

GULF OF ALASKA COASTAL COMMUNITIES COALITION (GOAC3)

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“THE GULF CHANNEL MARKER®”

Issue # 7 “September 1, 2004

Focus on: “GROUNDFISH RATIONALIZATION IN THE NORTH GULF OF ALASKA”

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I IMPORTANT DATES¹

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **North Pacific Fishery Management Council:** Check the NPFMC for their meeting schedule and for committee meetings, etc. Next scheduled meeting begins October 6, 2004, in Sitka. <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”)
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- **Nation’s Federal Marine Fisheries Managers to Host Fisheries Conference in March** **Mark your calendar to save March 24-26, 2005,** for the second national fisheries management conference, co-sponsored by the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils, the three Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries). The conference will be held in Washington, D.C. and will be open to the public. Managing Our Nation’s Fisheries II – Focus on the Future, promises pertinent and informative discussions that will interest members of the public, fishery participants, environmental advocates, policymakers, and others. Check the NPFMC web site for more information. <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>
- **Alaska Board of Fisheries – BOF**
<http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/boards/fishinfo/bofhome.htm>

¹ For other current calendar items, check our web site @ www.goac3.org

Check the BOF or the GOAC3 web site for the BOF 2004-05 calendar. Also, check out their new newsletter

CHECK OUR WEB SITE FOR A DETAILED CALENDAR OF GOAC3 AND FISHERIES RELATED EVENTS: www.goac3.org

II IMPORTANT TO KNOW: CQE – COMMUNITY QUOTA ENTITY INFORMATION UPDATES REGARDING THE COMMUNITY PURCHASE OF HALIBUT AND SABLEFISH

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.

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

www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram/cqp/CQEStatus.pdf

Also, check out the annual “Report to the Fleet”

Questions and comments on assistance from the State of Alaska should be directed to the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development in Juneau.

http://www.dced.state.ak.us/bsc/CDQ/cqe/apply_cqe.htm

http://www.dced.state.ak.us/bsc/CDQ/cqe/requirement_cqe.htm

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

Other pertinent web sites: The International Pacific Halibut Commission:

<http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/default.htm>

III MAJOR ISSUE: “Groundfish Rationalization in the North Gulf of Alaska and its implications.” From the North Pacific Fishery Management Council web site:

“Groundfish Rationalization: The Council is considering alternative management approaches to "rationalize" the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish fisheries. Rationalization may improve the economic stability to the various participants in the fishery, which include harvesters, processors, and residents of fishing communities. The Council is considering these policies at the request of the GOA groundfish industry to address increasing concerns about the economic stability of the fisheries. Some of these concerns include changing market opportunities and stock abundance, increasing concern about the long-term economic health of fishing dependent communities, and the limited ability of the fishing industry to respond to environmental concerns under the existing management regime. The Council may consider rationalizing the fishery through individual fishing quotas or cooperatives, and allocations to communities.”

Groundfish in the North Gulf of Alaska, including pollock, shorttraker and rougheye (SR/RE) and thornyhead rockfish², other rockfish and Pacific cod, are being considered. The proposed management areas for the rationalization of groundfish in the North Gulf of Alaska are

Western Gulf (WG) Area 610
Central Gulf (CG) Areas 620 & 630
West Yakutat (WY) Area 640

Since this effort began at the Council a few years ago, the GOAC3 has been working hard with the Council staff and others to identify the socio-economic needs of our communities relative to this rationalization. We are also conducting our own socio-economic research.

The GOAC3 has taken the position that if these species are to be rationalized, the affected communities must have assurance of access in perpetuity, in the form of initial issuance of either quota shares or other mechanism to guarantee that access.

It is only fitting that our coastal communities, who have depended on the nearby waters for millennia for sustenance, have a guaranteed participation in what is being called the increasing “privatization of the oceans.”

We have been able to keep specific items for analysis in front of the Council toward that end. But is it a long road from analysis to Final Rule and it will take our joint efforts to ensure that our communities are protected.

In the meantime, an interim rockfish pilot project is being conducted as a result of a Congressional rider on the appropriations bill for FY2004. The following quote is from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to describe the program in brief.

“Rockfish Pilot Program: While the Council is formulating a comprehensive rationalization program for all groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska to address similar problems in other fisheries, 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 and shorter processing seasons and the community fish tax revenues continue to decrease as fish prices and port landings decrease. Congress recognized these problems and directed the Secretary in consultation with the Council, to implement a pilot rockfish program. All aspects of the economic portfolio of the fishery needs to be recognized for the fishery to be rationalized. All the historical players – harvesters (both catcher vessels and catcher processors) and processors need to be recognized in a meaningful way. The demonstration program is designed as a short-term two-year program for immediate economic relief until comprehensive GOA rationalization can be implemented.”

Please visit the Council web site and the GOAC3 web site for up to date detailed information on some of our initiatives.

² rockfish to be divided between Southeast Outside (SEO) and WY

ADDENDUM

GLOSSARY

CQE	Community Quota Entity
EA/RIR	Environmental Assessment / Regulatory Impact Review
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 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 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 Community Spotlight: The Chigniks
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 2004	Community Purchase of Halibut and Sablefish

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

