

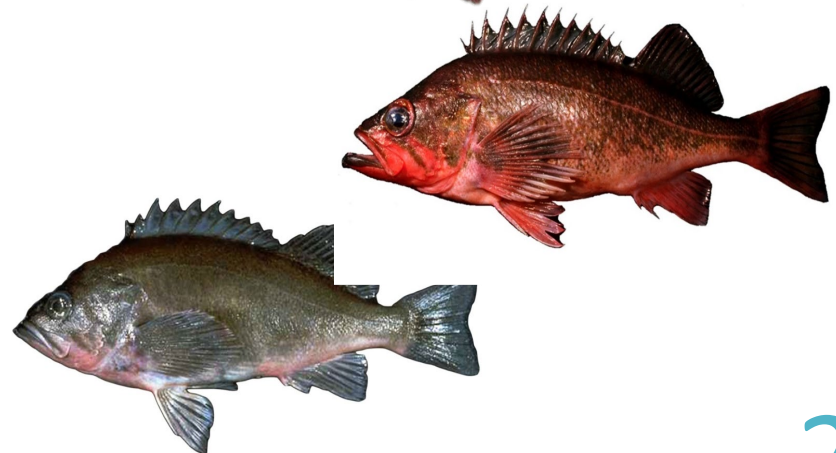


# Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program 2025

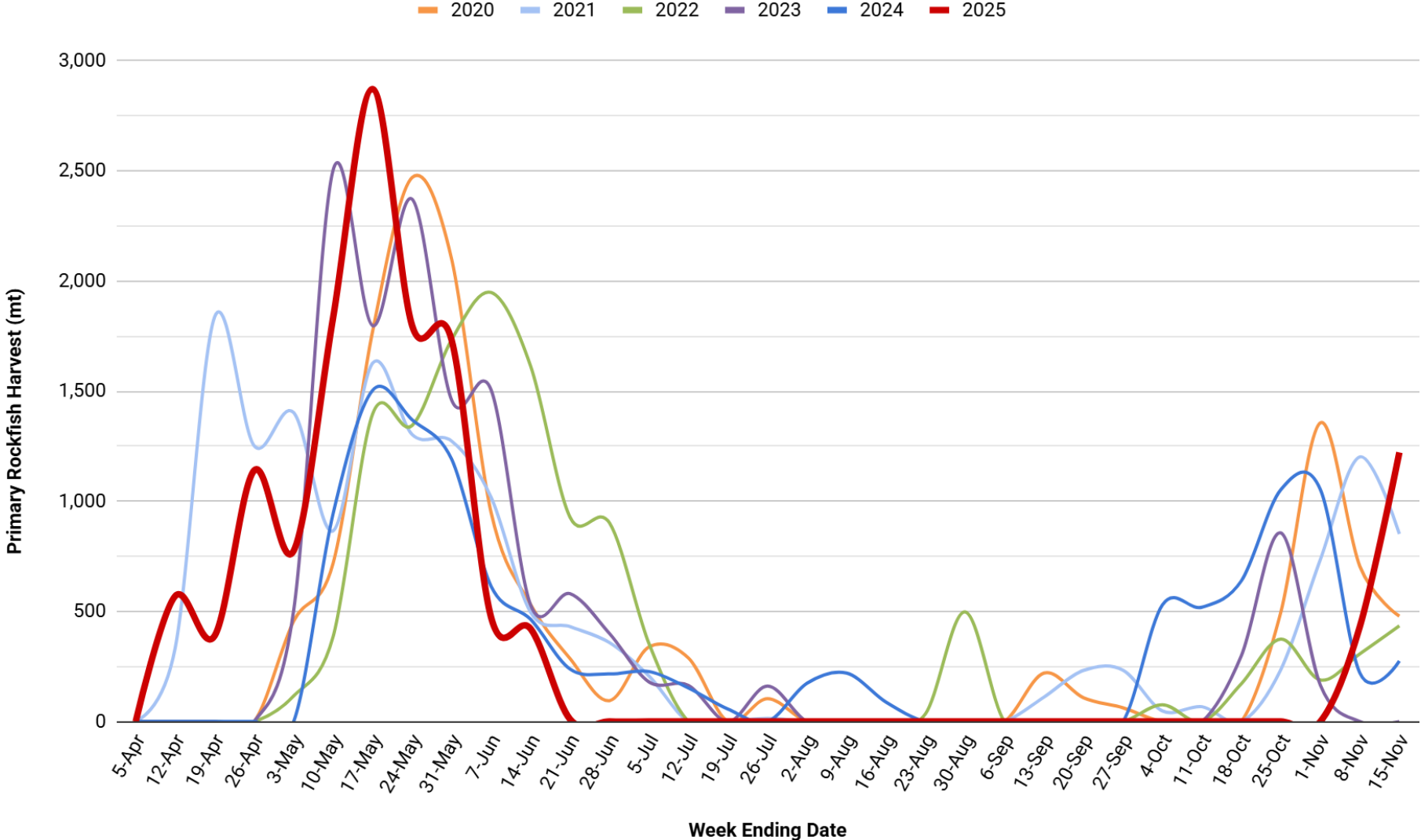
**Chelsae Radell (Outgoing 2025 RP Intercoop Manager)  
with Danielle Bennett (2026 RP Intercoop Manager)**

# CGOA Rockfish Program

- Allocates Primary Rockfish (Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, and Dusky Rockfish), secondary species (Sablefish, Pacific Cod, and Thornyhead Rockfish), and halibut to catcher vessels.
- Bycatch cap with allocations to vessels and their cooperatives.
- Sector bycatch cap for Chinook that is shared among all vessels.
- Program created to slow the pace of the fishery, reduce PSC, and provide economic benefits to Kodiak by stabilizing the trawl fleet, processor workforce, and removing the processing time conflict with salmon.
- 100% Observer Coverage with 100% Retention Requirement (except Halibut).
- Catch Monitoring and Control Plans at the processing plants.
- Rockfish Program Review scheduled for this meeting.

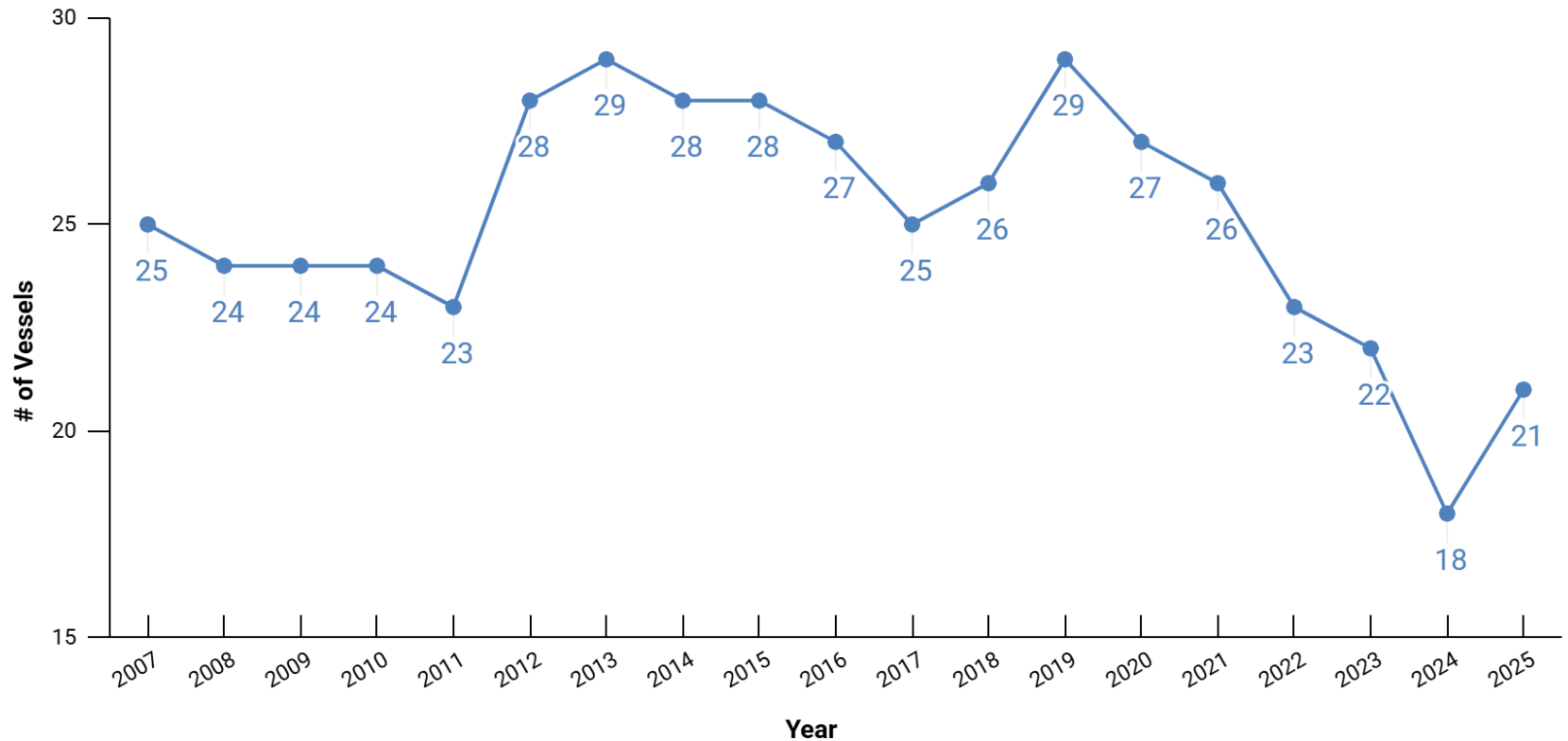


# Weekly Primary Rockfish Harvest, 2020-2025



# Vessel Participation

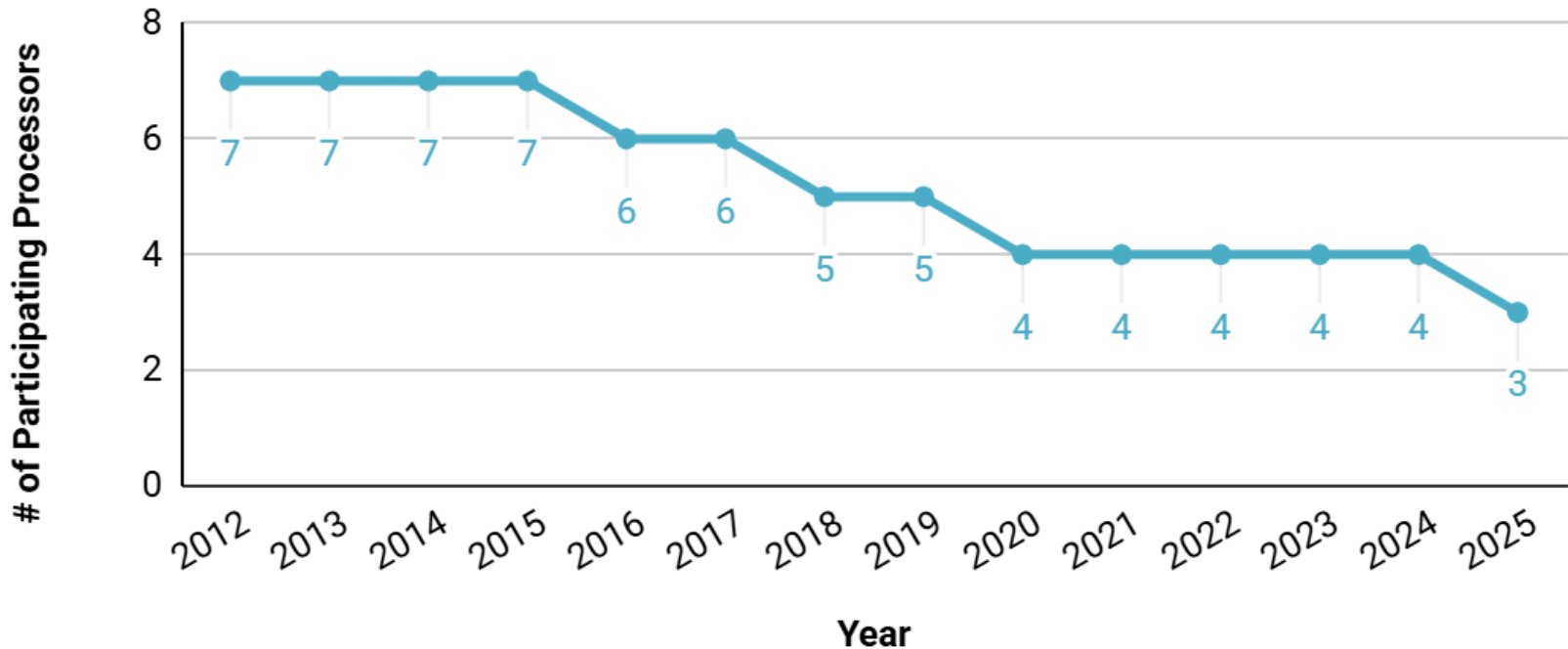
Number of Vessels that completed at least one RP trip, 2007-2025



- There are 46 CV LLPs in the program, and from 2014-2023 an average of 26 vessels participated each year.
- Participation improved in 2025 compared to 2024, but is still below the historical average.

# Processor Consolidation

Number of active, qualified rockfish processing companies 2012-2025



- In 2025, two RP processing companies consolidated into one, bringing the number of companies purchasing RP deliveries in Kodiak to 3.
- However, there are still 4 RP cooperatives and RP deliveries are still being processed at four facilities.

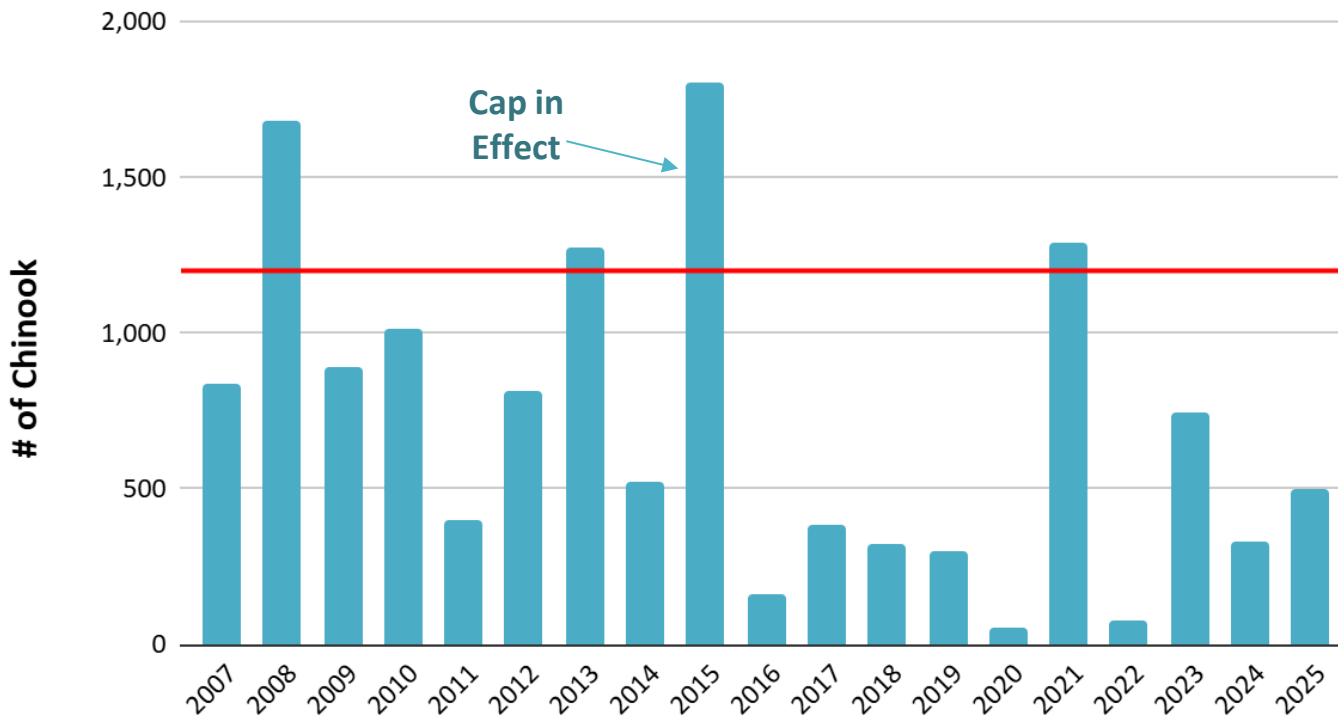
# Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Agreement

- The Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Agreement is part of the Inter-cooperative Agreement that all four cooperatives sign on to each year.
- The Agreement had largely been the same from 2015-2023, but underwent a major overhaul in 2024. The Agreement has been largely the same since then, including in 2026.
- The Agreement has three components:
  - Part One - General Provisions: These provisions apply to all fishing in the rockfish targets for the entire year. It includes the hotspot alerts, salmon excluder requirements (required on all pelagic and non-pelagic rockfish tows), emergency meeting triggers, communication about sampled salmon, etc.
  - Part Two - Slow Start Provisions: Outlines how the fishery begins for each cooperative. Only two vessels per cooperative may be on the grounds, and the second may not begin fishing until the first one is full. Requires communication about salmon seen in bag dumps, and additional vessels may not enter the fishery until their cooperative members are green-lighted (i.e. salmon bycatch rate is at acceptable levels).
  - Part Three - Chinook Salmon Bycatch Performance Standard: Outlines how the fishery operates once the Slow Start period ends.
    - The fishery has continued using the Rockfish Program Chinook Areas or RPCAs. Additional RPCAs were added in 2025 since vessels started fishing consistently in newer areas.
    - Rather than forcing vessels with high chinook rates to have costly stand downs like we did through 2023, the Agreement prioritizes keeping vessels fishing but moving away from areas of high PSC.

# Chinook Salmon Bycatch Performance Standard

RATE LEVEL (#/mt)	RATE LEVEL (#/100,000 lbs)	REQUIRED ACTION
<b>RED LIGHT</b> ≥0.20 Chinook per MT of Rockfish	<b>9 or more Chinook</b>	The vessel is closed from targeting rockfish in that area with the same gear type used on the Red Standard trip, for one week from the time the offload ends.
<b>YELLOW LIGHT</b> 0.10 - 0.20 Chinook per MT of Rockfish	<b>Greater than 5 Chinook but less than 9 Chinook</b>	<p>If a vessel has two consecutive trips from the same area at the Yellow Standard (regardless of gear type), then the vessel is closed from targeting rockfish in that area with the same gear type for one week from the time the offload ends.</p> <p>Note: If the first Yellow Standard trip used one gear, and the second consecutive Yellow Standard trip used a different gear, it still counts as two consecutive trips, and the vessel would be closed out of that area with both gear types.</p>
<b>GREEN LIGHT</b> ≤0.10 Chinook per MT of Rockfish	<b>5 or Less Chinook</b>	The vessel can continue fishing as normal.
<p><b>These standards (including stand-downs) apply only to directed rockfish trips (i.e., if a vessel must stand down due to high bycatch rate, they can still go out and do a cod or sablefish trip).</b></p>		

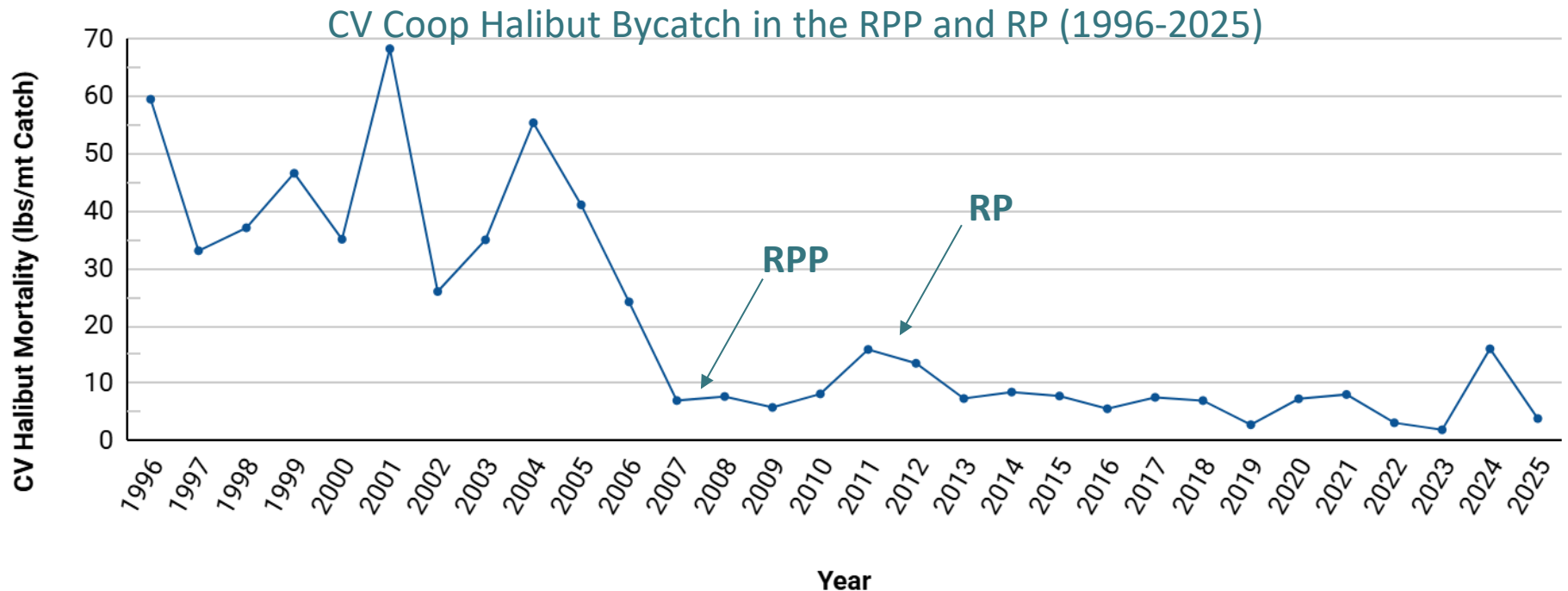
# CGOA RP CV Chinook PSC Catch, 2007-2025



Year	Chinook (no.)	Rockfish Harvest (mt)	Rate (Chinook/mt)
2016	159	13,026	0.012
2017	387	9,444	0.041
2018	304	11,936	0.025
2019	297	12,644	0.023
2020	52	13,566	0.004
2021	1,290	16,138	0.080
2022	78	12,804	0.006
2023	743	13,556	0.055
2024	332	10,896	0.030
2025	498	13,667	0.036
<b>Average</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>10,764</b>	<b>0.074</b>

# Halibut PSC Management

- A conservation goal in forming the Rockfish Program was to reduce halibut bycatch. The Inter-cooperative Halibut Bycatch Management Plan pools halibut allocations at the Cooperative level and sets acceptable Halibut bycatch rates by target fishery.
- Rates strike balance between ensuring RP allocations can be fully harvested while also minimizing halibut bycatch.
- Individual accountability: If a vessel exceeds halibut standards, they **must stop fishing** until the vessel's fishing practices can be assessed.
- After a spike in 2024 (due to sampling issues and extrapolation), Halibut PSC in the RP returned to normal levels.



# Impacts of Season Start Date Change

- Amendment 113 to the GOA FMP moved the season start date from May 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>. 2025 was the first year of the April 1<sup>st</sup> regulatory start date (2021 was by Emergency Rule).
- Salmon bycatch during April has proven to be a constraining factor to harvest in both 2025 and 2026. In 2026, there was more hesitancy to begin fishing in April after 2025's challenges.
  - Normal "Slow Start" provisions alone weren't adequate.
  - However, the additional bycatch avoidance measures put in place at emergency meetings, including earlier meeting triggers are working to avoid bycatch while still allowing the fleet to operate.
- While the flexibility for processors and vessels to operate in April is helpful, unless the abundance of salmon on the grounds changes, April will likely continue to be an even "slower start" to May's "slow start."

Week Ending Date	Vessels Targeting RF		Processors Accepting RF Deliveries	
	2025	2026	2025	2026
April 4	0	0	0	0
April 11	2	3	1	1
April 18	4	8	1	1
April 25	8	10	2	1
May 2	3	16	1	3

\*note: vessels targeting or processors accepting only RP sablefish or cod are excluded.

Species Target	April 2025		April 2026	
	RP Pounds Landed	Rate/Day	RP Pounds Landed	Rate/Day
Primary Rockfish	5,625,570	187,519	7,650,021	255,001
Sablefish	134,323	4,477	115,989	3,866
Pacific Cod	266,642	8,888	765,129	25,504
<b>Total RP Harvest Combined</b>	<b>6,026,535</b>	<b>200,885</b>	<b>8,531,139</b>	<b>284,371</b>
Chinook Count (Fish Tickets)	788		703	
Chinook Rate (Chinook per 300,000 lb trip)	39.2		35.0	



Questions?

