

Appendix B. Data Streams Paper

Data Sources and Their Uses for Pollock Catcher Vessels

November 14, 2018⁶

This document describes the different data sources collected from pollock catcher vessels in the Bering Sea (BS) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) used to manage groundfish catch, monitor Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits, and track incidental take of protected species. These data generally rely on at-sea and shoreside observer data collection as well as landing reports, also known as fish tickets, created by the shoreside processors. Other data sources also exist in this fishery, such as VMS and paper or electronic logbooks, but these data are currently used for compliance monitoring and not for fisheries management. If Electronic Monitoring (EM) is implemented to monitor full retention of salmon PSC, replacement data sources will be needed to manage the fishery. Considerations of other observer data uses such as the collection of biological information and spatial catch information for species are not part of this document.

The tables at the end of this document describe the type of catch, the data sources uses to determine the amount of that catch, how the data is used, and identifies gaps in data if EM is implemented for pollock catcher vessels in the BS and GOA. This document aims to provide supporting information for the trawl EM Committee *Cooperative Research Plan for developing an EM program for compliance purposes on pelagic pollock trawl catcher vessels and tenders both delivering to shoreside processors with a defined retention requirement*. This is intended to be a living document, updated at regular intervals throughout the multi-year course of EM development for pelagic pollock catcher vessels.

Delivering to Shoreside Processors in the Bering Sea

All AFA pollock catcher vessels have an observer aboard the vessel for any pollock trip in the BS. Shoreside processors generate landing reports and record all landed groundfish and PSC. At-sea discard estimates are obtained from the observer estimates of discard by species for that trip and other similar trips applied to the landed weight on the landing report. The retained catch from the landing report and the at-sea discard estimates together create the total groundfish catch for that trip. This accrues against several accounts including the AFA inshore sector season allocations and seasonal Stellar sea lion conservation area (SCA) limits.

Shoreside processor observers conduct a census of all salmon at the shoreside processor. For Chinook salmon, these counts accrue against several limits including the season BS pollock trawl PSC limit and the season AFA inshore cooperative limit. Census counts of non-chinook salmon are tabulated in the Catch Accounting System (CAS) and monitor Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) trawl PSC, BSAI trawl catcher vessel operation area (CVOA) limit and the Chum salmon savings area.

For halibut PSC, the weight obtained from the vessel observer's samples for a trip extrapolated to the total weight on the landing report is applied to the BSAI halibut PSC limit. A fleetwide mortality rate of 100% is applied to the weight of the halibut.

The weight of herring in the vessel's observer samples for the trip is expanded and a rate is applied to the trip's landing report to obtain the PSC estimate for herring. This accrues against the BSI trawl limit for herring.

Crab numbers in the observer samples for the trip are expanded and a rate is applied to the trip's landing report to obtain the PSC estimate for crab. These numbers accrue against limits in special areas. Crab

⁶ Prepared by Cathy Tide and Jennifer Watson (NMFS)

