

**Amendment 61
to the
Fishery Management Plan
for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska**

In the *Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska*, Section 4.3.1.6 Inshore/offshore allocations of pollock and Pacific cod is amended and Section 4.3.1.7 American Fisheries Act (AFA) sideboard measures is added to read as follows:

4.3.1.6 Inshore/offshore allocations of pollock and Pacific cod

The allowed harvests of Gulf of Alaska pollock and Pacific cod will be allocated between the inshore and offshore components of industry in specific shares in order to lessen or resolve resource use conflicts and preemption of one segment of the groundfish industry by another, to promote stability between and within industry sectors and affected communities, and to enhance conservation and management of groundfish and other fish resources.

The AFA-related Amendment 61 implemented on [insert date] extended the three year inshore/offshore allocation established with Amendment 51 for the duration of the AFA until December 31, 2004. The Council took this action so that inshore/offshore issues in both the BSAI and GOA could be readdressed concurrently. Under Amendment 61, 100% of the pollock TAC and 90% of the Pacific cod TAC is allocated to catcher vessels delivering to the inshore component. The remaining 10% of the Pacific cod TAC is allocated to catcher/processors and catcher vessels that deliver to the offshore component. Catcher/processors in the offshore component will be able to take pollock as bycatch. These allocations remain in effect until December 31, 2004, unless replaced by another management regime approved by the Secretary.

4.3.1.6.5 Duration.

Inshore/offshore allocation of pollock and Pacific cod shall cease to be a part of this FMP either (1) at midnight on December 31, 2004; or (2) earlier if replaced with another management regime approved by the Secretary.

4.3.1.7 American Fisheries Act (AFA) sideboard measures.

On October 21, 1998, the President signed into law the American Fisheries Act (AFA) which mandated sweeping changes to the conservation and management program for the pollock fishery of the BSAI and to a lesser extent, affected the management programs for the other groundfish fisheries of the BSAI the groundfish fisheries of the GOA, the king and Tanner crab fisheries of the BSAI, and the scallop fishery off Alaska. With respect to the fisheries off Alaska, the AFA requires a suite of new management measures that fall into four general categories: (1) regulations that limit access into the fishing and processing sectors of the BSAI pollock fishery and that allocate pollock to such sectors, (2) regulations governing the formation and operation of fishery cooperatives in the BSAI pollock fishery, (3) sideboard regulations to protect other fisheries from spillover effects from the AFA, and (4) regulations governing

catch measurement and monitoring in the BSAI pollock fishery.

While the AFA primarily affects the management of the BSAI pollock fishery, the Council is also directed to develop and recommend harvesting and processing sideboard restrictions for AFA catcher vessels, AFA catcher/processors, AFA motherships, and AFA inshore processors that are fishing for or processing groundfish harvested in the GOA. Section 211 of the AFA addresses harvesting and processing sideboards for the GOA and this entire section of the AFA is incorporated into the AFA by reference. GOA harvesting and processing sideboard restrictions that are consistent with section 211 of the AFA will be implemented through regulation. Any measure recommended by the Council that supersedes section 211 of the AFA must be implemented by FMP amendment in accordance with the provisions of section 213 of the AFA and the Magnuson-Stevens Act.