Agenda B-2 -- Inseason Management Report

Catch during 2024 is through September 21, 2024 and is compared to catch during 2023 through September 23, 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 metric tons (mt) which is the same as the 2023 TAC. For 2024, NMFS reallocated 11,680 mt of Aleut Corporation and 1,900 mt of CDQ projected unharvested AI pollock TAC from the Aleutian Islands to the Bering Sea. The B season opened at noon, A.l.t., June 10, 2024.

| Bering Sea | 2024 Annual allocation | 2024 Annual catch | Percent taken |
|------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Inshore | 565,840 | 547,408 | 97% |
| СР | 452,672 | 416,860 | 92% |
| Mothership | 113,168 | 112,457 | 99% |
| CDQ | 131,900 | 131,813 | 100% |
| ICA | 50,000 | 39,524 | 79% |
| Total | 1,313,580 | 1,248,062 | 95% |

Salmon in the Bering Sea Pollock Fisheries

The Chinook salmon PSC limit is 45,000 Chinook salmon in 2024, and allocated to each sector as specified in 50 CFR 679.21(f)(3)(iii)(A). In 2024 relative to 2023, the total salmon PSC and rates are lower for both Chinook and Non-Chinook.

| Species | | Chir | nook | | Non-Chinook | | | |
|---------|-------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Year | 2024 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2023 | |
| Amount | # | Rate ¹ | # | Rate ¹ | # | Rate ¹ | # | Rate ¹ |
| CDQ | 748 | 0.006 | 1,171 | 0.009 | 1,494 | 0.011 | 3,430 | 0.026 |
| AFA | 6,826 | 0.006 | 10,523 | 0.009 | 32,851 | 0.031 | 108,06 | 0.098 |
| Total | 7,574 | 0.006 | 11,694 | 0.009 | 34,345 | 0.028 | 111,49 0 | 0.090 |

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

Herring in the BSAI

For the pelagic pollock fishery category, 1,271 mt or 56% of the 2,256 mt PSC herring limit has been reported in the BSAI. For the rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/"other flatfish" fishery category, 59 mt or 80% of the 74 mt PSC limit has been reported. There have been no closures of the Herring Savings Areas in 2024.

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 <u>weekly report</u> 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. The remaining amount of the 2024 total non-CDQ sector annual allocation is 37,664 mt. The remaining non-CDQ Bering Sea TAC is 33,368 mt. This leaves 4,296 mt of the non-CDQ Pacific cod allocation that cannot be caught in the Bering Sea.

| | | 202 | 4 | | 2023 | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------|-------------------------|--|
| BSAI Sector | Annual TAC ¹ | Catch Sept 21 | Closed | # vessels Sept 21 | Annual TAC ¹ | Catch Sept 23 | Closed | # vessels Sept 23 | |
| CDQ | 16,675 | 8,740 | na | 32 | 14,534 | 7,718 | na | 35 | |
| Hook-and-line CP | 67,370 | 51,658 | na | 18 | 58,672 | 53,941 | na | 18 | |
| Pot CP | 2,075 | <1 | na | <3 | 1,807 | 1,296 | na | 3 | |
| Pot $CV >= 60$ ft | 11,620 | 4,358 | na | 7 | 10,120 | 7,739 | na | 22 | |
| Hook-and-line CV >= 60 ft | 10 | 0 | na | 0 | 11 | 2 | na | <3 | |
| Hook-and-line/Pot CVs < 60 ft | 5,884 | 5,231 | na | 18 | 5,040 | 4,366 | na | 20 | |
| Jig | 98 | 0 | na | 0 | 98 | 0 | na | 0 | |
| Trawl CV | 29,754 | 23,921 | na | 83 | 24,607 | 23,367 | na | 90 | |
| AFA CP | 1,701 | 1,019 | na | 14 | 2,790 | 1,952 | na | 15 | |
| Amendment 80 CP | 20,147 | 14,815 | na | 16 | 17,654 | 13,568 | na | 18 | |
| ICA HAL/Pot | 500 | 493 | | 60 | 500 | 401 | | 82 | |
| Total | 155,834 | 110,235 | | 248 | 135,833 | 114,350 | | 303 | |

Includes reallocations. See information bulletins at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/sustainable-fisheries/alaska-groundfish-fisheries-management

Pacific cod directed fishing - trawl CVs and PCTC

2024 was the first year of the Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative (PCTC) program which occurs during the A and the B seasons. A total of 33 vessels participated and harvested 20,490 mt of the 23,941 mt TAC (86%). Any unharvested portion of the TAC rolled into the CV trawl C season. The C season, which is not a part of the PCTC program, opened at noon, A.l.t., June 10, 2024 and is not expected to close until the regulatory closure at noon, A.l.t., November 1, 2024.

BSAI Flatfish (includes CDQ)

In 2024 relative to 2023, overall BSAI flatfish catch is about 22,000 mt lower, but varies by species. In 2024, arrowtooth flounder and flathead sole has the largest increases in catch, and yellowfin sole has the largest decrease in catch.

| | | 2024 | | 2023 | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| Species | Catch | TAC | % Taken | Catch | TAC | % Taken | |
| Alaska plaice | 8,761 | 21,752 | 40% | 11,206 | 17,500 | 64% | |
| Arrowtooth flounder | 8,317 | 14,000 | 59% | 6,174 | 15,000 | 41% | |
| Flathead sole | 10,905 | 35,500 | 31% | 7,899 | 35,500 | 22% | |
| Greenland turbot | 743 | 3,188 | 23% | 1,262 | 3,960 | 32% | |
| Kamchatka flounder | 4,781 | 7,498 | 64% | 6,790 | 7,579 | 90% | |
| Other flatfish | 2,890 | 4,500 | 64% | 2,902 | 4,500 | 64% | |
| Rock sole | 25,649 | 66,000 | 39% | 24,065 | 66,000 | 36% | |
| Yellowfin sole | 59,001 | 195,000 | 30% | 82,620 | 230,000 | 36% | |
| Total | 121,047 | 347,438 | 35% | 142,918 | 380,039 | 37% | |

BSAI Atka mackerel, Pacific ocean perch (POP) includes CDQ, and Trawl Sablefish

The catch of Atka mackerel is higher in 2024 than 2023. BS non-CDQ trawl sablefish catch is similar in both years. Pacific ocean perch and AI non-CDQ trawl sablefish catches are lower in 2024 than 2023.

| | | 2024 | | 2023 | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|------------|--|
| Species | Catch | TAC | % Taken | Catch | TAC | % Taken | |
| Atka mackerel | 62,184 | 72,987 | 85% | 56,955 | 69,282 | 82% | |
| Pacific ocean perch | 24,733 | 37,626 | 66% | 31,020 | 37,703 | 82% | |
| BS non-CDQ Sablefish-Trawl | 2,725 | 3,998 | 68% | 2,701 | 3,398 | 79% | |
| AI non-CDQ Sablefish-Trawl | 1,094 | 2,110 | 52% | 1,287 | 1,794 | 72% | |

Gulf of Alaska

Pacific cod

Some vessels participate in more than one sector.

Pacific cod - Western GOA

| | | 2024 | | | | 2023 | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------|----------------------------|--|--|
| Sector | Annual allocation | Catch Sept 21 | Closed | # of vessels Sept 21 | Annual allocation | Catch Sept 23 | Closed | # of vessels Sept 23 | | |
| Hook-and-line CP | 1,170 | 833 | na | 4 | 1,438 | 413 | na | 4 | | |
| Hook-and-line CV | 83 | 237 | Jan 1 | 55 | 516 | 177 | Jan 1 | 70 | | |
| Jig | 214 | 17 | na | 4 | 131 | 130 | Aug 2 | 15 | | |
| Pot CV/CP | 2,245 | 1,262 | na | 5 | 1,484 | 1,000 | na | 10 | | |
| Trawl CV | 2,268 | 1,340 | na | 27 | 1,531 | 1,394 | Sept 1 | 26 | | |
| Trawl CP | 142 | 36 | Jan 20 | 5 | 122 | 55 | Jan 20 | 5 | | |
| Total | 6,121 | 3,725 | | 100 | 5,223 | 3,169 | | 130 | | |

¹Includes reallocations. See information bulletins at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/sustainable-fisheries/alaska-groundfish-fisheries-management

Pacific cod - Central GOA

| | | 202 | 4 | | 2023 | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------|----------------------------|--|
| Sector | Annual allocation | Catch Sept 21 | Closed | # of vessels Sept 21 | Annual allocation | Catch Sept 23 | Closed | # of vessels Sept 23 | |
| Hook-and-line CP | 772 | 495 | na | 3 | 562 | 336 | na | 4 | |
| Hook-and-line CV <50 ft | 2,210 | 1,562 | na | 124 | 1,608 | 1,352 | na | 139 | |
| Hook-and-line CV >=50 ft | 1,015 | 1,045 | Sept 23 | 69 | 863 | 830 | Sept 1 | 77 | |
| Jig | 309 | 303 | Jul 19 | 22 | 246 | 246 | Jun 10 | 43 | |
| Pot CV/CP | 4,208 | 3,994 | na | 25 | 3,061 | 2,614 | na | 29 | |
| Trawl CV | 6,293 | 3,941 | Apr 16 | 38 | 4,184 | 3,221 | Jan 20 | 38 | |
| Trawl CV - RP | 588 | 339 | na | 13 | 424 | 143 | na | 18 | |
| Trawl CP | 635 | 725 | Jan 20 | 7 | 597 | 596 | Jan 20 | 5 | |
| Total | 16,030 | 12,404 | | 301 | 11,545 | 9,338 | | 353 | |

¹Includes reallocations. See information bulletins at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/sustainable-fisheries/alaska-groundfish-fisheries-management

Pollock

In the B season pollock target, in Area 610, 24 CVs have reported 12,527 mt, in Area 620, 18 CVs have reported 4,530 mt, and in Area 630, 19 CVs have reported 13,653 mt. The directed pollock fisheries in Areas 620 and 630 closed on September 25 as a result of reaching the CGOA Chinook limit.

| 2024 | 610 | 620 | 630 | 640 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------------|
| Annual Allocation | 38,882 | 90,937 | 50,587 | 5,565 (annual) |
| Annual Catch | 18,189 | 71,377 | 19,760 | 1,381 |
| Closure | na | Sep 25 | Sep 25 | na |

Chinook Salmon PSC Limits in the GOA

Total 2024 Chinook salmon PSC and rates are higher relative to 2023.

| Chinook Salmon | 2024 Limit | 2024 PSC (Rate ¹) | 2023 PSC (Rate ¹) |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total | n/a | 24,463 (0.16) | 9,485 (0.07) |
| Western GOA pollock | 6,684 | 2,193 (0.12) | 816 (0.06) |
| Central GOA pollock | 18,316 | 19,868 (0.22) | 5,965 (0.07) |
| Western/Central trawl CV ² | 3,060 | 5 (0.00) | 937 (0.26) |
| Central Rockfish Program CV | 1,200 | 258 (0.03) | 743 (0.06) |
| Western/Central trawl CP ² | 4,080 | 2,139 (0.07) | 1,024 (0.04) |

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

²The limit include the incentive buffer for 2023 and 2024 Western/Central trawl C/P limit (480 Chinook) and Western/Central trawl CV (360 Chinook).

BSAI and **GOA** Halibut PSC

In 2024 relative to 2023, the total halibut PSC and total groundfish is lower in the BSAI and higher in the GOA.

| | | 2024 | | 2023 | | | |
|--|-------------------|------------|-------|----------------------|------------|-------|--|
| Area, Gear, and Sector | Halibut mortality | Groundfish | Rate | Halibut mortality | Groundfish | Rate | |
| BSAI Total | 1,241 | 1,606,442 | 0.08% | 1,579 | 1,655,279 | 0.10% | |
| Amendment 80 | 901 | 241,850 | 0.37% | 1,144 | 255,981 | 0.45% | |
| BSAI trawl limited access ¹ | 136 | 1,113,369 | 0.01% | 245 | 1,147,544 | 0.02% | |
| Non-trawl Pacific cod | 115 | 84,089 | 0.14% | 110 | 89,527 | 0.12% | |
| CDQ | 89 | 167,134 | 0.05% | 80 | 162,227 | 0.05% | |
| GOA Total | 394 | 194,337 | 0.20% | 263 | 154,177 | 0.17% | |
| Trawl, Deep-water | 293 | 40,503 | 0.72% | 144 | 14,694 | 0.97% | |
| Trawl, Shallow-water | 39 | 124,900 | 0.03% | 61 | 105,184 | 0.06% | |
| Trawl, Rockfish Program | 39 | 24,803 | 0.16% | 35 | 30,989 | 0.11% | |
| Hook-and-line | 23 | 4,131 | 0.56% | 23 | 3,310 | 0.69% | |

 $^{^{1}{\}rm BSAI}$ trawl limited access includes all trawl except CDQ and A80.