



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

September 30, 2020

Agenda B-2: NMFS Management Report

Status of Actions Report Online

Updated daily at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/akro/amendments.pdf>

Progress on Rulemaking

Highlights on progress since the June 2020 meeting include:

- Final rule to implement Amendment 109 (GOA) Modifications to GOA Pollock and Pacific Cod Seasonal Allocation published on **June 25, 2020**. Effective January 1, 2021.
- Final rule to adjust the observer fee published on **July 10, 2020**. Effective August 10, 2020.
- Final rule to implement a fish up provision for CQE's in area 3A published on **July 21, 2020**. Effective August 20, 2020
- Final rule to implement Amendment 121 (BSAI) and Amendment 110 (GOA) Sculpin to the Ecosystem Component published on **July 10, 2020**. Effective August 10, 2020.
- Temporary Rule to allow temporary transfers of IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish in 2020 published on **June 25, 2020**. Effective June 25, 2020.
- Final rule to modify the 2020 halibut IFQ vessel harvest limitations in IFQ regulatory areas 4B, 4C, and 4D published on **July 9, 2020**. Effective July 8, 2020.
- Final rule to implement revised 2020 charter halibut management measures published on **June 19, 2020**. Effective May 28, 2020.
- Comment period for the proposed rule to remove the regulatory prohibition on continuing to fish after a partial offload in the BSAI Crab Rationalization Program ended on September 3, 2020.
- Comment period for the Notice of Availability for Amendment 111 (GOA) Rockfish Program Reauthorization ended on September 28, 2020 and the comment period for the proposed rule ends October 5, 2020.
- Comment period for the proposed rule to modify Federal permit conditions and impose participation requirements for certain federally-permitted vessels when fishing for Pacific cod in state waters adjacent to the exclusive economic zone of the BSAI during the State of Alaska's parallel Pacific cod fishery ends on October 19, 2020.
- **Attachment 1** provides additional detail.



Implementation of Rulemakings Recommended on May 15, 2020

Revised 2020 Charter Halibut Management Measures – On May 20, 2020, the IPHC held an intersessional meeting to address stakeholder proposals, including a proposal from U.S. Commissioners regarding the Area 2A sablefish fishery, and a recommendation by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) to revise guided sport (charter) halibut management measures for Areas 2C and 3A. On May 28, 2020, NMFS Alaska Region transmitted the rule package to NMFS Headquarters for review, acceptance by the Secretary of State, and publication in the Federal Register. The revised management measures were effective upon acceptance by the Secretary of State.

Halibut IFQ Vessel Use Caps in Areas 4B, C, and D Final Rule – On May 15, 2020 the NPFMC recommended an emergency rule to modify Halibut IFQ Vessel Use Caps in Areas 4B, C, and D. On July 9, 2020, NMFS published a final rule modifying Halibut IFQ Vessel Use Caps in Areas 4B, C, and D. As of September 15, 2020, four vessels have utilized this vessel use cap exemption in areas 4B, 4C, and 4D to make seven landings.

IFQ Temporary Transfers 2020 Emergency Rule – On June 25, 2020, NMFS published an emergency rule to modify the temporary transfer provision of the IFQ Program for the fixed-gear commercial Pacific halibut and sablefish fisheries for the 2020 IFQ fishing year. This emergency rule is effective from June 25, 2020 through December 22, 2020. The Council recommended action was specific to the 2020 fishing year and as such, NMFS did not solicit comments on this temporary rule and therefore this rule cannot be extended.

As of September 29, 2020 RAM has approved 1,062 temporary transfers of IFQ compared to a total of 467 transfers approved in 2019. This includes temporary transfers authorized under this emergency rule as well as temporary medical transfers.

Implementation Issues

Due to the increase in halibut and sablefish IFQ temporary transfers processed under this emergency rule as well as an increase in medical transfers in 2020, RAM has identified unanticipated challenges with implementing this emergency rule and limitations of the current IFQ permit application.

First, NMFS has received numerous requests for transferred IFQ to be returned to the quota share holder. In the past, NMFS has received similar requests for the return of IFQ transferred under the medical transfer provision, and has evaluated these on a case by case basis taking into account the specific characteristics of the transfer and the degree of hardship.

Harvest of IFQ by the person receiving the IFQ by transfer under the medical transfer provision and the 2020 temporary transfer provision are valid from the time of transfer until the end of the IFQ fishing season. Regulations implementing the IFQ Program at 50 CFR Part 679.41 and 679.42 do not include regulations specifying a process nor criteria for the return of IFQ to a QS holder after an authorized transfer. In addition, the IFQ permit system is not designed to accommodate these types of transactions.

In 2020, NMFS is not considering requests for the return of IFQ transferred under the temporary transfer emergency rule (85 FR 38100, June 25, 2020).

To address requests for the return of IFQ transferred under the medical transfer provision, NMFS has developed specific policy considerations. NMFS considers the potential hardship that may be caused if the IFQ is not returned, as well as if the origin of the IFQ pounds can clearly be traced.

Policy considerations include:

- Did the transferee receive any other IFQ transfers from the same area this year?
- Were there any IFQ landings made with the permit # in question this year?
- Does the transferee hold any of his/her own QS in the same area you are transferring pounds to?
- Is there disagreement between the two parties about the return of transferred IFQ pounds?

If the answer to any of the above considerations is 'Yes', NMFS will not return the transferred IFQ pounds to the QS holder. These considerations are necessary because the IFQ system was not designed to track or process transactions for the purpose of returning IFQ to the QS holder after temporary transfer.

Second, numerous QS holders utilizing the medical transfer provision in 2020 have asked if medical transfers in 2020 will count toward the new medical transfer limitation of 3 out of the most recent 7 years. The final rule implementing this limitation went into effect on March 16, 2020 (85 FR 8477, Feb 14, 2020). All medical transfers approved after March 16, 2020 count toward the 3 of 7 year limitation implemented by this recent final rule. If the Council wishes to make an exception to this rule for medical transfers in 2020 count, this could be done through the standard analytical and rulemaking process to modify the regulations.

Development of an Integrated Fisheries Application

NMFS is beginning the process of re-designing the IFQ permits application as part of a larger project to design an integrated fisheries application that is adaptive and supports the needs of all system stakeholders. The application will utilize new technology, improve data quality, and streamline permitting processes as well as simplify programming modifications necessary to implement regulatory changes. While this project is in the beginning phase of gathering business requirements for all permit programs, NMFS will continue to provide additional information to the Council and the public as we progress.

GOA Sablefish Pot Tags

Due to an increase in demand and adherence to pot tag manufacturing requirements, RAM is currently experiencing a delay in processing applications for the issuance of GOA sablefish pot tags while awaiting the arrival of new tags. NMFS encourages vessel operators to plan ahead when submitting applications for pot tags. If tags need to be ordered, this process can take up to 8 to 12 weeks depending on availability from the manufacturer.

As of September 29, 2020 RAM has issued 48,478 pot tags to 114 vessels in 2020 relative to 2019 when RAM issued 15,532 pot tags to 33 vessels. Additional information about the

implementation and program administration for the issuance and replacement of pot tags will be included in the GOA sablefish pot 3-year review.

Petition for Emergency Rulemaking

NMFS reviewed a [petition](#) from the At-Sea Processors, on behalf of those members and vessels delivering to pollock motherships, to the Secretary of Commerce for an emergency rule that would suspend the September 1, 2020 pollock directed fishing closure of the Winter HSA (see Figure 4 to 50 CFR part 679) until November 1, 2020, the date on which pollock directed fishing closes by regulation for 2020 (see 50 CFR 679.23(e)(2)). NMFS analyzed the request pursuant to NOAA Fisheries' Policy Guidelines for the Use of Emergency Rules (NMFS Policy Procedure 01-101-07) that define three criteria that must be met to determine that an emergency exists involving any fishery. Our analysis concluded that the petition does not meet all of these criteria, and the petition has been [denied](#).

Annual Observer Coverage Category Request Deadlines

The deadline for trawl catcher vessels to request to be in the full coverage category for 2021 is October 15, 2020. The deadline for fixed gear vessels in the partial coverage category to request to be in the EM Selection Pool for 2021 is November 1, 2020. Both of these requests are submitted through ODDS.

Trawl Electronic Monitoring Exempted Fishing Permit

The Trawl EM EFP (#2019-03), issued on January 6, 2020, was developed specifically to evaluate the potential use of EM as a monitoring tool for compliance with fishery management regulations in the pollock pelagic trawl catcher vessels (CVs) in the BS and GOA. The results of the EFP could provide valuable operational and cost information in evaluating their efficacy for the future implementation of such a program. This project has been developed in cooperation with, and has been reviewed by, fishery scientists at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, and has been recommended by the Council. The Council has been actively pursuing the development and implementation of EM technology in lieu of onboard observers for at-sea fishery monitoring for several years.

Check-in meetings with project partners began on January 15, 2020 and occurred weekly or bi-weekly throughout the year. These check-in meetings provided an opportunity for each project partner to give updates on how the EFP was progressing and identify any issues or concerns. During these meetings, the project partners engaged in open and collaborative discussions to troubleshoot issues as they came up and these meetings have proven to be an effective way to quickly address problems. NMFS anticipates making several modifications to the permit for 2021 to address issues that came to light in 2020.

Fishing under this EFP was successfully implemented in the 2020 BS CV pollock fishery and 2020 pollock fisheries in the GOA. While there have been many successes during the early implementation of the Trawl EM EFP, there are also challenges that still need to be resolved. One ongoing challenge has been meeting the shoreside sampling goals for pollock biological samples in the GOA. EFP participants have increased the number of shoreside observers and

made logistical improvements. The fall GOA pollock fisheries are still underway however preliminary data indicates a significant improvement in meeting these shoreside sampling goals.

NMFS also anticipates an additional 28 vessels joining the EFP for 2021 if funding requests are successful. We look forward to continued success in this project.

Modified Scale Inspection Process

Supporting current health and safety guidelines and prioritizing the health and safety of vessel crew, agency staff, and support staff, NMFS, Alaska Region, modified the 2020 Annual At-sea Scale and Video Systems Inspections for the Catcher/Processor (C/P) Longline and Pot Fleet. This method requested that all test weight associated with the observer station or at-sea flow scales and the primary observer motion compensated scale (MCP) to be taken to a testing facility (for example the Marel/Fusion facility in Unalaska) to be tested. This reduced the need for NMFS personnel to board any vessels; rather, NMFS personnel confirm the test weights and MCP at the testing facility. Random video requests supplement these tests to ensure video camera systems are as previously approved and recording as required.

NMFS anticipates a similar modified method of inspection for trawl C/Ps in December. Further information on this process will be sent to the vessels needing inspection.

Crab Rationalization Cost Recovery Fee Percentage

On July 10, 2020, NMFS published a notice providing the cost recovery fee percentages for the Crab Rationalization Program (<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2020-14929>).

The fee percentage for the 2020/2021 crab fishing year decreased from 1.70 percent to 1.31 percent. The decrease in this fee percentage is due to an increase in fishery value and a decrease in direct program costs.

New NEPA Regulations

The [final rule](#) revising implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was published in the Federal Register on July 16, 2020 with an effective date of September 14, 2020. Federal agencies have one year from the effective date to finalize agency implementation procedures. A NOAA/NMFS working group, with expected participation from the Council Coordination Committee, will review current NEPA procedures for consistency with the new requirements and prepare final implementing procedures. Integration of NEPA requirements and actions promulgated under the Magnuson-Stevens Act will be incorporated into the new procedures. NMFS NEPA will provide to the Regional Offices and Councils interim guidance consistent with the new regulations to be followed until agency implementing procedures are finalized.

Any Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for which a Notice of Intent was published prior to September 14, 2020 or any Environmental Assessment (EA) reported to NOAA as a Major Federal Action prior to that date may move forward under the old regulations. EISs or EAs

initiated after that effective date must comply with the new NEPA requirements. The new requirements include specifications for coordination between multiple agencies, analytical page and time limits, increased public input, revised definitions of effects and significance, analytical methodology, content, review and oversight, as well as a number of other administrative and procedural issues. NMFS is currently considering submitting a request for a waiver from certain requirements, such as time and page limits, as allowed under the new requirements. As work on the implementing procedures progresses, NMFS Alaska Region will work with the Council and Council staff to ensure that issues relevant to Alaska fishery actions and needs are considered by the NOAA/NMFS NEPA Working Groups.

Staff Changes

Glenn Merrill, SF ARA, is temporarily on detail with USCG District 17 from September 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. During this time period, **Dr. Anne Marie Eich** has been selected as Acting SF ARA.

Dr. Benjamin Huskinson joined the Sustainable Fisheries team on August 31st. Benjamin is in the Operations Branch led by Jennifer Watson. He will serve as SF's technical editor. Benjamin received his PhD in History at Queen's University Belfast. He earned his MLitt in American Studies from the University of Glasgow in 2015, his MSc in Political Psychology from Queen's University Belfast in 2013, and his BA in Political Science at Washington State University in 2010. Benjamin has substantial experience in researching, writing, and editing as well as collaborating with subject matter experts to deliver top quality products. Most recently, he worked for the Environmental Protection Agency in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Attachment 1 -- Status of Regulatory Actions

Changes since June 2020 are noted in **Bold Red** EOC = End of Comment Period

Action Status	Lead Council, SF, and GCAK Staff	Date of Council Final Action	Start Regional Review	Received by GCAK	Transmittal Date of Action to NMFS HQ for Review	Notice of Availability (FMP) Published in Federal Register	Proposed Rule Published in Federal Register	Final Rule or Notice of Approval Published in Federal Register
FMP Amendments								
Amendment 109 (GOA) Modifications to GOA Pollock and Pacific Cod Seasonal Allocation Approved: May 5, 2020	Cunningham Krieger	June 2019	PR: 10/29/19 FR: 4/13/20	PR: 11/12/19 FR: 4/14/20	PR: 01/31/20 FR: 4/30/20	Feb 6, 2020 85 FR 6890 EOC: 04/06/20	Feb 28, 2020 85 FR 11939 EOC: 03/30/20	Jun 25, 2020 85 FR 38100 Effective: 01/01/21
Amendment 111 (GOA) Rockfish Program Reauthorization Decision date: October 28, 2020	McCracken Warpinski	January 2020	PR: 06/07/20	PR: 06/12/20	PR: 07/22/20	Jul 27, 2020 85 FR 45367 EOC: 09/28/20	Sep 4, 2020 85 FR 55243 EOC: 10/05/20	
Amendment 121 (BSAI) and Amendment 110 (GOA) Sculpins to Ecosystem Component Approved: June 18, 2020	MacLean Mackey	October 2019	PR: 01/30/20 FR: 06/04/20	PR: 02/11/20 FR: 06/04/20	PR: 3/11/20 FR: 06/11/20	Mar 23, 2020 85 FR 16310 EOC: 05/22/20	Apr 23, 2020 85 FR 22703 EOC: 05/26/20	Jul 10, 2020 85 FR 41427 Effective: 08/10/20

Regulatory Amendments								
CQE Fish-up in Area 3A	Cleaver Duncan	June 2019	PR: 12/20/19 FR: 5/21/20	PR: 1/13/20 FR: 6/2/20	PR: 03/06/20 FR: 06/25/20	N/A	Apr 14, 2020 85 FR 20657 EOC: 05/14/20	Jul 21, 2020 85 FR 44021 Effective: 08/20/20
Adjust the Partial Coverage Observer Fee	Evans A Miller	October 2019	PR: 12/30/19 FR: 04/28/20	PR: 1/02/20 FR: 05/04/20	PR: 02/12/20 FR: 5/19/20	N/A	Mar 9, 2020 85 FR 13618 EOC: 04/08/20	Jul 10, 2020 85 FR 41424 Effective: 08/10/20
Crab Partial Offloads	Cunningham Mackey	December 2019	PR: 03/29/20 FR: 09/11/20	PR: 04/07/20 FR: 09/18/20	PR: 06/15/20	N/A	Aug 4, 2020 85 FR 47157 EOC: 09/03/20	
BSAI Pcod parallel fisheries limitation	McCraken Iverson	December 2019	PR: 05/25/20	PR: 05/27/20	PR: 8/18/20	N/A	Sept 18, 2020 85 FR 58322 EOC: 10/19/20	
Emergency Rule; Allow temporary transfers of IFQ in 2020	Warpinski	May 2020	FR: 5/27/20	FR: 5/27/20	FR: 6/1/20	N/A	N/A	Jun 25, 2020 85 FR 38100 Effective: 06/25/20
Revised 2020 Charter Halibut Management Measures	Iverson	May 2020	FR: 5/26/20	FR: 5/27/20	FR: 5/28/20	N/A	N/A	Jun 19, 2020 85 FR 37023 Effective: 05/28/20
Final Rule to Modify the 2020 Halibut Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Vessel Harvest Limitations in IFQ Regulatory Areas 4B, 4C and 4D	Henry Merrill	May 2020	FR: 06/17/20	FR: 06/18/20	FR: 06/26/20	N/A	N/A	Jul 9, 2020 85 FR 41197 Effective: 07/08/20

Attachment 2 -- Inseason Management Report

Catch during 2020 is through September 19, 2020 and is compared to catch during 2019 through September 21, 2019. All catch amounts are in metric tons. Additional information is available from [catch reports](#) and [information bulletins](#).

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

Bering Sea Pollock

The 2020 Bering Sea pollock TAC is 1,425,000 mt compared to 1,397,000 mt in 2019. For 2020, NMFS reallocated 1,900 mt of CDQ and 10,000 mt of non-CDQ pollock TAC from the Aleutian Islands to the Bering Sea CDQ and AFA TACs. For the Aleutian Islands non-CDQ allocation, the 2nd year of the exempted fishing permit (EFP) to provide information on methods to reduce bycatch of Pacific ocean perch in the pollock directed fishery reported 720 mt of pollock. In most years, the Bering Sea pollock fishery finishes in October before the November 1, 2020 regulatory closure date. In 2020, all sectors are expected to fish until November 1. The 2020 B season catch rates are lower than recent years. The fleet has reported small pollock. Also, vessels reported moving to avoid bycatch of salmon, herring, and sablefish. The catcher vessel fleet issued a 10 day and an eight day voluntary closure of areas to avoid herring bycatch. NMFS projected the sectors will be able to reach their annual allocations based on the current catch rates.

Bering Sea	2020 annual allocation	2020 annual catch	Percent taken
Inshore	622,525	527,395	85%
C/P	498,019	434,866	87%
Mothership	124,505	102,233	82%
CDQ ¹	144,400	122,310	78%
ICA	47,453	39,274	83%
Total ¹	1,436,902	1,216,078	85%

¹Includes reallocation of 1,900 mt of CDQ and 10,000 mt of non-CDQ from the Aleutian Islands allocations.

Salmon in the Bering Sea Pollock Fisheries

In 2020 relative to 2019, total Chinook salmon PSC and rates are higher, and total Non-Chinook salmon PSC and rates are lower.

Species	Chinook				Non-Chinook			
	2020		2019		2020		2019	
Year	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹
CDQ	1,964	0.017	1,972	0.015	6,583	0.059	12,327	0.096
Non-CDQ	19,857	0.019	19,747	0.017	229,358	0.215	313,003	0.271
Total	21,821	0.019	21,719	0.017	235,941	0.200	325,330	0.254

¹Rate is number of salmon per metric tons of pollock.

BSAI Pacific cod by Sector

The 2020 Pacific cod TAC is 141,799 mt in the Bering Sea and 13,796 mt in the Aleutian Islands compared to the 2019 Bering Sea TAC of 166,475 mt and Aleutian Islands TAC of 14,214 mt.

The non-CDQ Bering Sea catch is at 87% of the non-CDQ Bering Sea TAC, and the non-CDQ AI catch is at 29% of the non-CDQ AI TAC. Some vessels are currently fishing in the AI because the non-CDQ Bering Sea remaining TAC (16,446 mt) is less than the non-CDQ sector allocations remaining (25,122 mt). This is mostly an issue for the hook-and-line C/P sector because it accounts for 78 percent of the remaining non-CDQ TAC. At this sector's current catch rate this sector needs to fish until the end of 2020. At this time of the year, it is unlikely this sector's remaining catch may be fished in the Aleutian Islands.

BSAI Sector	2020				2019			
	Annual allocation	Catch Sept 19	Closed	# of vessels Sept 19	Annual allocation	Catch Sept 21	Closed	# of vessels Sept 21
CDQ	16,648	12,934	n/a	48	19,334	14,940	n/a	59
Hook-and-line C/P	67,346	47,673	n/a	20	78,260	56,974	n/a	23
Pot C/P	2,074	2,050	Sept 12	5	2,745	2,695	Sept 15	5
Pot CV >= 60 ft	11,616	10,752	Sept 17	39	13,499	13,141	Sept 21	35
Hook-and-line CV >= 60 ft ¹	3	3	n/a	<3	0	0	n/a	0
Hook-and-line/Pot CVs < 60 ft ¹	4,807	4,824	Sept 12	42	9,800	4,677	?	37
Jig ¹	178	10	n/a	3	159	146	n/a	3
Trawl CV	30,707	29,511	n/a	98	31,690	31,194	Nov 1	97
AFA C/P ²	3,196	4,124	Mar 10	15	3,181	3,082	Nov 1	15
Amendment 80 C/P	18,619	14,520	n/a	19	21,622	17,866	n/a	20
Hook-and-line/Pot ICA	400	170	n/a	88	400	320	n/a	127
Total	155,594	126,571		377	180,690	145,035		421

¹In 2020, NMFS reallocated 1,374 mt to the hook-and-line or pot gear less than 60 ft from the jig (1,100 mt) and hook-and-line =60 ft sector (274 mt).

²NMFS prohibited retention of Pacific cod by AFA C/Ps in the BSAI on May 4, 2020.

Pacific cod directed fishing - trawl CVs

NMFS prohibited directed fishing for Pacific cod by trawl CVs for the B season April 1, 2020 because the B season allocation is necessary to support incidental catch in other fisheries. The C season opened June 10, 2020, with low effort and low incidental catch of Pacific cod in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. The C season closes by regulation at noon, A.I.t, November 1, 2020.

Pacific cod for < 60 ft hook-and-line and pot catcher vessels

In 2020, 8 hook-and-line CVs continue directed fishing for Pacific cod inside 3 miles after the Federal closure reporting 662 mt or 14% of the total catch.

BSAI Flatfish (includes CDQ)

In 2020 relative to 2019, overall BSAI flatfish catch is slightly higher. The incidental catch of Alaska plaice in the yellowfin sole fishery is higher in 2020 than 2019. Also, in 2020 there was more effort in the arrowtooth flounder and Kamchatka flounder targets, and less in the flathead sole target relative to 2019. Due to market conditions and tariffs, fishing for yellowfin sole was low in June and July for the Amendment 80 sector. Starting in August, effort returned to yellowfin sole fishing as markets improve.

NMFS closed directed fishing May 15, 2020, for the BSAI trawl limited access sector yellowfin sole allocation to prevent exceeding the sector's yellowfin sole allocation of the TAC. The 10 vessels participating caught 100% of the 17,172 mt yellowfin sole allocation, and total halibut PSC was 123 mt of the 150 mt limit for yellowfin sole

Species	2020			2019		
	Catch	TAC	% Taken	Catch	TAC	% Taken
Alaska plaice	18,605	17,000	109%	14,187	18,000	79%
Arrowtooth flounder	8,765	10,570	88%	7,549	8,000	94%
Flathead sole	7,421	19,500	38%	13,480	14,500	93%
Greenland turbot	2,296	5,294	43%	2,831	5,294	53%
Kamchatka flounder	7,167	5,300	135%	4,209	5,000	84%
Other flatfish	3,888	4,000	97%	3,594	6,500	55%
Rock sole	24,731	47,100	53%	24,935	47,100	53%
Yellowfin sole	105,181	150,700	70%	105,329	154,000	68%
Total	178,054	258,894	69%	176,114	258,394	66%

TAC are as specified and do not include flatfish exchanges or allocations from the non-specified reserves.

BSAI Atka mackerel and Pacific ocean perch (includes CDQ), and trawl sablefish (no CDQ).

The 2020 total catch is higher relative to 2019. For BSAI trawl sablefish, in 2020, 41 percent is by nonpelagic trawl gear and 59 percent by pelagic trawl gear relative to 2019 with 55 percent by nonpelagic trawl gear and 45 percent by pelagic trawl gear.

Species	2020			2019		
	Catch	TAC	% Taken	Catch	TAC	% Taken
Atka mackerel	48,124	59,305	81%	49,585	57,951	86%
Pacific ocean perch	31,346	40,750	77%	33,227	44,069	74%
BS trawl sablefish	3,239	861	376%	2,417	689	345%
AI trawl sablefish	592	471	126%	195	464	42%

Trawl sablefish does not include CDQ catch or CDQ TAC.

Gulf of Alaska

For all sectors, NMFS prohibited directed fishing for GOA Pacific cod on January 1, 2020. This is necessary because a biological assessment of stock condition for GOA Pacific cod projects that the spawning biomass will be below 20 percent of the projected unfished spawning biomass in 2020 and is issued pursuant to 50 CFR 679.20(d)(4). This harvest control regulation was implemented by a final rule for Steller sea lion protection measures (see 68 FR 203, 01/02/2003).

In 2020, the sector allocations still apply. NMFS will monitor incidental catch by sector. The only Pacific cod reported in the GOA is incidental to the trawl and IFQ fisheries. If the incidental catch reaches a sector allocation, NMFS will either reallocate projected unused Pacific cod from other sectors or prohibit retention of Pacific cod for that sector.

Pacific cod - Western GOA

Sector	2020				2019			
	Annual Allocation	Catch Sept 19	Closed	# of vessels Sept 19	Annual allocation	Catch Sept 21	B season closed	# of vessels Sept 21
Hook-and-line C/P	396	0	Jan 1	0	1,031	925	n/a	3
Hook-and-line CV	28	50	Jan 1	60	108	102	Sept 1	81
Jig	73	0	Jan 1	0	184	145	n/a	12
Pot CV/CP	761	0	Jan 1	0	2,197	1,318	Oct 20	14
Trawl CV	769	56	Jan 1	24	1,670	1,421	Sept 1	25
Trawl C/P	48	40	Jan 1	5	155	152	Sept 1	5
Total	2,075	146		89	5,342	4,063		140

Pacific cod - Central GOA

Sector	2020				2019			
	Annual allocation	Catch Sept 19	Annual closed	# of vessels Sept 19	Annual allocation	Catch Sept 21	B season closed	# of vessels Sept 21
Hook-and-line C/P	192	4	Jan 1	<3	291	203	n/a	4
Hook-and-line CV <50 ft	550	54	Jan 1	98	831	753	Oct 3	128
Hook-and-line CV >=50 ft	252	119	Jan 1	73	381	374	Nov 16	88
Jig	38	0	Jan 1	0	58	30	n/a	14
Pot CV/CP	1,048	2	Jan 1	9	1,583	1,147	Oct 12	15
Trawl CV	1,422	2,078	Jan 1	47	2,148	1,696	Jan 20	48
Rockfish Program CV	145	83	Jan 1	23	219	138	n/a	28
Trawl C/P	158	463	Jan 1	7	239	399	Sept 1	6
Total	3,950	2,803		257	5,750	4,740		331

Pollock

The C season opened August 25, 2020, and the D season opens at noon, A.l.t., October 1, 2020. In 2021, the C and D season will be combined under implementation of Amendment 109.

In area 610, 9,561 mt was available for the C season. NMFS closed directed fishing for the C season September 3, 2020. Twenty-three CVs participated and the entire C season allocation was reached.

In area 620, 5,930 mt was available for the C season. Thirty-four CVs in the pollock target have reported 2,585 mt C season TAC.

In Area 630, 11,098 mt was available for the C season. Thirty CVs in the pollock target have reported 7,321 mt C season TAC.

2020 Seasons	610	620	630	640
C season allocation	9,561	5,930	11,098	5,554 (annual)
C season catch	10,401	2,585	7,321	5,180
C season closure	September 3	n/a	n/a	March 13
D season allocation	9,070	6,739	9,248	March 24 - 28
D season catch	0	0	0	
D season closure	n/a	n/a	n/a	

Chinook Salmon PSC Limits in the GOA

Total 2020 Chinook salmon PSC is higher relative to 2019.

Chinook Salmon	2020 Limit	2020 PSC (Rate ¹)	2019 PSC (Rate ¹)
Total	n/a	9,121 (0.07)	10,059 (0.07)
Western GOA pollock	6,684	987 (0.09)	2,174 (0.18)
Central GOA pollock	18,316	7,359 (0.12)	5,157 (0.07)
Western/Central trawl CV	2,700	1 (0.00)	2,500 (0.10)
Central Rockfish Program CV	1,200	24 (0.00)	229 (0.02)
Western/Central trawl C/P ²	4,080	747 (0.03)	0 (0.00)

¹Rate is number of salmon per metric tons of groundfish.

²Includes incentive buffer for 2020 Western/Central trawl C/P limit (480 Chinook).

Non-Chinook Salmon PSC in the GOA

Non-Chinook Salmon	2020 PSC (Rate)	2019 PSC (Rate)
Total All Sectors	2,160 (0.01)	5,025 (0.03)

Halibut Mortality Data

In 2020 relative to 2019, the total halibut mortality and rate are lower in the BSAI, and the total halibut mortality is lower and the rate is higher in the GOA.

In the BSAI, the 2020 target fisheries that account for most of the decrease in 2020 are trawl CV Pacific cod (-214 mt), trawl C/P yellowfin sole (-276 mt) and trawl C/P flathead sole (125 mt). The trawl CV fleet voluntarily stood down targeting Pacific cod in late from January 22 to February 9, because of higher halibut PSC rates. This resulted in lower halibut PSC in 2020 compared to 2019. The trawl C/Ps targeted less flathead sole in 2020 compared to 2019 which resulted in lower halibut PSC in the flathead sole target.

In the GOA, the Pacific cod directed fishing closure decreased the halibut PSC in the hook-and-line CV and C/P sectors.

Area, Gear, and Sector	2020			2019		
	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate
BSAI Total	1,392	1,721,142	0.08%	2,004	1,938,028	0.10%
Amendment 80	902	372,252	0.24%	1,220	426,339	0.29%
BSAI trawl limited access	354	1,122,543	0.03%	607	1,259,632	0.05%
Non-trawl Pacific cod CP	44	61,132	0.07%	60	71,848	0.08%
Non-trawl Pacific cod CV	2	1,045	0.18%	2	1,022	0.15%
Non-trawl Other	0	357	0%	0	738	0%
CDQ	90	163,813	0.06%	115	178,450	0.06%
GOA Total	686	134,823	0.51%	779	160,477	0.49%
Trawl, Deep-water	514	36,759	1.40%	545	41,417	1.32%
Trawl, Shallow-water	142	74,539	0.19%	138	96,632	0.14%
Rockfish Program	28	22,981	0.12%	26	19,096	0.14%
Hook-and-line CP	0	0	0.00%	19	1,555	1.21%
Hook-and-line CV	3	545	0.51%	51	1,777	2.86%

IFQ Halibut and Sablefish Fisheries

Gear Use in IFQ Sablefish Fisheries

In the GOA as of September 19, 2020, 80 CVs are using pot gear in the IFQ sablefish fishery reporting 2,942 mt of total catch, (with 27 CVs retaining 24 mt of halibut) compared to 31 CVs reporting 2,487 mt of total catch in all of 2019 (with 27 CV retaining 27 mt of halibut).

Year	Gear	# of CVs	Sablefish	# of CVs Retaining Halibut	Retained Halibut
2020, Sept 19	Hook-and-line	158	3,643	121	425
	Pot	80	2,942	27	24
2019 Annual	Hook-and-line	232	7,078	181	867
	Pot	31	2,487	27	27

In the BSAI, 10 CVs are using pot gear in the IFQ sablefish fishery with 5 of those CVs reporting 10 mt of retained halibut under the new regulations in 2020 that allow retention of halibut in IFQ pot gear.

For BSAI and GOA IFQ sablefish, trips are 12 percent lower relative to the four year average, and 11 percent lower relative to 2019. The IFQ sablefish catch is five percent lower relative to the four year average, and four percent lower relative to 2019.

IFQ Sablefish	2020	2019	Four year average
Trips	1,314	1,472	1,485
Catch	7,308	7,651	7,730

For BSAI an GOA IFQ halibut, trips are 22 percent lower relative to the four year average, and 20 percent lower relative to 2019. The IFQ halibut catch is 21 percent lower relative to the four year average, and 17 percent lower relative to 2019.

IFQ Halibut	2020	2019	Four year average
Trips	2,307	2,874	2,970
Catch	7,165	8,616	9,106



