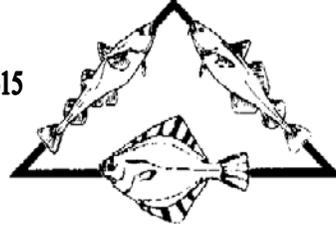


Groundfish Data Bank

Alaska

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CGOA Rockfish Program 2013 Annual Cooperative Reports

December 13, 2013

To: North Pacific Fishery Management Council
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Fax: (907) 271-2817
npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

From: Julie Bonney
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak, AK 99615

Please find enclosed the 2013 Annual Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative Reports for the following cooperatives:

1. Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative
2. North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative
3. ISA Rockfish Cooperative
4. OBSI Rockfish Cooperative
5. Western Alaska Fisheries Cooperative
6. Global Rockfish Cooperative
7. Pacific Rockfish Cooperative

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Bonney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Bonney
Executive Director,
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc

Final Report
Star of Kodiak
Rockfish Cooperative

2013

December 15, 2013

Prepared by:
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc.
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak AK 99615

I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allowed each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, and Thornyhead rockfish along with an allocation of Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained secondary catch or Halibut PSC mortality in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The 5-year RPP ended in 2011 and was rolled over into a new, modified, catch share program in June 2010 under Amendment 88 of the GOA Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). 2013 was the second year of implementation for the new Rockfish Program which is scheduled to sunset after 10 years in 2022.

Modifications to the pilot program for the CV sector include:

- (1) As in the RPP, catcher vessels must belong to a cooperative which receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members. This allocation includes target, secondary and Halibut PSC mortality from its member vessels
- (2) No mandatory processor association based on history of deliveries, though qualifying vessels are required to associate with a City of Kodiak shoreside processor of their choice with the option to change co-ops on a year-by-year basis
- (3) Vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV co-ops
- (4) No person may contribute more than 4% of the CV sector catch history to annual cooperative allocations QS (with grandfather provision)
- (5) Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish for the CV sector
- (6) No processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector
- (7) Qualifying years suite changed from 1996-2002 to 2000-2006
- (8) Halibut PSC reductions: 12.5% reduction off the initial quota and 45% off the halibut PSC not used during the season and rolled over for use in the Fall limited access flatfish fisheries
- (9) Vessels that fished in the entry level RPP trawl fishery may qualify for quota share (QS) under the new program in proportion to the number of years that the vessel made rockfish legal landings to an entry level processor in 2007, 2008, or 2009
- (10) Changes in monitoring requirements (see Section A – page 3)
- (11) Sideboard restrictions simplified for ease of management (see page 6)
- (12) 3% NMFS management fee assessed on all purchased CQ

¹As of 2012, Pelagic shelf rockfish consists only of dusky rockfish

As in the RPP, the primary RP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for co-op members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allows co-op members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while minimizing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The Trident Seafoods Star of Kodiak (SOK) Rockfish Cooperative is one of 7 inshore cooperatives (compared to five co-ops in the RPP) formed in March 2012 in accordance to Amendment 88 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2013 marked the second year of the new Rockfish Program and, in compliance with Amendment 88, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2013 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger website.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2013, as in 2012, the SOK Rockfish Cooperative consisted of eleven member licenses with ten member vessels (Table 1) of which six actively fished during the 2013 RP season: Marcy J, Rosella, Cape Kiwanda, Excalibur II, Michelle Renee and Peggy Jo. The SOK co-op had 12 member licenses during the Pilot Program.

Trident Seafoods in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the SOK Rockfish Cooperative.

Table 1. LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the SOK Rockfish Cooperative 2013.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
2278	MARCY J., INC.	MARCY J	00055
2364	ROSELLA INC	ROSELLA	21732
2567	TRIDENT SEAFOODS CORPORATION	ARCTIC RAM	57117
2636	ROYAL VIKING, INC.	CAPE KIWANDA	61432
3658	OCEAN STORM FISHERIES, INC.	OCEAN STORM	64667
3144	TRIDENT SEAFOODS CORPORATION	PACIFIC RAM	61792
3521	EXCALIBUR II, LLC	EXCALIBUR II	54653
3594	B & N FISHERIES COMPANY	PEGGY JO	09200
2550	BLACK SEA FISHERIES, INC.	MICHELLE RENEE	61244
2319	DAVID DAHL	PROVISION	21665
3463	TRAVELER FISHERIES LLC	TRAVELER	49108

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

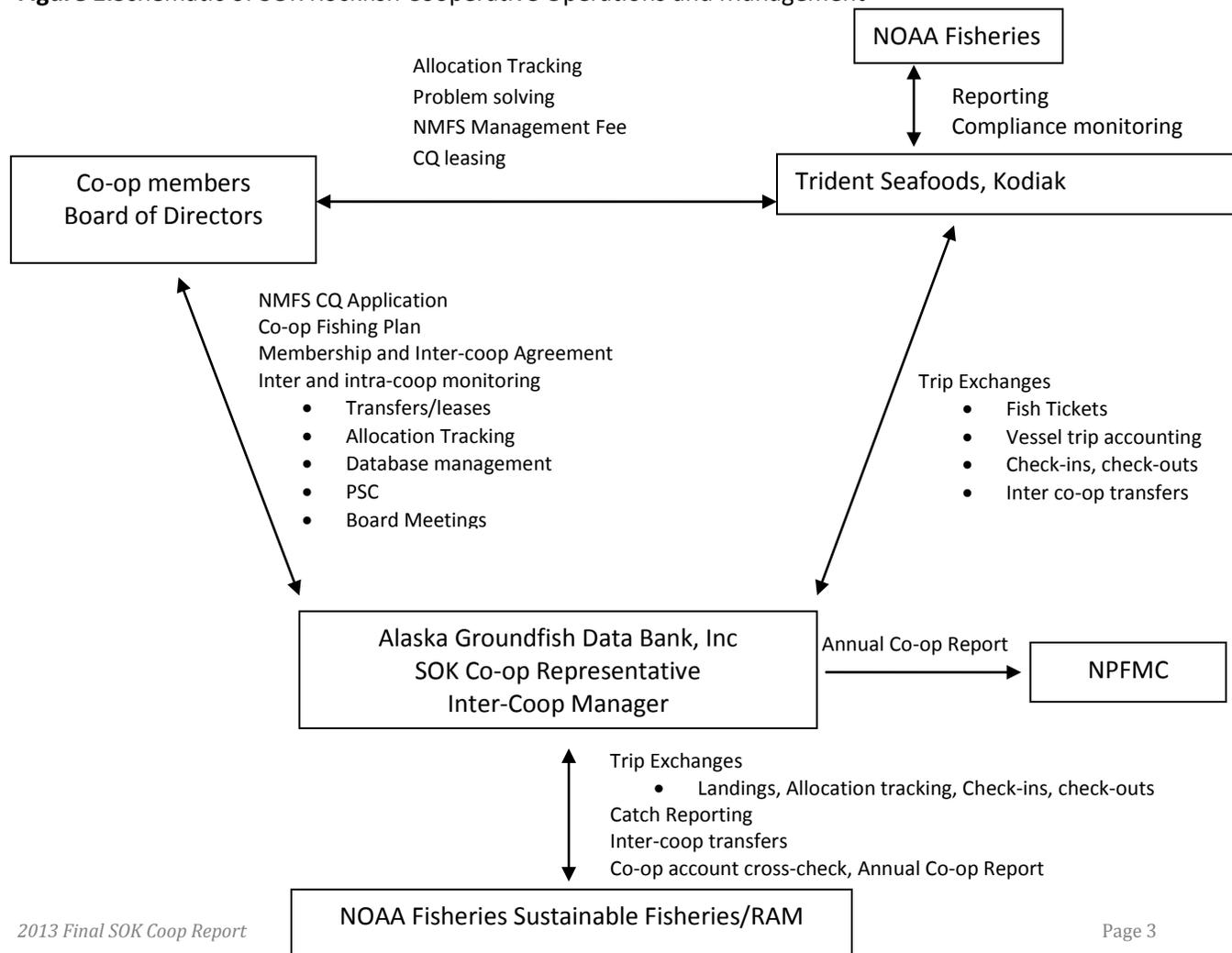
The SOK Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the co-op president, Jerry Downing, the SOK plant manager, Paul Lumsden, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while minimizing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

- (1) **Check-ins and Check-outs:** To facilitate moving into and out of non-RP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" with no limits to the number of check ins as was the case for the RPP. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries.
- (2) **Observer Coverage: 100%** Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels.
- (3) **CMCP Monitor:** For the new Rockfish Program, NMFS hired a Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) specialist (Bill Donaldson) to monitor each Processor's CMCP. RP Processors are required to file with NMFS their CMCP prior to the start of the RP season. This plan details how the processor monitors the deliveries and complies with monitoring requirements. This is in lieu of 200% observer coverage at the plants required during the RPP.
- (4) **NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management:** NOAA RAM's Co-op ledger web site was used to perform transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of SOK Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. *Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests*

The SOK Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2013 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 5. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the seven catcher vessel cooperatives, adhere to cooperative agreements and to cover overages.

Table 2. SOK Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	Dusky	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial SOK Allocation:	3,396,692	1,273,179	1,422,305	233,377	875,077	37,313	72,881
Net Transfers (OBSI):	(15,000)		(5,000)				
Transfers (NP):	(114,676)	(8,391)		(29,683)			
Total Transfers	(129,676)	(8,391)	(5,000)	(29,683)	0	0	0
Final SOK Allocation:	3,267,016	1,264,788	1,417,305	203,694	875,077	37,313	72,881
Total CV Coops*:	13,432,841	3,952,693	4,534,753	831,082	3,104,997	161,057	258,602
SOK % CV Allocation:	24.32%	32.00%	31.25%	24.51%	28.18%	23.17%	28.18%

*includes CP CQ transferred onshore

B. *Vessel Use, Co-op QS and Processing Caps*

- (1) **Vessel harvests:** A vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV sector is one of the new changes to the RP. In 2013, this amounted to 1,753,623 lbs of primary rockfish in the aggregate. During the 2013 season, no vessel exceeded this limit (see figure 2).
- (2) **Co-op QS:** Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish allocated to the CV sector. Final quota share allocated to the SOK co-op in 2013 amounted to 27.1% of the aggregate CV rockfish cooperative quota (Table 3).
- (3) **Processing limits:** For the Rockfish Program, a provision was approved that states no processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish in the aggregate; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector. During the 2013 season, Trident Seafoods, Kodiak did not exceed these caps. See Table 4. Note: CQ harvested by the SOK rockfish cooperative may not equal the amount processed by Trident Seafoods Kodiak because deliveries to other City of Kodiak processors are allowed by the co-op in the new Rockfish Program.

Table 3. Primary rockfish CQ (POP, Northern Rockfish, Dusky rockfish): % of Final CV sector allocations by species and co-op

Final Co-op CQ	POP	NR	Dusky	Total Rockfish
NP	16.8%	14.9%	17.7%	16.6%
SOK	24.3%	32.0%	31.3%	27.1%
WAF	17.6%	10.4%	9.1%	14.6%
OBSI	20.7%	28.8%	30.0%	24.1%
ISA	13.3%	8.3%	7.7%	11.2%
Global	2.9%	0.9%	0.5%	2.0%
Pacific	4.4%	4.8%	3.8%	4.3%
Sum	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 2. Harvests of primary rockfish by SOK member vessels (% of aggregate CV primary rockfish). Vessel harvest cap is 8%

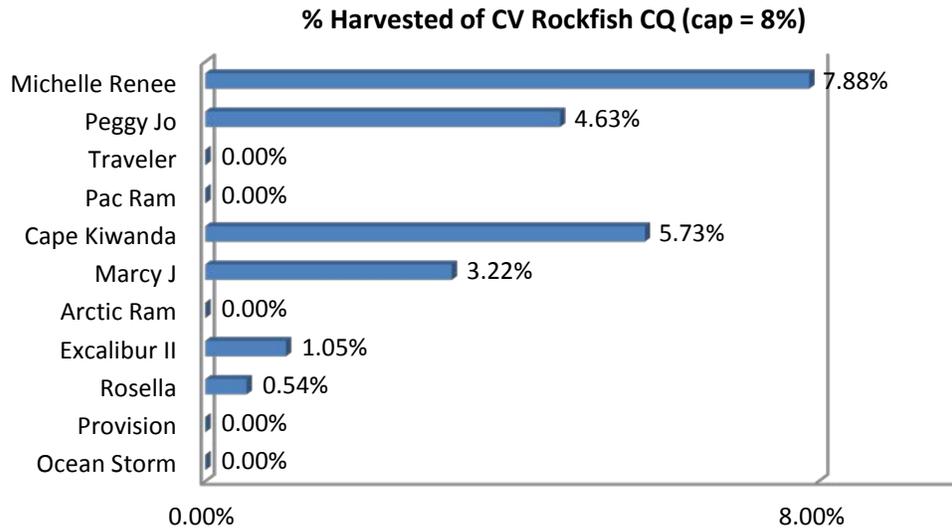


Table 4. Pounds and % of CV allocations by CQ species received and processed by Trident Seafoods in 2013.

Species	POP	NR	DUSKY	Total Primary RF	Sablefish	Cod	% RF	% Sable	% Cod
SOK Processed	3,270,068	908,574	995,123	5,173,765	233,890	150,237	23.60%	28.24%	4.84%
CV Allocation	13,432,841	3,952,693	4,534,753	21,920,286	828,082	3,104,997			

Table 5. SOK Rockfish Cooperative 2013 allocations and harvests by species and harvesting vessel. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website <https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts> (as of December 11, 2013).

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2013 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
POP	OCEAN STORM	2%	69,617	0	69,617
	PROVISION	6%	217,385	0	217,385
	ROSELLA	4%	152,447	6,709	145,738
	EXCALIBUR II	12%	406,580	230,574	176,006
	ARCTIC RAM	5%	165,088	0	165,088
	MARCY J	9%	319,693	345,042	(25,349)
	CAPE KIWANDA	8%	274,127	965,171	(691,044)
	PACIFIC RAM	1%	48,557	0	48,557
	TRAVELER	10%	342,046	0	342,046
	PEGGY JO	24%	810,582	804,665	5,917
	MICHELLE RENEE	17%	590,569	816,068	(225,499)
	Total	100%	3,396,692	3,168,229	228,463
		Transfers:		(129,676)	
	Final Total:		3,267,016	Net:	98,787
NR	OCEAN STORM	0%	390	0	390
	PROVISION	1%	10,464	0	10,464
	ROSELLA	3%	41,016	4,314	36,702
	EXCALIBUR II	8%	101,873	0	101,873
	ARCTIC RAM	5%	67,791	0	67,791
	MARCY J	11%	144,625	131,451	13,174
	CAPE KIWANDA	9%	111,948	145,188	(33,240)

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2013 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
NR	PACIFIC RAM	0%	3,346	0	3,346
	TRAVELER	1%	10,538	0	10,538
	PEGGY JO	21%	271,655	118,398	153,257
	MICHELLE RENEE	40%	509,532	507,667	1,865
	Total	100%	1,273,179	907,018	366,161
	Transfers:		(8,391)		
	Final Total:		1,264,788	Net:	357,770
Dusky	OCEAN STORM	1%	17,015	-	17,015
	PROVISION	2%	21,545	-	21,545
	ROSELLA	10%	138,951	107,111	31,840
	EXCALIBUR II	6%	86,624	19	86,605
	ARCTIC RAM	7%	92,997	-	92,997
	MARCY J	19%	271,802	228,291	43,511
	CAPE KIWANDA	8%	116,742	146,326	(29,584)
	PACIFIC RAM	1%	15,126	-	15,126
	TRAVELER	0%	2,958	-	2,958
	PEGGY JO	17%	235,284	91,229	144,055
	MICHELLE RENEE	30%	423,262	403,002	20,260
	Total	100%	1,422,305	975,978	446,327
	Transfers:		(5,000)		
	Final Total:		1,417,305	Net:	441,327
Sablefish	OCEAN STORM	1%	2,987	-	2,987
	PROVISION	4%	8,780	-	8,780
	ROSELLA	5%	12,092	-	12,092
	EXCALIBUR II	10%	22,421	28,056	(5,635)
	ARCTIC RAM	5%	12,455	-	12,455
	MARCY J	12%	27,886	11,168	16,718
	CAPE KIWANDA	8%	19,398	42,851	(23,453)
	PACIFIC RAM	1%	2,358	-	2,358
	TRAVELER	5%	12,467	-	12,467
	PEGGY JO	22%	50,493	58,531	(8,038)
	MICHELLE RENEE	27%	62,039	61,897	143
	Total	100%	233,377	202,502	30,875
	Transfers:		(29,683)		
	Final Total:		203,694	Net:	1,192
P. cod	OCEAN STORM	1%	11,199	-	11,199
	PROVISION	4%	32,921	-	32,921
	ROSELLA	5%	45,342	427	44,915
	EXCALIBUR II	10%	84,069	9	84,060
	ARCTIC RAM	5%	46,702	-	46,702
	MARCY J	12%	104,564	36,492	68,071
	CAPE KIWANDA	8%	72,736	89,306	(16,571)
	PACIFIC RAM	1%	8,842	-	8,842
	TRAVELER	5%	46,746	-	46,746
	PEGGY JO	22%	189,330	15,499	173,831
	MICHELLE RENEE	27%	232,625	7,482	225,143
	Total	100%	875,077	149,215	725,861
	Transfers:		-		
	Final Total:		875,077	Net:	725,861
Thornyhead	OCEAN STORM	1%	478	-	478

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2013 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
Thornyhead	PROVISION	4%	1,404	-	1,404
	ROSELLA	5%	1,933	-	1,933
	EXCALIBUR II	10%	3,585	1,146	2,439
	ARCTIC RAM	5%	1,991	-	1,991
	MARCY J	12%	4,459	8,720	(4,261)
	CAPE KIWANDA	8%	3,101	13,852	(10,751)
	PACIFIC RAM	1%	377	-	377
	TRAVELER	5%	1,993	-	1,993
	PEGGY JO	22%	8,073	6,318	1,755
	MICHELLE RENEE	27%	9,919	6,101	3,818
	Total	100%	37,313	36,137	1,176
	Transfers:		-		
	Final Total:		37,313	Net:	1,176
Halibut PSC	OCEAN STORM	1%	933	-	933
	PROVISION	4%	2,742	-	2,742
	ROSELLA	5%	3,776	-	3,776
	EXCALIBUR II	10%	7,002	168	6,834
	ARCTIC RAM	5%	3,890	-	3,890
	MARCY J	12%	8,709	532	8,177
	CAPE KIWANDA	8%	6,058	6,402	(344)
	PACIFIC RAM	1%	736	-	736
	TRAVELER	5%	3,893	-	3,893
	PEGGY JO	22%	15,768	6,430	9,338
MICHELLE RENEE	27%	19,374	2,384	16,991	
	Total	100%	72,881	15,915	56,966
	Transfers:		-		
	Final Total:		72,881	Net:	56,966

C. *Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ*

Federal regulations require the RP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Dusky Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. Although safety concerns do at times necessitate some discarding of rockfish at sea (for example, when the codend is too big to bring on board in a safe manner), during the 2013 SOK Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1– November 15, 2013), there were no occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species.

D. *Sideboard limits and rockfish sideboard fishery harvests*

The Rockfish Program established sideboard limits and/or prohibitions that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard restrictions apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing. For the CV sector, the sideboard limits established in the RPP have been removed for ease of management. The following prohibitions are in place during the month of July:

- (1) For the month of July, limit all CVs to the shallow water complex fisheries (fishing in the deep complex is prohibited)
- (2) Directed fishing for WYAK and WGOA primary rockfish species in the month of July is prohibited

The prohibitions to the CV sector to fish BSAI cod and flatfish have been removed. The SOK co-op members followed the sideboard rules.

V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

A. **Halibut:** The cooperative’s fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op’s RP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 6). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op’s quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the coop members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or “flying bottom”) gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The SOK Rockfish Co-op used 15,915 lbs. or 22% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 72,881 lbs.

Table 6. Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the SOK Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard		Red Light Standard		Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%	POP	0.45%	POP	0.38%
NR/Dusky	2.20%	NR/Dusky	1.98%	NR/Dusky	1.65%
Sable/cod	4.00%	Sable/cod	3.60%	Sable/cod	3.00%

B. **Chinook Salmon:** SOK Rockfish cooperative members continued with the voluntary Chinook salmon avoidance program implemented during the RPP in 2010. Members were provided with a summary of Chinook bycatch in the RPP 2007-2012 fisheries and hotspot reports from 2010-12. Vessel operators were advised to monitor the hotspot areas, depths and time frames during the 2013 season and agreed to avoid areas of high Chinook salmon bycatch.

Operators reported hotspots from the grounds to AGDB and/or to their processor. In turn the processor relayed this information to the inter-coop manager, AGDB, if they were the original point of contact. AGDB distributed hotspot information to the fleet and processors so that vessels on the fishing grounds could avoid the hotspots. AGDB also provided feedback to the vessel operators and their affiliated processor by reporting the number of Chinook salmon on the fish ticket on a trip by trip basis if >10 Chinook occurred in the delivery. There were eight hot spot alerts (five unique areas) sent out to co-op members in 2013.

It became evident that Chinook bycatch was a problem in early May. An inter-cooperative meeting was held on May 15 and again on May 21 to discuss options for reducing Chinook bycatch in the rockfish target trips. At the inter-cooperative meetings, it was decided to suspend all rockfish fishing until June 1st and that the co-ops would do a slow start after June 1st where no more than two vessels would start fishing per co-op with each trip subject to rate standards. Chinook bycatch declined significantly after June 1.

According to CAS (per Steve Whitney, NMFS), there were a total of 1,271 Chinook taken by the seven CV co-ops over the 2013 rockfish season. This compares to 817 Chinook taken during the 2012 season (see Table 7).

Table 7. Chinook PSC, total CV rockfish harvests and Chinook PSC rate for the RPP (2007-2011) and the first two years of the new Rockfish Program (2012-13). Catcher vessel co-ops only. Source: Steve Whitney, NMFS.

Year	Rockfish		
	Chinook (no.)	Harvest (mt)	Rate (Chinook/mt)
2007	840	7,748	0.108
2008	1,683	7,440	0.226
2009	892	6,874	0.130
2010	1,017	7,992	0.127
2011	396	7,071	0.056
2012	817	10,067	0.081
2013	1,271	8,820	0.144
Average 07-13	988	8,002	0.123

Rockfish Genetics Project: In June 2013, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council implemented a new hard cap for the non-pollock trawl fisheries in the GOA (7,500 Chinook) with 1,200 Chinook of that limit allocated to the Rockfish Program catcher vessel co-ops. Whereas there is ample information on stock of origin of Chinook taken in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, data is still lacking on the origins of Chinook taken in the GOA trawl fisheries. Also uncertain is the proportion of Chinook bycatch that are of hatchery origin. In 2012, observers started collecting systematic samples from Chinook taken in the GOA pollock fisheries, but no data is being collected from those caught in the non-pollock fisheries. The Kodiak Rockfish Program participants took the initiative to gather more genetic data on Chinook caught in the non-pollock fisheries, the composition of which some suggest may differ from Chinook taken in the pollock fishery. The Rockfish co-ops and processors partnered with Ken Hansen, the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program, NMFS Alaska Region and NMFS Genetics Lab in Auke Bay in collecting samples from all Chinook caught in the 2013 shoreside rockfish fishery. The Rockfish fishery was chosen as a first step because of the co-op structure of the fishery and 100% observer coverage to monitor at-sea discards. Because all the GOA processors possess a NMFS Prohibited Species Donation (PSD) Program Permit and all vessels participating in the rockfish fishery are listed on the permits, 100% retention of salmon is allowed if the intent is to donate the retained salmon to the program through Sea Share. This project is being funded by the North Pacific Fisheries Research Foundation and is expected to continue through 2015.

The Project goals are:

1. Collect tissue samples from all landed Chinook salmon for DNA and stock of origin analysis.
2. Collect biological data (weight, length, sex) at the plant from all landed salmon.
3. Scan all landed Chinook salmon for the presence or absence of adipose fin clips and Coded Wire Tags (CWT). This will allow for an estimation of Chinook bycatch that originate from hatcheries.
4. Collect CWT's (snouts) from all salmon with positive CWT signal.

C. Other Prohibited Species Catch: The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2013 RP fishing season (May 1st –

November 15th): 98 non-Chinook salmon, 108 Bairdi tanner crab and 12 Golden king crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS as of Dec. 4, 2013).

VI. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation exactly on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. leases and clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the SOK Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

Final Report
North Pacific
Rockfish Cooperative

2013

December 15, 2013

Prepared by:
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I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allowed each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, and Thornyhead rockfish along with an allocation of Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained secondary catch or Halibut PSC mortality in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The 5-year RPP ended in 2011 and was rolled over into a new, modified, catch share program in June 2010 under Amendment 88 of the GOA Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). 2013 was the second year of implementation for the new Rockfish Program which is scheduled to sunset after 10 years in 2022.

Modifications to the pilot program for the CV sector include:

- (1) As in the RPP, catcher vessels must belong to a cooperative which receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members. This allocation includes target, secondary and Halibut PSC mortality from its member vessels
- (2) No mandatory processor association based on history of deliveries, though qualifying vessels are required to associate with a City of Kodiak shoreside processor of their choice with the option to change co-ops on a year-by-year basis
- (3) Vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV co-ops
- (4) No person may contribute more than 4% of the CV sector catch history to annual cooperative allocations QS (with grandfather provision)
- (5) Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish for the CV sector
- (6) No processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector
- (7) Qualifying years suite changed from 1996-2002 to 2000-2006
- (8) Halibut PSC reductions: 12.5% reduction off the initial quota and 45% off the halibut PSC not used during the season and rolled over for use in the Fall limited access flatfish fisheries
- (9) Vessels that fished in the entry level RPP trawl fishery may qualify for quota share (QS) under the new program in proportion to the number of years that the vessel made rockfish legal landings to an entry level processor in 2007, 2008, or 2009
- (10) Changes in monitoring requirements (see Section A – page 3)
- (11) Sideboard restrictions simplified for ease of management (see page 6)
- (12) 3% NMFS management fee assessed on all purchased CQ

¹As of 2012, Pelagic shelf rockfish consists only of dusky rockfish

As in the RPP, the primary RP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for co-op members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allows co-op members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while minimizing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative is one of 7 inshore cooperatives (compared to five co-ops in the RPP) formed in March 2012 in accordance to Amendment 88 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2013 marked the second year of the new Rockfish Program and, in compliance with Amendment 88, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2013 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative’s manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger website.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2013, the NP Rockfish Cooperative consisted of eleven member licenses with ten member vessels (Table 1) of which six actively fished during the 2013 RP season: Alaska Beauty, Caravelle, Dawn, Dusk, Sea Mac and Topaz. This compares to six member licenses during the Pilot Program.

North Pacific Seafoods in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the NP Rockfish Cooperative.

Table 1. LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the NP Rockfish Cooperative 2013.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
1590	ALASKA BEAUTY LLC	ALASKA BEAUTY	22011
3764	PELAGIC RESOURCES, INC.	ALASKAN	3734
2148	THOMAS TORMALA	CAPT’N ART	40967
2973	GOLDEN WEST FISHERIES, INC.	CARAVELLE	57634
2487	ALVIN BURCH	DAWN	9206
2165	ALVIN BURCH	DUSK	21636
1755	ENTERPRISE FISHERIES, LLC	ENTERPRISE	20339
1541	MAGIC FISH CO.	SEA MAC	6151
3785	SEA MAC SEAFOODS, LLC	SEA MAC	6151
2653	ALASKA WIND, LLC	ALASKA WIND	55523
2535	CHANDLER FISHERIES, INC.	TOPAZ	40250

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

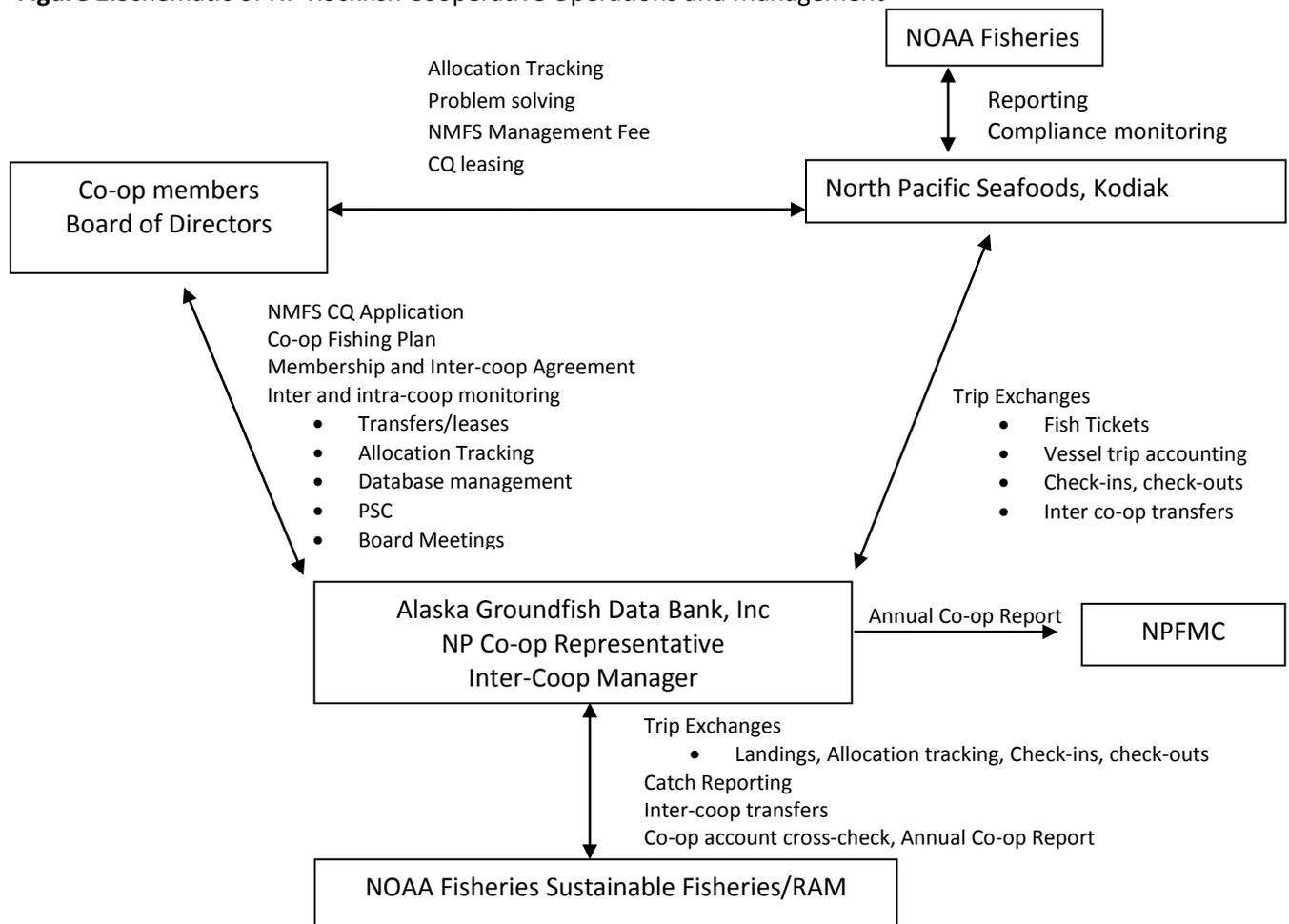
The NP Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the co-op president, Patrick O’Donnell, the North Pacific Seafoods plant manager, Matt Moir and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while minimizing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

- (1) **Check-ins and Check-outs:** To facilitate moving into and out of non-RP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" with no limits to the number of check ins as was the case for the RPP. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries.
- (2) **Observer Coverage: 100%** Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels.
- (3) **CMCP Monitor:** For the new Rockfish Program, NMFS hired a Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) specialist (Bill Donaldson) to monitor each Processor's CMCP. RP Processors are required to file with NMFS their CMCP prior to the start of the RP season. This plan details how the processor monitors the deliveries and complies with monitoring requirements. This is in lieu of 200% observer coverage at the plants required during the RPP.
- (4) **NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management:** NOAA RAM's Co-op ledger web site was used to perform transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of NP Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management



I. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests

The NP Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2013 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 5. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the seven catcher vessel cooperatives, adhere to cooperative agreements and to cover overages.

Table 2. NP Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	Dusky	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial NP Allocation:	2,148,745	579,035	801,678	132,106	495,348	21,122	41,255
Transfers (SOK):	114,676	8,391	-	29,683	-	-	-
Transfers (ISA):	-	-	-	12,574	-	-	-
Transfers (BUC):	-	-	-	3,000	-	-	-
Transfers (OBSI):	(5,341)	-	-	19,762	-	15,527	-
Total Transfers	109,335	8,391	-	65,019	-	15,527	-
Final NP Allocation:	2,258,080	587,426	801,678	197,125	495,348	36,649	41,255
Total CV Coops*:	13,432,841	3,952,693	4,534,753	831,082	3,104,997	161,057	258,602
NP % Final CV Allocation:	16.81%	14.86%	17.68%	23.72%	15.95%	22.76%	15.95%

*includes CP CQ transferred onshore

B. Vessel Use, Co-op CQ and Processing Caps

- (1) **Vessel harvests:** A vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV sector is one of the new changes to the RP. In 2013, this amounted to 1,753,623 lbs of primary rockfish in the aggregate. During the 2013 season, no vessel exceeded this limit (see figure 2).
- (2) **Co-op QS:** Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish allocated to the CV sector. Final quota share allocated to the NP co-op in 2013 amounted to 16.6% of the aggregate CV rockfish cooperative quota (Table 4).
- (3) **Processing limits:** For the Rockfish Program, a provision was approved that states no processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish in the aggregate; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector. During the 2013 season, North Pacific Seafoods, Kodiak did not exceed these caps. See Table 3. Note: CQ harvested by the North Pacific rockfish cooperative may not equal the amount processed by North Pacific Seafoods because deliveries to other City of Kodiak processors are allowed by the co-op in the new Rockfish Program.

Table 3. LBS and % of CV allocations by CQ species received and processed by North Pacific Seafoods in 2013.

Species	POP	NR	DUSKY	Total Primary RF	Sablefish	Cod	% RF	% Sable	% Cod
Processed APS	1,991,907	372,707	524,177	2,888,791	136,193	299,759	13.18%	16.39%	9.65%
CV Allocation	13,432,841	3,952,693	4,534,753	21,920,286	831,082	3,104,997			

Figure 2. Harvests of primary rockfish by NP member vessels (% of aggregate CV primary rockfish). Vessel harvest cap is 8%

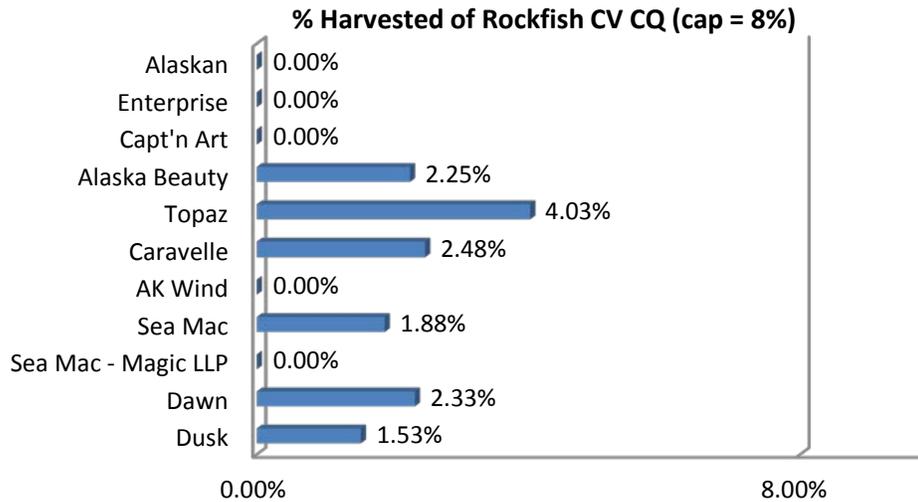


Table 4. Primary rockfish CQ (POP, Northern Rockfish, Dusky rockfish): % of Final CV sector allocations by species and co-op

Co-op CQ	POP	NR	Dusky	Total Rockfish
NP	16.8%	14.9%	17.7%	16.6%
SOK	24.3%	32.0%	31.3%	27.1%
WAF	17.6%	10.4%	9.1%	14.6%
OBSI	20.7%	28.8%	30.0%	24.1%
ISA	13.3%	8.3%	7.7%	11.2%
Global	2.9%	0.9%	0.5%	2.0%
Pacific	4.4%	4.8%	3.8%	4.3%
Sum	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 5. NP Rockfish Cooperative 2013 allocations and harvests by species and harvesting vessel. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website <https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts> (as of December 11, 2013).

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2013 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
POP	DUSK	13%	281,445	273,608	7,837
	DAWN	14%	301,307	243,187	58,120
	SEA MAC - MAGIC LLP	12%	248,828	0	248,828
	SEA MAC	5%	114,242	411,895	(297,653)
	ALASKA WIND	2%	43,613	0	43,613
	CARAVELLE	13%	282,494	303,109	(20,615)
	TOPAZ	21%	443,752	585,288	(141,536)
	ALASKA BEAUTY	11%	230,389	388,678	(158,289)
	CAPT'N ART	4%	75,516	0	75,516
	ENTERPRISE	2%	37,399	0	37,399
	ALASKAN	4%	89,761	0	89,761
	Total	100%	2,148,745	2,205,765	(57,020)
		Transfers:		109,335	
	Final Total:		2,258,080	Net:	52,315

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2013 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
NR	DUSK	8%	43,817	19,848	23,969
	DAWN	20%	113,479	103,788	9,691
	SEA MAC - MAGIC LLP	2%	13,819	0	13,819
	SEA MAC	6%	34,024	266	33,758
	ALASKA WIND	0%	33	0	33
	CARAVELLE	21%	124,168	129,803	(5,635)
	TOPAZ	33%	191,315	88,894	102,421
	ALASKA BEAUTY	8%	47,941	56,365	(8,424)
	CAPT'N ART	0%	674	0	674
	ENTERPRISE	2%	8,706	0	8,706
	ALASKAN	0%	1,058	0	1,058
	Total	100%	579,035	398,964	180,071
		Transfers:	8,391		
		Final Total:	587,426	Net:	188,462
Dusky	DUSK	10%	78,993	42,200	36,793
	DAWN	24%	190,910	163,137	27,773
	SEA MAC - MAGIC LLP	2%	18,418	0	18,418
	SEA MAC	5%	37,516	458	37,058
	ALASKA WIND	0%	1,771	0	1,771
	CARAVELLE	18%	143,932	110,090	33,842
	TOPAZ	31%	246,760	208,204	38,556
	ALASKA BEAUTY	9%	72,346	49,000	23,346
	CAPT'N ART	0%	1,211	0	1,211
	ENTERPRISE	1%	5,480	0	5,480
	ALASKAN	1%	4,341	0	4,341
	Total	100%	801,678	573,089	228,589
		Transfers:	-		
		Final Total:	801,678	Net:	228,589
Sablefish	DUSK	11%	14,704	3,500	11,204
	DAWN	17%	22,880	2,679	20,201
	SEA MAC - MAGIC LLP	8%	9,943	-	9,943
	SEA MAC	5%	7,030	75,713	(68,684)
	ALASKA WIND	1%	1,565	-	1,565
	CARAVELLE	16%	21,251	20,954	297
	TOPAZ	26%	33,866	37,488	(3,622)
	ALASKA BEAUTY	10%	12,946	56,238	(43,292)
	CAPT'N ART	2%	2,681	-	2,681
	ENTERPRISE	1%	1,944	-	1,944
	ALASKAN	2%	3,297	-	3,297
	Total	100%	132,106	196,572	(64,466)
		Transfers:	65,019		
		Final Total:	197,125	Net:	553
P. cod	DUSK	11%	55,134	15,265	39,869
	DAWN	17%	85,790	22,508	63,282
	SEA MAC - MAGIC LLP	8%	37,281	0	37,281
	SEA MAC	5%	26,359	25	26,334
	ALASKA WIND	1%	5,867	0	5,867
	CARAVELLE	16%	79,685	6,066	73,619
	TOPAZ	26%	126,984	257,518	(130,534)
	ALASKA BEAUTY	10%	48,543	1,655	46,888

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2013 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
P. cod	CAPT'N ART	2%	10,054	0	10,054
	ENTERPRISE	1%	7,288	0	7,288
	ALASKAN	2%	12,364	0	12,364
	Total	100%	495,348	303,037	192,311
		Transfers:	-		
		Final Total:	495,348	Net:	192,311
Thornyhead	DUSK	11%	2,351	1,908	443
	DAWN	17%	3,658	1,588	2,070
	SEA MAC - MAGIC LLP	8%	1,590	0	1,590
	SEA MAC	5%	1,124	5,773	(4,649)
	ALASKA WIND	1%	250	0	250
	CARAVELLE	16%	3,398	4,037	(639)
	TOPAZ	26%	5,415	6,360	(945)
	ALASKA BEAUTY	10%	2,070	10,284	(8,214)
	CAPT'N ART	2%	429	0	429
	ENTERPRISE	1%	311	0	311
	ALASKAN	2%	527	0	527
		Total	100%	21,122	29,950
		Transfers:	15,527		
		Final Total:	36,649	Net:	6,699
Halibut PSC	DUSK	11%	4,592	2,303	2,289
	DAWN	17%	7,145	2,626	4,520
	SEA MAC - MAGIC LLP	8%	3,105	0	3,105
	SEA MAC	5%	2,195	444	1,752
	ALASKA WIND	1%	489	0	489
	CARAVELLE	16%	6,637	4,516	2,120
	TOPAZ	26%	10,576	636	9,939
	ALASKA BEAUTY	10%	4,043	1,358	2,685
	CAPT'N ART	2%	837	0	837
	ENTERPRISE	1%	607	0	607
	ALASKAN	2%	1,030	0	1,030
		Total	100%	41,255	11,882
		Transfers:	-		
		Final Total:	41,255	Net:	29,373

C. *Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ*

Federal regulations require the RP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Dusky Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2013 NP Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1– November 15, 2013), there was one occurrence of at-sea discards of CQ species: the Topaz discarded an estimated 5,000 lbs of dusky rockfish at sea during one RPP trip because the codend contained mostly spiny dogfish shark which had to be discarded. The discarded dusky rockfish amount was debited from the vessel and co-op dusky account.

D. *Sideboard limits and rockfish sideboard fishery harvests*

The Rockfish Program established sideboard limits and/or prohibitions that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard restrictions apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing. For the CV sector,

the sideboard limits established in the RPP have been removed for ease of management. The following prohibitions are in place during the month of July:

- (1) For the month of July, limit all CVs to the shallow water complex fisheries (fishing in the deep complex is prohibited)
- (2) Directed fishing for WYAK and WGOA primary rockfish species in the month of July is prohibited

The prohibitions to the CV sector to fish BSAI cod and flatfish have been removed. The NP co-op members followed the sideboard rules.

II. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

A. Halibut: The cooperative’s fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op’s RP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 6). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op’s quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the co-op members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or “flying bottom”) gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The NP Rockfish Co-op used 11,882 lbs or 29% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 41,255 lbs.

Table 6. Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the NP Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard		Red Light Standard		Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%	POP	0.45%	POP	0.38%
NR/Dusky	2.20%	NR/Dusky	1.98%	NR/Dusky	1.65%
Sable/cod	4.00%	Sable/cod	3.60%	Sable/cod	3.00%

B. Chinook Salmon: North Pacific rockfish cooperative members continued with the voluntary Chinook salmon avoidance program implemented during the RPP in 2010. Members were provided with a summary of Chinook bycatch in the RPP 2007-2012 fisheries and hotspot reports from 2010-12. Vessel operators were advised to monitor the hotspot areas, depths and time frames during the 2013 season and agreed to avoid areas of high Chinook salmon bycatch.

Operators reported hotspots from the grounds to AGDB and/or to their processor. In turn the processor relayed this information to the inter-coop manager, AGDB, if they were the original point of contact. AGDB distributed hotspot information to the fleet and processors so that vessels on the fishing grounds could avoid the hotspots. AGDB also provided feedback to the vessel operators and their affiliated processor by reporting the number of Chinook salmon on the fish ticket on a trip by trip basis if >10 Chinook occurred in the delivery. There were eight hot spot alerts (five unique areas) sent out to co-op members in 2013.

It became evident that Chinook bycatch was a problem in early May. An inter-cooperative meeting was held on May 15 and again on May 21 to discuss options for reducing Chinook bycatch in the rockfish target trips. At the inter-cooperative meetings, it was decided to suspend all rockfish fishing until June 1st and that the co-ops would do a slow start after June 1st where no more than two vessels would start fishing per co-op with each trip subject to rate standards. Chinook bycatch declined significantly after June 1.

According to CAS (per Steve Whitney, NMFS), there were a total of 1,271 Chinook taken by the seven CV co-ops over the 2013 rockfish season. This compares to 817 Chinook taken during the 2012 season (see Table 7).

Table 7. Chinook PSC, total CV rockfish harvests and Chinook PSC rate for the RPP (2007-2011) and the first two years of the new Rockfish Program (2012-2013). Catcher vessel co-ops only. Source: Steve Whitney, NMFS.

Year	Rockfish		
	Chinook (no.)	Harvest (mt)	Rate (Chinook/mt)
2007	840	7,748	0.108
2008	1,683	7,440	0.226
2009	892	6,874	0.130
2010	1,017	7,992	0.127
2011	396	7,071	0.056
2012	817	10,067	0.081
2013	1,271	8,820	0.144
Average 07-13	988	8,002	0.123

Rockfish Genetics Project: In June 2013, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council implemented a new hard cap for the non-pollock trawl fisheries in the GOA (7,500 Chinook) with 1,200 Chinook of that limit allocated to the Rockfish Program catcher vessel co-ops. Whereas there is ample information on stock of origin of Chinook taken in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, data is still lacking on the origins of Chinook taken in the GOA trawl fisheries. Also uncertain is the proportion of Chinook bycatch that are of hatchery origin. In 2012, observers started collecting systematic samples from Chinook taken in the GOA pollock fisheries, but no data is being collected from those caught in the non-pollock fisheries. The Kodiak Rockfish Program participants took the initiative to gather more genetic data on Chinook caught in the non-pollock fisheries, the composition of which some suggest may differ from Chinook taken in the pollock fishery. The Rockfish co-ops and processors partnered with Ken Hansen, the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program, NMFS Alaska Region and NMFS Genetics Lab in Auke Bay in collecting samples from all Chinook caught in the 2013 shoreside rockfish fishery. The Rockfish fishery was chosen as a first step because of the co-op structure of the fishery and 100% observer coverage to monitor at-sea discards. Because all the GOA processors possess a NMFS Prohibited Species Donation (PSD) Program Permit and all vessels participating in the rockfish fishery are listed on the permits, 100% retention of salmon is allowed if the intent is to donate the retained salmon to the program through Sea Share. This project is being funded by the North Pacific Fisheries Research Foundation and is expected to continue through 2015.

The Project goals are:

1. Collect tissue samples from all landed Chinook salmon for DNA and stock of origin analysis.
2. Collect biological data (weight, length, sex) at the plant from all landed salmon.
3. Scan all landed Chinook salmon for the presence or absence of adipose fin clips and Coded Wire Tags (CWT). This will allow for an estimation of Chinook bycatch that originate from hatcheries.
4. Collect CWT's (snouts) from all salmon with positive CWT signal.

C. *Other Prohibited Species Catch:* The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2013 RP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 98 non-Chinook salmon, 108 Bairdi tanner crab and 12 Golden king crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS as of Dec. 4, 2013).

III. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation exactly on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. leases and clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the North Pacific Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

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Kodiak AK 99615

I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allowed each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, and Thornyhead rockfish along with an allocation of Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained secondary catch or Halibut PSC mortality in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The 5-year RPP ended in 2011 and was rolled over into a new, modified, catch share program in June 2010 under Amendment 88 of the GOA Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). 2013 was the second year of implementation for the new Rockfish Program which is scheduled to sunset after 10 years in 2022.

Modifications to the pilot program for the CV sector include:

- (1) As in the RPP, catcher vessels must belong to a cooperative which receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members. This allocation includes target, secondary and Halibut PSC mortality from its member vessels
- (2) No mandatory processor association based on history of deliveries, though qualifying vessels are required to associate with a City of Kodiak shoreside processor of their choice with the option to change co-ops on a year-by-year basis
- (3) Vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV co-ops
- (4) No person may contribute more than 4% of the CV sector catch history to annual cooperative allocations QS (with grandfather provision)
- (5) Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish for the CV sector
- (6) No processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector
- (7) Qualifying years suite changed from 1996-2002 to 2000-2006
- (8) Halibut PSC reductions: 12.5% reduction off the initial quota and 45% off the halibut PSC not used during the season and rolled over for use in the Fall limited access flatfish fisheries
- (9) Vessels that fished in the entry level RPP trawl fishery may qualify for quota share (QS) under the new program in proportion to the number of years that the vessel made rockfish legal landings to an entry level processor in 2007, 2008, or 2009
- (10) Changes in monitoring requirements (see Section A – page 3)
- (11) Sideboard restrictions simplified for ease of management (see page 6)
- (12) 3% NMFS management fee assessed on all purchased CQ

¹As of 2012, Pelagic shelf rockfish consists only of dusky rockfish

As in the RPP, the primary RP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for co-op members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allows co-op members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while minimizing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The ISA Rockfish Cooperative is one of 7 inshore cooperatives (compared to five co-ops in the RPP) formed in March 2012 in accordance to Amendment 88 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2013 marked the second year of the new Rockfish Program and, in compliance with Amendment 88, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2013 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative’s manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger website.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

As in 2012, the International Seafoods of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative in 2013 consisted of six member licenses with six member vessels (Table 1) of which four actively fished during the 2013 RP season: Chellissa, Elizabeth F, Mar Del Norte and Mar Pacifico. The allocations of the Green Hope and Ocean Hope 3 were fished by the 4 active vessels as well as the F/V Laura (Ocean Beauty Rockfish Co-op). This compares to 10 member licenses during the Pilot Program.

International Seafoods of Alaska, Inc. in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the International Seafoods of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative.

Table 1. LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the ISA Rockfish Cooperative 2013.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
1554	CHELLISSA FISHERIES, LLC	CHELLISSA	70459
1273	ELIZABETH F, INC.	ELIZABETH F	14767
2188	GREEN HOPE LLC	GREEN HOPE	47790
1841	MAR DEL NORTE, INC.	MAR DEL NORTE	21650
2696	MAR PACIFICO, INC.	MAR PACIFICO	23131
2683	EVENING STAR, INC.	OCEAN HOPE 3	48173

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

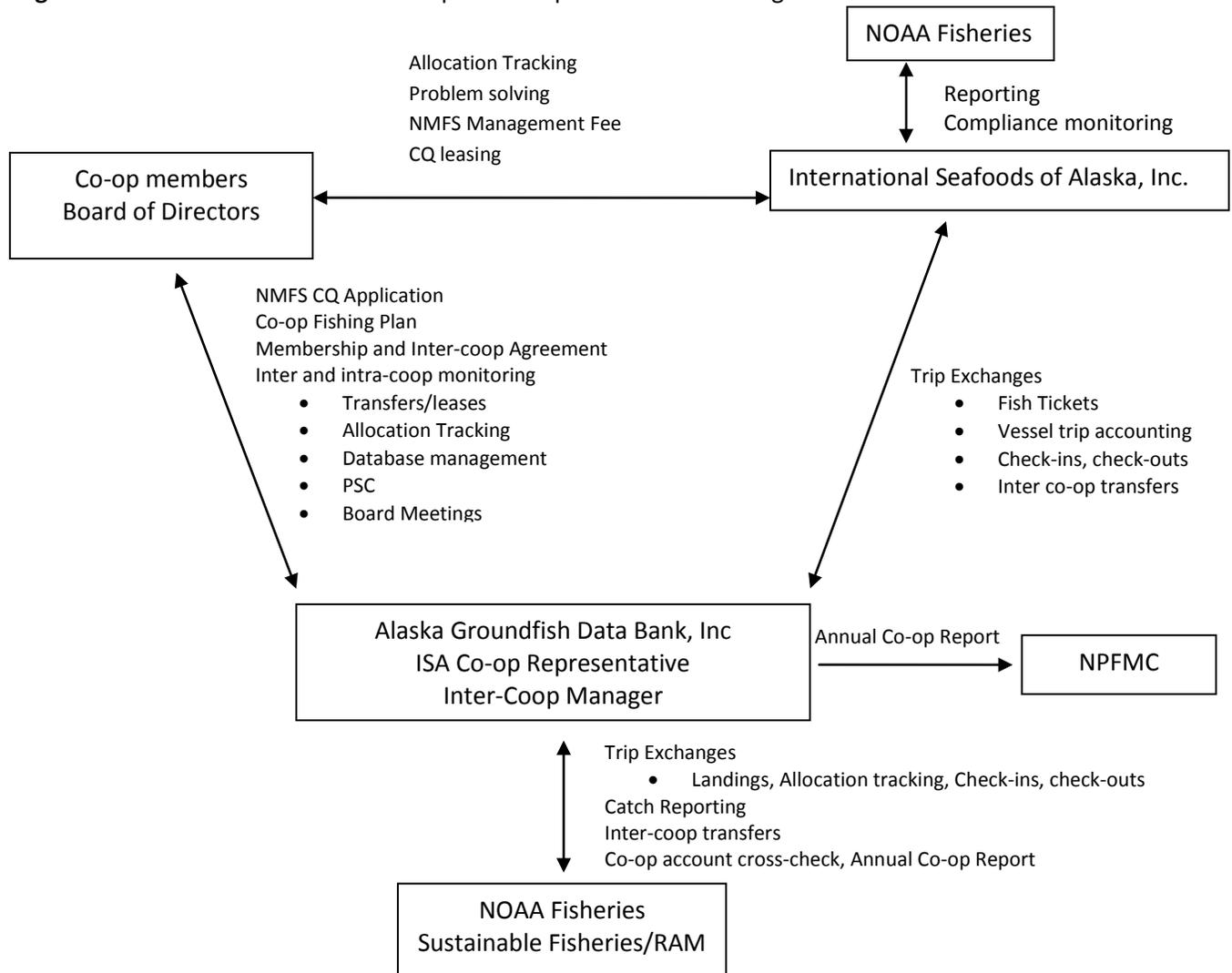
The International Seafoods of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. in collaboration and coordination with the co-op president, Robert Krueger, the ISA plant manager, Mitch Kilborn and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while minimizing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op’s operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

- (1) **Check-ins and Check-outs:** To facilitate moving into and out of non-RP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted “Check-ins” and “Check-outs” with no limits to the number of check ins as was the case for the RPP. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries.
- (2) **Observer Coverage: 100%** Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels.
- (3) **CMCP Monitor:** For the new Rockfish Program, NMFS hired a Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) specialist (Bill Donaldson) to monitor each Processor’s CMCP. RP Processors are required to file with NMFS their CMCP prior to the start of the RP season. This plan details how the processor monitors the deliveries and complies with monitoring requirements. This is in lieu of 200% observer coverage at the plants required during the RPP.
- (4) **NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management:** NOAA RAM’s Co-op ledger web site was used to perform transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of ISA Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests

The ISA Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2013 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 5. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the seven catcher vessel cooperatives, adhere to cooperative agreements and to cover overages.

Table 2. ISA Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	Dusky	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial ISA Allocation:	1,934,916	430,037	534,899	107,801	404,212	17,236	33,665
Transfers (OBSI):	(150,990)	(102,834)	(185,825)	(6,586)	(75,752)	(1,053)	(2,057)
Transfers (NP)	-	-	-	(12,574)	-	-	-
Transfers (WAF)	-	-	-	-	-	(1,300)	-
Total Transfers	(150,990)	(102,834)	(185,825)	(19,160)	(75,752)	(2,353)	(2,057)
Final ISA Allocation:	1,783,926	327,203	349,075	88,641	328,460	14,882	31,608
Total CV Coops*:	13,432,841	3,952,693	4,534,753	831,082	3,104,997	161,057	258,602
ISA % CV Allocation:	13.28%	8.28%	7.70%	10.67%	10.58%	9.24%	12.22%

*includes CP CQ transferred onshore

B. Vessel Use, Co-op QS and Processing Caps

- (1) **Vessel harvests:** A vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV sector is one of the new changes to the RP. In 2013, this amounted to 1,753,623 lbs of primary rockfish in the aggregate. During the 2013 season, no vessel exceeded this limit (see Figure 2).
- (2) **Co-op QS:** Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish for the CV sector. Quota share allocated to the ISA co-op in 2013 amounted to 11.2% of the final aggregate CV rockfish cooperative quota (Table 4).
- (3) **Processing limits:** For the Rockfish Program, a provision was approved that states no processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish in the aggregate; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector. During the 2013 season, International Seafoods of Alaska, Kodiak did not exceed these caps. See Table 3. Note: CQ harvested by the ISA rockfish cooperative may not equal the amount processed by International Seafoods of Alaska because deliveries to other City of Kodiak processors are allowed by the co-op in the new Rockfish Program.

Table 3. Pounds and % of Final CV allocations by CQ species received and processed by ISA in 2013.

Species	POP	NR	DUSKY	Total Primary RF	Sablefish	Cod	% RF	% Sable	% Cod
ISA Processed	2,215,799	452,910	513,780	3,182,489	97,732	148,466	14.52%	11.80%	4.78%
CV Allocation	13,432,841	3,952,693	4,534,753	21,920,286	828,082	3,104,997			

Figure 2. Harvests of primary rockfish by ISA member vessels (% of aggregate CV primary rockfish). Vessel harvest cap is 8%

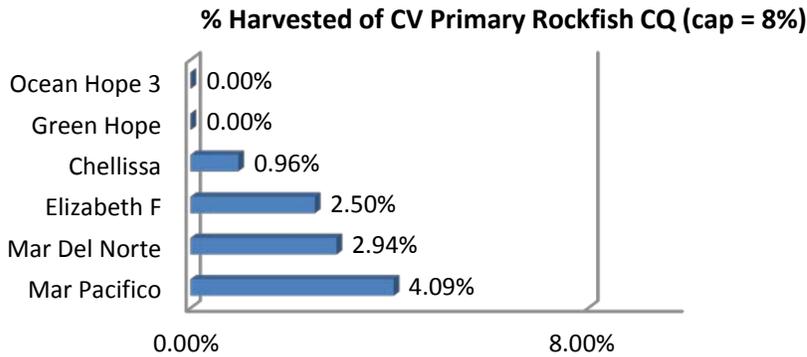


Table 4. Primary rockfish CQ (POP, Northern Rockfish, Dusky rockfish): % of Final CV sector allocations by species and co-op

Final Co-op CQ	POP	NR	Dusky	Total Rockfish
NP	16.8%	14.9%	17.7%	16.6%
SOK	24.3%	32.0%	31.3%	27.1%
WAF	17.6%	10.4%	9.1%	14.6%
OBSI	20.7%	28.8%	30.0%	24.1%
ISA	13.3%	8.3%	7.7%	11.2%
Global	2.9%	0.9%	0.5%	2.0%
Pacific	4.4%	4.8%	3.8%	4.3%
Sum	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 5. ISA Rockfish Cooperative 2013 allocations and harvests by species and harvesting vessel. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website <https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts> (as of December 11, 2013).

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2013 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
POP	MAR PACIFICO	23%	441,815	604,061	(162,246)
	MAR DEL NORTE	17%	331,258	425,131	(93,873)
	ELIZABETH F	20%	394,473	544,034	(149,561)
	CHELLISSA	6%	114,242	210,691	(96,449)
	GREEN HOPE	5%	104,222	0	104,222
	OCEAN HOPE 3	28%	548,906	0	548,906
	Total	100%	1,934,916	1,783,917	150,999
		Transfers:	(150,990)		
		Final Total:	1,783,926	Net:	9
NR	MAR PACIFICO	42%	178,529	162,418	16,111
	MAR DEL NORTE	25%	108,989	147,520	(38,531)
	ELIZABETH F	3%	12,016	1,094	10,922
	CHELLISSA	8%	34,024	-	34,024
	GREEN HOPE	8%	34,625	-	34,625
	OCEAN HOPE 3	14%	61,854	-	61,854
	Total	100%	430,037	311,032	119,005
		Transfers:	(102,834)		
		Final Total:	327,203	Net:	16,171

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2013 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
Dusky	MAR PACIFICO	34%	181,596	129,594	52,002
	MAR DEL NORTE	19%	101,704	71,402	30,302
	ELIZABETH F	11%	58,149	3,402	54,747
	CHELLISSA	7%	37,516	-	37,516
	GREEN HOPE	16%	84,020	-	84,020
	OCEAN HOPE 3	13%	71,916	-	71,916
	Total	100%	534,899	204,398	330,501
	Transfers:	(185,825)			
	Final Total:		349,075	Net:	144,677
Sablefish	MAR PACIFICO	29%	30,944	3,611	27,332
	MAR DEL NORTE	19%	20,709	22,430	(1,721)
	ELIZABETH F	15%	16,186	49,154	(32,968)
	CHELLISSA	7%	7,030	3,225	3,804
	GREEN HOPE	8%	8,260	-	8,260
	OCEAN HOPE 3	23%	24,672	-	24,672
	Total	100%	107,801	78,421	29,380
	Transfers:	(19,160)			
	Final Total:		88,641	Net:	10,220
P. cod	MAR PACIFICO	29%	116,027	1,199	114,828
	MAR DEL NORTE	19%	77,652	1,320	76,331
	ELIZABETH F	15%	60,693	1,545	59,148
	CHELLISSA	7%	26,359	3,901	22,458
	GREEN HOPE	8%	30,971	-	30,971
	OCEAN HOPE 3	23%	92,510	-	92,510
	Total	100%	404,212	7,965	396,247
	Transfers:	(75,752)			
	Final Total:		328,460	Net:	320,495
Thornyhead	MAR PACIFICO	29%	4,947	224	4,723
	MAR DEL NORTE	19%	3,311	6,817	(3,506)
	ELIZABETH F	15%	2,588	4,670	(2,082)
	CHELLISSA	7%	1,124	536	588
	GREEN HOPE	8%	1,321	-	1,321
	OCEAN HOPE 3	23%	3,945	-	3,945
	Total	100%	17,236	12,247	4,989
	Transfers:	(2,353)			
	Final Total:		14,882	Net:	2,635
Halibut PSC	MAR PACIFICO	29%	9,663	170	9,493
	MAR DEL NORTE	19%	6,467	752	5,715
	ELIZABETH F	15%	5,055	3,226	1,829
	CHELLISSA	7%	2,195	7,561	(5,365)
	GREEN HOPE	8%	2,579	-	2,579
	OCEAN HOPE 3	23%	7,705	-	7,705
	Total	100%	33,665	11,709	21,956
	Transfers:	(2,057)			
	Final Total:		31,608	Net:	19,899

C. **Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ**

Federal regulations require the RP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Dusky Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. Although safety concerns do at times necessitate some discarding of rockfish at sea (for example, when the codend is too big to bring on board in a safe manner), during the 2013 ISA Rockfish Cooperative’s fishing season (May 1– November 15, 2013), there were no occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species.

D. **Sideboard limits and rockfish sideboard fishery harvests**

The Rockfish Program established sideboard limits and/or prohibitions that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard restrictions apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing. For the CV sector, the sideboard limits established in the RPP have been removed for ease of management. The following prohibitions are in place during the month of July:

- (1) For the month of July, limit all CVs to the shallow water complex fisheries (fishing in the deep complex is prohibited)
- (2) Directed fishing for WYAK and WGOA primary rockfish species in the month of July is prohibited

The prohibitions to the CV sector to fish BSAI cod and flatfish have been removed. The ISA co-op members followed the sideboard rules.

V. **COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH**

A. *Halibut:* The cooperative’s fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op’s RP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 6). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op’s quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the coop members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or “flying bottom”) gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The ISA Rockfish Co-op used 11,709 lbs. or 37% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 31,608 lbs.

Table 6. Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the ISA Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard		Red Light Standard		Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%	POP	0.45%	POP	0.38%
NR/Dusky	2.20%	NR/Dusky	1.98%	NR/Dusky	1.65%
Sable/cod	4.00%	Sable/cod	3.60%	Sable/cod	3.00%

B. *Chinook Salmon:* Operators reported hotspots from the grounds to AGDB and/or to their processor. In turn the processor relayed this information to the inter-coop manager, AGDB, if they

were the original point of contact. AGDB distributed hotspot information to the fleet and processors so that vessels on the fishing grounds could avoid the hotspots. AGDB also provided feedback to the vessel operators and their affiliated processor by reporting the number of Chinook salmon on the fish ticket on a trip by trip basis if >10 Chinook occurred in the delivery. There were eight hot spot alerts (five unique areas) sent out to co-op members in 2013.

It became evident that Chinook bycatch was a problem in early May. An inter-cooperative meeting was held on May 15 and again on May 21 to discuss options for reducing Chinook bycatch in the rockfish target trips. At the inter-cooperative meetings, it was decided to suspend all rockfish fishing until June 1st and that the co-ops would do a slow start after June 1st where no more than two vessels would start fishing per co-op with each trip subject to rate standards. Chinook bycatch declined significantly after June 1.

According to CAS (per Steve Whitney, NMFS), there were a total of 1,271 Chinook taken by the seven CV co-ops over the 2013 rockfish season. This compares to 817 Chinook taken during the 2012 season (see Table 7).

Table 7. Chinook PSC, total CV rockfish harvests and Chinook PSC rate for the RPP (2007-2011) and the first two years of the new Rockfish Program (2012-13). Catcher vessel co-ops only. Source: Steve Whitney, NMFS.

Year	Rockfish		
	Chinook (no.)	Harvest (mt)	Rate (Chinook/mt)
2007	840	7,748	0.108
2008	1,683	7,440	0.226
2009	892	6,874	0.130
2010	1,017	7,992	0.127
2011	396	7,071	0.056
2012	817	10,067	0.081
2013	1,271	8,820	0.144
Average 07-13	988	8,002	0.123

Rockfish Genetics Project: In June 2013, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council implemented a new hard cap for the non-pollock trawl fisheries in the GOA (7,500 Chinook) with 1,200 Chinook of that limit allocated to the Rockfish Program catcher vessel co-ops. Whereas there is ample information on stock of origin of Chinook taken in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, data is still lacking on the origins of Chinook taken in the GOA trawl fisheries. Also uncertain is the proportion of Chinook bycatch that are of hatchery origin. In 2012, observers started collecting systematic samples from Chinook taken in the GOA pollock fisheries, but no data is being collected from those caught in the non-pollock fisheries. The Kodiak Rockfish Program participants took the initiative to gather more genetic data on Chinook caught in the non-pollock fisheries, the composition of which some suggest may differ from Chinook taken in the pollock fishery. The Rockfish co-ops and processors partnered with Ken Hansen, the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program, NMFS Alaska Region and NMFS Genetics Lab in Auke Bay in collecting samples from all Chinook caught in the 2013 shoreside rockfish fishery. The Rockfish fishery was chosen as a first step because of the co-op structure of the fishery and 100% observer coverage to monitor at-sea discards. Because all the GOA processors possess a

NMFS Prohibited Species Donation (PSD) Program Permit and all vessels participating in the rockfish fishery are listed on the permits, 100% retention of salmon is allowed if the intent is to donate the retained salmon to the program through Sea Share. This project is being funded by the North Pacific Fisheries Research Foundation and is expected to continue through 2015.

The Project goals are:

1. Collect tissue samples from all landed Chinook salmon for DNA and stock of origin analysis.
2. Collect biological data (weight, length, sex) at the plant from all landed salmon.
3. Scan all landed Chinook salmon for the presence or absence of adipose fin clips and Coded Wire Tags (CWT). This will allow for an estimation of Chinook bycatch that originate from hatcheries.
4. Collect CWT's (snouts) from all salmon with positive CWT signal.

C. *Other Prohibited Species Catch:* The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2013 RP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 98 non-Chinook salmon, 108 Bairdi tanner crab and 12 Golden king crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS as of Dec. 4, 2013).

VI. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation exactly on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. leases and clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the ISA Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

Final Report
Ocean Beauty Seafoods Inc.
Rockfish Cooperative

2013

December 15, 2013

Prepared by:
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II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2013, the Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Inc. (OBSI) Rockfish Cooperative consisted of eight member licenses with seven member vessels (Table 1) of which four actively fished during the 2013 RP season: New Life, Pacific Star, Laura and Anthem. This compares to 9 member licenses last year and 8 member licenses during the Pilot Program.

Ocean Beauty Seafoods Inc. in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the OBSI Rockfish Cooperative. Per the OBSI co-op agreement, International Seafoods of Alaska, Inc received some deliveries from the Laura.

Table 1. LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the OBSI Rockfish Cooperative 2013.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
1367	NEW LIFE FISHERIES, INC	DOMINION	-
3504	BAY ISLANDER, INC.	BAY ISLANDER	49618
4465	MARATHON FISHERIES, INC.	MARATHON	49617
5201	NEW LIFE FISHERIES, INC	NEW LIFE	21845
3496	M/V DEFIANT, INC.	ANTHEM	76842
2603	DEFIANT FISHERIES, INC.	TAASINGE	38001
4852	PAC STAR, INC.	PACIFIC STAR	55038
3665	LAURA FISHERIES JOINT VENTURE	LAURA	21591

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The OBSI Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the co-op president, Kent Helligso, the OBSI plant manager, Tim Blott, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

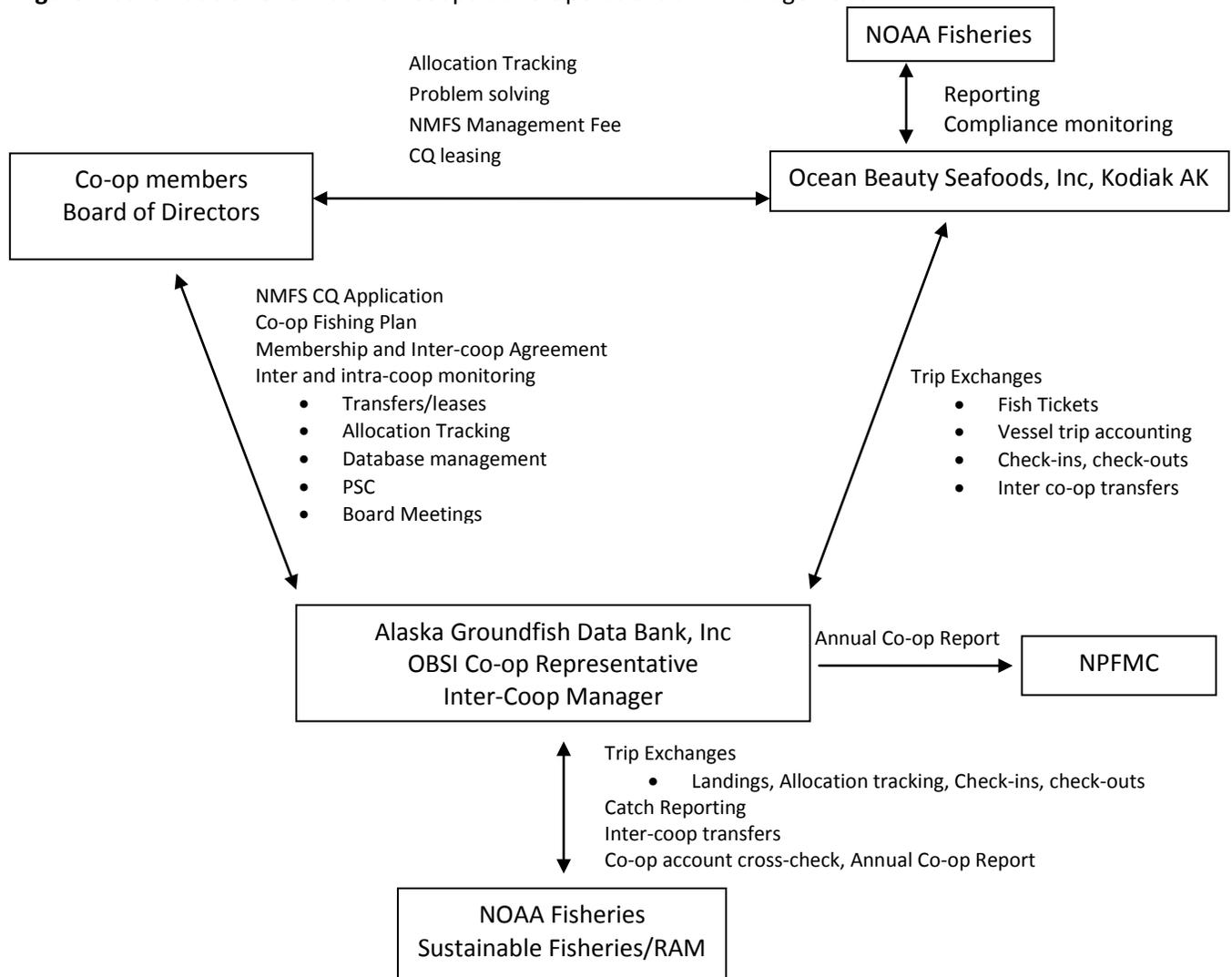
Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while minimizing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to

ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

- (1) **Check-ins and Check-outs:** To facilitate moving into and out of non-RP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" with no limits to the number of check ins as was the case for the RPP. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries.
- (2) **Observer Coverage: 100%** Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels.
- (3) **CMCP Monitor:** For the new Rockfish Program, NMFS hired a Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) specialist (Bill Donaldson) to monitor each Processor's CMCP. RP Processors are required to file with NMFS their CMCP prior to the start of the RP season. This plan details how the processor monitors the deliveries and complies with monitoring requirements. This is in lieu of 200% observer coverage at the plants required during the RPP.
- (4) **NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management:** NOAA RAM's Co-op ledger web site was used to perform transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of OBSI Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. *Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests*

The OBSI Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2013 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 5. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the seven catcher vessel cooperatives, adhere to cooperative agreements and to cover overages.

Table 2. OBSI Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	Dusky	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial OBSI Allocation:	2,572,986	1,036,482	1,168,101	183,699	688,802	29,371	57,367
Transfers (ISA):	150,990	102,834	185,825	6,586	75,752	1,053	2,057
Transfers (NP):	5,341	-	-	(19,762)	-	(15,527)	-
Transfers (WAF):	27,400	-	-	14,147	-	-	-
Transfers (Global):	9,750	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Transfers (SOK):	15,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	-
Transfers (Pacific):	1,000	-	-	35,000	-	-	-
Transfers (BUC):						28,660	
Total Transfers	209,481	102,834	190,825	35,971	75,752	14,186	2,057
Final OBSI Allocation:	2,782,467	1,139,316	1,358,926	219,670	764,554	43,556	59,424
Total CV Coops*:	13,432,841	3,952,693	4,534,753	831,082	3,104,997	161,057	258,602
OBSI % CV Allocation:	20.71%	28.82%	29.97%	26.43%	24.62%	27.04%	22.98%

*includes CP CQ transferred onshore

B. *Vessel Use, Co-op QS and Processing Caps*

- (1) **Vessel harvests:** A vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV sector is one of the new changes to the RP. In 2013, this amounted to 1,753,623 lbs of primary rockfish in the aggregate. During the 2013 season, no vessel exceeded this limit (see figure 2).
- (2) **Co-op QS:** Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish allocated to the CV sector. Quota share allocated to the OBSI co-op in 2013 amounted to 24.1% of the aggregate CV rockfish cooperative quota (Table 4).
- (3) **Processing limits:** For the Rockfish Program, a provision was approved that states no processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish in the aggregate; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector. During the 2013 season, Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Kodiak did not exceed these caps. See Table 3. Note: CQ harvested by the OBSI rockfish cooperative may not equal the amount processed by Ocean Beauty Seafoods because deliveries to other City of Kodiak processors are allowed by the co-op in the new Rockfish Program.

Table 3. Pounds and % of final CV allocations by CQ species received and processed by OBSI in 2013.

Species	POP	NR	DUSKY	Total Primary RF	Sablefish	Cod	% RF	% Sable	% Cod
OBSI Processed	2,462,596	962,467	1,053,304	4,478,367	180,196	335,516	20.43%	21.76%	10.81%
CV Allocation	13,432,841	3,952,693	4,534,753	21,920,286	828,082	3,104,997			

Figure 2. Harvests of primary rockfish by OBSI member vessels (% of aggregate CV primary rockfish).

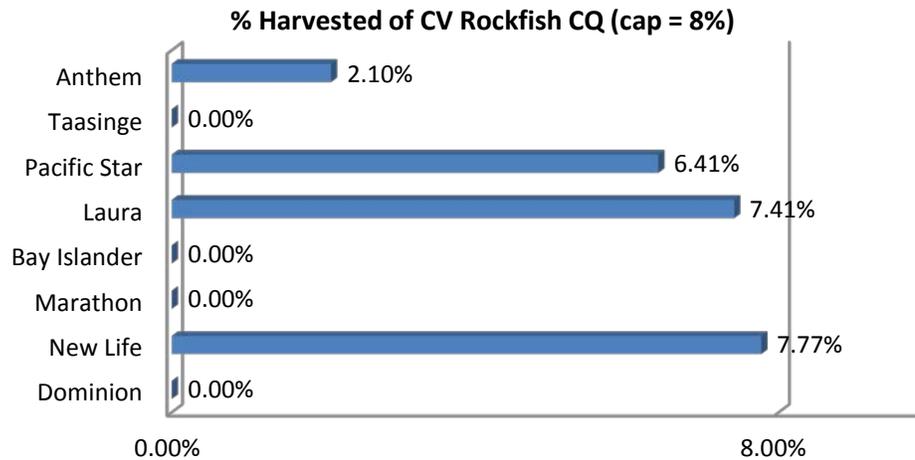


Table 4. Primary rockfish CQ (POP, Northern Rockfish, Dusky rockfish): % of final CV sector allocations by species and co-op

Final Co-op CQ	POP	NR	Dusky	Total Rockfish
NP	16.8%	14.9%	17.7%	16.6%
SOK	24.3%	32.0%	31.3%	27.1%
WAF	17.6%	10.4%	9.1%	14.6%
OBSI	20.7%	28.8%	30.0%	24.1%
ISA	13.3%	8.3%	7.7%	11.2%
Global	2.9%	0.9%	0.5%	2.0%
Pacific	4.4%	4.8%	3.8%	4.3%
Sum	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 5. OBSI Rockfish Cooperative 2013 allocations and harvests by species and harvesting vessel. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website <https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts> (as of December 11, 2013).

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2013 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
POP	DOMINION	7%	188,210	0	188,210
	NEW LIFE	11%	290,816	842,548	(551,732)
	MARATHON	17%	424,768	0	424,768
	BAY ISLANDER	0%	0	0	0
	LAURA	22%	561,061	921,763	(360,702)
	PACIFIC STAR	24%	614,242	774,029	(159,787)
	TAASINGE	11%	276,237	0	276,237
	ANTHEM	8%	217,651	244,119	
	Total	100%	2,572,986	2,782,459	(183,006)
		Transfers:	209,481		
	Final Total:		2,782,467	Net:	8
NR	DOMINION	9%	93,842	-	93,842
	NEW LIFE	11%	111,928	413,235	(301,307)
	MARATHON	14%	145,792	-	145,792
	BAY ISLANDER	2%	23,746	-	23,746
	LAURA	18%	184,621	213,353	(28,732)

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2013 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
NR	PACIFIC STAR	24%	243,994	324,437	(80,443)
	TAASINGE	9%	96,289	-	96,289
	ANTHEM	13%	136,271	128,619	7,652
	Total	100%	1,036,482	1,079,644	(43,162)
		Transfers:	102,834		
		Final Total:	1,139,316	Net:	59,672
Dusky	DOMINION	10%	112,850	-	112,850
	NEW LIFE	13%	149,304	447,717	(298,413)
	MARATHON	15%	170,865	-	170,865
	BAY ISLANDER	1%	10,253	-	10,253
	LAURA	15%	180,557	490,183	(309,626)
	PACIFIC STAR	21%	242,756	307,428	(64,672)
	TAASINGE	13%	147,055	-	147,055
	ANTHEM	13%	154,460	87,591	66,869
	Total	100%	1,168,101	1,332,919	(164,818)
			Transfers:	190,825	
		Final Total:	1,358,926	Net:	26,007
Sablefish	DOMINION	8%	15,324	-	15,324
	NEW LIFE	11%	21,053	64,810	(43,757)
	MARATHON	15%	28,225	-	28,225
	BAY ISLANDER	1%	1,628	-	1,628
	LAURA	19%	35,352	49,930	(14,577)
	PACIFIC STAR	23%	42,469	104,667	(62,197)
	TAASINGE	11%	19,628	-	19,628
	ANTHEM	11%	20,020	259	19,762
	Total	100%	183,699	219,665	(35,966)
			Transfers:	35,971	
		Final Total:	219,670	Net:	5
P. cod	DOMINION	8%	57,459	-	57,459
	NEW LIFE	11%	78,941	15,862	63,079
	MARATHON	15%	105,832	-	105,832
	BAY ISLANDER	1%	6,103	-	6,103
	LAURA	19%	132,558	271,570	(139,012)
	PACIFIC STAR	23%	159,244	184,906	(25,661)
	TAASINGE	11%	73,596	-	73,596
	ANTHEM	11%	75,069	1,424	73,645
	Total	100%	688,802	473,761	215,041
			Transfers:	75,752	
		Final Total:	764,554	Net:	290,793
Thornyhead	DOMINION	8%	2,450	-	2,450
	NEW LIFE	11%	3,366	25,175	(21,809)
	MARATHON	15%	4,513	-	4,513
	BAY ISLANDER	1%	260	-	260
	LAURA	19%	5,652	3,564	2,088
	PACIFIC STAR	23%	6,790	8,862	(2,072)
	TAASINGE	11%	3,138	-	3,138
	ANTHEM	11%	3,201	-	3,201
	Total	100%	29,371	37,601	(8,230)
			Transfers:	14,186	

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2013 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
		Final Total:	43,556	Net:	5,955
	DOMINION	8%	4,786	-	4,786
	NEW LIFE	11%	6,575	720	5,854
	MARATHON	15%	8,814	-	8,814
	BAY ISLANDER	1%	508	-	508
	LAURA	19%	11,040	5,057	5,983
Halibut PSC	PACIFIC STAR	23%	13,263	8,588	4,674
	TAASINGE	11%	6,130	-	6,130
	ANTHEM	11%	6,252	-	6,252
	Total	100%	57,367	14,366	43,001
		Transfers:	2,057		
		Final Total:	59,424	Net:	45,058

C. *Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ*

Federal regulations require the RP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Dusky Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2013 OBSI Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1–November 15, 2013), there was one occurrence of at-sea discards of CQ species: the Laura discarded an estimated 5,000 lbs of dusky rockfish at sea during one RPP trip because the codend contained mostly spiny dogfish shark which had to be discarded. The discarded dusky rockfish amount was debited from the vessel and co-op dusky account.

D. *Sideboard limits and rockfish sideboard fishery harvests*

The Rockfish Program established sideboard limits and/or prohibitions that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard restrictions apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing. For the CV sector, the sideboard limits established in the RPP have been removed for ease of management. The following prohibitions are in place during the month of July:

- (1) For the month of July, limit all CVs to the shallow water complex fisheries (fishing in the deep complex is prohibited)
- (2) Directed fishing for WYAK and WGOA primary rockfish species in the month of July is prohibited

The prohibitions to the CV sector to fish BSAI cod and flatfish have been removed. The OBSI co-op members followed the sideboard rules.

V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

A. **Halibut:** The cooperative’s fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op’s RP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 6). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op’s quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the coop members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or “flying bottom”) gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The OBSI Rockfish Co-op used 14,366 lbs or 24% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 59,424 lbs.

Table 6. Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the OBSI Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard		Red Light Standard		Yellow Light Standard	
Species	% halibut	Species	% halibut	Species	% halibut
POP	0.50%	POP	0.45%	POP	0.38%
NR/Dusky	2.20%	NR/Dusky	1.98%	NR/Dusky	1.65%
Sable/cod	4.00%	Sable/cod	3.60%	Sable/cod	3.00%

B. **Chinook Salmon:** OBSI Rockfish cooperative members continued with the voluntary Chinook salmon avoidance program implemented during the RPP in 2010. Members were provided with a summary of Chinook bycatch in the RPP 2007-2012 fisheries and hotspot reports from 2010-12. Vessel operators were advised to monitor the hotspot areas, depths and time frames during the 2013 season and agreed to avoid areas of high Chinook salmon bycatch.

Operators reported hotspots from the grounds to AGDB and/or to their processor. In turn the processor relayed this information to the inter-coop manager, AGDB, if they were the original point of contact. AGDB distributed hotspot information to the fleet and processors so that vessels on the fishing grounds could avoid the hotspots. AGDB also provided feedback to the vessel operators and their affiliated processor by reporting the number of Chinook salmon on the fish ticket on a trip by trip basis if >10 Chinook occurred in the delivery. There were eight hot spot alerts (five unique areas) sent out to co-op members in 2013.

It became evident that Chinook bycatch was a problem in early May. An inter-cooperative meeting was held on May 15 and again on May 21 to discuss options for reducing Chinook bycatch in the rockfish target trips. At the inter-cooperative meetings, it was decided to suspend all rockfish fishing until June 1st and that the co-ops would do a slow start after June 1st where no more than two vessels would start fishing per co-op with each trip subject to rate standards. Chinook bycatch declined significantly after June 1.

According to CAS (per Steve Whitney, NMFS), there were a total of 1,271 Chinook taken by the seven CV co-ops over the 2013 rockfish season. This compares to 817 Chinook taken during the 2012 season (see Table 7).

Table 7. Chinook PSC, total CV rockfish harvests and Chinook PSC rate for the RPP (2007-2011) and the first two years of the new Rockfish Program (2012-2013). Catcher vessel co-ops only. Source: Steve Whitney, NMFS.

Year	Chinook (no.)	Rockfish Harvest (mt)	Rate (Chinook/mt)
2007	840	7,748	0.108
2008	1,683	7,440	0.226
2009	892	6,874	0.130
2010	1,017	7,992	0.127
2011	396	7,071	0.056
2012	817	10,067	0.081
2013	1,271	8,820	0.144
Average 07-13	988	8,002	0.123

Rockfish Genetics Project: In June 2013, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council implemented a new hard cap for the non-pollock trawl fisheries in the GOA (7,500 Chinook) with 1,200 Chinook of that limit allocated to the Rockfish Program catcher vessel co-ops. Whereas there is ample information on stock of origin of Chinook taken in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, data is still lacking on the origins of Chinook taken in the GOA trawl fisheries. Also uncertain is the proportion of Chinook bycatch that are of hatchery origin. In 2012, observers started collecting systematic samples from Chinook taken in the GOA pollock fisheries, but no data is being collected from those caught in the non-pollock fisheries. The Kodiak Rockfish Program participants took the initiative to gather more genetic data on Chinook caught in the non-pollock fisheries, the composition of which some suggest may differ from Chinook taken in the pollock fishery. The Rockfish co-ops and processors partnered with Ken Hansen, the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program, NMFS Alaska Region and NMFS Genetics Lab in Auke Bay in collecting samples from all Chinook caught in the 2013 shoreside rockfish fishery. The Rockfish fishery was chosen as a first step because of the co-op structure of the fishery and 100% observer coverage to monitor at-sea discards. Because all the GOA processors possess a NMFS Prohibited Species Donation (PSD) Program Permit and all vessels participating in the rockfish fishery are listed on the permits, 100% retention of salmon is allowed if the intent is to donate the retained salmon to the program through Sea Share. This project is being funded by the North Pacific Fisheries Research Foundation and is expected to continue through 2015.

The Project goals are:

1. Collect tissue samples from all landed Chinook salmon for DNA and stock of origin analysis.
2. Collect biological data (weight, length, sex) at the plant from all landed salmon.
3. Scan all landed Chinook salmon for the presence or absence of adipose fin clips and Coded Wire Tags (CWT). This will allow for an estimation of Chinook bycatch that originate from hatcheries.
4. Collect CWT's (snouts) from all salmon with positive CWT signal.

C. **Other Prohibited Species Catch:** The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2013 RP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 98 non-Chinook salmon, 108 Bairdi tanner crab and 12 Golden king crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS as of Dec. 4, 2013).

VI. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation exactly on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. leases and clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the OBSI Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

Final Report
Western Alaska Fisheries
Rockfish Cooperative

2013

December 15, 2013

Prepared by:
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc.
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak AK 99615

I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allowed each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, and Thornyhead rockfish along with an allocation of Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained secondary catch or Halibut PSC mortality in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The 5-year RPP ended in 2011 and was rolled over into a new, modified, catch share program in June 2010 under Amendment 88 of the GOA Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). 2013 was the second year of implementation for the new Rockfish Program which is scheduled to sunset after 10 years in 2022.

Modifications to the pilot program for the CV sector include:

- (1) As in the RPP, catcher vessels must belong to a cooperative which receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members. This allocation includes target, secondary and Halibut PSC mortality from its member vessels
- (2) No mandatory processor association based on history of deliveries, though qualifying vessels are required to associate with a City of Kodiak shoreside processor of their choice with the option to change co-ops on a year-by-year basis
- (3) Vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV co-ops
- (4) No person may contribute more than 4% of the CV sector catch history to annual cooperative allocations QS (with grandfather provision)
- (5) Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish for the CV sector
- (6) No processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector
- (7) Qualifying years suite changed from 1996-2002 to 2000-2006
- (8) Halibut PSC reductions: 12.5% reduction off the initial quota and 45% off the halibut PSC not used during the season and rolled over for use in the Fall limited access flatfish fisheries
- (9) Vessels that fished in the entry level RPP trawl fishery may qualify for quota share (QS) under the new program in proportion to the number of years that the vessel made rockfish legal landings to an entry level processor in 2007, 2008, or 2009
- (10) Changes in monitoring requirements (see Section A – page 3)
- (11) Sideboard restrictions simplified for ease of management (see page 6)
- (12) 3% NMFS management fee assessed on all purchased CQ

¹As of 2012, Pelagic shelf rockfish consists only of dusky rockfish

As in the RPP, the primary RP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for co-op members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allows co-op members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while minimizing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The Western Alaska Fisheries (WAF) Rockfish Cooperative is one of 7 inshore cooperatives (compared to five co-ops in the RPP) formed in March 2012 in accordance to Amendment 88 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2013 marked the second year of the new Rockfish Program and, in compliance with Amendment 88, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2013 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative’s manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger website.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2013, the WAF Rockfish Cooperative consisted of six member licenses with six member vessels (Table 1), all of which actively fished during the 2013 RP season. This compares to 10 member licenses during the Pilot Program and five licenses in 2012.

Western Alaska Fisheries in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the WAF Rockfish Cooperative.

Table 1. LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the WAF Rockfish Cooperative 2013.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
1271	ELIZABETH F, INC.	WALTER N	34919
1523	JAMES SCHONES	COLLIER BROS	54648
2565	FUTURA FISHERIES, INC.	VANGUARD	39946
3600	EVENING STAR, INC.	HICKORY WIND	47795
3896	PROGRESS FISHING, LLC ET AL.	PROGRESS	6
3987	F/V GOLD RUSH FISHERIES LLC	GOLD RUSH	40309

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

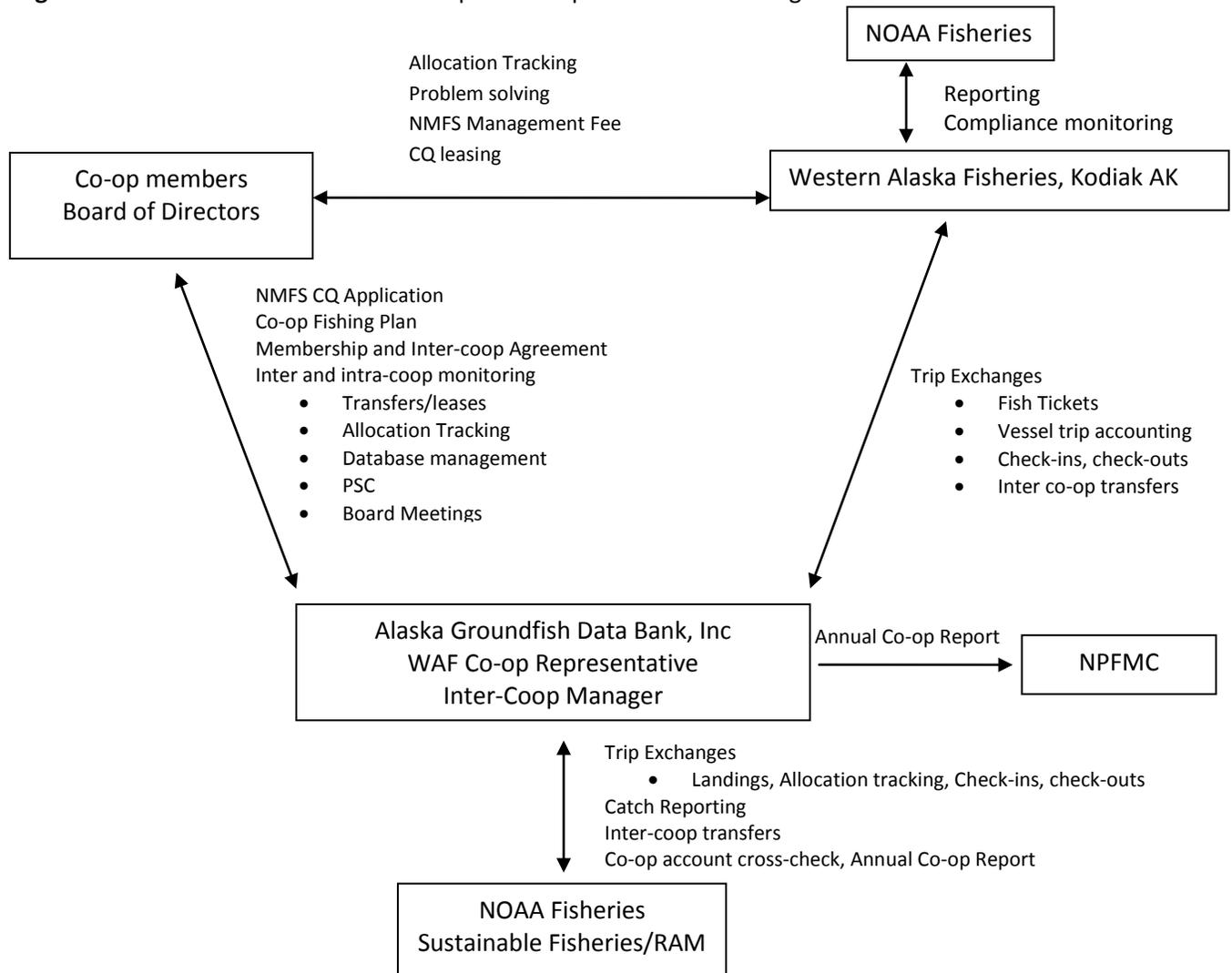
The WAF Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the co-op president, Franke Brown, the WAF plant manager, Sune Forsman, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while minimizing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op’s operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

- (1) **Check-ins and Check-outs:** To facilitate moving into and out of non-RP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted “Check-ins” and “Check-outs” with no limits to the number of check ins as was the case for the RPP. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries.
- (2) **Observer Coverage: 100%** Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels.
- (3) **CMCP Monitor:** For the new Rockfish Program, NMFS hired a Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) specialist (Bill Donaldson) to monitor each Processor’s CMCP. RP Processors are required to file with NMFS their CMCP prior to the start of the RP season. This plan details how the processor monitors the deliveries and complies with monitoring requirements. This is in lieu of 200% observer coverage at the plants required during the RPP.
- (4) **NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management:** NOAA RAM’s Co-op ledger web site was used to perform transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of WAF Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. *Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests*

The WAF Rockfish Cooperative’s allocations and harvests for the 2013 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 5. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the seven catcher vessel cooperatives, adhere to cooperative agreements and to cover overages.

Table 2. WAF Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	Dusky	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial WAF Allocation:	2,397,654	410,979	410,474	118,599	444,700	18,962	37,037
Transfers (ISA)		0	0	0	0	1,300	0
Transfers (OBSI)	(27,400)	0	0	(14,147)	0	0	0
Total Transfers	(27,400)	0	0	(14,147)	0	1,300	0
Final WAF Allocation:	2,370,254	410,979	410,474	104,452	444,700	20,262	37,037
Total CV Coops*:	13,432,841	3,952,693	4,534,753	831,082	3,104,997	161,057	258,602
WAF % CV Allocation:	17.65%	10.40%	9.05%	12.57%	14.32%	12.58%	14.32%

*includes CP CQ transferred onshore

B. *Vessel Use, Co-op QS and Processing Caps*

- (1) **Vessel harvests:** A vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV sector is one of the new changes to the RP. In 2013, this amounted to 1,753,623 lbs of primary rockfish in the aggregate. During the 2013 season, no vessel exceeded this limit (see figure 2).
- (2) **Co-op CQ:** Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish allocated to the CV sector. Final quota share allocated to the NP co-op in 2013 amounted to 14.6% of the aggregate CV rockfish cooperative quota (Table 3).
- (3) **Processing limits:** For the Rockfish Program, a provision was approved that states no processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish in the aggregate; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector. During the 2013 season, Western Alaska Fisheries, Kodiak did not exceed these caps. See Table 4. Note: CQ harvested by the WAF rockfish cooperative may not equal the amount processed by Western Alaska Fisheries because deliveries to other City of Kodiak processors are allowed by the co-op in the new Rockfish Program.

Table 3. Primary rockfish CQ (POP, Northern Rockfish, Dusky rockfish): % of Final CV sector allocations by species and co-op

Final Co-op CQ	POP	NR	Dusky	Total Rockfish
NP	16.8%	14.9%	17.7%	16.6%
SOK	24.3%	32.0%	31.3%	27.1%
WAF	17.6%	10.4%	9.1%	14.6%
OBSI	20.7%	28.8%	30.0%	24.1%
ISA	13.3%	8.3%	7.7%	11.2%
Global	2.9%	0.9%	0.5%	2.0%
Pacific	4.4%	4.8%	3.8%	4.3%
Sum	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 2. Harvests of primary rockfish by WAF member vessels (% of aggregate CV primary rockfish).

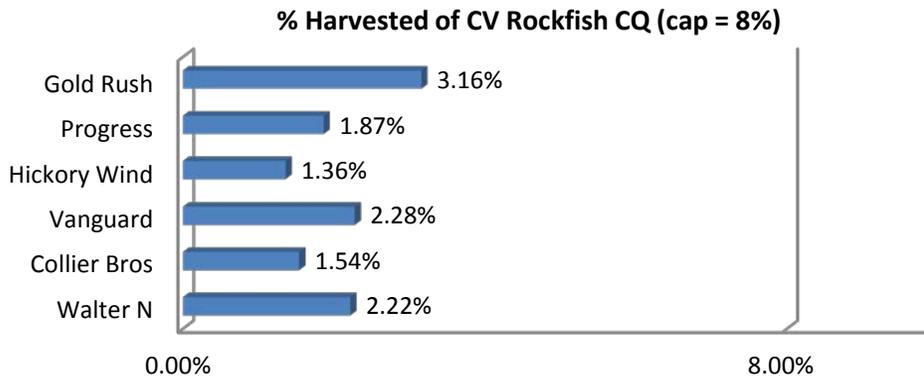


Table 4. Pounds and % of final CV allocations by CQ species received and processed by WAF in 2013.

Species	POP	NR	DUSKY	Total Primary RF	Sablefish	Cod	% RF	% Sable	% Cod
WAF Processed	2,370,228	176,241	176,560	2,723,029	105,925	141,975	12.42%	12.79%	4.57%
CV Allocation	13,432,841	3,952,693	4,534,753	21,920,286	828,082	3,104,997			

Table 5. WAF Rockfish Cooperative 2013 allocations and harvests by species and harvesting vessel. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website <https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts> (as of December 11, 2013).

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2013 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
POP	Walter N	21%	496,405	486,125	10,280
	Collier Bros	10%	249,129	242,876	6,253
	Vanguard	22%	523,885	497,622	26,263
	Hickory Wind	8%	185,314	221,715	(36,401)
	Progress	18%	437,158	408,041	29,117
	Gold Rush	21%	505,763	513,849	(8,086)
	Total	100%	2,397,654	2,370,228	27,426
	Transfers:		(27,400)		
	Final Total:		2,370,254	Net:	26
NR	Walter N	10%	39,572	126	39,446
	Collier Bros	26%	105,791	52,087	53,704
	Vanguard	4%	15,696	157	15,539
	Hickory Wind	9%	38,708	31,007	7,701
	Progress	22%	89,148	692	88,456
	Gold Rush	30%	122,063	92,172	29,891
	Total	100%	410,979	176,241	234,738
	Transfers:		-		
	Final Total:		410,979	Net:	234,738
Dusky	Walter N	19%	76,682	179	76,503
	Collier Bros	17%	69,872	42,732	27,140
	Vanguard	14%	55,602	1,249	54,353
	Hickory Wind	8%	31,625	45,577	(13,952)
	Progress	22%	92,040	279	91,761
	Gold Rush	21%	84,652	86,544	(1,892)
	Total	100%	410,474	176,560	233,914
	Transfers:		-		

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2013 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
Dusky	Final Total:		410,474	Net:	233,914
	Walter N	18%	21,811	19,068	2,743
	Collier Bros	14%	16,647	19,611	(2,964)
	Vanguard	18%	20,765	20,719	46
	Hickory Wind	8%	9,540	11,179	(1,640)
Sablefish	Progress	19%	22,965	1,276	21,689
	Gold Rush	23%	26,871	24,810	2,061
	Total	100%	118,599	96,663	21,935
	Transfers:		(14,147)		
	Final Total:		104,452	Net:	7,788
P. cod	Walter N	18%	81,783	25	81,758
	Collier Bros	14%	62,419	132	62,287
	Vanguard	18%	77,861	139,163	(61,303)
	Hickory Wind	8%	35,770	738	35,032
	Progress	19%	86,111	91	86,020
	Gold Rush	23%	100,756	1,826	98,930
		Total	100%	444,700	141,975
	Transfers:		-		
	Final Total:		444,700	Net:	302,725
Thornyhead	Walter N	18%	3,487	8,598	(5,111)
	Collier Bros	14%	2,662	1,475	1,187
	Vanguard	18%	3,320	2,325	995
	Hickory Wind	8%	1,525	2,480	(955)
	Progress	19%	3,672	2,035	1,637
	Gold Rush	23%	4,296	3,166	1,130
		Total	100%	18,962	20,079
	Transfers:		1,300		
	Final Total:		20,262	Net:	183
Halibut PSC	Walter N	18%	6,811	844	5,967
	Collier Bros	14%	5,199	-	5,199
	Vanguard	18%	6,485	6,501	(16)
	Hickory Wind	8%	2,979	792	2,187
	Progress	19%	7,172	-	7,172
	Gold Rush	23%	8,392	-	8,392
		Total	100%	37,037	8,137
	Transfers:		-		
	Final Total:		37,037	Net:	28,900

C. *Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ*

Federal regulations require the RP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Dusky Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed, although safety concerns do at times necessitate some discarding of rockfish at sea (for example, when the codend is too big to bring on board in a safe manner). During the 2013 WAF Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1– November 15, 2012), there was one occurrence of at-sea discards of CQ species: the Vanguard discarded an estimated 419 lbs of shortspine thornyheads during

one RPP trip. The discarded thornyhead rockfish amount was debited from the vessel and co-op Thornyhead accounts.

D. *Sideboard limits and rockfish sideboard fishery harvests*

The Rockfish Program established sideboard limits and/or prohibitions that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard restrictions apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing. For the CV sector, the sideboard limits established in the RPP have been removed for ease of management. The following prohibitions are in place during the month of July:

- (1) For the month of July, limit all CVs to the shallow water complex fisheries (fishing in the deep complex is prohibited)
- (2) Directed fishing for WYAK and WGOA primary rockfish species in the month of July is prohibited

The prohibitions to the CV sector to fish BSAI cod and flatfish have been removed. The WAF co-op members followed the sideboard rules.

V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

A. ***Halibut:*** The cooperative’s fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op’s RP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 6). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op’s quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the coop members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or “flying bottom”) gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The WAF Rockfish Co-op used 8,137 lbs or 22% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 37,037 lbs.

Table 6. Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the WAF Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard		Red Light Standard		Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%	POP	0.45%	POP	0.38%
NR/Dusky	2.20%	NR/Dusky	1.98%	NR/Dusky	1.65%
Sable/cod	4.00%	Sable/cod	3.60%	Sable/cod	3.00%

B. ***Chinook Salmon:*** WAF Rockfish cooperative members continued with the voluntary Chinook salmon avoidance program implemented during the RPP in 2010. Members were provided with a summary of Chinook bycatch in the RPP 2007-2012 fisheries and hotspot reports from 2010-12. Vessel operators were advised to monitor the hotspot areas, depths and time frames during the 2013 season and agreed to avoid areas of high Chinook salmon bycatch.

Operators reported hotspots from the grounds to AGDB and/or to their processor. In turn the processor relayed this information to the inter-coop manager, AGDB, if they were the original point of contact. AGDB distributed hotspot information to the fleet and processors so that vessels on the fishing grounds

could avoid the hotspots. AGDB also provided feedback to the vessel operators and their affiliated processor by reporting the number of Chinook salmon on the fish ticket on a trip by trip basis if >10 Chinook occurred in the delivery. There were eight hot spot alerts (five unique areas) sent out to co-op members in 2013.

It became evident that Chinook bycatch was a problem in early May. An inter-cooperative meeting was held on May 15 and again on May 21 to discuss options for reducing Chinook bycatch in the rockfish target trips. At the inter-cooperative meetings, it was decided to suspend all rockfish fishing until June 1st and that the co-ops would do a slow start after June 1st where no more than two vessels would start fishing per co-op with each trip subject to rate standards. Chinook bycatch declined significantly after June 1.

According to CAS (per Steve Whitney, NMFS), there were a total of 1,271 Chinook taken by the seven CV co-ops over the 2013 rockfish season. This compares to 817 Chinook taken during the 2012 season (see Table 7).

Table 7. Chinook PSC, total CV rockfish harvests and Chinook PSC rate for the RPP (2007-2011) and the first two years of the new Rockfish Program (2012-2013). Catcher vessel co-ops only. Source: Steve Whitney, NMFS.

Year	Rockfish		
	Chinook (no.)	Harvest (mt)	Rate (Chinook/mt)
2007	840	7,748	0.108
2008	1,683	7,440	0.226
2009	892	6,874	0.130
2010	1,017	7,992	0.127
2011	396	7,071	0.056
2012	817	10,067	0.081
2013	1,271	8,820	0.144
Average 07-13	988	8,002	0.123

Rockfish Genetics Project: In June 2013, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council implemented a new hard cap for the non-pollock trawl fisheries in the GOA (7,500 Chinook) with 1,200 Chinook of that limit allocated to the Rockfish Program catcher vessel co-ops. Whereas there is ample information on stock of origin of Chinook taken in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, data is still lacking on the origins of Chinook taken in the GOA trawl fisheries. Also uncertain is the proportion of Chinook bycatch that are of hatchery origin. In 2012, observers started collecting systematic samples from Chinook taken in the GOA pollock fisheries, but no data is being collected from those caught in the non-pollock fisheries. The Kodiak Rockfish Program participants took the initiative to gather more genetic data on Chinook caught in the non-pollock fisheries, the composition of which some suggest may differ from Chinook taken in the pollock fishery. The Rockfish co-ops and processors partnered with Ken Hansen, the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program, NMFS Alaska Region and NMFS Genetics Lab in Auke Bay in collecting samples from all Chinook caught in the 2013 shoreside rockfish fishery. The Rockfish fishery was chosen as a first step because of the co-op structure of the fishery and 100% observer coverage to monitor at-sea discards. Because all the GOA processors possess a NMFS Prohibited Species Donation (PSD) Program Permit and all vessels participating in the rockfish fishery are listed on the permits, 100%

retention of salmon is allowed if the intent is to donate the retained salmon to the program through Sea Share. This project is being funded by the North Pacific Fisheries Research Foundation and is expected to continue through 2015.

The Project goals are:

1. Collect tissue samples from all landed Chinook salmon for DNA and stock of origin analysis.
2. Collect biological data (weight, length, sex) at the plant from all landed salmon.
3. Scan all landed Chinook salmon for the presence or absence of adipose fin clips and Coded Wire Tags (CWT). This will allow for an estimation of Chinook bycatch that originate from hatcheries.
4. Collect CWT's (snouts) from all salmon with positive CWT signal.

C. ***Other Prohibited Species Catch:*** The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2013 RP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 98 non-Chinook salmon, 108 Bairdi tanner crab and 12 Golden king crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS as of Dec. 4, 2013).

VI. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation exactly on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. leases and clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the WAF Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

Final Report Global Rockfish Cooperative

2013

December 15, 2013

Prepared by:
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I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allowed each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, and Thornyhead rockfish along with an allocation of Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained secondary catch or Halibut PSC mortality in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The 5-year RPP ended in 2011 and was rolled over into a new, modified, catch share program in June 2010 under Amendment 88 of the GOA Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). 2013 was the second year of implementation for the new Rockfish Program which is scheduled to sunset after 10 years in 2022. Modifications to the pilot program for the CV sector include:

- (1) As in the RPP, catcher vessels must belong to a cooperative which receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members. This allocation includes target, secondary and Halibut PSC mortality from its member vessels
- (2) No mandatory processor association based on history of deliveries, though qualifying vessels are required to associate with a City of Kodiak shoreside processor of their choice with the option to change co-ops on a year-by-year basis
- (3) Vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV co-ops
- (4) No person may contribute more than 4% of the CV sector catch history to annual cooperative allocations QS (with grandfather provision)
- (5) Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish for the CV sector
- (6) No processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector
- (7) Qualifying years suite changed from 1996-2002 to 2000-2006
- (8) Halibut PSC reductions: 12.5% reduction off the initial quota and 45% off the halibut PSC not used during the season and rolled over for use in the Fall limited access flatfish fisheries
- (9) Vessels that fished in the entry level RPP trawl fishery may qualify for quota share (QS) under the new program in proportion to the number of years that the vessel made rockfish legal landings to an entry level processor in 2007, 2008, or 2009
- (10) Changes in monitoring requirements (see Section A – page 3)
- (11) Sideboard restrictions simplified for ease of management (see page 6)
- (12) 3% NMFS management fee assessed on all purchased CQ

¹As of 2012, Pelagic shelf rockfish consists only of dusky rockfish

As in the RPP, the primary RP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for co-op members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allows co-op members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while minimizing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The Global Rockfish Cooperative is one of 7 inshore cooperatives (compared to five co-ops in the RPP) formed in March 2012 in accordance to Amendment 88 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2013 marked the second year of the new Rockfish Program and, in compliance with Amendment 88, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2013 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative’s manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger website.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2013, the Global Rockfish Cooperative consisted of two member licenses with two member vessels (Table 1), both of which actively fished during the 2013 RP season: F/V Leslie Lee, F/V Pacific Storm. In 2012, there were three member licenses. The Global Rockfish Co-op did not qualify for the Rockfish Pilot Program and was formed for the first time in 2012.

Global Seafoods in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the Global Rockfish Cooperative.

Table 1. LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the Global Rockfish Cooperative 2013.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
1183	LESLIE LEE, INC	LESLIE LEE	56119
2882	PACIFIC STORM FISHERIES, LLC.	PACIFIC STORM	76731

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

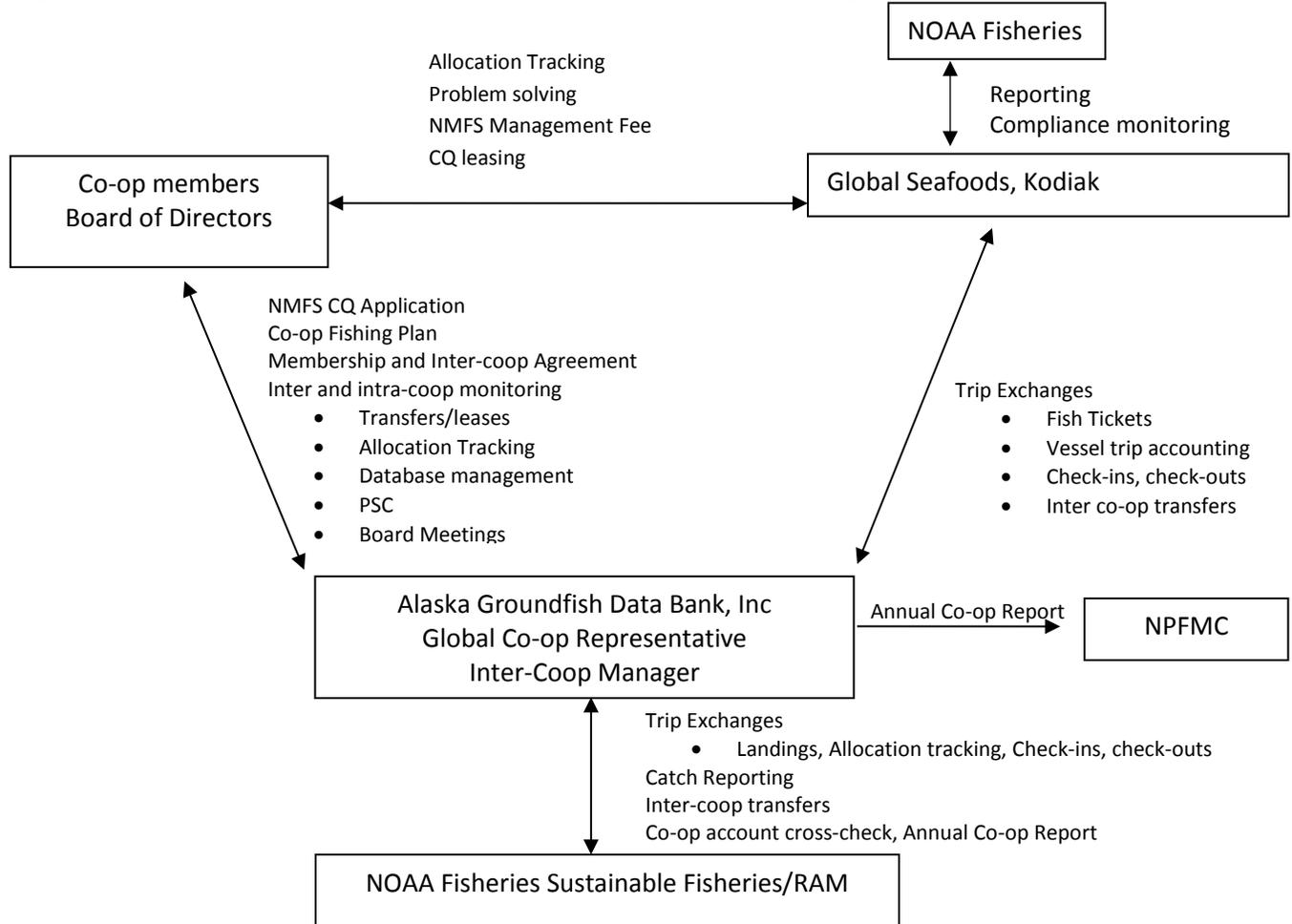
The Global Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the co-op president, Lee Woodard, the Global Seafoods plant managers, Sergey and Nik Morozov and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while minimizing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op’s operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

- (1) **Check-ins and Check-outs:** To facilitate moving into and out of non-RP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted “Check-ins” and “Check-outs” with no limits to the number of check ins as was the case for the RPP. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries.
- (2) **Observer Coverage: 100%** Observer coverage is required by all participating vessels (outside the restructured Observer Program).
- (3) **CMCP Monitor:** For the new Rockfish Program, NMFS hired a Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) specialist (Bill Donaldson) to monitor each Processor’s CMCP. RP Processors are required to file with NMFS their CMCP prior to the start of the RP season. This plan details how the processor monitors the deliveries and complies with monitoring requirements. This is in lieu of 200% observer coverage at the plants required during the RPP.
- (4) **NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management:** NOAA RAM’s Co-op ledger web site was used to perform transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of Global Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests

The Global Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2013 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 2. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 3) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the seven catcher vessel cooperatives, adhere to cooperative agreements and to cover overages.

Table 2. Global Rockfish Cooperative 2013 allocations and harvests by species and harvesting vessel. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website <https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts> (as of December 11, 2013).

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2013 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
POP	LESLIE LEE	100%	392,620	345,409	47,211
	PACIFIC STORM	0%	22	37,445	(37,423)
	Total	100%	392,642	382,854	9,788
	Transfers:		(9,750)		
	Final Total:		382,892	Net:	38
NR	LESLIE LEE	100%	34,263	15,991	18,272
	PACIFIC STORM	0%	14	0	14
	Total	100%	34,278	15,991	18,287
	Transfers:		0		
	Final Total:		34,278	Net:	18,287
Dusky	LESLIE LEE	100%	24,174	16,435	7,739
	PACIFIC STORM	0%	23	236	(213)
	Total	100%	24,197	16,671	7,526
	Transfers:		0		
	Final Total:		24,197	Net:	7,526
Sablefish	LESLIE LEE	100%	16,201	902	15,299
	PACIFIC STORM	0%	2	15,774	(15,772)
	Total	100%	16,204	16,676	(472)
	Transfers:		474		
	Final Total:		16,678	Net:	2
P. Cod	LESLIE LEE	100%	60,749	2,973	57,776
	PACIFIC STORM	0%	9	501	(492)
	Total	100%	60,758	3,474	57,283
	Transfers:		0		
	Final Total:		60,758	Net:	57,283
Thornyheads	LESLIE LEE	100%	2,590	-	2,590
	PACIFIC STORM	0%	0	1,807	(1,807)
	Total	100%	2,591	1,807	784
	Transfers:		0		
	Final Total:		2,591	Net:	784
Halibut	LESLIE LEE	100%	5,060	-	5,060
	PACIFIC STORM	0%	1	1,687	(1,686)
	Total	100%	5,060	1,687	3,374
	Transfers:		0		
	Final Total:		5,060	Net:	3,374

Table 3. Global Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	Dusky	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial Global Allocation:	392,642	34,278	24,197	16,204	60,758	2,591	5,060
Transfers (Pacific):				474			
Transfers (OBSI):	(9,750)						
Total Transfers	(9,750)	0	0	474	0	0	0
Final Global Allocation:	382,892	34,278	24,197	16,678	60,758	2,591	5,060
Total CV Coops*:	13,432,841	3,952,693	4,534,753	831,082	3,104,997	161,057	258,602
Global % CV Allocation:	2.85%	0.87%	0.53%	2.01%	1.96%	1.61%	1.96%

*includes CP CQ transferred onshore

B. Vessel Use, Co-op CQ and Processing Caps

- (1) **Vessel harvests:** A vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV sector is one of the new changes to the RP. In 2013, this amounted to 1,753,623 lbs of primary rockfish in the aggregate. During the 2013 season, no vessel exceeded this limit: the Leslie Lee harvested 1.72% of the aggregate final CV co-op rockfish quota and the Pacific Storm harvested 0.17%.
- (2) **Co-op QS:** Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish for the CV sector. Quota share allocated to the Global co-op in 2013 amounted to 2.0% of the final aggregate CV rockfish cooperative quota (Table 4).
- (3) **Processing limits:** For the Rockfish Program, a provision was approved that states no processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish in the aggregate; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector. During the 2013 season, Global Seafoods, Kodiak did not exceed these caps. See Table 5. Note: CQ harvested by the Global rockfish cooperative may not equal the amount processed by Global Seafoods because deliveries to other City of Kodiak processors are allowed by the co-op in the new Rockfish Program.

Table 4. Primary rockfish CQ (POP, Northern Rockfish, Dusky rockfish): % Final CV sector allocations by species and co-op

Final Co-op CQ	POP	NR	Dusky	Total Rockfish
NP	16.8%	14.9%	17.7%	16.6%
SOK	24.3%	32.0%	31.3%	27.1%
WAF	17.6%	10.4%	9.1%	14.6%
OBSI	20.7%	28.8%	30.0%	24.1%
ISA	13.3%	8.3%	7.7%	11.2%
Global	2.9%	0.9%	0.5%	2.0%
Pacific	4.4%	4.8%	3.8%	4.3%
Final Allocation	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 5. Pounds and % of Final CV allocations by CQ species received and processed by Global Seafoods in 2013.

POP	NR	DUSKY	Total Primary RF	Sablefish	Cod	% RF	% Sable	% Cod
382,854	15,991	16,671	415,516	16,204	3,474	1.90%	1.95%	0.11%

C. **Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ**

Federal regulations require the RP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Dusky Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. Although safety concerns do at times necessitate some discarding of rockfish at sea (for example, when the codend is too big to bring on board in a safe manner), during the 2013 Global Rockfish Cooperative’s fishing season (May 1– November 15, 2013), there were no occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species.

D. **Sideboard limits and rockfish sideboard fishery harvests**

The Rockfish Program established sideboard limits and/or prohibitions that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard restrictions apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing. For the CV sector, the sideboard limits established in the RPP have been removed for ease of management. The following prohibitions are currently in place during the month of July:

- (1) For the month of July, limit all CVs to the shallow water complex fisheries (fishing in the deep complex is prohibited)
- (2) Directed fishing for WYAK and WGOA primary rockfish species in the month of July is prohibited

The prohibitions to the CV sector to fish BSAI cod and flatfish have been removed.

V. **COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH**

A. **Halibut:** The cooperative’s fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op’s RP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 6). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op’s quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the coop members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or “flying bottom”) gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The Global Rockfish Co-op used 1,687 lbs or 33% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 5,060 lbs.

Table 6. Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the Global Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard		Red Light Standard		Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%	POP	0.45%	POP	0.38%
NR/Dusky	2.20%	NR/Dusky	1.98%	NR/Dusky	1.65%
Sable/cod	4.00%	Sable/cod	3.60%	Sable/cod	3.00%

B. **Chinook Salmon:** Global rockfish cooperative members continued with the voluntary Chinook salmon avoidance program implemented during the RPP in 2010. Members were provided with a summary of Chinook bycatch in the RPP 2007-2012 fisheries and hotspot reports from 2010-12. Vessel operators were advised to monitor the hotspot areas, depths and time frames during the 2013 season and agreed to avoid areas of high Chinook salmon bycatch.

Operators reported hotspots from the grounds to AGDB and/or to their processor. In turn the processor relayed this information to the inter-coop manager, AGDB, if they were the original point of contact. AGDB distributed hotspot information to the fleet and processors so that vessels on the fishing grounds could avoid the hotspots. AGDB also provided feedback to the vessel operators and their affiliated processor by reporting the number of Chinook salmon on the fish ticket on a trip by trip basis if >10 Chinook occurred in the delivery. There were eight hot spot alerts (five unique areas) sent out to co-op members in 2013.

It became evident that Chinook bycatch was a problem in early May. An inter-cooperative meeting was held on May 15 and again on May 21 to discuss options for reducing Chinook bycatch in the rockfish target trips. At the inter-cooperative meetings, it was decided to suspend all rockfish fishing until June 1st and that the co-ops would do a slow start after June 1st where no more than two vessels would start fishing per co-op with each trip subject to rate standards. Chinook bycatch declined significantly after June 1.

According to CAS (per Steve Whitney, NMFS), there were a total of 1,271 Chinook taken by the seven CV co-ops over the 2013 rockfish season. This compares to 817 Chinook taken during the 2012 season (see Table 7).

Table 7. Chinook PSC, total CV rockfish harvests and Chinook PSC rate for the RPP (2007-2011) and the first two years of the new Rockfish Program (2012-3). Catcher vessel co-ops only. Source: Steve Whitney, NMFS.

Year	Rockfish		
	Chinook (no.)	Harvest (mt)	Rate (Chinook/mt)
2007	840	7,748	0.108
2008	1,683	7,440	0.226
2009	892	6,874	0.130
2010	1,017	7,992	0.127
2011	396	7,071	0.056
2012	817	10,067	0.081
2013	1,271	8,820	0.144
Average 07-13	988	8,002	0.123

Rockfish Genetics Project: In June 2013, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council implemented a new hard cap for the non-pollock trawl fisheries in the GOA (7,500 Chinook) with 1,200 Chinook of that limit allocated to the Rockfish Program catcher vessel co-ops. Whereas there is ample information on stock of origin of Chinook taken in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, data is still lacking on the origins of Chinook taken in the GOA trawl fisheries. Also uncertain is the proportion of Chinook bycatch that are of hatchery origin. In 2012, observers started collecting systematic samples from Chinook taken in the GOA pollock fisheries, but no data is being collected from those caught in the non-pollock fisheries. The Kodiak Rockfish Program participants took the initiative to gather more genetic data on Chinook caught

in the non-pollock fisheries, the composition of which some suggest may differ from Chinook taken in the pollock fishery. The Rockfish co-ops and processors partnered with Ken Hansen, the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program, NMFS Alaska Region and NMFS Genetics Lab in Auke Bay in collecting samples from all Chinook caught in the 2013 shoreside rockfish fishery. The Rockfish fishery was chosen as a first step because of the co-op structure of the fishery and 100% observer coverage to monitor at-sea discards. Because all the GOA processors possess a NMFS Prohibited Species Donation (PSD) Program Permit and all vessels participating in the rockfish fishery are listed on the permits, 100% retention of salmon is allowed if the intent is to donate the retained salmon to the program through Sea Share. This project is being funded by the North Pacific Fisheries Research Foundation and is expected to continue through 2015.

The Project goals are:

1. Collect tissue samples from all landed Chinook salmon for DNA and stock of origin analysis.
2. Collect biological data (weight, length, sex) at the plant from all landed salmon.
3. Scan all landed Chinook salmon for the presence or absence of adipose fin clips and Coded Wire Tags (CWT). This will allow for an estimation of Chinook bycatch that originate from hatcheries.
4. Collect CWT's (snouts) from all salmon with positive CWT signal.

C. ***Other Prohibited Species Catch:*** The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2013 RP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 98 non-Chinook salmon, 108 Bairdi tanner crab and 12 Golden king crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS as of Dec.4, 2013).

VI. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation exactly on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. leases and clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the Global Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

Final Report Pacific Rockfish Cooperative

2013

December 15, 2013

Prepared by:
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I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allowed each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, and Thornyhead rockfish along with an allocation of Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained secondary catch or Halibut PSC mortality in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The 5-year RPP ended in 2011 and was rolled over into a new, modified, catch share program in June 2010 under Amendment 88 of the GOA Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). 2013 was the second year of implementation for the new Rockfish Program which is scheduled to sunset after 10 years in 2022. Modifications to the pilot program for the CV sector include:

- (1) As in the RPP, catcher vessels must belong to a cooperative which receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members. This allocation includes target, secondary and Halibut PSC mortality from its member vessels
- (2) No mandatory processor association based on history of deliveries, though qualifying vessels are required to associate with a City of Kodiak shoreside processor of their choice with the option to change co-ops on a year-by-year basis
- (3) Vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV co-ops
- (4) No person may contribute more than 4% of the CV sector catch history to annual cooperative allocations QS (with grandfather provision)
- (5) Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish for the CV sector
- (6) No processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector
- (7) Qualifying years suite changed from 1996-2002 to 2000-2006
- (8) Halibut PSC reductions: 12.5% reduction off the initial quota and 45% off the halibut PSC not used during the season and rolled over for use in the Fall limited access flatfish fisheries
- (9) Vessels that fished in the entry level RPP trawl fishery may qualify for quota share (QS) under the new program in proportion to the number of years that the vessel made rockfish legal landings to an entry level processor in 2007, 2008, or 2009
- (10) Changes in monitoring requirements (see Section A – page 3)
- (11) Sideboard restrictions simplified for ease of management (see page 6)
- (12) 3% NMFS management fee assessed on all purchased CQ

¹As of 2012, Pelagic shelf rockfish consists only of dusky rockfish

As in the RPP, the primary RP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for co-op members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allows co-op members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while minimizing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The Pacific Rockfish Cooperative is one of 7 inshore cooperatives (compared to five co-ops in the RPP) formed in March 2012 in accordance to Amendment 88 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2013 marked the second year of the new Rockfish Program and, in compliance with Amendment 88, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2013 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative’s manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger website.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2013, as in 2012, the Pacific Rockfish Cooperative consisted of two member licenses with two member vessels (Table 1) of which one actively fished during the 2013 RP season: F/V Stella. The Pacific Rockfish Co-op did not participate in the Rockfish Pilot Program and was formed for the first time in 2012.

Pacific Seafoods in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the Pacific Rockfish Cooperative.

Table 1. LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the Pacific Rockfish Cooperative 2013.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
4851	ISLAND COHO, LLC	Coho	56189
1619	LOUGHBEG FISHERIES, INC	Stella	71208

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

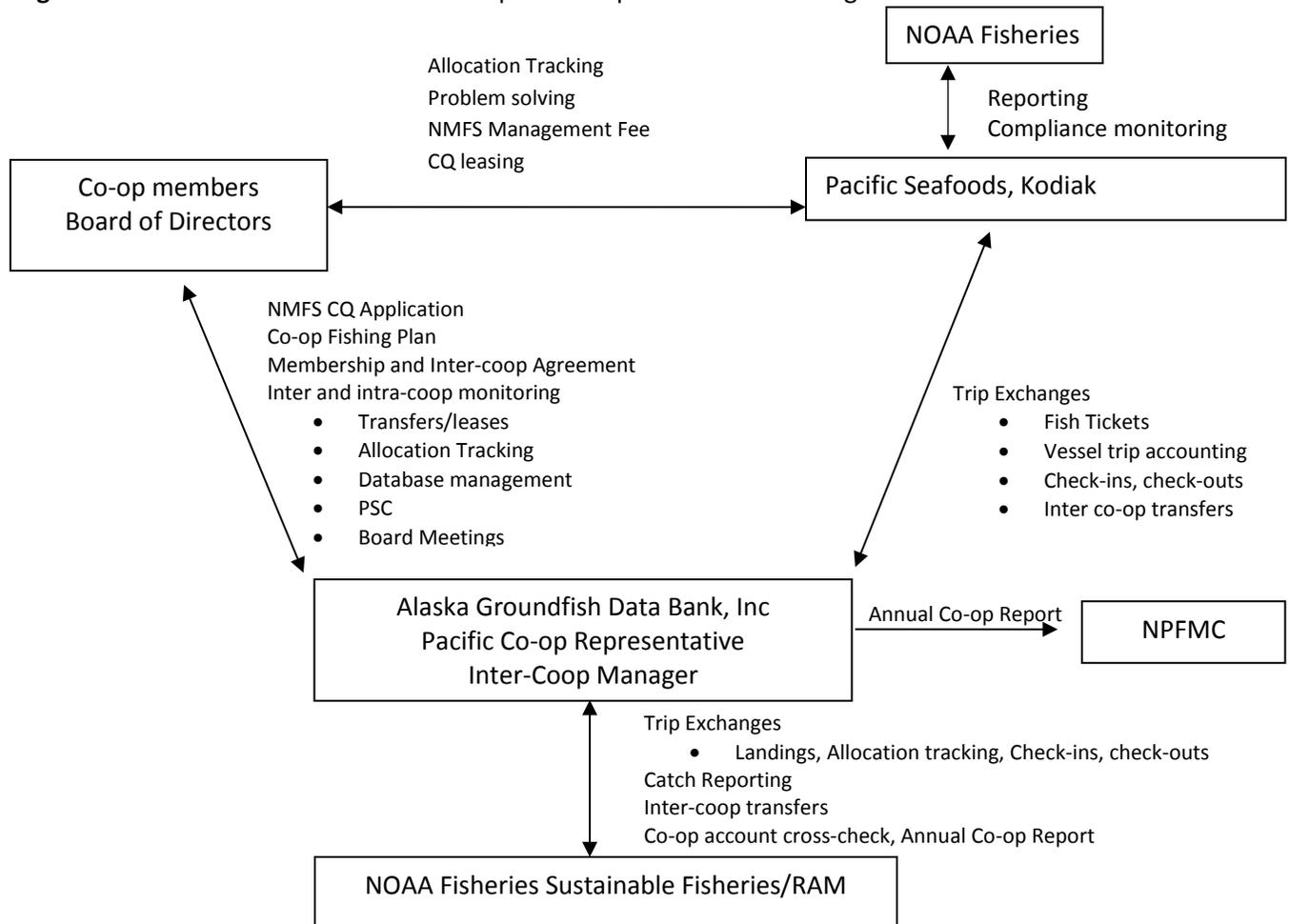
The Pacific Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the co-op president, Carmel Carty, the Pacific Seafoods plant manager, John Whiddon, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while minimizing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op’s operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

- (1) **Check-ins and Check-outs:** To facilitate moving into and out of non-RP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted “Check-ins” and “Check-outs” with no limits to the number of check ins as was the case for the RPP. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries.
- (2) **Observer Coverage: 100%** Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels.
- (3) **CMCP Monitor:** For the new Rockfish Program, NMFS hired a Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) specialist (Bill Donaldson) to monitor each Processor’s CMCP. RP Processors are required to file with NMFS their CMCP prior to the start of the RP season. This plan details how the processor monitors the deliveries and complies with monitoring requirements. This is in lieu of 200% observer coverage at the plants required during the RPP.
- (4) **NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management:** NOAA RAM’s Co-op ledger web site was used to perform transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of Pacific Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. *Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests*

The Pacific Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2012 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 4. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the seven catcher vessel cooperatives, adhere to cooperative agreements and to cover overages.

Table 2. Pacific Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	Dusky	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial Pacific Allocation:	589,207	188,704	173,099	36,297	136,100	5,803	11,335
Transfers (OBSI)	(1,000)	-	-	(35,000)	-	-	-
Transfers (Global)	-	-	-	(474)	-	-	-
Total Transfers	(1,000)	-	-	(35,474)	-	-	-
Final Pacific Allocation:	588,207	188,704	173,099	823	136,100	5,803	11,335
Total CV Coops*:	13,432,841	3,952,693	4,534,753	831,082	3,104,997	161,057	258,602
Pacific % CV Allocation:	4.38%	4.77%	3.82%	0.10%	4.38%	3.60%	4.38%

*includes CP CQ transferred onshore

B. *Vessel Use, Co-op QS and Processing Caps*

- (1) **Vessel harvests:** A vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV sector is one of the new changes to the RP. In 2013, this amounted to 1,753,623 lbs of primary rockfish in the aggregate. During the 2013 season, no vessel exceeded this limit: the Stella harvested 2.66% of the aggregate CV co-op rockfish quota.
- (2) **Co-op CQ:** Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish allocated to the CV sector. Final quota share allocated to the Pacific Rockfish co-op in 2013 amounted to 4.3% of the aggregate CV rockfish cooperative quota (Table 3).
- (3) **Processing limits:** For the Rockfish Program, a provision was approved that states no processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish in the aggregate; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector. During the 2013 season, Pacific Seafoods, Kodiak did not exceed these caps. See Table 3. Note: CQ harvested by the Pacific rockfish cooperative may not equal the amount processed by Pacific Seafoods Kodiak because deliveries to other City of Kodiak processors are allowed by the co-op in the new Rockfish Program.

Table 3. Primary rockfish CQ (POP, Northern Rockfish, Dusky rockfish): % of Final CV sector allocations by species and co-op

Final Co-op CQ	POP	NR	Dusky	Total Rockfish
NP	16.8%	14.9%	17.7%	16.6%
SOK	24.3%	32.0%	31.3%	27.1%
WAF	17.6%	10.4%	9.1%	14.6%
OBSI	20.7%	28.8%	30.0%	24.1%
ISA	13.3%	8.3%	7.7%	11.2%
Global	2.9%	0.9%	0.5%	2.0%
Pacific	4.4%	4.8%	3.8%	4.3%
Sum	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 4. Pounds and % of CV allocations by CQ species received and processed by Pacific Seafoods in 2013.

Species	POP	NR	DUSKY	Total Primary RF	Sablefish	Cod	% RF	% Sable	% Cod
Pac. Processed	566,529	7,396	8,406	582,331	40,359	384	2.66%	4.87%	0.01%
CV Allocation	13,432,841	3,952,693	4,534,753	21,920,286	828,082	3,104,997			

Table 5. Pacific Rockfish Cooperative 2013 allocations and harvests by species and harvesting vessel. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website <https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts> (as of December 11, 2013).

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2013 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
POP	COHO	42%	246,480	0	246,480
	STELLA	58%	342,727	566,529	(223,802)
	Total	100%	589,207	566,529	22,678
	Transfers:		(1,000)		
		Final Total:	588,207	Net:	21,678
NR	COHO	46%	86,632	-	86,632
	STELLA	54%	102,072	7,396	94,676
	Total	100%	188,704	7,396	181,308
	Transfers:				
		Final Total:	188,704	Net:	181,308
Dusky	COHO	35%	60,551	-	60,551
	STELLA	65%	112,548	8,406	104,142
	Total	100%	173,099	8,406	164,693
	Transfers:				
		Final Total:	173,099	Net:	164,693
Sablefish	COHO	42%	15,207	-	15,207
	STELLA	58%	21,089	-	21,089
	Total	100%	36,297	0	36,297
	Transfers:		(35,474)		
		Final Total:	823	Net:	823
P. Cod	COHO	42%	57,022	-	57,022
	STELLA	58%	79,078	384	78,694
	Total	100%	136,100	384	135,716
	Transfers:		-		
		Final Total:	136,100	Net:	135,716
Thornyheads	COHO	42%	2,431	-	2,431
	STELLA	58%	3,372	-	3,372
	Total	100%	5,803	0	5,803
	Transfers:		-		
		Final Total:	5,803	Net:	5,803
Halibut	COHO	42%	4,749	-	4,749
	STELLA	58%	6,586	221	6,365
	Total	100%	11,335	221	11,114
	Transfers:		-		
		Final Total:	11,335	Net:	11,114

C. **Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ**

Federal regulations require the RP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Dusky Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. Although safety concerns do at times necessitate some discarding of rockfish at sea (for example, when the codend is too big to bring on board in a safe manner), during the 2013 Pacific Rockfish Cooperative’s fishing season (May 1– November 15, 2013), there were no occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species.

D. **Sideboard limits and rockfish sideboard fishery harvests**

The Rockfish Program established sideboard limits and/or prohibitions that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard restrictions apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing. For the CV sector, the sideboard limits established in the RPP have been removed for ease of management. The following prohibitions are in place during the month of July:

- (1) For the month of July, limit all CVs to the shallow water complex fisheries (fishing in the deep complex is prohibited)
- (2) Directed fishing for WYAK and WGOA primary rockfish species in the month of July is prohibited

The prohibitions to the CV sector to fish BSAI cod and flatfish have been removed. The Pacific co-op members followed the sideboard rules.

V. **COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH**

A. **Halibut:** The cooperative’s fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op’s RP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 6). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op’s quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the coop members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or “flying bottom”) gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The Pacific Rockfish Co-op used 221 lbs or 2% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 11,335lbs.

Table 6. Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the Pacific Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard		Red Light Standard		Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%	POP	0.45%	POP	0.38%
NR/Dusky	2.20%	NR/Dusky	1.98%	NR/Dusky	1.65%
Sable/cod	4.00%	Sable/cod	3.60%	Sable/cod	3.00%

B. **Chinook Salmon:** Pacific Rockfish cooperative members continued with the voluntary Chinook salmon avoidance program implemented during the RPP in 2010. Members were provided with a summary of Chinook bycatch in the RPP 2007-2012 fisheries and hotspot reports from 2010-12. Vessel operators were advised to monitor the hotspot areas, depths and time frames during the 2013 season and agreed to avoid areas of high Chinook salmon bycatch.

Operators reported hotspots from the grounds to AGDB and/or to their processor. In turn the processor relayed this information to the inter-coop manager, AGDB, if they were the original point of contact. AGDB distributed hotspot information to the fleet and processors so that vessels on the fishing grounds could avoid the hotspots. AGDB also provided feedback to the vessel operators and their affiliated processor by reporting the number of Chinook salmon on the fish ticket on a trip by trip basis if >10 Chinook occurred in the delivery. There were eight hot spot alerts (five unique areas) sent out to co-op members in 2013.

It became evident that Chinook bycatch was a problem in early May. An inter-cooperative meeting was held on May 15 and again on May 21 to discuss options for reducing Chinook bycatch in the rockfish target trips. At the inter-cooperative meetings, it was decided to suspend all rockfish fishing until June 1st and that the co-ops would do a slow start after June 1st where no more than two vessels would start fishing per co-op with each trip subject to rate standards. Chinook bycatch declined significantly after June 1.

According to CAS (per Steve Whitney, NMFS), there were a total of 1,271 Chinook taken by the seven CV co-ops over the 2013 rockfish season. This compares to 817 Chinook taken during the 2012 season (see Table 7).

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Year	Chinook (no.)	Rockfish	
		Harvest (mt)	Rate (Chinook/mt)
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Average 07-13	988	8,002	0.123

Rockfish Genetics Project: In June 2013, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council implemented a new hard cap for the non-pollock trawl fisheries in the GOA (7,500 Chinook) with 1,200 Chinook of that limit allocated to the Rockfish Program catcher vessel co-ops. Whereas there is ample information on stock of origin of Chinook taken in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, data is still lacking on the origins of Chinook taken in the GOA trawl fisheries. Also uncertain is the proportion of Chinook bycatch that are of hatchery origin. In 2012, observers started collecting systematic samples from Chinook taken in the GOA pollock fisheries, but no data is being collected from those caught in the

non-pollock fisheries. The Kodiak Rockfish Program participants took the initiative to gather more genetic data on Chinook caught in the non-pollock fisheries, the composition of which some suggest may differ from Chinook taken in the pollock fishery. The Rockfish co-ops and processors partnered with Ken Hansen, the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program, NMFS Alaska Region and NMFS Genetics Lab in Auke Bay in collecting samples from all Chinook caught in the 2013 shoreside rockfish fishery. The Rockfish fishery was chosen as a first step because of the co-op structure of the fishery and 100% observer coverage to monitor at-sea discards. Because all the GOA processors possess a NMFS Prohibited Species Donation (PSD) Program Permit and all vessels participating in the rockfish fishery are listed on the permits, 100% retention of salmon is allowed if the intent is to donate the retained salmon to the program through Sea Share. This project is being funded by the North Pacific Fisheries Research Foundation and is expected to continue through 2015.

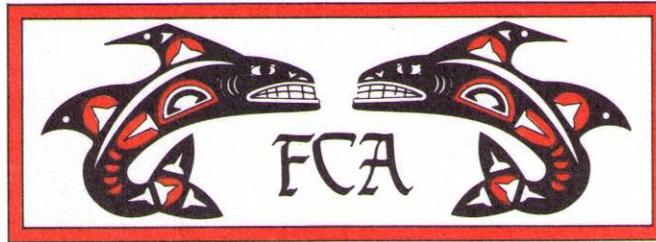
The Project goals are:

1. Collect tissue samples from all landed Chinook salmon for DNA and stock of origin analysis.
2. Collect biological data (weight, length, sex) at the plant from all landed salmon.
3. Scan all landed Chinook salmon for the presence or absence of adipose fin clips and Coded Wire Tags (CWT). This will allow for an estimation of Chinook bycatch that originate from hatcheries.
4. Collect CWT's (snouts) from all salmon with positive CWT signal.

C. ***Other Prohibited Species Catch:*** The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2013 RP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 98 non-Chinook salmon, 108 Bairdi tanner crab and 12 Golden king crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS as of Dec. 4, 2013).

VI. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation exactly on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. leases and clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the Pacific Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.



Year End Report of The Fishing Company of Alaska

Offshore Rockfish Cooperative

Respectively submitted to:
Regional Administrator
NMFS Alaska
P.O. Box 21668
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December 15, 2013

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Section I INTRODUCTION

The Council adopted the proposed Central GOA Rockfish Program on June 14, 2010, to replace the Pilot Program, which expired on December 31, 2011. The final rule implementing Amendment 88, the Rockfish Program, became effective on December 27, 2011. The CGOA Rockfish Program is similar to the Pilot Program, but does incorporate some changes, such as:

1. Uses different qualifying years for eligibility for QS;
2. Uses a different suite of years to determine sideboard limits and the allocation of QS

The CGOA Rockfish Program takes over the management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR). The CGOA Rockfish Program also allows for the formation of rockfish fishing cooperatives in the catcher vessel (CV) and catcher processor (CP) sectors.

During this 2013 fishing season the FCA cooperative performed quota transfers with Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Best Use Cooperative, although at a reduced rate from previous years.

Each cooperative received an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of primary rockfish species (POP, NR, PSR), catcher processor cooperatives also received allocations of secondary species, which included sablefish, thornyhead, shortraker, roughey rockfish and halibut PSC mortality. The catcher processor (CP) vessel co-ops did not receive allocations of Pacific cod. The CP cod was managed as a maximum retainable amount (MRA's in the CP sector) but was allocated shortraker and roughey rockfish. Allocations to both the inshore and catcher processor sectors were based on the average percentage of retained catch and halibut PSC mortality usage of these species in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations were distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member held.

2013 marks the second year of the CGOA Rockfish Program, and in compliance with Amendment 88, this annual report is submitted to the Council as a summary of harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2013 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA).

Section II COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

The 2013 Fishing Company of Alaska Cooperative (FCA) consisted of three member vessels, AK Spirit (LLP #3043), AK Victory (LLP #2080) and AK Warrior (LLP # 2083); the Alaska Spirit and Victory actively fished in the RPP.

Member Licenses

Vessel Name	ADF&G	USCG	LLP
Alaska Spirit	59870	554913	3043
Alaska Victory	61083	569752	2080
Alaska Warrior	56965	590350	2083

Section III COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT- MONITORING

The Fishing Company of Alaska (FCA) cooperative was represented and managed by Bill McGill of Fishing Company of Alaska, Inc. in cooperation and coordination with the other offshore cooperative, Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Best Use Cooperative, the inshore inter-cooperative manager, Julie Bonney of the Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (in-season management).

It was FCA's 2013 cooperative harvesting strategy to bring the entire allocation under one cooperative and manage the harvesting in the central GOA utilizing the AK Spirit and AK Victory to take the quota.

Based on its fishing experience in the GOA cooperative programs, FCA developed an effective onboard catch monitoring program and employed fishing techniques that were intended to maximize harvest and minimize PSC bycatch in the CGOA without exceeding any species or PSC allocations.

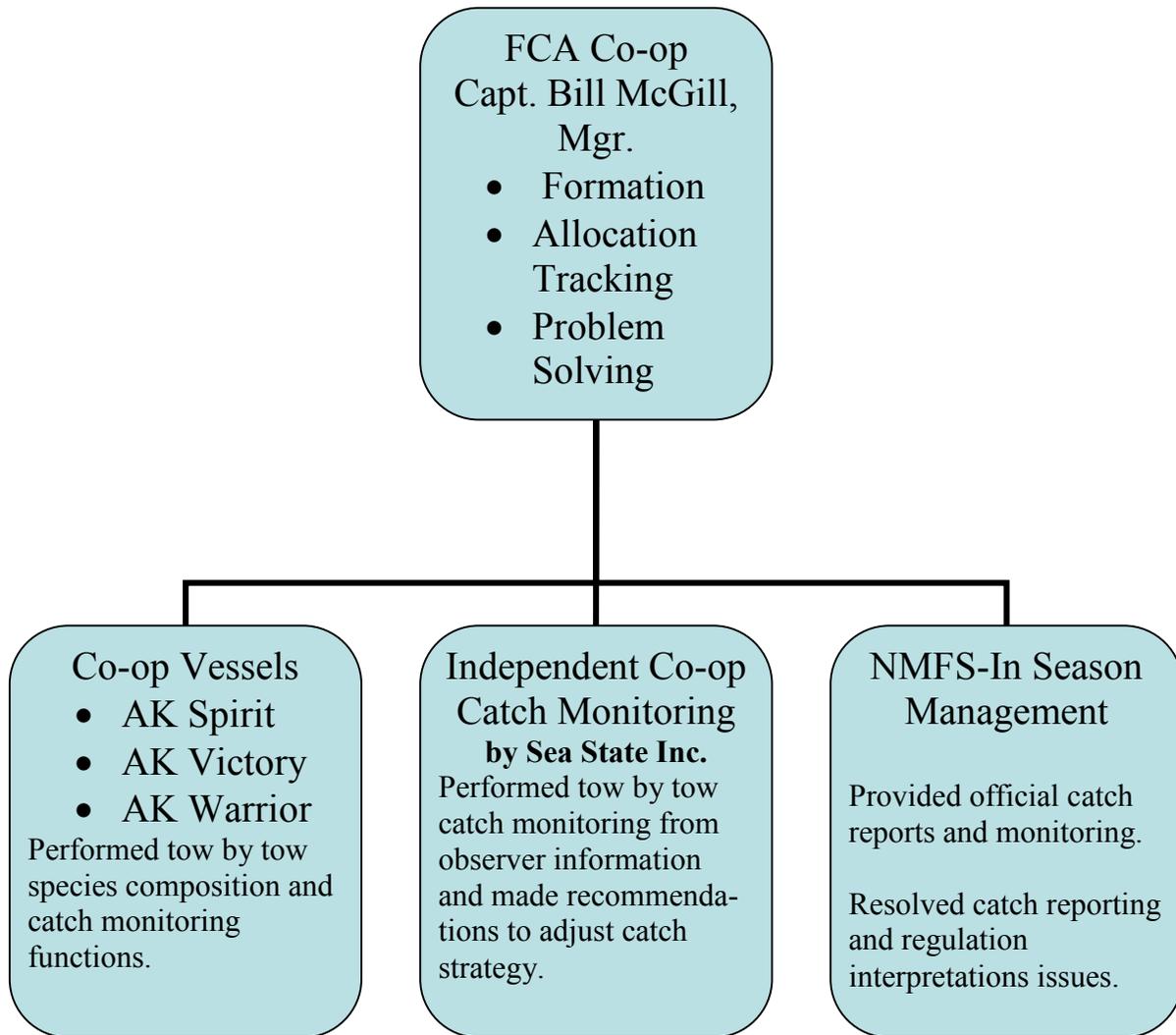
Vessel Catch-Monitoring

All of FCA's co-op vessels were equipped with onboard catch monitoring systems that allowed them to compute and monitor catch on a tow by tow basis based on real time haul estimates, species composition and observer information. Each vessel's accounting was compared to catch reports compiled by an independent catch monitoring company, Sea State Inc., who utilized the most current official NMFS observer catch information. The comparative data was then transmitted to the vessels via the co-op manager and any discrepancies between the vessels catch estimates and those compiled by Sea State were immediately rectified.

In addition to the above, a third check of catch data accuracy was made when the co-op manager also compared the vessels and Sea State catch numbers with the NMFS co-op manager's official catch accounting in Juneau.

Figure 1 below shows the schematic outlining the co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

Figure 1. Schematic of Fishing Co. of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management.



Section IV CO-OP ALLOCATIONS, TRANSFERS and PERFORMANCE

FCA cooperative allocations and transfers for the 2013 season are summarized by species in Table 1.

There were small inter-cooperative transfers with the other offshore cooperative this year.

Table 1 Central Gulf of Alaska Allocations and Transfers IN and OUT of Cooperative by Species.

NAME	FCA Allocation	Transferred In from or Out to the coop listed	In Transfers	Out Transfers	Total QS	Catch	CQ Remaining	Percent Harvested
CGOA Dusky (PSR)	248.774	Gulf of Alaska Best Use Cooperative	0	0	248.774	174.309	74.465	70.06%
CGOA Northern	389.649	Gulf of Alaska Best Use Cooperative	0	0	389.649	271.542	118.107	69.68%
CGOA POP	2,476.393	Gulf of Alaska Best Use Cooperative	0	1.00	2,475.393	2,323.573	151.820	93.87%
CGOA Rougheye	239.339	GOA BUC	0	0	239.339	47.230	192.109	19.73%
CGOA Sablefish	92.355	Gulf of Alaska Best Use Cooperative	0	0	92.355	74.176	18.179	80.31%
CGOA Shortraker	85.870	Gulf of Alaska Best Use Cooperative	18.0	0	103.870	106.25	-2.380	102%
CGOA Thornyhead	96.409	Gulf of Alaska Best Use Cooperative	0	0	96.409	32.959	63.450	34.18%
CGOA Halibut - PSC	35.194	Gulf of Alaska Best Use Cooperative	0	0	35.194	10.85166	24.34234	30.83%
GOA DW Complex Haliibut SB	10.805		0	0	10.8050	8.29886	2.50614	76.80%
GOA SW Complex Halibut SB	0		0	0	0	0	0	0%

On the last net of this fishery CGOA Shortraker QS was exceeded by 2.380mt.

Section V WESTERN GULF OF ALASKA (WGOA) SIDEBOARDS

The 2013 Western Gulf fishery was handled differently than in other years. Pacific Ocean Perch did not open to directed fishing and remained bycatch. There were a couple of short openers with Northern and Dusky Rockfish open to directed fishing, and POP as bycatch.

Table 2 Western GOA Sideboard Species

Species Group	Area	Sideboard Percentage	Total CP Sideboard Limit (mt)	FCA Co-op Sideboard Limit (mt)	FCA Catch (mt)	FCA Balance (mt)	FCA % Remaining
Northern Rockfish	WG	87.89	1,492	1,311.195	477.605	833.590	64%
Pacific Ocean Perch	WG	61.49	1,032	634.735	161.567	473.168	74%
Dusky (PSR)	WG	92.31	273	251.618	31.81	219.808	87%

(*)POP did not open to directed fishing in 2013.

Section VI CO-OP CENTRAL GOA PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH (PSC)

The FCA co-op was initially allocated 35.194 mts of halibut PSC and used 10.851 mts.

Section VII PROGRAM SIDEBOARDS

The Rockfish Program established sideboard limitations (not allocations) that limited LLP holders participating in the program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard limits applied only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing.

All three of the FCA cooperative vessels participated in the Western Gulf co-op sideboard fisheries. The side board limits shown in Table 2, should not have been limiting on the FCA cooperative because POP did not open to directed fishing in the WGOA this year. There were a couple of openings for Northern and Dusky rockfish, with POP as bycatch.

Section VIII
PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

There were no NMFS enforcement actions or other sanctions taken against the FCA cooperative fishing in the RPP.

Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Best Use Cooperative

2013 Annual Report

April 1, 2014

Introduction:

Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-199), required the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), to establish a Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Pilot Program. The Council adopted the Program on June 6, 2005, and it was implemented by Final Rule on November 20, 2006. The Pilot Program expired at the end of 2011. The Council adopted a new Rockfish Program, Amendment 88 to the Gulf of Alaska Fisheries Management Plan, at its June 2010 meeting. On December 27, 2011, NMFS published final regulations implementing the new Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program.

Under the new Program (RP), eligible trawl catcher/processors (CP) can either opt-out of the RP or opt-in. If a CP opts-in to the program, the vessel must participate in a cooperative in order to receive quota share. There is no CP limited access fishery in the new program.

NMFS issues quota shares (QS) for three primary rockfish species, Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish, and for four secondary species, Sablefish, Shortraker rockfish, Rougheyeye rockfish and Thornyhead rockfish. Each cooperative also receives a quota share of Halibut PSC mortality. The quota shares are then distributed among the participating vessels. All quota share species are managed as hard caps with 100% mandatory retention. This coop operates as a pass through, with each LLP receiving it’s pro-rata share of the quotas based on historic participation.

The GOA BUC coop membership is comprised of the following vessels and licenses:

Membership of the Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Best Use Cooperative:

<u>Vessel Owner</u>	<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>LLP</u>	<u>ADF&G No.</u>
U.S. Fishing, LLC	U.S. Intrepid	3662	54392
North Pacific Fishing, Inc.	American No. 1	2028	36202
M/V Savage, Inc.	Seafisher	2014	56964
Unimak Vessel, LLC	Unimak	3957	57211
Alaska Legacy, LLC	Legacy	1802	48183
Alaska Alliance, LLC	Alliance	2905	55045
Ocean Alaska, LLC	Ocean Alaska	4360	41219
American Seafoods Co., LLC		3838	

Monitoring the Fishing Plan and Catch:

On March 1st, coops submit their membership agreement to NMFS. NMFS then establishes coop quota shares. The coop manager notifies each owner of their LLP quota shares, and sideboard amounts. Coop assignments per LLP are vetted through NMFS In-Season management to ensure correct tonnages. Owners forward the individual quota shares to the Captains. Captains are also informed of their sideboard allowances for the month of July, in keeping with the sideboard rules of the RP.

NMFS, the Alaska Seafood Cooperative (as back-up managers), and Seastate are notified in advance of the vessels which will fish the RP quota, and which will fish the sideboards. Vessels

fishing CGOA rockfish quota share are mandated to have two observers on board for the RP, or while the vessel has RP fish on board. NMFS must have the opportunity to brief the rockfish observers in advance.

Each vessel has one of two catch monitoring programs on board, either “eHarvest” or “CatchPoint”. Observer sampling information is downloaded to the onboard monitoring program after the observers sample the hauls. The onboard programs use the same extrapolation methodology as the NMFS AK Region for determining official catch. In this way, the vessels have real time QS catch data on board.

When the observers send their files to NMFS, the Observer Program performs data checks and then sends data for extrapolation at the AK Region in Juneau. The data is then available to the NMFS In-season managers, and also to third party data managers such as the Alaska Seafood Cooperative and Seastate. The official NMFS data can take several days to show up on the NMFS’s Coop Account Balance. The onboard monitoring program information is available immediately and enables real time quota monitoring. Seastate sends daily to weekly information to the owners and vessels in the coop, depending on whether fishing sideboard or quota share. The coop bases its official total catch, however, on the NMFS account balance.

Vessel Captains update the home offices daily with the onboard tow data. The office quota share managers compare the onboard monitoring program catch and QS balances with Seastate and with the NMFS region’s Account Balance for the coop. If any of these databases do not match, then tow by tow comparisons are made between the onboard program tow information and the Seastate data (Seastate data is obtained directly from NMFS after extrapolation and we can look at it on the individual tow level). We may also confer with NMFS AK Region on haul information if discrepancies cannot be solved by looking into the Seastate data. Since the inception of the Rockfish Program in 2007, NMFS In-Season managers have been extremely helpful to industry from a regulatory and data perspective. Alaska Seafood Cooperative managers are also available for additional assistance in verifying or corroborating numbers if requested.

The vessel Captains communicate directly with one another on the grounds, with the quota share managers, and they have the ability to communicate directly with the third party data managers when necessary. The quota share managers of the participating vessels maintained contact throughout the fishery.

Retained and Discarded Primary and Secondary QS:

Full retention of the three primary rockfish and four secondary quota share species is required under the program. 100% of the target rockfish were harvested, and most of the secondary rockfish and sablefish quota was taken. Where there was an amount of secondary species quota remaining, it was due to minimizing the risk of taking incidental quota share species that are too close to their limits.

There were no discards of the quota share species.

PSQ and Salmon:

56% of the PSQ halibut was taken in the CGOA rockfish fisheries, or 21.784 mt of mortality. Basing a rate on the total harvest of the 3 target and 4 secondary quota share species, 3686.051 mt, this represents a one-half of one percent halibut bycatch rate. (mt hal mort/mt QS harvest)

The rockfish quota share fisheries took 613 Chinook. Captains reported the same as was presented at the June Council meeting in Juneau: the salmon were mixed in with the rockfish rather than being captured as the net was hauled back.

Subsequent to the season end, one of the Captains who fished the rockfish QS fisheries worked on salmon excluder panels at the Marine Institute flume tank in St. John's, Newfoundland, along with the other Gulf and BS pollock trawl captains and pollock coop representatives. This information has been shared at the Groundfish Forum Annual Captains meeting.

Sideboards:

Rockfish eligible vessels which have history in other Gulf fisheries in the month of July can fish up to a sideboard level equivalent to their historic average catch in those fisheries. The coop fish plan details the timing of the prosecution of the sideboard fisheries, in addition to timing of the harvest of the CGOA rockfish QS.

The sideboard WYAK Pacific Ocean Perch was 98% harvested. WYAK dusky fishery was not prosecuted, as the fish was not well aggregated, and there was concern for increased other rockfish and halibut bycatch with such low CPUE.

NMFS did not open the WGOA Pacific Ocean Perch fishery in 2013, and therefore no sideboard POP in the WGOA could be taken in directed fishing mode.

Vessels fished deep water flatfish, using a total of 30% of the DW halibut sideboard, or, 11 mt of halibut mortality. Less than 1 mt of SW halibut mortality was taken. With only 1.973 SW halibut sideboard, there is not enough for a viable SW flatfish fishery.

13 Chinook were taken in the arrowtooth sideboard fishery. No Chinook were taken in the rockfish sideboard fisheries.

Trades/overages/underages:

At least 4 trades were made between cooperative members, in addition to minor trades out of the coop to other inshore and offshore coops. There were no overages.

2013 GOA BUC Coop Harvest Final

Quota Share fishery

	Quota Share	Trade	Adj QS	Catch	Balance	Harvest %
POP	1,451.565	1.000	1,452.565	1,452.391	0.174	100%
Northern	809.438		809.438	806.520	2.918	100%
Dusky	997.294		997.294	993.163	4.131	100%
Shortraker	94.930	(18.000)	76.930	76.922	0.008	100%
Rougheyeye	264.589		264.589	220.976	43.613	84%
Thornyhead	106.581	(3.000)	103.581	35.438	68.143	34%
Sablefish	102.099		102.099	100.641	1.458	99%

Halibut	38.906			21.783	38.906	56%
Halibut mort/QS				0.591%		
Chinook #				613		

Sideboard fishery

	Sideboard	Catch	Balance	Harvest %
DW Halibut	38.024	11.234	26.79	30%
SW Halibut	1.569	0.714	0.86	46%
Chinook #		13		