

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN or REGULATORY AMENDMENT PROPOSAL  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council – Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee  
Provide the following information – attach additional pages as necessary:

Name of Proposer: **United Catcher Boats**

Date: August 18, 2006

Address: 4005 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. West, Suite 116, Seattle, WA 98199

Telephone: 206-282-2599

Fishery Management Plan: Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

**Brief Statement of Proposal (What is the problem?):** Change the BSAI pollock ‘A’ and ‘B’ season percentage amounts from the present 40/60 percent split to 45/55 percent. This proposal requests the BSAI pollock ‘A’ season allocation be increased to 45% of the TAC. Subsequently, the BSAI pollock ‘B’ season allocation would decrease to 55% of the TAC. Any unharvested ‘A’ season allocation would be rolled over into the BSAI pollock ‘B’ season fishery.

**Need and Justification for Council Action (Why can’t the problem be resolved through other channels?):** The Council has the authority to establish seasonal harvest amounts. No other entity has this authority. Historically, the pollock ‘A’ season allocation has been set at 45%. This percentage split between the two pollock seasons allowed for a timely harvest of both the winter and summer seasons. Pollock schools tend to be more aggregated in the winter months and pollock tend to have greater value in the winter fishery relative to the summer fishery due to the added value of roe. The 5% shift would increase both total revenue and increase the fleet’s efficiency.

**Foreseeable Impacts of Proposal (Who wins, who loses?):** Increasing the BSAI pollock ‘A’ season percentage allocation by 5% will benefit the vessel owners who participate in this fishery due to the overall increased value of the fishery. This is achieved by the increased value of the product forms. Decreasing the amount of the ‘B’ season fishery will also help the pollock coops achieve 100% harvest of their allocations. We do not know of anyone who loses due to this proposal. In addition, if the Council recommends an earlier start date to the BSAI pollock ‘A’ season fishery, then this request of an ‘A’ percentage increase will help optimize the value of the pollock fishery even further. The resulting increase in revenue will benefit fishing vessels, processors, fishing communities, and the State of Alaska. Additionally, pollock roe is an export product; consequently the resulting increase in revenue will result in an economic benefit to the nation.

**Are there alternative solutions? If so, what are they and why do you consider your proposal the best way of solving the problem?** We know of no alternative solutions.

**Supporting Data & Other Information. What data are available and where can they be found? Be specific and cite references.** Previous justification for the 40%

allocation for the BSAI pollock 'A' season in past Steller Sea Lion Biological Opinions was based on the assumption that the early winter time period was a critical time for sea lion pups as this was when they weaned from their mothers. Recent research on timing of pups weaning indicates that the early winter months are not nearly as critical as thought when the shift from a 45/55 AB season was made.

**Offsetting Measures. OPTIONAL – What protection measures might be increased in the region to offset the proposed action?** Require the increased 5% to the BSAI pollock 'A' season be harvested outside of designated Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat areas.

Signature: