

# GULF OF ALASKA COASTAL COMMUNITIES COALITION (GOAC3)

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## “THE GULF CHANNEL MARKER®”

Issue #9 “October 15, 2004

Focus on: “CURRENT FISHERIES UPDATES IN BRIEF”

Edited by Gale K. Vick, GOAC3 Executive Director

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### I IMPORTANT DATES<sup>1</sup>

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **North Pacific Fishery Management Council:** Check the NPFMC for their meeting schedule and for committee meetings, etc. Next scheduled meeting begins December 6, 2004, in Anchorage. <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/> (See also *The Gulf Channel Marker #2, July 15, 2003*, for detailed information on “Getting Involved in the Council Process”)
- **Alaska Board of Fisheries – BOF**  
<http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/boards/fishinfo/bofhome.htm>  
Check the BOF or the GOAC3 web site for the BOF 2004-05 calendar. Also, check out their new newsletter
- **Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition (GOAC3):** Next Board of Directors meeting: Sunday, December 5, 2004, Anchorage. This is our ANNUAL meeting and elections will be held. A Joint reception is being held with the NPFMC at the Anchorage Hilton on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 pm. Call GOAC3 or check our web site for more information.
- **Managing Our Nation's Fisheries II - Focus on the Future --** March 24-26, 2005 - the second national fisheries management conference, co-sponsored by the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils, the three Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions, and NOAA Fisheries. The conference will be held in Washington,

<sup>1</sup> For other current calendar items, check our web site @ [www.goac3.org](http://www.goac3.org)

D.C. and will be open to the public. The conference will focus on key issues raised by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, and issues surrounding re-authorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which governs management of our nation's marine fisheries. The conference will provide a forum for information exchange and for participants to examine a wide range of perspectives on potential legislation that would impact future fisheries management. Primary focus will be on implementing an ecosystem-based approach for fisheries, strengthening scientific advice for fishery management decisions, addressing the various statutes governing our nation's fishery management process, and design of IFQ programs for fisheries. **When:** March 24-26, 2005 **Where:** Omni-Shoreham Hotel and Conference Center, 2500 Calvert Street, Washington D.C. Advance registration will be required. The registration database will be available online this fall. For further information and conference logistics go to <http://www.managingfisheries.org/>

**CHECK OUR WEB SITE FOR A DETAILED CALENDAR OF GOAC3 AND FISHERIES RELATED EVENTS: [www.goac3.org](http://www.goac3.org)**

## II **IMPORTANT TO KNOW:** Sea Grant has new Coastal Community Development Program

### **“Coastal Community Development (CCD) Program**

This new Sea Grant program element focuses on the critical importance of community planning and growth management in coastal areas. The initiative will provide services to coastal communities to aid in efforts to protect their environmental amenities, strengthen their economies and improve their quality of life. The goal of the Community Development Program investment is to realize a significant step-up in Sea Grant’s engagement at the coastal community decision-making level (municipalities, counties, state agencies, watershed management districts, etc.) by providing the enhanced science-based support needed to balance environmental, social and economic considerations.”

For more information – see their web site @ <http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/partnerships/partnerships.html#CCD>

## III **MAJOR ISSUE: CURRENT FISHERIES UPDATES IN BRIEF**

It seems like there is always a lot going on in the fisheries world – local, state, national, and global, with many initiatives directly impacting the lives of our coastal communities. The GOAC3 tries to keep on top of the primary issues affecting us. A few of the most important current items follows:

### A. **CQE UPDATE: COMMUNITY QUOTA ENTITIES (CQEs) AND THE COMMUNITY PURCHASE OF HALIBUT AND SABLEFISH IN THE GULF OF ALASKA.**

Several eligible Gulf of Alaska coastal communities are now in the process of incorporating their CQEs or “community quota entity” in order to purchase halibut and sablefish quota share for lease to community residents. In addition, the GOAC3 is

currently developing a proposal to seek funding for seed money and administration for those CQEs who may not have other options.

To obtain a copy of the “Final Rule: Amendment #66 Halibut and Sablefish Program in the North Pacific” (The *Federal Register*, April 30, 2004 pages 23681-2369) go to the following state, federal or GOAC3 web sites.

Questions and comments on policy issues should be addressed to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in Anchorage. <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>

Questions and comments on implementation process should be directed to the National Marine Fisheries Service / Restricted Access Management Division in Juneau. Also, check out the annual “Report to the Fleet”

<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram/cqp.htm>

CQE application packets are now available from the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development in Juneau.

[http://www.dced.state.ak.us/pub/CQE\\_PR11.pdf](http://www.dced.state.ak.us/pub/CQE_PR11.pdf)

[http://www.dced.state.ak.us/bsc/CDQ/cqe/requirement\\_cqe.htm](http://www.dced.state.ak.us/bsc/CDQ/cqe/requirement_cqe.htm)

[www.commerce.state.ak.us/investments/pdf/cqe.pdf](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/investments/pdf/cqe.pdf)

Questions and comments on community participation through the GOAC3 should be directed to the GOAC3. [www.goac3.org](http://www.goac3.org)

Other pertinent web sites: The International Pacific Halibut Commission:  
<http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/default.htm>

## **B. GROUND FISH RATIONALIZATION UPDATE**

At the October 2004 North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Sitka, the Council voted 6-5 to amend specific community provisions for analysis in the current discussion of the rationalization of groundfish in the North Gulf.

The GOAC3 has been promoting community provision options but not all of the current provisions are our proposed. Our representation on the NPFMC Advisory Panel (AP), along with the GOAC3 Technical Team, including a socio-economist, has been working diligently to provide information to the Council relative to the importance of initial issuance of community quota shares. Discussion and final motions on groundfish rationalization is not expected to be concluded until mid to late 2005.

The Council is expected to review some of the items analyzed at their December 2004 Council meeting in Anchorage. Stakeholders or members of the public are encouraged to attend the Council meeting at the Anchorage Hilton, beginning December 6<sup>th</sup> with the Advisory Panel (AP) and Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) meetings. The Council itself convenes on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Please check their web site for further information at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>

The actual motion is attached at the end of this newsletter. Please see *The Gulf Channel Marker Issue # 7* for more information. There will be updates in each issue from now on.

**C. SALMON RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE / ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**

In September 2004 the Board of Fisheries announced the formation of the Salmon Industry Restructuring Panel. This public panel will facilitate recommendations directly from stakeholders in the commercial fishing industry. This panel is partially a result of the findings of the legislative Salmon Task Force that has been meeting for the past couple of years to determine the current condition of the Alaska salmon industry and what policy changes may or may not be necessary. GOAC3 has a member on this committee.

Read the Press Release at the Board of Fisheries web site  
<http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/fishinfo/sirp/index.php>.

As this panel begins it's work, you will find from this page its' mission statement, agendas, meeting summaries, and relevant documentation such as public comment forms, white papers, research studies, etc.

Appointments to the panel:

NAME	AREA	HARVESTER	PROCESSOR
1 STEVE BROWN	HOMER	KACHEMAK BAY	
2 SAM COTTON	ANCHORAGE	COOK INLET	
3 KAREN DUNMALL	NOME		
4 PETE ESQUIRO	SITKA	NSRRA	
5 WALLACE FIELDS	KODIAK		
6 JOHN GARNER			NORQUEST SF
7 ANDY GOLIA	BRISTOL BAY	DILLINGHAM	
8 JILL KLEIN		YRDFA	
9 STEPHANIE MADSEN			PSPA /JUNEAU
10 CHUCK MCCALLUM	CHIGNIK	CHIGNIK CO-OP	
11 JERRY MCCUNE	PWS - AREA E	CDFU/CORDOVA	
12 KRIS NOROSZ			ICICLE SF/
13 BOB THORSTENSON	JUNEAU	UFA	
14 GALE VICK	ANCHORAGE	PWS-AREA E	
15 BOB WALDROP	ANCHORAGE		
DR. CHARLES CRAPO	UAF/MAP		
ED DERSHAM, CHAIR	AK/BOF		
ROBERT HEYANO	AK/BOF		
JOHN JENSEN	AK/BOF		
ALAN AUSTERMANN	OFFICE OF GOVERNOR		

For further information, contact [Diana Cote](#), Director, BOF, at the above web site.

## **D. COOL – COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING**

On May 13, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, more commonly known as the 2002 Farm Bill. One of its many initiatives requires country of origin labeling for beef, lamb, pork, fish, perishable agricultural commodities and peanuts. On January 27, 2004, President Bush signed Public Law 108-199 which delays the implementation of mandatory COOL for all covered commodities except wild and farm-raised fish and shellfish until September 30, 2006. As described in the legislation, program implementation is the responsibility of USDA's (U.S. Department of Agriculture) Agricultural Marketing Service.

On Tuesday, October 5, 2004, the “interim rule” was published in *The Federal Register*.

For further information, please check the following web site:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/cool/>

## **E. STATE SHELLFISH CONFERENCE: December 3-4<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

On December 3-4<sup>th</sup> in Anchorage, the Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, along with members of private industry and the University of Alaska Marine Advisory Program, are putting on a 2-day workshop in Anchorage to discuss the pros and cons of shellfish aquaculture in Alaska. GOAC3 Director, Gale Vick, will be monitoring a panel on the potentials for enhancement of existing wild crab stocks in Alaska.

The conference will be held at the Anchorage Hilton in Anchorage Alaska. The Hilton is offering a special rate of \$80.00 for attendants of the conference. Call the Hotel directly for reservations. ANCHORAGE HILTON 500 West Third Avenue Anchorage, Alaska, 99501 1-907-272-7411 Attendees of the conference may also stay 3 nights prior to, or after, the event and pay the same rate. The Hilton will also be the location of the Alaska Shellfish Growers Association annual meeting, December 1-2, 2004.

Since Alaska has a statutory prohibition on finfish aquaculture, there will be NO discussion of finfish or groundfish aquaculture. (See *The Gulf Channel Marker #8* for more information. A future issue of the *Channel Marker* will discuss developments in seeking to prevent off-shore finfish aquaculture in federal waters in the North Pacific.)

For further information, please check the following web site :

[www.commerce.state.ak.us](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us) and click on Shellfish Aquaculture Conference or call at (907) 465-5464.

## **IV 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 and regain Gulf of Alaska communities' *sustainable* access to adjacent marine resources in perpetuity. Our funding comes through membership and a grant from the National Marine Fisheries Service.<sup>2</sup>

Our membership is extremely important in many ways. 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 our efforts. Contact us directly or through our web site at [www.goac3.org](http://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.

## V GLOSSARY

CQE	Community Quota Entity
IFQ	Individual Fishing Quota
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NPFMC	North Pacific Fishery Management Council
RAM	Restricted Access Management (NMFS)
QS	Quota Share
QSP	Quota Share Pool
TAC	Total Allowable Catch

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

Issue 1	July 1, 2003	Introductory and General Information
Issue 2	July 15, 2003	Getting Involved in the Council Process Fisheries Law and Oceans Commission updates
Issue 3	August 1, 2003	Fisheries Market Information
Issue 4	August 20, 2003	TAA – Trade Adjustment Assistance
Issue 5	September 5, 2003	Amendment #66, Community Purchase of Halibut and Sablefish – Pending Final Rule
Issue 6	August 1, 2004	Implementation of Amendment #66
Issue 7	September 1, 2004	Groundfish Rationalization in the North Gulf
Issue 8	September 15, 2004	Federal Aquaculture Initiatives

**ALL PAST AND CURRENT ISSUES OF *THE GULF CHANNEL MARKER* ARE AVAILABLE TO GOAC3 MEMBERS. IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY A MEMBER, PLEASE CALL THE GOAC3 OFFICES AT 907-561-7633 OR E-MAIL US @ [goacc@alaska.net](mailto:goacc@alaska.net)**

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<sup>2</sup> Our sincere thanks to Senator Ted Stevens, Senator Lisa Murkowski and Congressman Don Young for their continued support.