

**Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea**

**Hosted by the Russian Federation  
25 October–19 November 2019  
Virtual Process Conference**

**1. Opening of the Conference**

1.1 Dr. Alexander Glubokov (Russia) opened the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea on 25 October 2019.

**2. Opening Statements**

2.1 Poland/EU, Japan and the Russian Federation made opening statements. Opening statements are provided in Appendix 1.

**3. Elections (Chair and Rapporteur)**

3.1 Dr. Alexander Glubokov (Russia) was elected Chair of the Annual Conference. He also served as the Rapporteur.

3.2 The following persons served as the contact points and “voices” for their respective Parties during Annual Conference e-mail exchanges: Takumi Fukuda (Japan), SeoYoung Park (the Republic of Korea), Bernard Blazkiewicz (Poland/EU), Alexander Glubokov (Russian Federation), Glenn Merrill (USA).

3.3 The list of the Annual Conference participants is provided in Appendix 2.

**4. Adoption of the Agenda**

4.1 The Agenda, as adopted, is provided in Appendix 3.

**5. Report of the Scientific and Technical Committee**

5.1 The Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea is provided in Appendix 4. The final Report was distributed to the Parties on 16 October 2019.

5.2 Documents submitted for the S&T meeting were distributed to the Parties during the S&T meeting.

**6. Action Items**

6.1 The review of scientific data and conservation measures of the Coastal States related to Pollock fishing in the Bering Sea.

6.1.1 The United States and the Russian Federation provided a detailed review of Bering Sea pollock catch and effort statistics, pollock research survey results, and the status of pollock stocks since the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference in the Report of the Scientific and Technical Committee.

6.1.2 Japan provided information about incidental Pollock bycatch during an annual salmon survey in the central Bering Sea in July and August 2019 in the Report of the Scientific and Technical Committee.

6.1.3 The United States notes that Part 1, paragraph (b) of the Annex to the Convention states that, "for purposes of this Convention, the pollock biomass for the Specific Area (note) as determined by the United States institution... shall be deemed to represent 60 percent of the Aleutian Basin pollock biomass". The United States notes that methods currently used to assess the biomass in the Specific Area defined in the Annex can be improved. The United States notes that any such improvements to assess the pollock biomass in the Specific Area should be considered and reviewed by the Scientific and Technical Committee in upcoming meetings.

6.1.4 Poland/EU notes remarks by the United States related to the improvement of stock biomass assessment, conduct of trial fishing as well as the formulation of conservation and management measures. In particular the last point is relevant, as Article IV(c) and Article XI of the Convention should be “operationalised” by measures establishing protocols like notifications to enter the Area, transhipments,

VMS information, catch data, Observer Programme or inspections. We look forward to working on those matters at the next meeting of Contracting Parties.

6.2 Establishment of a Plan of Work for the Scientific and Technical Committee for the next year.

6.2.1 There were no recommendations for a Plan of Work for the Scientific and Technical Committee for the next year.

6.3 Establishment of the Allowable Harvest Level (AHL).

6.3.1 Poland/EU supported the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Committee for setting the Allowable Harvest Level (AHL) at zero for 2020 because the minimum biomass level needed to trigger a non-zero AHL has not been reached in accordance with the Convention Annex. Poland/EU also mentioned that the next spring survey of the stock shall provide new information.

6.3.2 There was no consensus among the Parties on how to set the AHL. Consequently, the process described in Article VII Part 1 of the Annex to the Convention was followed and the AHL for 2020 was set at zero.

6.4 Establishment of the Individual National Quotas.

6.4.1 Since the AHL for 2020 was set at zero, no individual national quotas could be established.

6.5 Adoption of appropriate conservation and management measures based upon the advice of the Scientific and Technical Committee.

6.5.1 Based on the report of the Scientific and Technical Committee, there was no new advice and consequently, no new conservation and management measures were adopted.

6.5.2 The United States notes that the stock status in the Specific Area as defined in the Annex to the Convention has shown signs of improvement. At this time, there are no robust conservation and management measures in place to ensure the sustainable harvest of resources in the Convention Area, and there are no clear provisions for the conduct of trial fishing. The United States notes that it may be appropriate to consider an in-person meeting to develop appropriate conservation and management measures if the available information indicates that the stock status in the Specific Area continues to show signs of improvement.

6.6 Establishment of the Terms and Conditions for Trial Fishing in 2020.

6.6.1 The Parties agreed to adopt the same terms and conditions for trial fishing in 2020 as agreed to at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

6.6.2 As in past Annual Conferences, the Parties recommended that countries planning to conduct trial fishing give at least one month lead time prior to fishing in order to facilitate enforcement efforts.

6.7 Trial fishing plans for the following year.

6.7.1 None of the Parties had new information for this agenda item.

6.8 Measures taken to investigate and penalize violations of the Convention.

6.8.1 None of the Parties had new information for this agenda item.

6.9 Consideration of matters related to the conservation and management of living marine resources other than pollock in the Convention Area.

6.9.1 None of the Parties had new information for this agenda item.

6.10 Meeting Observers.

6.10.1 There were no observers.

## **7. Future Annual Conferences**

7.1 Consideration of virtual meetings.

7.1.1 The United States notes that the development of robust conservation and management measures and provisions for the conduct of trial fishing can be challenging to undertake via a virtual meeting. Although there are no indications that fishing is likely to occur in the Convention Area in the near future,

the stock status in the Special Area as defined in the Annex to the Convention continues to show signs of improvement. Consistent with Article IV(1)(c) of the Convention, the United States believes that appropriate conservation and management measures are a necessary requirement for the conduct of fishing in the Convention Area. The United States notes that it may be appropriate to consider an in-person meeting at some point in the future to consider applicable conservation and management measures and provisions for the conduct of trial fishing if the stock status in the Special Area as defined in the Annex to the Convention continues to show signs of improvement. The United States would wish to be considered as host for such an in-person meeting after due consideration by the other Contracting Parties. The Parties agreed to continue the virtual meeting process for 2020.

The United States noted that the earliest an in-person meeting could occur is 2020 after considering additional information from the United States survey scheduled for early 2020. The United States expressed its willingness to be considered as the host of an in-person meeting depending on the status of the pollock stock in the Specific Area. There United States proposed that an in-person meeting could take place in Washington State, near Seattle.

7.1.2 The Russian Federation supports the United States proposal to host in-person meeting.

7.2 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

7.2.1 The Parties agreed that the host Party of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Scientific & Technical Committee virtual meetings will be the United States consistent with Article VI of the Convention. The United States proposed that virtual meetings will be held in October-November 2020.

7.3 Election of the Chair and the Vice Chair.

7.3.1 According to Rule 2 of the Annual Conference Rules of Procedure, the Chair of the next Annual Conference shall be from the host Party and the Parties shall elect a Vice-Chair, if necessary. The Parties shall also elect a Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Committee. A vacancy shall be filled by a nominee of the same Party, subject to the approval of the other Parties. The host Party will inform other Parties of the names of the Chairs of the S&T Committee Meeting and the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in advance of the meetings.

## **8. Other Issues**

8.1 Amendment of the Convention.

8.1.1 Poland/EU recalled that in accordance with Article XVII, paragraph 1 of the Convention in 2016 Poland submitted a proposal to amend the Convention to allow non-States (regional economic integration organisations) to become a Contracting Party and noted that pursuant to Article 8(3) of United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement the terms of participation in a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation or arrangement shall not preclude others from membership or participation; nor shall the terms be applied in a manner which discriminates against any State or group of States having a real interest in the fisheries concerned.

8.1.2 No Contracting Party expressed their consent to the amendment and no Contracting Party expressed their disagreement with the amendment.

8.1.3 Japan and the United States noted that Article XVII, paragraph 3 of the Convention states that "An amendment shall enter into force when the Depository has received instruments of ratification, acceptance, or approval thereof from all Parties."

8.1.4 The Russian Federation proposed to consider the issue of the Convention amendment intersessionally.

## **9. Closing Statements.**

There were no closing statements.

## **Appendices:**

1. Opening Statements
2. List of participants
3. Agenda for the Annual Conference
4. Report of the Scientific and Technical Committee

### **Opening Statement by Japan**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an honor for Japan to participate in the virtual 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea.

Japan would like to draw attention of the Parties that the interim moratorium on pollock fishing in the CBS was agreed by the 6 states in 1992, which was before the entering into force of the Convention. Japan signed the Convention in 1994 with a hope of restoring pollock resources in the CBS and reopening its commercial fishing in the area through concerted action and cooperation among the Parties to the Convention.

One of the objectives of the Convention is to restore and maintain the pollock resources in the Bering Sea at levels which will permit their maximum sustainable yield. However, as we are all aware, we have never been able to see the reopen of pollock fishing in this area.

In such circumstances, we have seen some positive signs since 2014 on the status of Aleutian Basin pollock stocks including increase of stock biomass in the “specific area” stipulated in the Annex of the Convention.

Now, in order to fulfill the objectives of the Convention and support our sustainable fishing industry, we have to continue cooperation to the utmost extent in gathering and sharing scientific information, which is vital for the establishment of AHL.

Along with the discussion in this meeting, we wish that it will bring a fruitful and meaningful result for each Party.

Thank you

### **Opening Statement by Poland and the European Union**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure for Poland and the European Union to participate in the Bering Sea Convention Annual Conference hosted by the Russian Federation. Building on the positive experience of previous years, we are convinced that this virtual meeting will be a success, while limiting unnecessary travel. We look forward to the active participation of all Contracting Parties.

Poland and the European Union are fully committed to sustainable fisheries management both inside and outside EU waters and recognise the key role RFMOs play in the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fish stocks. We are committed to using the latest scientific advice on the status of stocks as a benchmark for responsible resource management and will continue to promote this approach.

As you know, following the accession of Poland to the European Union in 2004, the competence for conservation and management of international fisheries resources has been transferred to the European Union. Consequently, Poland submitted to the Depositary of the Convention a request for an amendment to the Convention to allow a ‘Regional Economic Integration Organisation’ such as the EU to become a member of the Bering Sea Convention. The EU has replaced our Member States upon their accession to the EU in other RFMOs where the Signatories of this Convention are also Members without difficulty. The European Union is already member of good standing in total of 16 RFMOs worldwide and has been a leading force for sustainable and

cooperative science-based fisheries management where it represents its Member States. The amendment would allow the EU to join the Convention and thus enable the EU and the signatories to the Convention to fulfil their obligation under Article 8(3) of UNFSA to cooperate in the conservation and management of the Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea.

We therefore trust that this request for the membership of the European Union will be given positive consideration by all Contracting Parties and that it will be accepted by Contracting Parties at this Annual Conference. Since the request has been denied at previous meetings, it should also be recalled that pursuant to Article 8(3) of UNFSA the terms of participation in such organization or arrangement shall not preclude others from membership or participation; nor shall the terms be applied in a manner which discriminates against any State or group of States having a real interest in the fisheries concerned.

We look forward to participating in this meeting and hope it will be a productive and successful one.

Thank you

### **Opening Statement by the Russian Federation**

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is an honour and a great pleasure for the Russian Federation to host and open the Bering Sea Convention Annual Conference.

Russian Federation hope that 24th Conference will be successful as others previous conferences and give us additional understanding of the status of the Bering Sea pollock stocks.

New scientific data shall be the basis for the developing appropriate conservation measures aimed long term sustainability of the Bering Sea pollock stocks.

We look forward that we will take well balanced decisions corresponding with current status of the Bering Sea ecosystem including it Central part.

Thank you

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China	Not present	

## **Agenda for the Annual Conference**

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Opening Statements
3. Elections (Chair and Rapporteur)
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Report of the Scientific & Technical Committee
6. Action Items
  - 6.1 Review of the scientific data and conservation measures of the Coastal States related to Pollock fishing in the Bering Sea
  - 6.2 Establishment of a Plan of Work for the Scientific and Technical Committee for the next year
  - 6.3 Establishment of the Allowable Harvest Level (AHL)
  - 6.4 Establishment of Individual National Quotas
  - 6.5 Adoption of appropriate conservation and management measures based upon the advice of the Scientific and Technical Committee
  - 6.6 Establishment of the Terms and Conditions for Trial Fishing in 2020
  - 6.7 Trial Fishing Plans for the following year
  - 6.8 Measures taken to investigate and penalize violations of the Convention
  - 6.9 Consideration of matters related to the conservation and management of living marine resources other than Pollock in the Convention Area
  - 6.10 Meeting Observers
7. Future Annual Conferences
  - 7.1 Consideration of virtual meetings.
  - 7.2 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference
  - 7.3 Election of the Chair and the Vice-Chair
8. Other Issues
  - 8.1 Amendment of the Convention
9. Closing Statements

# REPORT OF THE 24<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA

Hosted by Russian Federation  
25 September – 15 October 2019  
Virtual Process Meeting

## 1 Opening of the Meeting

Alexander Glubokov Russian Federation served as the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting. A list of the participants is provided in Appendix 1.

The Chair also served as rapporteur to compile the S&T report. The following individuals served as the contact point and “voice” from each party for email exchange – the United States (Jim Ianelli), the Republic of Korea (Kyum Joon Park), Poland/EU (Jerzy Janusz), Japan (Ken Mori and Tomonori Hamatsu). The People's Republic of China did not participate.

## 2 Adoption of the Agenda

2.1. There were no comments to the presented Agenda. The Agenda (Appendix 2) was adopted.

## 3 Discussion of Science Issues

### 3.1 Update catch and effort statistics

3.1.1. The United States and the Russian Federation provided updated pollock catch statistics by year and region (Appendix 3). Two figures at the end of the report are provided to show the geographical/statistical areas of the Bering Sea (Appendix 4).

### 3.2 Review results of trial fishing

3.2.1. The parties reported that no trial fishing were conducted in the Convention area during the period of 2018 – 2019.

### 3.3 Review results of research cruises

3.3.1. Regular surveys within the U.S. zone of the Bering Sea include:

- (1) Eastern Bering Sea (EBS) shelf: An annual bottom trawl survey to assess groundfish and crabs in the summer months (June to August); chartered fishing vessels are used. This survey extended into the northern area outside of the standard survey grid (but within US waters).
- (2) EBS slope: A “biennial” summer bottom trawl survey that covers the outer slope of the EBS consisting of about 200 tows extending to depths of 1,200m. The most recent survey occurred in summer 2016 (the 2018 survey was canceled). Chartered fishing vessels are used. Given funding priorities within the U.S., this survey is unlikely to be conducted in the near future.
- (3) Acoustic-trawl pollock survey: A biennial survey conducted aboard the NOAA ship *Oscar Dyson* during June, July, and part of August. This survey covers the western and northwestern parts of the U.S. EEZ in the eastern Bering Sea and has covered the Russian side of the U.S.-Russia Convention Line regularly and remains part of a cooperative study of Bering Sea pollock with Russia’s Pacific branch of VNIRO (TINRO) with regular exchange of information.

- (4) Aleutian Islands summer bottom trawl survey: The Aleutian Islands area is surveyed every 2 years using chartered fishing vessels and comprises about 400 stations and extends to 500 m depth. The latest survey was conducted during June-August 2018.
- (5) Bogoslof Island area Acoustic trawl survey: conducted during spawning season (February) aboard the NOAA ship *Oscar Dyson*, this region is covered every other year, with the latest one in 2018. This survey covers the area designated in the Convention that serves as an index of pollock stock condition in the central Bering Sea Convention Area. The next survey is planned for February 2020.

Cruise results from the U.S. surveys become available typically about mid-September and draft reports are made to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) Plan Teams. Subsequently, analysts compile stock assessment reports for review during the November and December meetings of the NPFMC so that they can deliberate on fishery management decisions for the following year. The website for these annual Plan Team reports can be found in at this [link](#). Pertinent parts of the U.S. survey and pollock stock assessments are discussed in section 3.4 below.

3.3.2. Japan conducts an annual salmon survey in the central Bering Sea. In the 2019 survey carried out in July and August, male pollock was caught (incidental to the salmon catch, 48 cm in fork length) in the central Bering Sea.

### 3.4 Review the status of Aleutian Basin Pollock stocks

3.4.1. The Aleutian Basin also encompasses the central Bering Sea Convention Area (see the 2 figures at the end of this report). Surveys covering the region are impractical due to the size of the area. However, the Convention established a specific area (defined in Convention Annex Part 1) around Bogoslof Island where an important component of the central Bering Sea pollock stock is thought to spawn. As noted above, the abundance of pollock is estimated during the February-March surveys conducted aboard the NOAA ship *Oscar Dyson* every 2 years and that these estimates provide an indirect indicator of central Bering Sea Pollock stock abundance. The Annex details that the “specific area” represents 60% of the pollock stock in the entire Aleutian Basin at the time of the survey. The results of the surveys are shown in Figure 1 and show that the 2018 estimate is about 663,000 t which when expanded, suggest that the CBS stock is about 1,105,000 t. This represents an increase over the past 3 surveys (2012, 2014, and 2016). However, the 2018 estimate is still below the long-term average of about 1,617,000 t.

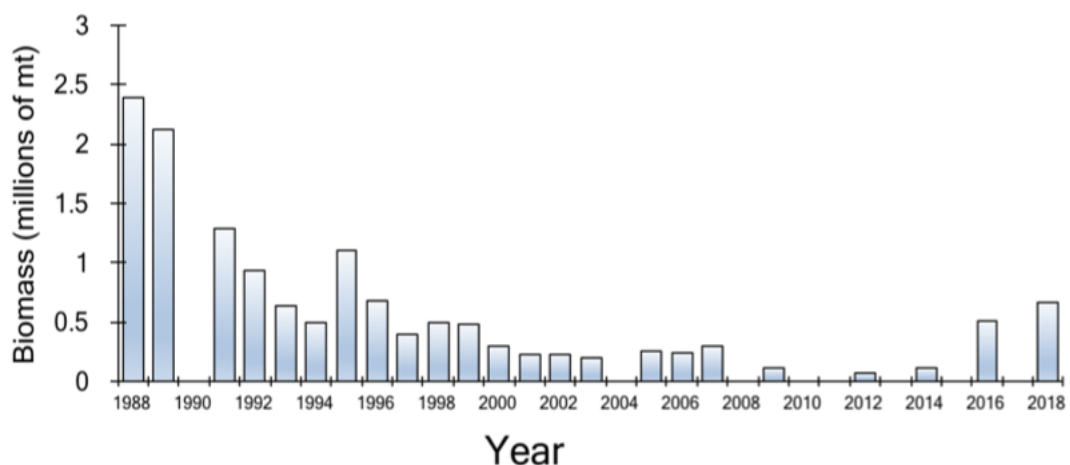


Figure 1. Biomass estimates obtained during acoustic-trawl surveys for walleye Pollock in the Bogoslof Island area, 1988-2018. The United States conducted all the surveys; except for the 1999 survey, which was conducted by Japan

3.4.2. Russian EEZ of the Bering Sea: Northwestern Bering Sea acoustic-trawl pollock survey was conducted aboard TINRO R/V Professor Levanidov during July-August 2018. Pollock

biomass was estimated at 0.598 million tons and abundance 1.191 billion fish in the midwater (from 0.5 m above the bottom up to the surface layer). Pollock distribution are covered mainly the lower shelf and upper continental slope between the Convention Line and northwestern Bering Sea coast adjacent Cape Navarin. Pollock of the 2013-2014 year-classes dominated in midwater among mature fish, and abundance of the 2015-2016 year-classes was low. The abundance of the 2017 year-class immature fish appeared high in the northwestern Bering Sea, as in midwater and near bottom in the eastern Bering Sea. These data indicate that the 2017 year-class abundance is most likely above the average level, which may lead to a possible increase in recruitment to the exploitable part of the pollock population in 2021-2022.

The 2017 year-class appeared during shifts in temperature conditions towards cooling in the Bering Sea. Usually, highly abundant pollock year-classes appear during such shifts in thermal regime in the Bering Sea (2000, 2006, 2008 and 2012). The appearance of highly abundant year-classes during periods with high annual gradients in water temperature is clearly seen across the entire period of recent observations in the Bering Sea. The appearance of high-abundant 2006, 2008 and 2012 year-classes was associated with thermal regime shift in the Bering Sea, when the abundance of large zooplankton species was relative high. This supports the idea on the existence of relationship between zooplankton abundance and survival of pollock yearlings during winter period.

The abundance and biomass of the Bering Sea pollock has decreased during 2015-2018. Nevertheless, the biomass of the Bering Sea pollock was still at the average level in 2018.

The western Bering Sea pollock biomass in the Karaginskiy and Olutorskiy Bays area still stable at a low level since the late 1990s.

3.4.3. Pollock in the U.S. Eastern Bering Sea (EBS): The EBS pollock spawning biomass in 2008 was at the lowest level since 1980, but has increased substantially since then. The 2008 low was the result of poor recruitment during 2001-2005. Recent and projected increases of biomass (spawning and age 3+ biomass) appear to be mainly from the 2012 which last year was estimated to be the highest in the time series. Spawning biomass is projected to be well above  $B_{MSY}$  in 2019 and thus the stock condition appears to be in good shape and is not being subjected to overfishing, is not overfished nor approaching an overfished condition.

**Aleutian Islands region:** The estimated spawning biomass reached a minimum level in 1999 and then has generally increased, with a projected value of  $B_{35\%}$  for 2016. Large declines in fishing mortality have to date had much influence on increasing recruitment. The below-average year classes spawned since 1989 have persisted and spawning biomass for 2016 is projected to be 74,400 t. Nonetheless, the Aleutian Islands pollock stock is not being subjected to overfishing, is not overfished, nor is approaching an overfished condition.

**Bogoslof region:** The estimated biomass in the Bogoslof Island area has been increasing in recent years. The latest survey (2018 by the NOAA ship Oscar Dyson) resulted in a biomass increase to 663,000 t. There have been no directed fisheries on the stock since 1991. Total allowable catches have been set to zero under terms of the Convention on the Conservation of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea. The trigger level for a TAC to be authorized has been specified in the Convention.

The United States provided the following summary information on pollock stocks status for the Bering Sea by region. The table below is extracted from the U.S. document that summarizes the status and catch specifications of the pollock stocks in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands (BSAI) management areas in the U.S. EEZ. All units are in metric tons. The catches for 2018 are projected estimates for the year.

Area	Year	Age 3+ Pollock Biomass	Overfishing Level (t)	Acceptable Biological Catch (t)	Total Allowable Catch (t)	Catch (t)
1.E Bering Sea	2012	8,722,000	2,450,000	1,270,000	1,253,000	1,205,222
	2013	8,547,000	2,470,000	1,220,000	1,186,000	1,270,770
	2014	7,855,000	2,550,000	1,375,000	1,261,900	1,297,422
	2015	11,345,000	2,795,000	1,369,000	1,267,000	1,321,581
	2016	13,293,000	3,330,000	1,637,000	1,310,000	1,352,660
	2017	11,785,000	3,910,000	2,090,000	1,340,000	1,359,274
	2018	10,202,000	3,640,000	2,800,000	1,345,000	1,379,306
	2019	9,110,000	4,360,000	2,979,000	1,359,258	1,327,978
2.Aleutians	2012	251,000	39,600	32,500	19,000	975
	2013	266,000	45,600	37,300	19,000	2,964
	2014	259,500	42,811	35,048	19,000	2,375
	2015	228,100	36,005	29,659	19,000	915
	2016	241,900	39,075	32,227	19,000	1,257
	2017	264,800	43,650	36,061	19,000	1,507
	2018	272,675	49,291	40,788	19,000	1,860
	2019	319,892	64,240	52,887	19,000	1,462
3.Bogoslof	2012	110,000	22,000	16500	500	71
	2013	67,100	13,400	10,100	100	57
	2014	67,063	13,413	10,059	75	427
	2015	106,000	21,200	15,900	100	733
	2016	106,000	31,906	23,850	500	1005
	2017	434,760	130,428	60,800	500	186
	2018	434,760	130,428	60,800	500	14
	2019	610,267	183,080	137,310	75	117

2019 catch estimates are preliminary

### 3.5 Factors affecting recovery of the stocks

No new information was provided.

### 3.6 The effects of the moratorium and its continuation

No new information was provided.

### 3.7 Methodologies to determine Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) and Allowable Harvest Level (AHL)

There were no new methods proposed.

### **3.8 Recommendation on AHL**

3.8.1. No new information was provided. In the past, the Parties have used Annex Part 1 of the Convention to establish AHL. The AHL level has been set at zero; because the minimum biomass level needed to trigger a non-zero AHL according to the Convention Annex has not been reached.

3.8.2. The Russian Federation recommends that the AHL remain at zero since the Convention Annex Part 1 trigger level has not been reached.

### **3.9 Research Plans**

3.9.1. The United States plans to conduct its next survey on pollock in the Bogoslof area in 2020 (during a 2 week period in February-March). Other survey plans by the Parties (United States and Russia) in their EEZ waters are expected to continue as in previous years.

3.9.2. Japan plans to conduct its salmon survey (that may catch pollock incidentally) in the central Bering Sea in 2020.

## **4 Discussion of Enforcement and Management Issues**

### **4.1. Violations of the Convention**

No new information was provided; but no IUU fishing in the Convention area was known to have been reported in 2019.

### **4.2. Terms and conditions for trial fishing for the following year**

The Committee recommended that the terms and conditions for trial fishing remain the same as in the previous years. Trial Fishing is addressed in Article X, paragraph 4 of the Convention. In general, any trial fishing intention needs an application and trial fishing plan to be approved by the Scientific and Technical Committee. No Party has applied for trial fishing in 2020 to the Scientific and Technical Committee.

## **5 Other Issues and Recommendations**

### **5.1 Future Meetings of the Scientific and Technical Committee.**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held via email exchanges as they have from 2010. The Party that will host this meeting shall be determined at the Annual Conference.

## **6 Report to the Annual Conference**

The Chair of the Scientific and Technical Committee will convey the Scientific and Technical Meeting Report to the Annual Conference.

## **7 Closing Remarks**

The Chair thanked all participants of the S&T for their discussions and help in compiling this written report. The Chair closed the S&T Meeting on 15 October 2019.