


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council and Commission Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke  
Executive Director 

DATE: October 2, 1998

SUBJECT: Halibut Community Development Quota Program

## ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Review proposed rule for halibut CDQ fishery.
- (b) Review progress on determining halibut discard mortality rate assumptions for CDQ fishery.
- (c) Receive staff update on status of retention of undersized CDQ halibut in Area 4E.
- (d) Receive staff update on the status of developing halibut fisheries in the Chukchi Sea.

## BACKGROUND

(a) Proposed rule for halibut CDO fishery

NMFS staff has prepared a summary of the draft proposed rule for management of the halibut CDQ fisheries and other miscellaneous amendments to MS CDQ regulations (Item C-4(d)). Comments provided at this meeting will be addressed in preparing the proposed rule for publication in the *Federal Register*. The proposed regulatory amendments fall into three categories:

1. Those addressing management of vessels fishing halibut CDQ or harvesting halibut CDQ in groundfish CDQ fisheries and the processors or registered buyers taking deliveries from these vessels;
2. Removal or revision of sections addressing management of the fixed gear sablefish or pollock CDQ fisheries in 1998;
3. Other miscellaneous technical or editorial revisions to the MS groundfish CDQ regulations that have been identified since publication of the final rule on June 4, 1998.

(b) Halibut discard mortality rate assumptions for CDO fishery

For 1998 and 1999, the CDQ groups will be operating using the open access DMRs. Proposals to use the halibut discard condition data collected by CDQ observers on a real-time basis presents procedural and technical problems. Resolution will require coordinated efforts by NMFS Regional Office, Observer Program, and IPHC staffs. NMFS and IPHC staff are planning to meet in October after the Council meeting to examine these issues. DMR data collected in the 1998 CDQ fisheries will be analyzed in 1999 when they become available, with the results used for the fishery in year 2000. Unless an alternate procedure is developed, DMR specifications in the CDQ fisheries will be handled much the same way as the open access fisheries, i.e., 1998 data used for managing 2000, 1999 data for 2001, etc. Also, CDQ operations will be reported separately from the open access fisheries in future analyses of DMR data by IPHC.

(c) Receive staff update on status of retention of undersized CDQ halibut in Area 4E

In 1997, the Council received and reviewed a request from CDQ participants in Area 4E to keep undersized halibut caught incidental to CDQ halibut. Keeping undersized halibut is consistent with cultural beliefs and activities indigenous to that area. The Council approved a regulatory amendment to change the halibut regulations accordingly and requested that the Commission consider changing its regulations to allow this activity. The IPHC consented to the request with the proviso that the exemption expire at the end of 1999. NMFS published a proposed (May 1998) and final rule (May 1998) allowing CDQ participants in Area 4E to retain undersized halibut caught incidental to CDQ halibut. This rule became effective June 1998. No specific monitoring activities have been implemented to assess the amount of removals beyond ongoing surveys of subsistence uses of halibut, along with all other fish and game, by the ADF&G Subsistence Division.

(d) Receive staff update on the status of developing halibut fisheries in the Chukchi Sea

Earl Krygier, ADF&G, will report on two charter surveys with Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation and Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association for the area north of Area 4D in the Chukchi Sea to determine if any concentration of halibut exists to warrant the establishment of a new regulatory area.

## Some preliminary catch data from the 1998 Southeast Chukchi Sea / Kotzebue Sound trawl survey.

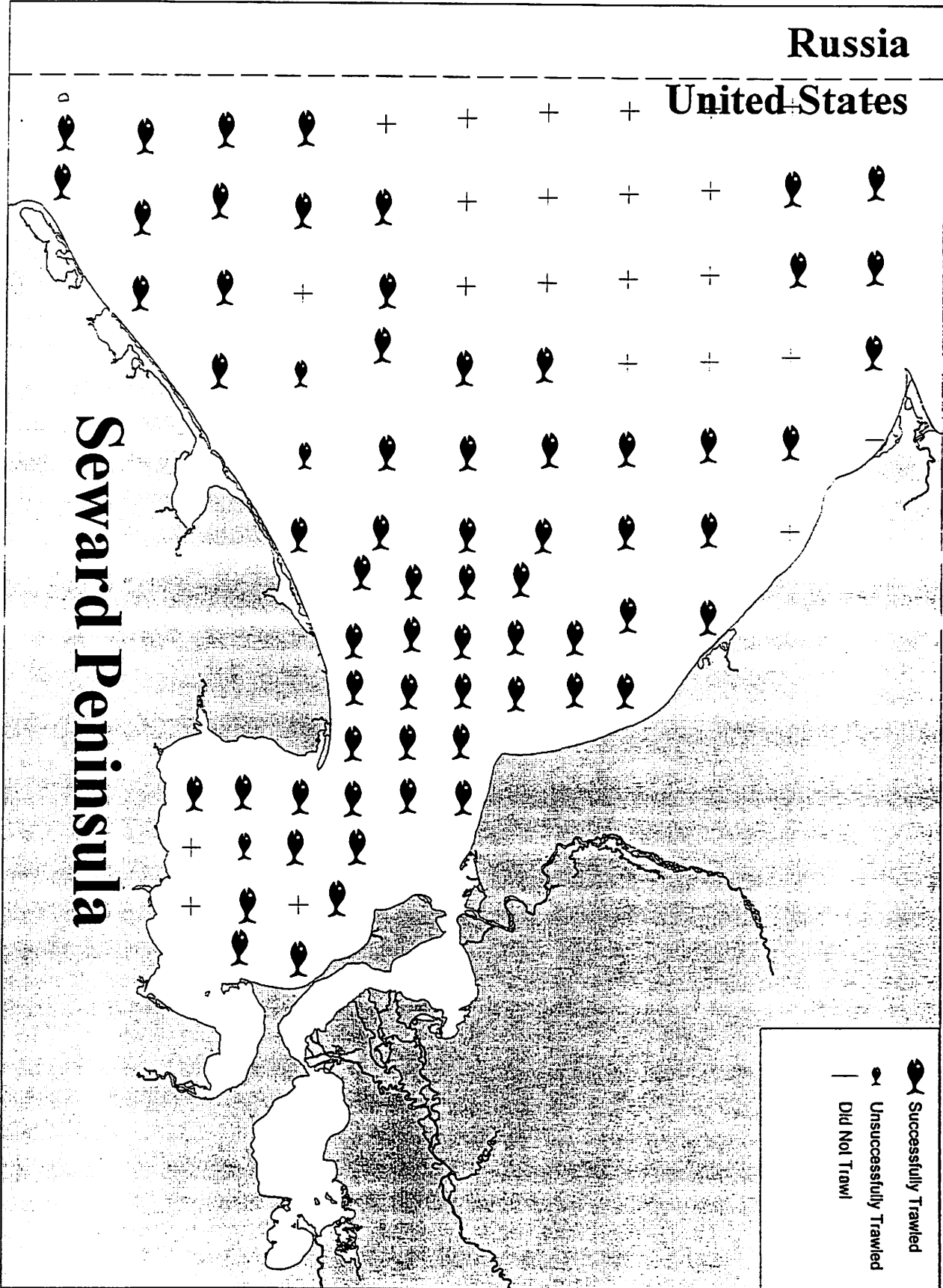
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**\*\* A special acknowledgment to Mr. Lowell Fair with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for all his hard work on this data.**

Fig 1. Stations trawled



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Table 2. Rank order by frequency of occurrence (percent) of the 20 most common invertebrate taxa in the southeast Chukchi Sea and Kotzebue Sound, 1998.

Rank	Classification	Frequency	Percent
1	Unidentified starfish	65	100%
2	Unidentified hermit crabs	65	100%
3	Norther argid shrimp	65	100%
4	Unidentified tunicates	62	95%
5	Tanner crab	59	91%
6	Unidentified jellyfish	52	80%
7	Circumboreal toad crab	49	75%
8	Humpy shrimp	39	60%
9	Unidentified snail eggs	33	51%
10	Basket starfish	33	51%
11	Sea raspberry	32	49%
12	Northern whelk	26	40%
13	Helmit crab	24	37%
14	Brittle starfish	22	34%
15	Fat whelk	22	34%
16	Ridged crangon shrimp	20	31%
17	Green sea urchin	19	29%
18	Tank shrimp	18	28%
19	Unidentified tube worms	16	25%
20	Unidentified sponge	15	23%
Total number of invertebrate classifications		65	
Total number of successful hauls		65	

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 Table ~~3~~. Rank order by catch abundance (numbers) of the 20 most common invertebrate taxa in the southeast Chukchi Sea and Kotzebue Sound, 1998.

Rank	Classification	Frequency	Percent
1	Tanner crab	74,330	38.8%
2	Unidentified starfish	37,084	19.3%
3	Brittle starfish	33,821	17.6%
4	Green sea urchin	9,180	4.8%
5	Northern argid shrimp	8,682	4.5%
6	Unidentified hermit crab	5,049	2.6%
7	Unidentified tunicate	4,427	2.3%
8	Humpy shrimp	3,861	2.0%
9	Tank shrimp	1,918	1.0%
10	Circumboreal toad crab	1,908	1.0%
11	Unidentified nut shell clams	1,759	0.9%
12	Unidentified sea cucumber	1,590	0.8%
13	Basket starfish	1,328	0.7%
14	Unidentified jellyfish	1,210	0.6%
15	Unidentified sponge	804	0.4%
16	Boreal tridonta clam	606	0.3%
17	Helmit crab	529	0.3%
18	Ridged crangon shrimp	427	0.2%
19	Fat whelk	404	0.2%
20	Northern whelk	368	0.2%
Total number of invertebrate classifications		65	
Total number of successful hauls		65	

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Table ~~2~~. Rank order by biomass (weight) of the 20 most common invertebrate taxa in the southeast Chukchi Sea and Kotzebue Sound, 1998.

Rank	Classification	CPUE (kg/km)	Percent
1	Unidentified starfish	28.94	42.0%
2	Tanner crab	17.19	24.9%
3	Unidentified tunicates	6.68	9.7%
4	Green sea urchin	3.19	4.6%
5	Unidentified sponge	2.22	3.2%
6	Unidentified jellyfish	1.87	2.7%
7	Brittle starfish	1.44	2.1%
8	Basket starfish	1.07	1.5%
9	Unidentified hermit crab	1.05	1.5%
10	Sea raspberry	0.99	1.4%
11	Circumboreal toad crab	0.73	1.1%
12	Helmit crab	0.73	1.1%
13	Northern argid shrimp	0.47	0.7%
14	Fat whelk	0.42	0.6%
15	Northern whelk	0.36	0.5%
16	Unidentified snail eggs	0.27	0.4%
17	Tank shrimp	0.24	0.3%
18	Blue king crab	0.21	0.3%
19	Unidentified sea cucumbers	0.18	0.3%
20	Unidentified scallops	0.15	0.2%
Total number of invertebrate classifications		65	
Total number of successful hauls		65	

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Table ~~3~~ Rank order by frequency of occurrence (percent) of the 20 most common fish taxa in the southeast Chukchi Sea and Kotzebue Sound, 1998.

Rank	Classification	Frequency	Percent
1	Saffron cod	49	75.4%
2	Yellowfin sole	47	72.3%
3	Sturgeon poacher	45	69.2%
4	Warty sculpin	44	67.7%
5	Bering flounder	41	63.1%
6	Rainbow smelt	41	63.1%
7	Arctic staghorn sculpin	38	58.5%
8	Snake prickleback	34	52.3%
9	Arctic cod	33	50.8%
10	Alaska plaice	30	46.2%
11	Starry flounder	29	44.6%
12	Pacific herring	26	40.0%
13	Wattled eelpout	23	35.4%
14	Unidentified <i>Triglops</i>	20	30.8%
15	Walleye pollock	20	30.8%
16	Antlered sculpin	16	24.6%
17	Unidentified sculpin	15	23.1%
18	Pacific cod	15	23.1%
19	Polar eelpout	12	18.5%
20	Longhead dab	11	16.9%
Total number of fish classifications		52	
Total number of successful hauls		65	

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 Table X. Rank order by catch abundance (numbers) of the 20 most common fish taxa in the southeast Chukchi Sea and Kotzebue Sound, 1998.

Rank	Classification	Frequency	Percent
1	Saffron cod	6,706	23.3%
2	Arctic staghorn sculpin	2,904	10.1%
3	Yellowfin sole	2,704	9.4%
4	Warty sculpin	2,479	8.6%
5	Arctic cod	2,123	7.4%
6	Unidentified sculpin	1,497	5.2%
7	Walleye pollock	1,282	4.5%
8	Sturgeon poacher	1,038	3.6%
9	Bering flounder	991	3.4%
10	Rainbow smelt	975	3.4%
11	Pacific cod	923	3.2%
12	Pacific herring	787	2.7%
13	Alaska plaice	731	2.5%
14	Unidentified <i>Artedilius sculpin</i>	552	1.9%
15	Unidentified <i>Triglops sculpin</i>	424	1.5%
16	Longhead dab	379	1.3%
17	Unidentified snailfish	378	1.3%
18	Snake prickleback	301	1.0%
19	Threaded sculpin	277	1.0%
20	Wattled eelpout	175	0.6%
Total number of fish classifications		52	
Total number of successful hauls		65	

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 Table 2. Rank order by biomass (weight) of the 20 most common fish taxa in the southeast Chukchi Sea and Kotzebue Sound, 1998.

Rank	Classification	CPUE (kg/km)	Percent
1	Saffron cod	2.56	23.2%
2	Warty sculpin	1.35	12.3%
3	Pacific halibut	1.32	12.0%
4	Starry flounder	1.04	9.5%
5	Yellowfin sole	0.66	6.0%
6	Arctic staghorn sculpin	0.51	4.6%
7	Alaska plaice	0.39	3.5%
8	Rainbow smelt	0.35	3.2%
9	Walleye pollock	0.34	3.1%
10	Unidentified sculpin	0.34	3.1%
11	Bering flounder	0.31	2.8%
12	Pacific cod	0.27	2.4%
13	Arctic cod	0.25	2.2%
14	Pacific herring	0.23	2.0%
15	Polar eelpout	0.19	1.7%
16	Unidentified snailfish	0.18	1.7%
17	Sturgeon poacher	0.13	1.1%
18	Wattled eelpout	0.08	0.8%
19	Longhead dab	0.08	0.8%
20	Unidentified Myoxocephalus sculpin	0.07	0.7%
Total number of fish classifications		52	
Total number of successful hauls		65	