AGENDA D-3
OCTOBER 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC, and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver
Executive Director

ESTIMATED TIME
2 HOURS

DATE: September 30, 2002

SUBJECT: Staff Tasking

ACTION REQUIRED

Review tasking and provide direction as appropriate

BACKGROUND

Attached is the spreadsheet summarizing status of major Council initiatives, along with a three-meeting outlook (D-3(a)). An updated list of Committees and their status is also included for reference (D-3(b)). I will review for the Council the status of various projects, summarize staff time already committed, review actions taken at this meeting, and seek your direction relative to any new projects, or prioritization of existing projects.

One major potential item is the differential gear impact analysis discussed by the Council in previous meetings. D-3(c) is our first cut at trying to develop an approach to this issue that is feasible, while still being useful to the Council. An item we will have to add to the mandated tasking list is a Pribilof Island blue king crab rebuilding plan. D-3(d) is a letter from NMFS regarding this issue.

On the list of potential new projects is Amendment 64 (BSAI P. cod allocations among fixed gear), which sunset on December 31, 2003. A new plan amendment to retain (or alter) such allocations will require Council action by June of 2003, and initial review of the analysis by April 2003. The Council also deferred action on allocations between pot catcher and catcher/processor vessels to this amendment package. Your direction on this amendment package at this meeting would be appropriate. A discussion paper, including potential alternatives and options is under D-3(e).

D-3(f) contains letters received regarding 'fish down/fish up' provisions among vessel classes, suggesting allowing fishing down in Area 2C, and fishing up from C to B class in all areas. Given that there are existing amendments to the IFQ program in the hopper (awaiting staff availability or Council prioritization), I would suggest these amendments be forwarded to the Council's IFQ Implementation Committee for consideration, relative to other IFQ related proposals.

Council Project Summary Updated September 20, 2002

	Mandated Actions	Projected Weeks	Council/ NMFS %	Comments
1	Programmatic Groundfish SEIS (revision)	8	20/80	Finalize alternatives for analysis in June 2002 (Diana E.)
2	FMP Updates	3	90/10	Concurrent with DPSEIS (Diana S./Jane)
3	EFH EIS	16	40/60	Major project thru mid 2003 (David/Cathy)
4	Crab FMP EIS	8	50/50	Initial review in December (Mark, Chris)
5	Pribilof Blue King Crab Rebuilding (pending)	3	30/70	Pending 'overfished' designation (David/Diana S./Jon)
	Council Priorities *Bold =Highest priority			
6	**BSAI Crab Rationalization Trailing Amendments***	3	90/10	Initial review in October. (Mark/Darrell)
7	**Halibut Subsistence (new reg amendments/BOF mtgs)***	1	95/5	Review proposed regulations (Jane).
8	**IR/IU flatfish adjustments**	2	80/20	Final action in October
9	**SSL Trailing Amendment***	1	10/90	Final action in October (Dave/Cathy)
10	**SR/RE retention***	2.5	80/20	Not started. (Jane/NMFS)
11	Halibut Charter IFQ/GHL	3	100/0	Review data issues in October (Jane)
12	GOA Rationalization	?	90/10	Discuss in October - Council direction (Jane,Mark+contract help) Major Project
13	Other Species (non-target, CDQ aspects, sharks/skates)	8	40/60	Further analysis required (NMFS/Council Staff) Review this fall.(Jane)
14	Additional P. Cod sideboards (Prichett proposal)	1	100/0	Initial review in October. (Jon)
15	AFA single geographic location change	1	100/0	Final Action in October. (Jon)
16	Observer Program (long-term)	?	50/50	Committee report in October (Nicole/Chris)
17	Community based QS (GCCC buy in proposal)	1	90/10	Requires finalizing for SOC submittal. (Nicole)
18	CDQ Amendment (policy committee)	2	50/50	Further work required for SOC submittal. (Nicole)

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Other Projects Previously Tasked

19	BSAI Amendment 64 - P.cod fixed gear allocations	8	90/10	Sunsets December 31, 2003 - Discuss in October (Jon/Darrell/Nicole)
20	GOA Salmon Bycatch Caps	8	80/20	Tasked but on hold pending GOA rationalization progress.
21	TAC Setting Process	2	10/90	Initial review in June (Jane)
22	Opilio VIP	2	50/50	Tasked in February - Not started
23	Catch/bycatch disclosure (vessel level)	1	70/30	Discussion paper in February (Elaine) - Postponed
24	Scoping paper on fee/loan program for IFQ Charter (NMFS?)	1	10/90	Pending SOC review of program
25	F_{40} Independent Review	1	90/10	Review in October (David).
26	Independent Legal Review	1	100/0	Review in October (Chris).
27	Groundfish overfishing definitions	2	10/90	MSST status still under review

Potential New Projects or Lower Priority Projects

28	Differential gear impacts	?	90/10	Potential major project after October. Possible contract help.
29	AFA s/b caps to quotas and trawl LLP recency	10	80/20	Pending further Council direction and staff availability
30	IFQ amendments (1999)	4	90/10	Pending Staff availability
31	Charter IFQ Community Set-Aside	4	90/10	Pending Council Direction
32	BSAI P.cod gear allocations (trawl vs. fixed gear)	?	90/10	Pending Council Direction
33	Industry proposal for pollock bycatch	?	90/10	Pending proposal and Council Direction
34	Bycatch cooperatives in flatfish fisheries	4	70/30	Pending Committee report and Council direction (contract help)
35	Ecosystem Report for Ocean Commission	1	90/10	Assistance from NPRB/NMFS

DRAFT NPFMC Three Meeting Outlook

September 30, 2002 Seattle	December 2, 2002 Anchorage	January 27th, 2003 Seattle
DPSEIS: ***Review Status***	DPSEIS: ***Progress Report***	DPSEIS: ***Action as necessary***
Initial Groundfish Specifications	Final Groundfish Specifications	
VMS: ***Committee report and discussion***		
IR/IU flatfish adjustments: ***Final action***		SR/RE Retention: ***Discuss***
Bycatch cooperative measures: ***Committee Rpt and discussion***	Bycatch Co-ops: ***Review progress (T)***	Bycatch Co-ops: ***Review progress (T)***
BSAI Amendment 64--Fixed Gear Cod Allocations: ***Discuss***		
P.cod s/b proposal: ***Initial Review***	P.cod s/b proposal: ***Final Action***	
GOA Rationalization: ***Committee Report and direction***	GOA Rationalization: ***Committee Report and direction***	GOA Rationalization: ***Finalize alternatives for EIS***
SSL Trailing Amendments: ***Final Action***		GOA Salmon bycatch caps: ***Discuss***
SGL: ***Final Action***	Observer Program: ***Discussion/Direction***	
TAC-setting process: ***Final Action***		
Crab EIS: ***Report***	Crab EIS: ***Initial Review***	
Crab Trailing amendments: ***Initial Review***	Crab Trailing amendments: ***Final Review***	
June Crab Motion: ***Clarifications***		
Halibut Charter GHL/IFQ: ***Review Data Issues***		Charter/IFQ Community Set-Aside: ***Discuss (T)***
Other species breakout (inc. shark/skate): ***Discussion***		
CDQ Allocations: ***Review and Approve***		
EFH: ***Identify Alternatives for Analysis***	EFH: ***Action as necessary***	EFH: ***Action as necessary***

TAC - Total Allowable Catch
IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
AFA - American Fisheries Act
HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
LLP - License Limitation Program
PSC - Prohibited Species Catch
QS - Quota Share

MSA - Magnuson Stevens Act
SGL - Single Geographic Location
SSL - Steller Sea Lion
GHL - Guideline Harvest Level
SEIS - Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
CDQ - Community Development Quota
GCCC- Gulf Coastal Communities Coalition

SAFE - Stock assessment and fishery evaluation
CV - Catcher Vessel CP- Catcher Processor
SR/RE - Shortraker/Rougheye
MSST - Minimum Stock Size Threshold
FMP - Fishery Management Plan
(T) Tentatively scheduled

NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

Updated: September 25, 2002

BSAI Crab Binding Arbitration Committee

Appointed: 4/18/02 Status: Active Staff: Mark Fina	**Co-Chair: John Garner** **Co-Chair: Jake Jacobsen** Gordon Blue Walt Christensen Lance Farr	Terry Leitzell Garry Loncon Gary Painter Joe Plesha Joe Sullivan

BSAI Crab Data Collection Committee

Appointed: 4/18/02 Status: Active **Discussion Leaders:** Darrell Brannan Mark Fina	Terry Cosgrove John Garner Kevin Kaldestad Terry Leitzell	Gary Painter Joe Plesha Glenn Reed Doug Wells

BSAI Crab Captain QS Committee

Appointed: 7/9/02 Status: Active Staff: Mark Fina	**Chair**, Stosh Anderson Tom Suryan Rick Shelford Coleman Anderson Barney Olsen Dan Jansen	Walt Christensen David Hillstrand John Klemzak Tom Gibson Kevin Kaldestad

BSAI Crab Rationalization Committee

Appointed: 12/15/00 Last update: 10/25/01 Status: Deactivated pending analysis and further Council direction. Staff: Mark Fina	**Chair:** Dave Hanson Gordon Blue Paula Brogdan Tom Casey Terry Cosgrove John Garner Don Giles Leonard Herzog Kevin Kaldestad Frank Kelty Linda Kozak	Steve Minor Brent Paine Gary Painter Joe Plesha Dale Schwarzmiller Jeff Steele Jeff Stephan Tom Suryan Arni Thomson Karen Wood-Dibari

CDQ Policy Committee

Appointed 2/16/01 Status: Action Complete. Still necessary? Staff: Nicole Kimball/Sally Bibb	**Chair:** Rick Lauber Ragnar Alstrom Eugene Asicksik Greg Baker John Bundy Jeff Bush Morgen Crow Phillip Lestenkof John Moller Robin Samuelsen

Community QS Purchase Implementation Team

Status: Pending Appointment

Council/Board of Fisheries Joint Protocol Committee

Last update: 10/25/01 Staff: Chris Oliver	Dennis Austin Dan Coffey Grant Miller Russell Nelson Bob Penney Stosh Anderson

Crab Interim Action Committee

[Required under BSAI Crab FMP]

Dennis Austin, WDF Jim Balsiger, NMFS Kevin Duffy, ADF&G

Ecosystem Committee

Last update: 10/25/01 Status: Meet as necessary Staff: David Witherell	**Chair:** David Fluharty Stosh Anderson Dorothy Childers Tony DeGange Dan Falvey George Hunt, Jr. Patricia Livingston Donna Parker	Other Staff Support Steve Davis Doug Eggers

Essential Fish Habitat Committee

Appointed: 5/15/01 Last Update: 10/25/01 Status: Active Staff: Cathy Coon	**Chair:** Linda Behnken **Vice Chair:** Stosh Anderson Gordon Blue Ben Enticknap John Gauvin Earl Krygier Heather McCarty Glenn Reed Michelle Ridgway Scott Smiley John Kurland

Finance Committee

Last Update: 10/25/01 Status: Meet as necessary Staff: Gail Bendixen/Chris Oliver	**Chair:** David Benton Dennis Austin Jim Balsiger Kevin Duffy Dave Hanson Roy Hyder Richard Marasco

GOA Working Group

Appointed February 2002 Last Update: 2/20/02 Status: Active Staff: Jane DiCosimo	**Co-Chairs:** Stosh Anderson Stephanie Madsen	Julie Bonney Dorothy Childers Dan Falvey Beth Stewart

Halibut Charter IFQ Implementation

Status: Pending Appointment

Halibut Subsistence Committee

Status: Meet as necessary Last Update: 1/7/02 Staff: Jane DiCosimo	**Chair:** Robin Samuelsen David Bill Theodore Borbridge Arne Fuglvog Adelheid Herrmann	Jennifer Hooper Brett Huber Dan Hull Matt Kookesh Flore Lekanof

IFQ Implementation & Cost Recovery Workgroup

Status: Reconstituted as shown (October 2001). Staff: Jane DiCosimo	**Chair:** Jeff Stephan Bob Alverson Beau Bergeron Norman Cohen Arne Fuglvog Dennis Hicks	Don Iverson Jack Knutsen Don Lane Gerry Merrigan Kris Norosz Paul Peyton

IRIU Technical Committee

Appointed: 07/12/02 Status: Active Staff: Chris Oliver Marcus Hartley, Northern Econ. Bob Trumble, MRGA Americas	**Chair**, Dave Hanson Michelle Ridgway Susan Robinson John Henderschedt Donna Parker	Teressa Kandianis Matt Doherty Bill Orr Geoff Shester

Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Committee

Status: Pending appointment of additional members. Staff: Chris Oliver	**Chair:** David Benton Dennis Austin

Observer Advisory Committee

Last update: August 2002 Status: Active Staff: Chris Oliver/ Nicole Kimball	**Chair:** Joe Kyle Julie Bonney Pete Risse Kim Dietrich [Alt: Gillian Stoker] John Gauvin LeeAnne Beres Rocky Caldero	Trevor McCabe Bob Mikol Kathy Robinson Susan Robinson Jeff Stephan* Arni Thomson *Pending replacement

Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee

Last Update: 12/12/01 3/5/02-Election of Officers Staff: David Witherell	**Chair:** Gary Painter David Benson Keith Colburn Lance Farr Phil Hanson Larry Hendricks Kevin Kaldestad	Garry Loncon Rob Rogers Clyde Sterling Gary Stewart Arni Thomson, Secretary [non -voting]

Socioeconomic Data Committee

Last update: 10/25/01 Status: Idle pending Council direction Staff: Mark Fina	**Chair:** Dennis Austin Keith Criddle John Gauvin	Jeff Hartman Seth Macinko Richard Marasco Ed Richardson

Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee

Appointed: 2/10/01 Updated: October 2001 Pending membership adjustment [formerly SSL RPA Committee; renamed at Feb 02 meeting) Staff: David Witherell	**Chair:** Larry Cotter David Benson Jerry Bongen Shane Capron David Cline Tony DeGange Doug Demaster Wayne Donaldson Steve Drage John Gauvin	Sue Hills Gerry Leape Terry Leitzell Matt Moir Alan Parks Fred Robison Bob Small Beth Stewart Jack Tagart John Winther

Steller Sea Lion Steering Committee

Appointed: 12/13/00 Staff: Chris Oliver	**Chair:** David Benton Dennis Austin Jim Balsiger Kevin Duffy

U.S.-Russia International Committee

Status: Pending reconstitution. Staff: Chris Oliver	**Chair:** David Benton Dennis Austin David Fluharty

VMS Committee

Appointed: 06/02 Status: Active Staff: Jane DiCosimo	**Chair,** Earl Krygier Capt. Rich Preston Al Burch Ed Page	Bob Mikol Lori Swanson Guy Holt

Staff Tasking and the Proposed GOA Differential Gear Analysis

In February 2002, the Council reviewed a proposal (Appendix A) to prepare an informational document, which would contain data to evaluate effects of different gear types used in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish fisheries. The proposal contained 38 items to be analyzed for six target species groups and five gear types. In April, the Council requested that staff review the proposal for scope and begin drafting a statement of work for possible contracting with outside analysts to pull together this information.

Since that time, staff has reviewed the proposed items to be analyzed, and have provided some comments on the scope of the issue and data availability for each item. A summary of these comments is provided in Table 1, and discussed further in Appendix B. We estimated that a full, independent analysis of all of these items (taken at face value) would be a huge undertaking, involving years of staff time. Approximately half of the proposed differential gear analysis (the socioeconomic part) could be contracted out, but would be very expensive.

We are seeking direction from the Council on how to proceed with this analysis. Do we go ahead and invest our limited staff time and contracting resources to complete this project as proposed, or can we accomplish the goals of the analysis with a more refined scope of work? Should the Council wish to get some differential gear analysis, without making a huge commitment of staff resources, we offer the following options and suggestions to make this a more realistic project.

1. **Focus the analysis only on Pacific cod fisheries.** As currently proposed, the analysis would include pollock, pacific cod, flatfish, rockfish, sablefish, and scallops. Gear types would include pots, longlines, dredges, pelagic trawls, non-pelagic otter trawls, and jig gear. The only unallocated directed target fishery currently taken in commercial quantities by more than one gear type is Pacific cod (Table 2). In the GOA, 20% of the sablefish TAC is allocated to trawl, the rest in the IFQ longline fishery. Some rockfish species (namely shortraker/rougheye and thornyhead rockfish) are taken by both trawl and longline gear. For all other combinations of target species and gear types, expending analytical effort may not provide meaningful insights for future management decisions.

2. **Focus only on items not already being compiled in other analyses that are currently underway.** Many of the items are likely to be addressed to some degree in the analysis for EFH, Gulf rationalization, and the programmatic groundfish SEIS. Because the analysis of these items is not complete, we cannot say at this time exactly how much of each item would be addressed. Nevertheless, there may be enough information contained in these analyses to make management decisions based on gear type. For other items, the Council may want to get at least some analysis done, and may want to allocate some staff time to address these items.

3. **Focus on the relatively do-able items.** There are some items that would require substantial staff time to complete. For example, Item 4 (observer coverage and reliability), Item 6 (spatial/temporal compression of effort), Item 23 (economic dependence of communities), Item 25 (net margins as a percent of gross), Item 30 (support industries), and Item 35 (rent creation and capture) are all Ph.D. dissertation level analyses. On the other hand, some items are more easily addressed with less staff commitment. For example, Item 15 (rationale use in previous allocations), Item 26 (ability to use gear in other targets), Item 32 (number of vessels by community), Items 24, 29, 33, and 34 (crew and processing workers by community) are all relatively do-able, and would provide a significant baseline of economic information for future gear allocations.

4. **A qualitative analysis.** Rather that develop a full blown quantitative analysis of each item, provide a short qualitative assessment of each, drawing upon existing information and analyses. It may be useful to have a qualitative "discussion paper" type analysis that addresses each item in a qualitative way. No new data would be examined, but existing information would be pulled together into one source document.

Given the potential breadth of this project, and numerous possible sources of both information and contracted analytical resources, we are seeking further Council discussion and direction before proceeding.

Table 1.

Item	Issue	Included in Current Analysis?	Quantitative Info is Available?	Information Sources	Notes
	Bycatch (including regulatory & economic discards, and unobserved mortality)				
1	Bycatch and discard rates	IR/IU 2	some	observer data plus blend data	moderate amount of work; NMFS staff?
2	Invert and non-specified rates		some	observer data plus blend data	Future SAFE chapter?
3	Impacts of lost gear: ghost fishing	Crab SAFE	some	literature	relatively easy amount of work to summarize literature.
4	Observer coverage and reliability	Bycatch Coops	some	MRAG/Volstad report	NMFS may be evaluating this
	Stocks				
5	Catch rates per week and per sq mile		some	observer data plus blend data	A huge mapping effort
6	Spatial/temporal compression of effort		some	observer data plus blend data	A huge mapping effort
7	Impacts on spawning aggregations	Sea Lion Studies	minimal	chiniak study	report on research in December
8	Impacts on stocks in decline	F40 Panel Report	minimal	literature	?
	Habitat				
9	Impacts on habitat and biodiversity	EFH 2	some	EFH analysis	staff is currently working on this for EFH analysis
10	Distribution of effort by gear type	Fritz 89, EFH 2	some	EFH analysis, Fritz et al. 1998	staff is currently working on this for EFH analysis
11	Impacts of lost gear on habitat		no		
12	Effects of rationalization on habitat	Crab+Gulf Ratz, EFH2	some	EFH analysis	EFH committee has prepared a paper on this
13	Effectiveness of current closed areas	EFH 2	some	EFH analysis	will be part of EFH analysis
14	Percent of area closed by gear type	EFH 2	yes	EFH analysis/ SSL analysis	will be part of EFH analysis
15	Rationale used for previous allocations	PGSEIS Am. Summaries	some	previous EA/RIRs, meeting tapes	may be unable to fully capture from records
	Economics				
16	Difference in price, quality by gear type	Economic SAFE	some	Economic SAFE	relatively doable
17	Effects on market saturation by gear		no		?
18	Seasonal value of products		some	Economic SAFE	?
19	Seasonal entry of product into market		some	Economic SAFE	
20	Capacity to harvest the TAC	GOA rationalization	some	history, blend data	relatively doable
21	Quantity per delivery effects to processors		no		qualitative discussion
22	Economic efficiency and versatility	GOA rationalization	no		
23	Economic dependence of communities	GOA rationalization	some	community profiles	A large analysis
24	Crew size and community benefits	GOA rationalization	no		
25	Net margins as a % of gross		no	private records	A potentially large analysis; data limited or unavailable
26	Cost of gear conversion	GOA rationalization	some	industry sources	relatively doable
27	Expenditure per gear type in communities	GOA rationalization	no		A large analysis
28	Ability to use gear type in other targets	GOA rationalization	no		qualitative discussion
29	Jobs	PGSEIS	some	programmatic SEIS	
30	Support industries	PGSEIS	some	programmatic SEIS	A large analysis
31	Effects on processors of gear reallocations	GOA rationalization	no	?	qualitative discussion
	Communities				
32	Number of vessels by community	GOA rationalization	some	community profiles	Future Economic SAFE table?
33	Number of crew FTE	GOA rationalization	some	community profiles	Future Economic SAFE table?
34	Number of processing workers FTE	GOA rationalization	some	community profiles	Future Economic SAFE table?
35	Rent creation and capture		no	?	A huge analysis
	Rationalized fisheries				
36	Gear conversion and LLP issues	Gulf Ratz, EFH2	no		qualitative discussion
37	Options for transitioning from one gear	Gulf Ratz, EFH2	no		qualitative discussion
38	Safety	Crab+Gulf Rationalization	some	IFQ review	qualitative discussion

Table 2.

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

Prepared: 04/03/02 at 09:20 AM
NMFS/AKR Fish Management
(907) 586-7229

2001 GULF OF ALASKA REPORT ON DAP HARVEST
BY GEAR TYPE
Data are from Weekly Production and Observer Reports through 12/31/01

	TRAWL	H&L	POT	OTHER	TOTAL
WEST,CENT PLCK					
Pollock 610	30,435	35	1	0	30,471
Pollock 620	1,742	0	0	0	1,742
Pollock 630	16,984	41	1	0	17,026
Pollock - Shelikof	18,864	28	3	0	18,895
WESTERN GULF					
Arrowtooth Flounder	5,938	179	2	0	6,119
Deep Water Flatfish	13	6	0	0	19
Shallow Water Flatfish	200	5	2	0	207
Flathead Sole	595	5	0	0	600
Rex Sole	435	0	0	0	435
Pacific Ocean Perch	944	0	0	0	944
Shortraker/Rougheye	40	85	0	0	125
Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	119	1	1	0	121
Northern Rockfish	537	0	2	0	539
Other Rockfish	11	14	0	0	25
Pacific Cod - Inshore	6,656	3,820	1,985	0	12,461
Pacific Cod - Offshore	286	376	1,038	0	1,700
Sablefish (Hook & Line)	0	1,442	7	0	1,449
Sablefish (Trawl)	139	0	0	0	139
Thornyhead	141	133	2	0	276
CENTRAL GULF					
Arrowtooth Flounder	13,046	393	2	0	13,441
Deep Water Flatfish	659	8	0	0	667
Shallow Water Flatfish	5,948	5	3	0	5,956
Flathead Sole	1,300	11	0	0	1,311
Rex Sole	2,506	1	0	0	2,507
Pacific Ocean Perch	9,248	1	0	0	9,249
Shortraker/Rougheye	638	360	0	0	998
Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	2,421	12	2	0	2,435
Northern rockfish	2,587	0	1	0	2,588
Other Rockfish	267	51	0	0	318
Pacific Cod - Inshore	15,955	5,744	3,556	0	25,255
Pacific Cod - Offshore	1,474	4	588	0	2,066
Sablefish (Hook & Line)	0	4,432	1	0	4,433
Sablefish (Trawl)	1,084	0	0	0	1,084
Thornyhead	373	150	0	0	523
EASTERN GULF					
Shortraker/Rougheye	113	739	0	0	852
Pacific Cod - Inshore	11	118	3	0	132
Pacific Cod - Offshore	0	0	0	0	0
Thornyhead	18	522	0	0	540
WEST YAKUTAT					
Arrowtooth Flounder	117	78	0	0	195
Deep Water Flatfish	115	1	0	0	116
Shallow Water Flatfish	0	0	0	0	0
Flathead Sole	0	0	0	0	0
Rex Sole	1	0	0	0	1
Pacific Ocean Perch	623	0	0	0	623
Other Rockfish	31	51	0	0	82

Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	438	0	0	0	438
Pollock	2,351	0	0	0	2,351
Sablefish (Hook & Line)	0	1,569	0	0	1,569
Sablefish (Trawl)	168	0	0	0	168
SOUTHEAST					
Arrowtooth Flounder	0	208	0	0	208
Deep Water Flatfish	0	3	0	0	3
Shallow Water Flatfish	0	0	0	0	0
Flathead Sole	0	0	0	0	0
Rex Sole	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific Ocean Perch	0	1	0	0	1
Other Rockfish	0	134	0	0	134
Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	0	13	0	0	13
Pollock	0	0	0	0	0
Demersal Shelf Rockfish	0	302	0	0	302
Sablefish (Hook & Line)	0	3,283	0	0	3,283
ENTIRE GOA					
Other Species	3,035	1,579	187	0	4,801
Atka Mackerel	75	0	1	0	76
TOTALS:	148,681	25,943	7,388	0	182,012

Appendix A.

Draft B

Differential Gear Analysis for the GOA

This analysis is to be completed independently of any particular management measure and should be viewed as a tool or method available to the NPFMC to accomplish the objective of future management decisions that may be considered. The analysis has been sought in several actions in recent years but, due to constraints in staff time and the cloud of allocation that its use may generate, it has not been completed. Evaluation of potential differential gear effects on a broad scale without immediate implications as to its use should provide a means to help the Council decide how GOA fisheries should be managed.

Fishing gears used in the GOA (EGOA, CGOA,and WGOA) groundfish fishery have different effects on habitat, different results for bycatch rates and bycatch mortality rates, different abilities to catch target groundfish species and different economic implications for harvesters, processors, product forms, markets and communities.

By evaluating the effects of the gears used in the fishery and the economic contribution of fish caught and processed by the different gear types to fishing communities dependent on the Gulf groundfish fisheries , the NPFMC will make more informed decisions. The differential gear analysis will help the NPFMC understand how to provide harvest opportunity and at the same time minimize habitat degradation and achieve bycatch reduction in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, as well as balance the ecomonic dependence of the fishing communities and their fishing fleets.

The following issues are pertinent to future management of the GOA fishery::

- Bycatch and bycatch mortality rates
- Habitat considerations
- Stock considerations
- Excess harvesting capacity
- Economic efficiency, benefits to consumers and producers
- Economic stability/dependence on groundfish in the fisheries and communities
- Relative management cost and abiltiy to be managed rationally.
- Broad participation by community-based fishermen
- Integrity of data base (observer coverage levels)

Specific elements to be reviewed in the analysis:

Target Species:
- Pollock
- Pacific cod
- Flatfish
- Rockfish
- Sablefish
- Scallops

Gear types:
- Fixed Gears: pot, longline
- Mobile Gears: Dredge, pelagic trawls, non-pelagic otter trawls, and jig.
- Monitoring/enforcement: Differential observers coverage, VMS, etc.
- Safety

- Bycatch Bycatch rates (weight of bycatch divided by total catch), temporal distribution, species composition, and estimates for unobserved mortality
- Bycatch rate of invertebrates and other non target species
- Impact of lost gear
- Levels of observer coverage by gear type and associated confidence limits around catch and bycatch data with regards to reliability of data given

Stocks:
- Potential for localized depletion
  Rate of catch in terms of catch per week
  Rate of catch in terms of catch per square mile fished
- Harvest rates and potential for spatial and temporal compression of fishing effort
- Impact on spawning aggregations, impacts on non-spawning aggregations
- Impact on stocks in decline or low abundance (not necessarily associated with fishing pressure)

Habitat:
- Impact on benthic habitat substrates and gear specific effects on diversity

- Historical distribution of fishing effort by gear type
- Impact of lost gear, ghost fishing, etc.
- Potential for changes in the distribution of fishing effort if fishery moves from current open access to a rationalized fishery (will areas currently not fished become desirable fishing grounds?)
- Percentage of total fishing area already closed to gear type either seasonally or annually
  Analyze the effectiveness of present closed areas
  Percentage of areas already protected for benthic effects of fishing per gear type
  - Rational used in past allocation issues (eg. Amendment #14)

Economics- relative efficiency of gear:

- Is there an ex-vessel price, product or quality difference?
- Is there market saturation for product derived by gear
- Seasonal value of product (milt, roe, etc.)
- Seasonal product entry into market
- Capacity to harvest the TAC
- What is the implication to processors of various levels of product quantity per delivery
- Economic efficiency and versatility of targets of harvest type
- Economic dependence of coastal communities based on fish landings by gear type
- Crew size and associated community benefits
- Net margins as a percent of gross
- Cost of gear conversion by vessel size, configuration and economic feasibility
- Annual expenditure per gear type in communities
- Ability to use gear in other fisheries with swing in fish abundance
- Jobs
- Support industries

Impacts on communities adjacent to the resource:

- Number of vessels participating
- Number of crew employed (in FTEs)
- Number of processing workers employed (in FTEs)
- Rent creation and rent capture

Rationalized fisheries

- Implications of gear conversion for:
- LLP endorsement issues
- Conservation, economic and safety benefits of the removal of the race for fish through a comprehensive Gulf rationalization program

Appendix B.

Bycatch (including regulatory and economic discards, and unobserved mortality)

1. Bycatch [and discard] rates (weight of bycatch divided by total catch), volume, temporal distribution, species composition, and estimates for unobserved mortality.

This item provides information on the catch of fish species in the fishery, which are targets of other fisheries. For example, in the longline Pacific cod target fishery, what other finfish species are caught, and what happens to them (i.e., are they processed, discarded, etc.). The temporal distribution information is of interest to see if bycatch rates are lower in other times of the year. Unobserved mortality is of interest to examine the fate of those fish not retained. This item could be addressed to some degree with analysis of catch blend data and observer data.

2. Bycatch rate of invertebrates and other non target species.

Similar to item #1, this item is to get at bycatch of epifauna (e.g., corals and sponges), other invertebrates (e.g., crabs and snails) and non-target fish species (e.g., eelpouts and grenadiers). This would require close examination of observer data, extrapolated to the fleet.

3. Impact of lost gear.

This item is of interest to understand the unobserved mortality caused by fishing gears should they be lost during the course of fishing operations. For example, if a cod pot is lost, how long would it continue to fish, and how many fish and crabs would be lost due to due ghost fishing. This item would require a literature search on the effects of lost gear used by the fisheries.

4. Levels of observer coverage by gear type and associated confidence limits around catch and bycatch data with regards to reliability of data given.

The intent of this item is to gain an understanding of the uncertainty in our catch and bycatch estimates. The observer program contracted this previously with MRAG (Volstad report). The Volstad report examined the 1994 Bering Sea pollock and yellowfin sole trawl fisheries only. This item would likely be a very large undertaking.

Stocks:

5. Potential for localized depletion.

This item is similar to item #6 in that the intent is to understand the localized effects of fish removals. The proposal requests that the analysis provide for each fishery the rate of catch in terms of catch per week, and the rate of catch in terms of catch per square mile fished. This item would provide a general view of catch rates through the seasons (like currently on NMFS web site), and also provide some indication of how the effort is spread out over space. The calculation of catch per square mile would first require a determination of the total square miles fished per year.

6. Harvest rates and potential for spatial and temporal compression of fishing effort.
This item is a much more detailed examination of item #5. This item would examine the intensity (catch per mile) of catch and effort by week. GIS maps could be produced to show catch intensity per week, by fishery. So catch and effort would be shown for 13 fisheries over 52 weeks, for a total of 1,352 maps.

7. Impact on spawning aggregations, impacts on non-spawning aggregations.

The objective of this item is to review what is known regarding the effects of fishing on fish when they are aggregated to spawn or schooled up for other reasons. A literature review would be done, and the fisheries that concentrate effort on aggregated fish would be further examined to qualitatively describe possible effects.

8. Impact on stocks in decline or low abundance (not necessarily associated with fishing pressure).

The objective of this item is not clear at this time.

Habitat:

9. Impact on benthic habitat substrates (including habitat complexity and biodiversity).

The current EFH analysis will include a fishery by fishery evaluation of impacts on benthic habitat. Much of the evaluation of fisheries on habitat has been done for the EFH2 analysis to the extent information is available. The issue of fishery effects on habitat complexity and biodiversity is much more difficult to assess, and there is very limited information available.

10. Historical distribution of fishing effort by gear type.

Maps are currently available (Fritz t al. 1998) and will be updated as part of the EFH analysis.

11. Impact of lost gear, ghost fishing, etc.

In the case of habitat effects, lost gear may provide structure for fish (e.g., lost crab pots), similar to artificial reefs. There may not be much information available in the literature regarding this issue. The issue of ghost fishing is addressed in the impacts on bycatch section (#3).

12. Potential for changes in the distribution of fishing effort if fishery moves from current open access to a rationalized fishery (will areas currently not fished become desirable fishing grounds?).

The EFH analysis will include a discussion of the effects of rationalization on habitat protection. Some work has been completed.

13. Percentage of total fishing area already closed to gear type either seasonally or annually. Analyze the effectiveness of present closed areas.

The EFH analysis will include an assessment of existing habitat protection measures, including closed areas.

14. Percentage of areas already protected for benthic effects of fishing per gear type.

The EFH analysis will include the amount of areas already closed to trawl fisheries and scallop fisheries.

15. Rationale used in past allocation issues (eg. Amendment #14).

There have been numerous amendments to address allocation of groundfish TACs. A review of old EA/RIRs would be required, at a minimum, to pull out the rationale used to allocate.

Economics

16. Is there an ex-vessel price, product or quality difference?

This item will examine differences in quality and products produced by harvests of different gear types. The resulting differences in ex-vessel prices arising from those differences will also be explored.

17. Is there market saturation for product derived by gear?

The quantities of different products demanded by markets could be limited by people's preferences. This item will examine the level of those demands to determine whether markets could be saturated by increases in production of different gear types.

18. Seasonal value of product (milt, roe, etc.).

Changes in harvests by gear type could impact the availability of products that have different season values, such as roe and milt. This item will examine seasonal changes in revenues from different products.

19. Seasonal product entry into market.

This item will examine the effects of changes in gear types on the production of seasonal products. This section, combined with the previous section should provide information concerning the economic effects of changes in production caused by changes in gear types.

20. Capacity to harvest the TAC

This item will examine the possibility that a portion of the TAC will go unharvested if gear type changes occur.

21. What is the implication to processors of various levels of product quantity per delivery.

Different gear types have different delivery sizes. Processors can experience positive and negative effects from these changes. Small loads can provide a processor with additional time to handle products more carefully. On the other hand, smaller loads can result in production inefficiencies. This item will explore the potential implications for processors of differences in product deliveries of the different gear types.

22. Economic efficiency and versatility of targets of harvest type.

The operational differences of different gear types result in those gear types having different economic efficiencies. In addition, some gear types can be used versatilely for several different species, while others cannot be effectively used for targeting more than one or two species. This item will examine the efficiencies of the different gear types and their utility for targeting different species.

23. Economic dependence of coastal communities based on fish landings by gear type.

This item will examine the dependence of coastal communities on the different gear types and species. The section should provide some insight into the impacts on communities of changes in gear types used in the different fisheries.

24. Crew size and associated community benefits.

Different gear types use different crew sizes. This item will explore the different crew sizes and possible community impacts of changes in crews arising from changes in gear types.

25. Net margins as a percent of gross and maximum gross.

This item will examine differences in net returns of each of the different gear types. The potential off different net returns to affect the gross revenues from the fisheries will also be analyzed.

26. Cost of gear conversion by vessel size, configuration and economic feasibility.

Required changes in gear could lead to the conversion of vessels to continue participation. This item will examine the economic and technical feasibility of reconfiguring vessels to use different gear.

27. Annual expenditure per gear type in communities.

Different gear types could have different expenditure patterns, which could have impacts on communities. This item will examine differences in expenditure patterns of different gear types and the effects of those difference on communities.

28. Ability to use gear in other fisheries with swing in fish abundance.

Changes in abundance of different stocks could affect the utility different gear types, depending on the versatility of the different gear types and their effectiveness in different fisheries. This item will examine the ability of the different gear types to be adapted for use in multiple fisheries to respond to changes in stocks of different species.

29. Jobs.

Different gear types employ different numbers of crew. In addition, the different inputs and outputs of the different gear types will also result in different employment from both suppliers and processors. This item will examine the differences in employment of the different gear types.

30. Support industries.

Different gear types require different inputs and support. This item will examine the different industries that support the different gear type and the changes in those industries that could result from changes in gear type use.

31. Effects on processors by changing harvest shares by gear groups.

Production outputs, employment, supporting goods and services of the processing sector differ with the supply of harvests by the different gear types. This item will examine the overall effects of changes in harvest gear on the processing sector.

<u>Communities</u>

32. Number of vessels participating by community.

Some information is available from existing community profiles. There may be additional work to break out the target fisheries, by gear type, by community.

33. Number of crew employed (in FTEs).

This item is essentially the same as item #24.

34. Number of processing workers employed (in FTEs).

This item would be a component of item #29.

35. Rent creation and rent capture.

The objective of this item is not entirely clear.

Rationalized fisheries

36. Implications of gear conversion for LLP endorsement issues.

Currently, the license limitation program includes fishery endorsements. An analysis would need to be prepared to examine the implications and impacts of mandating that some vessels to participate with other gear types. For example, what would happen if the endorsement for vessels currently allowed to fish for cod with trawl gear was converted to an endorsement for non-trawl gear? What are the costs, and what are the effects on the fishery in question as well as other fisheries?

37. Options for transitioning from one gear to another.

The objective of this item is not clear at this time. If the item is to evaluate which fisheries could be reallocated from one gear type to another, this would be a qualitative analysis. If the item was to analyze the effects of such a re-allocation, it would be a large quantitative economic impact analysis.

38. Changes in safety.

A literature review could be made of the effects of rationalization on safety. This has been summarized in other reports, such as the IFQ report and the SSL protection measures analysis.

AGENDA D-3(d)
OCTOBER 2002

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

September 23, 2002

Mr. David Benton, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Dear Mr. Benton:

This letter serves as your official notification under section 304 (e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act that Pribilof Islands blue king crab (Paralithodes platypus) is overfished, according to the criteria in the Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab (FMP). The Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) has determined that the stock has declined below its MSST. This determination is based on a joint NMFS & Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) assessment of stock conditions, which incorporates the 2002 NMFS Eastern Bering Sea trawl survey data. A copy of a memorandum from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center summarizing this finding is attached.

I understand that this is an unusual situation in that we are declaring the stock overfished even though the fishery has been closed since 1999, and even though the stock is protected by existing Council, State of Alaska, and NMFS management measures. The habitat is protected by the Pribilof Islands habitat conservation area. Pribilof Islands blue king crab are not caught as bycatch in any fishery.

According to the national standard guidelines at 50 CFR 600.310(d)(4)(ii) (see attachment), the Council has two alternatives for remedial action. First, under the guidelines, if the stock is declining due to changes in environmental conditions that affect its long-term productivity, the Council must respecify the MSST. Second, if the stock or stock complex is overfished or if a threshold is being approached, the Council must take remedial action by preparing an FMP amendment designed to rebuild the stock to the maximum sustainable yield level within an appropriate time frame.

Section 304(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act states that a council will have one year from notification of the overfished status of a stock to prepare and submit conservation and management

measures to rebuild the affected stock. The rebuilding program must be as short as possible, but must not exceed 10 years, unless the biology of the stock or other environmental conditions dictate otherwise.

Sincerely,

James W. Balsiger,
Administrator, Alaska Region

Attachments:

AFSC memorandum
Excerpts from national standard guidelines at CFR 600.310

Excerpts from the national standard guidelines at CFR 600.310

Environmental Change

(d)(4) Relationship of status determination criteria to environmental change. Some short-term environmental changes can alter the current size of a stock or stock complex without affecting the long-term productive capacity of the stock or stock complex. Other environmental changes affect both the current size of the stock or stock complex and the long-term productive capacity of the stock or stock complex.

(i) If environmental changes cause a stock or stock complex to fall below the minimum stock size threshold without affecting the long-term productive capacity of the stock or stock complex, fishing mortality must be constrained sufficiently to allow rebuilding within an acceptable time frame (also see paragraph (e)(4)(ii) of this section). Status determination criteria need not be respecified.

(ii) If environmental changes affect the long-term productive capacity of the stock or stock complex, one or more components of the status determination criteria must be respecified. Once status determination criteria have been respecified, fishing mortality may or may not have to be reduced, depending on the status of the stock or stock complex with respect to the new criteria.
* * *

(e) ***Ending overfishing and rebuilding overfished stocks***
***

(2) Notification. The Secretary will immediately notify a Council and request that remedial action be taken whenever the Secretary determines that:
***

(ii) A stock or stock complex is overfished;
***

(3) Council action. Within 1 year of such time as the Secretary may identify that overfishing is occurring, that a stock or stock complex is overfished, or that a threshold is being approached, or such time as a Council may be notified of the same under paragraph (e)(2) of this section, the Council must take remedial action by preparing an FMP, FMP amendment, or proposed regulations. This remedial action must be designed to accomplish all of the following purposes that apply:
***

(ii) If the stock or stock complex is overfished, the purpose of the action is to rebuild the stock or stock complex to the MSY level within an appropriate time frame.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOAA Fisheries
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
Kodiak Fisheries Research Center
301 Research Court
Kodiak, AK 99615-7400
Ph 1.907.481.1711
Fax 1.907.481.1701

September 5, 2002

Memorandum For : F/AKR - Dr. James W. Balsiger

Through for F/AKC - Dr. Douglas DeMaster

Through F/AKC1 - Dr. Gary D. Stauffer

From : F/AKC11 - Dr. Robert S. Otto

Subject : Status of Eastern Bering Sea Crabs Relative to FCMA Overfishing Definitions in 2002.

According to the 1999 Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands King and Tanner Crabs (FMP), a stock is considered "overfished" if the stock size falls below the minimum stock size threshold (MSST). The MSST is 50 % of the mean total (male and female) spawning biomass (SB) for the period upon which the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) was based (50 % B msy). The sustainable yield (SY) in a given year is the MSY rule applied to the current SB (F = M = 0.2 for king crabs and F = M = 0.30 for Tanner and snow crabs). Overfishing also occurs if the SY is exceeded for a period exceeding one year. An MSST is defined in the plan for each of the six stocks in the Bering Sea that are surveyed annually by the NMFS. Pertinent statistics and Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) resulting from joint NMFS and ADF&G assessment of stock conditions and management planning documents that incorporate the 2002 EBS trawl survey are shown in the attached table. I also have attached graphs showing the history of each surveyed stock's SB relative to the overfishing definitions for your use.

As shown in the table, four of six stocks are considered overfished at this time. The FMP requires that the Secretary of Commerce be informed when a stock is overfished and that "the Secretary will notify the Council to take action to rebuild the stock or stock complex". This occurred with respect to Tanner crab (*Chionoecetes bairdi*) in 1997 and a rebuilding plan was developed as soon as overfishing definitions were established in 1998. Severe declines in the St Matthew Island Blue king crab (*Paralithodes platypus*) stock and the EBS snow crab (*C. opilio*) stock resulted in the SB values that fall below MSST in 1999 and also required Secretarial notification resulting in establishment of rebuilding plans in 2000. Rebuilding plans for these three overfished stocks have been approved by the Secretary and are all currently in force. The SB of EBS snow crab increased in 2000 and exceeded MSST 2001. Unfortunately the snow crab stock has again declined below MSST in 2002 and continued measures must be taken under the rebuilding plan. The Pribilof Islands Blue King crab stock SB fell below MSST in 2002 and the Secretary must now notify the Council to take action relative to rebuilding this stock as well. Only the two Red king crab (*P. camtschaticus*) stocks are not considered overfished at this time. The Pribilof Islands red king crab fishery has been

closed from 1999 onward because of concerns as to the low precision of population estimates and the belief that bycatch mortality of blue king crab would be unacceptably high given the low abundance of the latter stock.

The SB of the Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock has been declining since reaching its most recent peak in 1995. In 2001, the Pribilof Islands blue king crab SB was just above MSST. In 2002, the point estimate of SB has fallen below MSST, although estimates of abundance for this stock are very imprecise and there is some possibility that the 2002 point estimate is low, the stock has been approaching MSST for some time (see diagram). The fishery has been closed from 1999 onwards and the stock is also protected by the Pribilof Islands no trawling zone. Additionally, the Pribilof red king crab fishery has been closed due to bycatch concerns (see above). In short, there appears to be few measures to protect this stock that have not been in force for some time.

Reasons for the decline in Pribilof blue king crab abundance are unclear. Blue king crab are cold-adapted relative to red king crab and have left what appear to be small isolated glacial remnant populations in specialized habitats in the Gulf of Alaska and warmer parts of the Bering Sea. Red king crab are the dominant species throughout the Gulf of Alaska and relatively warm partions of the Bering Sea. This may indicate a gradual replacement of blue king crab by red king crab during post-glacial time. Due to biennial spawning, larger eggs and smaller numbers of eggs per clutch, blue king crab may have considerably lower reproductive capacity than red king crab. As blue king crab have declined in the Pribilof Islands, red king crab have become more prevalent and this change in relative abundance has occurred during the warm water period of the past 20 or so years. Prior to this period red king crab were rarely taken in the Pribilof Islands area.

cc. Crab Plan Team
Mr. Doug Woodby, ADF&G Juneau
Dr. Gary Stauffer, RACE
Mr. David Witherell

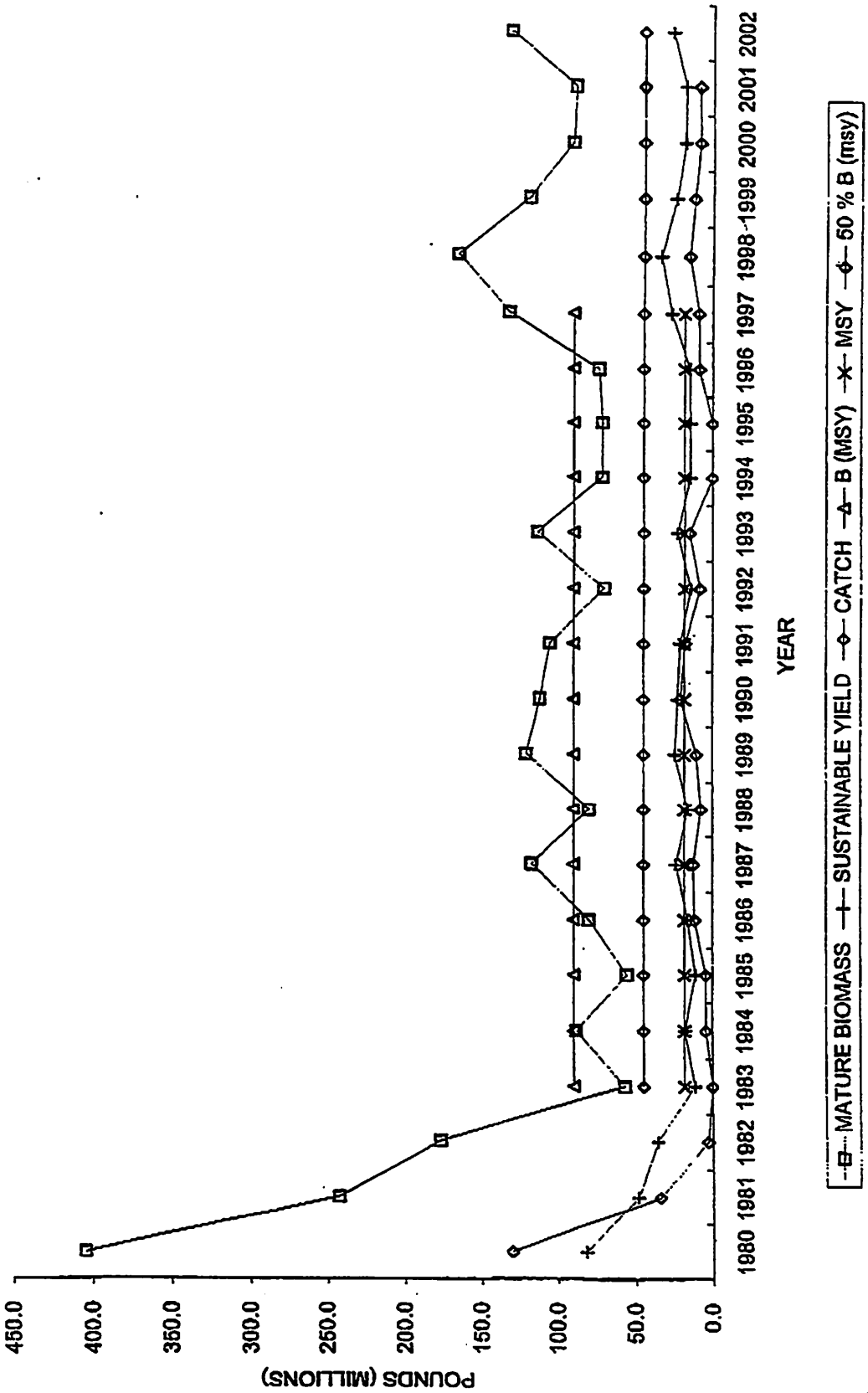
Attachment 1

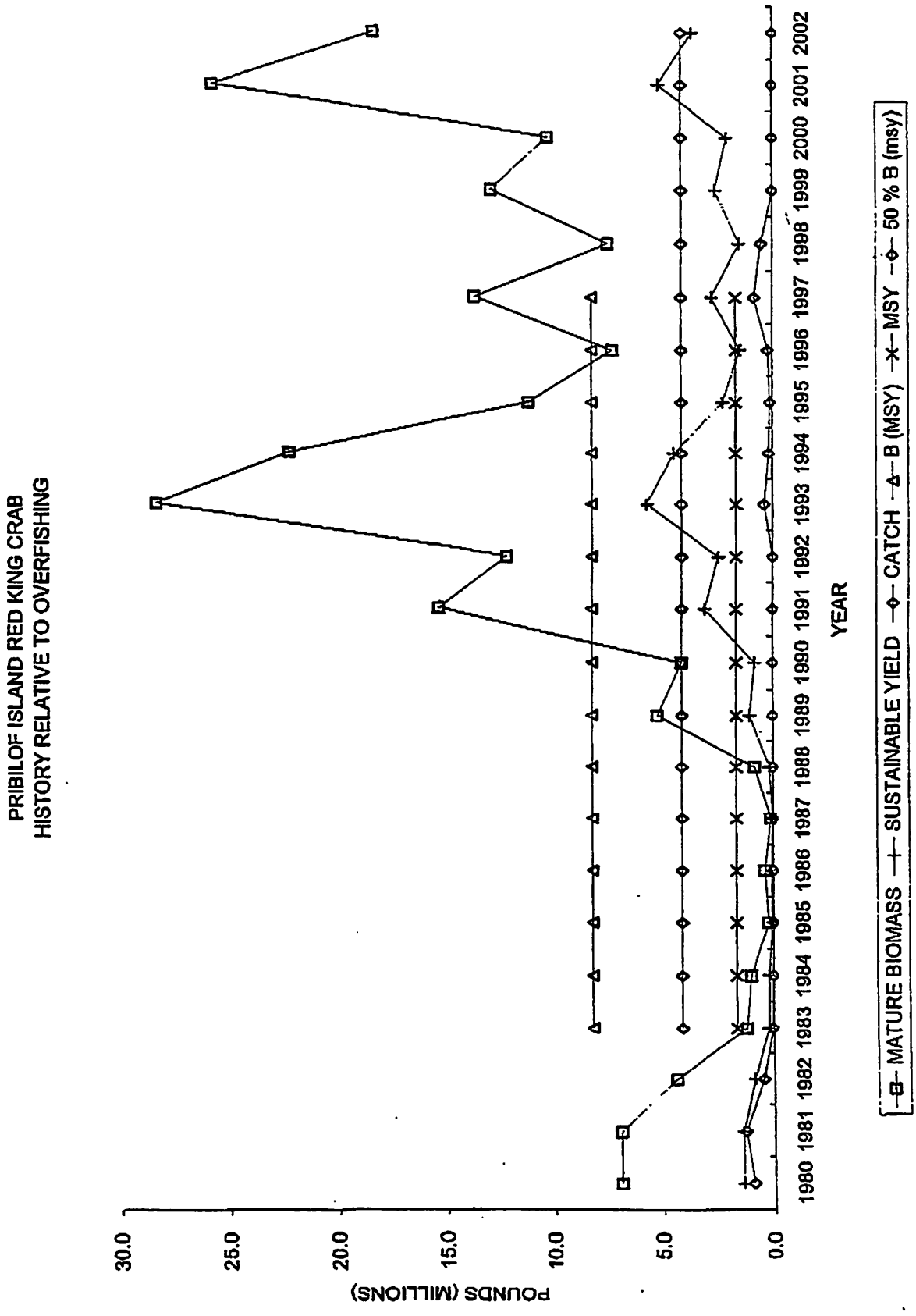
Status of eastern Bering Sea crab stocks relative to FMP overfishing definitions.

Stock	MSST	2001/2002 Season SB	SY	Catch	2002/2003 Season SB	SY	GHL
	millions of pounds						
Red King Crab:							
Bristol Bay	44.8	88.0	17.6	8.4	129.9	26.0	9.3
Pribilof Is.	3.3	25.5	5.1	0.0	18.1	3.6	0.0
Blue King Crab:							
Pribilof Is.	6.6	7.0	1.4	0.0	4.5	0.9	0.0
St Matthew Is.	11.0	9.0	1.8	0.0	4.7	0.9	0.0
EBS Tanner crab	94.8	67.7	20.3	0.0	69.4	20.3	0.0
EBS snow crab	460.8	571.0	171.1	32.6	313.3	93.7	25.6[1]

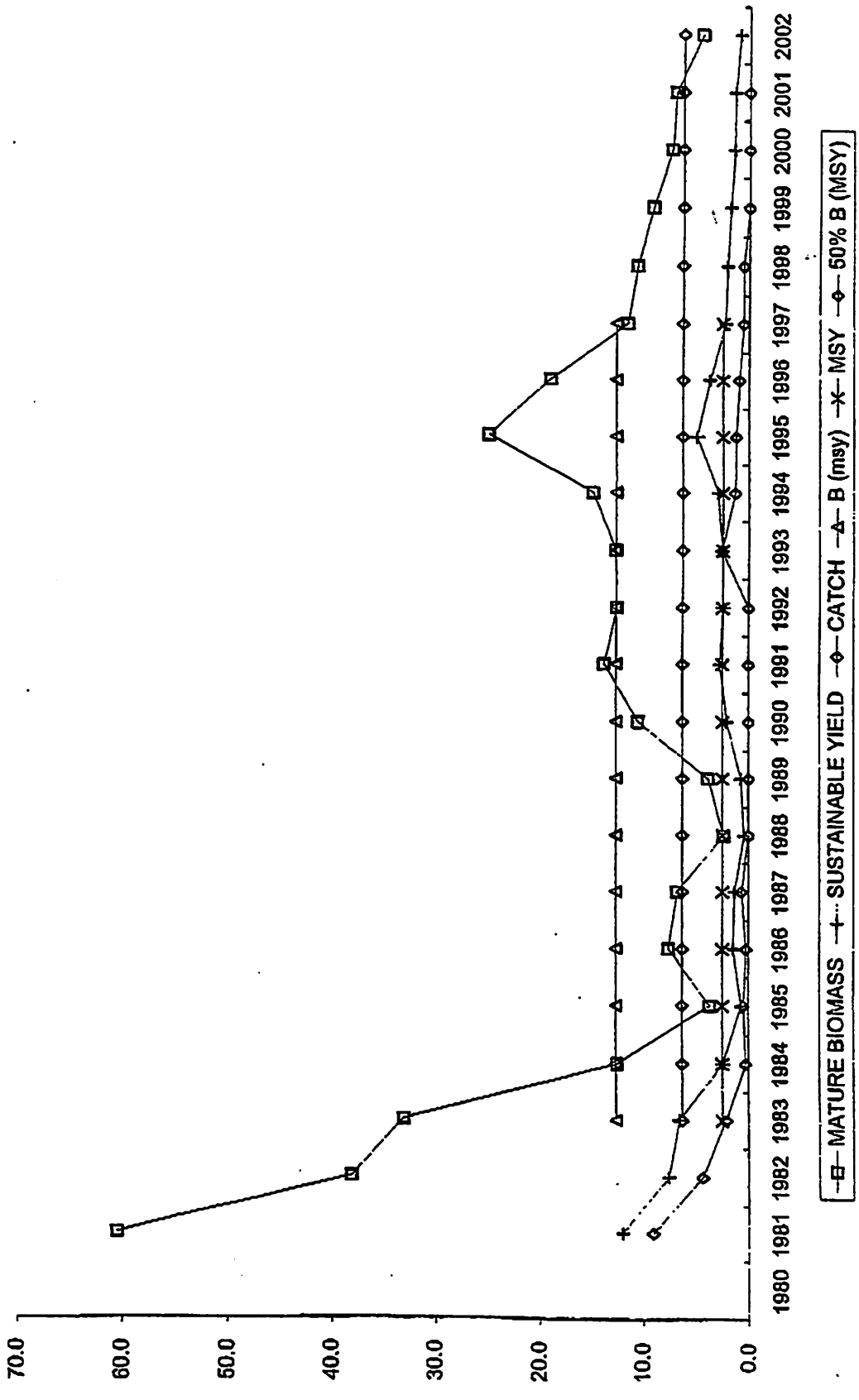
(1) The GHL for snow crab was calculated by Doug Pengilly and myself and will be presented for management consideration on Thursday, September 5, 2000, a final figure will be available at that time.

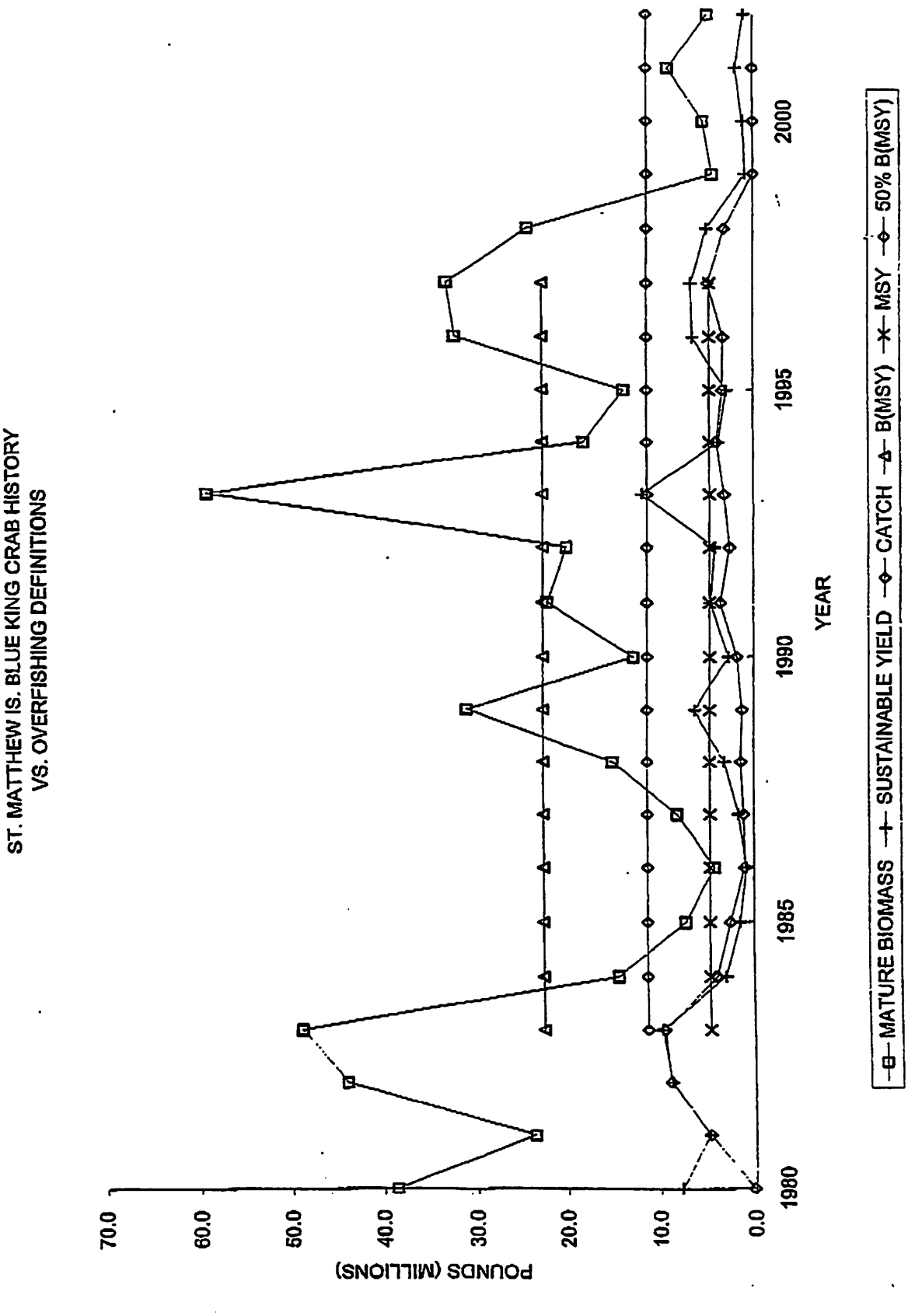
BRISTOL BAY RED KING CRAB
HISTORY RELATIVE TO OVERFISHING

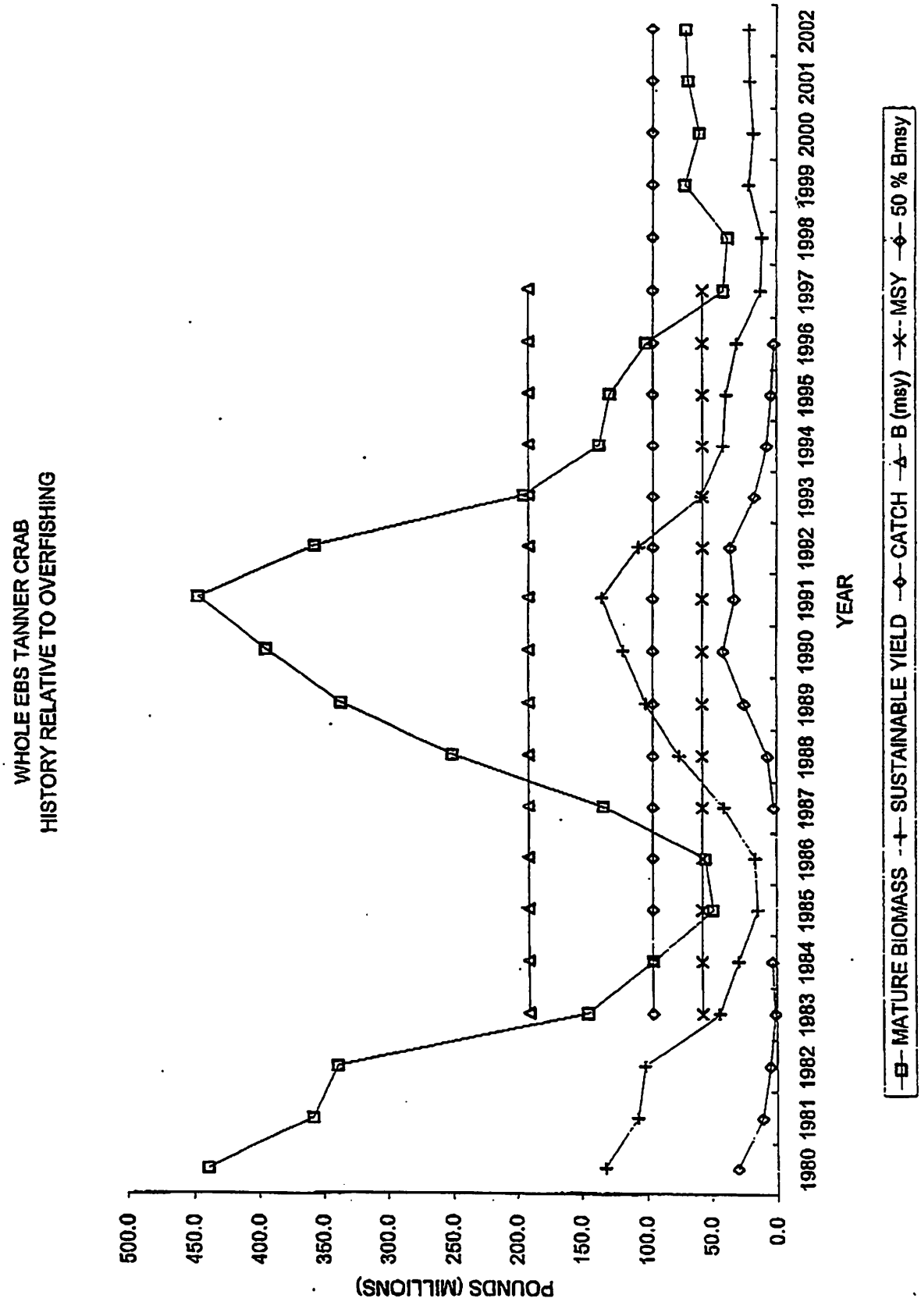


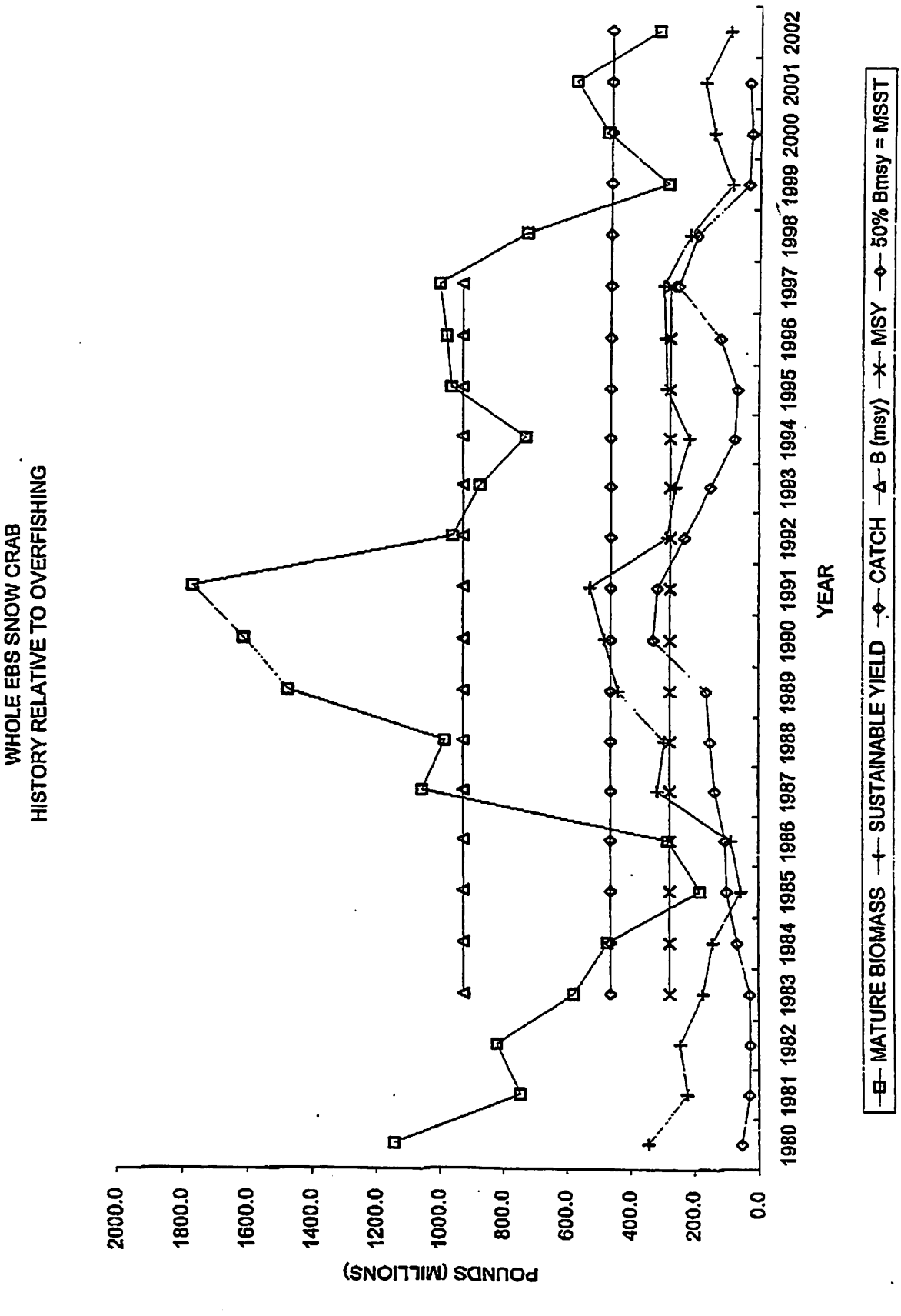

PRIBILOF ISLAND RED KING CRAB
HISTORY RELATIVE TO OVERFISHING
POUNDS (MILLIONS)
30.0
25.0
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002
YEAR
MATURE BIOMASS
SUSTAINABLE YIELD
CATCH
B (MSY)
MSY
50 % B (msy)

PRIBILOF ISLANDS BLUE KING CRAB
HISTORY RELATIVE TO OVERFISHING




ST. MATTHEW IS. BLUE KING CRAB HISTORY
VS. OVERFISHING DEFINITIONS
POUNDS (MILLIONS)
70.0
60.0
50.0
40.0
30.0
20.0
10.0
0.0
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
YEAR
MATURE BIOMASS
SUSTAINABLE YIELD
CATCH
B(MSY)
MSY
50% B(MSY)


WHOLE EBS TANNER CRAB
HISTORY RELATIVE TO OVERFISHING
POUNDS (MILLIONS)
500.0
450.0
400.0
350.0
300.0
250.0
200.0
150.0
100.0
50.0
0.0
1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002
YEAR
MATURE BIOMASS
SUSTAINABLE YIELD
CATCH
B (msy)
MSY
50 % Bmsy


WHOLE EBS SNOW CRAB
HISTORY RELATIVE TO OVERFISHING
POUNDS (MILLIONS)
2000.0
1800.0
1600.0
1400.0
1200.0
1000.0
800.0
600.0
400.0
200.0
0.0
1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002
YEAR
MATURE BIOMASS
SUSTAINABLE YIELD
CATCH
B (msy)
MSY
50% Bmsy = MSST

Discussion paper on BSAI Amendment 64 reauthorization

Beginning in 1997, BSAI Amendment 46 allocated 2% of the total allowable catch (TAC) for non-CDQ BSAI Pacific cod to vessels using jig gear, 47% to trawl gear, and 51% to fixed gear (hook-and-line and pot). In April 1999, the Council initiated an analysis of the effects of further splitting the 51% allocated to the fixed gear sector (BSAI Am. 64). The following problem statement guided the analysis of alternatives for BSAI Amendment 64:

> *The hook-and-line and pot fisheries for Pacific cod in the BSAI are fully utilized. Competition for this resource has increased for a variety of reasons, including increased market value of cod products and a declining acceptable biological catch and total allowable catch. Longline and pot fishermen who have made significant long-term investments, have long catch histories, and are significantly dependent on the BSAI cod fisheries need protection from others who have little or limited history and wish to increase their participation in the fishery. This requires prompt action to promote stability in the BSAI fixed gear cod fishery until comprehensive rationalization is completed.*

In October 1999, the Council approved BSAI Amendment 64 to split the fixed gear allocation of Pacific cod among the hook-and-line catcher processors, hook-and-line catcher vessels, and pot sectors in the BSAI as follows:

80%	Hook-and-line catcher processors
0.3%	Hook-and-line catcher vessels
18.3%	Pot vessels
1.4%	Hook-and-line or pot catcher vessels <60 feet LOA

The percentages approved under Amendment 64, effective since September 2000, represented divisions of the hook-and-line or pot gear TAC after a deduction of estimated incidental catch of Pacific cod in other groundfish fixed gear fisheries. Based on these percentages, the 2002 Pacific cod allocations were as follows: hook-and-line catcher processors - 75,080 mt; hook-and-line catcher vessels - 282 mt; pot vessels - 17,175 mt; hook-and-line or pot catcher vessels <60' - 1,314 mt. While seasonal apportionments were established only for the hook-and-line catcher processor sector under Amendment 64, seasonal apportionments were subsequently established for all fixed gear vessels fishing BSAI Pacific cod, with the exception of catcher vessels <60' LOA, under the 2002 Steller sea lion measures.

Amendment 64 sunsets on December 31, 2003, meaning that the regulations implementing the allocations established for the BSAI hook-and-line and pot cod fishery will expire at that time. Continuing the allocations of Pacific cod among the hook-and-line and pot gear sectors (or selecting new allocation percentages) in the BSAI after the sunset date will require Council and Secretarial approval of a new amendment.

Originally, four options (plus suboptions) to split the portion of the BSAI Pacific cod TAC allocated to fixed gear vessels were considered by the Council, in addition to the status quo. The options were based on various catch history combinations from the years 1995-1998:

Option 1: 1996, 1997
Option 2: 1997, 1998
Option 3: 1996, 1997, 1998
Option 4: 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998

While the Council's preferred alternative fell within the range of options for consideration, it did not mirror any one of the options exactly. The final allocations most closely related to having chosen Option 3 (1996-98) or Option 4 (1995-1998). In addition, the Council provided for a separate allocation for hook-and-line and pot vessels <60' LOA. Note that 1999 catch history was not included in the options for Amendment 64 because the data was considered preliminary. The Council's final action also appeared to base the final allocations on Pacific cod catch histories *excluding* any quota reallocated from the jig or trawl sectors to the fixed gear sectors. Including fixed gear catch resulting from reallocated quota would have increased the allocation to the hook-and-line sector by about 1% and decreased the allocation to the pot sector by the same amount. The Council's final action also specified that any reallocated quota from the jig and trawl sectors (available in the B season) should be apportioned according to the actual harvest of reallocated quota from 1996-98: 95% to hook-and-line catcher processors and 5% to the pot fleet ≥60' LOA.

Should the Council initiate an analysis to reauthorize Amendment 64, it may choose to either mirror or modify the original alternatives and options. One potential modification would be to include 1999 data in the options to calculate the split among the fixed gear sectors. As this action was effective in 2000, using catch history from the most recent years would obviously be the same as maintaining the existing allocations.

Another potential modification would be to provide options to further split the portion of the fixed gear Pacific cod TAC allocated to the pot sectors (18.3%). The Council considered splitting the 18.3% between the pot catcher processor sector and the pot catcher vessel sector in June 2002 (BSAI Amendment 68) but ultimately selected the no action alternative (status quo). The Council noted in that decision the pending expiration of Amendment 64 and suggested that a further split between the pot sectors could be considered as an alternative under reauthorization of that amendment if desired. As related in the problem statement for Amendment 68, the proposal to split the pot sectors' allocation is spurred by a concern that pot catcher processors who have made significant long-term investments, have substantial catch histories, and are significantly dependent on the BSAI cod fisheries need protection from pot catcher vessels who want to increase their Pacific cod harvest. The original intent of Amendment 64 was to stabilize the Pacific cod fixed gear fishery in a way that preserves the historical character of the fishery, by basing the allocations on historical harvests by the respective gear sectors. The pot catcher processor sector asserts that the same split is necessary in the pot sector as was established in the hook-and-line sector under Amendment 64.

Recall also that Amendment 67 was approved by the Council in April 2000 and will be effective January 1, 2003. Amendment 67 is a continuation of the License Limitation Program, in that it requires Pacific cod species endorsements and establishes the qualifications for those endorsements for vessels ≥60' using fixed gear in the BSAI Pacific cod fisheries. Upon implementation, a Pacific cod endorsement, specific to the (hook-and-line or pot) gear used by the vessel, must be specified on a person's LLP groundfish license for that person to participate in the fixed gear BSAI Pacific cod fisheries. The intent of this amendment is to address concerns of excess fishing capacity and protect fishermen who have long-term investments and catch histories in the fishery from those with no or limited history. The implication is that, beginning in 2003, the number of fixed gear vessels fishing the allocations established in Amendment 64 will be substantially reduced, particularly the pot catcher vessels.

No action is requested of the Council at this time. However, given the pending expiration of Amendment 64, the Council may consider initiating an analysis to reauthorize this amendment in the near future. In order for the regulations to be in place by January 1, 2004, the Council would need to take final action on this amendment in June 2003, which means initial review in April 2003.

An initial draft suite of alternatives/options for AP and Council consideration is as follows (brief explanations of the alternatives are in italics):

Alternative 1: No action. BSAI Pacific cod allocations for the fixed gear sectors (hook-and-line catcher processors, hook-and-line catcher vessels, pot vessels, and hook-and-line and pot vessels <60') under Amendment 64 would expire December 31, 2003.
Alternative 1 means all of the above sectors would compete for the share of the BSAI Pacific cod TAC (51%) allocated to vessels using hook-and-line and pot gear.

Alternative 2: Continue the current BSAI Pacific cod allocations among the fixed gear sectors as determined under Amendment 64 (these allocations relate closely to catch histories during 1995-1998, with an additional provision for vessels <60' LOA):

- 80% hook-and-line catcher processors
- 0.3% hook-and-line catcher vessels
- 1.4% pot or hook-and-line catcher vessels <60'
- 18.3% pot vessels

Alternative 3: Apportion the BSAI Pacific cod fixed gear TAC among hook-and-line catcher processors, hook-and-line catcher vessels, pot vessels and hook-and-line and pot vessels <60' according to catch histories to be determined as a percentage of cumulative catches of BSAI Pacific cod by gear type for: 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999.
Alternative 3 includes 1999 data to determine the split among fixed gear sectors. At the time the analysis for Am. 64 was developed, 1999 data was considered preliminary.

Option 1: Include a 1.4% allocation to pot and hook-and-line catcher vessels <60', to be subtracted from the overall fixed gear allocation before the split is made.
In the split made under Amendment 64, the Council provided a 1.4% allocation to vessels <60', even though that sector's percentage of the historical catch was much lower. Option 1 provides for the same small vessel allocation currently in Am. 64.

Options 2-5 are applicable to Alternatives 2 and 3:

Option 2: (Applicable to Alternatives 2 and 3). Apportion the share of the BSAI Pacific cod fixed gear TAC allocated to pot vessels between pot catcher processors and pot catcher vessels. The split may be apportioned according to catch histories to be determined as a percentage of cumulative catches of the pot gear BSAI Pacific cod TAC by pot sector for:

Suboption 1: 1996, 1997
Suboption 2: 1997, 1998
Suboption 3: 1996, 1997, 1998
Suboption 4: 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998
Suboption 5: 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999
Suboption 6: 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999

Review of Am. 68 in June 2002 showed that there is less than a 1% difference in the resulting allocations among these suboptions.

Option 3: Any unharvested portion of the hook-and-line catcher vessel and the <60' pot and hook-and-line vessel quota that is projected to remain unused by a specified date shall be reallocated to the hook-and-line catcher processor fleet.
This provision is currently included under Amendment 64.

Option 4: Any portion of the Pacific cod pot catcher processor or pot catcher vessel quota that is projected to remain unused by a specified date shall be reallocated as follows:

a) Unused quota from either pot sector would be reallocated to the other pot sector before it is reallocated to the other fixed gear sectors.
b) Unused quota from the pot catcher vessel sector would be reallocated to the hook-and-line catcher vessel sector before it is reallocated to the pot catcher processor sector.

Option 4 mirrors the option approved for Council consideration under Am. 68.

Option 5: Any quota reallocated from the jig or trawl sectors will be apportioned among the hook-and-line catcher processor and pot sectors according to the actual harvest of rollovers from:

Suboption 1: 1996-1998
Suboption 2: 1996-1999

Am. 64 currently specifies that any quota reallocated to the fixed gear sector is allocated 5% to the pot sector and 95% to the hook-and-line catcher processor sector. This is based on the actual harvest of reallocated quota from 1996 - 1998. Suboption 1 would continue this split, and Suboption 2 would modify the split based on the inclusion of 1999 data.

PFMC

7-24-02

Dear David Benton;

To be equitable, fishing down IFQ's for sablefish and halibut should be allowed in the east Yakutatat and 2C areas as it is in other areas of the state. My proposal is that such be the case. Plese reference this to other proposals recommended for areas 3B 4A & 4B in 1999 by the IFQ implimentation committee.

Sincerely,

Gary Mulligan

GARY MULLIGAN
PO BOX 8082
PORT ALEXANDER, AK
99836
907-568-2237

SPECIAL NOTICE

To All Holders of Catcher Vessel Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)

"FISH-DOWN" AMENDMENT FINALIZED

Notice Revised March 31, 1997

Please be advised that the regulations for IFQ fishing [50 CFR, Part 679] have changed. Effective immediately, and with the exception noted below, persons who hold IFQ in catcher vessel categories "B" or "C" may harvest their IFQ halibut or sablefish on vessels with a length overall that is equal to, or less than, the maximum length overall (LOA) permitted under the prior regulations. The following table displays this change.

Catcher Vessel IFQ Category	To Harvest (Species)	May Now be Fished on a Vessel of the Following Maximum LOA
"B"	Halibut	B, C, or D category vessel (**No LOA limit**)
"C"	Halibut	C or D category vessel (**60 feet LOA limit**)
"D"	Halibut	D category vessel only (**35 feet LOA limit**)
"B"	Sablefish	B or C category vessel (**No LOA limit**)
"C"	Sablefish	C category only (**60 feet LOA limit**)

EXCEPTION FOR AREA 2C HALIBUT AND AREA SE SABLEFISH

Under the new rules, certain "B" category IFQ may NOT be fished down. The exception is the Area 2C halibut fishery and the Area SE "Outside" (East of 140° W. Longitude) sablefish fishery. In those fisheries, Vessel Category "B" IFQ derived from unblocked QS, or blocks of catcher vessel QS that yield 5,000 pounds or more of 1996 IFQ (i.e., blocks of QS that are equal to or greater than 33,320 halibut QS units and equal to or greater than 33,270 sablefish QS units) may NOT be "fished down." Such IFQ must be fished on the vessel category for which it has been issued.

Questions about these changes may be directed to the Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Restricted Access Management (RAM) Division. The Division can be reached at the address and telephone/facsimile numbers set out below.

Restricted Access Management (RAM) Division • P.O. Box 21668 • Juneau, AK 99802-1668
Tel: 800-304-4846 • Fax: 907-586-7354 • Internet: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov

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Sept. 20, 2002

NMFS
Council Members
Chairman Dave Benton
605 W. 4th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Council Members

The Councils recent action that allows communities (CD) to purchase QS, for which the vessel class designations to not apply has compounded previous action when the Council allowed the fishing down regulation. We would like to recommend to Council to consider adding an analysis allowing "fish up" on vessel class B from class C. We would like to recommend that Council add this analysis to the suit of proposed IFQ changes recommend for analysis.

We are a B class vessel, B class vessels are the only class fishing vessel that is locked into one class of quota. We have a harder time finding shares to buy. The new proposed regulation for the communities to purchase QS has the versatility to fish all vessel classes from one vessel. We only want a fair playing field. We have crewmen wanting to come aboard our vessel to fish their quota but we are unable to hire them as they have class C quota. The B class shares are harder to find to purchase and they are most costly, because a B, C, or D class vessel can fish them. The B class vessel can only fish B quota. The C class vessel can fish B & C quota class The D class can fish B, C or D class quota. As a B class vessel owner we are appealing to you to let the B class vessel owner have the versatility that the other class vessels have and now the communities (CD) have. We are the most down trodden Class of vessel for all of the regulation imposed to date regarding Fish Down and not Up. Please consider the "Fish Up" from C to B class. This new action for the communities (CD) only compounds this for us.

We do not have legal representation, but would ask the Council to understand we are a viable part of this industry. We are not highly educated, but are grounded in our livelihood of commercial fishing; please consider this in your recent actions.

Thank you,

Thomas D. Branshaw Thomas D. Branshaw
Denise J. Branshaw Denise J. Branshaw
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907-424-7344
F. V. Northern Mariner
northernmariner@hotmail.com

PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP SHEET FOR AGENDA ITEM D-3 Staff Tasking

PLEASE SIGN ON THE NEXT BLANK LINE.
LINES LEFT BLANK WILL BE DELETED.

	NAME	AFFILIATION
1.	THURN SMITH	NPLA/CDSFA
2.		AUCC/BAGDIS
3.	Dorothy Childers Julie Bonney	
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