FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Name of Proposer: Alaska Groundfish Data Bank **Date: 8/18/06**
Alaska Draggers Association
Aleutians East Borough
United Fishermen's Marketing Association, Inc
Western Gulf of Alaska Fishermen

Address: P.O. Box 788 Kodiak, Alaska 99615
P.O. Box 991 Kodiak, Alaska 99615
3380 C Street, Suite 205 Anchorage, Alaska 99503
P.O. Box 1035 Kodiak, Alaska 99615
301 Seward St, suite 201 Juneau, Alaska 99801

Telephone: (907)-486-3033
(907)-486-3910
(907)-274-7573
(907)-486-3453
(907)-723-5257

Fishery Management Plan: Gulf of Alaska

Brief Statement of Proposal:
Use a different apportionment scheme for Pacific cod seasons in the GOA.

a. Option 1

Time Period	Percent Quota
Jan 1 to Jun 10	100%
June 10 to Dec 31	0%
Total	100%

b. Option 2

Time Period	Percent Quota
Jan 1 to June 10	80%
June 10 to Dec 31	20%
Total	100%

Suboption: For the June 10 to December 31 allocation the directed fishery would occur on option a) September 1st or option b) October 1st.

In both apportionment schemes above a directed fishery would occur when the quota release becomes available. For the A season, fixed gear would open on January 1st and trawl gear on January 20th. Incidental catch needs for the designated time frame would be reserved to support other fisheries catch needs during the designated time period. Any unharvested quota would be rolled over to next allocation time period. Note that for option b the directed B season fishery would begin either September 1st or October 1st.

Objectives of Proposal: (What is the problem?)
The 60% / 40% allocation of Pacific cod quota between the "A" and "B" seasons has reallocated Pacific cod catch amongst gear groups, increased harvest cost due to undesirable fishing timing, increased trawl halibut bycatch mortality usage in the Pacific cod target fisheries and left Pacific cod quota unharvested.

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 Pacific cod seasonal allocation and start dates that would prevent jeopardy under the ESA.

Foreseeable Impacts of Proposal: (Who wins, who loses?)
From a community perspective the available quotas would more likely be harvested, increasing revenue to fishermen, processors and fishery dependent communities. Fishing during spawning aggregations will reduce harvest cost to fishermen and reduce halibut bycatch mortality. It is difficult to predict whether different gear types would harvest an increased or decreased share of the Pacific cod quota; however, this proposal would more closely realign the fishery to past fishery management practices. Additionally, changing the Pacific cod apportionment with more quota available in the A season will increase harvest opportunity for the local fleet in the Western Gulf.

Are there Alternative Solutions? If so, what are they and why do you consider your proposal the best way of solving the problem?
Both GOA rationalization and a gear split for Pacific cod would assure that the different gear types would be more likely to take their traditional share of the Pacific cod quota. However, the present split of 60%/40% still requires fishing to occur during undesirable time periods when the Pacific cod are not aggregated with lower CPUE and higher halibut bycatch rates.

Gulf rationalization would assure that individual gear types catch their traditional Pacific cod share and give each individual fisherman the ability to develop their preferred fishery seasonal structure within the guidelines set by managers. The Council appears to be committed to GOA rationalization but immediate relief is not available.

The other choice is to do a gear split for Pacific cod, which would allow more flexibility for the different gear groups where individual gear group's seasons could be structured where their catch per unit effort is best. The Council has not been focused on this approach; moving forward with this amendment package would take some time and not offer immediate relief to the industry.

Supportive Data & Other Information: What data are available and where can they be found? Be specific and cite references.
NMFS Catch Gulf of Alaska Groundfish quotas and preliminary catch in metric tons for the years 1996 to 2005
NMFS Catch by gear type reports in metric tons for the years 1996 to 2005
NMFS Prohibited species bycatch rates by gear, area, target, week, processing sector (Excel) for the years 2001 to 2005

Offsetting Measures. OPTIONAL - What protection measures might be increased in the region to offset the proposed action?
No offset measures are offered. Based on the best scientific information available it appears that the summer is more important than the winter time period for sea lions; shifting fishing away from the weaning time period would be favorable to sea lions and industry.

(1) NMFS' Fishery Interaction Team of cod aggregations in fished and unfished areas, coupled with tagging studies documenting seasonal disaggregation of cod, show no localized depletion effects. *See* Conners and Munro, "Localized depletion experiment for Bering Sea Pacific cod," in prep. for submission to the *Fishery Bulletin* (2006).

(2) Recent science suggests that juvenile SSLs are weaned during the summer instead of during the winter. *See* Trites, *et al*., "Insights into the Timing of Weaning and the Attendance Patterns of Lactating Steller Sea Lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) in Alaska During Winter, Spring and Summer," *Aquatic Mammals* 32(1):85-97 (2006). Winter is the most critical fishing time for the groundfish fleets because fish are aggregated. Many of the mitigation measures now in place have reduced the winter fisheries in order, in theory, to protect weaning juveniles. With the new information in hand, the Council and NMFS should have the flexibility to modify those measures to enhance fishing opportunities without adverse effects on the SSL population.

Signature:

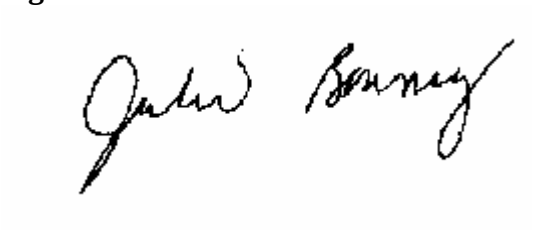

Table 1. Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod quota and total catch by sector by year in Metric Tons
Part A. Central Gulf of Alaska

	Inshore		Offshore		Total			
Year	Quota	Catch	Quota	Catch	Quota	Catch	Remain	% remain
2005	22,577	22,234	2,509	361	25,086	22,595	2,491	9.9%
2004	24,404	25,507	2,712	1,931	27,116	27,438	-322	-1.2%
2003	20,421	22,584	2,269	2,159	22,690	24,743	-2,053	-9.0%
2002	22,311	22,665	2,479	2,393	24,790	25,058	-268	-1.1%
2001	27,225	25,255	3,025	2,066	30,250	27,321	2,929	9.7%
Ave 01-05	23,388	23,649	2,599	1,782	25,986	25,431	555	1.7%
2000	30,672	30,257	3,408	1,928	34,080	32,185	1,895	5.6%
1999	38,642	40,928	4,293	3,619	42,935	44,547	-1,612	-3.8%
1998	37,548	38,031	4,172	3,405	41,720	41,436	284	0.7%
1997	42,321	43,406	1,369	271	43,690	43,677	13	0.0%
1996	38,610	42,213	4,290	5,351	42,900	47,564	-4,664	-10.9%
Ave 96-00	37,559	38,967	3,506	2,915	41,065	41,882	-817	-1.7%

Part B. Western Gulf of Alaska

	Inshore		Offshore		Total			
Year	Quota	Catch	Quota	Catch	Quota	Catch	Remain	% remain
2005	14,118	11,978	1,569	424	15,687	12,402	3,285	20.9%
2004	15,261	14,273	1,696	1,281	16,957	15,554	1,403	8.3%
2003	13,905	14,029	1,545	2,160	15,450	16,189	-739	-4.8%
2002	15,164	15,541	1,685	1,627	16,849	17,168	-319	-1.9%
2001	16,470	12,461	1,830	1,700	18,300	14,161	4,139	22.6%
Ave 01-05	14,984	13,656	1,665	1,438	16,649	15,095	1,554	9.0%
2000	18,563	19,945	2,062	1,915	20,625	21,860	-1,235	-6.0%
1999	21,267	20,197	2,363	2,961	23,630	23,158	472	2.0%
1998	20,853	19,650	2,317	164	23,170	19,814	3,356	14.5%
1997	21,803	22,996	2,422	936	24,225	23,932	293	1.2%
1996	16,965	17,867	1,885	1,896	18,850	19,763	-913	-4.8%
Ave 96-00	19,890	20,131	2,210	1,574	22,100	21,705	395	1.4%

Table 2. Gulf of Alaska Trawl Halibut Mortality usage for the Pacific cod target fishery by year by A and B season

YEAR	SEASON	TGT	MT TGT	MT HAL	%HAL	MT MRT	MRT RTE
2005	A	P COD	8,727.86	206.73	2.37	126.12	0.61
2004	A	P COD	8,178.17	498.21	6.09	303.91	0.61
2003	A	P COD	10,390.31	335.53	3.23	204.67	0.61
2002	A	P COD	15,049.28	307.40	2.04	187.53	0.61
2001	A	P COD	17,962.18	508.86	2.83	310.42	0.61
All	A	P COD	60,307.80	1856.73	3.08	1,132.65	0.61
2005	B	P COD	3,564.43	844.52	23.69	515.16	0.61
2004	B	P COD	8,489.06	1090.61	12.85	665.26	0.61
2003	B	P COD	5,367.42	393.42	7.33	239.99	0.61
2002	B	P COD	0.00	0.00	#DIV/0!	0.00	#DIV/0!
2001	B	P COD	11,593.65	782.34	6.75	477.21	0.61
All	B	P COD	29,014.57	3110.89	10.72	1,897.62	0.61

Table 3. Inshore Sector Pacific cod catch by gear type by year by season (A season = Jan 1 to Sept 1; B season = Sept 1 to Dec 31) in Metric Tons

Part A. Central Gulf of Alaska

Metric Tons

Gear	Season	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
H&L	A season	5,136	6,021	5,860	6,455	6,549	5,480	5,370	3,507	4,646	3,135
	B season	0	176	0	0	0	130	1,112	192	1,151	1,387
	Total	5,136	6,197	5,860	6,455	6,549	5,611	6,483	3,700	5,797	4,522
Pot	A season	10,140	7,563	8,690	11,673	11,423	2,987	2,102	3,031	3,735	4,407
	B season	0	0	0	1,558	0	456	470	26	1,147	3,707
	Total	10,140	7,563	8,690	13,231	11,423	3,443	2,572	3,056	4,882	8,114
Trawl	A season	21,697	20,477	20,332	15,146	11,115	8,701	10,466	11,530	8,936	6,585
	B season	0	5,337	1,837	4,862	0	5,833	0	4,271	5,751	2,976
	Total	21,697	25,814	22,169	20,008	11,115	14,534	10,466	15,801	14,687	9,561
Total	A season	36,974	34,062	34,883	33,274	29,087	17,169	17,939	18,068	17,318	14,127
	B season	0	5,513	1,837	6,420	0	6,419	1,583	4,489	8,049	8,070
	Total	36,974	39,575	36,720	39,694	29,087	23,587	19,522	22,557	25,366	22,197

Percentage

Gear	Season	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
H&L	A season	13.9%	15.2%	16.0%	16.3%	22.5%	23.2%	27.5%	15.5%	18.3%	14.1%
	B season	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	5.7%	0.9%	4.5%	6.2%
	Total	13.9%	15.7%	16.0%	16.3%	22.5%	23.8%	33.2%	16.4%	22.9%	20.4%
Pot	A season	27.4%	19.1%	23.7%	29.4%	39.3%	12.7%	10.8%	13.4%	14.7%	19.9%
	B season	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%	0.0%	1.9%	2.4%	0.1%	4.5%	16.7%
	Total	27.4%	19.1%	23.7%	33.3%	39.3%	14.6%	13.2%	13.5%	19.2%	36.6%
Trawl	A season	58.7%	51.7%	55.4%	38.2%	38.2%	36.9%	53.6%	51.1%	35.2%	29.7%
	B season	0.0%	13.5%	5.0%	12.2%	0.0%	24.7%	0.0%	18.9%	22.7%	13.4%
	Total	58.7%	65.2%	60.4%	50.4%	38.2%	61.6%	53.6%	70.0%	57.9%	43.1%
Total	A season	100.0%	86.1%	95.0%	83.8%	100.0%	72.8%	91.9%	80.1%	68.3%	63.6%
	B season	0.0%	13.9%	5.0%	16.2%	0.0%	27.2%	8.1%	19.9%	31.7%	36.4%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Part B. Western Gulf of Alaska

Metric Tons

Gear	Season	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
H&L	A season	3,774	3,346	3,237	3,924	3,664	3,592	3,595	2,094	1,782	597
	B season	0	0	0	0	0	9	1,851	547	422	238
	Total	3,774	3,346	3,237	3,924	3,664	3,601	5,446	2,641	2,204	836
Pot	A season	1,661	983	983	1,129	4,381	1,209	2,727	6,629	6,933	5,277
	B season	0	0	0	0	0	761	1,686	2,955	3,069	1,293
	Total	1,661	983	983	1,129	4,381	1,971	4,413	9,584	10,002	6,570
Trawl	A season	11,723	17,943	17,943	14,604	11,345	5,796	4,996	1,520	1,755	4,429
	B season	0	0	0	0	0	339	66	238	135	97
	Total	11,723	17,943	17,943	14,604	11,345	6,135	5,062	1,758	1,889	4,526
Total	A season	17,158	22,272	22,163	19,657	19,390	10,598	11,318	10,243	10,469	10,303
	B season	0	0	0	0	0	1,109	3,603	3,741	3,626	1,629
	Total	17,158	22,272	22,163	19,657	19,390	11,706	14,921	13,983	14,095	11,932

Percentage

Gear	Season	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
H&L	A season	22.0%	15.0%	14.6%	20.0%	18.9%	30.7%	24.1%	15.0%	12.6%	5.0%
	B season	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	12.4%	3.9%	3.0%	2.0%
	Total	22.0%	15.0%	14.6%	20.0%	18.9%	30.8%	36.5%	18.9%	15.6%	7.0%
Pot	A season	9.7%	4.4%	4.4%	5.7%	22.6%	10.3%	18.3%	47.4%	49.2%	44.2%
	B season	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.5%	11.3%	21.1%	21.8%	10.8%
	Total	9.7%	4.4%	4.4%	5.7%	22.6%	16.8%	29.6%	68.5%	71.0%	55.1%
Trawl	A season	68.3%	80.6%	81.0%	74.3%	58.5%	49.5%	33.5%	10.9%	12.4%	37.1%
	B season	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	0.4%	1.7%	1.0%	0.8%
	Total	68.3%	80.6%	81.0%	74.3%	58.5%	52.4%	33.9%	12.6%	13.4%	37.9%
Total	A season	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	90.5%	75.9%	73.3%	74.3%	86.4%
	B season	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.5%	24.1%	26.7%	25.7%	13.6%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: Data does not include jig gear catch. Several data sources have been used to compile the data over the years so numbers are approximate due to changes in the different data sets. Most notably 1996 to 2002 is retained catch while 2003 to 2005 is total catch.