

**Summary of Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives**

**Principle:** Protection of prey resources around rookeries and major haulouts.

**Guideline:** Required spatial separation of pollock trawl fishing and Steller sea lion foraging areas adjacent to rookeries and haulouts.

Motion (with modification) December 1998	Motion June 1999	RFRPAs October 1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Closure of Aleutian Islands. -----</li> <li>● Closure of 24 rookeries and haulouts in the EBS. In addition, NMFS closed Cape Sarichef to 10 nm. -----</li> <li>● Closure or partial closure of 45 rookeries and haulouts in the GOA, with 8 sites left open.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Closure of Aleutian Islands. -----</li> <li>● Closure of 25 rookeries and haulouts in the EBS (includes Cape Sarichef to 20 nm). -----</li> <li>● Closure or partial closure of 44 rookeries and haulouts in the GOA, with nine sites open or partially closed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Closure of Aleutian Islands. -----</li> <li>● Closure of 25 rookeries and haulouts in the EBS (includes Cape Sarichef to 20 nm). -----</li> <li>● Close 48 rookeries and haulouts in the GOA, with five sites remaining open to limited fishing (two sites in waters of the State of Alaska, two sites where research on fishery effects will be conducted, and one site with alternative protective measures).</li> </ul>

2000 FISHERIES

## Summary of Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives

### Gulf of Alaska - Protection around rookeries and haulouts

Motion (with modification) December 1998	Motion June 1999	RFRPAs October 1999
44 closed areas	44 closed areas	44 closed areas
Pt. Elrington, The Needles - open	Open Jan. 20 to May 1	Work with the State of Alaska
Rugged Island - open	Open Jan. 20 to May 1	Open Jun. 1 to Nov. 1
Cape Barnabas, Gull Point - open	Open	Open only as part of fishery experiment
Point Ikolik - open	Open	Open Jun. 1 to Nov. 1
Mitrofanina Island - open	Open Jan. 20 to Apr. 30, Sep. 1 to Nov. 1, with 60-ft. vessel limit	Closed
Spitz Island - closed	Open Jan. 20 to Apr. 30, Sep. 1 to Nov. 1, with 60-ft. vessel limit	Open Jan. 20 to Jun. 1
Sea Lion Rocks - open	Open with 60-ft. vessel limit	Open with 60-ft. vessel limit

## Summary of Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives

**Principle:** *Protection of prey resources around rookeries and major haulouts.*

**Guideline:** **Established criteria for identification of sites to be protected:**

- Nov 1 to June 1 - at least 75 sea lions in a single count since 1979,
- June 1 to Nov 1 - at least 200 sea lions in a single count since 1979.

Motion (with modification) December 1998	Motion June 1999	RFRPAs October 1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's motion based on criteria established in the Biological Opinion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's motion based on criteria established in the Biological Opinion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RFRPAs based on criteria established in the Biological Opinion.</li> </ul>

**Principle:** *Protection of prey resources around rookeries and major haulouts.*

**Guideline:** **Established the size of protection zones around rookeries and haulouts:**

- 20 nm in the EBS,
- 10 nm in the GOA, and
- 10 nm in the Aleutian Islands.

Motion (with modification) December 1998	Motion June 1999	RFRPAs October 1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's motion based on criteria established in the Biological Opinion, plus the closure of the Aleutian Islands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's motion based on criteria established in the Biological Opinion, plus the closure of the Aleutian Islands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RFRPAs based on criteria established in the Biological Opinion, plus the closure of the Aleutian Islands.</li> </ul>

## Summary of Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives

*Principle: Temporal dispersion*

**Guideline: Required prohibition of all pollock trawling fisheries in the period from November 1 through January 20 in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.**

Motion (with modification) December 1998	Motion June 1999	RFRPAs October 1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's motion required closure of pollock trawl fisheries in the EBS and the GOA from November 1 to January 20.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's motion required closure of pollock trawl fisheries in the EBS and the GOA from November 1 to January 20.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RFRPAs required closure of pollock trawl fisheries in the EBS and the GOA from November 1 to January 20.</li> </ul>

*Principle: Temporal dispersion*

**Guideline: Distribute the pollock trawl harvest into at least four seasons (two in the period from January through May and two in the period from June through October).**

Motion (with modification) December 1998	Motion June 1999	RFRPAs October 1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council motion established four seasons for the GOA, four seasons for catcher/processor and inshore sectors in the EBS, and two seasons for mothership and the Community Development Quota (CDQ) sectors in the EBS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council motion established four seasons for the GOA, four seasons for catcher/processor and inshore sectors in the EBS, and two seasons for mothership and the Community Development Quota (CDQ) sectors in the EBS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NMFS establishes four seasons for the GOA, four seasons inside the critical habitat/catcher-vessel-operation-area (SCA) in the EBS, and two seasons outside the SCA in the EBS.</li> </ul>

## Summary of Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives

Motion (with modification) December 1998	Motion June 1999	RFRPAs October 1999																														
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Bering Sea</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quarterly system with seasons starting                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>January 20</li> <li>February 20</li> <li>August 1</li> <li>September 1</li> </ul> </li> <li>- 5-day stand-down A-B</li> <li>- Motherships - single A/B beginning Feb. 1, and single C/D beginning Sep. 1</li> <li>- CDQ - single A/B season, and single C/D season</li> </ul> </li>   <li>● <u>Gulf of Alaska</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quarterly system with seasons starting                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>January 20</li> <li>June 1</li> <li>September 1</li> </ul> </li> <li>No later than October 1, no sooner than 5 days after close of C season</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Bering sea</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Inshore</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A - Jan. 20 to Feb. 15</li> <li>B - Feb. 22 to Apr. 17</li> <li>C - Jun. 1 to TAC (coops) Aug. 1 to TAC (open)</li> </ul> </li> <li><u>Mothership</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A/B - Feb. 1 to Apr. 15</li> <li>C/D - Sep. 1 to Nov. 1</li> </ul> </li> <li><u>C/P</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A - Jan. 20 to Feb. 15</li> <li>B - Feb. 22 to Apr. 17</li> <li>C - Jul. 10 to Aug. 31</li> <li>D - Sep. 1 to Nov. 1</li> </ul> </li> <li><u>CDQ</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A/B - Jan. 20 to Apr. 15</li> <li>C/D - Apr. 15 to Nov. 1</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li>   <li>● <u>Gulf of Alaska</u> <table style="margin-left: 20px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Season</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Start</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">End</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>A</td><td>Jan. 20</td><td>Mar. 1</td></tr> <tr><td>B</td><td>Mar. 15</td><td>May 31</td></tr> <tr><td>C</td><td>Aug. 20</td><td>Sep. 15</td></tr> <tr><td>D</td><td>Oct. 1</td><td>Nov. 1</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </li> </ul>	Season	Start	End	A	Jan. 20	Mar. 1	B	Mar. 15	May 31	C	Aug. 20	Sep. 15	D	Oct. 1	Nov. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Bering Sea</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Inside SCA</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A - Jan. 20 to Apr. 1</li> <li>B - Apr. 1 to June 10</li> <li>C - Jun. 10 to Aug. 20</li> <li>D - Aug. 20 to Nov. 1</li> </ul> </li> <li><u>Outside SCA</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A/B - Jan. 20 to Jun. 10</li> <li>C/D - Jun. 10 to Nov. 1</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li>   <li>● <u>Gulf of Alaska</u> <table style="margin-left: 20px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Season</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Start</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">End</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>A</td><td>Jan. 20</td><td>Mar. 1</td></tr> <tr><td>B</td><td>Mar. 15</td><td>May 31</td></tr> <tr><td>C</td><td>Aug. 20</td><td>Sep. 15</td></tr> <tr><td>D</td><td>Oct. 1</td><td>Nov. 1</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </li> </ul>	Season	Start	End	A	Jan. 20	Mar. 1	B	Mar. 15	May 31	C	Aug. 20	Sep. 15	D	Oct. 1	Nov. 1
Season	Start	End																														
A	Jan. 20	Mar. 1																														
B	Mar. 15	May 31																														
C	Aug. 20	Sep. 15																														
D	Oct. 1	Nov. 1																														
Season	Start	End																														
A	Jan. 20	Mar. 1																														
B	Mar. 15	May 31																														
C	Aug. 20	Sep. 15																														
D	Oct. 1	Nov. 1																														

## Summary of Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives

**Principle:** Temporal dispersion

**Guideline:** Limit combined total allowable catch (TAC) in the winter and spring period to a maximum of 45% of the annual TAC.

Motion (with modification) December 1998	Motion June 1999	RFRPAs October 1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council motion recommended reducing the portion of the annual TAC taken in the winter and spring period to 40%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council recommended reducing the portion of the annual TAC taken in the winter and spring period to 40%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NMFS action reduces the portion of the annual TAC taken in the winter and spring period to 40%.</li> </ul>

**Principle:** Temporal dispersion

**Guideline:** Allocate single-season TACs to be no more than 30% of the annual TAC.

Motion (with modification) December 1998	Motion June 1999	RFRPAs October 1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council motion recommended limiting the portion of the annual TAC taken in each fishing season to no more than 30%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council motion recommended limiting the portion of the annual TAC taken in each fishing season to no more than 30%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NMFS action uses the 30% cap each season in the GOA and inside the SCA in the EBS.</li> </ul>

**Summary of Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives**

*Principle: Temporal dispersion*

**Guideline: Prevent concentration of pollock catch at the end of one season and the beginning of the next season which, in effect, could result in a single pulse of fishing.**

<p align="center">Motion (with modification) December 1998</p>	<p align="center">Motion June 1999</p>	<p align="center">RFRPAs October 1999</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Council motion recommended separation of fishing seasons based on brief stand-down periods in the EBS and relatively longer stand-down periods in the GOA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Council motion recommended separation of fishing seasons based on brief stand-down periods in the EBS and relatively longer stand-down periods in the GOA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NMFS action establishes evenly spaced seasons in the SCA of the EBS to ensure temporal dispersion in areas most important to sea lions, while allowing greater flexibility for industry in areas outside the SCA in areas of less importance to sea lions. NMFS action also adopts seasonal schedule for the GOA as recommended by Council.</li> </ul>

## Summary of Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives

*Principle: Temporal dispersion*

**Guideline: Limit rollover of portions of seasonal TACs to situations only where necessary to account for premature fisheries closure resulting from inaccuracies associated with monitoring of seasonal catches.**

Motion (with modification) December 1998	Motion June 1999	RFRPAs October 1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council recommended allowance for rollovers as long as the seasonal caps and areal apportionments are observed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council recommended allowance for rollovers as long as the seasonal caps and areal apportionments are observed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NMFS action allows for rollovers as long as seasonal caps and areal apportionments are observed.</li> </ul>



## Summary of Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives

*Principle: Spatial dispersion*

**Guideline: Allocate percent TAC to areas defined by critical habitat (CH) and broad management districts based on the pollock biomass distribution.**

Motion (with modification) December 1998	Motion June 1999	RFRPAs October 1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Information on distribution of pollock in A and B seasons in the EBS not considered sufficiently reliable to allocate TAC. Council motion did not make recommendation on caps for C and D seasons in the EBS.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Motion recommended cap for amount of pollock that could be taken out of Shelikof Strait.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Council motion recommended 25% and 35% caps in 1999 C and D seasons (respectively), and 15% and 25% caps in 2000 (and beyond) C and D seasons (respectively) in the EBS.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Motion recommended creation of Shelikof Strait management area (with its own TAC) to utilize existing information on stock distribution in the GOA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NMFS action establishes 50% cap for combined A- and B-season pollock TACs from the SCA, and uses 50% figure to determine SCA caps for each season singly. Action also uses 15% and 25% figures to determine SCA caps in the C and D seasons (respectively) in the EBS.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Action creates Shelikof Strait management area (with its own TAC) to utilize existing information on stock distribution in the GOA.</li> </ul>

## Summary of Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives

**Principle:** *Spatial dispersion*

**Guideline:** Absent good scientific estimates of pollock biomass distribution, place a maximum limit on the percent of TAC allocations from CH areas for each season.

Motion (with modification) December 1998	Motion June 1999	RFRPAs October 1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council motion recommended a cap of 62.5% in the SCA during the 1999 A and B seasons in the EBS (when biomass distribution not known).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council motion recommended a cap of 50% in the SCA during the 2000 (and beyond) A and B seasons in the EBS (when biomass distribution not known).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NMFS establishes a cap of 50% in the SCA during the A and B seasons in the EBS (when biomass distribution not known).</li> </ul>

**Principle:** *Spatial dispersion*

**Guideline:** Allow for the possibility of further reduction of percent of TAC in specific critical habitat areas.

Motion (with modification) December 1998	Motion June 1999	RFRPAs October 1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Council recommendation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Council recommendation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The percentage of TAC is fixed inside and outside critical habitat to minimize competition between Steller sea lions and the pollock fisheries. Changes will only occur only if they allow at least equivalent protection.</li> </ul>

**Summary of Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives**

*Principle: Spatial dispersion*

**Guideline: Prevent redistribution of TAC from areas outside of critical habitat to areas inside of critical habitat.**

Motion (with modification) December 1998	Motion June 1999	RFRPAs October 1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Council recommendation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Council recommendation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The percentage of TAC is fixed inside and outside critical habitat to minimize competition between Steller sea lions and the pollock fisheries. Changes will only occur only if they allow at least equivalent protection.</li> </ul>

## Summary of Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives

*Principle: Spatial dispersion*

**Guideline: Base spatial distribution of the TAC on existing study or management areas. In addition, in the southeastern Bering Sea, the CVOA and southeastern Bering Sea foraging area should be combined to form one CVOA-CH complex (referred to here as the SCA [Sea Lion Conservation Area]).**

Motion (with modification) December 1998	Motion June 1999	RFRPAs October 1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Council motion recommended establishment of the SCA with spatial distribution of catch based on areas inside and outside the SCA in the EBS. Council motion did not include measures to disperse catch spatially outside of the SCA in the EBS.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Motion also recommended use of existing management areas plus a new Shelikof Strait area in the GOA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Council motion recommended spatial distribution of catch based on areas inside and outside the SCA in the EBS. Council motion did not include measures to disperse catch spatially outside of the SCA in the EBS.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Motion also recommended use of existing management areas plus a new Shelikof Strait area in the GOA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NMFS action disperses catch spatially inside and outside the SCA in the EBS. NMFS believes that spatial dispersion outside the SCA will occur as a function of general fishing practices as modified by the American Fisheries Act.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NMFS action also uses existing management areas plus a new Shelikof Strait area in the GOA.</li> </ul>