

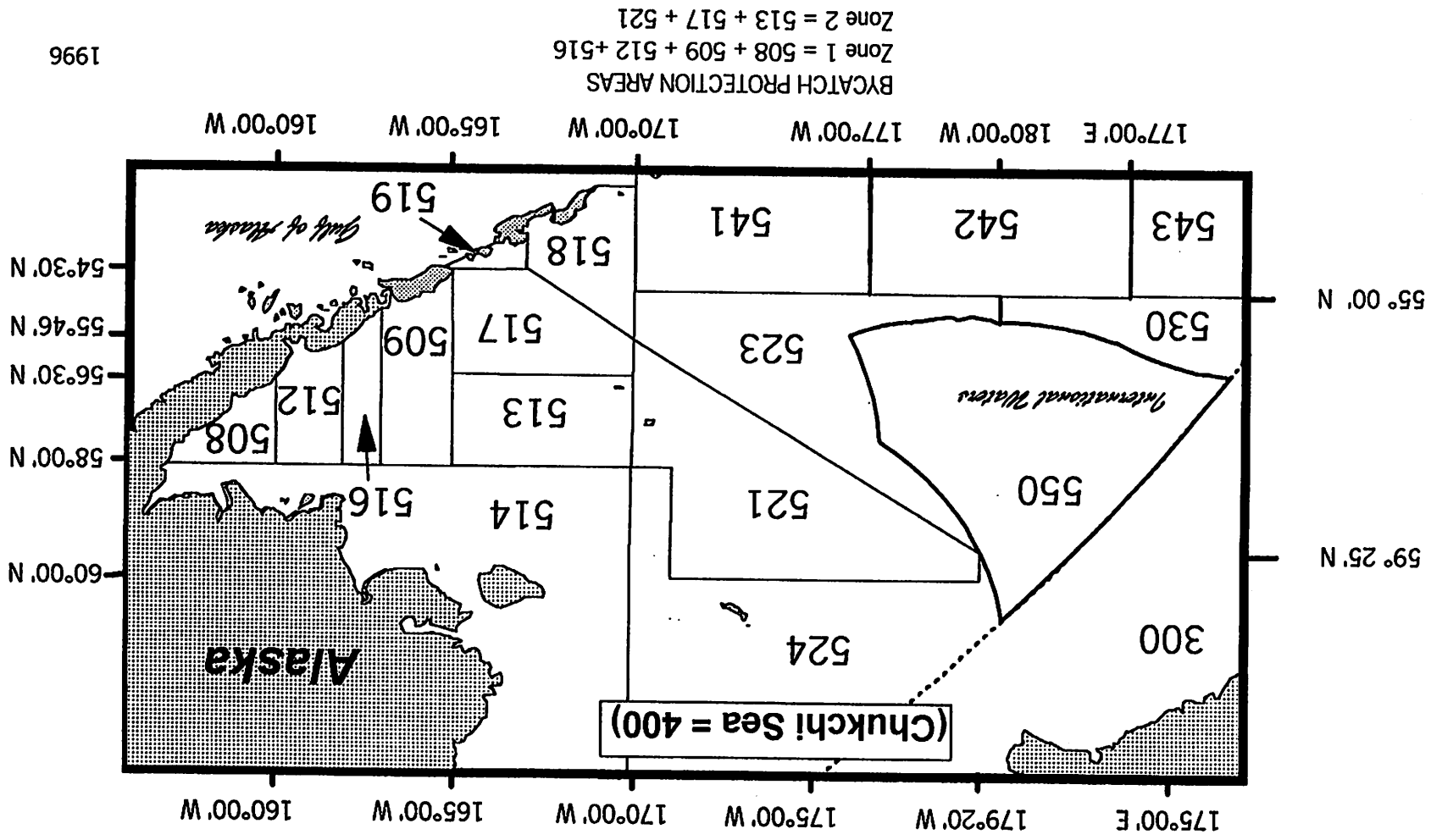
SEPTEMBER 1996

**NMFS FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT REPORT**

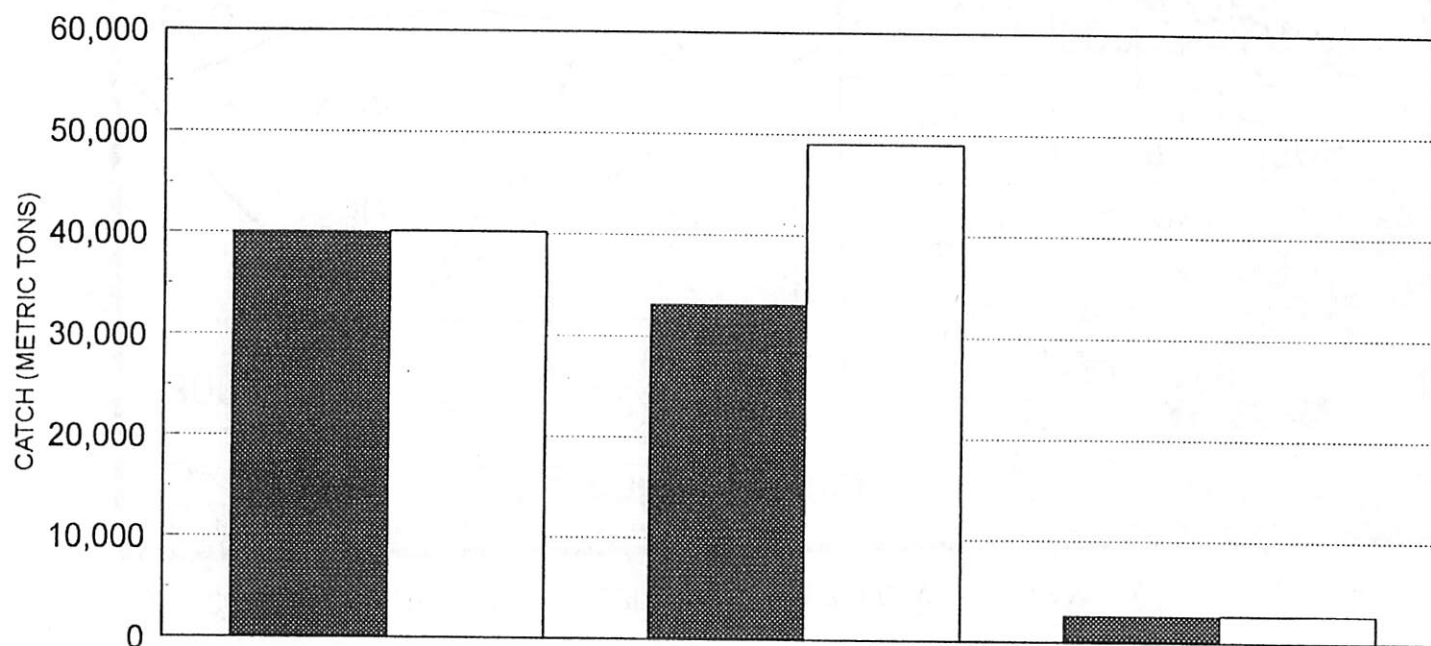




BERING SEA & ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

1996 REPORTING AREAS OF THE BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS



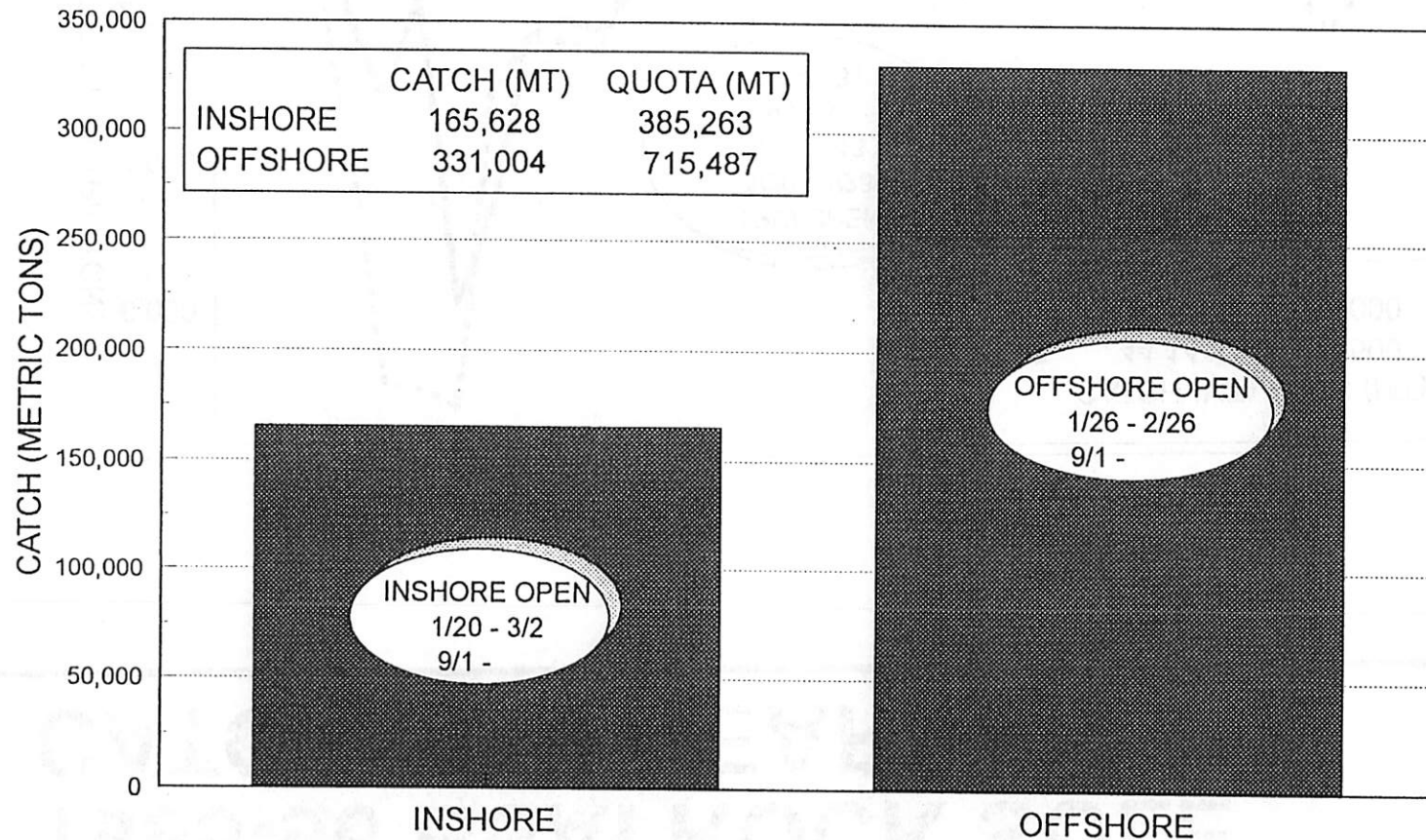
1996 BSAI CDQ POLLOCK



	BS 'A' Season	BS non-'A' Season	Aleutians
CATCH 	40,079	33,190	2,634
QUOTA 	40,163	49,087	2,670

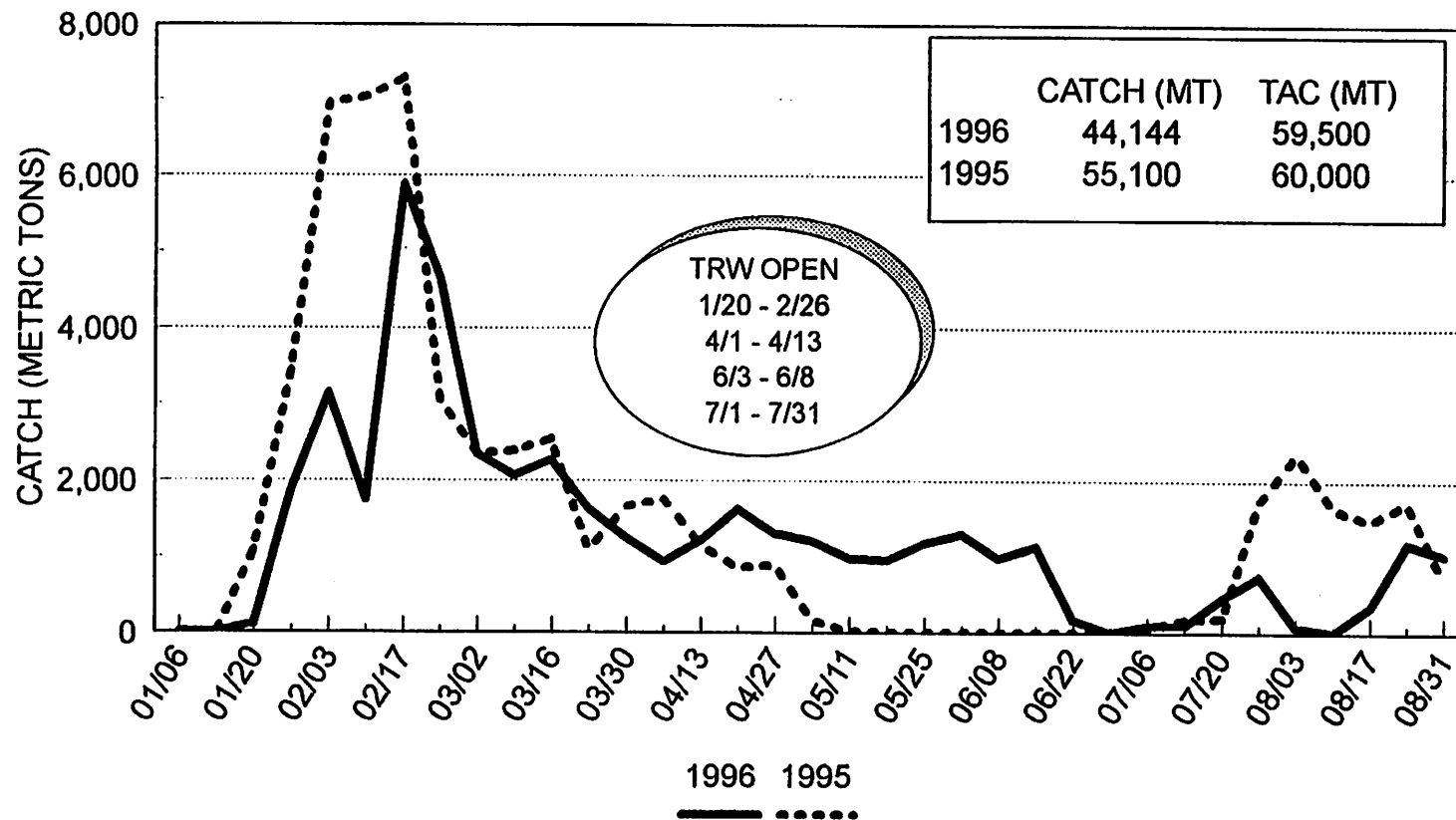
(through 8/31/96)

1996 BERING SEA INSHORE/ OFFSHORE POLLOCK CATCH*

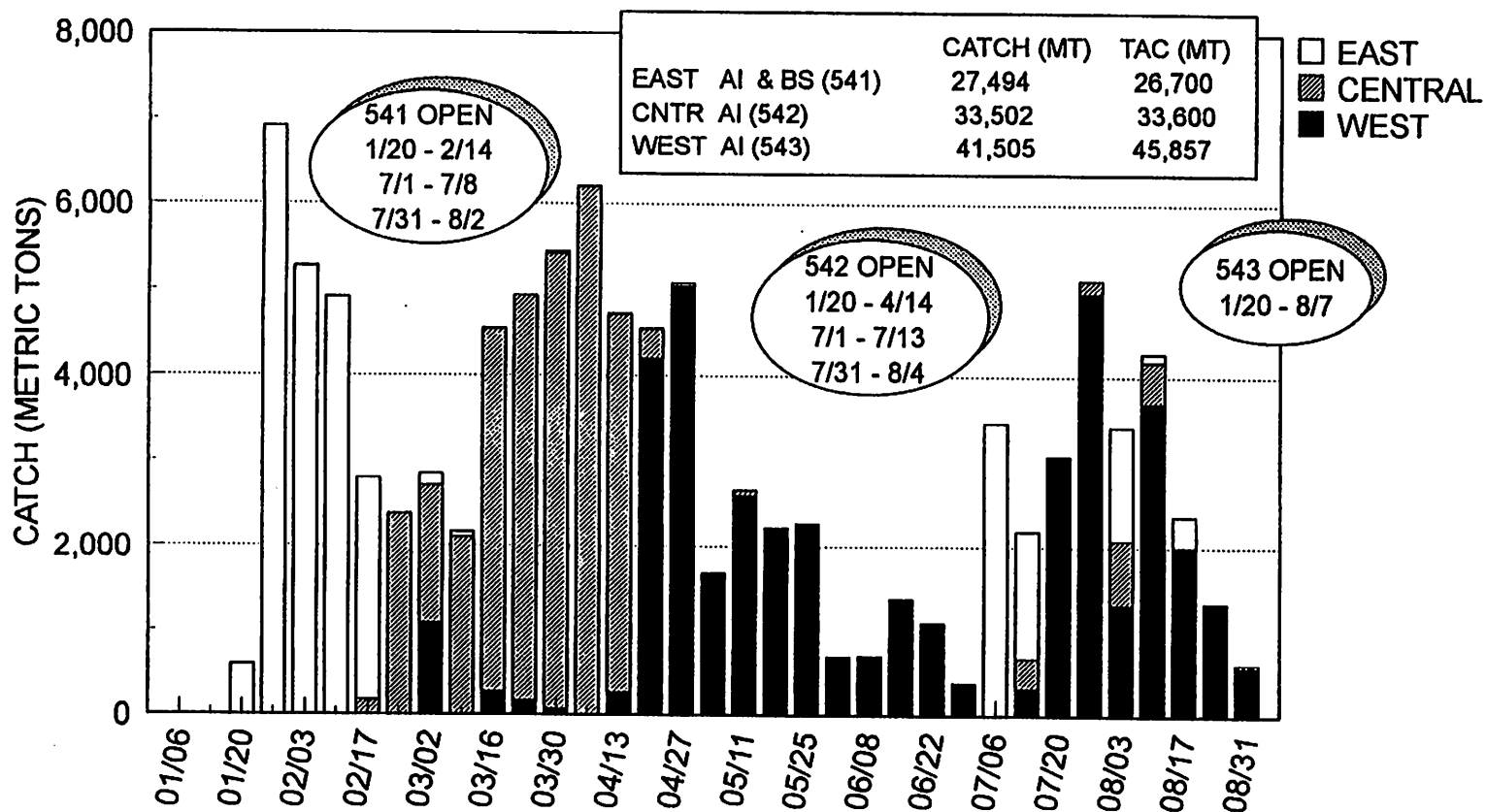


*EXCLUDES CDQ POLLOCK
(through 8/31/96)

1995-96 BSAI ROCK SOLE CATCH, ALL GEAR

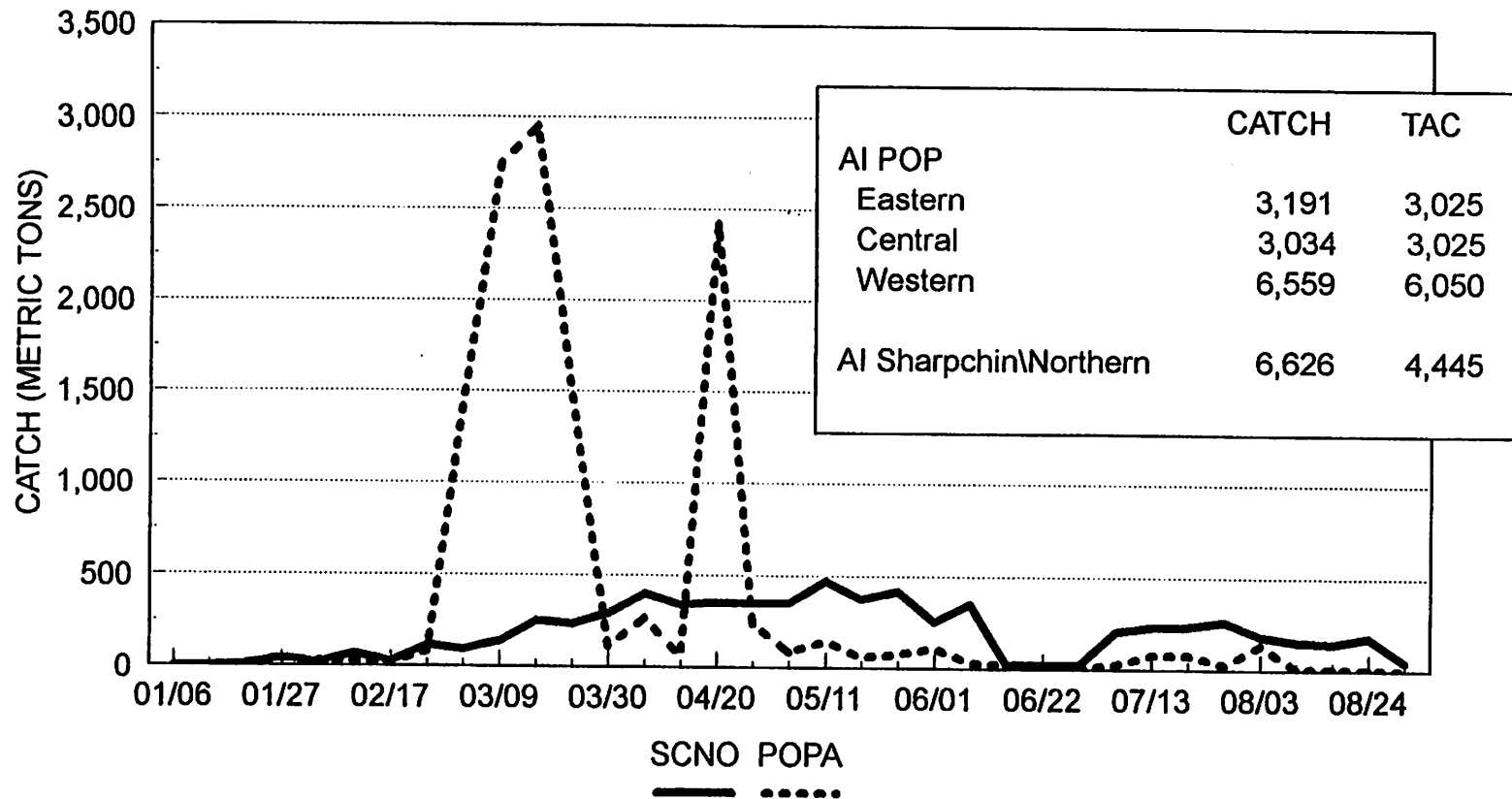


1996 BSAI TRAWL ATKA MACKEREL CATCH



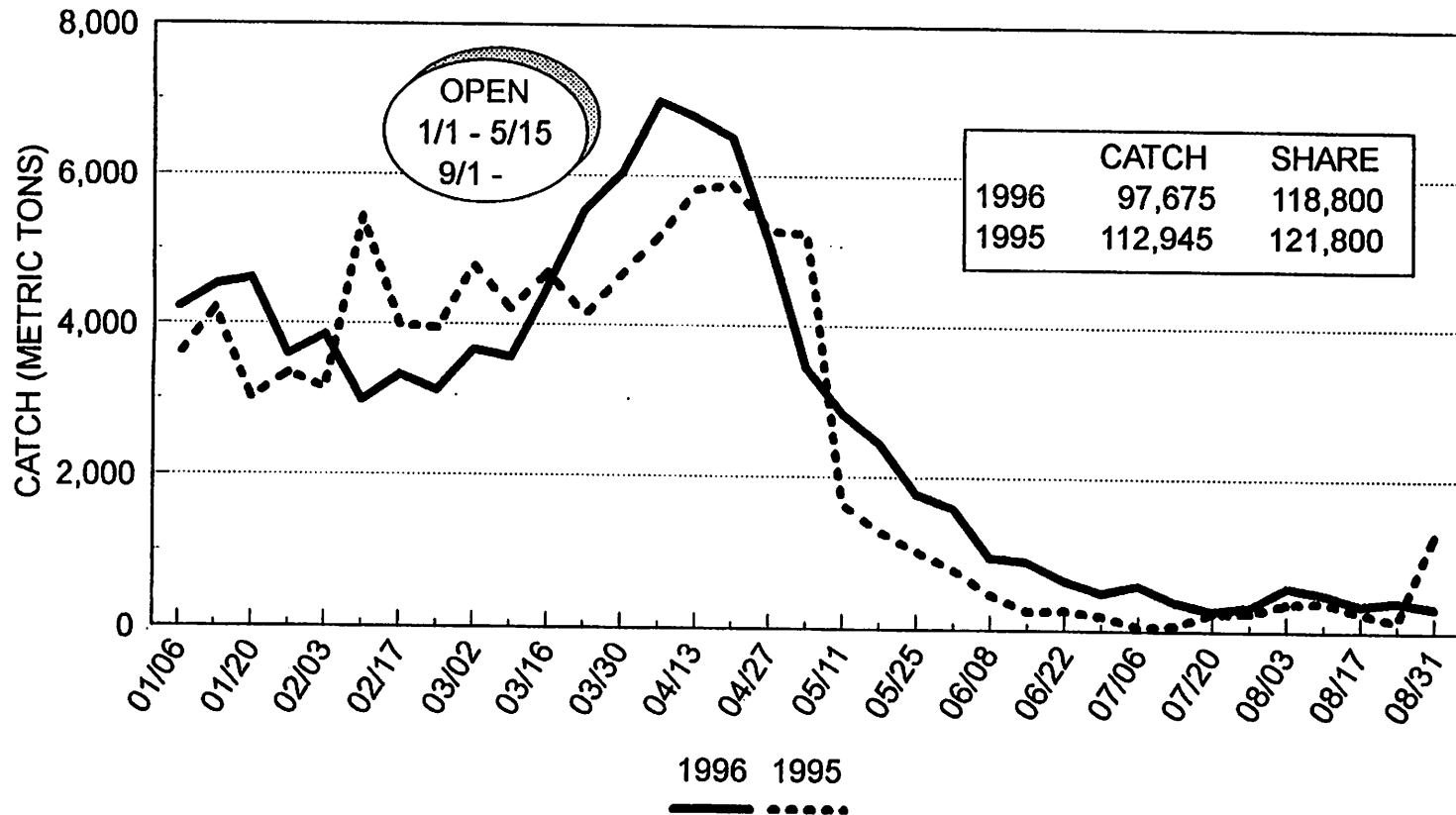
(through 8/31/96)

1996 ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ROCKFISH CATCH



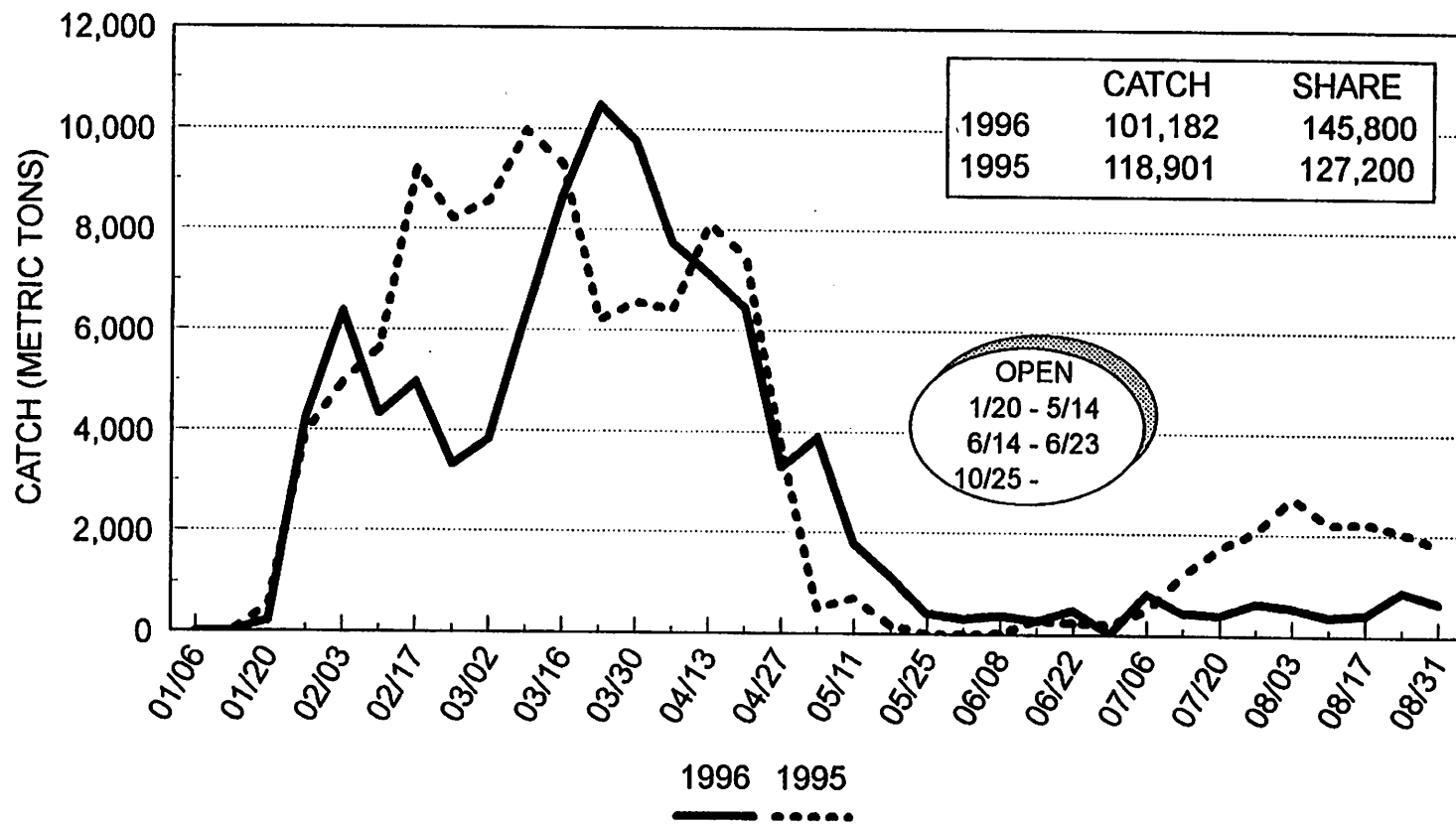
(through 08/31/96)

1995-96 BSAI FIXED GEAR PACIFIC COD CATCH



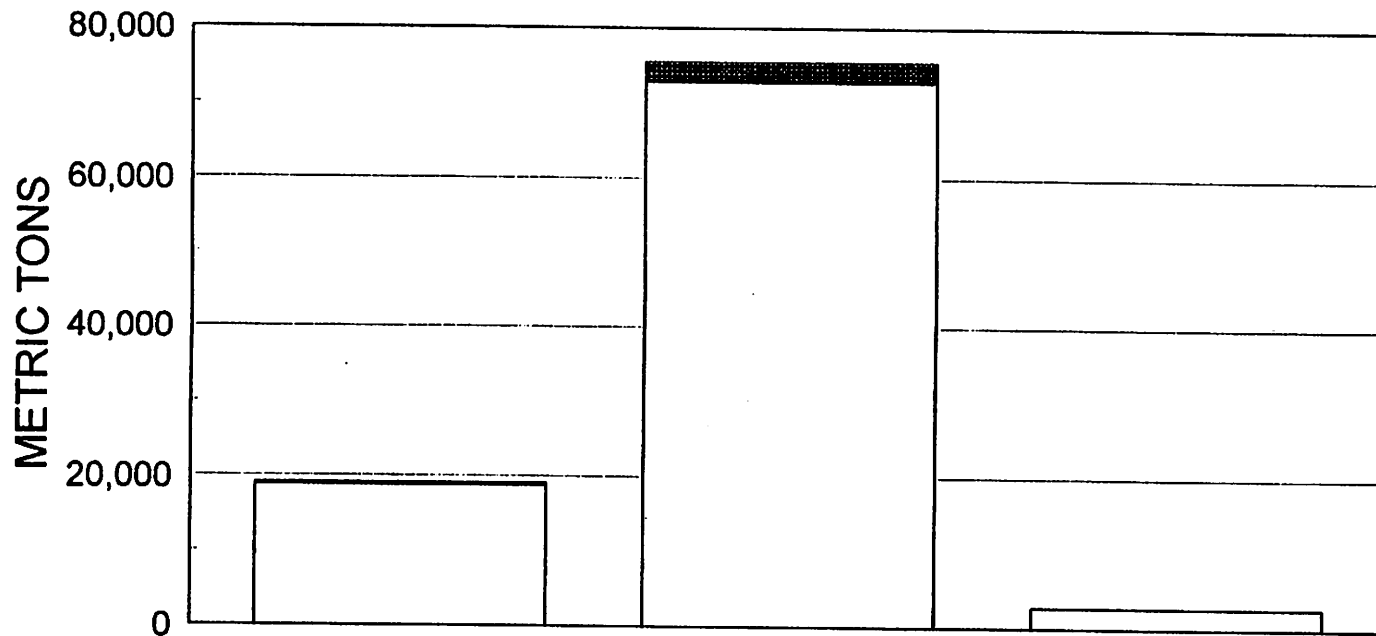
(through 8/31/96)

1995-96 BSAI TRAWL PACIFIC COD CATCH



(through 8/31/96)

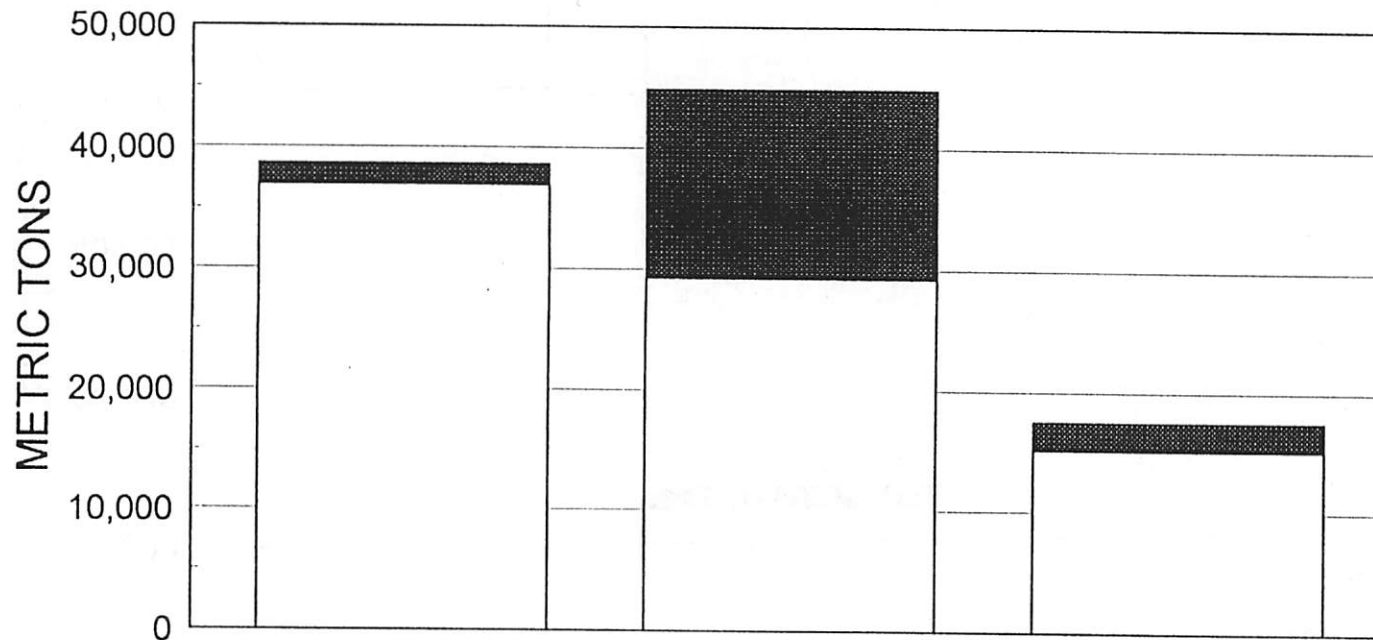
1996 BSAI FIXED GEAR, PCOD DISCARDS, ALL FISHERIES



	SHORESIDE	CATCH/PROC	MOTHERSHIP
RETAIN <input type="checkbox"/>	18,873	72,930	2,837
DISCARD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	338	2,663	33

(through 8/31/96)

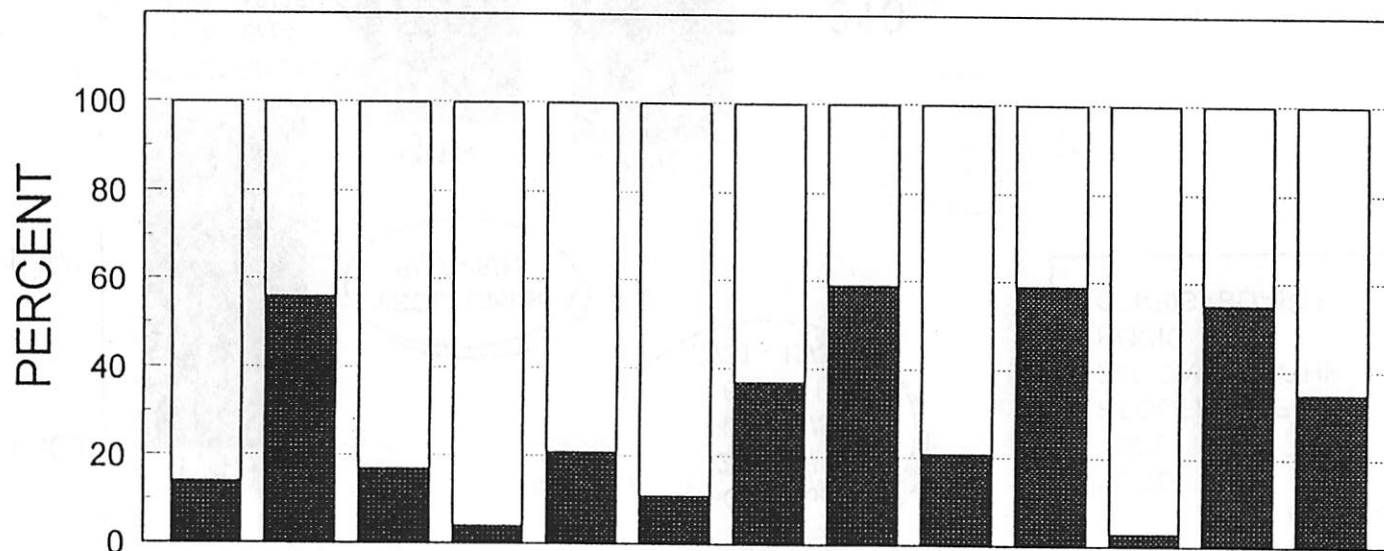
1996 BSAI TRAWL, PACIFIC COD DISCARDS, ALL FISHERIES



	SHORESIDE	CATCH/PROC	MOTHERSHIP
RETAIN <input type="checkbox"/>	37,002	29,292	15,294
DISCARD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,714	15,583	2,297

(through 8/31/96)

1996 BSAI GROUND FISH DISCARDS BY GEAR & TARGET

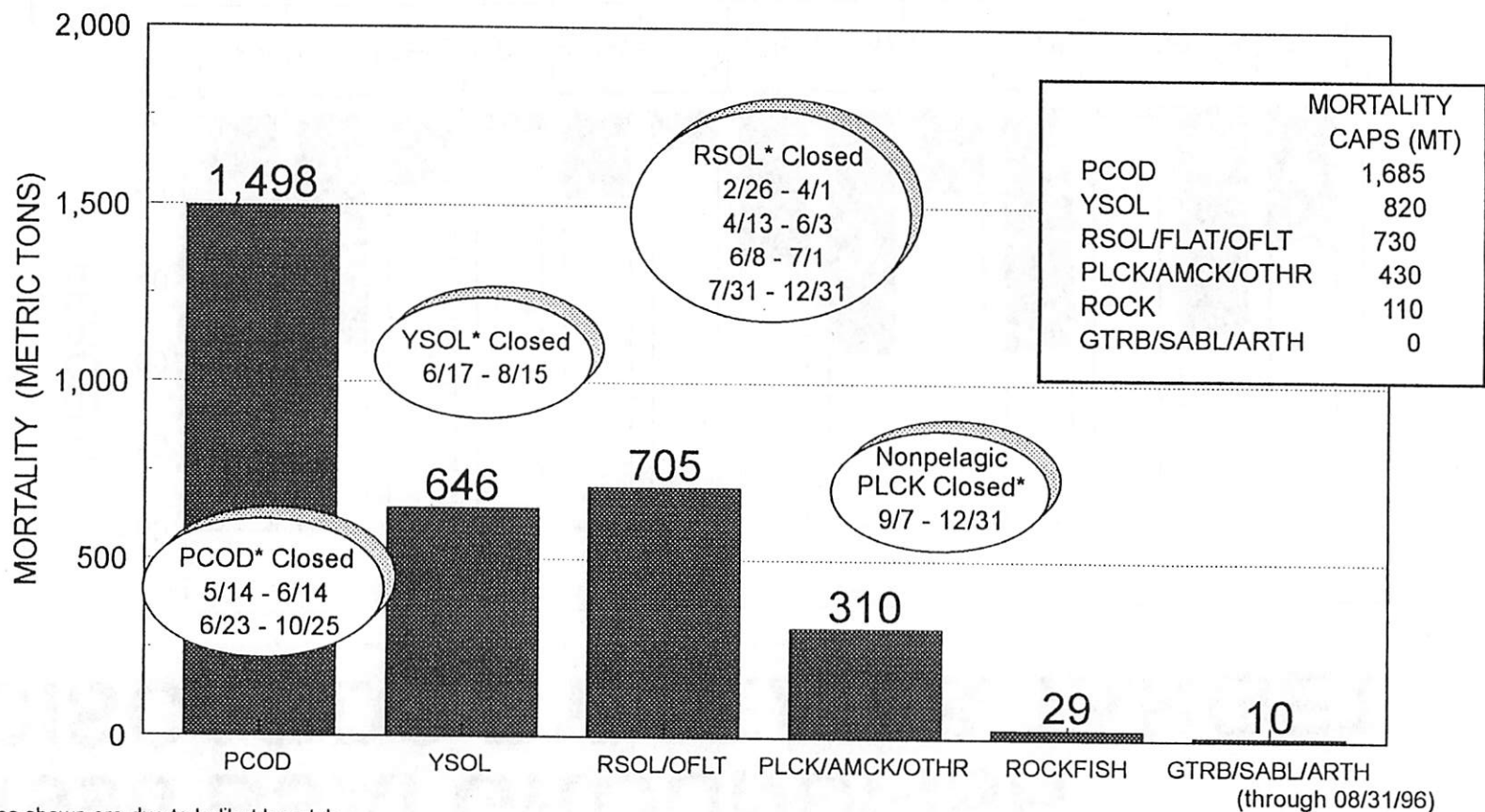


	C-HAL	S-HAL	T-HAL	C-POT	A-TRW	B-TRW	C-TRW	F-TRW	K-TRW	L-TRW	P-TRW	R-TRW	Y-TRW
DISCARDED ■	10,896	1,287	682	1,258	24,805	6,572	40,345	3,111	3,512	11,973	15,446	24,604	45,432
RETAINED □	67,410	1,005	3,368	28,756	93,945	51,625	67,294	2,191	12,934	8,354	515,722	20,449	83,255

515,722 (through 08/31/96)

TARGETS	A - Atka mackerel	P - Midwater pollock
	B - Bottom pollock	R - Rock sole
	C - Pacific cod	S - Sablefish
	F - Other flatfish	T - Greenland turbot
	K - Rockfish	Y - Yellowfin sole
	L - Flathead sole	

1996 BSAI TRAWL HALIBUT BYCATCH MORTALITY

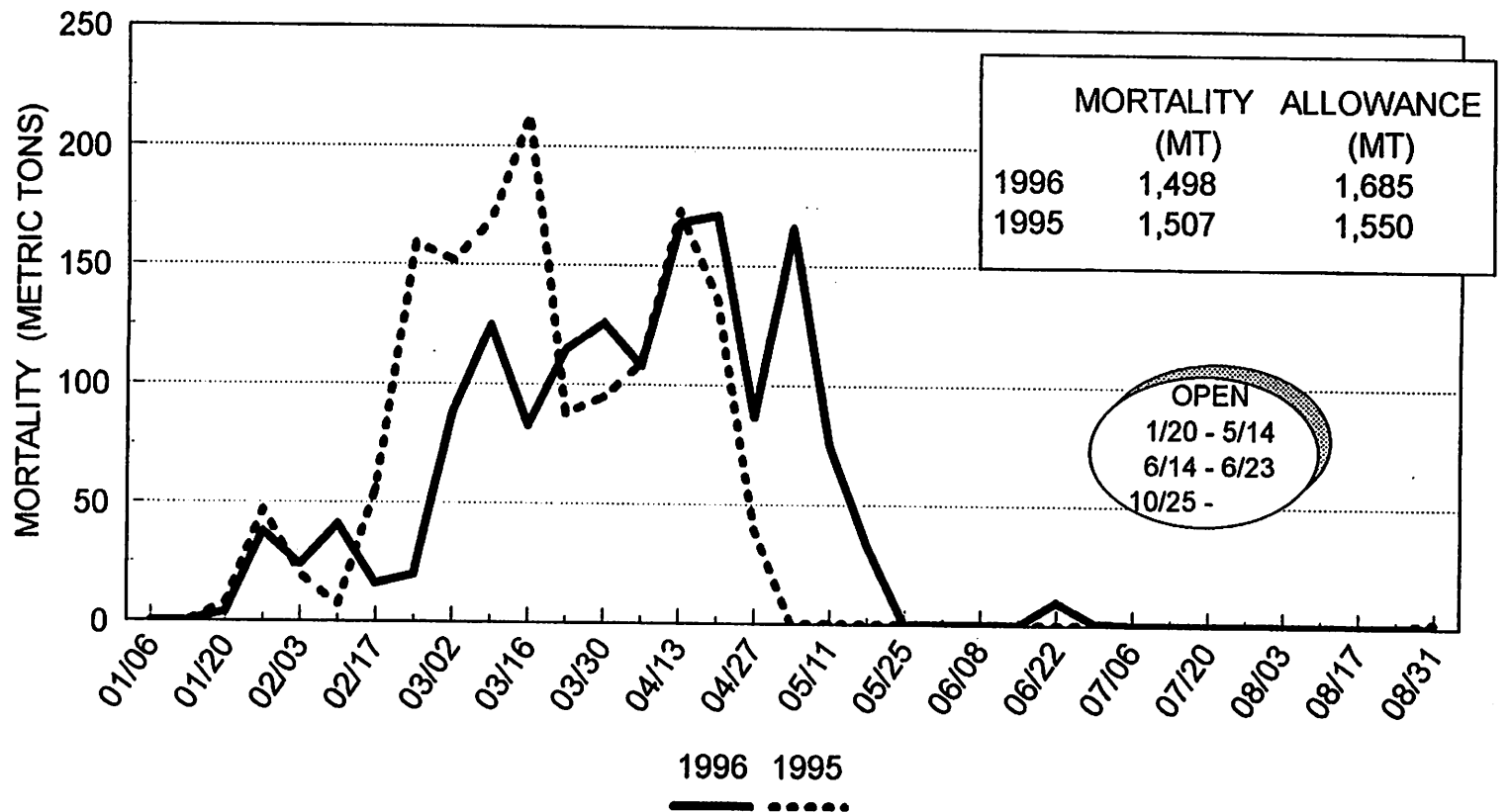


*Closures shown are due to halibut bycatch

Total halibut mortality thru 8/31: 3,198

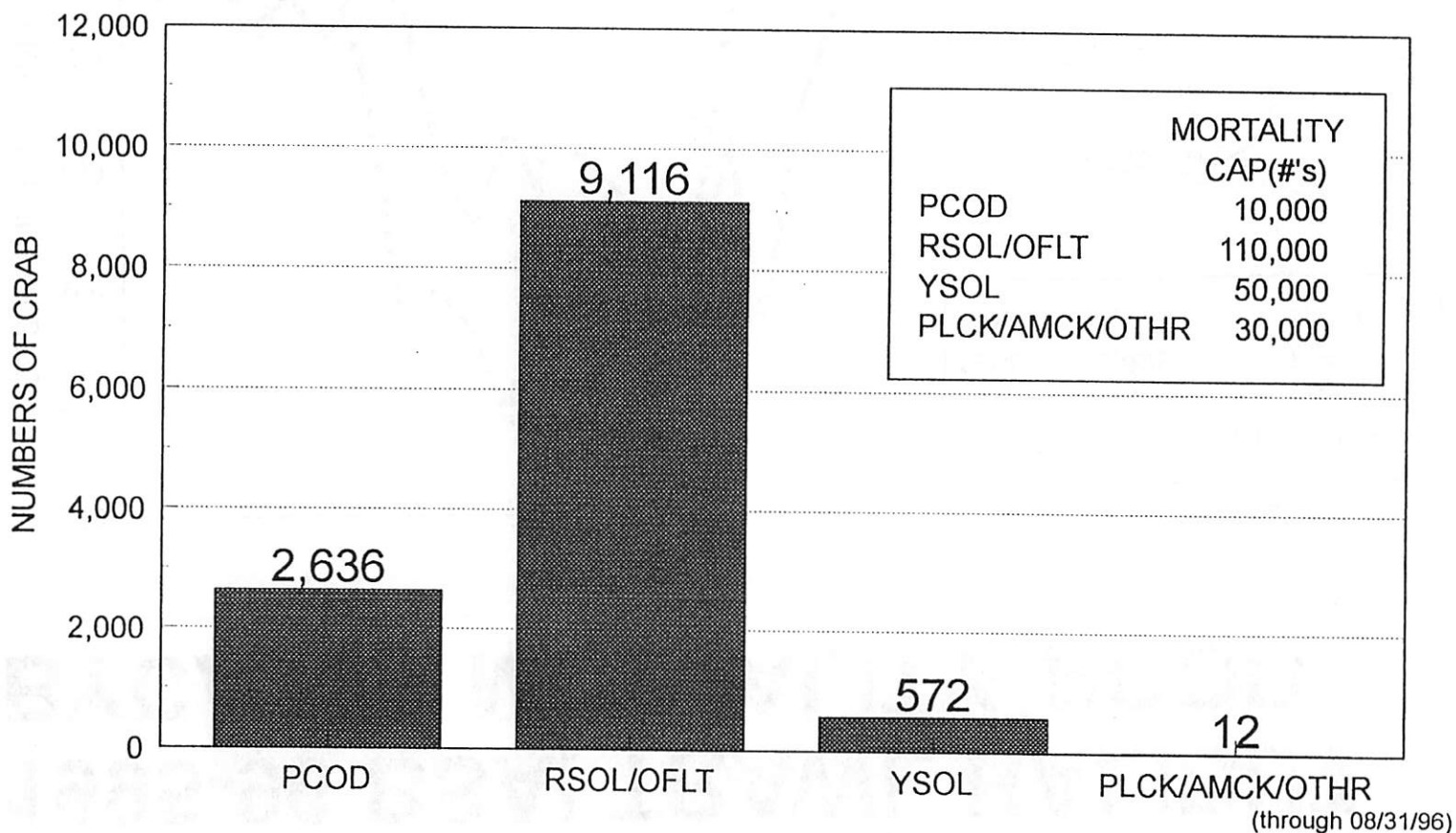
Annual total halibut cap: 3,775

1995-96 BSAI TRAWL HALIBUT BYCATCH MORTALITY, PCOD

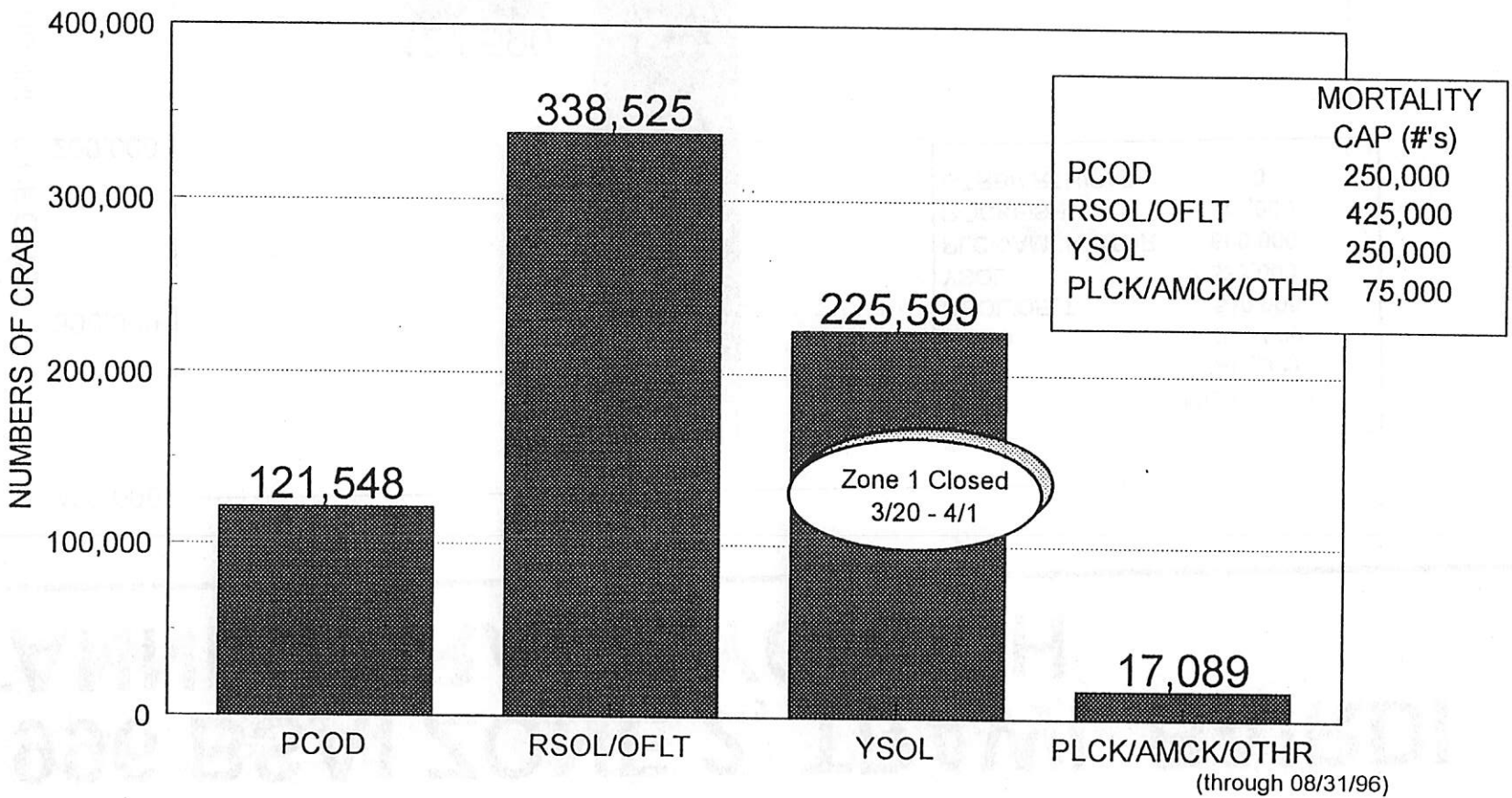


(through 08/31/96)

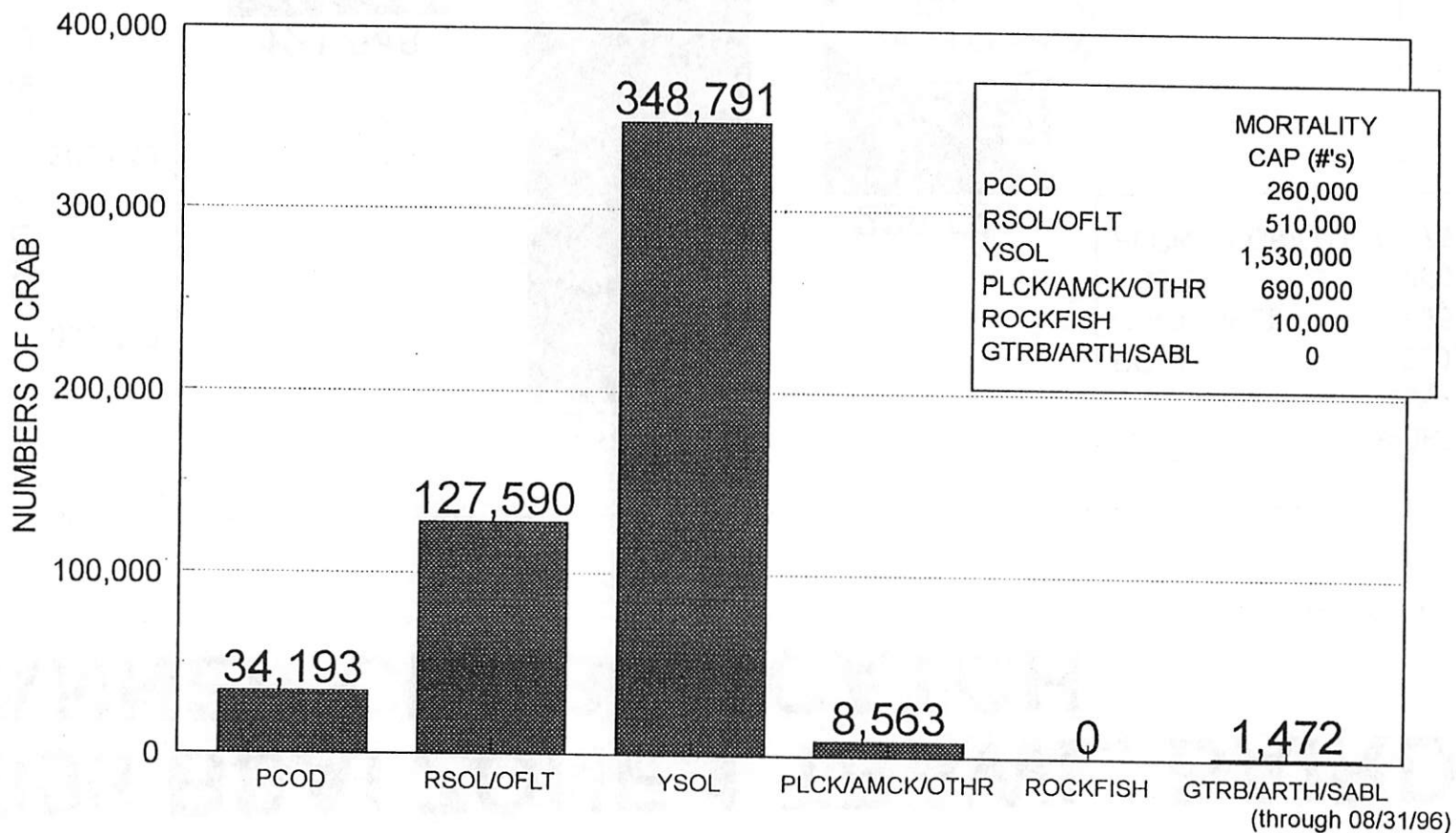
1996 BSAI ZONE 1, TRAWL RED KING CRAB BYCATCH



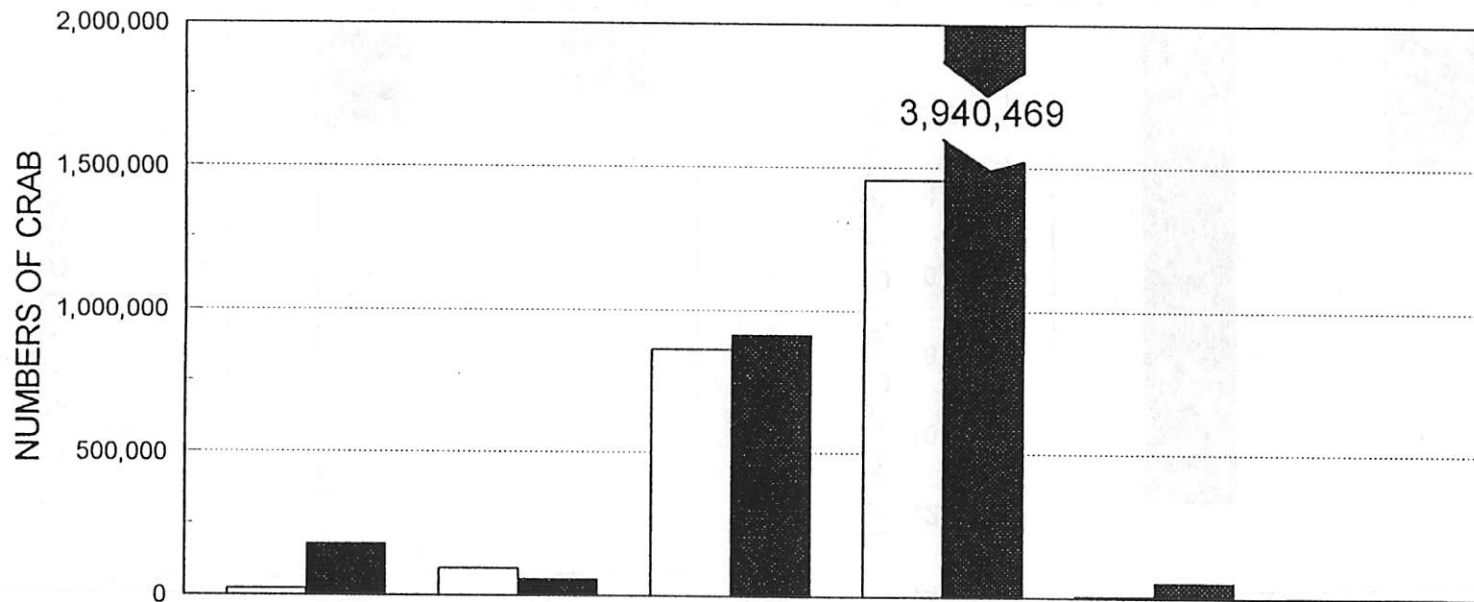
1996 BSAI ZONE 1 TRAWL, BAIRDI TANNER CRAB BYCATCH



1996 BSAI ZONE 2, TRAWL BAIRDI TANNER CRAB BYCATCH



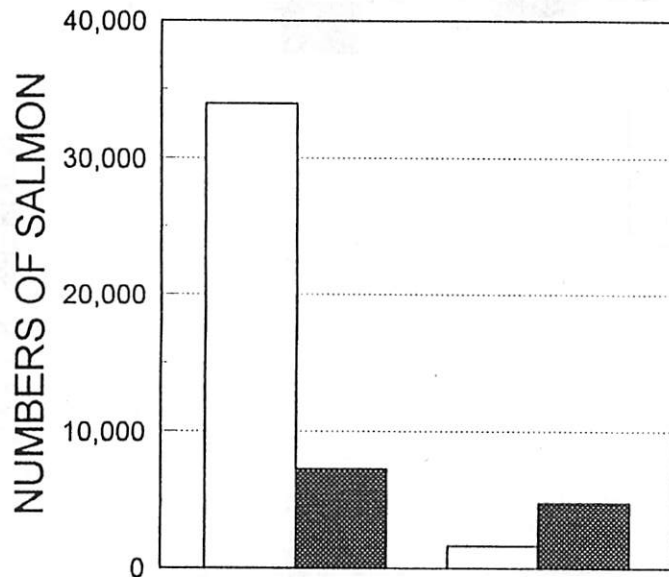
1995-96 BSAI TRAWL, OPILIO TANNER CRAB BYCATCH



	PLCK/AMCK/OTHER	PCOD	RSOL/FSOL/OFLT	YSOL	GTRB/ARTH/SABL	ROCKFISH
1996 □	22,593	94,495	863,175	1,458,684	5,823	100
1995 ■	180,315	56,907	914,978	3,940,469	52,935	75

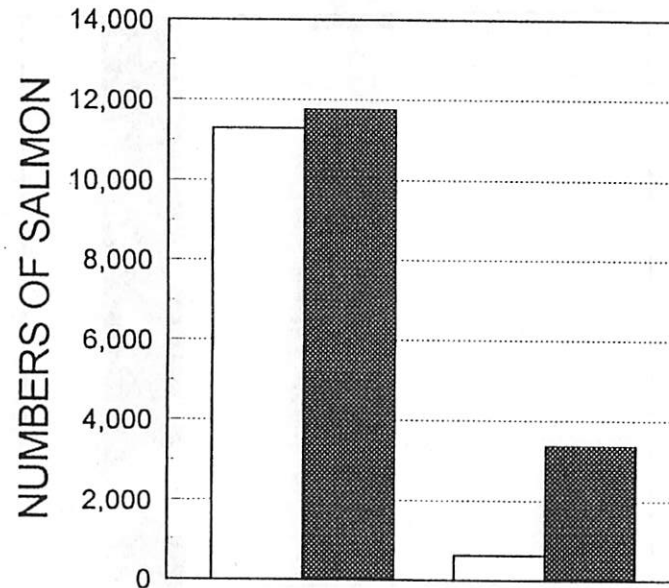
(through 08/31/96)

1995-96 BSAI TRAWL, CHINOOK & OTHER SALMON BYCATCH



	CHINOOK	OTHER SALMON
1996 □	33,945	1,595
1995 ■	7,300	4,750

MIDWATER POLLOCK



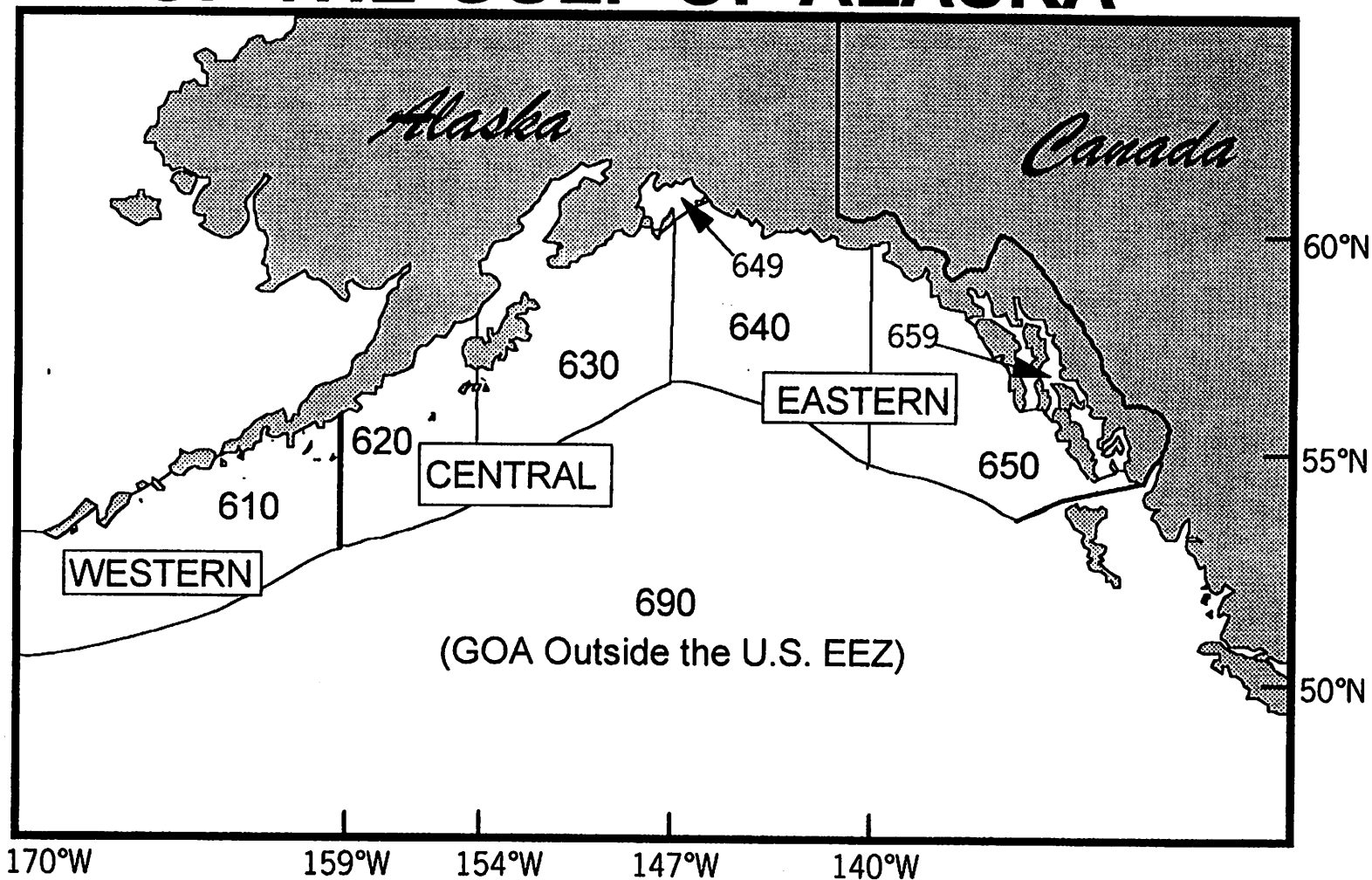
	CHINOOK	OTHER SALMON
1996 □	11,296	622
1995 ■	11,766	3,381

OTHER FISHERIES

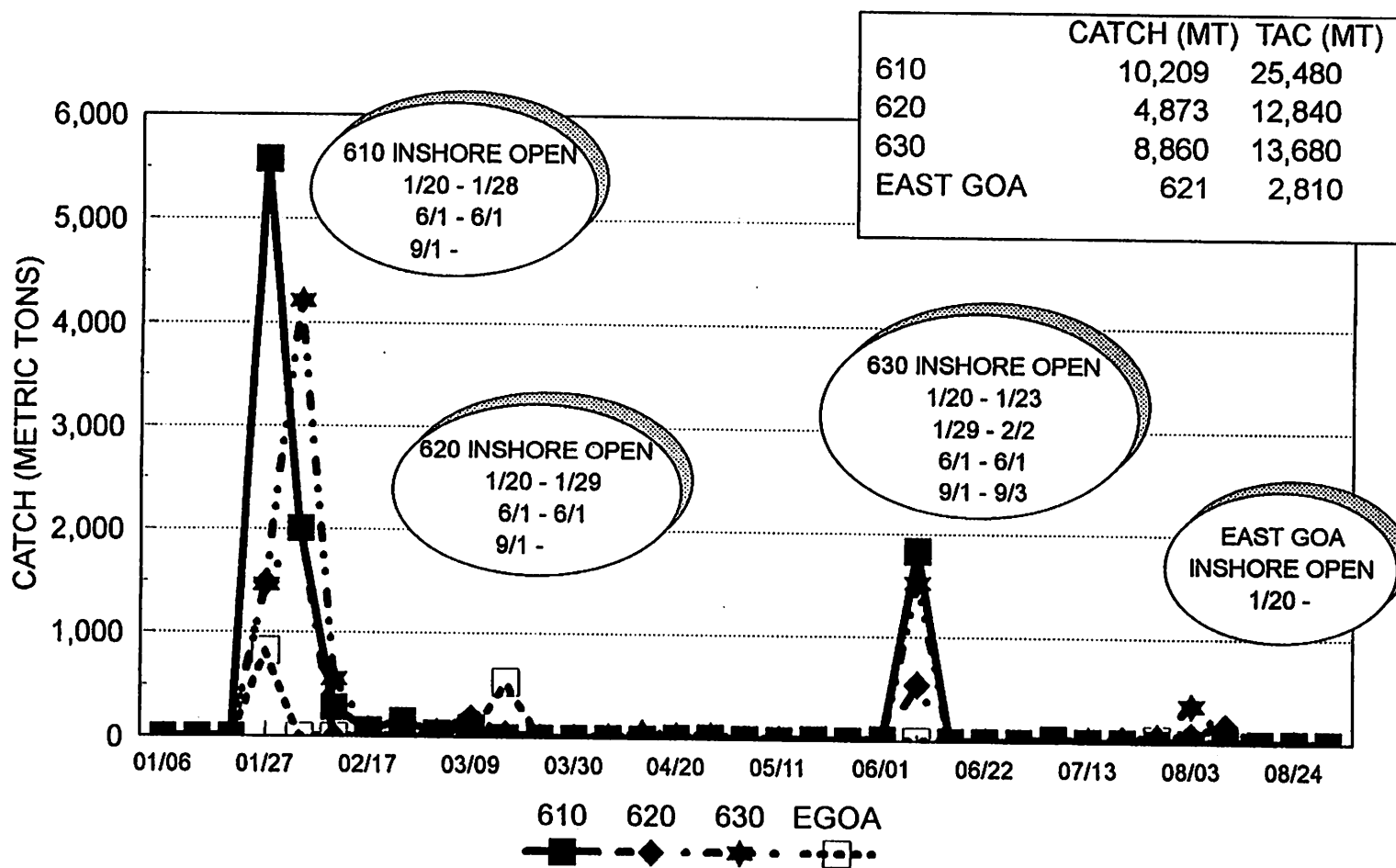
(through 08/31/95 and 08/31/96)

GULF OF ALASKA

1996 REPORTING AREAS OF THE GULF OF ALASKA

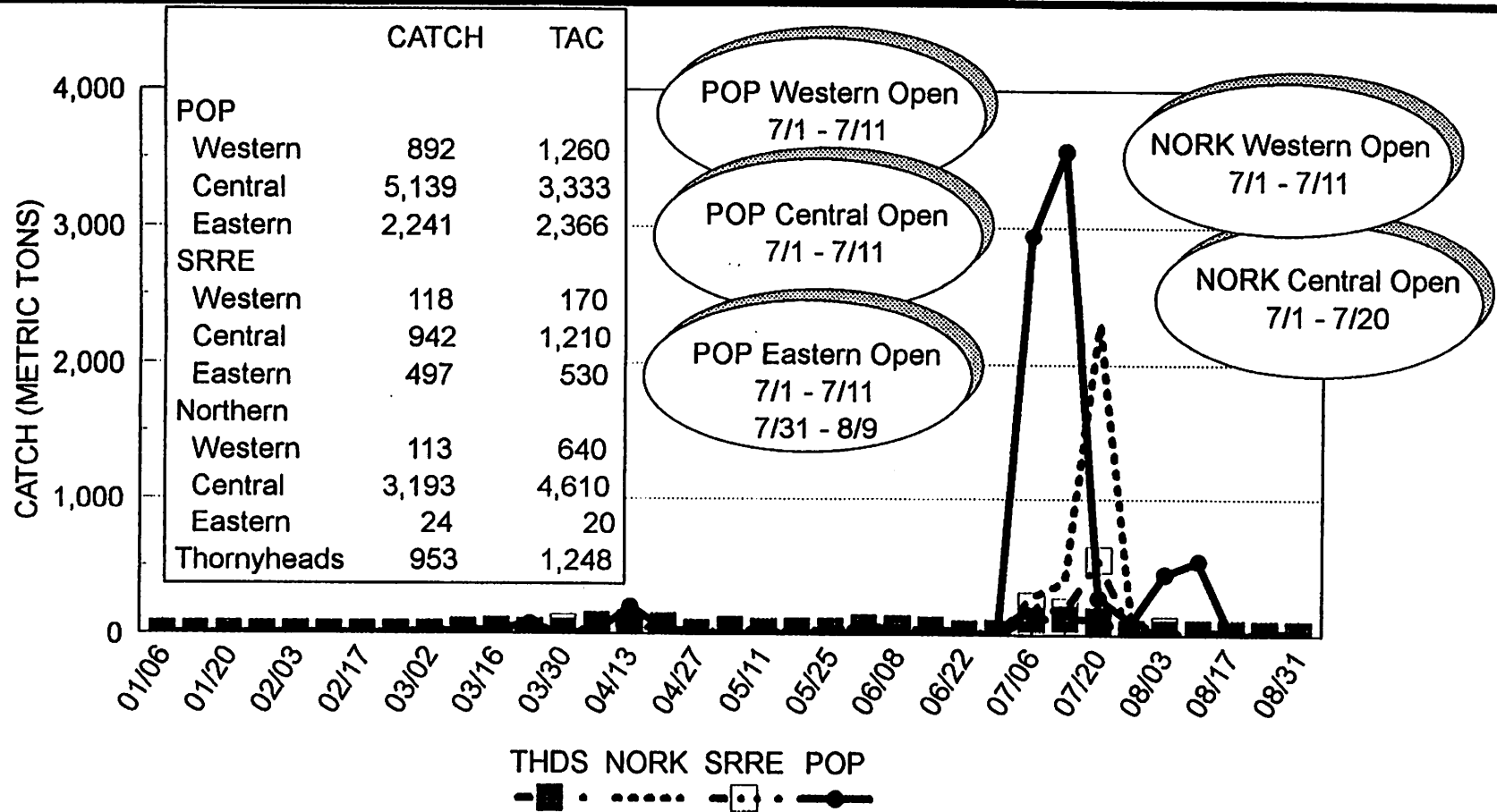


1996 GOA POLLOCK CATCH



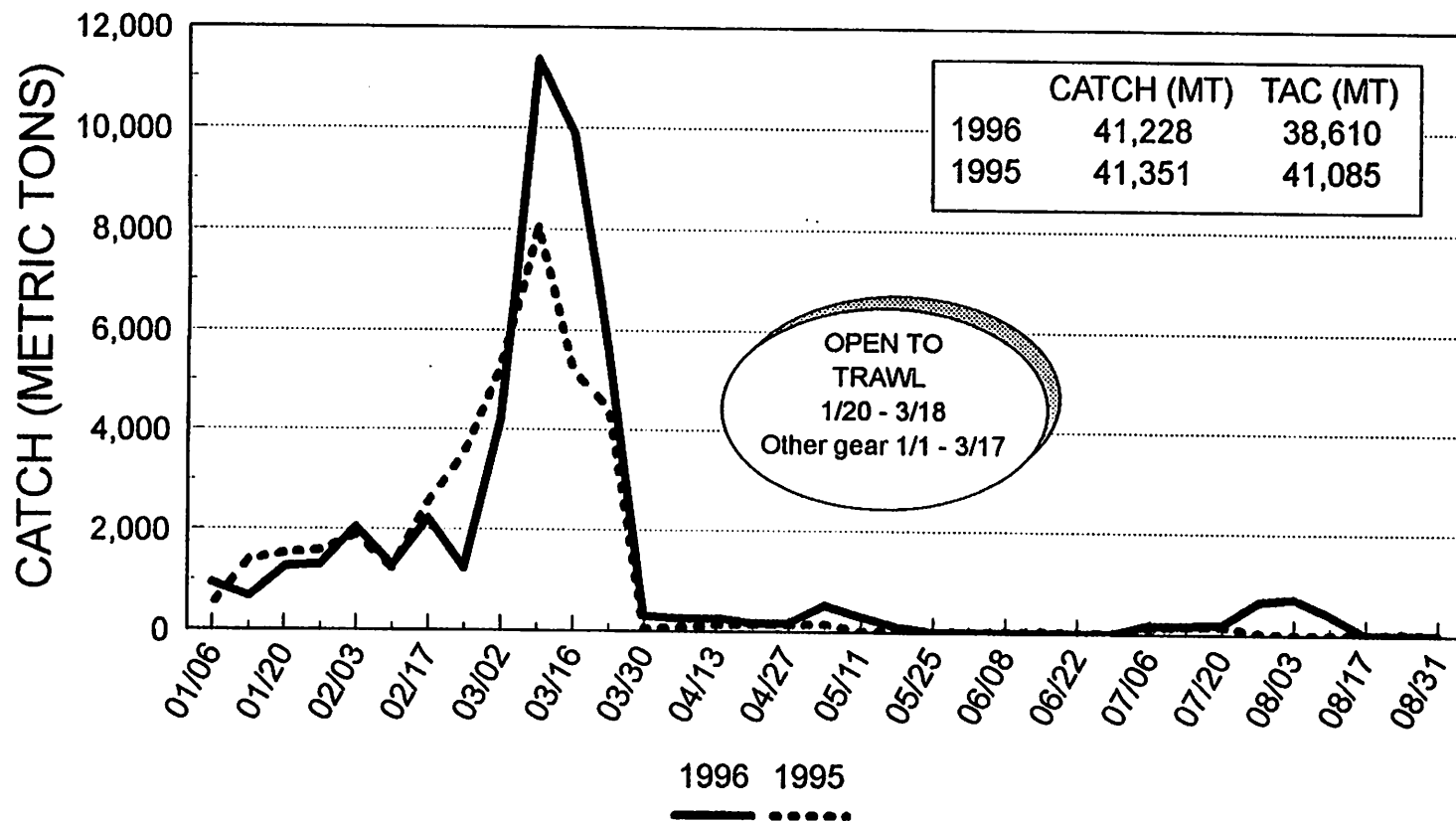
(through 08/31/96)

1996 GOA ROCKFISH CATCH



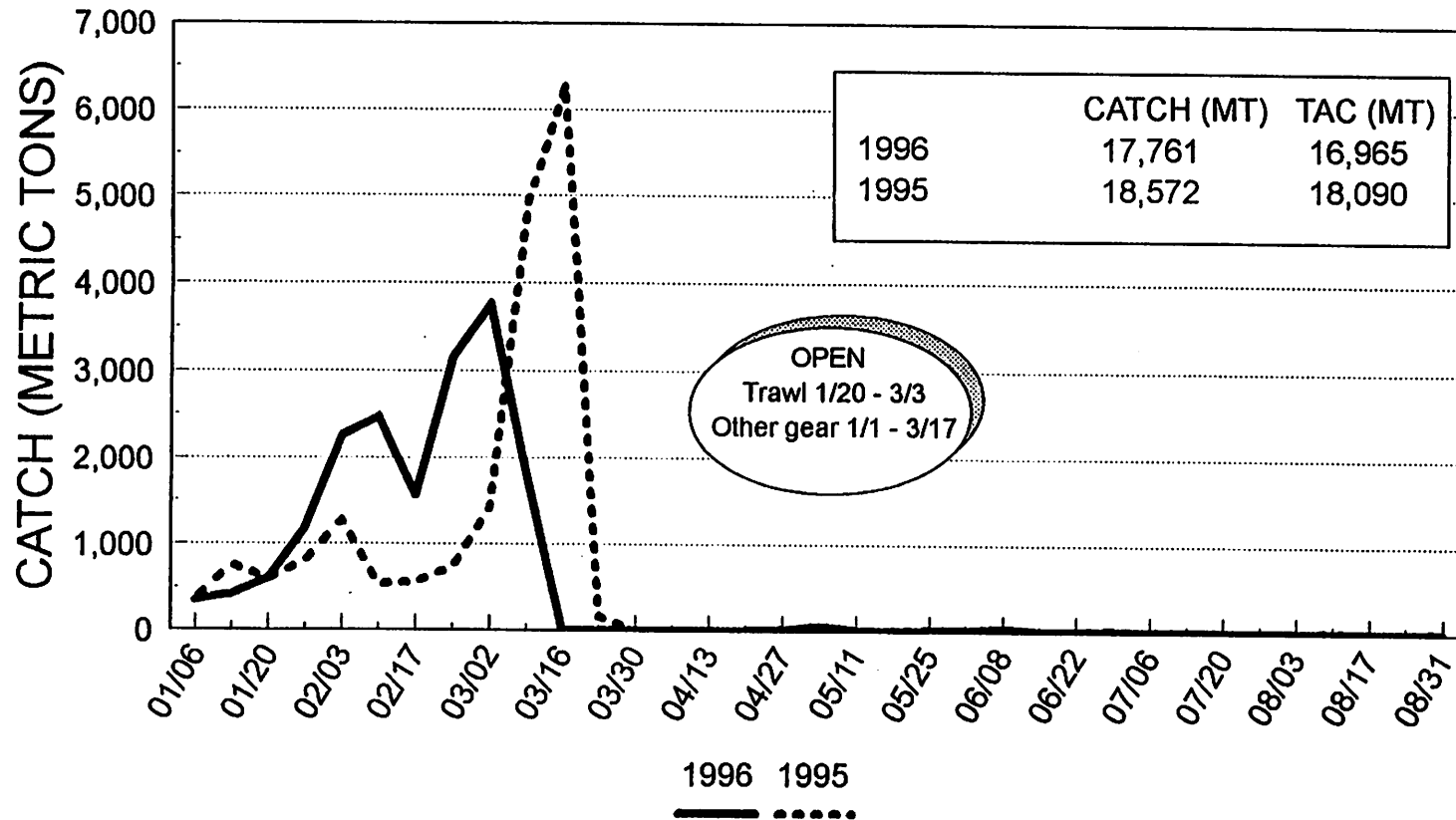
(through 08/31/96)

1996 CENTRAL GOA INSHORE PACIFIC COD CATCH



(through 08/31/96)

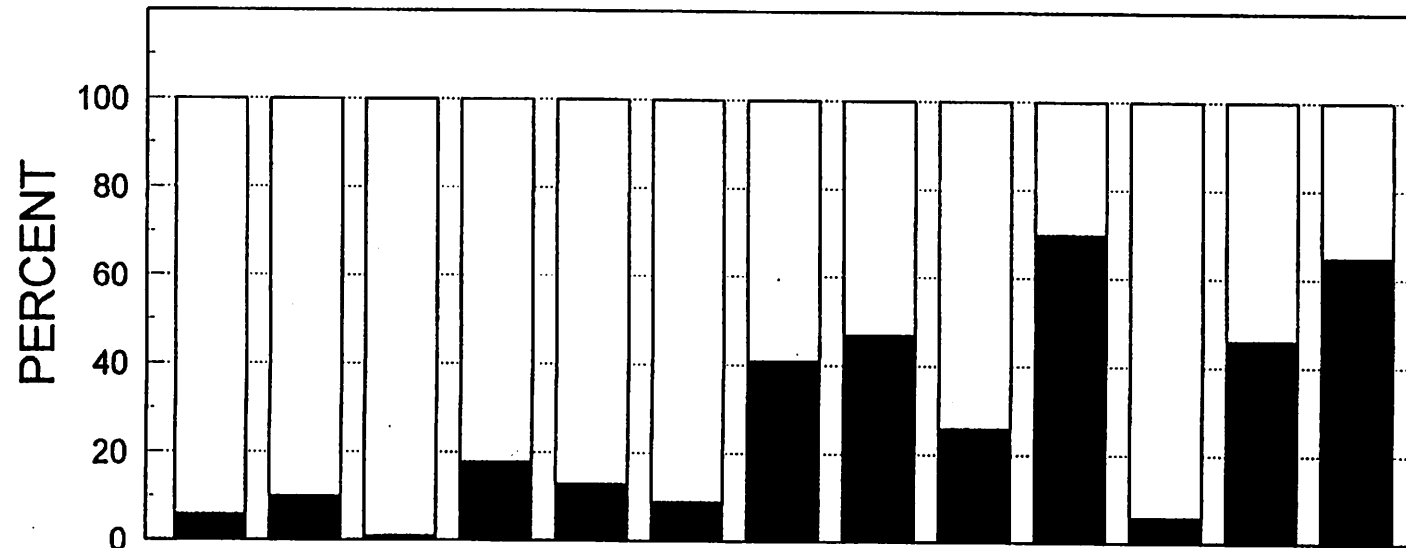
1996 WESTERN GOA INSHORE PACIFIC COD CATCH



NOTE: Discard of Pacific cod attributed to 610 inshore Pacific cod through 8/31/96 = 378 mt

(through 08/31/96)

1996 GOA GROUND FISH DISCARDS BY GEAR & TARGET

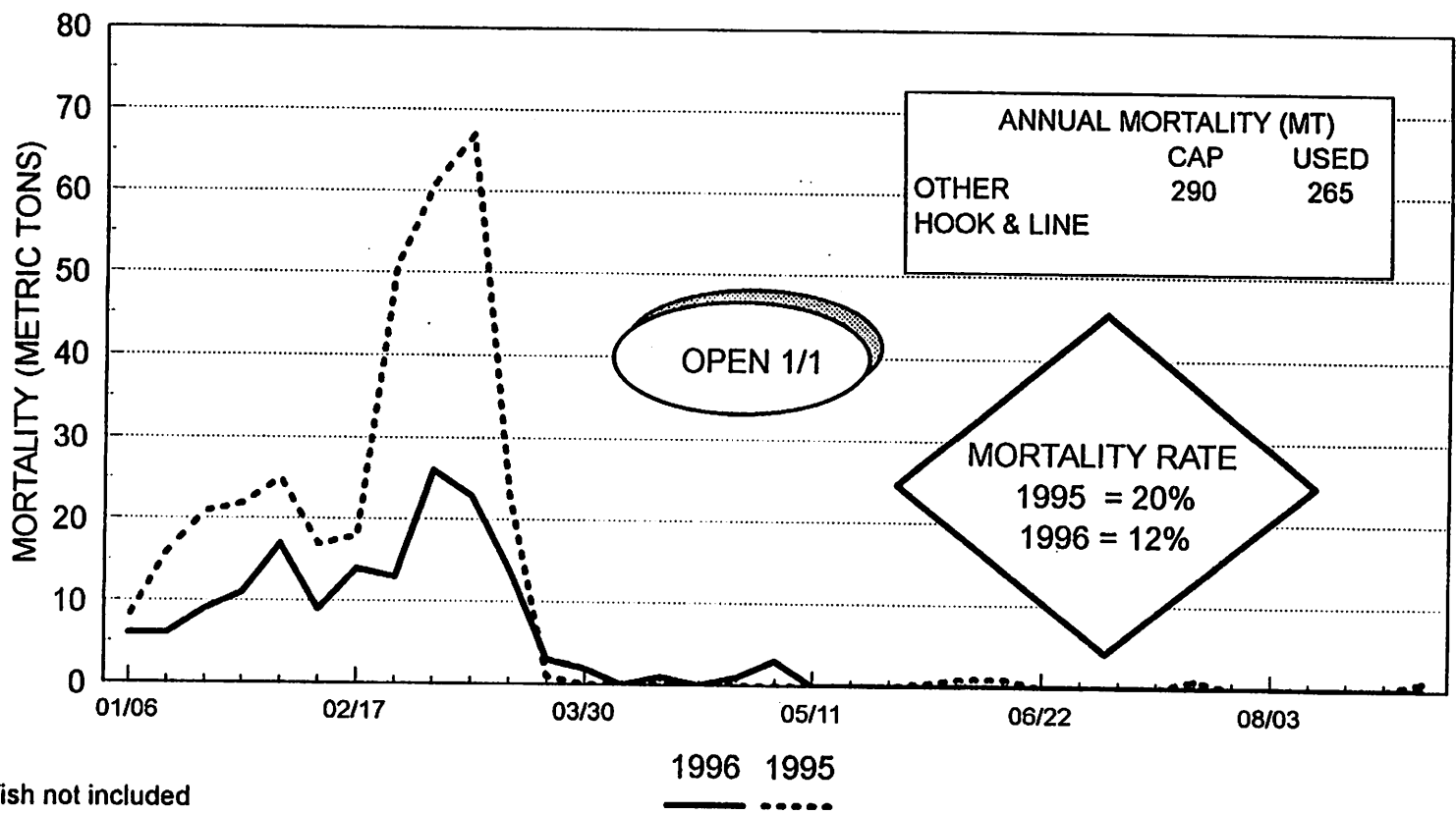


	C-HAL	S-HAL	C-POT	A-TRW	B-TRW	C-TRW	D-TRW	H-TRW	K-TRW	L-TRW	P-TRW	W-TRW	X-TRW
DISCARD 	624	1,401	177	253	826	3,775	1,093	5,068	4,953	1,893	1,159	3,022	9,626
RETAIN 	9,776	12,475	12,076	1,137	5,318	39,247	1,568	5,650	14,272	817	16,824	3,513	5,076

(through 08/31/96)

TARGETS	A - Atka mackerel	L - Flathead sole
	B - Bottom pollock	P - Midwater pollock
	C - Pacific cod	S - Sablefish
	D - Deep Water Flatfish	W - Arrowtooth flounder
	H - Shallow Water Flatfish	X - Rex sole
	K - Rockfish	

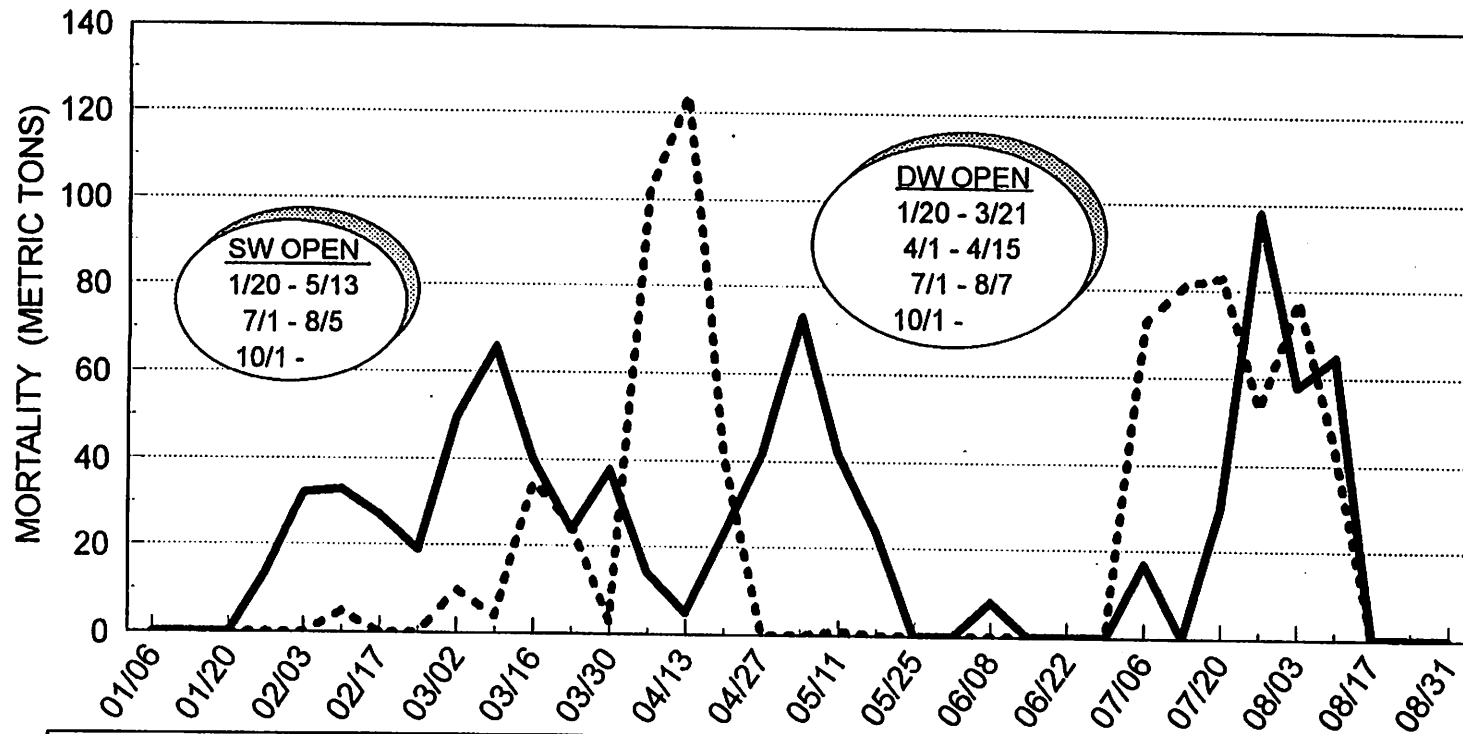
1995-96 GOA HOOK & LINE*, HALIBUT BYCATCH MORTALITY



*Sablefish not included

** 1995 demersal shelf rockfish fishery, Southeast District is not listed due to insufficient observer coverage. (through 08/31/96)

1996 GOA SW & DW TRAWL HALIBUT BYCATCH MORTALITY



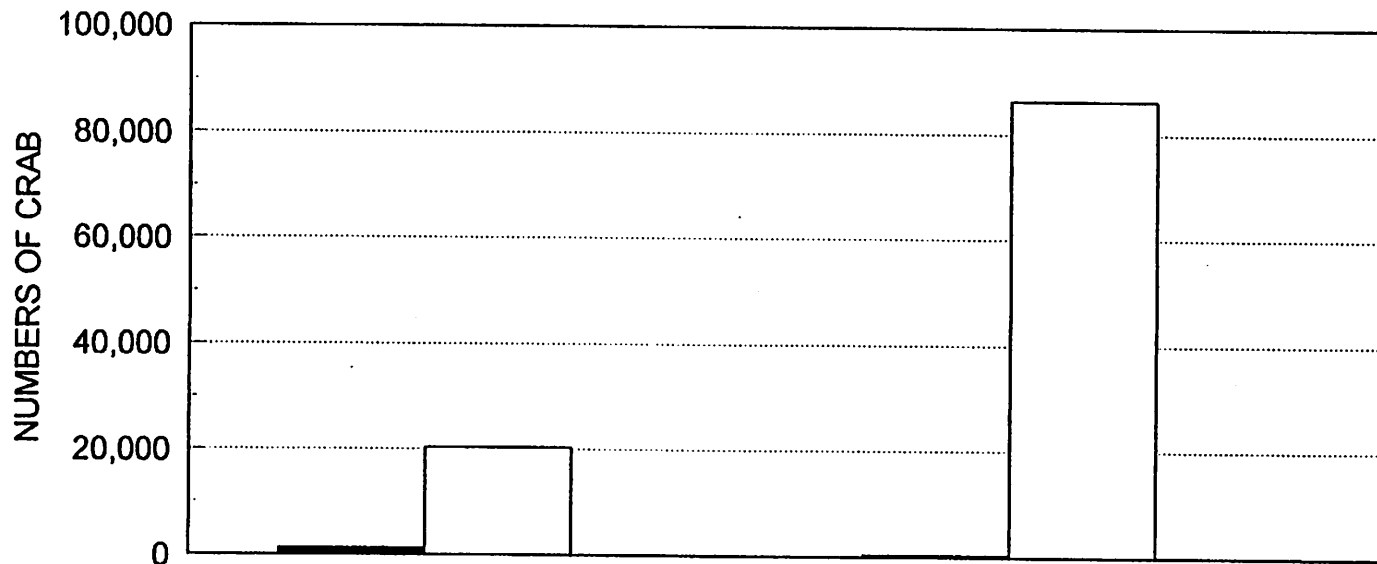
MORTALITY CAPS (MT)

	SW Fishery		DW Fishery	
	ACUMULATIVE		ACUMULATIVE	
	CAP	USED	CAP	USED
Jan 01 - Mar 31	500	344	100	83
Apr 01 - Jun 30	600	575	400	351
Jul 01 - Sep 30	800	842	800	762
Oct 01 - Dec 31	← (400) →			
TOTAL CAP: 2,000 MT				

SW DW
 ——— ·····

(through 08/31/96)

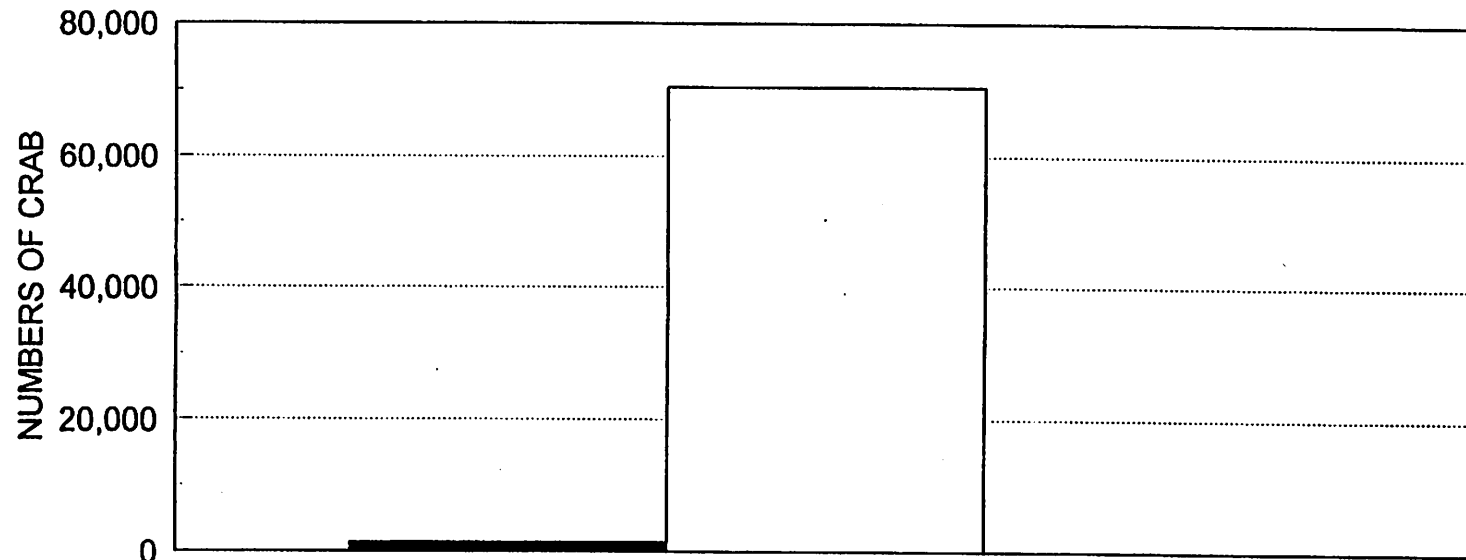
1996 GOA TRAWL, TANNER & RED KING CRAB BYCATCH



	DW FISHERY	SW FISHERY
OTANNER ■	1,266	445
BAIRDI □	20,394	86,259
RED KING ▨	0	182

(through 08/31/96)

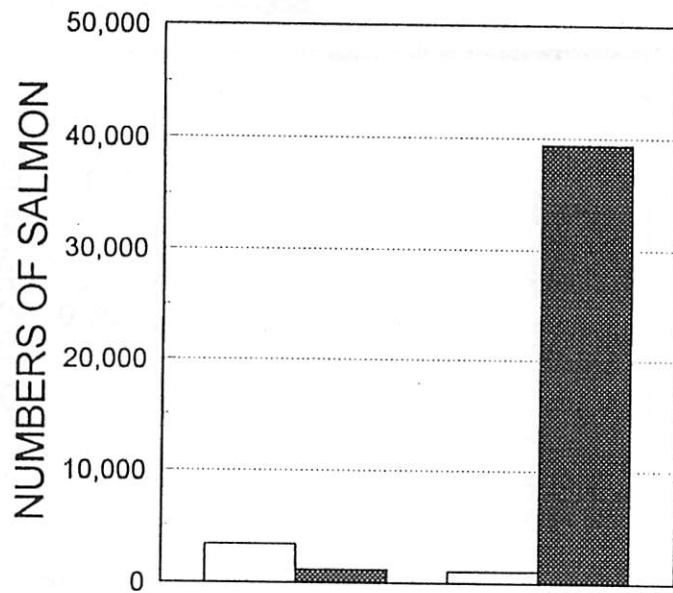
1996 GOA POT, TANNER & RED KING CRAB BYCATCH



OTANNER	1,527
BAIRDI	70,390
RED KING	11

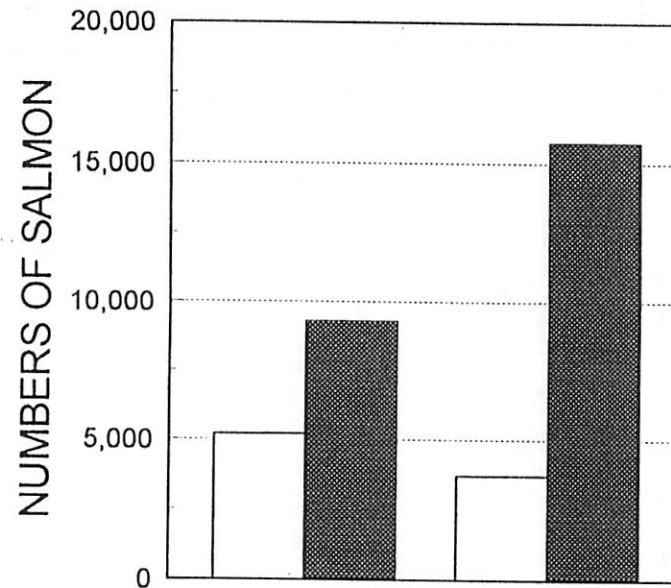
(through 08/31/96)

1995-96 GOA TRAWL, CHINOOK & OTHER SALMON BYCATCH



	CHINOOK	OTHER SALMON
1996 □	3,420	1,043
1995 ■	1,220	39,458

MIDWATER POLLOCK

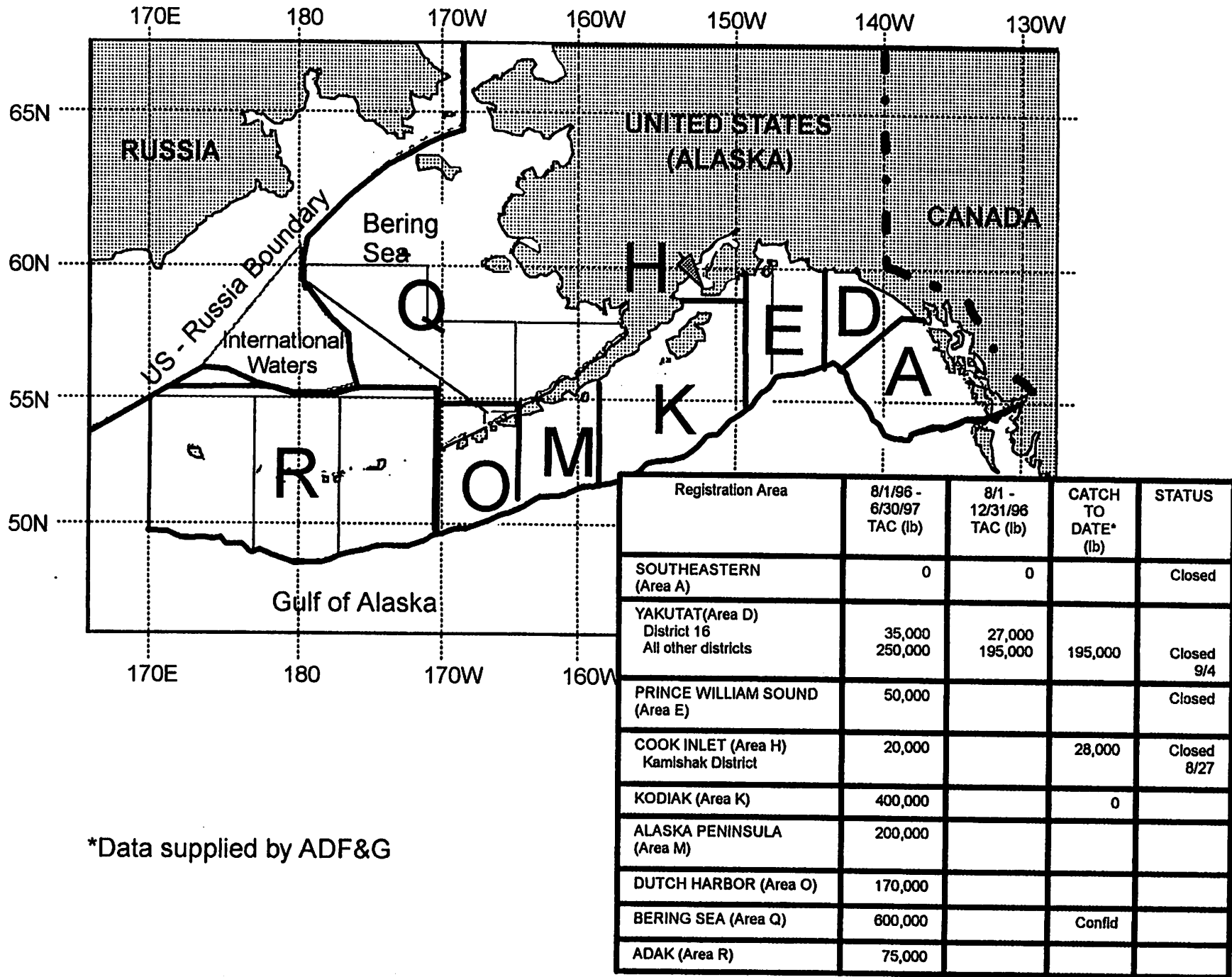


	CHINOOK	OTHER SALMON
1996 □	5,204	3,743
1995 ■	9,318	15,728

OTHER FISHERIES

(through 08/31/95 and 08/31/96)

SCALLOP REGISTRATION AREAS



*Data supplied by ADF&G

National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region
Juneau, Alaska
09/17/96

Status of Regulatory Actions Through September 17, 1996

Authorize voluntary retention of salmon for foodbank program (Amds 26/29)	Final rule effective July 19, 1996 and Authorized Distributor Selected August 16, 1996
Allow processing of non-IFQ catcher vessel on freezer vessels (Amds 33/37)	Final rule effective July 26, 1996
Amd 1 to the Commercial Scallop Fishery Off Alaska (Federalize certain State regulations)	Final rule effective August 1, 1996
Fishing down across vessel classes ("Buy-down" amds 42/42)	Final rule effective August 16, 1996
Omnibus II - sablefish/halibut IFQ program	Final rule effective September 9, 1996
Add Akutan to list of eligible CDQ communities	Final rule effective September 9, 1996
Authorize pot longline gear in the Bering Sea	Final rule effective September 12, 1996
Interim observer plan (Amds 47/47 & Crab Amd 6)	Comments on proposed rule invited until September 16, 1996
Pacific cod gear allocations in the BSAI (Amd 46)	Comments on proposed rule invited until October 3, 1996
Red King Crab Savings Area & Northern Bristol Bay Closure	Comments on proposed rule invited until October 29, 1996
Authorize blocks of halibut IFQ to be swept up to 3,000 lbs, and blocks of sablefish IFQ to be swept up to 5,000 lbs (Amds 43/43)	Comments on proposed rule invited until November 11, 1996

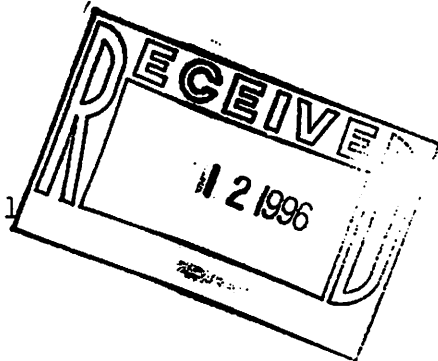
Status of Regulatory Actions (continued)

Groundfish/Crab License Program and CDQs (Groundfish Amds 39/41 & BSAI Crab Amd 5)	Proposed regulations being prepared by Regional Office
Withdrawal of the salmon FMP	Final regulations being prepared by Regional Office
Require computer and satellite/modem capability by processors for use by NMFS-certified observers	Final regulations being prepared by the Regional Office
Revise the GOA POP rebuilding (Amd 38)	Final amendment being prepared by Regional Office, Day 95-Sept 27
Amd 2 to the Commercial Scallop Fishery Off Alaska (establish a moratorium on further entry into the scallop fishery)	Proposed regulations being prepared by Regional Office
Extension of sablefish season in Aleutians	Proposed regulations being considered by Regional Office
Cod end mesh size restrictions	Proposed regulations being prepared by Regional Office
Require groundfish vessels fishing on the GOA seamounts to have transponders on board	Proposed regulations being prepared by Regional Office
Require processors to use scales to weigh pollock caught in pollock fisheries	Proposed regulations being prepared by Regional Office



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT AGENDA B-3
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration SEPTEMBER 1996
National Marine Fisheries Service SUPPLEMENTAL
 P.O. Box 21668
 Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

September 11, 1996



Mr. Richard B. Lauber
 Chairman
 North Pacific Fishery Management Council
 P.O. Box 103136
 Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Rick,

We wish to inform the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) of the following proposed revisions to the recordkeeping and reporting requirements for the Alaska groundfish fisheries. We anticipate that a proposed rule to implement these revisions would be published in the Federal Register by mid-October.

Changes to regulations

o Extend renewal periods for a Federal fisheries permit and a Federal processor permit from 1 to 3 years. This proposed change is in response to a Presidential Directive in 1995 that Federal agencies decrease the paperwork burden hours required of the public.

o Revise requirements to include IFQ questions in the catcher vessel daily fishing logbook (DFL) and catcher/processor daily cumulative production logbook (DCPL). During the comment period on the 1996 recordkeeping and reporting proposed rule, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) requested that the DFL and Catcher/Processor DCPL be modified to include identification of all IFQ numbers and persons with IFQ on board a vessel and also to identify the date, the registered buyer, and unloading port of IFQ sales. Having this information readily available would clarify and streamline USCG inventory boardings at sea.

Clarification to existing regulations

o Clarify check-out requirements with respect to land-based buying stations. Existing regulations describe check-out requirements upon leaving a reporting area and retrieval of gear, appropriate only for vessel buying stations. The additional, proposed text would indicate that the manager of a land-based buying station submit a check-out report within 24 hours after



delivery of groundfish ceases for the fishing year or for a period greater than one weekly reporting period.

o Clarify check-out requirements for CDO operations.

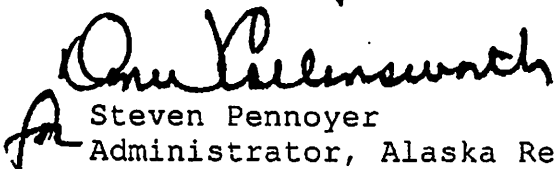
Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) operations are uniquely identified with a number for each Community Development Plan (CDP). Existing regulations are vague about submittal of a check-in report and check-out report when a vessel is fishing for multiple CDPs. The proposed text would indicate that a separate check-in report be submitted prior to fishing for each CDP. Appropriately, a separate check-out report would be submitted within 24 hours of completion of directed fishing for each CDP.

o Correct text on reporting landings and production.

Existing regulations incorrectly state that the weight of landings and product on weekly production reports (WPRs) and daily production reports (DPRs) may be reported in metric tons or in pounds. In past years, NMFS requested these landings and product data be reported only in metric tons to at least the nearest 0.01 metric ton and the forms reflect that requirement. However, during review of this error, some concern was expressed over the status of several groundfish species, e.g., rockfish, and that even small amounts of these species must be accounted for. The proposed revision therefore would require that landings and product be reported only in metric tons to at least the nearest 0.001 metric ton.

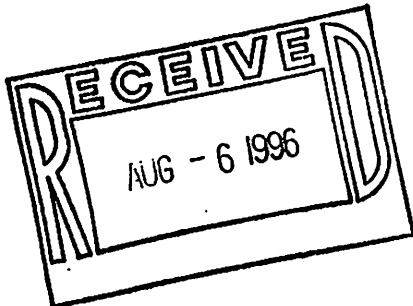
Our intent would be to implement these changes before the beginning of the 1997 fishing year.

Sincerely,


Steven Pennoyer
Administrator, Alaska Region



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
7600 Sand Point Way NE
BIN C15700, Building 4
Seattle, WA 98115



AUG - 2 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR: F/AK - Steven Pennoyer
FROM: F/AKC - James W. Balsiger
SUBJECT: 1996-97 REFM Vessel Charter to Evaluate Total Weight Estimation Procedures

This memorandum is to inform you that the Resource Ecology and Fisheries Management Division of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) has chartered the F/T American Triumph, call sign KTHZ, to conduct an evaluation of North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program total catch weight estimation procedures. The charter includes preseason, inseason, and postseason phases during the BSAI 1996 pollock B and 1997 pollock A seasons. Each preseason is expected to be 2-5 days while each postseason will likely last 10-14 days. The vessel has been allocated a total of 5,390 t of pollock during these time periods to complete sample size requirements. The charter vessel will be subject to all existing fishery regulations and area closures, including the ban on trawling after 1 November 1996.

This research is sanctioned by the AFSC. By this memorandum I am approving and authorizing the research to be conducted by this vessel. Rich Marasco or Bill Karp may be contacted for further information if necessary.

- cc: F/AKC2 - R. Marasco, W. Karp, S. Fitzgerald
- F/AKC3 - H. Braham
- F/AKC4 - M. Dahlberg
- F/AK01 - R. Berg
- F/EN5 - S. Meyers (Juneau)
- D. Stewart (Anchorage)
- K. Hansen (Kodiak)
- W. McNally (Sitka)
- E. Olsen, L. Selig (Homer)
- J. MacDonald (Dutch Harbor)
- G. Dudgeon (Yakutat)
- USCG - Alameda and Juneau
- ADF&G - F. Rue
- NPFMC - C. Pautzke





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Mammal Laboratory
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bin C15700
Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

(206) 526-6173

FAX: (206)526-6615

September 3, 1996

F/AKC3:RLM

MEMORANDUM FOR: Record

FROM: Richard L. Merrick

SUBJECT: 1996 Steller sea lion survey results

We now have the final ADF&G survey numbers so results of the 1996 surveys are now ready for release.

Adult and Juvenile Surveys

NMFS and ADF&G conducted an aerial survey (using similar protocols to past summer surveys) during the period of 10-24 June 1996 in the area from SE Alaska westward through Attu Island in the western Aleutian Islands. An overall decrease of 7.8% (from 32,930 to 30,348) since 1994 was observed in nonpup numbers at trend sites in Alaska (Table 1). This was similar to the decline (-5.5%) observed between 1992 and 1994.

Since 1994, numbers have decreased in Southeast Alaska (-7.2%, from 8,811 to 8,181 nonpups) and in the Gulf of Alaska (-17.6%, from 11,871 to 9,782), but not in the Aleutian Islands as a whole (+1.1%, from 12,248 to 12,385). Kenai-Kiska area trend site sea lion numbers decreased by 4.6% (from 18,713 to 17,847).

The increase in numbers in the eastern Aleutian Islands (+6.6, Table 1) was notable because it affirms observations since 1990 that the sea lion population there has stabilized, particularly in the Krenitzen Islands to Unimak Island area (which increased from 1992 to 1994 despite a decrease in the larger eastern Aleutian Islands area). Declines in Southeast Alaska sea lion numbers may be a result of sampling variability, but suggest that the population there is, at the least, not increasing.

Pup Surveys

NMFS and ADF&G also conducted a partial survey of Steller sea lion pups at nine rookeries in the area from Southeast Alaska to the eastern Aleutian Islands during 24



June - 14 July 1996. Since 1994, pup numbers have decreased by 6.1% (from 6,494 pups to 6,096; Table 2) at the sites counted. This is an improvement over the 22.9% decrease observed at the same sites between 1991-92 and 1994. Patterns of decrease were similar to those observed for the nonpups during 1994-96. A small decrease occurred in SE Alaska (-1.5%), while the greatest decreases were observed in the eastern Gulf of Alaska (-37.5%). Numbers also decreased at the two sites counted in the central Gulf of Alaska, but productivity appeared to increase to the west at Atkins and Ugamak Islands.

cc: Balsiger, Braham, Loughlin

Table 1.--Counts of adult and juvenile Steller sea lions observed at rookery and haulout trend sites in seven areas of Alaska during aerial surveys in June 1992, 1994, and 1996.

Area	Count			Percent change	
	1992	1994	1996	1992-94	1994-96
SE Alaska	7,558	8,811	8,181	16.6	-7.2
Gulf of Alaska					
Eastern (PWS)	3,738	3,369	2,131	-9.9	-36.8
Central	5,721	4,520	3,913	-21.0	-13.4
Western	3,720	3,982	3,738	7.0	-6.1
Total GOA	13,179	11,871	9,782	-10.1	-17.6
Aleutian Islands					
Eastern	4,839	4,421	4,714	-8.6	6.6
Central	6,399	5,790	5,482	-9.5	-5.3
Western	2,869	2,037	2,189	-29.0	7.5
Total AI	14,107	12,248	12,385	-13.2	1.1
Alaska Total	34,844	32,930	30,348	-5.5	-7.8
Kenai-Kiska	20,679	18,713	17,847	-9.5	-4.6

Table 2.--Counts of live Steller sea lion pups observed at rookeries in Alaska during June-July 1991-92, 1994 and 1996.

Rookery	Count of live pups			Percent change	
	1991-92	1994	1996	1991-94	1994-96
SE Alaska					
ForresterComplex	3,261	2,757	2,764	-15.5%	0.3%
Hazy Island	808	862	768	6.7%	-10.9%
White Sisters	95	151	182	58.9%	20.5%
Eastern GOA					
Seal Rocks	657	598	332	-9.0%	-44.5%
Fish Island	514 ¹	305	232	-40.7%	-23.9%
Central GOA					
Outer Island	180	119	114	-33.9%	-4.2%
Marmot Island	1,611	804	632	-50.1%	-21.4%
Western GOA					
Atkins Island	485	324	366	-33.2%	13.0%
Eastern Aleutian I.					
Ugamak Island	813	574	706	-29.4%	23.0%
Total	8,424	6,494	6,096	-22.9%	-6.1%

¹1993 count