



## **B8 Cooperative Reporting**

April 2024

### **Action Memo**

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Other Presenters: Austin Estabrooks (AFA – Pollock Conservation Cooperative & High Seas Catchers’ Cooperative), Chelsae Radell (CGOA Rockfish), and Susie Zagorski (AFA – Catcher Vessel Intercooperative)  
Action Required: Annual review of cooperative reports

### **BACKGROUND**

The Council has developed several cooperative programs as components of larger catch share programs. Under these programs, cooperatives have been required or requested to provide an annual report in writing, and optionally an oral presentation. These reports are intended as a resource for the Council to track the effectiveness of the cooperatives and their ability to meet the Council’s goals for the programs. Additionally, the reports are a tool for the cooperatives to provide feedback on the programs to the Council.

An infographic summarizing the cooperative reports is provided at the end of this memo. In addition, a table that provides a more expanded overview of mandatory and voluntary elements of the different cooperative reports is included in this action memo, as well as a list of active cooperatives.

As a reminder, for any requests, deletions, and/or clarifications of information provided in the cooperative reports (voluntary or otherwise), the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) requires Federal agencies (1) to seek public comment on proposed collections and (2) to submit proposed collections for review and approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB reviews agency information collection requests for approval and disapproval. The PRA should not discourage the Council from making requests for voluntary cooperative information to be included in future cooperative reports. Rather, this guidance advises the Council to pursue voluntary information requests in a deliberative manner, providing clear explanation of the objective of the new information. Council and NMFS staff will track these Council information requests and submit the necessary PRA paperwork to OMB, so a clear explanation for requests is helpful.

#### **(a) AFA Cooperative Reports**

In 1998, Congress established the American Fisheries Act (AFA) specifically for the pollock fishery in the BSAI management area. Among other things, the AFA encouraged domestic enterprise in Alaskan fisheries and established provisions for the creation of fishery cooperatives in three sectors: at sea catcher processors, motherships, and inshore vessels. Cooperatives are given exclusive allocation of pollock based on their members’ historical catch. See below for a list of current AFA cooperatives.

<b>AFA Cooperatives in 2023</b>
Catcher Vessel Intercooperative
Peter Pan Fleet Cooperative
Unisea Fleet Cooperative
Westward Fleet Cooperative
Unalaska Fleet Cooperative
Akutan Catcher Vessel Cooperative
Northern Victor Fleet Cooperative
Mothership Fleet Cooperative
Pollock Conservation Cooperative & High Seas Catchers' Cooperative

**(b) Amendment 80 Cooperative Reports**

Implemented in 2008, the Amendment 80 Program is a limited access privilege program (LAPP) that allocates a portion of total allowable catch (TAC) for Atka mackerel, Pacific ocean perch, and three flatfish species (yellowfin sole, rock sole, and flathead sole), along with an allocation of prohibited species catch (PSC) quota for halibut and crab, in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI), to the Amendment 80 sector.

The Amendment 80 cooperative(s) also provide halibut bycatch management plans to the Council at the December meeting. That request originated from the Council during the June 2015 meeting. In addition, as part of the BSAI flatfish flexibility action (Amendment 105), the Council asked for information on flatfish exchanges, cooperative transfers, and actual harvest. NMFS provides this information as part of their December inseason management report. As noted in the table below, Alaska Seafood Cooperative has been the only Amendment 80 cooperative in recent years.

<b>Amendment 80 Cooperatives in 2023</b>
Alaska Seafood Cooperative

**(c) CGOA Rockfish Cooperative Reports**

In 2007, the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) Rockfish Pilot Program was implemented. The program was intended to enhance resource conservation and improve economic efficiency for harvesters and processors who participated in the program. Allocations of the primary rockfish species (Pacific ocean perch, northern rockfish, and pelagic rockfish) and important incidental catch species (i.e., sablefish, Pacific cod, shorttraker and roughey rockfish, and thornyhead rockfish) are divided between the catcher vessel sector and the catcher processor sector. In addition, each sector is allocated halibut PSC limits based on historic catch of halibut in the target rockfish fisheries. As part of reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act in 2007, the CGOA Rockfish Pilot Program was extended until December 31, 2011. During that time, the Council completed action on Amendment 88 to the GOA Fishery Management Plan that revised the CGOA Rockfish Program and the amendment was implemented in 2012. Recently, the CGOA Rockfish Program was reauthorized with an effective date of March 31, 2021 (Amendment 111). As part of this amendment, the requirement that the Rockfish Program cooperatives submit a cooperative annual report to NMFS was removed, and instead the Council requested that the Rockfish Program cooperatives continue to voluntarily provide annual reports to the Council. The table below provides a list of the current CGOA Rockfish Program cooperatives.

<b>CGOA Rockfish Cooperatives in 2023</b>
North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative
OBSI Rockfish Cooperative
Silver Bay Seafoods Rockfish Cooperative
Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative
Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative
Best Use Cooperative

**(d) BSAI Crab Cooperative Reports**

The BSAI Crab Rationalization program is a LAPP, which was implemented in 2005. The program issued harvest quota shares to vessel owners (License Limitation Program license holders) and captains, as well as issuing processor quota shares to processors based on their associated history. The crab rationalization program allows for the voluntary formation of harvesting cooperatives to coordinate crab harvest. If a quota share holder is associated with a cooperative, the annual pounds of IFQ that are derived from the quota share holder’s quota is issued to their cooperative and able to be internally managed and harvested among its members. Annually, more than 99 percent of the crab rationalization harvesting quota share is harvested through cooperatives.

When implemented, the BSAI Crab rationalization program did not include a pre-established reporting requirement for cooperatives. In 2013, the Council reviewed an analysis evaluating the Council’s management options for promoting active participation among lease holders, as well as lease rates, crew compensation, and active participation through flexible cooperative management. While the Council opted against a regulatory solution at that time, it requested that the industry use non-regulatory methods to address the Council’s concerns. The Council requested an annual cooperative report for industry to report on the effectiveness of non-regulatory measures, noting that these reports would help the Council determine whether to take regulatory action in the future. The Council letter sent to each of the cooperatives requested that they voluntarily report on:

- QS transfers to active participant and crew members
- Lease rates
- Crew compensation rates

The letter also requests any additional information or data the cooperatives wish to provide demonstrating the effectiveness of existing measures and the level of participation in cooperative-established measures. The Council also recommended using the seven question/response format, as has been employed by many of the groups in the past, as their preferred reporting structure. See below for a list of current BSAI Crab cooperatives.

<b>BSAI Crab Cooperatives in 2023/24</b>
Alaska King Crab Harvesters Cooperative
Aleutian Island Cooperative
Alternative Crab Exchange (ACE)
Coastal Villages Crabbing Cooperative
Crab Producers and Harvesters Association
Dog Boat Cooperative
Inter-cooperative Exchange (ICE)
R & B Cooperative
Trident Affiliated Crab Harvesting Cooperative

# Cooperative Reports

The Council has developed several catch share programs that allow or require the formation of cooperatives. As part of these programs, cooperatives submit annual reports detailing the use of the cooperative quota or other aspects of the program. Data provided is for the 2023 fishing year.

## AFA



- Implemented in 1998
- Key species – pollock
- Cooperatives - 9
- Active vessels – 88
- Program first wholesale value - \$1.53 billion\*
- Pounds landed – 2.50 billion

## Amendment 80



- Implemented in 2008
- Key species – Flatfish, other groundfish
- Cooperatives - 1
- Active vessels – 19
- Program first wholesale value - \$335.8 million\*
- Pounds landed – 686.6 million

## BSAI Crab



- Implemented in 2005
- Key species – King and tanner crab
- Cooperatives - 9
- Active vessels – 41
- Program first wholesale value - \$98.1 million\*
- Pounds landed – 10.1 million

## GOA Rockfish



- Reauthorized in 2021
- Key species – rockfish, cod, and sablefish
- Cooperatives - 7
- Active vessels – 26
- Program first wholesale value - \$45.0 million\*
- Pounds landed – 72.5 million

### Cooperative Report Includes:

- Allocation and sub-allocation of pollock and sideboards
- Retained and discarded catch
- Cooperative monitoring methods
- Salmon bycatch numbers

### Incentive Plan Agreement Report Includes:

- Incentive in effect to reduce salmon bycatch
- Salmon bycatch numbers
- Transfers of Chinook salmon and pollock
- Suballocations of Chinook salmon

### Cooperative Report Includes:

- Retained and discarded catch
- Directed and bycatch species transfers
- Cooperative monitoring methods
- Percent of groundfish retained

### Voluntary Cooperative Report Includes:

- Measures to increase availability of QS for transfer to active participants and crew members
- Measures to address high QS lease rates
- Measures to address low crew compensation

### Voluntary Cooperative Report Includes:

- Cooperative's quota and sideboard limit
- Retained and discarded catch
- Cooperative monitoring methods

\*Values based on 2022 wholesale prices

**Summary of the cooperative reporting requirements and voluntary requests for information**

Cooperative program	Required information	Voluntary information	Deadline	Recipient
<b>AFA Cooperative Report</b>	<p><i>Established in 50 CFR §679.61(f) as well as Section 210(a)(1)(B) of the AFA:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Allocation of pollock and sideboard species to cooperative</li> <li>▪ Sub-allocations of pollock and sideboard species on a vessel-by-vessel basis</li> <li>▪ Retained and discarded catch on an area-by-area and vessel-by-vessel basis</li> <li>▪ Method used to monitor fisheries</li> <li>▪ Actions taken by cooperative against members that exceed catch or bycatch</li> <li>▪ The total weight of pollock landed outside the State of Alaska on a vessel-by-vessel basis</li> <li>▪ Number of salmon taken, by species and season</li> <li>▪ Each vessel's number of appearances on the weekly "dirty 20" lists for non-Chinook salmon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AFA exempt vessel activity in the GOA</li> <li>▪ Inter-temporal harvest information</li> <li>▪ Measures taken to reduce bycatch in the BSAI trawl limited access yellowfin sole fishery (Council motion E1, June 12,2017)</li> <li>▪ Voluntary presentation at April Council meeting</li> </ul>	April 1 <sup>st</sup>	NPFMC
<b>Amendment 80 Cooperative Report</b>	<p><i>Established in 50 CFR 679.5(s)(6)(j):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Actual retained and discarded catch of CQ and GOA sideboard limit by area and by vessel</li> <li>▪ Information on the directed and bycatch species transfers by species, amount, and date</li> <li>▪ Method used to monitor fisheries</li> <li>▪ Actions taken by co-ops against members that exceed assigned CQ</li> <li>▪ The percent of groundfish retained by the cooperative relative to aggregate groundfish retained by all Amendment 80 co-ops</li> <li>▪ Results from a third-party audit on cooperatives annual groundfish retention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Catch information from the Northern Bristol Bay Trawl Area</li> <li>▪ A retrospective indication of Amendment 80 catch capacity</li> <li>▪ Inter-temporal harvest information</li> <li>▪ Measures taken to reduce bycatch in the BSAI trawl limited access yellowfin sole fishery (Council motion E1, June 12, 2017)</li> <li>▪ Voluntary presentation at April Council meeting</li> </ul>	March 1 <sup>st</sup>	NMFS
<b>Central GOA Rockfish Cooperative Report</b>	<p>As part of Amendment 111 for the GOA FMP, all required cooperative information was removed from regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cooperative report</li> <li>▪ Inter-temporal harvest information</li> <li>▪ Use consistent terminology</li> <li>▪ Voluntary presentation at April Council meeting</li> </ul>	April Council meeting	NPFMC
<b>Crab Rationalization Cooperative Report<sup>1</sup></b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase availability of QS for transfer to active participants and crew members</li> <li>▪ Decrease high QS lease rates</li> <li>▪ Improve low crew compensation</li> <li>▪ Voluntary presentation at April Council meeting</li> </ul>	April Council meeting	NPFMC

<sup>1</sup> The Council's motion from April 11, 2014, stated that the "Council's preferred reporting format for crab cooperatives answer the seven questions asked by the Council, as exemplified by the ICE report of 2013. Additionally, the Council encourages all coops' answers to be as quantitative as possible, as well as encourage 100% compliance with filing the reports by March 1 of each year.