

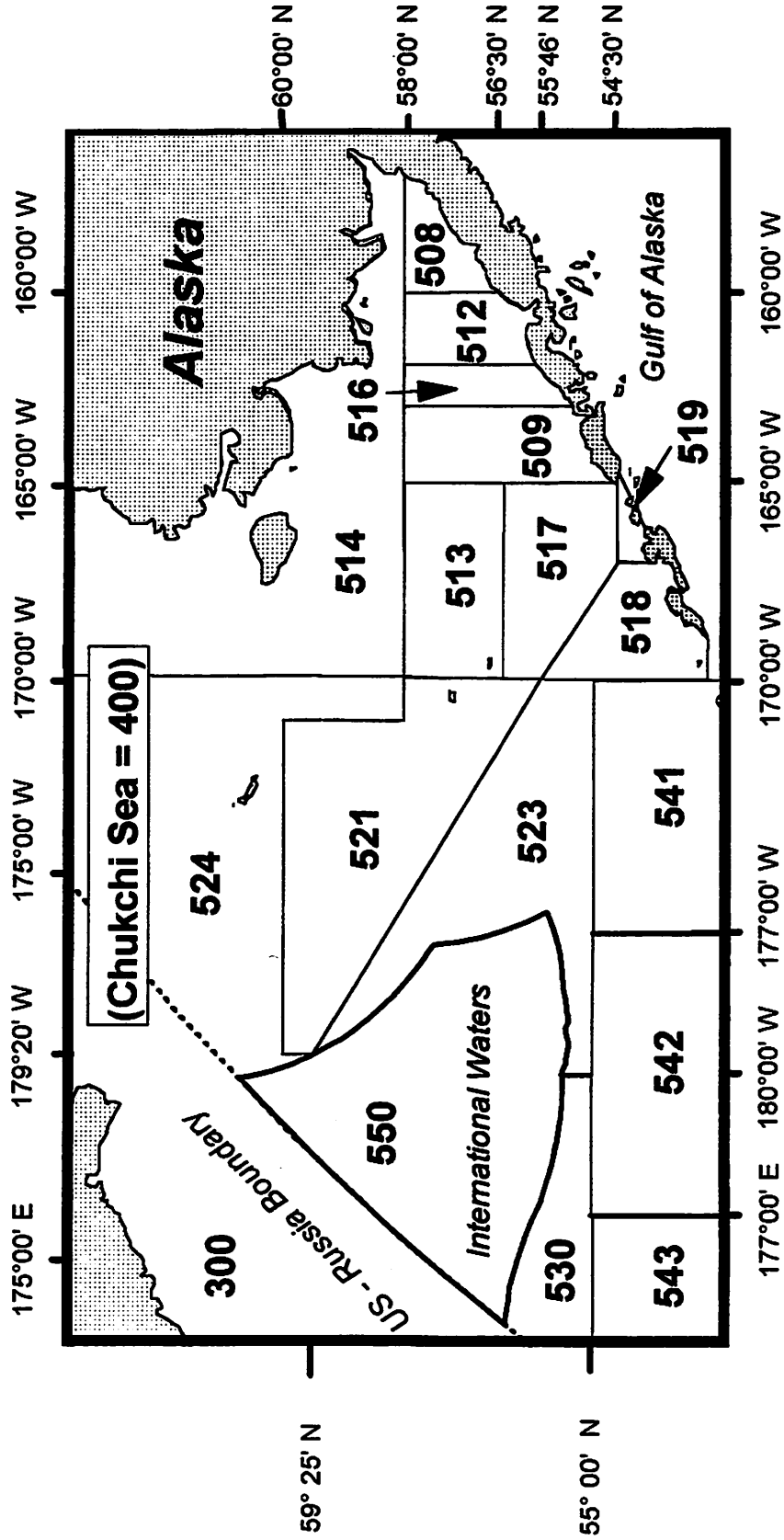
DECEMBER 1997

**NMFS FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT REPORT**



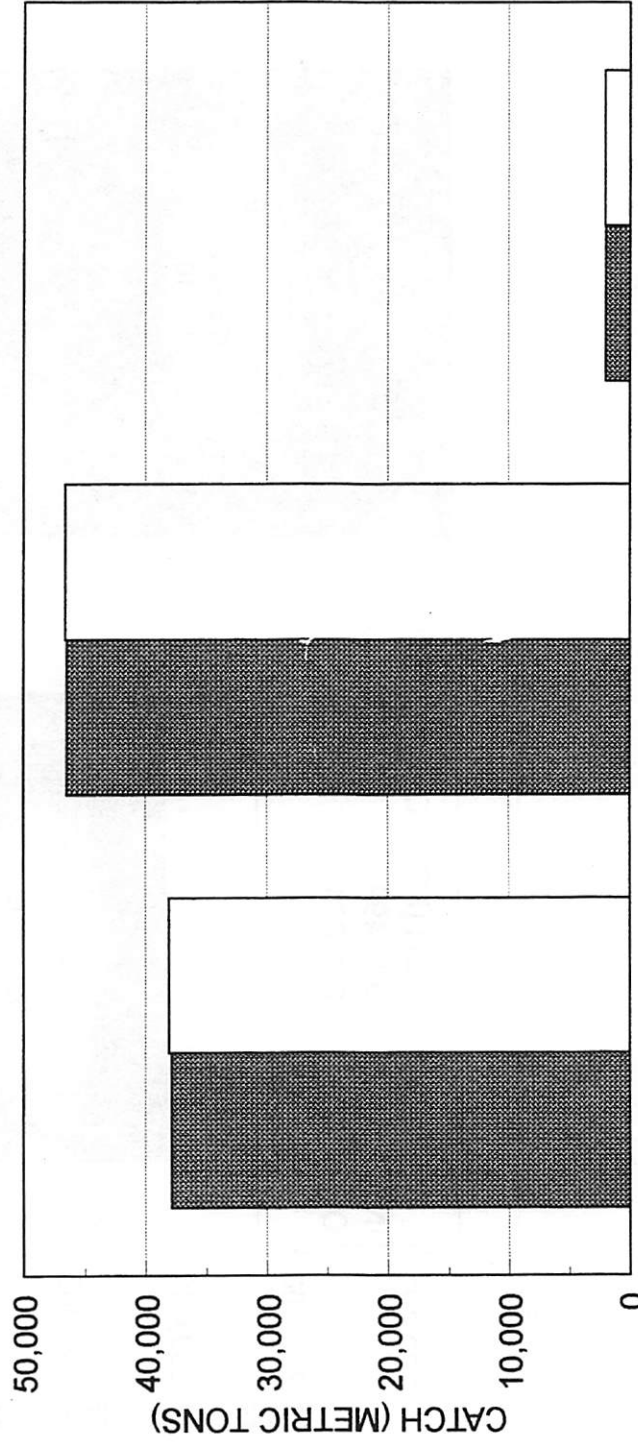
BERING SEA & ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

1997 REPORTING AREAS OF THE BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS



BYCATCH PROTECTION AREAS
 Zone 1 = 508 + 509 + 512 + 516
 Zone 2 = 513 + 517 + 521

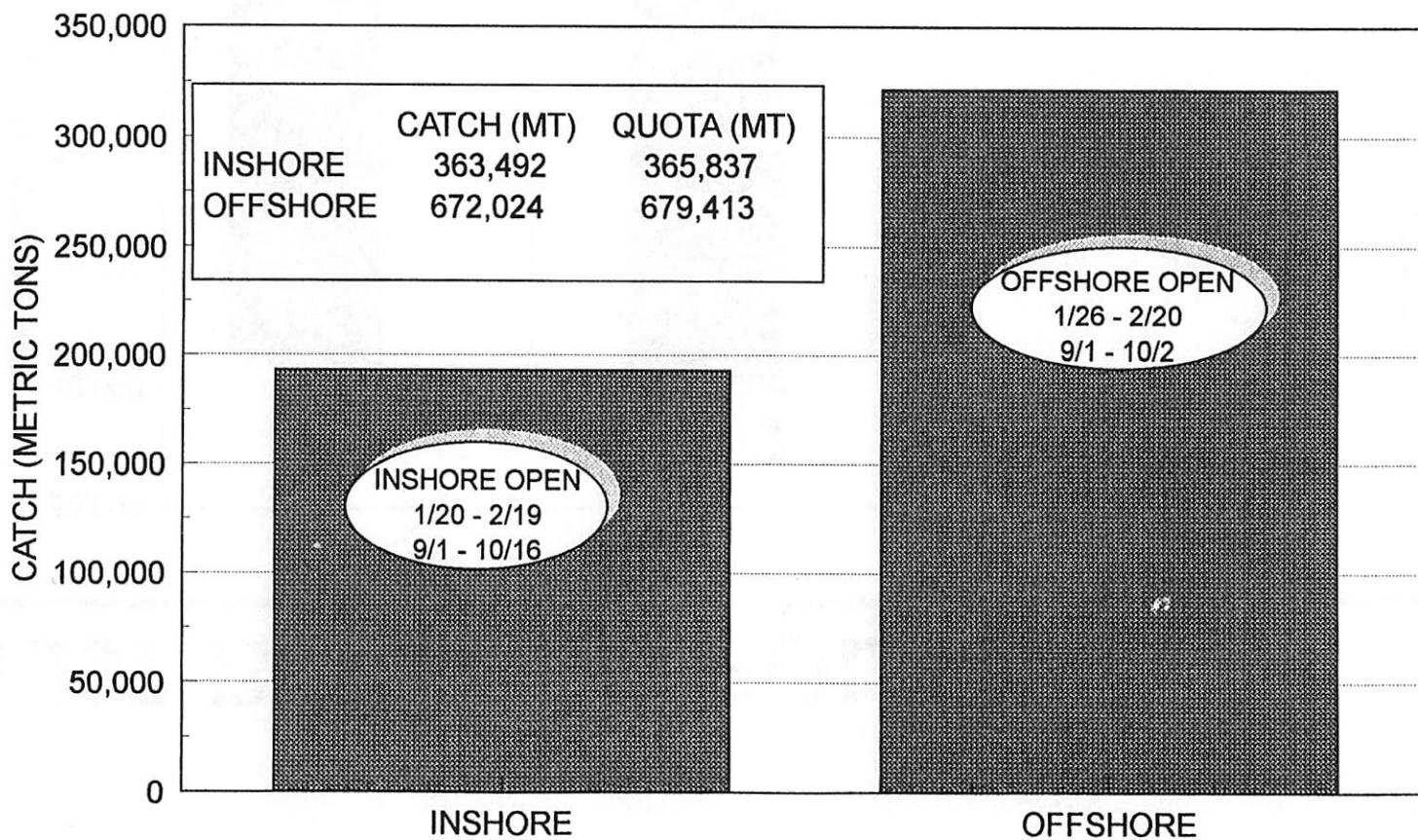
1997 BSAI CDQ POLLOCK



	BS 'A' Season	BS non-'A' Season	Aleutians
CATCH	37,891	46,526	2,051
QUOTA	38,138	46,612	2,100

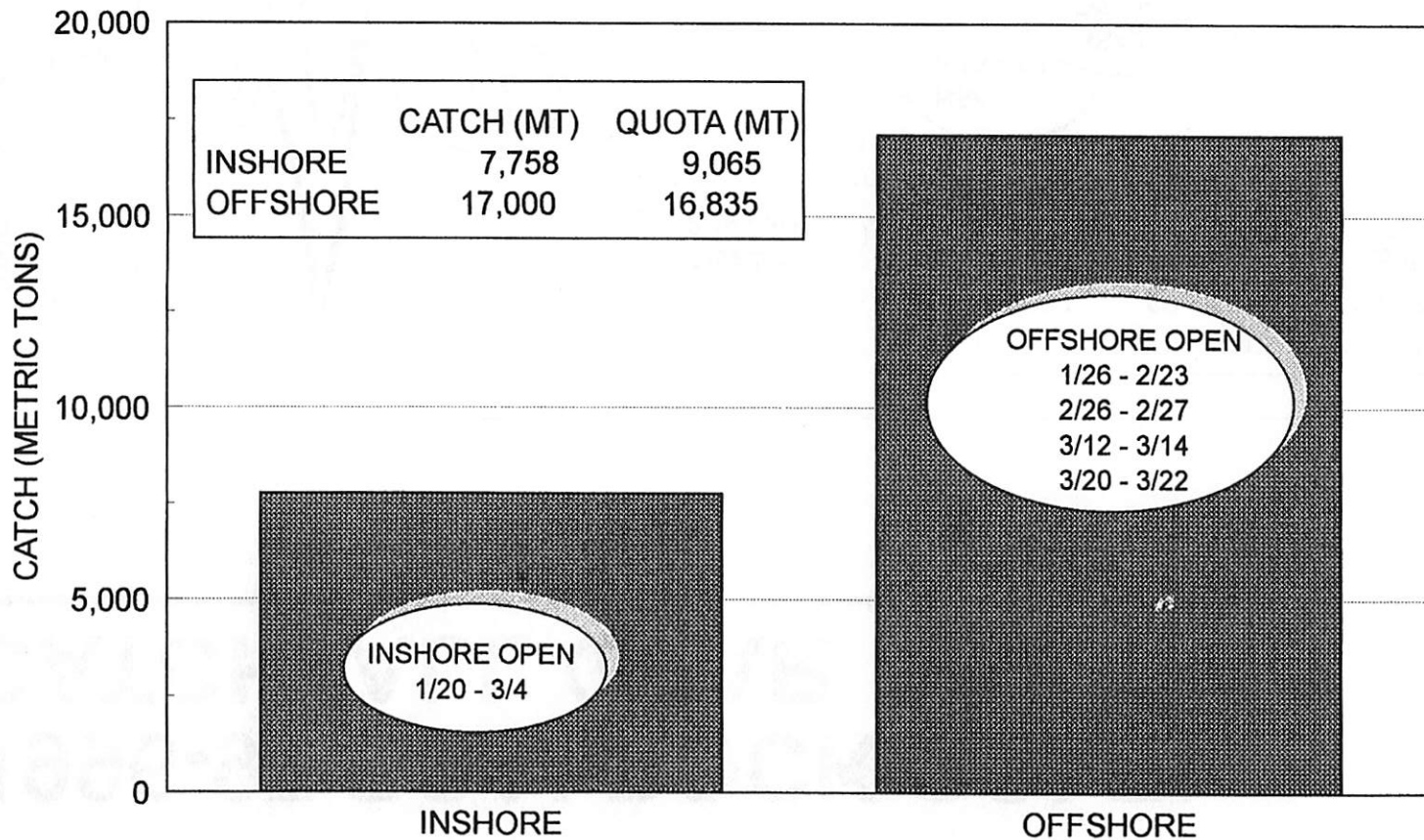
(through 11/22/97)

1997 BERING SEA INSHORE/ OFFSHORE POLLOCK CATCH*



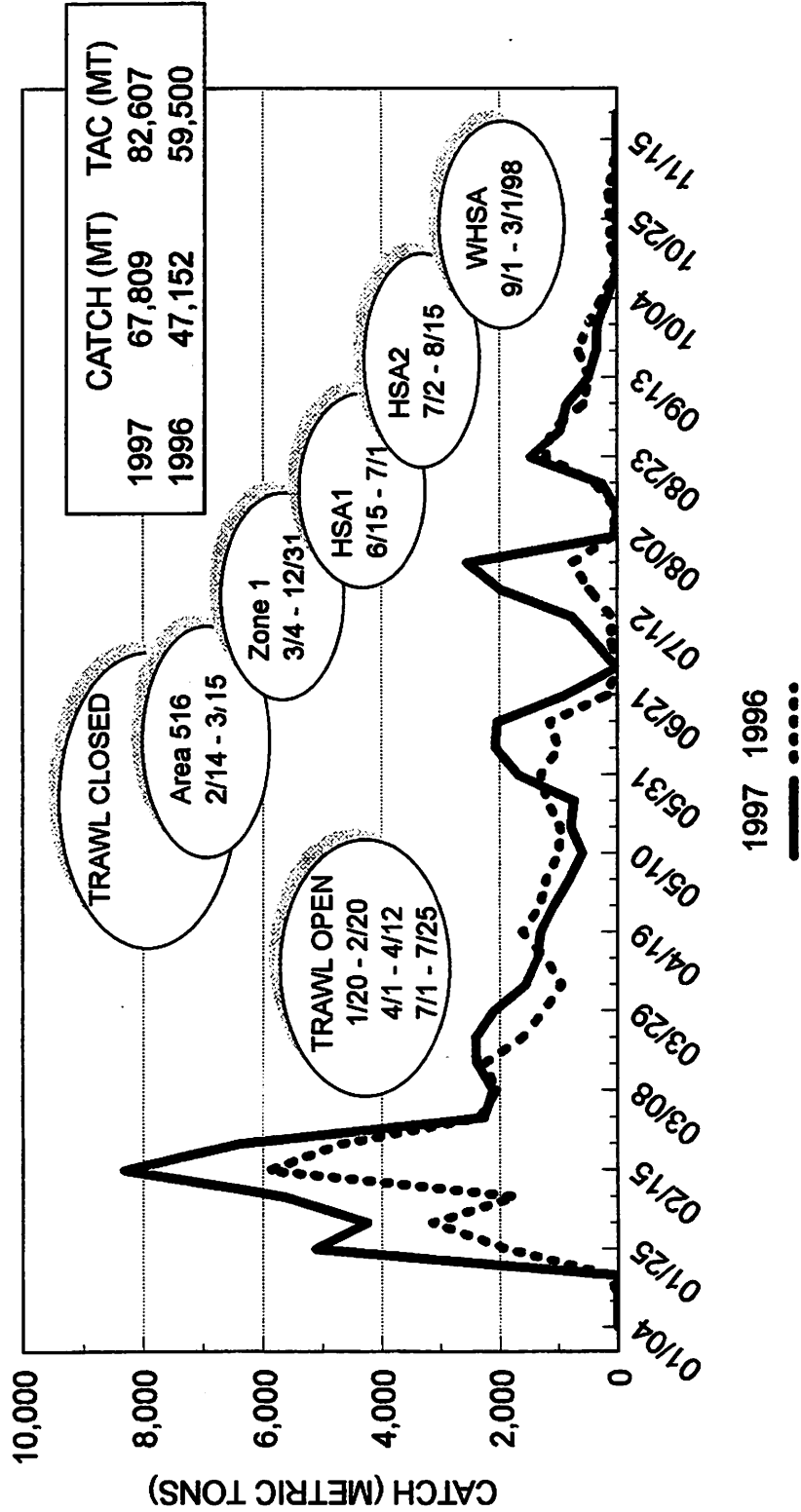
*EXCLUDES CDQ POLLOCK
(through 11/22/97)

1997 ALEUTIAN ISLANDS INSHORE/ OFFSHORE POLLOCK CATCH*



*EXCLUDES CDQ POLLOCK
(through 11/22/97)

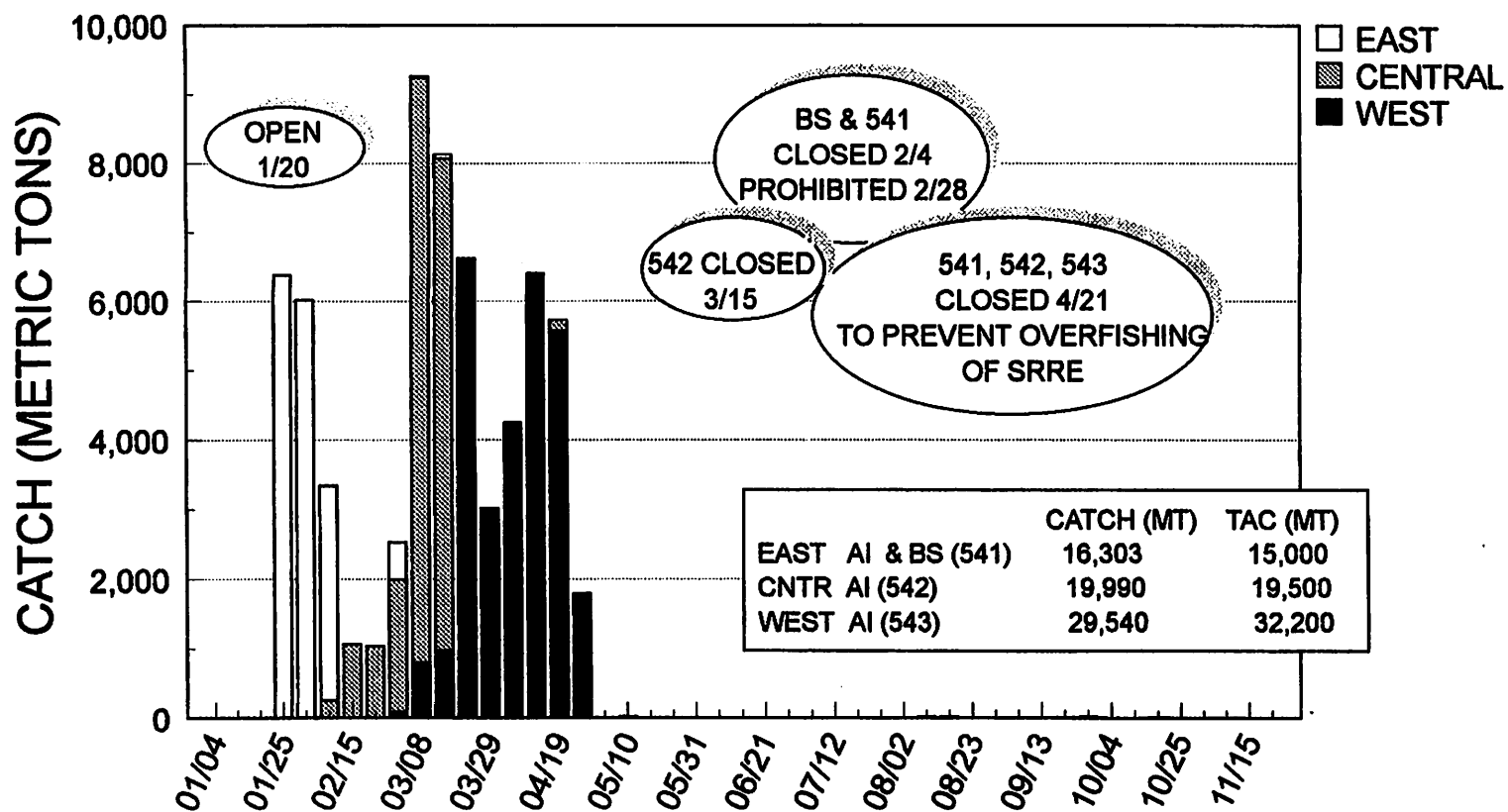
1996-97 BSAI ROCK SOLE* CATCH, ALL GEAR



(through 11/22/97)

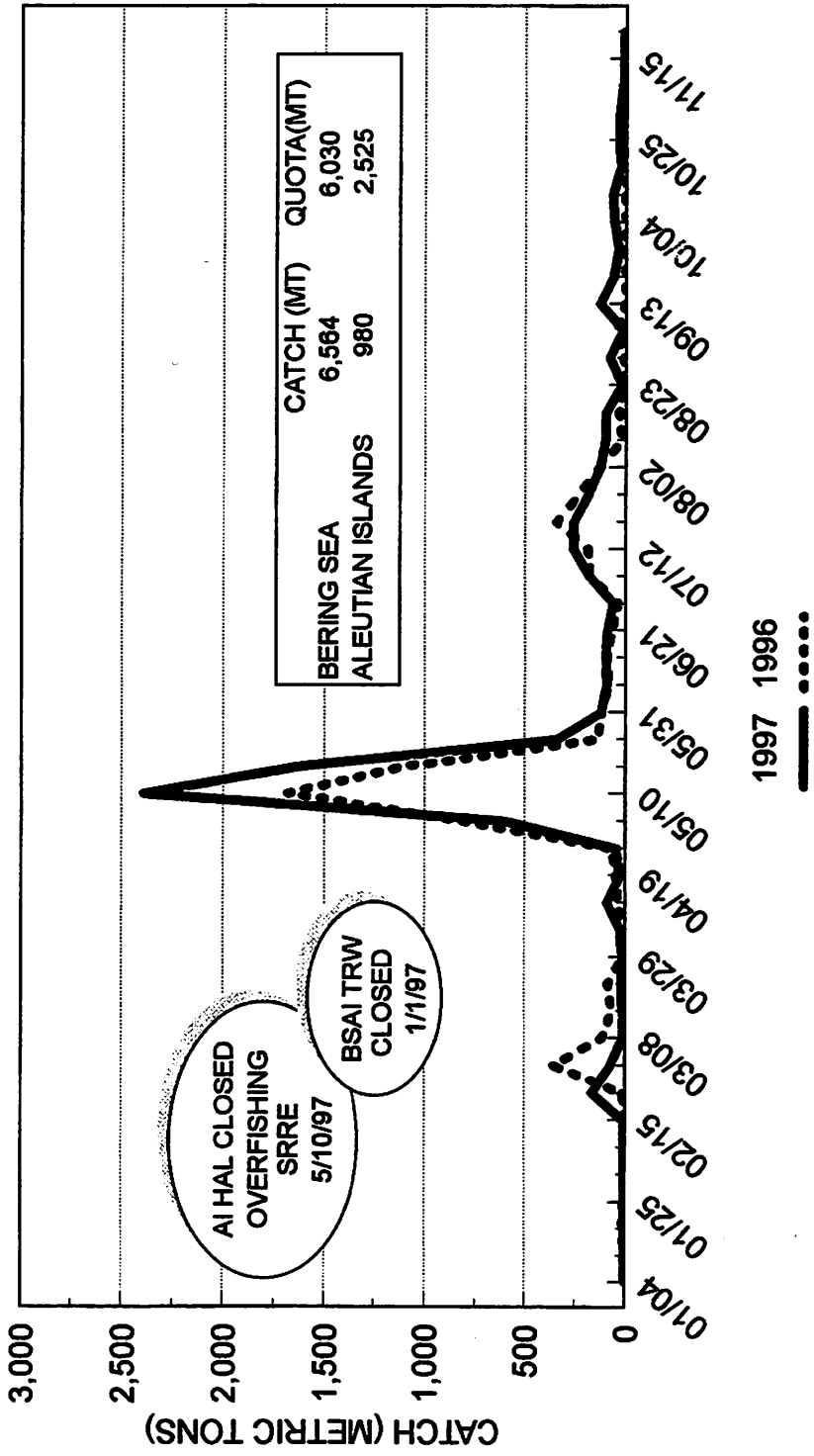
*Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish

1997 BSAI TRAWL ATKA MACKEREL CATCH



(through 11/22/97)

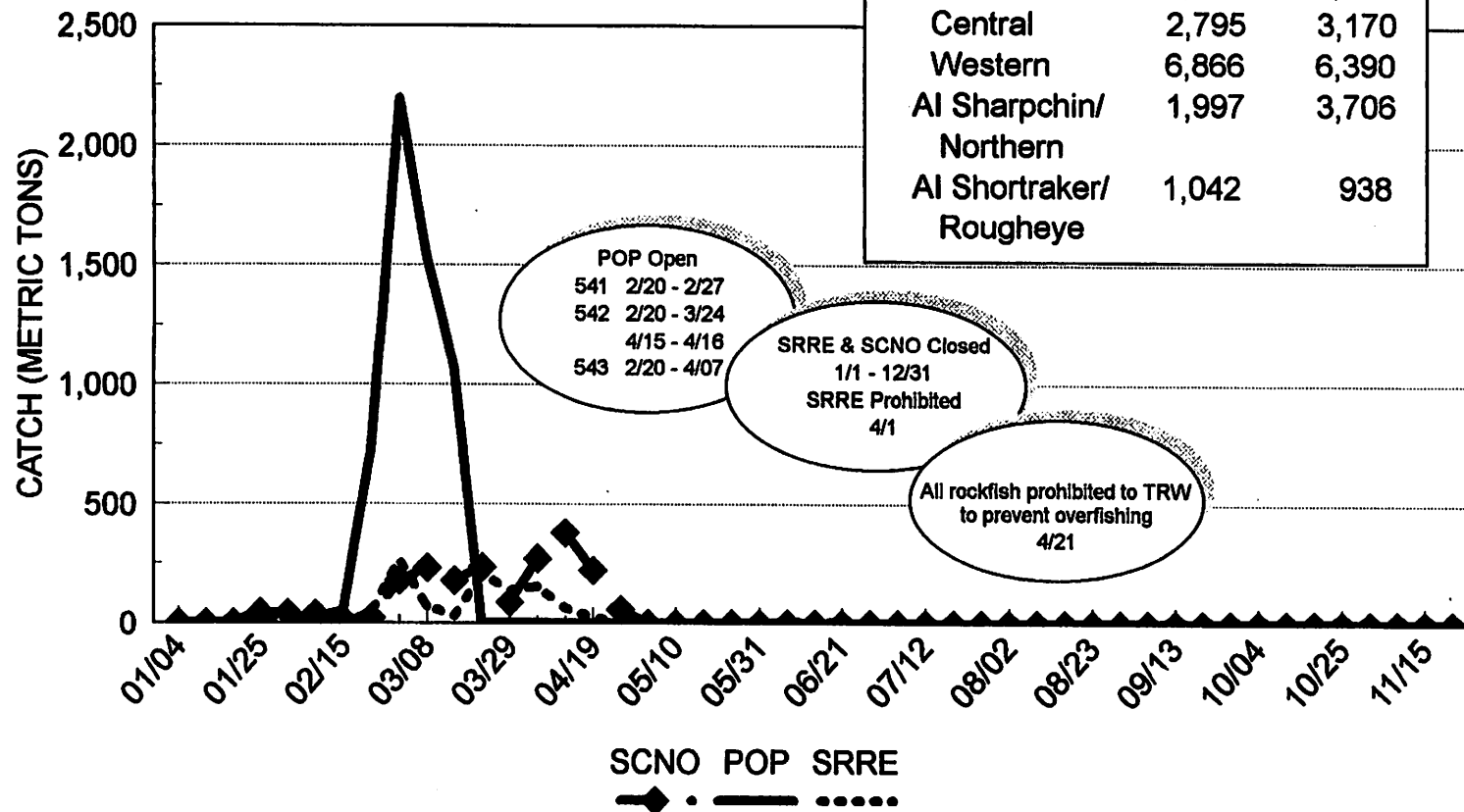
1996-97 BSAI GREENLAND TURBOT CATCH, ALL GEAR



(through 11/22/97)

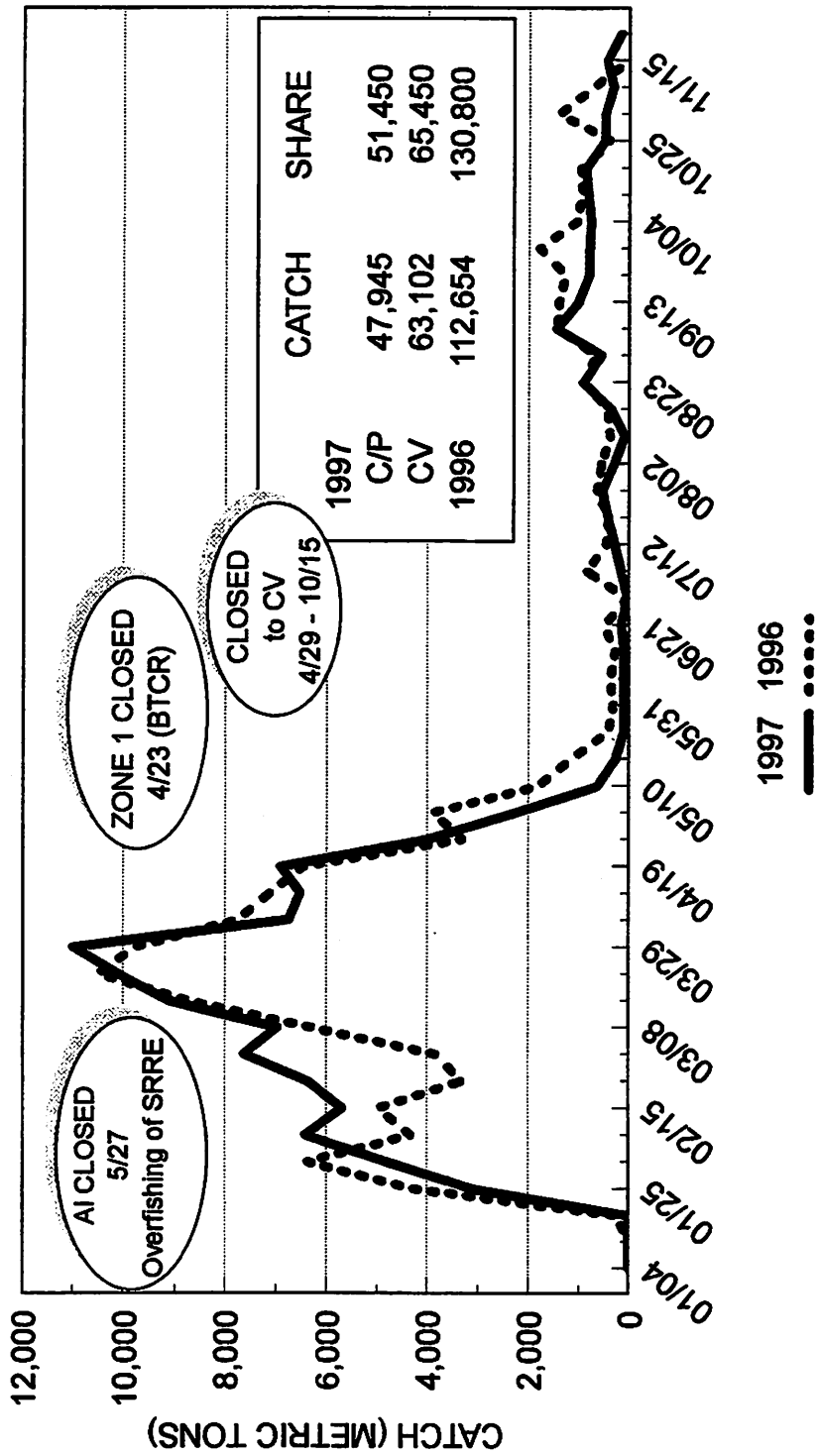
1997 ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ROCKFISH CATCH

	CATCH	TAC
AI POP		
Eastern	2,987	3,240
Central	2,795	3,170
Western	6,866	6,390
AI Sharpchin/ Northern	1,997	3,706
AI Shortraker/ Rougheye	1,042	938



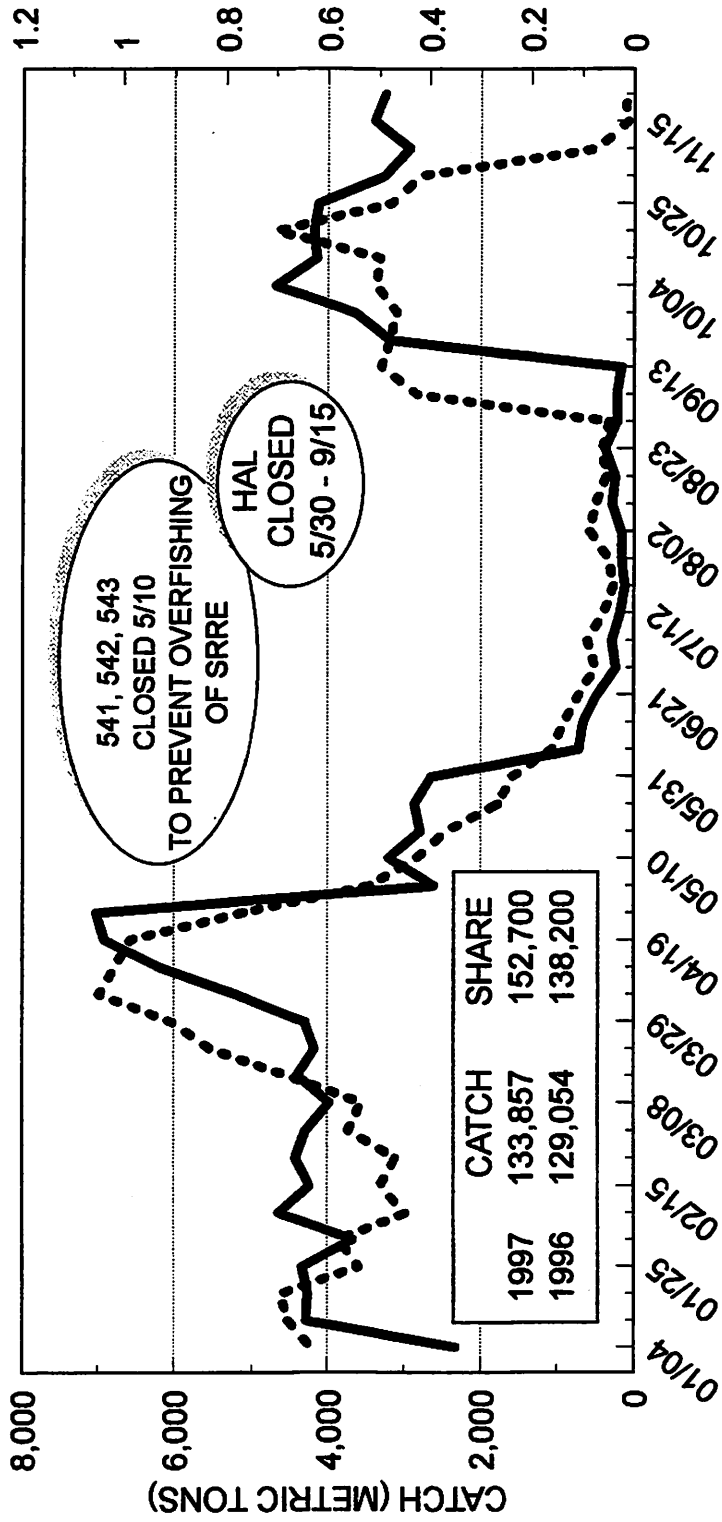
(through 11/22/97)

1996-97 BSAI TRAWL PACIFIC COD CATCH



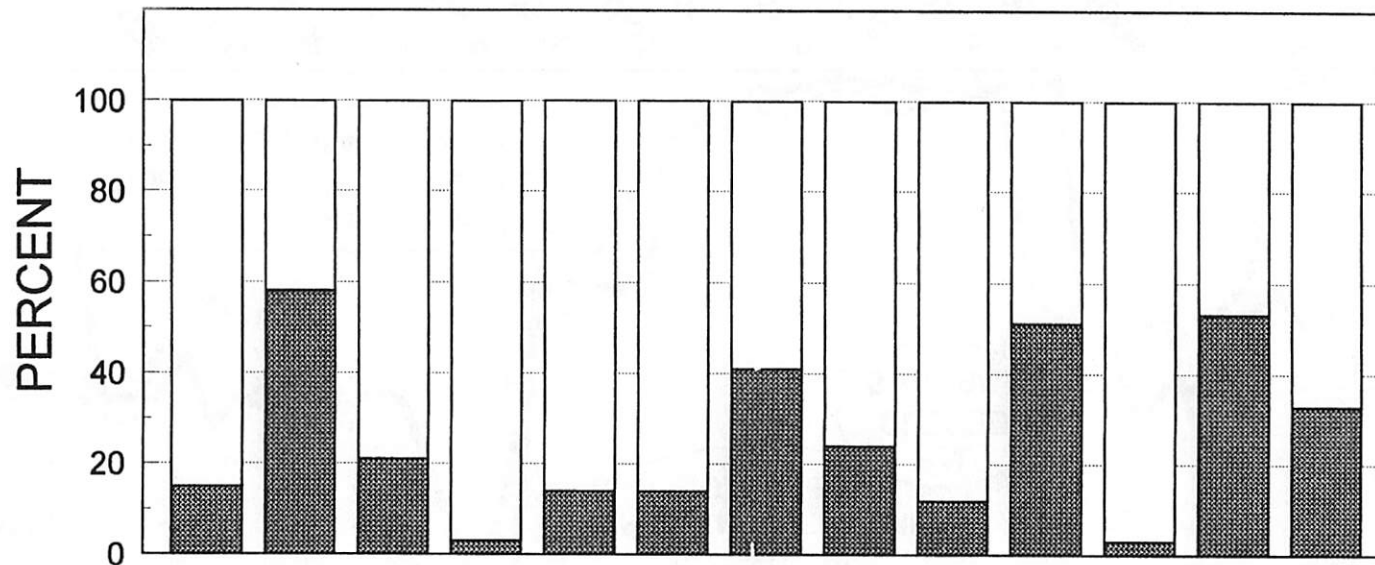
(through 11/22/97)

1996-97 BSAI FIXED GEAR PACIFIC COD CATCH



(through 11/22/97)

1997 BSAI GROUND FISH DISCARDS BY GEAR & TARGET



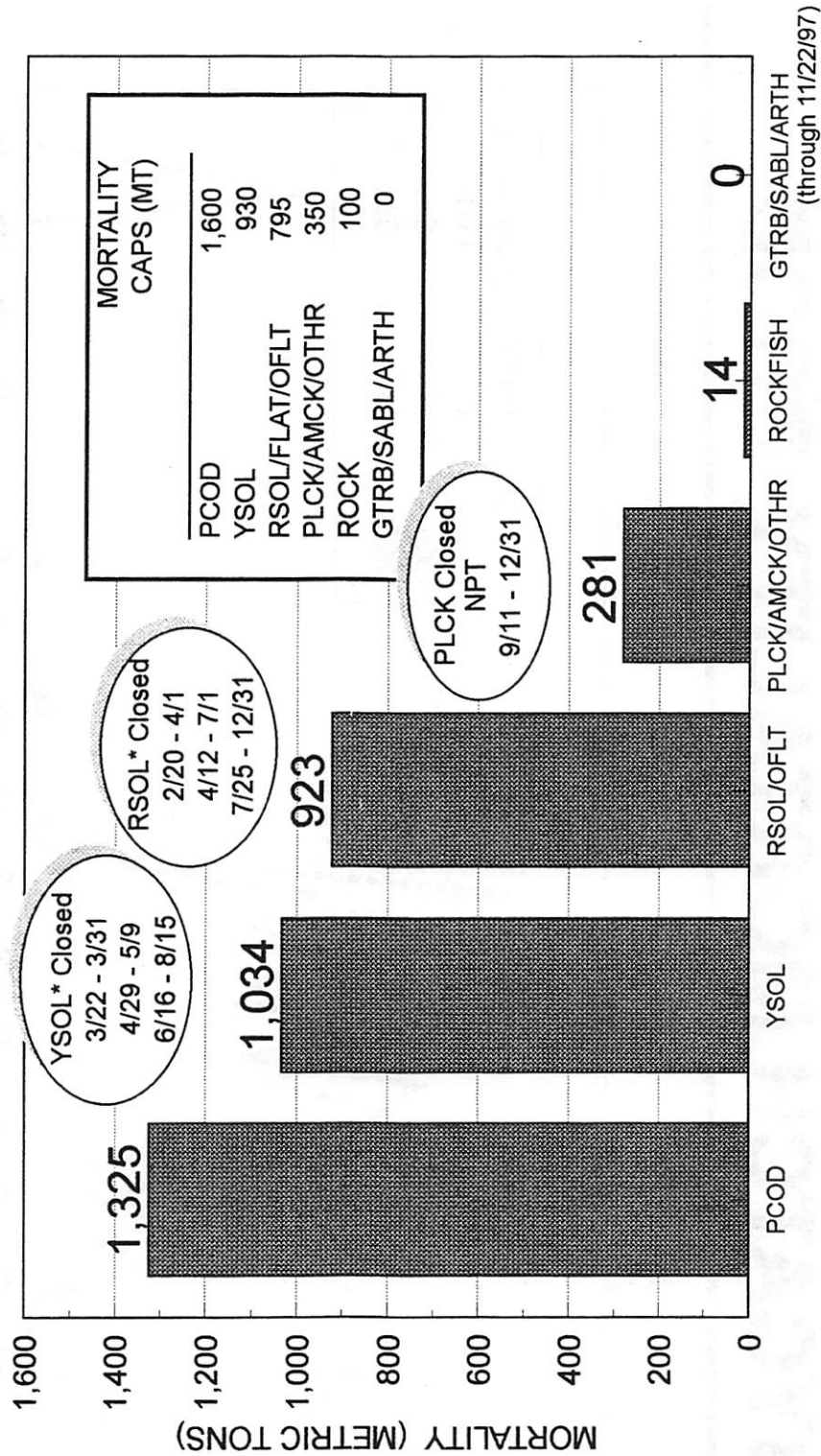
	C-HAL	S-HAL	T-HAL	C-POT	A-TRW	B-TRW	C-TRW	F-TRW	K-TRW	L-TRW	P-TRW	R-TRW	Y-TRW
DISCARDED	19,872	1,639	1,209	614	10,306	7,074	56,782	963	1,481	9,938	34,434	33,094	81,442
RETAINED	113,313	1,190	4,530	21,743	62,072	42,609	80,624	2,974	10,801	9,732		29,380	163,339

1,014,564

TARGETS	A - Atka mackerel	P - Midwater pollock
	B - Bottom pollock	R - Rock sole
	C - Pacific cod	S - Sablefish
	F - Other flatfish	T - Greenland turbot
	K - Rockfish	Y - Yellowfin sole
	L - Flathead sole	

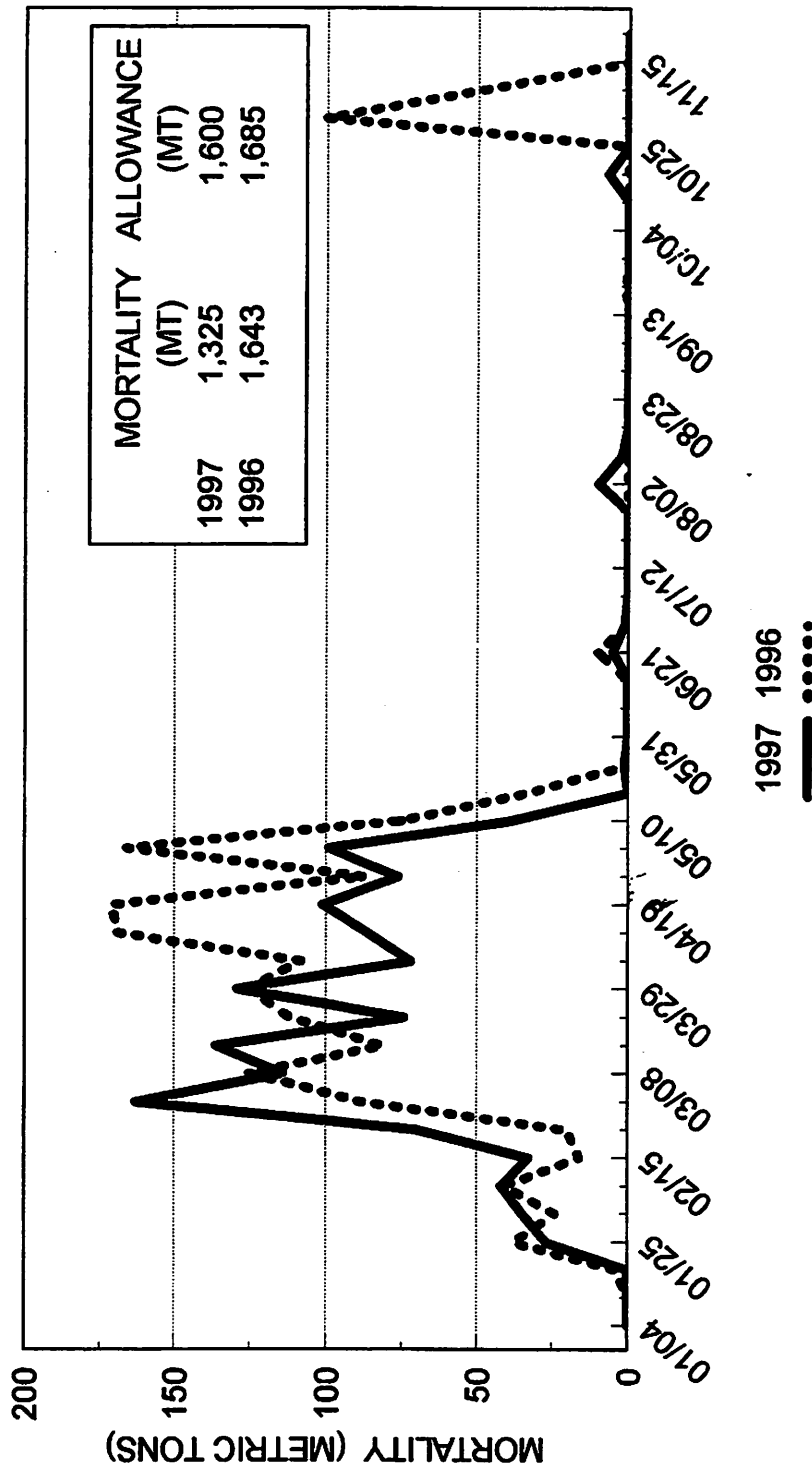
(through 11/22/97)

1997 BSAI TRAWL HALIBUT BYCATCH MORTALITY



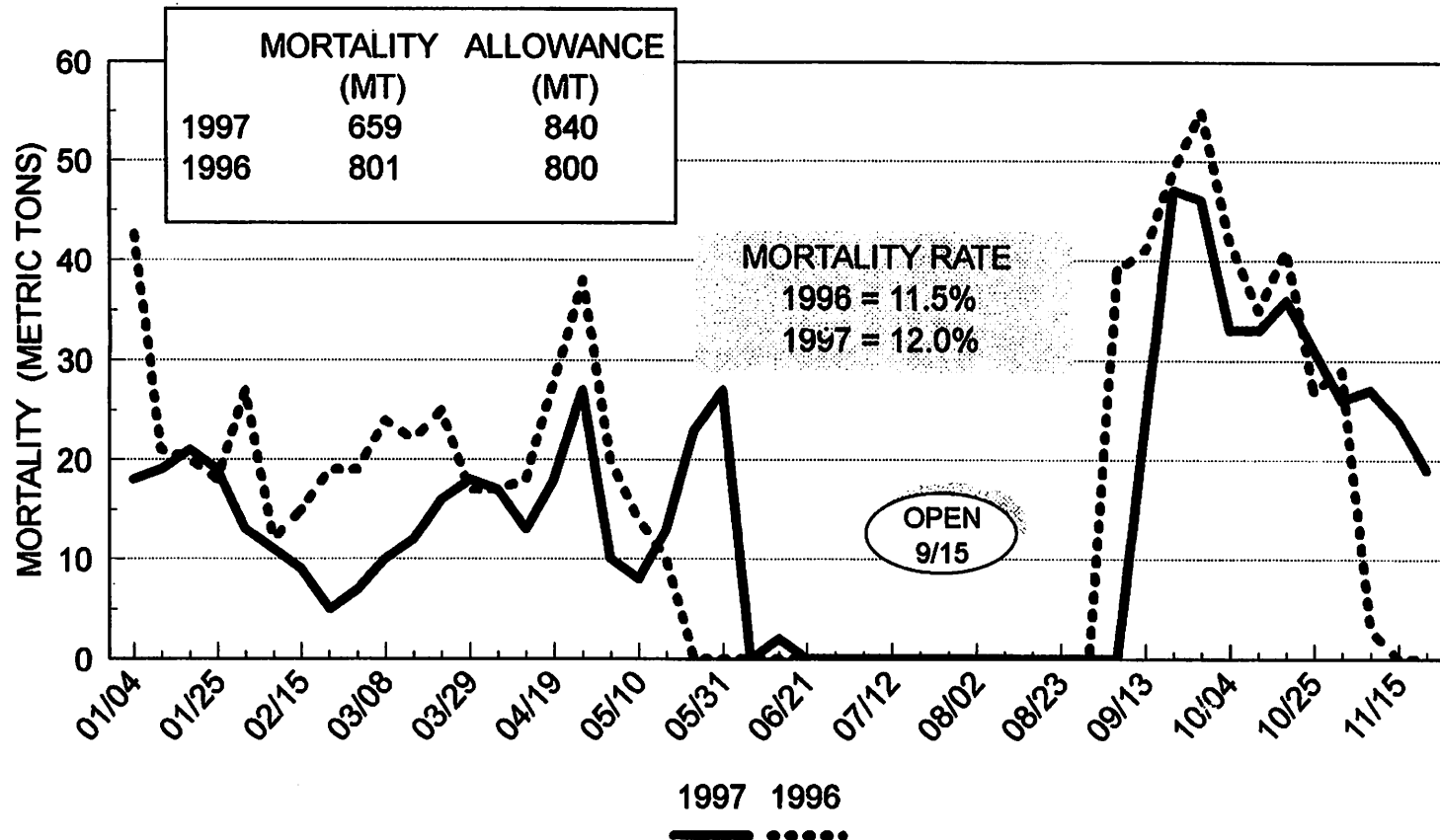
*Closures shown are due to halibut bycatch
 Total halibut mortality thru 11/22: 3,577
 Annual total halibut cap: 3,775

1996-97 BSAI TRAWL HALIBUT BYCATCH MORTALITY, PCOD



(through 11/22/97)

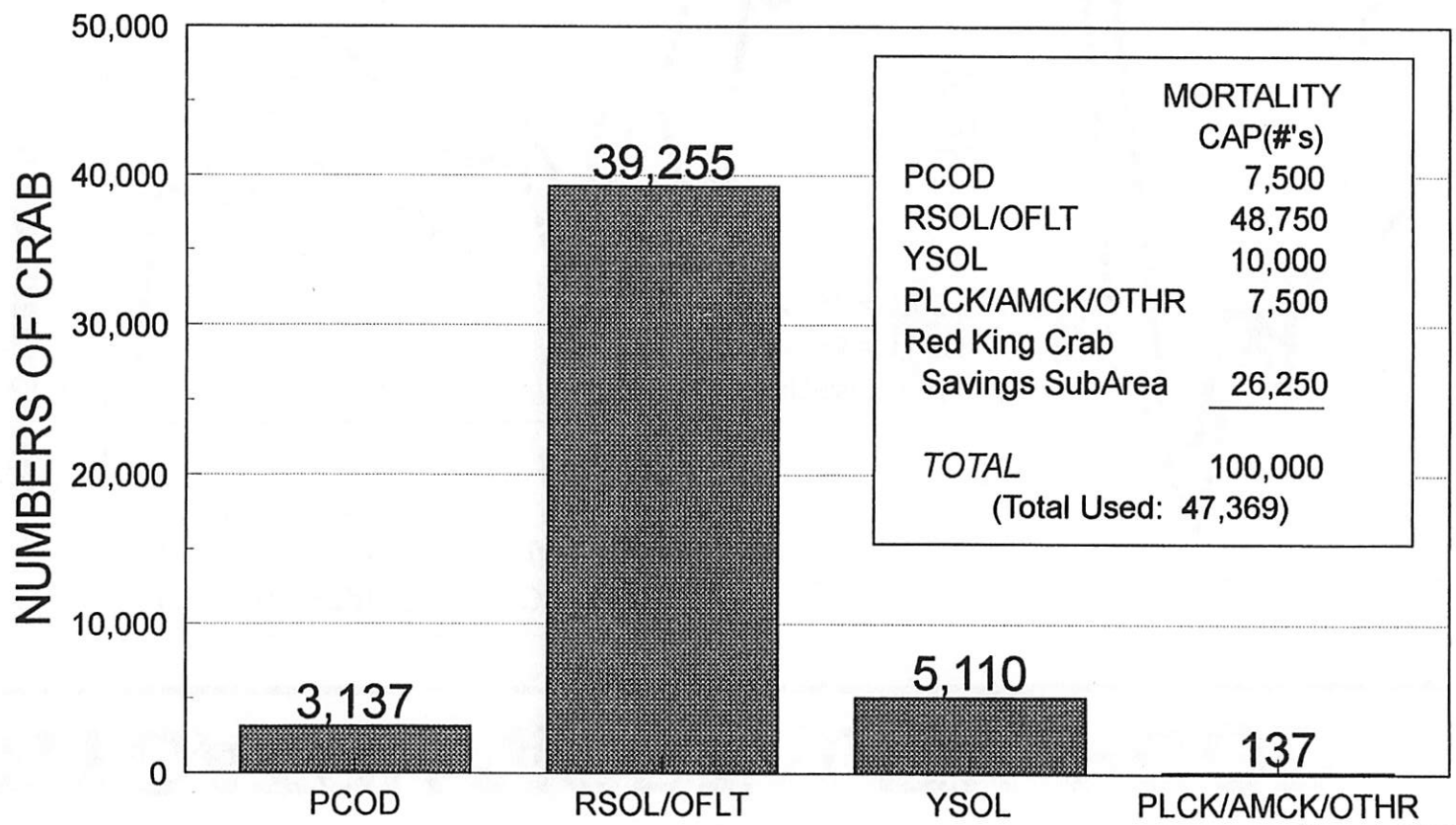
1996-97 BSAI H&L HALIBUT BYCATCH MORTALITY, PCOD



(through 11/22/97)

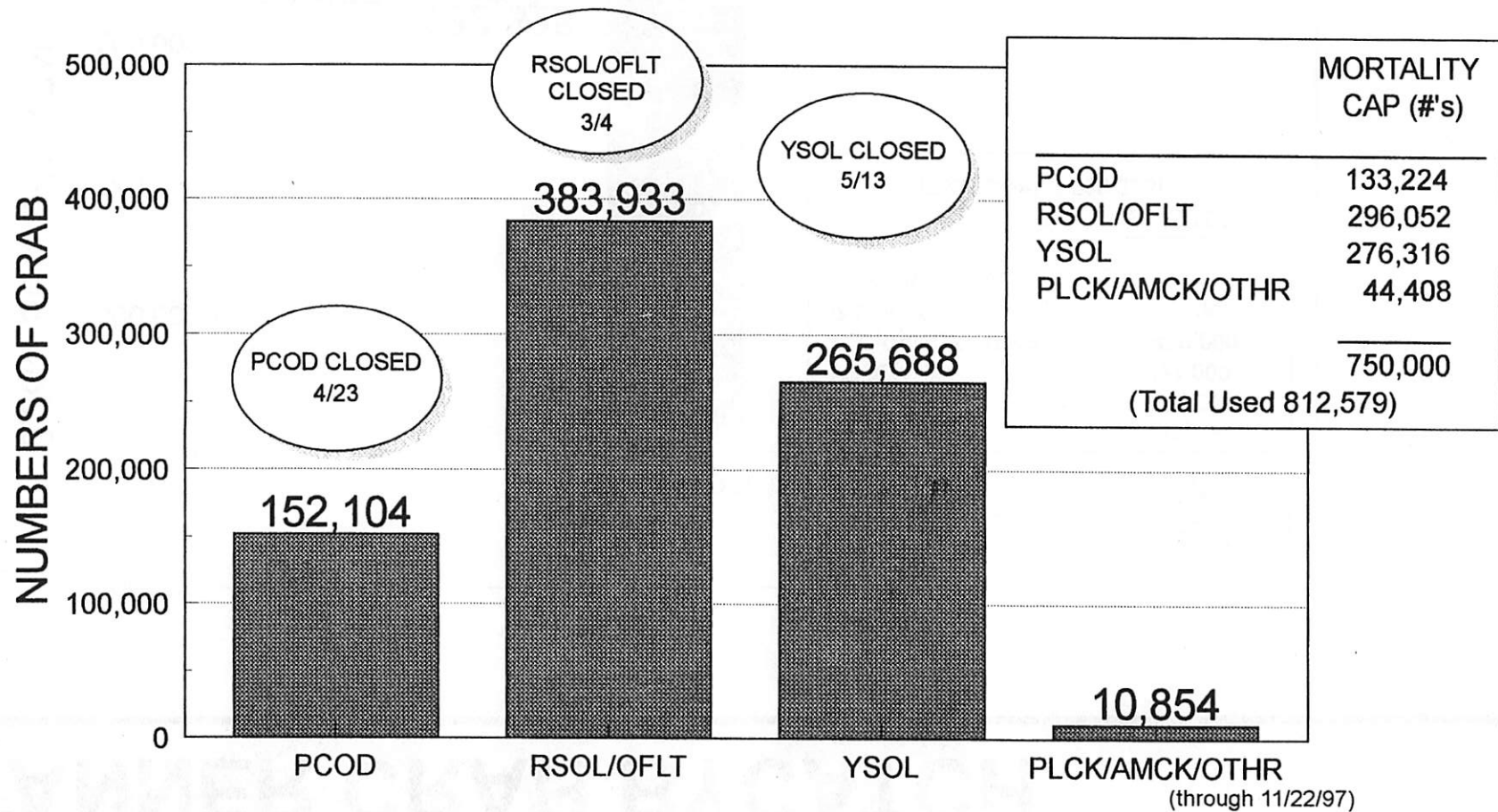
NOTE: Pot gear is exempt from bycatch allowance

1997 BSAI ZONE 1, TRAWL RED KING CRAB BYCATCH

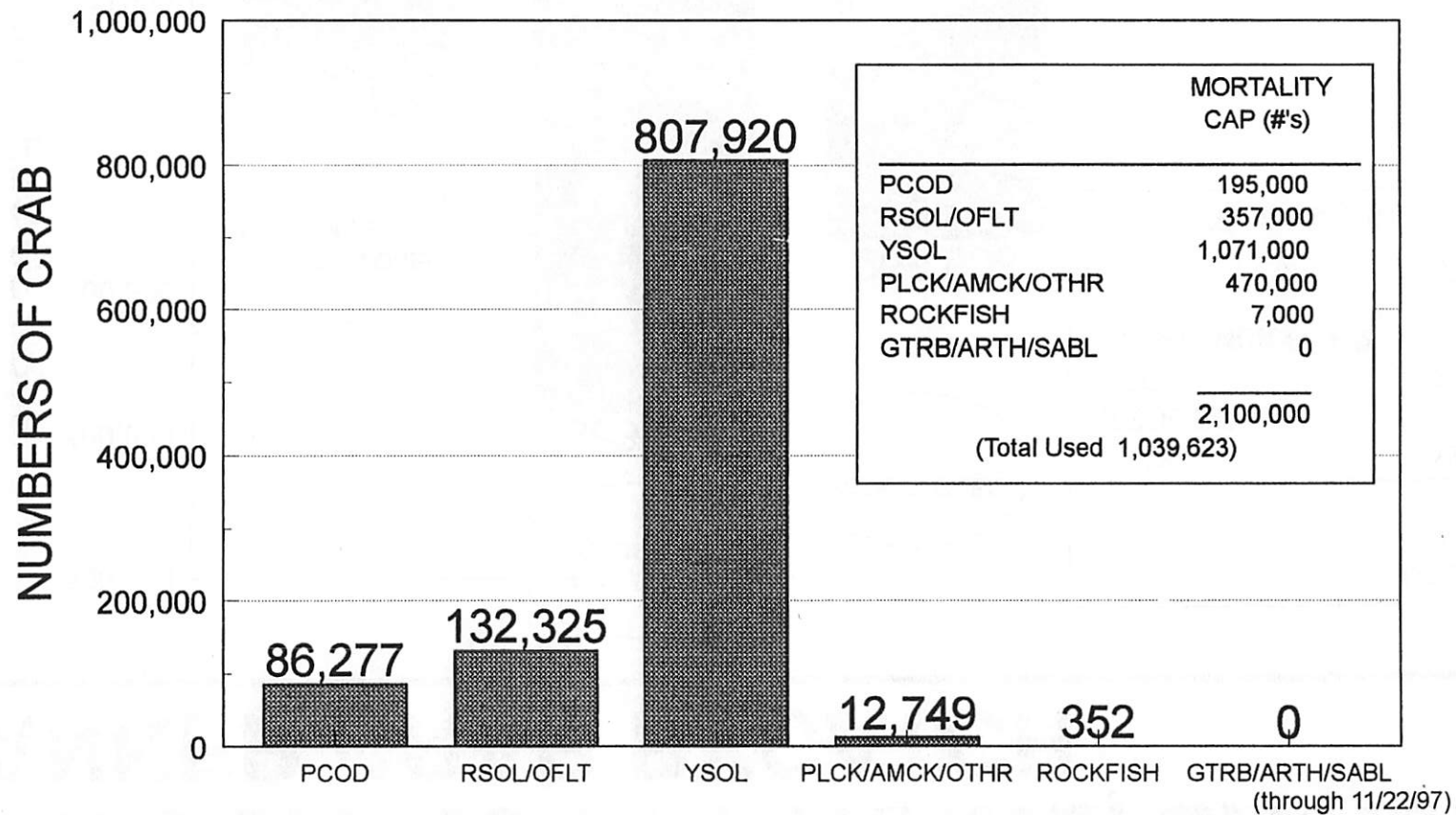


(through 11/22/97)

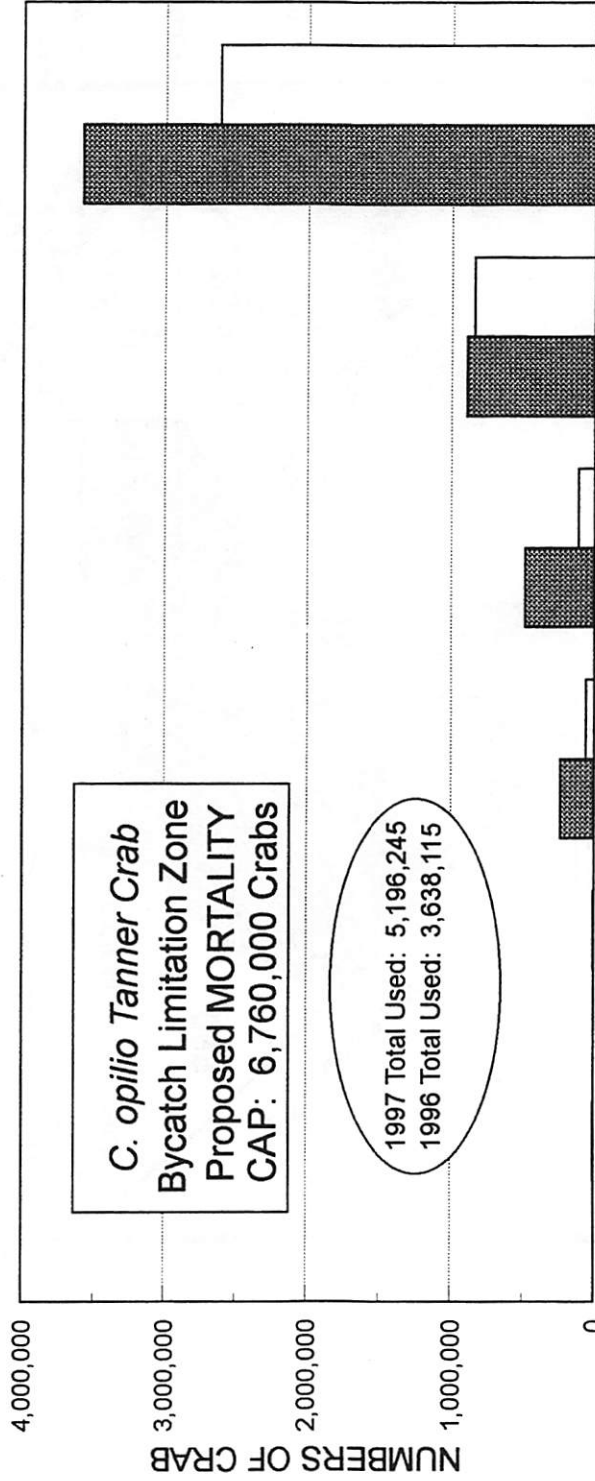
1997 BSAI ZONE 1 TRAWL, BAIRDI TANNER CRAB BYCATCH



1997 BSAI ZONE 2, TRAWL BAIRDI TANNER CRAB BYCATCH



1996-97 BSAI TRAWL, OPIILIO TANNER CRAB BYCATCH

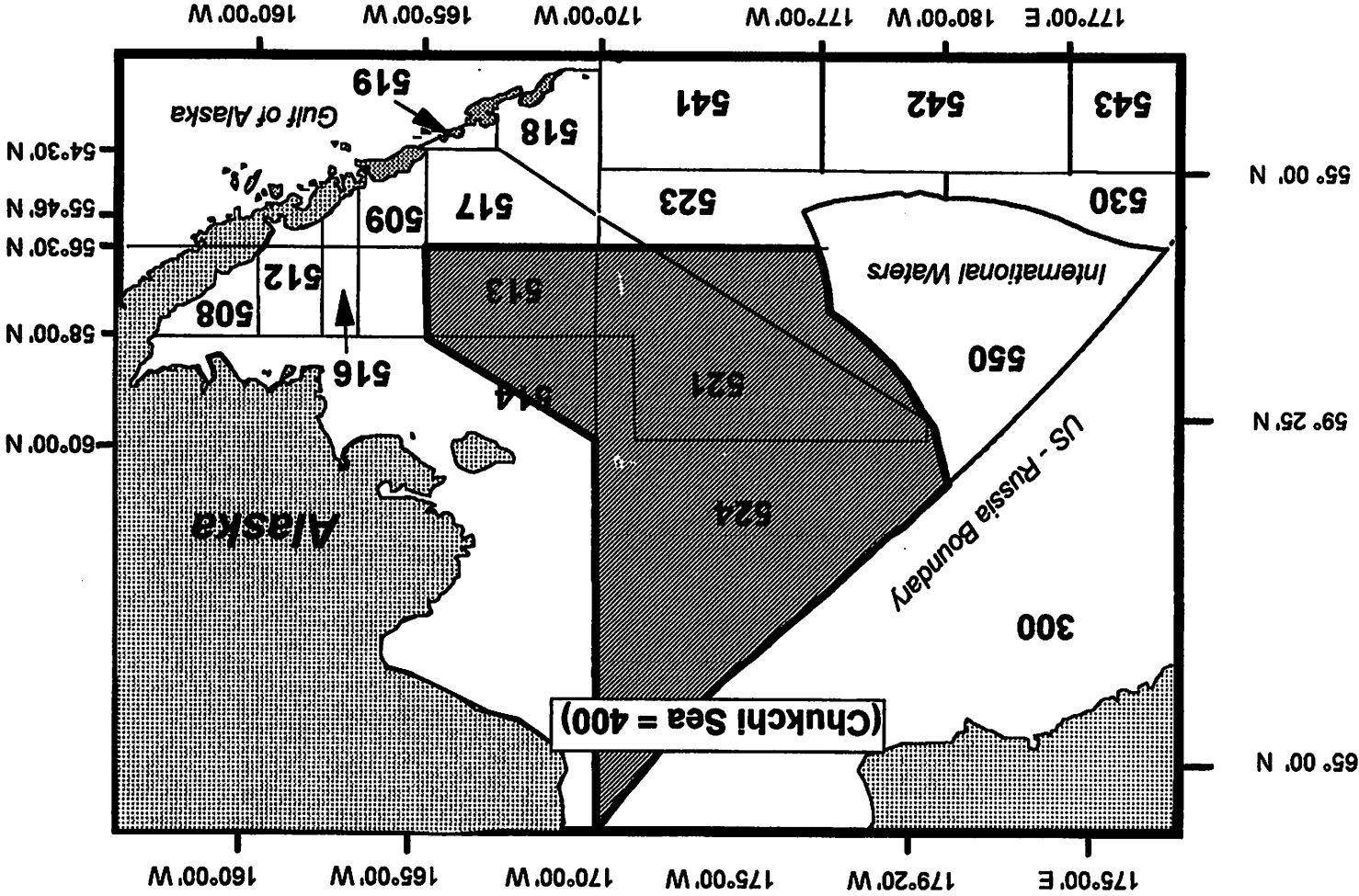


	ROCKFISH	GTRB/ARTH/SABL	PLCK/AMCK/OTHER	PCOD	RSOL/FSOL/OFLT	YSOL
1997	0	0	232,993	485,792	893,735	3,583,725
1996	138	5,927	58,743	110,125	843,249	2,619,934

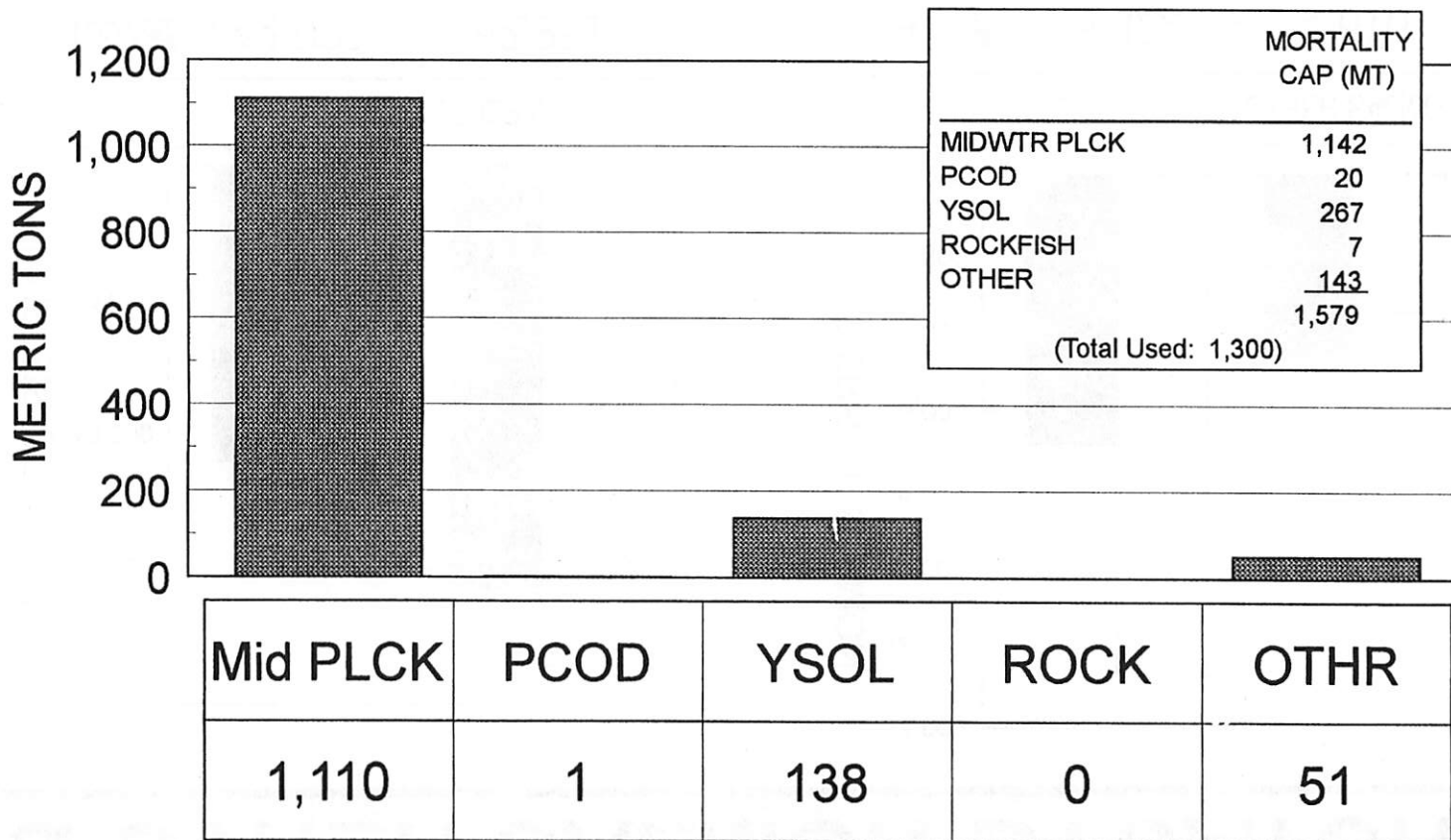
(through 11/22/97)

BSAI C. OPILIO CRAB BYCATCH LIMITATION

ZONE (COBLZ)

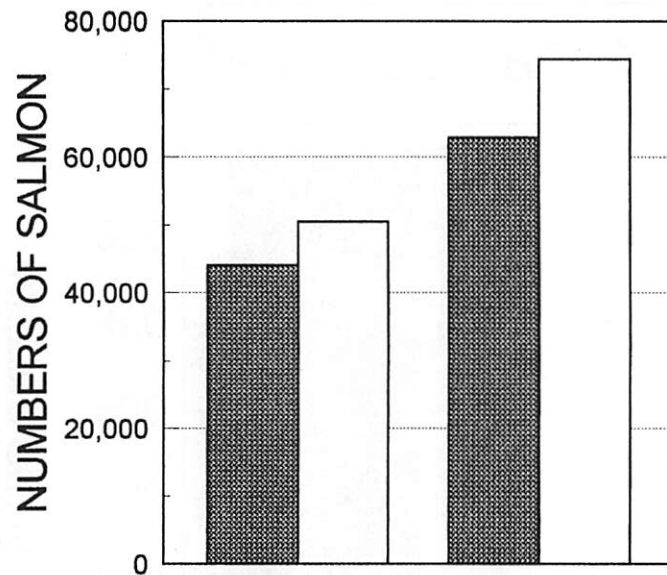


1997 BSAI TRAWL, HERRING BYCATCH



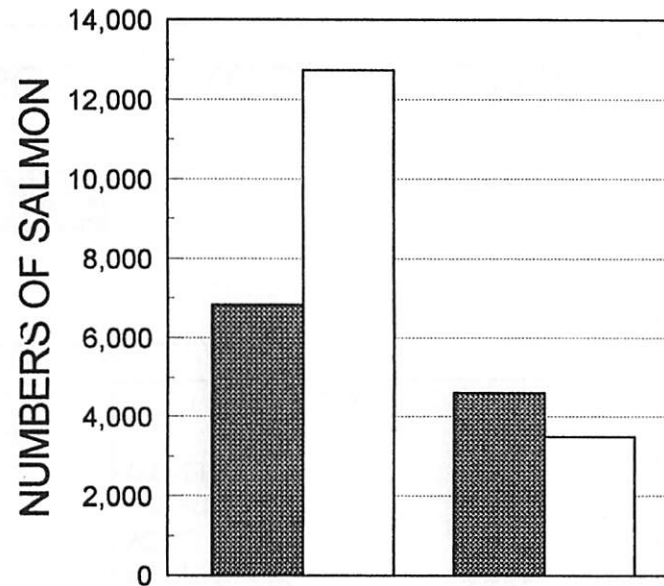
(through 11/22/97)

1996-97 BSAI TRAWL, CHINOOK & OTHER SALMON BYCATCH



	CHINOOK	OTHER SALMON
1997 ■	44,000	62,951
1996 □	50,438	74,486

MIDWATER POLLOCK



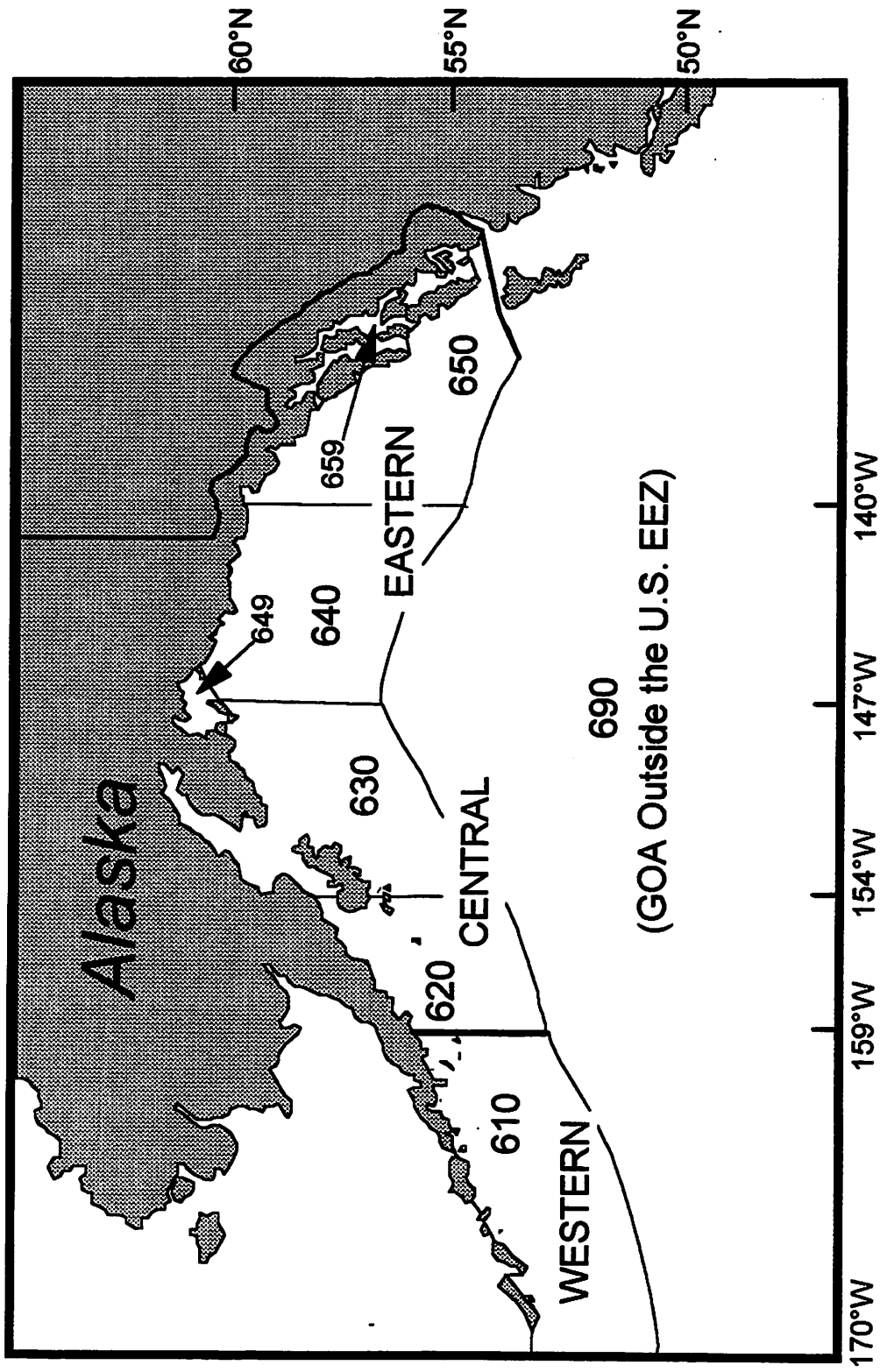
	CHINOOK	OTHER SALMON
1997 ■	6,822	4,616
1996 □	12,741	3,505

OTHER FISHERIES

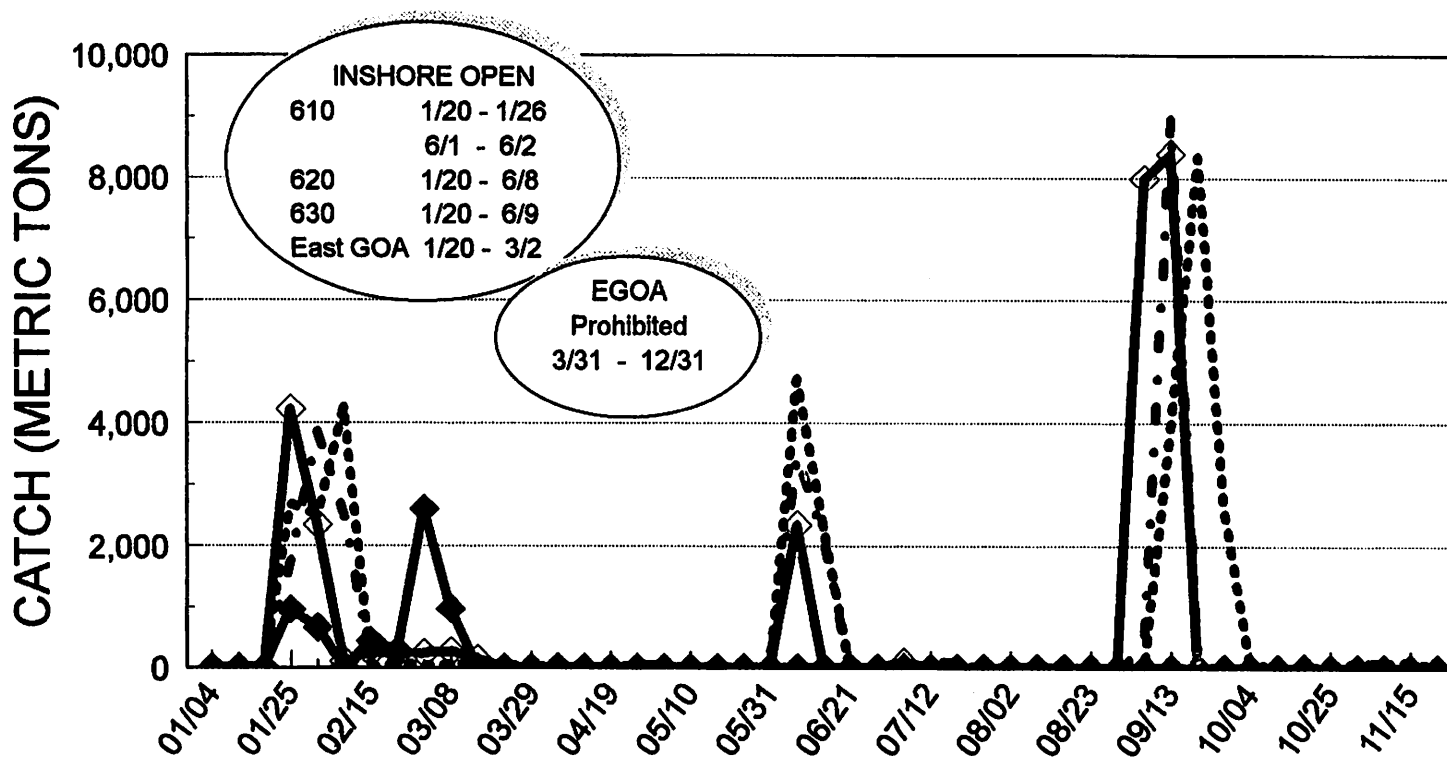
(through 11/22/97 and 11/22/96)

GULF OF ALASKA

1997 REPORTING AREAS OF THE GULF OF ALASKA



1997 GOA POLLOCK CATCH



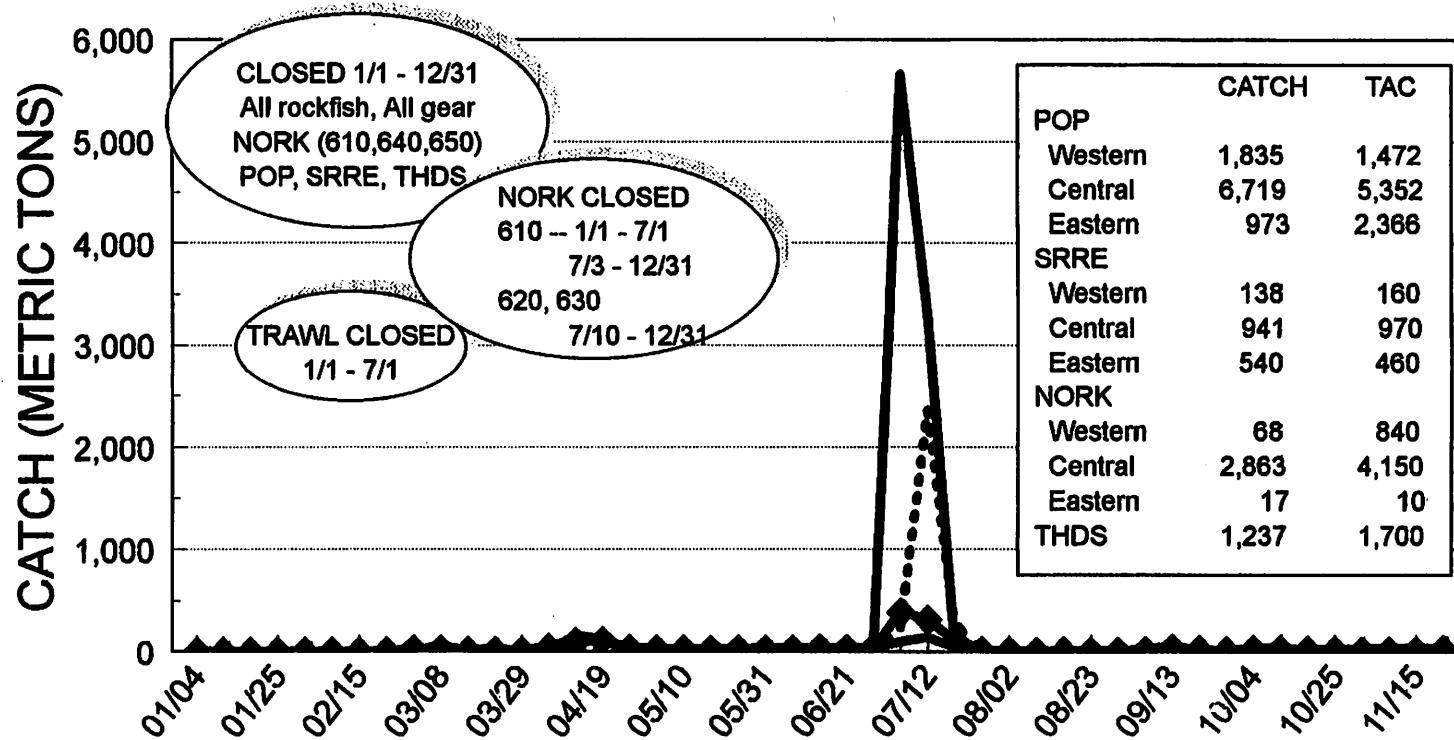
	CATCH (MT)	TAC (MT)
610	26,615	18,600
620	32,124	31,250
630	25,147	24,550
EAST GOA	5,915	5,580

610 620 630 EGOA

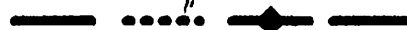
—◇— - - - —◆—

(through 11/22/97)

1997 GOA ROCKFISH CATCH



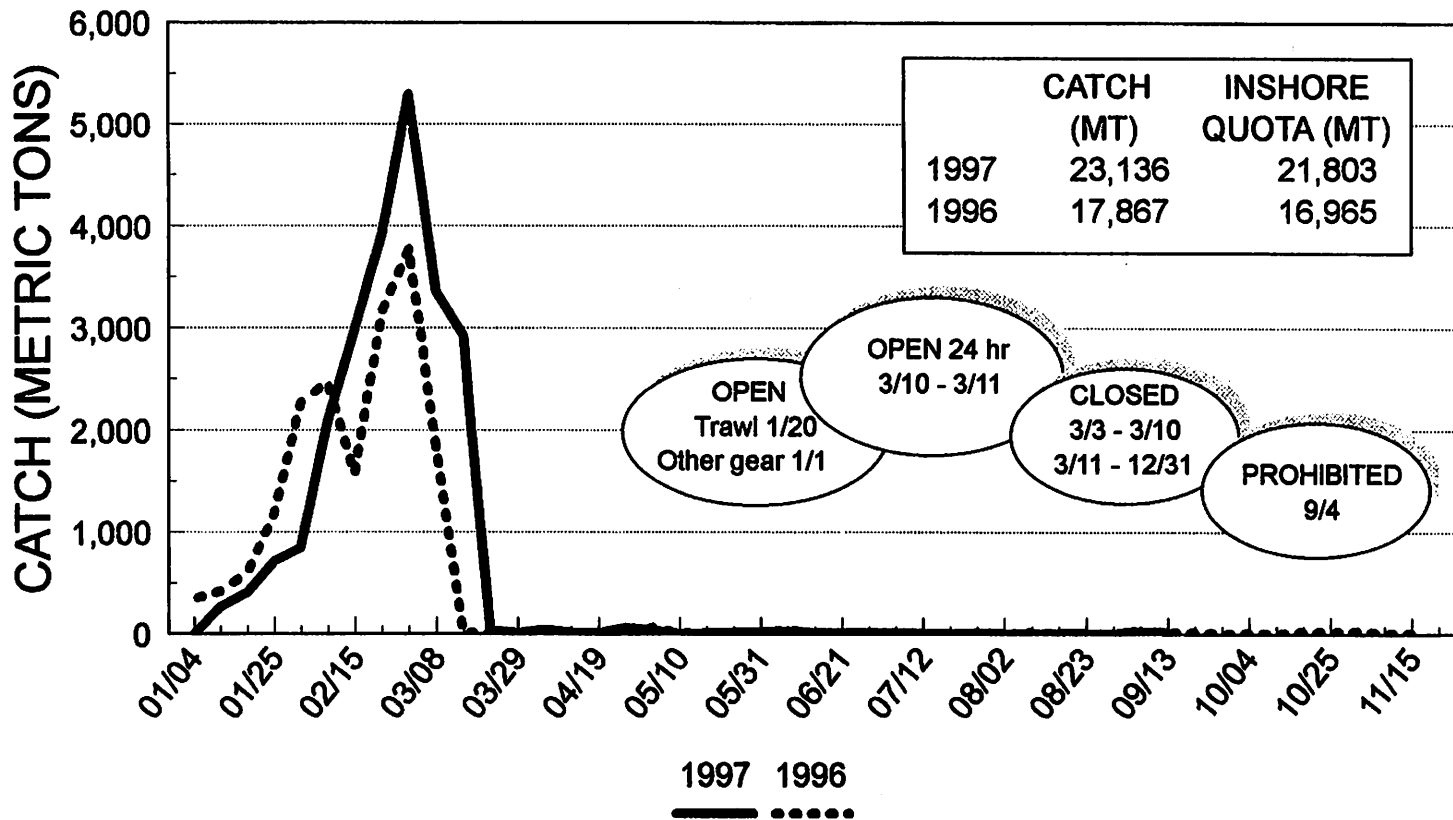
THDS NORK SRRE POP



POP = Pacific Ocean perch
 SRRE = Shortraker/rougheye rockfish
 NORK = Northern rockfish
 THDS = Thornyheads

(through 11/22/97)

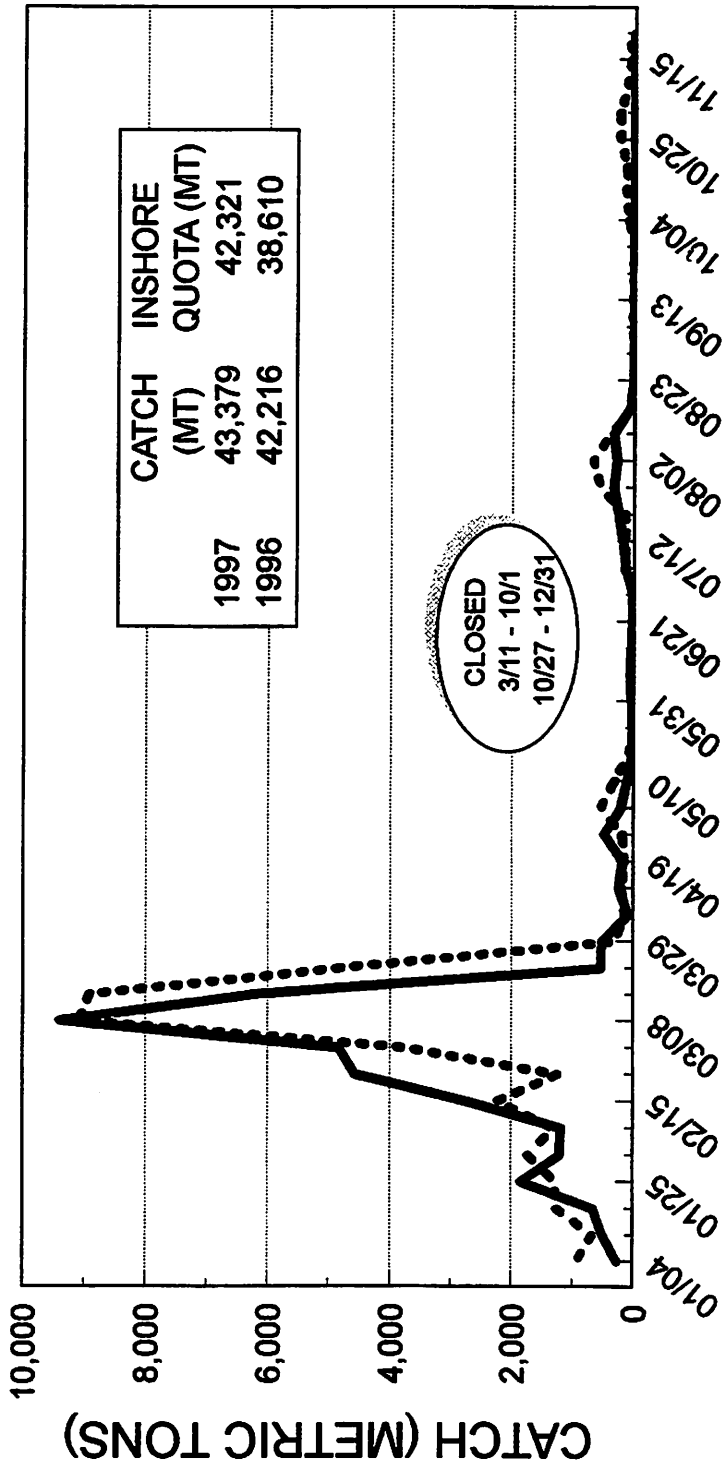
1997 WESTERN GOA INSHORE PACIFIC COD CATCH



(through 11/22/97)

NOTE: Discard of Pacific cod attributed to 610 Inshore Pacific cod through 11/22/97 = 583 mt

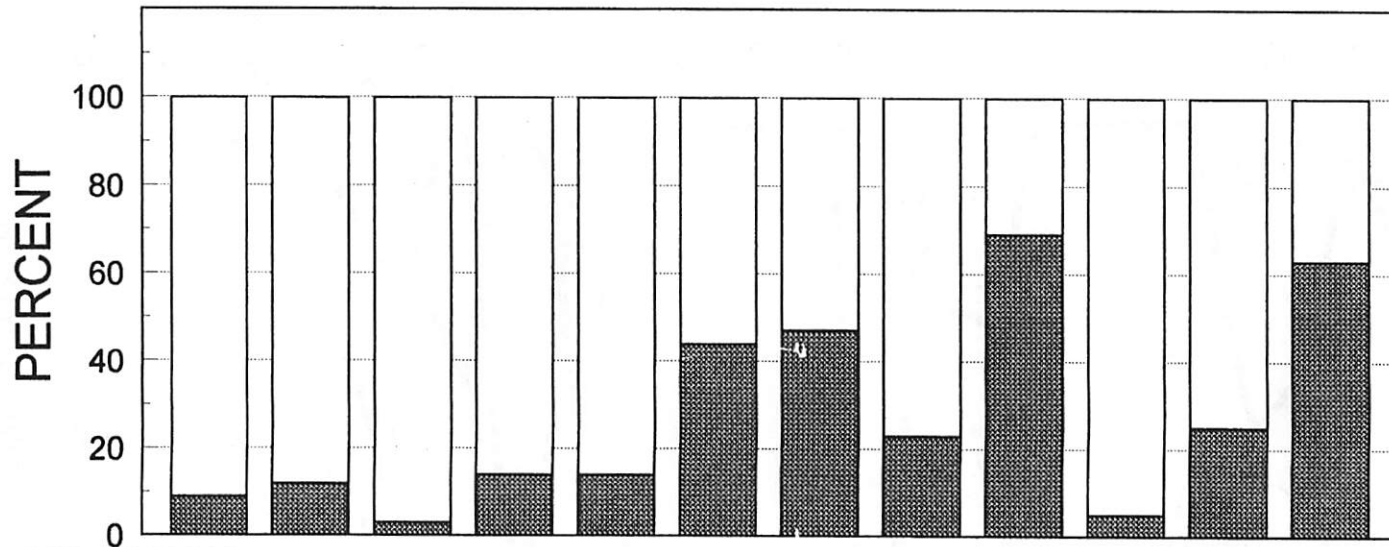
1997 CENTRAL GOA INSHORE PACIFIC COD CATCH





1997 1996

(through 11/22/97)

1997 GOA GROUND FISH DISCARDS BY GEAR & TARGET

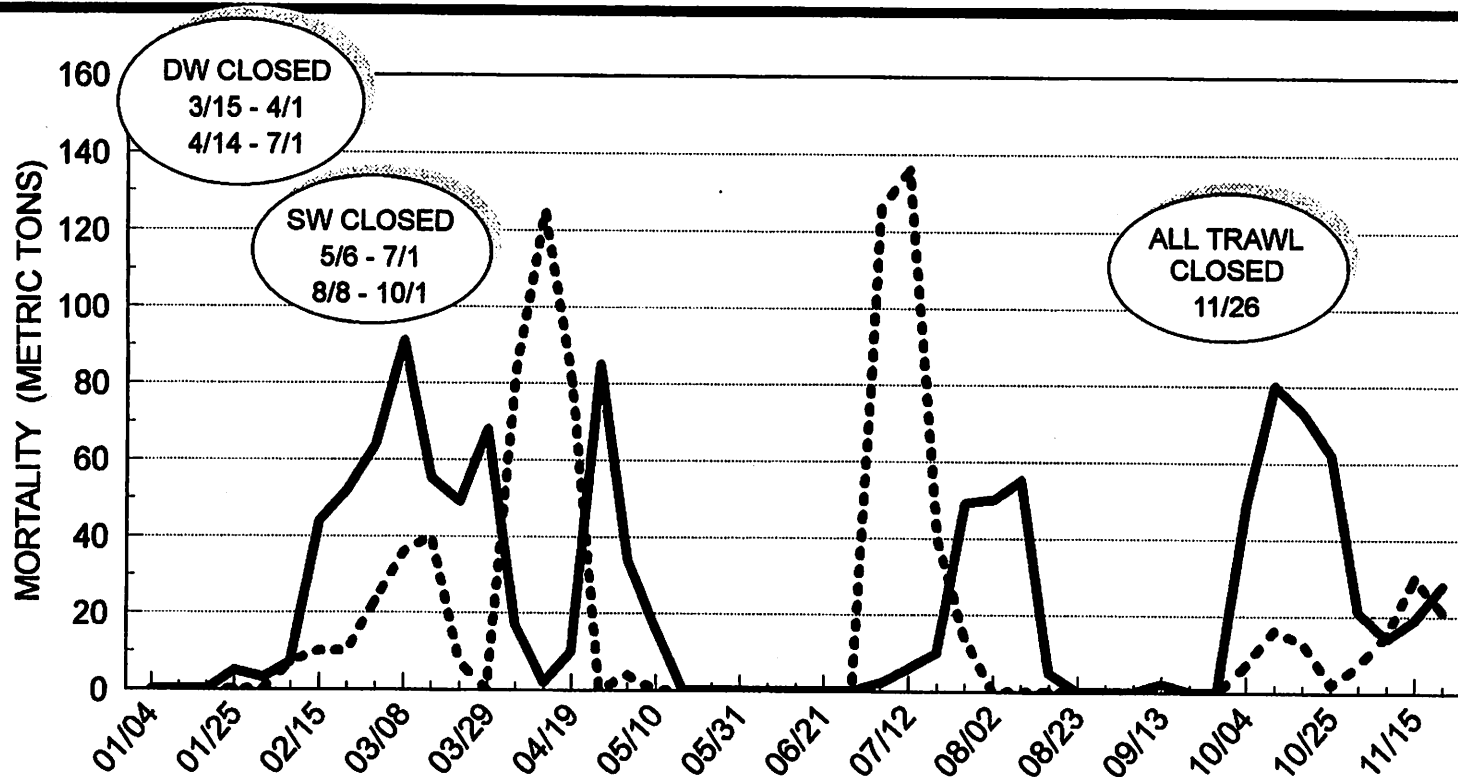


	C-HAL	S-HAL	C-POT	B-TRW	C-TRW	D-TRW	H-TRW	K-TRW	L-TRW	P-TRW	W-TRW	X-TRW
DISCARD 	1,053	1,959	307	660	7,367	3,168	4,740	4,525	2,927	4,331	749	5,371
RETAIN 	10,427	14,515	9,090	4,046	45,828	3,966	5,300	15,528	1,309	78,938	2,243	3,124

(through 11/22/97)

TARGETS	B - Bottom pollock	L - Flathead sole
	C - Pacific cod	P - Midwater pollock
	D - Deep water flatfish	S - Sablefish
	H - Shallow Water Flatfish	W - Arrowtooth flounder
	K - Rockfish	X - Rex sole

1997 GOA SW & DW TRAWL HALIBUT BYCATCH MORTALITY

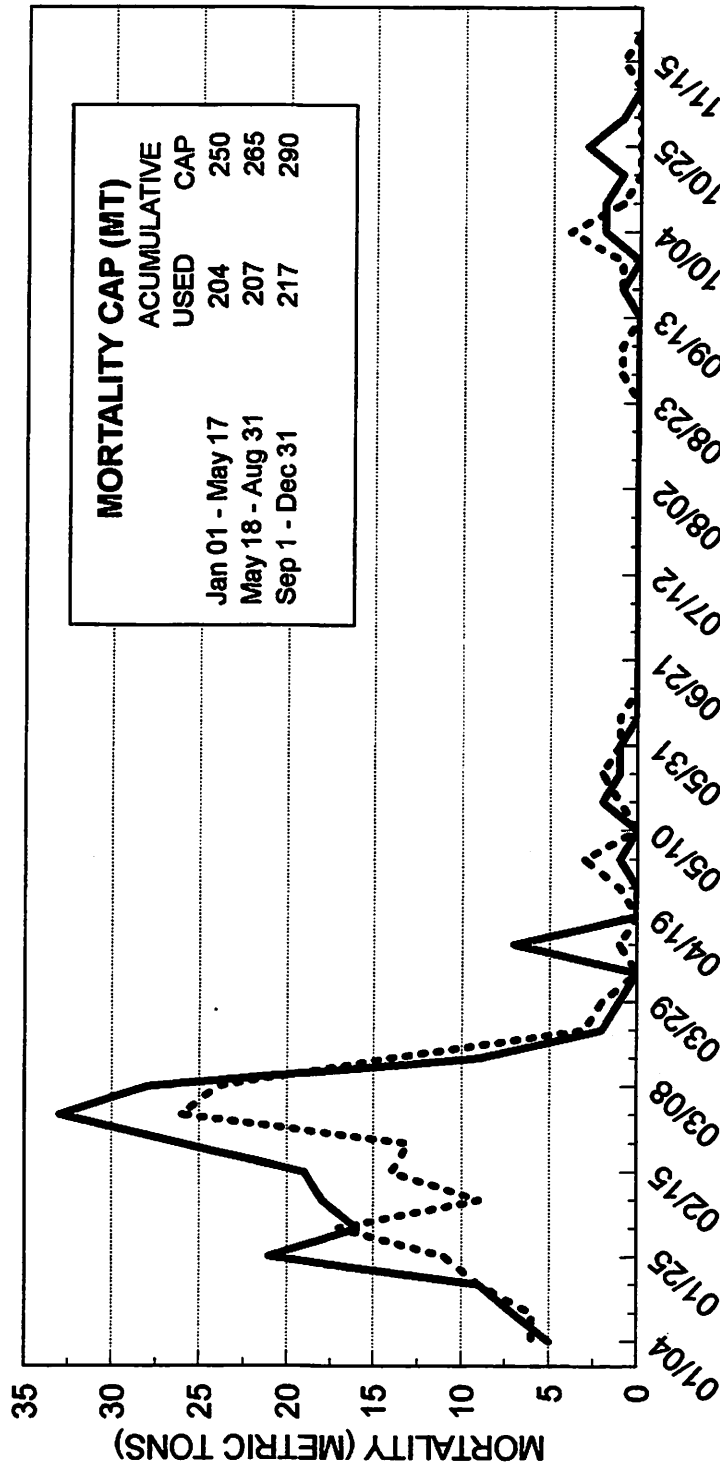


MORTALITY CAPS (MT)				
	SW Fishery		DW Fishery	
	CUMULATIVE USED	CAP	CUMULATIVE USED	CAP
Jan 01 - Mar 31	438	500	133	100
Apr 01 - Jun 30	604	600	426	400
Jul 01 - Sep 30	785	800	742	800
Oct 01 - Dec 31	← (400) →			
	1,132		853	
TOTAL CAP: 2,000 MT				

SW DW
 ——— ·····

(through 11/22/97)

1996-97 GOA HOOK & LINE*, HALIBUT BYCATCH MORTALITY

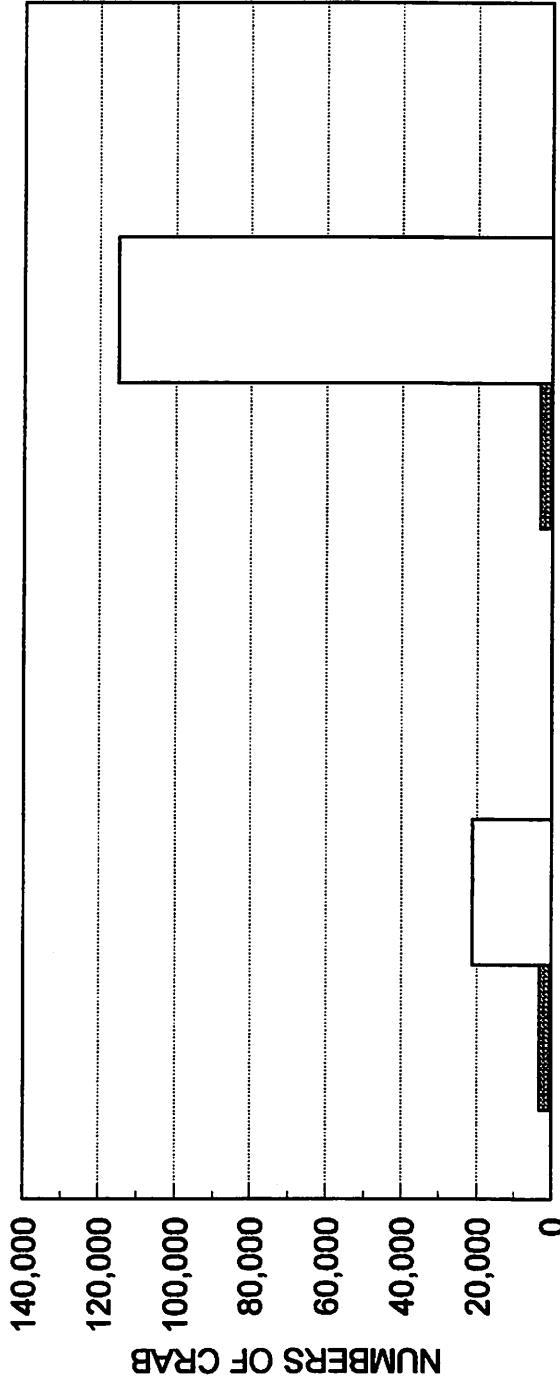


*Sablefish not included

** Demersal shelf rockfish fishery, Southeast District, is not listed due to insufficient observer coverage.

(through 11/22/97)

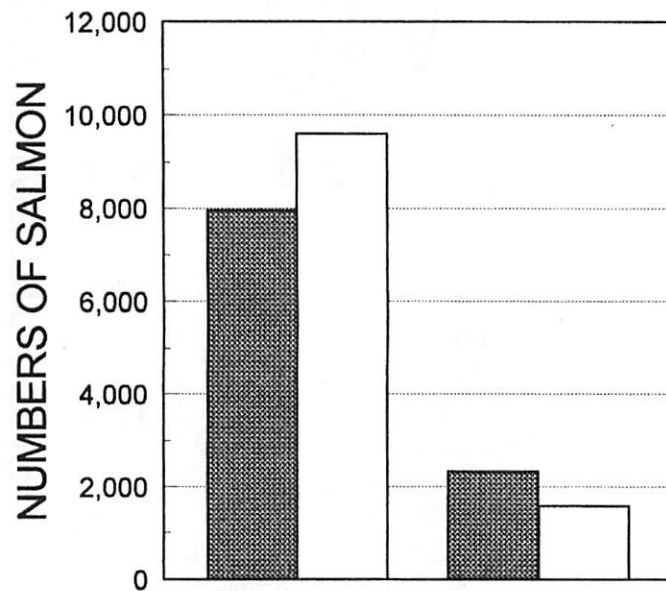
1997 GOA TRAWL, TANNER & RED KING CRAB BYCATCH



	DW FISHERY	SW FISHERY
OTANNER	3,196	3,133
BAIRDI	21,121	115,084
RED KING	0	16

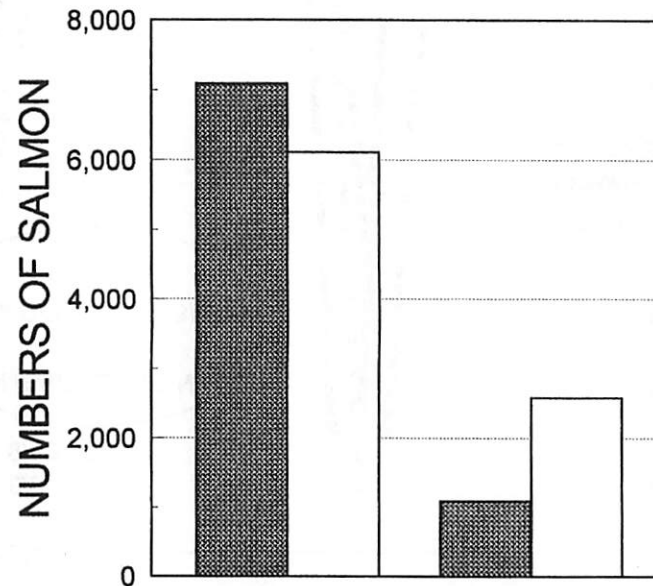
(through 11/22/97)

1996-97 GOA TRAWL, CHINOOK & OTHER SALMON BYCATCH



	CHINOOK	OTHER SALMON
1997 ■	7,965	2,326
1996 □	9,609	1,590

MIDWATER POLLOCK

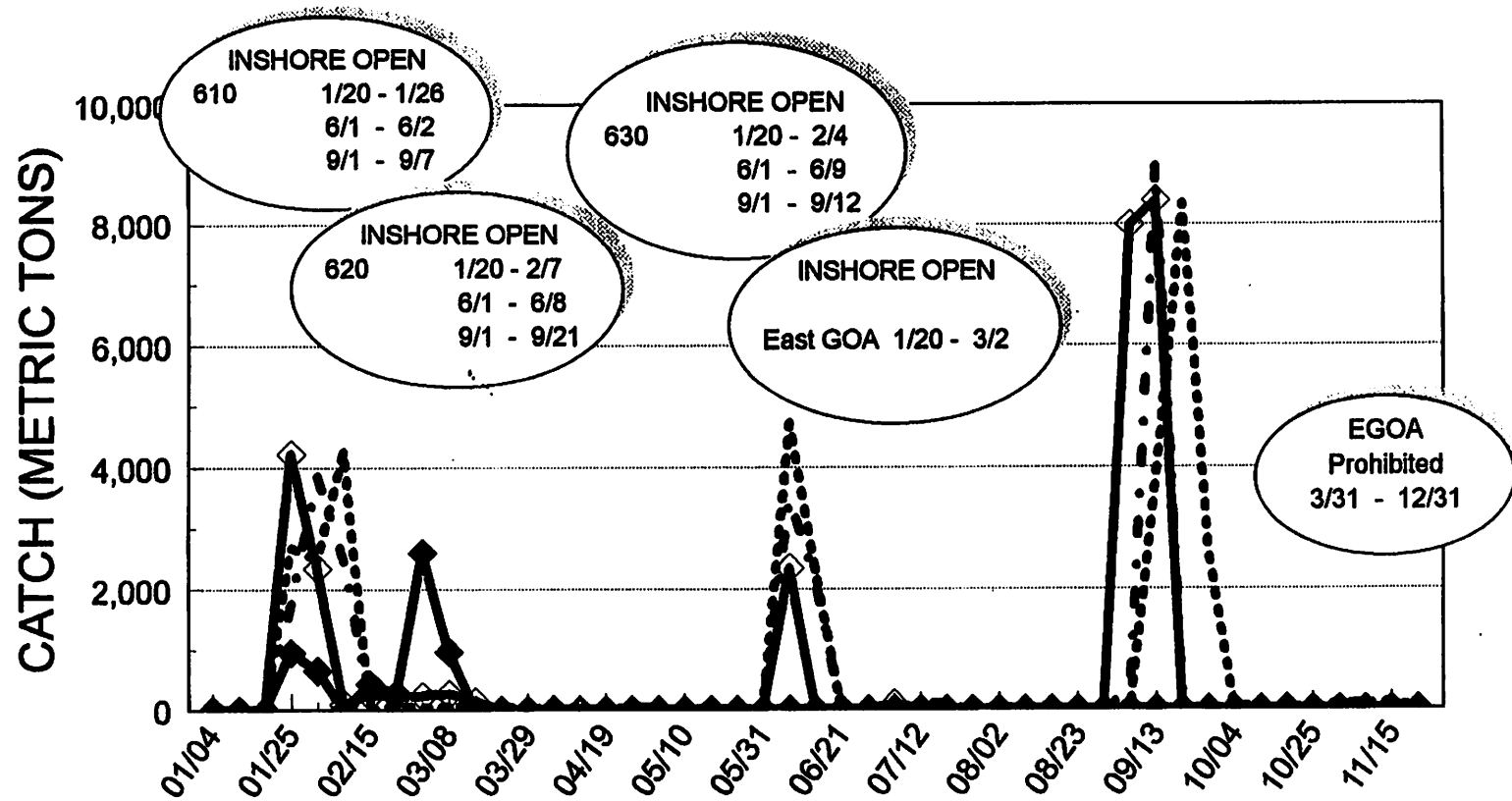


	CHINOOK	OTHER SALMON
1997 ■	7,096	1,090
1996 □	6,114	2,579

OTHER FISHERIES

(through 11/22/97 and 11/22/96)

1997 GOA POLLOCK CATCH



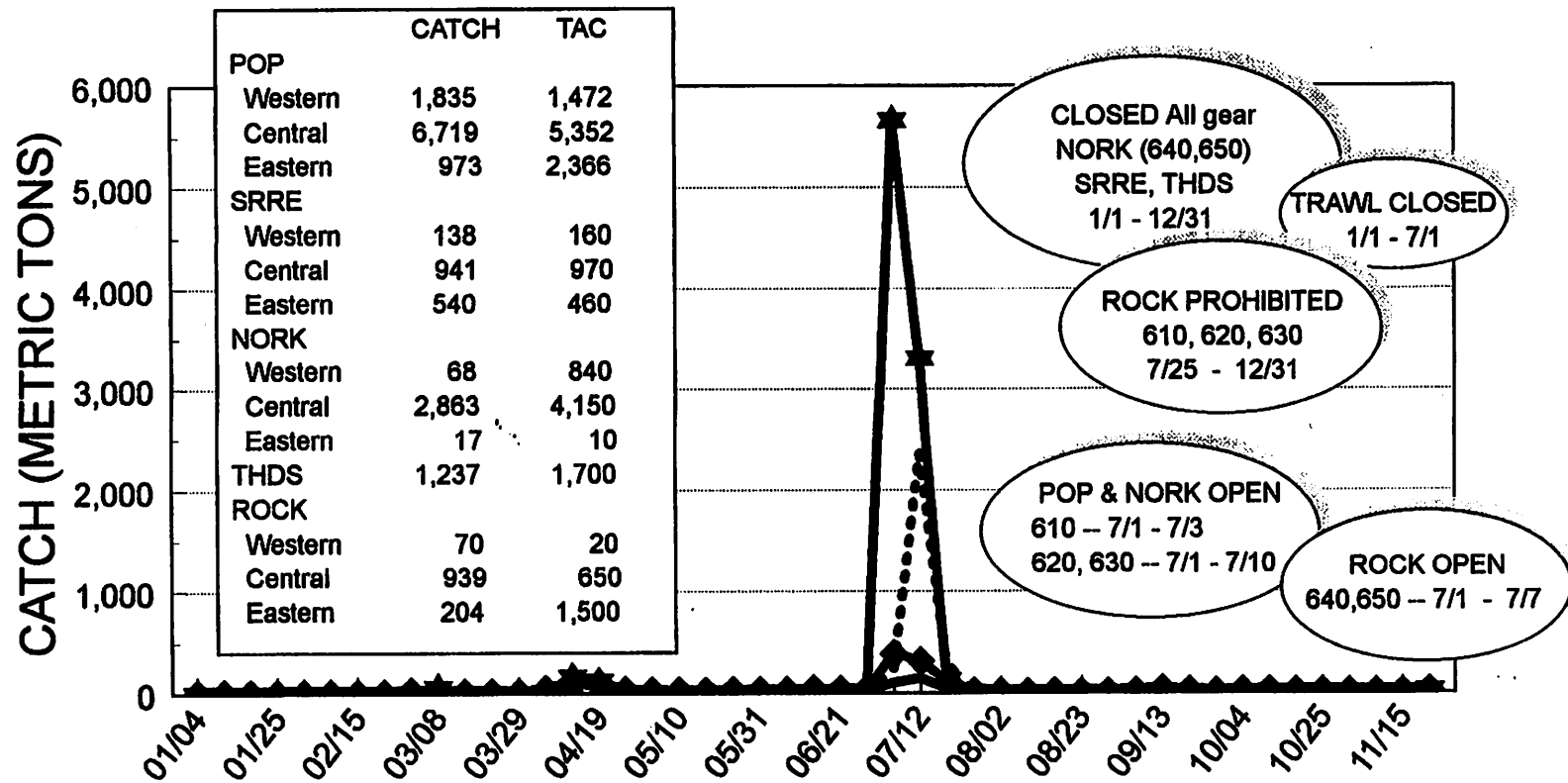
	CATCH (MT)	TAC (MT)
610	26,615	18,600
620	32,124	31,250
630	25,147	24,550
EAST GOA	5,915	5,580

610 620 630 EGOA

—◆— - - - —■—

(through 11/22/97)

1997 GOA ROCKFISH CATCH



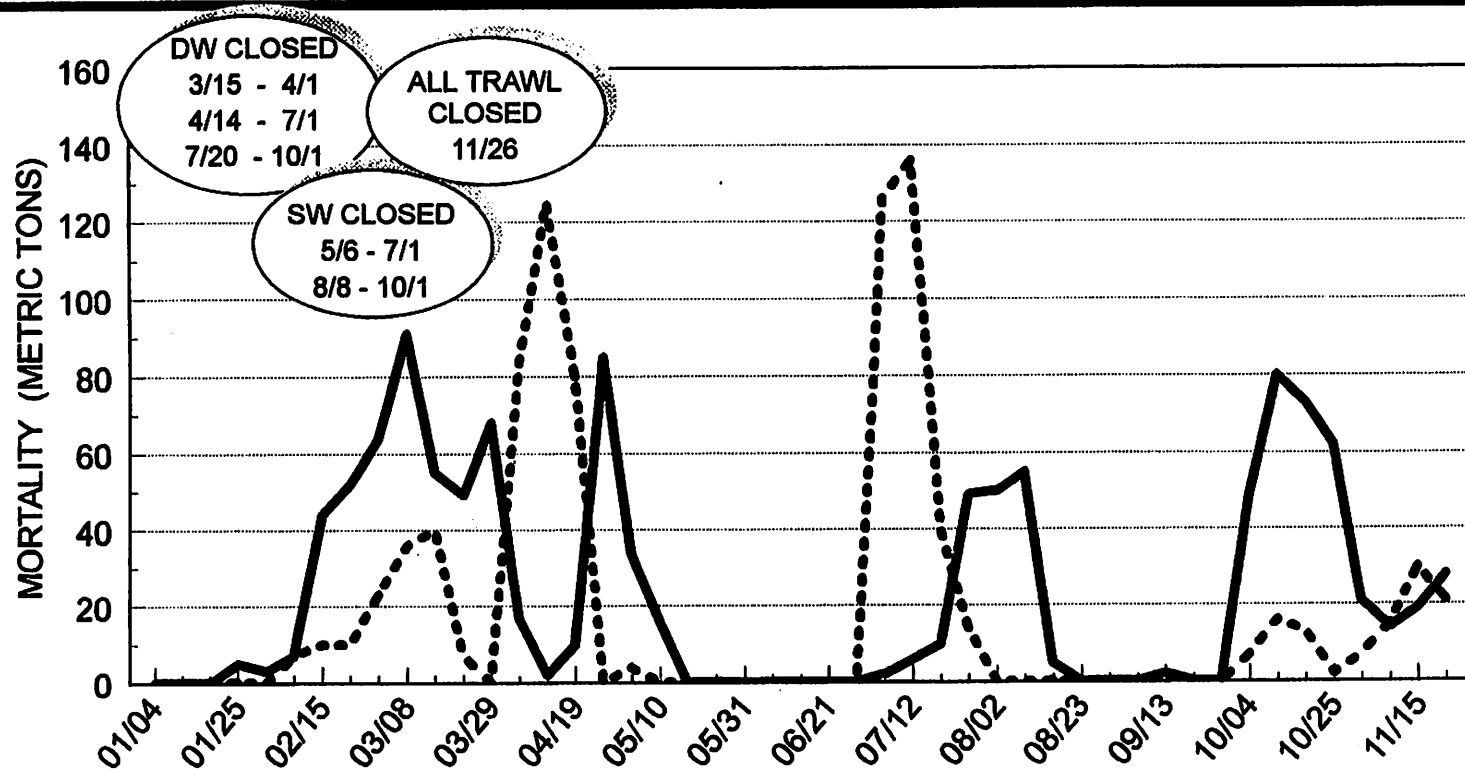
THDS NORK SRRE POP

— ····· ◆ ★

POP = Pacific Ocean perch
 SRRE = Shortraker/rougheye rockfish
 NORK = Northern rockfish
 THDS = Thornyheads
 ROCK = Other rockfish

(through 11/22/97)

1997 GOA SW & DW TRAWL HALIBUT BYCATCH MORTALITY



MORTALITY CAPS (MT)				
	SW Fishery		DW Fishery	
	CUMULATIVE USED	CAP	CUMULATIVE USED	CAP
Jan 01 - Mar 31	438	500	133	100
Apr 01 - Jun 30	604	800	428	400
Jul 01 - Sep 30	785	800	742	800
Oct 01 - Dec 31	← (400) →			
	1,132		853	
	MORTALITY 1,985 MT			
	TOTAL CAP: 2,000 MT			

SW ——— DW ·····

(through 11/22/97)

FMP AMENDMENT	ACTION	STATUS
BSA 34 App. 11-13-97	Allocates 2% Atka mackerel TAC in Eastern AL/BS to Jig gear fleet	Final rule review in WDC
BSA 36/GOA 39	Management of forage fish species	Comment period on 34/39 ends Jan 12; Proposed rule review in WDC
BSA 39/GOA 41 Crab 5 App. 9-12-97	Crab CDQ; Groundfish CDQ reserve; SEO trawl closure	Final rule in Regional review
	Groundfish /crab LLP	Final rule in Regional review
	Groundfish CDQ	Final rule being prepared in Region
BSA 40 App. 10-15-97	<u>C. opilio</u> bycatch limit	Final rule review in WDC
BSA 49 App. 9-3-97	IR/IU	Final rule effective Jan 3, 1998
GOA 49 App. 10-29-97	IR/IU	Final rule review in WDC
GOA 46	Remove black & blue rockfish from the FMP	comment periods: Amend - 1/05/98 PR - 1/16/98
BSA 50/GOA 50	Halibut donation program	Proposed rule in Regional review
BSA ?/GOA ?	North Pacific Sablefish IFQ Loan Prog.	Proposed rule being prepared in Reg. Office

REGULATORY AMENDMENTS	STATUS
IFQ wt. calculation of overages/underages based on weight of catch at time of landing and ice and slime deductions	Final Rule effective 12-12-97
Clarification of observer contractor insurance provisions	Final rule effective 11-7-97
At sea scale certification program	Final rule review in WDC
Extension of interim observer program through 1998	Final rule review in WDC
Change scallop seasons in PWS and Yakutat Reg. Areas from Jan 10 to July 1	Final rule in Regional review
Revise "surviving spouse" transfer provisions for IFQ program	Comment period through 12-8-97
1998 proposed groundfish specs	Proposed rule in WDC review
Seabird avoidance measures in the Pacific halibut fishery	Proposed rule in WDC review
Reduce MRB percentage for shortraker/rougheye in the AI	Proposed rule in WDC review
Revision of 1998 recordkeeping and reporting requirements	Proposed rule in WDC review
Revision of halibut catch sharing plan for Area 4	Proposed rule in WDC review
Allow retention of undersized halibut in the CDQ fishery	Proposed rule being prepared by Region
Establish minimum percentage of vessel ownership for non-corporate entities to use hired skippers in the IFQ fisheries	Proposed rule being prepared by Region
Electronic reporting	Proposed rule being prepared by Region
North Pacific Halibut IFQ Loan Prog.	Proposed rule being prepared in Reg. Office

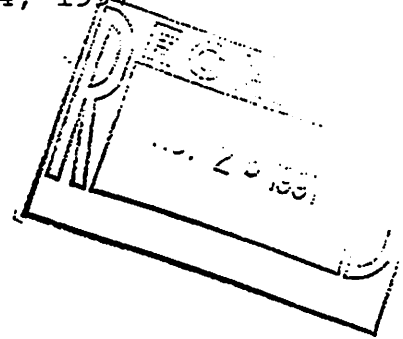


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
National Oceanic and Atmospher
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

AGENDA B-3
DECEMBER 1997
SUPPLEMENTAL

November 24, 1997

Dr. Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252



Dear Clarence:

Thank you for your letter inquiring about our ability to implement the guideline harvest level (GHL) developed by the Council for the guided sport fishery for halibut. I understand that the Council intended the GHL to have no immediate effect on the charterboat fishery and that setting the GHL served as a notice that growth of that fishery will be limited in some manner, yet to be decided. The fact that the Council did not specify any regulatory response to the attainment of the GHL, however, makes establishing the GHL in regulations problematical. Without specifying what would happen if the GHL is reached, the GHL by itself would be ineffective as a regulation.

The Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (Halibut Act) provides the Council with discretionary authority to develop regulations which are in addition to and not in conflict with regulations developed by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). Such regulations are implemented with approval of the Secretary, and generally pertain only to the allocation of halibut fishing privileges while regulations developed by the IPHC pertain primarily to the biological conservation of the halibut resource. The Council has previous experience with this process, for example, in developing regulations for Area 4C, for the halibut Individual Fishing Quota and Community Development Quota programs, and the Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for Area 4. In each case, the regulatory regime was well articulated by the Council before Secretarial review. By comparison, the GHL for guided sport catch of halibut is not fully developed; the Council has not specified what we would implement if the GHL were reached.

The Council's intent regarding its GHL policy may be satisfied, however, by publishing it as a notice in the Federal Register. This notice would describe how and why the Council arrived at this policy. Such a notice would be similar to publication of a control date. It would have no restrictive or constraining effect on the guided sport fishery, but it would formally announce the Council's intention to develop management measures to maintain guided sport fishery catches at or below the GHL. This alternative would involve the publication of only one notice in the Federal Register and no Secretarial approval or disapproval decision. No further action by the Council would be required. The Council's policy recommendation on this issue is



clear. The Federal Register publication would serve primarily to memorialize the GHF policy without regulatory effect.

The Council's attention on this issue should next focus on the development of charterboat fishery management measures. To facilitate the industry discussion and development of management measures, I recommend that the Council establish an ad hoc charterboat industry committee similar to the industry committee created to develop practical measures to improve retention and utilization of groundfish based on general policy direction from the Council. We should not expect the Board of Fisheries (BOF) local advisory committees to perform this role because the management measures would have to be applied to entire regulatory areas (2C or 3A). Also, my staff would be able to consult with one Council committee but not with many BOF local advisory committees. We should rely on the BOF local advisory committees only to develop and recommend local area management plans for halibut. Council-established industry committees have worked well in the past in developing negotiated management measures for the Council, and I suggest that the Council use the same organizational vehicle to develop charterboat industry management measures.

Sincerely,



Steven Pennoyer
Administrator, Alaska Region

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK. 99501-2252

11 December 1997

Councilmen,

It is requested by the Alaskan Charterboat Industry and myself that you consider rescinding the motion to place the Guideline Harvest Level on the guided recreational fishers' harvest of halibut. The unworkable problems with trying to manage our industry by the measures available should tell you this was not the appropriate action to take. We ask that you support the motion to reconsider and help this small Alaskan industry get the right consideration we deserve.

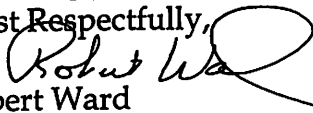
We understand that the council staff and the National Marine Fishery Service are having their problems with moving the motion into language that will do what the council intends it to do. We in the industry also see many inequities and more management problems this action will force on us in the future. With this request we can back out of this dilemma and re-direct our efforts towards what the industry can support and will sustain this valuable Alaskan coastal community industry.

We have very strong support by the charterboat association members throughout the state for immediate implementation of a moratorium in the IPHC areas 2C and 3A. We feel that effort and vessel limitation- only, will work for the Alaskan charterboat fleet. This measure will freeze those areas of concern and with the currently developing data collection plan we will be able to demonstrate the individual charter companies, vessels, harvests, client demographics and areas of operation, and of most importance- activity.

With the above action there will not be further growth in the number of boats on the grounds, and the data will show our catch information.

I do not want to act too far ahead at this time and I will follow up with further discussion at your convenience but I do need you to consider my request to rescind the GHL on the Guided Recreational Fisher's Harvest.

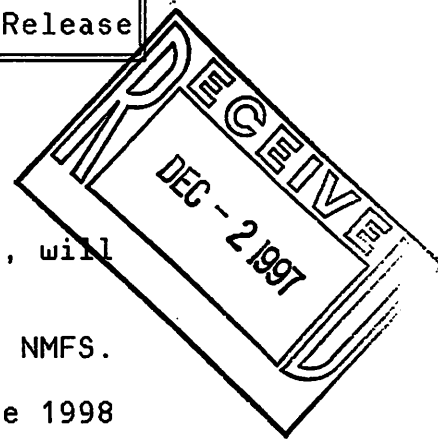
Thanking you I am,
Most Respectfully,


Robert Ward

NEWS RELEASE (97-128)
Steven Pennoyer
907-586-7221

October 27, 1997
9:00 a.m.
For Immediate Release

NMFS ANNOUNCES WORKSHOP ON THE GROUND FISH
RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS



The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Region, will hold a workshop on Federal recordkeeping and reporting requirements in Anchorage, Alaska, on December 16, 1997, according to Steven Pennoyer, Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS.

The purpose of this workshop is to explain provisions of the 1998 recordkeeping and reporting requirements for the Alaska groundfish fisheries, to introduce the proposed electronic reporting system, to provide detailed instructions on completion and submittal of the required forms and logsheets, and to answer questions on recordkeeping and reporting from members of the fishing industry and other interested parties.

The workshop will be held in the Windsor Room at the Westmark Hotel located at 720 West Fifth Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, on Tuesday, December 16, 1997, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Alaska local time.

For further information contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division, NMFS, 907-586-7228.