ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/REGULATORY IMPACT REVIEW/ INITIAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS OF A REGULATORY AMENDMENT APPLICABLE TO THE GROUNDFISH FISHERIES OFF ALASKA

[Product Types and Product Recovery Rates]

INTRODUCTION

Fishing for groundfish by United States vessels in the exclusive economic zone of the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area is managed by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) according to the Fishery Management Plans for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska and the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMPs). The FMPs were prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act) and are implemented by regulations governing the U.S. groundfish fisheries at 50 CFR Parts 672 and 675.

This Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (EA/RIR/IRFA) addresses rulemaking that proposes to (1) implement standard product types and product recovery rates (PRRs) for groundfish species harvested off Alaska, and (2) reduce the proportion of pollock roe that may be retained while producing other pollock products. Standard PRRs will be used to calculate round weight equivalents for purposes of monitoring groundfish quotas, enforcing directed fishing closures, and implementing the Council's Vessel Incentive Program.

A description of, and reasons for, these actions follow.

Standard Product Types and Product Recovery Rates.

NMFS currently is using standard product types and PRRs to manage the harvest of groundfish quotas and to monitor directed fishing off Alaska. Each PRR represents an arithmetic proportion of the amount of primary product recovered from a whole fish during processing operations. NMFS uses the round weight equivalent from the primary product to manage harvests. Any other products from the same fish is an ancillary product.

PRRs for monitoring quotas are used in the following manner: Under existing recordkeeping and reporting requirements at 50 CFR

Parts 672.5 and 675.5, each catcher/processor, mothership processor, and shoreside processor utilizing groundfish harvested off Alaska must maintain a Daily Cumulative Production Log (DCPL). Under the reporting requirements, each processor that is required to maintain a DCPL must submit to NMFS on a weekly basis a Weekly Production Report (WPR) that summarizes production amounts by species and product type. DCPLs have been required since the beginning of the 1990 fishing year. DCPLs require records of product weights. Total allowable catch (TAC) specifications for groundfish species or groundfish complexes are expressed in round weight. NMFS monitors groundfish quotas, therefore, by converting the amounts of processed products reported in the WPRs to round weight equivalents.

Standard PRRs are necessary to determine round weight equivalents. In performing this calculation, the amount of product is divided by the appropriate PRR. For example, if 10 metric tons (mt) of whole, round Pacific cod were produced and the PRR was 1.0, then the round weight equivalent would be 10 mt. However, if 10 mt of Western cut, headed-and-gutted Pacific cod were produced and the PRR was 0.57, then the round weight equivalent would be 10/0.57, or 17.2 mt. The latter amount, 17.2 mt, would be subtracted from the Pacific cod quota remaining for harvest.

Accurate PRRs are necessary to allow full harvest of the groundfish stocks, while not overharvesting them. In the above example using 10 mt of headed-and-gutted Pacific cod, an erroneous PRR of 0.5 would have resulted in a round weight equivalent of 20.0 metric tons being subtracted from the quota instead of 17.2 mt. Fishermen would lose the opportunity to harvest 2.8 mt in this example. Conversely, an erroneous PRR of 0.75 would have resulted in a round weight equivalent of 13.3 mt instead of 17.2 mt. NMFS would have allowed the fishery to continue to harvest an additional 3.9 mt, possibly resulting in an overharvest of the established quota. A PRR that is too high, therefore, results in overharvesting the groundfish stocks, and a PRR that is too low results in underharvesting the stocks.

Establishing standard product types and PRRs in regulations will facilitate enforcement of existing directed fishing standards at 50 CFR paragraphs 672.20(g) and 675.20(h). In the past, enforcement officers have relied on statements from the vessel operator as to what PRR was being achieved by the vessel. This procedure was satisfactory only if a vessel operator stated a PRR that was actually being achieved by that vessel. It was

faulty, however, if a vessel operator provided a false PRR.

Standard PRRs will also be used to estimate the round weight of retained species for purposes of assigning vessels to fisheries for purposes of (1) monitoring fishery specific bycatch allowances of prohibited species, and (2) monitoring vessel compliance with fishery specific bycatch rate standards set forth under the vessel incentive program to reduce prohibited species bycatch rates. At the end of each weekly reporting period, PRRs will be used to estimated the round weight species composition for reported product types and amounts.

The Secretary seeks comments on product types and PRRs that could be utilized for managing the groundfish fisheries as discussed above. For management purposes, the PRRs proposed in this notice are annual averages and do not vary by season. Data do not suggest differences between Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands PRRs.

The Secretary announces the following thirty product types, and four descriptions of discarded groundfish, for purposes of managing the harvests of groundfish quotas. NMFS might use other products to manage the groundfish fishery as well if additional product types and expected recovery rates become known. Other product types will be forthcoming as markets are developed. Names and descriptions of these product types are the following:

PRODUCT TYPE	CODE	DESCRIPTION
WHOLE FOOD FISH	1	Unprocessed whole fish for human consumption.
WHOLE BAIT FISH	2	Unprocessed whole fish used for bait
BLED	3	Throat, or isthmus slit to allow blood to drain.
GUTTED	4	Belly slit and viscera removed.
HEADED AND GUTTED, WITH ROE	6	Head removed just before or aft of collar bone, viscera removed, and roe retained.

HEADED & GUTTED, WESTERN CUT	7	Head removed just in front of the collar bone, belly slit and viscera removed.
HEADED & GUTTED, EASTERN CUT	8	Head removed just behind the collar bone, belly slit and viscera removed.
HEADED & GUTTED, TAIL REMOVED	10	Head removed usually in front of collar bone, belly slit and viscera removed, and tail removed.
KIRIMI	11	Viscera removed, head removed either in front or behind the collar bone; and tail removed by cuts perpendicular to the spine, resulting in a steak.
SALTED AND SPLIT	12	Head off, belly slit, viscera removed, filets cut from head to tail but remaining attached near tail.
WINGS	13	On skates, side fins are cut off next to body, body discarded or used as meal.
ROE	14	Eggs, either loose or in sacs, or skeins
PECTORAL GIRDLE	15	Collar bone and associated bones
HEADS	16	Heads only, regardless where

severed from body

CHEEKS 17 Side (opercular) bone and muscles

on side of head

CHINS 18 Lower jaw (mandible) and muscles

BELLY 19 Body cavity walls below backbone

FILLETS WITH SKIN AND RIBS 20 Meat and skin with ribs attached on sides of body behind head and in front of tail

FILLETS WITH SKIN, NO RIBS 21 Meat and skin; ribs removed from sides of body behind head and in front of tail

FILLETS WITH RIBS AND NO SKIN 22 Meat with ribs; skin removed from sides of body behind head and in front of tail

FILLETS, SKINLESS/ BONE REMOVED 23 Meat with both skin and ribs removed from sides of body behind head and in front of tail

SURIMI 30 Paste from any of the fish flesh

MINCED 31 Ground up flesh, including de-boned meat

FISH MEAL 32 Ground up fish parts, usually including parts not otherwise used for human consumption

OIL	33	Oil from fish reduction
MILT	34	Sperm sacs
STOMACHS	35	Stomachs and other internal organs
OCTOPUS AND SQUID MANTLES	36	Fleshy parts
BUTTERFLY, NO BACKBONE	37	Body slit along back and backbone removed
DISCARDS	95	Whole fish discarded while processing other fish
DECOMPOSED FISH	96	Whole decomposed fish which are discarded at sea, no processing
AT-SEA DISCARDS	98	Whole fish
DOCKSIDE DISCARDS	99	Whole fish which are discarded at the dock

NMFS proposes PRRs for the above groundfish product types being processed off Alaska under Table 2 at paragraph 672.20(j) of the proposed rule. These are incorporated by reference in 50 CFR 675.25(k) of the proposed rule. The Secretary is requesting comments on these product types and PRRs. Comments also are invited on any other product type and associated PRR not presented in this table.

The PRR for one product type, pollock surimi, has been controversial. Shoreside and at-sea processor components have been competing for the harvest of pollock quotas. Each component contends that its sector of the industry is more fully utilizing pollock with respect to surimi production. Determining a PRR for surimi that represents a fleet average, however, is difficult. Substantial amounts of water, sugars, and other substances are added to the product to achieve different results, depending on market demand. Surimi PRRs are known to vary widely, depending on several factors. Among these factors is the grade of surimi that is being sought, which may depend on external factors such as market prices. Processors usually are able to modify processing methods to achieve higher or lower grades of surimi,

depending on market prices.

Another factor affecting surimi PRRs is the time of year that pollock are harvested. Pollock are known to spawn from late January through the end of March. During the period of egg production, a lower surimi PRR usually is achieved. During late summer and early winter months, the quality of pollock flesh is improved and a higher PRR generally is achieved.

Types of processing machines used for surimi production may also affect PRRs. Standard processing machines include the German made Baader 182 and the Japanese made Toyo. The Baader 182 produces a skinless, boneless fillet, which is then minced, and put through a series of washings and water extractions. By using a clean, skinless fillet, subsequent pressure on mincing machines can be kept low, and a higher recovery of minced flesh from fillets is possible.

The alternative Toyo process uses a skin-on, butterfly fillet, which has the fins attached. The butterfly fillet also includes a small dorsal strip of meat above the backbone, where the two halves of the fillet are joined. Hence, the term "butterfly." In this process, skin-on, butterfly fillets with fin pieces are fed through a mincer with the skin side down. The pressure setting of the mincer directly correlates with how impure the mince is, i.e., amounts of scales, pieces of fin, blood spots, etc, that might be in the mince. If pressure is high to maximize product recovery at the mincing step, impurities in the mince will be expected. If pressure is low to increase purity, then the PRR is reduced. The Toyo process gains an additional 1 to 3 percent recovery from the extra strip of meat available above the backbone, but may lose the benefit of this extra piece of meat due to the extra washing required to achieve a higher quality product.

Other factors include the (1) age of pollock when they are processed, (2) manner in which pollock are handled prior to processing, (3) condition of equipment, and (4) skill of the equipment operators and maintenance personnel responsible for the filleting equipment. Surimi PRRs as low as 12 percent and as high as 30 percent have been reported.

NMFS has investigated different sources of surimi recovery rates for purposes of establishing an industry average. NMFS initially collected information to establish standards for purposes of regulating pollock roe stripping. A final rule

became effective January 1, 1991 (56 FR 492, January 7, 1991), which implemented Amendments 14 and 19 to the BSAI and GOA FMPs and stipulated a PRR of 15 percent for surimi. This proportion largely was based on industry advice to the Council. By dividing the amount of primary surimi product by 0.15, the round weight equivalent of pollock could be calculated. Arithmetically, a lower PRR would result in a larger round weight equivalent of pollock. During 1991, NMFS used a PRR of 15 percent for pollock quota monitoring purposes.

When a rule proposing groundfish PRRs initially was published in the Federal Register for public comment, it again included a 15 percent PRR for surimi. Comments received from several shoreside processing facilities asserted that they achieve much higher pollock surimi PRRs than the 15 percent being used by NMFS for quota monitoring. Shoreside processing facilities asserted that they typically achieve surimi PRRs of about 20 percent. Shoreside processors have stated that they must maximize surimi recovery to realize as much profit as possible from each fish, because they purchase their pollock used in surimi production from catcher vessels. They must pay a high enough exvessel value to compensate catcher vessels' costs of catching and transporting the pollock from the fishing grounds. No comments were received on the proposed rule from at-sea processors.

Since the time of the initial proposed PRR rulemaking, other developments have occurred. First, the PRR for surimi became an issue between shoreside and at-sea processors, which have competed through the FMP amendment process for a dominant share of available pollock quotas in the Gulf of Alaska and in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area. Both sides have contended that their surimi production is more efficient with respect to obtaining higher PRRs. Because the value of surimi on the world market increased rapidly during 1991, onshore and offshore processors obtained processing machines that have increased product recoveries.

Several at-sea producers reported to NMFS that they achieved the following production (metric tons) from retained round-weight pollock catches during parts of the 1991 and 1992 seasons:

Surimi	Retained pollock	Resulting PRR
11,969	61,348	
		19.5
13,665	71,920	

		19.0
3,572	21,680	
		15.2
2,729	14,706	
		18.6
Total 31,935		
		169,654

18.8

The above values show an overall average PRR of 18.8 percent. Also, industry provided information to a NMFS analytical team that analyzed proposals for revised Amendment 18 to the FMP for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area following disapproval of that amendment by the Secretary of Commerce. This information is contained in a document titled, "Supplementary Analysis of the Proposed Amendment 18, Inshore/Offshore Allocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands" dated July 9, 1992. In that document the industry suggested ranges of surimi PRRs by the offshore and inshore processors equal to 14-21 and 18-22 percent, respectively.

NMFS has reviewed the above industry information and also information recently obtained from the NMFS 1992 fishery database. Although inshore processors commented during the February 1991 proposed rulemaking that they achieved a PRR of 20 percent, NMFS believes that a value of 20 percent usually is not sustained throughout the year. NMFS notes that shoreside processors obtained an average PRR of 18.6 during the 1992 pollock "A" season in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Island area, based on an aggregate pollock landed weight of 70,510 mt and a surimi production of 13,042 mt.

NMFS also reviewed information for at-sea processors obtained from the 1992 "best blend" database. Based on an aggregate amount of surimi of 65,994 mt produced from 483,794 mt of pollock by 22 vessels, NMFS calculates an overall surimi PRR of 14 percent (rounded to nearest whole number). PRRs for each of these vessels ranged from 9 to 16 percent.

The Secretary has determined that sufficient information exist from NMFS data to show a difference between surimi production by shoreside processors and by at-sea processors. The Secretary, therefore, proposes PRRs of 19 and 14 percent for shoreside and at-sea processors, respectively.

Starting in 1992, NMFS ceased using PRRs to monitor shoreside production for purposes of managing quotas. Instead, these processors have submitted reports containing round weights of fish directly delivered by catcher boats to the docks. These landed fish are weighed by scales that are certified by the State of Alaska for accuracy. NMFS believes these landed weight reports are superior to weights obtained by converting products to round weight equivalents using PRRs. Also, NMFS revised the manner in which PRRs are used to manage pollock harvests by at-sea processors. NMFS adopted a method that compared total weight as reported by onboard observers with extrapolated round weight equivalents derived from reported pollock product and associated PRRs used by NMFS. This "best blend" method used observed catch weights if they varied more than 10 percent of the vessel's catch weight calculated from the vessel's Weekly Production Report (WPR), but used the WPR if the observed catch varied no more than 10 percent of the WPR.

The Secretary recognizes new information at times might be available that indicates current PRRs are mispecified. A framework procedure, therefore, is proposed that would allow adjustments in Table 2 in paragraph 672.20(j).
Under this framework procedure, adjustments to any PRR listed in Table 2 which are within 15 percent of that PRR will be effective upon publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER. For an adjustment to a PRR that is more than 15 percent of that PRR, the Secretary would publish a notice of the proposed adjustment in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The notice would provide a description of the proposed adjustment and the information on which the proposed adjustment is based. Comments would be invited on the proposed adjustment for 30 days from the date of filing the notice with the Office of the Federal Register. In some cases, the Secretary may decide that good cause exists to put the adjustment into effect without affording a prior opportunity for public comment. In such cases, the Secretary will invite comments on the necessity for the adjustment for 15 days after the effective date of the notice.

If a new product type is developed, the Secretary would propose the new type and its associated PRR in the FEDERAL REGISTER and invite public comments for 30 days. Depending on comments received, the Secretary would publish a notice implementing the PRR associated with the new product type.

Allowable Retained Amounts of Pollock Roe

The final rule implementing Amendments 14 to the FMP for the

Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area and 19 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (56 FR 492, January 7, 1991) restricted the amount of pollock roe that could be retained during a fishing trip to 10 percent. To determine the appropriateness of this proportion, NMFS has examined recent catch data obtained from shoreside processors and from at-sea processors for the years 1991 and 1992 to calculate what PRR was being achieved for roe when roe was produced as an ancillary product. In 1991, the PRR achieved by shoreside processors was 1.8 percent, based on 2,391 mt of roe and 133,659 mt of retained pollock round weight equivalents. In 1992, these values were 4,156 mt of roe and 112,881 mt of retained pollock, resulting in a PRR of
3.7 percent.

Likewise, in 1991 the PRR achieved by at-sea processors was 5.4 percent, based on 18,392 mt of roe and 339,774 mt of retained pollock round weight equivalents. In 1992, these values were 12,324 mt of roe and 363,403 mt of retained pollock as determined by "best blend" observations, resulting in a PRR of 3.4 percent.

The Secretary has determined that the current 10 percent proportion of roe that is allowed to be retained when harvesting pollock is too high, given actual proportions that resulted during the 1991 and 1992 pollock fisheries in the BSAI. To retain this proportion, processors could "top off" the amount of retained pollock round weight equivalents with pollock roe by stripping roe from subsequent pollock catches and discarding the carcasses.

Actual amounts of ancillary roe produced during the 1992 "A" season show that processors typically produced pollock roe as an ancillary product in amounts that resulted in an overall proportion of less than 4 percent. The Secretary recognizes, however, that this proportion represents an overall average proportion. Individual processors likely achieve higher proportions only as a result of topping off retained amounts of pollock round weight equivalents. To allow too high a proportion could encourage this practice. The Secretary, therefore, is proposing a PRR for pollock roe of 5 percent. This amount represents a proportion that is above the overall average obtained for shoreside processors in 1991 and 1992 and by at-sea processors in 1992. It will allow for retention by processors that at times achieve a proportion slightly higher than average.

In addition to restricting amounts of pollock roe, the

Secretary proposes to replace the pollock products and associated PRRs in current roe stripping regulations at 50 CFR paragraphs 672.20(i)(2) and 675.20(j)(2) with those that she finally approves through this action. Current regulations that regulate pollock roe stripping implemented PRRs for the following pollock products: fillets, surimi, minced, meal, and headed and gutted. More pollock product types and associated PRRs, however, are listed in this action. The Secretary has determined that PRRs and product types for pollock that she finally approves will constitute the best available list for pollock.

ALTERNATIVES

Standard Product Types and Product Recovery Rates.

Alternatives include: (1) maintain the regulatory status quo, which would mean the standards would not be implemented for purposes of enforcing either the directed fishing closures or for assigning vessels to fisheries for purposes of the Vessel Incentive Program and (2) implement product types and PRRs for purposes of enforcing directed fishing closures and assigning vessels to fisheries. NMFS will continue to use PRRs for purposes of monitoring groundfish harvests under either alternative.

Allowable Retained Amounts of Pollock Roe

Alternatives include: (1) maintain the regulatory status quo, which would mean that amounts of pollock roe in proportions equal to 10 percent or less of the amount of pollock primary products would be allowed, and (2) reduce the allowable roe proportion to 5 percent or less.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

The types of environmental impacts that are generally associated with fishery management actions concern effects resulting from (1) overharvesting groundfish stocks, which might involve changes in predator-prey relationships among invertebrates and vertebrates, including marine mammals and birds, (2) physical changes as a direct result fishing practices affecting the sea bed, and (3) nutrient changes due to fish processing and discarding fish wastes into the sea. The effects of changing the definition are related to these types of impacts.

Standard Product Types and Product Recovery Rates.

An increased harvest could result if a PRR were to increase, because NMFS could allow a fishery to continue longer until the harvest quota were reached. For example, if the PRR for Pacific cod increased by 10 percent from 0.57 to 0.63 for headed and gutted, western cut product, a harvest quota of 90,000 mt would result in a harvest of 56,700 mt of product instead of 51,300 mt of product, which is an increase of 5,400 mt. Fewer fish would remain in the ecosystem as predators or prey. More fishing activity would result, possibly increasing impacts on the sea bed. Larger amounts of nutrients would be introduced, resulting from increased production. Conversely, if the PRR were reduced to a smaller proportion, a harvest quota would be reached earlier. More fish would remain in the ecosystem as predators or prey, potentially smaller physical impacts on the sea bed would be expected, and smaller amounts of nutrients would be introduced into the ecosystem.

Under the status quo alternative, no comments would be invited on product codes or PRRs being used by NMFS to calculate round weight equivalents for purposes of quota monitoring or applying the directed fishing definition. NMFS would continue to use PRRs that it believes are the best available. Most PRRs that NMFS is using to manage harvest quotas already have been reviewed by some industry representatives as well as NMFS experts. If none of these PRRs need to be changed, then the status quo would result in no negative or positive impacts.

Even small adjustments, however, could result in appreciable economic impacts. Using the example above, an increased harvest of 5,400 mt could result in an addition $12 million exvessel value, assuming $1 per pound for at-sea frozen Pacific cod. Under the status quo, the industry would unnecessarily forego this amount if NMFS used 0.63 to manage the harvest quota when a more realistic value was 0.57, because NMFS would close the fishery earlier. Smaller harvests could result in reduced supply, increased demand, and higher prices paid to fishermen. Eventually, however, higher prices would be charged to the consumer, which could be interpreted as a negative impact.

Because standard PRRs would be used to enforce the directed fishing standards and to assign vessels to particular fisheries for purposes of the Vessel Incentive Program, appropriate PRRs are necessary. Under the status quo alternative, enforcement of directed fishing standards and the effectiveness of the Vessel Incentive Program would be reduced. Enforcement officers would have to rely on whatever PRR a vessel operator claimed he was

achieving. Because the Vessel Incentive Program is being designed to use retained catch rather that total catch, successful application of standard PRRs would be jeopardized under the status quo, if prosecution depended on proving that a particular PRR being used by a vessel operator was not believable. To the extent that enforcement is made less effective, that is an enforcement cost under this alternative. Under the proposed action, PRRs would be codified. Enforcement of directed fishing standards and the Vessel Incentive Program would be made more effective, thereby reducing enforcement costs.

Allowable Retained Amounts of Pollock Roe

Pollock stocks do not exhibit a significant spawner recruitment relationship, if any. No biological impacts on pollock stocks are expected, therefore, whether amounts of roe up to 10 percent or 5 percent are allowed. Under the status quo alternative, i.e., maintain the allowance for 10 percent roe retention, additional pollock could be harvested for purposes of removing roe to top off pollock round weight equivalents. Larger amounts of pollock carcasses would be disposed at sea. More nutrients would be introduced into the ecosystem, which would be taken up by animals and plant life. Some smothering of the benthos and souring of the sea bed could occur, if excessive amounts of pollock carcasses were disposed at sea. Under the proposed action, smaller amounts of pollock would be harvested for purposes of topping off pollock round weight equivalents. Types of impacts under this alternative could be the same as under the status quo alternative, but smaller in scope. NMFS believes that impacts on the environment under either alternative would be insignificant, and largely not measurable against naturally occurring perturbations in the environment.

Economic impacts could occur under the proposed action compared to the status quo to the extent that processors actually topped off retained amounts of pollock with amounts of roe up to 10 percent. For example, during the 1992 "A" season, shoreside and at-sea processors harvested 112,881 and 363,403 mt of pollock, respectively. Arithmetically, they could have retained 11,288 and 36,340 mt of roe, i.e. 10 percent of the pollock round weight equivalents. These amounts could have been worth $476 million, based on an exvessel price of $10,000 per metric ton ($5 per pound) of roe. Amounts of roe retained in 1992 by shoreside and at-sea processors, however, were only 4,156 mt and 12,324 mt, resulting in retained roe proportions of 3.7 and 3.4 percent respectively.

Under the proposed action in which processors could retain up to, and including, 5 percent roe as measured against amounts of pollock round weight equivalents, smaller amounts of pollock would be harvested to the extent that topping off is prevented. Assuming that the proportions achieved in 1992 by the shoreside and at-sea processors represents are typical, the proposed 5 percent limitation does not impose a limitation. Some vessel operators, however, may inadvertently catch pollock containing a larger roe content. To the extent that they have to discard amounts of roe that are in excess of 5 percent is a cost under this alternative. Nonetheless, NMFS has determined that this proportion is more consistent with Council intent to prohibit roe stripping. The proposed 5 percent limitation on amounts of roe that may be retained represents a superior alternative to the status quo.

FINDINGS OF NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

For the reasons discussed above, neither implementation of the final action nor any of the alternatives to that action would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, and the preparation of an environmental impact statement on the preferred action is not required by Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act or its implementing regulations.

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DATE

COORDINATION WITH OTHERS

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

LIST OF PREPARERS

Ron Berg
Fisheries Management Division
NMFS, Alaska Region
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Appendix 1. 1992 OFFSHORE SURIMI PRODUCTION IN THE BERING SEA AND ALEUTIANS ISLANDS AREA THROUGH JULY 19.

BLEND SURIMI	NON-SURIMI RETAINED	ROUND WT	WT SURIMI	PRR
3,987.27	26,861.76	23.06	26,838.70	14.86%
8,365.36	58,661.73	2,270.70	56,391.03	14.83%
222.39	1,867.20	0.00	1,867.20	11.91%
4,032.40	29,776.47	2,737.88	27,038.59	14.91%
1,790.34	11,969.62	38.41	11,931.21	15.01%
1,313.73	9,946.76	0.00	9,946.76	13.21%
2,668.06	22,805.19	5,652.82	17,152.37	15.56%
1,423.78	10,102.94	0.00	10,102.94	14.09%
2,135.68	14,903.47	9.01	14,894.46	14.34%
2,590.86	20,862.44	1,504.16	19,358.28	13.38%
2,754.34	19,962.59	1,000.44	18,962.15	14.53%
1,724.66	12,816.03	22.08	12,793.95	13.48%
2,425.58	18,381.62	1,112.04	17,269.58	14.05%
3,013.06	29,116.05	243.20	28,872.85	10.44%
2,700.53	21,095.16	357.86	20,737.30	13.02%
3,991.50	31,483.87	3,502.05	27,981.82	14.26%
4,234.68	46,865.07	0.00	46,865.07	9.04%
2,173.31	14,914.39	25.68	14,888.71	14.60%
3,038.09	26,690.11	4,002.75	22,687.36	13.39%
5,249.94	34,550.05	136.71	34,413.34	15.26%
3,473.59	28,332.24	5,216.71	23,115.53	15.03%
2,685.12	22,527.27	2,842.01	19,685.26	13.64%
65,994.27		483,794.46		13.64%

Filename PRR-2.EA