



June 2, 2023

Agenda B-2: NMFS Management Report

Status of Actions Report Online

Updated daily at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/akro/amendments.pdf>

Progress on Rulemaking

Highlights on progress since the February 2023 meeting include:

- On **May 11, 2023**, NMFS published a proposed rule to modify Area 4 Vessel use caps from 2023 through 2027. Public comments are invited through **June 12, 2023** and a final rule is expected to be published in late July or August, 2023.
- **Attachment 1** provides additional detail.

Groundfish Plan Team Nominations

NMFS submitted nomination letters for changes to staff on the Groundfish Plan Teams. Abby Jahn is nominated to replace Obren Davis on the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan Team, and Steve Whitney is nominated to replace Mary Furuness on the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team. The letters are on the Council's June agenda.

Update on NOAA Fisheries' Response to the Wild Fish Conservancy Lawsuit

NMFS invites Southeast Alaska Salmon Trollers and others to join Jon Kurland, Alaska Regional Administrator, for an update on our response to the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit and efforts to provide incidental take coverage for the fishery. We'll share what we know and try to answer questions as best we can. Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., Harrigan Centennial Hall Auditorium (Main Room), 330 Harbor Drive, Sitka, Alaska

Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking—National Standards 4, 8, and 9 - Oral presentation

Mike Ruccio, Division Chief for NOAA Fisheries Domestic Fisheries Division, Headquarters, will give a brief presentation on this advanced notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR). NOAA Fisheries published the ANPR (May 15, 2023; 88 FR 30934) to determine if updates to the implementing guidelines for National Standards (NS) 4, 8, and 9 are needed to improve federal fisheries management. The public comment period is open until September 12, 2023. During this time, we have or will be briefing the Council Coordination Committee, each Regional Fishery Management Council, conducting two tribal-specific (June 22, 2-3:30 Eastern Time; July 18 3-4:30 Eastern Time) and one national-level webinar (June 12 1-2:30 Eastern Time) as well as posting information about the ANPR on our website.

The goal of the ANPR is to solicit public input on the current guidelines and ascertain if there are areas or specific issues that may benefit from future revisions or updates through a subsequent rulemaking. These national standards generally deal with the following concepts:



- NS 4 – allocations shall be fair and equitable; promote conservation; not result in excessive shares.
- NS 8 – consider impacts to communities; provide for sustained participation; minimize adverse economic impacts to the extent practicable.
- NS 9 – minimize bycatch, and bycatch mortality, to the extent practicable.

The ANPR focuses on two specific current challenges: climate-related impacts on fisheries and promoting equity and environmental justice in fisheries. The ANPR has specific requests for input for each national standard as they relate to these two challenges as well as inviting input on other specific components such as the practicability standard for bycatch minimization.

**Technical Guidance for National Standard 1 Reference Points and Status Determinations-
Oral presentation**

Dr. Richard Methot, NOAA ST for Stock Assessments, will present on draft Technical Guidance for Estimating Status Determination Reference Points and their Proxies in Accordance with the National Standard 1 Guidelines. The focus of this document is on technical aspects of calculating and evaluating reference points, especially with regard to proxies for Maximum Sustainable Yield quantities, data-limited approaches, and updating reference points as changes occur in prevailing biological and fishery conditions. The document has been distributed to all Councils for their comment and has been presented to the Council Coordination Committee. NMFS requests written feedback from Councils by August 31, 2023; however Councils may request more time if needed.

**Seascope Alaska: Expeditions to Explore Deep Waters Off Alaska, May - September 2023 -
Oral presentation**

Sam Candio, Expedition Coordinator, NOAA Ocean Exploration, will give a brief presentation on NOAA’s Expeditions to Explore Deep Waters Off Alaska. From May through September 2023, NOAA and partners are conducting a series of six telepresence-enabled ocean exploration expeditions on NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer to improve knowledge about unexplored and poorly understood deepwater areas offshore Alaska, with a particular focus on the Aleutian Islands, Gulf of Alaska, and Aleutian Trench. The expeditions will address science themes and priority areas put forward by scientists and managers from NOAA, management agencies in the region, the ocean science community, and local tribal communities. A key objective is locating, characterizing, and improving knowledge of ecologically and economically important deepwater habitats, including coral and sponge communities.

The expeditions will include mapping operations, remotely operated vehicle (ROV) dives, and autonomous underwater vehicle operations, depending on the expedition. Live video and data from ROV dives and multibeam sonar mapping operations will be shared in real time with shore-based participants and the public, allowing for active participation and observation.

Data collected during the Alaska expeditions will establish a baseline in explored areas to catalyze further exploration, research, and management activities. Once the expeditions are over, like all data collected during expeditions on Okeanos Explorer, data collected during the Seascope Alaska expeditions will be quality assured and then made quickly available to scientists and the public via NOAA’s national data archives.

Anyone interested in discussing specific details about the upcoming expeditions in Alaska, including ways to participate, can contact Sam at Samuel.Candio@noaa.gov.

MSA Data Confidentiality proposed rule

NMFS will publish a proposed rule to revise regulations governing the confidentiality of information submitted under the MSA. Issues to be addressed in the rulemaking include:

- Clarifying how confidentiality applies to data collected in support of a catch share program (i.e., definitions for the ‘limited access program’ exception and ‘determination’);
- Defining the ‘submitter’ of data (e.g., clarifying who is responsible for reporting data to NMFS);
- Written authorization exception (e.g., applying a process for the submitter to release confidential data)
- Managing data voluntarily submitted to NMFS (e.g., provided as part of a research project but not required under MSA); and
- Applying confidentiality to third-parties (e.g., data sent by the fishing industry to technology providers).

NMFS will publish a proposed rule in early summer 2023 with the goal of issuing a final rule in summer 2024. After the rulemaking is complete, NMFS will develop additional guidance to address priorities that complement the regulations. We expect the second phase to take several years and include opportunities for providing feedback on draft guidance.

Environmental Impact Statement for Chum Salmon Bycatch

At its April 2023 meeting the Council initiated an action to develop measures to minimize bycatch of Western Alaska origin chum salmon in the Eastern Bering Sea pollock fishery consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, National Standards, and other applicable law. In its April 2023 motion, the Council established an initial Purpose and Need, as well as draft alternatives to analyze for potential impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act. The NMFS Alaska Region recommends that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared for this action, based on uncertainty or disagreement regarding the relevant science.

In assessing the appropriate level of NEPA analysis, NEPA implementing regulations (40 CFR § 1501.3) stipulate that, if Federal agencies determine a proposed action is likely to have significant effects, it is appropriate for an environmental impact statement. In considering whether the effects of the proposed action are significant, agencies must analyze the potentially affected environment and degree of the effects of the action. The affected environment includes the geographic extent of the affected area and the occurrence and condition of the physical, ecological, and socioeconomic resources. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. In considering the degree of the effects, agencies should consider, as appropriate: (i) the duration of the effects (short- and long-term or permanent effects; (ii) beneficial and adverse effects; (iii) effects on public health and safety; (iv) effects that would violate Federal, State, Tribal, or local law protecting the environment; and (v) whether the proposed action is related to other “connected actions” (defined at 40 CFR § 1501.9(e)(1)). NOAA provides additional agency guidance in determining significance, including any other factor that would meaningfully inform the “degree of effect,” including:

- effects to resources protected by law (e.g., marine mammals, threatened and endangered species, essential fish habitat, managed fisheries, national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments, historic and archeological resources);
- effects that contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of the species;
- disproportionate adverse effects to low income or minority populations;
- effects to any other physical or biological resources where the impact is considered substantial in magnitude (e.g., substantial irreversible loss of coastal resource such as marshland or seagrass); or
- effects that involve a high degree of scientific uncertainty or scientific disagreement.

NMFS and the Council would seek information from the public through the EIS scoping process on the environmental, social, and economic issues to be considered in the analysis, as well as the range of alternatives to be analyzed for potentially significant impacts to the human environment. At this time, our plan is to publish, prior to the October Council meeting, a notice announcing the scoping period for this EIS to ensure the scoping period overlaps with the October Council meeting. The scoping notice would outline the proposed action under consideration, including relevant background, draft purpose and need and range of alternatives, and preliminary identification of relevant issues. The scoping notice would also include instructions on how to submit comments. Written comments from the public would be accepted during the scoping process and would be provided to the Council and incorporated into the EIS as appropriate. Written and oral public testimony provided at the October Council meeting would also be considered in the development of the EIS. This EIS would not be subject to the two-year time limit for the preparation of an EIS under current NEPA implementing regulations (40 CFR 1501.10(b)(2)), because the NMFS Assistant Administrator has signed a waiver from those limits for MSA actions that is in effect until revoked.

Cook Inlet Salmon

NMFS is developing a Secretarial Amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for the Salmon Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Off Alaska (Salmon FMP). On May 18, 2023, the NMFS held a public hearing via webinar regarding to receive input from interested persons on the development of an amendment to the Salmon FMP and implementing regulations (April 26, 2023, 88 FR 25382). Additionally, in response to a court order, NMFS participated in a collaboration discussion on May 19, 2023 and May 22, 2023 with The Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) and the State of Alaska to discuss the development of the Secretarial FMP Amendment.

The FMP amendment under development would establish Federal management for the salmon fisheries in the Federal (EEZ) waters of upper Cook Inlet. NMFS will then publish a notice in the **Federal Register** that the FMP amendment is available for a 60-day public comment period, as required by MSA 304(c)(4)(B). At the same time, NMFS will publish proposed regulations in the **Federal Register** for a 60-day public comment period, consistent with MSA 304(c)(6). The Council will be invited to submit comments and recommendations on the FMP amendment and proposed regulations during the public comment periods. NMFS anticipates the public comment

period to overlap with the October or December 2023 Council meeting and plans to provide an overview of the proposed Amendment and implementing regulations at that time.

Tribal Relations Update

Tribal Engagement

NMFS recently participated in six tribal engagements:

1. As a follow up to the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (CVTC) tribal consultation regarding the Cook Inlet Salmon FMP, the AKRO Tribal Relations Coordinator hosted a meeting on April 13, 2023 involving NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Restoration center, AKRO Grants staff to discuss a potential salmon research and restoration project for the Tribe. Questions arose during this meeting regarding federal funding opportunities regarding subsistence/rural fishing so a NMFS internal meeting was scheduled on May 17, 2023 to discuss grant funding options for rural Tribes. NMFS PCSRF staff confirmed the eligibility of the CVTC to apply for fish restoration funding in the next fiscal year to improve subsistence fisheries despite the fact that they do not meet the state eligibility for a rural subsistence area.
2. On May 24, 2023, AKRO and GC AK Section staff met with Melanie Brown, SalmonState Organizer and Tribal Fisherman, to discuss the upcoming Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) for National Standards 4, 8 & 9.
3. On May 5, 2023, AKRO Tribal Relations Coordinator held a Meet & Greet with Mary Porter, Environmental Director for the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT), to improve tribal relations, get to know YTT, and begin initial discussions regarding tribal issues, concerns, or questions related to NOAA Fisheries work in Alaska.
4. On May 11, 2023, AKRO Tribal Relations Coordinator held a Meet & Greet with Melenda Lekanof, YTT Realty Director, to discuss land issues, including preservation of tribal sacred sites and impacts of cruise ship vessels on marine mammals and seaweed subsistence harvest in Yakutat, AK. The Tribe is also interested in clam aquaculture.
5. On May 24, AKRO Tribal Relations Coordinator held a Meet & Greet with Havaleh Rohloff, YTT Fisheries Program Manager, to discuss tribal fisheries issues in Yakutat, AK. The YTT fisheries program is fairly new (4 yrs.) and growing in capacity. The Tribe is interested in learning more about participation in federal fisheries management processes, including attending future North Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings. The Tribe also expressed concerns regarding subsistence fisheries and the recent declines of Chinook salmon and steelhead in the Situk River and low Dungeness Crab population in Yakutat Bay and the Gulf of Alaska.
6. On June 2, 2023, AKRO staff will meet with the Craig Tribal Association & Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes regarding the impacts of the Southeast Alaska commercial troll fishery and Wild Fish Conservancy litigation on SE Alaska tribal communities.

Tribal Consultation Invitations

NMFS provided two invitations to consult with Alaska Native Tribes, Corporations, and Organizations that represent Tribal Governments since the April Council meeting:

1. The first tribal consultation invitation was for the Proposed Listing of the Sunflower Sea Star on April 14, 2023.

- a. Two friendly reminders on the tribal consultation invitation were provided on April 25 and May 8, 2023. Only one tribal response was received on May 9, 2023 from the CVTC stating that they would not be commenting on the proposed listing.
- b. Two public hearings were also conducted in Kodiak on May 2nd and in Petersburg on May 10, 2023. The comment period closed on May 19, 2023.
2. The second tribal consultation invitation was for a second round of tribal consultations regarding managing the Cook Inlet salmon fishery in the Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment on April 21, 2023.
 - a. One Alaska Native Tribe responded to our invitation for consultation - Salamatof Tribe.
 - b. One public hearing was conducted regarding the Cook Inlet Salmon FMP Amendment on May 18, 2023.
3. See ‘Tribal Newsletter’ below for more updates on tribal engagement/consultation.

Tribal Consultation

NMFS has recently participated in one Tribal Consultation.

1. Tribal consultation occurred with the Salamatof Tribe on the Cook Inlet Salmon FMP, Alternative 3 Amendment, on May 22, 2023.
2. Issues raised and meaningful feedback from the Salamatof Tribe:
 - a. The proposed fixed closure date would occur when the runs are still strong. The Tribe questioned the benefit of closing the EEZ in July. Not only would this negatively affect the commercial fishery but the tribal community and economy built around salmon.
 - b. Due to record salmon runs in recent years, a premature closure may result in too many fish returning to their natal grounds and disrupting the balance in the ecosystem. These fish need to be taken out to avoid prey and habitat competition
 - c. King salmon are not typically caught in the EEZ fishery but kings do migrate through there.
 - d. Chinook salmon sport fishing is year around and should have limits
 - e. The Tribe wants to be involved in the State’s buy back program
 - f. There is concern about the dwindling status of Chinook salmon stocks throughout the state, including Cook Inlet. The Salmatof Tribe is looking into aquaculture options, including development of hatchery methods to restock streams in the area
 - g. Subsistence rights must be maintained. NMFS needs to give the Tribes a voice for subsistence fishing rights
3. A summary of the Cook Inlet Salmon FMP consultation is in progress and will be sent out to participants and posted on the [NMFS webpage](#) in the near future.

Tribal Newsletter

NMFS released the [May edition](#) of our Tribal Newsletter on Friday, May 5, 2023. The newsletter serves as an information source for NOAA Fisheries contacts, job postings, grants, educational opportunities available throughout Alaska, and upcoming North Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings and issues. This month’s newsletter included:

1. Invitations and information for tribal engagement/consultation regarding Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Crab Harvest Specifications, NMFS Observer Reports, Bristol Bay Red King Crab Closure Areas, BSAI Crab Rationalization Program.

2. D Items with tribal consultation to be announced: D1 small sablefish release, D2 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), D3 Crew Data Collection Discussion paper (SSC only)
3. Upcoming events, including the Public Hearing on Amendment 16 for Federal Salmon Management in Cook Inlet on May 18, 2023 and the Moananuiākea, a voyage for earth. On Saturday, June 15, Hōkūle‘a will depart Juneau after a celebratory ceremony launching with the Tlingit Haida Tribe. The vessel will also be stopping in Yakutat to honor the late Byron Mallot where the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe is preparing a welcome.

For further information on NMFS Sustainable Fisheries tribal engagement activities please contact Kelly Cates at kelly.cates@noaa.gov.

For further information on NMFS Alaska Region tribal consultations please contact Amilee Wilson at amilee.wilson@noaa.gov or 907-723-7099.

Annual Crab Rationalization IFQ Deadline Reminder

On May 16, 2023, NMFS distributed its [annual reminder](#) about the upcoming IFQ application deadline on June 15, 2023. In that notice, NMFS included the following reminder for Crab Crew Share holders:

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR CREW SHARE HOLDERS

Individuals holding Catcher Vessel Crew (CVC) or Catcher Processor Crew (CPC) QS must meet active participation requirements and provide RAM with a fish ticket or signed affidavit from the vessel owner demonstrating a qualifying crab landing. This affidavit provided must be signed by the vessel owner, and more specifically be someone other than the applicant.

Additionally, initial QS recipients may qualify by demonstrating 30 days of participation in a State of Alaska or Alaska Federal commercial fishery during the crab fishing year immediately preceding the crab fishing year for which you are applying.

These active participation requirements are also described in Block D of the application form. If an individual holding CVC and/or CPC QS does not provide the required proof of active participation, that individual may not be issued CVC/CPC IFQ for the 2023/2024 crab fishing year and may have QS revoked.

To ensure that RAM has the most current and correct active participation data on file for your current application, we kindly ask that you submit your participation evidence even if you submitted it in a previous year. This helps RAM to ensure we are reviewing the most recent and applicable information for your active participation.

For any questions about the annual crab application process, please contact the Alaska Regional Office's, Restricted Access Management Division at (800) 304-4846 (option #2) or RAM.Alaska@noaa.gov.

Northern fur seal Conservation Plan Update

NMFS informed the Council via a May 20, 2021, letter that we are revising the 2007 Conservation Plan for the Eastern Pacific Stock of Northern Fur Seal pursuant to section 115(b) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. NMFS presented information on the revisions and reorganization of the conservation actions of the plan jointly with the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island regarding comanagement activities to the Ecosystem Committee on January 25, 2022. NMFS anticipates the plan to be available for public comment starting in early June.

Sunflower Sea Star Proposed Listing & Public Hearings

On April 11, 2023, NMFS published a proposed rule to list the sunflower sea star as a threatened species under the ESA. We held [two public hearings](#) in Alaska on the proposal, one on May 2 in Kodiak and one on May 10 in Petersburg. The primary purpose of the public hearings was to solicit and encourage public comments and information regarding the sunflower sea star and NMFS's proposed rule to list the species as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. We greatly appreciated all participation in the public hearings and interest and concern regarding this topic. The feedback we received was valuable. NMFS is working to review all public comments and prepare a final determination.

Alaska Selected as Next Region to Identify Future Aquaculture Opportunity Areas

With support from across the state, NOAA announced on June 1, that Alaska has been chosen as the next region in which we will identify future Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOA). An AOA is a defined geographic area that NOAA has evaluated through both spatial analysis and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and determined to be environmentally, socially, and economically appropriate to support multiple commercial aquaculture operations. With more coastline than all of the Lower 48 states combined, Alaska is uniquely positioned to benefit from growing the marine aquaculture industry.

In Alaska, the effort to identify AOAs will be focused in state waters and NOAA will only consider invertebrates (e.g., shellfish, sea cucumber, etc.) and seaweed farming. Finfish farming in Alaska state waters is prohibited by law. While the Alaska Region has been selected, the exact locations and configuration of AOAs will be shaped by a combination of spatial analysis and public input. The State of Alaska will serve as a crucial partner in helping NOAA design and identify appropriate locations for AOAs and these areas will be shaped through a public process that allows constituents to share their tribal, community, and stewardship goals, as well as critical insights.

We look forward to further engaging with the Council on this process. For more information on the announcement, please see the [NOAA press release](#), and our [AK AOA webpage](#) and [FAQ page](#). If you have questions, please contact the Alaska Regional Office's Aquaculture Coordinator [Alicia Bishop](#) at Alicia.Bishop@noaa.gov.

ROE Funding Mechanism Scoping Sessions

In May, NMFS staff joined charter operators in a series of in-person scoping sessions to inform the operators and to gather feedback on a halibut angler stamp program that would be used as a funding mechanism for the Recreational Quota Entity (RQE). The meetings were held in Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Craig, Gustavus, Homer, and Seward. The meetings were facilitated by the Southeast Alaska Guides Organization, the Alaska Charter Association, the Homer Charter Association, RQE Board members, and Council member Andy Mezirow and Advisory Panel member Brian Ritchie.

NMFS intends to use the feedback gathered from the meetings to help shape the implementation of the program, which currently contemplates distributing halibut stamps in an electronic format. Stamps will likely be paid for and made available to charter operators through NMFS eFish accounts. Much work remains to be done to craft the rules and to fully implement the mechanics of the program, but NMFS remains focused on implementing the program in 2025.

Halibut Excluder EFP #2020-01 Update

An exempted fishing permit (EFP) was issued in April 2021 to the Alaska Seafood Cooperative to test a halibut excluder device in the Amendment 80 flatfish fishery. The factory trawler (F/T) North Star was designated to conduct field testing of the halibut excluder device using twin trawl nets in the yellowfin sole and flathead sole fisheries before December 2022. Exempted fishing was delayed in 2022 due to problems with the North Star's ability to track factory production by net, and this EFP was extended through the end of 2023. Due to mechanical issues with the North Star and the lack of a secured field project manager in late 2023, the permit holder notified NMFS in May, 2023 that they are unable to proceed with this EFP. Therefore, all exempted fishing authorized by this EFP has been canceled.

Personnel Changes

Cathy Coon will serve as the next Habitat Conservation Division Assistant Regional Administrator. Cathy will be based in Anchorage Alaska and has over 20 years of experience managing environmental programs and crafting policy for Alaska's large marine ecosystems. She served as a fishery analyst with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council where she coordinated with NOAA-NMFS AKRO Habitat Conservation Division and worked on Essential Fish Habitat, Habitat Areas of Particular Concern, and protecting habitats within the Northern Bering Sea and Arctic Fishery Management Plan area. She also served as Chief for the Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Environmental Sciences Management Program for 5 years, and partnered with NOAA on many scientific studies including Model-based Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Descriptions for Arctic Cod, Saffron Cod and Snow Crab in the Alaskan Arctic and the Arctic Integrated Ecosystem Research Program. Most recently Cathy serves as a program analyst on science and policy in BOEM's Alaska Regional Director's Office where her work focuses on greater Alaska and Arctic issues relating to the sustainable management and conservation of marine resources and their habitats.

Cathy has a wealth of experience when it comes to addressing controversial, complex scientific, political, and economic issues. Her practical experience related to understanding environmental laws and regulations including the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management will be an asset for the Region.

She is also a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion and has mentored early and mid-career scientists in rural Alaska communities and beyond.

Brian Brown will serve as the new ARA for the Restricted Access Management Division (RAM). Brian has served as RAM Program Manager since July 2021. He has been extremely successful in this role overseeing many of the operations needed to effectively manage complex fisheries permitting programs and curate a healthy fisheries data and records management program. This type of work requires diverse subject matter expertise on federal fisheries regulations, management, and monitoring and Brian brings that in spades. He has improved RAM program operations and processes related to numerous commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries and their associated permitting and operating activities and will continue to build upon that success as ARA.

Brian has great leadership skills, so much so that he won employee of the year! He is a great supervisor who has proven his ability to lead interdisciplinary teams. Brian also serves on the Senior Leadership Team and contributes to strategic planning efforts and goals of the Region.

Jamalea Martelle joined the Alaska Region Restricted Access Management Program on May 8, 2023. Jamalea is an Administrative Assistant for the Region's Records team. Jamalea joins us with a good deal of valuable business experience and a deep appreciation for the NOAA missions. We're excited to have her join the NOAA Fisheries Team.

Attachment 2 -- Inseason Management Report

Catch during 2023 is through May 27, 2023 and is compared to catch during 2022 through March 28, 2022. 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 2023 Bering Sea pollock TAC is 1,300,000 mt compared to 1,111,000 mt in 2022. For 2023, NMFS reallocated 12,600 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 opens at noon, A.l.t., June 10, 2023.

Bering Sea	2023 A season allocation	2023 A season catch	Percent taken
Inshore	254,835	239,049	94%
CP	203,868	201,052	99%
Mothership	50,967	50,281	99%
CDQ ¹	59,355	58,945	99%
Total	569,025	549,327	97%

Salmon in the Bering Sea Pollock Fisheries

The Chinook salmon PSC limit is 45,000 Chinook salmon in 2023, and allocated to each sector as specified in 50 CFR 679.21(f)(3)(iii)(A). In 2023 relative to 2022, the total Chinook and non-Chinook PSC and rates are higher.

Species	Chinook				Non-Chinook			
	2023		2022		2023		2021	
Amount	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹
CDQ	1,151	0.019	392	0.008	72	0.0012	4	0.0001
AFA	9,455	0.019	4,793	0.011	380	0.0008	62	0.0001
Total	10,606	0.019	5,185	0.011	452	0.0008	66	0.0001

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

Blackspotted and Rougheye Rockfish

For 2023, the maximum species specific catch recommended in the Western Aleutian Islands is 61 mt. All sectors are requested to avoid blackspotted/rougheye rockfish. A [weekly report](#) is available to monitor total catch of blackspotted/rougheye rockfish in the Western Aleutian Islands.

BSAI Pacific cod by Sector

The 2023 Pacific cod TAC is 127,409 mt in the Bering Sea and 8,425 mt in the Aleutian Islands compared to the 2022 Bering Sea TAC of 136,466 mt and Aleutian Islands TAC of 13,796 mt.

The remaining amount of the 2023 total non-CDQ sector annual allocation is 48,638 mt. The remaining non-CDQ Bering Sea TAC is 42,552 mt. This leaves 6,086 mt of the non-CDQ Pacific cod allocation that cannot be caught in the Bering Sea. However, if more non-CDQ Pacific cod fishing occurs in the Aleutian Islands, the amount of non-CDQ Pacific cod that will not be able to be caught in the Bering Sea decreases.

BSAI Sector	2023				2022			
	A season TAC ^{1,2}	Catch May 27	A season closed	# vessels May 27	A season TAC ^{1,2}	Catch May 28	A season closed	# vessels May 28
CDQ	8,721	6,471	n/a	27	9,647	5,887	n/a	28
Hook-and-line CP	29,923	29,305	n/a	17	33,164	30,713	n/a	16
Pot CP	922	833	Mar 22	<3	1,021	1,065	Mar 15	3
Pot CV >= 60 ft	5,161	5,083	Jan 12	22	5,720	6,959	Jan 23	27
Hook-and-line CV >= 60 ft	123	2	n/a	<3	136	0	n/a	0
Hook-and-line/Pot CVs < 60 ft	3,360	3,331	Jan 16	20	3,746	4,018	Jan 26	20
Jig	340	0	n/a	0	428	0	n/a	0
Trawl CV	22,786	21,624	n/a	81	25,206	22,453	Mar 30	93
AFA CP	2,790	1,601	Jan 20	15	3,086	2,009	Jan 20	15
Amendment 80 CP	16,254	10,797	n/a	17	17,981	11,193	n/a	18
ICA HAL/Pot	400	85		16	400	74		
Total	90,780	79,132		215	100,535	84,371		220

¹In 2023, NMFS reallocated 950 mt, and in 2022 NMFS reallocated 1,075 mt from the A season jig allocation to the hook-and-line or pot gear less than 60 ft length annual allocation.

²The jig and trawl sector B season allocations are included in the A season allocations.

Pacific cod directed fishing - trawl CVs

The fleet finished their voluntary catch share for the A season. The B season opened for 24 hours from noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), April 1, 2023 to noon, A.l.t., April 2, 2023.

The A season closed by regulation at noon, April 1, 2023. The B season opened at noon, April 1 and closed at noon, April 2, 2023. NMFS opened the B season at noon, April 13, 2023 and it remains open. The C season allocation of 4,021 mt becomes available at noon, A.l.t., June 10, 2023.

BSAI Flatfish (includes CDQ)

In 2023 relative to 2022, overall BSAI flatfish catch is about 22,000 mt lower, but varies by species. In 2023, rock sole has the highest increase in catch, and yellowfin sole has the highest decrease in catch.

Species	2023			2022		
	Catch	TAC	% Taken	Catch	TAC	% Taken
Alaska plaice	7,828	17,500	45%	6,614	29,221	23%
Arrowtooth flounder	1,414	15,000	9%	1,300	20,000	7%
Flathead sole	4,943	35,500	14%	8,055	35,500	23%
Greenland turbot	225	3,960	6%	181	6,572	3%
Kamchatka flounder	1,250	7,579	16%	1,604	9,214	17%
Other flatfish	1,668	4,500	37%	1,341	10,000	13%
Rock sole	21,373	66,000	32%	14,708	66,000	22%
Yellowfin sole	59,634	230,000	26%	83,028	250,000	33%
Total	98,168	380,039	26%	116,831	426,507	27%

Note: Directed fishing for Arrowtooth flounder, Kamchatka flounder, and Greenland turbot opens at noon, May 1.

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

The catch of Atka mackerel is similar in 2023 and 2022, and the catch of POP is lower in 2023 than in 2022, and the non-CDQ trawl catch of sablefish is higher in 2023 than in 2022.

Species	2023			2022		
	Catch	TAC	% Taken	Catch	TAC	% Taken
Atka mackerel	26,855	69,282	39%	26,567	66,481	40%
Pacific ocean perch	3,775	37,703	10%	5,361	35,385	15%
BS non-CDQ Sablefish-Trawl	356	3,398	10%	261	2,237	12%
AI non-CDQ Sablefish-Trawl	368	1,794	21%	209	1,373	15%

Gulf of Alaska

Pacific cod

In 2023, NMFS closed directed fishing for the A season for some sectors with allocations that are necessary to support incidental catch:

Western GOA – Hook-and-line CV, Trawl CP

Central GOA – Trawl CV, Trawl CP

Pacific cod - Western GOA

Sector	2023				2022			
	A season allocation	Catch May 27	A season closed	# of vessels May 27	A season allocation	Catch May 28	A season closed	# of vessels May 28
Hook-and-line CP	555	410	n/a	3	732	725	Mar 23	4
Hook-and-line CV	36	9	Jan 1	8	47	26	Jan 1	12
Jig	78	80	Mar 11	13	146	0	n/a	0
Pot CV/CP	1,009	1,000	Feb 1	10	1,330	1,360	Feb 11	15
Trawl CV	1,607	1,326	Mar 4	13	2,118	2,056	Apr 6	26
Trawl CP	46	0	Jan 20	0	60	0	Jan 20	0
Total	3,331	2,825		47	4,433	4,167		57

Pacific cod - Central GOA

Sector	2023				2022			
	A season allocation	Catch May 27	A season closed	# of vessels May 27	A season allocation	Catch May 28	A season closed	# of vessels May 28
Hook-and-line CP	452	336	n/a	4	602	592	May 27	<3
Hook-and-line CV <50 ft	1,026	1,074	Feb 28	61	1,366	1,409	Mar 15	64
Hook-and-line CV ≥50 ft	618	580	Mar 17	37	823	748	Mar 30	39
Jig	67	239	n/a	37	89	3	n/a	2
Pot CV/CP	1,963	2,104	Feb 26	24	2,615	2,903	Feb 16	23
Trawl CV	2,785	2,492	Jan 20	38	3,710	3,142	Jan 20	39
Trawl CV - RP	424	16	n/a	16	582	93	n/a	13
Trawl CP	221	37	Jan 20	<3	294	124	Jan 20	3
Total	7,556	6,878		217	10,081	9,014		183

Pollock

For Area 610 A season, NMFS closed directed fishing January 20, 2023 because the TAC does not support directed fishing. The pollock fleet voluntarily waited to fish pollock in Area 620 from January 20 to February 4 and in Area 630 from January 20 to February 14. In Area 620, fishing occurred in late February to the third week of March. In Area 630, the fleet joined a voluntary catch agreement, and fishing mostly started after March 29, 2023. In Area 640, most of the catch was the last week of March.

2023 A season	610	620	630	640
A season allocation	1,685	58,039	9,121	7,523 (annual)
A season catch	70	57,082	7,510	6,843
A season closure	January 20	March 20	May 31 by regulation	March 29

Chinook Salmon PSC Limits in the GOA

Total 2023 Chinook salmon PSC and rates are higher relative to 2022.

Chinook Salmon	2023 Limit	2023 PSC (Rate ¹)	2022 PSC (Rate ¹)
Total	n/a	5,962	3,239
Western GOA pollock	6,684	0	0
Central GOA pollock	18,316	4,017 (0.06)	3,072 (0.05)
Western/Central trawl CV ²	3,060	910 (0.71)	0
Central Rockfish Program CV	1,200	731 (0.09)	56 (0.01)
Western/Central trawl C/P ²	4,080	304 (0.16)	111 (0.03)

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

²The limit include the incentive buffer for 2022 and 2023 Western/Central trawl C/P limit (480 Chinook) and 2023 Western/Central trawl CV (360 Chinook).

Halibut PSC

In 2023 relative to 2022, the total halibut PSC is lower and the total groundfish is higher in the BSAI and in the GOA.

Area, Gear, and Sector	2023			2022		
	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate
BSAI Total	1,263	794,010	0.16%	1,359	733,532	0.19%
Amendment 80	923	147,976	0.62%	921	161,657	0.57%
BSAI trawl limited access	226	528,179	0.04%	332	463,404	0.07%
Non-trawl Pacific cod	44	41,813	0.11%	45	42,536	0.11%
Non-trawl Other	0	0		0	0	
CDQ	71	76,042	0.09%	62	65,934	0.09%
GOA Total	143	91,472	0.16%	162	82,350	0.20%
Trawl, Deep-water	68	3,163	2.15%	90	3,906	2.30%
Trawl, Shallow-water	39	76,548	0.05%	41	72,713	0.06%
Trawl, Rockfish Program	5	8,787	0.06%	5	5,558	0.09%
Hook-and-line	31	2,974	1.04%	26	4,079	0.64%