest guideline in the previous year (Item D-1(a)(2)).

Proposed ABC, TAC* and State guideline harvest level (mt) for Gulf Pacific cod in 1997.				
Quota	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
*ABC/TAC	28,500	51,400	1,600	81,500
BOF GHL	4,275	7,710	400	12,385
Remaining TAC	24,225	43,690	1,200	69,115
	Cook Inlet	1,157		
	Kodiak	3,855		
	<u>Chignik</u>	<u>2,699</u>		
		7,710		
*TAC assumed = recommended 1997 ABC				

The state fisheries would commence two weeks after the federal fishery was closed. Item D-1(a)(3) depicts the fishery management areas affected by this action. The above table depicts the effects of reducing the federal TAC by the state guideline harvest level by area.

When notified at their September 1996 meeting by ADF&G staff that the BOF was considering industry proposals for state groundfish fisheries, the Council noted that they would be meeting jointly with the BOF in February 1997, and that any final actions should be discussed at that time. The NMFS Regional Director, in a letter dated October 28, 1996, informed the BOF that the joint meeting in February 1997 should occur to discuss management of this and other groundfish fisheries before implementation of any significant changes to management of cod, such as state waters quotas (Item D-1(a)(4)).

Item D-1(a)(5) contains tables that summarize the percentage of cod taken in state waters since 1989, the breakdown of landings by gear type (from both state and combined state/federal waters), and by vessel size category for 1993-95 (from both state and combined state/federal waters). While state water harvests have totaled an average of 20% of the federal TAC since 1993, the BOF proposal would allocate an additional 15-25%

of the TAC for state water harvest by jig and pot gear. Limitation to those gear types would avoid halibut PSC limits (pot gear is exempt). Pursuant to the BOF action, 35-45% of the total cod TAC could be taken from state waters.

The GOA Plan Team reviewed biological and fisheries data for Gulf Pacific cod to determine the effects of state water fisheries on the stock during its November 1996 meeting. The Team felt that internal water harvests should not affect federal TACs (they were counted against the Eastern Gulf TAC in 1995 and 1996). The Team does recommend that separately managed harvests from state coastal waters fisheries be counted against federal TACs since cod is recognized as a single stock and is assessed in the NMFS GOA trawl survey. The Team believes that it would be much better to have a biological basis for recommending an allocation between the state and federal fisheries, but recognizes that given the migratory nature of this species and the limited available information, such recommendations would be tenuous. The Team recommends that ADF&G examine their annual groundfish (and crab) surveys to determine cod distribution and that ADF&G and NMFS staff collaborate so that future federal and state cod surveys would be comparable.

As shown in the tables in Item D-1(a)(5), the harvest of Pacific cod in state waters has increased in recent years. The catch in state waters for 1994-96 has comprised over 20% of the total harvest from the Western and Central areas. The highest harvests have occurred near Kodiak, Sand Point, and King Cove. For 1989-96, Kodiak produced 72% of the state water Central Gulf harvest, while Cook Inlet and Chignik produced 19% and 8%. State water Western Gulf harvests have been primarily taken south of the Alaska Peninsula with 81%; the Eastern Aleutian Islands produced the remaining 19%. For 1993-96, pot gear provided an average of 8% of Western area, 26% of Central area, and 50% of Eastern area harvests. A total of 55 mt of cod was harvested by jigs in the directed fishery; an additional 1,160 mt were harvested by jigs as bycatch in other groundfish fisheries.

Trawls, longlines, and pots have been the principal gears harvesting cod. Trawls have harvested the most, although pots increased to 24% of Gulfwide landings in 1995. Pot gear has harvested more than half of Central Gulf landings in state waters since 1990, increasing to over 70% in the last few years.

The 1996 GOA Pacific cod fishery opened to fixed gear on January 1 and trawl gear on January 20. TAC specifications totaled 18,500 mt for the Western area, 42,900 mt for the Central area, and 3,250 mt for the Eastern area. Inshore processors were allocated 90% of the TAC (16,650 mt, 38,610 mt, and 2,925 mt by area). Halibut bycatch rates were moderate for hook-and-line and trawl gear. Halibut PSC limits did not affect fishing time for these gear types, rather, closures were due to TAC attainment. The Western area closed to all gear types for the inshore sector on March 3; the offshore sector closed on March 9. In the Central area, the offshore sector closed on March 13; the inshore sector closed on March 18. A summary of closures since 1993 is listed below.

At the time of the 1996 closures, NMFS estimated that sufficient TAC remained to cover bycatch caught in other groundfish and halibut fisheries. After processor

FEDERAL GROUND FISH CLOSURES OFF THE GULF OF ALASKA BY AREA FOR 1993-96.

Inshore	WESTERN		CENTRAL			EASTERN
	status	close	status	close	open	close
93	B	9-Mar	B	24-Mar		1-Jan
94	B	8-Mar	B	16-Mar	9-Apr	1-Jan
			P	9-Apr		
95	B	17-Mar	B	22-Mar		1-Jan
	P	30-Mar	B	11-Oct	7-Nov	1-Jan
			P	29-Nov		1-Jan
96	B	3-Mar	B	18-Mar		1-Jan
	P	5-May	P	5-May		1-Jan
<b>Offshore</b>						
93	B	1-Jan	B	1-Jan		1-Jan
94	B	1-Jan	B	1-Jan		1-Jan
95	B	7-Mar	B	13-Mar	1-Jun	1-Jan
	P	5-May				
96	B	9-Mar	B	13-Mar		1-Jan
	P	5-May	P	5-May		1-Jan

B = bycatch; P = prohibited

reports were examined, NMFS determined that the target Pacific cod fishery had exceeded ABC. The status of the fishery then changed from bycatch only to prohibited species on May 5. This action required that all harvested Pacific cod be discarded. As of November 9, 1996, approximately 900 mt have been harvested above the Western area inshore allocation and 50 mt above the offshore allocation. For the Central area, 3,500 mt were landed in excess of the inshore allocation and 1,100 mt above the offshore allocation. The Eastern area inshore allocation was underharvested by 900 m; the offshore allocation underharvested TAC by 320 mt. The fishery in the Western and Central areas exceeded ABC by a total of 5,500 mt. Incorporating the Eastern area underharvest lowers the excess to 3,100 mt. In summary, the cod fishery is currently fully utilized.

The numbers of vessels harvesting cod in all waters are listed in Table 1 (Item D-1(e)(5)). Overall, 45% of the harvest was taken during 1993-95 by vessels  $\leq$  60 ft (Table 17). Smaller vessels predominate near the Shumagin Islands. In state waters, the 1993-95 harvest by smaller vessels for all gears was 70% (Table 18). Pot fishing was more prevalent near Kodiak Island, especially with smaller vessels. Western/Central harvests taken by smaller pot.vessels were 56% overall (Table 17) and 66% in state waters (Table 18). Longline vessels accounted for 11% of the total 1993-95 harvest in the Western/Central area (Tables 5 and 6), with smaller vessels predominating near Kodiak and the outer Kenai Peninsula. Trawls accounted for about 66% of the Gulfwide 1993-95 harvest (Table 4), and 30% in state waters (Tables 5 and 6). Small trawlers predominate in this fishery, particularly near the Shumagins. Jig gear landed very little; nearly all vessels were  $<$ 61 ft.

The following table shows the harvest rate by gear for 1995 and 1996 at the middle and end of the fishing quarter. Harvests rates generally peaked at the end of the fishing period for trawl, hook-and-line and pot gear.

Western	as of	Trawl			H&L			Pots			Fishery closed	
		mt	weeks	mt/week	mt	weeks	mt/week	mt	weeks	mt/week		
1996	3-Feb	1,864	2	932	1,417	5	283	1,305	5	261	3-Mar	
	2-Mar	10,274	6	1,712	3,815	9	424	1,611	9	179	3-Mar	
1995	4-Feb	872	2	436	7,365	5	1,473	1,442	5	288	17-Mar	
	11-Mar	5,218	7	745	5,015	10	502	1,873	10	187	17-Mar	
	4-Apr	10,763	8	1,345	5,377	11	488	2,164	11	197	17-Mar	
Central	1996	3-Feb	439	2	220	1,197	5	239	3,867	5	773	18-Mar
		2-Mar	3,727	6	621	2,453	9	273	6,618	9	735	18-Mar
		16-Mar	14,515	8	1,814	4,953	11	450	9,152	11	832	18-Mar
1995	4-Feb	623	2	312	1,249	5	250	4,047	5	809	22-Mar	
	11-Mar	11,494	7	1,642	3,932	10	393	9,293	10	929	22-Mar	
	16-Mar	17,749	8	2,219	4,415	11	401	12,086	11	1,099	22-Mar	

### Sablefish

In September 1996, the Council requested information on state water sablefish fisheries. In his letter to the Council, Commissioner Rue indicated his intent to continue managing the state water fisheries for sablefish in the North Gulf District and Aleutian Islands (west of Scotch Cap Light) (Item D-1(a)(1)). Non-IFQ harvests in the state Aleutian Island fishery totaled 165,750 lb in 1995 and 203,850 lb in 1996.

ADF&G has argued that the state fishery is harvesting surplus fish since the TAC has not been fully harvested by the IFQ fishery in

"Aleutian Islands" Sablefish Summary		
	1995	1996
Non-IFQ	165,750	203,850
IFQ	106,550	90,550
Total harvest	272,300 lb	294,400 lb
% Non-IFQ	61%	69%
% IFQ	39%	31%
Non-IFQ deliveries	30	28
IFQ deliveries	30	20
Total	60	48
Non-IFQ fishermen	8	6
IFQ fishermen	28	18

1995 and 1996. However, unharvested amounts of sablefish have declined over the two-year history of the IFQ fishery and were expected to have been lower in 1996 if not for a recent decision by the NMFS Regional Director to not approve an extended season for the sablefish IFQ fishery in the Aleutian Islands. IFQ fishermen were not notified that this fishery would not be allowed in the first quarter of 1997 until two weeks prior to the end of the IFQ season. Despite the aforementioned action, unharvested AI sablefish declined from over 990,000 lb in 1995 to 419,000 lb in 1996. Over all areas, unharvested sablefish declined from 4.7 million lb to 2.1 million lb. For perspective, the non-IFQ open access sablefish fishery harvested a very small amount of fish, relative to the overall federal quota (i.e., <10 % of the total 1996 unharvested IFQ pounds and <50% of the unharvested 1996 AI IFQ).

Sablefish IFQ landings for 1995 and 1996 (through Nov 13, 1996).

1995 Area	Vessel Landings	Total Catch Pounds	Allocation Pounds	Remaining Pounds	Percent Remaining
SE	1,015	12,003,184	12,996,900	993,716	8
WY	434	7,993,170	8,586,917	593,747	7
CG	863	14,072,590	15,167,648	1,095,058	7
WG	187	3,950,818	4,585,568	634,750	14
AI	100	1,917,783	2,910,072	992,289	34
<u>BS</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>998,319</u>	<u>1,410,944</u>	<u>412,625</u>	<u>29</u>
Total	2,706	40,935,864	45,658,049	4,722,185	10
<b>1996</b>					
SE	913	9,823,345	10,346,188	522,843	5
WY	344	6,096,858	6,366,885	270,027	4
CG	746	11,818,813	12,169,392	350,579	3
WG	164	3,585,286	3,880,096	294,810	8
AI	84	1,168,272	1,587,312	419,040	26
<u>BS</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>703,905</u>	<u>970,024</u>	<u>266,119</u>	<u>27</u>
Total	2,367	33,196,479	35,319,897	2,123,418	6

## DECEMBER 1996 COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF BOF ACTION

Linda Behnken originally moved to set the GOA Pacific cod TAC equal to the ABC, less the State and internal waters TAC recently established by the Board of Fisheries, and to urge the Department of Fish and Game to work closely with NMFS so that NMFS can evaluate and release the portion of uncaught TAC by October 1 that is not likely to be taken by the State-managed fisheries.

BUT, later after discussion, she WITHDREW that motion and moved to approve the AP's recommendation for the TAC for 1997, with the additional recommendation that any remaining TAC be released by October 1.  
[AP recommendation on the GOA table]

Then Dave Benton moved that ten concerns raised by the AP be discussed with the Board of Fisheries.

The AP recommendations and concerns were:

The AP recommends removals in the state Pacific cod fisheries for 1997 be counted against the federal groundfish ABCs.

The AP further recommends the Council respectfully petition the BOF to revisit the decision of a state managed Pacific cod fishery in order to discuss the possibility of addressing the BOF needs through the federal process. To foster cooperative management of groundfish resources, we further recommend the Council request the BOF establish a groundfish committee to work on joint management concerns including, but not limited to, the following:

1. crab rebuilding efforts/bycatch and handling mortality in the cod pot fishery,
2. efforts to reduce overcapitalization
3. localized depletion
4. impacts on sea lions
5. lack of at-sea monitoring/observer coverage
6. enforcement difficulties
7. unaccounted mortality of halibut bycatch in the jig fisheries
8. displacement of historical users of a fully exploited species
9. inability to achieve OY if the state cod quota is not fully harvested, and
10. concern of small boat operators to allow an entry level P. cod fishery.

The AP further recommends the Council request NMFS evaluate and release the portion of uncaught TAC by October 1 that is not likely to be taken by the state managed fishery.

Finally, the AP recommends the Council request the State of Alaska consider adopting similar bycatch controls in state groundfish fisheries as they are developed by the Council for federal fisheries. Motion carries 16-5.

## DECEMBER 1996 ADVISORY PANEL DISCUSSION OF BOF ACTION

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### MINORITY REPORT

We strongly object to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) action regarding Pacific cod in the Gulf of Alaska. The last twenty years has seen the State of Alaska relinquish management control of groundfish to the NPFMC and NMFS. The federal government has borne the cost of the surveys, management, enforcement and development of these fisheries. The BOF action constitutes a serious erosion in the ability of NPFMC to effectively manage this resource. The NPFMC and NMFS have established management experience, science, enforcement, and observer coverage that the State is lacking. We feel this could lead to increased overcapitalization and an allocation shift of a fully utilized fishery that does not have the Council safeguards of social and economic impact statements. We ask the Council to request NMFS to preempt the BOF action.

Signed: David Benson  
Lyle Yeck  
Craig Cross  
Bruce Cotton

## **DECEMBER 1996 SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF BOF ACTION**

The SSC heard the staff presentation on the recent Board of Fisheries groundfish actions. The SSC received public testimony from Jay Stinson, Chris Blackburn, Brent Paine, Paul Seaton, Dorothy Childers, and Duncan Fields. Bill Bechtol (ADF&G) was present to answer questions.

The SSC's discussion of this agenda item focused primarily on stock conservation. Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod is assessed as a single stock. Therefore, as noted in D-1(c), the SSC believes that all harvests of Pacific cod including those in State waters should count against the Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod ABC. Ideally, catches would be spatially and temporally allocated in proportion to the actual intra- and inter-annual distribution of biomass. Unfortunately, given the migratory nature of this species and data limitations, it is not possible to design such an allocation at this time. An analysis of the NMFS Gulf of Alaska trawl survey will only describe the summer biomass distribution and may not characterize stock distribution at the time the fishery is conducted. The new fishery in State waters may take place at different times, in different locations, and with different gear than has been characteristic of those fisheries that have generated the data included in the assessment model. Consequently, on-deck sampling will be very important. Besides monitoring catch and bycatch, and gathering other biological and fishery information, it would be useful to conduct surveys that will delineate the spatial and temporal distribution of biomass.

The SSC notes the Board of Fisheries action places the burden of conservation on the Council, and that if a similarly large reallocation between fishing sectors was proposed within Federal waters, an EA/RIR including a socioeconomic analysis would be required.



## **ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **JANUARY 16, 1997**

The Council's Enforcement Committee met by telephone on January 16, 1997, to discuss enforcement issues relevant to the Alaska Board of Fisheries action to institute a state water fishery in the Gulf of Alaska for Pacific cod. Committee members in attendance were: Dave Hanson (Chairman), Capt. Vince O'Shea, Sue Salveson, Lisa Lindeman, Steve Meyer, Bill Karp, and Lt. Don Starbard. Others in attendance were Ron Berg (NMFS), Jane DiCosimo (NPFMC), and Al Burch (Alaska Draggers Association). The committee convened to provide recommendations to Council members Samuelsen, O'Leary, and Barker for their joint meeting with members of the Board of Fisheries on January 19, 1997 and the subsequent meeting of the Board and Council on February 4, 1997. The committee's conclusions follow.

**Fisheries regulations should be implemented that will aid reasonable enforcement.** The committee expressed concern that a prohibition on the retention of Pacific cod from federal waters will be difficult to enforce with an open state water fishery for the same species, possibly leading to retention of fish harvested from federal waters but claimed from state waters. Federal recordkeeping and reporting may be compromised by insufficient monitoring of state fishery. The committee discussed voluntary surrender of federal fishing permit by state fishery participants as an additional enforcement tool. NOAA General Counsel stated that the Secretary also could restrict federally permitted vessels from fishing in state waters if there were reasonable enforcement concerns for doing so.

**State and federal enforcement agencies should cooperate to achieve complementary enforcement goals.** The NOAA Enforcement Division, US Coast Guard, and Department of Public Safety will meet immediately following the January 19, 1997 BOF/NPFMC meeting to discuss complementary enforcement goals and action.

**NMFS could develop framework regulations that would prohibit pot and possibly jig gear in the Gulf of Alaska during the time period when the federal P. cod fishery is closed and the state P. cod fishery is open.** A regulatory amendment could not be in place until the 1998 fishing year. The 1997 state fishery would provide useful information on state fishery participation and length.

### Other Groundfish Fisheries Under State/Federal Management

There are several groundfish fisheries, other than Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod fisheries, where there are cross jurisdictional issues for the Board and Council. These include the Prince William Sound pollock fishery, the Aleutian Island sablefish fishery, pelagic shelf rockfish in the Gulf of Alaska, and demersal shelf rockfish in Southeast Alaska.

#### Prince William Sound Pollock

Annual pollock harvests in Prince William Sound (PWS) averaged 3.3 mt before 1995. There was increased fishing pressure in 1995 resulting in a harvest of 3,000 mt. In early 1996, nine midwater and two pair trawl vessels harvested 1,480 mt, primarily in Port Bainbridge at the southern end. The 1997 fishery opened January 20 under a harvest guideline of 1,800 mt. About 200 mt more will be harvested under ADF&G's program receipts authorization, with revenues applied to FY 1997 pollock research in PWS. Additional information is available in item 2(c)(1).

#### Aleutian Islands Sablefish Fisheries

Non-IFQ harvests of sablefish in the State waters Aleutian Islands fishery totaled 165,750 lb in 1995 and 203,850 lb in 1996. This harvest by 6-8 fishermen represented about two-thirds of the total sablefish harvest in the Aleutians, the remainder being taken by 18-28 IFQ fishermen. Additional detailed catch information is available in the December 1996 action memo under Section 2(a) of this notebook.

#### Pelagic Shelf Rockfish in Gulf of Alaska

The Council is scheduled to take final action in February 1997 on whether or not to defer management authority over the nearshore component (black and blue rockfishes) of the pelagic shelf rockfish assemblage (PSR) to the State of Alaska. The State has indicated they would accept management of the nearshore component only if it were removed from the Gulf groundfish plan completely and the State could assume full management unencumbered by federal requirements. Additional information is available under item 2(c)(2).

#### Southeast Alaska Rockfish

Demersal shelf rockfish in the Eastern Regulatory Area is managed by the State of Alaska with Council oversight. The assemblage includes a variety of rockfish including Canary, China, Copper, Quillback, Redbanded, Rosethorn, Tiger, and Yelloweye rockfish. Yelloweye rockfish is the predominant DSR species caught in the commercial fisheries. It accounts for an average of 90% by weight of the total DSR catch. Quillback accounts for 8%. The Council sets the harvest levels each year for this assemblage, but since 1985 (amendment 14), management of DSR has been deferred to the State of Alaska which manages State registered vessels in that fishery. Amendment 21 in 1991 expanded State authority in Federal waters. Amendment 22 in 1992 expanded the DSR management area west to 140 W. The ABC for 1997 is set at 950 mt. A separate license limitation system for DSR was proposed in 1995 and the State of Alaska is conducting the analysis for review by the Council this year.

**Report of the  
Prince William Sound Pollock Research Meeting  
ADF&G Conference Room, Anchorage  
9 January 1997**

Nineteen representatives from the fishing industry, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, ADF&G, NMFS, and consultant biologists (see attached list) attended the 9 January 1996 meeting in Anchorage to discuss potential research of the pollock resource in Prince William Sound, Alaska (PWS).

Following introductions, Bechtol (meeting coordinator) summarized the PWS pollock fishery. This fishery has been and will continue to be limited to that area currently defined as the Inside District of the PWS Management Area (Figure 1). Annual PWS pollock harvests averaged 3.3 metric tons (mt) prior to 1995. However, industry interest in pollock spawning aggregations led to a PWS harvest of 3,000 mt by nine midwater trawl vessels in early 1995. The 1995 fishery primarily occurred in Port Bainbridge and around the southern end of Knight Island. In early 1996, 1,480 mt were harvested by nine midwater and two pair-trawl vessels. The 1996 fishery primarily occurred in Port Bainbridge. Preliminary length frequency data for the 1996 commercial pollock fisheries indicated pollock from PWS were substantially larger than fish caught in other GOA areas. The 1997 fishery will open January 20 under a harvest guideline of 1,800 mt. Approximately 200 mt will be additionally harvested under ADF&G's program receipts authorization, with revenues applied to FY97 pollock research for PWS.

ADF&G has based the PWS harvest guideline on summer population assessments. Pollock and other groundfish in federal waters of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) are assessed through a summer triennial bottom trawl survey conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Fish assessed concurrently in PWS are not assessed by the federal survey, and ADF&G has used summer assessment data for PWS to set harvest levels for PWS pollock. However, both industry and biologists have expressed concerns about the appropriateness of a harvest level that is developed from a bottom trawl survey but applied to a semi-pelagic species. Perhaps a greater issue is the degree of migration and mixing between pollock in PWS and the GOA, and how such interactions affect the composition of both the commercially fished aggregations and the assessed summer populations. The 9 January meeting was intended to foster discussion on strategies which would begin to resolve some of these uncertainties.

Hollowed summarized survey methods for pollock in the GOA and how the different survey data are applied within the stock assessment model, e.g., triennial bottom trawl survey for area-swept biomass estimates, corrected for gear selectivity, and annual hydroacoustic surveys to index year class strength. Wilson described hydroacoustic surveys of winter pollock aggregations, primarily in Shelikof Strait. Pollock tend to spawn from late winter to early spring, but spawning fish may be found year-round. Peak spawning times and locations are fairly consistent within areas, but the extent of spawning site fidelity by individual fish is unknown. Although there was conceptual support for surveys of all pollock spawning aggregations throughout the GOA area, including PWS, the identification and survey of all aggregations is currently impractical. Brown described survey catchability problems and a proposed study involving state and federal survey vessels fishing side-by-side with bottom trawl gear. Results will be used to develop gear- and vessel-specific selectivity data to allow comparisons between different surveys. Agency representatives may send letters to NMFS expressing support for this project.

DiCosimo described the process by which the GOA Plan Team, the Statistical and Scientific Committee, the Advisory Panel, and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council establish annual federal quotas for GOA groundfish fisheries, with implementation and monitoring by NMFS. Bechtol summarized the Alaska Board of Fisheries process, with local Advisory Committee input, to develop management plans for state fisheries with ADF&G implementation. The federal process is oriented to macro-management of the highly mobile offshore fleets, whereas the state process is oriented to micro-management of localized nearshore fleets. The group agreed on the importance of coordinated assessment and management strategies for pollock and other transboundary species.

Bechtol summarized some of the existing bottom trawl survey data that exists for PWS. Although trawl surveys date to the 1950s, those in 1978 (NMFS funded) and 1989 (EVOS funded) were the only systematic, comprehensive bottom trawl surveys. The 1978 survey (Parks and Zenger 1979) was an April survey using 53 hauls of a 400 mesh eastern net to assess 4 quadrants and 5 depth strata (10-260 fm depth range). This survey (mean catch rate = 360 lb/hr) estimated the exploitable biomass to be 15,600 mt with ~50% in the NE, 30% in the SE, and 20% in the SW quadrants, and little catch in the northwest. Multi-modal length distributions, likely reflecting several strong year classes from the mid 1970s, were evident in the NE, SE, and SW areas, although a 30 cm mode was slightly less pronounced in the SW. The 1989 survey (Haynes and Urban 1993) used a similar gear in two survey components. The first component made 61 tows from 17 May to 23 June primarily to collect bottomfish and shellfish samples for hydrocarbon contamination assessment. The 1989 survey found the mean pollock catch rate for PWS had declined to less than half of the 1978 value. By area, the NE and SE areas had been the most productive in 1978 but had become the least productive in 1989. The SW catch rate declined from 1978, but the decline was less severe than the other areas. Only the NW catch rate increased from 1978 to the first 1989 survey. Length frequencies again showed evidence of year classes, particularly a strong mode of unsexed fish at ~15 cm length. Hollowed thought this mode represented the 1988 year class that was strong in the GOA. A second 1989 survey made 63 tows from 7 August to 18 September and was more specifically directed at assessing fish populations. The pollock biomass estimate was 9,500 mt, with ~40% in the Knight Island/Montague Strait area stratum. Although differences between length frequency modes were not as pronounced as in 1978, fish were generally larger than in the 1978 survey. Similar to the 1978 survey, larger fish tended to be found at greater depths. For the future, the group felt a comparison of pollock distribution and size between the first and second components of the 1989 survey would be informative. Bechtol also described ongoing ADF&G bottom trawl surveys with a 400 mesh eastern net. This biennial ADF&G survey focuses on Tanner crab in the NE and SE areas and is next scheduled for 1997. Pollock data have only been collected since 1994.

Kirsch briefly described the Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA) program, which applied Exxon Valdez Oil Spill restoration funds to conduct a 1994 summer acoustic survey of herring and pollock. The PWS Science Center also acoustically surveyed pollock spawning aggregations in PWS in the winter of 1995 (Thomas and Stables 1995). Although SEA funding is declining and will focus more on salmon research in upcoming years, the Center is optimistic about receiving some USCG long-term monitoring funds which may be applicable to pollock. The group expressed interest in seeing the food habits studies that have been a part of SEA continued.

The pros and cons of hydroacoustic surveys were discussed. Winter surveys may yield more precise pollock biomass estimates, but there is greater uncertainty about stock origin. In addition, acoustic surveys of winter spawning aggregations may poorly represent juvenile cohorts. Summer surveys are hampered by a dense plankton layer that causes scattering of the acoustic signal. Stinson also voiced a concern that a tendency for mature fish to settle toward the bottom in late summer may also inhibit summer acoustic surveys. Recent studies indicate vessel avoidance may be a factor for pollock as far as 100 m from the survey vessel; additional NMFS studies are scheduled for this year. Avoidance is probably more pronounced for summer surveys when pollock tend to be less aggregated and distributed shallower.

After lunch, a conference call was placed to Tom Cline at the PWS Science Center to discuss the application of isotopes to determine food habits. Plankton prey exhibit nitrogen and carbon isotope signatures that appear to be unique between PWS and GOA populations. Preliminary data indicate the isotope change between areas may be a sharp transition, although analysis is still underway. Tissues of predator species, such as pollock and salmon, should theoretically reflect foraging location, with isotope uptake rates dependent upon tissue replacement rates. Although pollock samples from Port Bainbridge in the 1995 survey reflected PWS isotope ratios, isotope ratios from pollock in the GOA have yet to be collected for comparison. It's also possible that pollock migrations may exceed the definition of the cline.

Hagen discussed the potential application of otolith microstructures. A Texas lab (Scott Carpenter) has examined isotope ratios in ~20 micron otolith sections at a cost of ~\$25/sample after otolith preparation. An east coast lab has analyzed otolith micro-sections for ~20 elements as a reflection of rearing water signatures for some marine species. Kevin Bailey (AFSC), who was suggested as an information source for pollock stock discrimination using a variety of techniques, could not be reached for a conference call during our meeting. Although genetics studies have indicated some discrimination may exist across large areas, such as between the eastern and western Bering Sea, there is insufficient evidence to suggest that no fish exchange occurs between these areas or between the eastern Bering Sea and the western GOA. Seeb suggested a comparison of pollock genetic samples between PWS and other areas is needed, and he will contact group members regarding sample collection. Mark-recapture was discussed as a means of examining migration patterns. The use of purse seine or hook-and-line gear was viewed as potentially having low capture mortality during tagging, although there was agreement on the need to hold tagged fish to assess short-term tagging mortality. Bechtol will research the use of Cordova students for a tagging program.

After further discussion, the following research avenues were agreed upon for the 1997 calendar year:

- 1) ADF&G catch sampling of the commercial fishery opening 20 January.
- 2) Industry and ADF&G genetic samples collected from pollock fisheries in a variety of areas.
- 3) Winter hydroacoustic survey of the PWS winter pollock population, with vessel charter and acoustic expertise to be contracted by ADF&G with FY 97 funding.
- 4) ADF&G summer bottom trawl survey in the NE, SE, and SW portions of PWS (FY 98 funding).
- 5) NMFS and ADF&G will pursue side-by-side surveys with state and federal vessels to develop gear- and vessel-specific selectivity data (proposed for funding).

Minutes compiled by Bechtol.

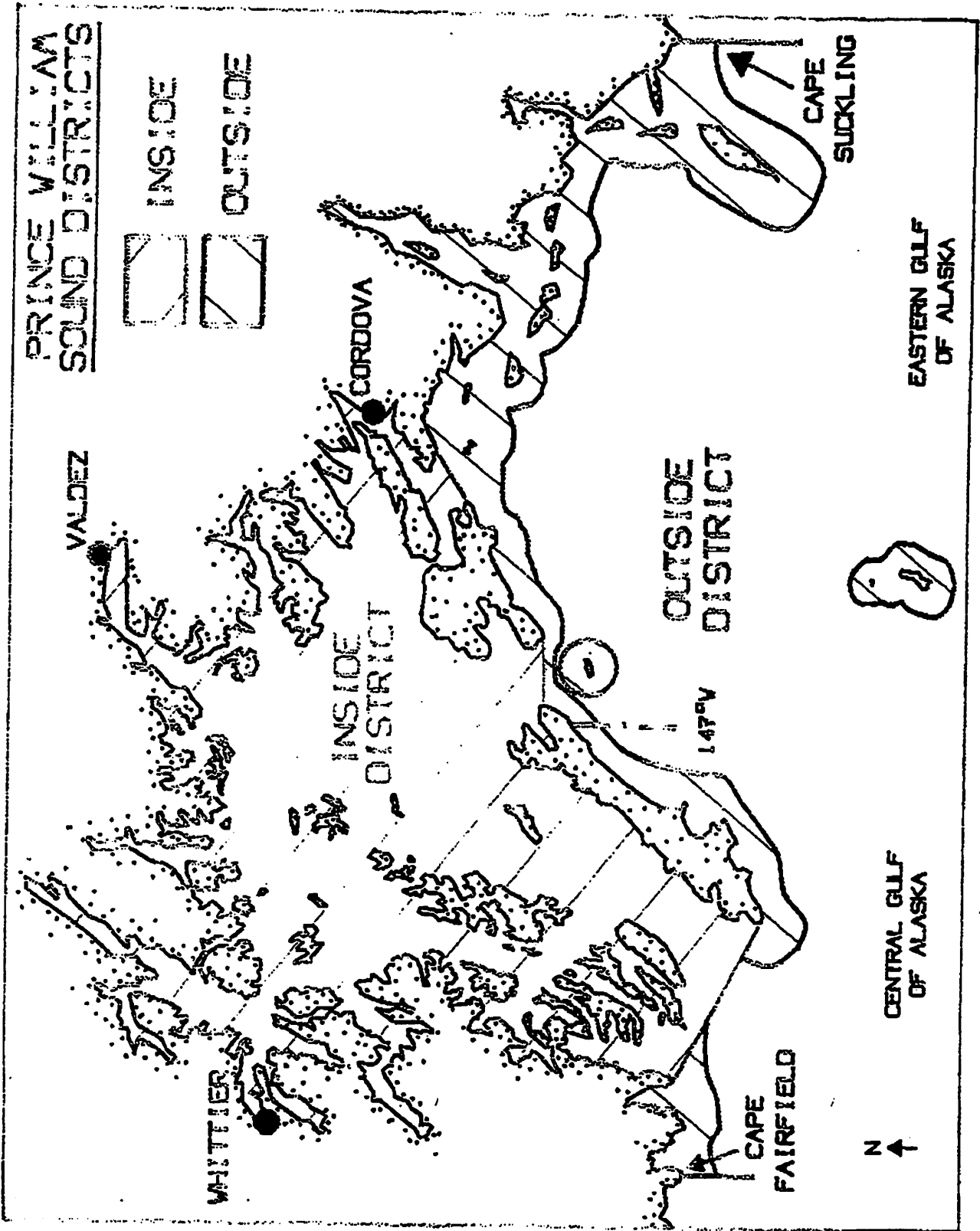



Figure 1. General area of the Inside District of Prince William Sound where the pollock fishery occurs.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke  
Executive Director 

DATE: December 3, 1996

SUBJECT: Final action for GOA Amendment 46

ESTIMATED TIME 10 HOURS (all D-1 items)
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**ACTION REQUIRED**

Final review of Amendment 46 to revise management authority of pelagic shelf rockfish.

**BACKGROUND**

The Council is scheduled to take final action on a plan amendment to revise the management authority of the pelagic shelf rockfish assemblage (PSR). The public review draft of Amendment 46 to GOA FMP was distributed on November 27, 1996. The revised draft incorporates changes recommended by the Council at their September 1996 meeting, final ABC recommendations by the GOA Plan Team, and recommendations for management by ADF&G and the Plan Team.

The EA/RIR analyzes two management issues for Gulf of Alaska PSR. The first issue for the Council to decide is whether to separate PSR into a nearshore component (black and blue rockfishes) and an offshore component (dusky, widow, and yellowtail rockfishes). The Plan Team has recommended that separate Acceptable Biological Catches (ABCs) and Total Allowable Catches (TACs) be assigned for these two groups to enhance the attainment of optimum yield to the fishery and management efforts to monitor the harvest of PSR species. Separating the assemblage into two components can be resolved by the Council in the final specification process and does not require further analysis or action by the Secretary (Alternative 2). The Plan Team has recommended an ABC of 4,880 mt for the offshore component and 600 mt for the nearshore component for 1997, should the Council choose Alternative 2 or 3 as its preferred alternative.

Alternatives 3 and 4 address the issue of management authority of the nearshore component of PSR, which does require a plan amendment. Alternative 3 would delegate management authority of the nearshore component to the State of Alaska through the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) while retaining this component within the FMP. Management authority under ADF&G would likely result in enhanced stock assessment methodology for the nearshore PSR component, which is currently inadequately sampled by the trawl survey. ADF&G has informed the Council that they will not accept Alternative 3, but are recommending Alternative 4 (Item D-1(b)(1)).

Alternative 4 would withdraw black and blue rockfishes from the GOA FMP entirely. ADF&G would assume management authority of these species in the absence of federal management. State management would not be tied to the federal definition of ABC and overfishing levels for black and blue rockfishes, stocks that are essentially unassessed. ADF&G endorses Alternative 4 and has informed the Council it would manage the black rockfish resource on a regional basis. Nearshore rockfish management plans would be prepared by ADF&G staff for the three Gulf of Alaska management areas and reviewed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries. ADF&G would

manage this fishery under the current 68 mt guideline harvest level for rockfish in the Central Gulf, with vessel trip limits.

The Plan Team has also recommended Alternative 4. The Team has recommended separation of PSR into two components since 1991 to prevent overfishing of black rockfish that are harvested under an ABC and TAC derived from biomass estimates of dusky rockfish in the NMFS trawl survey. They have identified ADF&G as the best agency for in-season management of very small area TAC apportionments. Also, ADF&G would not be required to comply with new Federal guidelines for unassessed populations when setting a state harvest guideline. These restrictions: (1) limit the developing black rockfish jig fishery to the average of 75% of the truncated time series of commercial landings and (2) create a Gulf-wide overfishing level that cannot be adequately monitored by in-season management either by NMFS or ADF&G because of the low area TACs resulting from it (as low as 170 mt in the Western and Eastern Gulf for nearshore PSR species).

The EA/RIR includes the following alternatives:

- Alternative 1: No action.
- Alternative 2: Separate the Pelagic Shelf Rockfish Assemblage into two complexes: (1) nearshore PSR (black and blue rockfishes) and (2) offshore PSR (dusky, widow, and yellowtail rockfishes).
- Alternative 3: Separate the Pelagic Shelf Rockfish Assemblage into two complexes: (1) nearshore PSR (black and blue rockfishes) and (2) offshore PSR (dusky, widow, and yellowtail rockfishes), and transfer management authority of nearshore PSR in both State and Federal waters to the State of Alaska.
- Alternative 4: Remove black and blue rockfishes from the Gulf of Alaska FMP. The State of Alaska would assume management of those species.



# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

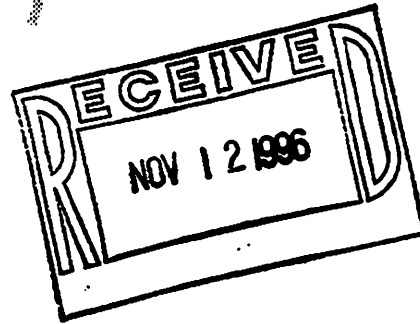
AGENDA D-1(b)(1)  
DECEMBER 1996

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 25526  
JUNEAU, AK 99802-5526  
PHONE: (907) 465-4210

November 6, 1996

Mr. Richard Lauber  
Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
601 West 4th Street  
Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501



Dear Mr. Lauber:

At the September Council meeting the Advisory Panel (AP) requested that the State outline how we would manage the nearshore rockfish fishery under the proposed Amendment 46 to transfer management authority for black and blue rockfishes to the State.

The State does not support Alternative 3, which would place black and blue rockfish into a separate management assemblage and delegate management authority to the State. This fishery is fundamentally different than the Eastern Gulf DSR fishery in that it occurs gulf-wide, has little fisheries-independent data available and a differing harvest history between regions. Therefore, the State will not accept management authority under this alternative. First, under existing federal regulations neither the NMFS nor the ADF&G would have the flexibility necessary to ensure management of this assemblage within the proposed TAC. Secondly, it would place unnecessary additional manpower and reporting demands on the department to meet federal compliance of delegated authority which is not only a poor utilization of staff but is beyond our current fiscal means.

The State supports Alternative 4 which would remove black and blue rockfish from the GOA Groundfish FMP and thereby give the State management authority over these species in both state and EEZ waters. Alternative 4 would allow the State to manage these resources outside of the federal management system and would not tie the state to the federal definitions for ABC and overfishing levels for individual stocks which are essentially unassessed.

As with all fisheries under State management, the State's primary concern is to provide for conservative resource management with sustainable harvests. The black rockfish resource would be locally managed on a regional basis. The state currently has three regions that would be responsible for drafting management plans for this resource. Our staff has assisted in the draft EA/RIR and our current and proposed management of these species is outlined in the revised public review draft of that document. under section 3.5.2 "Transfer of Management Authority to the State".

If the NPFMC adopts Alternative 4 we will draft regional management plans for Board of Fisheries review of these species. Initial harvest levels will be extremely conservative, with current bycatch needs addressed prior to allocation of directed fishery quotas. The Pacific Fishery Management Council and Washington state management plans for black rockfish will be reviewed and evaluated to determine if harvest strategies outlined are an appropriate interim harvest approach. Although stock assessment data is lacking, we do have some data collected prior to the expansion of the fishery including: 1) biological samples and density estimates from diver strip transects in the SSEO and CSEO management areas collected during 1980 and 1981; 2) biological samples and surveys from the Central Region in 1981-1984; 3) diver surveys from Prince William Sound from the late 1970s; and 4) sport fish port sampling in South-central Alaska and Kodiak. As funding allows we plan to replicate these surveys to track population trends. Additionally we plan tagging studies, in conjunction with the Sport Fish Division, to evaluate localized movement between state and federal waters.

The AP had requested clarification on the effect of the DSR license limitation program on management of nearshore rockfish. We believe these two programs are unrelated since the gear utilized in harvesting each type of rockfish is different and we anticipate no significant effects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the State's position of the draft EA/RIR for Pelagic Shelf Rockfish. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,



Earl E. Krygier  
Extended Jurisdictional Program Manager

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Richard B. Lauber, Chairman  
Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director




605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Telephone: (907) 271-2809

Fax (907) 271-2817

## MEMORANDUM

To: Council and Board of Fisheries Members

From: Clarence Pautzke  
Executive Director 

Date: January 29, 1997

Subject: Joint Committee Meeting

The Board and Council committee met on Sunday, January 19, 1997. Present were Kevin O'Leary (co-chair), Robin Samuelsen, and Morris Barker from the Council, and John White (co-chair), Larry Engel, and Dan Coffey from the Board. Staff present included Lisa Lindeman, Bonnie Harris, Bob Clasby, Clarence Pautzke, Ron Berg, Vince O'Shea, Steve Meyer, Chris Oliver, Jane DiCosimo, Linda Brannian, James Brady, Pete Probasco, and Al Spalinger. Public present included Brent Paine, Alvin Pedersen, Duncan Fields, Ruel Holmberg, Sr., Chris Blackburn, Alvin Burch, Henry Mitchell, Denby Lloyd, and Hazel Nelson.

The committee focussed its attention on developing a joint operating protocol. Attached is their proposed protocol, a derivative of the joint Council-Board statement of principles for crab adopted in 1981. The proposed protocol has the following features:

1. The protocol has been expanded to cover all fisheries where there are cross-jurisdictional concerns, not just groundfish.
2. There will be an annual meeting each year in Anchorage in February between the Board and Council, likely to last at least two days to cover all issues of interest to both bodies. Public testimony will be taken on groundfish proposals by both bodies.
3. A joint committee will meet in January, and possibly quarterly to improve communications.
4. A Council staff briefing will be provided to the Board at each fall work session that will cover current Council activities and upcoming issues.
5. The Board may adjust its groundfish proposal schedule to coincide with the Council's. The Board will not take final action on groundfish proposals until after it meets with the Council each February.
6. There still needs to be discussion and agreement on working definitions of "impacts" and "mutual concerns" as they are used in paragraphs B(2) and (3). The Board and Council need to decide which proposals should be highlighted for the other's consideration. While it could be argued that almost anything done in the EEZ could impact State fisheries, and vice versa, there needs to be some

methodology or criteria for selecting those proposals where there truly is a need to interact. On the one hand, for example, the Council may be most concerned when the Board allocates a TAC for use in State waters as happened with GOA cod. The Board, however, may be intensely interested in what the Council is doing on bycatch of salmon in the EEZ. So there needs to be agreement on a middle ground to avoid every proposed management action being considered by, and thus taking the time of, both bodies. We also need to agree on details of the proposal selection process. Who will do the selecting? The full Council and Board? The Board-Council Committee? The staffs?

If approved, the protocol probably would become operational with this coming summer's round of proposals. A comparison of the Council and Board annual cycles, with notations concerning the joint protocol, is provided here following the draft protocol. As laid out there, the joint committee would need to meet this fall, and I would prepare a briefing for the Board's fall work session. There would be a second committee meeting in January 1998, and then we would plan a joint Council-Board meeting for two days the week of February 2, 1998.

# DRAFT

## JOINT PROTOCOL

### BETWEEN

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC)  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

and

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES (BOF)  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

ON

MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES  
OFF ALASKA

Recognizing that NPFMC has a legal responsibility for reviewing and recommending to the Secretary of Commerce measures for the conservation and management of the fisheries of the Arctic Ocean, Bering Sea, and Pacific Ocean seaward of Alaska, with particular emphasis on the consistency of those measures with the National Standards of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act); and

Recognizing that the State of Alaska has a legal responsibility for conservation and management of fisheries within State waters; and further, that the State system centers around BOF policy, regulations, and procedures which provide for extensive public input; is sufficiently structured to ensure annual revisions; is flexible enough to accommodate resource and resource utilization emergencies; and is understood and familiar to the users of North Pacific fisheries resources; and

Recognizing that many of the fish populations in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands migrate freely between or spend some of the year in both Federal and State waters; and

Recognizing that State and Federal governmental agencies are limited in fiscal resources, and that the optimal use of these monies for North Pacific fisheries management, research, and enforcement occurs through a clear definition of agency roles and division of responsibilities.

Therefore, NPFMC and BOF enter into this Joint Protocol to achieve coordinated, compatible, and sustainable management of fisheries within each organization's jurisdiction in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea and Aleutians.

#### I. Applicable Fisheries

This Joint Protocol applies to all fisheries off Alaska of mutual concern.

#### II. Duration of the Agreement

This agreement shall be reviewed by both NPFMC and the BOF and revised as necessary.

### III. NPFMC and BOF shall undertake the following activities:

- A. NPFMC and BOF shall jointly agree upon and implement an annual management cycle that provides for coordinated, compatible, and sustainable fisheries management in State and Federal waters. Management measures shall be consistent with the national standards of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, with the laws of the State of Alaska, and with all other applicable laws. *as appropriate*
- B. With regard to groundfish, the annual management cycle shall have the following elements:

1. The NPFMC and BOF will endeavor to coordinate their proposal schedules to the greatest extent practicable.
2. The NPFMC will provide the BOF with the latest stock assessment information shortly after the NPFMC's September meeting, noting any special management or conservation concerns with individual groundfish fisheries. The NPFMC will also review fisheries management proposals that it receives that could have *impacts* on State programs and forward such proposals to the BOF for consideration at an appropriate BOF meeting. The NPFMC will provide all available information concerning such proposals and will identify particular issues that should be analyzed before taking final action.

*(Note: The word "impacts" in paragraph 2 and the words "mutual concern" in paragraph 3 still need working definitions and criteria. Also, the BOF and NPFMC will need to determine if each body will be responsible for identifying proposals that may be of interest to the other body, or will this be a joint effort tasked to the joint committee identified in paragraph C below?)*

3. The BOF at its fall meeting will review groundfish proposals. Those proposals identified as being of *mutual concern* to both the BOF and NPFMC, will be forwarded to the NPFMC for consideration at its December meeting. The BOF will provide any information available concerning the proposals, and will identify particular issues that should be analysed before taking final action.
  4. In December the NPFMC will review stock assessments, set acceptable biological catch and harvest limits, consider proposals and other information received from the BOF, and task staff with developing a discussion paper on potential impacts of the proposals if adopted.
  5. Final action by the BOF will occur at their next groundfish meeting following the February joint meeting with the NPFMC. After a BOF final decision, the BOF shall adopt findings explaining the basis for the regulation. This provision shall not apply to emergency regulations, however, justification should be provided to the NPFMC in a timely manner, not less than ten days after the emergency action.
- C. A joint NPFMC-BOF committee, not to exceed three members from each body, will be formed and meet in January and at other times as necessary to review available analyses, proposals, and any other matters of mutual concern, and to provide recommendations to the joint NPFMC and BOF.
- D. The NPFMC and BOF will meet jointly in Anchorage each February to consider proposals, committee recommendations, the analysis, and any other issues of mutual concern. All interested persons and agencies shall have the opportunity to submit comments to the NPFMC and BOF at these meetings on proposals identified as being of mutual concern, and other matters as appropriate.
- E. NPFMC and BOF shall encourage ADF&G and NMFS, in carrying out their responsibilities, to consult actively with each other, with NPFMC and BOF, and other agencies as appropriate, in order to prevent

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duplication of research, management, and enforcement effort and to make optimum use of the resources available for management of the fisheries.

- F. The intent of this protocol is to provide long term cooperative, compatible management systems that maintain the sustainability of the fisheries resources in State and Federal waters.

Approved:

For the North Pacific Fishery Management Council

For the Alaska Board of Fisheries

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board of Fisheries Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

## MEETING CYCLE

The board meeting cycle generally occurs between October through March. Thus, the cycle overlaps calendar years. All fisheries are considered when the regional area, shellfish species, or statewide regulations are before the board. The fisheries are: subsistence, sport, guided sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries.

NOTE: Statewide finfish and statewide shellfish regulations will not be taken up every meeting cycle. When setting the next meeting cycle, the board will determine whether to consider Statewide finfish or shellfish regulations for that meeting cycle.

Meeting Cycle:	1991/92	1994/95	1997/98
Proposal Deadline:	(04/10/91)	(04/11/94)	(04/10/97)
Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island Areas (All Finfish)		Bristol Bay Area (All Finfish)	
Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Areas (All Finfish)		Statewide (All Finfish)	

Meeting Cycle:	1992/93	1995/96	1998/99
Proposal Deadline:	(04/10/92)	(04/10/95)	(04/10/98)
Cook Inlet Area (All Finfish)		Kodiak/Chignik Areas (All Finfish)	
King & Tanner Crab (All Regions)			

Meeting Cycle:	1993/94	1996/97	1999/2000
Proposal Deadline:	(04/09/93)	(04/10/96)	(04/09/99)
Southeast/Yakutat Areas (All Finfish)		Prince William Sound Area (All Finfish)	
Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Shellfish (All Regions)			

**THE MEETING CYCLE REPEATS ITSELF WITH THE 1994/95 CYCLE BEING THE SAME AS THE 1991/92 CYCLE [WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE STATEWIDE REGULATIONS].** This schedule was adopted November 9, 1990.



# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

## THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES CALL FOR PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE SUBSISTENCE, PERSONAL USE, SPORT, GUIDED SPORT, AND COMMERCIAL

### FINFISH REGULATIONS FOR THE ARCTIC/YUKON/KUSKOKWIM, BRISTOL BAY AND ALASKA PENINSULA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS FINFISH AREAS, and STATEWIDE FINFISH REGULATIONS

#### PROPOSAL DEADLINE - APRIL 10, 1997

The Alaska Board of Fisheries is accepting proposed changes to the subsistence, personal use, sport, guided sport, and commercial finfish regulations for the Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands management areas. Finfish includes; salmon, herring, trout, char, burbot, northern pike, whitefish, groundfish, etc.

The board is especially interested in receiving proposals regarding seasonal non-commercial harvest limits for non-resident fishers. Over the years, the board has received numerous proposals to establish export limits for non-resident fishers. The board received reports from ADF&G, Law, and Fish & Wildlife Protection that enforcement in the field and defending in court export limits would be very difficult. The most manageable and defensible regulations would be establishing seasonal harvest limits for non-residents. Please be as specific as possible, when citing what fishery(ies), fish specie(s), area(s), user(s), and what seasonal limit(s) you feel are or would be appropriate.

To insure that the proposal booklets are distributed well in advance of the board meetings and the fishing season, the board has set a Wednesday, April 10, 1997 proposal deadline. The board recognizes this is an early deadline, however feels the advisory committees, fishermen organizations, public and department staff have benefited by having more time to review the proposals.

**Your proposal must be received by any Board Support Section office by close of business on Thursday, April 10, 1997. The following offices can officially receive proposals:**

Lana Francis  
Headquarters  
PO Box 25526  
Juneau, AK 99802-5526  
**Phone: (907) 465-4110**

Joe Chythlook  
Southwest Region  
PO Box 1030  
Dillingham, AK 99576-1030  
**Phone: (907) 842-5142**

Ann Wilkinson  
Southcentral Region  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599  
**Phone: (907) 267-2354**

Ida Alexie  
Western Region  
PO Box 1788  
Bethel, AK 99559-1788  
**Phone: (907) 543-4467**

Regional Coordinator  
Arctic Region  
PO Box 689  
Kotzebue, AK 99752-0689  
**Phone: (907) 442-4320**

Jim Marcotte  
Interior Region  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK  
**Phone: (907) 474-8634**

All proposals must contain an original signature, contact telephone number, and address. Proposals must be received in one of the above offices by the deadline (only being postmarked by that date is not considered as a valid timely receipt). You are encouraged to submit proposals at the earliest possible date.

[Note: Proposals received per the above "Call For Proposals" deadline will be considered by the Board of Fisheries during the November 1997-February 1998 meeting cycle.]

The State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modification to make a proposal; should contact Lana Francis at 465-4110 (To correspond by text telephone (TDD), call 1-800-478-2028) no later than April 5, to make any necessary arrangements.

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES AND ALASKA BOARD OF GAME  
**REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM** P.O. BOX 25526. JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526

<p><b>BOARD OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Area _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Subsistence                      <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Use</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sport                                      <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial</p> <p><b>JOINT BOARD REGULATIONS</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Advisory Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Council <input type="checkbox"/> Rural</p>	<p><b>BOARD OF GAME REGULATIONS</b></p> <p>Game Management Unit (GMU) _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hunting                      <input type="checkbox"/> Trapping</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Subsistence                      <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Resident</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Nonresident</p>
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Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All the answers will be printed in the proposal packets along with the proposer's name (addresses and phone nos. will not be published). Use separate forms for each proposal.

1. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC _____ Regulation Book Page No. _____	
2. What is the problem you would like the Board to address?	
3. What will happen if this problem is not solved?	
4. What solution do you prefer? In other words, if the Board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?	
5. Solutions to difficult problems benefit some people and hurt others: A. Who is likely to benefit if your solution is adopted?  B. Who is likely to suffer if your solution is adopted?	
6. List any other solutions you considered and why you rejected them.	DO NOT WRITE HERE

Submitted By: Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Individual or Group

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## 5 AAC 96.625. JOINT BOARD PETITION POLICY

(a) under AS 44.62.220, an interested person may petition an agency, including the Boards of Fisheries and Game, for the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a regulation. The petition must clearly and concisely state the substance or nature of the regulation, amendment, or repeal requested, the reason for the request, and must reference the agency's authority to take the requested action. Within 30 days after receiving a petition, a board will deny the petition in writing, or schedule the matter for public hearing under AS 44.62.190 -- 44.62.210, which require that any agency publish legal notice describing the proposed change and solicit comment for 30 days before taking action. AS 44.62.230 also provides that if the petition is for an emergency regulation, and the agency finds that an emergency exists, the agency may submit the regulation to the lieutenant governor immediately after making the finding of emergency and putting the regulation into proper form.

(b) Fish and game regulations are adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Board of Game. At least twice annually, the boards solicit regulation changes. Several hundred proposed changes are usually submitted to each board annually. The Department of Fish and Game compiles the proposals and mails them to all fish and game advisory committees, regional fish and game councils, and to over 500 other interested individuals.

(c) Copies of all proposals are available at local Department of Fish and Game offices. When the proposal books are available, the advisory committees and regional councils then hold public meetings in the communities and regions they represent, to gather local comment on the proposed changes. Finally, the boards convene public meetings, which have lasted as long as six weeks, taking department staff reports, public comment, and advisory committee and regional council reports before voting in public session on the proposed changes.

(d) The public has come to rely on this regularly scheduled participatory process as the basis for changing fish and game regulations. Commercial fishermen, processors, guides, trappers, hunters, sport fishermen, subsistence fishermen, and others plan business and recreational ventures around the outcome of these public meetings.

(e) The Boards of Fisheries and Game recognize the importance of public participation in developing management regulations, and recognize that public reliance on the predictability of the normal board process is a critical element in regulatory changes. The boards find that petitions can detrimentally circumvent this process and that an adequate and more reasonable opportunity for public participation is provided by regularly scheduled meetings.

(f) The Boards of Fisheries and Game recognize that in rare instances circumstances may require regulatory changes outside the process described in (b) - (d) of this section. Except for petitions dealing with subsistence hunting or fishing, which will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis under the criteria in 5 AAC 96.615(a), it is the policy of the boards that a petition will be denied and not scheduled for hearing unless the problem outlined in the petition justifies a finding of emergency. In accordance with state policy expressed in AS 44.62.270, emergencies will be held to a minimum and are rarely found to exist. In this section, an emergency is an unforeseen, unexpected event that either threatens a fish or game resource, or an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome to the petitioners because the resource would be unavailable in the future. (Eff. 9/22/85, Register 95; am 8/17/91, Register 119)

Authority: AS 16.05.251, AS 16.05.257, AS 16.05.255, AS 16.05.260

**POLICY FOR CHANGING  
BOARD AGENDA**

**5 AAC 39.999. POLICY FOR CHANGING BOARD AGENDA.** The Board of Fisheries will, in its discretion, change its schedule for consideration of proposed regulatory changes in accordance with the following guidelines:

- (1) the board will accept an agenda change request only
  - (A) for a fishery conservation purpose or reason;
  - (B) to correct an error in a regulation;
  - (C) to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted;
- (2) the board will not accept an agenda change request that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new information found by the board to be compelling;
- (3) the board will consider an agenda change request only at its first meeting in the fall and its last meeting in the spring; the request must be sent to the director of the division of boards at least 45 days before the first meeting in the fall or the last meeting in the spring; and
- (4) if the board approves the request, the director shall notify the public and the department of the agenda change. (Eff. 7/25/82, Register 83; am 1/12/92 Register 121).

**Authority:** AS 16.05.251 Regulations of the Board of Fisheries  
AS 16.05.300 Board Meetings

Please send agenda change requests to:

\* Laird A. Jones, Executive Director  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 25526  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526

- \* The agenda change request must be received by the Director at least 45 days before the first meeting in the fall or the last meeting in the spring.

**05 AAC 039.998. Petition Policy For Category 2 Management Measures in a Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King or Tanner Crab Fishery.**

The Board of Fisheries recognizes that in rare instances, circumstances may require regulatory changes outside the process described in 5 AAC 96.625(b) - (d). Notwithstanding 5 AAC 96.625(f), a petition for a regulatory change may be submitted under this section and 5 AAC 96.625(a) for a Category 2 management measure in a Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands king or Tanner crab fishery described in the federal Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands dated January 24, 1989. It is the policy of the Board of Fisheries that a petition submitted under this section will be denied and not scheduled for hearing unless the petition

(1) addresses a Category 2 management measure and is filed within 30 days from the date that the board adopted that Category 2 management measure;

(2) presents an issue that is not solely allocative; and

(3) presents new legal, biological, or management information that indicates the regulation may not be consistent with the federal FMP.

Eff. 6/2/95, Register 134.

Authority:

AS 16.05.251

Editors Note:

Copies of the federal Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands dated January 24, 1989 are available from the Office of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council at 605 West Fourth Avenue, Room 306, Anchorage, Alaska, or by writing to the council at PO Box 103136, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-3136.

**Alaska Board of Fisheries Findings  
State Waters Pacific Cod Management Plans  
Adopted October 29 - 31, 1996, at Wasilla**

**Introduction:**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) met at Wasilla (October 29-31, 1996) and approved new management plans for the commercial harvesting of Pacific cod in state waters of the Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula Areas. The board's action represented the culmination of a two year public process to advance state involvement in management of groundfish resources in Alaska's territorial waters.

The process included strong support from the Governor's office, a re-programming of state funding to support management activities, and extensive interactions with fishermen, processors, industry representatives and community leaders through the board's local Advisory Committee process. The board, through the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) staff, also kept the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) up to date on the development of state groundfish management plans.

**Background:**

The board was informed of an April 1995 conference, sponsored by the Peninsula Marketing Association and the Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development, to discuss development of a state managed groundfish fishery. A report from this conference was supported by the Governor who in turn requested the department to re-program \$200,000 in funding for state groundfish management.

At its October 1995 work session, the board accepted a department agenda change request to consider groundfish management plans during the 1996/97 meeting cycle. In the winter of 1995/96, the board issued a call for proposals for statewide groundfish management plans to be deliberated in October 1996. The NPFMC and NMFS were informed of the board's acceptance of the agenda change request and its subsequent call for proposals early on in the process. In response to the published legal notice, 46 proposals were submitted by the public and the department before the April 10, 1996, deadline.

Prior to the October 1996 meeting, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, and Alaska Peninsula Advisory Committees, and other groups met to formulate recommendations for state waters groundfish fisheries.

**Identification of Issues and Concerns:**

At its October 1996 meeting, the board heard reports from the department staff, including Bob Clasby, Director of the

Finding #97-4-FB

Page 2 of 6

Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division, who explained that the department was fiscally limited in its ability to manage groundfish. The board was informed that insufficient funds were available to conduct independent stock assessment. The department also reported that funding was not available to monitor groundfish fisheries with inherent high bycatch rates, such as trawl or longline gear fisheries. Based on this information, the board found that state water groundfish management plans must operate within the conservation parameters established by federal managers and that allowable gear must have low bycatch rates.

Department staff also provided reviews of the various fisheries, from Prince William Sound westward to the Aleutians. The board also reviewed a letter submitted by NMFS Region Director, Steve Pennoyer, which encouraged a strong partnership between state and federal management. The Pennoyer letter urged the board to consider the need to maintain historic harvest statistics based on federal boundaries when establishing new state management areas. Staffs from NMFS and the NPFMC also made presentations to the board.

The board was advised by the Alaska Department of Law that under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, it should not take actions that would have substantial and adverse impacts on federal management or they could run the risk of preemption.

The board discovered that with the advent of federal IFQ and vessel limitation programs, in the absence of similar state waters effort limitation programs, the department was obligated to either close state waters to all fishers or let all fishers participate in state water fisheries. The board believed these considerations, mandated involvement in management of groundfish fisheries conducted in state waters.

The board heard of the impact of federal IFQs, Community Development Quotas (CDQ), and inshore/offshore allocation programs on state fisheries. The board found that current council management had not addressed the needs of small vessel groundfish fishermen. The board also found that the winter season, specified in the NPFMC management plans, made it difficult for small vessels to fully participate in the fishery.

The board received information on the history of state involvement in the management of groundfish resources. The board learned that the department tailored groundfish, and specifically Pacific cod, management actions in state waters to be consistent with the management actions implemented by federal managers in the adjoining waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). In general, state waters were opened and closed concurrently with the adjacent federal management areas.

The board was informed that the harvest of Pacific cod from state waters has gradually increased in recent years. From 1994-1996, the take in the state water portions of the federal Central and



Western Gulf of Alaska Areas averaged approximately 22.6% of the total harvest. The board discovered that the implementation of federal Individual Fishery Quota (IFQ) and license limitation programs were changing the structure of Alaskan groundfish fisheries and making it difficult for many local fishermen to participate in groundfish harvest.

Given this information, the board decided that it would be appropriate to first develop factors to consider when developing state water groundfish management plans. The board discussed the following factors:

1. Minimize bycatch to the maximum extent practicable.
2. Consider protection of habitat from fishing practices.
3. Slow harvest rates to ensure adequate reporting and analysis for necessary season closures.
4. Utilize such gear restrictions as necessary to create a year round harvest for maximum benefit to local communities, the region and the State.
5. Harvest the resource to maximize quality and value of product.
6. Harvest the resource with consideration of ecosystem interactions.
7. Harvest to be based on the total catch of the stock that is consistent with the principles of sustained yield.
8. Prevent localized depletion of stocks to avoid sport, subsistence and personal use conflicts.
9. Management based upon the best available information presented to the board.
10. Management consistent with conservation and sustained yield of healthy groundfish resources and of other associated fish and shellfish species.
11. State fishery management plans adopted by the Board should not substantially and adversely affect federal fishery management plans adopted by the NPFMC.

At a later meeting, the board adopted a set of guiding principles to consider when developing groundfish management plans.

#### Board Actions and Deliberations:

Prior to deliberating on the 46 proposals, the board reviewed comprehensive staff reports on Alaska groundfish fisheries. In addition, the board reviewed extensive written public comments and heard oral public comments from 30 individuals and eight advisory committees.

The board found it necessary to limit the scope of the new state management plans to Pacific cod to ensure management obligations were consistent with current department funding.

The board specified that state waters should continue to be open concurrent with the federal season. This represents a continuation of the state's recent management practice of tailoring state water groundfish seasons to coincide with the

seasons in the adjoining EEZ waters. The methods and means regulations for participation in the federally authorized season were not significantly modified. In addition, the board established separate state water Pacific cod fishing seasons to be open following closures of federally authorized seasons.

The board linked guideline harvest levels for the state authorized seasons to a percentage of the total catch of Pacific cod authorized by the NPFMC. The board recognized that the total catch authorized by NPFMC is based on stock assessment surveys and is consistent with principles of sustained yield management. The guideline harvest level for the Prince William Sound Area is set at 25% of the total catch authorized by the NPFMC for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. The state authorized season guideline harvest level is initially set at 15% of the Central and Western Gulf of Alaska catch and apportioned between the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Areas. Once these fisheries have shown an ability to fully utilize the area's guideline harvest level, the guideline harvest level will be increased to 20%, and similarly, when that level is reached, it will be increased again to a maximum of 25%.

The board recognized that the state authorized season would result in transfer of catch from federal waters to state waters. The board believes the graduated guideline harvest level approach allows for an incremental and gradual shift in the harvest so as to minimize the impact on existing fishing patterns. The board expected the initial 15% guideline harvest level to result in an actual modest increase in the state water take of Pacific cod of approximately 6 - 8 percent over recent year levels. At a 20% state season guideline harvest level, the board anticipated an actual 10 - 12 percent increase in harvest from state waters; at a 25% state season guideline harvest level, the board anticipated a 14 - 16 percent increase in actual harvest from state waters. The board reasoned that the federal season will tend to become shorter, corresponding to less Pacific cod being harvested. The shorter season will lead to a decrease in the proportional share of harvest being taken in state waters during the federal season, because the more efficient trawl and longline gear types generally operate in federal waters.

The board elected to utilize existing salmon management areas in order to provide functional jurisdictional areas for groundfish management plans that are familiar to the local fleets. These areas include; Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik and Alaska Peninsula Areas. Public testimony supported utilizing existing salmon management area boundaries. Department comments also supported this approach, because it would be functionally consistent with current staffing and organizational structures. The board, however, recognized the need of federal managers to have the ability to apportion catch from state waters to appropriate federal catch reporting areas. The board received information from the department indicating that, even though different management areas were established, the existing

configuration of state water statistical catch reporting areas would enable catch reporting by federal reporting areas.

The board found it necessary to approve registration and gear limitations to reduce harvest rates and to ensure management consistent with available funding. The board chose to make the Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula Areas exclusive registration areas. This action was also selected to provide benefits to local economies that are based largely on small boat fishing.

The board was compelled to further reduce the catch rate by limiting the gear in state managed fisheries to mechanical jigging machines, pots and hand troll gear. These gear types were also selected because of the inherent minimal bycatch and mortality of non target species associated with their use.

The board also limited the number of pots that may be fished to 60 per vessel and the number of mechanical jigging machines to 5 per vessel. To assist in the enforcement of pot limits, the board found it necessary to require each pot to be marked with an identification tag. The board did not limit the units of hand troll gear that may be fished per vessel, because hand troll gear is a very inefficient type of fishing gear.

The board also found it necessary to limit the size of participating vessels in some areas to further reduce catch rates, provide for extended seasons, and provide economic benefits to the regions in which the fishing is conducted. In the Kodiak Area, the board found it necessary to impose a 25,000 pound landing limit, per week, for catcher/processor vessels to reduce Pacific cod catch rates and to improve inseason catch reporting capabilities.

The board recognized that the approved registration and gear requirements may limit the ability of the existing fleets to fully utilize the established guideline harvest levels. To alleviate this potential problem, the board authorized inseason management authority for the department to rescind gear restrictions, vessel size limits, and exclusive registration requirements, in that order, if it became necessary to foster full utilization of established guideline harvest levels.

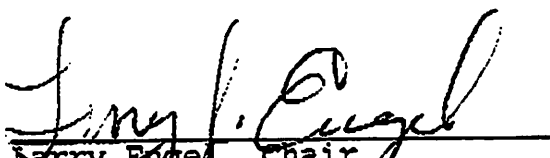
The board found that since the approved plan operated within the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) levels established by the NPFMC, the plan was consistent with the state's, NMFS's and NPFMC's sustained yield mandate. The board's approved management plan contained provisions for a slow paced fishery, allowing the department to ensure catches do not exceed the harvest levels set by the board, as well as keeping the harvest at or below the ABC set by the NPFMC. Further the plan did not place a fiscal burden upon the department to conduct stock assessment programs outside of its fiscal means.

At the meeting in October 1996, members of the board repeatedly asked representatives from NMFS whether or not the proposed state groundfish plan would substantially and adversely affect the federal management plan. The board, in response to those direct and pointed inquiries, was consistently and repeatedly informed that the state's proposed groundfish plan would not substantially and adversely affect federal inseason management. These responses led the board to conclude that the state proposed plan would conform to the federal management plan.

At Sitka, Alaska


Date: January 29, 1996

Approved: (7/0/0/0) (Yes/No/Absent/Abstain)

  
Larry Engel, Chair  
Alaska Board of Fisheries

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke  
Executive Director 

DATE: January 31, 1997

SUBJECT: Halibut Charterboat Management

ESTIMATED TIME 8 HOURS
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**ACTION REQUIRED**

Review analyses and release document for public review period.

**BACKGROUND**

In June of 1996 funding became available for the Council to proceed with analyses of the charterboat management alternatives developed in January of 1995. These alternatives were developed after several discussions by the Council and after input from their Halibut Charter Working Group which met twice in 1994. At the June 1996 meeting the Council also refined the alternatives for study by (1) deleting the unguided sport fishery from consideration; (2) deleting the alternatives for an absolute poundage cap on the charter fleet (while retaining the alternative for caps as a percentage of the overall quota); and, (3) deleting the alternative for a stand-alone IFQ program for the charter fleet (while retaining the option to allow lease/purchase of IFQs in the event of a cap). Because of the nature of this type of analyses, and other Council tasking, it was necessary to contract a large portion of the study to the University of Alaska's Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER). This was done through a bid and selection process late last summer, with work commencing in the fall.

A partial draft of the analysis (EA/RIR/IRFA) was mailed to you last week, with the remainder being distributed at this meeting. It is likely that additional work may be required prior to release for public review, though we believe this additional work would be primarily cosmetic in nature rather than substantive. The Council's current schedule calls for a final decision at their next meeting, in April. The Council's Problem Statement, and list of final alternatives, are included below for reference. Staff from ISER and the Council will summarize the information and major findings from the analyses.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

<p>The recent expansion of the halibut charter industry, including outfitters and lodges, may make achievement of Magnuson Act National Standards more difficult. Of concern is the Council's ability to maintain the stability, economic viability, and diversity of the halibut industry, the quality of the recreational experience, the access of subsistence users, and the socioeconomic well-being of the coastal communities dependent on the halibut resource. Specifically, the Council notes the following areas of concern with respect to the recent growth of halibut charter operations, lodges and outfitters:</p>
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1. Pressure by charter operations, lodges and outfitters may be contributing to localized depletion in several areas.
2. The recent growth of charter operations, lodges and outfitters may be contributing to overcrowding of productive grounds and declining catches for historic sport and subsistence fishermen in some areas.
3. As there is currently no limit on the annual harvest of halibut by charter operations, lodges, and outfitters, an open-ended reallocation from the commercial fishery to the charter industry is occurring. This reallocation may increase if the projected growth of the charter industry occurs. The economic and social impact on the commercial fleet of this open-ended reallocation may be substantial and could be magnified by the IFQ program.
4. In some areas, community stability may be affected as traditional sport, subsistence, and commercial fishermen are displaced by charter operators, lodges, and outfitters. The uncertainty associated with the present situation and the conflicts that are occurring between the various user groups may also be impacting community stability.
5. Information is lacking on the socioeconomic composition of the current charter industry. Information is needed that tracks: (1) the effort and catch of individual charter operations, lodges, and outfitters; and (2) changes in business patterns.
6. The need for reliable catch data will increase as the magnitude of harvest expands in the charter sector.

### ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

**Alternative 1:**            Status Quo.

**Alternative 2:**            Implement Reporting Requirements.

Charter boat operators will be required to fill out a federally mandated catch report for all retained and discarded catch for all species on each trip.

**Alternative 3:**            Annually allocate the TAC between guided sport and commercial fisheries. (Would include reporting requirements in Alternative 2.)

Along with a requirement for reporting catch by charter operations, allocate the annual overall allowable halibut catch between guided sport and commercial fisheries after reducing the allowable catch by the projected catch of the unguided sport fishery. The initial allocation to the guided sport fleet will be based on a range between 105% and 140% by area of the 1994 guided sport catch. This initial allocation, defined as a percent of the allowable harvest of the directed commercial fishery and the guided sport catch combined from 1994, will thereafter be used as the basis for the allocation between guided and commercial fisheries. Optionally 1995 will

be used as the base catch year. The allocation will apply to one of three options defining affected areas, and may optionally include commercial IFQ purchase/lease provisions.

Area Sub-Options

1. Statewide
2. IPHC areas 2C and 3A only
3. Allocations By ADF&G Management Zone:
  - Zone 1 Southeast:* ADF&G areas A, B, C, D, E, F, G & H
  - Zone 2 Prince William Sound:* ADF&G area J
  - Zone 3 Cook Inlet/Kenai:* ADF&G areas K, L, N, and P
  - Zone 4 Kodiak:* ADF&G area Q
  - Zone 5 Alaska Peninsula:* ADF&G area R
  - Zone 6 Bering Sea:* ADF&G areas T, U, V, W, X, Y and Z

IFQ Purchase/Lease Sub-Option

Charters vessels could lease or purchase IFQs from the existing commercial IFQ program. This will enable continuous operation by charter vessels after the overall guided sport halibut cap is reached.

**Alternative 4:** A moratorium on new entries into the charter boat fleet. (Would include the reporting requirements in Alternative 2.)

Implement reporting requirements and limit the number of participants in the charter boat fleet to those vessels which have operated in the past. The moratorium would be applicable to one of the three optional area definitions shown in Alternative 3. Three alternative moratorium qualification dates are included as sub-options:

Moratorium Qualification Date Sub-options:

1. Participation as a licensed halibut guide on or before December 31, 1994.
2. Participation as a licensed halibut guide on or before December 31, 1995.
3. Participation as a licensed halibut guide on or before December 31, 1996.

**Alternative 5:** Combine Alternatives 2, 3 and 4.

Implement reporting requirements, allocate a specific percentage of the halibut TAC to the guided sport fishery, and limit the number of participants in the charter boat fleet to those vessels which have operated in the past.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke  
Executive Director



ESTIMATED TIME

1 HOUR

DATE: November 17, 1996

SUBJECT: Scallop Management

**ACTION REQUIRED**

- (a) Review status of moratorium.
- (b) Discuss potential follow-up actions.

**BACKGROUND**

In June 1995, the Council approved an amendment package that established management measures to replace an interim closure of Federal waters off Alaska to scallop fishing. This package also included a 3-year vessel moratorium with qualifying criteria whereby vessels that had made at least one landing in any year from 1991 through 1993, or during any 4 years from 1980 through 1990 would qualify. ADF&G fish ticket data and CFEC records indicate that a total of 18 vessels would qualify to fish for scallops.

Amendment 1: In April 1996, the Council agreed to remove the moratorium from the Amendment 1 package to not delay opening of a fishery in 1996. The final rule implementing Amendment 1 was published on July 23, 1996, and scallop fishing resumed in most registration areas on August 1. A summary of scallop biology, management, and the fishery is attached as Item C-6(a).

Amendment 2: The vessel moratorium is proposed as Amendment 2. The moratorium package was submitted to the Secretary of Commerce on November 8, 1996, and the proposed rule should be published shortly. NMFS staff will be on hand to discuss the proposed rule for Amendment 2.

Amendment 3: NMFS has prepared a proposal for Amendment 3, which would delegate scallop management responsibilities to the State of Alaska (Item C-6(b)). Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the State of Alaska may now regulate vessels not registered with the State if they are operating in the EEZ. As such, one option the Council may consider is to delegate management authority to the State (this would require a 3/4 majority vote of the Council).

In September 1996, a proposal for a license limitation system was submitted by the Kodiak Fish Company (Item C-6(c)). At this meeting, the Council needs to discuss the next steps for scallop management and tasking.





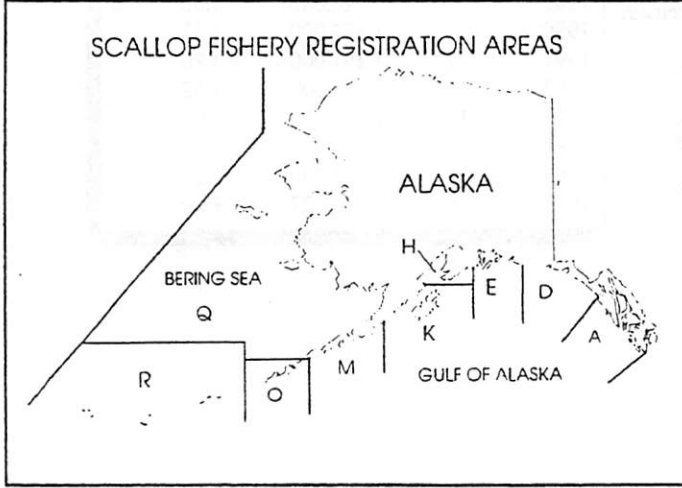
## Scallops

**Biology:** Weathervane scallops (*Patinopecten caurinus*), are distributed from Point Reyes, California, to the Pribilof Islands, Alaska. The highest known densities in Alaska have been found to occur in the Bering Sea, off Kodiak Island, and along the eastern gulf coast from Cape Spencer to Cape St. Elias. Weathervane scallops are found from intertidal waters to depths of 300 m, but abundance tends to be greatest between depths of 40-130 m on beds of mud, clay, sand, and gravel. Sexes are separate and mature male and female scallops are distinguishable based on gonad color. Although spawning time varies with latitude and depth, weathervane scallops in Alaska spawn in May to July depending on location. Eggs and spermatozoa are released into the water, where the eggs become fertilized. After a few days, eggs hatch, and larvae rise into the water column and drift with ocean currents. Larvae are pelagic and drift for about one month until metamorphosis to the juvenile stage when they settle to the bottom. Weathervane scallops begin to mature by age 3 at about 7.6 cm (3 inches) in shell height (SH), and virtually all scallops are mature by age 4. Growth, maximum size, and size at maturity vary significantly within and between beds and geographic areas. Weathervane scallops are long-lived; individuals may live 28 years old or more. The natural mortality rate is thought to be about 15% annually ( $M = 0.16$ ). Scallops are likely prey to various fish and invertebrates during the early part of their life cycle. Flounders are known to prey on juvenile weathervane scallops, and seastars may also be important predators.

Several other species of scallop found in the EEZ off Alaska have commercial potential. These scallops grow to smaller sizes than weathervanes, and thus have not been extensively exploited in Alaska. Pink scallops, *Chlamys rubida*, range from California to the Pribilof Islands. Pink scallops are found in deep waters (to 200 m) in areas with soft bottom, whereas spiny scallop occur in shallower (to 150 m) areas characterized by hard bottom and strong currents. Pink scallops mature at age 2, and spawn in the winter (January-March). Maximum age for this species is 6 years. Spiny scallops, *Chlamys hastata*, are found in coastal regions from California to the Gulf of Alaska. Spiny scallops grow to slightly larger sizes (75 mm) than pink scallops (60 mm). Spiny scallops also mature at age 2 (35 mm) and spawn in the autumn (August-October). Rock scallops, *Crassadoma gigantea*, range from Mexico to Unalaska Island. Rock scallops are found in relatively shallower water (0-80 m) with strong currents. Apparently, distribution of these animals is discontinuous, and the abundance in most areas is low. These scallops attach themselves to rocks, attain a large size (to 250 mm), and exhibit fast growth rates. Rock scallops are thought to spawn during two distinct periods, one in the autumn (October -January), and one in the spring-summer (March-August).

**Management:** The weathervane scallop resource consists of multiple, discrete, self sustaining populations that are managed as separate stock units. Scallop stocks in Alaska have been managed under a federal fishery management plan (FMP) since 1995. The FMP controls the fishery through permits, registration areas and districts, seasons, closed waters, gear restrictions, efficiency limits, crab bycatch limits, scallop catch limits, inseason adjustments, and observer monitoring. Most of these regulations were developed by the State prior to 1995. Dredge size is limited to a maximum width of 15 feet, and only 2 dredges may be used at any one time. In the Kamishak District of Cook Inlet, only 1 dredge with a 6' maximum width is allowed. Dredges are required to have rings with a 4" minimum inside diameter. To reduce incentives to harvest small scallops, crew size on scallop vessels is limited to 12 persons and all scallops must be manually shucked. Dredging is prohibited in areas designated as crab habitat protection areas, similar to the groundfish FMPs. The

- Management measures established under Amendment 1 to the federal scallop FMP.**
- Gear restrictions
  - Efficiency limits
  - Registration areas and districts
  - Harvest limits
  - Crab bycatch limits
  - Closed areas
  - Inseason adjustments
  - Seasons
  - Observer requirements



Council announced a control date of January 20, 1993, to place the industry on notice that a moratorium for this fishery may be implemented. In June 1995, the Council adopted a 3-year vessel moratorium to restrict new entry into the scallop fishery while a more comprehensive plan was being developed. The moratorium was submitted for Secretarial review as Amendment 2 in November 1996. To qualify under the proposed moratorium, a vessel must have made at least one landing in 1991, 1992, or 1993, or must have participated for at least 4 years between 1980 and 1993. The proposed moratorium also limits reconstruction and replacement of vessels to a 20% maximum increase in original qualifying length overall.

**Weatherwane scallop registration areas, seasons, GHL's (pounds, shucked), and crab bycatch limits established for the 1996 scallop fishery, by area.**

<u>Area</u>	<u>GH L</u> <u>(pounds)</u>	<u>Fishing</u> <u>Season</u>	<u>Crab Bycatch Limits</u>		
			<u>king</u> <u>crab</u>	<u>Tanner</u> <u>crab</u>	<u>Snow</u> <u>crab</u>
A - Southeast	0 - 27,000	Jan 10 - Dec 31	n/a	n/a	n/a
D - Yakutat	0 - 195,000	Jan 10 - Dec 31	n/a	n/a	n/a
E - Eastern PWS	0 - 50,000	Jan 10 - Dec 31	n/a	500	n/a
Western PWS	combined	Jan 10 - Dec 31	n/a	130	n/a
H - Cook Inlet (Kamishak)	0 - 28,000	Aug 15 - Oct 31	60	29,000	n/a
Cook Inlet (Outer area)	combined	Jan 1 - Dec 31	98	2,170	n/a
K - Kodiak (Shelikof)	0 - 400,000	July 1 - Feb 15	22	16,100	n/a
Kodiak (Northeast)	combined	July 1 - Feb 15	66	130,000	n/a
M - AK Peninsula	0 - 200,000	July 1 - Feb 15	435	22,000	n/a
O - Dutch Harbor	0 - 170,000	July 1 - Feb 15	10	10,700	n/a
Q - Bering Sea	0 - 600,000	July 1 - Feb 15	500	257,000	275,000
R - Adak	0 - 75,000	July 1 - Feb 15	50	10,000	n/a

**Fishery:** In 1996, a total of 9 vessels participated in the scallop fishery statewide. Scallop vessels average 90-110 ft long. Scallops are harvested using dredges of standard design. Weatherwane scallops are processed at sea by manual shucking, with only the meats (adductor muscles) retained. Scallops harvested in Cook Inlet are bagged and iced, whereas scallops harvested from other areas are generally block frozen at sea. The fishery has occurred almost exclusively in the EEZ in recent years, but some fishing in State waters occurs off Yakutat, Dutch Harbor, and Adak.

**Catch History:** Since 1967, when the first landings were made, fishing effort and total scallop harvest (weight of shucked meats) have varied annually. Total commercial harvest of weatherwane scallops has fluctuated from a high of 157 landings totaling 1,850,187 pounds of shucked meats by 19 vessels in 1969 to no landings in 1978. Prices and demand for scallop have remained high since fishery inception. Prior to 1990, about two-thirds of the scallop harvest has been taken off Kodiak Island and about one-third has come from the Yakutat area; other areas had made minor contributions to overall landings. Harvests in 1990 and 1991 were the highest on record since the early 1970's. The 1992 scallop harvest was even higher at 1,810,788 pounds. The increased harvests in the 1990's occurred with new exploitation in the Bering Sea. The reduced 1995 catch was due to implementation of an interim closure in the EEZ from 2/23/96 to 8/1/96.

Only 1 vessel has made commercial landings of scallops other than weatherwanes. In 1991 and 1992 this vessel fished for pink scallops in the Dutch Harbor and Adak registration areas. These landings remain confidential.

**Landings and effort in the Alaska weatherwane scallop fishery, 1980 - 1996. The 1996 data are preliminary through October.**

<u>Year</u>	<u># of</u> <u>Vessels</u>	<u>Landings</u> <u>(pounds)</u>	<u>Price</u> <u>(\$/lb)</u>
1980	8	633,000	4.32
1981	18	924,000	4.05
1982	13	914,000	3.77
1983	6	194,000	4.88
1984	10	390,000	4.47
1985	8	648,000	3.12
1986	9	683,000	3.66
1987	4	583,000	3.38
1988	4	341,000	3.49
1989	7	526,000	3.68
1990	9	1,489,000	3.37
1991	7	1,191,000	3.76
1992	7	1,811,000	3.88
1993	15	1,429,000	5.00
1994	16	1,235,000	6.00
1995	10	283,000	n/a
1996	9	733,427	7.00