

GULF OF ALASKA COASTAL COMMUNITIES COALITION (GOAC3)

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“THE GULF CHANNEL MARKER”¹

Issue 3 August 1, 2003²

Focus on: “FISHERIES MARKET INFORMATION”

Community Spotlight: The Chigniks

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The Gulf Channel Marker, a bi-weekly “mini-newsletter” of the Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition (GOAC3) is designed to help³ keep our members posted on immediate fisheries-related issues facing Gulf of Alaska coastal communities. *The Gulf Channel Marker* is available only to GOAC3 members and is distributed by e-mail and by fax or mail to those members who request it. This publication is in MS Word. All newsletters will be archived but the format will vary. **We encourage you to print out *The Gulf Channel Marker* and keep copies in a three-ring binder.** Past issues of *The Gulf Channel Marker* are available on request.

Your questions or suggestions for issues and linkages are always welcome. See “Web Links” at the end of this document for further information. Please note that all links are subject to change.

¹ Copyright pending

² Edited by Gale K. Vick, GOAC3 Executive Director

³ Please note – there are a lot of concurrent issues in fisheries –check many information sources.

- Federal Register web address for announcement commentary for Marine Protected Areas and Inventory of Marine Managed Areas July 23, 2003. **Comments due by September 22, 2003.** <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/notice/fr43495.pdf>
- **Groundfish PSEIS:** the revised DRAFT Groundfish Programmatic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (PSEIS) is available from NOAA in hard-copy (7,000 pages!) or CD. Contact them by **August 15th** to let them know what format you prefer. **Public comments on the revised draft will be accepted until October 15, 2003.** Public comments will only be accepted in writing, submitted by mail and delivered before the deadline or by e-mail or oral statements at one of the public hearings. Public hearing information can be found at the web site.. <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/seis/news11.pdf>
- **NOAA Fisheries Seeks Comment on Zero Mortality Rate Goal for Marine Mammals** NOAA Fisheries has published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking related to the Zero Mortality Rate Goal (ZMRG) contained in the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The Act states that commercial fisheries shall reduce incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals to insignificant levels approaching a zero mortality and serious injury rate. Although the ZMRG has been a part of the Act since it was first enacted in 1972, there has been no clear or consistent guidance on how much mortality and serious injury amounts to insignificant levels. In the notice, NOAA Fisheries describes three quantitative options for insignificant levels of mortality and serious injury for population stocks of marine mammals and seeks comments on these options. NOAA Fisheries also requested comments on the consideration of available technology and economics of fisheries into evaluating whether or not fisheries had achieved the Act's mandate by April 30, 2001. **The deadline for comments is September 8, 2003.** For additional information call Tom Eagle at (301) 713-2322.
- **Information requested for sightings of the endangered short-tailed albatross:** An international scientific team will be in the western Aleutians, Seguam Pass area, August 5th to 18th, to conduct studies on the endangered short-tailed albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*), according to James W. Balsiger, Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS. Scientists onboard the F/V Predator are requesting that any sightings of this species be reported to them at the contact information provided below. A collaborative team of scientists from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington Sea Grant Program, Oregon State University, and the Australian Antarctic Division will be attempting to capture short-tailed albatrosses at sea. The purpose of the study is to attach satellite transmitters to the birds and track their locations and movements as they begin to travel back toward their primary breeding colony at Torishima Island, Japan. Little is known about where these rare birds go when away from the breeding colony. This effort will attempt to learn more about their spatial and temporal distribution while in Alaska. Short-tailed albatrosses have been taken in the Alaska longline groundfish fishery. The last reported take was in 1998. This cooperative study with the longline industry is being funded by a grant from the North Pacific

Research Board.NMFS asks for your cooperation and requests that, during this time period, you report any short-tailed albatross sightings directly to:

F/V Predator

Call sign WBT5412 (monitors SSB 4125 kHz and Ch. 16)

Iridium Phone Number 8816 3143 5689

II IMPORTANT DATES⁴

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **North Pacific Fishery Management Council**: Check the NPFMC for their 2003-05 meeting schedule and for committee meetings, etc. Next scheduled begins October 6th in Anchorage.
- **Alaska Board of Fisheries** – Check the BOF web site for their 2003-04 calendar
- **National Marine Fisheries Service national conference**- November 13-15, 2003 Washington, DC. First fisheries-management conference co-sponsored by the eight regional fishery management councils. For more information check the NPFMC web site.
- **National Fishery Law Symposium**: The 21st Annual National Fishery Law Symposium will be held this year on 23-24 October at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center, 800 Convention Place, in Seattle. Sponsored by the University of Washington's School of Law, this year's agenda includes discussion on 1) the statutory and regulatory framework for essential fish habitat (EFH); 2) recent court decisions in Magnuson-Steven Act, Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act litigation, and pending decisions of significance in consumer, antitrust, trade and "takings" cases; 3) The Pew Ocean Commission and U.S. Commission on Oceans reports; 4) implementation of the American Fisheries Act: the Lender Amendments and new developments with respect to citizenship requirements; 5) the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and certification of fisheries as "responsibly managed," third-party, independent standards for sustainability, consumer attitudes and eco-labeling opportunities for seafood products; 6) current initiatives at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to "rationalize" the crab and non-pollock groundfish fisheries, the issue of processor shares and legislative developments; 7) Endangered Species Act (ESA) litigation relating to salmon protection in the Pacific Northwest and its implications for fisheries and other activities; and 8) current issues in implementation of disaster relief and vessel/permit buyback programs, with special attention to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Program. For more information, contact: Kathy Kline at the University of Washington (kkline@u.washington.edu) or the Symposium Co-Chairs, Eldon Greenberg (egreenberg@gsblaw.com) or Bud Walsh (budwalsh@dwt.com).
- **Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition (GOAC3)**: Our annual meeting is in October See our web site at www.goac3.org for this and many other important fisheries dates.

⁴ For other current calendar items, check our web site @ www.goac3.org

III **IMPORTANT TO KNOW**

- **Revised reporting requirements set for Alaska's IFQ halibut fishery:** NMFS issued a final rule to implement Amendment 72 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (Amendment 72) and Amendment 64 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (Amendment 64) (collectively, Amendments 72/64). This action will revise certain recordkeeping and reporting requirements for the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program for fixed gear Pacific halibut and sablefish fisheries and the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program for the Pacific halibut fishery. This action is necessary to improve IFQ fishing operations, while complying with IFQ Program requirements; to improve NMFS' ability to efficiently administer the program; and to improve the clarity and consistency of IFQ Program regulations. This action is intended to meet the conservation and management requirements of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (Halibut Act) with respect to halibut and of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) with respect to sablefish and to further the goals and objectives of the groundfish Fishery Management Plans (FMPs). This regulation becomes effective on August 28, 2003.
- **Groundfish in the North Gulf:** See North Pacific Fishery Management Council web site for current information on Council action on groundfish. The Council decided at its June Kodiak meeting not to consider individual quotas for Gulf of Alaska bottom-fish harvesters and processors. The concept of assigning shares of fish harvests to individual processing companies is particularly controversial in the seafood industry. Instead, the Council will consider replacing the current race for fish with cooperatives, where groups of fishermen and processors can pool their efforts. The Council will also consider "status quo" as a third management option. The Council hopes to make a final decision on Gulf fisheries management by this time next year.⁵
- **Farmed salmon:** We highly recommend ordering the "Farmed and Dangerous" brochure in quantity and sharing this with all your friends OR: Call us and we will send you some copies.. <http://www.farmedanddangerous.org/>

IV **FISHERIES MARKET INFORMATION**

With our fisheries market in a state of constant flux, with fishermen and fishing communities considering more and more that making real money means doing your own harvesting, processing and marketing, and with all the flap over fish farms, it really pays to get familiar with the fishery market information available in many places.

- ASMI (the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute) is, of course, a primary place to start, but is not definitive. (ASMI reported in July that Alaska Airlines is being offered in

⁵ Laine Welch, Fish Report, *Anchorage Daily News*, June 21, 2003

- their first-class cabins between July and October 2003, including their East Coast flights. Hmm .. can't help but wonder why this wasn't happening a *long* time ago!)
- Check out ASMI's multitude of handling, processing and buying materials
 - ASMI'S web site also includes links to:
 - Retail: Information on current promotions in the retail/grocery sector.
 - Foodservice: Information on current promotions in the foodservice/restaurant sector.
 - Export Information on current promotions in the export sector.
 - ASMI's Sales Aids and Literature Catalog.
 - Suppliers Directory
 - Seafood Buyer's Guide: A comprehensive guide to a wide variety of products including product forms, technical information and specifications for grading and nutrition.
 - Value-Added Products
 - What's new in Alaska Value-Added Salmon Products.
- The *Alaska Report* on line is a great place to pick up market and fishing links of all kinds. It's even better because it is free.
 - The *Pacific Fishing* "Seafood Report" is worth reading every month for current market conditions and discussion of trends. In addition, they have great articles. For instance, the July 2003 issue offers:
 - "The Art of the Box: Consumers judge a fish by quality and message"
 - "Where is This Fish From?"
 - "Is Your Fish Cool?" (tracking temperature to market and protecting shelf life)
 - "Trollers Sell on Story: Branding efforts highlights fishing families high quality standards"
 - THE WAVE, a subscription service that can be accessed through the *Alaska Report* is well worth the \$300 annual fee.
 - "Alaska Fishermen's Direct Marketing Manual", available through the Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development
 - "A Village Fish Processing Plant: A Planning Handbook:, Institute of Social And Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage, May 2001
 - MSC Labeling: The Marine Stewardship Council offers a labeling system that basically gives their stamp of approval or disapproval on seafood products. This is an important tool, especially for seafood wholesalers, retailers and restaurants. Consumers are becoming more and more savvy and demanding of ways to let them know their purchases meet certain standards.
 - "Fish Factor", by Laine Welch, usually found in *The Alaska Journal of Commerce* or through "The Alaska Report." Her August 1, 2003 article contained stories about the mid-season salmon catch assessment and high fashion in fish skin products!

- Check out the web links at the bottom of this document for marketing links. Not to be missed are the new marketing initiatives, including COOL (Country of Origin Labeling), organic labeling, and the initiatives to distinguish farmed fish, including a requirement to have a warning on the product that the product is dyed.

V **COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT⁶: THE CHIGNIKS**

Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon and Chignik Bay is the primary home of the Chignik Salmon Co-op fleet. All three communities have runways and are accessible by air and to each other by water. The primary source of income is from fishing. In July of 2003, Governor Frank Murkowski announced a proposal for a "no frills" 282-mile gravel road that would connect communities in the Bristol Bay region with the deep-water port at Chignik Bay.⁷ The Governor hopes this will encourage oil exploration in the Alaska Peninsula. He is depending on industry to help pay for the road.

Chignik Lake (village): Located on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula on Chignik Lake, 13 miles from Chignik (Bay), 265 miles southwest of Kodiak and 474 miles southwest of Anchorage. Chignik Lake is located in the Aleutian Islands Recording District. The area encompasses 12.3 sq. miles of land and 9.6 sq. miles of water. The maritime climate of Chignik Lake is characterized by cool summers and relatively warm, rainy winters. Precipitation averages 127 inches annually, including 58 inches of snowfall. The present population traces its roots to Unangan from the west near Illnik and the old village of Kanatag near Becharof Lake. The community was the winter residence of a single family in 1903. Other families moved from surrounding communities in the early 1950s when a school was built. It has developed as an Aleut fishing village. A federally recognized tribe is located in the community – the Chignik Lake Traditional Council. 87.6% of the population are Alaska Native or part Native. Chignik Lake is a predominantly Alutiiq village. The population is about 115.

Chignik Lagoon is just west of Chignik Lake. Chignik Lagoon took its name from its location and proximity to Chignik, the Sugpiaq word for "wind." The Chignik area was originally populated by Kaniagmuit Eskimos before 1767. After the Russian occupation, the intermarriage of the Kaniags and Aleuts (Unangan) produced the Koniags. The people of this era were sea-dependent, living on otter, sea lion, porpoise, and whale. During the Russian fur boom from 1767 to 1783, the sea otter population was decimated. This, in addition to disease and warfare, reduced the Native population to less than half its former size. Current residents are of mixed European/Native ancestry. It has developed as a fishing village. A federally recognized tribe is located in the community -- the Chignik Lagoon Village Council. 82.5% of the population are Alaska Native or part Native. Chignik Lagoon is an Alutiiq (Sugpiaq) village that experiences an influx of fishermen during the summer months. The winter population is around 90. The population swells by 200 during the fishing season.

Chignik Bay or "Chignik": The City of Chignik is located just east of Chignik Lagoon.

⁶ Primary information from the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development Community Data Base

⁷ "Governor wants 'no-frills' road" By Tim Bradner, *Alaska Journal of Commerce*, July 21, 2003

A Kaniagmuit village called "Kalwak" was originally located here; it was destroyed during the Russian fur boom in the late 1700s. Chignik, a Koniag (Sugpiaq) Aleut word meaning "big wind," was established in the late 1800s as a fishing village and cannery. A four-masted sailing ship called the "Star of Alaska" transported workers and supplies between Chignik and San Francisco. Chinese crews from San Francisco traveled to Chignik in early spring to make tin cans for the cannery. Japanese workers followed in mid-June to begin processing. A post office was established in 1901. Coal mining occurred from 1899 to 1915. Chignik became an incorporated City in 1983. Today, two of the historical canneries are still in operation. A federally recognized tribe is located in the community -- the Chignik Bay Village Council. 60.8% of the population are Alaska Native or part Native. Historically a Kaniagmuit area with Russian and Scandinavian influences, the community is presently a mixture of non-Natives and Alutiiq. Subsistence on fish and caribou is important to residents' livelihoods. As is typical of villages in the region, commercial fishing and subsistence activities are the mainstays of the economy. Sixteen residents hold commercial fishing permits. Two fish processing plants operate in Chignik: Norquest Adak and Trident Seafoods. Salmon, herring roe, halibut, cod and crab are processed here; between 600 to 800 people come to Chignik to fish or work in the plants each summer. Residents depend on subsistence foods, including salmon, trout, crab, clams, caribou and moose. Chignik is accessible by air and sea. There is a State-owned 2,600' gravel runway and a seaplane base. Regular flights run from King Salmon and Port Heiden. Chignik Fisheries also owns a 1,630' gravel airstrip. Barge services arrive weekly from late spring through early fall, and monthly during the remainder of the year. The State Ferry operates bi-monthly from Kodiak between May and October. A 600-foot privately-owned dock and a boat haul-out are available. A 110-slip small boat harbor and public dock are under development. ATVs and skiffs are the primary means of local transportation. There is a strong regional interest in constructing roads between Chignik, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake and the City landfill. The City is building a new City dock.

Chignik Salmon Purse Seine Fishery and Cooperative:⁸ "In early 2002, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) passed regulations that provided a means for Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit holders in the Chignik salmon purse seine fishery to form a cooperative and fish in a cooperative fishery under specified conditions.⁹ The regulations provide an allocation to the cooperative in the form of a percentage of the Chignik Area commercial sockeye harvestable surplus... The purpose of these regulations was to reduce ,, a "race for fish." The cooperative reduces the number of vessels, crew and the cost of the harvest thereby improving the efficiency and the profitability of the fishery. The allocation in the cooperative also provides an opportunity to improve ex-vessel prices by slowing down the fishing and providing time to improve product handling and quality..... Permit holders who did not join the cooperative can continue to fish in the "open fishery." Currently about 70% of the Chignik fleet participates in the Co-op with the remaining in the open fishery. ... This project is now into its second season and providing a premium quality product using a

⁸ Information from the "Chignik Salmon Purse Seine Fishery: Summary Data on Issues Related to the 2002 Cooperative Fishery", CFEC (Alaska Department of Fish and Game/ Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission"), Report 02-6N, December 2002

⁹ 5 AAC 15.359

unique process borrowed from the salmon farms. The fish are live pumped from the tender into a chute that uses oxygenation to stun the fish before they are live-bled. (See *Pacific Fishing*, July 2003.) ... The Chignik Co-op experiment, however, has plenty of controversy. Some fisherman are concerned about the number of crew jobs lost. Others just don't like the idea of standing down while only a few boats fish. Still others think the Alaska Limited Entry program was not designed to allow boats to "participate" in one fishery on paper and still be able to fish another fishery in reality. The University of Alaska Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), recently released a report entitled "the Effects of the 2002 Chignik Salmon Cooperative: A survey of Chignik Salmon Permit Holders", (December 2002), which is available on-line at the ISER web site.

VI **FEDERAL REGISTER – WEEK OF 8/1/03 – GULF OF ALASKA¹⁰**

A. **CRAB**

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 50 CFR Part 679 [Docket No. 030417090-3183-02; I.D. 032403C] RIN 0648-AQ73 Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; License Limitation Program AGENCY: NMFS, NOAA, Commerce. **ACTION: Final rule**

SUMMARY: NMFS issues a final rule to amend eligibility criteria for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) crab species licenses issued under the License Limitation Program (LLP) and required for participation in the BSAI crab fisheries. This action is necessary to allow participation in the BSAI crab fisheries in a manner intended by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). The intended effect of this action is to allow vessels with recent participation in the BSAI crab fisheries to qualify for a LLP crab species license and to conserve and manage the crab resources in the BSAI in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). DATES: Effective on September 4, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Environmental Assessment prepared for Amendment 10 to the Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs and the regulatory impact review/initial regulatory flexibility analysis (RIR/IRFA) and the Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA) prepared for this rule are available from NMFS, Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK, 99802, Attn: Lori Durall, telephone 907-586-7247. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gretchen Harrington, 907-586-7228.

B **ROCKFISH – CENTRAL GULF**

[Federal Register: August 5, 2003 (Volume 68, Number 150)] [Rules and Regulations] [Page 46116-46117] From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov] [DOCID:fr05au03-10] DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 50 CFR Part 679 [Docket No. 021122286-3036-02; I.D. 073003A] Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Pelagic Shelf Rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska

¹⁰ Information from NOAA/NMFS "Fish News"

AGENCY: NMFS, NOAA, Commerce. **ACTION: Closure.**

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pelagic shelf rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 2003 total allowable catch (TAC) of pelagic shelf rockfish in this area. DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 31, 2003, through 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 2003. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 907-586-7228.

C GROUND FISH – HOOK & LINE GEAR - GOA

[Federal Register: August 6, 2003 (Volume 68, Number 151)] [Rules and Regulations] [Page 46502-46503] From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov] [DOCID:fr06au03-24]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 50 CFR Part 679 [Docket No. 021122286-3036-02; I.D. 073003E Fisheries of the Economic Exclusive Zone Off Alaska; **Groundfish Fisheries by Vessels using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Gulf of Alaska** AGENCY: NMFS, NOAA, Commerce. **ACTION: Closure.**

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for groundfish by vessels using hook-and-line gear in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA), except for demersal shelf rockfish in the Southeast Outside District or sablefish. This action is necessary because the second seasonal bycatch mortality allowance of Pacific halibut apportioned to hook-and-line gear targeting groundfish other than demersal shelf rockfish in the Southeast Outside District or sablefish has been reached. DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), August 1, 2003, until 1200 hrs, A.l.t., September 1, 2003. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 907-586-7228

D ROCKFISH – “OTHER” – CENTRAL GULF

[Federal Register: August 8, 2003 (Volume 68, Number 153)] [Rules and Regulations] [Page 47265] From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov] [DOCID:fr08au03-26] DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE -NOAA 50 CFR Part 679 [Docket No. 021122286-3036-02; I.D. 080103A] **Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; “Other Rockfish” in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska** AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce. **ACTION: Closure.**

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting retention of “other rockfish” in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). NMFS is requiring that catch of “other rockfish” in this area be treated in the same manner as prohibited species and discarded at sea with a minimum of injury. This action is necessary because the allocation of the “other rockfish” 2003 total allowable catch (TAC) in this area has been achieved.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), August 6, 2003, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 2003. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 907-586-7228.

E ROCKFISH – SHORTRAKER/ROUGHEYE – CENTRAL GULF
Federal Register: August 8, 2003 (Volume 68, Number 153) [Rules and Regulations][Page 47266] From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov] [DOCID:fr08au03-27] [[Page 47266]] DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 50 CFR Part 679 [Docket No. 021122286-3036-02; I.D. 080103B] **Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shortraker/Rougheye, Rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska** AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce. **ACTION: Closure.**

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting retention of shortraker/rougheye rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). NMFS is requiring that catch of shortraker/rougheye rockfish in this area be treated in the same manner as prohibited species and discarded at sea with a minimum of injury. This action is necessary because the allocation of the shortraker/rougheye rockfish 2003 total allowable catch (TAC) in this area has been achieved. DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), August 6, 2003, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 2003 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 907-586-7228.

F HALIBUT CHARTERBOAT GHL – IPHC 3A & 2C
Federal Register: August 8, 2003 (Volume 68, Number 153)[Rules and Regulations][Page 47264-47265] From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov] [DOCID:fr08au03-25] **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE / NOAA 50 CFR Part 300 [Docket No. 011206293-3182-02; I.D. 101501A] RIN 0648-AK17 Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Guideline Harvest Levels for the Guided Recreational Halibut Fishery** AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce. **ACTION: Final rule.**

SUMMARY: NMFS issues a final rule to implement a guideline harvest level (GHL) for managing the harvest of Pacific halibut in the guided recreational fishery in International Pacific Halibut Commission (Commission) areas 2C and 3A in and off of Alaska. The GHL establishes an amount of halibut that will be monitored annually in the guided recreational fishery. This action is necessary to allow NMFS to manage more comprehensively the Pacific halibut stocks in waters off Alaska. It is intended to further the management and conservation goals of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (Halibut Act).

DATES: Effective September 8, 2003. ADDRESSES: Copies of the Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (EA/RIR/IRFA) prepared for the proposed rule and Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA) prepared for this final rule may be obtained from the Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 1668, Attn: Lori Gravel-Durall. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Glenn Merrill, (907) 586-7228 or e-mail at glenn.merrill@noaa.gov. [[Page 47257]]

The Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition (GOAC3) specifically seeks to retain the maximum sustainable amount of fishing effort – harvesting, processing, tourism, subsistence, etc., within our coastal communities. We believe that rebuilding our fishing communities will also help us re-build markets and increase economic opportunities now and for future generations.

The GOAC3 is involved in many issues but there are key initiatives that we have helped to develop and that we promote as part of our mission. These include (but are not limited to)

COMMUNITY PURCHASE OF HALIBUT AND SABLEFISH

This initiative was approved by the North Pacific Council in April of 2002. It has since been reviewed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in Juneau for regulatory language. It should be heading to Washington, DC, soon for further regulatory and legal review. It will then be published in the *Federal Register* as “proposed rule.” It will have a 30-day commentary period and then it will go back through the review process to be approved by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and to be published as “final rule.” What does this mean to potential application of this program for 2004. “Cautiously possible.”

What should we be doing in the meantime?

- look for funding sources
- start the development of community-based non-profits for the administration of the community purchase program
- develop recommendations for uniform protocols

HALIBUT CHARTER IFQS COMMUNITY SET-ASIDE

In April of 2001, the NPFMC approved a “community set-aside” within the proposed halibut charter IFQ system. The IFQ proposal is currently being reviewed by the National Marine Fisheries Service before being considered for publication in the *Federal Register* as “proposed rule.” Please see NPFMC web site, “Halibut Issues” for details.

One of the reasons the program may be in jeopardy is the use of data from log books required by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game during the qualifying years. A report requested by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council regarding this issue is available on the ADF&G web site.

LAMPS (LOCAL AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS)

The GOAC3 has actively pursued Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) options for our Gulf communities. We have initiated the Kodiak Island LAMP, which is before the Alaska Board of Fisheries. We have also encouraged residents of Prince of Wales Island to develop a template for a LAMP, especially regarding dive and mariculture issues.

LAMPs have many potential benefits, not the least of which is to help keep decision making local and to encourage cooperation among user groups when it comes to gear-conflicts, habitat protection and other near-shore issues.

The Sitka Sound Local Area Management Plan is the only active LAMP , developed because of near-shore depletion of halibut stocks - and results seem to be favorable. User groups including commercial, sports and subsistence users worked hard on the plan. The Sitka Sound plan may be reviewed through the NPFMC web site.

GOA PROPOSED GROUND FISH IFQ COMMUNITY OPTIONS

Currently before the North Pacific Council are options for analysis for a proposed groundfish IFQ program in the North Gulf. GOAC3 has taken a very strong position in support of analyzing a wide variety of community options so that our communities are not artificially restricted from harvesting and processing opportunities. Check out the items for analysis at the NPFMC website.

RESEARCH

The GOAC3 is working actively with research groups to provide as much *applied science* (science applicable to the needs of our fishing communities and industry) as possible to help all of us make the best decisions we can about fisheries and habitat management. In addition, the GOAC3 feels strongly about research on *socio-economic* impacts of regulatory decisions.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- GOAC3 Technical Team members or Board of Directors are active members of the following organizations as part of our initiatives development:
- North Pacific Fishery Management Council Advisory Panel
- North Pacific Research Board Advisory Panel
- Alaska Legislative Salmon Task Force
- Prince William Sound Science Center Board of Directors
- United Fishermen of Alaska, Executive Board
- Alaska Board of Fisheries Marine Protected Area Committee (GOAC3's involvement is to help the state define criteria on whether or not we need MPAs and to provide community protections)
- International Pacific Halibut Commission Conference Committee

A future issue of *The Gulf Channel Marker* will discuss the GOAC3 initiatives for a community-based marine observation system.

Find further information at our website - www.goac3.org - or the North Pacific Fishery Management Council <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>

JOIN US: SOMETHING YOU CAN DO NOW

As you can see, the marine-related issues facing our coastal communities are multiple and complex. The Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition (GOAC3) is a 501(c)6 non-

profit, working hard to protect Gulf of Alaska communities' *sustainable* access to adjacent marine resources in perpetuity. We can't do this without the help of our members and many other organizations. We are one piece of the puzzle, but an important piece.

If you are a resident of a coastal community in the Gulf of Alaska and you are not currently a member, please join us in this effort. Contact us directly or through our web site at www.goac3.org. Eligible VOTING members of the GOAC3 include Gulf of Alaska boroughs, cities, ANCSA regional and village corporations and tribal councils. NON-VOTING membership is open to everyone for an annual fee of \$100.00.

VIII WEB LINKS AND WHERE TO GET OTHER INFORMATION

- LEXICON (OR: that strange fishery code) Does the jargon of fisheries management confuse you? You aren't alone. There are several hundred, probably thousands, of acronyms that are used in fisheries management. We've tried to keep current with most of them. You can request comprehensive list of acronyms from our office.

CONTACTING YOUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

- Senator Ted Stevens
 - <http://stevens.senate.gov/>
 - Anchorage Office 907-271-5915
 - Washington DC Office 202-224-3004
- Senator Lisa Murkowski
 - <http://www.senate.gov/~murkowski/>
 - Anchorage Office 907-271-3735
 - Washington DC Office 202-224-6665
- Congressman Don Young
 - <http://www.house.gov/donyoung/>
 - Anchorage Office 907-271-5978
 - Washington DC Office 202-225-5765
- On-line <http://congress.org/congressorg/home/>
- "Congress at Your Fingertips" Capitol Advantage© 108th Congress, via Capitol Advantage Publishing, www.capitoladvantage.com

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON THE GULF OF ALASKA

- Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development
<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/>
- Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDORs)
www.dced.state.ak.us/cbd/ardor/ardor
 - Prince William Sound Economic Development Council
 - Southeast Conference
 - Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC)

- Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) at the University of Alaska-Anchorage. <http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/>
- North Pacific Fishery Management Council <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>

WEB SITE TO CHECK ON A REGULAR BASIS

- The ALASKA Report <http://www.alaskareport.com/>
- North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/>
- Alaska Board of Fisheries <http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/boards/fishinfo/bofhome.htm>
- State of Alaska - Department of Fish & Game <http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/adfghome.htm>
- State of Alaska - Department of Fish & Game Division of Commercial Fisheries
- International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) <http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/default.htm>
- Heads Up! -- <http://www.heads-up.net/>

MARKET INFORMATION RESOURCES

- The ALASKA REPORT is one of the most useful web sites for Alaska's commercial fishermen. <http://www.alaskareport.com/>
- Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) <http://www.alaskaseafood.org/> The mission statement of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute: "To increase the worldwide consumption of Alaska Seafood and promote the quality and superiority of Alaska seafood products."
- Alaska Seafood Marketing Board (PENDING)
- FishLinke - <http://www.fishlink.info/fishlink/>
- Salmon Marketing Information Service <http://asmi.safeshopper.com/34/cat34.htm?17>
- Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) <http://www.afdf.org/>
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/>
- NOAA / NMFS "Fisheries Market News" links: http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/market_news/
- North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>
- *National Fisherman* <http://www.nationalfisherman.com/>
- *Pacific Fishing* <http://www.pfmag.com/>
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) <http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/>
- Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification: Check out their web site for how this helps market sustainable Alaskan wild stock. <http://www.msc.org/>
- AK Salmon Price Report and Salmon Marketing Bulletin: The weekly price-tracking report for week of July 21 is posted on the ASMI website as a PDF file. (posted Friday afternoons) <http://www.alaskaseafood.org/fishingprocessing/bulletin.htm>
- Audubon Seafood Lover's Guide <http://seafood.audubon.org/>
- Marine Stewardship Council, <http://www.msc.org/>

- U.S. Salmon Network – linking fishing, consumer, food, indigenous groups and environmental groups – www.ussalmonnetwork.org



STAT PACKS: Looking for the latest statistical information on your fishery? Check out

- the National Marine Fisheries Service <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/>
- *Pacific Fishing Year Book 2003* March 2003 <http://www.pfmag.com/>
- Salmon Market Information Service
www.alaskaseafood.org/fishingprocessing/bulletin
- NOAA web site for 2003 fishery regs and final rule
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/frules/default.htm>

RESEARCH

- The North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) met May 20th in Anchorage. A newly-appointed 10-member Advisory Panel met the day before.
<http://www.nprb.org/npmri/>
- University of Alaska-Fairbanks <http://www.uaf.edu/>
- University of Alaska – Southeast <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/>
- Kodiak Fish Tech Center
- Office of Fisheries Development
<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/cbd/seafood/seafood.htm>
- The Prince William Sound Science Center. <http://www.pwssc.gen.ak.us/frames/>
 - Oil Spill Response Institute (OSRI) www.pwssc-osri.org/
- Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOS/TC) <http://www.oilspill.state.ak.us/>
 - Gulf Ecosystem Management (GEM) <http://www.oilspill.state.ak.us/>
 - Prince William Sound Regional Citizen’s Advisory Council (PWS/RCAC)
<http://www.pwsrcaac.org/>
 - Cook Inlet Regional Citizen’s Advisory Council (CI/RCAC)
<http://www.circac.org/>
- Alaska SeaLife Center) <http://www.alaskasealife.org/>
- Arctic Institute of the North <http://www.ucalgary.ca/aina/>
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration / National Marine Fisheries Service NOAA/ NMFS - main web site – www.nmfs.noaa.gov–
- Fish Research West – a collaborative effort between fishermen and scientists on the Pacific West Coast <http://www.fishresearchwest.org/>

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Alaska Marine Conservation Council (AMC2) <http://www.akmarine.org/>
- Tidepool <http://www.tidepool.org/>
- Prince William Sound Regional Citizen’s Advisory Council (PWS/RCAC)
<http://www.pwsrcaac.org/>
- Oil Spill Response Institute (OSRI) www.pwssc-osri.org/
- Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOS/TC) <http://www.oilspill.state.ak.us/>
- Gulf Ecosystem Management (GEM) <http://www.oilspill.state.ak.us/>
- The North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) <http://www.nprb.org/npmri/>
- The Prince William Sound Science Center. <http://www.pwssc.gen.ak.us/frames/>

- The Federal MPA Committee <http://mpa.gov/mpabusiness/fac.html>
- The State of Alaska MPA web site is http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/geninfo/special/mpa/mpa_home.htm
- IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas website:
 - http://www.unep-wcmc.org/protected_areas/categories/eng/
- Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/Committees/EFH/efh.htm>
- Federal Register web address for announcement commentary for Marine Protected Areas and Inventory of Marine Managed Areas July 23, 2003. Comments due by September 22, 2003. <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/notice/fr43495.pdf>
- SeaWeb <http://www.seaweb.org/>
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SUBSISTENCE:

- UFA Subsistence web site: www.subsistmginfo.org/
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game's subsistence web at <http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/subsist/subhome.htm>.
- The federal subsistence web is located at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: www.r7.fws.gov/asm/home.html
- Federal Subsistence Management Newsletter <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/newsltr03.pdf>

MARINE MAMMALS

- NMFS Steller sea lion site: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/stellers.htm>
- The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's SSL page: http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/geninfo/special/ssl/ssl_com.htm
- The North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- National Marine Mammal Laboratory (NMML) Report to Congress <http://nmml.afsc.noaa.gov/>
- The North Pacific Universities Marine Mammal Research Consortium– UBC <http://www.marinemammal.org/>

OTHER WEB LINKS OF INTEREST

- United Fishermen of Alaska <http://www.alaska.net/~usag/ufa/>
- Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) <http://www.afdf.org/>
- Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) <http://www.alaskaseafood.org/>
- Alaska Seafood Marketing Report <http://asmi.safeshopper.com/34/512.htm?783>
- Alaska Sea Grant Program / Marine Advisory Program <http://www.uaf.edu/seagrant/>
- Alaska Symphony of Seafood <http://www.symphonyofseafood.com/>
- Alaska Department of Community & Economic Development <http://www.dced.state.ak.us/>
- Fishing For The Future <http://www.fishingforthefuture.org/>
- Fish Expo & Work Boat Northwest-- <http://www.fishexposeattle.com/>
- International Boston Seafood Show <http://www.bostonseafood.com/>
- National Fisheries Institute <http://www.nfi.org/>
- Marine Fisheries Conservation Network (MFCN) <http://www.conservefish.org/>
- International West Coast Seafood Show <http://www.westcoastseafood.com/>
- At-Sea Processors Association (APA) <http://www.atsea.org/>

- Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA) <http://www.pspafish.net/>
- Saltonstall Kennedy Grant Program <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/skhome.html>
- State of Alaska - Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Environmental Health's seafood page <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/deh/>
- United Salmon Association <http://www.ptialaska.net/~usalmon/>
- University of Alaska Fishery Industrial Technology Center, Kodiak <http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/fitc/>
- University of Alaska School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences <http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/>
- University of Alaska Sea Grant College Program <http://www.uaf.edu/seagrant/>
- University of Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program <http://www.uaf.edu/map/>
- USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) <http://www.fas.usda.gov/>
- Wild Salmon Center (Visit for more information on the 2001 Pacific Rim Wild Salmon and Steelhead Conference, Nov. 5-6.) <http://www.wildsalmoncenter.org/>
- World Trade Center Alaska <http://www.wtcak.org/>
- FishLink.com www.fishlink.info/fishlink/
- Comfish at www.ComFish.org
- Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) <http://www.ams.usda.gov/COOL>.
- Anchorage-based Phoenix Food Consulting,

IX ARCHIVES

Key items in past issues of *The Gulf Channel Marker* include:

July 1, 2003	Introductory and General Information
July 15, 2003	Getting Involved in the Council Process
	Fisheries Law and Oceans Commission reports update