

Final Report
of the
Mothership Fleet Cooperative
2002

Presented to the
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
January 22, 2003

Introduction

The year 2002 marked the third year in which the mothership sector (as defined in Section 208 (c) and (d) of the American Fisheries Act) managed its Bering Sea pollock allocation under the provisions of a cooperative agreement. All twenty of the vessels qualified to participate in the mothership sector are members of the “Mothership Fleet Cooperative” (MFC) and are bound by the terms of that cooperative’s membership agreement. Only eighteen of the twenty vessels belonging to the MFC participated in Alaska groundfish fisheries in 2002. The mothership sector is assigned 10% of the BSAI directed pollock quota as per Section 206 (b) of the American Fisheries Act (AFA).

In addition to the membership agreement mentioned above, the MFC is a signatory to the 2002 Intercooperative Agreement, the Cod Allocation Agreement, and the Salmon Bycatch Management Agreement. These contracts establish the global rules by which all of the cooperatives jointly manage pollock harvest limits and non-pollock groundfish sideboards, prohibited species sideboards, and salmon bycatch avoidance measures.

Reporting Requirements

This report is intended to fully disclose all information required and identified for inclusion in an annual report to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council pursuant to Section 210 (a)(1) A and B of the American Fisheries Act and C.F.R. 679.60 (American Fisheries Act Management Measures) Section (d).

Mothership Fleet Cooperative Shares

It is important to note that the AFA requires a “cooperative of the whole” rather than separate and distinct cooperatives oriented to each processor within the sector, as is the case in the inshore sector. The AFA also provides an exemption to the Sherman Anti-Trust Act for the three AFA-qualified mothership processors (EXCELLENCE, GOLDEN ALASKA, OCEAN PHOENIX), allowing them to participate as members of the cooperative if at least eighty percent of the eligible catcher vessels are members of the co-op. Despite this allowance, the three mothership processors are not currently members of the MFC.

Neither the language in the AFA nor the Mothership Fleet Cooperative Membership Agreement binds catcher vessels delivering to motherships to a particular processor within a fishing year or season.

Membership in the MFC consists of all 20 eligible catcher vessels. Each vessel has a cooperative share representing its percentage share of the directed pollock quota allocation by the AFA to

the mothership sector. Vessel names, owners, and their cooperative shares are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Mothership Fleet Cooperative Share Percentages

Co-op Member(s)	Vessel(s)	Cooperative Share
Alakanuk Beauty L.L.C.	American Beauty	6.000%
Chetna, Inc.	Pacific Challenger	4.446%
Fury Group, Inc.	Nordic Fury	6.177%
	Pacific Fury	5.889%
Great West Seafoods, Ltd.	Margaret Lyn	5.643%
Katahdin, Inc.	Misty Dawn	3.569%
King and Winge, Inc.	Vanguard	5.350%
Futura Fisheries, Inc.		
Kydaka Corporation	California Horizon	3.786%
Langesater Fisheries, Inc.	Oceanic	7.038%
Reiten Enterprises, Inc.		
Arruela Fisheries, Inc.		
MarGun Fisheries, Inc.	Mar-Gun	6.251%
Mark 1, Inc.	Mark 1	6.251%
Meddar Corporation	Aleutian Challenger	4.925%
Emmonak Leader L.L.P.	Ocean Leader	6.000%
Popado, Inc.	Papado II	2.953%
Burton C. Parker	Amber Dawn	5.225%
Supreme Alaska Seafoods, Inc.	Morning Star	3.601%
Traveler Partnership, Inc.	Traveler	4.272%
Vesteraalen L.L.C.	Vesteraalen	6.201%
Wa'atch, Inc.	Alyeska	2.272%
Western Dawn L.L.C.	Western Dawn	4.150%

TOTAL

100%

Extension of Mothership Fleet Cooperative Membership Agreement

In accordance with the initial term of the American Fisheries Act, the original MFC Membership Agreement required renewal after five years (2004). In 2002 the MFC Membership Agreement was amended to remove the five-year sunset. Under the amendment language, the MFC can be terminated if and when eighty percent of the MFC members vote in favor of terminating the agreement.

Transfer of Shares Between Catcher Vessels

The Mothership Fleet Cooperative Membership Agreement allows members of the coop to transfer cooperative shares among themselves. Transfers of quota made within a fleet of catchers delivering to a particular mothership (intra-fleet) must be reported to that mothership at the time of delivery. Transfers of allocations between vessels fishing in different mothership fleets (inter-fleet) must be reported to the monitoring agent within seven days prior to the transfer and, in any case, prior to the harvest of the transferred amount. Both intra- and inter-fleet transfers occurred in 2002.

Catch Monitoring

All in-season data used for individual vessel and fleet-wide catch monitoring and management within the mothership sector was obtained from the National Marine Fisheries Service Observer Program. The MFC has contracted with Sea State, Inc. to process the catch data provided by the observer program and to provide in-season management support.

Sea State regularly provides catch reports to each mothership fleet. These reports include cumulative fleet-wide and vessel-level catch data as well as a tow-by-tow summary. Fleet managers are able to reconcile the tow-by-tow catch information provided by Sea State against their own catch records to identify possible data errors and insure accurate catch accounting throughout the fishing season.

Catch and Bycatch of Groundfish and Prohibited Species

The harvest and bycatch of non-pollock and prohibited species (PSC) in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska is limited by groundfish and PSC sideboards as recommended by the Council and implemented through regulation. Pollock harvest by AFA catcher vessels is limited in the Gulf of Alaska as well. The intent of the sideboards is to limit the catch and bycatch of these species by AFA vessels to “traditional harvest levels”. The Mothership Fleet Cooperative Membership Agreement authorized the cooperative board to allocate sideboard amounts available for directed harvest to each catcher vessel in the cooperative in amounts prorated to each boat’s catch history.

The Mothership Fleet Cooperative Membership Agreement provides that PSC sideboard apportionments may be administered as aggregate caps within the mothership sector. Where necessary and appropriate, the cooperative board is authorized to allocate PSC apportionments to individual vessels. The board is further authorized to order a vessel to stop fishing if that vessel exceeds an assigned apportionment or rate, and to obtain an injunction restraining the activity of any vessel that fails to heed such an order. PSC was not assigned to individual vessels in 2002.

None of the sideboard caps were exceeded by the Mothership Fleet Cooperative in 2002.

Penalties

The Mothership Fleet Cooperative Agreement includes provisions allowing penalties to be assessed against vessels that exceed their agreed harvest share of pollock and non-pollock species. The Agreement includes a penalty of \$500 per metric ton for pollock harvested in excess of a vessel's allocation. The penalty for overages in the non-pollock fisheries include \$1000 per metric ton of cod harvest in excess of an allocation, \$300 per metric ton for over-harvests of all other BSAI and GOA directed groundfish fisheries. The cooperative established penalties for exceeding assigned PSC caps as well.

The Mothership Fleet Cooperative assessed no penalties in 2002.

Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Reporting

As described above, the Mothership Fleet Cooperative is a signatory to the Intercooperative Salmon Bycatch Management Agreements. In an effort to maximize the incentive to avoid salmon bycatch within the mothership fleet, the MFC created an intra-fleet salmon bycatch reporting program for the 2002 "A" and "B" seasons. This program consists of a daily report from each mothership to the other two motherships and their fleet managers. This report, sent via e-mail, includes the amount of groundfish delivered during the previous day, the number of salmon (Chinook during "A" season and other salmon during "B" season) in the delivered catch, the salmon bycatch rate for that day, and more specific information regarding any tows with a bycatch rate in excess of a pre-determined threshold.

These reports are an efficient way to monitor "real-time" bycatch performance within the mothership fleet and an effective vehicle for "peer pressure"-motivated bycatch reduction.

2002 Directed Pollock Fishery Results

Table 2. 2002 Mothership Fleet Co-op Pollock Allocations and Harvest - MT

Catcher	Co-op %	Co-op MT	Actual MT	Actual %
Aleutian Challenger	4.93%	6,369	9,447	7.31%
Alyeska	2.27%	2,933	3,939	3.05%
Amber Dawn	5.23%	6,757	0	0.00%
American Beauty	6.00%	7,751	8,518	6.59%
California Horizon	3.79%	4,896	5,336	4.13%
Mar-Gun	6.25%	8,074	8,115	6.28%
Margaret Lyn	5.64%	7,286	0	0.00%
Mark I	6.25%	8,074	11,731	9.08%
Misty Dawn	3.57%	4,612	6,217	4.81%
Morning Star	3.60%	4,651	0	0.00%
Nordic Fury	6.18%	7,984	7,397	5.72%
Ocean Leader	6.00%	7,751	9,315	7.21%
Oceanic	7.04%	9,095	9,097	7.04%
Pacific Challenger	4.45%	5,749	5,781	4.47%
Pacific Fury	5.89%	7,609	8,134	6.30%
Popado II	2.95%	3,811	5,163	4.00%
Traveler	4.27%	5,516	5,475	4.24%
Vanguard	5.35%	6,912	8,152	6.31%
Vesteraalen	6.20%	8,010	11,832	9.16%
Western Dawn	4.15%	5,361	5,493	4.25%
TOTAL	100.0%	129,204	129,141	99.95%
TOTAL UNHARVESTED			62	0.05%

Table 3. PSC Bycatch in 2002 Mothership Fleet Co-op Directed Pollock Fishery by Vessel

Catcher	Groundfish (MT)	Halibut (MT)	Herring	R. King Crab	Bairdi	Opilio	Chinook	Other salmon
Aleutian Challenger	55	0	0	0	0	0	104	154
Alyeska	56	0	0	0	0	0	397	532
Amber Dawn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Beauty	53	0	0	0	0	0	181	428
California Horizon	74	0	0	0	13	0	376	1,709
Mar-Gun	82	0	3	0	0	0	103	736
Margaret Lyn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mark I	95	0	0	0	0	0	184	744
Misty Dawn	99	0	0	0	0	0	435	1,528
Morning Star	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nordic Fury	76	0	1	0	0	3	111	824
Ocean Leader	48	0	0	0	0	0	149	1,173
Oceanic	121	0	1	0	0	3	205	593
Pacific Challenger	51	0	0	0	0	0	122	940
Pacific Fury	70	0	3	0	0	0	148	211
Popado II	114	0	1	0	0	0	281	1,408
Traveler	47	0	1	0	0	0	96	34
Vanguard	52	0	0	0	0	0	84	291
Vesteraalen	100	0	1	0	2	0	252	892
Western Dawn	62	0	0	0	0	0	127	1,633
TOTAL	1,257	2	15	0	15	6	3,354	13,831

**Table 4. Aggregate PSC and Groundfish Bycatch in 2002
Mothership Fleet Cooperative Directed Pollock Fishery.**

Species	Number	Weight (mt)
Opilio crab	6	
C. bairdi crab	15	
Red king crab	0	
Other species		100
Pacific cod		825
Other flatfish		12
Arrowtooth flounder		37
Flathead sole		120
Rock sole		100
Yellowfin sole		47
Turbot		1
Other rockfish		0
Pacific ocean perch		9
Shortraker/Rougheye		0
Northern rockfish		1
Atka mackerel		1
Pacific halibut		2
Chum salmon	13,831	
King salmon	3,354	
Pollock		129,141
Pacific herring		15
Sablefish		2
Squid		2
Unallocated species		228

Non-Pollock Groundfish Fisheries

In 2002 mothership catcher vessels participated in fisheries other than in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands directed pollock fishery. These fisheries included the BSAI Pacific cod fishery and the several directed fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

The Mothership Fleet Cooperative is a signatory to the inter-cooperative agreements and was actively involved in the development of measures and protocols by which the catcher vessels insure compliance with the groundfish and PSC sideboard provisions.

Some of the catcher vessels qualified to participate in the Mothership Fleet Cooperative also participate in an inshore cooperative. Regardless of inshore eligibility, however, all catcher vessels qualified to participate in the mothership sector fish under the mothership sector groundfish and PSC sideboards in the directed BSAI cod fishery. Any of the mothership

catcher vessels that are “dual qualified” fish under the inshore cooperative sideboards in any groundfish fisheries other than BSAI pollock and cod.

Groundfish and PSC mothership cooperative catch and bycatch in non-pollock BSAI and GOA groundfish fishery information is contained in the tables below. As detailed in these report tables, none of the mothership sector groundfish or PSC sideboard caps were exceeded.

Table 5. Mothership Fleet Cooperative 2002 BSAI Pacific Cod Sideboard Amounts and Actual Landings by Vessel.

Vessel	% of Mothership Sideboard	Cod Sideboard MT	Landed Cod RWE
Aleutian Challenger	3.40%	124	0
Alyeska	1.13%	41	0
Amber Dawn	2.04%	75	0
American Beauty	3.37%	123	0
California Horizon	4.42%	162	0
Mar-Gun	6.62%	242	549
Margaret Lyn	4.15%	152	0
Mark I	14.51%	530	267
Misty Dawn	0.00%	0	0
Nordic Fury	8.56%	313	48
Ocean leader	3.79%	138	0
Oceanic	12.97%	474	418
Pacific Alliance	0.25%	9	0
Pacific Challenger	8.23%	301	999
Pacific Fury	7.95%	290	107
Papado II	0.97%	35	0
Traveler	1.99%	73	576
Vanguard	0.98%	36	0
Vesteraalen	8.09%	296	268
Western Dawn	6.59%	241	210
Total	100%	3654	3,441

Table 6. Mothership Fleet Cooperative Halibut Bycatch Mortality Sector Allocation and Actual PSC Bycatch Mortality in the 2002 Directed BSAI Pacific Cod Fishery.

Vessel	Halibut Mortality Allocation (MT)	Actual Halibut Mortality (MT)	Chinook	Other salmon	Red king crab	Bairdi	Other Tanner	Herring (MT)
Aleutian Challenger	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alyeska	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amber Dawn	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Beautiy	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
California Horizon	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mar-Gun	7	12	16	6	0	740	163	0
Margaret Lyn	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mark I	16	4	4	1	0	109	50	0
Misty Dawn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nordic Fury	9	1	3	0	0	64	5	0
Ocean leader	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oceanic	14	4	28	4	0	474	271	0
Pacific Alliance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific Challenger	9	19	25	143	0	1475	356	0
Pacific Fury	9	1	3	0	0	53	45	0
Papado II	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Traveler	2	10	17	1	0	582	162	0
Vanguard	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vesteraalen	9	5	14	1	0	560	128	0
Western Dawn	7	2	13	2	0	272	62	0
Total	108	58	123	158	1	4328	1242	0

Table 7. Total Groundfish Catch in 2002 Mothership Fleet Cooperative BSAI Directed Pacific Cod Fishery.

Species	Landed MT	Discarded MT	Total Groundfish MT
Pacific Cod	3,441	13	3,454
Other Flatfish	0	13	14
Arrowtooth Flounder	0	30	30
Flathead Sole	3	39	42
Rock Sole	0	230	230
Yellowfin Sole	0	19	19
Greenland Turbot	0	0	0
Pacific Ocean Perch	0	0	0
Other Species	0	98	98
Other Red Rockfish - BS	0	0	0
Atka Mackerel	0	0	0
Sablefish	0	0	0
Squid	0	0	0
Incidental pollock	214	266	481
TOTAL	3,660	709	4,368

King Crab Fishery

Several of the catcher vessels in the Mothership Fleet Cooperative participated in the October 2002 red king crab fishery. The crab fishery sideboards, however, are managed directly by the inter-cooperative rather than the mothership or inshore sector cooperatives. For this reason, the crab fishery information is included in the inter-cooperative report.

Summary

The Mothership Fleet Cooperative successfully managed all directed harvest and bycatch limits in 2002. In addition to insuring that all harvest limits were observed, the MFC dedicated extensive resources to the reduction of salmon bycatch, which proved to be a formidable challenge to the MFC and the pollock harvesting fleet at large.

Our efforts to reduce salmon bycatch included participation in the intercooperative salmon bycatch reduction agreement, the MFS salmon bycatch avoidance reporting program, and ad hoc efforts on the fishing grounds including increased communications between fishermen and fishing fleets and extensive searches for fishing areas with low salmon bycatch rates. One of the mothership processors calculated that its salmon avoidance efforts lengthened its fleet's "B" season operations by at least a week.

The other highlight of the past year is the amendment to the MFC Agreement removing the 5-year term of the agreement. As did the removal of the sunset from the American Fisheries Act, the amendment extended the business outlook within the sector and established longer-term stability for vessel owners and crewmembers.

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December 23, 2002

Mr. Chris Oliver
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SENT VIA FAX

Re: Mothership Fleet Cooperative - Annual Contract Filing

Dear Chris:

To the best of our knowledge, there have been no amendments to the Membership Agreement of the Mothership Fleet Cooperative since the Second Amendment to Membership Agreement dated as of January 22, 2002, a copy of which was sent to you on August 12, 2002.

Sincerely yours,

MUNDT MacGREGOR L.L.P.



Antonetta S. Cornwell
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cc: Mr. John Henderschedt
Mr. Joseph M. Sullivan
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