

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Name of Proposer: Alaska Groundfish Data Bank **Date:** 8/18/06
Alaska Dragger Association
Western Gulf of Alaska Fishermen

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Fishery Management Plan: Gulf of Alaska

Brief Statement of Proposal: Aggregate A and B season or C and D season pollock quotas when seasonal apportionments are small. Pollock quotas would be aggregated into one quota (either roe or non-roe) by regulatory area when a regulatory quarterly seasonal quota is at or below 3,000 MT. When pollock quotas are aggregated the fisheries will open on January 20th for the A season and September 1st for the C season.

Objectives of Proposal: (What is the problem?) The goal of this proposal is to aggregate small seasonal pollock quotas into one roe or non-roe quota. Presently season apportionments are difficult for NMFS to manage because of the small quotas. These small quotas require the agency to pre-announce fishery closures because the available quotas are too small to allow the fishery to be managed inseason using actual fishery catch performance. Since actual catch information cannot be used to manage the fishery, it has created a series of opening and closures. The start and stop nature of the fishery has increasing harvest costs and processing costs for industry. During the 2006 B season pollock fishery in the Kodiak area (area 630), the agency chose not to open the fishery because they felt that the available quota was unmanageable when compared to the fleet catching capacity. In Chirikof area (area 620) weather can be a real barrier to meeting available harvest levels especially with all the rookery and haulout closures during the month of October. Allowing the quota to be taken during September when the quotas are small will increase safety for the fleet.

Need and Justification for Council Action: (Why can't the problem be resolved through other channels?) The Council and NMFS are the only bodies that have control over the fishery management structure making adjustments to the Pollock seasonal allocation and start dates.

Foreseeable Impacts of Proposal: (Who wins, who loses?)
Trawl pollock fishermen, processors and GOA coastal communities would win under this proposal.

Are there Alternative Solutions? If so, what are they and why do you consider your proposal the best way of solving the problem?

The ultimate solution is to allocate fish to individual harvesters through GOA rationalization and end the race for fish. The Council appears to be committed to GOA rationalization but immediate relief is not available.

Supportive Data & Other Information: What data are available and where can they be found? Be specific and cite references.

Seasonal quotas by regulatory area from 2002 to 2006 (table 1 below)

Seasonal opening and closure dates (table 2 below)

Opening and Closure history by regulatory area for 2002 to 2006 (table 3 below)

Available on NMFS web page

Offsetting Measures. What protection measures might be increased in the region to offset the proposed action?

None recommended.

Signature

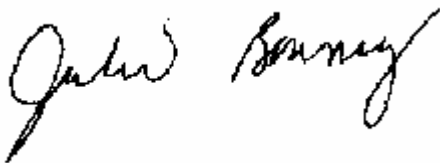


Table 1. Seasonal quotas by regulatory area for the years 2002 to 2006 in MT

Shumagins

Season	Year 2006	Year 2005	Year 2004	Year 2003	Year 2002
A	4210	5035	3747	2894	2916
B	4210	5035	3747	2894	2916
A/B total	8420	10070	7494	5788	5832
C	10249	10155	7717	5500	5949
D	10249	10155	7718	5500	5949
C/D total	20498	20310	15435	11000	11898

Chirikof

Season	Year 2006	Year 2005	Year 2004	Year 2003	Year 2002
A	11192	11692	9027	6535	8618
B	13394	13820	10704	7778	8618
A/B total	24586	25512	19731	14313	17236
C	2953	4446	3380	2686	2905
D	2953	4446	3379	2686	2904
C/D total	5906	8892	6759	5372	5809

Kodiak

Season	Year 2006	Year 2005	Year 2004	Year 2003	Year 2002
A	4062	4148	3091	2274	1122
B	1861	2021	1413	1031	1122
A/B total	5923	6169	4504	3305	2244
C	6263	6274	4768	3517	3803
D	6262	6275	4768	3517	3803
C/D total	12525	12549	9536	7034	7606

Table 2. Present Gulf of Alaska Pollock fishery structure

Season	Open Date	Closure Date
A season	January 20	March 10
B season	March 10	May 31
C season	August 25	October 1
D season	October 1	November 1

Table 3. Seasonal opening and closure history by regulatory area

GOA POLLOCK SEASON ACTUAL OPENING AND CLOSURE DATES

	KODIAK 630		CHIRIKOF 620		SHUMAGINS 610	
SEASON	OPEN	CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE
Year 2006						
A SEASON	20-Jan	15-Feb	20-Jan	10-Mar	20-Jan	22-Jan
REOPN A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26-Jan	27-Jan
B SEASON	10-Mar	No open	10-Mar	21-Mar	10-Mar	14-Mar
Year 2005						
A SEASON	20-Jan	29-Jan	20-Jan	2-Mar	20-Jan	23-Jan
REOPN A	6-Feb	14-Feb	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
B SEASON	10-Mar	3/10-12hr	10-Mar	20-Mar	10-Mar	12-Mar
C SEASON	25-Aug	27-Aug	25-Aug	29-Aug	25-Aug	3-Sep
REOPN C	8-Sep	10-Sep	8-Sep	12-Sep	N/A	N/A
REOPN C	15-Sep	16-Sep	15-Sep	19-Sep	N/A	N/A
REOPN C	22-Sep	23-Sep	22-Sep	NO CLOSE	N/A	N/A
D SEASON	1-Oct	8-Oct	1-Oct	1-Nov	1-Oct	14-Oct
REOPN D	17-Oct	19-Oct	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
REOPN D	27-Oct	28-Oct	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Year 2004						
A SEASON	20-Jan	21-Jan	20-Jan		20-Jan	22-Jan
REOPN A	4-Feb	12-HOUR				
REOPN A	15-Feb	12-HOUR				
REOPN A	24-Feb	12-HOUR				
B SEASON	10-Mar	11-Mar	10-Mar	21-Mar	10-Mar	13-Mar
C SEASON	25-Aug	29-Aug	25-Aug	29-Aug	25-Aug	30-Aug
REOPN C	12-Sep	15-Sep	11-Sep	15-Sep	n/a	
D SEASON	1-Oct	2-Oct	1-Oct		1-Oct	6-Oct
REOPN D	7-Oct	9-Oct	n/a		10-Oct	11-Oct
Year 2003						
SEASON	OPEN	CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE
A SEASON	20-Jan	21-Jan	20-Jan		20-Jan	23-Jan
REOPN A	13-Feb	14-Feb				
B SEASON	CLOSED		10-Mar	3-Apr	10-Mar	11-Mar

REOPN B	20-Mar	12-HOUR			18-Mar	18-Mar
REOPN B					26-Mar	27-Mar
C SEASON	25-Aug	27-Aug	25-Aug	30-Aug	25-Aug	30-Aug
D SEASON	1-Oct	2-Oct	1-Oct	3-Oct	1-Oct	4-Oct
REOPN D	9-Oct	10-Oct				