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## AR News

### Rockfish Pilot Program Proposed for the Central Gulf of Alaska

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6/13/06

#### Juneau, Alaska

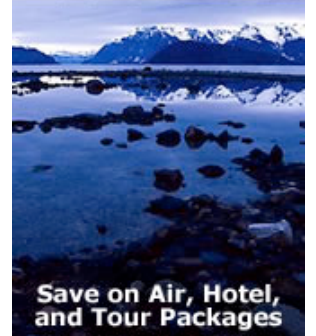
A proposed rule for Amendment 68 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska would implement the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Pilot Program. While the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is developing a comprehensive rationalization program for groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska, a short-term solution is needed to stabilize the community of Kodiak. Kodiak has experienced multiple processing plant closures, its residential work force is at risk due to shorter processing seasons, and tax revenues continue to decrease as fish prices and port landings decrease. Congress recognized these problems and directed the Department of Commerce, in consultation with the Council, to implement a rockfish pilot program.

This program would permit harvesters to form voluntary cooperatives and receive an exclusive harvest privilege for groundfish species in the central Gulf of Alaska. Processors can form associations with inshore harvester cooperatives for exclusive processing opportunities. The program would promote resource conservation and improve economic efficiency for harvesters and processors who participate in the fishery.

The [Rockfish Pilot Program's website](#) provides answers to frequently asked questions. **Comments may be sent no later than July 24 to... [0648-AT71-CGRockfish@noaa.gov](mailto:0648-AT71-CGRockfish@noaa.gov)**

For more information, contact [Glenn.Merrill@noaa.gov](mailto:Glenn.Merrill@noaa.gov).

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Alaska Report is a Alaska news, weather and commercial fishing website based in Juneau.

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