

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?):** Propose to change the start date of the BSAI Pollock trawl ‘A’ season fishery to no more than 5 days earlier than the current start date. The problem is that the current start date during some years results in the sub-optimal harvest of roe-baring fish. With the advent of AFA cooperatives, individual coops can bracket, or target the prime time to harvest the pollock ‘A’ season allocation. With the current start date of January 20, when pollock experience an earlier than average spawning event, the fleet is unable to optimize the value of the fishery.

**Need and Justification for Council Action (Why can’t the problem be resolved through other channels?):** The start date for the fishery is set in fishery regulations and cannot be changed without a regulatory amendment. In addition, the current set of SSL management measures that resulted in an ESA “no-jeopardy” finding incorporates the January 20<sup>th</sup> start date for the BSAI pollock fishery.

**Foreseeable Impacts of Proposal (Who wins, who loses?):** Vessels eligible to participate in the BSAI pollock fishery will benefit by being able to target pollock when pollock roe value is at its optimum value. Fishing vessels, processors, local communities, and the State of Alaska would all benefit from the additional revenue. 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.** The main source of data can be found on the recent document (draft EA) prepared by Bill Wilson and Ben Muse for the NPRMC when the Council considered this issue in early 2006.

**Offsetting Measures. OPTIONAL – What protection measures might be increased in the region to offset the proposed action?** Move the ending date of the BSAI pollock ‘A’ season forward the same number of days as the start date. (Close the pollock ‘A’ season fishery on June 5.)

Signature: