



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

October 4, 2016

Agenda B-2: NMFS Management Report

Status of Actions Report online

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

Progress on Rulemaking

Highlights on progress since the June 2016 meeting include:

- [Proposed Rule](#) and [Final Rule](#) for Amendment 103 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish – Authorize reapportionment of salmon Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits in the GOA trawl fisheries.
Effective: October 12, 2016
- [Proposed Rule](#) and [Final Rule](#) for revisions to trawl catcher vessel observer coverage in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) (voluntary full coverage).
Effective: October 31, 2016
- [Proposed Rule](#) for revisions to tLandings reporting requirements.
Proposed Rule Comment Period Ended: August 31, 2016
- [Notice of Availability](#) and [Proposed Rule](#) for Amendment 113 to the FMP for BSAI groundfish – Aleutian Islands Pacific cod delivery requirements.
Notice of Availability Comment Period Ended: September 19, 2016
Proposed Rule Comment Period Ended: August 31, 2016
- [Notice of Availability](#) and [Proposed Rule](#) for Amendment 101 to the FMP for GOA groundfish – Authorize pot longline gear in the GOA sablefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) fishery.
Notice of Availability Comment Period Ends: October 7, 2016
Proposed Rule Comment Period Ended: September 19, 2016
- [Notice of Availability](#) and [Proposed Rule](#) for Amendment 47 to the FMP for BSAI King and Tanner Crab – Establish a custom processing exemption for Tanner crab.
Notice of Availability Comment Period Ends: November 14, 2016
Proposed Rule Comment Period Ends: October 24, 2016



- [Notice of Intent](#) to prepare an EIS for the GOA trawl bycatch management program; reopening of public comment period.
Notice of Intent Comment Period Ended: September 26, 2016
- [Notice](#) of a 1.60 percent cost recovery fee percentage for the BSAI Crab Rationalization Program for the 2016/2017 crab fishing year.
Effective: July 14, 2016.

See Attachment 1 for additional detail.

Changes from Proposed to Final Rule – Consultation with the Council

Consistent with past practice and our requirements under section 304(b)(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, we are consulting with the Council before publishing final rules that may make revisions to the proposed regulations. We note that these rules are still under review, and we will consult with the Council if there are substantive changes.

NMFS made minor revisions to the final rule for voluntary full coverage for the BSAI trawl catcher vessels. The final rule includes a deadline of October 15 each year. Because the final rule will not be effective before October 15, 2016, we established the 2016 deadline as 15 days after the effective date of the final rule, which will be November 15, 2016. NMFS also corrected a minor error in regulatory text in the proposed rule that would have incorrectly revised current regulations. NMFS is preparing instructions for how to submit a request for full observer coverage through the Observer Declare and Deploy System. These instructions will be posted to the Alaska Region Website and distributed to industry representatives by email the week of October 24, 2016.

NMFS anticipates publishing the final rules for revisions to tLandings reporting requirements, Amendment 113 (AI Pacific cod delivery requirements), and GOA Amendment 101 (Pot gear for sablefish) between the October 2016 and December 2016 Council meetings.

NMFS anticipates making a change in the tLandings final rule to clarify that this action applies only to groundfish fisheries, and other non-substantive administrative changes to ensure proper cross references and citations in the regulatory text.

NMFS anticipates making minor changes in the final rule implementing Amendment 113 to clarify the deadline for the City of Adak and Atka to notify NMFS of an intent to process Aleutian Islands Pacific cod for 2016. NMFS also anticipates clarifying who must submit the notice on behalf of the City of Adak and City of Atka, and clarifying that NMFS will use catch occurring on or before February 28 to determine whether a minimum of 1,000 mt of Pacific cod has been delivered to Aleutian Islands Shoreplants. These changes address minor administrative issues, or provide clarifications to be consistent with the Council's intent.

NMFS anticipates making one minor change in the Amendment 101 final rule to clarify requirements for removing longline pot gear from the fishing grounds.

Pribilof Islands Blue King Crab Overfishing Letter

On September 29, 2016, NMFS notified the Council that Pribilof Islands blue king crab experienced overfishing in 2016. Total catch of Pribilof Islands blue king crab in the crab fishing year, from July 2015 to June 2016, was 1.18 metric tonnes (mt), exceeding the overfishing level (OFL) of 1.16 mt. Combined bycatch from the BSAI Tanner crab fishery, non-pelagic trawl groundfish fisheries, and hook-and-line Pacific cod fisheries resulted in total catch of Pribilof Islands blue king crab exceeding the OFL. Bycatch has been well below the OFL and acceptable biological catch (ABC) in recent years. Most bycatch occurs in the Bering Sea groundfish fisheries. Bycatch of Pribilof Islands blue king crab increased during the 2015/2016 crab fishing year in the non-pelagic trawl and hook-and-line Pacific cod fisheries.

To prevent overfishing, NMFS will monitor Pribilof Islands blue king crab bycatch in the groundfish fisheries inseason. If Pribilof Islands blue king crab bycatch approaches the Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) during a crab fishing year, we will use the inseason management authority at 50 CFR 679.25 to publish a notification in the *Federal Register* specifying inseason adjustments to prevent overfishing of Pribilof Islands blue king crab. With this flexible approach, we will be able to make precise area closures inseason that apply to vessels fishing for Bering Sea groundfish with bottom contact gear when necessary to prevent overfishing.

BSAI Chinook Salmon PSC Limit

On September 28, 2016, NMFS received a letter from the State of Alaska that provided a Chinook salmon abundance of 270,800 Chinook salmon, using the 3-System Index for western Alaska based on the post-season in-river Chinook salmon run size for the Kuskokwim, Unalakleet, and Upper Yukon aggregate stock grouping. This abundance index is above the 250,000 Chinook salmon threshold established under Amendment 110 to the BSAI groundfish FMP. Therefore, the Chinook salmon PSC limits established under Amendment 91, and currently in place, will remain in place for the 2017 Bering Sea pollock fishery.

Update on the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) Meeting

The NPFC held its 1st Annual Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) meeting, its 1st Annual Finance and Administration Committee Meeting, and its 2nd Annual Commission meeting in Tokyo, Japan from August 22 through August 26. The Commission held its 1st Annual Scientific Committee (SC) meeting earlier in the year. The U.S. is not a party to the Commission pending the passage of enabling legislation. However, the U.S. participated as an observer and engaged in the development of administrative issues and conservation and management measures.

The Commission adopted a range of administrative procedures and several conservation and management measures. Many of the Conservation and Management Measures adopted were based on similar measures in other Regional Fishery Management Organizations, or made permanent Interim measures that were in place prior to the establishment of the Commission.

The key outcomes from the meeting were:

- Adoption of a budget, establishing procedures related to the payment of staff, and other technical financial matters.
- Establishing Terms of Reference for the TCC and SC consistent with the Convention text.
- Clarifications on the types of catch data that should be submitted by Commission Members.
- Adoption of Interim and Voluntary measures as new conservation and management measures that establish limits on the amount of deep-sea corals that may be incidentally harvested before vessels are required to move location.
- Adoption of a Vessel Registry requirement for Commission Members.
- Adoption of a Conservation and Management Measure that seeks to limit the fishing effort for Pacific saury in Convention waters.
- Adoption of conservation and management measures to track transshipment of catch.
- Adoption of procedures to monitor and limit the catch of vessels without nationality.
- Adoption of a conservation and management measure to limit catch by vessels engaged in Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing including tracking and notification procedures.
- Adoption of a Conservation and Management Measure that seeks to limit effort in the chub mackerel fishery, which has been increasing rapidly in Convention waters in recent years.

The Commission also discussed issues related to high seas boarding and inspection, a proposal by Ukraine to conduct fishing in Convention waters, and procedures to allow nations to establish cooperating non-contracting party status.

The final report is not yet available but should be posted on the NPFC website by October 10, 2016. A temporary website for the Commission is available at <http://npfc.r-cms.jp/>.

Update on the U.S. – Russia Intergovernmental Consultative Committee (ICC) on Fisheries

Russia graciously hosted the 27th session of the ICC in Vladivostok, Russia on September 27 and 28, 2016. Several members from the Council family attended the meeting. Russell Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries, NOAA served as the head of the U.S. Delegation.

The U.S. and Russia provide updates on pollock, crab, and marine mammal stock status, enforcement operations, our TAC-setting process, and ongoing research initiatives. The U.S. noted recent challenges in obtaining the necessary permitting to conduct fishery and marine mammal research in Russian waters in recent years, and the U.S. and Russia pledged to work together to improve coordination. The ICC expressed its support for U.S./Russian cooperative research in the Chukchi Sea.

The ICC had extended discussion about the potential implications of U.S. regulations to implement the Seafood Import Monitoring Program to combat IUU, and U.S. regulations to implement provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) related to the import of fishery products from fisheries with impacts on marine mammals. The IUU measures are anticipated to be in effect later this year, but the MMPA provisions will not apply to foreign

fishery imports until 2022. Russia expressed concern about the potential trade implications of both regulations.

The U.S. will host, though not as well, next year's meeting. A draft the protocol (report) for the meeting is available under the B2 Agenda Item.

Update on Alaska Groundfish and Halibut Seabird Working Group

The workgroup has met twice to finalize their Terms of Reference and explore topics for discussion. Topics thus far include electronic monitoring to report seabird bycatch; best practices for estimating and reporting bycatch of rare species or events (such as seabird bycatch); and potential ESA listings of additional seabird species (none imminent at this time).

Approval of AIS, Inc. as Full Coverage Provider

In March 2016, AIS, Inc. (AIS) submitted an application to NMFS to be permitted as a full coverage observer provider. AIS is the single observer provider who contracts with NMFS to provide observers in the North Pacific Observer Program's partial observer coverage category. At its June 2016 meeting, the Council requested that "NMFS postpone action on AIS's application to be a full coverage observer provider until getting input from the Council after they have received the October white paper on LL2 observer issues that will include looking at the impacts of an observer provider being in the partial and full coverage categories in terms of 1) confidential fishery information; 2) reimbursements by the Federal government; and 3) other unfair competitive advantages."

As described in more detail in the permit approval letter to AIS that is posted with the Council's agenda, NMFS carefully considered the Council's request. However, on August 31, 2016, NMFS approved AIS's application to be a full coverage observer provider. NMFS determined that AIS's application was complete and met all of the regulatory requirements for a full coverage observer provider permit. In addition, NMFS reviewed information asserting that AIS would have an unfair competitive advantage over other full coverage observer providers. While NMFS acknowledged that AIS may have a competitive advantage over other full coverage providers due to its ability to provide observers the experience needed for a fixed-gear LL2 endorsement through deployments in the partial observer coverage category, neither this situation nor any of the other circumstances identified by the other full coverage providers constituted an unfair competitive advantage. In addition, NMFS determined that the request to delay consideration of AIS's application until the analysis requested by the Council could be completed would have created a delay in review of AIS's permit application well beyond October 2016. Such a delay would have denied AIS timely review of an application it submitted based on a process described in regulation that did not require such an analysis or Council review.

Global Seas Letter

NMFS received inquiry on the ability of a trawl catcher vessel to operate as a catcher/processor in the BSAI Pacific cod fishery if it has an LLP with a catcher/processor endorsement. The BSAI Catcher Processor Capacity Reduction Program, found in section 219 of the Consolidated

Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108-447), defines the vessels that can participate in the catcher/processor sector allocations for several species of BSAI non-pollock groundfish, including BSAI Pacific cod.

However, neither the Capacity Reduction Program nor Federal regulations pertaining to the harvesting and processing of Pacific cod in the BSAI appear to prohibit vessels operating in catcher vessel sectors from processing Pacific cod harvested with trawl gear in the BSAI if they are currently federally permitted to do so. If a vessel is not defined as a catcher/processor vessel that can participate in the catcher/processor sector allocations for BSAI Pacific cod, then any Pacific cod harvested by that vessel with trawl gear in the BSAI will accrue to the BSAI Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel allocation (50 CFR 679.20(a)(7)(ii)(A)(9)), regardless of whether that Pacific cod is processed on board the vessel or delivered to a shoreside processor or mothership. We note that vessels that operate as a catcher/processor must comply with all observer program, monitoring, and recordkeeping and reporting requirements applicable to a catcher/processor operating in the BSAI. This includes having two full-time observers on board the vessel as required under 50 CFR 679.51(a)(2)(vi)(C).

Currently, there are five LLPs with catcher/processor endorsements, and four are assigned to catcher vessels participating in the BSAI groundfish fisheries (2015 and 2016). These four catcher vessels have delivered groundfish to motherships and shoreside processors, and have not processed catch onboard. The average catch of these four vessels in the BSAI in 2015 and 2016 was approximately 20,000 mt.

Litigation update

On September 21, 2016, NMFS received an adverse ruling from the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in *United Cook Inlet Drift Association and Cook Inlet Fishermen's Fund v. Pritzke et al.*. (See B2 agenda for supplemental information). The Court concluded that Amendment 12 to the Salmon FMP was contrary to law to the extent that it removed Cook Inlet from the Salmon FMP. The Court held that the Council and NMFS cannot exempt a fishery under its authority that required conservation and management from an FMP because the agency is content with State management. GCAK will provide the Council with an update on legal issues related to this litigation.

Staff Changes

We are very pleased to announce that Skip Shoemaker has joined the Sustainable Fisheries Division as a fisheries management specialist. Skip comes to us with a diverse background including an extensive career in the U.S. Army where he specialized in military intelligence operations, many years as a fisheries observer on vessels off Alaska and the west coast, and most recently as a contractor with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission providing support for the North Pacific Observer Program in Seattle. Skip holds a Bachelor's of Science in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University. He will be working in the Catch Accounting and Data Quality branch in SF (Jennifer Mondragon's branch) on our Catch Monitoring and Control Plan, and at-sea scale inspection programs. Skip will also provide support to the eLandings team.

Jane Sullivan has also joined the Sustainable Fisheries Division as a 2016 Alaska Sea Grant fellow. Jane received her M.S. in Fisheries Biology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2016 and her thesis topic was “Environmental, ecological, and fishery effects on growth and size-at-age of Pacific Halibut.” Jane’s fellowship is for 1 year and she will be working with staff in the Catch Accounting and Data Quality branch and Alaska Fisheries Science Center on analytical project related to observer deployment and the observer program annual report.

With Steve Davis’ retirement in August, the Alaska Region incorporated remaining Analytical Team staff into other divisions within the Region. We are very happy to have Steve Lewis and Scott Miller join the Sustainable Fisheries Division.

Steve Lewis started working for the Alaska Region in 1998. Steve has extensive expertise with GIS and spatial analysis. Steve has contributed to a variety of Council projects over the years. In particular, he developed and continues to maintain the Catch-in-Areas database, which is an essential tool that enables spatial analysis of fisheries catch. Steve has also supports the Shorezone program, analysis for the Habitat Division, and he coordinates GIS activities for the Alaska Region.

Scott Miller started working for the Alaska Region as an economist in January 2003. Scott has prepared and contributed to many Council analyses over the years, including salmon bycatch, essential fish habitat, Steller sea lion protection measures, grenadiers, and crab management measures. In addition, Scott has prepared economic analyses for the Protected Resources and Habitat Divisions and is a member of the Council’s scallop plan team. Scott recently was selected for a NOAA rotational assignment with the Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) in Honolulu, Hawaii. In this assignment, Scott will serve as a fishery policy analyst with PIRO’s International Program Office. He will provide analytical support in matters related to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. Scott’s rotational assignment starts this week and will end in late March 2017. When Scott returns to Alaska next spring he will continue to work on economic analyses for the Alaska Region and the Council.

We had had two staff from the Sustainable Fisheries Division retire recently.

Peggy Murphy retired from Federal service on July 15, 2016. Peggy began working in Sustainable Fisheries in 2006. During her time with NMFS, Peggy contributed to a number of FMP and regulatory amendments for revisions to the halibut and sablefish IFQ program. Peggy also served as the NMFS staff liaison to the IPHC and as a point of contact for the halibut subsistence program regulations. Peggy started her fisheries career in Alaska working for the Auke Bay Laboratory as part of her graduate program. She moved on to ADFG, where she focused on crab stock assessment and management activities for a number of years, including serving as chairman for the Council’s Crab Plan Team. Peggy also served as the AKFIN Program Manager in addition to working with the Alaska Marine Conservation Council before joining NMFS. We thank Peggy for her years of service to Alaska fisheries and we wish her all the best in her retirement. Peggy and her husband relocated to Washington state in September 2016.

Jeff Hartman retired from Federal service on September 30, 2016. Jeff began working in Sustainable Fisheries in 2002 after a twenty-five year career with the ADFG. In his tenure with ADFG, Jeff worked in the Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement, and Development Division from 1977 through 1999 and in the Commercial Fisheries Division from 1999 through 2002. Jeff joined the Alaska Region Sustainable Fisheries Division in 2002. During his career with Sustainable Fisheries, Jeff was instrumental in implementing many of the Council's FMP amendments, economic data collections, and emergency rules. Jeff also administered the review, development, and issuance of Exempted Fishing Permits, coordinated all of the Alaska Fishery Science Center's (AFSC) Scientific Research Permits, and collaborated with the AFSC to meet the Alaska Region's annual salmon bycatch reporting requirements. Jeff possesses a supreme work ethic and gave his best for the public and his colleagues. Jeff willingly took on any projects assigned to him and was always cheerful and enthusiastic. We wish Jeff the best in retirement and will miss him in Sustainable Fisheries.

Lastly, we share the sad news that Alan Kinsolving passed away in April 2016 after a valiant battle with cancer. Alan started working with the Sustainable Fisheries Division in 1997 to help us implement the first requirements for at-sea scales on trawl catcher/processors. This was a new program for the Alaska Region and the first time that motion-compensated scales had been required in a commercial fishery anywhere in the world. NMFS had implemented the regulations to establish the process for testing and approving scales to weigh catch at sea. We needed the right person to work with the industry and scale manufacturers to conduct the scale tests onboard the vessels and to make the hard decisions about whether a scale would be approved. Alan was that person. He had the knowledge, skills, and personality to take on this new type of work for NMFS. He conveyed the authority needed to represent NMFS, but also the flexibility and common sense to work with the unique circumstances that exist on different vessels.

Alan continued to work with the scale inspection program as NMFS staff until 2013 and later worked with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission as a contractor. He mentored other staff and helped us maintain and grow this program to encompass all of the trawl catcher/processors in the BSAI and the Rockfish Program and most of the freezer longline fleet. Alan was a valued member of our staff and he brought a great sense of humor, creativity, and an enthusiastic "get-it-done" attitude to federal service. We were fortunate to work with him and he is deeply missed.

There will be a gathering to share stories and celebrate Alan starting at 5:30pm on October 5, 2016, at the 49th State Brewing (where Snow Goose used to be).

Inseason Management Report (see Attachment 2)

**Attachment 1
Status of Actions**

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								
Amendment 47 (KTC) Establish custom processing exemption for Tanner crab fisheries Decision Date: December 14, 2016	Cunningham Murphy Meyer	June 2016	PR: 6/28/16	PR: 7/5/16	PR: 9/6/16	Sep 13, 2016 81 FR 62850 EOC: 11/14/16	Sep 23, 2016 81 FR 65615 EOC: 10/24/16	
Amendment 101 (GOA) Allow pot longline gear in GOA sablefish IFQ Fishery Decision Date: November 4, 2016	Cunningham Murphy Meyer	April 2015	PR: 5/25/16	PR: 6/2/16	PR: 8/2/16	Aug 8, 2016 81 FR 52394 EOC: 10/7/16	Aug 19, 2016 81 FR 55408 EOC: 9/19/16	
Amendment 103 (GOA) Reapportionment of Chinook salmon PSC limits in GOA trawl fisheries Approved: August 23, 2016	Cunningham Hartman Schane	December 2015	PR: 4/1/16 FR: 8/4/16	PR: 4/5/16 FR: 8/5/16	PR: 5/20/16 FR: 8/19/16	May 26, 2016 81 FR 33456 EOC: 7/25/16	Jun 16, 2016 81 FR 39237 EOC: 7/18/16	Sep 12, 2016 81 FR 39237 Effective: 10/12/16
Amendment 113 (BSAI) Aleutian Islands Pacific cod shoreplant delivery requirements Decision Date: October 19, 2016	McCracken Scheurer Smoker	October 2015	PR: 3/24/16 FR: 9/23/16	PR: 4/4/16 FR: 9/26/16	PR: 7/13/16	Jul 19, 2016 81 FR 46883 EOC: 9/19/16	Aug 1, 2016 81 FR 50444 EOC: 8/31/16	
Regulatory Amendments								
Voluntary full observer coverage for BSAI trawl vessels	Cunningham Miller Meyer	February 2016	PR: 4/26/16 FR: 8/12/16	PR: 4/26/16 FR: 8/12/16	PR: 6/16/16 FR: 9/12/16	N/A	Jul 7, 2016 81 FR 44251 EOC: 08/08/16	Sep 30, 2016 81 FR 67133 Effective: 10/31/16
Revisions to tLandings requirements	Kent Robinson Meyer	-- NMFS -- February 2016	PR: 5/25/16 FR: 9/8/16	PR: 5/26/16 FR: 9/9/16	PR: 07/15/16 FR: 9/22/16	N/A	Aug 1, 2016 81 FR 50436 EOC: 08/31/16	

Changes since June 2016 are noted in **Bold Red Text**

**Attachment 2
Inseason Management Report**

Catch during 2016 is through September 24, 2016 and is compared to catch during 2015 through September 26, 2015. 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

NMFS reallocated 1,900 mt of CDQ and 13,000 mt of Aleut Corporation pollock TAC from the Aleutian Islands to the CDQ and non-CDQ Bering Sea TACs. The B season opened at noon, A.l.t., June 10, 2016 and closes by regulations at noon, A.l.t., November 1, 2016.

Bering Sea	2016 annual allocation	2016 catch	Percent taken
Inshore	585,379	580,135	99%
C/P	468,304	457,859	98%
Mothership	117,076	114,184	98%
CDQ	135,900	134,876	99%
Total	1,306,659	1,287,055	98%

Salmon in the Bering Sea Pollock Fisheries

Species	Chinook				Non-Chinook			
	2016		2015		2016		2015	
Amount	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹
CDQ	1,380	1.02	1,031	0.77	16,386	12.06%	4,990	3.73
Non-CDQ	19,292	1.66	16,461	1.45	319,211	27.41%	229,834	20.19
Total	20,672	1.59	17,492	1.37	335,597	25.80%	234,824	18.46

¹Rate is number of salmon per metric tons of groundfish (1,300,568 mt in 2016, 1,272,179 mt in 2015)

Aleutian Islands Pacific cod

NMFS closed directed fishing for the non-CDQ allocation of Pacific cod on March 22, 2016 and current total catch is at 94 percent of the non-CDQ TAC.

BSAI Pacific cod by Sector

BSAI Sector	2016				2015			
	Annual Allocation ¹	Catch Sept 24	B season closed	# of vessels Sept 24	Annual allocation ¹	Catch Sept 26	B season closed	# of vessels Sept 26
CDQ	26,913	23,292	n/a	38	26,688	21,087	n/a	40
Hook-and-line C/P	108,983	86,896	n/a	29	115,371	83,013	n/a	29
Pot C/P	4,357	3,049	n/a	4	6,829	3,444	n/a	4
Pot CV >= 60 ft	17,598	9,451	n/a	17	13,641	9,736	n/a	20
Hook-and-line/Pot CVs < 60 ft	8,674	7,314	n/a	20	12,380	7,365	n/a	21
Jig	94	47	n/a	<3	100	25	n/a	3
Trawl CV	48,638	44,355	n/a	101	37,854	37,014	n/a	99
AFA C/P	4,666	3,633	n/a	16	3,823	3,415	n/a	16
Amendment 80 C/P	31,597	26,720	n/a	19	32,216	24,980	n/a	18
Total	251,519	204,757		246	248,902	190,079		250

¹Includes Pacific cod TAC reallocations, see <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/bsai-pcod-reallocation1995-2015.pdf>

BSAI Flatfish (includes CDQ)

Overall, a higher proportion of flatfish catch was harvested in 2016 relative to 2015.

Species	2016			2015		
	Catch	TAC	% Taken	Catch	TAC	% Taken
Alaska plaice	11,325	12,325	92%	12,472	15,725	79%
Arrowtooth flounder	9,105	13,398	68%	10,108	21,054	48%
Flathead sole ¹	8,392	16,470	51%	9,881	17,187	57%
Greenland turbot	2,065	2,728	76%	2,173	2,618	83%
Kamchatka flounder	4,442	4,500	99%	4,766	5,525	86%
Other flatfish	2,772	2,862	97%	2,345	3,077	76%
Rock sole ¹	44,187	55,180	80%	44,475	65,315	68%
Yellowfin sole ¹	105,555	150,450	70%	96,500	159,998	60%
Total	187,842	257,913	73%	182,720	290,499	63%

¹Includes Flatfish Exchanges, https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/harvest-specifications/field_harvest_spec_year/2016-2017-751

BSAI Atka mackerel and Pacific ocean perch (includes CDQ)

Atka mackerel and Pacific ocean perch total catch is slightly higher in 2016 relative to 2015.

Species	2016			2015		
	Catch	TAC	% Taken	Catch	TAC	% Taken
Atka mackerel	43,357	55,000	79%	42,769	54,500	78%
Pacific ocean perch	24,610	31,900	77%	24,402	32,021	76%

Gulf of Alaska

Pacific cod - Western GOA

Pacific cod catch in the Western GOA in 2016 is similar to 2016.

Sector	2016				2015			
	Annual allocation	Catch Sept 24	B season closed	# of vessels Sept 24	Annual allocation	Catch Sept 26	B season closed	# of vessels Sept 26
Hook-and-line C/P	5,417	3,052	n/a	6	5,176	2,865	n/a	8
Hook-and-line CV	383	112	n/a	26	366	252	n/a	87
Jig	992	52	n/a	7	948	55	n/a	6
Pot CV/CP	10,396	5,902	n/a	36	9,934	5,953	n/a	39
Trawl CV	10,506	7,318	n/a	25	10,039	7,076	n/a	25
Trawl C/P	656	88	n/a	2	627	212	n/a	6
Total	28,350	16,524		102	27,091	16,413		171

Pacific cod - Central GOA

Pacific cod catch in the Central GOA hook-and-line and trawl fisheries is lower in 2016 relative to 2016. Overall catch is substantially lower in 2015 compared to 2015.

Sector	2016				2015			
	Annual allocation	Catch Sept 24	B season closed	# of vessels Sept 24	Annual allocation	Catch Sept 26	B season closed	# of vessels Sept 26
Hook-and-line C/P	1,869	594	n/a	5	2,324	1,236	n/a	8
Hook-and-line CV <50 ft	4,347	2,065	n/a	87	6,648	4,176	n/a	166
Hook-and-line CV >=50 ft	1,756	746	n/a	123	3,054	980	n/a	149
Jig	570	266	n/a	53	460	353	n/a	40
Pot CV/CP	11,680	8,847	n/a	58	11,660	9,274	n/a	50
Trawl CV	13,816	6,503	n/a	50	15,181	11,125	n/a	56
Trawl C/P	1,537	488	n/a	2	1,911	1,459	n/a	6
Total	35,576	19,509		378	41,238	28,603		475

In 2016, pot CV/CP closed February 1 and reopened March 12, jig closed March 1 and reopened March 19. In 2016, NMFS reallocated of 1,700 mt from hook-and-line CVs to pot CV/CP (1,500 mt) and jig (200 mt).

Pollock

Catch in the Area 620 C-season fishery is low relative to 2015 due to the small size of pollock. In Areas 610 and 630, the C season TACs were taken.

2016 Seasons	610	620	630	640
C season allocation – August 25	29,284	18,485	23,065	9,348 (annual)
C season catch	26,116	1,340	20,839	n/a
C season closure	September 30	September 30	September 30	n/a
D season allocation – October 1	24,421	15,402	19,822	n/a
D season catch	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
D season closure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Annual catch	34,301	34,319	39,923	132

¹The 610 and 630 C season allocations include reallocations of unused 620 B season pollock TAC.

Salmon PSC Limits in the GOA

Chinook salmon PSC use is 5,004 salmon lower in 2016 relative to 2015.

Chinook Salmon	2016 Limit	2016 PSC (Rate ²)	2015 PSC (Rate ²)
Total	(Total Limits: 32,500)	7,611 (4.3)	12,615 (6.69)
Western GOA pollock	6,684	2,640 (7.71)	1,651 (11.28)
Central GOA pollock	18,316	4,252 (5.60)	6,704 (6.26)
Western/Central trawl CV	2,700	395 (1.28)	2,875 (1.09)
Central Rockfish Program CV	1,200	78 (.55)	744 (7.40)
Western/Central trawl CP ¹	4,080	246 (1.12)	641 (2.11)

¹The 2015 Western/Central trawl CP limit was 3,600 Chinook salmon. The 2016 limit, 4,080, includes the incentive buffer.

Non-Chinook Salmon	2016 PSC (Rate ²)	2015 PSC (Rate ²)
Total	1,881 (0.87%)	763 (0.33%)

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

BSAI and GOA Halibut Mortality Data

The total halibut mortality in the BSAI is 181 mt lower in 2016 relative to 2015, and total halibut mortality in the GOA is 126 mt higher relative to 2015. Bering Sea PSC data include results from halibut decksorting EFPs.

Area, Gear, and Sector	2016			2015		
	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate
BSAI Total	1,993	1,797,964	0.11%	2,174	1,742,886	0.12%
Amendment 80	1,149	260,999	0.44%	1,449	258,977	0.56%
BSAI trawl limited access	550	1,238,425	0.04%	425	1,195,744	0.04%
Non-trawl Pacific cod	151	111,418	0.14%	199	104,797	0.19%
Non-trawl Other	2	1,416	0.14%	3	1,872	0.16%
CDQ	141	185,706	0.08%	98	181,496	0.05%
GOA Total	1,367	200,170	0.68%	1,241	215,003	0.58%
Trawl – non Rockfish	1,086	155,274	0.70%	994	169,607	0.59%
Trawl –Rockfish	66	25,146	0.26%	82	22,142	0.37%
Hook-and-line CP	54	4,937	1.09%	49	5,486	0.89%
Hook-and-line CV	161	14,813	1.09%	116	17,768	0.65%

Halibut PSC Limit Closures in the GOA

NMFS closed directed fishing for groundfish for hook-and-line catcher vessels in the GOA on March 11, 2016, because the annual halibut PSC limit of 129 mt had been exceeded.

NMFS closed directed fishing for deep-water species for trawl vessels in the GOA on March 16, 2016 because the 1st season halibut PSC limit for deep-water species of 85 mt had been reached. Directed fishing for deep-water species for trawl vessels reopened on April 1, 2016 when the 2nd season halibut PSC limit for deep-water species became available, and remained open until April 30, 2016 when the 2nd season halibut PSC limit was reached. The fishery reopened on May 15, 2016 and closed on May 20, 2016. Both species fisheries reopened on July 1, 2016. Trawl vessel deep-water species fisheries were closed from August 20, 2016 until October 1, 2016.

Gear	Sector	Fishery	PSC	PSC Limit	Opened	Closed
hook-and-line	CV	groundfish (not IFQ or demersal shelf rockfish)	141	129	1-Jan	11-Mar
trawl	all	deep-water species	92	85	20-Jan	16-Mar
trawl	all	deep-water species	391	341	1-Apr	30-Apr
trawl	all	deep-water/shallow water species (not Rockfish Program (RP) or pelagic pollock))	792	810	15-May	20-May
trawl	all	deep-water species (not RP)	157	159	1-July	20-August

Trawl PSC limits shown are the limit at the time of the closure. The trawl shallow-water species remains open since July 1, 2016.