



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

June 1, 2015

Agenda B-2: NMFS Management Report

Status of Actions Report online

Status of Actions report is provided in **Attachment 1** and is updated daily at:
<http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/status/amendments.pdf>.

Progress on Rulemaking

Highlights on progress since the April 2015 meeting include:

- Notice of Availability for Amendment 108 to the BSAI FMP, Amendment 100 to the GOA FMP & Amendment 46 to the King and Tanner Crabs FMP – LLP Exemption Correction
Notice of Availability – February 12, 2015 – Comment through April 13, 2015
<http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/prules/80fr7816.pdf>
FMP Notice of Approval – May 5, 2015
<http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/frules/80fr25625.pdf>
- Amendment 45 to the King and Tanner Crabs FMP – GOA Pacific cod non-AFA crab sideboards for freezer longline vessels
Final Rule – Effective: June 18, 2015 -
<http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/frules/80fr28539.pdf>

Short-Tailed Albatross Incidental Take

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reported the incidental take of an endangered short-tailed albatross by a Pacific cod hook-and-line catcher/processor in the BSAI. The bird was taken on December 16, 2014. The take was not reported to the NMFS observer on the vessel, nor was the bird retained by the vessel crew. The bird was later identified by NMFS as a short-tailed albatross with the assistance of seabird experts who independently reviewed video of the bird taken onboard the vessel.



The last two documented takes in Alaska were in September 2014. This take is the third in a two-year period specified under the current Biological Opinion that began on September 16, 2013 and ends on September 15, 2015. NMFS is required to reinitiate consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) if more than four short-tailed albatross are taken during any two-year period. To-date, the incidental take levels have not been reached during the current or any previous Biological Opinions. The Alaska Regional Office, North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program, and the USFWS are actively coordinating efforts and communicating with each other in response to this take incident and are complying to the fullest extent with ESA requirements to protect this species.

Additional detail on this take, ongoing conservation efforts, and seabird avoidance measures is available at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seabirds/guide.htm>.

Staffing Changes

We are pleased to announce two new staff have joined the Sustainable Fisheries Division.

Keeley Kent will be joining our catch share branch as a regulatory specialist. Keeley is currently working on contract as a social scientist and data analyst at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle. Keeley has participated in a number of research and analytical projects related to Federal fisheries management in Alaska, most recently analyses for the Gulf of Alaska groundfish and Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fisheries. Keeley holds a Master of Marine Affairs degree from the University of Washington, where she developed an interest in the use of market-based programs for fisheries management. Keeley is looking forward to aiding us in the analysis, development, and implementation of policies and regulations for our numerous catch share programs.

Alicia Miller will be joining us as our Observer Program liaison. Alicia will coordinate with the Observer Program and prepare analyses and regulations for actions related to observers and other catch monitoring issues. Alicia has been working on contract with the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) in Seattle for the last three and half years as the compliance liaison between OLE and the Observer Program. Alicia has worked on numerous observer-related projects over her career, and was a key participant in crafting amendments to monitoring provisions for the Bering Sea pollock fishery that were approved by the Council last week. Alicia served as an observer for four years in the Alaska groundfish fisheries and as a marine mammal observer. Alicia holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Maine. Alicia is excited to bring her expertise in the Observer Program to Sustainable Fisheries.

Inseason Management Report

2015 catch (metric tons) is through May 23, and 2014 catch is through May 24. Additional information from weekly catch reports and information bulletins are available at:

<http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/catchstats.htm>

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands**Bering Sea Pollock**

NMFS reallocated 1,900 mt of CDQ and 2,554 mt of Aleut Corporation pollock TAC from the Aleutian Islands to the CDQ and non-CDQ Bering Sea TACs.

Bering Sea	2015 A season allocation	2015 A season catch	Percent Taken
Inshore	226,879	223,929	99%
C/P	181,503	180,457	99%
Mothership	45,376	45,242	100%
CDQ	53,160	53,097	100%
Total	506,918	502,725	99%

Salmon in the Bering Sea Pollock Fisheries

Species	Chinook				Non-Chinook			
	2015		2014		2015		2014	
Amount	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate
CDQ	781	1.47%	692	1.35%	340	0.64%	27	0.05%
Non-CDQ	11,496	2.56%	10,844	2.46%	4,303	0.96%	529	0.12%
Total	12,277	2.44%	11,536	2.34%	4,643	0.92%	556	0.11%

Pacific cod**Hook-and-line C/Ps**

The fishery is expected to remain open all year. The 2015 B season allocation of 52,955 becomes available June 10.

Year	2015	2014
Total Catch	52,839	51,011
A season TAC	55,116	56,108
Remaining TAC	2,277	5,097
# of C/Ps	28	29

Pot catcher vessels (CVs) greater than or equal to 60 ft length overall

In 2015, fewer vessels participated in the fishery and stopped fishing the week ending April 4, 2015. The directed fishery will close by regulation at noon, Alaska local time, June 10, 2015.

Year	2015	2014
Total catch	9,146	9,602
A season TAC	9,507	9,678
Remaining TAC	361	76
# of CVs	15	29
A season closure	n/a	24-Jan

Hook-and-line or pot gear less than 60 ft length overall

For 2014 and 2015, NMFS reallocated 1,700 mt of the A season jig allocation to the less than 60 ft allocation. Hook-and-line CVs continue to fish inside 3 miles after the directed fishery closure by NMFS.

Year	2015	2014
Total Catch	6,890	7,970
A season TAC	6.138 (4,438 + 1,700)	6.218 (4,518 + 1,700)
Remaining TAC	-752	-1,752
# of C/Vs	21 (4 H&L, 17 pot)	19 (5 H&L, 14 pot)
A season closure	2-Feb	4-Feb

Trawl catcher vessels

In 2015, 48 trawl CVs targeting Pacific cod reported 29,846 mt relative to 48 trawl CVs targeting Pacific cod reporting 38,589 mt in 2014. The 2015 C season allocation of 7,384 mt becomes available June 10. In 2014, the fishery remained open until the regulatory closure on November 1, 2014.

Year	2015	2014
Total Catch	32,179 (29,846 Pacific cod target)	39,948 (38,589 Pacific cod target)
A/B season TAC	41,841	42,591
Remaining TAC	9,662	2,643
# of CVs	96 total (48 Pacific cod)	92 total (48 Pacific cod)
Closure dates	n/a	November 1, 2014

BSAI Flatfish (includes CDQ)

The total catch for flatfish species is 38,132 less than in 2014.

Species	2015	2014	2015 minus 2014
Alaska plaice	4,469	10,645	-6,176
Arrowtooth flounder	3,213	2,278	935
Other flatfish	1,598	1,755	-157
Flathead sole	4,671	6,376	-1,706
Greenland turbot	193	122	71
Kamchatka flounder	2,738	1,206	1,532
Rock sole	37,841	45,528	-7,687
Yellowfin sole	53,329	78,276	-24,946
Total Flatfish	108,052	146,184	-38,132
Atka mackerel	22,144	11,321	10,823
Pacific ocean perch	6,186	5,500	686

Halibut mortality

In 2015 relative to 2014, the total halibut mortality in the BSAI is 497 mt lower and in the GOA is 29 mt lower. The total rate of halibut mortality to groundfish also is lower in the BSAI and GOA in 2015 relative to 2014.

Area, Gear, and Sector	2015			2014		
	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate
BSAI Total	1,321	794,345	0.17%	1,818	823,147	0.22%
Non-pelagic trawl CP	907	154,268	0.59%	1,201	179,219	0.67%
Non-pelagic trawl CV	207	38,521	0.54%	297	51,446	0.58%
Pelagic trawl CP	36	185,791	0.02%	63	183,827	0.03%
Pelagic trawl CV	14	272,233	0.01%	13	267,495	0.00%
Hook-and-line CP ¹	109	64,289	0.17%	153	62,560	0.24%
Hook-and-line CV ¹	1	736	0.14%	5	1,899	0.26%
CDQ	47	78,507	0.06%	85	76,701	0.11%
GOA Total	690	136,899	0.50%	719	135,772	0.53%
Non-pelagic trawl	550	35,846	1.53%	604	47,908	1.26%
Pelagic trawl	6	89,590	0.01%	0	75,867	0.00%
Hook-and-line CP ¹	45	4,787	0.93%	41	4,743	0.86%
Hook-and-line CV ¹	90	6,675	1.34%	74	7,254	1.02%

¹Does not include IFQ targets for hook-and-line gear.

Gulf of AlaskaPacific cod - Western GOA

Sector	2015				2014			
	A season allocation	Catch May 23	A season closed	# of vessels May 23	A season allocation	Catch May 24	A season closed	# of vessels May 24
Hook-and-line C/P	2,850	2,795	Apr 2	7	2,436	2,774	Mar 4	10
Hook-and-line CV	183	69	n/a	17	156	110	Mar 13	16
Jig	569	55	n/a	6	344	180	Jun 10	21
Pot CV/CP	5,176	5,506	Feb 12	38	4,425	4,152	Jan 22	35
Trawl CV	7,242	7,004	Mar 11	23	6,191	6,543	Feb 23	25
Trawl C/P	235	na	Jan 20	<1	201	na	Jan 20	<3
Total	16,255	15,431		91	13,753	13,759		107

Pacific cod - Central GOA

Sector	2015				2014			
	A season allocation	Catch May 23	A season closed	# of vessels May 23	A season allocation	Catch May 24	A season closed	# of vessels May 24
Hook-and-line C/P	1,870	1,235	n/a	7	1,603	1,588	Apr 4	7
Hook-and-line CV <50 ft	4,241	3,960	n/a	84	3,636	3,497	Mar 11	82
Hook-and-line CV >=50 ft	2,554	854	n/a	115	2,189	1,386	Mar 15	109
Jig	276	344	Mar 2	40	478	234	Jun 10	43
Pot CV/CP	8,118	8,308	Feb 16	49	6,959	6,756	Feb 13	38
Trawl CV	9,623	8,100	Apr 20	52	8,249	8,997	Apr 1	56
Trawl C/P	912	510	Jan 20	4	782	712	Mar 14	5
Total	27,594	23,311		351	23,896	23,170		340

Pollock

The 610 and 620 area B season fisheries remained open until the B season closes by regulation on May 31, 2015. Area 630 closed on April 20, 2015, for the B season. Catch in the 610 pollock fishery has been low.

2015 Seasons	610	620	630	640
A season allocation	3,632	30,503	11,316	4,719 (annual)
A season catch	125	28,580	8,880	224
A season closure	Mar 10	Mar 10	Mar 10	n/a
B season allocation	4,358	43,513	4,800	n/a
B season catch	2,092	41,744	4,412	n/a
B season closure	May 31	May 31	Apr 20	n/a

GOA Salmon Prohibited Species Catch Limits

In 2015, Amendment 97 implemented a 7,500 Chinook salmon PSC limit for the Western and Central GOA non-pollock trawl fisheries. In 2013, Amendment 93 implemented a 25,000 Chinook PSC limit for the Western and Central GOA pollock fisheries.

NMFS prohibited directed fishing for groundfish, other than pollock, by non-Rockfish Program trawl catcher vessels in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas of the GOA on May 3, 2015. From January 20 to May 3, 2015, 52 catcher vessels caught 21,953 mt of total groundfish in the target fisheries that accrue to this Chinook salmon PSC limit. The total groundfish catch by target was: Pacific cod - 75%, arrowtooth flounder - 24%, and rex sole - 1%. In the Western GOA, all of the groundfish catch was in the Pacific cod target. Seventy-five out of 519 trips were observed.

NMFS will assess the amount of Chinook salmon PSC limit remaining in the Rockfish Program trawl catcher vessel sector on October 1 and reallocate all of the remaining limit except 150. On November 15, NMFS will reallocate all of remaining the remaining limit to the non-pollock, non-Rockfish Program trawl catcher vessel sector.

Chinook Salmon PSC

Fisheries	Limit	2015		2014	
		Chinook (% of limit)	Rate	Chinook (% of limit)	Rate
Pollock (West/Cent/West Yakutat)	25,000	6,337 (25%)	7%	3,148 (13%)	4%
Western	6,684	417 (6%)	19%	205 (3%)	5%
Central	18,316	5,902 (32%)	7%	2,860 (16%)	4%
Non-Pollock in Western/Central	7,500	3,335 (44%)	10%	2,091 (28%)	5%
Catcher/Processor	3,600	461 (13%)	6%	1,443 (40%)	12%
Rockfish Program CV	1,200	179 (15%)	4%	299 (25%)	5%
Non-Rockfish Program CV	2,700	2,915 (108%)	13%	349 (13%)	1%
All gear and fisheries	n/a	9,892		5,240	

Non-Chinook Salmon PSC

Sectors	Limit	2015	Rate	2014	Rate
Pollock fisheries	n/a	89	.10%	44	.06%
All gear and fisheries	n/a	132	.11%	160	.13%

All fisheries include all Federal groundfish fisheries (all gear types) in the GOA.

Attachment 1: Status of Actions

FMP Amendment Status	Lead Council and SF Staff	Date of Council Final Action	Start Regional Review	Received by GCAK	Transmittal Date of Action to NMFS HQ for Review	Proposed FMP Amendment Notice of Availability Published in Federal Register	Proposed Rule Published in Federal Register	Final Rule or Notice of Approval Published in Federal Register
Amendment 44 (KTC) BSAI Crab ROFR	Marrinan Baker	October 2014	PR: 01/05/15	PR: 01/08/15				
Amendment 45 (KTC) GOA Pacific Cod non-AFA crab sideboards FLL Approved: April 29, 2015	McCracken Baker	June 2013	PR: 05/23/14 FR: 04/06/15	PR: 05/29/14 FR: 04/17/15	PR: 01/27/15 FR: 04/27/15	February 2, 2015 80 FR 5499 EOC: 04/03/15	February 12, 2015 80 FR 7817 EOC: 03/16/15	May 19, 2015 80 FR 28539 Effective: June 19, 2015
Amendment 101 (GOA) Allow port longline gear in GOA sablefish IFQ Fishery	Murphy Cunningham	April 2015						
Amendment 108 (BSAI) 100 (GOA) 46 (KTC) LLP Exemption Correction -- FMP Only Approved: April 27, 2015	Marrinan Baker	December 2014	PR: 01/12/15	PR: 01/14/15	PR: 02/05/15	February 12, 2015 80 FR 7816 EOC: 04/13/15	N/A	May 5, 2015 80 FR 25625
Amendment 109 (BSAI) - CDQ Small Vessel Groundfish Fishery	Marrinan Bibb	February 2015						
Amendment 110 (BSAI) Salmon prohibited species catch management in the Bering Sea pollock fishery	Harrington Stram	April 2015						

Regulatory Amendment Status	Lead Council and SF Staff	Date of Council Final Action	Start Regional Review	Received by GCAK	Transmittal Date of Action to NMFS HQ for Review	Proposed Rule Published in <i>Federal Register</i>	Final Rule Published in <i>Federal Register</i>
Cost recovery for AFA, Amendment 80, AI pollock, and CDQ program	Brannan Harrington	NMFS initiated -MSA Mandate-	PR: 08/22/14 FR: 04/23/15	PR: 08/29/14 FR: 05/01/15	PR: 12/09/14	January 7, 2015 80 FR 936 EOC: 02/06/15	
Revise definition of sport fishing guide services	MacLean Scheurer	February 2014	PR: 08/15/14 FR: 03/13/15	PR: 09/02/14 FR: 03/18/15	PR: 11/13/14 FR: 05/28/15	December 3, 2014 79 FR 71729 EOC: 01/02/15	
Revise Skate MRAs for GOA Groundfish	MacLean Murphy	December 2014	PR: 04/29/15	PR: 05/05/15			