HJR 21

<target><bill>HJR 21</bill><subject>HJR 21</subject><comm>HFSH26</comm></target>

[redacted] HOUSE COMMITTEE REPO[redacted]

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: February 27, 2009 **FURTHER REFERRALS:** Resources

Date of Committee Action: 3/10/2009

The HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES considered: **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21**

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 license holder to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

HJR 21 GROUNDFISH FISHERIES LICENSES

Recommends it be replaced with [ ] HCS *or* **[ ] CS** *for* _____ (_____)

For Senate Bills with new title: [ ] Technical Title [ ] New Title: HCR_____ **[ ] Same Title [ ] New Titl**

[ ] attach amendments
[ ] add new referral to _____Committee
[ ] Letter of Intent_____Committee

List of Abbrev for Depts.:
ADM
CED
COR
CRT
EED
DEC
DFG
GOV
DHS
LWF
LAW
LEG
MVA
DNR
DPS
REV
DOT
UA

***NEW* FISCAL NOTES**
*Assigned by Chief Clerk's Office

List by Dept(s):	*FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
				✓

***PREVIOUS* FISCAL NOTES**

List by Dept(s):	FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

Signing with recommendations	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
	Johnson	X			
	Millett	X			
	Kawasaki			X	
	Keller	X			
	Busch			X	
	Munoz	X			
Chair: Bye Edgmon	Edgmon			X	
Chair:					

4200

Representative Alan Austerman

Alaska State Legislature

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chair
House Fisheries Committee

From: Representative Alan Austerman

Date: February 27, 2009

RE: House Joint Resolution 21—Request for Hearing

House Joint Resolution 21 is 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 license holder to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

I am requesting a hearing for HJR 21 at your earliest convenience. Attached you will find a copy of HJR21. I have also provided my sponsor summary, and the relevant motion from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (December 2008). Please note that the proposed action that this resolution addresses is scheduled for action at an NPFMC meeting that begins March 30. Time is therefore important in the consideration of this resolution.

I will provide additional backup as it becomes available. Please let Erin Harrington of my staff know if there is anything else we can provide. Thank you for your consideration.

~ Representing Alaska State House District 36 ~
Akhiok | Igiugig | Iliamna | Karluk | Kodiak | Kokhanok | Larsen Bay | Levelock
Newhalen | Nondalton | Old Harbor | Ouzinkie | Pedro Bay | Port Alsworth | Port Lions

Representative Alan Austerman

Alaska State Legislature

Representative_Alan_Austerman@legis.state.ak.us

Session:
State Capitol, Room 434
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-2487 | (800) 865-2487
(907) 465-4956 (fax)

Interim:
305 Center Ave, Suite 1
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 486-8872
(907) 486-5264 (fax)

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 21

House Joint Resolution 21 requests the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program (LLP) license holder to participate in the Pacific cod fixed gear fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska. It also supports the continuation of the existing LLP program for groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska, and supports a policy of broad participation in the harvest of marine resources in the Gulf of Alaska.

The NPFMC is the federal regulatory body that oversees management of the federal fisheries off the coast of Alaska, in the area from 3 to 200 miles from shore. The NPFMC is currently considering regulatory action that would create and require Pacific cod "endorsements" on Gulf of Alaska fixed gear license limitation program (LLP) licenses in order to harvest the Pacific cod resource. (In this proposed action, "fixed gear" includes pot and longline gear types.) These endorsements would be placed on only those LLPs that have been used in a specific range of recent years. LLPs without Pacific cod endorsements could not be used to fish for Pacific cod. This action renders those LLPs functionally useless and valueless to their owners and increases the barriers for re-entry or new entrance into the Pacific cod fisheries. Of the LLPs that would be impacted by this action, more than 60% are estimated to be owned by Alaska residents.

Pacific cod is among the most important of the fishery resources harvested in federal waters in the Gulf of Alaska. Pacific cod is harvested by four different gear types, and on vessels ranging in size from very small (<30 feet) to relatively large (>100 feet). The greatest number of vessels harvesting Pacific cod in the Gulf of Alaska use pot, longline or jig gear, and the vast majority of these vessels are ≤60 feet in length. This is the core of the coastal Alaska resident fleet in the Gulf of Alaska. Pacific cod are also harvested using trawl gear.

The creation and requirement of Pacific cod endorsements for participation in federal Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska would create significant barriers for new entrants to Alaska's commercial fisheries, and for re-entrance by fishermen who did not participate in a specific range of qualifying years. It would also impact a group of recent fishery entrants who made their fishery investments *after* the qualifying years. Impacted individuals would include young Alaskans and enterprising crewmen looking to advance into ownership positions in the industry.

This action is also likely to lead to consolidation of the fishing fleet and concentration of LLP ownership in fewer hands. Expected results of this action would include consolidation of the Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod fixed gear fleet, fewer crew jobs, less demand for support sector services in Alaska's coastal communities, and increased costs of entry into Gulf of Alaska fisheries.

In absence of a biological concern for resource sustainability, it is important to maintain fisheries with relatively low entry barriers to encourage and allow the entrance of the next generation of fishermen into Alaska's fisheries. While HJR19 carries no legal force, it put the Alaska Legislature on record as supporting a policy of broad participation in Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version:
() Publish Date:

Identifier (file name): 26-LS0668\E
Title: GROUNDFISH FISHERIES LICENSES
Sponsor: Representative Alan Austerman
Requester: House Fisheries Committee

Dept. Affected:
RDU
Component
Component Number

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY 2010**	**FY 2010**	**FY 2011**	**FY 2012**	**FY 2013**	**FY 2014**	**FY 2015**
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )							

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost:

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

Prepared by: House Fisheries Committee
Division
Approved by: Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chair, House Fisheries Committee

Phone 907-465-4451
Date/Time 3/10/2009 10:00 a.m.
Date 3/10/2009

(Revised 9/10/2008 OMB)

North Pacific Fishery Management Council, December 2008
C-2(a) Gulf of Alaska Fixed Gear Recency Motion

The Council directed staff to develop an analysis based upon the following purpose and need statement, components, and options for initial public review. Final action is scheduled for April 2009.

C-2(a) Gulf of Alaska Fixed Gear Recency

Western GOA and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries are subject to intense competition, particularly during the A season, when fish are aggregated and of highest value. Competition among fixed gear participants in the Western GOA and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries has increased for a variety of reasons, including increased market value of Pacific cod products, a declining ABC/TAC, increased participation by harvesters displaced from other fisheries and introduction of capital that has been accrued from participation in rationalized fisheries. Additionally, fishery policies have created incentives that encourage non-traditional efficiency improvements for the less than 60 ft LOA vessel class. The possible future entry of latent effort and disproportionate vessel efficiency would have detrimental effects on LLP holders that have exhibited participation in, and dependence on, the fixed gear Pacific cod fisheries. Many fixed gear vessel owners have made significant investments, have long catch histories, and are dependent on the Western GOA and Central GOA Pacific cod resources. These long-term participants need protection from those who have little or no recent history and who have the ability to increase their participation in the Pacific cod fisheries. At the same time, retaining Federal waters opportunities for small community quota eligible (CQE) communities dependent on access to a range of fishery resources and expanding opportunities in Federal waters for small capacity jig operations is valued to promote community protections at a level that imposes minimal impact on historic catch shares of recent participants.

The intent of the proposed amendment is to prevent the future entry or re-entry of latent fixed gear groundfish fishing capacity that has not been utilized in recent years into the Pacific cod fisheries, and to preserve the traditional vessel operational efficiencies within the fisheries. This requires prompt action to promote stability in the fixed gear sectors of the GOA Pacific cod fisheries, and is expected to be implemented concurrently with the division of GOA Pacific cod among sectors which is currently under consideration. However, this action cannot address continued growth in the waters managed by the State of Alaska.

ALTERNATIVE 1.

No Action. No changes would be made to the current License Limitation Program.

ALTERNATIVE 2.

Add non-severable gear-specific Pacific cod endorsements to fixed gear licenses. Pacific cod endorsements would limit entry into the directed Pacific cod fisheries in Federal waters in the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska.

Component 1— Areas included

Western Gulf
Central Gulf (current LLP endorsement includes West Yakutat)

- Different options may be applied to each management area.

Component 2— Identify and define sectors

The sector definitions for awarding Pacific cod endorsements may be different from those used for the GOA Pacific cod sector split action. The purpose of sector definitions in this action is to allow the Council to select different catch thresholds for the different gear types, operation types, and vessel lengths. Individual licenses may qualify for any combination of a jig, hook-and-line, and pot endorsement if the license meets the respective threshold(s) for the appropriate gear type, operation type, and vessel length.

- Hook-and-line CP
  Option: Hook-and-line CP ≥125
  Hook-and-line CP <125
- Hook-and-line CV
  Option: Hook-and-line ≥60
  Hook-and-line <60
- Pot CP
- Pot CV
  Option: Pot CV ≥60
  Pot CV <60
- Jig
  Exempt vessels using jig gear from the LLP requirement (including the Pacific cod endorsement requirement) that use a maximum of 5 jigging machines, 5 lines, and 30 hooks per line or one line of 150 hooks.

Option: Exempt vessels participating with fixed gear in the Western GOA B season directed Pacific cod fishery from the Pacific cod endorsement requirement.
Suboption: Exempt vessels using pot gear only.

Component 3 – Qualifying years

Option 1: 2000-2006
Option 2: 2002-2006
Option 3: Add the qualifying period January 1, 2007 through:
Suboption 1: June 4, 2008
Suboption 2: December 8, 2008

- Either of these suboptions will be selected in addition to one of the qualifying periods in Option 1 or Option 2.

  Suboption 3: If an LLP license qualifies only when the supplemental range of years in Suboption 1 or Suboption 2 is included, any Pacific cod endorsements granted to licenses under these suboptions would be extinguished upon transfer of the LLP license to another vessel or owner.

- If a GOA hook-and-line catcher processor LLP license holder was a voluntary non-participant in the Freezer Longliner Coalition informal PSC co-op efforts of 2006, 2007, or 2008, and does not qualify under Component 3, Options 1, 2, or 3, the LLP would not be extinguished. If Pacific cod endorsements are a result of this action in the GOA hook-and-line CP sector, the LLP would receive a Pacific cod endorsement.

Component 4 – Catch thresholds

Thresholds shall be based on legally retained catch in the aggregate during all of the qualifying years in the Federal and parallel fisheries (excluding IFQ catch). Separate and distinct thresholds may be determined for each defined sector.

Option 1: All directed Pacific cod 1, 3, or 5 landings (resulting in a Pacific cod endorsement)
Option 2: All directed Pacific Cod 5, 10, 25, or 100 mt (resulting in a Pacific cod endorsement)

Option: Hardship provision. A GOA fixed gear LLP holder who had 5 or more Pacific cod landings in 1999, but had a vessel on which the LLP was used sink in 1999 or 2000, shall be credited with qualifying history so as to obtain a Pacific cod endorsement.

Directed Pacific cod catch is defined as landings made when the directed Pacific cod fisheries are open. For purposes of catch accounting, licenses are credited with deliveries or processing activity recorded up to 7 days after the directed season closes.

Component 5 – Stacked license provisions

Where there are multiple LLPs registered to a single vessel, also known as 'stacking' of LLPs, groundfish harvest history will be fully credited to all stacked licenses, each carrying its own qualifying endorsements and designations.

Component 6 – Capacity/efficiency limits to CV and CP fixed gear LLPs

Add a width restriction (efficiency restriction) on each CV and CP fixed gear LLP license that is eligible to access Pacific cod under this action. The width restriction would be 1 ft of width for each 3 ft of length, and is based on the LOA of the vessel assigned to the license on December 8, 2008. The licenses that are assigned to vessels on December 8, 2008 that exceed the width restriction will be grandfathered at their present LOA. For vessels under construction on December 8, 2008, the width restriction for the license shall be equal to the vessel width upon completion. Vessels would be required to report width measurements to RAM.

Option: Add a simple gross tonnage maximum to licenses.

Component 7 – CQE community resident exemption

CQE community residents currently holding latent, non-qualifying, LLP permits shall retain their LLP and area endorsement(s) and be exempt from the Pacific cod endorsement requirement. A hook-and-line or pot gear endorsement shall be made through (a) a one-time designation at the time the endorsement is issued or (b) designated at the time the first Pacific cod landing is made based on the gear type used. The CQE community resident's LLP, shall not be leased, and can only be transferred to an individual who has lived continuously in the permit holder's CQE community for 24 consecutive months prior to the transfer and who intends to remain a resident of the community. Residency shall be affirmed annually upon renewal. If a CQE community LLP holder with a restricted transfer LLP is no longer a resident of the CQE community or dies without a designated qualified LLP community beneficiary, the community CQE shall designate a qualified individual in the CQE community to hold the restricted transfer LLP.

Option: Restrict exemption to LLPs with a MLOA endorsement less than 60 feet.

Additional information requested

- Additional information on the number of identical stacked licenses that meet the catch thresholds (Component 5).
- Additional information on possible approaches to identifying a maximum length to width ratio or maximum simple gross tonnage for purposes of adding a capacity endorsement to licenses (Component 6).

Native Village of Port Graham

PORT GRAHAM VILLAGE COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 5510 • PORT GRAHAM • ALASKA 99603-5510
907-284-2227 FAX 907-284-2222

March 4, 2009

To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2273
Representative Charisse Millett	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2069
Representative Bryce Edgmon	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3445
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4th 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 Port Graham Village Council strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar

issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely

Patrick Norman Chief Port Graham Village Council

March 1, 2009

Representative Alan Austerman
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislators
120 4th Street Room 3
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Austerman,

I am a nineteen year old, 3rd generation Alaskan fisherman. I grew up in Kodiak and have been going out on commercial fishing boats sine I was three and had the chance to go seining in Alitak with my dad. After graduating high school and attending a couple of semesters in college at UAA, I decided to come back home and fish the federal and state cod fisheries this year. In looking ahead into my future, I am interested in pursuing fishing opportunity in Kodiak and continuing my college career in the off seasons to explore direct marketing opportunity.

However, within this plan I am faced with the reality that opportunity for my generation is quickly diminishing. With the way things are looking, there may not be enough affordable entry level opportunity in enough fisheries to achieve my long term goal. The IFQ rights to fish halibut and sablefish are out of my range and I don't expect much to change there. Now there is an action at the NPFMC to further limit the number of licenses to fish for cod in federal waters. It seems this action is driven by the big industry players that made their mark in fishing under open access and now want to lock up the rights.

Where does this leave people like me? Without being able to answer what will happen to future generations that want to go fishing and live in Kodiak, the State should not support this action moving forward. It is not the job of federal managers to look out for the well being of coastal Alaskans, it is the State's. I have attended a few of these NPFMC meetings and found it all so complicated I did not know where to begin. I know that is true for most of my friends. They don't think the direction we are going in fishing is right but they, like me, don't really know what to do about it.

In reading through the resolution HJR 21, to cease the action to extinguish latent licenses and all the reasons why, I fully support the resolution. At this time we need to stand back and answer some of the basic questions, like the opportunity in the future for kids like me, before charging on ahead. I'm willing to go out on the water and work hard to make a living, but there needs to be a door left open to do it.

Sincerely,

Charlie Peterson

Timothy Clark

From: pomega@gci.net on behalf of F/V Point Omega [pomega@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 1:49 PM
To: Timothy Clark
Subject: HJR 21

March 4, 2009

RE: HJR 21 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 license holder to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

My name is Chris Holland. My husband Ken and I own and operate the 72' F/V POINT OMEGA out of Kodiak and we have been fishing Pacific Cod with pots since 1986. Our entire income is from our fishing operations and we as well as our children and their children live and work out of Kodiak.

We have been spending our hard earned money for the last several years to attend the North Pacific Fisheries Council meetings and try to help keep our community and our fisheries here in this coastal town viable for serious fishermen who actually fish.

The NPFMC is very engaged in this and they are the body that handles fisheries, we don't understand why now you are trying to have the legislature step into an on going action and mess with it. Do you understand the make up of the fishing fleet in our coastal communities? Do you earn your entire living off of working on the sea? I don't know what your situation is but I would really appreciate it if you would let those of us who have been following this issue get some relief.

The P. Cod fishery in the Central Gulf of Alaska has many and varied participants and it has been a fairly stable part of our yearly fishing business plan. We are being impacted here by people who are coming with money from other rationalized programs (like the Bering Sea Crab and the AFA and the CDQ groups) and trying to add our fisheries into their business plan now that they can lease out their crab shares or have a co-op catch their pollock.

The action that you are discussing derailing here is intended rather like other programs that have been done in State fisheries. It is to protect the resource and to protect the people and businesses that have been dependent on this fishery.

Many of the people who may be talking to you about this being a good idea have no stake in this fishery at all. The action is also leaving alone an entry level jig fishery that has half the state water cod in the Kodiak area already and will be able to fish with out endorsements at all in both the federal and the state fisheries.

We would rather that you take on the State water fishery and institute a limited entry program that is fair in State waters than for you to mess up a federal program that

people like us who are sincerely dependent on the P. Cod pot fishery have been helping to craft.

Maybe if I put it in terms of State limited entry programs that people have been working with successfully for years, like salmon and herring you will see what I mean.

The amount of fixed gear LLP's that are being discussed in this action is huge, mostly they were originated by p cod deliveries made during halibut and sablefish operations and most of these LLP's have never been dependent on the p cod fishery at all. In fact they haven't even tried to make a delivery even though we had several years where rationalization was a possibility. The threshold for catch criteria in Component 4 of the recency (endorsement) package hardly shows dependence if you are actually trying to make a living at cod fishing. Once again I would like to point out that there is no such endorsement being recommended for the jig fishery and that it is open to all.
People don't seem to have a problem with the limited entry program for salmon or herring, if you want to fish it and you never did before you buy a permit, in this case you would find a permit with an endorsement for the right area. It makes sense to protect the resource by limiting the amount of effort. If you think about the salmon fishery and the herring fishery and compare what is being done here it is much the same. The resource is getting smaller and the ability to have over 800 permits targeting p cod in the CGOA would have negative impacts on the resource and on those of us who have been fishing here since this fishery was first a viable fixed gear fishery. If we continue to get the kind of big boat participation that is now coming around here since crab rationalization we will soon be unable to make enough money fishing cod to make it worth the effort. This action will still leave way more permits with P cod endorsements than there are people who fish on a yearly basis so there is still opportunity for people to get in as abundance dictates.

Please leave the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to do what they do pretty well and let us get on with our fishing business and not spend all our time worrying about who is going to try and take it away from us next.

Sincerely,

Chris and Ken Holland
F/V POINT OMEGA
PO Box 608
Kodiak, AK 99615

March 4, 2009

Representative Alan Austerman
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature
120 4th Street Room 3
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Austerman,

I strongly support HJR 21. I am a twenty three year old fisherman from the Kodiak village of Port Lions. I have been fishing since I was eleven years old, starting with my dad, Harry (Fuzzy) Nelson. I have seined salmon and herring, longlined halibut and cod, pot fished and trawled. Last year I purchased an LLP and fished it with my dad's boat, the F/V Anna Lisa. I bought a boat of my own last summer and have been fishing hard as crew to help me with my start up costs. Currently, I am a crewman on the F/V Elizabeth F with Capt Stormy Stutes. Fishing is a way of life for me, but I don't want to spend my life as crewman. I need to be able to grow. But each time a new regulation or rule is created that gives away the resources of the Gulf of Alaska to the big players, it diminishes the opportunity I need to make a life for myself. The LLP I bought will be extinguished if the NPFMC takes its planned action at the April meeting. It does not have specified recency to qualify it for continued use under the NPFMC's preferred alternatives. Each new regulation closing off opportunity for people like me helps kill communities like Port Lions, Ouzinkie, Larsen Bay, and Old Harbor. We are Alaska. We live here. We need opportunities to fish. We are not asking for the ownership rights to the North Pacific, we are asking for a right to earn a living in our communities and to contribute to the employment opportunities for our neighbors.

Thank you for HJR 21, perhaps you can help keep the big money interests from extinguishing Alaska's coastal citizens' right to earn a living from the resources right outside our front doors.

Sincerely,
Michael Nelson

Native Village of Chignik Lagoon
PO Box 09
Chignik Lagoon, AK 99565
907-840-2281
FAX 840-2217

March 4, 2009

To:		
Representative Alan Austerman	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2070
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Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4th 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 Chignik Lagoon Village Council strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Clemens Grunert
Chignik Lagoon Village Council President

CC:
The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska 465-2332
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game 465-2332
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor 465-3532
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor 465-3532

3-6-09
P1 of 6

City of Akhiok
P.O. Box 5050
Akhiok Alaska 99615
Ph. No. (907)836-2229
Fax No. (907) 836-2209

FAX COVER LETTER PAGE

TO: All Representatives Concerned **FAX#**
TITLE: **CITY:**
DATE: 3-6-09 **TIME:** 11:30 Am
NO. OF PAGES including cover page.

comments: NO CoD ENDORSEMENT NEEDED
PLEASE LEAVE IT ALONE

SENDER: DAN McCoy **TITLE:** City-Manager
Vice Mayor

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We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

<Your Signature> Dan McCoy
<Your Name, Title> Dan McCoy — City Manager/Vice mayor
<Your Organization> City of Akhiok PH 1-907-836-2229
Fax 1-907-836-2209

CC:
The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska 465-2332
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game 465-2332
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor 465-3532
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor 465-3532

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Iver Holm [skiffman88@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 1:27 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: HJR 21

Honorable Representative Alan Austerman,

My name is Iver Holm and I am a lifelong resident of Kodiak. I am only 21 years old but have fished for many years crewing for salmon seine and set net as well as tanner crab, herring, halibut, and cod jigging. I am in the process of purchasing a 38' boat.

I strongly support HJR 21. My father has an LLP that I could use with my boat but it doesn't have recent history so the pending N.P.F.M.C action would render it useless for cod fishing. LLP's with history are priced so high that I wouldn't be able to afford one for many years, if ever. While I can jig for cod in the state waters season, being able to pot fish for cod in the earlier federal season may be necessary for my boat to be successful. It is clear that being able to switch fisheries based on market conditions and availability of fish is necessary to be successful in small boat fisheries.

I hope that HJR 21 receives support in the Senate and is heeded by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. Thank you for your efforts regarding these important issues.

Sincerely,

Iver Holm

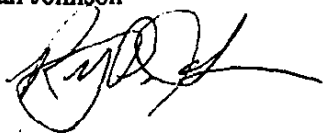
March 6, 2009

My name is Ryan Johnson, and I am a small boat fisherman from Kodiak. I am 36 years old and have fished out of Kodiak since 1993 and resided in Kodiak since 1997. Since 2001 I have participated in the Pacific Cod fishery using pots and longlines on board my very small 38 foot boat, the Cyclone. I currently own a Central Gulf LLP for the Cyclone that is valid for boats up to 46 feet in length, and all of my catch history has been with this LLP. In January of 2008 I purchased a new vessel, the Castle Cape, which is 48 feet long and came with another Central Gulf LLP that does not have any recent history. I've since learned that the NPFMC is attempting to revoke LLPs that don't have any history, which would effectively ban me from a fishery that I have participated in for seven years.

As a year-round resident and home-owner in Kodiak, I depend on several fisheries throughout the year to make my business plan work. Pot fishing for cod in the January and February seasons are crucial to my Winter survival and to the servicing of the debt that I have taken on with my fishing business. I have borrowed substantial sums over the years, not only for my vessels, but for my pots and gear such as haulers, launchers, bait-choppers etc. I employ local crewmembers who also live year-round in Kodiak and have families with small children. It is with great dismay as I watch the Council yet again run roughshod over the majority of Alaskan stakeholders for the good of only a few. Most of the beneficiaries of this action are large boatowners who are approaching or beyond retirement age, and who already received huge private quota allocations in the Halibut/ Sablefish IFQ Program and/or the Bering Sea Crab IFQ Program. If this action passes, the LLPs that are left will take on a much larger value, and I will be forced once again to take on more debt just to continue to participate.

I applaud the efforts of Representative Austerman and others to stand up for working Alaskans and oppose this harmful Council action.

Respectfully, Ryan Johnson



ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF KASAAN
P. O. Box 26-Kasaan * Ketchikan, Alaska 99950-0340
(907) 542-2230 * (fax) 907-542-3006

March 6, 2009

To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99801	Fax 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99801	Fax 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99801	Fax 465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99801	Fax 465-2273
Representative Charisse Millett	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99801	Fax 465-2069
Representative Bryce Edgman	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99801	Fax 465-3445
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99801	Fax 465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99801	Fax 465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99801	Fax 465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99801	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: Auterman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris, and Neuman,

The Organized Village of Kasaan strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recent amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter

Sincerely,

Richard J Peterson

Richard Peterson, President
Organized Village of Kasaan

CC:

The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska	465-2332
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game	465-2332
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532

March 2, 2009

Representative Alan Austerman
State Capitol, Room 434
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907)465-4956 Fax

Re: HJR 21-Grounfish Fisheries Licenses

Representative Austerman:

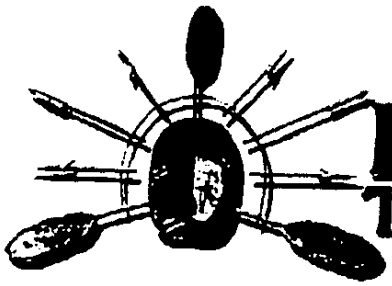
Thank you for your sponsorship of HJR-21, a bill which may hold the key, to the future of many coastal communities and coastal fishermen. As you know, ground fish(Pacific Cod) is an important component of Coastal Alaska's diversified fishing fleets. Maintaining access to these fish stocks is essential to the very survival for many, "boots on deck" active fishermen, fishery support businesses, and local economies.

This bill makes a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council(NPFMC) that the continuation on the road to more rationalized fisheries is not supported by the highest levels of the State of Alaska's government. Viable alternatives to LLP reduction already exist in the form of trip catch limits, tiered permits , exclusive registration, gear limitations, and fishing hours restrictions. None of which are currently being looked at as solutions by the council.

My family and I own/operate a small 45' combination vessel which is home ported in Kodiak. We employ between 6-8 resident crewmembers each year. Our primary fisheries have been halibut, dungeness/tanner crab, and ground fish. All of these fisheries are necessary for us to be solvent and provide year round employment.

I have personally been fishing Pacific Cod for twenty-two years(crewmember-4yrs., hired skipper-14 yrs., boat owner/operator-4yrs). LLP reduction/cod endorsements as written, would exclude us from future participation. Myself and many other active fishermen fall through the cracks in the federal plan.

Regards;
Frank Miles
Frank Miles
F/V Lady Lu-Miles Fish Company Inc.
Box 2744
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907)486-8204 PH



LARSEN BAY TRIBAL COUNCIL

PHONE(907) 847-2307
FAX (907) 847-2307
PO BOX 50
LARSEN BAY
ALASKA 99624

March 6, 2009

To:

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

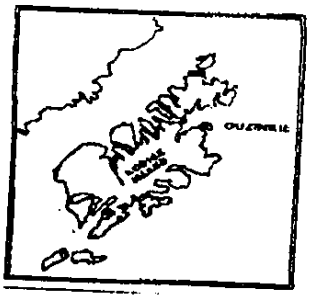
Subject: HJR 21- A resolution requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

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

The Larsen Bay Tribal Council strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co- sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal ground fish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else- the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.



City of Ouzinkie

P.O. Box 109
3rd & C Street
Ouzinkie, AK 99644
Phone (907) 680-2209 Fax (907) 680-2223
cityofouzinkie@ouzinkie.org

March 6, 2009

To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 654-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2273
Representative Charisse Millett	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2069
Representative Bryce Edgmon	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3415
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4822

Re: Support of HJR 21

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

This letter is being sent to you in support of HJR 21. A Resolution you have co-sponsored requesting that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program in order to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution, thereby making a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for our Alaska communities and should be discarded.

Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries that are responsible for our economic well-being. Since 1990 there has been a 35 percent decline in the number of commercial fishermen in the state. Rationalization has created significant barriers for new entrants in the commercial fisheries by increasing costs of access to fishing permits and individual transferable quotas.

This has a far-reaching effect and touches other businesses that provide goods and services to the commercial fishing industry and exist for the support of the industry.

We believe there must be a better approach to the issues than the reduction of individual rights of a person to fish the marine resources that lie at our doorstep. We hope that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council will heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease the consideration for allocation of the GOA Pacific cod resource to the various gear sectors and, also cease the consideration for limiting future entry to the GOA groundfisheries by extinguishing latent LLP licenses.

Sincerely,

Zack Chichenoff
Mayor

CC:
The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska Fax 465-2332
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fax 465-2332
Cora Cromo, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor Fax 465-3532
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor Fax 465-3532

NATIVE VILLAGE OF PORT LIONS

PORT LIONS TRADITIONAL TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 69
PORT LIONS, AK 99550
PH: (907) 454-2234
FX: (907) 454-2434

March 6, 2009

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

Port Lions
Kodiak Island

Subject: HJR 21 – A Resolution requesting the North Pacific Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific code 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 Native Village of Port Lions strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

March 6, 2009
House of Representatives
Subject: HJR 21
Page 2 of 2 (continued)

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

NATIVE VILLAGE OF PORT LIONS
IVAN D. LUKIN, PRESIDENT

Susan Boskofsky
Administrator

cc:

The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska	465-2332
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game	465-2332
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532

SB/mrw

COUNCIL ANNETTE ISLANDS RESERVE

METLAKATLA INDIAN COMMUNITY

KARL S. COOK, MAYOR
DIANA M. YLINIEMI, SECRETARY
NATHAN W. FAWCETT, TREASURER

ESTABLISHED 1887

POST OFFICE BOX 8
METLAKATLA, ALASKA 99926
PHONE (907) 886-4441
FAX (907) 886-7997

TO:

DATE: 03/09/08

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	FAX: 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	FAX: 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	FAX: 465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	FAX: 465-2273
Representative Charisse Millett	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	FAX: 465-2069
Representative Bryce Edgmon	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	FAX: 465-3445
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	FAX: 465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	FAX: 465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	FAX: 465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4th 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 Metlakatla Indian Community strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal ground fish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The Life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package.

Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economics of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important manner.

Sincerely,

Karl S. Cook

Karl Cook, MIC Mayor
Metlakatla Indian Community

Cc:

The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska	465-2332
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish & Game	465-2332
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532

Chignik Lagoon Village Corporation
3917 Macinnes
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

March 4, 2009

To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska	Fax 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska	Fax 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska	Fax 465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska	Fax 465-2273
Representative Charisse Millet	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska	Fax 465-2069
Representative Bryce Edgemon	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska	Fax 465-3445
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska	Fax 465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4th St., Juneau Alaska	Fax 465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska	Fax 465-3799
Representative Mark Newman	120 4th St., Juneau Alaska	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 to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the gulf of Alaska.

Dear Representatives: Austerman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millet, Edgemon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris, and Newman,

The Chignik Lagoon Village Corporation, strongly supports HJR 21 that is before you at this time.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and the State of Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it does not matter whether you call this rationalization or something else, the result would be the same. If we continue down this path at some point in the future all our federal waters gulf fisheries could be fully owned by "outside" interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong

statement to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council that this amendment package is not for the good for the gulf communities and should be scrapped. The council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP Recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Gregorio, President

Rhonda Gregorio President Chignik Lagoon Village Corporation

509 1st Street
P.O. Box 1388
Cordova, Alaska 99574-1388
Ph (907) 424-7738 * Fax (907) 424-7739

Native Village of Eyak

10,000 years in our Traditional Homeland, Prince William Sound & The Copper River Delta

March 4, 2009

To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2273
Representative Charisse Millett	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2069
Representative Bryce Edgmon	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3445
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4th 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 Native Village of Eyak strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

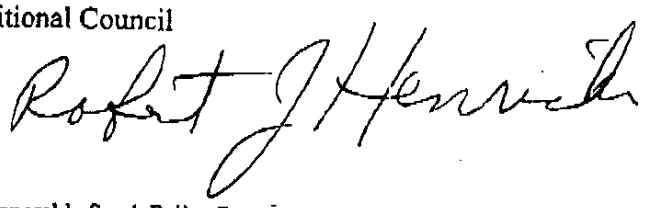
The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Henrichs
President
Traditional Council



CC:

The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska	465-2332
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game	465-2332
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532

March 9, 2009

To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-2273
Representative Charisse Millett	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-2069
Representative Bryce Edgmon	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-3445
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-4822

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 Chignik Lake Traditional Council strongly supports House Joint Resolution # 21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

John Lind
Chignik Lake Traditional Council President

CC:
The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
John Moller, rural Advisor, Office of the Governor

907-465-2332
907-465-2332
907-465-3532
907-465-3532

'Pass to the Future'

SHAAN SEET INC

Representative Alan Austerman
120 4th St.
Juneau, Alaska 99802

March 9, 2009

To: Representative Alan Austerman

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 Representative: Austerman,

Shaan-Seet Inc. strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

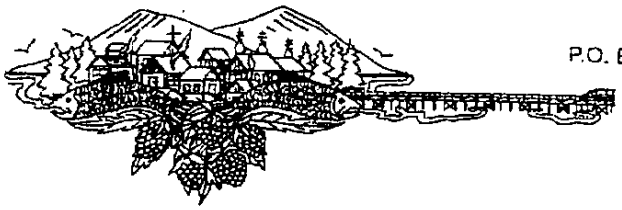
We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

James H. Carle
President
Shaan-Seet, Inc

P.O. Box 690 • Craig, Alaska 99921 • 907-826-3251 • Fax 907-826-3980



City of Port Lions Administrative Office
P.O. Box 110 Port Lions, Alaska 99550 • Phone: (907) 454-2332 • Fax: (907) 454-2420
E-mail: cityofportlions@hotmail.com

Dear Representative Alan Austerman,

The City of Port Lions strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else - the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf Fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP regency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Steve Andresen, Mayor

City of Port Lions

Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc.
1400 W. Benson Blvd., Suite 425 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone: (907) 258-0604 • Fax: (907) 258-0608

March 9, 2009

To: Representative Alan Austerman
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.
Representative Jay Ramras
Representative Cathy Munoz
Representative Charisse Millett
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Paul Seaton
Representative Peggy Wilson
Representative John Harris
Representative Mark Neuman

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,

Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc. strongly supports House Joint Resolution 21 that you have co-sponsored. Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc. is the Alaska Native Village Corporation for the Alutiiq villages of Akhiok and Kaguyak on the southeast coast of Kodiak Island.

We are deeply concerned that the current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal ground fish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our village and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it does not matter whether it is called rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal water Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass HJR 21 and thereby send a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that their amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

David D. Goade, President & CEO
Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor

KONIAG
INCORPORATED

March 5, 2009

To:

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

Subject: HJR 21

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

Koniag Inc, strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored. We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action toward reducing existing federal ground fish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with the proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

As it was for generations of Alutiiq people before us, the life blood of our village and regional hub communities depend upon access to marine resources. Fisheries are the only economic engine in many coastal communities; the source of small business development and self reliance. The opportunity to participate in fisheries represents many things to Kodiak including thriving resident families and increasing regional infrastructure.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that their present amendment package is not good for Alaska's communities.

Sincerely,

Charlie Powers, Vice President Corporate Affairs

cc:

The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska	465-2332
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game	465-2332
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532

104 Center Ave, Suite 205
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 486-2530
FAX (907) 486-3325
www.koniag.com

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

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 R. 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 Chenega Corp.

CC:

Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Fish and Game	465-2332
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor	465-3532
John Moller, Rural Advisor	465-3532
Sarah Palin, Governor	465-3532

To: House Fishery Committee
Re: House Joint Resolution # 21
Date: March 9, 2009

My name is Julie Bonney and I live in Kodiak. I represent fishermen that have License Limitation Permits (LLPs) that are endorsed for fixed gear in the GOA. Some of these fishermen will not receive a Pacific cod endorsement while other will if the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council or NPFMC) implements the recency action. Overall these fishermen realize that the Council must manage the fishery resource for sustainability, management easy and economics of the fishery. We do not support House Joint Resolution 21.

The resolution pits Alaskans against Alaskans both individually as well as individuals within communities. Those Alaskan's that are historically dependent on the Federal Pacific cod fishery against those Alaskan's that have not participated in the fishery. Basically this resolution puts the Alaska Legislators squarely in the middle of fish allocation decisions. However, you have not been involved in the lengthy Council public process over the last two years to understand the debate. The resolution is poorly written, contains many inaccuracies and totally misrepresents what the Council recency action hopes to accomplish.

The reality is that the recency amendment package tries to balance protecting historically dependent license holders yet create entry level opportunities for new participants at a modest level. Below is a set of questions and responses that will help you understand whether this action is good for Alaska and compares this action with the State of Alaska limited entry system that is in place for many state fisheries.

Who wins and looses based on the recency threshold of one landing for the time period 2000 to 2006?

1) The recency action will increase Alaska ownership for those licenses that receive a P cod endorsement in the overall license pool (see table 1 attached), assumes recency threshold of 2000 to 2006.
For the WGOA, there are presently 264 endorsed licenses, 58% of these licenses are held by Alaskans and 42% are held by non-Alaskans. If the recency P cod endorsement amendment package moves forward then Alaska ownership will increase by 11% to 69% and non-Alaska ownership will decrease by 11% to 31%.

   For the CGOA, there are presently 883 CGOA endorsed licenses, 69% are held by Alaskans and 31% are held by non-Alaskans. If the recency P cod endorsement amendment package moves forward with one landing 2000 to 2006 then Alaska ownership will increase by 11% to 80% and non-Alaska ownership will decrease by 11% to 20%.

2) The recency action will not disproportionately disadvantage small boat vessels (see table 2 attached), assumes recency threshold of 2000 to 2006.

   For the WGOA there are presently 154 licenses for the vessels less than 60 foot and 110 licenses for vessels 60 feet or greater, 58% versus 42% respectively. After recency the number of licenses with P cod endorsements would be approximately 76 licenses for less than 60 feet and 23 licenses for 60 feet and greater, 77% and 23% respectively. The pool of licenses will increase by 19% for the less than 60 foot vessel class.

   For the CGOA there are presently 702 licenses for the vessels less than 60 foot and 181 licenses for vessels 60 feet or greater, 80% versus 20% respectively. After recency the number of licenses with P cod endorsements would be approximately 240 licenses for less than 60 feet and 59 licenses for 60 feet and

greater, 80% and 20% respectively. The pool of licenses available for the less than 60 foot vessel class will not change.

3) The recency action will remove a large portion of the Catcher processor licenses endorsed for the Western and Central GOA. Removing Catcher Processors will reduce competition with the Catcher Vessel sector for the available quota. Catcher Processors compete with the Catcher vessel sector if they are less than 125 ft and process less than 126 MT per week for the available Pacific cod quota. In the CGOA CP licenses that could participate in the Pacific cod fisheries would be reduced by 80% and in the WGOA by 48% if one landing from 2000 to 2006 is the recency threshold.

Why are there so many licenses available in the GOA?
The Limited License Program (LLP) limits access to the Federal groundfish in the GOA. Fishing under the program began in 2000. The LLP defined a general qualification period (GQP) and an endorsement qualification period (EQP) both of which must have been satisfied. The GQP period is from Jan 1988 – June 27, 1992 requiring one landing of any groundfish and the EQP requiring one landing for < 60 ft vessels and one landing in at least two calendar years from Jan 1, 1992 to June 17, 1995 for vessels equal to or greater than 60 feet. Vessels that landed two to three groundfish, which could be taken incidentally in other fisheries, qualified a vessel for a license. This was a minimal threshold that created a large number of licenses and gave license holders the opportunity to invest and participate in the groundfish fisheries. The action now being considered by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council examines whether LLP holders actually took advance of the opportunity. The recency action is considering minimal thresholds for a period of up to 2000 to 2008, a nine year period.

Presently, there are more LLP licenses available than the fishery can support. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has stated that if all LLPs participated in the Pacific cod fishery that they would have no choice but to close the fishery since it would be unmanageable.

How does this action compare to the limited entry system in place for State fisheries?
The state of Alaska limited entry system that is in place for many state fisheries such as salmon and herring is no different than the license limitation system in place for federal fisheries for the Gulf of Alaska. In either case license holders' race for the available common quota; quota is not allocated to individuals.

In the first stage of the state limited entry system, a fishery is limited by adopting a "maximum number" of permits and issuing those permits to the highest ranking applicants under a hardship ranking ("point") system. By law and court decision, the maximum number for a fishery should be no less than the highest participation level in any one of the four years immediately prior to the qualification date.

In the second stage of limited entry, the law directs the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (commission or CFEC) to determine an "optimum number" for the fishery. The optimum number should represent a reasonable balance of three general standards specified in the law (see AS 16.43.290). The three standards include economic, resource conservation, and management concerns.

The federal action is much less restrictive then state limited entry system since the qualification period for the federal action at a minimum is five years (2002 – 2006) and at a maximum is nine years (2000 to 2008) compared to four years for the state system. In other words, state limited entry is more restrictive with regards to recent participation than what is being considered for the federal action.

How many licenses will remain after a recency action? (See table 4)
The number of licenses that will be endorsed for Pacific cod would be appropriately 200% of the average number of licenses that has participated in the fishery from 2000 to 2008 if the threshold time period of 2000 to 2006 was adopted.

Jig sector entry level opportunity?
The NPFMC is considering exempting jig gear from any LLP requirements or Pacific cod endorsements. In addition the Council is considering allocating this sector a non-historical share of the Pacific cod federal quota in the sector split amendment package. Typically Jig gear cannot compete with the other sectors during the winter months and typically jig gear harvests less than 1% of the available federal quota. The sector split amendment is contemplating allocating 5% of the federal TAC to these participants. Most jig gear operations do not have an LLP but instead participate inside the state parallel zone of 0 to 3 miles. With the exemption vessels would have access to fishing grounds from 0 to 200 miles and up to 5% of the federal quota.

For Alaskan's this opportunity is much more viable then leaving a bunch of licenses in the fixed gear sectors available for any US citizen to access. Jig gear is really only viable for Alaskan residents since the fishery is not efficient enough for non-residents. Weather impacts the fishery and trip ex-vessel values are usually less than $2,500 per trip. It only makes sense for residences that live in Alaskan coastal communities. Additionally, cod jigging is a good supplemental income for many fishing operations in the winter and spring months. If the Council stops action on the recency action then the jig sector opportunities would most likely be stopped since this is part of the trade off for the overall action of recency and sector splits.

How can fishermen enter the Pacific cod fishery?
There are many methods to access the Pacific cod resource in the GOA besides receiving a Pacific cod endorsement for an LLP. These options included:

1) Fish in the parallel fishing zone without a cod endorsed LLP.
2) Participate in the State of Alaska Pacific cod fisheries which have been allocated 25% of the federal Acceptable Biological Catch limit.
3) Buy a LLP with an endorsement from another license holder.
4) Participate in the newly created Jig fishery (if both the recency and sector split actions move forward).
5) Participate in the WGOA B season which would allow an LLP holder to participate (no P cod endorsement required).

Why protect License holders?
According to Alaska statue "Economically healthy fishery" is defined in AS 16.43.990(2) as follows:
(2) "Economically healthy fishery" means a fishery that yields a sufficient rate of economic return to the fishermen participating in it to provide for, among other things, the following:
(A) Maintenance of vessels and gear in satisfactory and safe operating condition;
And
(B) Ability and opportunity to improve vessels, gear and fishing techniques, including, when permissible, experimentation with new vessels, new gear, and new techniques.

Allowing excessive entry will not provide for an economically healthy fishery. Data in the Council analysis for gross revenues data indicate that the majority of fixed gear catcher vessel and catcher processor licenses that did not have any qualified fixed gear landing during the proposed qualifying period elected to participate in other Alaska fisheries during this period.

Out of 264 Western GOA licenses, there are 171 licenses that did not have any qualified landings during 2000-2006. However, 144 of the 171 licenses had landings in other Alaska fisheries. Western GOA licenses that did not have directed Pacific cod landings, but were active in other fisheries, had revenues mainly from the IFQ halibut (35.4%) and sablefish (21.4%) fisheries, and the BSAI trawl fisheries (31.1%). Less than 1% of revenues were from GOA Federal (0.8%) or State waters (0.3%) fixed gear fisheries. In contrast, most Western GOA licenses that had at least one fixed gear groundfish landing during 2000-2006 also participated in the State waters Pacific cod fisheries (72 of 93 licenses), and many licenses had landings in the Central GOA fixed gear Federal fisheries (20 licenses). The majority of active Western GOA licenses also had shellfish, salmon, and IFQ halibut landings. Gross revenues for licenses with qualified Western GOA landings were from IFQ halibut landings (29.5%), shellfish (33.4%), and salmon (19.9%). Notably, GOA trawl groundfish fisheries comprised 18.8% of revenues for licenses with at least one qualified landing, and landings from the Western GOA directed Pacific cod fishery comprised only 11.0% of gross revenues.

Of 883 Central GOA licenses, 614 licenses did not have at least one directed Pacific cod landing during 2000-2006; 500 of these non-qualified licenses had landings in other Alaska fisheries. Similar to nonqualified Western GOA licenses, the majority of revenues by these licenses were from IFQ halibut (35.0%) and sablefish (21.3%), and the BSAI trawl fisheries (13.6%). Only a small proportion of revenues by these licenses were from the fixed gear groundfish fisheries in the Western GOA (0.7%) or from the GOA State waters Pacific cod fisheries (1.4%). Most Central GOA licenses that made at least one directed Pacific cod landing during 2000-2006 also participated in the halibut IFQ fisheries (226 of 269 licenses). These licenses also fished for salmon (164 licenses), IFQ sablefish (141 licenses), State GOA Pacific cod (140 licenses), and shellfish (123 licenses). Revenues by active licenses were from halibut IFQ landings (45.1%), followed shellfish (10.3%). Directed Pacific cod landings from the Central GOA comprised 10.0% of gross revenues by Central GOA licenses with at least one qualified landing during 2000-2006.

When comparing annual gross revenues per license, the most apparent difference between catcher vessel licenses with directed Pacific cod landings and licenses without qualified landings is that they are participating in a different suite of fisheries. Western GOA CV licenses with at least one qualified CV landing during 2000-2006 had annual gross revenues of $274,608 per license. In contrast, Western GOA CV licenses without qualified landings had substantially higher revenues, averaging $622,658 per license. There was not a large difference between annual gross revenues for Central GOA CV licenses with qualified fixed gear landings ($319,458) and without qualified landings ($353,067). Many of the fisheries that non-qualified licenses participate in are difficult for Pacific cod dependent license holders to enter. Entry for the following fisheries -- IFQ sablefish, IFQ halibut, IFQ BSAI crab, AFA pollock and state limited entry fisheries such as salmon and herring – all would come at a substantial cost to gain access for participation. Allowing other non-dependent LLPS to enter the GOA Pacific cod fishery seems with limited costs seems wholly unfair to these economically depend fixed gear participation.

In conclusion my member fishermen do not support HJR #21. We believe the appropriate forum to advocate for fish allocations and management of fisheries resources is at the respective fishery management bodies – the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions regarding the fixed gear recency amendment package.

Sincerely,
Julie Bonney
Tel: 907-486-3033
e-mail: jbonney@gci.net

The data below is extracted from the most recent fixed gear recency analysis by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and can be found on the web at:
http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/pcod/fixedgearrecency309.pdf.

Table 1. Comparison of residency of Catcher Vessel LLPs – Alaskan versus Non-Alaskans – All licenses versus licenses that would receive a Pacific cod endorsement with a directed Pacific cod landing for 2000 to 2006

	Total # of Fixed gear LLPs		Fixed gear LLPs w 1 landing	
WGOA	WG endorse	Percentage	1 landing	Percentage
Alaska	153	58%	64	69%
Oregon	8	3%	1	1%
Washington	92	35%	26	28%
Other States	11	4%	2	2%
Non-Alaskan TOT	111	42%	29	31%
Grand Total	264	100%	93	100%

	Total # of Fixed gear LLPs		Fixed gear LLPs w 1 landing	
CGOA	CGOA endorse	Percentage	1 landing	Percentage
Alaska	607	69%	215	80%
Oregon	48	5%	11	4%
Washington	183	21%	21	8%
Other States	45	5%	22	8%
Non-Alaskan TOT	276	31%	54	20%
Grand Total	883	100%	269	100%

Table 2. Comparison of < 60 foot and > = 60 foot Catcher Vessel LLPs All licenses versus licenses that would receive a Pacific cod endorsement with a directed P cod landing for 2000 to 2006.

WGOA	<60 ft	>=60 ft	Total
Hook-n-line	6	1	7
Jig	9	0	9
Pot	61	22	83
Total	76	23	99
% w/ 1 landing	77%	23%	100%
All licenses	154	110	264
% all licenses	58%	42%	100%

CGOA	<60 ft	>=60 ft	Total
Hook-n-line	159	10	169
Jig	18	1	19
Pot	63	48	111
Total	240	59	299
% w/ 1 landing	80%	20%	100%
All licenses	702	181	883
% all licenses	80%	20%	100%

Note: the number of endorsements for licenses is higher when compared to table 1 since some licenses qualify for multiple gear endorsements, 6 licenses in the WGOA and 30 licenses in the CGOA.

Table 3. Catcher Processors licenses endorsed for WGOA / CGOA and status after 2000- 2006 threshold requirement.

Category	WGOA	CGOA
W/ one landing	16	10
All licenses	31	49
% licenses w/ P cod	52%	20%
% reduction	48%	80%

Table 4. Average # of LLPS participating from 2000 to 2008 compared to potential LLPs with one landing from 2000 to 2006 that would qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement.

Area	Ave # LLP (00 - 08)	LLP w/1 land	Percentage
WGOA	46	93	203%
CGOA	134	269	201%

Kozak & Associates, Inc.
P. O. Box 2684 - Kodiak, Alaska 99615
Phone 907-486-8824 - Cell 907-539-5585 - Fax 907-486-6963
E-Mail - kozak@alaska.com

COMMENTS ON HJR 21- March 2009

In reviewing HJR 21, I have concerns regarding the resolution that I would like to address. These concerns are divided into three categories in the hope to more efficiently articulate my thoughts. My proposal to the North Pacific Council can be found at the end of this document.

History of the Issue and Some Facts

In regard to HJR 21, I wonder how many members of the Legislature or staff have bothered to read the 80-page analysis or reviewed the problem statement or the history of this issue. In 1999, the Council, at the request of industry, began working on a comprehensive program that would provide individual fishing quotas for the Pacific cod fishery participants in the Gulf of Alaska. By April of 2003, the Council was prepared to begin discussions on a preliminary alternative for defining the program. The full analytical process began and for three years, hearings were held.

In 2006, shortly after a change in administration, the State of Alaska successfully removed the IFQ alternatives from the discussion and instead began to look at stabilizing the Pacific cod fishery by revising the limited entry licenses that are in place for groundfish and for creating sector allocations. The recency proposal was to provide for a specific endorsement to fish in the directed Pacific cod fishery and participation in that directed fishery would be necessary in order to receive the endorsement. It is important to note that when the original groundfish licenses were initially distributed that any landing of any type of groundfish qualified a person to receive the license. The proposal now is to simply provide a directed Pacific cod endorsement for those who have actually fished Pacific cod in the last nine or ten years.

The North Pacific Council has been dealing with the Pacific cod issue since 1999 and final action on this item is scheduled for April of this year. There has been plenty of time for people to provide comments and recommendations in the last ten years. Many Alaskan fishermen who are dependent on this fishery support the Council moving forward and providing some stability in this fishery.

Agency Authority for Fishery Management

For the state waters fisheries including salmon and herring, the authority to manage lies with the Alaska Board of Fisheries, with limited entry proposals being addressed by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. For the federal fisheries, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is tasked with recommending to the Secretary of Commerce various management and allocation decisions, as well as limiting access to the resource. Each of these bodies has a process for their decision-making, which includes proposals, analysis, hearings, and appeals. In regard to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the governor of the State of Alaska is represented by the ADF&G Commissioner or designee and there are five other Alaskans on the Council.

When the United States Congress or Alaska Legislature intervene in the management of fishery issues, problems are inevitable. Many times elected officials have been lobbied on an issue by a segment of the industry focused on achieving a specific goal, and they approach a friendly elected face to promote that idea. It is often the case that the information presented is lacking or even misleading and very little time is spent on attempting to understand the issue.

Specific Concerns Regarding the Resolution

The resolution is specific to limited entry, but the WHEREAS statements mix limited entry with individual fishing quotas which results in a confusing and misleading document.

Some observations regarding specific sections are shown below:

Page 2, line 6:
The action in question is only for the federal waters and inside three miles, which are state waters, no limited entry exists. This is confusing.

Page 2, line 12:
The North Pacific Council under the leadership of the State of Alaska, in fact, reversed course in 2006 and is now only focused on the limited entry aspects of the fishery. This is not considered "rationalization" and should not be confused with an IFQ or cooperative fishery.

Page 2, line 16:
Limited entry is not known as "rationalization".

Page 2, line 18:
The action being considered is not "rationalization" and other limited entry programs such as salmon and herring have not demonstrated significant job losses or consolidation, rather they have served to stabilize the industry.

Page 2, line 20:
The action being considered will not have negative impacts on businesses in coastal Alaska. Again, the action will not promote consolidation or job loss.

Page 2, line 22:
Active participation in a fishery is considered by some to be owner on board, while others consider it to be a vessel owner who hires a qualified skipper and crew to run their vessel. The tradition in the Pacific cod fishery in the Gulf is for some owner on board and some hired skipper situations. This will not change in the limited entry action being considered.

Page 2, line 25:
This statement does not appear to be factual.

Page 2, line 27:
All limited entry fisheries have some entry costs. The cost for entering the Pacific cod fishery will be substantially less than that for many salmon or herring fisheries in the state. This statement seems to say that all fisheries should revert to open access. Most salmon or herring permit holders would not agree.

Page 3, lines 15 - 29:
It is difficult to agree that all groundfish fixed gear licenses without a cod endorsement would be valueless. If you have never fished for Pacific cod and don't get an endorsement to fish Pacific cod in the directed fishery, you have lost nothing.

Page 4, line 2:
A limited entry program is not a natural progression towards "rationalization".

Page 4, lines 4 - 12:
The number of participants will not decline under one of the Council's alternatives. Instead it will simply grant an endorsement to participate in the directed Pacific cod fishery for those who already are or have even made one landing since 2000. No jobs will be lost or demand reduced for shore side support or services.

Proposal for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
The proposal that I have been promoting for some time is that if anyone has demonstrated dependence in the last ten years by either purchasing a license or making even one landing, they would receive a fully transferable Pacific cod endorsement. This seems very generous and would not shut anyone out of the fishery. If you haven't made even one landing in ten years, you aren't dependent on the fishery.

In speaking with Council staff, there are about 900 groundfish licenses in the Central Gulf and around 300 in the Western Gulf for fixed gear. If the Council chose to award Pacific cod endorsements for those vessel owners who have made at least one landing in the last ten years, regardless of poundage, this would result in around 300 licenses in the Central Gulf and 150 in the Western Gulf. This action would provide stability for the fleet that is dependent on the fishery, demonstrated by their actual participation

The Council action would not preclude halibut IFQ harvesters from retaining cod taken incidentally, nor would it limit in any way the jig fishery. Of course, the state waters fishery has no license restrictions.

United Cook Inlet Drift Association

43961 K-Beach Road, Suite E • Soldotna, Alaska 99669 • (907) 260-9436 • fax (907) 260-9438
• info@ucida.org •

March 10, 2009

Representative Alan Austerman
State Capitol, Room 434
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HJR 21

Dear Representative Austerman:
United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) represents some 585 Upper Cook Inlet salmon fishing families. Many of our members use their salmon fishing vessels in the spring and fall cod fishery in Cook Inlet and Kodiak areas. For many younger families and fishermen, this fishery is where they enter a career of professional commercial fishing. The current action before the North Pacific Fishery Management Council closes this fishery to new entrants and removes unused permits. It is essential that fisheries remain open for new, often younger fishermen to enter fisheries without the economic challenges of needing to purchase harvesting privileges, IFQ's or a limited entry permit. We fully support HJR 21.

Sincerely,

Roland Maw, PhD
UCIDA Executive Director

ams

Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association

P.O. Box 991
Kodiak, AK
99615
(907) 486-3910
alaska@ptialaska.net

March 9, 2009

To: House Fisheries Committee
Re: House Joint Resolution 21

Dear Committee Members:

The Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association urges you to NOT SUPPORT HJR21. AWTA represents approximately 40 trawl vessels that fish out of Kodiak.

The resolution seeks to stop the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (NPFMC) consideration of a recency amendment package regarding the Pacific cod fishery in the Gulf of Alaska.

The NPFMC's recency amendment package, seeks to protect those fishermen who have historically fished Pacific cod, while establishing a clear path for future entrants into the fisheries. At the same time it allows new interests to the fishery. It protects the interests of those who took all the risks and financial commitments to develop and set the foundations of Kodiak's cod fisheries.

Another big consideration regarding HJR 21, is that it puts the legislature in the position of regulating and making decisions on fisheries that are most appropriately handled by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and by the Alaska Board of Fish.

The resolution puts the Legislature smack-dab-in-the-middle of fish allocation issues that will pit Alaskans against other Alaskans. That is not an appropriate place for legislators, nor is it appropriate to manage fish allocation issues by legislative resolution. It sets a bad precedent that will leave Alaska's fishermen and Alaska's fish resource the worse for it.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Thank you in advance for stopping this travesty of fisheries management from moving forward.

Sincerely,

Alvin R. Burch
Executive Director
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association

Alvin R. Burch
P.O. Box 848
Kodiak, AK 99615
907 486-3910
Alaska@ptialaska.net

F/V DAWN & F/V DUSK
Kodiak, Alaska

March 9, 2009

To: House Fisheries Committee
Re: House Joint Resolution 21

Dear Committee Members:

I have lived in Alaska since Territorial days, 40 years of it here in Kodiak. I've fished Alaska waters for more than 50 years. I've also been involved in fish politics and am familiar with the process of fish management conducted by the Alaska Fish Board and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC).

Based on that I am opposed to HJR 21 and urge you to stop progress of the measure in the legislature.

I have two main reasons to oppose HJR 21.

1) It pits one group of Alaska fishermen against another group of Alaska fishermen.

2) It does that by injecting the legislature into the middle of fishery allocation issues that are best left to the NPFMC and the Fish Board.

The resolution seeks to stop the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (NPFMC) consideration of a recency amendment package regarding the Pacific cod fishery in the Gulf of Alaska.

The NPFMC's recency amendment package, is designed to protect those fishermen who have historically fished Pacific cod, while establishing a clear path for future entrants into the fisheries. The package is a result of the long process of public testimony, scientific input and many months of deliberation.

The package does not take anything away from anyone that has participated in the fixed gear Pacific cod fishery. Yet it allows new entrants to the fishery. The package is necessary because it prevents people from taking a fishery away from those who have traditionally fished—those who have made it possible to even have a successful cod fishery for the new-comers to enter.

I thank you for taking my concerns into consideration. I trust that you will uphold the integrity of the resource management systems in place to take politics out of decisions that are best made by biologists and fish managers at the Council and Fish Board level.

Sincerely,

Alvin R. Burch
Owner

PUBLIC REVIEW

DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/REGULATORY IMPACT REVIEW/
INITIAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS

for a Proposed Amendment to the
Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish
of the GOA Management Area
to

ADD PACIFIC COD ENDORSEMENTS TO WESTERN AND CENTRAL GOA FIXED GEAR LLP LICENSES

Prepared by staff of the
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W. 4th Avenue, #306
Anchorage Alaska 99501

March 3, 2009

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Alternatives, Components, and Options

There are two alternatives currently under consideration:

Alternative 1 (no action) would not make any changes to the current License Limitation Program.

Alternative 2 would add Pacific cod endorsements to fixed gear licenses, which would limit entry into the directed Pacific cod fisheries in Federal waters in the Western and Central GOA. Alternative 2 includes the following Components and Options:

Component 1— Management areas included

Western GOA
Central GOA (current LLP endorsement includes West Yakutat)

- Different options may be applied to each management area.

Component 2— Identify and define sectors

The sector definitions for awarding Pacific cod endorsements may be different from those used for the GOA Pacific cod sector split action. The purpose of sector definitions in this action is to allow the Council to select different catch thresholds for the different gear types, operation types, and vessel lengths. Individual licenses may qualify for any combination of a jig, hook-and-line, and pot endorsement if the license meets the respective threshold(s) for the appropriate gear type, operation type, and vessel length.

- Hook-and-line CP
  Option: Hook-and-line CP ≥125
  Hook-and-line CP <125
- Hook-and-line CV
  Option: Hook-and-line ≥60
  Hook-and-line <60
- Pot CP
- Pot CV
  Option: Pot CV ≥60
  Pot CV <60
- Jig
  Exempt vessels using jig gear from the LLP requirement (including the Pacific cod endorsement requirement) that use a maximum of 5 jigging machines, 5 lines, and 30 hooks per line or one line of 150 hooks.

Option: Exempt vessels participating with fixed gear in the Western GOA B season directed Pacific cod fishery from the Pacific cod endorsement requirement.
Suboption: Exempt vessels using pot gear only.

Component 3 – Qualifying years

Option 1: 2000-2006
Option 2: 2002-2006
Option 3: Add the qualifying period January 1, 2007 through:
Suboption 1: June 4, 2008
Suboption 2: December 8, 2008

- Either of these suboptions will be selected in addition to one of the qualifying periods in Option 1 or Option 2.

or pot gear endorsement shall be made through (a) a one-time designation at the time the endorsement is issued or (b) designated at the time the first Pacific cod landing is made based on the gear type used. The CQE community resident's LLP shall not be leased, and can only be transferred to an individual who has lived continuously in the permit holder's CQE community for 24 consecutive months prior to the transfer and who intends to remain a resident of the community. Residency shall be affirmed annually upon renewal. If a CQE community LLP holder with a restricted transfer LLP is no longer a resident of the CQE community or dies without a designated qualified LLP community beneficiary, the community CQE shall designate a qualified individual in the CQE community to hold the restricted transfer LLP.

Option: Restrict the exemption to LLPs with a MLOA designation of less than 60 feet.

Expected Effects of the Alternatives

This section provides an overview of the expected effects of the proposed action to add Pacific cod endorsements to Western and Central GOA fixed gear groundfish licenses. The tables show the number of fixed gear groundfish licenses that will be eligible to participate in the directed Pacific cod fisheries in Western and Central GOA under the various components and options. The EA/RIR/IRFA for the proposed action includes a discussion of the potential economic and socioeconomic effects which may occur as a result of the proposed action. In that document, effects on harvesters, processors, and communities are analyzed, followed by a description of the cumulative effects of the proposed amendment and other recent actions, and an analysis of the net benefits to the Nation.

Alternative 1 – No Action

Under the no action alternative, Pacific cod endorsements would not be added to Western and Central GOA fixed gear groundfish licenses. As a result, there would be no reduction in the number of fixed gear groundfish licenses eligible to participate in the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the Western and Central GOA. If this alternative is selected, fixed gear licenses that have not participated in the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries in recent years could enter the fisheries in the future and dilute revenues, increase costs, or both, for licenses with recent participation in the fisheries. Increased participation may result in negative economic impacts to current participants in the fisheries. The number of licenses that might enter the fisheries in the absence of this action is unknown, and depends on future market conditions, the size of Pacific cod TACs, opportunities to participate in other fisheries, the future regulatory environment, and operating costs in the fisheries. Consequently, this analysis does not provide a quantitative estimate of the potential economic impacts of the no action alternative.

Current number of fixed gear groundfish licenses

The number of fixed gear licenses with Western and Central GOA endorsements is reported by operation type and maximum length overall (MLOA) in Table 3-22. The table also indicates the number of licenses that have other area endorsements in addition to a Western or Central GOA endorsement. There are 883 fixed gear catcher vessel licenses with Central GOA endorsements and 264 fixed gear catcher vessel licenses with Western GOA endorsements. Most of these licenses may only be used on vessels less than 60 feet LOA. Fewer than 25% of catcher vessel licenses with Central GOA endorsements also have BSAI or Western GOA endorsements. In contrast, more than half of catcher vessel licenses with Western GOA endorsements also have BSAI or Central GOA endorsements. There are 49 Central GOA and 31 Western GOA CP licenses, and the majority of these licenses also carry BSAI endorsements. Only a small number of catcher processor licenses are restricted for use on vessels less than 60 feet LOA. This is

result, the number of licenses in the columns in Table E-3 may sum to more than the number of qualifying licenses in Table E-2. In the absence of specific gear type endorsements (i.e., pot, hook-and-line, or jig endorsements), these licenses could continue to fish in the directed Pacific cod fisheries using any fixed gear type. The Council could choose different catch or landings thresholds for different gear types and MLOA size class to account for differences in catch history among licenses in each sector. There are additional tables in Chapter 3 of this document that report the number of licenses in each gear type and MLOA size class that meet the various landings and catch thresholds.

Under the current set of landings and catch thresholds, the number of gear-specific Pacific cod endorsements that would be added to fixed gear catcher vessel licenses includes:

Central GOA

- 68 to 202 hook-and-line endorsements
- 42 to 124 pot endorsements
- 0 to 24 jig endorsements

Western GOA

- 0 to 14 hook-and-line endorsements
- 54 to 96 pot endorsements
- 0 to 12 jig endorsements

Table E-2 Number of fixed gear catcher vessel licenses that meet the landings and catch thresholds based on landings in the Western or Central GOA directed Pacific cod fisheries.

Western GOA – 264 CV licenses

Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	110	106	93	101	96	82
3 landings	100	95	83	95	90	76
5 landings	91	87	74	86	82	68
5 mt	105	100	85	99	94	77
10 mt	97	93	79	93	89	73
25 mt	91	88	74	85	82	66
100 mt	68	63	55	68	63	54

Central GOA – 883 CV licenses

Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	306	297	269	245	234	198
3 landings	272	266	240	220	215	179
5 landings	249	246	219	203	200	164
5 mt	273	267	237	222	216	180
10 mt	255	250	223	210	205	171
25 mt	221	220	190	189	188	154
100 mt	171	169	151	142	139	110

Source: ADFG Fish Tickets (2000-2007), NMFS Catch Accounting (2008) and RAM groundfish license file. December 2008.

Central GOA licenses – 883 CV licenses

Hook-and-line gear						
Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	202	196	169	161	154	123
3 landings	177	172	149	142	138	111
5 landings	157	155	133	125	123	98
5 mt	180	176	149	145	141	112
10 mt	162	159	135	133	130	104
25 mt	134	134	112	116	116	94
100 mt	96	94	84	84	81	68

Jig						
Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	24	22	19	20	18	15
3 landings	10	10	9	7	7	6
5 landings	9	9	7	7	7	5
5 mt	9	8	7	8	7	6
10 mt	4	4	4	4	4	4
25 mt	*	*	0	*	*	0
100 mt	0	0	0	0	0	0

Pot						
Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	124	120	111	94	90	78
3 landings	109	106	100	85	82	70
5 landings	98	98	91	78	78	66
5 mt	109	106	99	85	82	72
10 mt	106	103	96	83	80	69
25 mt	93	91	83	76	74	62
100 mt	75	75	66	59	59	42

Source: ADFG Fish Tickets (2000-2007), NMFS Catch Accounting (2008) and RAM groundfish license file, December 2008.
*Withheld for confidentiality.
Note: Gear type columns are not mutually exclusive, and the number of licenses in the columns in Table E-3 may sum to more than the number of qualifying licenses in Table E-2.

Catcher processor licenses

The number of catcher processor licenses that meet the various landings and catch thresholds is reported in Table E-4. There are 31 Western GOA catcher processor licenses, and 19 to 24 licenses meet the 1 landing threshold during the qualifying periods in Options 1 through 3, and would qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement. The majority of Western GOA licenses that have catch history during the various qualifying periods also meet the highest catch threshold (100 mt) and landings threshold (5 landings). Three licenses qualified only when catch through December 2008 was included. There are 49 Central GOA licenses, and 12 to 21 licenses meet the 1 landing threshold during the qualifying periods in Options 1 through 3 and would qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement. In general, a smaller proportion of Central GOA CP licenses that meet the one landing threshold also meet the highest catch and landings thresholds. There were 7 licenses that qualified only when catch (at the 1 landing threshold) through December 2008 was included.

Central GOA – 49 CP licenses

	All gear					
Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	21	21	14	19	19	12
3 landings	18	18	12	17	17	11
5 landings	14	14	11	12	12	9
5 mt	21	21	14	18	18	*
10 mt	19	19	12	18	18	*
25 mt	18	18	12	17	17	*
100 mt	15	15	*	14	14	*

	Hook-and-line gear					
Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	18	18	12	16	16	10
3 landings	15	15	10	14	14	9
5 landings	10	10	8	9	9	7
5 mt	18	18	12	15	15	9
10 mt	16	16	10	15	15	9
25 mt	15	15	10	14	14	9
100 mt	11	11	7	11	11	7

	Pot gear					
Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	4	4	3	3	3	2
3 landings	4	4	3	3	3	2
5 landings	4	4	3	3	3	2
5 mt	4	4	3	3	3	*
10 mt	4	4	3	3	3	*
25 mt	4	4	3	3	3	*
100 mt	4	4	*	3	3	*

Source: Catch Accounting/Blend data and RAM LLP license file, December 2008. *Withheld for confidentiality.
Note: Gear type columns are not mutually exclusive, because some licenses have catch history using more than one gear type. The number of licenses in the gear columns may sum to more than the total number of licenses qualifying.

Licenses that only Qualify when 2007 and 2008 Catch History is Included

Under Component 3, Suboption 3 states that if an LLP license qualifies for a Pacific cod endorsement only when the supplemental range of years (Jan 1, 2007 through Jun 4, 2008 or Dec 8, 2008) in Suboption 1 or Suboption 2 of Component 3 are included, any Pacific cod endorsement granted to a license would be extinguished upon transfer of the LLP license to another vessel or owner. Those participants who entered the fishery in 2007 and 2008 would receive a Pacific cod endorsement under Suboption 1 or Suboption 2, and could continue to participate in the fishery. **It is important to note that Suboption 3 currently states that the Pacific cod endorsement would not be transferable to another vessel or owner.**

Designating licenses that qualify under Suboption 1 or Suboption 2 as non-transferable to another vessel or owner could have several effects. First, it would maintain the existing fleet of vessels in the Pacific cod fishery that are currently assigned to licenses that qualify based on 2007 or 2008 catch history. For

Potential Range of Outcomes from this Action

Based on the existing set of options, there is a range of possible outcomes from this action:

1. Status quo: No Pacific cod endorsements are added to Western and Central GOA fisheries. All existing fixed gear licenses are eligible to access the directed Pacific cod fisheries.
2. Pacific cod endorsements are added to fixed gear licenses to limit entry to the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the Western and Central GOA.
3. Gear-specific (pot, hook-and-line, and jig) Pacific cod endorsements are added to fixed gear licenses to limit entry to the Western and Central GOA directed Pacific cod fisheries, and to limit access to the proposed Pacific cod sector allocations.

Interactions with Pacific Cod Sector Allocations

In refining the alternatives and options for analysis, the Council may wish to consider interactions between the proposed action to add Pacific cod endorsements to fixed gear licenses and the proposed GOA Pacific cod sector allocations. A comparison of the components and options currently under consideration for the two actions is found Table E-5. The Council is considering options to add Pacific cod endorsements to fixed gear licenses to limit entry into the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the Western and Central GOA. Pacific cod endorsements could also restrict licenses to using the fixed gear type (e.g., pot, hook-and-line, or jig) specified on the endorsement. The gear endorsements could limit access to the Pacific cod sector allocations to ensure that vessels that contributed catch history to the sector allocations have access to those allocations.

Both actions include provisions to increase entry level opportunities in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries. The proposed exemption from the LLP requirement for vessels using jig gear, in tandem with the proposal to provide the jig sector an Pacific cod allocation of more than the sector's historic catch, will provide a substantial increase in opportunity for current as well as new participants in this sector. In addition, the potential for a stairstep increase in the jig allocation, if it is fully harvested, would provide for growth in the jig sector.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The groundfish fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (3 to 200 miles offshore) of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) are managed under the GOA Fisheries Management Plan (FMP), developed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The GOA FMP was approved by the Secretary of Commerce and became effective in 1978.

This document is an Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (EA/RIR/IRFA) for the proposed action to add Pacific cod endorsements to fixed gear LLP licenses to limit entry to the Western and Central GOA directed Pacific cod fisheries. This action would result in an amendment to the GOA FMP. Under the proposed action, a fixed gear license would receive a Pacific cod endorsement if it meets the minimum landings or catch (mt) threshold during a specific qualifying period.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to determine whether the proposed action will result in a significant impact on the human environment. If the action is determined not to be significant based on an analysis of the relevant considerations, the EA and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) would be the final environmental documents required by NEPA. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared for major Federal actions significantly affecting the human environment.

The purpose of the EA is to analyze the environmental impacts of the proposed Federal action to remove latent fixed gear licenses from the Western and Central GOA. The human environment is defined by the Council on Environmental Quality as the natural and physical environment and the relationships of people with that environment (40 CFR 1508.14). This means that economic or social effects are not intended by themselves to require preparation of an EA. However, when an EA is prepared and socio-economic and natural or physical environmental impacts are interrelated, the EA must discuss all of these impacts on the quality of the human environment. NEPA requires a description of the purpose and need for the proposed action as well as a description of alternatives which may address the problem. This information is included in **Chapter 1** of this document. **Chapter 2** contains a description of the affected human environment and information on the impacts of the alternatives on that environment, specifically addressing potential impacts on endangered species and marine mammals and cumulative effects.

Executive Order 12866 (E.O. 12866) requires preparation of a Regulatory Impact Review (RIR) to assess the social and economic costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives, in order to determine whether a proposed regulatory action is economically significant as defined by the order. This analysis is included in **Chapter 3. Chapter 4** addresses the requirements of other applicable laws, including the Magnuson Stevens Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA). The RFA requires an analysis of potential adverse economic impacts to small entities that would be directly regulated by the proposed action. The references and literature cited are in **Chapter 5**, the list of preparers is in **Chapter 6**, and the list of agencies and individuals consulted is in **Chapter 7**.

1.1 Purpose and Need for the Action

1.1.1 Background

Management of the GOA groundfish fisheries has become increasingly complex as a result of Steller sea lion protection measures, increased participation by vessels displaced from other fisheries, and bycatch reduction requirements under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). These factors have made achieving the

catch shares of participants. If entry to the Pacific cod fisheries is not limited by a Pacific cod endorsement requirement, future entry of latent effort into the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries could further intensify competition among fixed gear participants and erode catch shares of long-term participants.

To address these concerns, the Council adopted the following problem statement:

GOA Fixed Gear Recency Purpose and Need Statement

Western GOA and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries are subject to intense competition, particularly during the A season, when fish are aggregated and of highest value. Competition among fixed gear participants in the Western GOA and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries has increased for a variety of reasons, including increased market value of Pacific cod products, a declining ABC/TAC, increased participation by harvesters displaced from other fisheries, and introduction of capital that has been accrued from participation in rationalized fisheries. Additionally, fishery policies have created incentives that encourage non-traditional efficiency improvements for the less than 60 ft LOA vessel class. The possible future entry of latent effort and disproportionate vessel efficiency would have detrimental effects on LLP holders that have exhibited participation in, and dependence on, the fixed gear Pacific cod fisheries. Many fixed gear vessel owners have made significant investments, have long catch histories, and are dependent on the Western GOA and Central GOA Pacific cod resources. These long-term participants need protection from those who have little or no recent history and who have the ability to increase their participation in the Pacific cod fisheries. At the same time, retaining Federal waters opportunities for small community quota eligible (CQE) communities dependent on access to a range of fishery resources and expanding opportunities in Federal waters for small capacity jig operations is valued to promote community protections at a level that imposes minimal impact on historic catch shares of recent participants.

The intent of the proposed amendment is to prevent the future entry or re-entry of latent fixed gear groundfish fishing capacity that has not been utilized in recent years into the Pacific cod fisheries, and to preserve the traditional vessel operational efficiencies within the fisheries. This requires prompt action to promote stability in the fixed gear sectors of the GOA Pacific cod fisheries, and is expected to be implemented concurrently with the division of GOA Pacific cod among sectors which is currently under consideration. However, this action cannot address continued growth in the waters managed by the State of Alaska.

Limiting entry to the fisheries with a Pacific cod endorsement requirement may prevent future gross revenues from Pacific cod harvests in the respective management areas from being diluted by future increases in fishing effort by latent licenses. Those LLP holders exhibiting dependence and participation in the fixed gear Pacific cod fisheries, (i.e., those meeting the selected threshold criteria), would be protected from possible future increases in effort and dilution of their gross revenue share. However, this action may not result in increased production efficiencies to licenses that would generally be expected from a comprehensive rationalization program. Following implementation of the amendment, each qualified LLP holder will still have an incentive to expand their fishing effort and maximize their respective share of the gross revenues in the open access GOA Pacific cod fisheries. The action will not necessarily result in an 'optimum' harvesting capacity in any of the sectors or management areas. The Council is considering a range of potential catch and landings thresholds, qualification periods, and catch definitions. The number of Pacific cod endorsements that would be added to fixed gear licenses under any of these options was not based on a predetermined optimum capacity for the fixed gear fleet. The action would revise the LLP by removing latent effort from the directed Pacific cod fisheries, and is a more modest approach to revolving participation issues than a fully rationalized fixed gear Pacific cod fishery.

Component 3 – Qualifying years

Option 1: 2000-2006
Option 2: 2002-2006
Option 3: Add the qualifying period January 1, 2007 through:
Suboption 1: June 4, 2008
Suboption 2: December 8, 2008

- Either of these suboptions will be selected in addition to one of the qualifying periods in Option 1 or Option 2.

Suboption 3: If an LLP license qualifies only when the supplemental range of years in Suboption 1 or Suboption 2 is included, any Pacific cod endorsements granted to licenses under these suboptions would be extinguished upon transfer of the LLP license to another vessel or owner.

- If a GOA hook-and-line catcher processor LLP license holder was a voluntary non-participant in the Freezer Longliner Coalition informal PSC co-op efforts of 2006, 2007, or 2008, and does not qualify under Component 3, Options 1, 2, or 3, the LLP would not be extinguished. If Pacific cod endorsements are a result of this action in the GOA hook-and-line CP sector, the LLP would receive a Pacific cod endorsement.

Component 4 – Catch thresholds

Thresholds shall be based on legally retained catch in the aggregate during all of the qualifying years in the Federal and parallel fisheries (excluding IFQ catch). Separate and distinct thresholds may be determined for each defined sector.

Option 1: All directed Pacific cod 1, 3, or 5 landings (resulting in a Pacific cod endorsement)
Option 2: All directed Pacific Cod 5, 10, 25, or 100 mt (resulting in a Pacific cod endorsement)

Option: Hardship provision. A GOA fixed gear LLP holder who had 5 or more Pacific cod landings in 1999, but had a vessel on which the LLP was used sink in 1999 or 2000, shall be credited with qualifying history so as to obtain a Pacific cod endorsement.

Directed Pacific cod catch is defined as landings made when the directed Pacific cod fisheries are open. For purposes of catch accounting, licenses are credited with deliveries or processing activity recorded up to 7 days after the directed season closes.

Component 5 – Stacked license provisions

Where there are multiple LLPs registered to a single vessel, also known as 'stacking' of LLPs, groundfish harvest history will be fully credited to all stacked licenses, each carrying its own qualifying endorsements and designations.

Component 6 – Capacity/efficiency limits to CV and CP fixed gear LLPs

Add a width restriction (efficiency restriction) on each CV and CP fixed gear LLP license that is eligible to access Pacific cod under this action. The width restriction would be 1 ft of width for each 3 ft of length, and is based on the LOA of the vessel assigned to the license on December 8, 2008. The licenses that are assigned to vessels on December 8, 2008 that exceed the width restriction will be grandfathered at

action. Licenses may be stacked on a vessel for operational reasons. For example, 2 or more licenses may be stacked on a vessel to obtain additional area, gear, or other endorsements.

1.3 Consistency with the Problem Statement

The alternatives under consideration are consistent with the problem statement. The problem identified is that fixed gear participants who have made significant, long-term investments, have extensive catch histories, and are highly dependent on the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries need protection from the potential increase in competition that may be caused by the entry re-entry of latent licenses into the fisheries. If latent fixed gear licenses remain eligible for entry or re-entry into the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries, future participation levels may increase, intensifying competition for the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs.

Under the no action alternative (Alternative 1), latent fixed gear licenses with Western or Central GOA endorsements will continue to have the potential to enter the directed Western and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries. If this alternative is selected, any of the currently existing fixed gear licenses could enter the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries in the future and dilute revenues, increase costs, or both, for licenses that have participated in the fisheries during recent years. Increased participation may result in negative economic impacts to current participants in the fisheries. If Pacific cod endorsements are not added to fixed gear licenses, licenses with no recent catch history in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries could enter the fisheries and erode the catch shares of recent participants. Finally, if gear-specific Pacific cod endorsements are not added to licenses, and Pacific cod sector allocations are implemented, participants in each of the fixed gear sectors will be vulnerable to an influx of effort into those sectors. If effort increases substantially in a particular sector, the erosion of catch shares resulting from latent licenses re-entering the fisheries will be exacerbated, because each sector's catch will be constrained by its allocation.

Alternative 2 includes options to add gear-specific Pacific cod endorsements to fixed gear licenses. Pacific cod endorsements would limit entry into the directed Pacific cod fisheries in Federal waters of the Western and Central GOA. This action would reduce fixed gear capacity in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries to include only licenses that have recent catch history in the fisheries. Those LLP holders exhibiting dependence and participation in the fixed gear Pacific cod fisheries, (i.e., those meeting the selected threshold criteria), would be protected from possible future increases in effort and dilution of their gross revenue share.

species, marine mammals, seabirds, essential fish habitat, ecosystem relationships, and economic aspects of the GOA fisheries.

Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report for the Groundfish Resources of the GOA (NPFMC 2007). Annual SAFE reports review recent research and provide estimates of the biomass of each species and other biological parameters. The SAFE report includes the acceptable biological catch (ABC) specifications used by NMFS in the annual harvest specifications. The SAFE report also summarizes available information on the GOA ecosystem and the economic condition of the groundfish fisheries off Alaska. This document is available from: http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/stocks/assessments.htm.

2.1.2 Pacific Cod

Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus)* is the primary groundfish species targeted by the fixed gear sectors in the Western and Central GOA. Pacific cod is widely distributed in the GOA and occurs at depths from shoreline to 500 m (Thompson et al. 2006). Pacific cod are moderately fast growing, and females reach 50% maturity at approximately 5.8 years old. Spawning occurs during January through April in the GOA. Pacific cod are demersal and concentrate on the shelf edge and upper slope at depths of 100-250 m in the winter, and move to shallower waters (<100 m) in the summer.

The Pacific cod resource is managed under three discrete TACs in the GOA: the Western GOA TAC, the Central GOA TAC, and the Eastern GOA TAC. In addition, the GOA Pacific cod TACs are divided between the A season (60%) and B season (40%), and are apportioned to the inshore processing component (90%) and offshore component (10%). Historically, the majority of the GOA Pacific cod catch has come from the Central and Western GOA management subareas. Final 2008 harvest specifications apportioned 57% of the GOA catch to the Central GOA (28,426 mt), 39% to the Western GOA (19,449 mt), and 5% to the Eastern GOA (2,394 mt).

Table 2-2 summarizes levels of acceptable biological catch (ABC), total allowable catch (TAC), and actual catch of Pacific cod in the Federal and State waters fisheries in the GOA from 1985 to 2007. From 1989 to 1996, the Federal TAC was set at 100% of the acceptable biological catch (ABC). The Federal TAC has been set below the ABC since 1997 to accommodate the State waters Pacific cod fishery. Total catch in the Federal and State Pacific cod fisheries averaged 87% of the ABC from 1997 to 2007. Most of the unharvested Federal TAC during recent years has been the result of low harvests during the B season. In addition, 25% of the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod ABC is allocated to the State waters fisheries, and the State Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) have not been fully harvested during recent years. In 2006 and 2007, only 70% and 74% of the GOA ABC was harvested.

Effects of the proposed action depend to some extent on current and future abundance of the Pacific cod stock. Model projections indicate that the Pacific cod stock is not overfished. However, the ABC is projected to decline over the next several years due to below average recruitment levels during a series of recent years. A comprehensive description of recent survey data and biomass projections is available in the groundfish SAFE report (NMFS 2008a).

2.1.3 Other Groundfish Fisheries

The fixed gear sectors primarily participate in the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the GOA and catch other groundfish species incidentally while targeting cod. More than 98% of groundfish catch by vessels using fixed gear is comprised of Pacific cod, excluding IFQ halibut and sablefish catch. Vessels participating in the IFQ fisheries are not required to hold LLP licenses, and these fisheries will not be discussed further in this EA. Other species retained by vessels using fixed gear include skates, rockfish, pollock, and octopus. The proposed action is not expected to result in significant changes in catch levels of other groundfish species. Overall levels of fishing effort by each gear sector, and the timing and location of fishing activities, are not expected to change under the proposed action.

2.2 Halibut Prohibited Species Catch

Halibut prohibited species catch allowances are currently allocated separately to the GOA trawl and hook-and-line sectors, according to the guidelines outlined in 50 CFR 679.21(d). Halibut PSC allowances are not apportioned by management subarea within the GOA. The 2008 PSC allowances for the GOA Pacific cod trawl and hook-and-line fisheries are shown in Table 2-3. The pot and jig sectors are exempt from halibut PSC limits. The GOA-wide halibut PSC mortality allowance is 2000 mt for the trawl sector and 300 mt for the hook-and-line sector (including 10 mt set aside for the demersal shelf rockfish fishery).

The hook-and-line allowance is divided into three seasons: January 1 to June 10 (the A season for Pacific cod), June 10 to September 1, and September 1 to December 31 (the B season for Pacific cod). The trawl allowance is divided not only seasonally, but also between the shallow-water species complex (including the pollock, Pacific cod, shallow-water flatfish, flathead sole, Atka mackerel, skates, and the "other species" directed fisheries) and the deep-water species complex (all other fisheries, which includes Pacific Ocean perch, northern rockfish, pelagic shelf rockfish, and deep-water flatfish). Halibut bycatch during the directed Pacific cod fishery is counted against the shallow-water trawl halibut PSC apportionment. This apportionment is divided into four seasons: January 20 to April 1, April 1 to July 1, July 1 to September 1, and September 1 to October 1. In addition, a separate apportionment that is not divided between the shallow-water and deep-water complexes is available for use from October 1 to December 31. Unused seasonal halibut PSC apportionments are rolled over to the following season. Halibut PSC limits often determine season closure dates for the trawl sector, and to a lesser extent, for the hook-and-line sector.

Table 2-3 Halibut prohibited species catch seasonal allowances in the GOA, 2008

Trawl		Hook-and-line			
		Other than Demersal Shelf Rockfish		Demersal Shelf Rockfish	
Dates	Amount (mt)	Dates	Amount (mt)	Dates	Amount
Jan 20 - Apr 1	550 (27.5%)	Jan 1 - Jun 10	250 (86%)	Jan 1 - Dec 31	10 (100%)
Apr 1 - July 1	400 (20%)	Jun 10 - Sep 1	5 (2%)		
July 1 - Sep 1	600 (30%)	Sep 1 - Dec 31	35 (12%)		
Sep 1 - Oct 1	150 (7.5%)				
Oct 1 - Dec 31	300 (15%)				
Totals	2000		290		10

Source: NMFS 2008-2009 harvest specifications for the groundfish fisheries in the GOA.

Halibut PSC usage in the GOA Pacific cod target fisheries during 1995-2008 is summarized in Table 2-4. The table reports PSC by catcher vessels and catcher processors in each harvest sector. The pot sector is not subject to PSC limits in the GOA, and halibut PSC by pot vessels is reported for informational purposes only. Prohibited species catch limits for halibut apply to the hook-and-line and trawl sectors

2.3 Marine Mammals

Marine mammals occur in diverse habitats in the GOA, and include both resident and migratory species. Species that occur in the GOA are listed below (NOAA 2004b). The Groundfish PSEIS (NOAA 2004a) provides descriptions of the range, habitat, diet, abundance, and population status for these marine mammals. Annual stock assessment reports prepared by the National Marine Mammal Laboratory provide population estimates, population trends, and estimates of potential biological removals (Angliss and Outlaw 2007).

NMFS Managed Species

Pinnipeds: Steller sea lion (Western U.S., Eastern U.S.), Northern fur seal (Eastern Pacific), Harbor seal (Southeast Alaska, GOA, Bering Sea), Spotted seal (Alaska), Bearded seal (Alaska), Ringed seal (Alaska), Ribbon seal (Alaska).

Cetaceans: Beluga Whale (Beaufort Sea, Eastern Chukchi Sea, Eastern Bering Sea, Bristol Bay, Cook Inlet), Killer whale (Eastern North Pacific Northern Resident, Eastern North Pacific transient), Pacific White-sided dolphin (North Pacific), Harbor porpoise (Southeast Alaska, GOA), Dall's porpoise (Alaska), Sperm whale (North Pacific), Baird's beaked whale (Alaska), Cuvier's beaked whale (Alaska), Stejneger's beaked whale (Alaska), Gray whale (Eastern North Pacific), Humpback whale (Western North Pacific, Central North Pacific), Fin whale (Northeast Pacific), Minke whale (Alaska), North Pacific right whale (North Pacific)

USFWS Managed Species

Northern sea otter (Southeast Alaska, Southcentral Alaska, Southwest Alaska), Pacific walrus (Alaska)

Direct and indirect interactions between marine mammals and the groundfish fisheries result from temporal and spatial overlap between commercial fishing activities and marine mammal occurrence. Direct interactions include injury or mortality due to entanglement in fishing gear. Indirect interactions include overlap in the size and species of groundfish important both to the fisheries and to marine mammals as prey. The GOA Pacific cod target fisheries are classified as Category III fisheries under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Category III fisheries are unlikely to cause mortality or serious injury to more than 1% of the marine mammal's potential biological removal level, calculated on an annual basis (50 CFR 229.2). Taking of marine mammals is monitored by the North Pacific observer program.

Marine mammals listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that may be present in the GOA are listed in Table 2-5. All of these species are managed by NMFS, with the exception of Northern Sea Otter, which is managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A Biological Opinion evaluating impacts of the groundfish fisheries on the endangered species managed by NMFS was completed in November 2000 (NMFS 2000). The western population segment of Steller sea lions was the only ESA-listed species identified as likely to be adversely affected by the groundfish fisheries. A new Section 7 consultation was initiated in 2006. NMFS is also currently consulting with USFWS on the distinct southwest Alaska population of northern sea otters.

2.4 Seabirds

Various species of seabirds occur in the GOA, including resident species, migratory species that nest in Alaska, and migratory species that only occur in Alaska outside of the breeding season. The most numerous seabirds in Alaska are northern fulmars, storm petrels, kittiwakes, murres, auklets, and puffins. There are 38 species of seabirds that breed in Alaska. A list of species is provided below.[3] Eight species breed only in Alaska and in Siberia. Populations of five other species are concentrated in Alaska but range throughout the North Pacific region. Marine waters off Alaska provide critical feeding grounds for these species as well as others that do not breed in Alaska but migrate to Alaska during summer, and for other species that breed in Canada or Eurasia and overwinter in Alaska. A detailed analysis of the effects of commercial fisheries on seabirds appears in the Alaska Groundfish Fisheries Programmatic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (NMFS 2004). The Groundfish PSEIS also provides descriptions of the range, habitat, diet, abundance, and population status for these seabirds.

Species nesting in Alaska

Tubenoses-Albatrosses and relatives: Northern Fulmar, Fork-tailed Storm-petrel, Leach's Storm-petrel
Kittiwakes and terns: Black-legged Kittiwake, Red-legged Kittiwake, Arctic Tern, Aleutian Tern
Pelicans and cormorants: Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Red-faced Cormorant
Jaegers and gulls: Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Bonaparte's Gull, Mew Gull, Herring Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Glaucous Gull, Sabine's Gull
Auks: Common Murre, Thick-billed Murre, Black Guillemot, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Kittlitz's Murrelet, Ancient Murrelet, Cassin's Auklet, Parakeet Auklet, Least Auklet, Wiskered Auklet, Crested Auklet, Rhinoceros Auklet, Tufted Puffin, Horned Puffin

Species that visit Alaska waters

Tubenoses: Short-tailed Albatross, Black-footed Albatross, Laysan Albatross, Sooty Shearwater, Short-tailed Shearwater
Gulls: Ross's Gull, Ivory Gull

The Northern Fulmar accounts for the majority of incidental seabird take in the groundfish fisheries, and is one of the most abundant species breeding in Alaska. The hook-and-line sector causes most of this take. Three ESA-listed species occur in waters off Alaska (see Table 2-6), and Kittlitz's Murrelet is a candidate species for listing under the ESA. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has primary responsibility for managing seabirds, and has evaluated effects of the BSAI and GOA FMPs and the harvest specifications process on currently listed species in two Biological Opinions (USFWS 2003a and 2003b). Both Biological Opinions concluded that the groundfish fisheries, including the GOA Pacific cod fishery, are unlikely to jeopardize populations of listed species or adversely modify or destroy critical habitat for listed species.

Table 2-6 ESA-listed and candidate seabird species that occur in the management area.

Common Name	***Scientific Name***	ESA Status
Short-tailed Albatross	*Phoebaotria albatrus*	Endangered
Steller's Eider	*Polysticta stelleri*	Threatened
Spectacled Eider	*Somateria fishcheri*	Threatened
Kittlitz's Murrelet	*Brachyramphus brevirostris*	Candidate

[3]Source: (USFWS web site Seabirds. Species in Alaska. Accessed at http://alaska.fws.gov/mbsp/mbm/seabirds/species.htm on August 31, 2007).

Due to different sampling procedures on trawl vessels, two sets of estimates are calculated for seabird bycatch. Average annual take by trawl vessels in the GOA from 1993 to 2004 was either 63 birds or 97 birds (Fitzgerald et al. 2006). Northern Fulmars comprised the majority of bycatch by trawl vessels during this period. Seabird bycatch by the groundfish pot sector has historically been very low. Average annual bycatch in the GOA pot sector from 1993–2004 was 55 seabirds, less than 1% of the average annual seabird bycatch in the groundfish fisheries.

Effects of the Alternatives

The Groundfish PSEIS (NMFS 2004a) concluded that the current GOA groundfish fisheries are not adversely impacting ESA-listed seabird species. Biological Opinions by the USFWS (2003a and 2003b) concluded that the groundfish fisheries in the GOA are unlikely to jeopardize populations of listed species or adversely modify or destroy critical habitat for listed species. Based on current estimates of seabird bycatch, the status quo alternative is not likely to have a significant impact on seabird populations.

The proposed action would add Pacific cod endorsements to fixed gear LLP licenses to limit entry to the Western and Central GOA directed Pacific cod fisheries. Overall levels of fishing effort by each gear sector, and the timing and location of fishing activities are not expected to change. The proposed action will not modify the management practices analyzed in previous Biological Opinions (USFWS 2003a and 2003b), is not likely to cause additional adverse effects to ESA-listed species, and is not likely to increase incidental takes of listed species. Consequently, the proposed action is not likely to have a significant impact on seabird populations.

2.5 Essential Fish Habitat

Essential fish habitat (EFH) is defined as those areas necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity. Section 303(a)(7) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires all FMPs to describe and identify Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). In addition, FMPs must minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects of fishing on EFH and identify other actions to conserve and enhance EFH. Maps and descriptions of EFH for the GOA groundfish species are available in the Environmental Impact Statement for Essential Fish Habitat Identification and Conservation in Alaska (NMFS 2004). This document also describes the importance of benthic habitat to different groundfish species and the impacts of different types of fishing gear on benthic habitat. Benthic habitat is potentially impacted by fishing practices that contact the seafloor. The analysis concludes that there are long term effects of fishing on benthic habitat features off Alaska and acknowledges that considerable scientific uncertainty remains regarding the consequences of those effects on the sustained productivity of managed species. Based on the best available scientific information, the EIS concludes that there are no indications that current fishing activities are altering the capacity of EFH to support health populations of managed species over the long term. The analysis concludes that no Council-managed fishing activities have more than a minimally adverse effect on EFH, which is the regulatory standard requiring action to minimize adverse effects under the MSA. The Council elected to adopt a variety of new measures to conserve EFH, which were implemented in 2006.

Effects of the Alternatives

The effects of the GOA Pacific cod fixed gear fisheries on benthic habitat and EFH were analyzed in the EFH EIS (NMFS 2005e). In the Pacific cod hook-and-line fishery, anchors, groundline, ganglions, and hooks potentially contact the seafloor. The Pacific cod pot fishery has a very small footprint (an estimated 0.17 square mile footprint for the GOA and BSAI combined). The jig fishery has no direct contact with the seafloor, although contact may occur incidentally. Year-round area closures protect

combination with other factors that affect physical, biological and socioeconomic components of the BSAI and GOA environment.

Beyond the cumulative impacts analysis documented in the Groundfish PSEIS, no additional past, present, or reasonably foreseeable cumulative negative impacts on the natural and physical environment (including fish stocks, essential fish habitat, ESA-listed species, marine mammals, seabirds, or marine ecosystems), fishing communities, fishing safety or consumers have been identified that would occur as a result of the proposed action. The proposed action, in combination with other actions, may have additional economic effects on the fixed gear sectors that participate in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries. In recent years, several regulatory changes implemented to protect Steller sea lions have had economic effects on participants in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries. The cumulative impacts from recent management actions are one of the driving forces behind industry support for the proposed amendment. Other fisheries in the region are subject to increasingly restrictive management measures. The GOA Pacific cod fisheries are among the few open access fisheries remaining. Participants that depend on these fisheries are concerned that changes in other fisheries will result in increased numbers of displaced vessels entering the GOA Pacific cod fisheries. Recent actions include:

- the IFQ halibut and sablefish fisheries
- AFA rationalization of the BSAI pollock fishery
- Amendment 67 to the BSAI groundfish management plan that established LLP endorsements specifically for fixed gear Pacific cod fishery participants
- BSAI crab rationalization
- GOA Rockfish Pilot Program – initially approved for two years but recently extended under reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act
- GOA and BSAI trawl LLP recency

Several reasonably foreseeable future actions are expected to have additional social and economic effects on these sectors, including the GOA Pacific cod sector allocations and revisions to the GOA Pacific cod sideboards. These social and economic effects are addressed in the Regulatory Impact Review (RIR), found in Chapter 3 of this document.

3.1 The Limited License Program (LLP)

The Limited License Program (LLP) limits access to the Federal groundfish and crab fisheries in the BSAI and GOA.[4] In the mid to late 1990s, the Council developed the LLP to address capacity concerns and take a first step toward rationalization of the groundfish fisheries under its management. Fishing under the program began in 2000. The LLP requirement does not apply to Pacific halibut or lingcod, which are not considered groundfish under the Federal Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs). In addition, some Federal groundfish fisheries are not subject to the LLP requirement. In Federal regulations, License Limitation groundfish includes target species and the 'other species' category, specified annually pursuant to 679.20(a)(2).

The LLP established criteria for the issuance of licenses to persons based on the fishing history of vessels. This discussion briefly summarizes the primary provisions applicable to the fixed gear participants. The LLP defined a general qualification period (GQP) and an endorsement qualification period (EQP) both of which must have been satisfied for a management subarea for a vessel owner to receive a license. Vessels that met requirements for more than one subarea endorsement were issued a single, non-severable LLP license with multiple area endorsements. Qualification criteria differ across areas and subareas, and include a variety of exceptions meant to address specific circumstances in the different areas.

Table 3-1 shows the primary GQP and EQP requirements applicable to trawl vessels in the various BSAI and GOA subareas. In general, the endorsements and EQP catch requirements apply to a single subarea. However, the Central GOA endorsement and EQP catch requirements treat the Central GOA area and West Yakutat district as a single LLP endorsement area. Catch in either the Central GOA or West Yakutat qualified a vessel for a Central GOA endorsement, and this endorsement allows a vessel to fish in both the Central GOA and West Yakutat. EQP requirements differ across the different endorsement areas.[5]

Table 3-1 General LLP license issuance criteria.

Management area	General Qualification Period (GQP) (Jan. 1, 1988 – June 27, 1992)	Endorsement area	Vessel length and operation	Endorsement Qualification Period (EQP) (Jan. 1, 1992 - June 17, 1995)
Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands	One landing	Bering Sea	All vessels	One landing
		Aleutian Islands	All vessels	One landing
GOA	One landing	Western GOA	CVs ≥ 125 ft and CPs ≥ 60 ft	One landing in at least two calendar years
			CVs < 125 ft and CPs < 60 ft	One landing
		Central GOA	All vessels, ≥ 60 ft	One landing in at least two calendar years
			All vessels < 60 ft	One landing

[4] Amendment 39 to the BSAI groundfish plan and Amendment 41 to the groundfish plan for the GOA established the LLP. The primary rules governing the LLP are contained in 50 CFR 679.4(k).

[5] Notably, persons fishing only inside 3 nm (i.e., in State waters only) were eligible for an LLP license based on their State waters participation. However, persons that never acquired a Federal fisheries permit (FFP), required for participation in fisheries in Federal waters, were issued LLPs that are not transferable from the originating vessel.

(4) Vessels participating in the IFQ halibut and sablefish fisheries. Vessels fishing IFQ may also retain groundfish bycatch without a license. This provision was included in the LLP to minimize discards, and is consistent with National Standard 9 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

3.1.2 Pacific cod endorsements

Participation in the directed fisheries for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands with pot or hook-and-line gear requires a gear-specific Pacific cod endorsement, in addition to an LLP license with the appropriate gear designation and area endorsements. These endorsements were created under Amendment 67 to the BSAI FMP and became effective on January 1, 2003. Pacific cod endorsements are not required to participate in the BSAI fisheries using trawl and jig gear. Four endorsements were created under Amendment 67: hook-and-line catcher vessel, pot catcher vessel, hook-and-line catcher processor, and pot catcher processor. The program used a vessel basis for determining qualification, because the LLP had not been implemented during the qualification periods. Vessels were required to meet various catch thresholds to qualify for the different endorsements. Qualification criteria for endorsements are summarized in Table 3-2. Vessels using jig gear could qualify for either a hook-and-line catcher vessel or pot catcher vessel endorsement based on their combined jig and hook-and-line catch or jig and pot catch, respectively.

Table 3-2 Qualification criteria for BSAI Pacific cod LLP endorsements.

Operation type	Gear type used for harvests	Pacific cod harvest threshold	Pacific cod endorsement
Catcher vessel	Hook-and-line or jig	7.5 mt in one year from 1995 to 1999	Hook-and-line catcher vessel
	Pot or jig	100,000 pounds (45 mt) in each of any two years from 1995 to 1999	Pot catcher vessel
Catcher processor	Hook-and-line or jig	270 mt in any one year from 1996 to 1999	Hook-and-line catcher processor
	Pot	300,000 pounds (136 mt) in each of any two years from 1995 to 1998	Pot catcher processor

Under Amendment 67, vessels with multiple licenses were only allowed to qualify for BSAI Pacific cod endorsements on a single license, in order to avoid increasing the capacity for additional entry into the fishery. However, individual licenses could qualify for more than one gear endorsement, although they could not qualify for more than one operation type endorsement within each gear type. For example, a license can carry a pot catcher vessel or pot catcher processor endorsement, but not both. However, a pot catcher processor endorsement allows that vessel to fish as either a catcher processor or catcher vessel. It should be noted that one groundfish license currently has 3 BSAI Pacific cod endorsements. This license has both a catcher vessel and catcher processor endorsement for pot gear. These endorsements still have interim status and are being adjudicated by RAM. Once the adjudication process is completed, licenses will have a maximum of two BSAI Pacific cod endorsements, one for each gear type.

Qualification thresholds for BSAI Pacific cod endorsements were based on retained catch from the directed Pacific cod fishery and excluded catch used for personal bait. Any vessel under 60 feet was exempt from the endorsement requirements. The action also contained a provision to address unavoidable circumstances. Although the action only limited entry to the Pacific cod fishery, the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands catcher processor capacity reduction act (which was part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005) extended the scope of the endorsements for catcher processors to several other species, specifically Atka mackerel, flathead sole, Pacific Ocean perch, rock sole, Greenland turbot, and yellowfin sole.

Table 3-3 Regulatory changes impacting management of the GOA Pacific cod fishery, 1992 – 2008.

1992	GOA Amendment 20 established 90% inshore & 10% offshore processing sector apportionments. Catcher processors and motherships <125 ft LOA may elect annually to participate in the inshore sector. Inshore vessels are limited to processing <126 mt of pollock and Pacific cod (in the aggregate) per week. Later amendments extended these apportionments.
1993	BSAI/GOA Amendment 19/24 established Jan 20 start date for trawl gear in both the BSAI and GOA. Intent was to reduce halibut and Chinook salmon bycatch.
1994	BSAI Amendment 24. Established BSAI Pacific cod sector allocations. Later amendments (Am 46, Am 68, Am 77, Am 85) modified these allocations. Allocations to trawl, pot, and hook-and-line sectors were based on catch history. The allocation to the jig sector was higher than historic catch, with the intent of increasing entry level opportunities in the fishery.
1995	BSAI/GOA Amendment 23/28 established a moratorium on new vessel entry to the groundfish fisheries. A moratorium permit was issued to any vessel that made a legal landing during a specified qualification period.
1997	The Alaska Board of Fish established the GOA State waters Pacific cod fishery with initial GHLs of 15% of WGOA ABC and 15% of CGOA ABC.
1998	BSAI/GOA Amendment 49/49. Increased Retention/Increased Utilization regulations require 100% retention of pollock and Pacific cod beginning in 1998, and shallow water flatfish beginning in 2003, while the directed fisheries for these species are open. When the directed fisheries are closed, all catch up to the maximum retainable amount (MRA) must be retained.
1998	The American Fisheries Act was implemented, and AFA-permitted CPs were prohibited from participating in the GOA groundfish fisheries.
2000	Sideboards that limit the GOA groundfish catch of 95 non-exempt AFA CVs were established. 16 AFA CVs were exempted from the sideboard, because they are <125 ft LOA, have annual BSAI pollock landings of <5,100 mt, and made at least 40 landings of GOA groundfish from 1995-1997.
2000	BSAI/GOA Amendment 60/58. Groundfish LLP implemented. Vessels must hold a groundfish LLP with the appropriate gear (trawl or fixed gear), area (WG or CG), and operation type (CV or CP) endorsement to participate in the WGOA or CGOA groundfish fisheries in Federal waters. No LLP license is required to participate in the parallel waters fisheries.
2001	The WGOA and CGOA Pacific cod TACs were apportioned seasonally under the Steller sea lion management measures. 60% of each TAC is apportioned to the A season (Jan 1- June 10) and 40% is apportioned to the B season (Sept 1 - Dec 31). Incidental catch between the A and B seasons accrues to the B season TAC.
2006	GOA Pacific cod crab sideboards were implemented that limit the catch of 85 non-AFA vessels that qualified for initial allocations of C. opilio under the BSAI crab rationalization program (recent Council revisions exempt 3 vessels).
2007	Amendment 80 sideboards implemented – limit groundfish catch of Am 80 trawl CPs in the GOA. Pacific cod sideboards are 2.2% of the Western GOA TAC and 4.0% of the Central GOA TAC.
2008	BSAI/GOA Amendment 92/82. Trawl recency- final action taken by the Council in April 2008. When implemented, will reduce number of trawl CV licenses to 96 Central GOA license (from 176) and 77 WGOA licenses (from 160). Will reduce the number of CP licenses to 20 Central GOA and 19 Western GOA licenses from 27 and 26, respectively.

Incidental catch when the directed groundfish fisheries are closed is limited to a Maximum Retainable Amount (MRA). The MRA limits the amount of non-directed species catch that may be retained to a percent of directed species catch. For Pacific cod, the MRA with respect to all directed species, with the exception of arrowtooth flounder, is 20%. The MRA for Pacific cod in the directed arrowtooth flounder

prevent the BSAI catcher processor fleet from directed fishing on the GOA offshore Pacific cod TACs. The reason for these closures is that the offshore TACs are relatively small and cannot support directed fishing by a large portion of the BSAI catcher processor fleet. In 2003, the offshore seasons were open to this fleet, and the Western GOA offshore A season TAC was overharvested (220%; see Table 3-6).

Table 3-5 Pacific cod catch and percent of the TAC harvested in the inshore and offshore sectors

		Inshore			Offshore		
Area	Year	TAC	Catch	Percent harvested	TAC	Catch	Percent harvested
Western Gulf	2001	16,470	12,461	75.7%	1,830	1,700	92.9%
	2002	15,164	15,541	102.5%	1,685	1,627	96.6%
	2003	13,905	14,029	100.9%	1,545	2,205	142.7%
	2004	15,261	14,274	93.5%	1,696	1,281	75.5%
	2005	14,118	11,978	84.8%	1,569	423	27.0%
	2006	18,127	13,648	75.3%	2,014	1,095	54.4%
	2007	18,127	12,265	67.7%	2,014	1,142	56.7%
	2008	17,504	13,452	76.9%	1,945	1,467	75.4%
Central Gulf	2001	27,255	25,255	92.7%	3,025	2,066	68.3%
	2002	22,311	22,665	101.6%	2,479	2,393	96.5%
	2003	20,421	22,601	110.7%	2,269	2,228	98.2%
	2004	24,404	25,533	104.6%	2,712	1,931	71.2%
	2005	22,577	22,234	98.5%	2,509	361	14.4%
	2006	25,565	21,609	84.5%	2,840	1,402	49.4%
	2007	25,565	24,860	97.2%	2,840	1,138	40.1%
	2008	25,583	26,518	103.7%	2,837	1,245	43.9%

Source: NMFS Catch Accounting (2003-2008) and Blend databases (2001-2002).

The A and B season TACs are not utilized equally (see Table 3-6). The A season TAC, which is harvested when Pacific cod are aggregated and roe peaks, is typically fully harvested. During recent years, A season catches have met or exceeded A season TACs in both the Western and Central GOA. Incidental catch between the A and B seasons is substantial, particularly by the inshore sector in the Central GOA. Incidental catch made between the A and B season counts against the B season TAC. During recent years, B season TACs have not been fully harvested. During some years, the trawl and hook-and-line B seasons have ended before the TAC is fully harvested, when halibut PSC limits have been reached. During 2005 through 2007, the hook-and-line, pot, and jig gear B seasons remained open until December 31, but inclement weather conditions, high operating costs, and difficulty finding fish limited B season harvests, particularly in the Western GOA.

Table 3-6 Pacific cod catch during the A and B seasons by the inshore and offshore sectors in the Western and Central GOA, 2003-2008

Western GOA

	Inshore						Offshore					
	A season			B season			A season			B season		
Year	TAC	Catch	Percent harvested	TAC	Catch	Percent harvested	TAC	Catch	Percent harvested	TAC	Catch	Percent harvested
2003	8,343	10,057	120.5%	5,562	3,972	71.4%	927	2040	220.1%	618	165	26.7%
2004	9,157	10,536	115.1%	6,104	3,738	61.2%	1017	626	61.6%	679	655	96.5%
2005	8,471	10,298	121.6%	5,647	1,686	29.9%	941	123	13.1%	628	300	47.8%
2006	10,876	12,299	113.1%	7,251	1,349	18.6%	1208	666	55.1%	806	429	53.2%
2007	10,876	10,836	99.6%	7,251	1,430	19.7%	1208	643	53.2%	806	500	62.0%
2008	10,502	10,577	100.7%	7,002	2,875	41.1%	1,167	1,190	102.0%	778	277	35.6%

Table 3-8 Pacific cod B season closures for the trawl and hook-and-line sectors in the Western and Central GOA, 2001-2008

		Inshore		Offshore		Inshore		Offshore	
		Trawl				Hook-and-line			
Area	Year	Date	Reason	Date	Reason	Date	Reason	Date	Reason
Western Gulf	2001	21-Oct	HAL	21-Oct	HAL	4-Sep	HAL	4-Sep	HAL
	2002	13-Oct	HAL	3-Oct	TAC	23-Nov	TAC	3-Oct	TAC
	2003	12-Sep	HAL	not opened	TAC	25-Sep	TAC	not opened	TAC
	2004	1-Oct	HAL	1-Oct	HAL	2-Oct	HAL	2-Oct	HAL
	2005	1-Oct	HAL	1-Oct	HAL	31-Dec	n/a	31-Dec	n/a
	2006	8-Oct	HAL	8-Oct	HAL	31-Dec	n/a	31-Dec	n/a
	2007	1-Nov	SSL reg	1-Nov	SSL reg	31-Dec	n/a	31-Dec	n/a
	2008	1-Nov	SSL reg	1-Nov	SSL reg	16-Oct	HAL	16-Oct	HAL
Central Gulf	2001	21-Oct	HAL	21-Oct	HAL	4-Sep	HAL	4-Sep	HAL
	2002	not opened	TAC	8-Oct	TAC	26-Sep	TAC	8-Oct	TAC
	2003	3-Sep	TAC	14-Oct	TAC	3-Sep	TAC	14-Oct	TAC
	2004	10-Sep	TAC	1-Oct	HAL	2-Oct	HAL	2-Oct	HAL
	2005	1-Oct	HAL	1-Oct	HAL	31-Dec	n/a	31-Dec	n/a
	2006	8-Oct	HAL	8-Oct	HAL	31-Dec	n/a	31-Dec	n/a
	2007	1-Nov	SSL reg	1-Nov	SSL reg	31-Dec	n/a	31-Dec	n/a
	2008	3-Oct	TAC	1-Nov	SSL reg	16-Oct	HAL	16-Oct	HAL

Source: NMFS Alaska region season closures summary. HAL = halibut PSC closure. TAC = TAC reached.
*The table shows the final B season closure date, and does not show the multiple openings of the trawl season.

3.2.4 Participation by fixed gear vessels and licenses

Pacific cod is the primary groundfish species targeted by the fixed gear sectors in the Western and Central GOA. During 2000 through 2008, Pacific cod comprised approximately 98% of retained groundfish harvests by vessels using fixed gear in the Western and Central GOA, excluding the IFQ halibut and sablefish fisheries. The number of vessels participating in a fishery is one measure of effort, although it does not capture variables such as the capacity of the fleet. Table 3-9 reports the number of fixed gear vessels that participated in the directed Pacific cod fisheries during 2000-2008 in the Western and Central GOA, excluding vessels that only had incidental catch of Pacific cod in the IFQ fisheries. There have been notable increases in participation in the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the GOA during the past several years, particularly in 2007 and 2008. For example, in both the Western and Central GOA, participation by pot and hook-and-line catcher vessels <50 ft LOA and 50-60 ft LOA increased in 2007 and 2008. In the Central GOA, the number of ≥60 ft pot CVs participating in the directed Pacific cod fisheries increased during the past several years, after several years of low participation in 2002 through 2004. Pot CV and CP participation peaked in the GOA 2000, when the start of the BSAI *C. opilio* fishery was delayed due to ice. In the Western GOA, pot CV participation by vessels ≥60 ft LOA declined somewhat during the past several years. In 2006, sideboards went into effect that limit Pacific cod harvests by recipients of initial allocations of BSAI *C. opilio* crab quota. These sideboard provisions limit participation by some pot vessels that historically fished in the GOA. Specifically, the sideboards prohibit 137 vessels from directed fishing for GOA Pacific cod, and limit Pacific cod harvests by 82 additional vessels to a sideboard limit. In addition to these sideboarded vessels, 36[8] fixed gear groundfish LLP licenses are subject to the Pacific cod sideboards, and 11 licenses are prohibited from directed

[8] The Council took final action in October 2008 to exempt 3 vessels and 3 licenses from the sideboards. Previously, 85 vessels and 39 fixed gear groundfish LLP licenses were subject to the sideboards.

Central Gulf	12	8	188	60	16	84	27	62	78	7

Table 3-11 Annual catch (mt) per vessel by fixed gear vessels participating in the directed Pacific cod fisheries, excluding IFQ catch, from 2000 to 2008.

Western GOA

Year	HAL CP <125	HAL CP ≥125	HAL CV <50	HAL CV 50-60	HAL CV ≥60	Jig CV	Pot CP	POT CV <50	POT CV 50-60	POT CV ≥60
2000	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	24	32	89
2001	*	*	*	*	*	10	346	38	45	82
2002	777	223	*	*	0	7	*	59	94	114
2003	445	184	*	0	*	4	*	108	146	204
2004	714	179	*	*	0	8	*	34	98	178
2005	*	*	24	8	0	6	*	52	47	237
2006	276	144	*	*	0	*	0	30	62	227
2007	381	120	19	*	*	0	*	61	81	128
2008	*	*	7	*	*	6	*	*	*	111

Central GOA

Year	HAL CP <125	HAL CP ≥125	HAL CV <50	HAL CV 50-60	HAL CV ≥60	Jig CV	Pot CP	POT CV <50	POT CV 50-60	POT CV ≥60
2000	69	0	36	62	119	2	227	30	93	132
2001	*	0	47	*	*	1	196	35	67	51
2002	0	406	*	80	*	0	44	13	73	98
2003	*	*	45	*	*	2	0	16	92	120
2004	*	*	79	69	108	4	0	18	149	186
2005	*	*	55	74	58	5	0	17	178	220
2006	*	*	77	112	125	4	0	21	142	192
2007	*	*	65	86	89	2	*	16	123	179
2008	145	337	47	86	91	2	0	7	93	123

Source: ADFG Fish Tickets and NMFS Catch Accounting/Blend, 2000-2008. Note: Excludes IFQ fisheries

The annual catch (mt) per vessel within each sector in the GOA directed Pacific cod fisheries is reported in Table 3-11. In general, hook-and-line and pot CPs and ≥60 ft LOA pot CVs have the highest annual catch per vessel. Jig vessels have the lowest annual catch per vessel (less than 10 mt per vessel). Annual catches per vessel within each sector depend on a number of variables, including Pacific cod TACs, conditions in the Pacific cod fishery, the number of vessels participating in the fishery, weather conditions, the timing of halibut PSC closures, and conditions in other fisheries. These variables make it difficult to describe trends in annual catch per vessel. For example, annual catches by hook-and-line vessels have varied, and do not show a clear trend. During some years, halibut PSC closures have limited hook-and-line catches during the B season. Conversely, during some years, the trawl B season has closed early due to halibut PSC limits, and the fixed gear sectors have had the opportunity to catch more of the TAC. Annual catches per vessel have declined in several sectors. For example, in the Central GOA, annual catches by ≥60 ft pot CVs declined from 220 mt per vessel in 2005 to 123 mt per vessel in 2008, and catches by 50-60 ft pot CVs declined by nearly half, from 178 mt in 2005 to 93 mt in 2008. In the Western GOA, annual catches by ≥60 ft pot CVs declined from 237 mt per vessel in 2005 to 111 mt per vessel in 2008.

Trends in the numbers of Western and Central GOA fixed gear CV licenses participating in the directed Pacific cod fisheries are reported in Table 3-12. In 2000 the number of fixed gear licenses participating in the Central and Western GOA was particularly high, because of the late start of the *C. opilio* season described earlier. In the Central GOA, the number of licenses participating in the directed Pacific cod fishery dropped to 99 licenses in 2003, climbed to 118 licenses in 2006, then increased substantially to 154 licenses in 2007 and 157 licenses in 2008. In the Western GOA, fixed gear CV license participation in the directed Pacific cod fishery ranged from 33 to 64 licenses during 2000 through 2008. In 2008, 55

Table 3-13 Number of fixed gear CP licenses and catch (mt) per license from 2000 to 2008 in the directed Pacific cod fisheries. Excludes IFQ participants.

Western GOA

	All gear types		Hook-and-line		Pot	
Year	Number of licenses*	Catch (mt) per license	Number of licenses*	Catch (mt) per license	Number of licenses*	Catch (mt) per license
2000	8	446	8	446	0	0
2001	8	*	7	503	2	*
2002	6	*	5	871	1	*
2003	11	*	9	362	2	*
2004	9	*	7	408	2	*
2005	6	*	4	169	2	*
2006	12	*	11	220	1	*
2007	12	*	10	277	2	*
2008	14	*	12	254	2	*

Central GOA

	All gear types		Hook-and-line		Pot	
Year	Number of licenses*	Catch (mt) per license	Number of licenses*	Catch (mt) per license	Number of licenses*	Catch (mt) per license
2000	4	133	2	*	2	*
2001	3	*	1	*	3	139
2002	4	*	3	369	1	*
2003	2	*	2	*	0	0
2004	3	347	3	347	0	0
2005	3	140	3	140	0	0
2006	9	*	7	145	2	*
2007	8	266	5	260	3	276
2008	10	*	9	195	1	*

Source: NMFS Catch Accounting/Blend and RAM groundfish license file, December 2008

* License counts do not necessarily correspond to vessel counts in Table 3-9. License counts may include vessels operating as CVs using CP licenses and vessels operating with stacked licenses (i.e., 2 or more licenses assigned to a single vessel). In Table 3-9, vessel counts may include vessels participating in the parallel waters fisheries without an LLP license. Licenses may have used more than one gear type.

3.2.5 Revenues in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries

Ex-vessel prices in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries increased substantially during 2007 (Table 3-14). Ex-vessel prices for fixed gear landings averaged $0.494 per pound in 2007, an increase of $0.10 per pound since 2006. Ex-vessel prices for trawl landings also averaged $0.487 in 2007, an increase of $0.12 per pound since 2006. Gross revenues for all catcher vessel landings of GOA Pacific cod totaled $34.4 million in 2007, a 27% increase from 2006 revenues (Table 3-15). Participants in the 2008 GOA Pacific cod fisheries reported prices of up to $0.68 per pound, including bonuses. CFEC price and gross revenues data for 2008 are not yet available. In 2009, poor market conditions worldwide resulted in price declines. Participants have reported that ex-vessel prices during the 2009 A season ranged from $.30 to $.33 in the GOA. Extensive information on economic conditions in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries can be found in the Economic SAFE Report (Hiatt et al., 2008).

Gross revenues by catcher vessels that used fixed gear in the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the Central or Western GOA are summarized in Table 3-18. Revenues are reported based on the sector that a vessel participated in during a given year in the Central or Western GOA directed Pacific cod fisheries. Table 3-18 also shows each sector's economic dependence on the GOA Pacific cod fisheries relative to its dependent on other Alaska fisheries. Pot vessels that did not qualify for BSAI crab allocations were highly dependent on GOA Pacific cod (19.7% of revenues), as well as the State GOA Pacific cod fisheries (11.5%) and IFQ halibut (25.1%). Crab-qualified pot CVs earned 14.6% of revenues from GOA Pacific cod during 2001-2007, and 65.3% of revenues from crab. Hook-and-line CVs earned 8.4% from GOA Pacific cod and 58% from halibut IFQ. Finally, jig vessels earned only 6.5% from the GOA Pacific cod fisheries, but also earned an additional 19.3% of revenues from the State GOA Pacific cod fisheries, and 43.3% of revenues from salmon.

First wholesale revenues for catcher processors that participated in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries are summarized in Table 3-19. The table shows that the GOA Pacific cod fisheries are a relatively small proportion of total production by trawl catcher processors. Trawl catcher processors mostly catch GOA Pacific cod incidentally while participating in other directed fisheries, and revenues from GOA Pacific cod comprised only 1.5% of first wholesale revenues during 2001-2007. Revenues for hook-and-line catcher processors were mainly from the BSAI Pacific cod fishery during 2001-2007 (77.5%). GOA Pacific cod and sablefish comprised 8.9% and 8.2% of first wholesale revenues for hook-and-line catcher processors during 2001-2007. Relatively few pot catcher processors participate in the GOA and BSAI Pacific cod fisheries. During 2001-2007, those pot CPs that participated in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries earned the majority of first wholesale revenues from the GOA Pacific cod fisheries (58.4%), and the remainder of revenues from the BSAI Pacific cod fishery.

Table 3-20 reports annual gross revenues per fixed gear CV license. Annual revenues per CV license have generally increased in both GOA management areas as the price of Pacific cod has increased. The tables also report revenues that licenses earned in the Western GOA or Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries as a percentage of revenues from all Alaska commercial fisheries, including groundfish, halibut, shellfish, salmon, and herring. Revenues from the GOA directed Pacific cod fisheries have remained a fairly consistent percentage of total annual revenues by these licenses in Alaska fisheries. Fixed gear CV licenses that participated in the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the Western GOA earned 11% to 22% of annual fisheries revenues from Pacific cod. Central GOA licenses earned 14% to 18% of annual fisheries revenues from the directed Pacific cod fishery. Table 3-20 also reports annual gross revenues per fixed gear CV license based on the gear type used in the directed Pacific cod fishery. Licenses that used pot gear had the highest annual revenues per license of the fixed gear CV sectors (2007 revenues: $149,305 in the CGOA and $108,295 in the WGOA). These figures only include revenues from the directed Pacific cod fishery in that management area. In 2007, licenses with hook-and-line catch earned approximately $85,000 per license in the CGOA and $34,000 per license in the Western GOA directed Pacific cod fisheries. Licenses with jig catch generally had annual revenues of less than $5,000 per license in the directed cod fisheries.

Table 3-21 reports annual wholesale revenues per fixed gear CP license. Annual revenues per CP license in the directed Pacific cod fisheries have generally declined over time in the Western GOA, although they increased in 2007 with higher Pacific cod prices. Annual revenues per CP license that used hook-and-line gear in the Western GOA directed Pacific cod fishery during 2000-2007 ranged from $215,000 per license in 2005 to more than $900,000 per license in 2002. In the Central GOA, revenues per hook-and-line CP license have ranged from just over $100,000 per license to nearly $500,000 per license in 2007. In both management areas, revenues from the GOA directed Pacific cod fisheries have ranged from 5% to more than 20% of total annual wholesale revenues by CP licenses in all Alaska fisheries (including groundfish and halibut and sablefish IFQ, but not including salmon or shellfish).

Table 3-19 Percentage of gross revenues from GOA Pacific cod and other fisheries by catcher processors that participated in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries, averaged from 2001-2007.

Gear	Area	Fishery	Total number of unique vessels (2000-2007)**	Average annual catch (mt)	Average annual revenues	Percent of revenues
Hook-and-line	BSAI	Atka Mackerel	10	1	$827	0.0%
		Flatfish	32	1,244	$878,138	1.3%
		Other Species	31	1,265	$497,720	0.7%
		Pacific Cod	36	38,307	$51,833,438	77.5%
		Pollock	36	1,238	$999,429	1.5%
		Rockfish	31	56	$45,771	0.1%
		Sablefish	24	181	$949,223	1.4%
		BSAI Total			$55,204,547	82.6%
Hook-and-line	GOA	Atka Mackerel	3	1	$374	0.0%
		Flatfish	24	49	$54,181	0.1%
		Other Species	26	114	$66,384	0.1%
		Pacific Cod	36	4,502	$5,918,465	8.9%
		Pollock	29	19	$7,964	0.0%
		Rockfish	26	129	$117,117	0.2%
		Sablefish	20	1,077	$5,469,946	8.2%
		GOA Total			$11,634,430	17.4%
		Hook-and-line total			$66,838,977	100.0%
Pot	BSAI	Atka Mackerel	1	*	*	*
		Flatfish	1	*	*	*
		Other Species	4	*	*	*
		Pacific Cod	6	515	$594,218	40.7%
		Pollock	4	3	$2,229	0.2%
		Sablefish	2	*	*	*
		BSAI Total			$603,132	41.3%
Pot	GOA	Atka Mackerel	2	*	*	*
		Other Species	6	5	$3,659	0.3%
		Pacific Cod	8	655	$852,861	58.4%
		Pollock	1	*	*	*
		Rockfish	2	*	*	*
		GOA Total			$856,619	58.7%
		Pot Total			$1,459,750	100.0%
Trawl	BSAI	Atka Mackerel	19	34,747	$22,693,733	17.0%
		Flatfish	21	64,134	$50,254,938	37.6%
		Other Species	21	789	$309,549	0.2%
		Pacific Cod	21	18,396	$24,439,183	18.3%
		Pollock	21	10,169	$8,350,252	6.2%
		Rockfish	20	5,891	$4,754,323	3.6%
		Sablefish	20	115	$577,423	0.4%
		BSAI Total			$111,379,401	83.3%
Trawl	GOA	Atka Mackerel	18	351	$202,757	0.2%
		Flatfish	21	8,825	$8,871,453	6.6%
		Other Species	17	190	$115,465	0.1%
		Pacific Cod	21	1,530	$2,006,816	1.5%
		Pollock	20	286	$116,860	0.1%
		Rockfish	20	9,162	$8,602,974	6.4%
		Sablefish	20	469	$2,349,967	1.8%
		GOA Total			$22,266,293	16.7%
		Trawl Total			$133,645,693	100.0%

Source: Retained catch data from Catch Accounting/Blend database, 2001-2007. First wholesale price per ton from Economic SAFE (Hiatt, 2008). *Withheld for confidentiality. **Not all vessels fished during all years from 2001-2007.

Table 3-21 First wholesale revenues per CP license in the directed GOA Pacific cod fisheries, 2000-2008.

Western GOA	All gear types			Hook-and-line		Pot	
Year	Number of licenses	Revenues per license	Percent of revenues from WG Pcod	Number of licenses	Revenues per license	Number of licenses	Revenues per license
2000	8	$565,077	17.0%	8	$565,077	0	$0
2001	8	*	19.0%	7	$602,040	2	*
2002	6	*	23.8%	5	$911,895	1	*
2003	11	*	11.4%	9	$423,330	2	*
2004	9	*	11.6%	7	$490,861	2	*
2005	6	*	5.1%	4	$215,126	2	*
2006	12	*	6.9%	11	$371,981	1	*
2007	12	*	10.6%	10	$543,162	2	*
2008	14	n/a	n/a	12	n/a	2	n/a

Central GOA	All gear types			Hook-and-line		Pot	
Year	Number of licenses	Revenues per license	Percent of revenues from WG Pcod	Number of licenses	Revenues per license	Number of licenses	Revenues per license
2000	4	$168,608	20.5%	2	*	2	*
2001	3	*	5.4%	1	*	2	*
2002	4	*	11.6%	3	$386,836	1	*
2003	2	*	24.1%	2	*	0	$0
2004	3	$346,793	22.8%	3	$346,793	0	$0
2005	3	$102,634	6.5%	3	$102,634	0	$0
2006	9	*	4.9%	7	$215,044	2	*
2007	8	$392,367	13.1%	5	$494,355	3	$222,388
2008	10	n/a	n/a	9	n/a	1	n/a

Source: NMFS Blend/Catch Accounting, RAM groundfish license file (Dec 2008), and Hiatt et al (2007).

3.3 Analysis of the Alternatives, Components, and Options

This section provides an overview of the expected effects of the proposed action to add Pacific cod endorsements to Western and Central GOA fixed gear groundfish licenses. The tables show the number of fixed gear groundfish licenses that will be eligible to participate in the directed Pacific cod fisheries in Western and Central GOA under the various components and option. Following this overview is a discussion of the potential economic and socioeconomic effects which may occur as a result of the proposed action. Finally, effects on harvesters, processors, and communities are analyzed, followed by a description of the cumulative effects of the proposed amendment and other recent actions, and an analysis of the net benefits to the Nation.

3.3.1 Alternative 1 – No Action

Under the no action alternative, Pacific cod endorsements would not be added to Western and Central GOA fixed gear groundfish licenses. As a result, there would be no reduction in the number of fixed gear groundfish licenses eligible to participate in the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the Western and Central GOA. If this alternative is selected, fixed gear licenses that have not participated in the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries in recent years could enter the fisheries in the future and dilute revenues, increase costs, or both, for licenses with recent participation in the fisheries. Increased participation may result in negative economic impacts to current participants in the fisheries. The number

Option 3 are included would receive a nontransferable Pacific cod endorsement. The endorsement would be extinguished if the license is transferred to another vessel or owner.

Component 3

Option 1: 2000-2006
Option 2: 2002-2006
Option 3: Add the qualifying period January 1, 2007 through:
Suboption 1: June 4, 2008
Suboption 2: December 8, 2008

- Either of these suboptions will be selected in addition to one of the qualifying periods in Option 1 or Option 2.

Suboption 3: If an LLP license qualifies only when the supplemental range of years in Suboption 1 or Suboption 2 is included, any Pacific cod endorsements granted to licenses under these suboptions would be extinguished upon transfer of the LLP license to another vessel or owner.

Licenses will be credited with retained catch from the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the Federal and parallel waters fisheries. Landings must be made with fixed gear (pot, hook-and-line, or jig) in the endorsement area. Catch in the IFQ and State waters fisheries is excluded. Note that licenses with Central GOA endorsements are also credited with landings in the West Yakutat management area, because under the LLP, the Central GOA endorsement authorizes licenses to fish in Federal waters of West Yakutat. Each table shows the number of licenses that would qualify under the 2 options in

Component 4:

Option 1 – All directed Pacific Cod 1, 3, 5 landings (resulting in a Pcod endorsement)
Option 2 – All directed Pacific Cod 5, 10, 25, 100 mt (resulting in a Pcod endorsement)

Licenses that meet a landings threshold of 1, 3, or 5 landings or a catch threshold of 5, 10, 25, 100 mt in the respective management area would receive a Pacific cod endorsement. Directed Pacific cod catch is defined as landings made when the directed Pacific cod fisheries are open. Licenses are credited with landings made up to 7 days after the directed season closes in order to allow time for deliveries to be made or processing activity to be reported.

3.3.2.1 Catcher vessel licenses

The number of fixed gear catcher vessel licenses that meet each landings and catch threshold is reported in Table 3-23. The number of licenses that would qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement depends upon the catch definition, landings or catch threshold, and qualification period selected. There are currently 264 Western GOA fixed gear licenses, and 54 to 110 of these licenses would qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement. There are 883 Central GOA fixed gear licenses, and 110 to 306 of these licenses would qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement. If Pacific cod endorsements are added to licenses, the number of fixed gear catcher vessel licenses eligible to participate in the directed Pacific cod fishery would be reduced to 20% to 42% of current capacity in the Western GOA and 12% to 35% of current capacity in the Central GOA.

The number of qualifying Central GOA licenses varies substantially, and depends on the range of qualifying years used to determine catch history. If 2000-2001 catch history is included, approximately 30 to 60 additional Central GOA licenses meet the 1 landing threshold. The qualification period makes somewhat less of a difference for Western GOA licenses. In general, most Western GOA licenses with fishing history during 2000-2006 were also active during 2002-2006. Most Western and Central GOA licenses that have 3 or 5 landings also meet the 5 mt or 10 mt catch thresholds. However, only about 50%

The number of gear-specific Pacific cod endorsements that could be added to licenses under the different options (shown in Table 3-24) may be compared with the number of licenses participating on an annual basis using each gear type (see Table 3-12). In the Western GOA, up to 59 licenses per year have participated using pot gear, and as many as 96 licenses would qualify for pot endorsements at the 1 landing threshold during 2000 through Dec 8, 2008. As many as 7 hook-and-line vessels and 6 jig vessels have participated in the Western GOA directed Pacific cod fishery per year, and up to 14 hook-and-line and 12 jig endorsements could be added to licenses. In the Central GOA, up to 109 licenses participated using hook-and-line gear per year, and up to 202 licenses qualify for hook-and-line endorsements. A maximum of 85 licenses used pot gear in one year, and up to 124 licenses qualify for pot endorsements. Finally, up to 8 Central GOA licenses have jig landings in one year and up to 24 licenses would qualify for a jig endorsement.

The Council could choose different catch or landings thresholds for different gear types and MLOA designations to account for differences in catch history among licenses in each sector. In Component 4, options for defining the catcher vessel sectors include:

- Hook-and-line CV
  Option: Hook-and-line CV ≥60
  Hook-and-line CV <60
- Pot CV
  Option: Pot CV ≥60
  Pot CV <60
- Jig

In past actions, the Council has selected different qualifying thresholds for vessels based on gear, operation type, and vessel length. For example, the qualification criteria used to establish BSAI Pacific cod endorsements under Amendment 67 are shown in Table 3-2. In the BSAI, vessels with pot history needed 100,000 lbs (45 mt) of catch in each of 2 years during 1995-1999 to qualify for a pot catcher vessel endorsement, and vessels with hook-and-line history needed 7.5 mt of catch in any one year during 1995-1999 to qualify for a hook-and-line catcher vessel endorsement.

In determining the criteria that licenses will need to meet to qualify for GOA Pacific cod endorsements, the Council could take into consideration the differences in catch history among the gear types. For example, approximately 65% to 75% of Western GOA licenses that have at least one directed Pacific cod landing using pot gear also meet the highest (100 mt) catch threshold. Under most options, more than 50% of Central GOA licenses with at least 1 pot or hook-and-line landing in the directed Pacific cod fishery in the Central GOA meet the 100 mt threshold. However, in the Western GOA, no licenses with hook-and-line catch history in the directed Pacific cod fishery meet the 100 mt threshold during any of the qualification periods. Similarly, most licenses with jig history have less than 10 mt of Pacific cod catch during all of the qualifying periods.

Some catcher vessel licenses have catch history using more than one fixed gear type. Under the current set of options being considered by the Council, these licenses could potentially qualify for more than one gear-specific Pacific cod endorsement. Note that under Amendment 67, licenses could qualify for up to 2 BSAI Pacific cod endorsements (pot and hook-and-line CP or CV). If licenses are allowed to qualify for more than one Western or Central GOA Pacific cod endorsement, the endorsements could be made non-severable to prevent license holders from selling their Pacific cod endorsements, which could result in an expansion of the fleet. Allowing individual licenses to hold more than one gear endorsement would give those licenses the flexibility to use different fixed gear types during a given fishing year or over a series of years.

Licenses that only qualify when 2007 and 2008 catch history is included

Under Component 3, Suboption 3 states that if an LLP license qualifies for a Pacific cod endorsement only when the supplemental range of years (Jan 1, 2007 through Jun 4, 2008 or Dec 8, 2008) in Suboption 1 or Suboption 2 of Component 3 are included, any Pacific cod endorsement granted to a license would be extinguished upon transfer of the LLP license to another vessel or owner. The rationale for including Suboption 3 is that licenses that only have recent (2007 and 2008) history in the Western or Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries may have made these landings specifically for the purpose of qualifying for a Pacific cod endorsement. Those participants who entered the fishery in 2007 and 2008 would receive a Pacific cod endorsement under Suboption 1 or Suboption 2, and could continue to participate in the fishery. **It is important to note that Suboption 3 currently states that the Pacific cod endorsement would not be transferable to another vessel or owner.**

Designating licenses that qualify under Suboption 1 or Suboption 2 as non-transferable to another vessel or owner could have several effects. First, it would maintain the existing fleet of vessels in the Pacific cod fishery that are currently assigned to licenses that qualify based on 2007 or 2008 catch history. For example, a high capacity 58 ft LOA vessel could not later be assigned to a license to replace a lower capacity boat that is currently assigned to a license. However, it would also prevent a license holder from replacing a vessel for safety or other considerations. If a boat sinks or otherwise becomes inoperable, the Council may wish to specify vessel replacement provisions for these licenses. If the Council wishes to choose Suboption 3, but to allow the owner to transfer the license to another vessel, **Suboption 3 could be revised so that a license cannot be transferred to another owner, but can be transferred to another vessel.** This would allow license holders to replace the vessel assigned to the license with a different vessel. Suboption 3 would also preclude a license holder who receives a Pacific cod endorsement based on 2007 or 2008 history from opportunistically selling the license with the endorsement to another person. The intent of including 2007 and 2008 history is to allow those participants who have only recently entered the fishery to be able to continue to participate in the fishery. It is not intended to allow recent entrants to qualify for an endorsement in order to sell the license with the endorsement to another person.

Table 3-26 provides a summary of the CV licenses that qualify at the 1 landing threshold only when catch history from 2007 through December 8, 2008 is included. Approximately half of the additional CV licenses that qualify have an MLOA of 58 or 59 ft. There are 37 Central GOA CV licenses that qualify at the 1 landing threshold; 32 of these licenses have an MLOA of <60 ft, and 19 have an MLOA of 58 or 59 ft. Three of the 37 licenses are currently assigned to 'Super 8' vessels greater than 100 gross tons. The licenses are mostly held by Alaska residents (25 of the 37 licenses, including 10 held by Kodiak residents). There are 17 Western GOA CV licenses that qualify at the 1 landing threshold only when 2007 and 2008 catch history is included; 10 licenses have an MLOA of <60 ft, and 7 licenses have an MLOA of 58 or 59 ft (including 1 'Super 8' vessel that is greater than 100 gross tons). The licenses are also mostly held by Alaska residents (7 of 10 licenses). Four Western GOA and 4 Central GOA CV licenses that qualify are stacked on two vessels (2 licenses per vessel). If these licenses are transferable, the stacked licenses could be assigned to different vessels or sold to different persons in the future, which would result in an increase in the size of the fleet eligible to participate in the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod fishery.

There are also additional CP licenses that qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement at the 1 landing threshold when catch through Dec 8, 2008 is credited to licenses. Three additional Western GOA licenses and 7 additional Central GOA licenses meet the 1 landing threshold. Most of these licenses have hook-and-line CP landings, and would qualify for a hook-and-line Pacific cod endorsement. There is a comparison of annual participation and revenues in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries and other Alaska fisheries by CV and

Table 3-24 Number of fixed gear catcher vessel licenses that meet the landings and catch thresholds based on landings using a specific gear type in the Western or Central GOA directed Pacific cod fisheries.

Western GOA licenses - 264 CV licenses

Hook-and-line						
Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	14	12	7	14	12	7
3 landings	11	8	4	10	7	3
5 landings	9	5	1	9	5	1
5 mt	13	11	6	12	10	5
10 mt	11	9	3	11	9	3
25 mt	9	6	0	9	6	0
100 mt	3	0	0	3	0	0

Jig						
Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	12	9	9	11	8	8
3 landings	7	7	7	7	7	7
5 landings	5	5	5	5	5	5
5 mt	7	6	6	7	6	6
10 mt	3	3	3	3	3	3
25 mt	*	*	*	*	*	*
100 mt	0	0	0	0	0	0

Pot						
Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	96	94	83	86	84	72
3 landings	88	87	77	82	81	69
5 landings	82	81	71	76	75	64
5 mt	91	89	78	84	82	69
10 mt	88	86	75	83	81	68
25 mt	82	81	71	76	75	63
100 mt	65	63	55	65	63	54

Source: ADFG Fish Tickets (2000-2007), NMFS Catch Accounting (2008) and RAM groundfish license file, December 2008.
*Withheld for confidentiality.
Note: Gear type columns are not mutually exclusive, and the number of licenses in the columns in Table 3-24 may sum to more than the number of qualifying licenses in Table 3-23.

Table 3-25 Number of catcher vessel licenses that meet the landings and catch thresholds based on catch in the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the Western and Central GOA using a specific gear type, reported by the MLOA on the license.

Western GOA- 264 CV licenses

Hook-and-line gear									
	<50 feet	50-59 feet	≥60 feet	<50 feet	50-59 feet	≥60 feet	<50 feet	50-59 feet	≥60 feet
	2000- Dec 2008			2000- June 2008			2000-2006		
1 landing	4	6	4	3	6	3	0	6	1
3 landings	4	4	3	3	4	1	0	3	1
5 landings	3	3	3	2	2	1	0	1	0
5 mt	3	6	4	*	6	*	0	6	0
10 mt	3	4	4	*	4	*	0	3	0
25 mt	*	*	4	*	*	*	0	0	0
100 mt	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	0	0

Jig gear									
	<50 feet	50-59 feet	≥60 feet	<50 feet	50-59 feet	≥60 feet	<50 feet	50-59 feet	≥60 feet
	2000- Dec 2008			2000- June 2008			2000-2006		
1 landing	4	7	1	4	5	0	4	5	0
3 landings	3	4	0	3	4	0	3	4	0
5 landings	2	3	0	2	3	0	2	3	0
5 mt	3	4	0	*	*	0	*	*	0
10 mt	*	*	0	*	*	0	*	*	0
25 mt	*	*	0	*	*	0	*	*	0
100 mt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Pot gear									
	<50 feet	50-59 feet	≥60 feet	<50 feet	50-59 feet	≥60 feet	<50 feet	50-59 feet	≥60 feet
	2000- Dec 2008			2000- June 2008			2000-2006		
1 landing	2	67	27	2	67	25	2	59	22
3 landings	2	62	24	2	61	24	2	53	22
5 landings	1	59	22	1	58	22	1	51	19
5 mt	*	63	*	*	63	*	*	55	*
10 mt	*	*	25	*	*	24	*	*	21
25 mt	0	58	24	0	57	24	0	50	21
100 mt	0	46	19	0	44	19	0	37	18

Source: ADFG Fish Tickets (2000-2007), NMFS Catch Accounting (2008) and RAM groundfish license file, December 2008.
*Withheld for confidentiality.
Note: Length classes are based on the MLOA on each license, and not on the vessel assigned to that license. A vessel may have an LOA less than the MLOA on its license. The number of licenses qualifying in each MLOA length class may differ from the number of vessels in each LOA length class that have participated in the fisheries.

3.3.2.2 Catcher processor licenses

The number of catcher processor licenses that meet the various landings and catch thresholds is reported in Table 3-27. For the purpose of this analysis, catcher processor licenses were credited with both catcher processor and catcher vessel landings. The same rule was used for the trawl recency action. Catch Accounting data was used to determine the number of landings and retained catch (mt) by catcher processors. The Council elected to use Catch Accounting data rather than Weekly Production Reports for the GOA Pacific cod sector allocations to catcher processors. Catch Accounting data was used in this analysis to be consistent with the sector split analysis, but the Council could choose to use Weekly Production Reports instead. For the purpose of determining whether licenses meet the recency criteria, Catch Accounting data and Weekly Production Reports should produce similar results. One advantage of using Catch Accounting data to generate the estimates in this analysis is that landings by all vessels are stored in a single database, making it easier to ensure that catcher processors are credited for any landings made as catcher vessels.

The Council elected to exclude IFQ catch from qualifying catch for the purpose of determining recent participation in the groundfish fisheries. However, the Catch Accounting and Weekly Production Report databases have not historically tracked IFQ catch in a consistent manner. NMFS staff suggested excluding all halibut and sablefish targeted catch as a proxy for identifying IFQ catch. This approach may exclude some qualified groundfish catch, particularly directed Pacific cod catch, when Pacific cod comprised more than 20%, but less than 50% of a vessel's catch while it was targeting halibut or sablefish. Directed fishing is defined as any fishing activity that results in the retention of greater than the maximum retainable amount (MRA) for that species (679.2). For this reason, these trips were identified and groundfish and directed cod catch was credited to licenses.

There are 31 Western GOA catcher processor licenses, and between 19 and 24 licenses meet the 1 landing threshold during the qualifying periods in Options 1 through 3, and would qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement. The majority of Western GOA licenses that have catch history during the various qualifying periods also meet the highest catch threshold (100 mt) and landings threshold (5 landings). Three licenses qualified only when catch through December 2008 was included. There are 49 Central GOA licenses, and 12 to 21 licenses meet the 1 landing threshold during the qualifying periods in Options 1 through 3 and would qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement. In general, a smaller proportion of Central GOA CP licenses that meet the one landing threshold also meet the highest catch and landings thresholds. There were 7 licenses that qualified only when catch (at the 1 landing threshold) through December 2008 was included.

The number of catcher processor licenses that would qualify for gear-specific Pacific cod endorsements includes:

Western GOA

- 13 to 22 hook-and-line catcher processor endorsements
- Up to 5 pot catcher processor endorsements
- 3 licenses have both hook-and-line and pot landings during 2000-Dec 8, 2008

Central GOA

- 7 to 18 hook-and-line catcher processor endorsements
- Up to 4 pot catcher processor endorsements
- 1 license has both hook-and-line and pot landings during 2000-2006 and 2000-Dec 8, 2008

The number of gear-specific Pacific cod endorsements that could be added to CP licenses under the different options (shown in Table 3-27) may be compared to the number of CP licenses participating on

Central GOA – 49 CP licenses

	All gear					
Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	21	21	14	19	19	12
3 landings	18	18	12	17	17	11
5 landings	14	14	11	12	12	9
5 mt	21	21	14	18	18	*
10 mt	19	19	12	18	18	*
25 mt	18	18	12	17	17	*
100 mt	15	15	*	14	14	*

	Hook-and-line gear					
Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	18	18	12	16	16	10
3 landings	15	15	10	14	14	9
5 landings	10	10	8	9	9	7
5 mt	18	18	12	15	15	9
10 mt	16	16	10	15	15	9
25 mt	15	15	10	14	14	9
100 mt	11	11	7	11	11	7

	Pot gear					
Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	4	4	3	3	3	2
3 landings	4	4	3	3	3	2
5 landings	4	4	3	3	3	2
5 mt	4	4	3	3	3	*
10 mt	4	4	3	3	3	*
25 mt	4	4	3	3	3	*
100 mt	4	4	*	3	3	*

Source: Catch Accounting/Blend data and RAM LLP license file, December 2008. *Withheld for confidentiality.
Note: Gear type columns are not mutually exclusive, because some licenses have catch history using more than one gear type. The number of licenses in the gear columns may sum to more than the total number of licenses qualifying.

3.3.2.3 Licenses subject to crab sideboards

In developing the BSAI crab rationalization program, the Council imposed sideboards on the GOA groundfish fisheries. Pot vessels generally participate in only the crab and Pacific cod fisheries. As a result, the only perceived increase in opportunity arising from the crab rationalization program was thought to be in the Pacific cod fisheries in the GOA that are prosecuted in January, when the Bering Sea *C. opilio* fishery is typically prosecuted. Only recipients of initial allocations[9] in the Bering Sea *C. opilio* fishery are subject to the sideboards. The sideboards limit these vessels and licenses to their historic share of retained catch of GOA Pacific cod and other GOA groundfish during 1996-2000, excluding catch of fixed gear sablefish. Vessels that have limited history in the GOA groundfish fisheries – less than 50 mt of catch during 1996 to 2000 – are prohibited from directed fishing for Pacific cod in the GOA. Vessels that landed less than 100,000 pounds of Bering Sea *C. opilio* and more than 500 mt of Pacific cod in the GOA from 1996 to 2000 are exempt from the sideboards.

These sideboard provisions limit participation by some vessels that historically fished in the GOA. Specifically, the sideboards prohibit 137 vessels from directed fishing for GOA Pacific cod, and limit Pacific cod harvests by 82 additional vessels to a sideboard limit. In addition to these sideboarded vessels, 36[10] fixed gear groundfish LLP licenses are subject to the Pacific cod sideboards, and 11 licenses are prohibited from directed fishing for Pacific cod in the GOA. The purpose of this discussion is to provide an estimate of the number of licenses that may qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement in each gear group, but are subject to the GOA Pacific cod sideboards for BSAI crab qualified vessels. These licenses may receive a gear-specific Pacific cod endorsement, but their participation in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries will be limited by the crab sideboards.

Of the 36 sideboarded licenses, 6 are CP licenses and 30 are CV licenses (see Table 3-29). The 6 CP licenses include 4 Central GOA and 4 Western GOA endorsed licenses. The 30 CV licenses include 20 Central GOA and 14 Western GOA endorsed licenses. All but one of the sideboarded CV licenses has an MLOA of ≥60 ft. The sideboard amounts are calculated as a percentage of the Western and Central GOA inshore and offshore Pacific cod TACs (see Table 3-30). If GOA Pacific cod sector allocations are established, and supersede the current inshore/offshore processing sector allocations, the GOA inshore and offshore crab sideboards will likely need to be recalculated into a combined sideboard amount.

Table 3-29 Number of licenses subject to crab sideboards or prohibited from directed fishing for Pacific cod

	P. Cod Prohibited			P. Cod Sideboarded		
Operation Type	Number of licenses	Number WG endorsed	Number CG endorsed	Number of licenses	Number WG endorsed	Number CG endorsed
Catcher Vessel	11	8	6	30	14	20
Catcher Processor	0	0	0	6	4	4

Source: RAM LLP license file, October 2008. Does not include 3 licenses recently exempted from the sideboards in Oct 2008.

[9] Since allocations in the program are based on catch history associated with a license, the sideboard is constructed to limit catch using the license. This is done by sideboarding any vessel the catch of which led to a share allocation and any vessel named on the license that arose from the catch history of the vessel that led to that allocation.

[10] The Council took final action in October 2008 to exempt 3 vessels and 3 licenses from the sideboards. Previously, 85 vessels and 39 fixed gear groundfish LLP licenses were subject to the sideboards.

If the qualification period includes 2000-2001, NMFS may need to rely on alternative forms of documentation, such as individual affidavits or private contracts, to document catch history on licenses that were transferred during this period. Use of these forms of documentation is also likely to make the action more difficult to implement. Excluding 2000 and 2001 from the qualification period would simplify implementation of the action. Beginning in 2002, licenses were required to be formally assigned to a vessel in order to participate in LLP fisheries, and a complete record of license transfers exists. The transfer data was used to assign catch from each vessel to all licenses assigned to the vessel from 2002 to the present. Table 3-31 summarizes the number of licenses that have been transferred from the original qualifying vessel.

Table 3-31 Number of GOA fixed gear licenses no longer assigned to the original qualifying vessel.

Area endorsement	Operation designation	Number of licenses	Number of licenses not on original vessel
Central Gulf	Catcher vessel	883	236
	Catcher processor	49	10
Western Gulf	Catcher vessel	264	87
	Catcher processor	31	7

Source: RAM groundfish LLP license file, December 2008

3.3.2.5 Definition of qualifying catch

Qualifying catch includes retained catch from the directed Pacific cod fisheries in parallel and Federal waters. Qualifying catch does not include incidental catch of groundfish from the IFQ fisheries or State waters fishery catch. The IFQ halibut and sablefish fisheries are exempt from the LLP requirement. Incidental catch of LLP groundfish species in the IFQ fisheries may be retained without a groundfish license. This exemption was included in the LLP to minimize discards, and is consistent with National Standard 9 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Catch thresholds are currently based on retained catch. Retained catch is likely a better indicator of dependence than total catch, because discards provide no direct return. Also, retained catch can be estimated more precisely, because discards by catcher vessels are typically extrapolated from observer estimates of at-sea discards. Currently, these definitions of qualifying catch do not exclude catch used for meal production. Data provided in the draft preliminary review EA/RIR/IRFA for the GOA Pacific cod sector allocations indicated that catcher processors in the GOA did not produce meal from Pacific cod during 1995-2006, and typically less than 1% of Pacific cod harvests by catcher vessels are used for meal production. The Council has excluded catch destined for meal production from some allocation programs based on the rationale that meal is a relatively low value product and its inclusion could disadvantage some small catcher processors that do not have meal production capacity. This was not an issue in the GOA, and the Council elected to include catch destined for meal production as qualifying catch for the purposes of the proposed GOA Pacific cod sector allocations and this action.

Exemptions from the proposed action

The Council is considering several exemptions from the proposed action. These exemptions would (1) allow certain types of vessels to participate in the directed Pacific cod fisheries without a Pacific cod endorsement, and (2) exempt some licenses from the catch thresholds, allowing these licenses to qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement even if they do not have qualifying catch. In determining which exemptions will be selected, the Council may wish to consider balancing the objective of creating

fishery using jig gear and would not be restricted to the gear limits that apply to licenses that do not have a Pacific cod endorsement. Several licenses that could qualify for a Western or Central GOA Pacific cod endorsement based on jig landings also have pot or hook-and-line landings, and could potentially qualify for a pot or hook-and-line Pacific cod endorsement based on catch using these gear types.

Table 3-32 Number of vessels with Pacific cod catch using jig gear in the parallel and Federal fisheries in the Western and Central GOA during 2000-2007, and their LLP status.

	Central GOA						Western GOA					
	<58 feet		58-59 feet		≥60 feet		<58 feet		58-59 feet		≥60 feet	
Year	LLP	No LLP	LLP	No LLP	LLP	No LLP	LLP	No LLP	LLP	No LLP	LLP	No LLP
2000	5	11	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
2001	4	11	0	0	0	0	3	14	0	0	0	0
2002	2	4	0	0	1	0	8	20	1	0	0	1
2003	5	7	0	0	0	0	4	7	0	0	0	0
2004	7	26	0	0	0	2	8	15	0	0	0	0
2005	5	19	0	1	1	2	1	5	0	0	0	0
2006	6	16	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
2007	5	12	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0

Source: ADFG fish tickets and RAM Groundfish license file, October 2008. Note: Includes all Pacific cod catch (both directed and incidental).

Table 3-33 Number of fixed gear catcher vessel licenses meeting the landings and catch thresholds with jig landings during 2000-2006, reported by the MLOA on the license.

Western GOA		<40 feet	40-49 feet	50-57 feet	≥58 feet
All Groundfish	1 landing	1	3	2	7
	3 landings	1	2	2	2
	5 landings	1	1	2	1
	5 mt	0	*	*	*
	10 mt	0	*	*	*
	25 mt	0	*	*	0
	100 mt	0	0	0	0
Directed cod	1 landing	1	3	2	3
	3 landings	1	2	2	2
	5 landings	1	1	2	1
	5 mt	0	*	*	*
	10 mt	0	*	*	*
	25 mt	0	*	*	0
	100 mt	0	0	0	0

Central GOA		<40 feet	40-49 feet	50-57 feet	≥58 feet
All Groundfish	1 landing	4	18	9	14
	3 landings	1	8	4	6
	5 landings	1	3	3	4
	5 mt	*	*	*	*
	10 mt	0	*	0	*
	25 mt	0	*	0	0
	100 mt	0	0	0	0
Directed cod	1 landing	3	8	4	4
	3 landings	1	4	2	2
	5 landings	1	3	1	2
	5 mt	*	*	*	*
	10 mt	0	*	0	*
	25 mt	0	0	0	0
	100 mt	0	0	0	0

Source: ADFG Fish Tickets and RAM Groundfish license file. October 2008. *Withheld for confidentiality.

amount of inshore and offshore Pacific cod TAC remaining on Sept 1 during 2003 through 2008, including any remaining A season TAC that was rolled over to the B season TAC, and excluding any A season overages that were subtracted from the B season TAC. Most B season harvests have occurred prior to Nov 1, although during most years, some vessels have continued to fish until the end of the calendar year. Table 3-37 reports inshore and offshore harvests by fixed gear vessels during the B season in the Western GOA from 2003-2008. The table shows that the majority of Western GOA B season harvests have been by catcher vessels that used pot gear. Catches and participation are highest during September and decrease in later months. If the Council chooses the minimum threshold of 1 directed Pacific cod landing during 2000 through Dec 8, 2008, 110 Western GOA CV licenses and 24 Western GOA CP licenses would qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement. The proposed B season exemption would apply to the estimated 154 Western GOA CV licenses and 7 Western GOA CP licenses that do not qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement. These licenses would be eligible to fish in the Western GOA directed Pacific cod fishery under the proposed exemption, either using any fixed gear type or using pot gear only.

Table 3-35 Pacific cod B season closures for the trawl and hook-and-line sectors in the Western GOA.

		Inshore		Offshore		Inshore		Offshore	
		Trawl				Hook-and-line			
Area	Year	Date	Reason	Date	Reason	Date	Reason	Date	Reason
Western Gulf	2001	21-Oct	HAL	21-Oct	HAL	4-Sep	HAL	4-Sep	HAL
	2002	13-Oct	HAL	3-Oct	TAC	23-Nov	TAC	3-Oct	TAC
	2003	12-Sep	HAL	not opened	TAC	25-Sep	TAC	not opened	TAC
	2004	1-Oct	HAL	1-Oct	HAL	2-Oct	HAL	2-Oct	HAL
	2005	1-Oct	HAL	1-Oct	HAL	31-Dec	n/a	31-Dec	n/a
	2006	8-Oct	HAL	8-Oct	HAL	31-Dec	n/a	31-Dec	n/a
	2007	1-Nov	SSL reg	1-Nov	SSL reg	31-Dec	n/a	31-Dec	n/a
	2008	1-Nov	SSL reg	1-Nov	SSL reg	16-Oct	HAL	16-Oct	HAL

Table 3-36 Inshore and offshore catch of Pacific cod during the B season in the Western GOA.

		Catch from Sept 1 - Oct 31			Catch from Nov 1 - Dec 31		
Year	Inshore B season TAC available on Sept. 1 (mt)**	mt	% of B season TAC	Inshore B season TAC available on Nov. 1 (mt)	mt	% of B season TAC	Inshore B season TAC available on Dec. 31 (mt)
2003	3662	3786	103%	0	1	0%	0
2004	4665	3427	73%	1,238	258	6%	980
2005	3753	1396	37%	2,357	233	6%	2124
2006	5800	458	8%	5,342	865	15%	4477
2007	7224	1184	16%	6,040	181	3%	5859
2008	6896	2281	33%	4,615	492	7%	4123
Year	Offshore B season TAC available on Sept. 1 (mt)**	mt	% of B season TAC	Offshore B season TAC available on Nov. 1 (mt)	mt	% of B season TAC	Offshore B season TAC available on Dec. 1 (mt)
2003	0	28	n/a	0	0	n/a	0
2004	867	452	52%	415	0	0%	415
2005	1384	238	17%	1,146	0	0%	1146
2006	1282	168	13%	1,114	196	15%	918
2007	1225	309	25%	916	45	4%	871
2008	640	123	19%	517	16	3%	501

Source: NMFS Catch Accounting. ** May exceed the initial 40% B season apportionment when unused A season TAC was rolled over to the B season, or may be less than the initial 40% B season apportionment if there was an A season overage.

GOA B season pot vessel effort is not likely to have a direct impact on participants in other GOA management areas.

3.3.2.8 Exemption for participants in informal halibut PSC cooperative

In Component 3, there is an option to exempt hook-and-line catcher processors that voluntarily stood down from the GOA Pacific cod fisheries as part of the informal halibut PSC cooperative in 2006, 2007, or 2008 from the catch or landings thresholds. The rationale for this exemption is that these licenses did not have directed Pacific cod landings during these years because they voluntarily stood down from the GOA Pacific cod fishery so that other hook-and-line vessels had the opportunity to participate in the fishery. Most of the freezer longliner fleet fishes for Pacific cod in the BSAI, then moves into the GOA after the BSAI Pacific cod seasons close. In 2005, the BSAI freezer longliner fleet did not fish in the GOA during the B season, because NMFS inseason management was concerned that there was not sufficient halibut PSC to support this fleet. As a result, in 2006, 2007, and 2008 the freezer longliners set up an informal 'PSC co-op' with NMFS inseason management during the B season. Under this arrangement, the third seasonal apportionment of halibut PSC was informally divided between catcher processors and catcher vessels. The freezer longliners then further divided the catcher processor PSC among vessels fishing the B season.

There are 28 hook-and-line catcher processor licenses that participated in the informal PSC cooperative during 2006, 2007, or 2008, and 26 of these licenses voluntarily stood down from fishing in the GOA during at least one of these years. The 26 licenses include 22 Central GOA endorsed vessels and 16 Western GOA endorsed licenses. The exemption would allow any of these 26 catcher processor licenses that do not meet the landings thresholds in the directed Pacific cod fishery to qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement. If endorsements specify a gear type and operation type, these licenses would receive a hook-and-line CP endorsement.

Table 3-38 Number of fixed gear CP licenses that would qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement under the exemption for participants in the informal halibut PSC cooperative during 2006 through 2008, because they do not meet the landings or catch thresholds during the qualifying periods.

Western GOA

Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	1	1	1	1	1	2
3 landings	1	1	1	2	2	3
5 landings	2	2	3	3	3	4
5 mt	*	*	*	*	*	*
10 mt	*	*	*	*	*	*
25 mt	*	*	*	*	*	*
100 mt	*	*	*	*	*	*

Central GOA

Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	10	10	14	10	10	14
3 landings	11	11	15	11	11	15
5 landings	15	15	16	16	16	17
5 mt	10	10	14	11	11	15
10 mt	11	11	15	11	11	15
25 mt	11	11	15	11	11	15
100 mt	12	12	16	13	13	17

Source: NMFS Catch Accounting/Blend and RAM groundfish license file, Dec 2008.

license, and the availability of licenses allowing for that entry is critical. In developing this action, the Council will need to balance the interests of those wishing to limit entry to the fixed gear groundfish fisheries against the interests of creating adequate opportunities for potential future entrants.

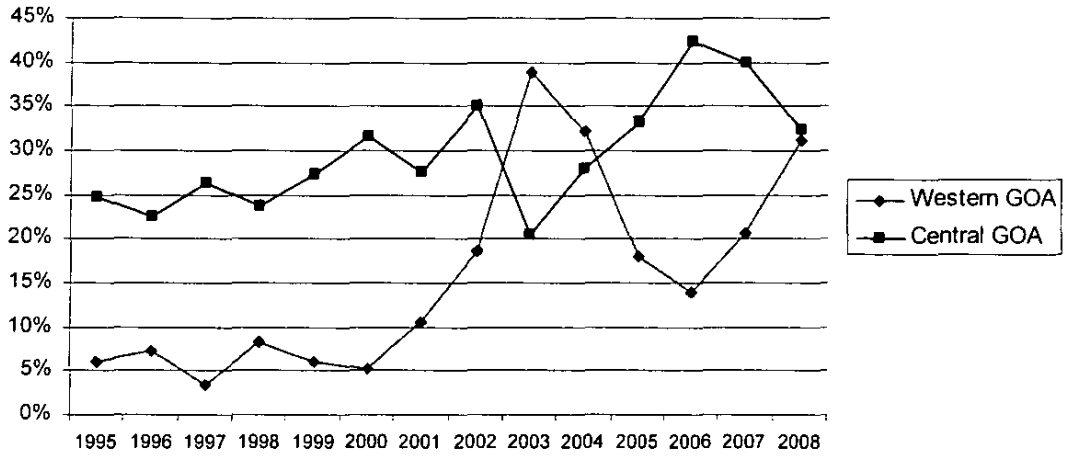

Figure 3-1 Percent of retained Pacific cod catch harvested by <60 ft LOA vessels using fixed gear in the Western GOA and Central GOA during 1995-2008.

Table 3-39 Percentage of licenses with at least one directed Pacific cod landing, by MLOA on license.

	Western Gulf				Central Gulf			
		Percent with at least one fixed gear landing in the endorsement area				Percent with at least one fixed gear landing in the endorsement area		
MLOA on license	Number of licenses	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	Number of licenses	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006
<40 ft MLOA	13	23%	23%	4%	64	33%	33%	30%
40- 49 ft MLOA	22	27%	23%	23%	182	50%	49%	47%
50- 59 ft MLOA	119	60%	60%	54%	456	29%	28%	24%
≥60 ft MLOA	110	27%	25%	21%	181	33%	33%	30%

Source: ADFG Fish Tickets and RAM groundfish LLP license file. December 2008

Table 3-40 Number of fixed gear catcher vessel licenses meeting qualification thresholds reported by the MLOA on the license.

Western GOA- 264 CV licenses

	2000-December 8, 2008				2000-June 4, 2008				2000-2006			
	<40 feet	40-50 feet	50-60 feet	≥60 feet	<40 feet	40-50 feet	50-60 feet	≥60 feet	<40 feet	40-50 feet	50-60 feet	≥60 feet
1 landing	3	6	71	30	3	5	71	27	1	5	64	23
3 landings	3	5	64	28	3	4	63	25	1	4	55	23
5 landings	3	3	60	25	3	3	58	23	1	2	52	19
5 mt	3	5	67	30	*	*	67	27	0	3	60	22
10 mt	*	*	64	28	*	*	63	26	0	*	56	*
25 mt	*	*	60	27	*	*	59	26	0	*	52	*
100 mt	0	0	47	21	0	0	44	19	0	0	37	18

Source: ADFG Fish Tickets (2000-2007), NMFS Catch Accounting (2008) and RAM LLP groundfish license file. December 2008. *Withheld for confidentiality

LLPs to increase the number of gear or operation type endorsements it holds or to gain access to a fishery that requires a species and gear-specific endorsement, such as the BSAI fixed gear Pacific cod fishery. Stacking licenses is necessary because endorsements are not severable under the current LLP. If a vessel wishes to expand its operations into a new area or fishery and does not have the necessary endorsements on its current license, it needs to obtain another license with the appropriate area endorsement.

The Council considered several approaches to crediting catch to stacked licenses for the trawl recency action. Based on staff analysis and its own deliberations, the Council adopted a provision in Component 5 that credits catch to both licenses if they were stacked on a single vessel at the time the landing was made. The rationale for this approach is that both licenses were being used at the time of landing. Currently, groundfish catch is not assigned to a specific license. When vessels report catch on Fish Tickets or Weekly Production Reports, they are not required to report the LLP license that was assigned to the vessel at the time of landing. This data gap is problematic, because if a vessel holds multiple LLPs with duplicate area endorsements, and the vessel makes a landing in that area, there are no clear rules regarding which license is credited with that catch. Apportioning history among 2 or more stacked licenses would require the Council to develop detailed rules describing how catch should be apportioned, which could complicate and possibly delay implementation of the action. The landings threshold selected for the trawl recency action was low (2 landings), and it was not clear that apportioning landings among stacked licenses would have a sufficient impact on the number of qualifying licenses to justify complicating the action by creating specific rules for stacked licenses.

The proposed action differs in several respects from the trawl recency action. The current set of options under consideration include relatively minimal landings thresholds (1, 3, or 5 landings), but there are also tonnage thresholds (5, 10, 25, or 100 mt) that could potentially be selected. If the Council chooses a minimal landings threshold, double counting catch history is unlikely to result in many stacked licenses qualifying that would not qualify if catch were apportioned among stacked licenses. However, if the Council chooses more substantial catch thresholds, some stacked licenses would likely benefit from double counting of catch. Also, the Council is considering options to gear-specific Pacific cod endorsements to licenses. If vessels with stacked licenses are eligible to qualify for duplicate fixed gear Pacific cod endorsements on stacked licenses, they could potentially lease or sell the duplicate license and the fleet's capacity would increase.

In Amendment 67, a vessel with stacked licenses could only qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement on a single license. This provision was included to avoid increasing the capacity for additional entry into the fishery. In the absence of a provision that limits vessels with stacked licenses from qualifying for duplicate Pacific cod endorsements, vessels with duplicate endorsements could potentially sell those licenses to other vessels, resulting in an overall increase in effort in the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod fixed gear fisheries.

There are currently 18 stacked Western GOA catcher vessel licenses (assigned to 9 vessels, each with 2 licenses) and 98 stacked Central GOA catcher vessel licenses (assigned to 47 vessels; 43 vessels have 2 licenses, and 4 vessels have 3 licenses; Table 3-41). These totals only include fixed gear licenses that are currently stacked with other fixed gear licenses that have duplicate Western and/or Central GOA area endorsements. There is also one Central GOA catcher processor license that is currently stacked with a Central GOA catcher vessel license. There are no fixed gear catcher processor licenses with Western or Central GOA endorsements currently stacked with other catcher processor licenses, and agency records indicate that no GOA fixed gear CP licenses have been stacked in the past. Of the currently stacked licenses, 8 Western GOA licenses and 47 Central GOA licenses have at least one qualified fixed gear landing during 2000-2006. These currently stacked licenses, in addition to licenses that were stacked in the past, are potentially the universe of licenses at issue if the Council chooses to develop rules to apportion landings among stacked licenses.

fully credit all catch to stacked CV licenses. Table 3-42 shows the results of dividing catch history evenly among stacked CV licenses. These results may be compared to those in Table 3-42 to see the number of licenses that do not qualify when catch history is divided among stacked licenses. Few Western GOA fixed gear licenses are stacked, and Table 3-42 shows that in most cases, the same number of licenses qualify when stacked history is split among licenses. In contrast, a large number of active Central GOA licenses are stacked, and splitting catch history reduces the total number of licenses that qualify under each of the options. For example, at the 1 landing threshold, 269 Central GOA licenses qualify during 2000-2006 when catch is split among stacked licenses, compared with 268 licenses when history is split among stacked licenses. At the 100 mt threshold for directed Pacific cod, 151 Central GOA licenses qualify when catch history is fully credited to all stacked licenses, and only 139 licenses qualify when history is divided among stacked licenses. Dividing catch history makes more of a difference when the qualifying period extends to June 4, 2008. For example, 297 Central GOA licenses qualify at the 1 landing threshold when landings are fully credited to stacked licenses. Only 289 Central GOA licenses qualify when catch history is divided among stacked licenses.

If the Council wishes to treat stacked licenses in a different way, there are a number of questions that would need to be addressed, including:

(1) What is the definition of a stacked license? Currently, staff assumes that licenses are stacked, for the purpose of the proposed action, if 2 or more licenses assigned to a single vessel at any point in time all have: (a) fixed gear designations, and (b) at least one duplicate area endorsement (Western GOA or Central GOA). Stacked licenses may have different operation type designations, i.e. one license could have a catcher vessel designation and the other license a catcher processor designation. Stacked licenses may have additional area endorsements (AI, BS, SE), a trawl designation, and BSAI Pacific cod endorsements that do not duplicate each other.

(2) What are the rules for apportioning catch among stacked licenses? Catch could simply be split evenly among stacked licenses (as the default rule), or license owners could be given the option to agree upon another method for apportioning catch. These rules would not only apply to licenses that are stacked at the time this action is implemented, they would also apply retroactively (to 2000 or 2002, depending upon the qualification period selected) to any fixed gear licenses that were stacked at any point in time. If license owners are given the opportunity to choose how catch will be apportioned, implementation of the action would likely be delayed. Even if a default rule is used, and catch is split evenly among stacked licenses, apportioning catch would complicate implementation of the action.

(3) How would the Council address ownership issues? Stacked licenses may be held by different persons, and the vessel assigned to those licenses may be owned by another person. Stacked licenses may not be connected in any way except through the vessel assigned to those licenses. License owners may enter into temporary partnerships to combine the endorsements and designations on their licenses and maximize their opportunities to participate in the fisheries. If the Council simply splits catch history evenly among stacked licenses for the purpose of the proposed action, it could avoid the complications that could arise if multiple license owners were allowed to choose which license is credited with catch history.

3.3.2.12 Component 6: Capacity endorsement

The Council asked that staff explore ways in which vessel capacity limits could be used in addition to vessel length to restrict participation in certain sectors. The problem identified is that new, high capacity 58 ft LOA vessels are being built and are entering the GOA Pacific cod fisheries, and existing 58 ft LOA vessels are being rebuilt with expanded capacity. Most of these high capacity 58 ft LOA vessels are relatively recent entrants to the GOA Pacific cod fishery. The GOA State waters Pacific cod fisheries

(excluding vessels that participated exclusively in the State waters fisheries). Of these 1,473 vessels, nearly half of the CFEC, NMFS, and USCG gross tonnage measurements differ. These inconsistencies are a clear indication that a consistent method for measuring gross tonnage needs to be identified, and that existing data sources need to be updated and verified if capacity is going to be used to limit entry to sectors.

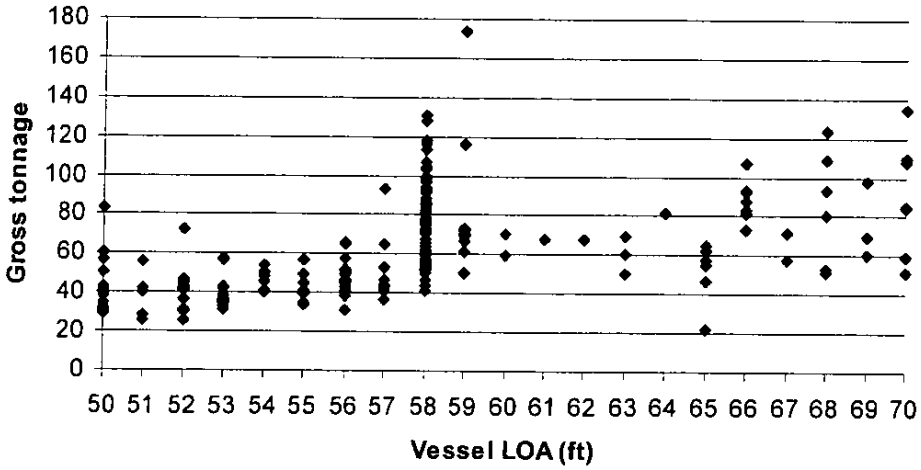

Figure 3-2 Gross tonnage of catcher vessels 50-70 ft LOA that participated in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries during 1995-2007.
Source: Vessel length overall is from NMFS; Gross tonnage is from USCG vessel database.

Figure 3-2 shows a plot of vessel length overall versus gross tonnage (using LOA from the NMFS database and gross tonnage from the USCG database), and includes all vessels 50 to 70 ft LOA that participated in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries during 1995 through 2007. In general, there is a linear relationship between vessel length and gross tonnage. There is a substantial spike in gross tonnage for vessels 58 ft and 59 ft LOA. The 58 ft LOA vessels range up to 129 tons.

Under Component 6, a width restriction would be added to each CV and CP fixed gear LLP license that is eligible to access Pacific cod under this action. The width restriction would be 1 ft of width for each 3 ft of length, and is based on the LOA of the vessel assigned to the license on December 8, 2008. The licenses that are assigned to vessels on December 8, 2008 that exceed the width restriction will be grandfathered at their present LOA. For vessels under construction on December 8, 2008, the width restriction for the license shall be equal to the vessel width upon completion. Vessels would be required to report width measurements to RAM. There is also an option under Component 6 to add a simple gross tonnage maximum to licenses, rather than a width restriction. Simple gross tonnage for vessels with ship-shaped and cylindrical hulls is calculated as the product of 0.67 times the length overall, width, and depth of the vessel (46 CFR Subpart E).

Vessels would be required to report these measurement(s) to RAM, and RAM would add the width or simple gross tonnage endorsement to each license. A license could not be assigned to a vessel that exceeds the width or simple gross tonnage limit, in addition to the MLOA, on the license. This would prevent new, high capacity 58 ft LOA vessels from entering the GOA groundfish fisheries, and would also prevent existing vessels from being rebuilt beyond a specified capacity, unless the vessel obtains an LLP with a sufficiently large width or simple gross tonnage endorsement.

Table 3-44 Community Quota Entity (CQE) eligible communities in Southwest and Southcentral Alaska, and the number of fixed gear LLP licenses held by community residents.

Name	Population	Management Area	WG licenses	CG licenses
Akhiok*	80	Central Gulf	0	0
Chenega Bay*	86	Central Gulf	0	0
Chignik	79	Central Gulf	0	3
Chignik Lagoon	103	Central Gulf	1	5
Chignik Lake	145	Central Gulf	0	0
Halibut Cove	35	Central Gulf	0	1
Ivanof Bay	22	Western Gulf	0	0
Karluk	27	Central Gulf	0	0
King Cove*	792	Western Gulf	23	5
Larsen Bay*	115	Central Gulf	0	1
Nanwalek*	177	Central Gulf	0	0
Old Harbor*	237	Central Gulf	0	9
Ouzinkie*	225	Central Gulf	0	10
Perryville*	107	Western Gulf	1	1
Port Graham*	171	Central Gulf	0	1
Port Lions	256	Central Gulf	0	8
Sand Point*	952	Western Gulf	29	16
Seldovia	286	Central Gulf	0	10
Tatitlek	107	West Yakutat	0	1
Tyonek	193	Central Gulf	0	0
Yakutat*	680	Central Gulf	0	3
Total			54	74

Source: Population from 2000 U.S. Census. Residency information is based on the license holder's address information reported in the RAM groundfish LLP license file in December 2008, and does not necessarily indicate that an individual license holder meets the definition of an eligible CQE resident.
*Eligible communities that have formed CQEs.

Currently, residents in 14 of the 21 CQE communities own a total of 54 licenses with Western GOA endorsements and 74 licenses with Central GOA endorsements. It is important to note that residency information is based on the license holder's address information reported in the RAM groundfish LLP license file in December 2008, and does not necessarily indicate that an individual license holder meets the definition of an eligible CQE resident. Table 3-45 shows the number of licenses in each community that had at least one fixed gear landing of directed Pacific cod during 2000-2006 or 2000 through December 8, 2008. Residents of King Cove and Sand Point hold most (52) of the Western GOA licenses, and the majority (>65%) of these licenses had at least one landing during both time periods. Residents of two other communities in Southwest Alaska, Perryville and Chignik Lagoon, own the other 2 Western GOA licenses. One license (owned by the Chignik Lagoon resident) was active in the Western GOA fixed gear fisheries.

The majority of Central GOA licenses held by residents of CQE communities are owned by residents of Sand Point (16 licenses), Seldovia (10 licenses), Ouzinkie (10 licenses), Old Harbor (9 licenses), and Port Lions (8 licenses). However, only 1 of 16 Central GOA licenses held by Sand Point residents had at least one directed Pacific cod landing during 2000-2006 or 2000-2008. Overall, only 3 of 30 Central GOA licenses held by residents of Southwest Alaska CQE communities had at least one directed Pacific landing in the Central GOA during 2000-2006 or 2000-2008, whereas either 16 or 17 of 43 Central GOA licenses held by residents of Southcentral Alaska CQE communities had at least one directed Pacific cod landing during the same time periods, respectively. In sum, residents of 3 CQE communities currently hold Western GOA licenses that have recent directed Pacific cod landings, and residents of 8 CQE communities hold Central GOA licenses with recent directed Pacific cod landings.

Table 3-46 Catcher vessel licenses currently held by residents of CQE communities that meet the landings and catch (mt) thresholds identified in Component 4.

Western GOA (54 current licenses)

Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	36	36	36	33	32	32
3 landings	34	34	34	32	32	32
5 landings	32	32	31	29	29	28
5 mt	35	35	34	32	32	31
10 mt	31	31	31	29	29	29
25 mt	29	29	29	26	26	26
100 mt	25	25	23	25	25	23

Central GOA (74 current licenses)

Threshold	2000-Dec 2008	2000-June 2008	2000-2006	2002-Dec 2008	2002-June 2008	2002-2006
1 landing	20	20	19	12	12	11
3 landings	18	18	15	11	11	8
5 landings	15	15	12	11	11	8
5 mt	17	17	14	11	11	8
10 mt	13	13	10	10	10	7
25 mt	12	12	10	8	8	6
100 mt	9	9	9	5	5	5

Source: ADFG Fish Tickets (2000-2007), NMFS Catch Accounting (2008) and RAM groundfish license file, December 2008.

Administrative issues

Staff from NMFS RAM division expressed a number of concerns regarding administration of the CQE exemption. Component 7 currently states that licenses that receive a Pacific cod endorsement as a result of the CQE exemption would be subject to several restrictions that do not apply to licenses that qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement by meeting the selected catch threshold:

(1) A license that receives a Pacific cod endorsement as a result of the CQE exemption cannot be leased.

(2) A license that receives a Pacific cod endorsement as a result of the CQE exemption can only be transferred to an individual who has lived continuously in the permit holder's CQE community for 24 consecutive months prior to the transfer and who intends to remain a resident of the community. Residency of license holders would be affirmed annually.

(3) If a license holder with a restricted transfer LLP is no longer a resident of the CQE community or dies without a designated qualified LLP community beneficiary, the CQE will designate a qualified individual in the CQE community to hold the restricted transfer LLP.

Prohibiting licenses from being leased is not practicable, because there is no regulatory definition of leasing for LLP licenses. A license must be carried on board the vessel to which the license is assigned while the vessel is participating in fisheries subject to the LLP requirement, but there is no owner on board requirement. If the vessel owner or skipper is not the owner of the LLP license assigned to the vessel, there is not a clear definition of what constitutes a leasing agreement.

This approach may provide a direct benefit to the *individuals* who receive an endorsement. However, in the long term it would provide less benefit to the community if license holders leave the community. (This possibility is what motivated the overall approach to the CQE Program, in that the community (CQE) holds the fishing privileges (i.e., halibut and sablefish QS) such that the benefits of the QS remain in the community regardless of whether individual residents relocate.) In order to preclude license holders who receive an endorsement as a result of the exemption from opportunistically selling the license to another individual, these licenses could be designated non-transferable. If the license is sold to another owner, the Pacific cod endorsement would be removed. This restriction would give the original license holder the option to access the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the future, but would not allow the holder to sell that option to another person. Eventually, however, if designated non-transferable, all of these licenses would be extinguished.

License holders would have to affirm their residency at the time of application to RAM for a Pacific cod endorsement. An eligible community resident could be defined, for purposes of this exemption, as any individual who (1) is a citizen of the United States, (2) has maintained a domicile in one of the 21 CQE eligible communities located in Southwest or Southcentral Alaska for a specified period of time immediately preceding the time when the assertion of residence is made, and who is not claiming residency in another community, state, territory, or country. This is similar to the definition of residency used in the IFQ program. For the purposes of that program, a person needs to have maintained a domicile in the community for 12 consecutive months to qualify as a resident.

A second alternative approach that has been proposed in AP and Council deliberations is to give each CQE a specific number of fixed gear licenses. For example, CQE communities in the Central GOA management area would receive a limited number of licenses with a Central GOA endorsement, a fixed gear designation, an MLOA of 60 ft, and a pot and/or hook-and-line Pacific cod endorsement. The licenses would be held by the CQEs and used by community residents, similar to the existing CQE Program structure. The license could be made non-transferable to prevent the CQE from selling the license.

The regulations that allow CQEs to hold and lease quota share are already in place under GOA Amendment 66, and could be modified to fit this approach. Currently, the CQE takes on the burden of finding a community resident who is willing to lease the shares under contract, and both the CQE and the resident must certify that the lessee is a resident on the transfer application to NMFS (i.e., lease of IFQ from the CQE to the resident). Providing inaccurate information is considered fraud under Federal law. While there is no regulatory definition of leasing for LLP licenses, and no requirement for a transfer application, if the Council opts to give each CQE a specific number of fixed gear licenses, the Council could establish that a condition of the CQE receiving the license is attesting that the individuals that will use the license to fish are residents of the community the CQE represents. The additional administrative burden of this approach on NMFS is minimal, because NMFS only requires the CQE attest to individuals' residency, but would not need to require individuals to submit proof of residency in order to use the CQE license. Regardless of the overall approach, the Council may want to consider mirroring any residency requirements to the existing CQE Program.

There are a number of benefits and drawbacks to giving CQE communities fixed gear licenses. The main benefit is that it would provide opportunities for new entrants, who reside in the community, to participate in the directed Pacific cod fishery. Only 14 of the 21 Southcentral and Southwest Alaska CQE communities currently have residents who hold fixed gear licenses, and not all of these communities have residents who will qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement. Providing licenses to each CQE would give residents in each community the opportunity to access the Pacific cod fishery. One possible drawback is that many CQE communities currently have active participants in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries who will

trawl gear. Within a given year, there were typically 4 to 6 Central GOA licenses and 10 to 15 Western GOA licenses that used both fixed and trawl gear to harvest Pacific cod during the same year.

The catch data indicate that a number of these vessels use both gear types during a given fishing year on a regular basis, and that this harvest strategy is part of the annual fishing operations of these vessels. This is a particularly common practice in the Western GOA, where there are a number of vessels that regularly fish for Pacific cod with both trawl and pot gear during the same year. A typical pattern is for vessels to fish with pot gear when the fixed gear season opens on January 1 and to switch to trawl gear on January 20 when the trawl season opens. This strategy also allows these vessels to have a longer B season. The Pacific cod B season often closes to trawl gear in early October when the final trawl halibut PSC apportionment has been used. Vessels then switch back to pot gear and continue fishing late into the year. In recent years, the GOA Pacific cod B seasons have remained open to vessels using fixed gear until December 31.

3.4 Expected effects of the alternatives

3.4.1 Effects on harvesters

Under the no action alternative, there would be no reduction in the number of fixed gear licenses eligible to participate in the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the Western and Central GOA. If this alternative is selected, any of the currently existing fixed gear licenses could enter the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries in the future and dilute revenues, increase costs, or both, for licenses that have participated in the fisheries during recent years. Increased participation may result in negative economic impacts to current participants in the fisheries. If Pacific cod endorsements are not added to fixed gear licenses, licenses with no recent catch history in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries could enter the fisheries and erode the catch of recent participants. Finally, if gear-specific Pacific cod endorsements are not added to licenses, and Pacific cod sector allocations are implemented, participants in each of the fixed gear sectors will be vulnerable to an influx of effort into those sectors. If effort increases substantially in a particular sector, the erosion of catch resulting from latent licenses re-entering the fisheries will be exacerbated. The number of licenses that enter the Pacific cod fisheries in the absence of this action is unknown, and the specific effect of that entry depends on future market conditions, the size of Pacific cod TACs, opportunities to participate in other fisheries, the future regulatory environment, and operating costs in the fisheries. Consequently, this analysis does not provide a quantitative estimate of the potential economic impacts of the no action alternative.

If the Council chooses the minimum landings threshold of 1 directed Pacific cod landing, this action would result in any recent (as defined by the qualifying period selected) participants in the fisheries receiving a Pacific cod endorsement. The primary effect of this action on the harvesting sector would be to limit the potential for future entry of latent licenses into the GOA Pacific cod fisheries. If the Council chooses a higher landings threshold, this action has the potential to exclude some recent participants who do not have sufficient landings to meet the threshold from continuing to participate in the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the GOA.

This action would reduce fixed gear capacity in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries to include only licenses that meet the catch history threshold in the fisheries. Extinguishing latent licenses may prevent future revenues from Pacific cod harvests in the respective management areas from being diluted by future increases in fishing effort by latent licenses. Those LLP holders exhibiting dependence and participation in the fixed gear Pacific cod fisheries, (i.e., those meeting the selected threshold criteria), would be protected from possible future increases in effort and dilution of their gross revenue share. However, this action may not result in increased production efficiencies to licenses that would generally be expected

qualified catcher vessel licenses have catch in other fisheries in Alaska. This other catch includes fixed gear landings of groundfish in areas other than the LLP endorsement area, and any trawl catch, IFQ catch, State waters groundfish catch, and non-groundfish catch (e.g., salmon, shellfish, and herring). Out of 883 Central GOA catcher vessel licenses, there are 614 licenses with no directed Pacific cod landings, and 500 of these licenses had landings in other fisheries during 2000-2006. Of 264 Western GOA catcher vessel licenses, there are 171 licenses with no WGOA directed Pacific cod landings, and 127 of these licenses had landings in other fisheries during 2000-2006. Notably, there are very few licenses that had no commercial landings in Alaska fisheries during 2000-2006. Only 114 Central GOA catcher vessel licenses and 27 Western GOA catcher vessel licenses did not have landings in any commercial fishery in Alaska during 2000-2006.

Similarly, Table 3-48 shows that most catcher processor licenses that did not have qualified landings during 2000-2006 are active participants in other groundfish fisheries in Alaska, including the BSAI fixed gear fisheries and the BSAI and GOA trawl fisheries. There are 10 catcher processor licenses with Western GOA endorsements that have no WGOA directed Pacific cod landings, and 8 of these licenses had landings in other Alaska fisheries. There are 35 catcher processor licenses with Central GOA endorsements that have no CGOA directed Pacific cod landings, and 33 of these licenses had landings in other Alaska fisheries.

Table 3-48 Summary of fishing activity of licenses with at least one directed Pacific cod landing and licenses with no qualified landings.

	Number of licenses with at least one directed Pacific cod landing in the endorsement area during 2000-2006			Catch history of licenses with no directed Pacific cod landings during 2000-2006	
	Number of licenses	At least one directed Pcod landing	No directed Pcod landings	At least one non-qualified landing in another fishery	No landings in any fishery
Central Gulf CV	883	269	614	500	114
Central Gulf CP	49	14	35	33	2
Western Gulf CV	264	93	171	144	27
Western Gulf CP	31	21	10	8	2

Note: Non-qualified landings include fixed gear landings in management areas other than the endorsement area, and trawl, State waters, IFQ, and other fisheries.

3.4.1.2 Gross revenues from GOA Pacific cod and other fisheries

Catcher Vessel Licenses

Many fixed gear licenses with GOA endorsements were active in other Alaska commercial fisheries in addition to the GOA fixed gear Pacific cod fisheries. Groundfish licenses may have up to five area endorsements (Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, Western GOA, Central GOA, and Southeast Outside), two gear designations (trawl and fixed gear), and two BSAI Pacific cod endorsements, and these endorsements and designations allow licenses to participate in a suite of groundfish fisheries. In addition, many license owners hold halibut and sablefish IFQ, BSAI crab quota, and other permits that allow them to participate in other fisheries in Alaska.

Gross revenues data indicate that the majority of fixed gear catcher vessel and catcher processor licenses that did not have any qualified fixed gear landings during the proposed qualifying periods elected to participate in other Alaska fisheries during this period. Table 3-49 reports the number of licenses that had at least one directed Pacific cod landing in the Western or Central GOA during 2000-2006 (top line, left

landing during 2000-2006 had annual gross revenues of $274,608 per license. In contrast, Western GOA CV licenses without qualified landings had substantially higher revenues, averaging $622,658 per license. Western GOA licenses without qualified cod landings but that were active in the BSAI trawl fisheries had on average over $1 million in gross revenues per year in that fishery during 2000-2006. There was not a large difference between annual gross revenues for Central GOA CV licenses with qualified fixed gear landings ($319,458) and without qualified landings ($353,067). However, there was again a sharp contrast in gross earnings in the BSAI trawl fisheries. Non-qualified licenses had more than twice ($725,929) the revenues that qualified licenses earned ($305,379) in the BSAI trawl fisheries, indicating that non-qualifying licenses are making a choice to participate in the BSAI trawl fisheries rather than the GOA Pacific cod fisheries.

Western and Central GOA CV licenses that did not have at least one directed Pacific cod landing during 2000-2006, and would only qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement if catch during 2007 and 2008 is included, have different participation patterns in the fisheries. Table 3-50 compares 2007 participation, catch, and revenues data, and 2008 participation and catch data (revenues data were not available for 2008), for licenses with at least one landing during 2000-2006 and licenses that only had a landing in 2007 or 2008. The table shows the number of licenses that participated in the Central GOA or Western GOA Pacific cod fisheries in 2007 and 2008, participation by those licenses in other Alaska fisheries, and catch and revenues by those licenses in each fishery. Central GOA licenses that only have directed Pacific cod landings during 2007 earned only 7% of revenues from the Central GOA Pacific cod fishery in 2007, compared with 17% for vessels that had a landing during 2000-2006. In contrast, Western GOA licenses that first entered the directed Pacific cod fishery in 2007 earned 22% of revenues from that fishery, compared to 10% for vessels that had landings during 2000-2006. Revenues for the 2008 fisheries were not available. Catch data for 2008 shows that Western and Central GOA licenses that have qualified landings during 2000-2006 harvested more Pacific cod per license in each management area than licenses that only qualify based on 2007-2008 landings.

During 2000-2007, the majority of first wholesale revenues for catcher processor licenses with fixed gear landings in the GOA fisheries were from the BSAI fixed gear fisheries (Table 3-51). Revenues from Western GOA directed Pacific cod (5.5%) and Central GOA directed Pacific cod (2.7%) were a small proportion of total revenues for licenses that have qualifying catch in the respective management areas. Nearly all catcher processor licenses that did not have directed Pacific cod landings during 2000-2006 were active in other fisheries in Alaska. The majority of revenues for these licenses were from the BSAI trawl and BSAI fixed gear fisheries and GOA trawl fisheries. Only 2 Western GOA and 2 Central GOA CP licenses did not have any landings in any commercial fisheries in Alaska during 2000 through 2006.

Annual revenues by fixed gear CP licenses that had qualified Western GOA landings during 2000-2006 ($3.45 million) were substantially greater than licenses without qualified landings ($1.57 million). Central GOA CP licenses with and without qualified landings during 2000-2006 had approximately $2.4 million in wholesale revenues per year. The 21 Western GOA CP licenses that made at least one directed Pacific cod landing during 2000-2006 had average annual revenues of $189,041 in that fishery during 2000-2006. The 14 Central GOA CP licenses with at least one landing during 2000-2006 had average annual revenues of $62,902 in that fishery during 2000-2006. The majority of CP licenses that did not have qualified Pacific cod landings during 2000-2006 were active in other fisheries (33 of 35 non-qualified CGOA licenses; 6 of 10 nonqualified WGOA licenses). Western GOA CP licenses that did not have qualified GOA fixed gear landings participated in the BSAI and/or GOA trawl fisheries during 2000-2006. Central GOA CP licenses that did not have qualified GOA landings participated in the BSAI fixed gear and the IFQ halibut and sablefish fisheries.

Table 3-50 Annual participation, annual revenues per license, and annual catch per license in Alaska fisheries during 2007-2008 by fixed gear CV licenses with at least 1 GOA directed Pacific cod landing during 2000-2006 and with no GOA directed Pacific cod landings during 2000-2006 (but at least 1 landing during 2007-2008).

Western GOA		Revenues and catch(mt) by licenses that have at least 1 landing during 2000-2006				Revenues and catch(mt) by licenses that only have 1 landing during 2007-Dec 8, 2008			
Year	Fishery	Number of licenses	Percent revenues from CG Pcod	Catch (mt) per license	Revenues per license	Number of licenses	Percent revenues from CG Pcod	Catch (mt) per license	Revenues per license
2007	**Federal WG Pcod- Fixed Gear**	**35**	**10.0%**	**87**	**$89,406**	**6**	**21.9%**	**134**	**$144,810**
	Federal CG Pcod- Fixed Gear	2	*	*	*	3	*	*	*
	Federal GOA Groundfish- Trawl	10	8.1%	518	$251,694	0	0.0%	0	
	State GOA Pacific Cod	24	10.3%	132	$133,813	2	*	*	*
	BSAI Fixed Gear	10	8.2%	203	$255,874	3	*	*	*
	IFQ Halibut	15	21.8%	49	$452,528	3	*	*	*
	IFQ Sablefish	4	*	*	*	1	*	*	*
	Other	30	0.1%	1	$893	5	0.1%	36	$780
	Salmon	20	19.8%	551	$308,299	0	0.0%	111	
	Shellfish	8	19.4%	123	$756,016	1	*	*	*
	All fisheries	35	100.0%	754	$890,641	6	100.0%	247	$681,028
2008	**Federal WG Pcod- Fixed Gear**	**41**	--	**96**	--	**14**	--	**61**	--
	Federal CG Pcod- Fixed Gear	3	--	86	--	7	--	107	--
	Federal GOA Groundfish- Trawl	11	--	950	--	0	--	0	--
	State GOA Pacific Cod	31	--	143	--	8	--	75	--
	BSAI Fixed Gear	9	--	257	--	10	--	243	--
	BSAI Trawl	1	--	*	--	0	--	0	--
	IFQ Halibut	16	--	15	--	11	--	15	--
	IFQ Sablefish	4	--	49	--	7	--	67	--
	Other	39	--	*	--	14	--	24	--
	All fisheries	41	--	544	--	14	--	423	--

Year	Central GOA	Number of licenses	Percent revenues from CG Pcod	Catch (mt) per license	Revenues per license	Number of licenses	Percent revenues from CG Pcod	Catch (mt) per license	Revenues per license
2007	**Federal CG Pcod- Fixed Gear**	**134**	**17%**	**108**	**$121,246**	**20**	**7.1%**	**29**	**$32,789**
	Federal WG Pcod- Fixed Gear	11	1%	86	$92,956	0	0.0%	0	$0
	Federal GOA Groundfish- Trawl	1	*	*	*	2	*	*	*
	State GOA Pacific Cod	48	6%	114	$124,019	4	4.7%	98	$108,602
	BSAI Fixed Gear	21	2%	68	$95,919	1	*	*	*
	BSAI Trawl	0	0%	0	$0	1	*	*	*
	Herring	3	*	*	*	0	0.0%	0	$0
	IFQ Halibut	105	50%	47	$444,566	10	53.5%	52	$491,508
	IFQ Sablefish	60	10%	29	$158,008	4	6.6%	26	$152,663
	Other	126	1%	6	$4,675	19	0.3%	4	$1,559
	Salmon	67	6%	99	$85,110	4	7.5%	254	$173,208
	Shellfish	12	5%	74	$385,153	3	*	*	*
	All fisheries	134	100%	292	$693,762	20	100.0%	$253	$459,274
2008	**Federal CG Pcod- Fixed Gear**	**127**	--	**83**	--	**30**	--	**41**	--
	Federal WG Pcod- Fixed Gear	7	--	70	--	6	--	209	--
	Federal GOA Groundfish- Trawl	1	--	*	--	1	--	*	--
	State GOA Pacific Cod	48	--	124	--	11	--	49	--
	BSAI Fixed Gear	13	--	92	--	9	--	46	--
	IFQ Halibut	91	--	12	--	23	--	16	--
	IFQ Sablefish	34	--	36	--	15	--	55	--
	Other	125	--	*	--	29	--	*	--
	All fisheries	127	--	495	--	30	--	219	--

*Note: Licenses may have participated in more than one fishery during 2000-2006. Revenues data not available for 2008.
Source: ADFG Fish Tickets (2007), NMFS Catch Accounting (2008), and RAM groundfish license file from December 2008

Table 3-52 Annual participation, annual revenues per license, and annual catch per license in Alaska fisheries during 2007-2008 by fixed gear CP licenses with at least 1 GOA directed Pacific cod landing during 2000-2006 and with no GOA directed Pacific cod landings during 2000-2006 (but at least 1 landing during 2007-2008).

Western GOA		Revenues and catch(mt) by licenses that have at least 1 landing during 2000-2006				Revenues and catch(mt) by licenses that only have 1 landing during 2007-Dec 8, 2008			
Year	Fishery	Number of licenses	Percent revenues from CG Pcod	Catch (mt) per license	Revenues per license	Number of licenses	Percent revenues from CG Pcod	Catch (mt) per license	Revenues per license
2007	**Federal WG Pcod- Fixed Gear**	11	10.9%	285	$549,816	1	*	*	*
	Federal CG Pcod- Fixed Gear	2	*	*	*	0	0.0%	0	$0
	BSAI Fixed Gear	9	77.1%	2,414	$4,747,207	1	*	*	*
	IFQ Halibut or Sablefish	7	9.8%	161	$779,101	1	*	*	*
	Other	10	*	*	*	0	0.0%	0	$0
	All fisheries	11	100.0%	2,440	$5,039,298	1	*	*	*
2008	**Federal WG Pcod- Fixed Gear**	11	--	281	--	3	--	42	--
	Federal CG Pcod- Fixed Gear	1	--	*	--	2	--	*	--
	BSAI Fixed Gear	10	--	2,282	--	1	--	*	--
	IFQ Halibut or Sablefish	6	--	137	--	3	--	211	--
	Other	9	--	*	--	3	--	4	--
	All fisheries	11	--	2,459	--	3	--	300	--

Central GOA		Revenues and catch(mt) by licenses that have at least 1 landing during 2000-2006				Revenues and catch(mt) by licenses that only have 1 landing during 2007-Dec 8, 2008			
Year	Fishery	Number of licenses	Percent revenues from CG Pcod	Catch (mt) per license	Revenues per license	Number of licenses	Percent revenues from CG Pcod	Catch (mt) per license	Revenues per license
2007	**Federal CG Pcod- Fixed Gear**	4	23.0%	345	$417,605	4	10.5%	187	$367,129
	Federal WG Pcod- Fixed Gear	1	*	*	*	2	9.2%	*	*
	BSAI Fixed Gear	1	*	*	*	3	91.8%	2,199	$4,283,668
	IFQ Halibut or Sablefish	1	*	*	*	1	6.6%	*	*
	Other	4	0.7%	38	$12,770	4	1.6%	38	$54,981
	All fisheries	4	100%	1,107	$1,819,274	4	100.0%	1,735	$3,500,122
2008	**Federal CG Pcod- Fixed Gear**	5	--	157	--	5	--	201	--
	Federal WG Pcod- Fixed Gear	1	--	*	--	2	--	*	--
	BSAI Fixed Gear	3	--	3,783	--	3	--	3,139	--
	IFQ Halibut or Sablefish	1	--	*	--	2	--	*	--
	Other	5	--	67	--	5	--	3	--
	All fisheries	5	--	2,539	--	5	--	2,000	--

*Note: Licenses may have participated in more than one fishery during 2000-2006. Revenues data not available for 2008.
Source: ADFG Fish Tickets (2007), NMFS Catch Accounting (2008), and RAM groundfish license file from December 2008

Western and Central GOA CP licenses that did not have at least one directed Pacific cod landing during 2000-2006, and would only qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement if catch during 2007 and 2008 is included, have different participation patterns in the fisheries. Table 3-52 compares 2007 participation, catch, and revenues data, and 2008 participation and catch data (revenues data were not available for 2008), for licenses with at least one landing during 2000-2006 and licenses that only had a landing in 2007 or 2008. The table shows the number of licenses that participated in the Central GOA or Western GOA Pacific cod fisheries in 2007 and 2008, participation by those licenses in other Alaska fisheries, and catch and revenues by those licenses in each fishery. Central GOA licenses that only have directed Pacific cod landings during 2007 earned only 10.5% of revenues from the Central GOA Pacific cod fishery in 2007, compared with 23.0% for vessels that had a landing during 2000-2006. Western GOA revenues for licenses that first entered the fishery in 2007 cannot be reported due to confidentiality. Catch data for 2008 shows that Western GOA licenses that have qualified landings during 2000-2006 harvested

provides information on subsistence and sport fishing activities in each community. The profiles may be found at: http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/REFM/Socioeconomics/Projects/CPU.php

The State of Alaska's Community Information Summaries, which are compiled by the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED), include information on community location, population, taxes, climate, history, culture, demographics, utilities, schools, health care, economy, and transportation. The summaries may be found at: http://www.commerce.State.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_CIS.htm

The number of catcher vessel licenses that meet the 1 directed Pacific cod landing threshold during 2000 through 2006 and 2000 through December 8, 2008 is reported by the current residency of license holders in Table 3-53. Alaska residents hold the greatest number of Western and Central GOA fixed gear licenses. Licenses owned by Alaska residents are more likely to have 1 landing during 2000-2006 or 2000-2008 than licenses owned by residents of other states. Nearly half of Western GOA licenses held by Alaska residents had at least one directed Pacific cod landing (42% to 46%), slightly more than licenses owned by residents of other states. Between 35% and 40% of Central GOA licenses that are held by Alaska residents had directed Pacific cod landings. Most Central GOA licenses that had directed Pacific cod landings during 2000 through Dec 2008 are held by Alaska residents (240 of 306 active licenses). The majority of Western GOA licenses with directed Pacific cod landings during 2000 through Dec 2008 are also held by Alaska residents (71 of 110 licenses), and 33 active licenses are held by residents of Washington.

Table 3-53 Number of CV licenses with 1 directed Pacific cod landing during 2000-2006 or 2000-Dec 8, 2008 by license owner's residence.

	WG licenses	WG licenses with 1 landing from 2000-2006	Percent of licenses with 1 landing from 2000-2006	WG licenses with 1 landing from 2000-2008	Percent of licenses with 1 landing from 2000-2008
Alaska	153	64	42%	71	46%
Oregon	8	1	13%	4	50%
Washington	92	26	28%	33	36%
Other State	11	2	18%	2	18%
Grand Total	264	93	35%	110	42%

	CG licenses	CG licenses with 1 landing from 2000-2006	Percent of licenses with 1 landing from 2000-2006	CG licenses with 1 landing from 2000-2008	Percent of licenses with 1 landing from 2000-2008
Alaska	607	215	35%	240	40%
Oregon	48	11	23%	13	27%
Washington	183	21	11%	30	16%
Other State	45	22	49%	12	27%
Grand Total	883	269	30%	306	35%

Source: ADFG Fish Tickets (2000-2007), NMFS Catch Accounting (2008), and RAM groundfish license file. December 2008

The number of catcher processor licenses that meet the 1 directed Pacific cod landing threshold during 2000 through 2006 or 2000 through December 8, 2008 is reported by the residency of license holders in Table 3-54. Out of 49 Central GOA CP licenses, 12 are held by residents of Alaska and 37 are held by residents of other states. A substantially higher percentage of licenses held by Alaska residents and residents of other states meet the 1 landing threshold during 2000-2008 than during 2000-2006. Out of 31 Western GOA CP licenses, 3 are held by Alaska residents, and all 3 of these licenses have at least one groundfish landing during 2000-2008. The other 28 licenses are held by residents of other states, and 21

Table 3-55. Number of catcher vessel licenses with at least one directed Pacific cod landing in the endorsement area during 2000-2006 or 2000-Dec 8, 2008, reported by license owner's community of residence (Alaska communities only).

City	CQE	WG licenses	1 landing from 2000-2008	Percent	1 landing from 2000-2006	Percent	CG licenses	1 landing from 2000-2008	Percent	1 landing from 2000-2006	Percent
Adak		1	0	0%	0	0%	2	1	50%	1	50%
Akutan		2	1	50%	1	50%	0	0	0%	0	0%
Anchor Point		12	5	42%	5	42%	30	8	27%	6	20%
Anchorage		1	1	100%	1	100%	1	0	0%	0	0%
Chignik	Y	0	0	0%	0	0%	3	1	33%	1	33%
Chignik Lagoon	Y	1	1	100%	1	100%	5	1	20%	1	20%
Clam Gulch		0	0	0%	0	0%	3	1	33%	1	33%
Cold Bay		2	1	50%	1	50%	0	0	0%	0	0%
Copper Center		0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0	0%	0	0%
Cordova		5	0	0%	0	0%	30	5	17%	4	13%
Craig		0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0	0%	0	0%
Delta Junction		2	1	50%	0	0%	7	7	100%	7	100%
Douglas		0	0	0%	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%
Dutch Harbor		3	2	67%	2	67%	4	1	25%	1	25%
Eagle River		0	0	0%	0	0%	2	1	50%	1	50%
Elfin Cove		0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0	0%	0	0%
Fairbanks		0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0	0%	0	0%
False Pass		3	2	67%	2	67%	3	0	0%	0	0%
Fritz Creek		0	0	0%	0	0%	3	1	33%	1	33%
Girdwood		2	1	50%	1	50%	8	2	25%	1	13%
Gustavus		1	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0%
Haines		0	0	0%	0	0%	3	0	0%	0	0%
Halibut Cove	Y	0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0	0%	0	0%
Homer		13	3	23%	0	0%	114	73	64%	67	59%
Hoonah		0	0	0%	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%
Juneau		3	1	33%	1	33%	13	1	8%	1	8%
Kasilof		0	0	0%	0	0%	8	0	0%	0	0%
Kenai		0	0	0%	0	0%	3	0	0%	0	0%
Ketchikan		2	1	50%	1	50%	7	1	14%	1	14%
King Cove	Y	23	16	70%	16	70%	5	0	0%	0	0%
Klawock		0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0	0%	0	0%
Kodiak		22	10	45%	9	41%	135	92	68%	82	61%
Larsen Bay	Y	0	0	0%	0	0%	1	1	100%	1	100%
Nikiski		0	0	0%	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%
Nikolaevsk		0	0	0%	0	0%	14	8	57%	7	50%
Nome		1	0	0%	0	0%	2	1	50%	1	50%
Old Harbor	Y	0	0	0%	0	0%	9	7	78%	7	78%
Ouzinkie	Y	0	0	0%	0	0%	10	3	30%	2	20%
Palmer		1	1	100%	1	100%	4	1	25%	1	25%
Pelican		0	0	0%	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%
Perryville	Y	1	0	0%	0	0%	1	0	0%	0	0%
Petersburg		7	1	14%	1	14%	33	2	6%	2	6%
Port Graham	Y	0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0	0%	0	0%
Port Lions	Y	0	0	0%	0	0%	8	2	25%	2	25%
Sand Point	Y	29	19	66%	19	66%	16	1	6%	1	6%
Seldovia	Y	0	0	0%	0	0%	10	4	40%	4	40%
Seward		1	1	100%	0	0%	22	4	18%	2	9%
Sitka		7	0	0%	0	0%	34	0	0%	0	0%
Soldotna		0	0	0%	0	0%	2	1	50%	0	0%
St Paul Island		1	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0%
Sterling		0	0	0%	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%
Tatitlek	Y	0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0	0%	0	0%
Tenakee Springs		0	0	0%	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%
Unalaska		4	1	25%	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0%
Valdez		0	0	0%	0	0%	6	0	0%	0	0%
Wasilla		1	1	100%	1	100%	9	2	22%	2	22%
Whittier		0	0	0%	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%
Willow		2	1	50%	1	50%	7	7	100%	7	100%
Wrangell		0	0	0%	0	0%	5	0	0%	0	0%
Yakutat	Y	0	0	0%	0	0%	3	0	0%	0	0%
Total Alaska		153	71	46%	64	42%	607	240	40%	215	35%

Source: ADFG Fish Tickets (2007), NMFS Catch Accounting (2008), and RAM groundfish license file from December 2008

Table 3-56 Average number of vessels fishing in the parallel waters fisheries without an LLP license, retained catch (mt), and percent of retained catch of Pacific cod within each sector by vessels without LLPs during 2002-2007.

		HAL CV		Jig CV		Pot CV		Trawl CV		All sectors
	Year	Vessels	Catch	Vessels	Catch	Vessels	Catch	Vessels	Catch	Catch
Central GOA	2002-2007 average	63	106	15	45	5	211	1	*	362
Western GOA	2002-2007 average	11	16	9	50	7	629	1	*	695

		HAL CV	Jig CV	Pot CV	Trawl CV	All sectors
	Year	Percent of sector catch	Percent of sector catch	Percent of sector catch	Percent of sector catch	Percent of total catch
Central GOA	2002-2007 average	2%	69%	3%	*	2%
Western GOA	2002-2007 average	11%	64%	9%	*	5%

Source: ADFG Fish Tickets and RAM groundfish license file, October 2008. *Withheld due to confidentiality.
Notes: Excludes State waters fisheries. Includes IFQ fisheries, because IFQ participants may retain groundfish without an LLP (and are required to retain Pacific cod up to the MRA).

Catcher processors acting as catcher vessels

Pacific cod endorsements could restrict vessels to using a specific gear type in the directed Pacific cod fisheries, but may not prevent catcher processors from fishing off catcher vessel allocations. Historically, few catcher processors in the GOA have acted as catcher vessels, but sector allocations could potentially create an incentive for catcher processors to opportunistically fish as catcher vessels. If this activity becomes more common than it has in the past, it could potentially erode the catch shares of vessels that can only act as catcher vessels and who contributed history to the catcher vessel allocations.

Under previous amendments (e.g., Amendment 85), catch is counted against allocations based on vessel activity. If a vessel catches and processes its own catch, that catch is deducted from the catcher processor allocation. If a vessel delivers its catch shoreside or to a mothership, that catch is deducted from the catcher vessel allocation. If the Council perceives that catcher processors may opportunistically fish off catcher vessel Pacific cod allocations in the GOA, it could modify the catch accounting system for the sector allocations. Instead of accounting for catch based on mode of operation, NOAA fisheries could account for catch based on the mode of operation on a vessel's Pacific cod endorsement. Currently, the Catch Accounting system does not track catch by LLP licenses. Modifying the Catch Accounting system to track licenses and license endorsements would require substantial programming effort. However, given the small number of catcher processor licenses which would likely qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement in the Western or Central GOA, this modification to the Catch Accounting system may be practicable. Licenses may only be transferred once per year. The Catch Accounting system would link catch by each vessel holding a Pacific cod catcher processor endorsement to the appropriate sector allocation account. In this way, vessels holding Pacific cod catcher processor endorsements could only fish off the catcher processor allocations, regardless of their mode of operation. Revisions to the Catch Accounting system could be minimized by continuing to base other aspects of the Catch Accounting system (e.g., estimates of bycatch, discards, and PSC) on the mode of operation of the vessel.

The Council is currently considering options in the proposed GOA Pacific cod sector allocation action to preclude vessels from opportunistically fishing off both the catcher processor and catcher vessel sector allocations in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries. Those options are included in Component 2 of the sector allocation motion:

ii. Suboption: In the Western/Central GOA, vessels can only surrender and/or reactivate their FFP:
   a. Once per calendar year
   b. Once every eighteen months
   c. Once every two years

iii. Suboption: FFP cannot be surrendered during the 3 year term of the permit.

The Council and NOAA fisheries have broad authority over vessels that hold Federal permits and licenses. Vessels that hold Federal fisheries permits or LLP licenses may be subject to Federal groundfish regulations, even while fishing in State waters adjacent to the GOA or BSAI. For example, vessels that hold FFPs are subject to Federal recordkeeping and reporting, observer, and VMS requirements while fishing in Federal, parallel, or State waters fisheries. In 2006, sideboards were implemented that limit harvests of GOA Pacific cod by vessels that received initial allocations of *C. opilio* crab quota. The sideboard regulations were written such that vessels cannot circumvent sideboard closures by fishing in parallel waters fisheries. Vessels that hold *either* an FFP or an LLP are subject to the sideboards while participating in any groundfish fishery in the parallel waters fisheries in the GOA (680.22). The Council is currently considering options to extend the LLP and Pacific cod endorsement requirement to the BSAI Pacific cod parallel waters fishery for CPs only, and to require CPs to surrender Federal permits and licenses if they choose to fish in the BSAI Pacific cod parallel waters fishery. The Council is scheduled to take final action on the proposed regulatory amendment in June 2009.

3.4.6 Harvest cooperative formation

Long term allocations of the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs to the sectors and provisions that limit entry to the directed Pacific cod fisheries may provide opportunities for the formation of harvest cooperatives. Individual sectors may be more likely to form cooperatives if all eligible participants are easily identified through a restrictive license limitation program, and if separate allocations are made to each sector. Pacific cod endorsements on fixed gear licenses would limit entry to the directed Pacific cod fisheries in Federal waters, but would not restrict vessels without LLP licenses, or without Pacific cod endorsements on licenses, from participating in the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the parallel waters fisheries. NOAA Fisheries does not currently have a mechanism to allocate catch history to cooperatives in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries. All vessel owners within a sector would need to voluntarily join a cooperative and abide by its bylaws, or additional regulations would need to be implemented to provide NOAA fisheries with the necessary authority to allocate Pacific cod to individual cooperatives.

In the GOA Pacific cod fisheries, the hook-and-line catcher processor sector may be the sector that is most likely to form a harvest cooperative. Most of the freezer longliner fleet fishes for Pacific cod in the BSAI, then moves into the GOA after the BSAI Pacific cod seasons close. In 2005, the BSAI freezer longliner fleet did not fish in the GOA during the B season, because NMFS inseason management was concerned that there was not sufficient halibut PSC to support this fleet. As a result, in 2006, 2007, and 2008 the freezer longliners set up an informal 'PSC co-op' with NMFS inseason management during the B season. Under this arrangement, the third seasonal apportionment of halibut PSC was informally divided between catcher processors and catcher vessels. The freezer longliners then further divided the catcher processor PSC among vessels fishing the B season. This informal cooperation in sharing PSC suggests that this sector has the potential to establish a formal harvest cooperative.

The freezer longliner fleet is relatively small, and the proposed action could potentially limit the number of participants in this sector by adding gear-specific Pacific cod endorsements to fixed gear licenses. There are currently 53 fixed gear catcher processor licenses with Central and/or Western GOA area

other participants in that sector. The adverse impacts of the entry of latent effort are often exacerbated for sectors with substantial latent capacity. For example, the majority of fixed gear catcher vessel licenses with Western or Central GOA endorsements do not have any recent (2000-2006 or 2000-2008) landings in the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the GOA. Re-entry of these licenses into the fisheries has the potential to intensify competition for the TACs. If Pacific cod sector allocations are accompanied by provisions that limit entry into the directed Pacific cod fisheries, for example by adding Pacific cod endorsements to fixed gear licenses, the fixed gear sectors would be protected from potential re-entry of latent fixed gear licenses into the directed Pacific cod fisheries. However, new provisions that limit access to the GOA Pacific cod fisheries would also reduce the number of open access fisheries. The remaining open access fisheries would be even more vulnerable to increased competition as displaced participants enter these fisheries.

3.4.8 Net benefits to the Nation

Overall, this action is likely to have a limited effect on net benefits realized by the Nation. Under the status quo (Alternative 1), all existing fixed gear licenses would continue to have access to the directed Pacific cod fisheries in Federal waters of the GOA. Licenses not currently active in the fisheries would have the potential to enter the Pacific cod fisheries at some future time, increasing overall effort in the fisheries. This increase in effort could contribute to losses of production efficiency. Costs could rise slightly if participants perceive a need to increase effort to secure their historic catch shares. The increase in effort could contribute to more aggressive fishing and processing practices, both of which contribute to lower quality and less value added production. The extent of these potential effects is very difficult to predict and depends on several factors, including future TAC levels, market conditions, and operating costs.

Under the proposed action (Alternative 2), Pacific cod endorsements would be added to fixed gear groundfish licenses that have recent catch history in the Western or Central GOA directed Pacific cod fisheries. As a result, licenses that do not receive a Pacific cod endorsement would not be eligible to enter the Western or Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries in the future, removing the potential for an influx of effort into the fisheries. Preventing these licenses from entering the Pacific cod fisheries in the future could contribute to production efficiency if a substantial increase in effort by latent licenses were to occur in the absence of this action. Limiting effort in the fisheries could contribute to slowing down the fisheries, although if TACs continue to decline and market conditions for Pacific cod continue to improve, the pace of the fisheries is unlikely to slow down.

Minor changes in consumer surplus could accompany any change in production outputs. Specifically, changes in product outputs and quality could have effects on consumers. The difference in consumer surplus across the alternatives is likely to be quite small. The status quo, which would maintain the existing number of licenses eligible to enter the Pacific cod fisheries, would have the lowest consumer surplus, as it would not change the conditions for entry into the fisheries. In addition, the change in U.S. consumer surplus is likely to be diluted, since much of the production from these fisheries is exported for overseas secondary processing and consumption. As a result, some portion of any consumer surplus benefit resulting from the proposed action is unlikely to be realized as a U.S. benefit.

Implementation of the action alternative would require NOAA fisheries to process and adjudicate the qualifying and non-qualifying licenses. The license limitation file administered by NOAA fisheries will need to be updated to reflect the changes to existing licenses. Also, NOAA fisheries will need to update and make changes to databases used to store license information in order to track Pacific cod endorsements that have non-transferable status. These costs would not be incurred under the no action alternative. The addition of gear-specific Pacific cod endorsements to fixed gear licenses will introduce new administrative costs for NOAA fisheries, and possibly create new enforcement costs.

a. The establishment of differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables that take into account the resources available to small entities;
b. The clarification, consolidation or simplification of compliance and reporting requirements under the rule for such small entities;
c. The use of performance rather than design standards;
d. An exemption from coverage of the rule, or any part thereof, for such small entities.

The "universe" of entities to be considered in an IRFA generally includes only those small entities that can reasonably be expected to be directly regulated by the proposed action. If the effects of the rule fall primarily on a distinct segment of the industry, or portion thereof (e.g., user group, gear type, geographic area), that segment would be considered the universe for purposes of this analysis.

In preparing an IRFA, an agency may provide either a quantifiable or numerical description of the effects of a proposed rule (and alternatives to the proposed rule), or more general descriptive Statements if quantification is not practicable or reliable.

4.2 Definition of a Small Entity

The RFA recognizes and defines three kinds of small entities: 1) small businesses; 2) small non-profit organizations; and 3) and small government jurisdictions.

Small businesses: Section 601(3) of the RFA defines a "small business" as having the same meaning as a "small business concern," which is defined under Section 3 of the Small Business Act. A "small business" or "small business concern" includes any firm that is independently owned and operated and not dominate in its field of operation. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has further defined a "small business concern" as one "organized for profit, with a place of business located in the United States, and which operates primarily within the United States, or which makes a significant contribution to the U.S. economy through payment of taxes or use of American products, materials, or labor. A small business concern may be in the legal form of an individual proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, joint venture, association, trust, or cooperative, except that where the form is a joint venture there can be no more than 49% participation by foreign business entities in the joint venture."

The SBA has established size criteria for all major industry sectors in the U.S., including fish harvesting and fish processing businesses. A business "involved in fish harvesting" is a small business if it is independently owned and operated and not dominant in its field of operation (including its affiliates), and if it has combined annual receipts not in excess of $4.0 million for all its affiliated operations worldwide. A seafood processor is a small business if it is independently owned and operated, not dominant in its field of operation (including its affiliates) and employs 500 or fewer persons, on a full-time, part-time, temporary, or other basis, at all its affiliated operations worldwide. A business involved in both the harvesting and processing of seafood products is a small business if it meets the $4.0 million criterion for fish harvesting operations. A wholesale business servicing the fishing industry is a small business if it employs 100 or fewer persons on a full-time, part-time, temporary, or other basis, at all its affiliated operations worldwide.

The SBA has established "principles of affiliation" to determine whether a business concern is "independently owned and operated." In general, business concerns are affiliates of each other when one concern controls or has the power to control the other or a third party controls or has the power to control both. The SBA considers factors such as ownership, management, previous relationships with or ties to another concern, and contractual relationships, in determining whether affiliation exists. Individuals or

participants with recent catch history. The problem statement notes that many fixed gear vessel owners have made significant investments, have long catch histories, and are dependent on WGOA and CGOA Pacific cod resources. The proposed amendment may increase stability in the GOA fixed gear fisheries.

The legal basis for this action is the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). One of the stated purposes of the MSA is to promote domestic commercial fishing under sound conservation and management principles and to achieve and maintain the optimum yield from each fishery.

4.5 Number and description of affected small entities

The proposed action directly regulates persons who hold fixed gear groundfish LLP licenses with Western or Central GOA area endorsements. Licenses without recent participation in the Western or Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries will no longer be eligible to participate in the directed Pacific cod fisheries in Federal waters of the GOA. There are 972 fixed gear catcher vessels licenses subject to the proposed action; 883 of these licenses have Central GOA endorsements and 264 licenses have Western GOA endorsements (175 licenses have both area endorsements). The contact licensee information on each license was used to determine ownership affiliation. Based on this information, there are 909 entities that own these catcher vessel licenses, and 20 of these are large entities based on 2007 gross revenues. There are 53 fixed gear catcher processor licenses subject to the proposed action, including 49 licenses with Central GOA endorsements and 31 licenses with Western GOA endorsements (27 licenses have both area endorsements). These licenses are owned by 47 entities, 28 of which are large entities based on 2007 first wholesale revenues. In sum, the proposed action would directly impact 889 small entities that own fixed gear catcher vessel licenses with Western and/or Central GOA area endorsements, and 19 small entities that own fixed gear catcher processor licenses with Western and/or Central GOA area endorsements. It is likely that additional licenses are affiliated through partnerships with other entities, and would be considered large entities for the purpose of this action, but in the absence of complete ownership information, these affiliations cannot be determined.

4.6 Recordkeeping and reporting

Implementation of the proposed action to add Pacific cod endorsements to licenses would not change the overall reporting structure and record keeping requirements for vessels in the GOA groundfish fisheries. Currently, NOAA fisheries does not require vessel owners to report the LLP license used while participating in the groundfish fisheries subject to the LLP. This action would not add any new reporting requirements for vessels.

4.7 Relevant Federal rules that may duplicate, overlap, or conflict with the proposed action

There do not appear to be any Federal rules that duplicate, overlap, or conflict with the proposed action.

4.8 Description of significant alternatives to the proposed action

The Council is currently considering two alternatives for this action. Under **Alternative 1**, no Pacific cod endorsements would be added to Western or Central GOA fixed gear LLP licenses. Under **Alternative 2**, fixed gear LLP licenses with Western and Central GOA endorsements that meet minimum catch thresholds would receive a Pacific cod endorsement. The proposed action could potentially apply different catch thresholds to licenses, depending on the operation type or size of the vessel. Options to

National Standard 4 – Conservation and management measures shall not discriminate between residents of different states. If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign fishing privileges among various U.S. fishermen, such allocation shall be (A) fair and equitable to all such fishermen, (B) reasonably calculated to promote conservation, and (C) carried out in such a manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of such privileges.

Residency within a specific state is not a criterion for receiving a Pacific cod endorsement. Licenses which meet minimum landings thresholds will remain eligible to participate in the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries, and exceptions to these eligibility standards will not be made for individual persons or entities based on residency in a specific state.

National Standard 5 – Conservation and management measures shall, where practicable, consider efficiency in the utilization of fishery resources, except that no such measure shall have economic allocation as its sole purpose.

The wording of this standard was changed in the 1996 Magnuson-Stevens Act authorization, to 'consider' rather than 'promote' efficiency. Efficiency in this context refers to economic efficiency, and the reason for the change is to de-emphasize the importance of economics relative to other considerations (Senate Report of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on S. 39, the Sustainable Fisheries Act, 1996). The analysis presents information on economic considerations, but does not emphasize this standard over other considerations.

National Standard 6 – Conservation and management measures shall take into account and allow for variations among, and contingencies in, fisheries, fishery resources, and catches.

Adding Pacific cod endorsements to groundfish licenses in order to limit access to the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the Western and Central GOA is unlikely to reduce the ability of recent participants to increase effort in response to changes in fishing and market conditions. Overall harvest levels by the fixed gear sectors would not be constrained by the proposed action. In the event of lower Pacific cod quotas in the BSAI or changes in other fisheries, this action would protect the relative harvest levels of those license holders that have recently participated in the fisheries and are dependent on the GOA Pacific cod resource. In addition, provisions to exclude the jig sector from the Pacific cod endorsement requirement may increase future opportunities for participation and total catch by this sector.

National Standard 7 – Conservation and management measures shall, where practicable, minimize costs and avoid unnecessary duplication.

The alternatives under consideration appear to be consistent with this standard.

National Standard 8 – Conservation and management measures shall, consistent with the conservation requirements of this Act (including the prevention of overfishing and rebuilding of overfished stocks), take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities in order to (A) provide for the sustained participation of such communities, and (B) to the extent practicable, minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities.

The RIR presents information on the impact of the proposed action on licenses held by residents of Alaska and other states, and provides detailed information on the number of qualifying licenses from Alaska communities. This action does not appear to have a disproportionate effect on residents of a particular state or on specific fishing communities. The RIR discusses the number of licenses held by residents of coastal fishing communities, including Community Quota Entity (CQE) communities that could qualify to for a Pacific cod endorsement. The analysis also discusses the relative importance of the Pacific cod fishery in comparison to other commercial fisheries to these communities.

are or may be in danger of depletion due to human activities, and that marine mammals are resources of international significance and should be protected using best management practices.
The primary management objectives of the MMPA are to maintain the health and stability of the marine ecosystem and to maintain sustainable populations of marine mammals within the carrying capacity of the habitat. The MMPA is intended to work in concert with the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. The Secretary of Commerce is required to give full consideration to all factors regarding regulations applicable to the take of marine mammals, including the conservation, development, and utilization of marine resources, and the economic and technological feasibility of implementing the regulations. Impacts of commercial fishing activities on marine mammal populations must be analyzed in an EA or EIS, and the Council or NMFS may be requested to consider measures to mitigate adverse impacts. Under the proposed action, no changes in the temporal or spatial distribution of harvests or overall level of fishing effort are anticipated. Consequently, no additional impacts to marine mammal populations are expected to result from the proposed action.

5.4 Coastal Zone Management Act

Implementation of either of the alternatives would be conducted in a manner consistent with the Alaska Coastal Management Program and Section 30(c)(1) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 and its implementing regulations.

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7.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Jeannie Heltzel
Mark Fina, Ph.D.
Nicole Kimball

8.0 AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS CONSULTED

Jerry Bongen, Pot fisherman
Julie Bonney, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank
Tracy Buck, NOAA Fisheries
Len Carpenter, Alaska Jig Association
Kenny Down, Freezer Longline Coalition
Mary Furuness, NOAA Fisheries
Jessica Gharrett, NOAA Fisheries
Ken Hansen, NOAA Fisheries
Glenn Merrill, NOAA Fisheries
Tom Meyer, NOAA Fisheries
Jennifer Mondragon, NOAA Fisheries
Stefanie Moreland, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Tom Pearson, NOAA Fisheries
Andy Smoker, NOAA Fisheries
Jeff Stephan, United Fisherman's Marketing Association

Table A-2. Participation, total revenues, and annual revenues per license during 2000-2006 by fixed gear CV licenses held by residents of CQE communities that have at least 1 directed Pacific cod landing during 2000-2006 and with no GOA directed Pacific cod landings during 2000-2006.

	Western Gulf licenses with at least one Western Gulf directed Pacific cod landing during 2000-2006 (36 licenses)				Western Gulf licenses with no qualified Western Gulf directed Pacific cod landings during 2000-2006 (18 licenses)			
Fishery	Number of licenses in fishery	Percent revenues	Total revenues 2000-2006	Annual revenues per license	Number of licenses in fishery	Percent revenues	Total revenues 2000-2006	Annual revenues per license
Federal WG Pcod- Fixed Gear	**36**	**10.0%**	**$7,462,885**	**$29,615**	**0**	**0**	**$0**	**$0**
Federal CG Pcod- Fixed Gear	2	*	*	*	0	0	$0	$0
Federal GOA Groundfish- Trawl	18	19.0%	$14,159,477	$112,377	0	0	$0	$0
State GOA Pacific Cod	35	17.8%	$13,240,376	$54,042	6	4.2%	$132,242	$3,149
BSAI Fixed Gear	8	1.3%	$986,655	$17,619	1	*	*	*
BSAI Trawl	3	*	*	*	0	0.0%	$0	$0
Herring	5	0.6%	$471,231	$13,464	2	*	*	*
IFQ Halibut	21	19.2%	$14,310,389	$97,350	3	*	*	*
IFQ Sablefish	2	*	*	*	0	0.0%	$0	$0
Other	29	0.1%	$76,821	$378	1	*	*	*
Salmon	33	27.6%	$20,558,845	$88,999	12	82.6%	$2,623,042	$31,227
Shellfish	33	3.8%	$2,851,049	$12,342	1	*	*	*
All Fisheries	36	100.0%	$74,474,601	$295,534	14	100.0%	$3,175,191	$32,400
No landings in any Alaska fisheries	0	0.0%	$0	$0	4	0.0%	$0	$0

	Central Gulf licenses with at least one Central Gulf directed Pacific cod landing during 2000-2006 (19 licenses)				Central Gulf licenses with no qualified Central Gulf directed Pacific cod landings during 2000-2006 (55 licenses)			
Fishery	Number of licenses in fishery	Percent revenues	Total revenues 2000-2006	Annual revenues per license	Number of licenses in fishery	Percent revenues	Total revenues 2000-2006	Annual revenues per license
Federal CG Pcod- Fixed Gear	**19**	**8.8%**	**$2,951,398**	**$22,191**	**0**	**0.0%**	**$0**	**$0**
Federal WG Pcod- Fixed Gear	2	*	*	*	17	7.7%	$5,017,110	$42,161
Federal GOA Groundfish- Trawl	1	*	*	*	15	19.0%	$12,312,457	$117,261
State GOA Pacific Cod	13	8.6%	$2,903,842	$31,910	23	14.5%	$9,416,027	$58,485
BSAI Fixed Gear	3	*	*	*	4	1.1%	$733,683	$26,203
BSAI Trawl	1	*	*	*	2	*	*	*
Herring	5	5.0%	$1,695,125	$48,432	4	1.4%	$932,870	$33,317
IFQ Halibut	13	34.3%	$11,547,575	$126,896	28	16.4%	$10,667,454	$54,426
IFQ Sablefish	5	7.2%	$2,405,572	$68,731	2	*	*	*
Other	11	0.1%	$35,045	$455	22	0.1%	$70,518	$458
Salmon	13	20.4%	$6,845,104	$75,221	35	35.4%	$22,980,569	$93,798
Shellfish	12	9.8%	$3,286,517	$39,125	24	4.1%	$2,674,335	$15,919
All Fisheries	19	100.0%	$33,634,176	$252,889	44	100.0%	$64,925,384	$210,797
No landings in any Alaska fisheries	0	0.0%	$0	$0	11	0.0%	$0	$0

Source: ADFG Fish Tickets, CFEC gross revenues, and RAM groundfish license file, December 2008.

Erin Harrington

From: misslori@alaska.com on behalf of Bill Harrington [misslori@alaska.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 2:19 PM
To: Denby S (DFG) Lloyd
Cc: Erin Harrington
Subject: from Bill Harrington

Hi Denby. How's things in the lofty halls of government? Hope you're happy and doing some good. My daughter, Erin, is working down there now too at Rep. Austerman's office. I believe she's in the right place to make a difference to the good of public policy which is all she's ever wanted to do. So, to make a long story short and without any sugarcoating which does not become me, here's the deal. I would like you to seriously consider House Joint Resolution # 21 which addresses requiring an edorsement to fish for Pacific cod. I believe this is unfair to up and coming fishermen and just a ploy by certain entities to take possession of the fisheries exclusively to themselves. The underlying monster that drives this movement is greed. "If I own it, it's worth money, I can sell it". The main beneficiaries are the draggers, who have been extending and widening their boats in recent years to take advantage of the foreseen privatization. Big boatfulls, bigger piece of the pie. To allocate a resource that is accessible to many to a fishery that is destructive would be a travesty. I moved to Alaska because the draggers messed up my favorite ocean. Well, it will soon be coming to a theater near you. Maybe I have given you my analogy before but if I set my longline through your office, I might haul you back screaming but at least your furniture would still be there. Not so with a dragger net. It doesn't take a scientist to figure that one out. Please notice I use the word dragger instead of the word trawler as the latter is too easy to hide behind. Call a spade a spade. If you look up trawling in the dictionary it is just a word for catching many fish. Our longliners on Cape Cod were referred to as "tub trawlers" and the longline a trawl.
When I first met you there were NO draggers delivering fish to Kodiak.
I delivered the first fish that King Crab, Western, International Seafoods, and All Alaskan (now Trident) ever bought. With a 38 foot longline/gillnet setup. I had to bring a guy up here from the Cape to fillet it for them. Oscar Dyson said I was a pioneer like him. One cannery would buy for a week or two and have enough to experiment with then I'd have to find (beg) another place to buy them. I envisioned a small boat fishery that could sustain a fleet of local people just about year round. Just like we used to do in Chatham, Massachusetts..... Until they invented bigger and bigger draggers and rock hopper gear and powerful engines to decimate fishing grounds that existed since the 1600s for us white folk and longer for the indigenous people. We're only a few years behind them. So should we just get it over with? They already make enough money to hire full time pimps for themselves like Julie Bonney, Jeff Stephan, et. al.
Unfortunately we small guys don't. Of course there are a few non dragger supporters of this rationalization scheme; the Russian fleet and a couple pot boats but that's just a few "I, ME ME Mine" people who can't see further than their own purse.
My son just ran a boat for the first time last year and did real well.
He's 28. He's been fishing with me since he was 9. I was proud of him.
He was proud of himself. He was noticed favorably by others. Where will his place be if they give this all away. Please do not support this giveaway and do please support things like HJR #21. Thanks Denby.
Do some good.
Best regards. Bill Harrington, Kodiak