

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Name of Proposer: Western Gulf Of Alaska Fishermen, President , Mike Alfieri **Date:**
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Fishery Management Plan: Gulf of Alaska

Brief Statement of Proposal: Allow Cod Trawl fishing at Chernabura Island Rookery to 10 n mi from Jan 20 to June 1 and to 20 n mi from June 1 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 Western 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 reallocation of catch between large and small vessels and caused a concentration of the trawl fleet into the remaining 2 fishing areas available.

Enactment of this proposal will allow the Trawl fleet to spread out and allow a more spatial harvest of the fishery.

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 fishing opportunities would return to traditional levels under this proposal, at the Chernabura Island Rookery. The Chernabura Island Rookery before SSL protection measures was a year round 10 mile Rookery

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 Chernabure Island Rookery to 10 n mi from Jan 20 to June 1 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?

The 10 to 20 n mile zone at the Chernabura Island Rookery offers the fleet a good area to hide from bad weather during winter fishing operations, addressing safety concerns for the fleet as well.

The fleet will also be allowed to spread out and not harvest the quota from predominately 2 areas in the Western Gulf and allow for a temporal and spatial distribution of the harvest.

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

None proposed.

Signature

Joe Chelley for MIKE ALFIERI