


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

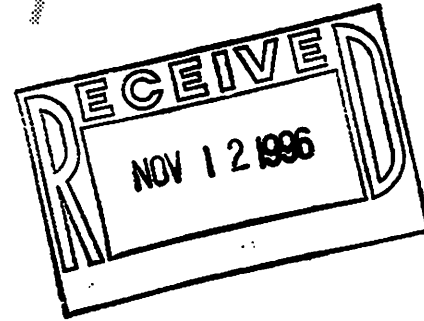
AGENDA D-1(b)(1)  
DECEMBER 1996

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

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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



5 August 1996  
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Dear members of the N.P.F.M.C.  
we wish to address the issue of Demersal  
Rock Fish. Because it is our intention  
to move our vessel to South East Alaska  
to better pursue this fishery. It has  
come to our attention that Dan Falvey  
has proposed a moratorium on entry  
to this fishery. Mr. Falvey is a Big  
supporter of I.F.O.s. Mr. Falvey represents  
a select group of fishermen who are  
seeking to "privatize" another fishery to  
their personal gain.

I on the other hand represent only  
myself Demersal Rock Fish, and Pegaihook Fish  
represent about the only fishery my  
67yr old vessel can handle being  
obsolescent and slow we can't compete

in a lot of other fisheries where agreed  
and carrying capacity carry the day. The  
Rockfish fishery should remain open  
to hard Trawl, and Hand-yrig special  
preservation should be made for these  
gear types I can fish with-out  
having to buy an expensive limited  
entry permit and that important to people  
with limited resources. When you close  
all the fleet on little guys like me, we  
might as well burn our boats and  
sign-up for public assistance.  
I only want to make my own  
way in the world, but again there  
has to be a way to make it.  
Depriving people of the right to  
fish for their livelihood is CRIMINAL.  
I was deprived of the lobster fishery  
at a time when it was my only  
job, and Rock took on an uncertain market  
fishing & now got to turn to Hand-yrig  
fishing by hand work; you guys  
should try it some time. If he had  
enough that most data will find an  
easier way. Rockfish landings play a  
small but important part in coastal  
communities like Ketchikan, Homer,  
Petersburg, Hothel, & other in communities  
like that fish is their life-blood.  
Not everybody has a Big I.F.I. quota  
Not everybody has limited entry permit

For a lucrative fishery like Herring or Salmon. So less fish means = less jobs for people in processing plants and the downizing of service industries. I am adamantly opposed to any Government program at any level that will dispossess people of the right to fish for their livelihood.

And I really, really resent the fact I have spend time defending my right to fish when I could be out fishing. But the access to the Rockfish Resource is worth defending. For those who have limited incomes and resources Rockfish is damned important. In fact its a matter of life and death. Because through our industry we gain Honor, Through our labor we show profit. Those profits poured into a local economy; Fuel Coastal Communities like Kodiak, Homer, Seward, Hoonah, Pelican and Sitka.

Our state and federal Governments are better served by people who work, who have their pride and purpose in what they do. Not Huddled, & Homeless without hope, as we all have seen at one time or another, and dismissed it as a "Big City" problem. Well my esteemed and learned friends, If Dan Falvey has his way, There'll be more Huddled masses to support. I.S.O.s added enough people to welfare rolls and not only here but in British Columbia they make payment to displaced workers

We must instill creativity, to enhance Prosperity in Coastal Communities and elsewhere, please consider the consequences of closing the Rockfish fishery to those who have just limited incomes and resources. I use 6/5 Penn Roplo and Heavy Roplo to jig for Rock fish because I use no mechanical jigging machine, nor do I get countless hooks longlining for Rock fish my catch is limited to between 300 - 800 lbs per day, people who tend to land a limited just superior product that is sold packed in sea and delivered within 35 hrs of being caught we are developing an out of state oriental market for under utilized species of Rock fish caught in South East Ok and elsewhere, for my Deep Sea Catch is not a problem, as we have a market for most fish, I thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely yours

Dave VanDusen