



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

January 31, 2014

## Agenda B-2: NMFS Management Report

### Status of Actions Report

The Status of Actions for the Alaska Region is now available at:

<http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/status/amendments.pdf>.

It is updated on a daily basis. A version of this report is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Highlights on progress since the December 2013 meeting include:

- Final Rule implementing the Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for charter halibut fisheries in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. **Effective January 13, 2014**  
Final rule: <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/frules/78fr75844.pdf>  
Updated outreach information for charter operators will soon be available on our website: <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/halibut/sport.htm>
- Final rule to implement Amendment 99 to the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Fishery Management Plan (BSAI FMP) to modify the license limitation program to allow newly built or existing vessels that are not eligible under current vessel length and capacity restrictions. **Effective February 6, 2014**  
Final rule: <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/frules/79fr603.pdf>
- Final Rule implementing Amendment 89 to the Gulf of Alaska Fishery Management Plan (GOA FMP) to close areas around Kodiak for trawl gear to protect Tanner crab habitat, require trawl sweeps on all non-pelagic trawl gear in the GOA, and make other technical amendments. **Effective February 28, 2014.**  
Final rule: <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/frules/79fr2794.pdf>
- Proposed rule to remove requirement for vessel name on fishing gear marker buoys.  
**Public Comment Period Closed February 3, 2014**  
Proposed rule: <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/prules/79fr381.pdf>
- Amendment 102 to the BSAI FMP – Adak CQE and Area 4B fish up, Final rule in HQ review. **Minor technical corrections made from proposed to final rule.**



- Halibut and Sablefish IFQ “12/20 rule” -- Establishes new minimum vessel ownership requirements for using a hired master, Final rule in HQ review. **See Attachment 2 for changes from proposed to final rule.**
- Final 2014-2015 GOA and BSAI harvest specifications – In GCAK review.
- Amendment 95 to the GOA FMP – GOA Halibut PSC limits, Proposed rule in HQ review.
- Amendment 105 to the BSAI FMP – Flatfish Flexibility, Proposed rule in Regional review.

## Inseason Management Report

### Catch Report and

2014 catch (in metric tons) is through January 25 and 2013 catch is through January 26.

Additional information from daily catch reports and information bulletins are available at: <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/catchstats.htm>

### **Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands**

#### Bering Sea Pollock

Five American Fisheries Act (AFA) catcher/processors (C/Ps) (8 in 2013), and sixteen catcher vessels (CV) delivering shoreside are targeting pollock (45 in 2013). NMFS reallocated 1,900 mt of CDQ and 7,750 mt Aleut Corporation Aleutian Islands pollock TAC to the Bering Sea TAC.

Bering Sea sector	2014 A season allocation	2014 A season catch
Inshore	220,320	5,309
C/P	176,256	2,421
Mothership	44,064	785
CDQ	50,640	2,954

#### Pacific cod

#### Hook-and-line C/Ps

The fishery is expected to be open all year.

2014		2013	
Week ending	Catch	Week ending	Catch
1/04/2014	1,595	1/05/2013	2,296
1/11/2014	4,067	1/12/2013	4,653
1/18/2014	3,893	1/19/2013	4,966
1/25/2014	3,329	1/26/2013	3,920
Total	12,884		15,835
A season TAC	56,108		57,462
Remaining	43,224		41,627
# of C/Ps	26		26

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

2014		2013	
Week ending	Catch	Week ending	Catch
1/04/2014	1,341	1/05/2013	2,043
1/11/2014	3,288	1/12/2013	3,058
1/18/2014	2,806	1/19/2013	4,627
1/25/2014	2,145	1/26/2013	172
Total	9,581		9,900
A season TAC	9,678		9,911
Remaining	97		11
# of CVs	29		31
A season closure	Jan 24		Jan 22

Pot C/Ps

2014		2013	
Week Ending	Catch	Week Ending	Catch
1/04/2014	160	1/05/2013	178
1/11/2014	417	1/12/2013	499
1/18/2014	517	1/19/2013	500
1/25/2014	537	1/26/2013	566
2/01/2014	n/a	2/02/2013	100
Total	1,632		1,843
A season TAC	1,728		1,770
Remaining	96		-73
# of C/Ps	4		3
A season closure	Jan 26		Jan 28

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

For 2014, NMFS reallocated 1,700 mt of the A season jig allocation to the less than 60 ft allocation. In 2013, NMFS reallocated 1,800 mt of the A season jig allocation.

2014		2013	
Week ending	Catch	Week ending	Catch
1/04/2014	606	1/05/2013	743
1/11/2014	1,253	1/12/2013	842
1/18/2014	1,122	1/19/2013	1,018
1/25/2014	1,244	1/26/2013	1,257
Total	4,225		3,861
A season TAC	6,218 (4,518 + 1,700)		6,427 (4,627 + 1,800)
Remaining	1,993		2,566
# of C/Vs	18 (5 H&L, 13 pot)		22 (3 H&L, 19 pot)
A season closure	February 4		February 7

Trawl catcher vessels

In 2014, 23 trawl CVs targeting Pacific cod reported 2,934 mt compared to 28 trawl CVs targeting Pacific cod reporting 4,077 mt for the same time period in 2013. The 2014 Pacific cod total catch is 2,948 mt (including the pollock target) of the 37,079 mt A season allocation. In 2013, the A season closed March 11 and the B season opened April 1, 2013.

2014		2013	
Week ending	Catch	Week ending	Catch
1/25/2014	2,948	1/26/2013	4,503
A season TAC	37,079		37,971
Remaining	34,131		33,971
# of CVs	23		28
A season closure	n/a		March 11

Flatfish

At the start of the 2014 season, Amendment 80 C/Ps are targeting flatfish (12) and Atka mackerel (3), and 10 AFA C/Ps are targeting yellowfin sole. At the start of the 2013 season, 11 Amendment 80 C/Ps targeted flatfish, and eight AFA C/Ps targeted yellowfin sole.

## Gulf of Alaska

### Pollock

The trawl pollock fishery opened January 20, 2014. Effort is low in all areas. For Area 610, most trawl CVs are targeting Pacific cod. For Areas 620 and 630, most trawl CVs are fishing the State's pollock fishery and then will move to Pacific cod.

Area	610	620	630	640
2014 A season allocation	4,800	25,924	8,680	4,741 (annual)
2014 Catch	153	35	83	0

### Pacific cod

#### Western GOA

Sector	2014				2013			
	A season allocation	Catch Jan 25	A season closed	# of vessels	A season allocation	Catch Jan 26	A season closed	# of vessels Jan 26
Hook-and-line C/P	2,436	151	n/a	<3	2,254	n/a	Apr 21	<3
Hook-and-line CV	156	0	n/a	0	145	n/a	Apr 24	<3
Jig	344	3	n/a	4	318	0	June 10	0
Pot CV/CP	4,425	4,151	Jan 22	35	4,095	4,471	Jan 28	32
Trawl CV	6,191	528	n/a	18	5,728	829	Mar 3	15
Trawl C/P	201	0	Jan 20	0	186	0	Jan 20	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,753</b>	<b>4,833</b>		<b>57</b>	<b>12,726</b>	<b>5,300</b>		<b>47</b>

Central GOA

Sector	2014				2013			
	A season allocation	Catch Jan 25	A season closed	# of vessels	A season allocation	Catch Jan 26	A season closed	# of vessels Jan 26
Hook-and-line C/P	1,603	0	n/a	0	1,488	0	June 10	0
Hook-and-line CV <50 ft	3,636	635	n/a	26	3,375	356	Mar 21	36
Hook-and-line CV >=50 ft	2,189	201	n/a	4	2,032	313	Mar 21	8
Jig	478	15	n/a	9	444	5	June 10	6
Pot CV/CP	6,959	2,212	n/a	25	6,459	3,811	Feb 10	43
Trawl CV	8,249	98	n/a	12	7,657	325	Mar 23	23
Trawl C/P	782	0	n/a	0	726	n/a	Apr 17	<3
Total	23,896	3,161		76	22,181	4,810		108

### Prohibited Species Catch (PSC)

#### Salmon in the Bering Sea pollock fishery – Preliminary for 2014

These salmon amounts are for five days of fishing in 2014 and six days of fishing in 2013.

Species	Chinook				Non-Chinook			
	2014		2013		2014		2013	
Amount	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate
CDQ	21	0.0071	35	0.0107	1	0.0003	0	0
Non-CDQ	224	0.0259	1,008	0.0275	6	0.0007	7	0.0002
Total	245		1,043		7		7	

#### Salmon in the Western and Central pollock fishery – Preliminary for 2014

No salmon has been reported for the first five days of the trawl fishery.

#### Halibut mortality – Preliminary for 2014 trawl gear

In 2014 compared to 2013 the total halibut mortality in the BSAI is 8 mt higher and in the GOA is 23 mt lower.

Area and Gear	2014			2013		
	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate
BSAI non-pelagic trawl	110	15,634	0.007	85	22,663	0.004
BSAI pelagic trawl	1	11,631	0.000	15	39,918	0.000
BSAI hook-and-line	55	15,574	0.004	58	19,636	0.003
BSAI Total	166	42,839	0.004	158	82,217	0.002
GOA non-pelagic trawl	1	80	0.013	29	2,279	0.013
GOA pelagic trawl	0	2,448	0.000	0	4,132	0.000
GOA hook-and-line	17	1,333	0.013	12	1,082	0.011
GOA Total	18	3,861	0.005	41	7,493	0.005



## **Bycatch Research Funding Opportunity**

NOAA anticipates funding will be available in 2014 under its Fisheries' Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program. This program provides funds critical to key partners for the research and development of innovative approaches and strategies for reducing bycatch, seabird interactions, bycatch mortality, and post-release mortality of non-target species and protected species in federally managed. In 2013, the program funded nearly \$2.4 million in projects.

Additional information on the Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program is available at: [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/by\\_catch/bycatch\\_BREP.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/by_catch/bycatch_BREP.htm)

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**Attachment 1  
Status of FMP Amendments**

<b>FMP Amendment Status</b>	<b>Lead Council and SF Staff</b>	<b>Date of Council Final Action</b>	<b>Start Regional Review</b>	<b>Received by GCAK</b>	<b>Transmittal Date of Action to NMFS HQ for Review</b>	<b>Proposed FMP Amendment Notice of Availability Published in Federal Register</b>	<b>Proposed Rule Published in Federal Register</b>	<b>Final Rule or Notice of Approval Published in Federal Register</b>
Amendment 31 (KTC) - C-Share Active Participation and CR Application Deadline Modification	Fina Pamigiano	April 2008	PR: 08/22/11	PR: 09/13/11				
Amendment 43 (KTC) and Amendment 103 (BSAI) Pribilof Blue King Crab rebuilding	Stram Ellgen	June 2012	PR: 03/25/13	PR: 04/08/13				
Amendment 44 (KTC) BSAI crab ROFR	Palmigiano	February 2013						
Amendment 45 (KTC) GOA Pacific cod non-AFA Crab Sideboards FLL	McCracken Kelly	June 2013						
Amendment 89 (GOA) tanner crab areas closures around Kodiak and trawl sweep modifications Approved: August 26, 2013	McCracken Ellgen	October 2010	PR: 09/14/12 FR: 09/27/13	PR: 09/24/12 FR: 10/17/13	PR: 05/28/13 FR: 12/26/13	Jun 3, 2013 78 FR 33040 EOC: 08/02/13	Jun 17, 2013 78 FR 36150 EOC: 07/17/13	<b>Jan 16, 2014 79 FR 2794 Effective: 02/18/14</b>
Amendment 95 (GOA) Halibut PSC management Approved: November 27, 2013	DiCosimo Davis	June 2012	PR: 04/24/13 <b>FR: 01/02/14</b>	PR: 04/29/13 <b>FR: 01/07/14</b>	PR: 08/22/13 <b>FR: 01/31/14</b>	Aug 29, 2013 78 FR 53419 EOC: 10/28/13	Sep 17, 2013 78 FR 57106 EOC: 10/17/13	
Amendment 96 (GOA) - ability for CQE to buy small blocks of QS	Cunningham Murphy	April 2013						

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Amendment 97 (GOA) Chinook PSC management measures for non-pollock fisheries trawl	Cunningham Hartman	December 2013						
Amendment 102 (BSAI) CQE Program in Area 4B and Area 4B "Fish Up" Approved: January 29, 2014	DiCosimo Murphy	April 2012	PR: 03/19/13	PR: 05/10/13 <b>FR: 01/10/14</b>	PR: 10/28/13 <b>FR: 01/27/14</b>	Nov 1, 2013 78 FR 65602 EOC: 12/31/13	Nov 14, 2013 78 FR 68390 EOC: 12/16/13	
Amendment 104 (BSAI) HAPC skate sites	Olson	April 2013						
Amendment 105 (BSAI) Flatfish Specifications Flexibility	Evans Kelly	April 2013	<b>PR: 1/31/14</b>					
Amendment 106 (BSAI) AFA vessel replacement	McCracken McKeen	April 2013	PR: 11/13/13	PR: 11/20/13				
Amendment 99 (BSAI) Freezer Longline MLOA Adjustment <b>Approved: Dec. 19, 2013</b>	Evans Kelly	October 2012	PR: 05/17/13 FR: 12/05/13	PR: 07/15/13 FR: 12/09/13	PR: 09/24/13 <b>FR: 12/13/13</b>	Sep 30, 2013 78 FR 59908 EOC: 11/29/13	Oct 25, 2013 78 FR 63951 EOC: 11/25/13	<b>Jan 6, 2014 79 FR 603 Effective: 02/06/14</b>

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At-Sea Scales Regulatory Amendments	n/a Watson	n/a					
BSAI 2014-2015 Harvest Specifications	DiCosmo Whitney	October 2013	PR: 10/24/13 <b>FR: 01/03/14</b>	PR: 11/15/13 <b>FR: 01/13/14</b>	PR: 11/27/13	<b>Dec 10, 2013</b> <b>78 FR 74063</b> <b>EOC: 01/09/14</b>	
Cost recovery for AFA, Amendment 80, Rockfish Program, and CDQ Program	Palmigiano	n/a					
Federal Fisheries Permit and Federal Processor Permit revisions	n/a Bearden	n/a	PR: 05/30/13	PR: 06/25/13			
GOA 2014 and 2015 Harvest Specificatons	Stram Davis	October 2013	PR: 10/23/13 <b>FR: 01/15/14</b>	PR: 10/30/13 <b>FR: 01/16/14</b>	PR: 11/26/13	<b>Dec 10, 2013</b> <b>78 FR 74079</b> <b>EOC: 01/09/14</b>	
GOA trawl data collection	Brannan Hartmann	October 2013					
Remove requirement for vessel name on fishing gear marker buoys	n/a Camacho	n/a	PR: 10/25/13	PR: 10/29/13	<b>PR: 12/17/13</b>	<b>Jan 3, 2014</b> <b>79 FR 381 EOC:</b> <b>02/03/14</b>	
Halibut Catch Sharing Plan	Dicosimo Scheurer	October 2012	PR: 03/28/13 FR: 10/22/13	PR: 04/25/13 FR: 10/22/13	PR: 06/08/13 FR: 11/15/2013	Jun 28, 2013 78 FR 39122 EOC: 08/26/13	<b>Dec 12, 2013</b> <b>78 FR 75844</b> <b>Effective: 01/13/14</b>

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Halibut IFQ - Establish new minimum vessel ownership criteria for using hired skipper of 12 months and 20% interest	DiCosimo Mckeen	December 2007	PR: 01/20/12 FR: 05/14/13	PR: 02/03/12 FR: 05/16/13	PR: 10/12/12 <b>FR: 01/29/2014</b>	Oct 31, 2012 77 FR 65843 EOC: 11/30/12	
Halibut/sablefish IFQ - revise hired skipper provisions	DiCosimo Murphy	April 2011	PR: 10/19/12 FR: 08/08/13	PR: 10/31/12 FR: 08/09/13		Apr 26, 2013 78 FR 24707 EOC: 05/28/13	
Halibut Annual Management Measures 2014	DiCosimo Scheurer	<b>IPHC Annual Meeting January 2014</b>					

## Attachment 2

### Changes from the 12/20 proposed to final rule

NMFS made the following five substantive regulatory changes from the proposed to final rule, and several non-substantive editorial changes to clarify the proposed rule text.

*Vessel ownership documentation.* The final rule clarifies that the formal vessel ownership documents submitted to NMFS along with a hired master application must list the individual QS holder as an owner of the vessel. If these formal documents do not show the individual QS holder as meeting the ownership requirements, the individual QS holder may prove either of those facts with additional written documentation.

*Indirect ownership of vessel.* The final rule clarifies that the minimum 20-percent interest and 12-month vessel ownership requirement applies to QS holders who directly or indirectly own the vessel from which the IFQ will be fished.

*Total or temporary vessel loss – 12-month requirement.* The final rule clarifies that in the event of a total or temporary vessel loss, the QS holder does not have to meet the 12-month vessel ownership requirement but still must own a 20-percent interest in the vessel from which the IFQ will be fished.

*Total or temporary vessel loss – negligence.* The final rule remove negligence from the list of circumstances under which NMFS proposed an individual QS holder may retain an exemption from the 12-month vessel ownership requirement in the event of total or temporary vessel loss. This would have required NMFS in certain circumstances to determine if a QS holder lost a vessel due to negligence and to deny suspension of the 12-month vessel ownership requirement on that basis. Based on a public comment on the proposed rule and a review of the analysis for this action, NMFS concluded that the proposed rule text did not comport with Council intent and that the negligence limitation in the proposed rule text was in error.

*Non-individual QS holders.* The final rule removes proposed regulations to implement the 12-month vessel ownership requirement on non-individual QS holders, such as corporations, partnerships, or associations. After reviewing the analysis for the action, NMFS concluded that the Council did not intend to apply the 12-month vessel ownership requirement to non-individual QS holders.

### Corrections in Reporting Requirements

The halibut catch sharing plan final rule published in December 2013 incorrectly revised recordkeeping and reporting requirements at § 679.5(1)(7)(i) that were implemented by the Observer Program final rule published in November 2012. NMFS corrected the errors in the 12/20 final rule.