



Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition (GOAC3)
 PO Box 201236, Anchorage Alaska 99520
 Phone: (866) 561-7633 or (907) 561-7633 Fax: (907)561-7634
 Web: www.goac3.org Email: goaccc@alaska.net

March 4, 2009

To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2273
Representative Charisse Millett	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2069
Representative Bryce Edgmon	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3445
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4822

Subject: HJR 21 – A Resolution requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Dear Representatives: Austerman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris, and Neuman,

The Board of Directors of the Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition (GOAC3) strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

For far too long the push toward rationalization of fisheries in the North Pacific has been made without consideration of the negative impacts on Gulf of Alaska fisheries-dependent communities. Although, Governor Palin has made it very clear that further rationalization in the Gulf of Alaska should not be pursued, it is evident that the LLP (license limitation program) fixed gear recency amendment package that is now before the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), combined with the recent trawl LLP reduction and the proposed "sector split" is a very real step on the path toward full rationalization without benefit of application of federally mandated community protections.

Gulf of Alaska coastal communities have continually lost access to fisheries resources as a direct result of regulatory action. Many of our communities, that have thrived for millennia, could conceivably become extinct as a result of the last 30 years of regulatory impacts.

We are concerned that pre-Statehood conditions have already returned to our adjacent federal waters. The potential for all federal fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska to be owned by Outside interests in the not-too-distant future is a "clear and present danger."

GOAC3 - Resolution IJR 21 Page 2 3/9/2009

The Gulf of Alaska does not have benefit of a workable community quota program, such as the Western Alaska CDQ (community development quota) that would "anchor" a certain amount of fishing effort in Alaska. The CQE (community quota entity) program for the purchase of halibut and sablefish quota share in the Gulf has not had benefit of either initial issuance of quota or a fiscal note to enable the purchase of quota. Despite the efforts of many over the last several years, the sharp increase in the price of quota has made it infeasible for most Gulf communities to utilize the CQE program for their benefit. The GOAC3 is part of a group effort to work toward pursuing needed language changes and creative funding. But it is only one part of a progressive problem.

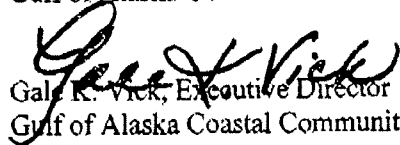
We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution. We further encourage this Resolution to be a message to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that the proposed amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and that any future amendments need to be considered within the context of whether the amendment harms or strengthens affected communities.

Thank you for your effort on behalf of this extremely important issue.

Sincerely,



Freddie Christiansen, Chairman
Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition



Gale K. Vick, Executive Director
Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition

Emil Christiansen Sr.
Old Harbor Native Corp.

Richard George
CCTHITA

Robert Henrichs
NV of Eyak

Patrick Kosbruk
NV of Perryville

Johnny Lind
NV of Chignik Lake

Charles McCallum
Lake & Pen. Borough

Jackie Muller
Ouzinkie Native Corp.

Pat Norman
Port Graham Tribal Council

Arnold Olsen
Koniag, Inc.

Conrad Peterson
Old Harbor Tribal Council

Howard Torsen
Ouzinkie Native Corp.

Charles Totemoff
Chetega Corp.

CC:

Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Fish and Game
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor
John Moller, Rural Advisor
Sarah Palin, Governor

465-2332
465-3532
465-3532
465-3532