

United Catcher Boats  
Western Gulf of Alaska  
Over 60' Trawl Catcher Vessel Bycatch Management Proposal  
June 5, 2013

The members of United Catcher Boats who participate in the WGOA trawl fisheries developed the following outline of suggested management alternatives and options for consideration by the NPFMC with regard to management of the WGOA trawl Pollock and P. Cod fisheries for vessels greater than 60 feet LOA. We ask that the NPFMC include these options in the Gulf of Alaska Bycatch Management analysis. As stakeholders in this fishery we believe the following suggestions will best meet our needs for stability as well as best address the tools necessary to reduce bycatch.

Based on experience in other catch share programs, we believe coop management is a proven mechanism for successful bycatch management. For this reason, our suggested elements are based on a version of that successful fishery management model. We also have read the Peninsula Fishermen's Coalition proposal presented to the NPFMC in January 2013 for vessels under 60 feet LOA and have limited this UCB proposal to vessels over 60 feet LOA.

We present two options. Both require that a separate sector for >60' trawl CV be created in the WGOA. The first option is based on coop management of a LAPP catch share fishery that would allow implementation of a bycatch reduction plan. The second option is based on an LLP closed sector fishery for >60' trawl CVs. The fishery would close to the sector if its bycatch caps were triggered.

#### I. Cooperative Management Option

1. Bycatch Management
  - a. Incorporate Elements of the West Coast Whiting Mothership CV Coop's Bycatch Management Agreement
    - i. Required Movement from areas of high bycatch encounter rates
    - ii. Seasonal Pools of Target and Bycatch Species
    - iii. Individual vessel bycatch incentives for Coop members
    - iv. Pre-season and In-season Hot Spot Closure Authority for the Coop
  - b. Incorporate Elements of the Amendment 91 Chinook Salmon Bering Sea AFA Catcher/Processor IPA-style Management.
    - i. Allocate bycatch to participants on a pro-rata basis at level less than the sector cap amount. Exceeding that level in years of high abundance would require approval of the Coop Board.
    - ii. Avoidance would be further facilitated by closing "hot spot" areas of high bycatch.
    - iii. When 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of cap reached, time of closures would be extended to those with higher bycatch rates.
    - iv. Buffers to avoid overages may be included
2. Program Applies to vessels greater than 60' LOA participating in a Coop. Quota is allocated to a single Cooperative made up of eligible CV owners

- a. Voluntary coop of CVs >60' who hold valid WGOA LLP Endorsements
  - b. Coop Allocation based on a set of qualifying history years and set of years for determining the allocation of quota to the Coop
    - i. 2000 – 2012
    - ii. 2000 – 2011
    - iii. 2000 – 2006 (same years used for LLP Recency Amendment)
    - iv. All date ranges include drop years of 1, 2 and 3 years
  - c. CV share of Coop's allocation based on what the CV brings into the Coop ('golden rule')
  - d. CV ownership Cap
    - i. Options include 20%, 25%, and 30%
  - e. CV Use Cap
    - i. Options include 30%, 40%, and 50%
  - f. Eligible CVs can opt out of Coop and remain in Non-Coop fishery ('Open Access')
3. Harvester Coop Member – Processor Agreement Requirement
- a. Single CV Coop with initial member commitment based on historic delivery to WGOA Processors
  - b. Coop Members required to have annual agreement with a processor
    - i. Initial Commitment based on historic delivery pattern (set of years TBD)
    - ii. Subsequent year commitments made by a date certain in the preceding year.
  - c. Movement of CVs between Processors
    - i. By participation in Open Access fishery for one year (similar to AFA Inshore APA CV rule)
    - ii. By Mutual Agreement between Harvester and Processor to allow release of delivery requirement
  - d. Processor Caps (% of quota allowed to be processed by an individual processor)
    - i. Options: 30%, 40% and grandfather
4. Duration of Allocation
- a. Perpetual, based on MSA LAPP provision that requires a 5-year review of the program
5. Transferability
- a. Allow for annual transfers of coop allocations between coop members of directed target species (Pollock and P. Cod) and PSC species (halibut and Chinook salmon)
  - b. Allow for annual transfers of allocations and bycatch between sectors (<60' & >60' CV sectors)
  - c. Coop percentages assigned to CV members can only be sold so that they remain in same sector

## II. Sideboard Management Option

This option would not create catch shares, only a sector allocation to >60 trawl CVs fishing pollock and cod in the WGOA.

- 1. Eligible vessel owners with current eligible LLPs with WGOA trawl endorsement would be limited to amounts of pollock and P. cod harvested historically, and the amount of halibut and Chinook salmon allocated, to vessels greater than 60' LOA.

- a. Catch History Years for >60' sector allocation amounts should be the same years used for the < 60' vessel sector.
- b. Bycatch management: The fishery would close to the sector if its bycatch caps were triggered.