The Privilege to Process Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod: Community Protection vs. Economic Efficiency in the National Standards

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North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) of 1976 established:

1) The 3-200nm exclusive economic zone (EEZ)

2) National Standards

3) 8 regional Councils (composed of fishery participants and government agency representatives to develop regulations subject to approval by the Federal government (Secretary of Commerce))
Adak, AK:

Source: Steve Barbeaux, AFSC, NOAA

Source: http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/maps/
Adak was the epicenter of the AI P-Cod fishery

Management measures indirectly reduced cod deliveries to Adak fish plant

- CPs “freed up” by the rationalization of other fisheries
- Overall catch limit reduction
- Catch limit split for BS and AI

Production shifts to “off-shore” sector

Source: www.all-fish-seafood-recipes.com
Fish Processing in Adak:

- Adak plant cannot afford to operate without deliveries
- Plant was closed, auctioned to the city, is now seeking deliveries
- Council considers action to promote on-shore processing
  “Exclusive CV Fishing Period”
Staff Informs the Decision Process:

**Analytical Considerations**
- Impact on communities
- Impact on at-sea processors
- Impact on “catcher vessels”
- Impacts on other gear sectors
- Impact on fishery-supporting businesses
- State and local fish taxes
- Impacts on safety
- Impacts on “small entities”
- Environmental impacts

**Challenges**
- Quick turn-around
- Confidential data
- Weighing anecdotal data
- Uncertainty in future market prices for fish
- Unknown business cost structure
- Unknown private business decisions
National Standards:

1. Prevent Overfishing, while achieving optimal yield
2. Use Best Scientific Information
3. Manage Stocks as Discrete Units
4. No Discrimination Between Residents of Different States
5. Promote Efficiency in Fishery Resource Utilization
6. Variations in Fisheries, Fish Stocks and Catches
7. Minimize Costs and Avoid Duplication
8. Sustain Fishing Communities
9. Minimize Bycatch and Bycatch Mortality
10. Promote Safety at sea
Example of NS balancing:

- Monopsony power?
- Uncertainty in private business characteristics

Source: Dave Fraser, ACDC
The decision-makers:

Source: Gail Bendixen

Source: NPFMC