

Status of FMP Amendments
December 5, 2008

FMP Amendment Status: <u>Actions Since October 2008</u>	Date of Council Action	Start Regional Review	Transmittal Date of Action to NMFS HQ for Review	Proposed FMP Amendment Notice of Availability Published	Proposed Rule Published in Federal Register	Final Rule Published in Federal Register
Amendment 27 (KTC) – Custom Processing Decision Date 12/10/08	December 2007	PR: 5/30/08	PR: September 5, 2008	September 11, 2008 73 FR 52806 Comment period ended November 10, 2008	September 19, 2008 73 FR 54346 Comment period ended November 3, 2008	
Amendment 28 (KTC) – Post delivery transfers	December 2007	PR: 8/14/08	PR: November 18, 2008	November 25, 2008 73 FR 71598 Comment period ends January 24, 2009		
Amendment 30 (KTC) – Arbitration System Changes	April 2008					
Amendment 31 (KTC) – C-Share Active Participation	April 2008					
Amendments 33 (KTC) – Revisions to Loan Program	June 2008					
Amendments 62/62: Single Geographic Location and AFA Housekeeping	Oct 2002	PR: 12/5/08				
Amendment 73/77 Removing Dark Rockfish from the BSAI and GOA FMPs Decision Date: 12/17/08	April 2007	PR: 3/17/08 FR: 11/28/08	NOA/PR: Sept. 10, 2008	September 17, 2008 73 FR 53816 Comment period ended November 17, 2008	September 24, 2008 73 FR 55010 Comment period ended November 17, 2008	
Amendment 85 (GOA) – BSAI Sideboard exemption in GOA Rockfish Program	Oct 2008					
Amendment 34 (GOA) – Adjustments to GOA sideboards for BSAI crab vessels	Oct 2008					

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Amendment 90 (BSAI) Post delivery transfers for Amendment 80 cooperatives and Amendment 78 (GOA) Rockfish Post-Delivery Transfers	February 2008	PR: 9/2/08	PR: December 8, 2008			
Amendments 92/82 to BSAI and GOA FMPS - Trawl License Latency	April 2008	PR: 8/25/08	PR: December 5, 2008			

Status of Regulatory Amendments
December 5, 2008

Regulatory Amendment Status: <u>Actions Since October 2008</u>	Date of Council Action	Start Regional Review of Rule	Transmittal Date of Rule to NMFS Headquarters	Proposed Rule in <i>Federal Register</i>	Final Rule Published in <i>Federal Register</i>
Groundfish Regulatory Amendments					
Interagency Electronic Reporting System	NMFS	PR1: 12/27/06 FR: 11/6/07 SPR: 6/19/08	PR1: May 4, 2007 SPR: Aug 27, 2008 FR: Nov. 18, 2008	September 24, 2008 73 FR 55368 Comment period ended October 24, 2008	Expected to publish on or before December 16, 2008. Effective 30 days after published.
Revise MRA accounting period for non-AFA C/Ps	December 2006	PR: 7/2/08			
Revision to GOA pollock trip limit	December 2007	PR: 8/20/08	PR: Sept. 29, 2008	October 20, 2008 73 FR 62241 Comment period ended November 17, 2008	
Revisions to MRAs in GOA arrowtooth fishery	October 2007	PR: 7/1/08	PR: Nov. 6, 2008	November 25, 2008 73 FR 71592 Comment period ends December 26, 2008	
CDQ regulation of harvest	MSA requirement Council - June 2007				
Observer Program regulation revisions	April 2008				
VMS dinglebar gear exemption	June 2008	PR: 7/29/08 FR: 12/4/08	PR: Sept. 11, 2008	October 3, 2008 73 FR 57585 Comment period ended November 3, 2008	
Area 4E seabirds	June 2008	PR: 9/18/08			
Allow online transfers for CDQ and cooperatives	NMFS				

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Groundfish Regulations, continued					
GOA Groundfish 2009/10 Harvest Specifications	Oct 2008	PR: 10/29/08	PR: Nov. 12, 2008	PR: 12/2/08 73 FR 73222 Comment period ends January 2, 2009	
BSAI Groundfish 2009/10 Harvest Specifications	Oct 2008	PR: 10/29/08	PR: Nov. 12, 2008		
Extension of Central GOA Rockfish Program through December 31, 2011	MSA Mandate				November 17, 2008 73 FR 67809 Effective November 17, 2008
Halibut Regulations					
Implement 1-Fish Bag Limit in Area 2C	NMFS	PR: 10/15/08	PR: Dec. 3, 2008		
Charter vessel moratorium	April 2007	PR: 9/29/08			
Halibut charter catch sharing plan	Oct 2008				
Subsistence Halibut – correct the location of Village of Kanatak tribe from Egegik to Wasilla	June 2007	PR: 5/22/08 FR: 10/22/08	PR: July 1, 2008 FR: Nov. 18, 2008	August 4, 2008 73 FR 45201 Comment period ended September 3, 2008	December 1, 2008 73 FR 72737 Effective December 31, 2008
Subsistence Halibut – Include Certain Rural Residents	June 2008				
Remove inactive IFQ permits	June 2006				
IFQ Halibut/Sablefish: Minimum vessel ownership criteria for using hired skipper of 12 months and 20% interest					

Regulatory Actions Completed in 2008
December 5, 2008

- Revision to 2008 harvest specs to integrate Amds. 80/85 (72 FR 71802, December 19, 2007)
- Revise seabird avoidance measures (72 FR 71601, December 18, 2007)
- Rescind trawl closure in Chiniak Gully Research Area (73 FR 1555, January 9, 2008)
- Allow processing of non-IFQ species on vessel w B, D, or D shares onboard (73 FR 8822; February 15, 2008)
- Implement BSAI Amendment 88 and revise AI Habitat Conservation Area boundary (73 FR 9035; February 19, 2008)
- Final 2008 and 2009 BSAI groundfish specifications (73 FR 10160; February 26, 2008)
- Final 2008 and 2009 GOA groundfish specifications (73 FR 10562; February 27, 2008)
- Pacific halibut annual management measures (73 FR 12280; March 7, 2008)
- Repeal Vessel Incentive Program (73 FR 12898; March 11, 2008)
- Adjust 2008 sablefish TAC in W. Yakutat and Southeast Outside Districts (73 FR 14728; March 19, 2008)
- Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Program: Allow (1) pot longline gear in BS in June for sablefish; (2) temp transfer of IFQs held by mobilized militia (73 FR 28733; May 19, 2008)
- Amendment 25 (KTC) - North catcher processor owner quota share (73 FR 29970; May 23, 2008)
- Crab IPQ issuance cap correction (73 FR 30319; May 27, 2008)
- Area 2C charter vessel GHL management measures (73 FR 30504; May 28, 2008)
- Improve on-line access to halibut and sablefish IFQ accounts (73 FR 31646; June 3, 2008)
- Amendment 24 (KTC) – crab overfishing definitions (73 FR 33925) FMP amendment approved June 6, 2008
- Renewal of SeaShares PSC Donation Permit through August 2011 (73 FR 35659; June 24, 2008)
- Amendment 26 (KTC) – C share exemption (73 FR 35085; June 20, 2008)
- Amendment 89 to BSAI FMP – BS habitat conservation (73 FR 43362, July 25, 2008)
- Amendment 79 to GOA FMP – other species OFL and ABC (73 FR 49963, August 25, 2008) effective 8/20/08
- Amendment 72 to GOA FMP – shallow water flatfish discard report (73 FR 50888, August 29, 2008) effective 8/25/08)
- Halibut Subsistence III (73 FR 54932, September 24, 2008)

Regulatory Actions Completed in 2008
December 5, 2008

- Remove check-in/check-out requirements for vessels with VMS. (73 FR 53390; September 16, 2008)
- Subsistence Halibut III (73 FR 54932; September 24, 2008)
- Withdraw 1-Fish Bag Limit in Area 2C (73 FR 52795; September 11, 2008)
- Final rule to amend the halibut subsistence fishery rules re: location of Village of Kanatak tribal headquarters and the area in which the tribe's members may subsistence fish. Effective December 31, 2008. (73 FR 72737, December 1, 2008)

Alaska Region

National Marine Fisheries Service

Inseason Management Report

December 2008

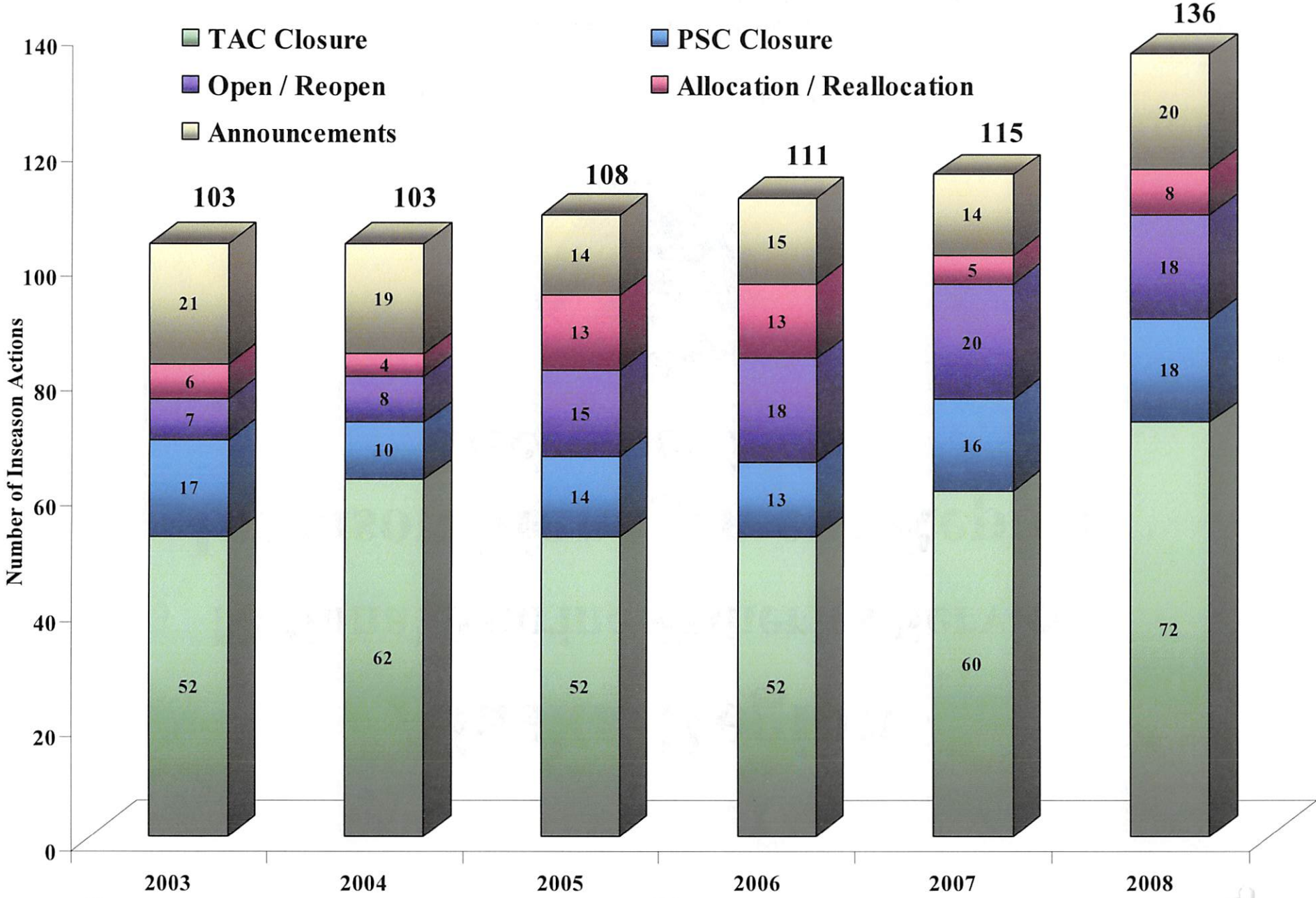


Catch data are through November 1, 2008

Management reports can be found at:

<http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/inseason/default.htm>

2003 – 2008 Inseason Actions Published



GULF OF ALASKA REPORTING AREAS

NPT = Non Pelagic Trawl

PTR = Pelagic Trawl

HAL = Hook and Line / Longline

CP = Catcher Processor

CV = Catcher Vessel

ALASKA

649

640

630

620

610

650

659

LEGEND

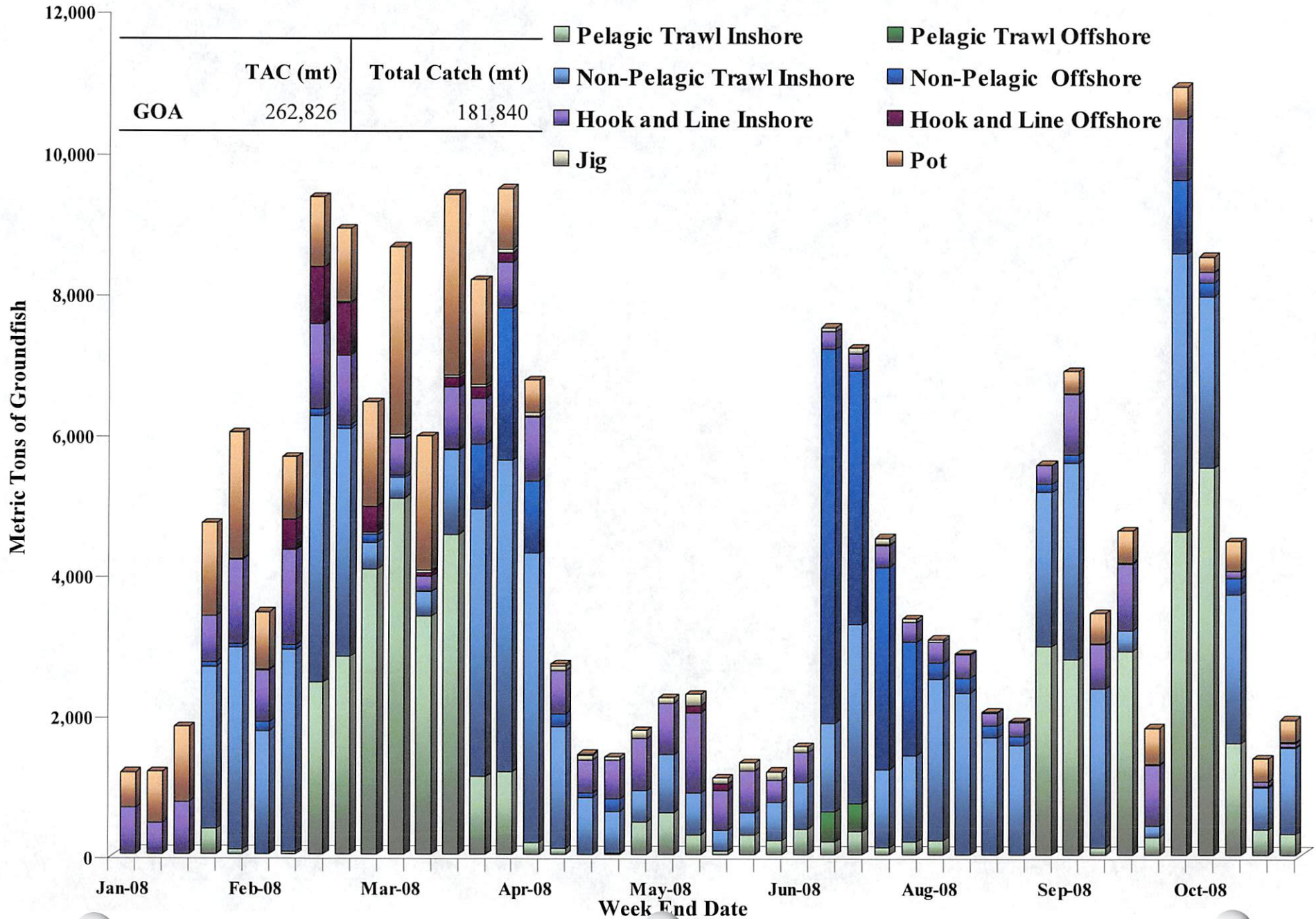
Western GOA = 610

Central GOA = 620 + 630

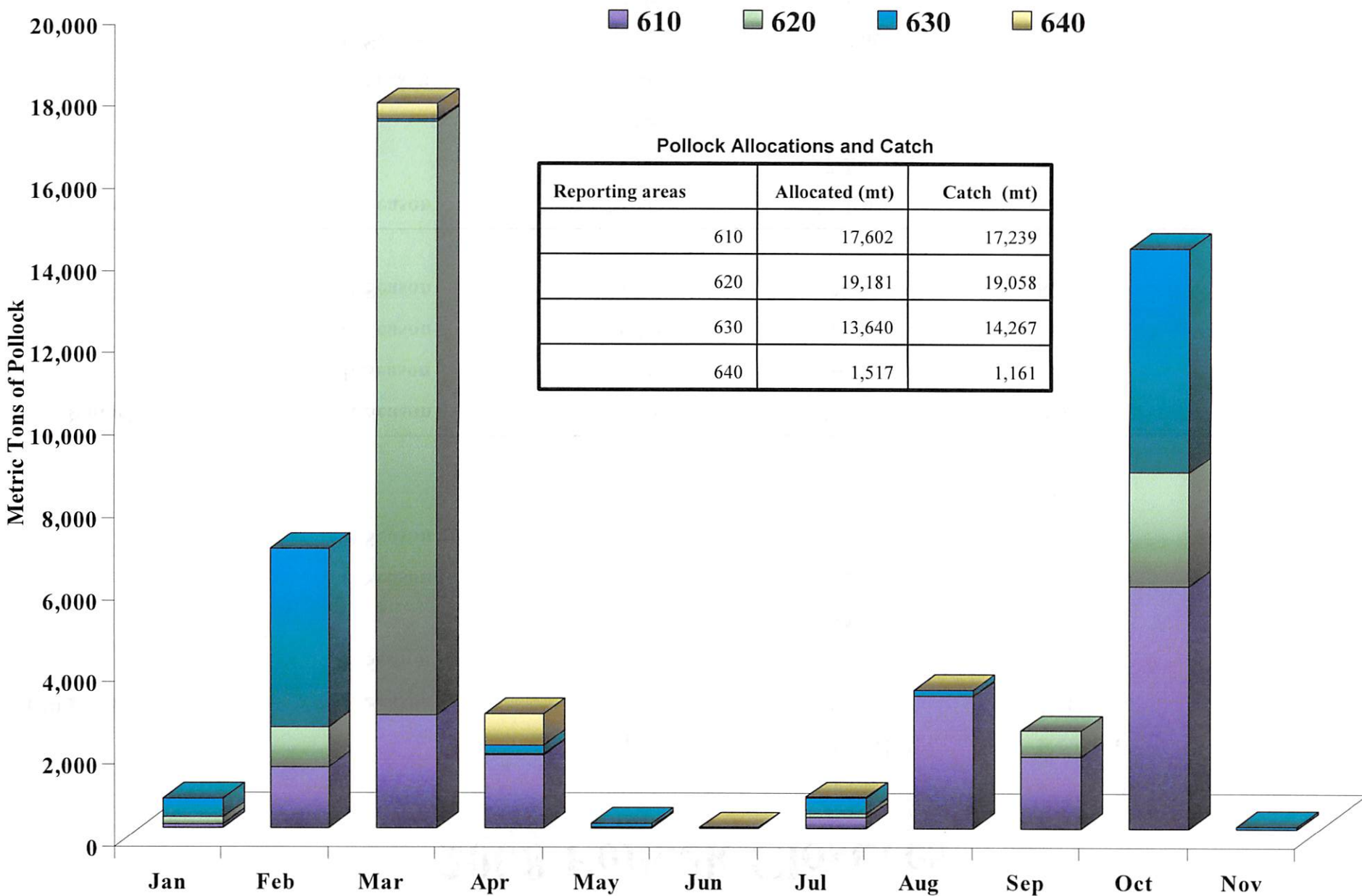
Eastern GOA =

640 + 649 + 650 + 659

2008 GOA Total Groundfish Catch by Gear & Sector



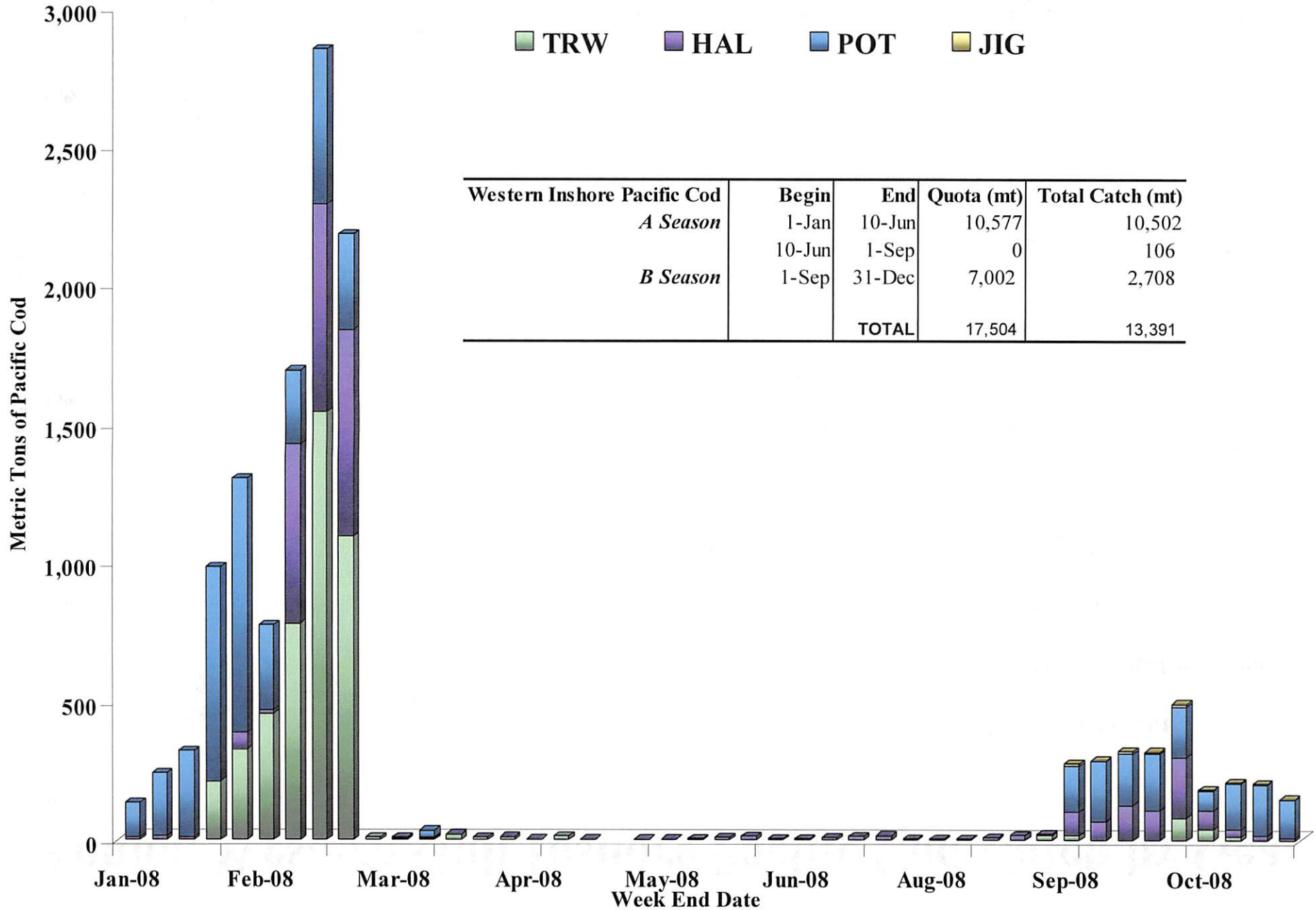
2008 Pollock Catch in GOA



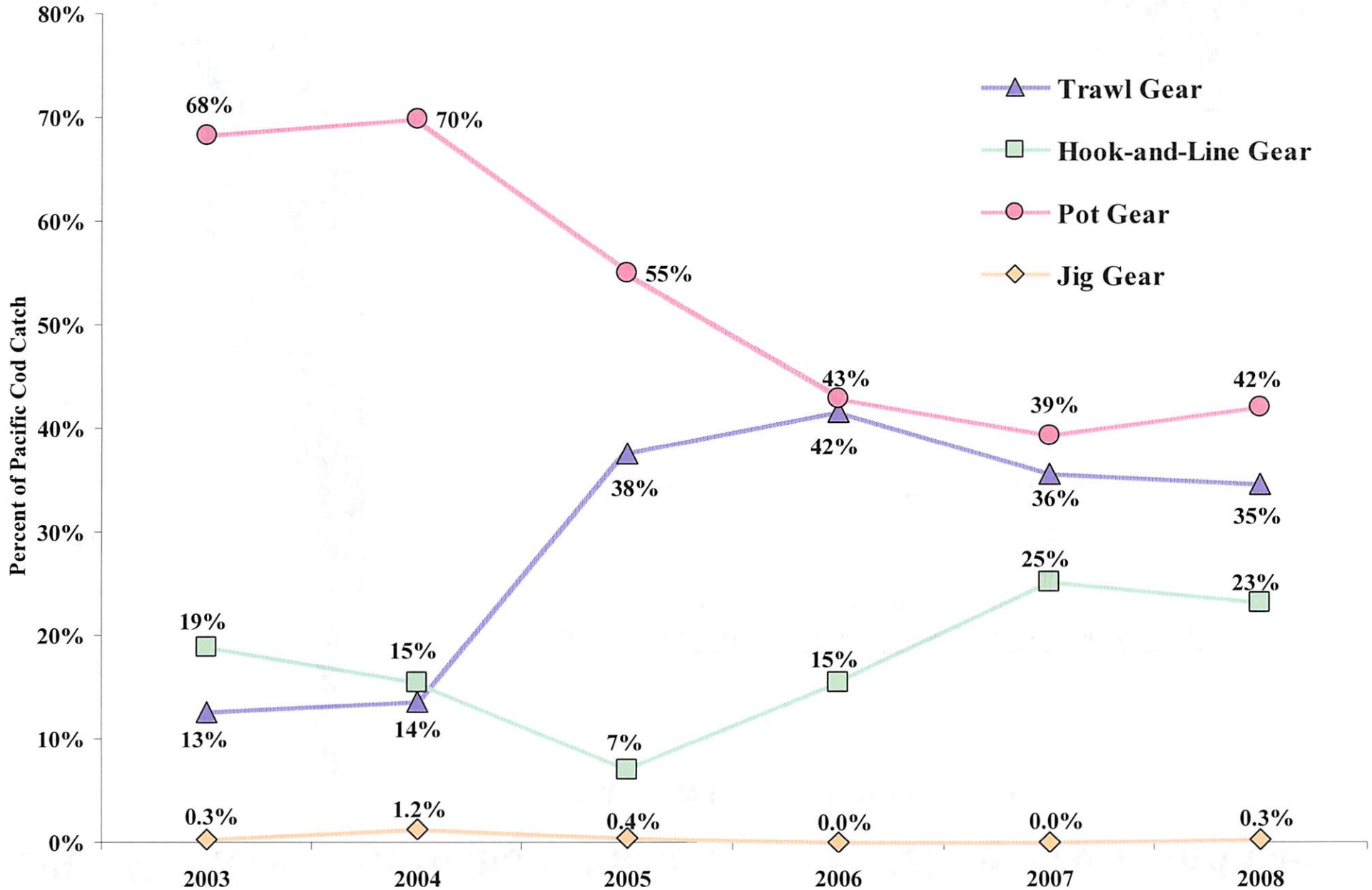
2008 Pollock Closures

		Open	Closed	Reason
610 Pollock	A Season	20-Jan	22-Jan	TAC
	B Season	3-Mar	4-Mar	TAC
		7-Mar	31-May	Reg
	C Season	25-Aug	4-Sep	TAC
	D Season	1-Oct	6-Oct	TAC
		12-Oct	14-Oct	TAC
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620 Pollock	A Season	20-Jan	10-Mar	Reg
	B Season	10-Mar	26-Mar	TAC
	C Season	25-Aug	6-Sep	TAC
	D Season	1-Oct	1-Nov	Reg
<hr/>				
630 Pollock	A Season	20-Jan	22-Jan	TAC
		25-Jan	27-Jan	TAC
		23-Feb	25-Feb	TAC
	B Season	10-Mar	11-Mar	TAC
	C Season	25-Aug	26-Aug	TAC
	D Season	1-Sep	19-Sep	TAC
		1-Oct	10-Oct	Reg

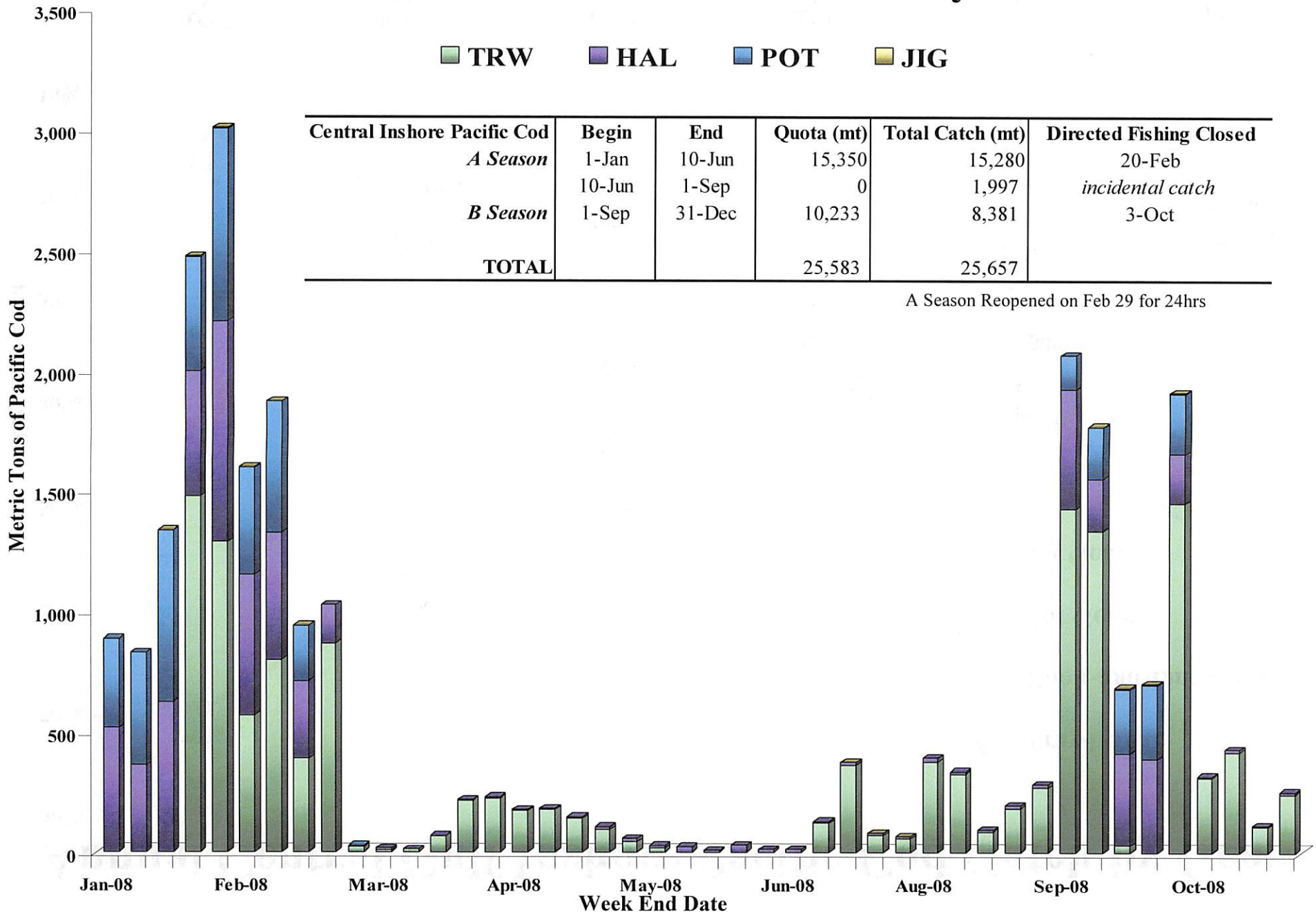
2008 Western Gulf Inshore Pacific Cod Catch by Week and Gear



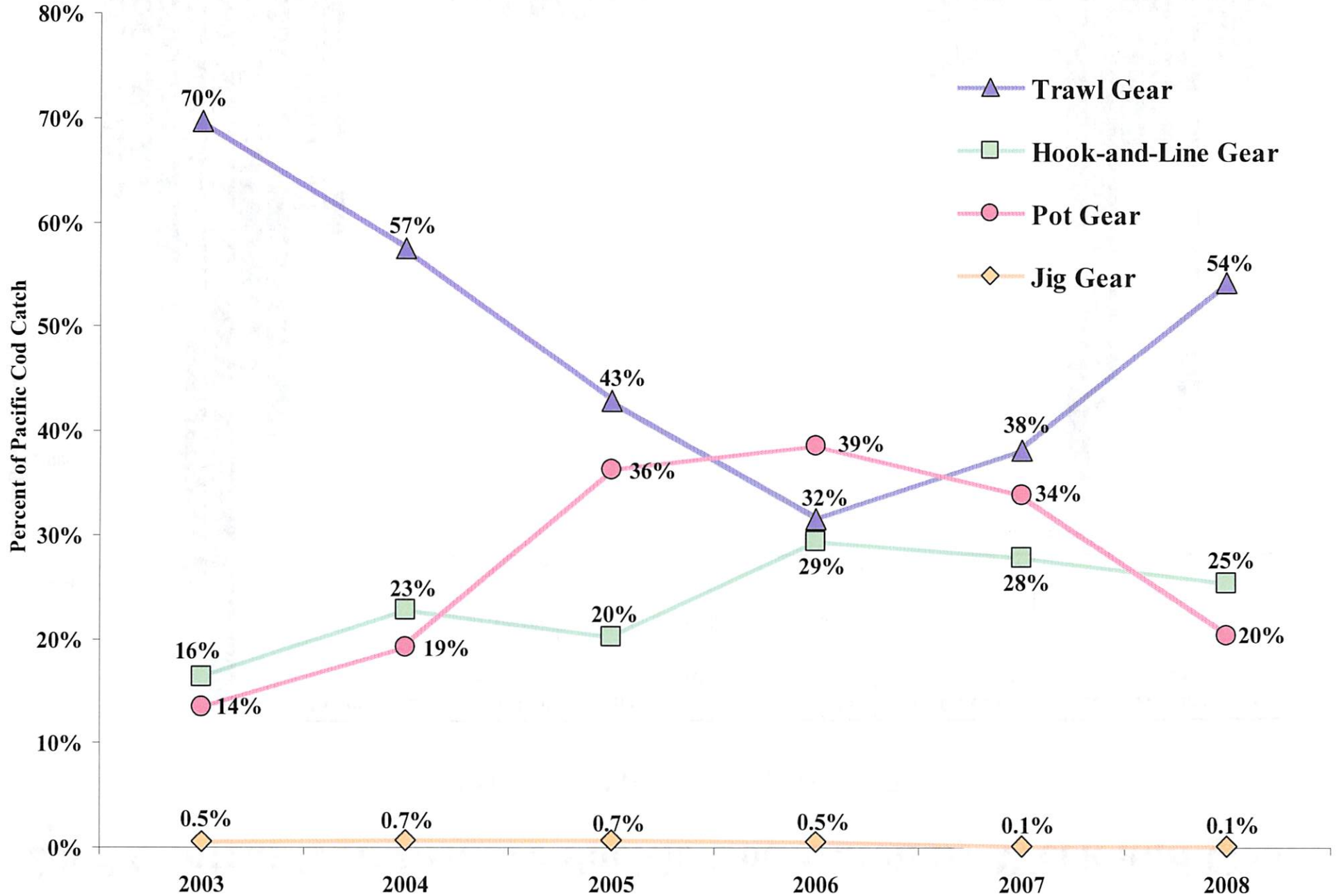
Annual Western Gulf Inshore Pacific Cod Catch by Gear



2008 Central Gulf Inshore Pacific Cod Catch by Week and Gear

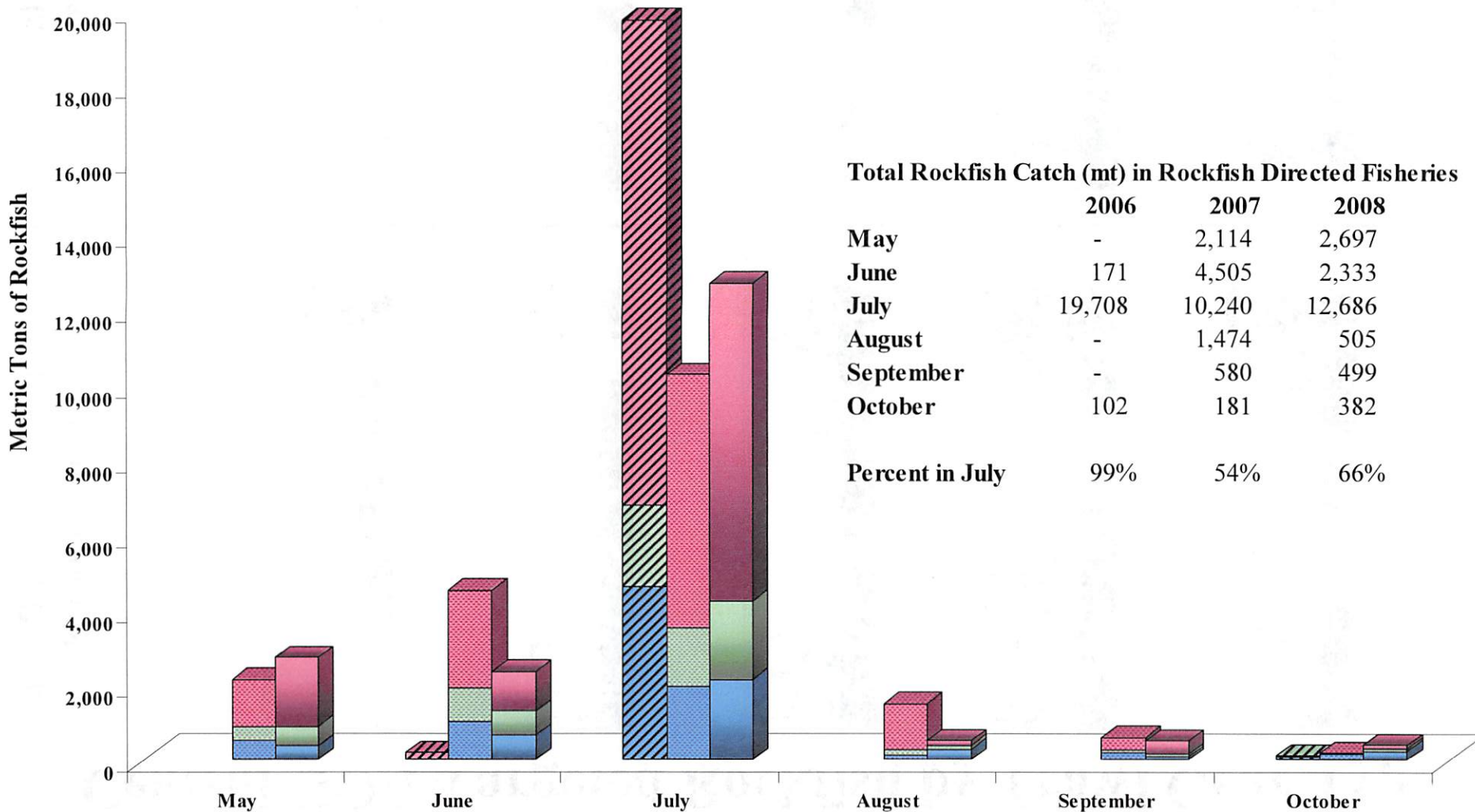


Annual Central Gulf Inshore Pacific Cod Catch by Gear

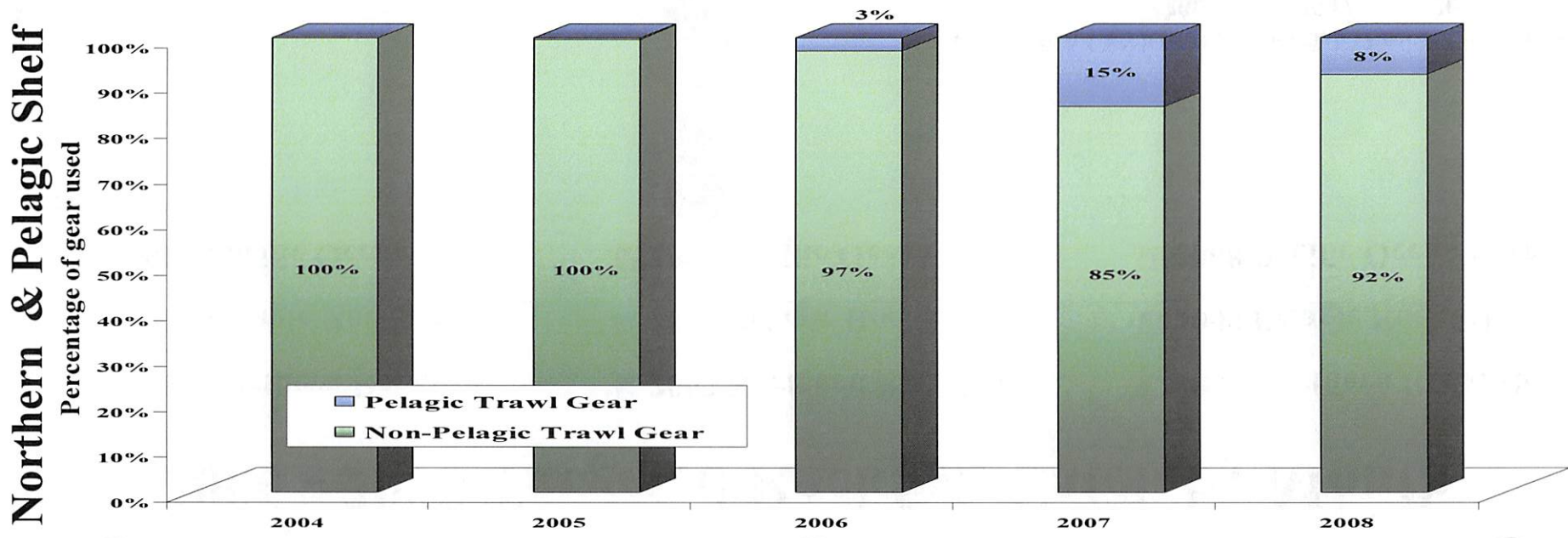
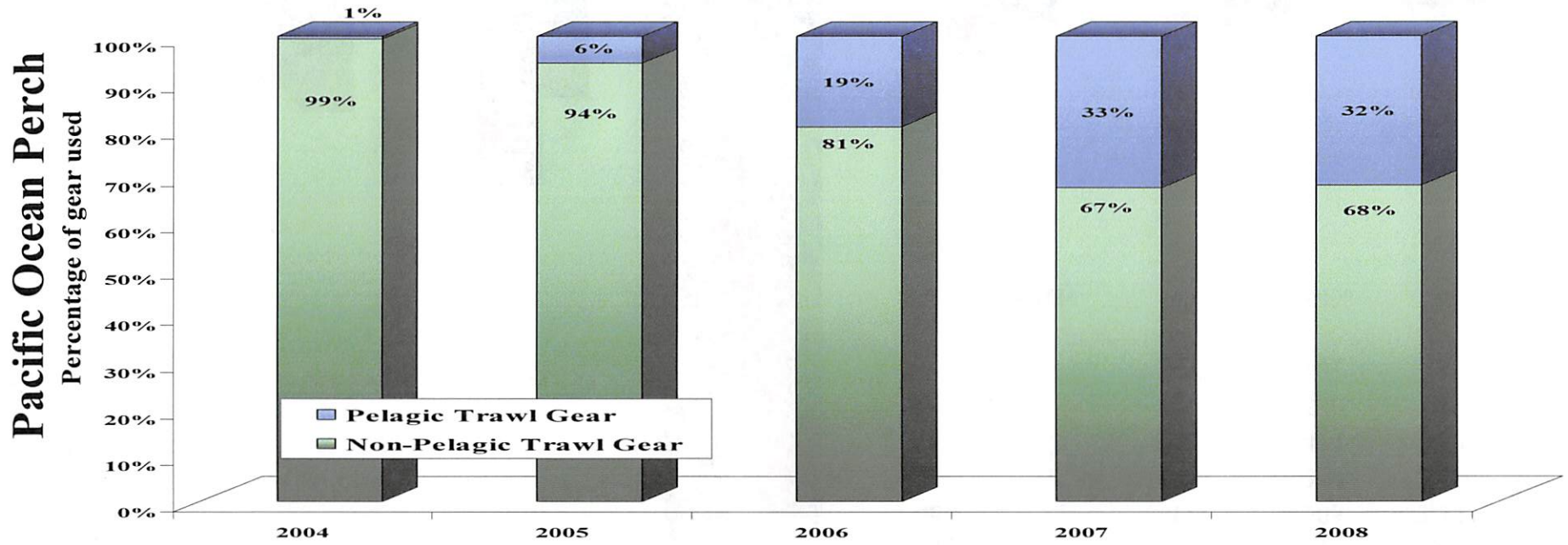


2006 - 2008 Targeted Rockfish Catch by Month

- 2006 Northern Rockfish
- 2007 Northern Rockfish
- 2008 Northern Rockfish
- 2006 Pelagic Rockfish
- 2007 Pelagic Rockfish
- 2008 Pelagic Rockfish
- 2006 Pacific Ocean Perch
- 2007 Pacific Ocean Perch
- 2008 Pacific Ocean Perch



Central GOA Targeted Rockfish by Trawl Gear Type



2008 Rockfish Pilot Program Allocations and Catch

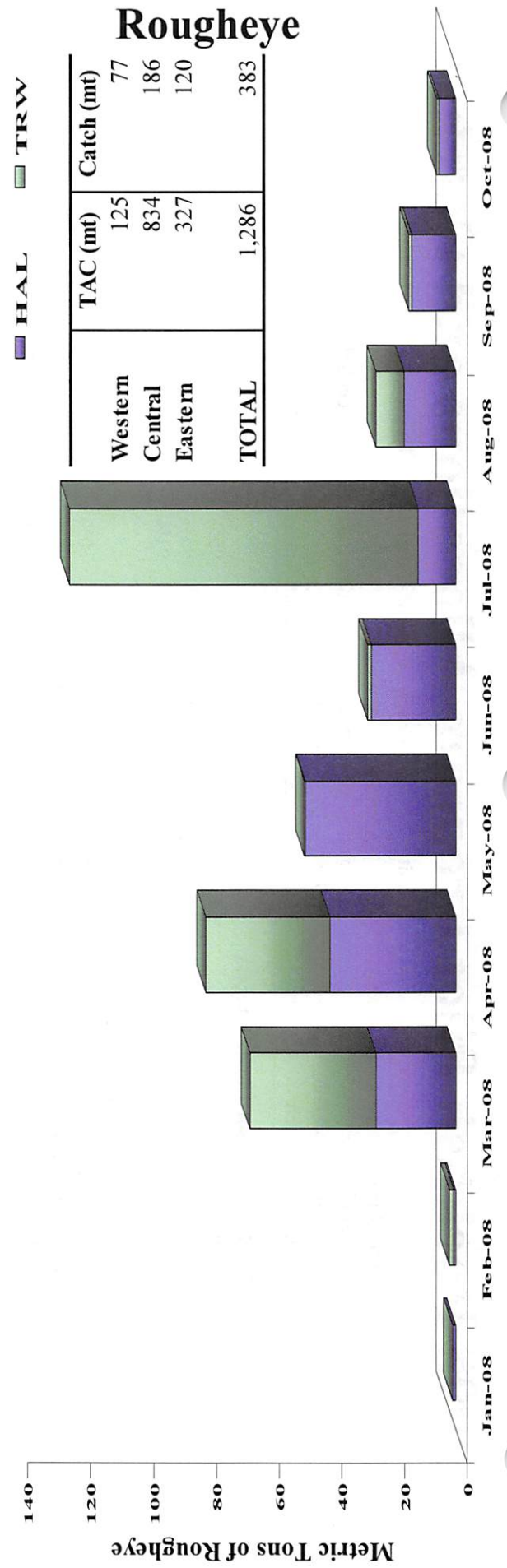
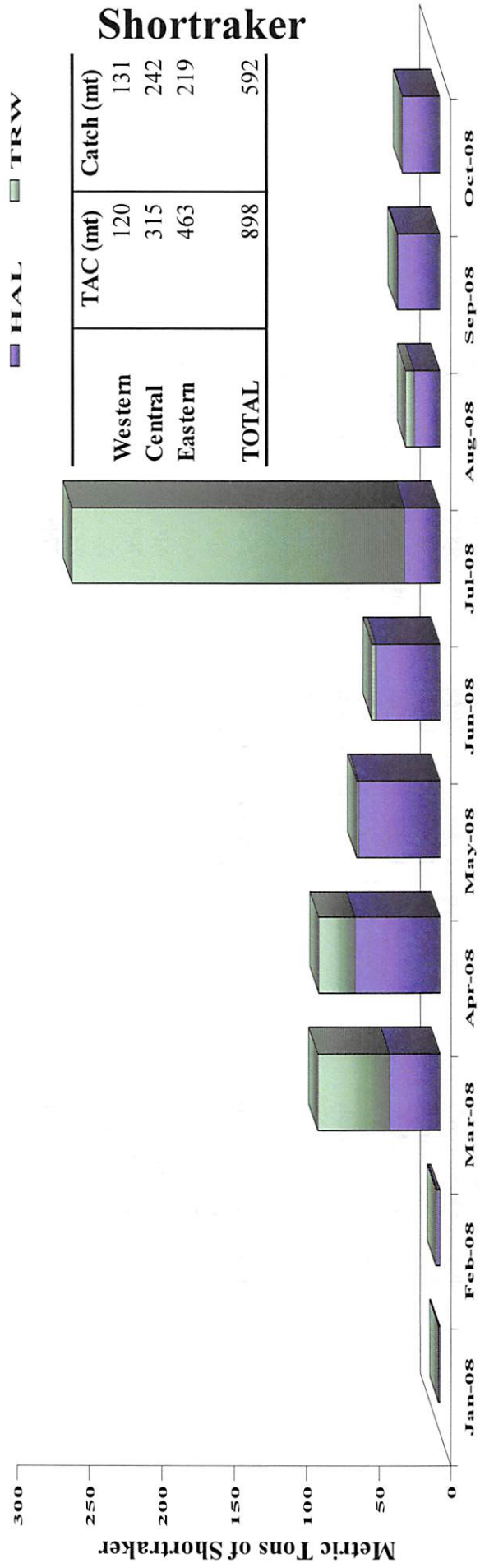
	Limit	Catch	Percent Caught	Remaining
Entry Level				
Northern Rockfish	115	confidential	confidential	confidential
Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	176	10	6%	166
Pacific Ocean Perch	399	confidential	confidential	confidential
Catcher Processor Limited Access				
Pacific Ocean Perch	1,386	1,319	95%	67
Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	1,194	1,116	93%	78
Northern Rockfish	514	470	91%	44
Catcher Vessel Limited Access				
Pacific Ocean Perch	28	0	0%	28
Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	5	0	0%	5
Northern Rockfish	10	0	0%	10
Cooperatives				
Northern Rockfish	1,669	1,482	89%	187
Pacific Cod	590	578	98%	12
Pacific Ocean Perch	6,172	6,068	98%	104
Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	2,151	1,654	77%	497
Rougeye Rockfish	251	confidential	confidential	confidential
Sablefish	466	461	99%	5
Shorthead Rockfish	48	confidential	confidential	confidential
Thornyhead Rockfish	194	58	30%	136
Pacific Halibut	171	34	20%	137
Program Totals Including Central GOA Incidental Rockfish Catch:				
Northern Rockfish	2,408	2,135	89%	273
Pacific Cod	590	578	98%	12
Pacific Ocean Perch	8,185	7,677	94%	508
Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	3,626	2,868	79%	758
Rougeye Rockfish	834	186	22%	648
Sablefish	466	461	99%	5
Shorthead Rockfish	315	242	77%	73
Thornyhead Rockfish	860	301	35%	559
Pacific Halibut	171	34	20%	137

In 2006, five catcher processors and 25 trawl catcher vessels targeted rockfish in the Central Gulf.

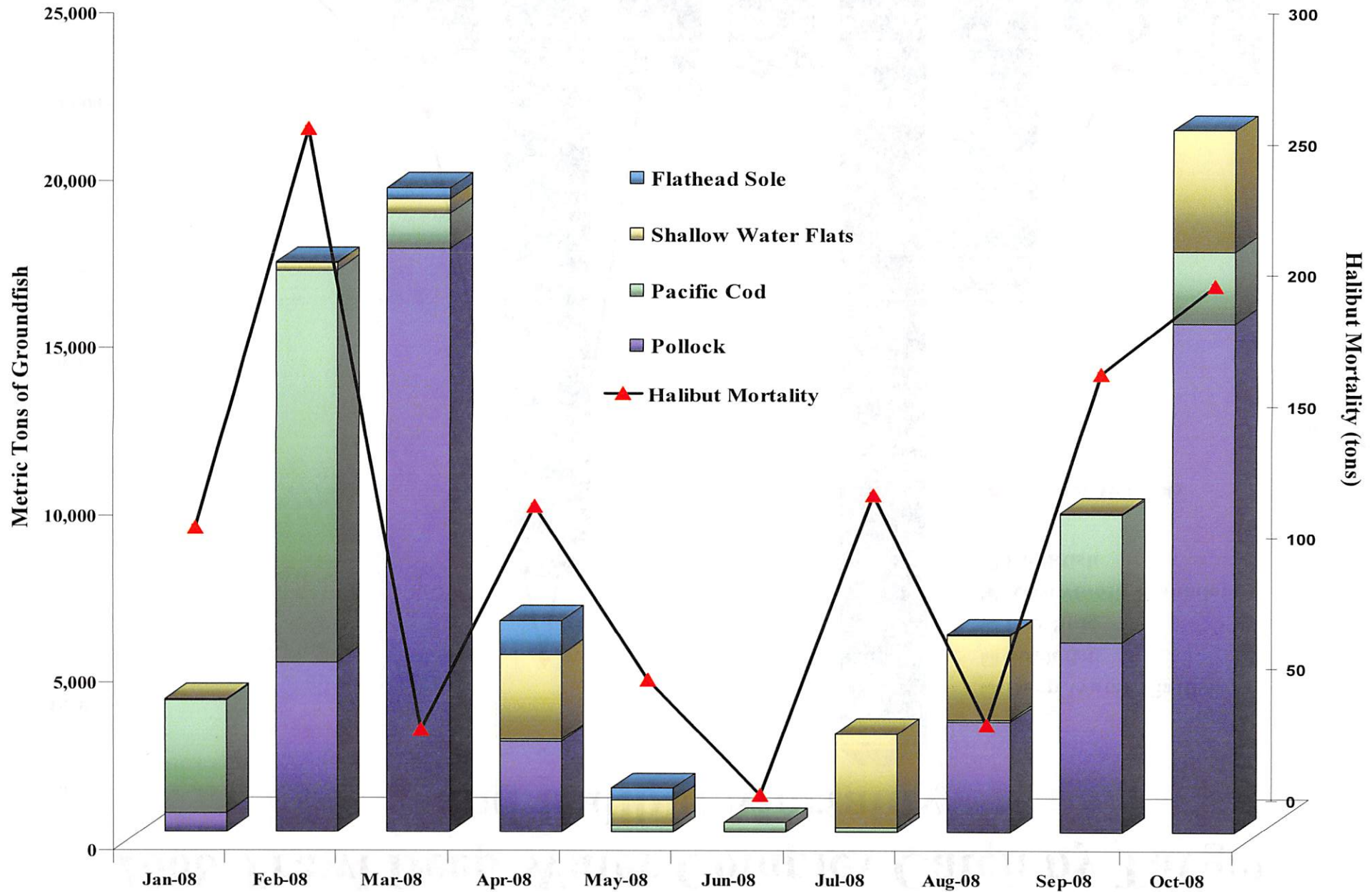
In 2007, four catcher processors and 27 trawl catcher vessels targeted rockfish in the program.

In 2008, six catcher processors and 27 trawl catcher vessels targeted rockfish in the program.

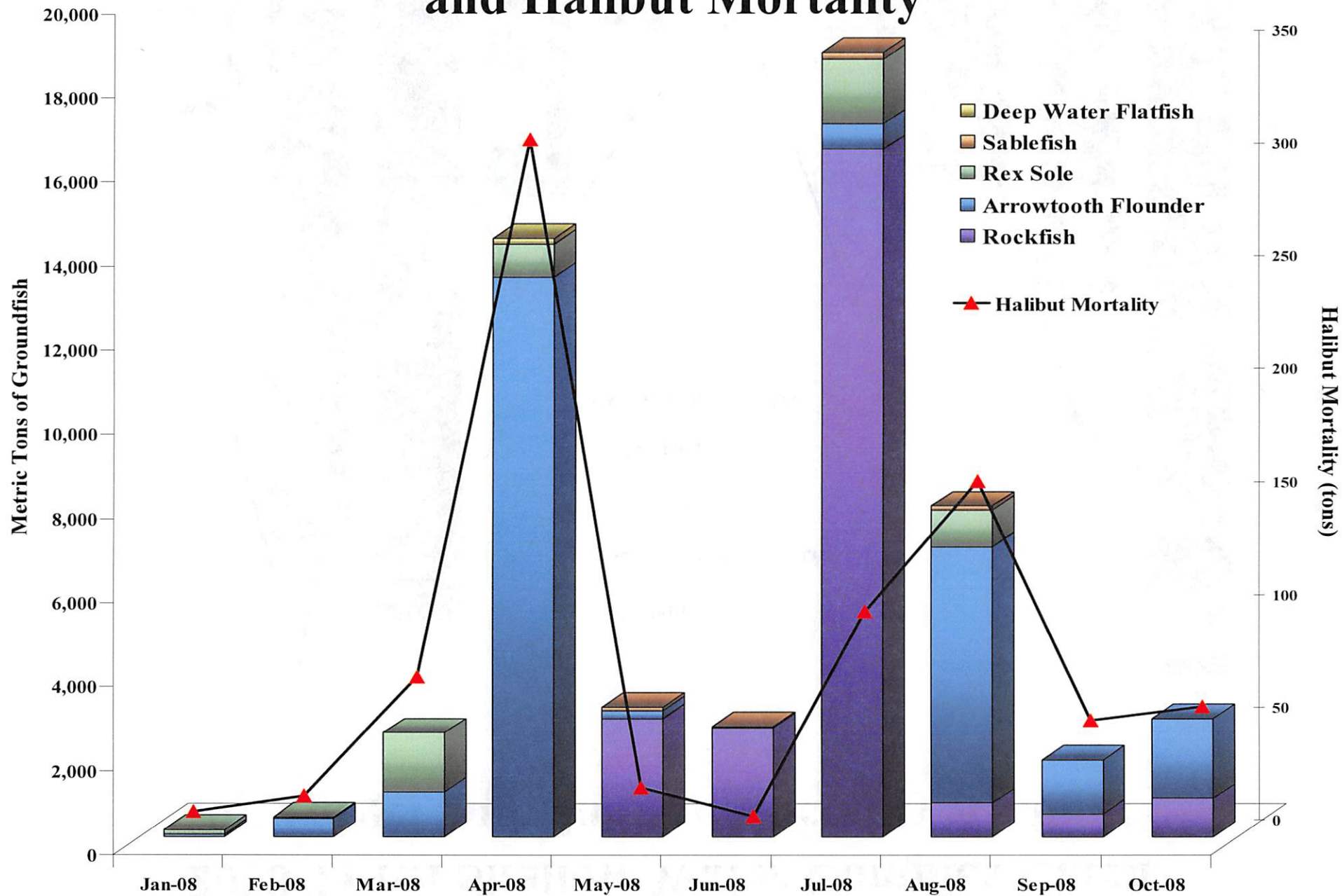
2008 GOA Shortraker and Rougheye Rockfish Catch



2008 Trawl Shallow Water Complex Catch by Target and Halibut Mortality Amount



2008 Trawl Deep Water Complex Catch by Target and Halibut Mortality



2008 Trawl Halibut Mortality

Shallow Water Complex	Season	Start Date	End Date	Limit (mt)	Total Mortality (mt)
	1	20-Jan	1-Apr	450	400
	2	1-Apr	1-Jul	100	151
	3	1-Jul	1-Sep	200	144
	4	1-Sep	30-Sep	150	213
TOTAL				900	908
Deep Water Complex	Season				
	1	20-Jan	1-Apr	100	78
	2	1-Apr	1-Jul	300	310
	3	1-Jul	1-Sep	229	222
	4	1-Sep	30-Sep	0	44
TOTAL				629	654
Rockfish Pilot Program*		20-Jan	1-Apr	36	36
Fall Halibut Allocation*		1-Oct	1-Nov	435	286
Total Halibut Mortality				2,000	1,884

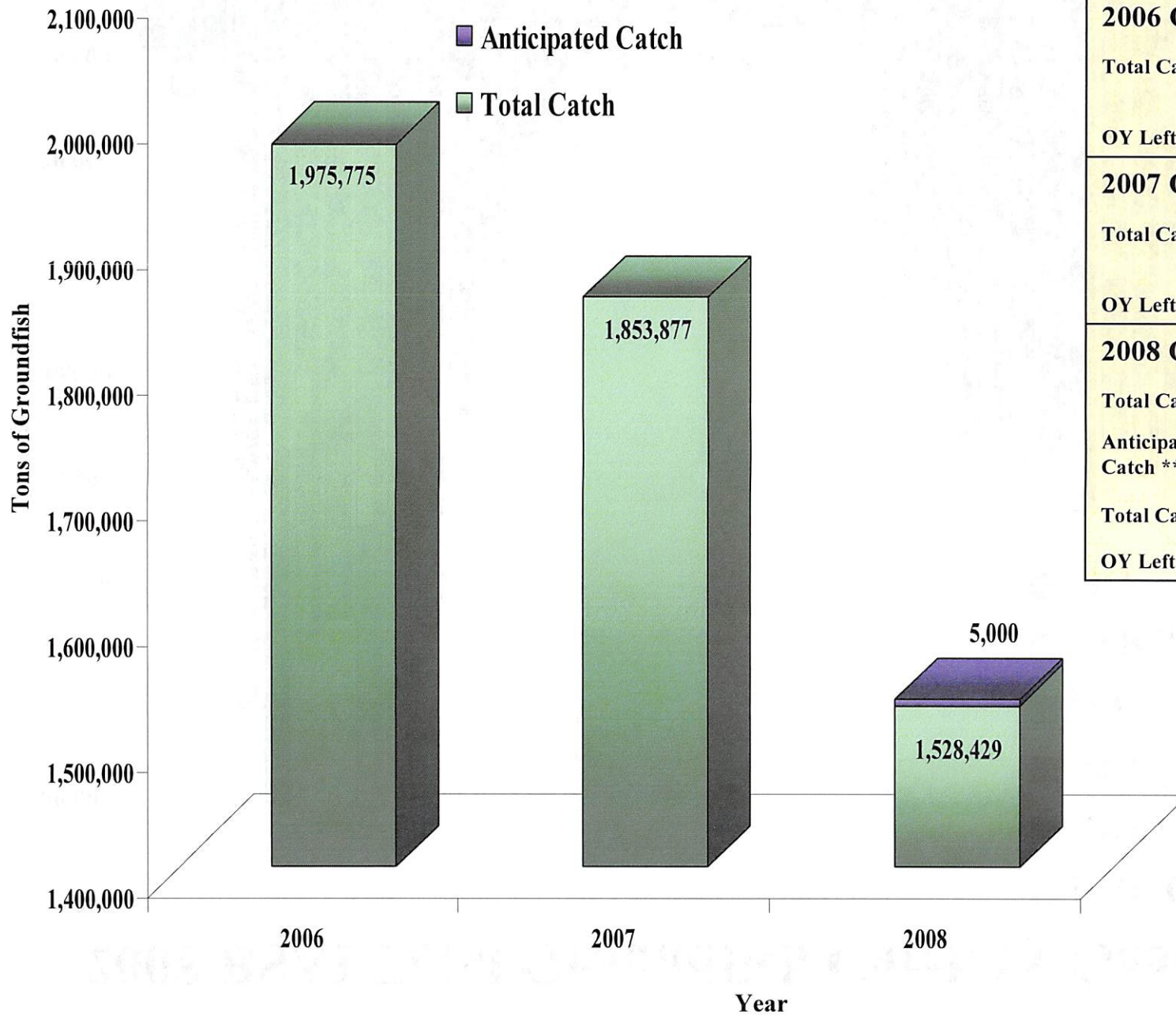
* Includes the reallocation of halibut mortality from the rockfish pilot program to the fall halibut allocation on November 16, 2008

BSAI REPORTING AREAS



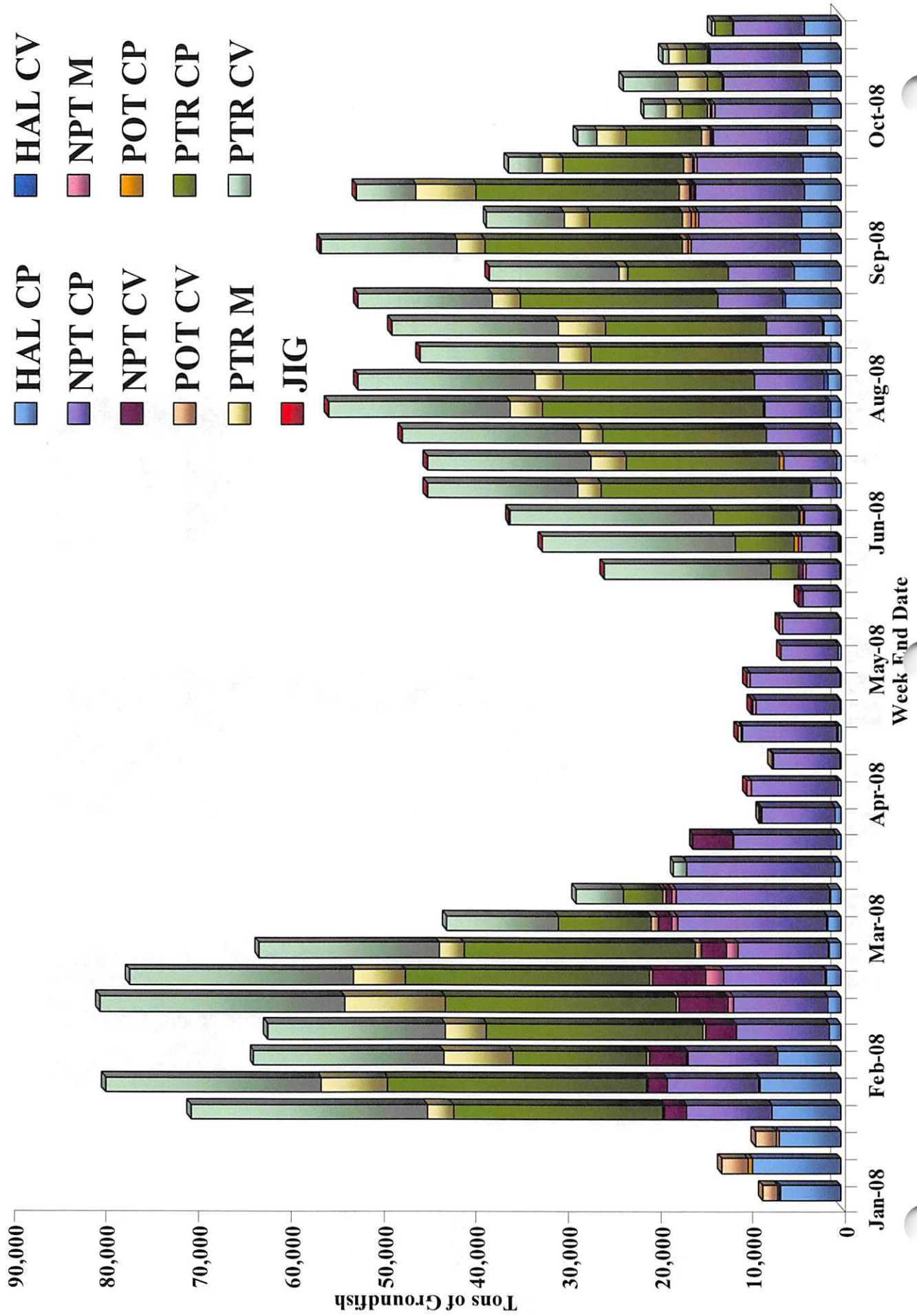
NPT = Non Pelagic Trawl
PTR = Pelagic Trawl
HAL = Hook and Line / Longline
CP = Catcher Processor
CV = Catcher Vessel

2006 - 2008 BSAI Total Catch



2006 OY	2,000,000
Total Catch	1,975,775
OY Left	24,225
2007 OY	2,000,000
Total Catch	1,853,877
OY Left	146,123
2008 OY	1,838,345
Total Catch *	1,528,429
Anticipated Catch **	5,000
Total Catch	1,533,429
OY Left	304,916

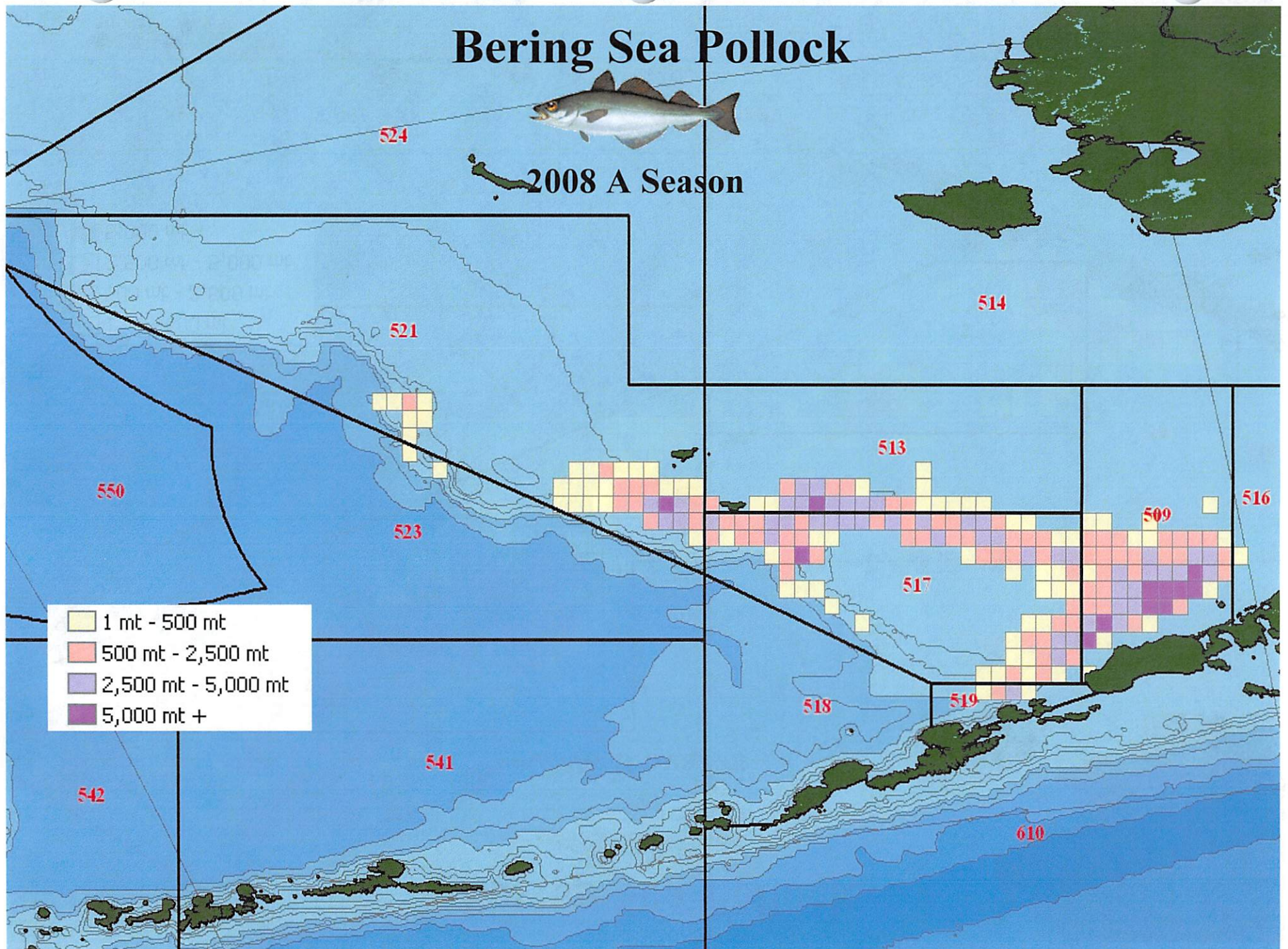
2008 BSAI Total Groundfish Catch by Gear & Sector



Bering Sea Pollock



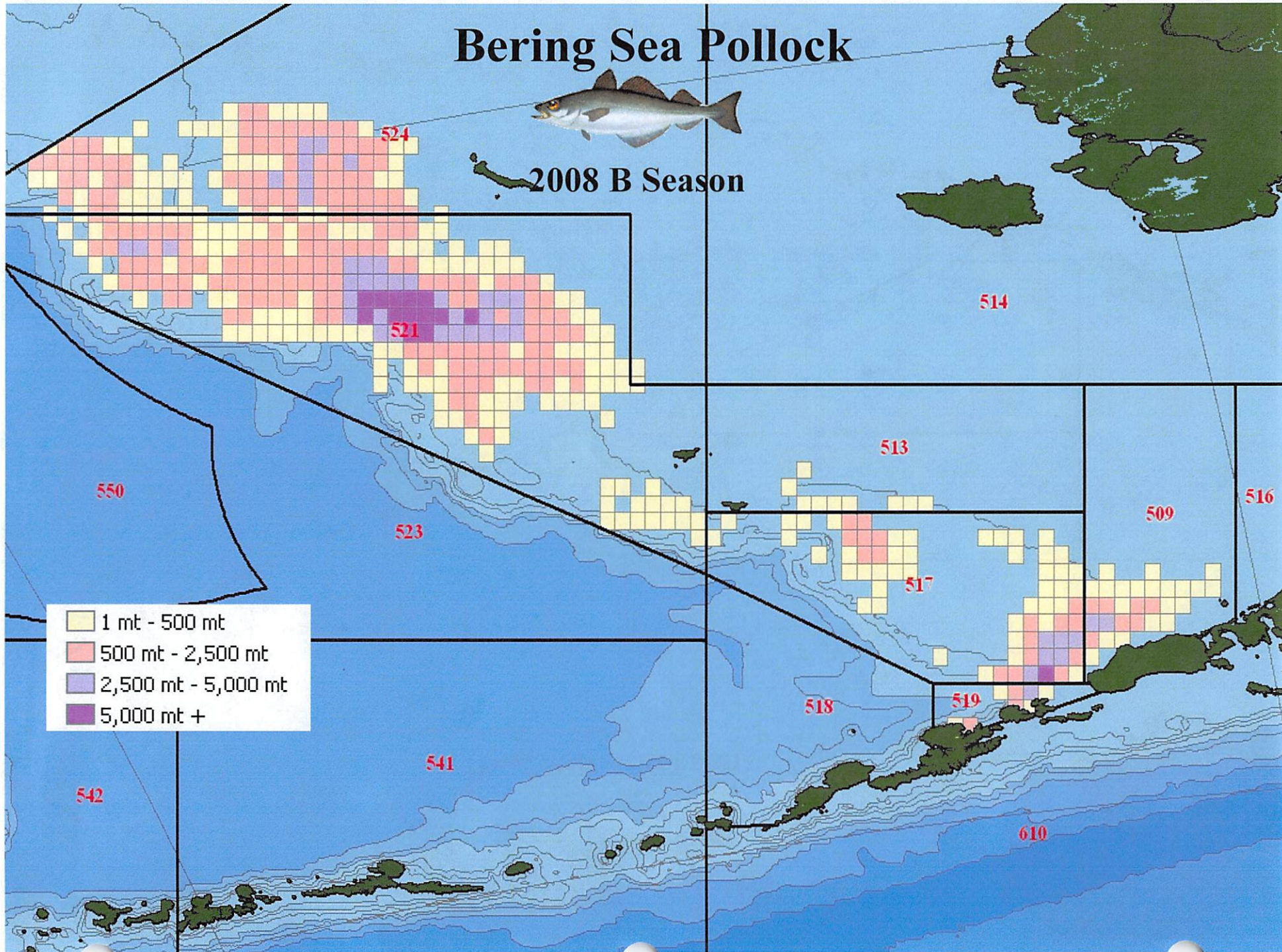
2008 A Season



Bering Sea Pollock

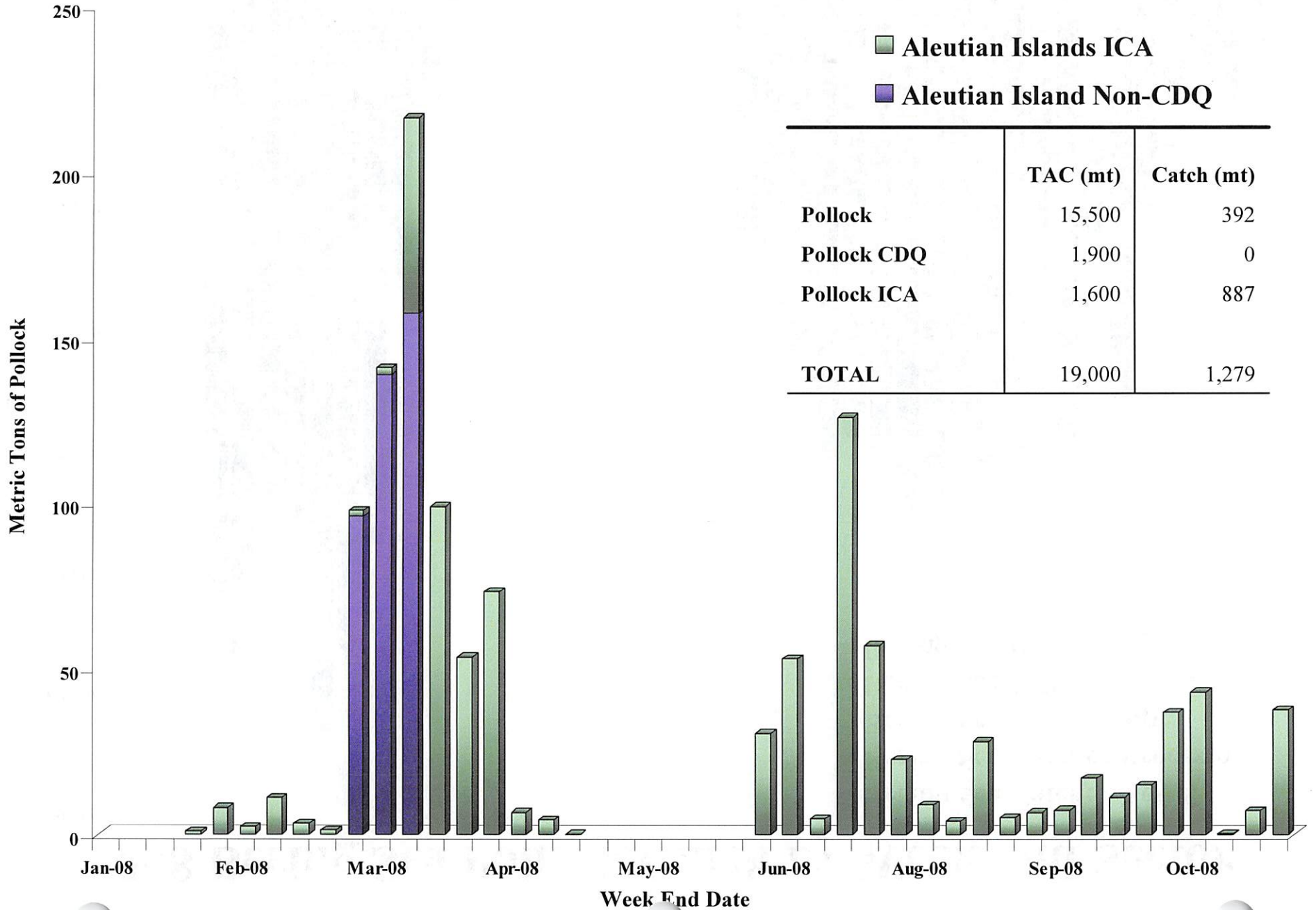


2008 B Season



- 1 mt - 500 mt
- 500 mt - 2,500 mt
- 2,500 mt - 5,000 mt
- 5,000 mt +

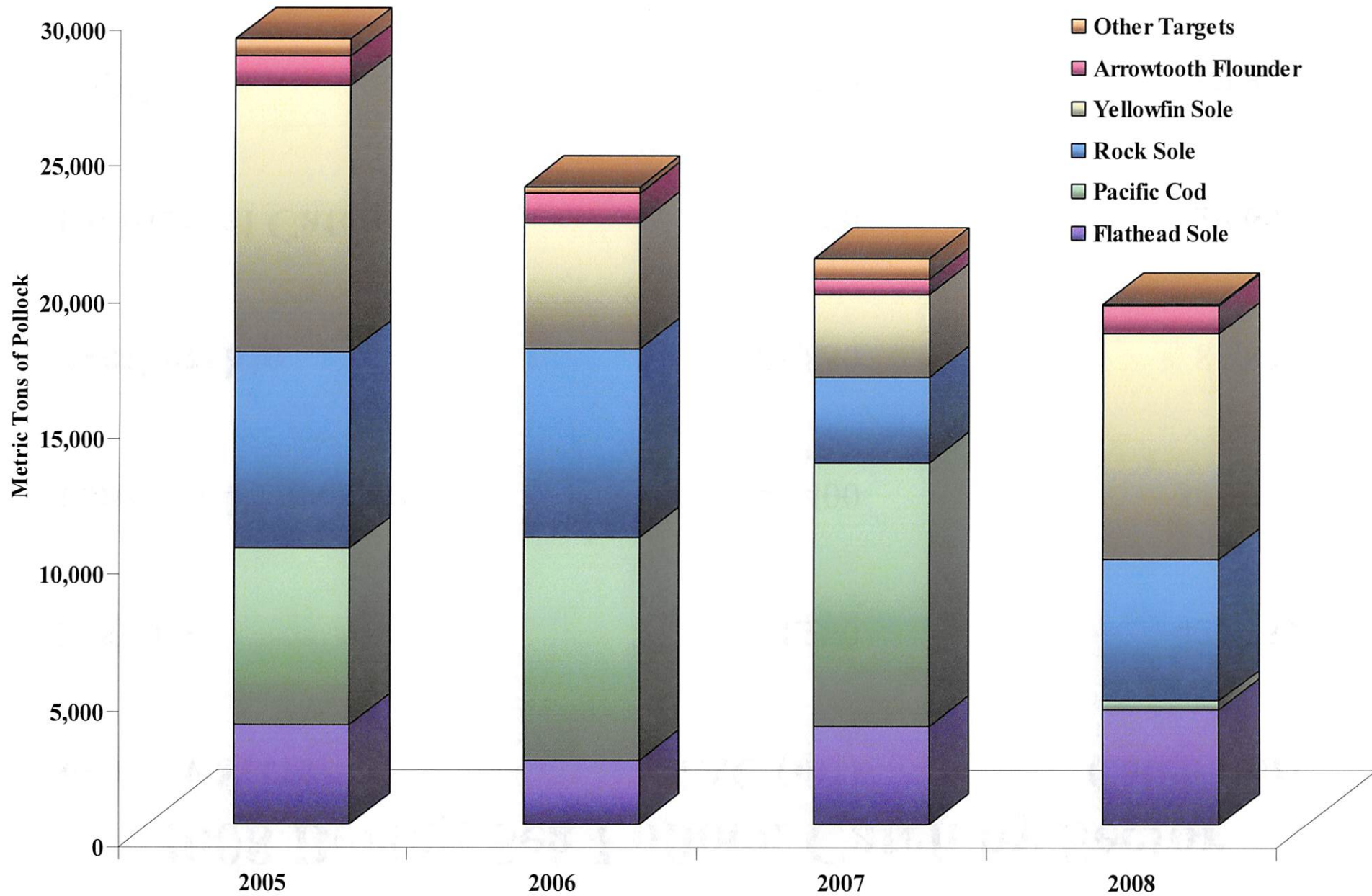
2008 Aleutian Islands Pollock Catch by Week and Sector



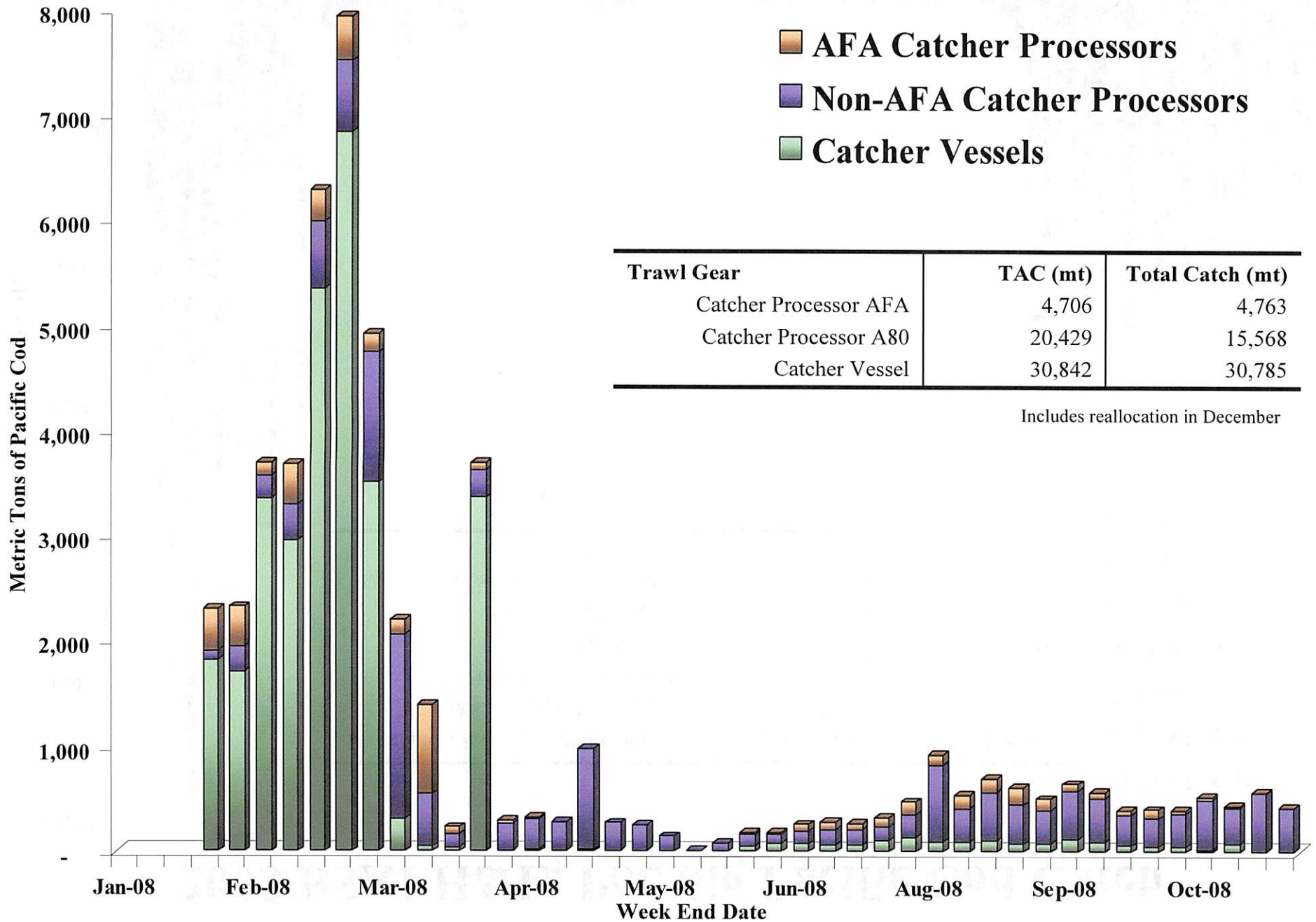
2008 Bering Sea Pollock Catch by Sector

Fishery Sector	TAC (mt)	Catch (mt)
Inshore	434,250	427,759
Catcher Processor	347,400	345,757
Mothership	86,850	86,832
Incidental Catch	31,500	29,683
CDQ	100,000	99,959
TOTAL	1,000,000	989,990

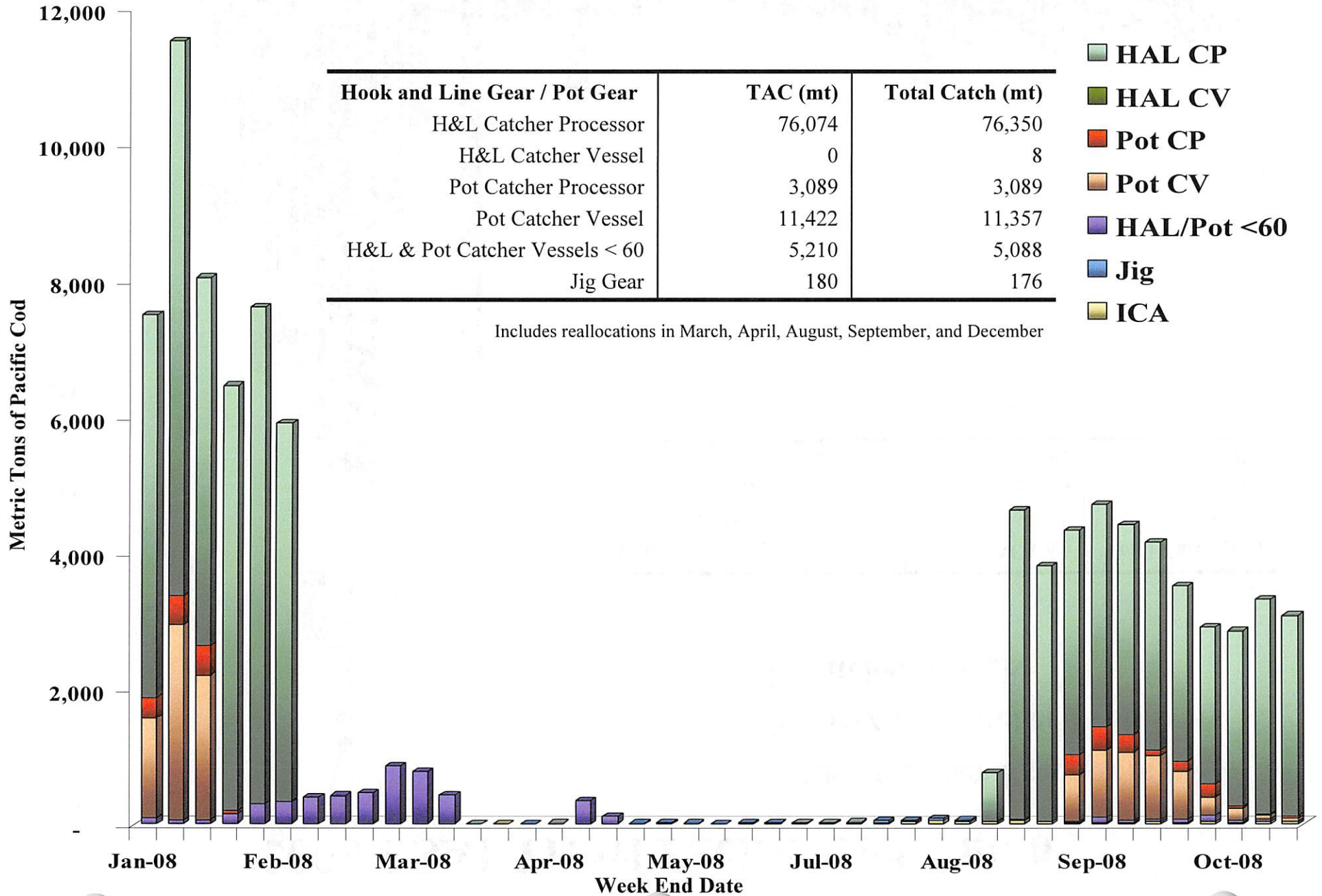
2005 - 2008 Non-AFA Trawl CP Pollock Incidental Catch by Year and Target



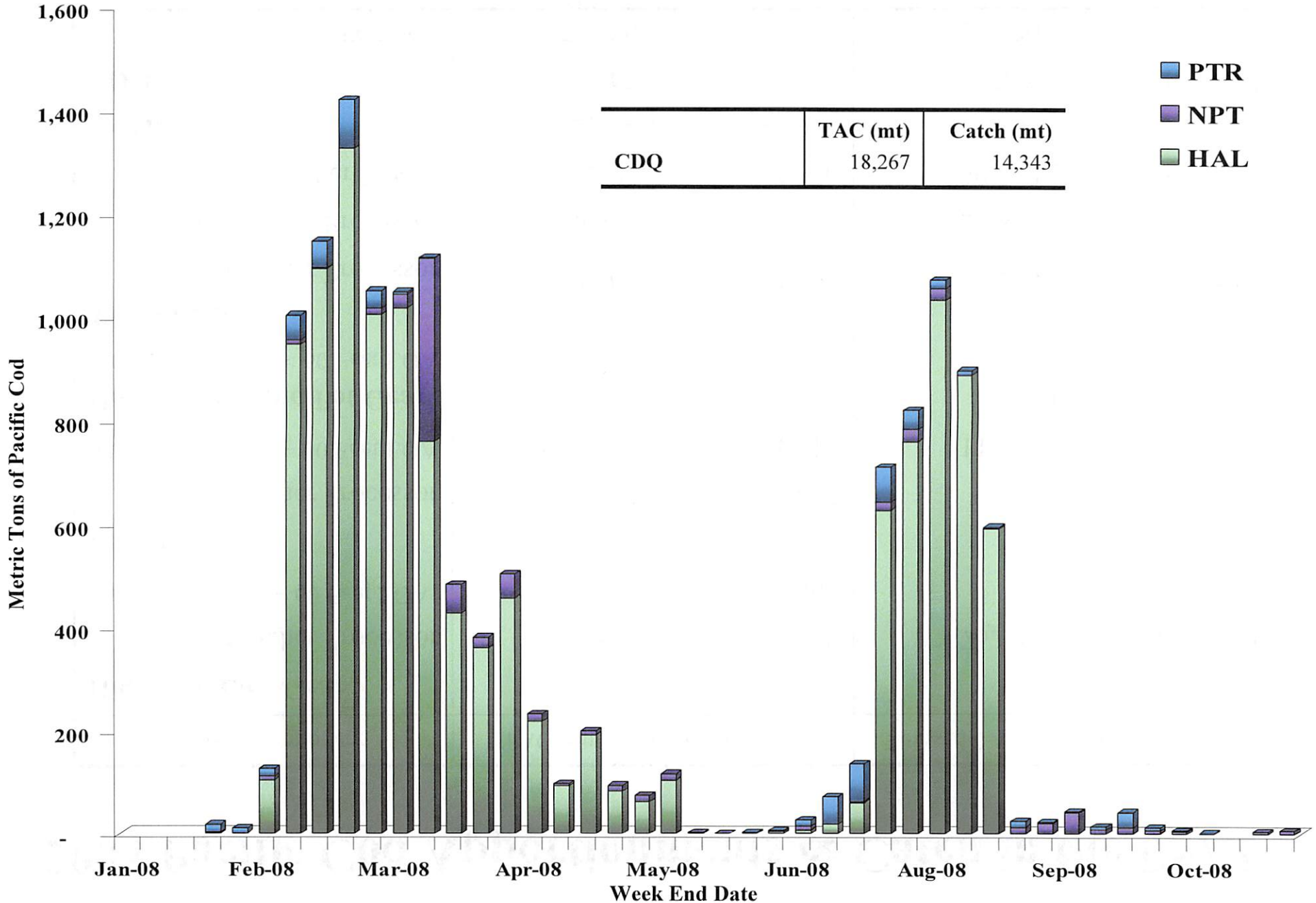
2008 BSAI Trawl Pacific Cod Catch



2008 BSAI H&L, Pot, Jig Pacific Cod Catch



2008 BSAI CDQ Pacific Cod Catch



2008 Pacific Cod Apportionments & Catch in the BSAI

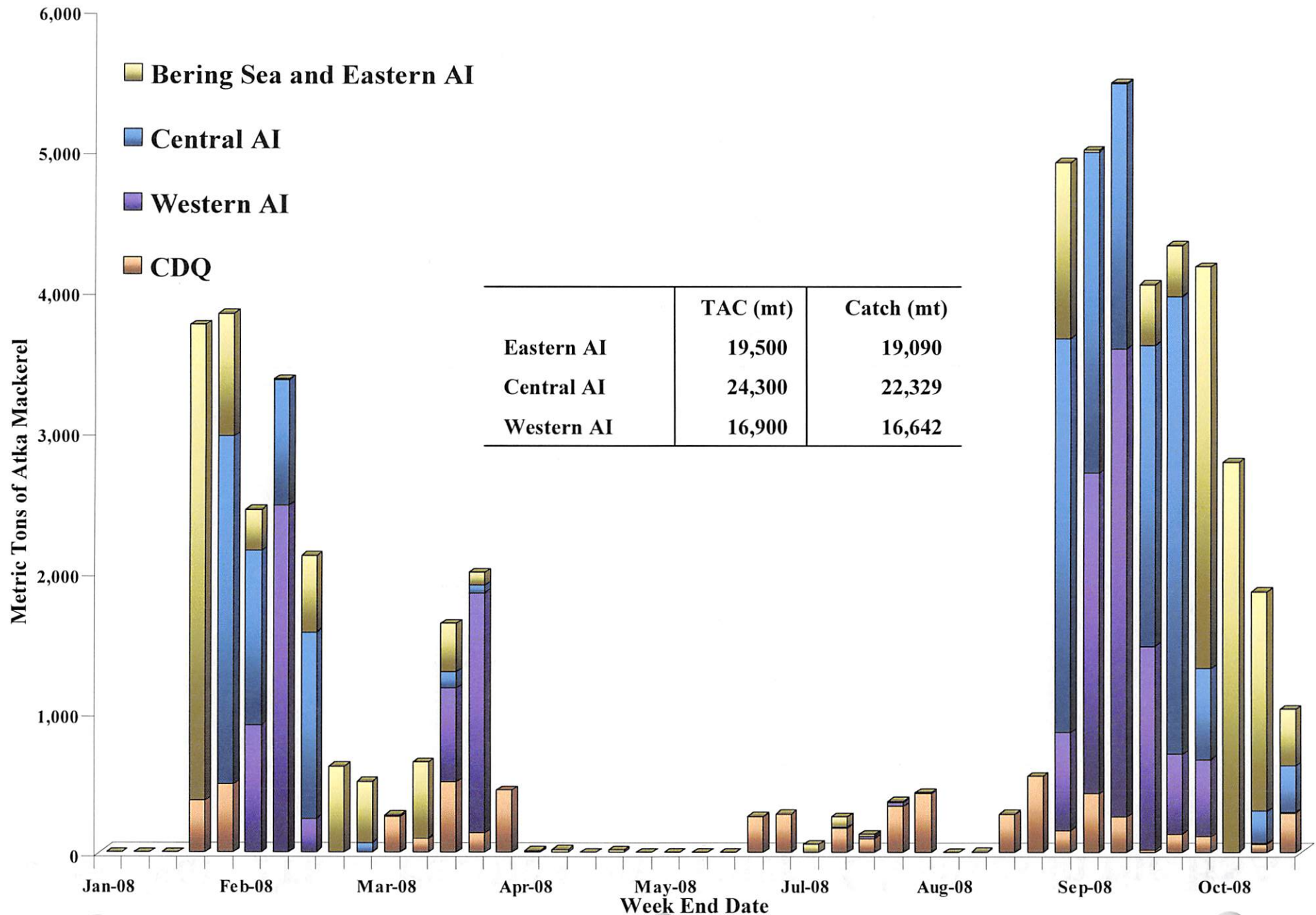
Fishery Component	TAC (mt)	Reallocations	Revised TAC	Catch (mt)
Hook and Line Gear				
Catcher Processor	73,844	2,230	76,074	76,350
Catcher Vessels >= 60 Feet LOA	303	-303	0	8
Pot Gear				
Catcher Processor	2,274	815	3,089	3,089
Catcher Vessels >= 60 Feet LOA	12,737	-1,315	11,422	11,357
Hook & Line and Pot Gear				
Catcher Vessels < 60 Feet LOA	3,033	2,177	5,210	5,088
Trawl Gear				
AFA Catcher Processor	3,506	1,200	4,706	4,763
A80 Catcher Processor	20,429		20,429	15,568
Catcher Vessel	33,692	-2,850	30,842	30,785
Jig Gear	2,134	-1,954	180	176
CDQ	18,267		18,267	14,343
TOTAL	170,220		170,220	161,527

Includes reallocations in March, April, August, September, and December

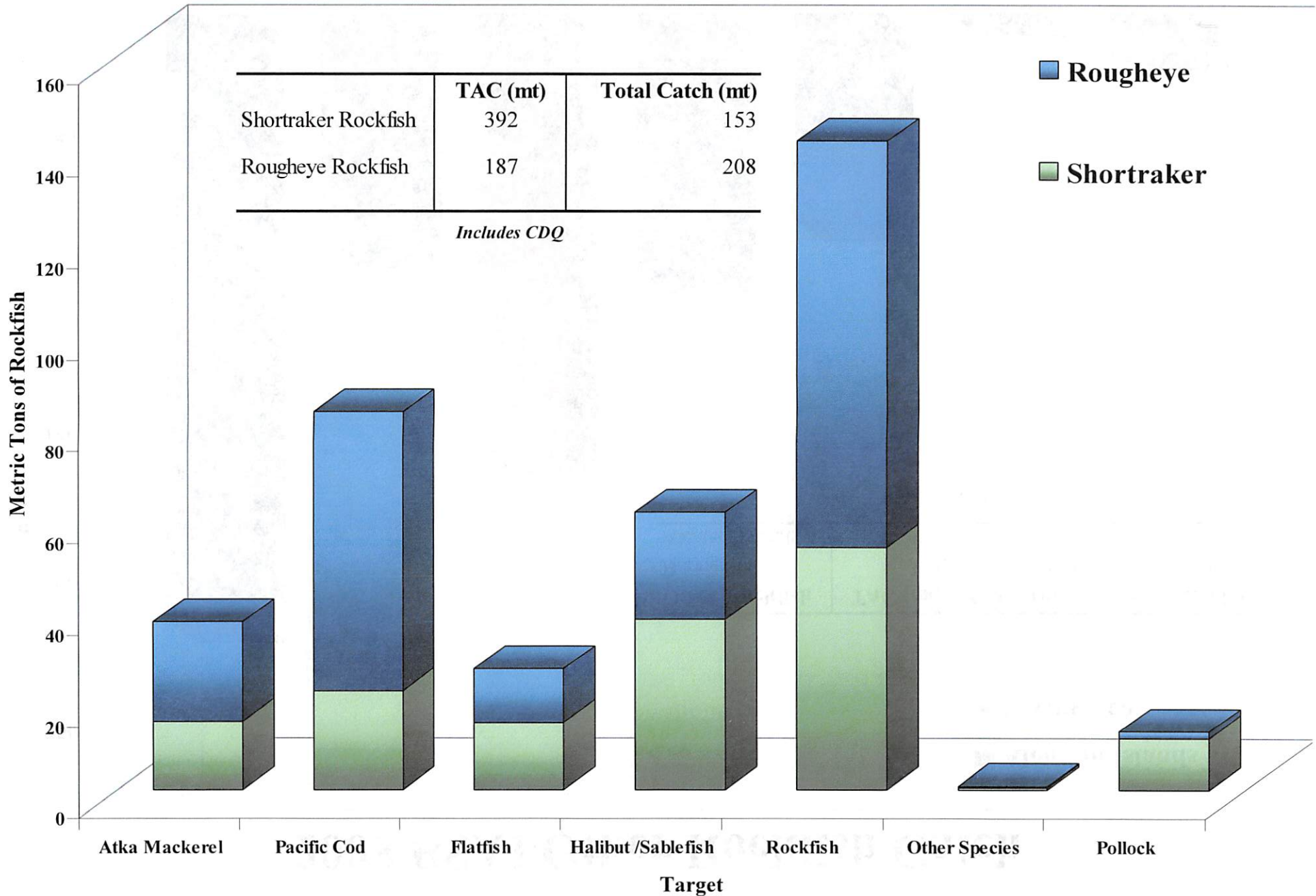
2008 Non-Trawl Pacific Cod Fishery Closures in the BSAI

Hook-and-Line	Open	Closed	Reason
Pacific Cod			
Catcher processors	1-Jan	8-Feb	TAC
	15-Aug	7-Nov	TAC
Catcher vessels < 60 ft	1-Jan	21-Mar	TAC
	30-Apr	6-May	TAC
	12-Sep	Open	
Catcher vessels >= 60 ft	1-Jan	28-Aug	TAC
Greenland Turbot (Bering Sea)	1-May	1-Aug	TAC
Pot	Open	Closed	Reason
Pacific Cod			
Catcher processor	1-Jan	20-Jan	TAC
	1-Sep	19-Sep	TAC
Catcher vessel < 60	1-Jan	21-Mar	TAC
	30-Apr	6-May	TAC
	12-Sep	Open	
Catcher vessel >= 60	1-Jan	18-Jan	TAC
	1-Sep	Open	

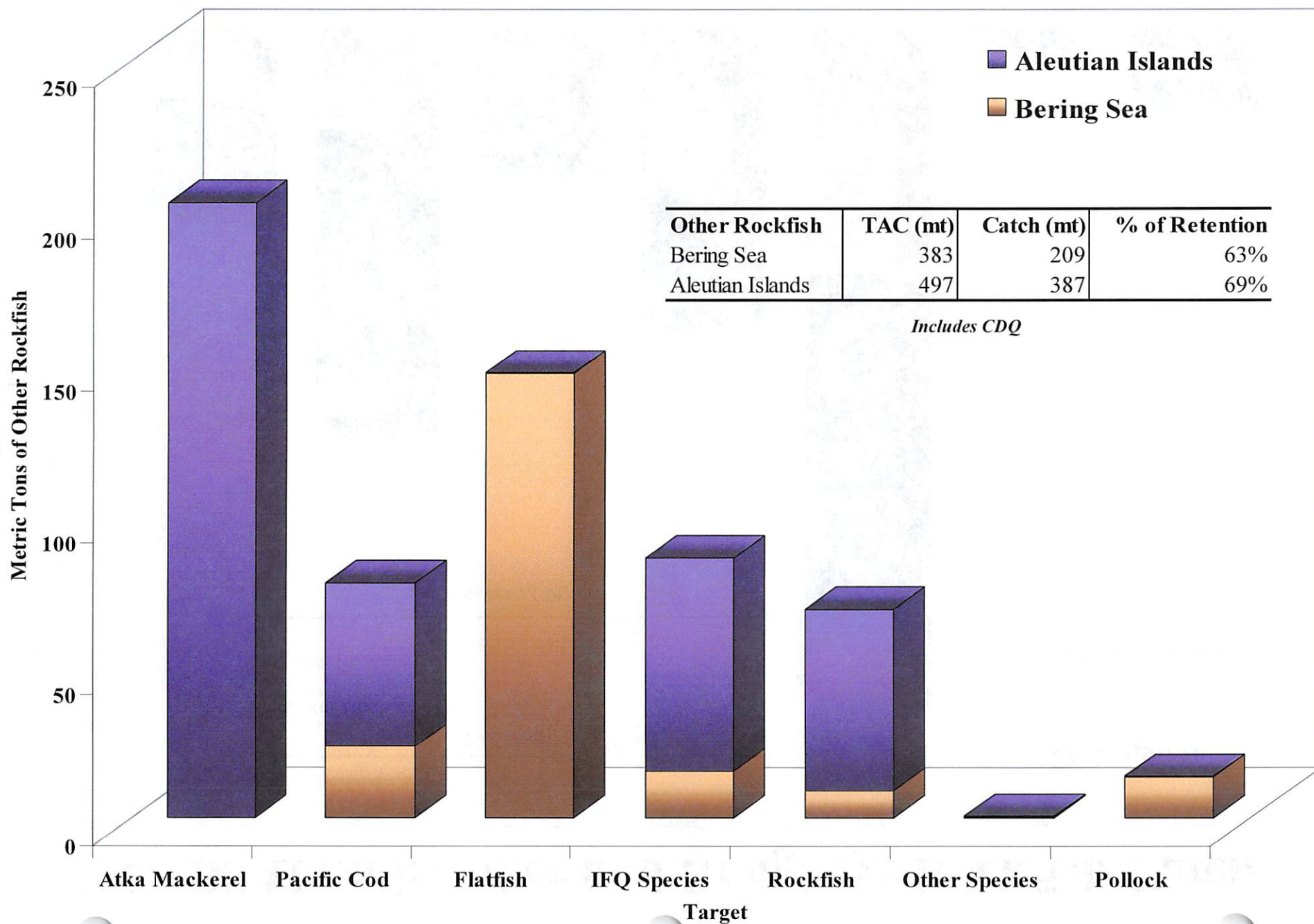
2008 Atka Mackerel Catch by Week and Area



2008 BSAI Shortraker and Roughey Rockfish Catch



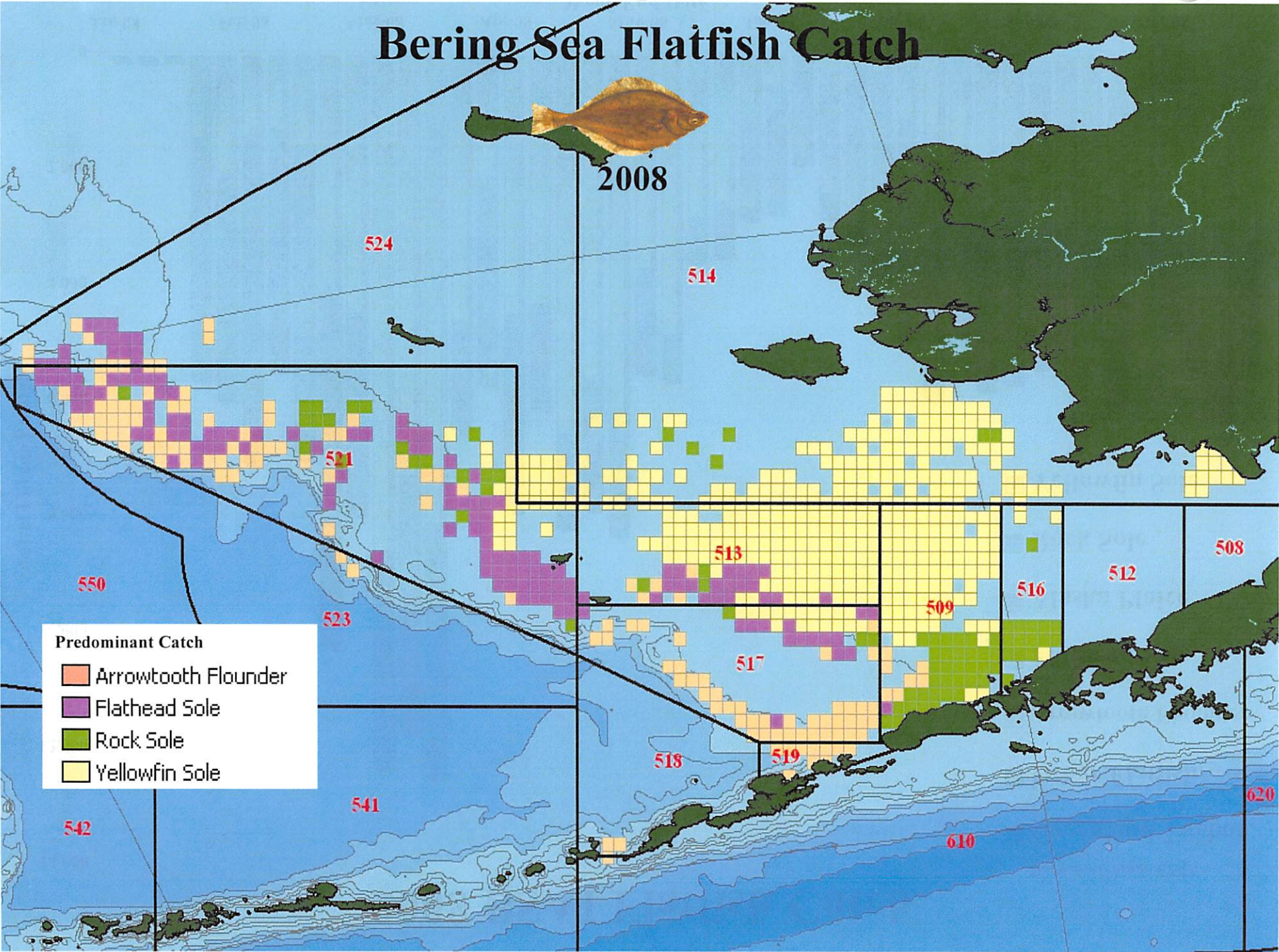
2008 BSAI Other Rockfish Catch



Bering Sea Flatfish Catch



2008



Predominant Catch

- Arrowtooth Flounder
- Flathead Sole
- Rock Sole
- Yellowfin Sole

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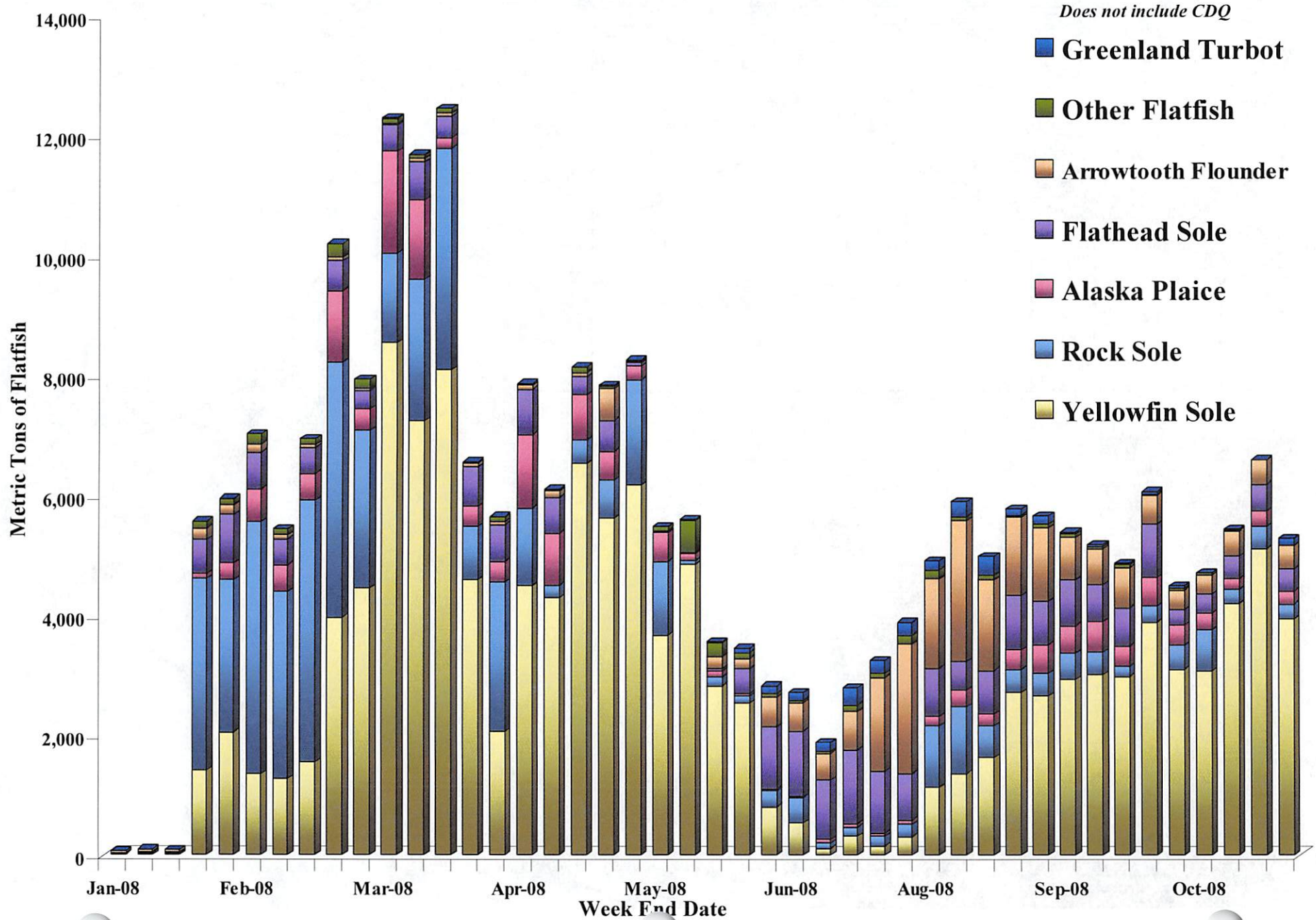
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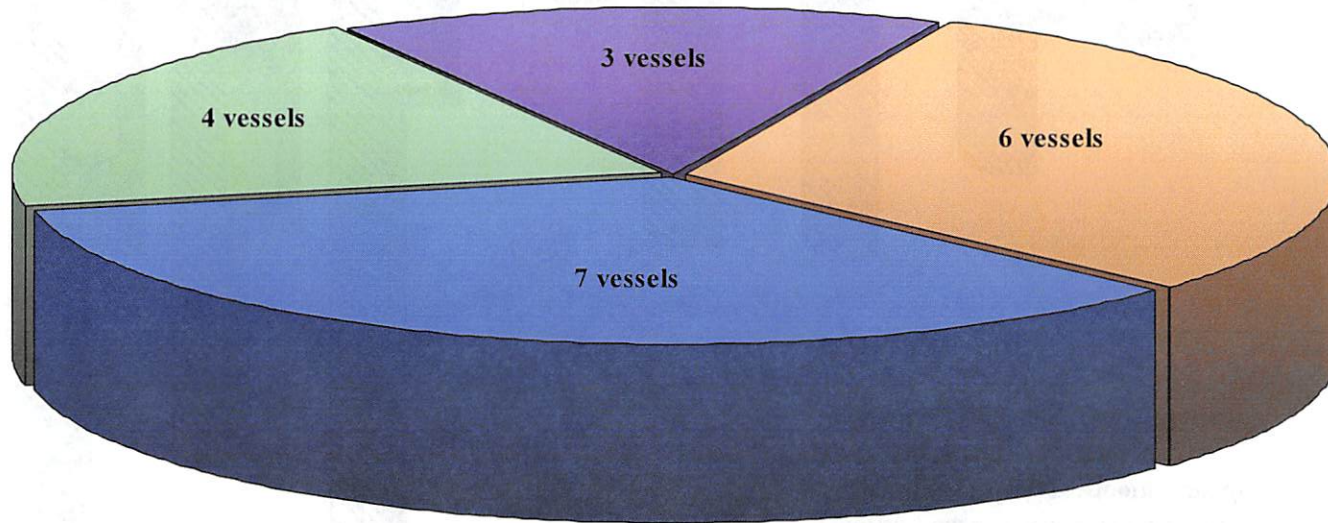
2008 BSAI Flatfish Catch



2008 Flatfish Catch in the BSAI

	TAC (mt)	Total Catch (mt)	Percentage
Arrowtooth Flounder	63,750	20,925	33%
CDQ	8,025	828	10%
Flathead Sole	44,650	24,027	54%
CDQ	5,350	464	16%
"Other Flatfish" (includes CDQ)	18,360	3,620	20%
Rock Sole	66,975	49,291	74%
CDQ	8,025	1,911	24%
Alaska Plaice (includes CDQ)	42,500	17,126	40%
Yellowfin Sole	200,925	139,403	69%
CDQ	24,075	6,713	28%

2008 Groundfish Retention by the Non-AFA Trawl CP Fleet

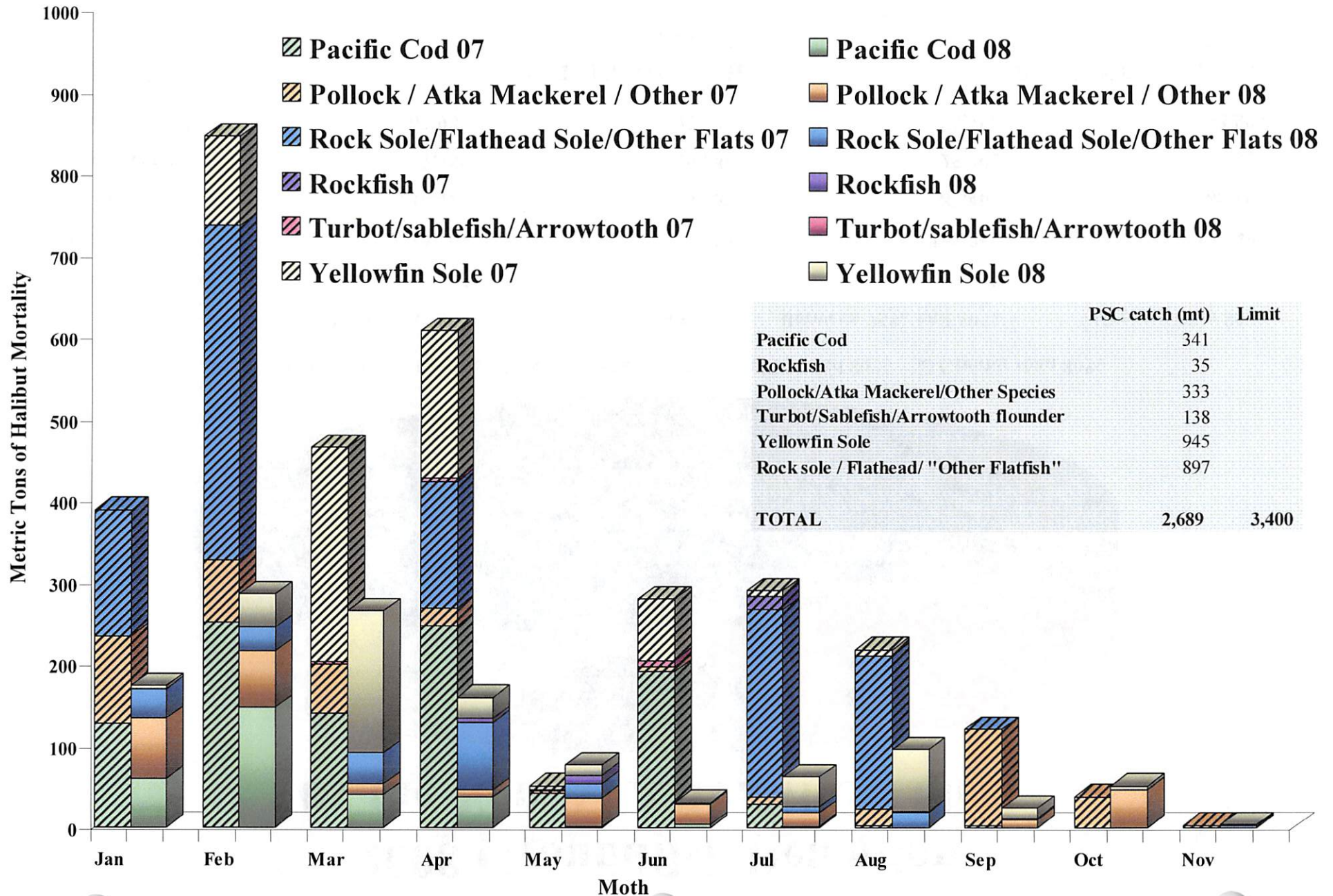


■ Less than 70%
 ■ Between 70% and 75%
 ■ Between 75% and 80%
 ■ Greater than 80%

	Less than 70%	Between 70% and 75%	Between 75% and 80%	Greater than 80%
Number of Vessels	3	6	7	4
Total catch	24,204	108,905	108,762	102,499
Retained catch	16,424	79,258	83,460	85,103
Discarded catch	7,780	29,646	25,302	17,396
Percent Retained	67.9%	72.8%	76.7%	83.0%
TOTAL CATCH	RETAINED CATCH		PERCENT RETAINED	
344,370	264,245		76.7%	

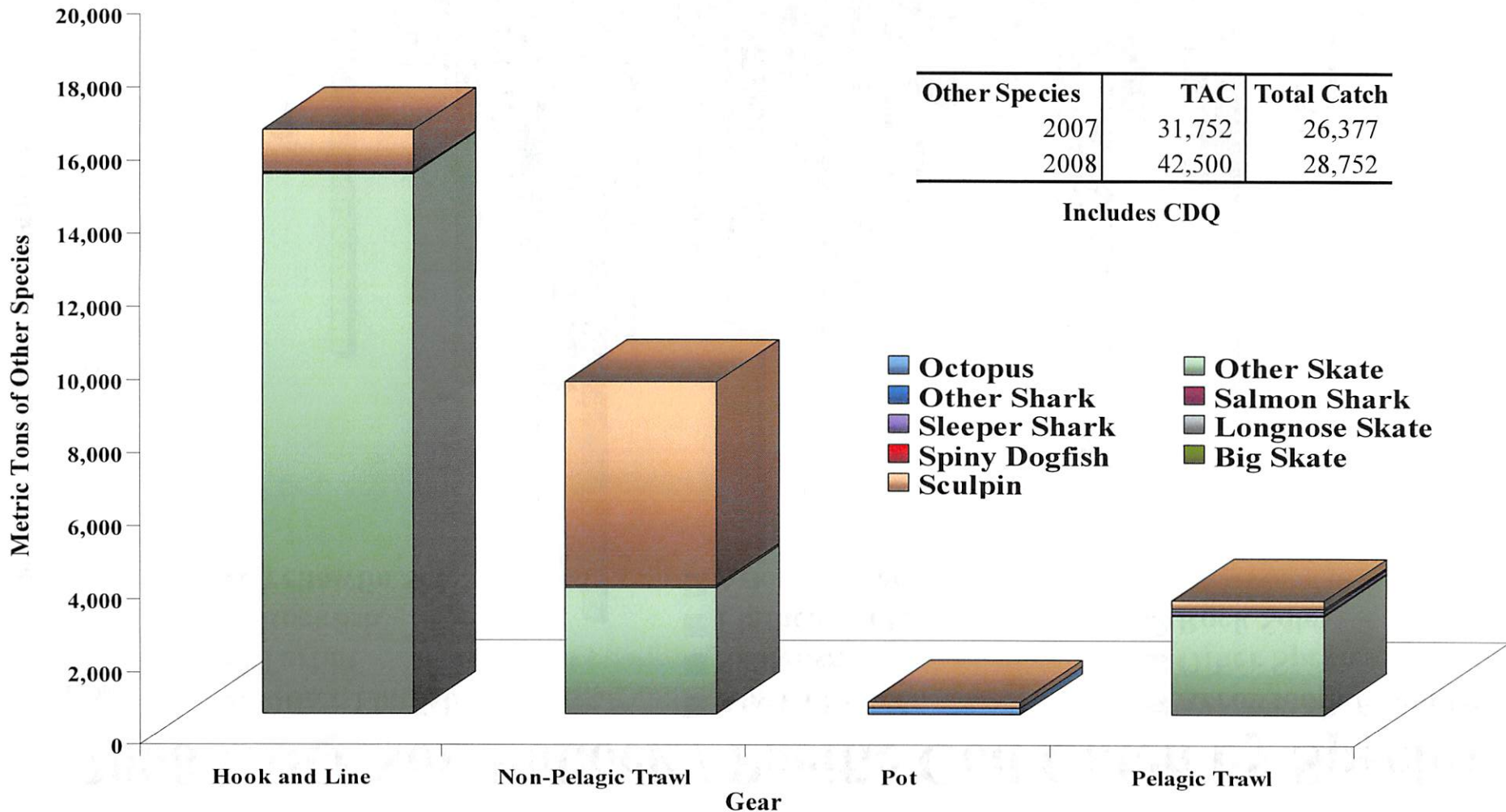
Total catch is total observed groundfish from non-AFA trawl catcher processors
Retained catch is the round weight primary products reported on weekly/daily production reports
Discarded catch is the difference between total groundfish and retained catch
All weights in metric tons

2007/2008 BSAI Trawl Halibut Mortality by Target

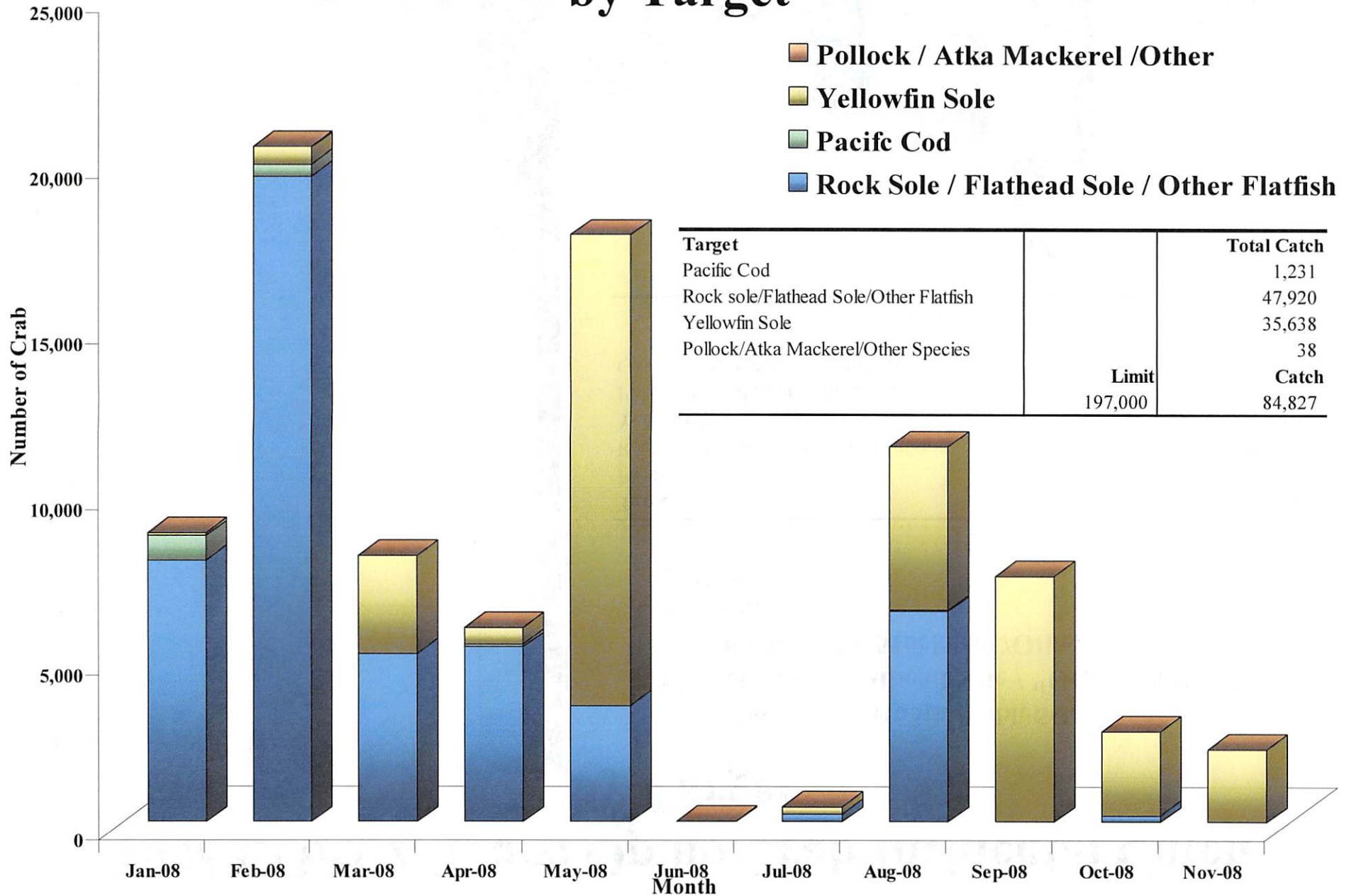


2008 BSAI Other Species by Gear

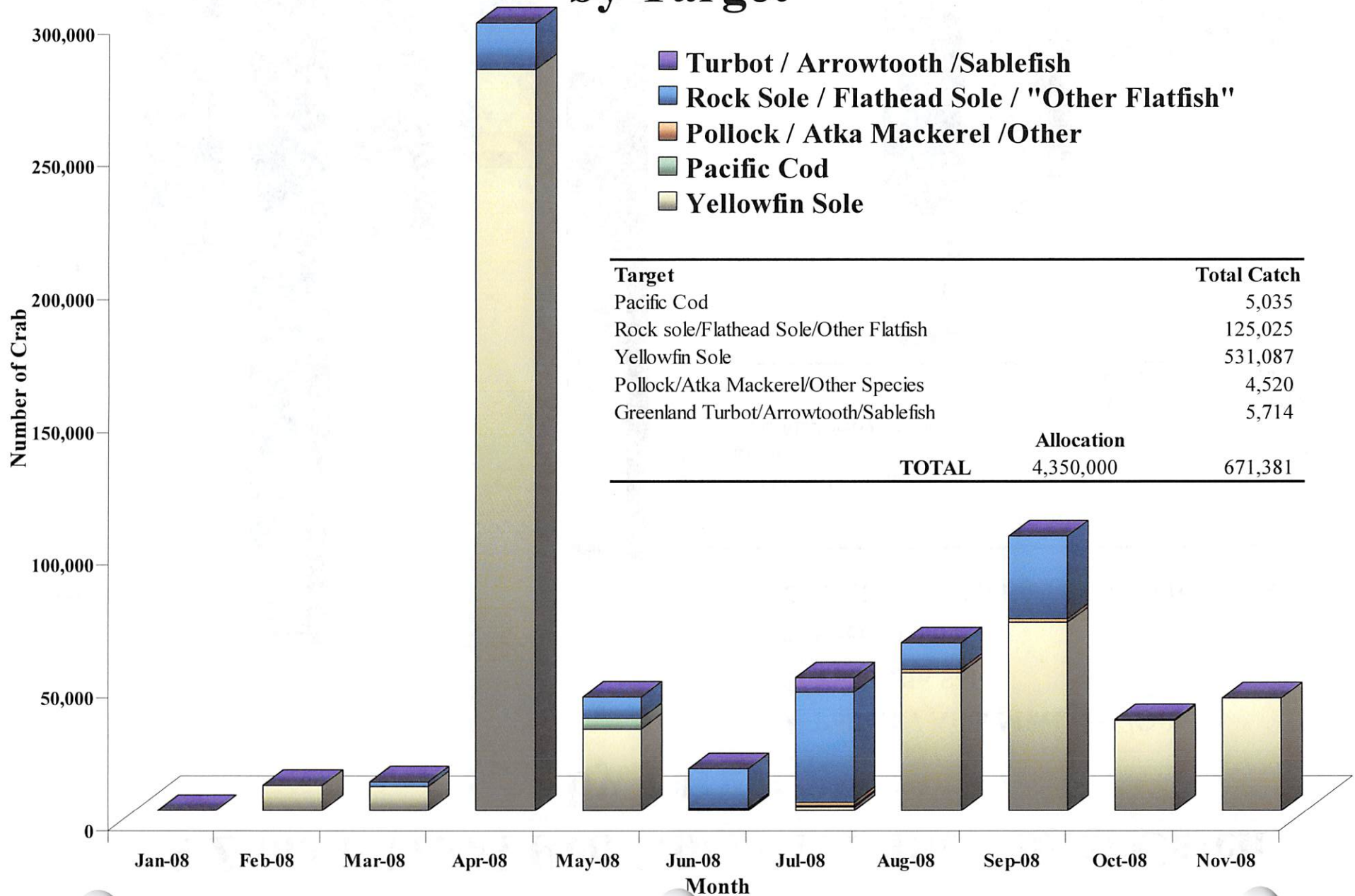
Gear	Big Skate	Longnose Skate	Other Skate	Salmon Shark	Sleeper Shark	Spiny Dogfish	Other Shark	Sculpin	Octopus
Hook and Line	24	1	14,750		14	14	1	1,169	17
Non-Pelagic Trawl	63	1	3,422	<1	9	1	<1	5,568	28
Pot			1		1			181	173
Pelagic Trawl	4	45	2,689	42	98	0	6	254	4



2008 Zone 1 Trawl Red King Crab Incidental Catch by Target



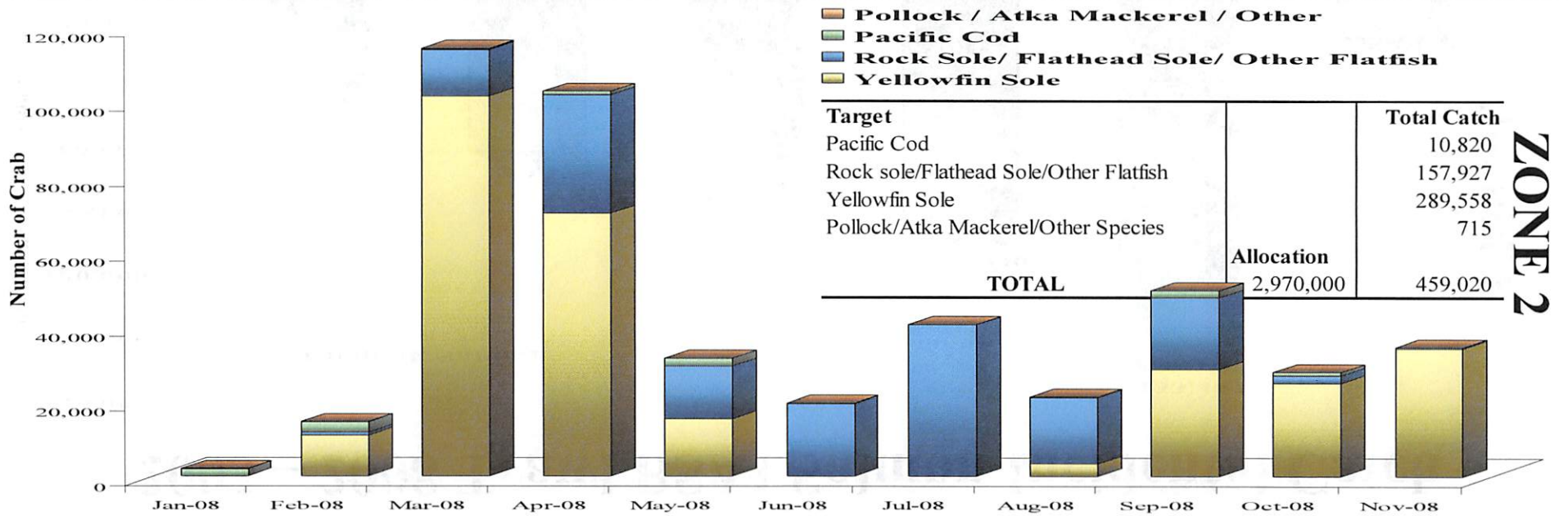
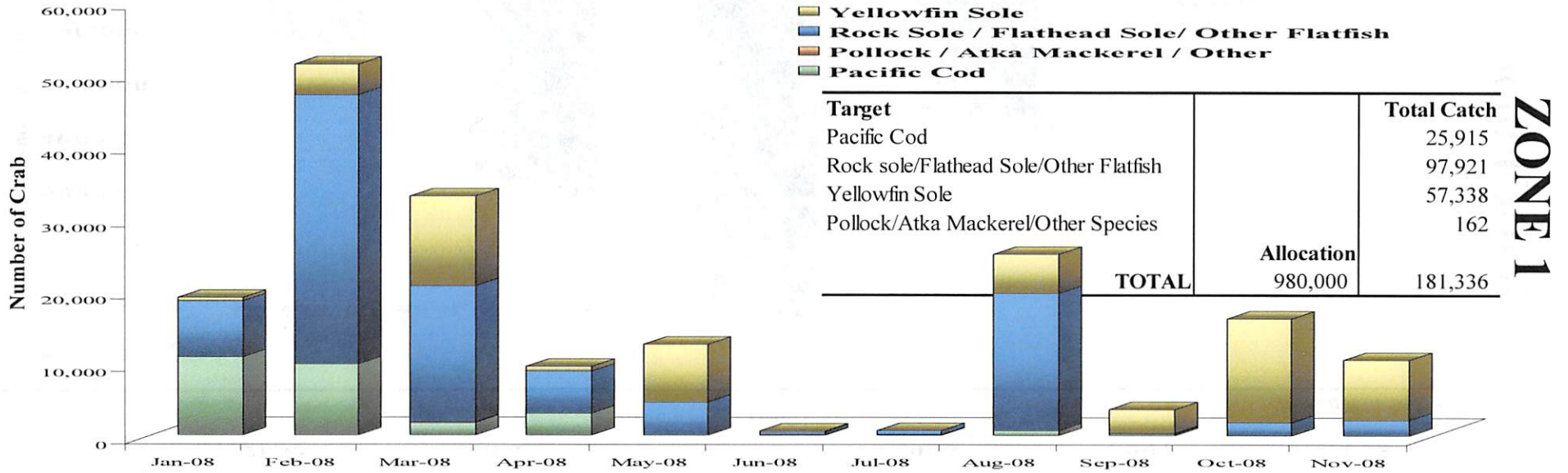
2008 COBLZ Trawl Opilio Crab Incidental Catch by Target



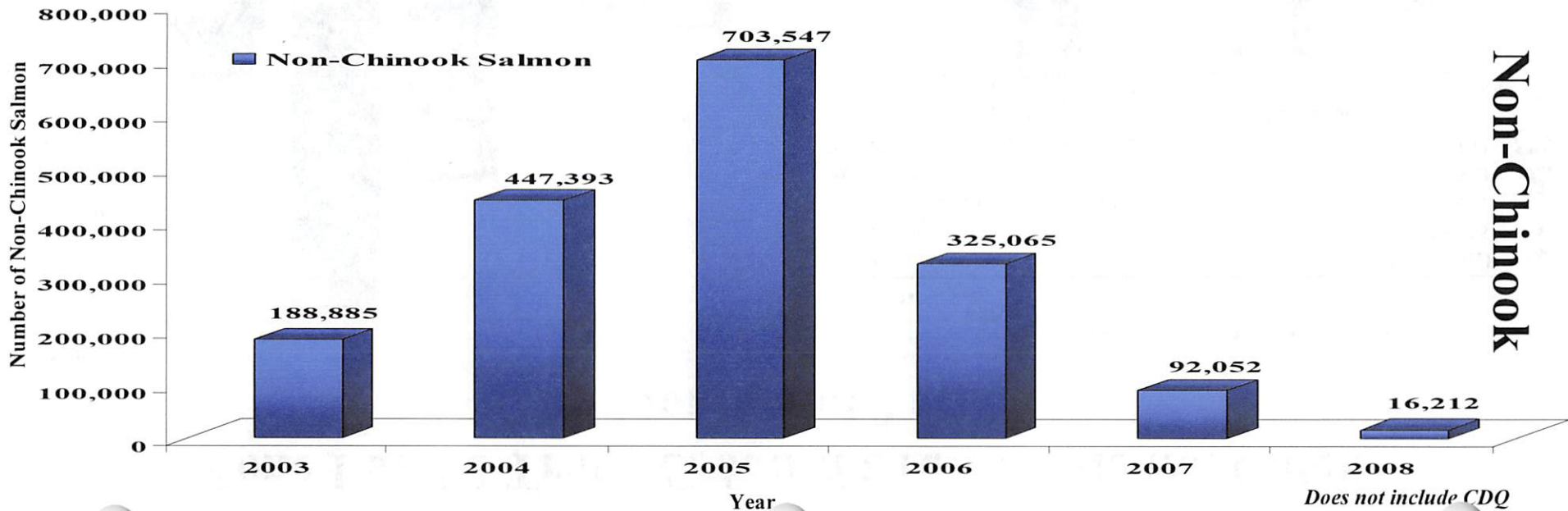
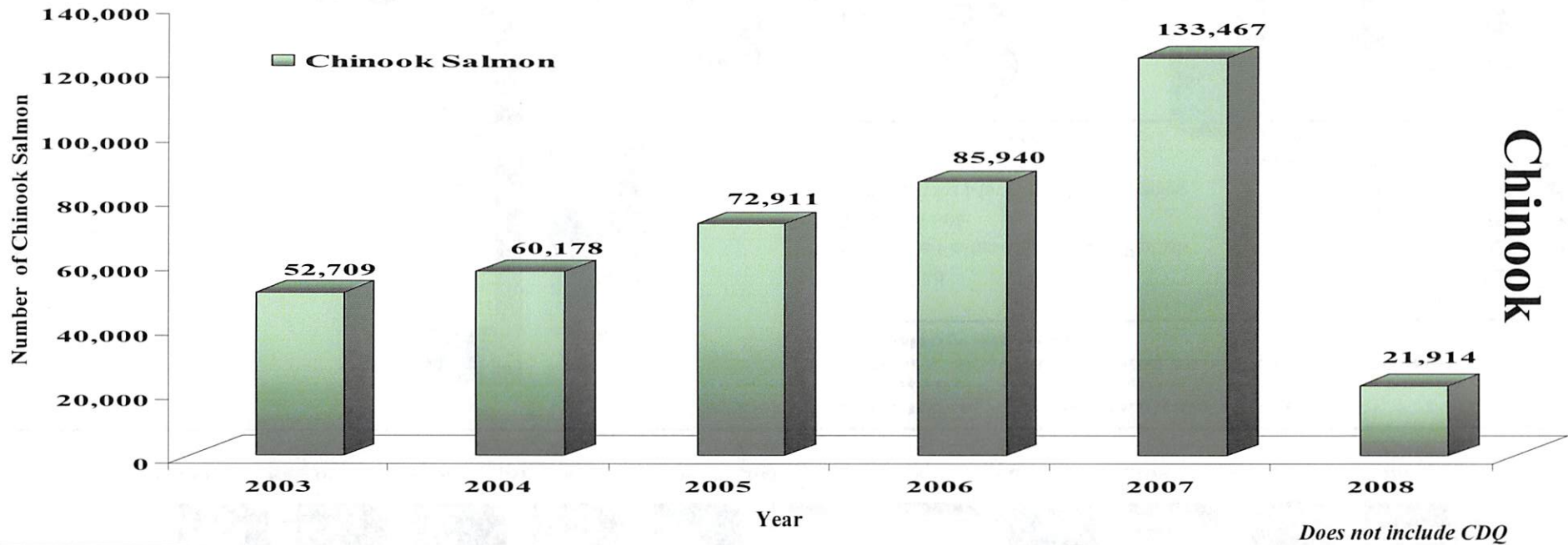
Target	Total Catch
Pacific Cod	5,035
Rock sole/Flathead Sole/Other Flatfish	125,025
Yellowfin Sole	531,087
Pollock/Atka Mackerel/Other Species	4,520
Greenland Turbot/Arrowtooth/Sablefish	5,714
TOTAL	671,381

Allocation	Total Catch
TOTAL	4,350,000

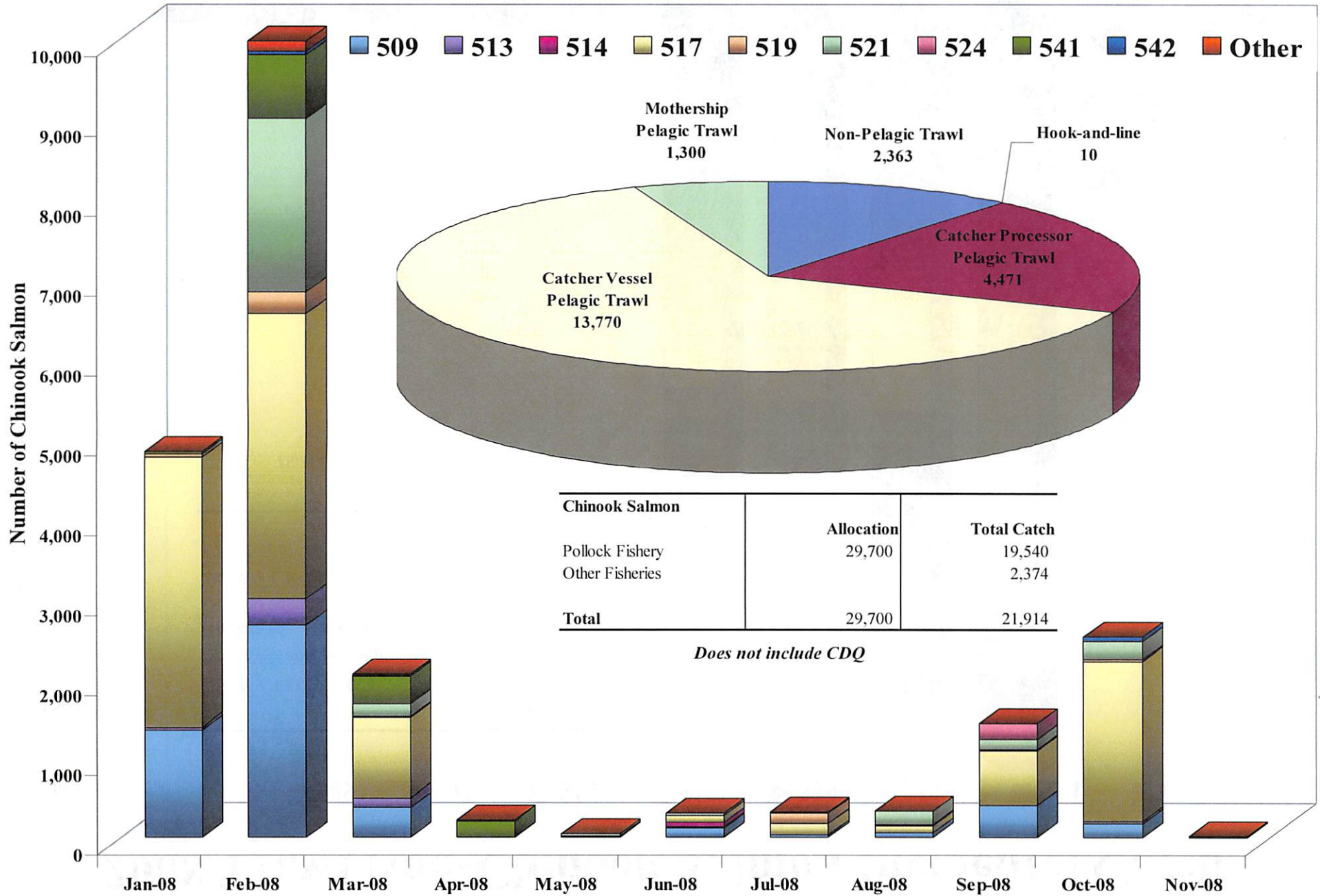
Zone 1 and 2 Trawl *C. bairdi* Crab Incidental Catch by Month and Target



2003 – 2008 Trawl BSAI Salmon Incidental Catch



2008 Trawl Chinook Salmon Incidental Catch



GOA Amendment 72 Shallow-Water Flatfish Discard Report

Fishery	2005-2007			2006-2008		
	Total Catch (mt) ¹	Shallow-water flatfish Discard (mt)	Percent Discard	Total Catch (mt) ¹	Shallow-water flatfish Discard (mt)	Percent Discard
Arrowtooth (all gears)	1,533	C	C	1,827	C	C
Deep-water flatfish ²	C	C	0.0%	C	C	0.0%
Flathead sole	C	C	0.0%	C	C	0.0%
Longline cod	2,678	5	0.2%	3,586	9	0.3%
Trawl cod	5,290	116	2.2%	6,563	333	5.1%
Jig cod	260	C	C	276	C	C
Pot cod	11,421	3	0.0%	11,266	2	0.0%
Pollock	24,865	C	C	19,594	C	C
Rex sole	C	C	0.0%	C	C	0.0%
Rockfish ³	6,303	C	C	8,017	4	0.1%
Sablefish IFQ	1,429	4	0.0%	1,569	C	C
Shallow-water flatfish ⁴	C	C	0.0%	C	C	0.0%
Other	304	C	C	353	C	C

Fishery	2005-2007			2006-2008		
	Total Catch (mt) ¹	Shallow-water flatfish Discard (mt)	Percent Discard	Total Catch (mt) ¹	Shallow-water flatfish Discard (mt)	Percent Discard
Arrowtooth (all gears)	17,580	20	0.0%	20,522	30	0.0%
Deep-water flatfish ²	C	C	0.0%	C	C	0.0%
Flathead sole	940	C	C	1,022	C	C
Longline cod	7,572	2	0.0%	8,943	3	0.0%
Trawl cod	7,421	46	0.6%	9,590	61	0.6%
Jig cod	1,162	C	C	722	C	C
Pot cod	13,094	2	0.0%	12,970	2	0.0%
Pollock	44,415	16	0.0%	38,856	20	0.1%
Rex sole	C	C	0.0%	C	C	0.0%
Rockfish ³	16,256	17	0.1%	14,776	9	0.1%
Sablefish IFQ	4,000	C	C	3,932	C	C
Shallow-water flatfish ⁴	11,127	261	2.3%	12,803	261	2.0%
Other	1,549	C	C	1,775	1	0.0%

¹ Catch is equal to catch of total groundfish in the target fishery

² Deep-water flatfish: Dover sole, Greenland turbot, and deep-sea sole

³ Includes Pacific ocean perch, Pelagic Shelf rockfish, and northern rockfish

⁴ Shallow water flatfish: Flatfish not including deep water flatfish, flathead sole, rex sole, or arrowtooth flounder

Note: Shallow-water flatfish discards by target fishery in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska cannot be included because the number of vessels in each target fishery is less than 4 so the catch data is confidential.

Eastern Gulf of Alaska (GOA) discards of shallow-water flatfish are 0.4 percent of total Eastern GOA Groundfish catches.

GOA Amendment 72 Shallow-Water Flatfish Discard Report

Table 3. Catch of Groundfish and Discards of Shallow-Water Flatfish by Target Fishery in the Western GOA, 2005 to 2008

Fishery	2005			2006			2007			2008		
	Total Catch (mt) ¹	Shallow-water flatfish Discard (mt)	Percent Discard	Total Catch (mt) ¹	Shallow-water flatfish Discard (mt)	Percent Discard	Total Catch (mt) ¹	Shallow-water flatfish Discard (mt)	Percent Discard	Total Catch (mt) ¹	Shallow-water flatfish Discard (mt)	Percent Discard
Arrowtooth (all gears)	1,248	1	0.1%	1,033	C	C	2,318	4	0.2%	2,130	2	0.1%
Deep-water flatfish ²	C	C	0.0%	C	C	0.0%	C	C	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
Flathead sole	1,825	C	C	0	0	0.0%	1,040	C	C	C	C	C
Longline cod	1,066	1	0.1%	3,233	6	0.2%	3,736	9	0.2%	3,788	13	0.4%
Trawl cod	4,402	37	0.8%	6,239	130	2.1%	5,228	183	3.5%	8,221	685	8.3%
Jig cod	620	C	C	45	C	C	117	C	C	666	C	C
Pot cod	11,822	2	0.0%	11,550	4	0.0%	10,892	2	0.0%	11,356	0	0.0%
Pollock	31,282	1	0.0%	25,009	0	0.0%	18,304	C	C	15,468	0	C
Rex sole	C	C	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	C	C	0.0%	C	C	0.0%
Rockfish ³	3,795	C	C	6,748	3	0.1%	8,365	6	0.0%	8,938	3	0.0%
Sablefish IFQ	1,128	0	0.0%	1,503	0	0.0%	1,656	12	0.0%	1,548	0	0.0%
Shallow-water flatfish ⁴	C	C	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	C	C	0.0%	C	C	0.0%
Other	283	C	0.0%	326	C	C	303	0	0.0%	428	1	0.1%

Table 4. Catch of Groundfish and Discards of Shallow-Water Flatfish by Target Fishery in the Central GOA, 2005 to 2008

Fishery	2005			2006			2007			2008		
	Total Catch (mt) ¹	Shallow-water flatfish Discard (mt)	Percent Discard	Total Catch (mt) ¹	Shallow-water flatfish Discard (mt)	Percent Discard	Total Catch (mt) ¹	Shallow-water flatfish Discard (mt)	Percent Discard	Total Catch (mt) ¹	Shallow-water flatfish Discard (mt)	Percent Discard
Arrowtooth (all gears)	13,908	10	0.1%	20,328	33	0.2%	18,505	17	0.1%	22,733	41	0.2%
Deep-water flatfish ²	153	0	0.0%	C	C	0.0%	C	C	0.0%	C	C	0.0%
Flathead sole	1,233	C	C	1,037	C	C	551	C	C	1,477	C	C
Longline cod	5,062	0	0.0%	8,576	4	0.0%	9,077	2	0.0%	9,176	2	0.0%
Trawl cod	8,080	46	0.6%	5,285	18	0.3%	8,897	75	0.8%	14,587	89	0.6%
Jig cod	2,259	C	C	719	C	C	508	C	C	938	C	C
Pot cod	12,885	1	0.0%	12,479	1	0.0%	13,919	5	0.0%	12,513	1	0.0%
Pollock	49,956	0	0.0%	48,335	8	0.0%	34,953	40	0.1%	33,280	13	0.0%
Rex sole	2,849	C	C	6,883	C	C	C	C	0.0%	4,529	1	0.0%
Rockfish ³	18,075	23	0.1%	16,938	27	0.2%	13,754	0	0.0%	13,637	1	0.0%
Sablefish IFQ	4,044	0	0.0%	4,189	0	0.0%	3,767	C	C	3,840	3	0.1%
Shallow-water flatfish ⁴	7,963	240	3.0%	11,079	220	2.0%	14,340	323	2.3%	12,991	240	1.9%
Other	1,007	C	C	1,866	0	0.0%	1,774	0	0.0%	1,686	1	0.1%

¹ Catch is equal to catch of total groundfish in the target fishery

² Deep-water flatfish: Dover sole, Greenland turbot, and deep-sea sole

³ Includes Pacific ocean perch, Pelagic Shelf rockfish, and northern rockfish

⁴ Shallow water flatfish: Flatfish not including deep water flatfish, flathead sole, rex sole, or arrowtooth flounder

Note: Shallow-water flatfish discards by target fishery in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska cannot be included because the number of vessels in each target fishery is less than 4 so the catch data is confidential.

Eastern Gulf of Alaska discards of shallow-water flatfish are 0.4 percent of shallow-water flatfish catches in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

B-2 Supple.
December
2008

October 20, 2008

Eric Olson, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Olson:

The national regulations implementing the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act specify that Fishery Management Councils and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) should conduct a complete review of all EFH information in Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) at least once every five years (50 CFR 600.815 (a)(10)). The most recent review for North Pacific Fishery Management Council FMPs was completed via the 2005 EFH Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which resulted in FMP amendments that updated the original 1999 EFH provisions. NMFS and the Council should complete another review of the EFH information in Council FMPs by 2010.

NMFS staff have begun thinking about ways NMFS and the Council can conduct an efficient review of the EFH information to see if any changes are warranted. Although some new scientific information exists, we are not expecting major changes or a huge effort as was necessary for the 2005 EIS. However, a small team is needed to assess whether any new information warrants revising the EFH section of the FMPs. If no changes are warranted we would document that for the record. If changes are appropriate NMFS would propose revisions to the Council for consideration. Our preliminary internal discussions suggest that some minor revisions may be appropriate. Importantly, the review may also suggest new descriptive analytical approaches or concepts for future application.

Enclosed is a draft approach for proceeding with a review of the EFH components of Council FMPs. Our intent in proposing this approach is to facilitate good coordination and ensure the Council's FMPs continue to incorporate the most recent scientific information available. The approach includes comparing existing EFH descriptions and supporting data to any new species or habitat information contained within recent Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation reports or other related investigations. The proposed review is also consistent with the Council's recently adopted Five Year Research Priorities, which call for furthering knowledge of federally managed fish and their habitats.

We recommend forming a staff team from the NMFS Regional Office, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, and Council staff to initiate the review process early in 2009 with a goal of identifying any appropriate revisions to the EFH information for Plan Team review by late 2009 and Council review by early 2010. Please review the enclosed draft and let us know if you have any suggestions for our proposed approach. We would be pleased to present this approach and



answer questions at the December Council meeting if you like. Again, our goal is to complete this EFH review as efficiently as possible while minimizing staff burdens and workload conflicts.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Mecum
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

Enclosure

**Review and Revision of EFH Components
Within Fishery Management Plans (FMPs)
DRAFT 9/5/08**

This document proposes an approach for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to undertake a review of the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) components of Council FMPs and determine whether any revisions are warranted.

Background

The national regulations implementing the EFH provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act detail the mandatory contents of FMPs and specify that a complete review of all EFH information should be conducted at least once every 5 years. To ensure NMFS and the Council meet this condition, a review of EFH information is needed in 2010 (Table 1. Timeline). The most recent review was completed in 2005 (EFH FEIS) and updated the original EFH components of Council FMPs (EFH EA 1999).

50 CFR 600.815 (a)(10)

Councils and NMFS should periodically review the EFH provisions of FMPs and revise or amend EFH provisions as warranted based on available information. FMPs should outline the procedures the Council will follow to review and update EFH information. The review of information should include, but not be limited to, evaluating published scientific literature and unpublished scientific reports; soliciting information from interested parties; and searching for previously unavailable or inaccessible data. Councils should report on their review of EFH information as part of the Annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report prepared pursuant to § 600.315(e). A complete review of all EFH information should be conducted as recommended by the Secretary, but at least once every 5 years.

The regulations state that Councils should review EFH information within annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Reports. SAFEs for Council managed species compile the most recent scientific assessment and research strategies for groundfish, crab, salmon, scallop, forage fish, and marine habitats. Importantly, this scientific information and catch data by species are the basis for EFH descriptions.

Proposed Approach

Existing EFH descriptions and Habitat Assessment Reports (EFH EIS Appendix F) will be the baseline for comparison against any new information from recent SAFEs or other appropriate sources. Should new information address an unknown or add to the existing EFH description, a new EFH description will be prepared and undergo review by stock assessment authors. Plan Teams will then have an opportunity to comment and provide feedback before any potential revisions proceed to the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Advisory Panel (AP) for discussion. Finally, the Council will recommend any changes or appropriate action.

Additionally, new technologies or concepts to describe EFH may come out of this process. For example, Pacific salmon EFH descriptions are very broad (from freshwater areas to the 200nm EEZ limit). In 2008, NMFS Headquarters offered a regionally competitive proposal process to address unknowns and ways to refine the EFH descriptions. The NMFS Alaska Region and Alaska Fisheries Science Center proposed a way to try to refine EFH for Pacific Salmon. Although the proposal was not funded, an excellent refinement strategy was drafted. It is possible that this concept, and perhaps others, could be further developed.

Finally, the review would examine the Evaluation of the Effects of Fishing on EFH (EFH EIS Appendix B) to assess whether any substantial new information should be included to update the model that was used to assess the effects of fishing on EFH or the analysis that considered whether fish stocks show any evidence of adverse effects caused by fishing. Any potential revisions would be reviewed by the SSC, AP, and Council.

Expectations

NMFS anticipates that a review of the EFH components of Council FMPs will not reveal a need for any substantial changes because 1) the comprehensive 2005 EFH FEIS updated EFH information through an analytical descriptive approach across all FMPs (BSAI & GOA Groundfish, BSAI Crab, Scallop, Salmon); 2) stock conditions have not changed dramatically within the past five years; 3) existing EFH descriptions account for some ecological variability under most environmental conditions. Thus, the 2010 5-year review will likely fill in small information gaps or allow for minimal refinements of EFH. As part of the process, it is hoped that new EFH descriptive concepts surface for future application.

Draft Plan

- I. Initial contact between NPFMC, NMFS, and ADFG to identify primary staff, including stock assessment authors by plan or species expertise (Table 2).
- II. Primary staff compile EFH sections of SAFE reports to evaluate existing EFH information.
 - a. Determine if most recent information could change EFH descriptions by life history stage;
 - b. Identify information gaps and unknowns; for any gaps discuss conceptual approaches that could be further developed should information become available;
 - c. Identify whether any substantial new information is available to include in the model of the effects of fishing on EFH;
 - d. Identify whether any substantial new information is available to augment the EFH EIS analysis of whether fish stocks show any evidence of adverse effects caused by fishing.
- III. If substantial new information is available, then:
 - a. New EFH description(s) prepared for stock expert review.
 - b. Update analysis of the effects of fishing on EFH if warranted
 - c. Plan Team review and feedback
 - d. SSC and AP review and feedback
 - e. Council review and decisions
 - f. Document rationale behind any revisions or conclusions that no revisions are warranted.
- IV. FMPs updated with new EFH information as appropriate.

Table 1. Timeline

2008	Early Coordination between NMFS and NPFMC Finalize Review Plan Initial SAFE review(s)
2009	Assess information gaps and new information. Stock Expert Review Plan Team Feedback
2010	SSC, AP, and Council review Final Council decision Implement any changes through FMP amendment.

Table 2. Primary Contacts

Name	Agency	Title	Phone	Email
Diana Evans	NPFMC	Plan Coordinator	907.271.1283	diana.evans@noaa.gov
Matthew Eagleton	NMFS / HCD	EFH Coordinator	907.271.6354	matthew.eagleton@noaa.gov
Mike Sigler	NMFS / AFSC	HEPR Program Leader	206.789.6094	mike.sigler@noaa.gov
Dan Ito	NMFS / AFSC	Deputy Division Chief, REFM	206.526.4232	dan.ito@noaa.gov
Sandra Lowe	NMFS / AFSC	Fishery Biologist	206.526.4230	sandra.lowe@noaa.gov
Craig Rose	NMFS / AFSC	Fishery Biologist	206.526.4128	craig.rose@noaa.gov
Doug Woodby	ADFG	Commercial Fisheries Division	907.465.6115	doug.woodby@alaska.gov
		GOA Groundfish Stock Expert	206.526.????	
		BSAI Groundfish Stock Expert	206.526.????	
		BSAI Crab Expert	907.486	
		Scallop Expert	907.	
		Pacific Salmon Expert	907.789	

**Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Prohibited Species Report
(includes CDQ fisheries)**

Through: 29-NOV-08

**National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting**



Chinook Salmon

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	BS Pollock (Pelagic)	Count	19,545	26,825	7,280	73%	0
	BS Chinook Salmon PSQ	Count	640	2,175	1,535	29%	0
	AI Pollock (Pelagic)	Count	66	647	581	10%	0
	AI Chinook Salmon PSQ	Count	0	53	53	0%	0
Total:			20,251	29,700	9,449	68%	0

Halibut Mortality

Non-Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Halibut Mortality (Non-Trawl)	MT	713	833	120	86%	0
Total:			713	833	120	86%	0

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Halibut Mortality (Trawl)	MT	2,697	3,400	703	79%	17
Total:			2,697	3,400	703	79%	17

Trawl and Hook-and-Line Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Halibut Mortality PSQ	MT	193	342	149	56%	24
Total:			193	342	149	56%	24

Herring (includes CDQ fisheries)

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Pacific Cod	MT	0	26	26	2%	0
	Rockfish	MT	0	9	9	0%	0
	Rock Sole, Flathead Sole, Other Flatfish	MT	2	26	24	7%	0
	Pollock, Atka Mackerel, Other Species	MT	3	187	184	2%	0
	Pollock Pelagic	MT	127	1,318	1,191	10%	0
	Yellowfin Sole	MT	84	148	64	56%	0
	Greenland Turbot, Arrowtooth, Sablefish	MT	2	12	10	17%	0
Total:			218	1,726	1,508	13%	0

Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Prohibited Species Report
(includes CDQ fisheries)

Through: 29-NOV-08

National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting



Opilio (Tanner) Crab - COBLZ

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Opilio Crab PSQ	Count	10,925	465,450	454,525	2%	1,248
	Opilio Crab	Count	666,967	3,884,550	3,217,583	17%	403
Total:			677,892	4,350,000	3,672,108	16%	1,651

Bairdi Crab, Zone 1

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Bairdi Crab PSQ	Count	3,581	104,860	101,279	3%	138
	Bairdi Crab	Count	180,356	875,140	694,784	21%	1,704
Total:			183,937	980,000	796,063	19%	1,842

Bairdi Crab, Zone 2

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Bairdi Crab PSQ	Count	9,389	317,790	308,401	3%	1,828
	Bairdi Crab	Count	455,970	2,652,210	2,196,240	17%	828
Total:			465,359	2,970,000	2,504,641	16%	2,656

Red King Crab, Zone 1

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Red King Crab PSQ	Count	2,628	21,079	18,451	12%	0
	Red King Crab	Count	82,755	175,921	93,166	47%	353
Total:			85,383	197,000	111,617	43%	353

"Other flatfish" for PSC monitoring: all flatfish species, except for Pacific halibut (a prohibited species), flathead sole, Greenland turbot, rock sole, yellowfin sole, arrowtooth flounder.

COBLZ: C. Opilio Crab Bycatch Limitation Zone. 50 CFR 679.21(e) and Figure 13.

Zone 1: Federal Reporting Areas 508, 509, 512, 516.

Zone 2: Federal Reporting Areas 513, 517, 521.

Data is based on observer reports extrapolated to total groundfish harvest. Estimates for all weeks may change due to incorporation of late or corrected data.

Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Catch Report
(includes CDQ)
Through: 29-NOV-08

National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting



Bering Sea

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Other Rockfish (includes CDQ)	210	383	173	55%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch (includes CDQ)	513	3,570	3,057	14%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	696	1,144	448	61%	0
	Sablefish CDQ (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	240	286	46	84%	0
	Sablefish (Trawl)	160	1,216	1,056	13%	0
	Sablefish CDQ (Trawl)	23	107	84	22%	0
	Greenland Turbot	1,804	1,563	-241	115%	0
	Greenland Turbot CDQ	111	187	76	59%	0
X	Pollock, AFA Inshore	427,759	434,250	6,491	99%	0
X	Pollock, AFA Catcher Processor	345,757	347,400	1,643	100%	0
X	Pollock, AFA Mothership	86,832	86,850	18	100%	0
X	Pollock CDQ	99,959	100,000	41	100%	0
	Pollock, Incidental Catch, non-Bogoslof (includes CDQ)	30,056	31,500	1,444	95%	216
	Pollock, Incidental Catch, Bogoslof (includes CDQ)	9	10	1	93%	0

Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Catch Report
(includes CDQ)
Through: 29-NOV-08

National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting



Aleutian Islands

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Other Rockfish (includes CDQ)	388	497	109	78%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Eastern	4,253	4,376	123	97%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Eastern CDQ	445	524	79	85%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Central	4,358	4,456	98	98%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Central CDQ	450	534	84	84%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Western	6,653	6,796	143	98%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch, Western CDQ	764	814	50	94%	0
	Atka Mackerel, Eastern ICA	43	100	57	43%	0
	Atka Mackerel, Eastern (Jig)	0	80	80	0%	0
X	Atka Mackerel, Eastern (Trawl)	17,128	17,233	105	99%	0
	Atka Mackerel, Eastern CDQ	2,017	2,087	70	97%	0
X	Atka Mackerel, Central (Trawl)	19,749	21,690	1,941	91%	0
	Atka Mackerel, Central ICA	25	10	-15	249%	0
	Atka Mackerel, Central CDQ	2,555	2,600	45	98%	0
X	Atka Mackerel, Western (Trawl)	14,895	15,082	187	99%	0
	Atka Mackerel, Western ICA	16	10	-6	157%	0
	Atka Mackerel, Western CDQ	1,732	1,808	76	96%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	686	1,464	778	47%	0
	Sablefish CDQ (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	131	366	235	36%	0
	Sablefish (Trawl)	73	519	446	14%	0
	Sablefish CDQ (Trawl)	2	46	44	5%	0
	Greenland Turbot (includes CDQ)	822	672	-150	122%	0
X	Pollock	392	15,500	15,108	3%	0
X	Pollock CDQ	0	1,900	1,900	0%	0
X	Pollock, Incidental Catch (includes CDQ)	887	1,600	713	55%	0

Note: All weights are in metric tons.

Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Catch Report
(includes CDQ)
Through: 29-NOV-08

National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting



Bering Sea Aleutian Islands

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Alaska Plaice (includes CDQ)	17,171	42,500	25,329	40%	42
	Arrowtooth Flounder	20,945	63,750	42,805	33%	28
	Arrowtooth Flounder CDQ	870	8,025	7,155	11%	42
	Flathead Sole	24,028	44,650	20,622	54%	14
	Flathead Sole CDQ	493	5,350	4,857	9%	29
	Northern Rockfish (includes CDQ)	3,291	7,567	4,276	43%	0
	Other Flatfish (includes CDQ)	3,619	18,360	14,741	20%	0
	Other Species (includes CDQ)	28,921	42,500	13,579	68%	137
X	Pacific Cod, Catcher Processor (AFA)	4,763	4,706	-57	101%	0
X	Pacific Cod, Catcher Processor (Amendment 80)	15,725	20,429	4,704	77%	38
X	Pacific Cod, Catcher Vessel (Trawl)	30,815	30,842	27	100%	8
X	Pacific Cod, Catcher Processor (Hook-and-Line)	76,530	76,074	-456	101%	0
X	Pacific Cod, Catcher Vessel (Hook-and-Line >= 60 ft)	8	0	-8	0%	0
X	Pacific Cod, Catcher Processor (Pot)	3,089	3,089	0	100%	0
X	Pacific Cod, Catcher Vessel (Pot >= 60 ft)	11,357	11,422	65	99%	0
X	Pacific Cod (Jig)	176	180	4	98%	0
X	Pacific Cod (Hook-and-Line and Pot < 60 ft)	5,088	5,210	122	98%	0
X	Pacific Cod, Incidental Catch (Hook-and-Line and Pot)	490	500	10	98%	0
X	Pacific Cod CDQ	15,292	18,267	2,975	84%	436
	Rock Sole	49,340	66,975	17,635	74%	52
	Rock Sole CDQ	1,916	8,025	6,109	24%	5
	Rougeye Rockfish (includes CDQ)	208	187	-21	111%	0
	Shortraker Rockfish (includes CDQ)	154	392	238	39%	0
	Squid (includes CDQ)	1,542	1,675	133	92%	0
	Yellowfin Sole	140,276	200,925	60,649	70%	858
	Yellowfin Sole CDQ	7,463	24,075	16,612	31%	751
Total:		1,536,164	1,814,905	278,741	85%	2,657

Other flatfish: all flatfish species, except for Pacific halibut, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, rock sole, yellowfin sole, arrowtooth flounder, and Alaska plaice.

Other rockfish: all Sebastes and Sebastolobus species except for Pacific ocean perch, northern, shortraker, and rougeye rockfish.

Other species: sculpins, sharks, skates, and octopus.

For changes to the harvest specifications refer to www.fakr.noaa.gov/2008/hschanges.htm

Gulf of Alaska Catch Report

Through: 29-NOV-08

National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting



Western, Central Pollock

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
X	Pollock, 610 Shumagin	17,254	17,602	348	98%	1
X	Pollock, 620 Chirikof	19,058	19,181	123	99%	0
X	Pollock, 630 Kodiak	14,395	13,640	-755	106%	40

Western Gulf

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Arrowtooth Flounder	3,173	8,000	4,827	40%	6
	Deep Water Flatfish	13	690	677	2%	0
	Shallow Water Flatfish	757	4,500	3,743	17%	0
	Flathead Sole	288	2,000	1,712	14%	0
	Rex Sole	186	1,022	836	18%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch	3,682	3,686	4	100%	0
	Rougeye Rockfish	78	125	47	62%	0
	Shortraker Rockfish	133	120	-13	111%	0
	Thornyhead Rockfish	274	267	-7	103%	0
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	576	1,003	427	57%	0
	Northern Rockfish	1,909	2,141	232	89%	0
	Other Rockfish	300	357	57	84%	0
X	Pacific Cod, Inshore	13,452	17,504	4,052	77%	0
X	Pacific Cod, Offshore	1,464	1,945	481	75%	2
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line)	1,525	1,512	-13	101%	0
	Sablefish (Trawl)	141	378	237	37%	0
	Big Skate	130	632	502	21%	0
	Longnose Skate	31	78	47	40%	0

Gulf of Alaska Catch Report

Through: 29-NOV-08

National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting



Central Gulf

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Arrowtooth Flounder	25,998	30,000	4,002	87%	14
	Deep Water Flatfish	544	6,721	6,177	8%	0
	Shallow Water Flatfish	8,602	13,000	4,398	66%	180
	Flathead Sole	3,128	5,000	1,872	63%	3
	Rex Sole	2,519	6,731	4,213	37%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch	7,677	8,185	508	94%	0
	Rougheye Rockfish	186	834	648	22%	0
	Shortraker Rockfish	242	315	73	77%	0
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	2,870	3,626	756	79%	1
	Northern Rockfish	2,135	2,408	273	89%	0
	Thornyhead Rockfish	301	860	559	35%	0
	Other Rockfish	435	569	134	77%	0
X	Pacific Cod, Inshore	25,947	25,583	-364	101%	154
X	Pacific Cod, Offshore	1,793	2,843	1,050	63%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line)	4,666	4,400	-266	106%	0
	Sablefish (Trawl)	634	1,100	466	58%	0
	Big Skate	1,218	2,065	847	59%	19
	Longnose Skate	870	2,041	1,171	43%	8

Eastern Gulf

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Rougheye Rockfish	121	327	207	37%	0
	Shortraker Rockfish	219	463	244	47%	0
	Thornyhead Rockfish	164	783	619	21%	0
	Pacific Cod, Inshore	283	2,155	1,872	13%	0
	Pacific Cod, Offshore	0	239	239	0%	0
	Big Skate	48	633	585	8%	0
	Longnose Skate	118	768	650	15%	0

Note: All weights are in metric tons.

Gulf of Alaska Catch Report

Through: 29-NOV-08

National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting



West Yakutat

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Arrowtooth Flounder	34	2,500	2,466	1%	0
	Deep Water Flatfish	1	965	964	0%	0
	Shallow Water Flatfish	0	3,333	3,333	0%	0
	Flathead Sole	0	3,420	3,420	0%	0
	Rex Sole	0	520	520	0%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch	1,100	1,100	0	100%	0
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	195	251	56	78%	0
	Other Rockfish	50	604	554	8%	0
	Pollock	1,161	1,517	356	77%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line)	1,964	1,853	-111	106%	0
	Sablefish (Trawl)	90	267	177	34%	0

Southeast

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Arrowtooth Flounder	88	2,500	2,412	4%	0
	Deep Water Flatfish	4	527	523	1%	0
	Shallow Water Flatfish	0	1,423	1,423	0%	0
	Flathead Sole	0	634	634	0%	0
	Rex Sole	0	859	859	0%	0
	Pacific Ocean Perch	0	2,028	2,028	0%	0
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	1	347	346	0%	0
	Other Rockfish	24	200	176	12%	0
	Pollock	0	8,240	8,240	0%	0
	Demersal Shelf Rockfish	150	382	232	39%	0
	Sablefish (Hook-and-Line)	3,301	3,220	-81	103%	0

Entire Gulf

Sea- sons	Account	Total Catch	Quota	Remaining Quota	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Atka Mackerel	2,094	1,500	-594	140%	0
	Other Skates	1,189	2,104	915	56%	5
	Other Species	2,176	4,500	2,324	48%	18
Total:		183,160	262,826	79,666	70%	453

Deep water flatfish: Dover sole, Greenland turbot, and deepsea sole.

Shallow water flatfish: flatfish not including deep water flatfish, flathead sole, rex sole, or arrowtooth flounder.

Gulf of Alaska Catch Report

Through: 29-NOV-08

**National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting**



Other rockfish in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas and in the West Yakutat District: slope rockfish and demersal shelf rockfish.

Other rockfish in the Southeast Outside District: slope rockfish.

Slope rockfish: aurora, blackgill, bocaccio, chilipepper, darkblotch, greenstriped, harlequin, pygmy, redbanded, redstripe, sharpchin, shortbelly, silvergrey, splitnose, stripetail, vermilion, and yellowmouth.

In the Eastern GOA only, "slope rockfish" also includes northern rockfish.

Demersal shelf rockfish: canary, china, copper, quillback, rosethorn, tiger, and yelloweye.

"Pelagic shelf rockfish" means *Sebastes ciliatus* (dark), *S. variabilis* (dusky), *S. entomelas* (widow), and *S. flavidus* (yellowtail).

Other species: sculpins, sharks, squid, and octopus.

For changes to the harvest specifications refer to www.fakr.noaa.gov/2008/hschanges.htm

Gulf of Alaska Prohibited Species Report

Through: 29-NOV-08

National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries
Catch Accounting



Non-Chinook Salmon

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Non Chinook Salmon	Count	2,157	0			0
Total:			2,157	0			0

Chinook Salmon

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Chinook Salmon	Count	16,190	0			0
Total:			16,190	0			0

Halibut Mortality

Non-Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
X	Other Hook-and-Line Fisheries	MT	413	290	-123	142%	1
Total:			413	290	-123	142%	1

Trawl Gear

Sea- sons	Account	Units	Total Catch	Limit	Remaining	% Taken	Last Wk Catch
	Trawl Fishery	MT	1,947	2,000	53	97%	27
Total:			1,947	2,000	53	97%	27

No PSC Limits apply to salmon in the GOA.

Other hook-and-line fisheries means all hook-and-line fisheries except sablefish and demersal shelf rockfish in the Southeast District. The hook-and-line sablefish fishery is exempt from halibut PSC limits.

Halibut mortality for the demersal shelf rockfish fishery. Southeast District is not listed due to insufficient observer coverage.

Data is based on observer reports extrapolated to total groundfish harvest. Estimates for all weeks may change due to incorporation of late or corrected data.

Trawl halibut PSC limit data include catch from Rockfish Pilot Program cooperatives.



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NPFMC meeting

December 2008

December 10, 2008

Public Testimony on Agenda item:

B2

NMFS Management Report

Chairperson Olson,

Council members thank you very much for your time here today and for your consideration of the various issues surrounding the BSAI Pacific cod fisheries management and all items on the NMFS Management report.

I am submitting these comments representing the Freezer Longline Coalition (FLC). The FLC represents thirty-four of the thirty-six hook-and-line catcher processors operating in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area with LLP's and cod endorsements for the Federal fishery. This is a Washington and Alaska based and owned fleet.

In this year's BSAI P.cod fishery, there will be an estimated 5,000 mt. of trapped P.cod that will go unharvested due to management issues primarily in the A 80 sector. Considering the state of the nation's current financial troubles and the immediate need for government officials to encourage efficiency in businesses in ways that will help create GNP bottom line increases, this is especially troublesome. This trapped P.cod represents around \$ 10,000,000.00 in lost revenue to the country. This also represents cod that for the most part would have been exported as US product and helped to contribute to the balance of the current trade deficit. The hook-and-line CP, BSAI A 85 fleet owners and the Freezer Longline Coalition made repeated requests to be allowed to harvest this Pacific cod, all agreed there would be at least several thousand tons remaining at year's end and yet the cod went unharvested because of regulations preventing management to TAC. We would like to see simple tools in place to allow full utilization of the resource.

NMFS in-season management needs the tools in the way of regulations or clarifications of current regulations necessary to be able to manage to TAC. We feel that best benefit to the nation, optimum yield, and promoting efficiency as outlined in Magnuson-Stevens should result in management to TAC.

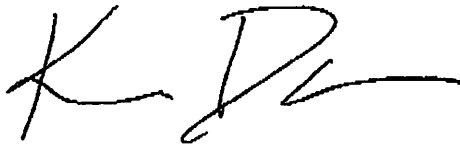
Any sector in line for roll-over should be allowed to harvest beyond its sectors allocation so long as there is no reasonable opposition, and all are in agreement that without management to TAC resources that

should have been harvested will remain unharvested. This was the case this year and the vessels in line for roll-overs under current regulations should have had the ability to harvest this cod.

Although I understand that this year is considered an anomaly, that the A 80 sector is in the first year of managing their cod, and will likely in the future have more directed fishing efforts earlier in the year, clearly the A 80 folks will not be leaving 5000 mt on the table ever again, if possible. However as cod quotas trend upward it is not inconceivable for halibut reasons, market conditions, or simply overly conservative operators trying to manage a hard-cap cod fishery that this could be an issue again. If not in this sector then possibly another.

It is clear that NMFS in-season management needs the tools and /or direction to "manage to TAC" if it so sees fit.

Thank you for your time and being allowed to speak to an issue of such importance to our members.



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