

Public Testimony Sign-Up Sheet

Agenda Item CGOA Rockfish CG (b)

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NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver *Chris*
Executive Director
DATE: January 30, 2008
SUBJECT: Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program

ESTIMATED TIME
2 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Review 2007 cooperative reports
- (b) Outline of program review

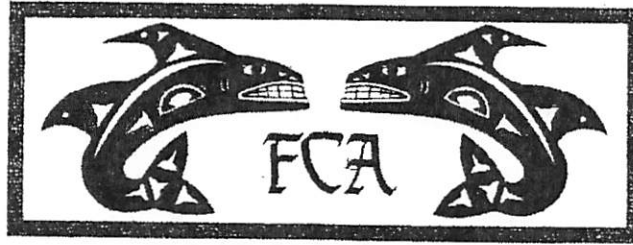
BACKGROUND

- (a) Review 2007 cooperative reports

Under the demonstration management program for the Central Gulf of Alaska rockfish fishery, participants in that fishery are permitted to form cooperatives, which fish exclusive allocations of primary rockfish, secondary species caught in the rockfish fisheries, and halibut prohibited species catch. Cooperatives under the program are required to submit annual reports summarizing their harvests, transfers, and cooperative performance. Attached are the cooperative reports submitted under these requirements (Items C-6(a)(1) and C-6(a)(2)).

- (b) Outline of program review

In development of the rockfish pilot program for the Central Gulf of Alaska, the Council scheduled a review of the program after the first year of fishing. Since the first year of fishing under the program ended in December of 2007, staff is planning for delivery of the requested review to the Council in June of 2008. Attached is a brief outline of the proposed review of the program (Item C-6(b)(1)).



Final Report of the Fishing Co. of Alaska

Offshore Rockfish Cooperative

Respectively submitted to:
Regional Administrator
NMFS Alaska
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802

December 15, 2007

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Section I INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allowed for the formation of rockfish fishing cooperatives in the catcher vessel (CV) and catcher processor (CP) sectors, the latter of which requires at least two limited license permits (LLP's). During the 2007 fishing year, two offshore catcher processor cooperatives were established. They were the Fishing Co. of Alaska Cooperative and the Trident Rockfish Cooperative.

The FCA Rockfish Cooperative was one of 2 offshore/catcher processor cooperatives formed in 2007 in accordance to Amendment 68 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. The FCA co-op was the only fully operational offshore/catcher processor cooperative. The second and only other cooperative formed by Trident Seafoods choose to transfer its QS inshore.

Each cooperative received an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of primary rockfish species (POP, NR, PSR), catcher processor cooperatives also received allocations of secondary species, which included sablefish, thornyhead, shortraker, rougheye rockfish and halibut PSC mortality. The catcher processor (CP) vessel co-ops do not receive allocations of Pacific cod. The CP cod was managed as a maximum retainable amount (MRA's - in the CP sector) but are allocated shortraker or rougheye rockfish. Allocations to both the inshore and catcher processor sectors was based on the average percentage of retained catch and Halibut PSC mortality usage of these species in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations were distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

Provisions in the RPP regulations allowed for only one-way transfers of CQ from a CP offshore co-op to a CV inshore co-op, and during the 2007 RPP season, all of the FCA CP cooperative quota for POP, PSR, NR, sablefish and halibut PSC were consolidated within the cooperative (detailed in section IV). One such transfer from the FCA co-op to the inshore co-op sector was accomplished to prevent the stranding of fish within the FCA co-op.

Two-way transfers were allowed and performed between the only two CP co-ops when it became obvious that the FCA co-op allocation of shortraker would potentially prohibit FCA from maximizing harvest.

This year (2007) marked the first year of the five year Rockfish Pilot Program and, in compliance with Amendment 68, this Final Report is submitted to the Council as a summary of harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2007 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA).

¹ Pelagic shelf rockfish consists of dusky rockfish, dark rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and widow rockfish.

Section II COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

The 2007 Fishing Company of Alaska Cooperative (FCA) consisted two member vessels, AK Spirit (LLP #3043) and AK Victory (LLP #2080), which both actively fished during the RPP.

While FCA qualified and could have been assigned quota under the RPP for a third license under vessel AK Warrior/ Ranger LLP# 2083, it was unable to include the LLP and corresponding catch history in the FCA cooperative because of limiting factors contained in the program sideboard limitations (i.e. 14 day stand-down) and LLP qualifying vessel history restrictions. More specifically, the RPP regulations specified (per NMFS) that any vessel or vessels that gave rise to the catch history on the LLP during the qualifying period, would be subject to the same program regulations and sideboard provisions if the LLP were brought into the program. This would have meant that while FCA had three qualified RPP LLP's under the program, four vessels would have been affected by co-oping the single LLP #2083, which captured both the AK Warrior and the AK Ranger. This resulted in the business decision to forgo cooping, the substantial CQ history on the Warrior/Ranger LLP and have both vessels fish the July Aleutian Island (AI) POP fishery. Historically only one of these vessels has participated in the AI POP fishery at any given time.

Member Licenses Member Vessels ADF&G no.

Vessel Name	ADF&G	USCG	LLP
Alaska Spirit	59870	554913	3043
Alaska Victory	61083	569752	2080

Sub note: During the remaining four years of the RPP and following implementation of the Amendment 80 limited access privilege program, the same RPP side board stand-down (14 days) provision will likely inhibit FCA from bringing into a cooperative all three licenses unless changes can be made to the program sideboard 14 day stand-down provision.

Section III COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT-MONITORING

The Fishing Company of Alaska (FCA) cooperative was represented and managed by Capt. Bill McGill of Fishing Co. of Alaska, Inc. in collaboration and coordination with the only other offshore co-op Trident Seafood's, Inc., the inshore inter-co-op manager, Julie Bonney of the Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (in-season management).

FCA's goal was to bring their entire allocation under one cooperative and manage the harvesting in the central GOA with the AK Spirit and manage the western GOA sideboards with the AK Victory. While the AK Spirit did harvest all CGOA catch, it later joined the Victory in the western GOA to complete the harvesting of the remaining sideboard POP quota.

By using only one vessel in the central GOA, FCA was able to develop an effective onboard catch monitoring program and utilize fishing techniques (ie. Pelagic nets) that allowed for maximum harvest and minimum PSC bycatch without exceeding any species allocations.

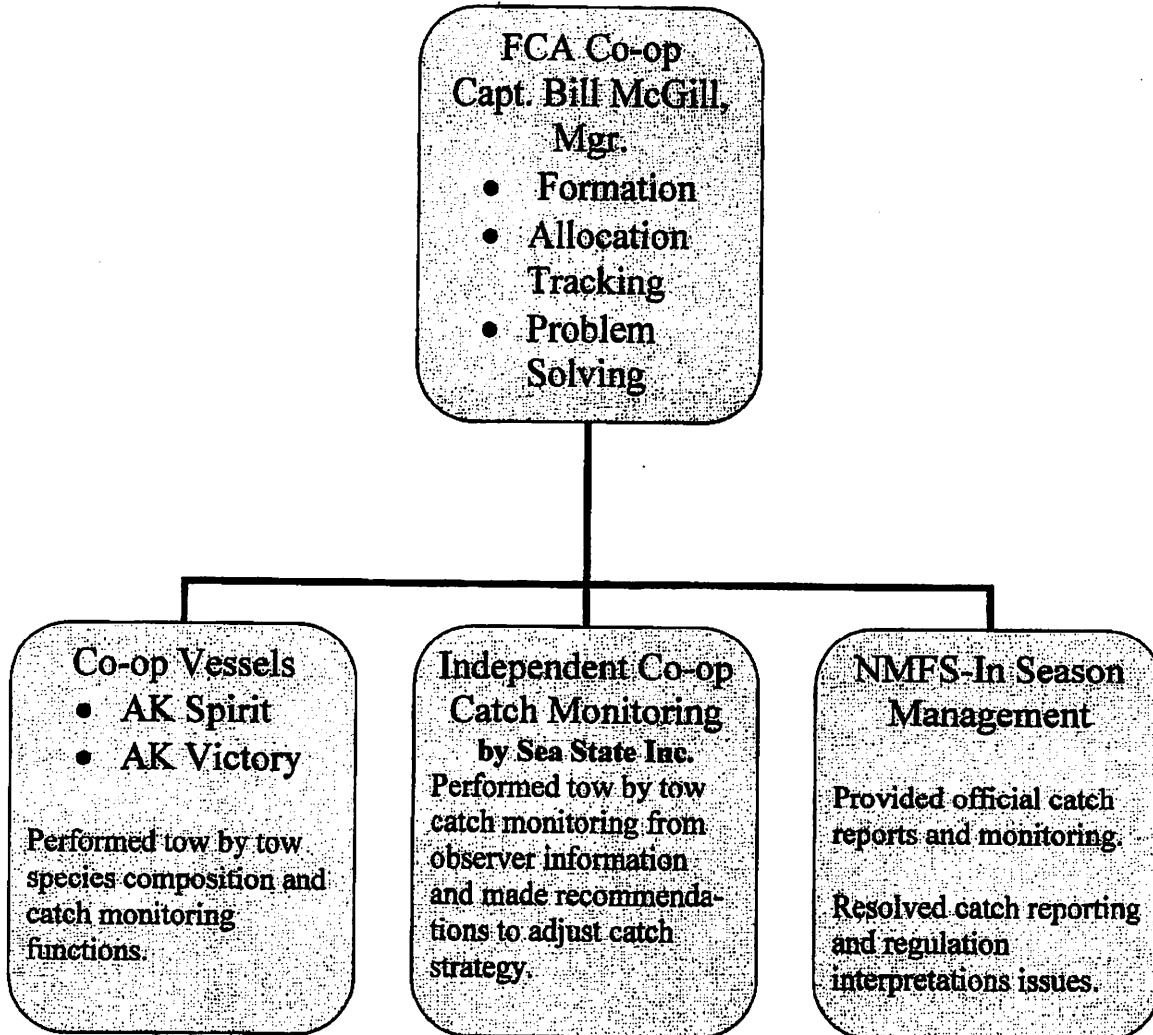
Figure 1 below shows the schematic outlining the co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

Vessel Catch-Monitoring

Both of FCA's co-op vessels were equipped with onboard catch monitoring systems that allowed them to compute and monitor catch on a tow by tow basis based on real time haul estimates, species composition and observer information. Each vessels accounting was compared to catch reports compiled by an independent catch monitoring company, Sea State Inc., who utilized the most current official NMFS observer catch information. The comparative data was then transmitted to the vessels via the co-op manager and any discrepancies between the vessels catch estimates and those compiled by Sea State were immediately rectified.

In addition to the above, a third check of catch data accuracy was made, when the co-op manager also compared the vessels and Sea State catch numbers with the NMFS co-op manager's official catch accounting in Juneau to ensure no species allocations were exceeded. While all of this may have seemed a little redundant, it gave all concerned, confidence that over harvesting of CQ would not happen!

Figure 1. Schematic of Fishing Co. of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management.



Section IV CO-OP ALLOCATIONS, TRANSFERS and PERFORMANCE

FCA cooperative's allocations and transfers for the 2007 season are summarized by species in Table 1.

Anecdotal information provided by other qualified offshore CP companies indicated that they were reluctant to form or join a cooperative because of the extremely limited shortraker allocation to the sector and to individual companies. When the FCA co-op realized that the shortraker allocation would not permit the co-op to fully harvest its primary species allocations, it sought and obtained transfer of some shortraker from the Trident CP co-op. While this worked in this instance, we suggest a more long term solution to the limited shortraker allocation to the offshore sector be made by the NPFMC, such as treating it as a soft cap MRA.

After maximizing FCA's cooperative harvest and without exceeding any allocations, FCA transferred varying limited amounts of the remaining species to the inshore cooperative in an effort to obtain optimum yield from the program.

Table 1 Central Gulf of Alaska Allocations and Transfers IN and OUT of Cooperative by species.

NAME	FCA CQ Allocation	In Transfers	Out Transfers	Catch	CQ not harvested	Percent Remaining
Pacific Ocean Perch	1700	0	33	1666.934	0.1	0
Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	141	0	27	113.107	0.9	0.6
Northern Rockfish	284	0	130	153.091	0.9	0.3
Sablefish Catcher	87	0	8	78.204	0.8	0.9
Shortraker Rockfish	34	25	0	43.468	15.5	45.7
Rougheye Rockfish	117	0	0	11.323	105.7	90.3
Thornyhead Rockfish	74	0	0	23.073	50.9	68.8
CGOA Halibut - PSC	35	0	12	16.84	6.2	17.6

Central Gulf of Alaska Cooperative Retention Performance

Because of Fishing Co. of Alaska's vast experience fishing in the Gulf (19 years) for Rockfish, we were able to target retainable species and minimize discards as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Central GOA Catch Retained and Discards (only vessel)

Species Fished	Vessel Name	Retained	Discards
Northern Rockfish	ALASKA SPIRIT	152.9	0.2
Pacific Ocean Perch	ALASKA SPIRIT	1660.2	6.7
Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	ALASKA SPIRIT	112.8	0.3
Rougheye Rockfish	ALASKA SPIRIT	11.3	0
Sablefish	ALASKA SPIRIT	78.2	0
Shortraker	ALASKA SPIRIT	43.5	0
Thornyhead	ALASKA SPIRIT	23.0	0

Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) Sideboards/ Performance

During the first year of program, Fishing Co. of Alaska chose to manage its single owner cooperative in a conservative manner, focusing on catch monitoring and individual vessel accountability. While both co-op vessels did fish in WGOA the AK Victory focused on Northern Rockfish (see Tables 3 & 4) and the AK Spirit focused predominantly on POP, when it moved from the CGOA.

Table 3 Western GOA Sideboard Species and PSC Sideboards' for FCA Cooperative

Species Group	Area	Sideboard Percentage	Total CP Sideboard Limit (mt) ¹	FCA Co-op Sideboard Limit (mt)	FCA Catch (mt)	FCA Balance (mt)	FCA % Remaining
Deep-Water Halibut PSC	GOA	6.9	80	6	0	6	100%
Shallow-Water Halibut PSC	GOA	3.0	11	0	0	0	0
Northern Rockfish	WG	47.8	1,135	542	412.053	129.9	24%
Pacific Ocean Perch	WG	61.8	2,593	1,601	1558.13	42.9	2.70%
Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	WG	67.7	928	629	404.02	225	35.80%

Table 4 Western GOA Sideboard Catch by Vessel and Species

Western GOA Sideboard Catch by Vessel/ Species	Spirit	Victory
Northern Rockfish	9.5	402.6
Pacific Ocean Perch (POP)	635.8	922.3
Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	26	378

Section V

CO-OP Central GOA Prohibited Species Catch (PSC)

The FCA co-op was allocated 35 mts of halibut PSC and only used 16.84 mts during this first year. A transfer of 12 mts was made to the inshore cooperative and 6.2 mts remained with the FCA co-op. Because the co-op can not perform post delivery transfers, we felt retaining the buffer amount of 6.2 mts would cover any adjusted NMFS catch numbers. Post delivery transfers would have enabled bringing the allocated PSC CQ not harvested down to almost nothing.

The FCA co-op was very careful to reduce halibut bycatch during this first year of program operations. A combination of experience on the fishing grounds and staying away from high halibut bycatch areas produced the reduction.

Table 5 Central GOA PSC allocations and catch.

NAME	FCA CQ Allocation	In Transfers	Out Transfers	Catch	CQ not harvested	Percent Remaining
CGOA Halibut - PSC	35	0	12	16.84	6.2	17.6

Section VI PROGRAM SIDEBOARDS

The Rockfish Pilot Program established sideboard limitations (not allocations) that limit LLP holders participating in the program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard limits applied only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing.

Both FCA cooperative vessels participated in the western gulf co-op sideboard fisheries. In doing so, they performed individual vessel catch accounting that was coordinated both on the fishing grounds and through the co-op manager to ensure sideboard limitations were not exceeded.

Because of the sideboard 14-day stand-down provision FCA's quota allocation to the cooperative was reduced by approximately 25 percent during this first year.

Section VII PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

There were no NMFS enforcement actions or other sanctions taken against the FCA cooperative.

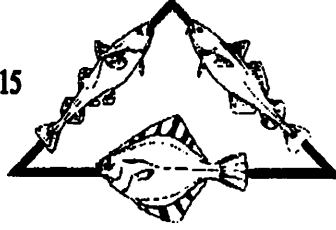
SUMMARY OF SUGGESTED PROGRAM CHANGES:

- Eliminate the 14 day stand-down provision for all Amendment 80 vessels
- Allow for post delivery transfers for all program cooperatives
- Establish shorttraker as a soft-cap MRA for all cooperatives
- Allow for the assignment of a single vessel to the qualified LLP (even if more than one gives rise to the catch history)

Alaska Groundfish Data Bank

PH: 907-486-3033 FAX: 907-486-3461 P.O. BOX 788 - KODIAK, AK. 99615

Julie Bonney, Executive Director jbonney@gci.net
Katy McGauley, Fisheries Biologist agdb@gci.net



Rockfish Pilot Program 2007 Annual Cooperative Reports

December 13, 2007

To: North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 95501-2252

From: Julie Bonney, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak, AK 99615



Please find enclosed the 2007 Annual Rockfish Cooperative Reports for the following cooperatives:

1. Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative
2. North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative
3. ISA Rockfish Cooperative
4. OBSI Rockfish Cooperative
5. Western Alaska Fisheries Cooperative
6. Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative

These annual reports are being submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service and to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council pursuant to and in accordance with 50 C.F.R § 679.81(i)(3)(xxiv).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Bonney".

Julie Bonney
Executive Director,
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank

Final Report of the
North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative

2007

December 15, 2007

Prepared by Julie Bonney, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank

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I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allows each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, Thornyhead rockfish and Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained catch or Halibut PSC mortality usage of these species in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The primary RPP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RPP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for coop members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allowed coop members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while reducing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative is one of 5 inshore cooperatives formed in March 2007 in accordance to Amendment 68 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2007 marked the first year of the 5-year Rockfish Pilot Program and, in compliance with Amendment 68, this Final Report is submitted to the Council as a summary of harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2007 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures

¹ Pelagic shelf rockfish consists of dusky rockfish, dark rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and widow rockfish.

and statistics were provided by Sea State, Inc. and by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

The North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative consists of six member licenses with six member vessels (LLP's), of which three actively fished during the RPP: Coho, Dawn and Topaz. The Alaskan, Taasinge and Coho allocations were fished by the Coho and the allocations for the Alaska Beauty and Topaz were fished by the Topaz. Alaska Pacific Seafoods in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative.

<u>Member Licenses</u>		<u>Member Vessels</u>		<u>ADF&G no.</u>
LLG 4851	F/V Coho, Inc.	Coho	LLP 4851	56189
LLG 2603	Defiant Fisheries, Inc.	Taasinge	LLP 2603	38001
LLG 1590	Four Sure, Inc.	Alaska Beauty	LLP 1590	22011
LLG 2535	Chandler Fisheries, Inc.	Topaz	LLP 2535	40250
LLG 2487	Burch, Alvin R.	Dawn	LLP 2487	9206
LLG3764	Pelagic Resources, Inc.	Alaskan	LLP 3764	3734

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Julie Bonney at the Alaska Groundfish Data Bank in collaboration and coordination with the Coop President, Mark Chandler, Alaska Pacific Seafood's Plant Manager, Matt Moir, Sea State, Inc., and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while reducing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Coop's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

(1) Check-ins and Check-outs

To facilitate moving into and out of non-RPP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" but limited them to 3 times the number of LLP's within the coop. Coop vessels were required to check into the RPP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries. With six LLP's, the NP Rockfish Cooperative was limited to 3x6 or 18 check-ins: only 8 were actually used.

(2) Observer Coverage

100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels and per 12 hour processing period at the shoreside processing plants.

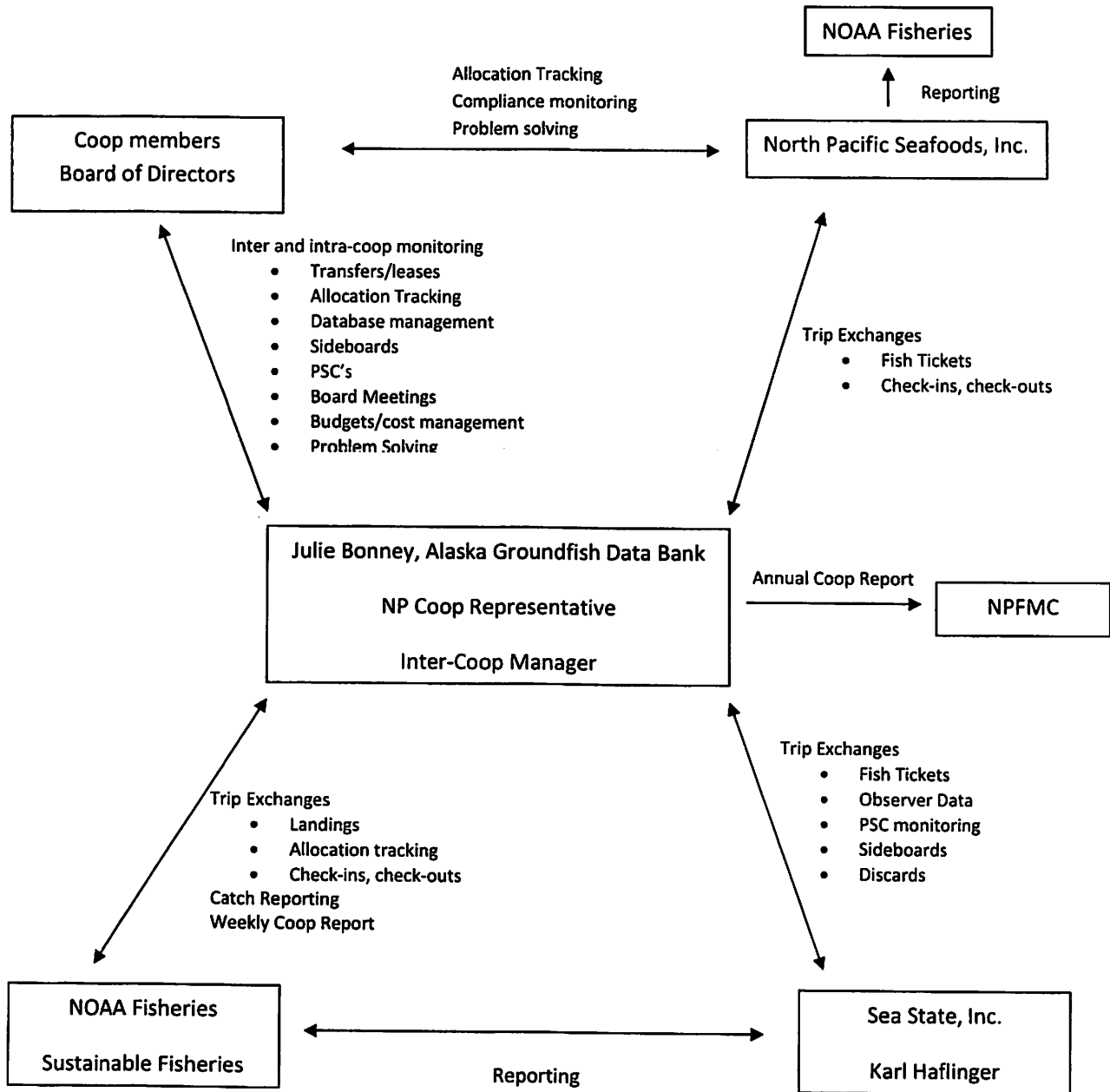
(3) Sea State, Inc.

Sea State, Inc. was hired by the cooperatives to establish and maintain the observer and fish ticket data base which was used in turn by the coop's manager to monitor the coop's catch.

(4) NOAA Fisheries

Weekly coop reports were composed and sent to NMFS/Sustainable Fisheries as per the regulations, and the coop manager maintained close contact with NMFS personnel to monitor the coop's harvest activities and bycatch rates and to discuss and resolve actual or potential management issues.

Figure 1. Schematic of NP Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management.



IV. COOP AND VESSEL ALLOCATIONS AND HARVESTS

The NP Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2007 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 1. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the five catcher vessel cooperatives and to bring the catcher processor cooperative allocations on shore.

Table 2: NP Rockfish Coop Allocation and Inter-coop Transfer Summary (weights are in pounds)

	POP	NR	PSR	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial NP Allocation:	809,405	545,504	412,840	101,729	154,622	27,949	30,161
Transfers In (FCA):	72,752	176,370	59,525	17,637			26,455
Transfers Out (OBSI):	(128,309)	(89,949)		(7,275)			
Transfers Out (WAF):	(25,000)						
Final NP Allocation:	728,848	631,925	472,365	112,091	154,622	27,949	56,616
Total CV Coops:	7,484,402	4,277,559	3,043,378	851,582	1,294,339	233,956	252,474
NP %:	10.8%	12.8%	13.6%	11.9%	11.9%	11.9%	11.9%

FCA: Fishing Company of Alaska (off-shore coop), OBSI: Ocean Beauty Seafood, Inc. coop, WAF: Western Alaska Fisheries Coop

A. Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ

Federal regulations require the RPP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2007 NP Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1, 2007 – November 15, 2007), there were two occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species by NP coop members:

1. 6,000 lbs. of POP.
2. 3,000 lbs. of sablefish.

In each instance, the discarded amount was charged to the offending vessel's catch account and NMFS Enforcement notified. The NP Coop therefore lost 6,000 pounds of POP (0.82% of the

total coop POP quota) and 3,000 lbs. of sablefish (2.68% of the total coop sablefish quota). All other harvested CQ species catch was retained.

B. Sideboard Limitations

The Rockfish Pilot Program established sideboard limitations (not allocations) that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard limits apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing.

(1) Prohibited Fishing

For the catcher vessel sector, the BS/AI was closed for flatfish and rockfish.

(2) Catch Limits

A collective CV Sector limit was imposed for the following (all were closed to the CV sector during the 2007 RPP since the allocations were too small to support directed fishing):

<u>BS/AI</u>	<u>West Yakutat</u>	<u>Western GOA</u>
Pacific Cod	POP	POP
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish

(3) Halibut Mortality Limits

A collective CV Sector halibut mortality limit (a sub-allocation of the total CGOA cap) was also imposed on the GOA shallow-water flatfish and deep-water flatfish fisheries. The deep-water complex remained closed throughout July due to an insufficient amount of halibut mortality to sustain the fishery. Therefore, shallow-water flatfish, including rock sole and flathead sole, was the only non-RPP fishery harvested by RPP coop vessels during the month of July, but the vessels fished on an "open-access" basis, not cooperatively. For the month of July, the vessels caught 71 MT of the available 137 MT of shallow-water complex halibut mortality.

Table 1: NP Rockfish Cooperative 2007 Allocations and Harvests by Species and Vessel (weights are in pounds)

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2007 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
POP	Coho	34%	275,116	221,222	53,894
	Dawn	22%	174,489	178,226	(3,737)
	Topaz	44%	359,800	329,088	30,712
	Total	100%	809,405	728,536	80,869
		Transfers:	(80,557)		
	Final Allocation:		728,848	Net:	312
NR	Coho	20%	107,966	102,613	5,353
	Dawn	29%	158,683	140,493	18,190
	Topaz	51%	278,855	269,112	9,743
	Total	100%	545,504	512,218	33,286
		Transfers:	86,421		
	Final Allocation:		631,925	Net:	119,707
PSR	Coho	24%	99,041	89,866	9,175
	Dawn	31%	128,323	118,756	9,567
	Topaz	45%	185,476	176,476	9,000
	Total	100%	412,840	385,098	27,742
		Transfers:	59,525		
	Final Allocation:		472,365	Net:	87,267
Sablefish	Coho	27%	27,580	27,866	(286)
	Dawn	26%	26,588	34,201	(7,613)
	Topaz	47%	47,561	50,001	(2,440)
	Total	100%	101,729	112,068	(10,339)
		Transfers:	10,362		
	Final Allocation:		112,091	Net:	23
P. cod	Coho	27%	41,920	14,774	27,146
	Dawn	26%	40,412	255	40,157
	Topaz	47%	72,290	1,815	70,475
	Total	100%	154,622	16,844	137,778
		Transfers:	0		
	Final Allocation:	Final Total:	154,622	Net:	137,778
Thornyhead	Coho	27%	7,577	10,115	(2,538)
	Dawn	26%	7,305	1,426	5,879
	Topaz	47%	13,067	1,369	11,698
	Total	100%	27,949	12,910	15,039
		Transfers:	0		
	Final Allocation:		27,949	Net:	15,039
Halibut PSC	Coho	27%	8,177	6,349	1,828
	Dawn	26%	7,883	2,557	5,326
	Topaz	47%	14,101	0	14,101
	Total	100%	30,161	8,906	21,255
		Transfers:	26,455		
	Final Allocation:		56,616	Net:	47,710

V. COOP PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

The cooperative's fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the coop's RPP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the coop members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 3). These standards were set based on what the coop members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the coop's quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the coop members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or "flying bottom") gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

These avoidance measures proved successful: the NP Rockfish Coop caught only 8,906 lbs. of its allocated 56,616 lbs. of halibut PSC mortality quota (15.73%).

Table 3: Halibut Bycatch Standards Adopted by the NP Rockfish Cooperative

Inter-coop standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%
NR/PSR	2.20%
Sable/cod	4.00%
Cooperative Red Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.45%
NR/PSR	1.98%
Sable/cod	3.60%
Cooperative Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.38%
NR/PSR	1.65%
Sable/cod	3.00%

Other Prohibited Species Catch: The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts during the 2007 RPP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 840 King salmon, 365 non-Chinook salmon, 402 Bairdi Tanner crab, and 1 Golden King crab.

VI. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RPP precludes harvesting the coop's allocation on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual coop quota share are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the NP Coop Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events.

There were no civil actions taken against any coop member.

Final Report of the
Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative

2007

December 15, 2007

Prepared by Julie Bonney, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank

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I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allows each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, Thornyhead rockfish and Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained catch or Halibut PSC mortality usage of these species in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The primary RPP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RPP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for coop members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allowed coop members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while reducing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative is one of 5 inshore cooperatives formed in March 2007 in accordance to Amendment 68 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2007 marked the first year of the 5-year Rockfish Pilot Program and, in compliance with Amendment 68, this Final Report is submitted to the Council as a summary of harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2007 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures

¹ Pelagic shelf rockfish consists of dusky rockfish, dark rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and widow rockfish.

and statistics were provided by Sea State, Inc. and by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

The Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative consists of eleven member licenses with eleven member vessels (LLP's), of which eight actively fished during the RPP: Mar Del Norte, Hazel Lorraine, Marcy J, Cape Kiwanda, Caravelle, Pacific Ram, Peggy Jo and the Progress. The Cape Kiwanda fished the Traveler's CQ and the Peggy Jo fished the Nordic Explorer's CQ. The Rosella CQ (minus reserves) was transferred to the ISA cooperative and delivered to Trident Seafoods in Kodiak.

Trident Seafoods, Inc. in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative.

<u>Member Licenses</u>		<u>Member Vessels</u>		<u>ADF&G no.</u>
LLG 3144	Blue Sea Fisheries	Pacific Ram	LLP 3144	61792
LLG 1841	Mar Del Norte, Inc.	Mar Del Norte	LLP 1841	21650
LLG 2567	Geiser, Albert	Hazel Lorraine	LLP 2567	57117
LLG 3896	Rondy's, Inc.	Progress	LLP 3896	6
LLG 3463	Traveler Fisheries, LLC	Traveler	LLP 3463	58821
LLG 2636	Cape Kiwanda, LLC	Cape Kiwanda	LLP 2636	61432
LLG 2364	Rosella, Inc.	Rosella	LLP 2364	21732
LLG 3594	B & N Fisheries Co.	Peggy Jo	LLP 3594	9200
LLG 3756	B & N Fisheries Co.	Nordic Explorer	LLP 3756	51092
LLG 2973	Golden West Fisheries, Inc.	Caravelle	LLP 2973	57634
LLG 2278	Marcy J, Inc	Marcy J	LLP 2278	55

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Julie Bonney at the Alaska Groundfish Data Bank in collaboration and coordination with the Coop President, Jerry Downing, Star of Kodiak Seafood's Plant Manager, Greg Hathaway, Sea State, Inc., and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while reducing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Coop's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

(1) Check-ins and Check-outs

To facilitate moving into and out of non-RPP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" but limited them to 3 times the number of LLP's within the coop. Coop vessels were required to check into the RPP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries. With eleven LLP's, the SOK Rockfish Cooperative was limited to 3x11 or 33 check-ins: only 19 were actually used.

Observer Coverage

100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels and per 12 hour processing period at the shoreside processing plants.

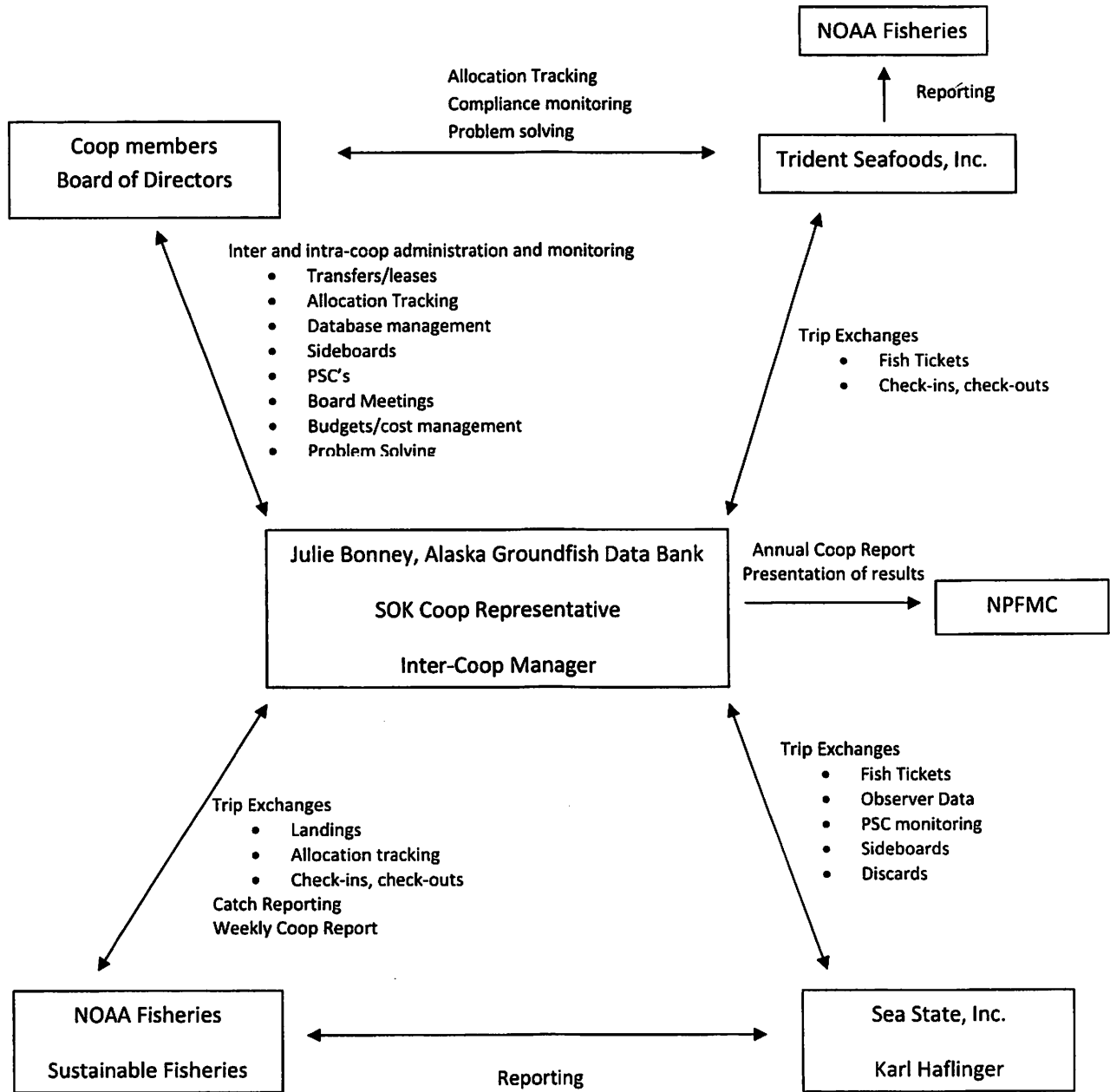
(2) Sea State, Inc.

Sea State, Inc. was hired by the cooperatives to establish and maintain the observer and fish ticket data base which was used in turn by the coop's manager to monitor the coop's catch.

(3) NOAA Fisheries

Weekly coop reports were composed and sent to NMFS/Sustainable Fisheries as per the regulations, and the coop manager maintained close contact with NMFS personnel to monitor the coop's harvest activities and bycatch rates and to discuss and resolve actual or potential management issues.

Figure 1. Schematic of SOK Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management.



IV. COOP AND VESSEL ALLOCATIONS AND HARVESTS

The SOK Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2007 season are summarized by species and vessel in Tables 1 and 2. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 3) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the five catcher vessel cooperatives and to bring the catcher processor cooperative allocations on shore.

Table 3: SOK Rockfish Coop Allocation and Inter-coop Transfer Summary (weights are in pounds)

	POP	NR	PSR	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial SOK Allocation:	1,677,331	976,077	811,401	198,938	302,371	54,654	58,980
Transfers In (Trident CP):	793,229	453,400	438,894	64,215		107,189	54,609
Transfers In (OBSI):		50,000	60,281				
Transfers Out (ISA):	(104,355)	(63,404)	(127,743)	(16,793)	(23,548)	(4,729)	(4,593)
Final SOK Allocation:	2,366,205	1,416,073	1,182,833	246,361	278,823	157,114	108,996
Total CV Coops:	7,484,402	4,277,559	3,043,378	851,582	1,294,339	233,956	252,474
SOK %:	22.41%	22.82%	26.66%	23.36%	23.36%	23.36%	23.36%

Trident CP: (Catcher processor off-shore coop), OBSI: Ocean Beauty Seafood, Inc. coop, ISA: International Seafoods of Alaska Coop.

A. Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ

Federal regulations require the RPP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2007 SOK Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1, 2007 – November 15, 2007), there were two occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species: one instance of 10,000 lbs. of POP and one instance of 5,000 lbs. of POP. In each instance, the discarded amount was charged to the offending vessel's catch account and NMFS Enforcement notified. The SOK Coop therefore lost 15,000 pounds of POP (0.63% of the total coop POP quota). All other harvested CQ species catch was retained.

B. Sideboard Limitations

The Rockfish Pilot Program established sideboard limitations (not allocations) that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard limits apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing.

(1) Prohibited Fishing

For the catcher vessel sector, the BS/AI was closed for flatfish and rockfish.

(2) Catch Limits

A collective CV Sector limit was imposed for the following (all were closed to the CV sector during the 2007 RPP since the allocations were too small to support directed fishing):

<u>BS/AI</u>	<u>West Yakutat</u>	<u>Western GOA</u>
Pacific Cod	POP	POP
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish

(3) Halibut Mortality Limits

A collective CV Sector halibut mortality limit (a sub-allocation of the total CGOA cap) was also imposed on the GOA shallow-water flatfish and deep-water flatfish fisheries. The deep-water complex remained closed throughout July due to an insufficient amount of halibut mortality to sustain the fishery. Therefore, shallow-water flatfish, including rock sole and flathead sole, was the only non-RPP fishery harvested by RPP coop vessels during the month of July, but the vessels fished on an "open-access" basis, not cooperatively. For the month of July, the vessels caught 71 MT of the available 137 MT of shallow-water complex halibut mortality.

Table 1: SOK Allocations and Harvests of POP, NR, PSR and Sablefish by Vessel (weights are in pounds)

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2007 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
POP	Mar Del Norte	11%	184,468	288,972	(104,504)
	Marcy J	7%	110,366	290,008	(179,642)
	Rosella	6%	107,561	0	107,561
	Hazel Lorraine	10%	175,485	292,759	(117,274)
	Cape Kiwanda	14%	238,464	203,981	34,483
	Caravelle	6%	107,834	129,733	(21,899)
	Pacific Ram	2%	38,400	234,964	(196,564)
	Peggy Jo	23%	386,265	451,366	(65,101)
	Progress	20%	328,488	406,507	(78,019)
	Total	100%	1,677,331	2,298,290	(620,959)
	Transfers:		688,874		
	Final Total:		2,366,205	Net:	67,915
NR	Mar Del Norte	7%	64,782	113,813	(49,031)
	Marcy J	12%	112,461	195,817	(83,356)
	Rosella	7%	65,415	0	65,415
	Hazel Lorraine	12%	113,754	47,258	66,496
	Cape Kiwanda	7%	67,423	13,915	53,508
	Caravelle	5%	45,552	32,569	12,983
	Pacific Ram	1%	4,922	4,687	235
	Peggy Jo	27%	267,990	573,724	(305,734)
	Progress	24%	233,779	222,705	11,074
	Total	100%	976,077	1,204,488	(228,411)
	Transfers:		439,996		
	Final Total:		1,416,073	Net:	211,585
PSR	Mar Del Norte	5%	38,708	45,120	(6,412)
	Marcy J	24%	197,463	131,653	65,810
	Rosella	16%	130,972	0	130,972
	Hazel Lorraine	14%	110,043	103,827	6,216
	Cape Kiwanda	6%	45,921	3,413	42,508
	Caravelle	6%	48,450	16,595	31,855
	Pacific Ram	2%	13,187	15,275	(2,088)
	Peggy Jo	12%	100,348	352,041	(251,693)
	Progress	16%	126,310	380,715	(254,405)
	Total	100%	811,401	1,048,639	(237,238)
	Transfers:		371,431		
	Final Total:		1,182,833	Net:	134,194
Sablefish	Mar Del Norte	8%	16,522	41,228	(24,706)
	Marcy J	12%	23,871	29,323	(5,452)
	Rosella	9%	17,214	0	17,214
	Hazel Lorraine	12%	22,893	27,336	(4,443)
	Cape Kiwanda	10%	20,133	0	20,133
	Caravelle	6%	11,532	9,729	1,803
	Pacific Ram	2%	3,192	10,387	(7,195)
	Peggy Jo	22%	43,773	75,277	(31,504)
	Progress	20%	39,809	51,657	(11,848)
	Total	100%	198,938	244,938	(45,999)
	Transfers:		47,422		
	Final Total:		246,361	Net:	1,423

**Table 2. SOK Allocations and Harvests of Pacific Cod, Thornyheads and Halibut Mortality by Vessel
(weights are in pounds).**

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2007 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
P. cod	Mar Del Norte	8%	25,113	4,771	20,341
	Marcy J	12%	36,282	687	35,595
	Rosella	9%	26,164	0	26,164
	Hazel Lorraine	12%	34,795	300	34,495
	Cape Kiwanda	10%	30,600	107	30,493
	Caravelle	6%	17,527	46,057	(28,530)
	Pacific Ram	2%	4,851	640	4,211
	Peggy Jo	22%	66,531	501	66,030
	Progress	20%	60,507	53,778	6,729
	Total	100%	302,371	106,841	195,529
	Transfers:		(23,548)		
	Final Total:		278,823	Net:	171,981
Thornyhead	Mar Del Norte	8%	4,539	4,484	55
	Marcy J	12%	6,558	2	6,556
	Rosella	9%	4,729	0	4,729
	Hazel Lorraine	12%	6,289	1,356	4,933
	Cape Kiwanda	10%	5,531	0	5,531
	Caravelle	6%	3,168	3,043	125
	Pacific Ram	2%	877	810	67
	Peggy Jo	22%	12,026	4,709	7,317
	Progress	20%	10,937	2,376	8,561
	Total	100%	54,654	16,780	37,874
	Transfers:		102,460		
	Final Total:		157,114	Net:	140,334
Halibut PSC	Mar Del Norte	8%	4,898	2,293	2,606
	Marcy J	12%	7,077	287	6,791
	Rosella	9%	5,104	0	5,104
	Hazel Lorraine	12%	6,787	1,168	5,619
	Cape Kiwanda	10%	5,969	375	5,594
	Caravelle	6%	3,419	816	2,603
	Pacific Ram	2%	946	639	307
	Peggy Jo	22%	12,978	8,400	4,578
	Progress	20%	11,803	132	11,670
	Total	100%	58,980	14,110	44,871
	Transfers:		50,016		
	Final Total:		108,996	Net:	94,887

V. COOP PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

The cooperative's fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the coop's RPP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the coop members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 3). These standards were set based on what the coop members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the coop's quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the coop members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or "flying bottom") gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

These avoidance measures proved successful: the SOK Rockfish Coop caught only 14,110 lbs. of its allocated 108,996 lbs of halibut PSC mortality quota (12.95%).

Table 3: Halibut Bycatch Standards Adopted by the SOK Rockfish Cooperative

Inter-coop standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%
NR/PSR	2.20%
Sable/cod	4.00%
Cooperative Red Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.45%
NR/PSR	1.98%
Sable/cod	3.60%
Cooperative Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.38%
NR/PSR	1.65%
Sable/cod	3.00%

Other Prohibited Species Catch: The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts during the 2007 RPP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 840 King salmon, 365 non-Chinook salmon, 402 Bairdi Tanner crab, and 1 Golden King crab.

VI. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RPP precludes harvesting the coop's allocation on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual coop quota share are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the SOK Coop Membership Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events.

There were no civil actions taken against any coop member.

**Final Report of the
Ocean Beauty Seafoods Rockfish Cooperative**

2007

December 15, 2007

Prepared by Julie Bonney, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank

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I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allows each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, Thornyhead rockfish and Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained catch or Halibut PSC mortality usage of these species in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The primary RPP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RPP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for coop members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allowed coop members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while reducing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The Ocean Beauty Seafoods Rockfish Cooperative is one of 5 inshore cooperatives formed in March 2007 in accordance to Amendment 68 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2007 marked the first year of the 5-year Rockfish Pilot Program and, in compliance with Amendment 68, this Final Report is submitted to the Council as a summary of harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2007 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA).

¹ Pelagic shelf rockfish consists of dusky rockfish, dark rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and widow rockfish.

Catch figures and statistics were provided by Sea State, Inc. and by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

The Ocean Beauty Seafoods Rockfish Cooperative consists of eight member licenses with seven member vessels (LLP's), of which four actively fished during the RPP: Excalibur II, Laura, New Life, and the Pacific Star. The Bay Islander, Marathon and Linda Cochran LLP allocations were fished by the New Life and the allocations for the Defiant were fished by the Laura. Ocean Beauty Seafoods in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Inc. Rockfish Cooperative.

<u>Member Licenses</u>		<u>Member Vessels</u>		<u>ADF&G no.</u>
LLG 3665	Laura Fisheries Joint Venture	Laura	LLP 3665	21591
LLG 1367	Cochran, Linda L.			
LLG 3521	Excalibur II, LLC	Excalibur II	LLP 3521	54653
LLG 4465	Marathon Fisheries, Inc.	Marathon	LLP 4465	49617
LLG 4852	Pac Star, Inc.	Pacific Star	LLP 4852	55038
LLG 5201	F/V New Life, Inc.	New Life	LLP 5201	21845
LLG 3496	M/V Defiant, Inc.	Defiant	LLP 3496	40141
LLG 3504	Bay Islander, Inc.	Bay Islander	LLP 3504	21636

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The Ocean Beauty Seafoods Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Julie Bonney at the Alaska Groundfish Data Bank in collaboration and coordination with the Coop President, Kent Helligso, Ocean Beauty Seafoods Seafood's Plant Manager, Tim Blott, Sea State, Inc., and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while reducing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Coop's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

(1) Check-ins and Check-outs

To facilitate moving into and out of non-RPP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" but limited them to 3 times the number of LLP's within the coop. Coop vessels were required to check into the RPP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries. With six LLP's, the OBSI Rockfish Cooperative was limited to 3x8 or 24 check-ins: only 12 were actually used.

Observer Coverage

100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels and per 12 hour processing period at the shoreside processing plants.

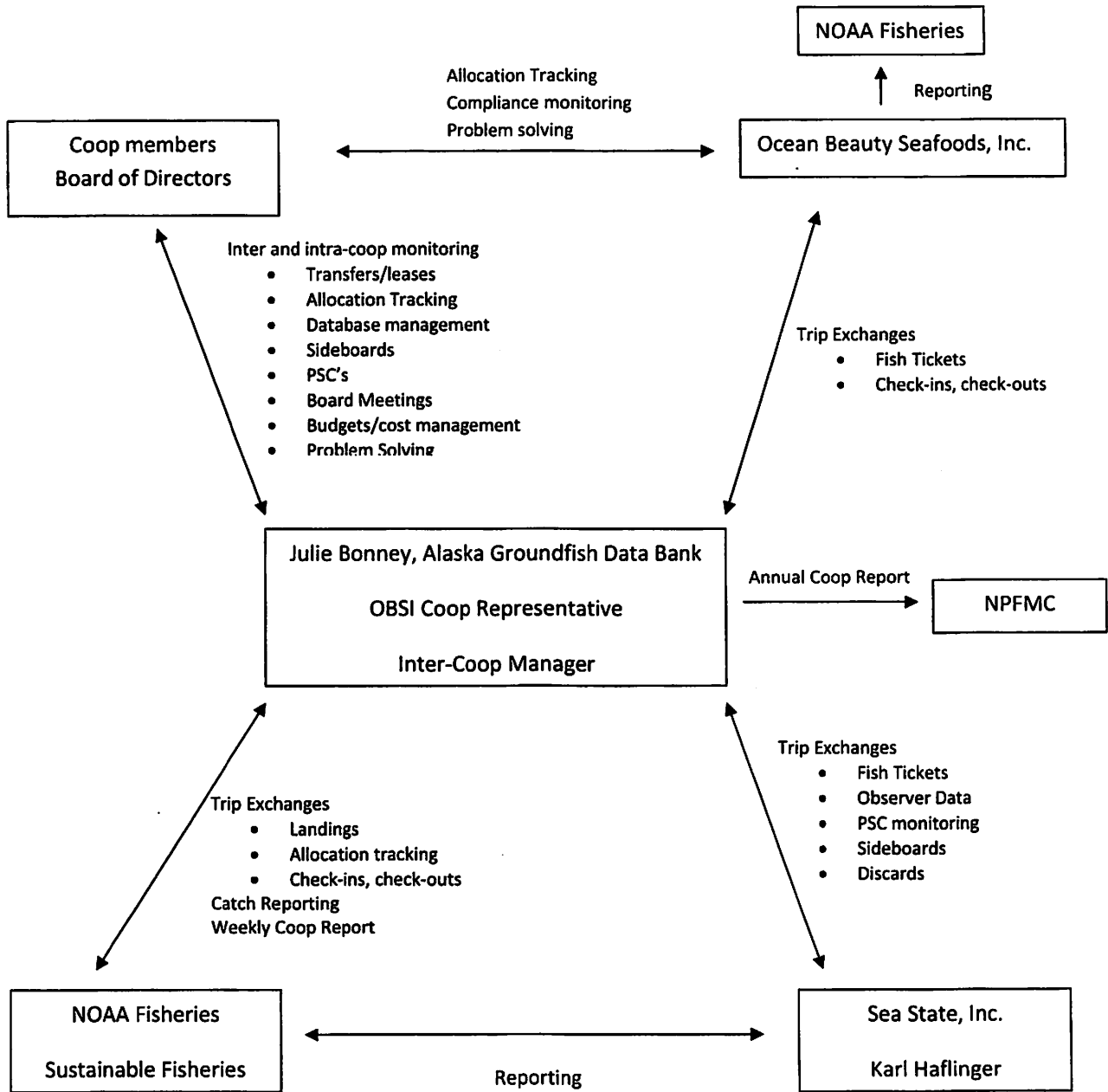
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Sea State, Inc. was hired by the cooperatives to establish and maintain the observer and fish ticket data base which was used in turn by the coop's manager to monitor the coop's catch.

(3) NOAA Fisheries

Weekly coop reports were composed and sent to NMFS/Sustainable Fisheries as per the regulations, and the coop manager maintained close contact with NMFS personnel to monitor the coop's harvest activities and bycatch rates and to discuss and resolve actual or potential management issues.

Figure 1. Schematic of OBSI Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management.



IV. COOP AND VESSEL ALLOCATIONS AND HARVESTS

The OBSI Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2007 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 1. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the five catcher vessel cooperatives and to bring the catcher processor cooperative allocations on shore.

Table 2: OBSI Rockfish Coop Allocation and Inter-coop Transfer Summary (weights are in pounds)

	POP	NR	PSR	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial OBSI Allocation:	1,426,155	1,083,916	707,400	185,700	282,249	51,017	55,055
Transfers In (Trident CP):	516,128	238,820	430,640	51,068		10,079	
Transfers In (NP):	128,309	89,949		7,275			
Transfers In (WAF):	14,500						
Transfers Out (SOK):		(50,000)	(60,281)				
Final OBSI Allocation:	2,085,092	1,362,685	1,077,759	244,043	282,249	61,096	55,055
Total CV Coops:	7,484,402	4,277,559	3,043,378	851,582	1,294,339	233,956	252,474
ISA %:	19.06%	25.34%	23.24%	21.81%	21.81%	21.81%	21.81%

Trident CP: (Catcher processor off-shore coop), WAF: Western Alaska Fisheries Coop, NP: North Pacific Rockfish Coop, SOK: Star of Kodiak Rockfish Coop.

A. Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ

Federal regulations require the RPP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2007 OBSI Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1, 2007 – November 15, 2007), there were zero occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species – all harvested CQ species catch was retained and delivered to the Ocean Beauty Seafoods processing plant.

B. Sideboard Limitations

The Rockfish Pilot Program established sideboard limitations (not allocations) that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard limits apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing.

(1) Prohibited Fishing

For the catcher vessel sector, the BS/AI was closed for flatfish and rockfish.

(2) Catch Limits

A collective CV Sector limit was imposed for the following (all were closed to the CV sector during the 2007 RPP since the allocations were too small to support directed fishing):

<u>BS/AI</u>	<u>West Yakutat</u>	<u>Western GOA</u>
Pacific Cod	POP	POP
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish

(3) Halibut Mortality Limits

A collective CV Sector halibut mortality limit (a sub-allocation of the total CGOA cap) was also imposed on the GOA shallow-water flatfish and deep-water flatfish fisheries. The deep-water complex remained closed throughout July due to an insufficient amount of halibut mortality to sustain the fishery. Therefore, shallow-water flatfish, including rock sole and flathead sole, was the only non-RPP fishery harvested by RPP coop vessels during the month of July, but the vessels fished on an "open-access" basis, not cooperatively. For the month of July, the vessels caught 71 MT of the available 137 MT of shallow-water complex halibut mortality.

Table 1: OBSI Allocations and Harvests by Species and Vessel (weights are in pounds)

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2007 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
POP	Excalibur II	6%	86,594	339,016	(252,422)
	Laura	25%	355,528	329,240	26,288
	New Life	48%	679,963	921,411	(241,448)
	Pac Star	21%	304,070	494,895	(190,825)
	Total	100%	1,426,155	2,084,562	(658,407)
		Transfers:	658,937		
	Final Allocation:	2,085,092	Net:	530	
NR	Excalibur II	13%	141,955	172,177	(30,222)
	Laura	18%	194,793	255,256	(60,463)
	New Life	39%	425,688	420,669	5,019
	Pac Star	30%	321,480	316,113	5,367
	Total	100%	1,083,916	1,164,215	(80,299)
		Transfers:	278,769		
	Final Allocation:	1,362,685	Net:	198,470	
PSR	Excalibur II	8%	59,768	143,371	(83,603)
	Laura	26%	181,234	108,467	72,767
	New Life	42%	293,765	566,647	(272,882)
	Pac Star	24%	172,633	144,067	28,566
	Total	100%	707,400	962,552	(255,152)
		Transfers:	370,359		
	Final Allocation:	1,077,759	Net:	115,207	
Sablefish	Excalibur II	9%	16,865	42,244	(25,379)
	Laura	23%	41,926	39,205	2,721
	New Life	43%	80,581	91,027	(10,446)
	Pac Star	25%	46,328	68,538	(22,210)
	Total	100%	185,700	241,014	(55,314)
		Transfers:	58,343		
	Final Allocation:	244,043	Net:	3,029	
P. cod	Excalibur II	9%	25,633	1,041	24,592
	Laura	23%	63,724	170,935	(107,211)
	New Life	43%	122,477	1,794	120,683
	Pac Star	25%	70,415	1,391	69,024
	Total	100%	282,249	175,161	107,088
		Transfers:	0		
	Final Allocation:	282,249	Net:	107,088	
Thornyhead	Excalibur II	9%	4,633	5,603	(970)
	Laura	23%	11,518	8,550	2,968
	New Life	43%	22,138	4,682	17,456
	Pac Star	25%	12,728	9,281	3,447
	Total	100%	51,017	28,116	22,901
		Transfers:	10,079		
	Final Allocation:	61,096	Net:	32,980	
Halibut PSC	Excalibur II	9%	5,000	2,932	2,068
	Laura	23%	12,430	551	11,879
	New Life	43%	23,890	816	23,074
	Pac Star	25%	13,735	2,932	10,803
	Total	100%	55,055	7,231	47,824
		Transfers:	0		
	Final Allocation:	55,055	Net:	47,824	

V. COOP PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

The cooperative's fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the coop's RPP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the coop members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 3). These standards were set based on what the coop members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the coop's quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the coop members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or "flying bottom") gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

These avoidance measures proved successful: the OBSI Rockfish Coop caught only 7,231 lbs. of its allocated 55,055 lbs of halibut PSC mortality quota (13.13%).

Table 3: Halibut Bycatch Standards Adopted by the OBSI Rockfish Cooperative

Inter-coop standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%
NR/PSR	2.20%
Sable/cod	4.00%
Cooperative Red Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.45%
NR/PSR	1.98%
Sable/cod	3.60%
Cooperative Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.38%
NR/PSR	1.65%
Sable/cod	3.00%

Other Prohibited Species Catch: The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts during the 2007 RPP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 840 King salmon, 365 non-Chinook salmon, 402 Bairdi Tanner crab, and 1 Golden King crab.

VI. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RPP precludes harvesting the coop's allocation on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual coop quota share are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the OBSI Coop Membership Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events.

There were no civil actions taken against any coop member.

**Final Report of the
International Seafoods of Alaska
Rockfish Cooperative**

2007

December 15, 2007

Prepared by Julie Bonney, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank

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I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allows each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, Thornyhead rockfish and Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained catch or Halibut PSC mortality usage of these species in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The primary RPP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RPP reduces the competition for fish amongst harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for coop members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allowed coop members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while reducing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The International Seafoods of Alaska (ISA) Rockfish Cooperative was one of 5 inshore cooperatives formed in March 2007 in accordance to Amendment 68 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2007 marked the first year of the 5-year Rockfish Pilot Program and, in compliance with Amendment 68, this Final Report is submitted to the Council as a summary of harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2007 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska

¹ Pelagic shelf rockfish consists of dusky rockfish, dark rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and widow rockfish.

(CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by Sea State, Inc. and by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

The International Seafoods of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative consists of nine member licenses with nine member vessels (LLP's), of which three actively fished during the RPP: Mar Pacifico, Ocean Hope 3, and the Elizabeth F. The allocations of the Forum Star, Capt'n Art, Pacific Challenger, Morning Star and Winona J were divided pro-rata among the three harvester members of the cooperative. The Green Hope allocation was fished by the Ocean Hope 3.

International Seafoods of Alaska, Inc. in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the International Seafoods of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative.

<u>Member Licenses</u>		<u>Member Vessels</u>		<u>ADF&G no.</u>
LLG 2394	American Seafoods Co., LLC	Forum Star	LLP 2394	59687
LLG 1273	Elizabeth F, Inc.	Elizabeth F	LLP 1273	14767
LLG 2683	U.S. Marine Corporation	Ocean Hope 3	LLP 2683	48173
LLG 2148	Tormala, Thomas A.	Capt'n Art	LLP 2148	40967
LLG 2188	Green Hope, LLC	Green Hope	LLP 2188	47790
LLG 2608	Pacific Dawn, LLC	Pacific Challenger	LLP 2608	6931
LLG 2164	Donna Martita, LLC	Morning Star	LLP 2164	70323
LLG 2653	Kellow, Ronald M.	Winona J	LLP 2653	43383
LLG 2696	Mar Pacifico, Inc.	Mar Pacifico	LLP 2696	23131

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The International Seafoods of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Julie Bonney at the Alaska Groundfish Data Bank in collaboration and coordination with the coop president, Mike Martin, the ISA plant manager, Jean Franquelin, Sea State, Inc., and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while reducing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Coop's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

(1) Check-ins and Check-outs

To facilitate moving into and out of non-RPP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" but limited them to 3X the number of LLP's within the coop. Coop vessels were required to check into the RPP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries. With 9 LLP's, the ISA Rockfish Cooperative was limited to 3x9 or 27 check-ins: only 14 were actually used.

(2) Observer Coverage

100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels and per 12 hour processing period at the shoreside processing plants.

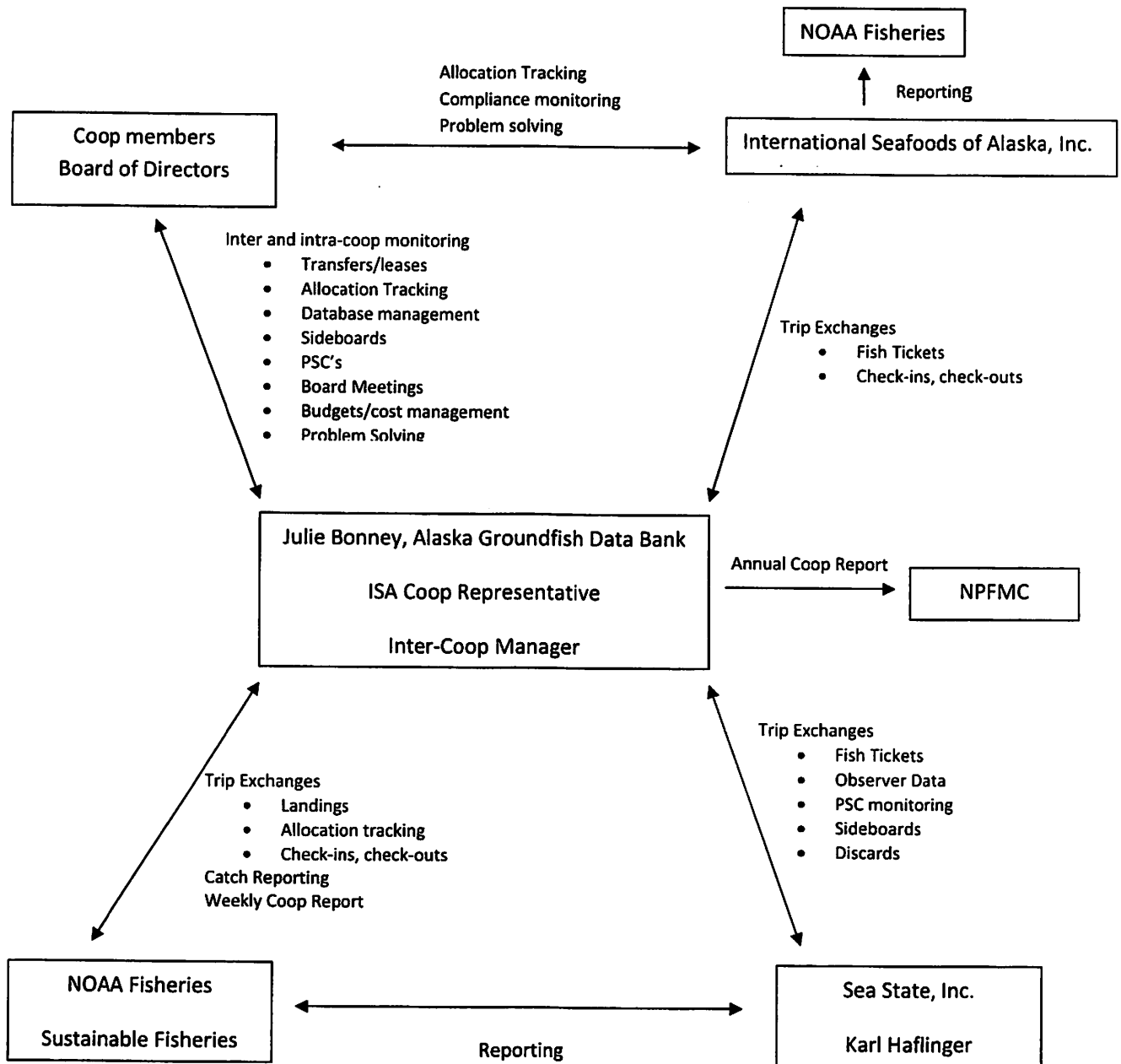
(3) Sea State, Inc.

Sea State, Inc. was hired by the cooperatives to establish and maintain the observer and fish ticket data base which was used in turn by the coop's manager to monitor the coop's catch.

(4) NOAA Fisheries

Weekly coop reports were composed and sent to NMFS/Sustainable Fisheries as per the regulations, and the coop manager maintained close contact with NMFS personnel to monitor the coop's harvest activities and bycatch rates and to discuss and resolve actual or potential management issues.

Figure 1. Schematic of ISA Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management.



IV. COOP AND VESSEL ALLOCATIONS AND HARVESTS

The ISA Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2007 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 1. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the five catcher vessel cooperatives and to bring the catcher processor cooperative allocations on shore.

Table 2: ISA Rockfish Coop Allocation and Inter-coop Transfer Summary (weights are in pounds)

	POP	NR	PSR	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial ISA Allocation:	1,325,251	493,063	381,468	126,008	191,523	34,618	37,358
Transfers In (Trident CP):	280,680	2,208	107,101	31,971		1,783	1,169
Transfers In (SOK):	104,355	63,404	127,743	1,300	23,548	4,729	4,593
Transfers In (WAF):	86,879						
Transfers Out (WAF):	(286,060)						
Final ISA Allocation:	1,511,105	558,675	616,312	159,279	215,070	41,131	43,121
Total CV Coops:	7,484,402	4,277,559	3,043,378	851,582	1,294,339	233,956	252,474
ISA %:	17.71%	11.53%	12.53%	14.80%	14.80%	14.80%	14.80%

A. Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ

Federal regulations require the RPP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2007 ISA Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1, 2007 – November 15, 2007), there was one occurrence of at-sea discards of CQ species: 20,000 lbs. of POP. The discarded amount was charged to the offending vessel's catch account and NMFS Enforcement notified. The ISA Coop therefore lost 20,000 pounds of POP (1.32% of the total coop POP harvest). All other harvested CQ species catch was retained.

B. Sideboard Limitations

The Rockfish Pilot Program established sideboard limitations (not allocations) that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard limits apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing.

(1) Prohibited Fishing

For the catcher vessel sector, the BS/AI was closed for flatfish and rockfish.

(2) Catch Limits

A collective CV Sector limit was imposed for the following (all were closed to the CV sector during the 2007 RPP):

<u>BS/AI</u>	<u>West Yakutak</u>	<u>Western GOA</u>
Pacific Cod	POP	POP
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish

(3) Halibut Mortality Limits

A collective CV Sector halibut mortality limit was also imposed on the GOA shallow-water flatfish and deep-water flatfish fisheries. The deep-water complex remained closed throughout July due to an insufficient amount of halibut mortality to sustain the fishery. Therefore, shallow-water flatfish, including rock sole and flathead sole, was the only non-RPP fishery harvested by RPP coop vessels during the month of July, but the vessels fished on an "open-access" basis, not cooperatively. For the month of July, the vessels caught 71 MT of the available 137 MT of shallow-water complex halibut mortality.

Table 1: ISA 2007 Coop Allocations and Catches by Species and Vessel (weights are in pounds)

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2007 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
POP	Elizabeth F	33%	431,603	119,047	312,556
	Ocean Hope 3	43%	569,010	812,171	(243,161)
	Mar Pacifico	24%	324,638	567,886	(243,248)
	Total	100%	1,325,251	1,499,104	(173,853)
		Transfers:	185,854		
	Final Total:		1,511,105	Net:	12,001
NR	Elizabeth F	7%	35,672	11	35,661
	Ocean Hope 3	69%	341,044	319,209	21,835
	Mar Pacifico	24%	116,347	181,343	(64,996)
	Total	100%	493,063	500,563	(7,500)
		Transfers:	65,612		
	Final Total:		558,675	Net:	58,112
PSR	Elizabeth F	19%	72,934	0	72,934
	Ocean Hope 3	55%	208,837	260,960	(52,123)
	Mar Pacifico	26%	99,697	172,566	(72,869)
	Total	100%	381,468	433,526	(52,058)
		Transfers:	234,844		
	Final Total:		616,312	Net:	182,786
Sablefish	Elizabeth F	24%	30,582	35,414	(4,832)
	Ocean Hope 3	51%	64,492	77,568	(13,076)
	Mar Pacifico	25%	30,934	44,710	(13,776)
	Total	100%	126,008	157,692	(31,684)
		Transfers:	33,271		
	Final Total:		159,279	Net:	1,587
P. cod	Elizabeth F	24%	46,482	185	46,297
	Ocean Hope 3	51%	98,023	2,073	95,950
	Mar Pacifico	25%	47,018	7,748	39,270
	Total	100%	191,523	10,006	181,517
		Transfers:	23,548		
	Final Total:		215,070	Net:	205,064
Thornyhead	Elizabeth F	24%	8,402	132	8,270
	Ocean Hope 3	51%	17,718	6,764	10,954
	Mar Pacifico	25%	8,499	7,909	590
	Total	100%	34,618	14,805	19,813
		Transfers:	6,512		
	Final Total:		41,131	Net:	26,326
Halibut PSC	Elizabeth F	24%	9,067	2,734	6,333
	Ocean Hope 3	51%	19,120	6,768	12,352
	Mar Pacifico	25%	9,171	2,579	6,592
	Total	100%	37,358	12,081	25,277
		Transfers:	5,762		
	Final Total:		43,121	Net:	31,039

V. COOP PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

The cooperative's fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the coop's RPP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the coop members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 3). These standards were set based on what the coop members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the coop's quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the coop members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or "flying bottom") gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

These avoidance measures proved successful: the ISA Rockfish Coop caught only 12,081 lbs. of its allocated 43,121 lbs of halibut PSC mortality quota (28.02%).

Table 3: Halibut Bycatch Standards Adopted by the ISA Rockfish Cooperative

Inter-coop standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%
NR/PSR	2.20%
Sable/cod	4.00%
Red Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.45%
NR/PSR	1.98%
Sable/cod	3.60%
Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.38%
NR/PSR	1.65%
Sable/cod	3.00%

Other Prohibited Species Catch: The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts during the 2007 RPP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 840 King salmon, 365 non-Chinook salmon, 402 Bairdi Tanner crab, and 1 Golden King crab.

VI. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RPP precludes harvesting the coop's allocation on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual coop quota share are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the ISA Coop Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events.

There were no civil actions taken against any coop member.

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Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish
Cooperative

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December 15, 2007

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I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allows each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, Thornyhead rockfish and Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained catch or Halibut PSC mortality usage of these species in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The primary RPP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RPP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for coop members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allowed coop members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while reducing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative is one of 5 inshore cooperatives formed in March 2007 in accordance to Amendment 68 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2007 marked the first year of the 5-year Rockfish Pilot Program and, in compliance with Amendment 68, this Final Report is submitted to the Council as a summary of harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2007 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA).

¹ Pelagic shelf rockfish consists of dusky rockfish, dark rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and widow rockfish.

Catch figures and statistics were provided by Sea State, Inc. and by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

The Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative consists of ten member licenses with ten member vessels (LLP's), of which seven actively fished during the RPP: Leslie Lee, Walter N, Dusk, Michelle Renee, Vanguard, Hickory Wind, and the Gold Rush. The Lady Joanne and Alaska Dawn allocations were divided pro-rata among the other harvester members of the cooperative. The Collier Brothers allocation was divided equally between the Leslie Lee and the Vanguard.

Western Alaska Fisheries in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative.

<u>Member Licenses</u>		<u>Member Vessels</u>		<u>ADF&G no.</u>
LLG 1271	Elizabeth F, Inc.	Walter N	LLP 1271	34919
LLG 2565	Futura Fisheries, Inc.	Vanguard	LLP 2565	39946
LLG 1523	Schones, James A.	Collier Brothers	LLP 1523	54648
LLG 3600	Hickory Wind, LLC	Hickory Wind	LLP 3600	47795
LLG 3987	F/V Gold Rush Fisheries, LLC	Gold Rush	LLP 3987	40309
LLG 2550	Black Sea Fisheries, Inc.	Michelle Renee	LLP 2550	61244
LLG 1905	Gilbert, William T. Jr.	Alaska Dawn	LLP 1905	69765
LLG 2165	Burch, Alvin R.	Dusk	LLP 2165	21636
LLG 1183	Leslie Lee, Inc.	Leslie Lee	LLP 1183	56119
LLG 2222	Lady Joanne, Inc.	Lady Joanne	LLP 2222	62922

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Julie Bonney at the Alaska Groundfish Data Bank in collaboration and coordination with the Coop President, Mike Martin, Western Alaska Fisheries Seafood's Plant Manager, Mitch Kilborn, Sea State, Inc., and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while reducing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Coop's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

(1) Check-ins and Check-outs

To facilitate moving into and out of non-RPP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" but limited them to 3 times the number of LLP's within the coop. Coop vessels were required to check into the RPP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries. With six LLP's, the WAF Rockfish Cooperative was limited to 3x10 or 30 check-ins: only 17 were actually used.

Observer Coverage

100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels and per 12 hour processing period at the shoreside processing plants.

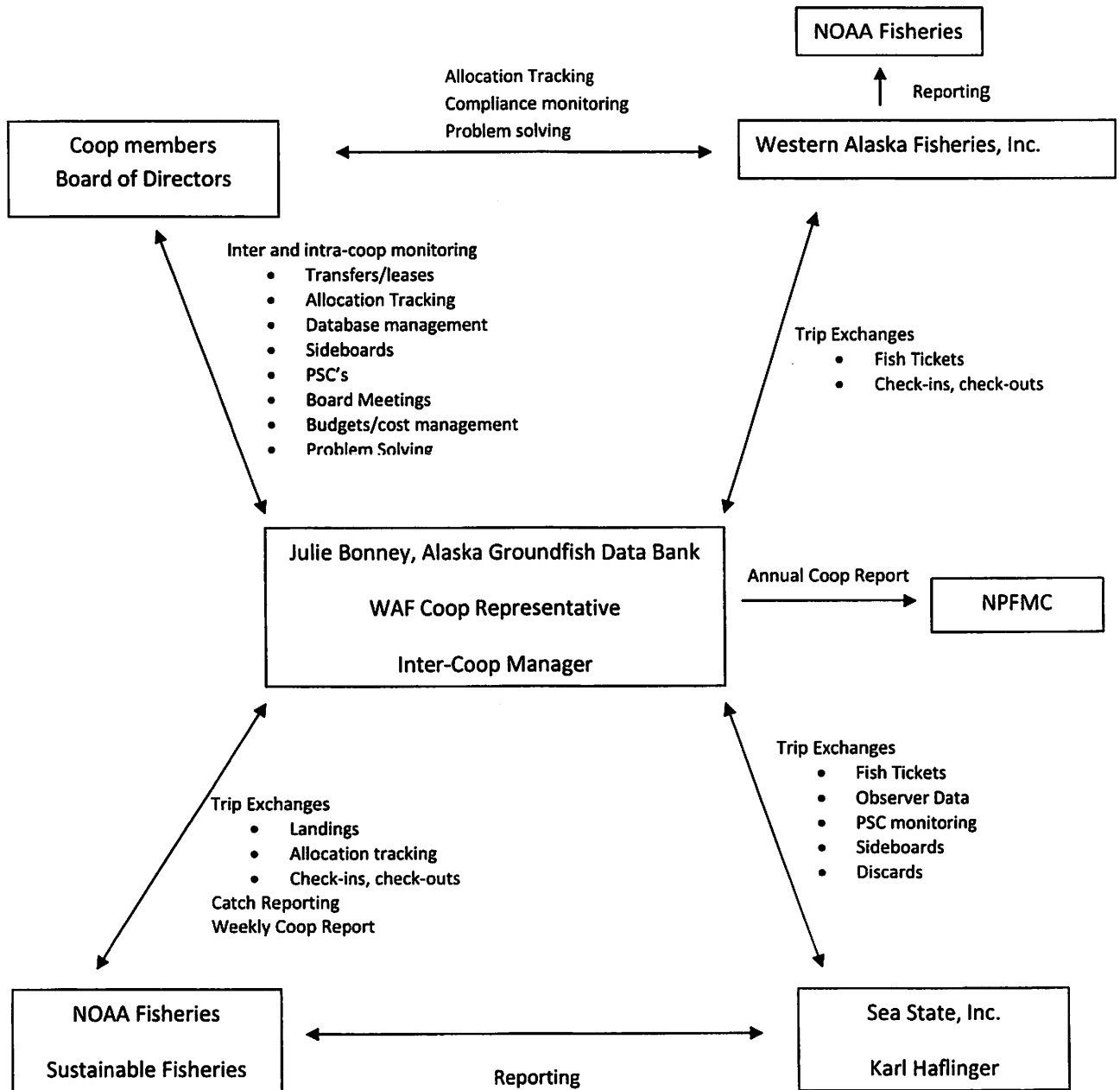
(2) Sea State, Inc.

Sea State, Inc. was hired by the cooperatives to establish and maintain the observer and fish ticket data base which was used in turn by the coop's manager to monitor the coop's catch.

(3) NOAA Fisheries

Weekly coop reports were composed and sent to NMFS/Sustainable Fisheries as per the regulations, and the coop manager maintained close contact with NMFS personnel to monitor the coop's harvest activities and bycatch rates and to discuss and resolve actual or potential management issues.

Figure 1. Schematic of WAF Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management.



IV. COOP AND VESSEL ALLOCATIONS AND HARVESTS

The WAF Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2007 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 1. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the five catcher vessel cooperatives and to bring the catcher processor cooperative allocations on shore.

Table 2: WAF Rockfish Coop Allocation and Inter-coop Transfer Summary (weights are in pounds)

	POP	NR	PSR	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial WAF Allocation:	2,246,260	1,178,998	730,269	239,207	363,575	65,717	70,919
Transfers In (Trident CP):	127,361	37,504	59,537	9,337			1,543
Transfers In (NP):	25,000						
Transfers In (ISA):	286,061						
Transfers Out (ISA):	(86,879)						
Transfers Out (OBSI):	(14,500)						
Final WAF Allocation:	2,583,302	1,216,502	789,806	248,544	363,575	65,717	72,462
Total CV Coops:	7,484,402	4,277,559	3,043,378	851,582	1,294,339	233,956	252,474
WAF %:	30.01%	27.56%	24.00%	28.09%	28.09%	28.09%	28.09%

Trident CP: (Catcher processor off-shore coop), OBSI: Ocean Beauty Seafood, Inc. coop, ISA: International Seafoods of Alaska Coop, NP: North Pacific Rockfish Coop.

A. Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ

Federal regulations require the RPP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2007 WAF Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1, 2007 – November 15, 2007), there were zero occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species – all harvested CQ species catch was retained and delivered to the Western Alaska Fisheries processing plant.

B. Sideboard Limitations

The Rockfish Pilot Program established sideboard limitations (not allocations) that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard limits apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing.

(1) Prohibited Fishing

For the catcher vessel sector, the BS/AI was closed for flatfish and rockfish.

(2) Catch Limits

A collective CV Sector limit was imposed for the following (all were closed to the CV sector during the 2007 RPP since the allocations were too small to support directed fishing):

<u>BS/AI</u>	<u>West Yakutat</u>	<u>Western GOA</u>
Pacific Cod	POP Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	POP Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish

(3) Halibut Mortality Limits

A collective CV Sector halibut mortality limit (a sub-allocation of the total CGOA cap) was also imposed on the GOA shallow-water flatfish and deep-water flatfish fisheries. The deep-water complex remained closed throughout July due to an insufficient amount of halibut mortality to sustain the fishery. Therefore, shallow-water flatfish, including rock sole and flathead sole, was the only non-RPP fishery harvested by RPP coop vessels during the month of July, but the vessels fished on an "open-access" basis, not cooperatively. For the month of July, the vessels caught 71 MT of the available 137 MT of shallow-water complex halibut mortality.

Table 1: WAF Allocations and Harvests by Species and Vessel (weights are in pounds)

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2007 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
POP	Leslie Lee	19%	430,388	453,739	(23,351)
	Walter N	14%	310,470	467,067	(156,597)
	Dusk	7%	162,279	291,629	(129,350)
	Michelle Renee	15%	340,406	323,655	16,751
	Vanguard	17%	379,421	356,845	22,576
	Hickory Wind	13%	288,572	317,756	(29,184)
	Gold Rush	15%	334,723	370,975	(36,252)
	Total	100%	2,246,260	2,581,666	(335,406)
	Transfers:		337,043		
	Final Total:		2,583,302	Net:	1,636
NR	Leslie Lee	18%	209,388	246,491	(37,103)
	Walter N	6%	74,952	57,495	17,457
	Dusk	3%	33,960	54,220	(20,260)
	Michelle Renee	31%	361,461	333,901	27,560
	Vanguard	17%	196,572	89,164	107,408
	Hickory Wind	11%	130,250	85,008	45,242
	Gold Rush	15%	172,416	162,740	9,676
	Total	100%	1,178,998	1,029,019	149,979
	Transfers:		37,504		
	Final Total:		1,216,502	Net:	187,483
PSR	Leslie Lee	10%	74,480	23,448	51,032
	Walter N	9%	64,475	129,619	(65,144)
	Dusk	6%	47,382	70,638	(23,256)
	Michelle Renee	40%	292,743	291,792	951
	Vanguard	17%	122,410	34,934	87,476
	Hickory Wind	9%	63,948	44,963	18,985
	Gold Rush	9%	64,830	52,863	11,967
	Total	100%	730,269	648,257	82,012
	Transfers:		59,537		
	Final Total:		789,806	Net:	141,549
Sablefish	Leslie Lee	17%	41,267	52,239	(10,972)
	Walter N	11%	25,678	26,193	(515)
	Dusk	6%	13,844	29,456	(15,612)
	Michelle Renee	24%	57,358	64,494	(7,136)
	Vanguard	17%	40,196	36,036	4,160
	Hickory Wind	12%	27,807	22,464	5,343
	Gold Rush	14%	33,057	16,955	16,102
	Total	100%	239,207	247,837	(8,630)
	Transfers:		9,337		
	Final Total:		248,544	Net:	707
P. cod	Leslie Lee	17%	62,723	57,663	5,060
	Walter N	11%	39,029	34,346	4,683
	Dusk	6%	21,041	24,065	(3,024)
	Michelle Renee	24%	87,180	131,740	(44,560)
	Vanguard	17%	61,094	54	61,040
	Hickory Wind	12%	42,264	42,522	(258)
	Gold Rush	14%	50,244	642	49,602
	Total	100%	363,575	291,032	72,543
	Transfers:		0		
	Final Total:		363,575	Net:	72,543
Thornyhead	Leslie Lee	17%	11,337	3,960	7,377
	Walter N	11%	7,055	2,561	4,494
	Dusk	6%	3,803	4,588	(785)
	Michelle Renee	24%	15,758	4,392	11,366
	Vanguard	17%	11,043	4,858	6,185
	Hickory Wind	12%	7,639	8,368	(729)
	Gold Rush	14%	9,082	508	8,574
	Total	100%	65,717	29,235	36,482
	Transfers:		0		
	Final Total:		65,717	Net:	36,482
Halibut PSC	Leslie Lee	17%	12,235	10,670	1,564
	Walter N	11%	7,613	1,124	6,489
	Dusk	6%	4,104	5,732	(1,628)
	Michelle Renee	24%	17,005	66	16,939
	Vanguard	17%	11,917	3,770	8,147
	Hickory Wind	12%	8,244	860	7,384
	Gold Rush	14%	9,801	3,020	6,780
	Total	100%	70,919	25,243	45,676
	Transfers:		1,543		
	Final Total:		72,462	Net:	47,219

V. COOP PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

The cooperative's fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the coop's RPP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the coop members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 3). These standards were set based on what the coop members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the coop's quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the coop members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or "flying bottom") gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

These avoidance measures proved successful: the WAF Rockfish Coop caught only 25,243 lbs. of its allocated 72,462 lbs of halibut PSC mortality quota (34.84%).

Table 3: Halibut Bycatch Standards Adopted by the WAF Rockfish Cooperative

Inter-coop standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%
NR/PSR	2.20%
Sable/cod	4.00%
Cooperative Red Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.45%
NR/PSR	1.98%
Sable/cod	3.60%
Cooperative Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.38%
NR/PSR	1.65%
Sable/cod	3.00%

Other Prohibited Species Catch: The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts during the 2007 RPP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 840 King salmon, 365 non-Chinook salmon, 402 Bairdi Tanner crab, and 1 Golden King crab.

VI. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RPP precludes harvesting the coop's allocation on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual coop quota share are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the WAF Coop Membership Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events.

There were no civil actions taken against any coop member.

**Final Report of the
Trident Offshore Rockfish
Cooperative Association**

2007

December 15, 2007

Prepared by Julie Bonney, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank

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I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allowed for the formation of rockfish fishing cooperatives in the catcher vessel (CV) and catcher processor (CP) sectors, the latter of which requires at least two limited license permits (LLP's). Two offshore (catcher processor) cooperatives were established in addition to the five inshore rockfish cooperatives: the Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative and the FCA Rockfish Cooperative.

Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of primary rockfish species (POP, NR, PSR), catcher processor cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include sablefish, thornyhead rockfish, shortraker rockfish, rougheye rockfish and halibut PSC mortality. The catcher vessel coops receive allocations of Pacific cod (managed by maximum retainable amounts - MRA's - in the CP sector) but were not allocated any shortraker or rougheye rockfish which are managed by MRA's in the CV sector. Allocations to both the inshore and catcher processor sectors are based on the average percentage of retained catch and Halibut PSC mortality usage of these species in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

Provisions in the RPP regulations allow for one-way transfers of CQ from a CP coop to a CV coop, and during the 2007 RPP season, all of the Trident Offshore CP cooperative quota for POP, PSR, NR, sablefish and Halibut PSC were transferred to the inshore CV coops (detailed in section IV). Two-way transfers were allowed and performed between the two CP coops to facilitate transfers to the inshore coop sector as well as to facilitate CQ fishing for the FCA cooperative.

The Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative Association was one of 2 offshore/catcher processor cooperatives formed in March 2007 in accordance to Amendment 68 of the Fishery Management Plan

¹ Pelagic shelf rockfish consists of dusky rockfish, dark rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and widow rockfish.

for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2007 marked the first year of the 5-year Rockfish Pilot Program and, in compliance with Amendment 68, this Final Report is submitted to the Council as a summary of harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2007 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA).

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

The Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative Association consisted of three member licenses with three member vessels (LLP's), of which none actively fished during the RPP (all allocations were transferred – see section IV).

<u>Member Licenses</u>		<u>Member Vessels</u>		<u>ADF&G no.</u>
LLG 3741	B & N Fisheries Company	Intrepid Explorer	LLP 3741	64105
LLG 3744	San Juan Seafoods, Inc.	Billikin	LLP 3744	20745
LLG 3740	San Juan Seafoods, Inc.	Sovereignty	LLP 3740	55199

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative Association was represented and managed by Joseph Plesha of Trident Seafoods, Inc. in collaboration and coordination with the Coop President, Christopher Arnim, the inshore inter-coop manager, Julie Bonney of the Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

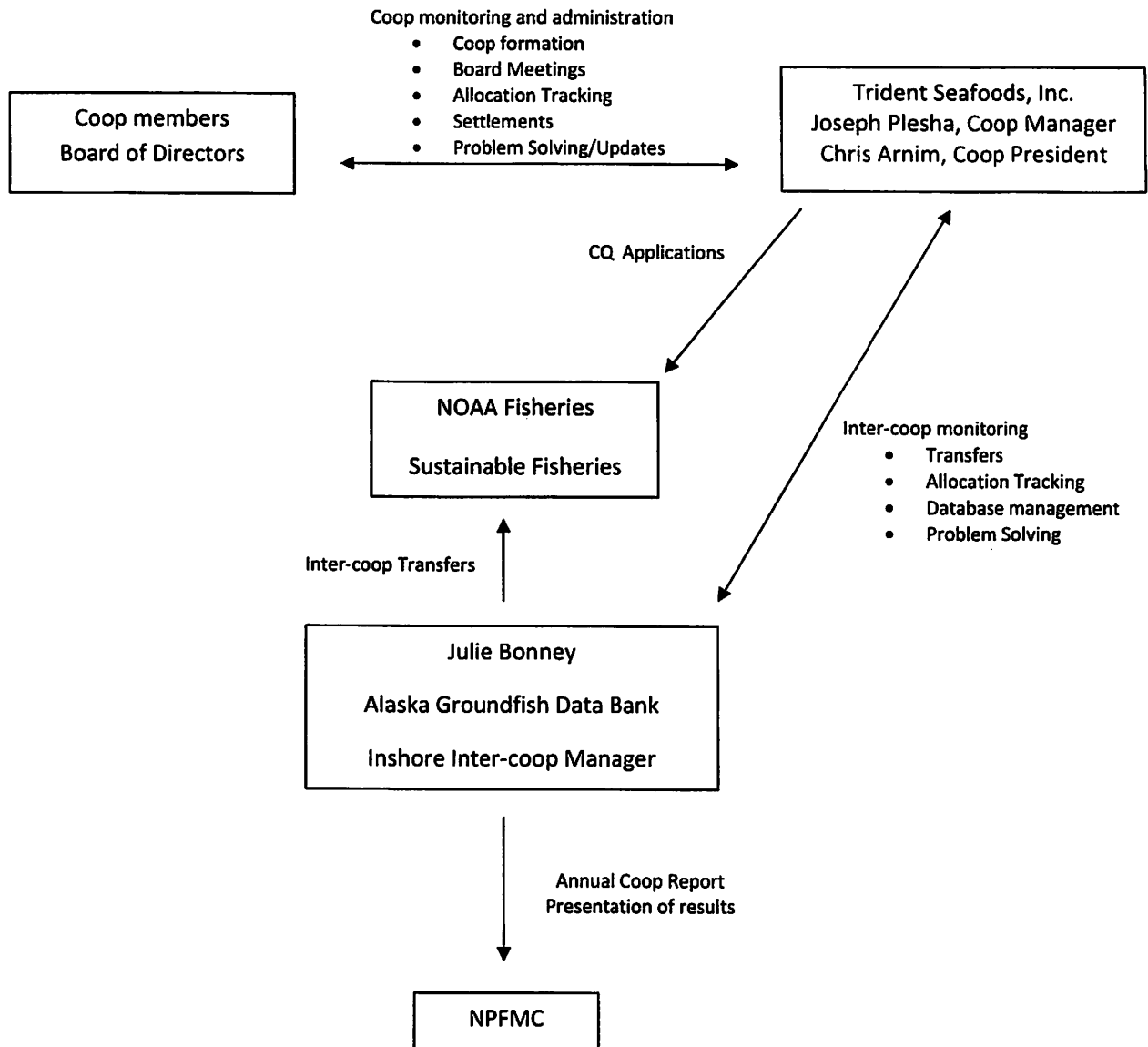
The Trident CP coop goal was to bring their entire allocation on shore, thus no fishing plan was necessary only development of a plan to bring this fish on shore. The Trident CP coop was a member of the catcher vessel inter-coop management structure which included the five CV coops (FCA was not a member). While the Trident CP coop did not fish, the coop set aside a portion of their allocation as a reserve pool to support the CV coops (i.e. thornyhead rockfish) and help establish the appropriate fishing standards.

Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Coop's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

None of the three vessels in the Trident offshore CP coop actively fished for the RPP because the coop's quota was transferred to the inshore coops, so no monitoring was necessary.

Figure 1. Schematic of Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management.



IV. COOP ALLOCATIONS AND TRANSFERS

The Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and transfers for the 2007 season are summarized by species and coop in Table 1. There were no harvests by the Trident CP coop member vessels: all allocations of POP, Northern rockfish, PSR rockfish, sablefish, thornyhead rockfish, and halibut PSC were transferred to the inshore catcher vessel cooperatives. There was no Pacific cod allocation. The Shortraker rockfish allocation (allocated to CP's only) was transferred to the other offshore/CP rockfish cooperative, Fishing Company of Alaska (FCA). The Rougheye rockfish allocation (CP's only) was neither transferred out nor harvested.

Table 1: Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative 2007 Allocations and Transfers by Species and Coop (weights are in pounds). Initial allocations were rounded off to the nearest metric ton and converted to pounds.

	POP	NR	PSR	Sablefish	Thornyhead	Halibut	Shortraker	Rougheye
Initial Trident CP Allocation:	1,717,399	621,703	1,036,171	141,096	119,049	57,320	55,116	189,597
Transfers In (FCA):	0	110,231	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers Out (SOK):	(793,229)	(453,400)	(438,894)	(64,214)	(107,189)	(54,608)		
Transfers Out (WAF):	(127,361)	(37,505)	(59,538)	(9,337)	0	(1,543)		
Transfers Out (ISA):	(280,681)	(2,209)	(107,100)	(16,477)	(1,784)	(1,168)		
Transfers Out (OBSI):	(516,128)	(238,820)	(430,639)	(51,068)	(10,077)	0		
Transfers Out (FCA):							(55,116)	
Net Transfers:	(1,717,399)	(621,703)	(1,036,171)	(141,096)	(119,049)	(57,320)	(55,116)	0
Final Trident CP Allocation:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	189,597
Total CP Coops:	5,463,716	1,246,931	1,347,574	331,747	282,773	135,108	132,123	448,314
Trident CP %:	31.43%	49.86%	76.89%	42.53%	42.10%	42.43%	41.72%	42.29%

FCA: Fishing Company of Alaska (off-shore coop), OBSI: Ocean Beauty Seafood, Inc. coop, WAF: Western Alaska Fisheries Coop, SOK: Star of Kodiak Coop, ISA: International Seafoods of Alaska Coop.

V. COOP PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

While the Trident CP coop did not fish, the coop was involved in setting standards to discourage high halibut bycatch rates (Table 2).

Table 2: Halibut Bycatch Standards Adopted by the Trident CP Rockfish Cooperative

Inter-coop standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%
NR/PSR	2.20%
Sable/cod	4.00%
Cooperative Red Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.45%
NR/PSR	1.98%
Sable/cod	3.60%
Cooperative Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.38%
NR/PSR	1.65%
Sable/cod	3.00%

VI. SIDEBARDS

The Rockfish Pilot Program established sideboard limitations (not allocations) that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard limits apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing.

Two of the three Trident Offshore coop member vessels did not harvest fish in July, and the F/V Sovereignty participated in the Bering Sea AFA pollock fishery during the month of July which is exempt from the RPP sideboard provisions.

VII. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

There were no civil actions taken against any coop member.

Outline for first year review of Central Gulf rockfish pilot program

In development of the rockfish pilot program for the Central Gulf of Alaska, the Council scheduled a review of the program after the first year of fishing. Since the first year of fishing under the program ended in December of 2007, staff is planning for delivery of the requested review to the Council in June of 2008. This paper lays out a brief outline of the proposed review of the program.

The Council's requested review

The Council's motion establishing the program included the following provision for a review of the program after its first year:

Program review the first and second year after implementation to objectively measure the success of the program, including benefits and impacts to harvesters, processors and communities. Conservation benefits of the program would also be assessed. The shorttraker/rougheye allocation and assessment will be reviewed.

In the event this program has a duration of longer than two years, the Council will analyze the viability of the entry level fishery.

As part of its annual review, the Council should consider the effects of "opting-out" of the CP rockfish program. Specifically, if the Council finds that the opt-out provision is used to consolidate rockfish catch while avoiding rockfish program sideboards, then the Council should take immediate action to provide a disincentive for future abuses by allocating "opt-out" fish to the fishery not the sector.

Outline of the review

The planned review is intended to be comprehensive, yet very brief (i.e., 25 to 30 pages). As is frequently the case, in some instances data concerning certain areas of concern may not be available due to confidentiality protections. In addition, some issues may warrant little attention, if they appear to be non-controversial and of little importance. In these instances, the review will briefly summarize effects. Issues that are likely to be worthy of additional attention because of their controversial nature will be given greater attention. Since the contents of this review are not defined by the Council motion, staff proposes the following outline:

Description of management

Review of limited access management prior to the pilot program

Description of the pilot program

Description of the program catcher vessel sector (non-entry level) – includes comparison with pre-pilot program fishery

Allocations to licenses/cooperative eligibility

Cooperative memberships and fishing

Distribution of catch across vessels/leasing

Captain and crew participation

Distribution of catch over time and space – comparison with pre-pilot program

Harvest of allocations and PSC usage

Ex vessel pricing – comparison with pre-pilot program

Processor participation and landings

Processing products and prices

Distribution of processing over time and effects on employment

Limited access eligibility and participation

Distribution of catch across vessels

Captain and crew participation

Distribution of catch over time and space
Harvest of allocations and PSC usage
Ex vessel pricing
Processor participation and landings
Processing products and prices
Distribution of processing over time and effects on employment

Description of the program catcher processor sector – includes comparison with pre-pilot program fishery

Allocations to licenses

Cooperative memberships and fishing

Distribution of catch across vessels/leasing
Captain/harvest crew/processor crew participation
Distribution of catch over time and space – comparison with pre-pilot program
Harvest of allocations and PSC usage
Products and prices
Cross-sector leasing

Limited access eligibility and participation

Distribution of catch across vessels
Captain and crew participation
Distribution of catch over time and space
Harvest of allocations and PSC usage
Processing products and prices

Program opt-out

Participation/catch in other fisheries (comparison with pre-pilot program)

Entry level fishery – by gear type

Participation and distribution of catch across vessels
Captain and crew participation
Distribution of catch over time and space – comparison with pre-pilot program
Harvest of allocations and PSC usage
Ex vessel pricing
Processor participation and landings
Processing products and prices
Distribution of processing over time and effects on employment

Review of shortraker rockfish and rougheye rockfish allocations and catch

Review of conservation benefits

Use of modified gear and fishing practices
Effects on PSC usage and habitat

Review of community effects

186th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
February 6-12, 2008
Renaissance Hotel
Seattle, WA

January 29, 2008

RE: C-6 CGOA Rockfish Program

Dear Chairman Olson and Council members,

On behalf of myself, my family and other entry-level rockfish vessel operators, I would like to request that Council direct staff to initiate an analysis of the amendment below. We realize this amendment will require Congressional approval to implement, but with four more years in this program and the possibility that it will be extended before it sunsets, we need to modify it as soon as possible to lessen the negative economic impacts we have already experienced in the first year.

The requirement that we can only deliver to entry-level processors is very restrictive and has led to loss of fishing time for myself and others during the summer months when the fishing and weather is best. To further compound the problem, when we target Black rockfish, (state managed fishery), we are allowed 100% retention of all rockfish species in the RPP, but any delivery in excess of 5% must go to an entry-level processor. This has created more complications for me, because my market for Black rockfish lies with a qualified rockfish processor, I will have to make a split delivery between two processors. I have space constraints on my vessel and cannot separate the Black rockfish from other species, so my catch will have to be off loaded, sorted and rockfish species destined for the entry-level processor will have to be loaded back onboard my vessel for delivery to their facility. This will lead to excessive handling and loss of product quality, and to ask a processor to offload, sort and reload product destined for another facility is unrealistic.

With these issues in mind, please consider the following amendment that we feel will solve these problems, yet still provide opportunities for the entry-level processors to participate in the RPP. I hope the Council can address this in the RPP Review or independently. Thank you for your consideration and help concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



Leonard Carpenter
FV Fish Tale
fishtalerutz@yahoo.com
(907) 486-5149 hm.
(907) 942-0109 cell

Proposed amendment to fixed gear RPP

Purpose and Need Statement:

The implementation of the Rockfish Pilot Program has led to problems for the fixed gear entry-level harvesters because of the delivery restrictions contained in the program. Entry-level processors cannot guarantee deliveries will be accepted throughout the season, due in part to lack of markets, the inability to process multiple species due to a lack of space and processing capacity during the salmon season, and little or no interest when higher value species are available for processing. The summer months are important to the fixed gear sector because of a slow-down in other jig fisheries and better weather, if we cannot be guaranteed a market by the entry-level processors during the entire season, then we must be given a provision to deliver our catch to any processor or market of our choice. Please take the following proposals under consideration.

PROPOSAL 1: Fixed gear harvesters that made at least one landing of primary rockfish species (northern rockfish, pelagic shelf rockfish, and Pacific ocean perch) during the 1996-2002 Central GOA rockfish fisheries, (including the parallel fishery), be exempted from all entry-level fishery requirements.

PROPOSAL 2: For fixed gear harvesters that did not make at least one landing of primary rockfish species (northern rockfish, pelagic shelf rockfish, and Pacific ocean perch) during the 1996-2002 Central GOA rockfish fisheries and are participating in the fixed gear entry-level fishery,(including the parallel fishery):

OPTION 1: Require entry-level processors to be identified on a yearly basis so a "right of first refusal" waiver could be utilized by entry-level harvesters to document that no markets were available in the entry-level processor sector at the time of harvest. Simply put, this would enable an entry-level harvester to contact the entry-level processors on the list before they begin their trip, and if no market exists the processors sign off on the waiver, freeing the harvester to deliver to any qualified rockfish processor or other legal market of their choice. This could easily be accomplished by requiring entry-level processors who are interested in processing rockfish in the upcoming year to register with NMFS by December 1.

OPTION 2: Remove all delivery restrictions for fixed gear entry-level harvesters.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
186th Plenary Session
Feb. 6-12, 2008

Jan. 29, 2008

For The Record: Testimony of Darius Kasprzak
RE: C-6 CGOA Rockfish Program (b)

Mr. Secretary, Mr. Chairman, and council members:

I'm Darius Kasprzak, a decade long Central Gulf (CG) jig sector stakeholder. The Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP), has in the first year alone seriously impaired myself and fellow jiggers in marketing our harvested pelagic rockfish (such as duskies). The crux of the problem is that most CG jiggers are classified as entry level, preempting them from delivering their rockfish to non-entry level processors during the summer months. This is when smaller entry level processors are too flooded with high value species (such as salmon, halibut, and sablefish) to reliably guarantee a rockfish market.

This is compounded by the situation that entry level processors often do not have processing, freezing, or shipping priorities reserved for rockfish as they are prohibited from accepting large volume amounts from the non-entry level harvesters (most trawlers). Ironically, the larger non-entry level processors who are already handling large volume amounts from the trawl sector, and who would gladly to purchase our superior quality bled and iced product, are preempted by the RPP from doing so.

The summer months are crucial to the predominately small vessel jig fleet of the CG. These are the months of long daylight and relatively safe weather, as well as the period that rockfish rise and feed most aggressively, and are most efficiently harvested with jig gear. The effect of the currently worded RPP has been to hamstring the Kodiak jig fleet, as in reality it negates reliable marketing opportunity during the critical summer months.

More than any other sector, the CG jig fleet depends upon the flexibility of delivering rockfish to processors both entry level (small processors) and non-entry level (large processors).

Speaking for myself, I chose to crew for salmon fishing last summer instead of targeting rockfish with my 39' FV Maika as usual. I knew that even if I could persuade one of the few entry level processors to accept my relatively small amounts of rockfish while they were swamped with salmon and halibut, they could only do so at considerable inconvenience and annoyance to them as they strove to maximise processing, freezing, and shipping capabilities for the high value species.

As an ecologically responsible fisherman and steward, I cannot risk the possibility of being forced to dispose of wasted, legally caught rockfish during the hot summer months, due to RPP imposed marketing restrictions.

Therefore, I support amending the RPP to allow an exception to marketing restrictions for the jig sector (i.e. non-entry level processors may purchase rockfish from the entry level jig sector).

I realise that authorising such an amendment may require both council and congressional approval. I respectfully request that the council direct staff to initiate analysis of such an amendment, and to please prioritise such action in best hopes of relieving the marginalised CG jig sector— who face four more summers of effectively negated rockfish harvesting capability under the currently worded RPP. In addition, please assist us in bringing the necessary attention of Congress to this matter.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this issue, and for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Darius Kasprzak (907) 942-- 2504

NPFC Feb. 2007 (For the record)

(db)
Rockfish Pilot Program
GOA - Kodiak

Example of Effective (de facto) Fleet Boycott in Restraint of Trade

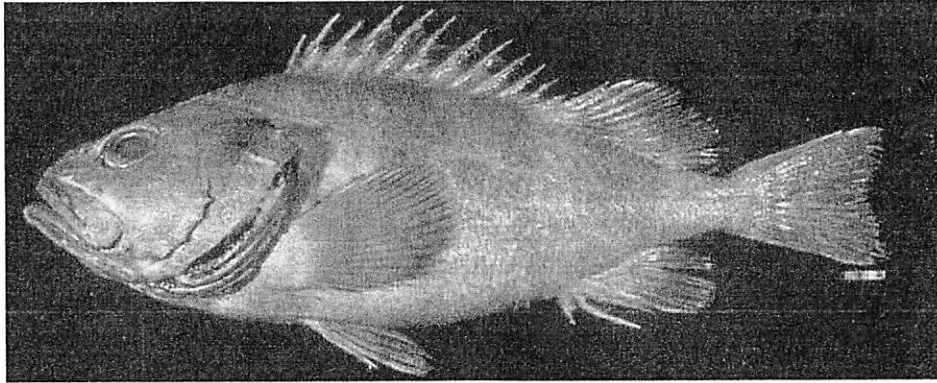
GLOBAL SEAFOODS NORTH AMERICA - KODIAK PLANT
Drop in production of Rockfish major species: Due to the RPP!

Species	2005	2006	2007
Dusky Rockfish	311,000 lbs.	238,000 lbs.	26,000 lbs.
Northern Rockfish	506,000 lbs.	722,000 lbs.	47,000 lbs.
Pac Ocean Perch	1,354,000 #	1,498,000 #	3,000 #
Bycatch of other fish with Rockfish			
Black cod	85,000 #	64,000 #	0 #
Pacific Cod	438,000 #	201,000 #	[20,000 # from different fisheries]
Pollock	55,000	77,000	0 #

Conclusion: A serious downturn in GSNA's traditional landings occurred after the implementation of the RPP. Losses amount to between \$750,000 and \$1 million US. (check with Oleg)

Part of P.C. by S. Taufen
2/10/08

Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Pilot Program



Julie Bonney
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank

Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP)

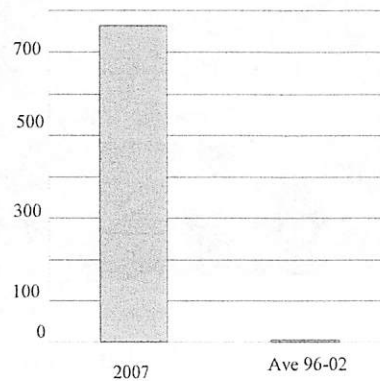
- Created by a directive from Congress
- Developed through the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's public process
- Implemented beginning May 1, 2007

Two fisheries were Created

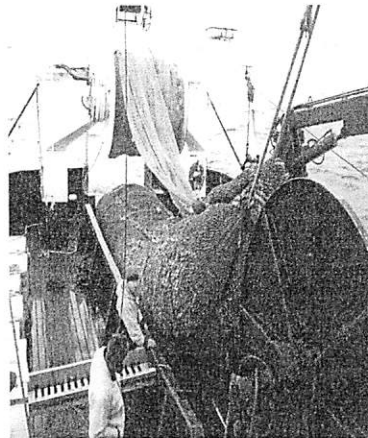
(1) Entry Level Fishery Program

- Limited access fishery for new participants for both trawl and fixed gear.
- 5% of the total allowable catch is set aside for these new participants.
- Only processors that are **not** rockfish licensed can purchase from these fishermen.
- Assures entry of new fishermen and processors to the fishery.

Fixed gear RPP allocation versus catch – 1000s of lbs



(2) Cooperative Fishery Program



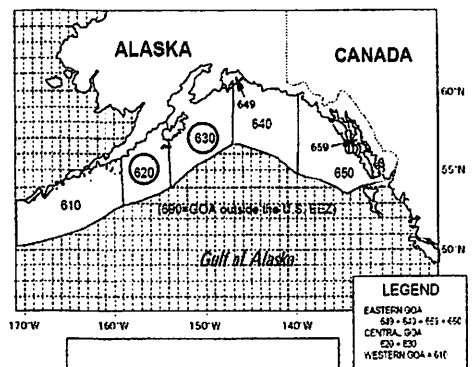
- Share-based fishery management program where trawl harvesters are awarded catch based on their participation in the fishery from 1996 to 2002.
- 95% of the total allowable catches (TACs) are allocated to these historical participants.

Cooperative Fishery –Processor inclusion

- Recognition of historical participation of processors creates a licensing program for rockfish processors.
- To receive a processor license, the processor must have processed half a million pounds of rockfish in four of five years
- Five processor licenses were issued – all Kodiak processing facilities

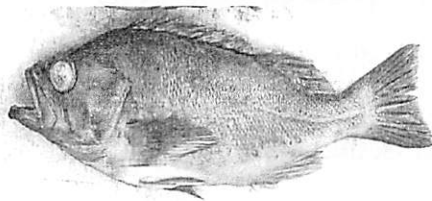
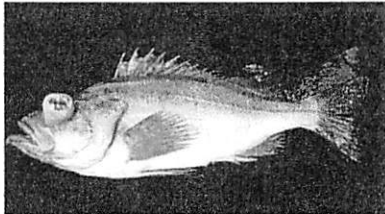
Cooperative Fishery

- Limited to 5 years unless reauthorized
- Central GOA - only
- Fishery opens on May 1st, closes on Nov 15th
- Co-op formation required to receive a catch allocation
- Co-op allocation is based on the catch history of the harvesting members of the cooperative



Map courtesy of NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Cooperative Fishery Allocations



Photos courtesy of Oregon State University & Okidoki Guide Services

- Primary Species:
 - Pacific Ocean Perch
 - Northern Rockfish
 - Pelagic Shelf Rockfish
- Secondary Species:
 - Sablefish
 - Pacific cod
 - Thornyhead Rockfish
- Bycatch Cap for Halibut Mortality

Primary Species Management

- Allocates Pacific Ocean Perch (POP), Northern Rockfish (NR), and Pelagic Shelf Rockfish (PSR) to cooperatives.
- Allows harvesters to experiment with new harvest techniques since “race for fish” is removed.
- Harvesters have had good success independently targeting each primary rockfish species.



Secondary Species Management

- Catch history awards recognize the economic contribution of the secondary species to rockfish participants
- Cooperative fishery was designed to allow vessels to fish their secondary species independently of the primary rockfish species
- Dedicated trips of secondary species now occur under the new program

Economic contribution of Primary and Secondary Species to the Rockfish Fishery



Species	Ex-vessel	Catch - lbs	Value	% value
POP	\$0.10	9,549,973	\$954,997	29%
NR	\$0.098	3,917,389	\$383,904	12%
PSR	\$0.099	2,290,600	\$226,769	7%
Total Primary Species		15,757,962	\$1,565,671	48%
P cod	\$0.276	1,594,381	\$440,049	13%
Sablefish	\$1.417	895,296	\$1,268,635	39%
Total Secondary Species		2,489,677	\$1,708,684	52%
Grand Total Fishery		18,247,640	\$3,274,355	100%

2005 economic data - NPFMC post-rockfish transfer document



Kodiak Trawlers accept the RPP idea

- 99% of the Catcher Vessels with catch histories joined cooperatives
- 1% remained in the limited access fishery environment
- Traditional fleet fished under the new rules of the program



Fleet Participation

* No Fleet Consolidation in 2007 *

- 27 trawl catcher vessels participated
 - ▶ 25 catcher vessels fished for cooperatives
 - ▶ 2 vessels participated in the entry level fishery
- In 2006, 25 catcher vessels participated

Photo courtesy of Catalunya Center of Investigative Research

Goals of the RPP Program

Economic benefits to Kodiak

Goal met

- ✓ Stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes – particular May and June
- ✓ Remove the processing conflict with salmon
- ✓ Bring more fish on shore
- ✓ Slow the fishery so more valuable products can be produced



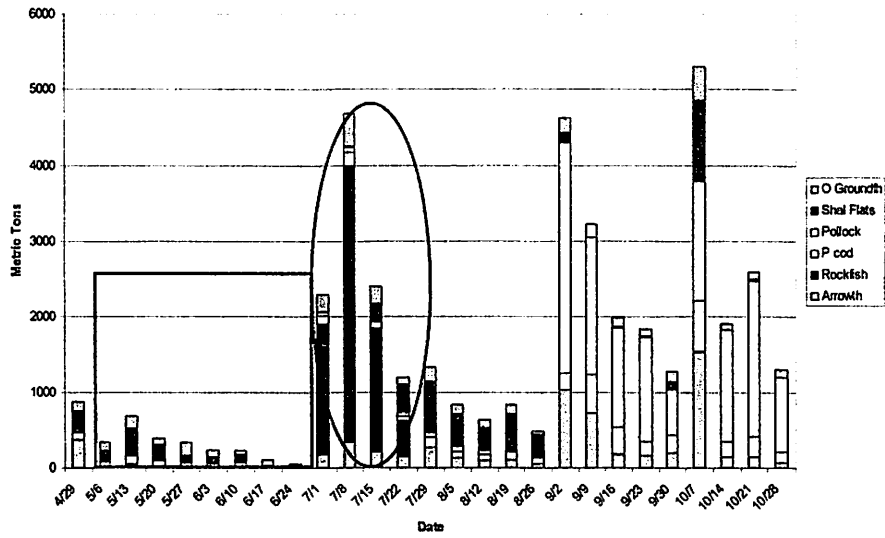
APS Processing sorting crew -- Katy McGauley photo

- ✓ **GOAL: More work in May and June**
KIB Unemployment rate comparison

	April	May	June	July
2004	7.6%	10.1%	9.2%	6.5%
2005	7.3%	8.6%	8.6%	5.9%
2006	6.6%	9.1%	10.5%	5.9%
2007	5.8%	5.7%	6.2%	5.5%

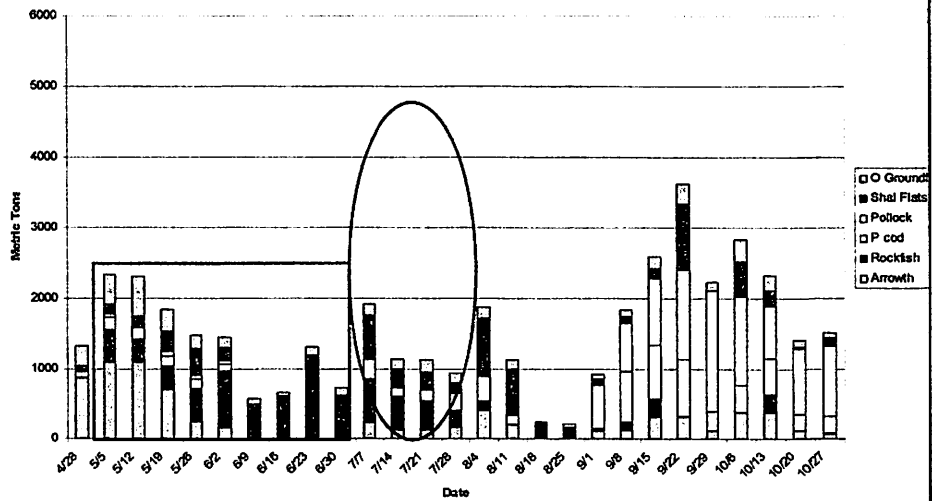
✓GOAL: Spread Rockfish harvests out during slow processing times

2006 Kodiak Groundfish Landings by Species



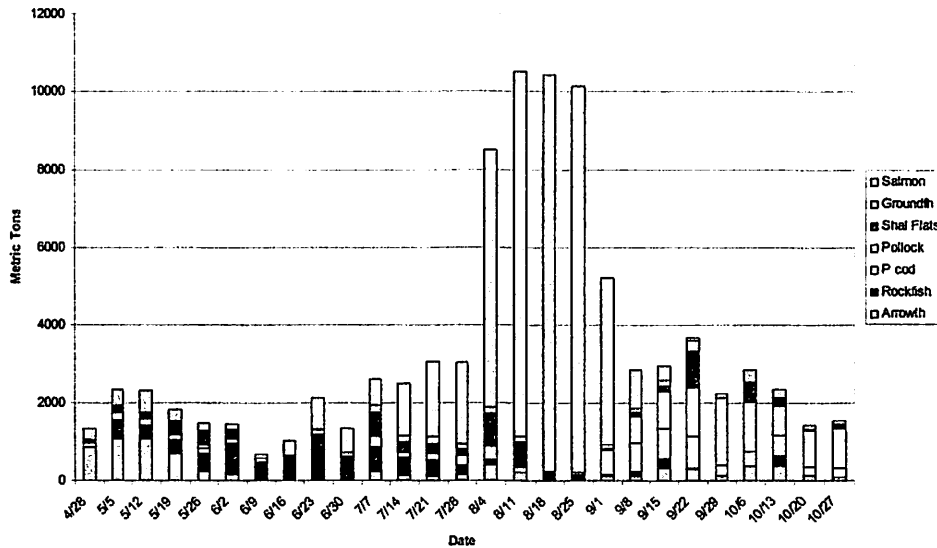
✓GOAL: Spread Rockfish harvests out during slow processing times

2007 Kodiak Groundfish Landing by Species



✓ GOAL: Remove Conflict with Salmon

2007 Kodiak Landings including Salmon



✓ GOAL - Bring More Fish on Shore
Primary Rockfish Species

Allocations for the RPP catcher vessel (CV) sector including transfers of offshore quota to CV cooperatives in pounds

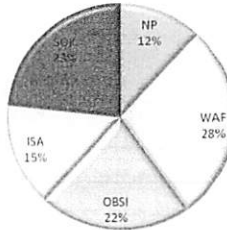
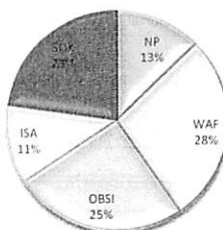
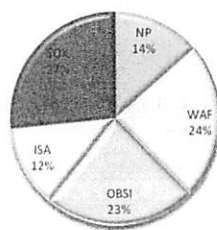
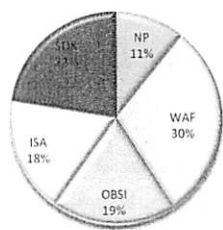
Species	All Total	Initial CV	CP transfer	Entry Level	CV Gd Tot
POP	16,056,247	7,484,292	1,789,054	802,482	10,075,828
NR	7,451,616	4,277,626	907,294	372,581	5,557,501
PSR	7,109,900	3,043,130	1,095,784	354,944	4,493,858
Total Rockfish	30,617,763	14,805,048	3,792,132	1,530,006	20,127,186

Shorebased sector allocation was increased by 23% due to offshore fish being brought onshore and new entry level fishery allocation.

Allocations, Offshore Transfers, and Harvests by Inshore Co-op and Species Group

COOP	POP	NR	Species Group				Halibut
			PSR	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	
NP	367	247	187	46	70	13	14
WAF	1,019	535	331	109	165	30	32
OBSI	647	492	321	84	128	23	25
ISA	601	224	173	57	87	16	17
SOK	761	443	368	90	137	25	27
Total Initial Allocation:	3,395	1,940	1,380	386	587	106	115
Transfers from CP Coops:	812	412	497	72	0	54	38
Final Allocations (mt):	4,207	2,352	1,877	458	587	160	153
Final Allocations (lbs.):	9,274,580	5,185,863	4,139,074	1,010,329	1,294,359	353,009	336,253
Total Harvests (lbs):	9,192,158	4,410,503	3,478,072	1,003,548	599,884	101,846	109,533
Net (lbs):	82,395	775,357	661,003	6,769	694,455	251,161	226,717

Allocations by Inshore Co-op and Species



✓GOAL: Slow fishery so more valuable processed products can be produced.

		Fillets	Whole	H&G
Species	Year	Lbs of finished Product		
POP	2006	285,919	2,523,026	2,337,241
POP	2007	853,350	713,358	1,750,575
NR	2006	89,392	885,620	876,680
NR	2007	379,418	Confidential	1,084,874
PSR	2006	219,801	583,210	142,426
PSR	2007	444,259	Confidential	113,272
Total	2006	595,112	3,991,856	3,356,347
Total	2007	1,677,027	1,563,574	2,948,721

Goals of the RPP Program Conservation Benefits



Photo courtesy of NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Goal Met

- ✓ Improved Retention / Improved Utilization
- ✓ More Off-Bottom Fishing
- ✓ Reduced Halibut Bycatch
- ✓ Increased Harvests of Under-utilized Species



Conservation Benefits



- Co-op Contracts creates self-monitoring versus government monitoring.
- The harvesters chose to implement conservation measures; most standards they chose were not required by the regulations.
- Standards could only be achieved by individual accountability.
- Self monitoring allowed harvesters to experiment with standards without the fear of losing catch.



Conservation Goals of Contracts: Halibut Bycatch



Once Co-op's halibut bycatch cap is reached all fishing stops.

- Sets acceptable Halibut bycatch rates by target fishery
 - Rates set on what vessel operators thought was achievable
 - Rates assured all cooperative quotas could be harvested
 - Individual accountability: if a vessel exceeds halibut standards, they must stop fishing until the vessel's fishing practices can be assessed.
- RPP rewards system allows the halibut savings to be rolled back to the limited access trawl fisheries. This allows for additional groundfish catches in November and December



Conservation Goals of the Contracts: Standards for fishing practices

More off bottom fishing to reduce halibut bycatch

Timing of target fishing to assure all Co-op Quotas are reached

- Defines acceptable gears for the different target fisheries
 - Requires Pelagic Gear for some targets
 - Requires use of semi-pelagic gear for other targets
- Set standards for staggering and coordinating harvests to assure that all quotas are harvested by the end of the season.

✓ Goal: Improved Retention / Improved Utilization

Species	Year - 2006		Year - 2007	
	Retain	Discard	Retain	Discard
Sablefish	85%	15%	98%	2%
P cod	80%	20%	98%	2%
NR	96%	4%	100%	0%
PSR	100%	0%	100%	0%
POP	96%	4%	99%	1%

Source: NMFS