



February 2, 2024

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 December 2023 meeting include:

- On **December 27, 2023**, NMFS published standard ex-vessel prices for groundfish and halibut for the calculation of the observer fee under the North Pacific Observer Program to provide information to vessel owners, processors, registered buyers, and other Observer Program participants about the standard ex-vessel prices that will be used to calculate the 1.65% observer fee for landings of groundfish and halibut made in 2024. NMFS sent invoices to processors and registered buyers subject to the fee by January 15, 2025. Fees are due to NMFS on or before February 15, 2025.
- On **December 28, 2023**, NMFS published the individual fishing quota (IFQ) standard prices and fee percentage to calculate the required payment cost recovery for the IFQ Program for the halibut and sablefish fisheries of the North Pacific. The fee percentage for 2023 is 3% and IFQ cost recovery fees were due to NMFS by January 31, 2024.
- On **January 19, 2024**, NMFS published a Notice of Decision to announce the approval of Amendment 18 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Scallop Fishery off Alaska to revise timing requirements for the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation report to allow more flexibility for non-annual assessments and to set scallop harvest specifications less frequently than on an annual basis (89 FR 3581).
- On **January 23, 2024**, NMFS published a notice announcing the proposed Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to examine the use of electronic logbook requirements without requiring duplicate hard copies (89 FR 4279). The EFP would temporarily waive regulations found in 50 CFR 679.5(f)(3) and 679.5(f)(4) which require vessels to produce printed copies of electronic logbook (ELB) logsheets, ELB discard reports, and signatures on printed copies.
- On **February 2, 2024**, NMFS published the standard ex-vessel prices and fee percentage for cost recovery under the Central Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Rockfish Program. The fee percentage is 3%. The fee payments are due from each rockfish cooperative on or before February 15, 2024.
- On **January 22, 2024**, and **February 5, 2024**, NMFS published a Notice of Availability and proposed rule for Amendment 126 to the Fishery Management Plans for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI FMP) and Amendment 114 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA FMP) to expand electronic monitoring to the pollock fisheries (89 FR 3902). The proposed rule would allow a vessel to elect to use an electronic monitoring system accompanied by shoreside observers for biological data collections instead of carrying an at-sea observer under the North Pacific Observer Program. The purpose of this action is to advance cost



efficiency and compliance monitoring through improved salmon accounting and reduced monitoring costs. **Public comments are due on April 5, 2024.**

- **Attachment 1** provides additional detail.

Expanding Electronic Monitoring to the Pollock Fisheries

As part of the rulemaking process to implement Amendment 126 to the BSAI FMP and Amendment 114 to the GOA FMP to expand electronic monitoring to pelagic trawl vessels directed fishing for pollock and tender vessels, NMFS will hold public hearings to accept oral comments on the Amendments and proposed rule during the public comment period.

- The first public hearing will be held on February 28, 2024, at 6 p.m. Alaska local time, at the Kodiak Fisheries Research Center, 301 Research Court, Kodiak, Alaska 99615.
- The second public hearings will be held virtually on March 12, 2024, at 6 p.m. Pacific time, with the link: <https://meet.google.com/gcz-emgh-kkw>.

Inseason Management Report - See Attachment

Petition for Emergency Action Related to Chinook Salmon Bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery

On January 17, 2024, we received a letter from the Association of Village Council Presidents, Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, and Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission requesting that NMFS take emergency action pursuant to section 305(c)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to implement a cap of zero on Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. On January 18, we sent a letter to inform the Council of this request and to provide the Council with the opportunity to review and provide input on this request.

NMFS will review this petition following NMFS's Policy Guidelines for the Use of Emergency Rules (available at <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/01-101-07.pdf>). According to the guidelines, the phrase "an emergency exists involving any fishery" is defined as a situation that:

1. Results from recent, unforeseen events or recently discovered circumstances;
2. Presents serious conservation or management problems in the fishery; and
3. Can be addressed through emergency regulations for which the immediate benefits outweigh the value of advance notice, public comment, and deliberative consideration of the impacts on participants to the same extent as would be expected under the normal rulemaking process.

More information on the management and monitoring of salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery is available at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/bycatch/chinook-salmon-bycatch-management-alaska>

The summary table below provides the Chinook bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery for the past 5 years and the State of Alaska's 3-system index of salmon run sizes from Unalakleet, Upper Yukon, Kuskokwim. Note that Chinook salmon caught in the pollock fishery are from a broad geographic range that encompasses Western Alaska, Russia, and the North Pacific, however the 3-

system index is an available indicator of Chinook abundance. For information on the genetic composition of bycatch, see the [AFSC Genetics Research webpage](#).

Year	Number of Chinook Salmon	State of Alaska 3-system index of salmon run sizes from Unalakleet, Upper Yukon, Kuskokwim
2019	24,984	315,626
2020	32,200	173,416
2021	13,784	165,148
2022	6,337	158,646
2023	11,855	148,433

Cost Recovery Reports

Reports for cost recovery programs are posted on the Alaska Region website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/commercial-fishing/cost-recovery-programs-fee-collection-and-fee-payment-alaska>.

Between 2022 and 2023 there was a net increase in management costs and a net decrease in fishery value. The 2023 Rockfish fee percentage was 3.0%, an increase from the 2022 fee percentage of 2.53%. Program costs for 2023 increased by 11.40 percent compared to 2022 costs; however, the fishery value decreased approximately 21.30 percent resulting in a higher fee percentage. The majority of 2023 cost increases were a result of direct personnel and contract costs.

The 2023 IFQ fee percentage was 3.0%, an increase from the 2022 fee percentage of 1.9%. Management costs increased by approximately 15% while fishery value decreased by approximately 34%. The net decrease in value was due to lower ex-vessel prices and landings for both halibut and sablefish IFQ fisheries.

Alaska Region’s Operational update

On October 1, 2023, the Department of Commerce (DOC) implemented a new accounting system called Business Applications Solution (BAS) that impacts NOAA Fisheries. The BAS project provides one configuration for all core applications, including budget, procurement, and grants. Unfortunately, the systems have had some data migration issues and integration problems with existing systems. Additionally, some business requirements are not working as expected and have unintended consequences for the Alaska Region. We are having difficulty performing essential operational functions, including our ability to process grant funding, and are working with NOAA and DOC to make progress toward resolving the issues.

2022 Yukon Disaster Funding

On January 29, 2024, the Secretary of Commerce announced the allocation of \$42 million to address fishery disasters in West Coast, Alaska, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tribal waters between 2017 and 2022, including \$1,594,841 for the 2022 Yukon River salmon fisheries. For these disasters, NOAA Fisheries used commercial fishery revenue loss to allocate the funding across the eligible fishery disasters, and also considered factors that cannot be accounted for in commercial revenue loss data alone, such as subsistence uses. NOAA Fisheries will be following up with the State of Alaska and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to issue a non-competitive Request for Application letter and to assist in the development of a spend plan.

Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative Program Implementation

Effective September 7, 2023, NMFS issued a final rule to implement the Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative (PCTC) Program ([88 FR 53704](#), August 8, 2023). NMFS issued Cooperative Quota permits (CQ) on January 9, 2024 to six cooperatives, marking the first annual issuance of CQ within the PCTC Program. The PCTC Program began fishing January 20, which kicks off A season. The deadline for the 90-day transfer provision was January 17, 2023. Additional information about the PCTC Program is available on the NMFS [Alaska Region website](#).

Exempted Fishing Permit Application - eLogbooks

In 2023, Real Time Data North America, LLC (RTDNA) was awarded funding by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to advance the development of electronic logbooks (ELB) in Alaska's fishing industry. Throughout 2023, RTDNA implemented the Deckhand ELB on 29 vessels as part of a pilot project. This initiative highlighted several regulatory challenges, particularly for smaller vessels. The feedback from vessel operators delivered to both RTDNA and NMFS staff revealed that existing regulations, initially designed without considering modern technologies like tablets, hinder the transition from paper-based recordkeeping to fully electronic logbooks. Current regulations mandate daily printing and signatures on board vessels for users of NMFS-approved ELBs in Alaska federal fisheries. This requested EFP would exempt fishers from the regulations that require fishing vessels to produce printed copies of ELB logsheets, ELB discard reports, and signatures on printed copies. If approved, this EFP would facilitate further research into necessary regulatory changes to integrate electronic logbooks effectively with modern technology.

By regulation, NMFS is required to consult with the Council before issuing an EFP. The Council can provide feedback on the EFP if they would like but are not required to do so. At this meeting, we are asking the Council to review the EFP, and if the Council agrees with providing the exemption for the reasons detailed in the EFP, recommend that NMFS approve the EFP taking into account recommendations of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center.

Scale Inspections and Vessel Monitoring Plans

The use of at-sea scales helps provide precise and accurate groundfish catch estimates. At-sea scales are used to account for the vast majority of catch by catcher-processors and motherships fishing off Alaska. NMFS Alaska Region conducts annual scale inspections and approvals of all at-sea scales to ensure accurate accountability of groundfish landings.

The winter inspection season starts in November and runs through the end of January. During the recent inspection season 3 fixed gear vessels, and 22 trawl vessels were inspected, and approved for the start of the January 2024 fishing season. In addition to conducting the annual inspections a rubberized belt called the Unibelt, Uni SNB M2 34% Blue Acetyl, was approved for use in the Alaska fisheries on November 20, 2023. To date one fixed gear vessel is actively fishing with the rubberized belt as a component of the approved scale system. The [memorandum for the record](#) is available online at the NOAA Fisheries Alaska Regional website.

Vessel Monitoring Plans (VMPs) are used to communicate NMFS's expectations for participation in an Electronic Monitoring (EM) category. Currently there are 148 nontrawl catcher vessels - that is, those vessels using jig, pot, and longline gear - that have opted into the 2024 nontrawl EM selection pool. Catcher vessels in the nontrawl EM selection pool are randomly selected by NMFS to use an EM system. A total of 74 fixed gear VMPs have been approved so far. Of these 148 catcher vessels, 28 vessels have been placed in the Notice of Improvement (NOI) pool due to amount or repeat issues. The NOI issues being addressed this year include cameras not being cleaned adequately for data review, proper handling of Pacific halibut, and other EM system issues.

The trawl EM category is an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) with a total of 105 catcher vessels and 12 tender vessels that have opted into the EFP for 2024. Of these 105 catcher vessels, 36 catcher vessels participate exclusively in the GOA pollock fishery, 48 catcher vessels participate exclusively in the BS pollock fishery, and 20 catcher vessels participate in both the BS and GOA pollock fisheries.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Incidental Take Statement (ITS) for Southeast Alaska Salmon Fisheries and Funding to the State of Alaska to Implement the Pacific Salmon Treaty (SEAK EIS)

On January 26, NMFS published a Draft EIS to analyze the impacts of alternatives related to NMFS's issuance of an ITS for species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) affected by salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska that are managed consistent with the provisions of the 2019 Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement.

We are seeking public comment on the Draft EIS during the 45 day public comment period that ends on March 11, 2024. The [notice of availability and the Draft EIS](#) are available online at the NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region website.

Wild Fish Conservancy petition to list Alaskan Chinook salmon and to designate critical habitat

On January 11, 2024, we received a petition to list Alaskan Chinook salmon from streams draining into the Gulf of Alaska as a threatened or endangered species and to designate critical habitat. [Link to Petition.](#)

Pursuant to section 4 of the ESA, NMFS must determine whether the petition presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. To the maximum extent practicable, this decision must be made within 90 days of receiving the petition. If the 90-day finding is that the petition presents substantial information, NMFS will commence a review of the status of the species concerned and will make, within 12 months of receipt of the petition, a determination as to whether the petitioned action is warranted. If the 90-day finding concludes the petition does not present substantial information indicating the petitioned action may be warranted, then the petition will be denied and no further action will be taken. In either case, NMFS will announce the decision and how we intend to proceed in the *Federal Register*.

NMFS' website on [Listing Species Under the Endangered Species Act.](#)

NMFS published Tech Memo on Alaska Killer Whale Entanglements, 1991-2022

NOAA Fisheries published a new technical memo, [Killer Whale Entanglements in Alaska: Summary Report 1991-2022](#). It provides comprehensive detail of 37 reported killer whale entanglement cases in Alaska over the past three decades. This technical memo has been in development since spring of 2023, prior to reports of summer 2023 killer whale takes.

The entanglement of killer whales in fishing gear or marine debris is a serious animal welfare issue and conservation concern. It affects both the marine mammals and the Alaska fishing industry. Killer whales feed on the bait or the catch of fishers, which makes them susceptible to entanglements. They can become entangled in fishing gear, marine debris, or other materials, which can lead to injury or death. Marine mammal entanglements are also detrimental to the fishers who incur financial and material loss when their gear becomes lost or damaged by the interaction.

We intend this technical memorandum to be used as a resource for researchers, policy makers, and stakeholders working to better understand and lessen the impacts of entangling materials, including fishing gear, on killer whales in Alaska.

Commercial fishers who inadvertently entangle a killer whale are authorized to conduct a response under the Good Samaritan exemption of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Only NOAA can authorize a disentanglement attempt. Entanglements should also be reported to the stranding hotline at (888) 774-7325.

Members of the public are not authorized to attempt disentanglement. Instead, they should report the entanglement immediately to the Alaska Marine Mammal Stranding Network at (877) 925-7773.

The entanglement response network is composed of highly trained individuals who are familiar with whale biology and behavior, have the proper tools and equipment, and know how to maximize human and animal safety in proximity to whales. [Web Story](#).

Killer Whale Incidental Catches in Alaska

NMFS is continuing to work with representatives of the Amendment 80 (non-pollock trawl) fleet to investigate factors that may have contributed to the elevated killer whale bycatch rates in 2023. We also are continuing to work with the industry and our own survey operations to explore ways to avoid killer whale interactions. We will be funding a project that is scheduled to start this spring involving Dr. Hannah Myer and the Alaska Seafood Cooperative.

Northern Fur Seal Conservation Plan Update

NMFS is working to finalize a revision to the Conservation Plan for the Eastern Pacific Stock of Northern Fur Seal (Laaqudan) (Conservation Plan). We anticipate that the Conservation Plan will be complete in spring or early summer of 2024 and we will publish a *Federal Register* notice of availability.

Northern Fur Seal Co-management Update

NMFS continues to work with our co-management partners after receipt of petitions from the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, the Traditional Council of St. George Island, and the Aleut Marine Mammal Commission to revise the northern fur seal subsistence use regulations. NMFS published a *Federal Register* notice of receipt of petition on November 11, 2023. NMFS anticipates publication of a proposed rule to revise the fur seal subsistence hunting provisions in late 2024 or early 2025. NMFS also continues to collaborate on fur seal research and monitoring projects with our co-management partners on St. Paul and St. George.

Albatross Take

In December 2023, an endangered short-tailed albatross was taken by a longline fishing vessel in the Gulf of Alaska, south of Unalaska Island. NMFS and USFWS were notified of the take and the bird has been positively identified by visual inspection and confirmed by band numbers (both legs were banded). The Yamashina Institute in Japan confirmed the bird was banded at the Hatsunozaki colony, Torishima Island on March 3, 2023. The Biological Opinion allows for 6 takes during a two year period, so there is an allowance for 5 additional takes for all Federal Alaska groundfish fisheries over the next year. The carcass is being shipped to the University of Alaska Fairbanks for additional analysis.

NOAA Fisheries Is Hiring: Positions Available to Support the Inflation Reduction Act

The historic Inflation Reduction Act has allowed NOAA Fisheries and other agencies to increase the resiliency of our nation's marine resources against climate change impacts, and we are looking for qualified candidates to join us. This includes positions in Seattle, Newport, Juneau, or Anchorage with the Alaska Region or Alaska Fisheries Science Center. Please note that all job postings are only open for 7 days.

Information on all of the IRA positions are on the [Fisheries IRA website](#). Positions are being announced on a rolling basis and we'll update this page weekly to make sure potential candidates can find job postings and application resources. We'll also share the job announcements on the [NOAA Fisheries LinkedIn](#) page and on social media in advance of the opening date, allowing

applicants time to prepare their application package. If you are interested, we encourage you to set up an alert in [USAJOBS](#) as well. To ensure your resume receives consideration, we highly recommend using the USAJobs resume builder now to ensure all required elements are in your resume and that your resume is ready when the job is announced.

Tribal Relations Update

Tribal Consultation Invitations

NMFS Alaska Region (AKR) provided one invitation to consult with Alaska Native Tribes, Corporations, and Organizations that represent Tribal Governments since the December Council meeting.

1. On January 11, NMFS [offered consultation](#) on action items scheduled for the February Council meeting.
2. On January 11, NMFS Regional Tribal Relations Coordinator forwarded the tribal consultation invitation to several Alaska Native Tribes, Corporations and Organizations via the NMFS tribal directory to maintain inclusive coverage.
3. NMFS received one response for a tribal consultation from the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island. This consultation is tentatively scheduled for February 5, 2024.

Key Tribal Engagements

NMFS recently participated in the following tribal engagements:

1. In December and January, three tribal information meetings were held on Cook Inlet salmon issues, the first with the Ninilchik Traditional Council, Knik Tribal Council, and Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, the second with the Salamatof tribe and the third with over a dozen Cook Inlet tribal entities from the Kenai Peninsula.
2. In mid-January, NMFS held an information meeting KRITFC, Kawerak, Inc. Bering Sea Elders Group, and several other tribal entities, on issues related to the alternatives being considered in the preliminary Chum DEIS.

Tribal engagement on Cook Inlet salmon issues

In late-February and early March 2023, NMFS provided invitations to Alaska Native Tribes, Corporations, and organizations to consult on the Cook Inlet Fishery Management Plan prior to the 2023 April Council meeting. NMFS held three tribal consultations and three tribal engagement meetings on this action before the Council chose not to take action and it became a Secretarial action. On April 21, 2023, NMFS provided another round of invitations for tribal consultation. NMFS did not receive additional requests for tribal consultation from Cook Inlet Tribes at that time. However, we did receive one letter from the Ninilchik Traditional Council declining consultation with NMFS. On October 18, 2023, NMFS notified the tribes that the proposed rule that would implement Federal management of commercial and recreational salmon fishing in the Cook Inlet EEZ was available and requested comments by December 18, 2023. On October 20, 2023, NMFS provided a response letter to the Ninilchik Traditional Council thanking them for their communication efforts in helping NMFS improve upon tribal consultation and expressed our hope that they would reconsider and engage with us on this action. The following five Cook Inlet Tribes requested tribal consultation on the Cook Inlet salmon issues: Salamatof Tribe, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Native Village of Tyonek, Ninilchik Traditional Council, and the Kenaitze Indian Tribe.

As described above, NMFS held three tribal engagements in December and January, the first with the Ninilchik Traditional Council, Knik Tribal Council, and Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, the second with the Salamatof tribe and the third with over a dozen Cook Inlet tribal entities from the Kenai Peninsula, to share updated information on the status of the Cook Inlet salmon issues where tribal entities expressed their desire to develop an Indigenous subsistence set-aside. We are currently focused on completing the Cook Inlet FMP Amendment and rulemaking required by court orders, but we intend to honor these tribal consultation requests in the coming months and host conversations with Cook Inlet Tribes regarding the topic of a tribal subsistence fishery in the Cook Inlet EEZ Area.

Tribal Newsletter

NMFS released the [February Edition of our Tribal Newsletter](#) on January 12, 2024. The newsletter serves as an information source for upcoming Council meetings and issues as well as NMFS contacts, job postings, grants, and educational opportunities available throughout Alaska. The February Tribal Newsletter also included the invitation for tribal consultation on action items scheduled for the upcoming February Council meeting.

Attachment -- Inseason Management Report

Catch during 2024 is through January 27, 2024 and is compared to catch during 2023 through January 28, 2023. All catch amounts are in metric tons. Additional information is available from [daily catch reports and information bulletins](#).

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

Bering Sea Pollock

The 2024 Bering Sea pollock TAC is 1,300,000 mt the same as in 2023. For 2024, NMFS plans to reallocate projected unharvested AI pollock TAC from the Aleutian Islands to the Bering Sea.

Directed fishing opened by regulations at noon, A.l.t., January 20, 2024. The following pollock catch is for 7 days of fishing.

Bering Sea	2024 A season allocation	2024 A season catch	Percent taken
Inshore	252,000	16,616	7%
CP	201,600	19,742	10%
Mothership	50,400	5,130	10%
CDQ	58,500	9,838	17%
Total	562,500	51,326	11%

Salmon in the Bering Sea Pollock Fisheries

NMFS has determined that 2023 was a low Chinook salmon abundance year, based on the State of Alaska’s estimate that Chinook salmon abundance in western Alaska is less than 250,000 Chinook salmon. Therefore, in 2024, the Chinook salmon PSC limit is 45,000 Chinook salmon, allocated to each sector as specified in 50 CFR 679.21(f)(3)(iii)(A). The current salmon PSC is preliminary and subject to change.

Species	Chinook				Non-Chinook			
	2024		2023		2024		2023	
Year	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹
CDQ	116	0.012	239	0.022	1	0.000	22	0.002
AFA	325	0.008	1,791	0.030	2	0.000	101	0.002
Total	441	0.009	2,030	0.029	3	0.000	123	0.002

¹Rate is total salmon per groundfish in the pollock target.

Blackspotted and Rougheye Rockfish

For 2024, the maximum species specific catch recommended in the Western Aleutian Islands is 67 mt. All sectors are requested to avoid blackspotted/rougheye rockfish. A [weekly report](#) is available to monitor total catch of blackspotted/rougheye rockfish in the Western Aleutian Islands.

BSAI Pacific cod by Sector

The 2024 Pacific cod TAC is 147,753 mt in the Bering Sea and 8,080 mt in the Aleutian Islands compared to the 2023 Bering Sea TAC of 127,409 mt and Aleutian Islands TAC of 8,425 mt. In 2024, NMFS has prohibited directed fishing for three sectors: pot CVs >= 60 feet, hook-and-line/pot CVs less than 60 feet, and AFA CPs.

BSAI Sector	2024				2023			
	A season allocation ¹	Catch Jan 27	A season closed	# of vessels Jan 27	A season allocation ¹	Catch Jan 28	A season closed	# of vessels Jan 28
CDQ	10,005	69	na	11	8,721	134	na	11
Hook-and-line CP	34,359	5,512	na	17	29,923	7,500	na	16
Pot CP	1,058	0	na	0	922	250	na	<3
Pot CV >= 60 ft	5,926	835	na	4	5,161	5,085	Jan 12	22
Hook-and-line CV >= 60 ft	141	0	na	0	123	0	na	0
Hook-and-line/Pot CVs < 60 ft	3,867	4,154	Jan 25	17	3,360	3,331	Jan 16	20
Jig	69	0	na	0	69	0	na	0
Trawl CV	22,758	42	na		19,837	71	na	53
AFA CP	2,400	37	Jan 20	10	2,092	170	Jan 20	13
Amendment 80 CP	13,985	515	na	9	12,191	457	na	13
Total	94,568	11,164		68	82,399	16,998		148

¹In 2024, NMFS reallocated 1,100 mt, and in 2023 NMFS reallocated 950 mt of the A season jig allocation to the hook-and-line or pot gear less than 60 ft length annual allocation.

Pacific cod directed fishing – Pacific cod Trawl Cooperative Program for the trawl CVs

Currently, trawl CVs are voluntarily standing down from directed fishing for Pacific cod until February 2024. The delay is to fish when catch rates are expected to improve and halibut prohibited species catch rates are expected to be lower. The current catch reported is incidental in other target fisheries.

Gulf of Alaska

Pacific cod - Western GOA

Under the final 2024 and 2025 harvest specifications the 2024 jig gear allocation will increase from 2.5 percent to 3.5 percent, and the other sectors will decrease to account for the jig gear allocation.

Sector	2024				2023			
	A season allocation	Catch Jan 27	A season closed	# of vessels Jan 27	A season allocation	Catch Jan 28	A season closed	# of vessels Jan 28
Hook-and-line CP	651	0	na	0	555	0	na	0
Hook-and-line CV	42	0	Jan 1	0	36	0	Jan 1	0
Jig	92	0	na	0	78	14	na	4
Pot CV/CP	1,182	86	na	<3	1,009	828	2/1	8
Trawl CV	1,882	2	na	3	1,607	155	na	6
Trawl CP	54	0	Jan 20	0	46	0	Jan 20	0
Total	3,902	88		3	3,331	997		18

Pacific cod - Central GOA

Under the final 2024 and 2025 harvest specifications the 2024 jig gear allocation will increase from 1 percent to 2 percent, and the other sectors will decrease to account for the jig gear allocation.

Sector	2024				2023			
	A season allocation	Catch Jan 27	A season closed	# of vessels Jan 27	A season allocation	Catch Jan 28	A season closed	# of vessels Jan 28
Hook-and-line CP	452	0	na	0	452	30	na	<3
Hook-and-line CV <50 ft	1,424	19	na	<3	1,026	190	na	9
Hook-and-line CV ≥50 ft	858	0	na	0	618	38	na	<3
Jig	93	2	na	<3	67	0	na	0
Pot CV/CP	2,726	1,237	na	8	1,963	890	na	12
Trawl CV ¹	3,867	0	na	0	2,785	24	Jan 20	<3
Trawl CP	306	0	Jan 20	0	221	0	Jan 20	0
Total	9,901	1,258		8	7,131	1,172		25

¹In 2024, Central GOA trawl CV sector was closed January 20 to February 5, 2024.

Pollock

For Area 610, NMFS opened directed fishing for the A season on January 20, 2024. There was some fishing and the vessels are voluntarily standing down until February 15, 2024.

For Area 620, NMFS opened directed fishing for the A season on January 20, 2024. The vessels are voluntarily standing down until February 1, 2024.

For Area 630, NMFS opened directed fishing for the A season on January 20, 2024. The vessels are voluntarily standing down until February 1, 2024.

2024 A season	610	620	630	640
A season allocation	5,422	70,918	13,862	8,136 (annual)
A season catch	62	0	0	0
A season closure	na	na	na	na

Halibut PSC Data

The current halibut PSC is preliminary and subject to change. In 2024 relative to 2023, the total halibut PSC and groundfish are lower in the BSAI and in the GOA.

Area, Gear, and Sector	2024			2023		
	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate
BSAI Total	58	65,723	0%	105	90,129	0%
Amendment 80	40	5,748	1%	68	7,751	1%
BSAI trawl limited access	1	41,845	0%	17	60,857	0%
Non-trawl Pacific cod	17	7,725	0%	19	10,400	0%
Non-trawl Other	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
CDQ	0	10,406	0%	2	11,121	0%
GOA Total	0	87	0%	5	1,195	0%
Trawl, Deep-water	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Trawl, Shallow-water	0	67	0%	2	831	0%
Hook-and-line	0	20	0%	3	364	1%