

**SYNOPSIS OF DRAFT 2001 HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS CONSISTENT WITH
STELLER SEA LION PROTECTION MEASURES**

NMFS Alaska Region

January 9, 2001

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area Harvest
Specifications.

NMFS has approved the Council's ABC and TAC recommendations for BSAI groundfish except for "other red rockfish".

Other Red Rockfish

Through 2000, the "other red rockfish" complex was comprised of northern, sharpchin, roughey, and shortraker rockfish in the Bering Sea subarea. In the Aleutian Islands subarea, this complex was split out into two groups comprised of northern/sharpchin and roughey/shortraker rockfish. For 2001, the Council recommended species-specific BSAI OFLs and ABCs for each species in the "other red rockfish" complex to reduce the potential for one species to be fished disproportional to its abundance and resulting overfishing concerns.

For the non-CDQ fisheries, separate TACs were recommended for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands subareas for each of the four species in the other red rockfish complex. To further reduce the potential for differential harvesting, the Council recommended that these species be placed on bycatch only status in 2001. The Council also recommended that sharpchin rockfish, which were previously included in the "other red rockfish" complex, be moved into the other rockfish complex.

NMFS agrees with these recommendations, but will not be able to implement all of them in 2001 due to unanticipated monitoring constraints in the fixed gear fisheries. These species are reported by observers using group species codes, which, under current observer procedures, can not be separated into specific species and incorporated into routine observer reports prior to the 2001 fishing year. Thus NMFS is modifying the Council's recommendation and is establishing BSAI wide OFL and ABC amounts for sharpchin/northern and roughey/shortraker rockfish. The Bering Sea subarea now will be managed as the Aleutian Islands subarea has in the past, with two groups, sharpchin/northern rockfish and shortraker/roughey rockfish. Splitting the Bering Sea subarea "other red rockfish" complex into two groups addresses overfishing concern by decreasing the TAC amounts. To remain consistent with previous years' management, until species specific reporting is feasible, sharpchin rockfish will remain in a group with northern rockfish instead of being placed in the other rockfish group. The final ABCs as recommended by the Council and modified and approved by NMFS are listed in Table 3.

The Council recommended that the Bering Sea "other red rockfish" species category not be separated into individual species groups for the CDQ fisheries. The CDQ reserves for rockfish are 7.5 percent of the TAC. If CDQ reserves were specified for the new rockfish TAC categories, they would be 1.4 mt for Bering Sea sharpchin/northern and 8.7 mt for Bering Sea shortraker/rougheye. If these CDQ reserves were further divided among the six CDQ groups, the sharpchin/northern rockfish CDQ amounts available to each group would be between 100 kg and 325 kg. The Council recommended not splitting out the CDQ reserves to the individual species group because these small quotas could prevent the CDQ groups from harvesting much of their other groundfish CDQs. Therefore, consistent with Council intent to avoid premature closure of the CDQ fisheries, NMFS will continue to specify the CDQ reserve for the Bering Sea "other red rockfish" complex. The CDQ reserve for this complex will be calculated as the sum of an amount equal to 7.5 percent of the TAC for Bering Sea shortraker/rougheye plus 7.5 percent of the TAC for sharpchin/northern, or 10 mt. The Aleutian Islands rockfish TAC categories will remain the same as in 2000 for both the CDQ and non-CDQ fisheries.

Table 3 lists the 2001 OFL, ABC, TAC, ITAC and Community Development Quota (CDQ) reserve amounts, overfishing levels, and initial apportionments of groundfish in the BSAI. The apportionment of TAC amounts among fisheries and seasons is discussed below.

TABLE 3.—2001 ACCEPTABLE BIOLOGICAL CATCH (ABC), TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC), INITIAL TAC (ITAC), CDQ RESERVE ALLOCATION, AND OVERFISHING LEVELS OF GROUND FISH IN THE BERING SEA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA (BSAI)¹
[All amounts are in metric tons]

Species	Area	Overfishing level	ABC	TAC	ITAC ²	CDQ reserve ³
Pollock ⁴	Bering Sea (BS)	3,536,000	1,842,000	1,400,000	1,209,600	140,000
	Aleutian Islands (AI)	31,700	23,800	2,000	1,800	200
	Bogoslof District	60,200	8,470	1,000	900	100
Pacific cod	BSAI	248,000	188,000	188,000	159,800	14,100
Sablefish ⁵	BS	1,910	1,560	1,560	663	215
	AI	3,070	2,500	2,500	531	422
Atka mackerel	Total	138,000	69,300	69,300	58,905	5,198
	Western AI	.....	27,900	27,900	23,715	2,093
	Central AI	.....	33,600	33,600	28,560	2,520
	Eastern AI/BS	.....	7,800	7,800	6,630	585
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	209,000	176,000	113,000	96,050	8,475
Rock sole	BSAI	271,000	228,000	75,000	63,750	5,625
Greenland turbot	Total	31,000	8,400	8,400	7,140	630
	BS	.....	5,628	5,628	4,784	422
	AI	.....	2,772	2,772	2,356	208
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	141,500	117,000	22,011	18,709	1,651
Flathead sole	BSAI	102,000	84,000	40,000	34,000	3,000
Other flatfish ⁶	BSAI	147,000	122,000	28,000	23,800	2,100
Pacific ocean perch	BS	2,040	1,730	1,730	1,471	130
	AI Total	11,800	10,200	10,200	8,670	765
	Western AI	.....	4,740	4,740	4,029	356
	Central AI	.....	2,560	2,560	2,176	192
	Eastern AI	.....	2,900	2,900	2,465	218
Sharpchin/Northern ⁷	BSAI	9,020	6,764	6,764	5,749	See 7
	BS			19	16	
	AI			6,745	5,733	506
Shortraker/Rougheye ⁷	BSAI	1,369	1,028	1,028	874	See 7
	BS			116	99	
	AI			912	775	68
Other rockfish ⁸	BS	482	361	361	307	27
	AI	901	676	676	575	51
Squid	BSAI	2,620	1,970	1,970	1,675	148
Other species ⁹	BSAI	69,000	33,600	26,500	22,525	1,988
TOTAL		4,836,812	2,927,359	2,000,000	1,717,494	185,400

¹ Amounts are in metric tons. These amounts apply to the entire Bering Sea (BS) and Aleutian Islands (AI) management area unless otherwise specified. With the exception of pollock, and for the purpose of these specifications, the Bering Sea subarea includes the Bogoslof District.

² Except for pollock and the portion of the sablefish TAC allocated to hook-and-line or pot gear, 15 percent of each TAC is put into a reserve. The ITAC for each species is the remainder of the TAC after the subtraction of the reserve.

³ Except for pollock and the hook-and-line or pot gear allocation of sablefish, one half of the amount of the TACs placed in reserve, or 7.5 percent of the TACs, is designated as a CDQ reserve for use by CDQ participants (see § 679.31).

⁴ The AFA requires that 10 percent of the annual pollock TAC be allocated as a directed fishing allowance for the CDQ sector. Then, NMFS is subtracting 4 percent of the remainder as an incidental catch allowance of pollock, which is not apportioned by season or area. The remainder is further allocated by sector as follows: inshore, 50 percent; catcher/processor, 40 percent; and motherships, 10 percent. NMFS, under regulations at § 679.24(b)(4), prohibits nonpelagic trawl gear to engage in directed fishing for non-CDQ pollock in the BSAI.

⁵ The ITAC for sablefish reflected in Table 3 is for trawl gear only. Regulations at § 679.20(b)(1) do not provide for the establishment of an ITAC for the hook-and-line or pot gear allocation for sablefish. Twenty percent of the sablefish TAC allocated to hook-and-line gear or pot gear and 7.5 percent of the sablefish TAC allocated to trawl gear is reserved for use by CDQ participants (see § 679.31(c)).

⁶ "Other flatfish" includes all flatfish species, except for Pacific halibut (a prohibited species), flathead sole, Greenland turbot, rock sole, yellowfin sole, and arrowtooth flounder.

⁷ The CDQ reserves for shortraker, roughey, sharpchin, and northern rockfish will continue to be managed as the "other red rockfish" complex for the BS. For 2001 the CDQ reserve is 10 mt.

⁸ "Other rockfish" includes all Sebastes and Sebastolobus species except for Pacific ocean perch, sharpchin, northern, shortraker, and roughey rockfish.

⁹ "Other species" includes sculpins, sharks, skates and octopus. Forage fish, as defined at § 679.2 are not included in the "other species" category.

Incidental Catch Allowance (ICA) for Pollock

Under section 206(b) of the AFA, NMFS allocates a pollock ICA of 4 percent of the pollock TAC after subtraction of the 10 percent CDQ reserve. This is a reduction from the 5 percent ICA specified for 2000. The 2001 allowance is based on an examination of the incidental catch of pollock in non-pollock target fisheries from 1997 through 2000. During this 4-year period, the incidental catch of pollock ranged from a low of 3 percent in 1998 to a high of about 6 percent in 1997, with a 4-year average of 4 percent. In 2000, the actual incidental catch was only 4 percent of the TAC instead of the 5 percent ICA withheld at the beginning of the year. As a result, 9,000 mt of pollock were reallocated to the DFA for non CDQ fisheries in the fall (65 FR 62646, October 19, 2000 here). Based on this experience NMFS believes that a 2001 ICA of 4 percent is sufficient, even if incidental catch of pollock in the Pacific cod fishery increases under SSL protection measures.

Pollock Allocations Under the AFA and SCA Harvest Limits

Table 5 lists the 2001 allocations of pollock TAC as described by the AFA. As described under the Steller sea lion protection measures implemented for 2001, this emergency rule establishes pollock harvest limits in the SCA at a level that do not exceed the harvest in metric tons authorized for the 2000 fishery. These amounts, by sector, are listed in Table 5.

TABLE 5.--ALLOCATIONS OF THE POLLOCK TAC AND DIRECTED FISHING ALLOWANCE TO THE INSHORE, CATCHER/PROCESSOR, MOTHERSHIP, AND CDQ COMPONENTS¹
[All amounts are in metric tons]

Area and Sector	2001 DFA	A/B Season ¹			C/D Season ^{1,2}		
		A/B DFA	A SCA limit ³	B SCA Limit ³	C/D DFA	C SCA Limit ³	D SCA Limit ³
Bering Sea subarea	1,400,000	560,000	166,751	55,497	840,000	48,210	80,142
CDQ	140,000	56,000	28,247	9,339	84,000	9,567	15,718
ICA ⁴	50,400						
AFA Inshore	604,800	241,920	81,802	27,267	362,880	39,440	65,734
AFA C/Ps ⁵	483,840	193,536	38,564	12,854	290,304	0	0
Catch by C/Ps	442,714	177,085			265,628		
Catch by CVs ⁵	41,126	16,451			24,676		
Restricted C/P cap ⁶	2,419	968			1,452		
AFA Motherships	120,960	48,384	14,607	4,869	72,576	0	0
Excessive shares cap ⁷	211,680						
Aleutian Islands							
ICA ⁸	2,000						
Bogoslof District							
ICA ⁸	1,000						

¹After subtraction for the CDQ reserve and the incidental catch allowance, the pollock TAC is allocated as follows: inshore component - 50 percent, catcher/processor component - 40 percent, and mothership component - 10 percent. Under paragraph 206(a) of the AFA, the CDQ reserve for pollock is 10 percent. NMFS, under regulations at § 679.24(b)(4), prohibits nonpelagic trawl gear to engage in directed fishing for non-CDQ pollock in the BSAI. The A/B season, January 20 - June 10, is allocated 40 percent and the C/D season, June 10 - October 31 is allocated 60 percent.

²This emergency interim rule expires on (insert date 180 days from date of filing with the OFR), 2001, before the B season will conclude. Therefore, the B season is not fully authorized unless the emergency interim rule is extended.

³The SCA limits are established as the amount, in metric tons, authorized for the 2000 pollock fishery (65 FR 3896, January 25, 2000).

⁴The pollock incidental catch allowance for the BS subarea is 4 percent of the TAC after subtraction of the CDQ reserve.

⁵Subsection 210(c) of the AFA requires that not less than 8.5 percent of the directed fishing allowance allocated to listed catcher/processors (C/Ps) shall be available for harvest only by eligible catcher vessels (CVs) delivering to listed catcher/processors.

⁶The AFA requires that vessels described in section 208(e)(21) be prohibited from exceeding a harvest amount of one-half of one percent of the directed fishing allowance allocated to vessels for processing by AFA catcher/processors.

⁷Paragraph 210(e)(1) of the AFA specifies that "No particular individual, corporation, or other entity may harvest, through a fishery cooperative or otherwise, a total of more than 17.5 percent of the pollock available to be harvested in the directed pollock fishery."

⁸Consistent with the RPAs, the Aleutian Islands subarea and the Bogoslof District are closed to directed fishing for pollock. The amounts specified are for incidental catch amounts only, and are not apportioned by season or sector.

Allocation of the Atka mackerel TAC

Table 6.—SEASONAL AND SPATIAL APPORTIONMENTS, GEAR SHARES, AND CDQ RESERVE OF THE BSAI ATKA MACKEREL TAC
[All amounts are in metric tons]

Subarea & Component	TAC	CDQ reserve	ITAC ¹	Seasonal apportionment ²			
				A Season ³		B Season ⁴	
				Total	CH Limit ⁵	Total	CH Limit ⁵
Western Aleutian District	27,900	2,093	25,808	12,904	6,194	12,904	6,194
Central Aleutian District	33,600	2,520	31,080	15,540	7,148	15,540	7,148
Eastern AI/BS subarea ⁶	7,800	585	7,215				
Jig (1%) ⁷			72				
Other gear(99%)			7,143	3,572		3,572	
Total	69,300	5,198	64,103	32,016		32,016	

¹ The reserves have been released for Atka mackerel see (Table 4).

² The seasonal apportionment of Atka mackerel is 50 percent in the A season and 50 percent in the B season.

³ The A season is January 1 through April 15.

⁴ The B season is September 1 through October 31.

⁵ Critical habitat (CH) allowance refers to the amount of each seasonal allowance that is available for fishing inside critical habitat (50 CFR part 679 Table 21). In 2001, the percentage of each seasonal allowance available for fishing inside critical habitat is 48 percent in the Western AI and 46 percent in the Central AI. When these critical habitat allowances are reached, critical habitat areas will be closed to trawling until NMFS closes Atka mackerel to directed fishing within the same district.

⁶ Eastern Aleutian District and Bering Sea subarea.

⁷ Regulations at § 679.20 (a)(8) require that up to 2 percent of the Eastern AI area ITAC be allocated to the jig gear fleet. The amount of this allocation is 1 percent and was determined by the Council based on anticipated harvest capacity of the jig gear fleet. The jig gear allocation is not apportioned by season.

Allocation of the Pacific Cod TAC

Under § 679.20(a) (7), 2 percent of the Pacific cod ITAC is allocated to vessels using jig gear, 51 percent to vessels using hook-and-line or pot gear, and 47 percent to vessels using trawl gear. Under § 679.20(a) (7) (B), the portion of the Pacific cod TAC allocated to trawl gear is further allocated 50 percent to catcher vessels and 50 percent to catcher/processors. Under regulations at § 679.20(a) (7) (i) (C) (1), a portion of the Pacific cod allocated to hook-and-line or pot gear is set aside as an ICA of Pacific cod in directed fisheries for groundfish using these gear types. Based on anticipated bycatch in these fisheries, the Council proposed an ICA of 500 mt. The remainder of Pacific cod is further allocated to vessels using hook-and-line or pot gear as the following directed fishing allowances: 80 percent to hook-and-line catcher processors, 0.3 percent to hook-and-line catcher vessels, 18.3 percent to pot gear vessels, and 1.4 percent to catcher vessels under 60 feet LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear.

Due to concerns about the potential impact of the Pacific cod fishery on Steller sea lions and their critical habitat, NMFS is implementing under this emergency rule temporal dispersion of fishing effort in the Pacific cod fisheries by apportioning the Pacific cod ITAC into two seasonal allowances. The first allowance, 60 percent of the ITAC, is made available for directed fishing from January 1 to June 10, and the

second seasonal allowance, 40 percent of the ITAC, is made available from June 10 to December 31. Table 7 lists the 2001 allocations and seasonal apportionments of the Pacific cod ITAC.

Table 7.- 2001 GEAR SHARES AND SEASONAL APPORTIONMENTS OF THE BSAI PACIFIC COD TAC

Gear Sector	Percent	Share (mt)	Seasonal apportionment ¹	
			Date	Amount (mt)
Jig	2	3,478	Jan 1- Jun 10	2,087
			Jun 10 - Dec 31	1,391
Total hook-and-line and pot gear allocation of Pacific cod TAC	51	88,689		
Hook-and-line Catcher Processors	80	70,551	Jan 1 - Jun 10	42,331
			Jun 10 - Dec 31	28,220
Hook-and-Line Catcher Vessels	0.3	265	Jan 1 - Jun 10	159
			Jun 10- Dec 31	106
Pot Gear Vessels	18.3	16,139	Jan 1 - Jun 10	9,683
			Jun 10 - Dec 31	6,455
Catcher Vessels < 60 feet LOA using Hook-and-line or Pot gear	1.4	1,235	Jan 1 - Jun 10	741
			Jun 10 - Dec 31	494
Hook-and-line and pot gear sub-total	100	88,189		
Hook-and-line and pot gear Incidental Catch Allowance		500		500
Trawl gear	47	81,733		
Catcher Vessel	50	40,867	Jan 1 - Jun 10	24,520
			Jun 10 - Dec 31	16,347
Catcher Processor	50	40,867	Jan 1 - Jun 10	24,520
			Jun 10 - Dec 31	16,347
Total		173,900		

¹The reserve have been released for Pacific cod see (Table 4).

² The first season is allocated 60 percent of the TAC and the second season is allocated 40 percent of the TAC. Any unused portion of the first seasonal Pacific cod allowance will be reapportioned to the second seasonal allowance.

Allocation of the Shortraker and Rougheye Rockfish TAC.

Under § 679.20(a)(9), the ITAC of shortraker rockfish and rougheye rockfish specified for the Aleutian Islands subarea is allocated 30 percent to vessels using non-trawl gear and 70 percent to vessels using trawl gear. Based on a 2001 ITAC of 843 mt, the trawl allocation is 590 mt and the non-trawl allocation is 253 mt.

Sablefish Gear Allocation

Regulations at § 679.20(a)(4)(iii) and (iv) require that sablefish TACs for the BSAI subareas be allocated between trawl and hook-and-line or pot gear. Gear allocations of TACs for the Bering Sea subarea are 50 percent for trawl gear and 50 percent for hook-and-line or pot gear and for the Aleutian Islands subarea are 25 percent for trawl gear and 75 percent for hook-and-line or pot gear. Regulations at § 679.20(b)(1)(iii)(B) require that 20 percent of the hook-and-line and pot gear allocation of sablefish be reserved as sablefish CDQ. Additionally, regulations at § 679.20(b)(1)(iii)(A) require that 7.5 percent of the trawl gear allocation of sablefish (one half of the reserve) be reserved as groundfish CDQ. Gear allocations of the sablefish TAC and CDQ reserve amounts are specified in Table 8.

Table 8.—GEAR SHARES AND CDQ RESERVE OF BSAI SABLEFISH TAC
[All amounts are in metric tons]

Subarea & Gear	Percent of TAC	Share of TAC	ITAC ¹	CDQ Reserve
Bering Sea				
Trawl ²	50	780	663	59
Hook-&-line/pot gear ³	50	780	N/A	156
Total	100	1,560	663	215
Aleutian Islands				
Trawl ²	25	625	531	47
Hook-&-line/pot gear ³	75	1,875	N/A	375
Total	100	2,500	531	422

¹ Except for the sablefish hook-and-line and pot gear allocation, 15 percent of TAC is apportioned to reserve. The ITAC is the remainder of the TAC after the subtraction of these reserves.

² For the portion of the sablefish TAC allocated to vessels using trawl gear, one half of the reserve (7.5 percent of the specified TAC) is reserved for the multi-species CDQ program.

³ For the portion of the sablefish TAC allocated to vessels using hook-and-line or pot gear, 20 percent of the allocated TAC is reserved for use by CDQ participants. Regulations in § 679.20(b)(1) do not provide for the establishment of an ITAC for sablefish allocated to hook-and-line or pot gear.

Allocation of Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) Limits for Halibut, Crab, Salmon, and Herring

NMFS recognizes that the Council did not have the opportunity in December, 2000, to evaluate the effects of SSL protection measures implemented by this emergency rule on PSC bycatch needs throughout the year. After consulting with the Council at its emergency January 2001 meeting. Pending Council recommendations for modifications to Table 9, NMFS will consider amending PSC seasonal apportionments and amounts listed.

Table 9.--PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL AND NON-TRAWL FISHERIES¹

[All amounts are in metric tons]

TRAWL FISHERIES	Prohibited Species and Zone					
	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	Herring (mt) BSAI	Red King Crab (animals) Zone 1	C. opilio (animals) COBLZ ²	C. bairdi (animals)	
					Zone 1	Zone 2
Yellowfin sole	911	139	11,664	2,876,981	253,894	1,246,502
January 20 - March 31	286	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
April 1 - May 20	196	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
May 21 - July 3	49	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
July 1 - December 31	380	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rocksole/oth.flat/flat sole ³	854	20	64,782	469,130	272,126	415,501
January 20 - March 31	498	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
April 1 - July 3	179	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
July 1 - December 31	177	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
RKC savings subarea ³	.....	.....	22,674	.....	.....	.....
Turbot/sablefish/arrowtooth ⁴	.....	9	.....	40,238	.....	.....
Rockfish (July 1 - December 31) ⁵	69	7	.....	40,237	.....	7,658
Pacific cod	1,334	20	11,664	524,736	136,400	225,941
Pollock/Atka/other ⁶	232	146	1,615	72,428	12,830	19,148
Midwater trawl pollock	.....	1,184	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL TRAWL PSC	3,400	1,526	89,725	4,023,750	675,250	1,914,750
NON-TRAWL FISHERIES						
Pacific cod - Total	755					
Jan. 1 - June 10 ⁷	300					
June 11 - July 31	0					
August 1 - Dec. 31	455					
Other non-trawl - Total	78					
May 1 - December 31	78					
Groundfish pot & jig	Exempt					
Sablefish hook-&-line	Exempt					
TOTAL NON-TRAWL	833					
PSQ RESERVE⁸	342	.....	7,275	326,250	54,750	155,250
GRAND TOTAL	4,575	1,526	97,000	4,350,000	730,000	2,070,000

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas.

² C. opilio Bycatch Limitation Zone. Boundaries are defined at 50 CFR part 679, fig. 13..

³ The Council at its December 2000 meeting limited red king crab for trawl fisheries within the RKCSS to 35 percent of the total allocation to the rock sole, flathead sole, and other flatfish fishery category (§ 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)).

⁴ Greenland turbot, arrowtooth flounder, and sablefish fishery category.

⁵ The Council at its December 2000 meeting apportioned the rockfish PSC amounts from July 1 - December 31, to prevent fishing for rockfish before July 1, 2001.

⁶ Pollock other than pelagic trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and "other species" fishery category.

⁷ Any unused halibut PSC from the first trimester may be rolled over into the third trimester.

⁸ With the exception of herring, 7.5 percent of each PSC limit is allocated to the multi-species CDQ program as PSQ reserve. The PSQ reserve is not allocated by fishery, gear or season.

TABLE 10.--ASSUMED PACIFIC HALIBUT MORTALITY RATES FOR THE BSAI FISHERIES

Fishery	Preseason Assumed mortality (percent)
Hook-and-line gear fisheries	
Rockfish	25
Pacific cod	12
Greenland turbot	18
Sablefish	22
Other Species	12
Trawl gear fisheries	
Midwater pollock	84
Non-pelagic pollock	76
Yellowfin sole	81
Rock sole	76
Flathead sole	67
Other flatfish	71
Rockfish	69
Pacific cod	67
Atka mackerel	75
Greenland turbot	70
Sablefish	50
Other species	67
Pot gear fisheries	
Pacific cod	8
Other species	8
CDQ Trawl fisheries	
Atka mackerel	82
Midwater pollock	90
Non-pelagic pollock	88
Rockfish	88
Yellowfin sole	83
CDQ Hook-and-line fisheries	
Pacific cod	10

BS Subarea Inshore Pollock Allocations

Under § 679.20(a)(5)(i)(C), NMFS must subdivide the inshore allocation into allocations for cooperatives and vessels not fishing in a cooperative (i.e., the open access sector). In addition, under § 679.22(a)(11)(iv), NMFS must establish harvest limits inside the Steller sea lion conservation area (SCA) and provide a set-aside so that catcher vessels less than or equal to 99 ft (30.2 m) LOA have the opportunity to operate entirely within the SCA during the A, B and D seasons. Accordingly, Table 11 lists the apportionment of the BS subarea inshore pollock allocation into allocations for vessels fishing in a cooperative and for vessels not participating in a cooperative and establishes a cooperative-sector SCA set-aside for AFA catcher vessels less than or equal to 99 ft (30.2 m) LOA. The SCA set-aside for sector catcher vessels less than or equal to 99 ft (30.2 m) LOA that are not participating in a cooperative will be established inseason based on actual participation levels and is not included in Table 11. These allocations may be revised based on any corrections to AFA vessels' catch history.

TABLE 11--BERING SEA SUBAREA POLLOCK ALLOCATIONS TO THE COOPERATIVE AND OPEN ACCESS SECTORS OF THE INSHORE POLLOCK FISHERY. AMOUNTS ARE EXPRESSED IN METRIC TONS

	A/B season TAC	A season inside SCA ¹	B season inside SCA	C/D season TAC	C season inside SCA ¹	D season inside SCA
Cooperative sector						
Vessels > 99 ft	n/a	70,890	23,630	n/a	n/a	56,966
Vessels ≤ 99 ft	n/a	10,593	3,531	n/a	n/a	8,512
Total	239,561	81,483	27,161	361,465	39,286	65,478
Open access sector	2,359	319²	106²	1,415	154	256²
Total inshore	241,920	81,802	27,267	362,880	39,440	65,734

¹Steller sea lion conservation area established at § 679.22(a)(11)(iv).

² SCA limitations for vessels less than or equal to 99 ft LOA that are not participating in a cooperative will be established on an inseason basis in accordance with § 679.22(a)(11)(iv)(D)(2) which specifies that "the Regional Administrator will prohibit directed fishing for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the inshore component greater than 99 ft (30.2 m) LOA before reaching the inshore SCA harvest limit during the A, B and D seasons to accommodate fishing by vessels less than or equal to 99 ft (30.2 m) inside the SCA for the duration of the inshore seasonal opening."

Under § 679.4, NMFS set out procedures for AFA inshore catcher vessel pollock cooperatives to apply for and receive cooperative fishing permits and inshore pollock allocations. NMFS received applications from seven inshore catcher vessel cooperatives. Table 12 lists the pollock allocations to the seven inshore catcher vessel pollock cooperatives that have been approved and permitted by NMFS for the 2001 fishing year. Allocations for cooperatives and vessels not participating in cooperatives are not made for the AI subarea because the AI subarea has been closed to directed fishing for pollock. These allocations may be revised based on any corrections to AFA vessels' catch history.

TABLE 12. BERING SEA SUBAREA INSHORE COOPERATIVE ALLOCATIONS

Cooperative name and member vessels	Sum of member vessel's official catch histories ¹	Percentage of inshore sector allocation	Annual co-op allocation
<u>Akutan Catcher Vessel Association</u> ALDEBARAN, ARCTURUS, BLUE FOX, CAPE KIWANDA, COLUMBIA, DOMINATOR, DONA MARTITA, EXODUS, GLADIATOR, GOLDEN DAWN, GOLDEN PISCES, HAZEL LORRAINE, INTREPID EXPLORER, LESLIE LEE, LISA MELINDA, MAJESTY, MARCY J, MARGARET LYN, NORDIC EXPLORER, NORTHERN PATRIOT, NORTHWEST EXPLORER, PACIFIC RAM, PACIFIC VIKING, PEGASUS, PEGGIE JO, PERSEVERANCE, PREDATOR, RAVEN, ROYAL AMERICAN, SEEKER, SOVEREIGNTY, TRAVELER, VIKING EXPLORER	265,244	29.889%	180,769
<u>Arctic Enterprise Association</u> ARCTIC EXPLORER, BRISTOL EXPLORER, OCEAN EXPLORER, PACIFIC EXPLORER	50,008	5.635%	34,080
<u>Northern Victor Fleet Cooperative</u> ANITA J, NORDIC FURY, PACIFIC FURY, GOLDRUSH, EXCALIBUR II, HALF MOON BAY, SUNSET BAY, COMMODORE, STORM PETREL, POSEIDON, ROYAL ATLANTIC, MISS BERDIE	72,024	8.116%	49,086
<u>Peter Pan Fleet Cooperative</u> AMBER DAWN, AMERICAN BEAUTY, ELIZABETH F, OCEAN HOPE 1, OCEANIC, OCEAN LEADER, TOPAZ, WALTER N	15,309	1.725%	10,433
<u>Unalaska Cooperative</u> ALASKA ROSE, BERING ROSE, DESTINATION, GREAT PACIFIC, MESSIAH, MORNING STAR, MS AMY, PROGRESS, SEA WOLF, VANGUARD, WESTERN DAWN	106,714	12.025%	72,727
<u>UniSea Fleet Cooperative</u> ALSEA, AMERICAN EAGLE, ARGOSY, AURIGA, AURORA, DEFENDER, GUN-MAR, NORDIC STAR, PACIFIC MONARCH, SEADAWN, STARFISH, STARLITE, STARWARD	210,922	23.768%	143,749
<u>Westward Fleet Cooperative</u> A.J., ALASKAN COMMAND, ALYESKA, ARCTIC WIND, CAITLIN ANN, CHELSEA K, HICKORY WIND, FIERCE ALLEGIANCE, OCEAN HOPE 3, PACIFIC CHALLENGER, PACIFIC KNIGHT, PACIFIC PRINCE, VIKING, WESTWARD I	142,814	18.452%	111,598
Open access AFA vessels	24,399	0.390%	2,359
Total inshore allocation	887,435	100%	604,800

¹Under 679.62(e)(1) the individual catch history for each vessel is equal to the vessel's best 2 of 3 years inshore pollock landings from 1995 through 1997 and includes landings to catcher/processors for vessels that made 500 or more mt of landings to catcher/processors from 1995 through 1997.

2001 Unrestricted AFA Catcher/Processor Sideboards

The 2001 catcher/processor sideboards are set out in Table 13 below. All non-pollock groundfish that is harvested by unrestricted AFA catcher/processors, whether as targeted catch or bycatch, will be deducted from the harvest limits in Table 13. However, non-pollock groundfish that is delivered to listed catcher/processors by catcher vessels will not be deducted from the 2001 harvest limits for the listed catcher/processors.

TABLE 13--2001 UNRESTRICTED BSAI AFA CATCHER/PROCESSOR GROUNDFISH SIDEBOARDS. AMOUNTS ARE EXPRESSED IN METRIC TONS

Target species	Area	1995 - 1997			2001 ITAC available to trawl C/Ps	2001 C/P sideboard amount
		Total catch	Available TAC	Ratio		
Pacific cod trawl	BSAI	13,547	51,450			
	Jan 20-Jun 10			0.263	16,347	4,299
	Jun 10-Dec 31			0.263	24,520	6,449
Sablefish trawl	BS	8	1,736	0.005	663	3
	AI	1	1,135	0.001	531	1
Atka mackerel	Western AI					
	A season ¹	n/a	n/a	0.200	12,904	2,581
	CH limit ²					1,239
	B season	n/a	n/a	0.200	12,904	2,581
	CH limit					1,239
	Central AI					
A season ¹		n/a	n/a	0.115	15,540	1,787
	CH limit					882
	B season	n/a	n/a	0.115	15,540	1,787
	CH limit					882
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	123,003	527,000	0.233	96,050	22,380
Rock sole	BSAI	14,753	202,107	0.073	63,750	4,654
Greenland turbot	BS	168	16,911	0.010	5,206	52
	AI	31	6,839	0.005	2,564	13
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	788	36,873	0.021	18,709	393
Flathead sole	BSAI	3,030	87,975	0.034	34,000	1,156
Other flatfish	BSAI	12,145	92,428	0.131	23,800	3,118
Pacific ocean perch	BS	58	5,760	0.010	1,471	15
	Western AI	356	12,440	0.029	4,385	127
	Central AI	95	6,195	0.015	2,368	36
	Eastern AI	112	6,265	0.018	2,683	48
Sharpchin/northern	BS			0.078	16	
	AI	1,034	13,254	0.078	6,239	487
Shortraker/rougheye	BS			0.024	99	
	AI	68	2,827	0.024	843	20
Other rockfish	BS	39	1,026	0.038	307	12
	AI	95	1,924	0.049	575	28
Squid	BSAI	7	3,670	0.002	1,675	3
Other species	BSAI	3,551	65,925	0.054	22,525	1,216

¹ The seasonal apportionment of Atka mackerel in the open access fishery is 50 percent in the A season and 50 percent in the B season. Unrestricted AFA catcher/processors are limited to harvesting no more than 20 and 11.5 percent of the available TAC in the Western and Central AI subareas respectively. Unrestricted AFA catcher/processors are prohibited from harvesting Atka mackerel in the Eastern Aleutian Islands District and Bering Sea subarea (paragraph 211(b)(2)(C)).

² Critical habitat (CH) allowance refers to the amount of each seasonal allowance that is available for fishing inside critical habitat (50 CFR part 679 Table 21). In 2001, the percentage of TAC available for fishing inside critical habitat area is 48 percent in the Western AI and 46 percent in the Central AI. When these critical habitat allowances are reached, critical habitat areas will be closed to trawling until NMFS closes Atka mackerel to directed fishing within the same district.

Regulations at § 679.63(a)(2) establish a formula for PSC sideboards for unrestricted AFA catcher/processors. These amounts are equivalent to the percentage of prohibited species bycatch limits harvested in the non-pollock groundfish fisheries by the AFA catcher/processors listed in subsection 208(e) and section 209 of the AFA from 1995 through 1997. Prohibited species amounts harvested by these catcher/processors in BSAI non-pollock groundfish fisheries from 1995 through 1997 are shown in Table 14. These data were used to calculate the relative amount of prohibited species catch limits harvested by pollock catcher/processors, which was then used to determine the prohibited species harvest limits for unrestricted AFA catcher/processors in the 2001 non-pollock groundfish fisheries.

PSC that is caught by unrestricted AFA catcher/processors participating in any non-pollock groundfish fishery listed in Table 13 shall accrue against the 2001 PSC limits for the listed catcher/processors. Regulations at § 679.21(e)(3)(v) provide authority to close directed fishing for non-pollock groundfish for unrestricted AFA catcher/processors once a 2001 PSC limitation listed in Table 14 is reached.

Crab or halibut PSC that is caught by unrestricted AFA catcher/processors while fishing for pollock will accrue against the bycatch allowances annually specified for either the midwater pollock or the pollock/Atka mackerel/other species fishery categories under § 679.21(e).

TABLE 14--2001 UNRESTRICTED BSAI AFA CATCHER/PROCESSOR PROHIBITED SPECIES SIDEBOARD AMOUNTS.

PSC species	1995 - 1997			2001 PSC available to trawl vessels	2001 C/P limit
	PSC catch	Total PSC	Ratio		
Halibut mortality	955	11,325	0.084	3,400	286 mt
Red king crab	3,098	473,750	0.007	89,725	628 crab
C. opilio	2,323,731	15,139,178	0.153	4,023,750	615,634 crab
C. bairdi					
Zone 1	385,978	2,750,000	0.140	675,250	94,535 crab
Zone 2	406,860	8,100,000	0.050	1,914,750	95,738 crab

2001 AFA Catcher Vessel Sideboards

The 2001 AFA catcher vessel sideboards amounts are shown in Tables 15 and 16. All harvests of groundfish sideboard species made by non-exempt AFA catcher vessels, whether as targeted catch or bycatch, will be deducted from the sideboard limits listed in Table 15.

TABLE 15--2001 BSAI AFA CATCHER VESSEL (CV) SIDEBOARDS. AMOUNTS ARE EXPRESSED IN METRIC TONS.

Species	Fishery by Area/Season/ Processor/ Gear	Ratio of 1995-1997 AFA CV catch to 1995-1997 TAC	2001 Initial TAC	2001 catcher vessel sideboard
Pacific cod	BSAI			
	jig gear			
	Jan 1 - Jun 10	0.0000	1,391	0
	Jun 10 - Dec 31	0.0000	2,087	0
	hook-and-line CV			
	Jan 1 - Jun 10	0.0006	106	0
	Jun 10 - Dec 31	0.0006	159	0
	Pot gear			
	Jan 1 - Jun 10	0.0006	6,455	4
	Jun 10 - Dec 31	0.0006	9,683	6
	CV < 60 feet LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear			
	Jan 1 - Jun 10	0.0006	494	0
	Jun 10 - Dec 31	0.0006	741	0
	trawl gear			
	catcher vessel			
Jan 1 - Jun 10	0.7703	16,347	12,592	
Jun 10 - Dec 31	0.7703	24,520	18,888	
catcher/processor				
Jan 1 - Jun 10	0.0000	16,347	0	
Jun 10 - Dec 31	0.0000	24,520	0	
Sablefish	BS trawl gear	0.0006	663	0
	AI trawl gear	0.0608	531	32
Atka mackerel	<u>Eastern AI/BS</u>			
	jig gear	0.0031	72	0
	other gear			
	Jan 1 - Apr 15	0.0031	3,572	11
	Sept 1 - Nov 1	0.0031	3,572	11
	<u>Central AI</u>			
	Jan - Apr 15	0.0001	15,540	2
	inside CH	0.0001	7,148	1
	Sept 1 - Nov 1	0.0001	15,540	2
	inside CH	0.0001	7,148	1
	<u>Western AI</u>			
	Jan - Apr 15	0.0000	12,904	0
	inside CH	0.0000	6,194	0
	Sept 1 - Nov 1	0.0000	12,904	0
	inside CH	0.0000	6,194	0
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	0.0712	96,050	6,839
Rock sole	BSAI	0.0255	63,750	1,626
Greenland Turbot	BS	0.0405	5,206	211
	AI	0.0021	2,564	5
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	0.0583	18,709	1,091
Other flatfish	BSAI	0.0558	23,800	1,328
POP	BS	0.1018	1,471	150
	Eastern AI	0.0048	2,683	13

Species	Fishery by Area/Season/ Processor/ Gear	Ratio of 1995-1997 AFA CV catch to 1995-1997 TAC	2001 Initial TAC	2001 catcher vessel sideboard
	Central AI	0.0011	2,368	3
	Western AI	0.0000	4,385	0
Sharpchin/Northern	BS	0.0280	16	0
	AI	0.0015	6,239	9
Shortraker/Rougheye	BS	0.0280	99	3
	AI	0.0011	843	1
Other rockfish	BS	0.0379	307	12
	AI	0.0031	575	2
Squid	BSAI	0.3885	1,675	651
Other species	BSAI	0.0283	22,525	637
Flathead Sole	BS trawl gear	0.0490	34,000	1,666

Regulations at § 679.63(b) establish a formula for PSC sideboards for AFA catcher vessels. These amounts are listed in Table 16. Halibut and crab PSC that is caught by AFA catcher vessels participating in any non-pollock groundfish fishery listed in Table 15 will accrue against the 2001 PSC limits for the AFA catcher vessels. PSC that is caught by AFA catcher vessels while fishing for pollock in the BSAI will accrue against either the midwater pollock or the pollock/Atka mackerel/other species fishery categories.

TABLE 16--2001 AFA CATCHER VESSEL (CV) PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH (PSC) SIDEBOARD AMOUNTS¹ FOR THE BSAI.

PSC species	Target fishery category ² and season	Ratio of 1995-1997 AFA CV retained catch to total retained catch	2001 PSC Limit	2001 AFA catcher vessel PSC sideboard
Halibut	Pacific cod trawl	0.6183	1,334	825
	Pacific cod hook-and-line or pot	0.0022	755	2
	Yellowfin sole			
	Jan. 20 - Mar. 31	0.1144	286	33
	Apr. 1 - May 20	0.1144	196	22
	May 21 - July 3	0.1144	49	6
	July 1 - Dec. 31	0.1144	380	43
	Rock sole/Flathead sole/Oth. flat			
	Jan. 20 - Mar. 31	0.2841	498	141
	Apr. 1 - July 3	0.2841	179	51
	July 1 - Dec. 31	0.2841	177	50
	Turbot/Arrowtooth/Sablefish	0.2327	0	0
	Rockfish	0.0245	69	2
Pollock/Atka mackerel/Other sp.	0.0227	232	5	
Red King Crab Zone 1	Pacific cod	0.6183	11,664	7,212
	Yellowfin sole	0.1144	11,664	1,334
	Rock sole/Flathead sole/Oth. flat	0.2841	64,782	18,405
	Pollock/Atka mackerel/Other sp.	0.0227	1,615	37
<u>C. opilio</u> COBLZ ^{3,4}	Pacific cod	0.6183	524,736	324,444
	Yellowfin sole	0.1144	2,876,981	329,127
	Rock sole/Flathead sole/Oth. flat	0.2841	469,130	133,280
	Pollock/Atka mackerel/Other sp.	0.0227	72,428	1,644
	Rockfish ⁵	0.0245	40,237	986
	Turbot/Arrowtooth/Sablefish	0.2327	40,238	9,363
<u>C. bairdi</u> Zone 1	Pacific cod	0.6183	136,400	84,336
	Yellowfin sole	0.1144	253,894	29,045
	Rock sole/Flathead sole/Oth. flat	0.2841	272,126	77,311
	Pollock/Atka mackerel/Other sp.	0.0227	12,830	291
<u>C. bairdi</u> Zone 2	Pacific cod	0.6183	225,941	139,699
	Yellowfin sole	0.1144	1,246,502	142,600
	Rock sole/Flathead sole/Oth. flat	0.2841	415,501	118,044
	Pollock/Atka mackerel/Other sp.	0.0227	19,148	435
	Rockfish	0.0245	7,658	188

¹ Halibut amounts are in metric tons of halibut mortality. Crab amounts are in numbers of animals.

² Target fishery categories are defined in regulation at § 679.21(e)(3)(iv).

³ C. opilio Bycatch Limitation Zone. Boundaries are defined at Figure 13 of 50 CFR part 679.

⁴ The Council at its December 2000 meeting limited red king crab for trawl fisheries within the RKCSS to 35 percent of the total allocation to the rock sole, flathead sole, and other flatfish fishery category (§ 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)).

⁵ The Council at its December 2000 meeting apportioned the rockfish PSC amounts from July 1 - December 31 to prevent fishing for rockfish before July 1, 2001.

Gulf of Alaska 2001 Harvest Specifications

NMFS has approved the Council's recommended ABC and TAC recommendations except for pollock. Public Law 106-544, phases in the implementation of the RPA in 2001. Specifically section 209(c)(5) states that when the GCR applies in 2001 it "shall not cause a reduction in the total allowable catch of any fishery of more than ten percent." NMFS therefore is adjusting the Council's recommended TAC of pollock in the combined W/C/WYK area downward by 10 percent (9,935 mt) from 99,350 mt to 89,415 mt. This action is discussed in more detail below.

Under this emergency interim rule, the annual pollock TAC in the Western and Central GOA is divided into four seasonal apportionments. The annual pollock TAC in the combined Western and Central GOA of 87,080 mt is the result of the combined W/C/WYK annual TAC of 89,415 mt less the WYK annual TAC of 2,335 mt. Thirty percent of the annual TAC in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas in the GOA is apportioned to the A season (January 20 through March 1) in the Western GOA, Shelikof Strait, and Statistical Areas 620 and 630 (outside of Shelikof Strait) in the Central GOA (§ 679.20(a)(5)(ii)); 15 percent to the B season (March 15 through May 31) in the Western GOA, Shelikof Strait, and Statistical Areas 620 and 630 (outside of Shelikof Strait) in the Central GOA; 30 percent to the C season (August 20 through September 15) in the Western GOA and Statistical Areas 620 and 630 in the Central GOA; and 25 percent to the D season (October 1 through November 1) in the Western GOA and Statistical Areas 620 and 630 in the Central GOA (§ 679.23(d)(2)(i) through (iv)). The derivation of the seasonal apportionment amounts in the Western and Central GOA areas is discussed below.

The 2001 Pacific cod TAC is affected by the State's developing fishery for Pacific cod in State waters in the Central and Western GOA, as well as Prince William Sound (PWS). Accordingly the Council recommended that Pacific cod TAC be reduced from ABC levels to account for State GHLS in each regulatory area of the GOA so that the TAC for (1) the Eastern GOA be lower than the ABC by 1,190 mt, (2) the Central GOA be lower than the ABC by 8,400 mt, and (3) the Western GOA be lower than the ABC by 6,100 mt. These amounts reflect the sum of State's 2001 GHLS in these areas which are 25 percent, 21.75 percent, and 25 percent of the Eastern, Central, and Western GOA ABCs respectively. These percentages are unchanged from 2000.

NMFS is also establishing seasonal apportionments of the annual Pacific cod TAC in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas at 60 percent of the annual TAC to an A season from January 1 through June 10 and at 40 percent of the annual TAC to a B season from June 10 to December 31. These seasonal apportionments of the annual Pacific cod TAC are discussed in greater detail below.

Table 19 - 2001 ABCs, TACs, and Overfishing Levels of Groundfish for the Western/Central/West Yakutat (W/C/WYK), Western (W), Central (C), Shelikof Strait, Eastern (E) Regulatory Areas, and in the West Yakutat (WYK), Southeast Outside (SEO), and Gulf-Wide (GW) Districts of the Gulf of Alaska. [Values are in metric tons]

Species	Area ¹	ABC	TAC	Overfishing
Pollock²				
Shumagin	(610)	35,240	31,724	
Chirikof	(620)	14,260	12,841	
Kodiak	(630)	26,650	23,996	
Shelikof		20,680	18,619	
WYK	(640)	2,520	2,235	
Subtotal	W/C/WYK	99,350	89,415	117,750
SEO	(650)	6,460	6,460	8,610
Total		105,810	95,875	126,360
Pacific cod³				
	W	24,400	18,300	
	C	38,650	30,250	
	E	4,750	3,560	
Total		67,800	52,110	91,200
Flatfish⁴				
	W	280	280	
(deep-water)	C	2,710	2,710	
	WYK	1,240	1,240	
	SEO	1,070	1,070	
Total		5,300	5,300	6,980
Rex sole⁴				
	W	1,230	1,230	
	C	5,660	5,660	
	WYK	1,540	1,540	
	SEO	1,010	1,010	
Total		9,440	9,440	12,300
Flathead sole				
	W	8,490	2,000	
	C	15,720	5,000	
	WYK	1,440	1,440	
	SEO	620	620	
Total		26,270	9,060	34,210
Flatfish⁵				
	W	19,510	4,500	
(shallow-water)	C	16,400	12,950	
	WYK	790	790	
	SEO	1,160	1,160	
Total		37,860	19,400	45,330

Table 1. (continued)

Species	Area ¹	ABC	TAC	Overfishing
Arrowtooth flounder	W	16,480	8,000	
	C	99,590	25,000	
	WYK	24,220	2,500	
	SEO	7,860	2,500	
Total		148,150	38,000	173,550
Sablefish ⁶	W	2,010	2,010	
	C	5,410	5,410	
	WYK	2,060	2,060	
	SEO	3,360	3,360	
	Subtotal E	5,420	5,420	
Total		12,840	12,840	15,720
Pacific ⁷ ocean perch	W	1,280	1,280	1,520
	C	9,610	9,610	11,350
	WYK	870	870	
	SEO	1,750	1,750	
Subtotal E				3,090
Total		13,510	13,510	15,960
Short raker/ rougheye ⁸	W	210	210	
	C	930	930	
	E	590	590	
	Total	1,730	1,730	2,510
Other rockfish ^{9,10}	W	20	20	
	C	740	740	
	WYK	250	150	
	SEO	3,890	100	
Total		4,900	1,010	6,390
Northern Rockfish ^{10,12}	W	600	600	
	C	4,280	4,280	
	E	N/A	N/A	
Total		4,880	4,880	5,780
Pelagic shelf rockfish ¹³	W	550	550	
	C	4,080	4,080	
	WYK	580	580	
	SEO	770	770	
Total		5,980	5,980	9,040
Thornyhead rockfish	W	420	420	
	C	970	970	
	E	920	920	
	Total	2,310	2,310	2,770

Table 1. (continued)

Species	Area ¹	ABC	TAC	Overfishing
Demersal shelf rockfish ¹¹	SEO	330	330	410
Atka mackerel	GW	600	600	6,200
Other ¹⁴ species	GW	N/A ¹⁵	13,619	N/A
TOTAL ¹⁶		447,710	285,994	554,710

1. Regulatory areas and districts are defined at § 679.2.
2. Pollock is apportioned in the Western/Central Regulatory areas to the Shelikof Strait conservation area (defined at §679.22(b)(2)(iii)(B)) in the A and B seasons only (§679.22(b)(2)(iii)(A)) in accordance with §679.22(b)(2)(iii)(C) and the remainder to the three statistical areas in the combined Western/Central Regulatory Area outside the Shelikof Strait based on the relative distribution of pollock biomass at 56 percent, 4 percent, and 40 percent in Regulatory areas 610, 620, and 630 respectively. During the C and D seasons pollock is apportioned based on the relative distribution of pollock biomass at 42 percent, 25 percent, and 33 percent in Regulatory Areas 610, 620, and 630 respectively. These seasonal apportionments are shown in Tables 21 and 22. In the West Yakutat and Southeast Outside Districts of the Eastern Regulatory Area, pollock is not divided into seasonal allowances.
3. The annual Pacific cod TAC is apportioned 60 percent to an A season and 40 percent to a B season in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas of the GOA. Pacific cod is allocated 90 percent for processing by the inshore component and 10 percent for processing by the offshore component. Seasonal apportionments and component allocations of TAC are shown in Table 23.
4. "Deep water flatfish" means Dover sole, Greenland turbot, and deepsea sole.
5. "Shallow water flatfish" means flatfish not including "deep water flatfish," flathead sole, rex sole, or arrowtooth flounder.
6. Sablefish is allocated to trawl and hook-and-line gears (Table 20).
7. "Pacific ocean perch" means Sebastes alutus.
8. "Shortraker/rougheye rockfish" means Sebastes borealis (shortraker) and S. aleutianus (rougheye).
9. "Other rockfish" in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas and in the West Yakutat District means slope rockfish and demersal shelf rockfish. The category "other rockfish" in the Southeast Outside District means Slope rockfish.
10. "Slope rockfish" means Sebastes aurora (aurora), S. melanostomus (blackgill), S. paucispinis (bocaccio), S. goodei (chilipepper), S. crameri (darkblotch), S. elongatus (greenstriped), S. variegatus (harlequin), S.

- wilsoni (pygmy), S. babcocki (redbanded), S. proriger (redstripe), S. zacentrus (sharpchin), S. jordani (shortbelly), S. brevispinis (silvergrey), S. diploproa (splitnose), S. saxicola (stripetail), S. miniatus (vermillion), and S. reedi (yellowmouth). In the Eastern GOA only, "slope rockfish" also includes northern rockfish, S. polyspinous.
11. "Demersal shelf rockfish" means Sebastes pinniger (canary), S. nebulosus (china), S. caurinus (copper), S. maliger (quillback), S. helvomaculatus (rosethorn), S. nigrocinctus (tiger), and S. ruberrimus (yelloweye).
 12. "Northern rockfish" means Sebastes polyspinis.
 13. "Pelagic shelf rockfish" means Sebastes ciliatus (dusky), S. entomelas (widow), and S. flavidus (yellowtail).
 14. "Other species" means sculpins, sharks, skates, squid, and octopus. The TAC for "other species" equals 5 percent of the TACs of assessed target species.
 15. N/A means not applicable.
 16. The total ABC is the sum of the ABCs for assessed target species.

Table 20 - 2001 Sablefish TAC specifications in the Gulf of Alaska and allocations thereof to hook-and-line and trawl gear. (Values are in metric tons)

Area/District	TAC	Hook-and-line apportionment	Trawl apportionment
Western	2,010	1,608	402
Central	5,410	4,328	1,082
West Yakutat	2,060	1,789	271
Southeast Outside	3,360	3,360	0
TOTAL	12,840	11,085	1,755

Apportionments of Pollock TAC Among Seasons and Regulatory Areas, and Allocations for Processing by Inshore and Offshore Components

In the GOA, pollock is apportioned by season and area, and is further allocated for processing by inshore and offshore components. Under this emergency interim rule extending the 2000 RFRPAs, the annual pollock TAC specified for the Western and Central Regulatory Areas of the GOA is apportioned into four seasonal allowances of 30, 15, 30, and 25 percent, respectively (§ 679.20(a)(5)(ii)(C)). As established by § 679.23(d)(2), the A, B, C, and D season allowances are available from January 20 through March 1, from March 15 through May 31, from August 20 through September 15, and from October 1 through November 1 respectively.

To prevent localized depletions of pollock outside the Shelikof Strait conservation area (defined at §679.22(b)(2)(iii)(B)), this emergency rule also extends seasonal TACs of pollock within Shelikof Strait during the A and B seasons. The derivation of these harvest limits are explained here and listed in Tables 19 and 22. The Shelikof area apportionments during the A and B seasons are derived from the most recent (2000) NMFS survey

estimate of pollock biomass of 334,900 mt in the critical habitat of the Shelikof Strait divided by the most recent (2000) estimate of total GOA pollock biomass of 705,900 mt (equals 0.4746) multiplied by the A and B seasonal apportionments of the combined W/C pollock TAC (87,180 mt), i.e., 30 percent of the annual TACs (26,154 mt) in the A season and 15 percent of the annual TACs in the B season (13,077 mt) in the GOA (§679.22(b)(2)(iii)(C)).

The remainder of the A and B seasonal allowances of pollock TAC in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas are apportioned among statistical area 610, and statistical areas 620 and 630 outside the Shelikof Strait conservation area in proportion to the distribution of pollock biomass as determined by the four most recent NMFS summer surveys. Pollock TACs in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas in the C and D seasons are apportioned among statistical areas 610, 620, and 630 in proportion to the distribution of pollock biomass as determined by the four most recent NMFS summer surveys. Within any fishing year, underage or overage of a seasonal allowance may be added to or subtracted from subsequent seasonal allowances in a manner to be determined by the Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, provided that a revised seasonal allowance does not exceed 30 percent of the annual TAC apportionment (§ 679.20(a)(5)(ii)(C)). The WYK and SEO District pollock TACs of 2,235 mt and 6,460 mt, respectively, are not allocated seasonally.

The biomass distribution of pollock in the Western and Central GOA, area apportionments, and seasonal apportionments for the A and B seasons are summarized in Table 21 and for the C and D seasons in Table 22, except that amounts of pollock for processing by the inshore and offshore component are not shown.

Table 21 - Distribution of Pollock in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas of the Gulf of Alaska (W/C GOA); Biomass Distribution, Area Apportionments, and Seasonal Allowances of Annual TAC for the A and B Seasons in 2001.

Statistical area	Biomass percent	2001 Annual TAC		Seasonal Allowances Of Annual TAC	
		A	B	(30%)	(15%)
Shelikof	47.46	18,619	12,413	6,206	
Shumagin (610)	29.47	31,724	7,707	3,854	
Chirikof ¹ (620)	2.14	12,841	560	280	
Kodiak ¹ (630)	20.93	23,996	5,474	2,737	
TOTAL	100.00	87,180	26,154	13,077	

¹ A and B seasonal allowances in the Chirikof and Kodiak Districts are outside the Shelikof Strait defined at §679.22(b)(3)(iii)(B).

Table 22 - Distribution of Pollock in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas of the Gulf of Alaska (W/C GOA); Biomass Distribution, Area Apportionments, and Seasonal Allowances OF Annual TAC for the C and D Seasons in 2001.

Statistical area	Biomass percent	2001 Annual TAC	Seasonal Allowances Of Annual TAC ¹	
			C (30%)	D (25%)
Shelikof		18,619	Not Apportioned	
Shumagin (610)	42.05	31,724	10,998	9,165
Chirikof (620)	25.03	12,841	6,546	5,455
Kodiak (630)	32.92	23,996	8,610	7,175
TOTAL	100.00	7,180	26,154	21,975

¹These emergency interim regulations for pollock in the GOA which specify A and B season dates and harvest limitations, expires (insert date), 2001, before the C and D seasons are scheduled to begin. Therefore, the C and D seasons are not authorized unless either this emergency rule is extended, or proposed and final rulemaking is completed.

Seasonal Apportionments of Pacific Cod TAC and Allocations for Processing of Pacific Cod TAC Between Inshore and Offshore Components

As described in Part I above, Pacific cod fishing is divided into two seasons in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas. The A season begins on January 1, 2001 and ends on June 10, 2001, the B season begins on June 10, 2001 and ends on December 31, 2001. After subtraction of incidental catch, 60 percent and 40 percent will be available for harvest during the A and B seasons, respectively, and will be apportioned between the inshore and offshore processing components.

Table 23 - 2001 Seasonal Apportionments and Allocation of Pacific cod TAC Amounts in the Gulf of Alaska; Allocations for Processing by the Inshore and Offshore Components. (Values are in mt)

Regulatory area	TAC	Component Allocation	
		<u>Inshore</u> (90%)	<u>Offshore</u> (10%)
Western	18,300	16,470	1,830
A Season (60%)	10,980	9,882	1,098
B Season (40%)	7,320	6,588	732
Central	30,250	27,225	3,025
A Season (60%)	18,150	16,335	1,815
B Season (40%)	12,250	10,890	1,210
Eastern	3,560	3,204	356
TOTAL:	52,110	46,899	5,211

Pacific Halibut PSC Mortality Limits

In December 2000, the Council's AP recommended seasonal PSC limits and apportionments in order to maximize harvest among gear types, fisheries, and seasons while minimizing bycatch of PSC based upon the criteria above. NMFS is approving the PSC apportionments specified in Tables 24 and 25, below. However, NMFS recognizes that the Council did not have the opportunity in December 2000, to evaluate the effects of SSL protection measures implemented by this emergency rule on PSC bycatch needs throughout the year with respect to factors listed above. NMFS will consider amending PSC seasonal apportionments and amounts after consulting with the Council at its emergency January 2001 meeting and pending Council recommended changes to PSC apportionments listed in Table 24 and 25.

Table 24 - Final 2001 Pacific halibut PSC limits, allowances, and apportionments. The Pacific halibut PSC limit for hook-and-line gear is allocated to the demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) fishery and fisheries other than DSR. The hook-and-line sablefish fishery is exempt from halibut PSC limits. (Values are in mt)

<u>Trawl gear</u>		<u>Hook-and-line gear</u>			
<u>Dates</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Other than DSR</u>		<u>DSR</u>	
		<u>Dates</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Jan 1-	450 (23%)	Jan 1-	175 (60%)	Jan 1-	10 (100%)
Apr 1		May 17		Dec 31	
Apr 1-	400 (20%)	May 17-	30 (10%)		
Jun 10					
Jun 10-	250 (12%)	Aug 31			
Jul 1		Aug 31-	85 (30%)		
Jul 1-	600 (30%)	Dec 31			
Oct 1					
Oct 1-	300 (15%)				
Dec 31					
Total:	2,000 (100%)		290 (100%)		10 (100%)

Table 25 - Final 2001 apportionment of Pacific halibut PSC trawl limits between the trawl gear deep-water species complex and the shallow-water species complex. (Values are in metric tons)

<u>Season</u>	<u>Shallow-water</u>	<u>Deep-water</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jan. 20-Apr. 1	350	100	450
Apr. 1-Jun. 10	100	300	400
Jun. 10-Jul. 1	250	0	250
Jul. 1-Oct. 1	<u>200</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>600</u>
Subtotal			
Jan. 20-Sep. 30	900	800	1,700
Oct. 1-Dec. 31	---	---	<u>300</u>
Total	---	---	2,000

No apportionment between shallow-water and deep-water fishery complexes during the 4th quarter

Halibut Discard Mortality Rates

The 2001 assumed DMRs are listed in Table 26.

Table 26 - 2001 Assumed Pacific Halibut Mortality Rates for Vessels Fishing in the Gulf of Alaska (Listed values are percent of halibut bycatch assumed to be dead)

Gear and Target	Mortality Rate
<u>HOOK-AND-LINE</u>	
Pacific cod	14
Rockfish	8
Other species	14
Sablefish	24
<u>TRAWL</u>	
Midwater pollock	72
Rockfish	69
Shallow-water flatfish	69
Pacific cod	61
Deep-water flatfish	60
Flathead sole	58
Rex sole	61
Bottom pollock	61
Arrowtooth Flounder	62
Atka mackerel	70
Sablefish	66
Other species	61
<u>POT</u>	
Pacific cod	14
Other species	14

Non-exempt American Fisheries Act (AFA) Catcher Vessel Groundfish Harvest and PSC Limitations

One of the provisions implemented by these AFA regulations was to place groundfish harvesting and processing limitations, also called sideboards, on AFA catcher/processors and catcher vessels in the GOA. The Council recommended that certain AFA catcher vessels in the GOA be exempt from groundfish harvest limitations. Exempted AFA catcher vessels in the GOA are those less than 125 ft (38.1 m) length overall whose annual BSAI pollock landings totaled less than 5100 mt and that made 40 or more GOA groundfish landings from 1995 through 1997 (§679.63(b)(1)(i)(B)). The amounts of the groundfish harvest limits in the GOA are based on the retained catch of non-exempt AFA catcher vessels of each sideboard species from 1995 through 1997 divided by the TAC for that species over the same period (§679.63(b)(1)(ii)(C)). These amounts are listed in Table 27. All harvests of sideboard species made by non-exempt AFA catcher vessels, whether as targeted catch or bycatch, will be deducted from the sideboard limits in Table 27.

Table 27 - Final 2001 GOA Non-Exempt AFA Catcher Vessel (CV)
Groundfish Harvest Limitations (Sideboards). (Values are in mt)

Species	Apportionments and Allocations by Area/Season/processor/Gear	Ratio of 1995-1997 Non-Exempt AFA CV Catch to 1995-1997 TAC	2001 TAC	2001 Non-Exempt AFA Catcher Vessel Sideboard
Pollock	<u>A Season (W/C areas only)</u>			
	January 20 - March 1			
	Shelikof Strait	0.1672	12,431	2,075
	Shumagin (610)	0.6238	7,707	4,808
	Chirikof (620) (outside Shelikof)	0.1262	560	71
	Kodiak (630) (outside Shelikof)	0.1984	5,474	1,086
	<u>B Season (W/C areas only)</u>			
	March 15 - May 31			
	Shelikof Strait	0.1672	6,206	1,038
	Shumagin (610)	0.6238	3,854	2,404
	Chirikof (620) (outside Shelikof)	0.1262	280	35
	Kodiak (630) (outside Shelikof)	0.1984	2,737	543
	<u>C Season (W/C areas only)</u>			
	August 20 - September 15			
	Shumagin (610)	0.6238	10,998	6,861
	Chirikof (620)	0.1262	6,546	826
	Kodiak (630)	0.1984	8,610	1,708
	<u>D Season (W/C areas only)</u>			
	October 1 - November 1			
	Shumagin (610)	0.6238	9,165	5,717
Chirikof (620)	0.1262	5,465	688	
Kodiak (630)	0.1984	7,175	1,424	
<u>Annual</u>				
WYK (640)	0.3642	2,235	814	
SEO (650)	0.3642	6,460	2,353	

Pacific cod	A Season (W/C areas only) January 1 - June 10			
	W inshore	0.1310	9,882	1,295
	offshore	0.1206	1,098	113
	C inshore	0.0542	16,335	885
	offshore	0.0721	1,815	131
	B Season (W/C areas only) June 10 - December 31			
	W inshore	0.1310	6,588	863
	offshore	0.1206	732	75
	C inshore	0.0542	10,980	596
	offshore	0.0721	1,210	87
Annual				
E inshore	0.0000	3,206	0	
offshore	0.0078	356	3	
Flatfish deep-water	W	0.0000	280	0
	C	0.0620	2,710	168
	E	0.0021	2,310	5
Rex sole	W	0.0043	1,230	5
	C	0.0117	5,660	66
	E	0.0026	2,550	7
Flathead sole	W	0.0129	2,000	26
	C	0.0097	5,000	49
	E	0.0008	2,060	2
Flatfish shallow-water	W	0.0260	4,500	117
	C	0.0420	12,950	544
	E	0.0106	1,950	21
Arrowtooth flounder	W	0.0047	8,000	38
	C	0.0206	25,000	515
	E	0.0016	5,000	8
Sablefish	W trawl gear	0.0023	402	1
	C trawl gear	0.0384	1,082	44
	E trawl gear	0.0236	271	7
Pacific Ocean perch	W	0.0051	1,280	7
	C	0.0692	9,610	655
	E	0.0255	2,620	59
Shortraker/Rougheye	W	0.0000	210	0
	C	0.0145	930	13
	E	0.0105	590	6

Other rockfish	W	0.0000	20	0
	C	0.0410	740	3
	E	0.0000	250	0
Northern rockfish	W	0.0005	600	0
	C	0.0307	4,280	131
Pelagic shelf rockfish	W	0.0004	550	0
	C	0.0000	4,480	0
	E	0.0066	1,350	9
Thornyhead rockfish	W	0.0118	420	5
	C	0.0118	970	11
	E	0.0118	920	11
Demersal shelf rockfish	SEO	0.0000	330	0
Atka mackerel	Gulfwide	0.0443	600	27
Other species	Gulfwide	0.0067	13,619	91

PSC bycatch limits for non-exempt AFA catcher vessels in the GOA are based upon the ratio of aggregate retained groundfish catch by non-exempt AFA catcher vessels in each PSC target category from 1995 through 1997 relative to the retained catch of all vessels in that fishery from 1995 through 1997 (§679.63(b)(1)(iii)). These amounts are shown in Table 28.

Table 28 - Final 2001 Non-Exempt AFA Catcher Vessel Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) Limits for the GOA. (Values are in mt)

PSC Species	Target Fishery and Season	Ratio Of 1995-1997 Non-Exempt AFA CV Retained Catch to Total Retained Catch	2001 PSC Limit	2001 Non-Exempt AFA Catcher Vessel PSC Limit
Halibut (mortality in mt)	Trawl 1st Seasonal Allowance January 20 - April 1 shallow water targets deep water targets	0.340	350	119
		0.070	100	7
	Trawl 2nd Seasonal Allowance April 1- June 10 shallow water targets deep water targets	0.340	100	34
		0.070	300	21
	Trawl 3rd Seasonal Allowance June 10 - July 1 shallow water targets deep water targets	0.340	250	85
		0.070	0	0
	Trawl 4th Seasonal Allowance July 1 - October 1 shallow water targets deep water targets	0.340	200	68
		0.070	400	28
	Trawl 5th Seasonal Allowance October 1 - December 31 all targets	0.205	300	62