

PROPOSAL 257 (Previously ACR24) - 5 AAC 28.087. Management plan for parallel groundfish fisheries. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Fully consider a range of options for managing state water and parallel fisheries under a proposed rationalization program for federal groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and recommend a preferred management approach.

PROBLEM: A main objective for joint consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is for fishery conservation, as fish and fishermen routinely cross state and federal boundaries. Observer coverage, recordkeeping and reporting, and enforcement are critical components of any fishery management plan. Monitoring of any coincident fisheries catch, whether as a target or bycatch, of groundfish, halibut, or crab will need to be accounted in the proposed rationalization program.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Resolution of management of the parallel fisheries is necessary before the council can select a preferred alternative for rationalizing federal fisheries. Board recommendations on resolving the issue of the state and parallel fisheries is of critical importance for the development of the environmental impact statement for rationalizing GOA groundfish fisheries.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Additional entry into the state parallel fisheries would mitigate the benefits of rationalized federal fisheries and the potential allocation of a percentage of the federal groundfish quotas to either state water or parallel fisheries would decrease individual allocations of the remaining available quotas to federal fishery participants. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering the inclusion of state-licensed fishermen who do not hold federal permits as recipients of catch history, along with federal license holders.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Agenda Change Request 24 came out of a recommendation by the Joint Protocol Committee at its July 2003 meeting.

PROPOSED BY: North Pacific Fishery Management Council (HQ-03-F-210)
