

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

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Fishery Management Plan: Gulf of Alaska

Brief Statement of Proposal: Allow trawl pollock fishing at Cape Ugat haulout to 3 n mi from Jan 20 to June 10 and to 10 n mi from June 10 to November 1.

Objectives of Proposal: (What is the problem?)

The SSL closure measures instituted under the SSL protection measures have impacted the trawl vessels in the Central Gulf of Alaska for both the pollock and Pacific cod fisheries. The SSL closure areas have closed fishing grounds that vessels have traditionally fished and forced the fisheries farther offshore. This has resulted in de facto reallocated of catch amongst vessels.

There is significant spawning biomass in the 3 to 10 n mile zone of this haul-out that would give more fishing opportunity for the fleet in Area 620. Opening the haul-out to 3 n miles would allow the fleet to spread out their catch effort amongst productive fishing areas and fish closer to areas that offer protection for the fleet increasing vessel safety.

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 that prevents jeopardy under the ESA.

Foreseeable Impacts of Proposal: (Who wins, who loses?)

Trawl vessels fishing opportunities would return to traditional levels under this proposal, at the Cape Ugat haulout. It is unknown if increased trawl fishing for pollock fishing to 3 n miles will impact SSLs.

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.

Relaxing the closure areas for Cape Ugat to 3 n mi from Jan 20 to June 10 would give temporary relief to trawl vessels until GOA rationalization is implemented.

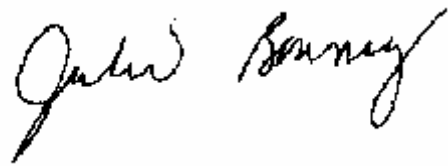
Supportive Data & Other Information: What data are available and where can they be found? Be specific and cite references.

Opening the haul-out to 3 n miles would allow the fleet to spread out their catch effort amongst productive fishing areas and fish closer to areas that offer protection for the fleet increasing vessel safety.

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

None proposed.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Bannay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.