



Brief on the Economic Status of the Groundfish Fisheries Off Alaska, 2025

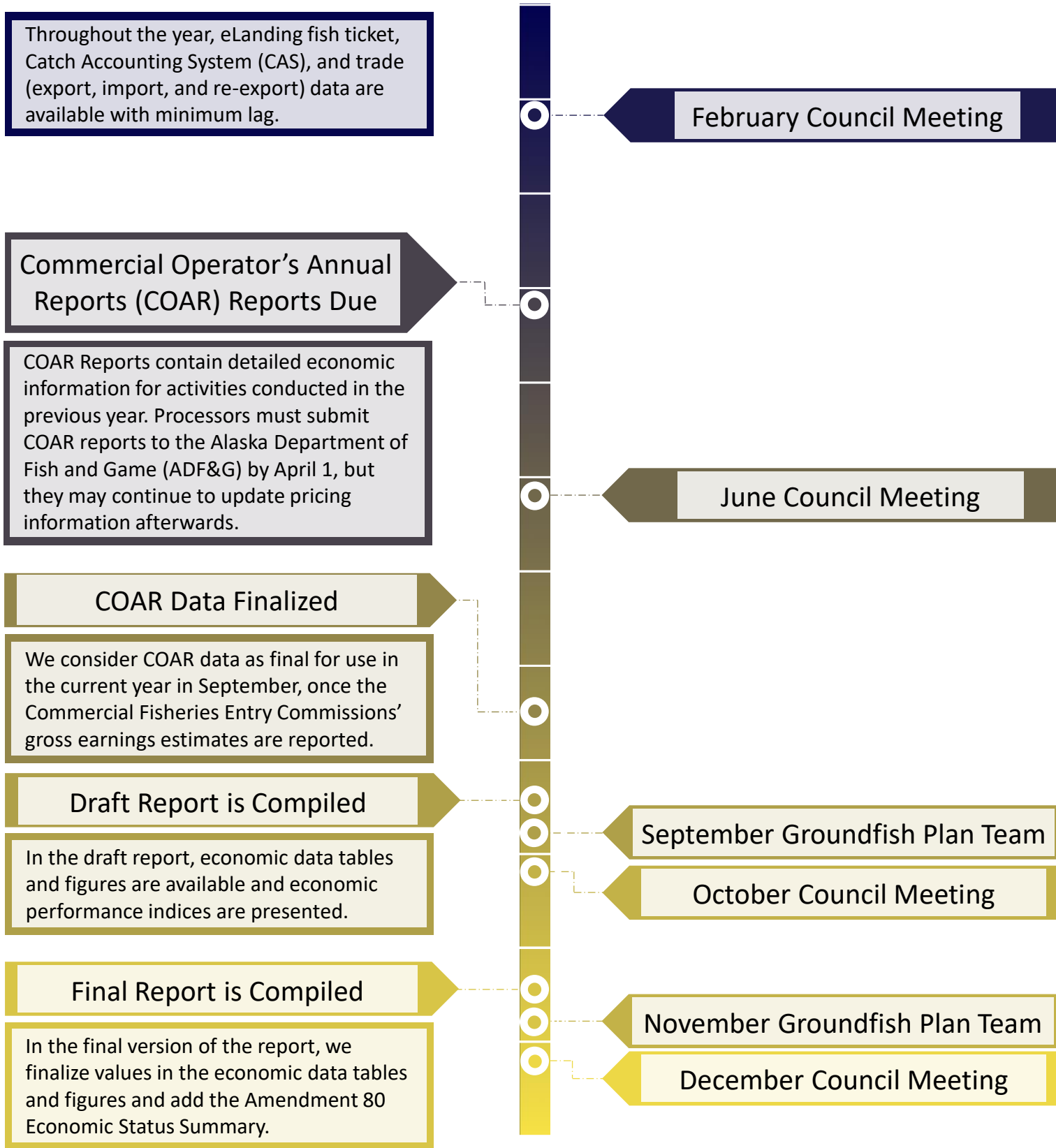
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Timeline of the Economic Status of the Groundfish Fisheries off Alaska

General timeline for data reporting and processing that is used in the final report and expected date of compiling and updating the Economic Status of the Groundfish Fisheries off Alaska



2024 Groundfish Fisheries:

E3 2025 Groundfish Economic SAFE Brief
JUNE 2026

Economic Performance & Key Takeaways

For more information, please see the Economic Status of the Groundfish Fisheries Off Alaska, 2025 or the Human Dimensions Data Explorer

1. Ex-Vessel Value \$716 million

Ex-vessel value decreased \$142 million (-17%) from 2023, primarily due to a 16% decline in the aggregate ex-vessel price per-pound.



2. Total Catch 4.44 billion pounds

Total catch of groundfish species (including catch in federal and state waters) decreased by 29 million pounds.

3. First-Wholesale Value \$2.4 billion

First-wholesale value decreased by 6% from 2023, primarily due to a decline in the aggregate first-wholesale price per-pound across most groundfish species complexes.



4. Fishing Vessels 524 Active Vessels

The total number of active fishing vessels decreased to 524 vessels (-17%), comprising of a reduction in catcher processors to 50 vessels (-6%) and a reduction in catcher vessels to 474 vessels (-18%).

5. Share of Alaskan Fisheries Ex-Vessel Value Attributed to Groundfish: 53%

The share of total ex-vessel value from state and Federal groundfish relative to all state and Federal fisheries decreased from 55% in 2023



6. # of Communities with Groundfish Landings: 64

The number of communities that had groundfish landings increased to 64 (+2%) while 93 communities (+0%) had at least one resident who owned a vessel participating in commercial groundfish harvest

1. Executive Summary

This brief serves as a high-level summary of the [Economic Status of the Groundfish Fisheries Off Alaska, 2025](#) referred to hereafter as the “Groundfish Economic SAFE.” The Groundfish Economic SAFE contains detailed information about the economic aspects of the groundfish fisheries, including figures and tables of detailed ex-vessel and first-whole values, catch, and prices, economic performance indices, and an Amendment 80 fishery economic data report (EDR) summary. Ex-vessel and first-wholesale prices and values are presented in nominal USD (i.e., they do not account for inflation). All information referenced below, except where noted, comes directly from the 2025 Groundfish Economic SAFE and is available via the [Human Dimensions of Fisheries Data Explorer](#) (HDDE).¹

Ex-vessel market summary

- Ex-vessel value of groundfish in Alaska: \$716 million (-17%)
- Total catch of groundfish in Alaska: 4.44 billion pounds (-0.7%)
- Aggregate ex-vessel price per pound: \$0.17 per pound (-16%)
- Total number of fishing vessels active in groundfish fisheries: 524 vessels (-17%)
 - Fewest number of active vessels targeting groundfish in dataset (since 2003)
 - Largest interannual percentage reduction since 2012-13

The 2024 ex-vessel value of FMP groundfish fisheries off Alaska was \$716 million, a reduction of \$142 million (-17%) from 2023, remaining below the five-year (2019-2023) average of \$856 million per year (-16%).² The ex-vessel value for most Alaskan groundfish species declined. Pacific cod (-\$60 million; -36%) and pollock (-\$54 million; -12%) had the largest reductions from 2023 among all Alaskan groundfish species. Declines in ex-vessel value are largely attributed to falling ex-vessel prices while catches remained relatively stable.³

In 2024, 524 vessels (-17%; -105 vessels) targeted groundfish species in Alaska.⁴ The number of active catcher vessels (-18%; -102 vessels) and catcher processors (-6%; -3 vessels) targeting groundfish each declined to the lowest levels in the dataset (since 2003). This may be due to changes in global and/or domestic market conditions, climate drivers, demographics of the fleet, or other compounding factors. Reductions in active fishing vessels have a direct impact on local communities that rely on Alaskan fisheries. For more information on community impacts and engagement, please see the [Annual Community Engagement Participation Overview](#).

Contextual Trends

Reductions in the 2024 aggregate ex-vessel price of FMP groundfish fisheries are partially driven by volatility in the global market, a strengthening U.S. dollar, and rising operational and production costs. International sanctions in 2024 slowed the expansion of Russian groundfish exports, but their lower priced products displaced Alaskan market share in key regions for select

¹ The HDDE is a searchable database that contains non-confidential data used to create tables, figures, and indices in the [Groundfish Economic SAFE](#), [Crab Economic SAFE](#), and the [Annual Community Engagement Participation Overview](#) (ACEPO).

² [Alaskan groundfish retained catch and ex-vessel value](#)

³ [Alaskan groundfish species- and gear-specific ex-vessel price per pound](#)

⁴ [Number of active groundfish vessels off Alaska by target species](#)

groundfish products ([Asakawa 2025a](#), [2025b](#), [Alaska OMB 2026](#)). Concurrently, the rising real effective exchange rate (see Figure 1.2 in the [Groundfish Economic SAFE](#)) has made Alaskan exports more expensive relative to other global seafood and non-seafood protein substitutes. Global market pressures, coupled with high production costs, have placed further pressure on vessels and processors contributing to a -7.6% reduction in Alaskan commercial fishing related jobs ([Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 2025](#)).

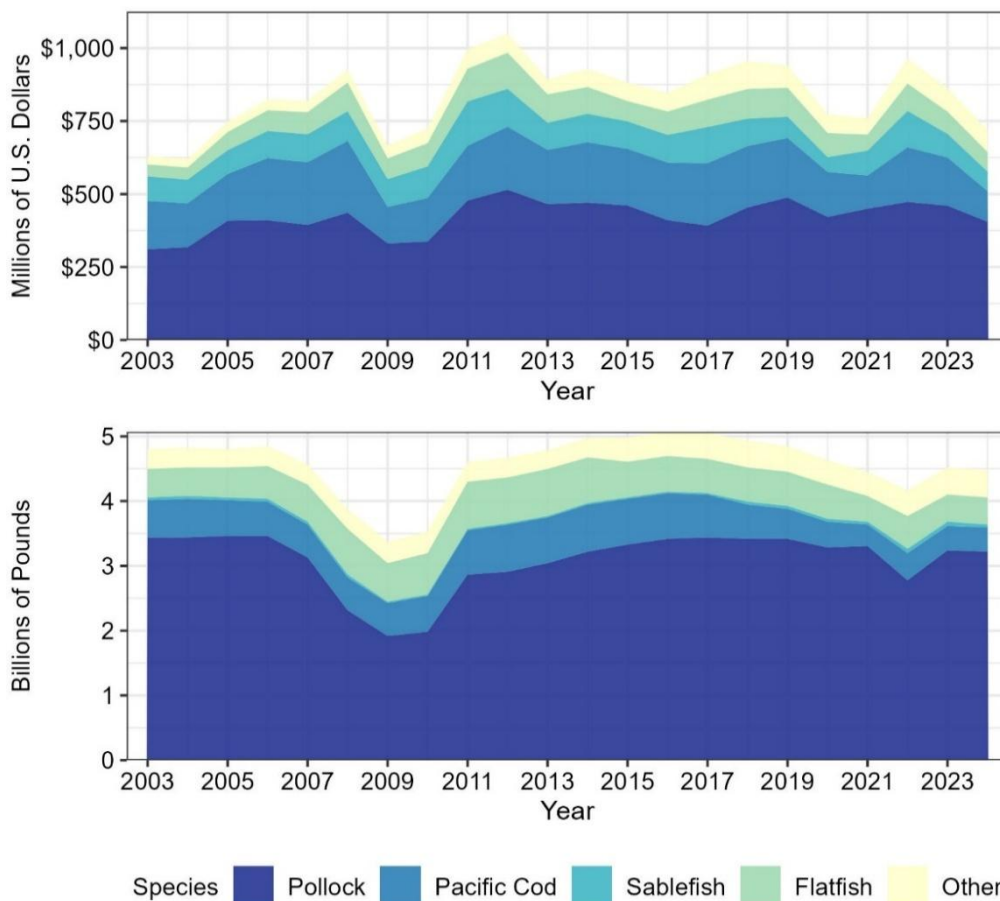


Figure 1.1: Groundfish ex-vessel value and catch in the commercial groundfish fisheries off Alaska by species between 2003 and 2024

First-wholesale market summary

- First-wholesale value of groundfish in Alaska: \$2.4 billion (-6%)
- First-wholesale volume of groundfish in Alaska: 1.82 billion pounds (+0.5%)
- Aggregate first-wholesale price per pound: \$1.32 per pound (-7%)

The 2024 gross first-wholesale value, or the value of sold product after processing, of Alaska groundfish totaled \$2.4 billion, a 6% decrease from 2023, and slightly increasing (+2%) compared to the five-year average (2019-2023).⁵ The decrease in first-wholesale value was largely driven by reductions in the value of pollock (-9%; -\$159 million). The first-wholesale value of all other

⁵ [FMP Area-specific first-wholesale production, value, and price per pound](#)

groundfish species, excluding Atka mackerel (+4%; +\$4 million) and select rockfish and flatfish species, slightly declined or remained stable.⁶

The reduction in the total first-wholesale value is due to a decline in the first-wholesale price outweighing a relatively stable first-wholesale volume (see Figures 3.7 and 3.8 in the [Groundfish Economic SAFE](#) for species- and product-specific first-wholesale revenue decompositions). The aggregate first-wholesale price per pound for Alaskan groundfish declined to \$1.32 (-7%), with large declines in the first-wholesale price of pollock (-11%), while the total first-wholesale volume for Alaskan groundfish remained stable at 1.82 billion pounds (+0.5%). Many groundfish species, such as Arrowtooth flounder (+85%) and Pacific cod (+6%), increased in first-wholesale volume while others, such as sablefish (-9%) and Pacific Ocean perch (-9%), declined or remained stable.

In 2024, 106 (-7%) processing permits were issued to at-sea and shoreside processors with notable declines in the number of processing permits operated by Western Gulf shoreside processors (-67%; -2 processing permits).⁷ For additional information on community commercial groundfish processing engagement and the processing regional quotient, please see the [Annual Community Engagement Participation Overview](#).

2. Bering Sea & Aleutian Island Economic Data Summary

- Ex-vessel value of groundfish in the BSAI: \$608 million (-16%)
- Total catch of groundfish in the BSAI: 3.93 billion pounds (-1%)
- First-wholesale value of groundfish in the BSAI: \$2.12 billion (-7%)
- Total number of fishing vessels active in BSAI groundfish fisheries: 180 vessels (-17%)

The [Groundfish Economic SAFE](#) contains 17 unique BSAI-specific economic data tables that contain information on ex-vessel catch, prices, and value by vessel, gear, species, and fleet, first-wholesale prices and values by species, product type, processor group, and other vessel counts and fleet characteristics.

The 2024 total ex-vessel value for groundfish in the BSAI was \$608 million, representing a \$116 million (-16%) decline from 2023. The groundfish species with the largest reductions in ex-vessel value were Pacific cod (-38%; -\$56 million), pollock (-11%; -\$44 million), and yellowfin sole (-24%; -\$10 million).⁸ Declines in total ex-vessel value were driven by reductions in the 2024 aggregate BSAI groundfish ex-vessel price per pound to \$0.16 (-15%). Notably, the ex-vessel price per pound of Pacific cod (-36%; -\$0.16) saw a significant decline from 2023. The average ex-vessel price per pound for all other groundfish species, excluding some rockfish and flatfish species, slightly declined or remained stable.⁹

Total catch in the BSAI was 3.93 billion pounds in 2024, representing a slight decline (-1%) from 2023.¹⁰ This overall decline was driven by reductions in catch of flatfish species complexes (-10%; -41 million pounds), Pacific cod (-3%; -10 million pounds), and sablefish (-27%; -5 million

⁶ [First-wholesale weight, value, and prices by region, species, and product](#)

⁷ [First-wholesale production statistics by processor group](#)

⁸ [BSAI total and species-specific ex-vessel value](#)

⁹ [BSAI species-specific average ex-vessel price per pound](#)

¹⁰ [BSAI total catch](#)

pounds). Landings of Atka mackerel (+8%; +12 million pounds) increased while landings of pollock and rockfish species complexes remained stable.¹¹

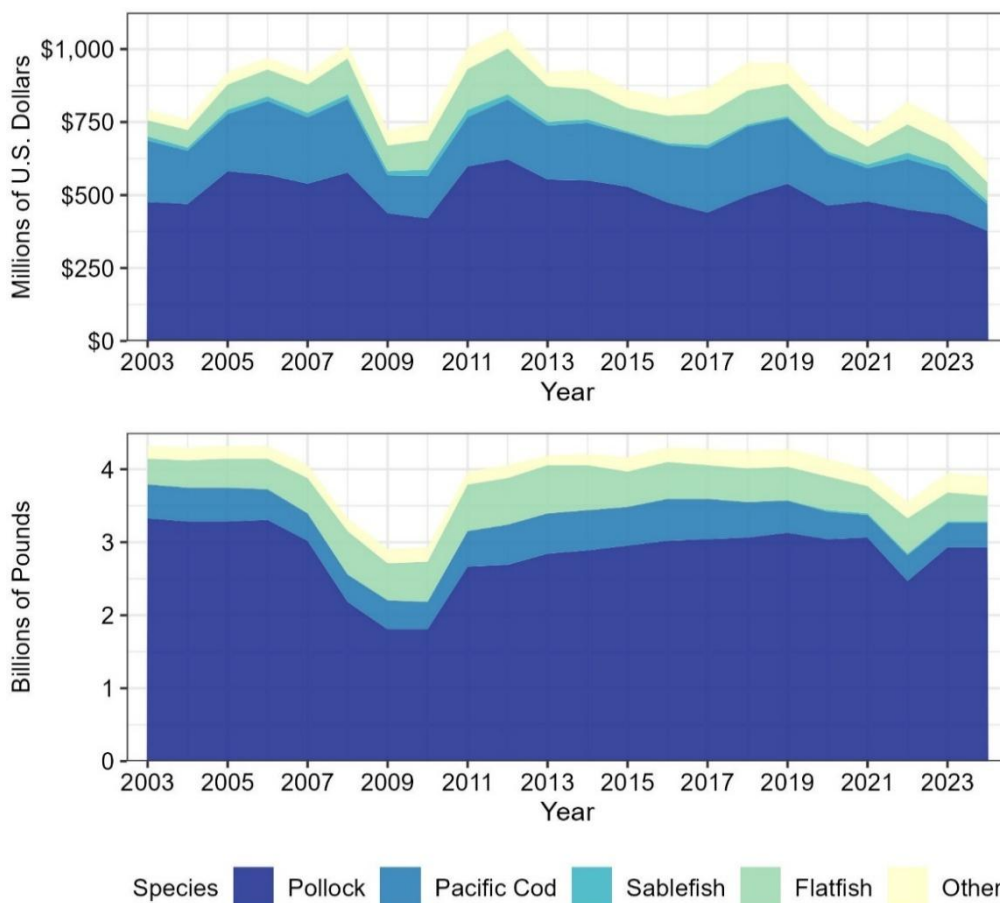


Figure 2.1: Groundfish ex-vessel value and catch in the commercial groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands by species between 2003 and 2024

First-wholesale value in the BSAI decreased to \$2.12 billion in 2024 (-7%; -\$149 million).¹² The decrease in first-wholesale value was largely driven by a reduction in the first-wholesale value of pollock to \$1.47 billion (-8%; -\$129 million) and some flatfish and rockfish species complexes.¹³ Notably, the first-wholesale value of Arrowtooth flounder (+66%; +\$5 million) increased significantly from 2023. The reduction in BSAI first-wholesale value is due to a decline in the aggregate first-wholesale price to \$1.32 (-6%) compounded by a relatively stable first-wholesale volume of 1.6 billion pounds (-0.2%).

In 2024, 180 vessels (-17%; -36 vessels) targeted Alaskan groundfish species, comprising of 131 catcher vessels (-20%; -33 vessels) and 49 catcher processors (-6%; +3 vessels).¹⁴ The largest decline of active vessels was seen from catcher vessels targeting Pacific cod (-37%; -40 vessels)

¹¹ [BSAI species-specific catch](#)

¹² [BSAI first-wholesale product weight, value, and price per pound](#)

¹³ [BSAI species-specific first-wholesale product weight, value, and price per pound](#)

¹⁴ [BSAI active vessels by sector and targeting behavior](#)

and catcher vessels (-40%; -12 vessels) and catcher processors (-31%; -4 vessels) targeting sablefish. The number of processing permits remained stable for most at-sea and shoreside processors.¹⁵

3. Gulf of Alaska Economic Data Summary

- Ex-vessel value of groundfish in the GOA: \$107 million (-19%)
- Total catch of groundfish in the GOA: 514 million pounds (+2%)
- First-wholesale value of groundfish in the GOA: \$284 million (-5%)
- Total number of fishing vessels active in GOA groundfish fisheries: 400 vessels (-19%)

The [Groundfish Economic SAFE](#) contains 18 unique GOA-specific economic data tables that contain information on ex-vessel catch, prices, and value by vessel, gear, species, and fleet, first-wholesale prices and values by species, product type, processor group, and other vessel counts and fleet characteristics.

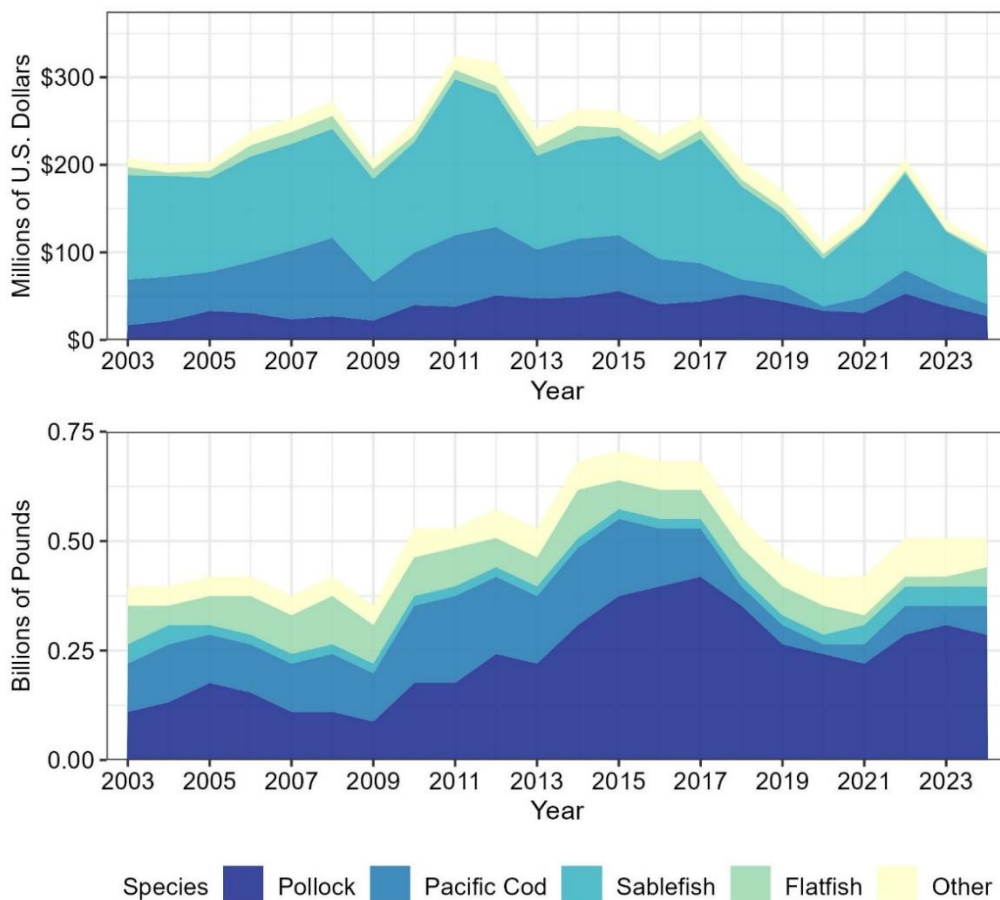


Figure 3.1: Groundfish ex-vessel value and catch in the commercial groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska by species between 2003 and 2024

¹⁵ [BSAI first-wholesale production statistics by processing group](#)

The 2024 total ex-vessel value for groundfish in the GOA was \$107 million, a decrease of \$26 million (-19%) from 2023, due to a decline in ex-vessel prices across groundfish species excluding some rockfish and flatfish species.^{16,17} The 2024 aggregate ex-vessel price per pound across groundfish species declined to \$0.22 (-20%) in the GOA with large declines from Pacific cod (-38%), pollock (-23%), and sablefish (-18%). The groundfish species with the largest reductions in total ex-vessel value were pollock (-\$10 million; -28%), sablefish (-\$9 million; -14%), and Pacific cod (-\$4 million; -24%).¹⁸

First-wholesale value in the GOA decreased to \$284 million in 2024 (-5%, -\$16 million).¹⁹ The decrease in first-wholesale value was largely driven by a reduction in the first-wholesale value of pollock to \$86 million (-26%; -\$30 million) outweighing increases to Arrowtooth flounder (+111%; +\$9 million), sablefish (+8%; +\$6 million), and Pacific cod (+5%; +\$3 million).²⁰ Unlike in the BSAI, the reduction in GOA first-wholesale value is due to a decline in the aggregate first-wholesale price to \$1.32 (-10%) outweighing a slight increase in the first-wholesale volume to 215 million pounds (+6%).

In 2024, 400 vessels (-19%; -93 vessels) actively targeted Alaskan groundfish species, comprising of 385 catcher vessels (-19%; -90 vessels) and 15 catcher processors (-17%; -3 vessels).²¹ The largest decline came from catcher vessels targeting Pacific cod (-20%; -43 vessels), sablefish (-8%; -20 vessels), and rockfish species complexes (-19%; -15 vessels). Processing permits remained stable for most at-sea and shoreside processors excluding the Western Gulf Shoreside Processors (-67%; -2 processing permits).²²

4. Snapshot of Alaskan Groundfish Catch Share Programs

- Aggregate ex-vessel revenue from catch share species: \$335 million (-12%)²³
- Landings from Alaska groundfish catch share programs: 3.06 billion pounds (-0.2%)
- Total number of days at-sea across all groundfish catch share programs: 33 thousand (-7%)

Catch share programs are a fishery management tool that allocates a portion of the Total Allowable Catch to individual fishermen, fishing cooperatives, fishing communities, or other entities as defined in the Reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act.²⁴ Catch share programs were developed to incentivize vessels to make harvest decisions based on economic, weather, and other conditions to improve fishermen safety and fish quality. The North Pacific region has been the most active in developing catch share programs, currently containing 8 of the 17 programs in operation throughout the U.S. Six of these programs are focused on groundfish: 1) Alaska Halibut and Sablefish IFQ, 2) American Fisheries Act (AFA) Pollock, 3) Non-Pollock Trawl

¹⁶ [GOA total ex-vessel value](#)

¹⁷ [GOA species-specific ex-vessel price per pound](#)

¹⁸ [GOA species-specific ex-vessel value](#)

¹⁹ [GOA first-wholesale product weight, value, and price per pound](#)

²⁰ [GOA species-specific first-wholesale product weight, value, and price per pound](#)

²¹ [GOA active vessels by sector and targeting behavior](#)

²² [GOA first-wholesale production statistics by processor group](#)

²³ Aggregate ex-vessel revenue only includes revenue from catcher vessels due to no observable ex-vessel price from catcher processors. For first-wholesale revenues from catcher processors, please navigate to the desired catch share program using the [Performance Metrics for North Pacific Catch Share Programs](#) module.

²⁴ Brinson, A. A., & Thunberg, E. M. (2013). The economic performance of US catch share programs.

Catcher/Processor Groundfish Cooperatives (Amendment 80), 4) the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) Rockfish Program, 5) Aleutian Islands Pollock Fishery (Amendment 82), and 6) the Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative (PCTC). Table 4.1 reports the number of active vessels, quota (including reallocations), landings, and revenue for each Alaska groundfish catch share program. Since the Amendment 82 program typically leases their allocated quota to other programs, primarily to vessels in the AFA program, we exclude the Amendment 82 program from Table 4.1 to avoid double-counting and potentially misleading results. Also, since the PCTC was implemented in 2024, we do not yet have a time series for this program and exclude it from Table 4.1. Future iterations of this document will include economic data on the PCTC. For a more detailed breakdown of each catch share program (including non-groundfish programs), please see the [Performance Metrics for North Pacific Catch Share Programs](#) module.

The 2024 total ex-vessel revenue from groundfish catch share species landed by catcher vessels was \$335 million, a decrease of \$45 million (-12%) from 2023. Within the catcher vessel sector, all groundfish catch share programs, excluding the Sablefish IFQ (+5%; +\$3 million), reported declines in total ex-vessel revenue from groundfish catch share species. Catcher vessels under the AFA Pollock program (-19%; -\$43 million) had the greatest decline in total ex-vessel revenue among all catch share programs. These declines are largely associated with falling ex-vessel prices.

Similarly, the 2024 total first-wholesale revenue from groundfish catch share species landed by catcher processors declined to \$374 million (-8%; -\$33 million). Except for the Amendment 80 program (+0.1%; +\$0.4 million), total first-wholesale revenue from catch share species declined for every catch share program between 2023 and 2024. The largest declines were from catcher processors under the AFA Pollock (-19%; -\$29 million) and Sablefish IFQ (-53%; -\$4 million) programs.

Total landings from Alaskan groundfish catch share programs were 3.06 billion pounds in 2024, a decline of 5 million pounds (-0.2%) from 2023. Landings from the Halibut IFQ (-7%; -1 million pounds), Sablefish IFQ (-2%; -1 million pounds) and the CGOA Rockfish (-15%; -10 million pounds) programs declined while landings from the Amendment 80 (+1%; +5 million pounds) and AFA Pollock (+0.1%; +2 million pounds) programs increased. The total number of days at sea declined to 33 thousand (-7%; -2 thousand days at sea) from 2023 to 2024. This is largely driven by reductions in days at sea from the Halibut IFQ (-7%; -1 thousand days at-sea), Sablefish IFQ (-15%; 758 days at-sea), and CGOA Rockfish (-21%; -282 days at-sea) programs.

Table 4.1: Number of active vessels, landings, and revenue from Alaska groundfish catch share programs in 2024

	Active Vessels (% Change from 2023)	Quota Allocated to Catch Share Program (000,000 lbs.)	Total Landings (000,000 lbs.)	% Change in Total Landings from 2023	Revenue from Catch Share Species (M USDS)	% Change in Revenue from Catch Share Species from 2023
AFA Pollock						
CVs	74 (-1%)	1,466	1,493	<1%	\$184	-19%
CPs	13 (0%)	977	996	<1%	\$122	-19%
Amendment 80	16 (-6%)	703	467	+1%	\$244	<1%
Central GOA Rockfish Cooperative						
CVs	24 (-25%)	49	26	-17%	\$5	-15%
CPs	4 (0%)	31	28	-13%	\$5	-12%
Halibut IFQ	639 (-7%)	17	14	-7%	\$77	-6%
Sablefish IFQ						
CVs	250 (-6%)	-	35	+3%	\$69	+5%
CPs	5 (-38%)	-	1.6	-54%	\$3	-53%

Note: “AFA” represents the “American Fisheries Act”; “Amendment 80” represents the Non-Pollock Trawl Catcher/ Processor Groundfish Cooperatives. Revenue for all CPs, including the Amendment 80 sector, are in first-wholesale dollar units while revenue from all CVs, including the Halibut IFQ program, are in ex-vessel dollar units.