



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

October 1, 2018

Agenda B-2: NMFS Management Report

Status of Actions Report Online

Updated daily at: <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/reports/amendments.pdf>

Reminder on Regulations – the eCFR

Sustainable Fisheries has been maintaining a version of its regulations (Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, parts 679 and 680) on its website for over two decades. We have maintained this version as a courtesy to the public. The Government Publishing Office (GPO) has been maintaining an electronic version of all regulations online, updated daily, known as the eCFR (Code of Federal Regulations). The eCFR provides a more accurate record of our regulations. Since March 31, 2018, we have stopped supporting a separate version on our website. Our decision was guided by the additional workload associated with maintaining a duplicate version of the regulations, and the potential for inconsistency. Our [website](#) provides the link to the [eCFR](#), in place of our current version of the regulations.

Progress on Rulemaking

Highlights on progress since the June 2018 meeting are provided below. **Attachment 1** provides additional detail:

- Final rule implementing Amendment 117 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Groundfish of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) and Amendment 106 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) – Reclassifying squid as Ecosystem Component species. **Effective: August 6, 2018.**
- Final rule implementing a Recreational Quota Entity (RQE) for Southeast (Area 2C) and Southcentral (Area 3A) Alaska. **Effective: October 22, 2018.**
- Final rule modifying requirements for Nontrawl Lead Level 2 observers. **Effective: July 30, 2018.**
- Proposed rule to establish directed fishing for American Fishery Act (AFA) and Crab Rationalization (CR) Program sideboard limits that are not large enough to support a directed fishery in the BSAI or GOA (Small Sideboards). **Published: August 16, 2018.**



Status of St. Matthews Blue King Crab

Based on the results from the most recent BSAI Crab Plan Team, it is highly likely that the SSC will approve a change in status for St. Matthew's Blue King Crab from not overfished to overfished. If so, we will initiate the formal process to change the status determination for this stock, and initiate the rebuilding process required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. We continue to monitor bycatch of blue king crab in the groundfish fisheries within the defined stock boundaries. Results from the Crab Plan Team indicate that bycatch in the groundfish fisheries, primarily pot and hook-and-line Pacific cod fisheries, could result in removals that could approach the anticipated overfishing level. Pending the results from this meeting, we will inform the affected fleets that inseason management actions could be taken to limit the groundfish fisheries within the stock boundaries if bycatch is likely to result in overfishing.

Annual notification of intent to process Aleutian Islands Pacific cod

NMFS' received official notification of intent to process Aleutian Islands Pacific cod in 2019 from the City Manager of the City of Adak. Therefore the Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod Catcher Vessel Harvest Set-Aside Program will be in place in 2019.

Annual Observer Coverage Category Requests

The deadline for trawl catcher vessels to request to be in the full coverage category for 2019 is October 15, 2018. The deadline for fixed gear vessels in the partial coverage category to request to be in the EM Selection Pool for 2019 is November 1, 2018. Both of these requests are submitted through ODDS.

Update on North Pacific Fishery Commission (NPFC) Meeting

The 4th Annual NPFC meeting was held this July. The Council designee is Dan Hull. A brief overview of the NPFC, and the outcome of this last meeting is provided in **Attachment 2**. Overall, we continue to make progress establishing the framework for monitoring and inspection procedures and requirements.

Staff Changes

I am extremely pleased to announce some new staff and some transitions for Sustainable Fisheries. We have hired Dr. Joe Krieger, and selected Dr. Anne Marie Eich and Alicia Miller as our two new supervisors. Anne Marie will lead our Ecosystem Branch. Alicia will lead our Catch Share Branch. Anne Marie and Alicia started their new positions on Monday, September 17th.

Dr. Joseph (Joe) Krieger came on board SF in early September as a fishery management position in the Ecosystem Branch. Previously, Joe worked at our Auke Bay Lab as an NRC Post-Doctoral Research Fellow on research related to sablefish. Joe has a Ph.D. in Research Ecology and Management from the University of Michigan, and a Masters of Science in Marine Biology from Auburn University. His dissertation research focused on identifying candidate

sites for fishery habitat restoration initiatives in the Great Lakes. Previously, Joe worked as a project manager for the Seafood Watch Program. Joe brings a strong quantitative background and experience working on the interface of science and management through his dissertation and professional work experience. We are excited to have Joe joining our team in early September. Welcome aboard Joe!

Dr. Anne Marie Eich came to SF in 2014 from the Southeast Region and has proven herself an expert in our ever so complicated regulatory processes. She has greatly enhanced our role in addressing seabird bycatch since she joined us. Since January, Anne Marie has been the acting supervisor for the Catch Shares branch. Since May she has also absorbed management responsibilities for the Ecosystems branch. In her time with us, Anne Marie honed her technical skills on a wide range of analytic and regulatory projects, and has demonstrated great skill in leading others. Anne Marie has a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Alicia Miller joined SF in 2015 after extensive experience with the Office of Law Enforcement and as a groundfish and marine mammal observer. Alicia has demonstrated great perseverance and dedication in her various roles with our observer and electronic monitoring programs. She has refined her skills on a range of analytical, and regulatory fishery management projects as a team leader and individual contributor. Alicia's independence, strong technical and writing skills, diplomacy, and ability to foster and lead effective and collaborative teams will be a great assets to our work.

Inseason Management Report

The latest Inseason Management Report is provided in **Attachment 3**.

Attachment 1 -- Status of Regulatory Actions

Changes since October 2017 are noted in **Bold Red**
EOC = End of Comment Period

Action Status	Lead Council, SF, and GCAK Staff	Date of Council Final Action	Start Regional Review	Received by GCAK	Transmittal Date of Action to NMFS HQ for Review	Notice of Availability (FMP) Published in <i>Federal Register</i>	Proposed Rule Published in <i>Federal Register</i>	Final Rule or Notice of Approval Published in <i>Federal Register</i>
FMP Amendments								
Amendments 115 (BSAI), 105 (GOA), 49 (KTC), 13 (Salmon), 2 (Arctic) EFH Omnibus (FMP Amendment only) Approved: May 31, 2018	MacLean Mackey Meyer	April 2017	PR: 12/1/17 NOA: 5/14/18	PR: 12/5/17 NOA: 5/14/18	PR: 2/23/18 NOA: 5/25/18	Mar. 5, 2018 83 FR 9257 EOC: 5/4/18	N/A	Notice of Approval July 5, 2018 83 FR 31340
Amendment 116 (BSAI) LLP endorsement for BSAI trawl limited access yellowfin sole directed fishery Approved: August 10, 2018	McCracken Mansfield Smoker	June 2017	PR: 9/29/17 FR: 7/27/18	PR: 10/4/17 FR: 7/30/18	PR: 5/3/18 FR: 8/9/18	May 18, 2018 83 FR 23250 EOC: 7/17/18	Jun 6, 2018 83 FR 26237 EOC: 07/06/18	
Amendment 117 (BSAI) 106 (GOA) Reclassifying squid to ecosystem component. Approved: June 22, 2018	Stram Mackey Sullivan	June 2017	PR: 11/21/17 FR: 6/1/18	PR: 11/21/17 FR: 6/4/18	PR: 3/21/18 FR: 6/18/18	Mar 27, 2018 83 FR 13117 EOC: 5/29/18	April 11, 2018 83 FR 15538 EOC: 5/11/18	July 6, 2018 83 FR 31460 Effective 8/6/18

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Regulatory Amendments								
Authorizing a Recreational Quota Entity (RQE) to hold halibut QS	Marrinan Iverson Lepore	October 2016	PR: 5/16/17 FR: 1/28/18	PR: 5/23/17 FR: 2/5/18	PR: 9/6/17 FR: 8/15/18	N/A	Oct. 3 2017 82 FR 46016 EOC: 11/17/17	Sept. 21, 2018 83 FR 47819 Effective: 10/22/18
Authorizing Area 4 IFQ transfer (leasing) to CDQ groups	Marrinan Warpinski Smoker	June 2017	PR: 10/2/17 FR: 3/30/18	PR: 10/19/17 PR: 4/5/18	PR: 1/30/18 FR: 8/15/18	N/A	Feb 23, 2018 83 FR 8028 EOC: 3/26/18	
Modify Nontrawl Lead Level 2 observer requirements	Evans Miller Meyer	June 2017	PR: 9/11/17 FR: 3/22/18	PR: 9/13/17 FR: 3/26/18	PR: 11/29/17 FR: 5/25/18	N/A	Dec 27, 2017 82 FR 61243 EOC: 1/26/18	Jun 29, 2018 83 FR 30528 Effective: 7/30/18
Establish directed fishing for AFA and CR Program sideboard limits that are not large enough to support a directed fishery in the BSAI or GOA (Small Sideboards)	Armstrong Davis M. Watson	February 2018	PR: 5/2/18	PR: 5/7/18	PR: 7/26/18	N/A	Aug 16, 2018 83 FR 8028 EOC: 9/17/18	
Charter Halibut Annual Permit Registration	Marrinan Iverson Lepore	April 2018				N/A		
Mixing of Guided and Unguided Halibut	McCracken Iverson Lepore	April 2018	PR: 8/28/18	PR: 8/31/18		N/A		

Attachment 2

Summary of the 4th Annual North Pacific Fisheries Commission Meeting June 27 - July 5, 2018

What is the North Pacific Fisheries Commission?

It is a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) formed to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Sea Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean (Convention). The objective of the Convention is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in the high seas of the North Pacific while protecting the marine ecosystems where these resources occur. The Convention waters include the high seas that are, more or less, north of 20 degrees N latitude (North of Hawaii) and south of the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. A detailed map of the Convention area, the Convention text, and the history of the Convention and NPFC are available on the NPFC website (www.npfc.int).

Who are the Members of the NPFC?

There are eight members to the NPFC, primarily from nations adjacent to the Convention area. These include Canada, China, Chinese Taipei (i.e., Taiwan), Japan, Korea, Russia, United States, and Vanuatu. The NPFC staff (Secretariat) is located in Tokyo, Japan.

As with most RFMOs, the NPFC has a range of subsidiary bodies and working groups to assist it in its work. The NPFC has formed a Finance and Administration Committee (FAC), Scientific Committee (SC), and a Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC). In addition, the NPFC relies on specific workgroups or small scientific committees to explore specific management or stock assessment issues. The NPFC seeks to operate on a consensus basis, although the Convention provides for voting procedures.

What does the NPFC manage?

The Convention covers fisheries resources in the high seas of North Pacific not covered under pre-existing international fisheries management instruments. This includes fish, mollusks, crustaceans, and other marine species, but excludes some sedentary species (e.g., some coral species), catadromous species (e.g., eels), marine mammals, marine reptiles, and seabirds in addition to other marine species already covered under other instruments (e.g., tuna and salmon).

The NPFC is focused on the management of three broad categories of resources: corals and other “vulnerable marine ecosystems”; bottom fisheries (non-pelagic in Council parlance); and pelagic fisheries.

The NPFC has taken a largely precautionary approach to the management of coral species and habitat around seamounts that are important for biodiversity by prohibiting coral harvests and limiting areas and types of fisheries allowed near seamounts. Prior to

the development of the Convention and the formation of the NPFC, Japan and Chinese Taipei operated coral drag fisheries (yes, you read that correctly).

Several nations conduct bottom trawl fisheries, bottom gillnet fisheries, longline, and pot fisheries in Convention waters. Many of these fisheries are conducted primarily on, or near, the Emperor Seamounts (northeast of Hawaii). The primary target of the bottom trawl fisheries have been North Pacific armorhead (*Pseudopentaceros wheeleri*) and splendid alfonsino (*Beryx splendens*). The primary target species of the bottom gillnet fisheries have been splendid alfonsino, oreo (*Allocyttus verrucosus*), and mirror dory (*Zenopsis nebulosa*).

The longline fishery targets a range of tropical rockfish species (*Helicolenus spp.*), splendid alfonsino, and to a limited extent sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*). Korean and Russian vessels have primarily targeted rockfish and splendid alfonsino, and Canadian vessels have exclusively targeted sablefish around four seamount aggregations outside and to the west of the Canadian EEZ. Vessels from Russia use pot gear to target several species of deep-water crab, but participation has been limited.

The largest fishery within Convention waters is for Pacific saury (*Cololabis saira*). Vessels from China, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea, and Russia participate in this fishery. While Japanese and Russian vessels operate mainly within their respective Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), vessels from China, Chinese Taipei, and Korea operate primarily within the Convention waters. Vessels use pelagic trawl gear, or a lighting apparatus to attract the saury to the vessel and harvest the fish primarily with dip nets or a lift net. Each year, several hundred thousand metric tons of Pacific saury are harvested in Convention waters.

Vessels from China and Chinese Taipei trawl for chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicas*) within Convention waters near the EEZ's of Japan and Russia. Japanese and Russian vessels fish for chub mackerel primarily within their EEZ's but have only recently participated in fisheries within Convention waters. Annual harvests in the Convention Area range from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of metric tons.

Jig vessels (primarily from Japan) pursue a fishery for neon flying squid (*Ommastrephes bartramii*).

Overall, over 1,500,000 mt of fishery resources have been harvested in the Convention Area annually over the past several years, with the vast majority of that harvest being Pacific saury and chub mackerel.

What is the role of the U.S. and NMFS at the NPFC?

U.S. vessels do not participate in the Convention Area, but may do so in the future. Broadly speaking, the U.S. engages in the NPFC to meet our overarching commitments to conserve and manage shared living marine resources, to protect the broader marine environment from the effects of destructive fishing practices, to prevent illegal fishing

activities, and to ensure that we provide for future opportunities for U.S. participation. The U.S. serves an important role in assisting the Members in negotiating conservation and management measures, and supporting science-based management. Because the NPFC conducts its business in English, we are often relied on for technical assistance when crafting specific procedures and regulations.

In 2017, Congress passed, and the President signed the "Ensuring Access to Pacific Fisheries Act," (Public Law 114-327), which implements the Convention. The Act specifies that the United States will be represented at NPFC by five U.S. Commissioners — two appointed by the President who are Federal employees, and each of the chairpersons (or their designee) of the North Pacific, Pacific, and Western Pacific Fishery Management Councils. The NMFS Alaska Region (Glenn Merrill) serves as an alternate delegate for NOAA and head of the U.S. delegation. Dan Hull (NPFMC), John Gourley (WPFMC), and Rich Lincoln (PFMC) serve as alternate non-governmental Commissioners. Colin Brinkman represented the U.S. Department of State

What happened at the latest meeting of the NPFC?

The Annual Meeting was held in Tokyo and was preceded by substantive meetings of the TCC and the FAC. The SC and several small scientific committees and workgroups convened earlier this year in Japan. There were several important and controversial topics on the agenda. The Commission adopted a number of Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) that are binding on the members. The Commission operates on consensus (although a voting mechanism does exist for unusual or particularly challenging issues), so it can be difficult to develop CMMs that are acceptable to all members.

Moving Forward on Establishing Enforceable Conservation and Management Measures

A large majority of the TCC meeting was spent discussing outputs from a number of small intersessional working groups dedicated to issues related to vessel registration, an NPFC Vessel Monitoring System, tools and procedures necessary to operationalize a compliance monitoring scheme. The implementation of a Commission VMS and a comprehensive compliance monitoring scheme will likely be high on the priority list at next year's meeting.

One of the main products developed at the TCC was a High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme Implementation Plan. The Commission adopted High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures in the NPFC last year (CMM 2017-09). Canada has taken the lead on the development of a plan for members to implement the measure. Issues addressed in the implementation plan include the development of an NPFC flag, registration of authorized inspection vessels, inspector identification cards, common boarding procedures, and inspection reports.

Other matters discussed during TCC included development of an online annual reporting format, the potential need to strengthen measures to monitor and control transshipment,

concern over the current metric for “effort” in the Convention Area, and nominations to the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) vessel list. Japan nominated four new vessels to the IUU vessel list. All four nominated vessels were flying the flag of China when they were spotted – but once again (and seemingly a trend) China claimed that the vessels were not authorized and denied any responsibility over them. Also of note, Japan provided information on two Japanese trawl vessels discovered to have been misreporting catch of Pacific saury. These two vessels have been detained and sanctioned and their annual catch reports have been revised and corrected.

The Commission adopted four revised management measures:

Information Requirements for Vessel Registration

Based on recommendations from both the SC and TCC, the Commission adopted revisions to CMM 2016-01 on Information Requirements for Vessel Registration. Revisions included adoption of the FAO Standard Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels, in addition to the inclusion of an IMO number. USCG representatives at the meeting were particularly helpful crafting specific revisions to this registration process that should facilitate the proper identification of vessels that are fishing in the Convention Area.

Pacific Saury

Effort in the Pacific saury fishery increased substantially in the past several years. Catch in the domestic waters off Japan and Russia has decreased roughly 5 fold in the past 4 years, a worrying trend. Japan pushed hard for the adoption of a new proposed management measure for Pacific saury – which included strengthened effort limits and specific catch limits for each member with active vessels in the fishery. There was strong pushback from China on the catch limits included in the measure – primarily based on the argument that the SC needs to finalize an agreed upon stock assessment for the Pacific saury before they can agree to any limits. In the end, members could only agree to adopt a slightly revised version of the existing measure, which *requires* instead of *encourages* members to refrain from expansion of fishing effort in the Convention Area, and incorporates measures to prevent the discard of catch and measures to protect juvenile fish. The SC has been tasked with producing an agreed upon stock assessment for Pacific saury in 2019 – and Japan will likely push for stronger measures again next year .

The US Department of State was able to secure and provide funding, \$40,000 to assist the Commission establishing a more comprehensive stock assessment process to provide a common understanding for the status of the stock and future management action.

North Pacific Armorhead and Splendid Alfonsino (i.e., Bottom fisheries in the Northwest Pacific)

In 2017, the Scientific Committee expressed concern over the current state of North Pacific armorhead (NPA) stocks and associated pressure on splendid alfonsino in the

Convention Area. The United States submitted a paper to the Commission last year, and again this year, calling for a complete moratorium on fishing for NPA and splendid alfonsino. The U.S. defines NPA as overfished in U.S. waters off Hawaii. The fishery has been closed to fishing since 1987. The U.S. has repeatedly stressed that harvests in the Convention Area could be limiting the potential for recruitment into the U.S. EEZ that could aid in the recovery of the fishery. Splendid alfonsino is harvested with NPA and what limited information is available indicates that stock conditions are deteriorating.

The U.S. worked with Japan to come up with a joint proposal. The proposed measure included specific catch limits for Japan and Korea, the only Members actively fishing for NPA and Splendid alfonsino, in both low recruitment years and high recruitment years. Aside from negotiations surrounding Korea's catch limit in low recruitment years – it seemed that all Members were in support of the proposal. However, Russia (at the last minute) refused to agree to any limits without scientific advice to guide the definition of the catch limits. The U.S. noted that what is known indicates that NPA is likely subject to recruitment overfishing, and that precautionary management encourages action (a catch limit) even in the face of uncertainty. The U.S. noted that this management approach is consistent with various provisions of the Convention and other international agreements. These arguments were not persuasive to Russia.

In the end, the Commission adopted a new CMM that “*encouraged*” limits for Korea and Japan in low and high recruitment years. The CMM also established considerations that would apply to other members before they could initiate fisheries for NPA and splendid alfonsino. The CMM does include two obligatory measures. First, it would close half of the area in seamounts where NPA fishing has occurred when a survey indicates that NPA is in a “high” recruitment year. This would limit potential pressure on the fishery during periods of recovery. Second, the CMM would establish a minimum mesh size for splendid alfonsino to reduce the potential impacts on juvenile fish. The CMM also directed the SC to explore ways to establish catch limits based on the available information.

Chub Mackerel

With the submission of an application for membership to the NPFC from the European Union (more on that later) – Japan proposed the addition of language in the Chub mackerel measure to clarify that members not currently fishing for chub mackerel could not expand fishing effort. The language was essentially verbatim from the Convention – specifying that entry into a fishery should be determined in accordance with relevant provisions of the Convention.

Other Matters

The European Union submitted an application to become a full Member of the NPFC. They gave a brief presentation regarding their interest – expressing intent to allow two trawlers currently fishing in SPRFMO to move north to fish for Chub mackerel and sardines in the NPFC Convention Area. They also highlighted their intention to

contribute (much needed) data, scientific advice, and associated financial contributions. The United States expressed support for acceptance of the EU application, given further clarification of fishing interests in the area. However, in the end Members requested that the EU submit an application next year, 60 days in advance of the TCC (which they did not do this year), including all required information on fishing plans, vessels and target species (which they also did not do this year) so that the Commission may consider their application for membership at the 2019 Commission meeting.

The SC and TCC will continue discussions leading up to next year's meeting to agree to more permanent information security guidelines for both scientific data and compliance data – specifically with regard to the management of meeting documents, meeting reports and intersessional communications on the NPFC website. The Commission re-appointed Dr. Dae Yeon Moon as Executive Secretary for another four year term. Some members were apprehensive given his current performance, but agreed to his re-appointment with the addition of a number of specific requests and priorities. The terms of the Chairs of the SC (Joji Morishita- Japan), TCC (Robert Day – Canada) and the Commission (Kenji Kagawa – Japan) will all expire next year – so the Commission has requested that the Secretariat conduct a review of the practices of other RFMOs in appointing new Chairs.

Next meetings

The next meeting of the Scientific Committee will be held in Korea - date and time to be determined, but likely sometime in the spring of 2019. The TCC, FAC, and Commission meeting will continue to be held in conjunction in Japan, from July 11-18, 2019.

Attachment 3 -- Inseason Management Report

Catch during 2018 is through September 22, 2018 and is compared to catch during 2017 through September 23, 2017. All catch amounts are in metric tons. Additional information from daily catch reports and information bulletins are available at: <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-catch-landings>

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

Bering Sea Pollock

The 2018 Bering Sea pollock TAC is 1,364,341 mt compared to 1,345,000 mt in 2017. NMFS reallocated Aleutian Islands CDQ (1,900 mt), Aleut Corporation (12,200 mt), and incidental catch allowance (2,500 mt) pollock TAC to the CDQ and non-CDQ Bering Sea TACs. As of September 27, 2018, the mothership and CDQ sectors are done fishing, and the catcher/processor (C/P) and inshore sectors are almost done.

Bering Sea	2018 annual allocation	2018 annual catch	Percent taken
Inshore	597,359	595,504	99.7%
C/P	477,887	472,777	98.9%
Mothership	119,473	119,402	99.9%
CDQ	138,334	138,271	100.0%
ICA	45,387	37,304	82.2%
Total	1,378,440	1,363,258	98.9%

Salmon in the Bering Sea Pollock Fisheries

Both PSC and rates are lower in 2018 relative to 2017.

Species	Chinook				Non-Chinook			
Year	2018		2017		2018		2017	
Amount	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹
CDQ	1,275	0.92%	2,504	1.84%	26,353	19.06%	87,296	64.03%
Non-CDQ	11,989	1.01%	27,240	2.33%	261,307	22.00%	380,154	32.55%
Total	13,264	1.00%	29,744	2.28%	287,660	21.69%	467,450	35.84%

¹Rate is number of salmon per metric tons of pollock.

Aleutian Islands Pollock

NMFS approved five catcher vessels (CV) and one shoreside processor to participate in the Aleut Corporation's allocation of pollock in the Aleutian Islands. Some directed fishing of the current 2,500 mt allocation has occurred.

Aleutian Islands (AI) Pacific cod

In 2018, directed fishing in the AI and Western AI is open for sectors that are open. In 2017, directed fishing in the AI remained open all year for sectors open for directed fishing. For the Western AI limit, directed fishing closed July 29, 2017.

	2018		2017	
	# Vessels	MT	# Vessels	MT
All targets	64	10,759	53	10,088
Pacific cod target	26	7,851	11	6,515
TAC		14,016		14,016
% Taken		77%		72%

BSAI Pacific cod by Sector

BSAI Sector	2018				2017			
	Annual allocation ¹	Catch Sept 22	Closed	# of vessels Sept 22	Annual allocation ¹	Catch Sept 23	Closed	# of vessels Sept 23
CDQ	21,810	17,068	n/a	97	25,612	19,508	n/a	95
Hook-and-line C/P	88,324	63,340	n/a	25	107,589	78,565	n/a	28
Pot C/P	2,720	2,799	Sep 20	5	4,999	2,478	n/a	4
Pot CV >= 60 ft	15,235	10,829	n/a	32	13,889	9,957	n/a	31
Hook-and-line/Pot CVs < 60 ft	6,290	6,190	n/a	25	9,271	6,867	n/a	22
Jig	248	56	n/a	<3	13	13	n/a	<3
Trawl CV	40,227	37,781	n/a	105	44,163	41,216	Nov 1	102
AFA C/P	4,186	4,024	n/a	16	4,712	3519	Nov 1	16
Amendment 80 C/P	24,391	20,263	n/a	19	28,647	18167	n/a	19
Total	203,431	162,350		324	238,895	180,290		317

¹ Includes current 2018 and final 2017 reallocations between sectors.

Pacific cod target - Less than 60 ft hook-and-line and pot CVs

The 2018 annual allocation is 3,627 mt compared to 4,259 mt in 2017. NMFS reallocated 2,300 mt from the jig and 363 mt from the hook-and-line CV >= 60 ft sectors to the less than 60 ft hook-and-line/pot CV sector for a total 2018 allocation of 6,290 mt. After the federal closure January 23, 2018, hook-and-line CVs continued directed fishing for Pacific cod inside 3 miles and reported an additional 759 mt of Pacific cod catch to this sector.

BSAI Flatfish (includes CDQ)

The 2018 flatfish total catch is slightly higher relative to 2017. Alaska plaice has the highest increase in catch followed by yellowfin sole, other flatfish, and flathead sole.

Species	2018			2017		
	Catch	TAC	% Taken	Catch	TAC	% Taken
Alaska plaice	21,689	16,100	135%	14,441	13,000	111%
Arrowtooth flounder	5,048	13,621	37%	5,566	14,000	40%
Flathead sole	9,633	14,500	66%	8,275	14,500	57%
Greenland turbot	1,814	5,294	34%	2,712	4,500	60%
Kamchatka flounder	2,877	5,000	58%	4,172	5,000	83%
Other flatfish	5,905	4,000	148%	4,061	2,500	162%
Rock sole	27,892	47,100	59%	33,971	47,100	72%
Yellowfin sole	106,858	154,000	69%	104,881	154,000	68%
Total	181,716	258,677	70%	178,079	253,819	70%

BSAI Atka mackerel and Pacific ocean perch (includes CDQ)

The 2018 total catch is similar relative to 2017. Atka mackerel is higher and Pacific ocean perch is slightly lower.

Species	2018			2017		
	Catch	TAC	% Taken	Catch	TAC	% Taken
Atka mackerel	56,046	71,000	79%	50,581	65,000	78%
Pacific ocean perch	26,872	37,361	72%	26,341	34,900	75%

Prohibited Retention

NMFS prohibited retention of non-CDQ sablefish by vessels using trawl gear in the Bering Sea subarea April 5, 2018. NMFS prohibited retention of "other flatfish" in the Bering Sea subarea September 13, 2018, and "other rockfish" in the Aleutian Islands subarea September 27, 2018.

Gulf of Alaska**IFQ Halibut and Sablefish season**

The IFQ/CDQ halibut and sablefish fisheries opened March 24, 2018 until noon, A.l.t., November 7, 2018.

Pot gear for IFQ sablefish fishery in the GOA

Currently for 2018, 27 vessels have registered for 12,529 pot tags. Twenty-one CVs have reported 845 mt of sablefish for 2018 relative to 18 CVs reporting 650 mt of sablefish in 2017. Also, 11 CVs have reported 29 mt of retained halibut in 2018 relative to 12 CVs reporting 16 mt of retained halibut in 2017.

Pacific cod - Western GOA

In 2018, the hook-and-line C/P and the jig sectors reached their annual allocations. The hook-and-line CV and trawl C/P sectors remained closed.

Sector	2018				2017			
	Annual allocation	Catch Sept 22	Closed	# of vessels Sept 22	Annual allocation	Catch Sept 23	Closed	# of vessels Sept 23
Hook-and-line C/P	1,103	1,071	Sept 21	3	4,904	3,498	n/a	7
Hook-and-line CV	78	48	Jan 1	96	347	100	n/a	101
Jig	85	98	n/a	10	635	49	n/a	5
Pot CV/CP	2,117	1,326	n/a	16	9,412	5,160	n/a	35
Trawl CV	2,140	1,364	n/a	29	9,511	7,493	n/a	35
Trawl C/P	134	56	Jan 20	6	594	68	n/a	7
Total	5,657	3,963		160	25,404	16,368		190

Pacific cod - Central GOA

In 2018, hook-and-line C/P, hook-and-line CVs ≥ 50 ft, and trawl C/P sectors reached their annual allocations. The jig, trawl CV, and trawl C/P sectors remained closed.

Sector	2018				2017			
	Annual allocation	Catch Sept 22	Closed	# of vessels Sept 22	Annual allocation	Catch Sept 23	Closed	# of vessels Sept 23
Hook-and-line C/P	308	266	n/a	4	1,674	1,226	n/a	8
Hook-and-line CV <50 ft	880	555	n/a	134	4,790	1,862	n/a	156
Hook-and-line CV ≥ 50 ft	404	414	Sept 1	105	2,200	505	n/a	130
Jig	61	<1	n/a	3	331	18	n/a	23
Pot CV/CP	1,676	1,161	n/a	15	10,621	6,638	n/a	63
Trawl CV	2,275	998	Sept 1	49	10,879	4,465	n/a	49
Trawl CV RP	232	31	n/a	22	1,262	15	n/a	20
Trawl C/P	253	522	Jan 20	6	1,377	598	Jan 20	6
Total	6,089	3,947		338	33,135	15,327		455

In 2017, NMFS reallocated of 1,500 mt from trawl CVs to pot CV/CP.

Pollock

The C season allocations were reached. The D season opened October 1, 2018.

2018 Seasons	610	620	630	640
C season allocation	13,762	8,329	16,554	6,833 (annual)
C season catch	14,257	8,846	15,830	4,125 (annual)
C season closure	September 3	September 1	October 1	n/a
D season allocation	13,777	9,388	13,365	n/a
D season catch	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
D season closure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Salmon PSC Limits in the GOA

In 2018, Chinook salmon PSC is 5,373 salmon lower and the percent of Chinook per metric tons of groundfish is 2.23% percent lower relative to 2017 for fisheries with PSC limits.

Chinook Salmon	2018 Limit	2018 PSC (Rate ²)	2017 PSC (Rate ²)
Total	n/a	9,186 (5.43%)	14,559 (7.66%)
Western GOA pollock	6,684	1,361 (7.87%)	2,895 (11.99%)
Central GOA pollock	18,316	6,528 (6.72%)	10,431 10.76%)
Western/Central trawl CV ¹	3,060	1,095 (6.43%)	508 (7.07%)
Central Rockfish Program CV	1,200	153 (1.38%)	34 (0.12%)
Western/Central trawl CP ¹	4,080	49 (0.19%)	691 (2.02%)

¹Includes incentive buffers: Western/Central trawl CV (360 Chinook), and Western/Central trawl CP (480 Chinook).

Non-Chinook Salmon	2018 PSC (Rate ²)	2017 PSC (Rate ²)
GOA Total	3,657 (2.40%)	3,778 (2.12%)

²Rate is number of salmon per metric tons of groundfish.

Halibut Mortality Data

In 2018, relative to 2017, the total halibut mortality is 176 mt lower. The BSAI halibut mortality is 90 mt higher, and the GOA is 266 mt lower. Most of the BSAI increase was in the yellowfin sole target. In the GOA most of the decrease was in the trawl and hook-and-line Pacific cod targets and trawl arrowtooth flounder target.

Area, Gear, and Sector	2018			2017		
	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate
BSAI Total	1,728	1,758,222	0.10%	1,638	1,799,912	0.09%
Amendment 80	1,085	259,778	0.42%	916	242,529	0.38%
BSAI trawl limited access	452	1,275,194	0.04%	463	1,265,351	0.04%
Hook-and-line CP	91	84,388	0.11%	147	108,691	0.14%
Hook-and-line CV	4	892	0.45%	1	78	1.28%
CDQ	96	137,970	0.07%	111	183,263	0.06%
GOA Total	854	178,920	0.48%	1,120	201,515	0.56%
Trawl, Deep-water	623	28,542	2.18%	747	35,208	2.12%
Trawl, Shallow-water	154	125,252	0.12%	184	139,149	0.13%
Trawl Rockfish Program	38	22,314	0.17%	63	17,624	0.36%
Hook-and-line CP	10	1,669	0.60%	52	5,732	0.91%
Hook-and-line CV	29	1,143	2.54%	74	3,802	1.95%
BSAI/GOA Total	2,582	1,934,142	0.13%	2,758	2,001,427	0.14%