

Pollock Conservation Cooperative

and

High Seas Catchers' Cooperative

Final

Joint Annual Report 2004

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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## Pollock Conservation Cooperative Annual Report

### Introduction

In 1998 the owners of the catcher-processors and catcher vessels that deliver to catcher-processors in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) pollock fishery jointly formed fishing cooperatives to coordinate pollock harvesting efforts. The cooperative for the catcher-processor owners is the Pollock Conservation Cooperative (PCC), and for catcher-vessel owners it is the High Seas Catchers' Cooperative (HSCC). An agreement called the "Cooperative Agreement Between Offshore Pollock Catchers Cooperative and Pollock Conservation Cooperative" was renewed to facilitate efficient harvest management and accurate harvest accounting between the PCC and the HSCC.

### Purpose of Report

This report is intended to fully disclose all information required or identified in the American Fisheries Act (AFA), in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) October 1999 recommendation to the US Secretary of Commerce, and in further guidance provided by the NPFMC in letters dated October 21, 1999 and November 1, 1999. The tables and figures in this report are intended to be largely self-explanatory, although some brief notes have been included to provide additional detail. The catch data in this report was provided by SeaState, Inc., and was largely obtained from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program. <sup>1</sup>

### Reporting Requirements

Fishing cooperatives formed under the AFA are subject to certain annual reporting requirements. Section 210(a)(1)(B) of the AFA requires the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the US Secretary of Commerce to "make available to the public in such manner as the North Pacific Council and Secretary deem appropriate information about the harvest by vessels under a fishery cooperative of all species (including bycatch) in the directed pollock fishery on a vessel-by-vessel basis." In doing so, however, the NPFMC and Secretary must take into account "the interest of the parties to [a fishing cooperative] in protecting the confidentiality of proprietary information."

In October 1999, the NPFMC took action to implement section 210(a)(1)(B) of the AFA by recommending that cooperatives annually prepare a report (a preliminary report due by December 1, and a final report due by January 31) containing: (1) allowed catch and bycatch of pollock and all sideboard species by whatever method is used to determine those allocations; (2) actual catch and bycatch in the directed pollock fishery by vessel, and in sideboard fisheries by whatever method is used to determine those sideboards; (3) methods used to monitor fisheries in which cooperative vessels participated; and (4) actions taken by cooperatives to enforce vessel or aggregate catches that exceed allowed catch and bycatch in the pollock and sideboard fisheries.

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1. The NMFS catch database for the 2004 fishing year is still subject to revision as catch data and other information from the fishery is finalized. To the extent that information in this report is based on NMFS data, it is still subject to revision. At this point, however, neither the PCC nor the HSCC are aware of any data discrepancies that would materially alter the substantive elements of this report.

## Pollock Conservation Cooperative Members and Allocations

The Pollock Conservation Cooperative was formed in December 1998 in order to promote the rational and orderly harvest of pollock by the catcher-processor sector of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) pollock trawl fisheries. The PCC is made up of the eight companies that operate 19 catcher-processors eligible under section 208(e)(1)-(20) of the AFA to harvest and process pollock in the BSAI directed pollock fishery. According to the PCC harvest schedule, each company is allocated a percentage of the directed fishery specified under Section 206(b) of the AFA. For 2004, the percentage of the catcher-processor directed pollock fishery allocated to each PCC member company is shown below.<sup>2</sup>

	Directed Pollock Fishery (%)	PCC Harvest Share (%)
Starbound Ltd. Partnership	1.585	4.33
Highland Light Seafoods, L.L.C.	1.764	4.82
Arctic Fjord, Inc.	1.792	4.90
Arctic Storm, Inc.	1.841	5.03
Alaska Ocean Seafood, L.P.	3.004	8.21
Glacier Fish Company, L.L.C.	3.218	8.79
Trident Seafoods	6.824	18.64
American Seafoods Company	16.572	45.28
Total	36.600	100.00

## Inter-Cooperative Agreement Between PCC and HSCC

On January 21, 1999, the PCC and HSCC completed an agreement to facilitate efficient management and accurate accounting between the two cooperatives (see appendix; the "Cooperative Agreement Between Offshore Pollock Catchers Cooperative and Pollock Conservation Cooperative"). Under the Inter-Cooperative Agreement, the PCC and HSCC established a Joint Harvest Schedule and agree to retain the same independent quota monitoring service. The Inter-Cooperative Agreement governs the harvest and processing of the HSCC members' share of the BSAI directed pollock fishery and the transfer of pollock allocations between members of the two cooperatives.

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2. Under sections 205(4) (definitions) and 206 (allocations) of the AFA, the BSAI directed pollock fishery (DPF) is the amount of the total allowable catch remaining after 10 percent has been deducted for the western Alaska Community Development Quota program and an additional amount has been deducted for the incidental catch of pollock in other groundfish fisheries. Section 206(b)(2) of the American Fisheries Act allocates a total of 40 percent of the DPF to catcher-processors and the catcher vessels that deliver to catcher-processors, and section 210(c) allocates 8.5 percent of this amount (3.4 percent of the DPF) to catcher vessels that deliver to catcher processors. Subsequently, the AFA was amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, which reallocated the AI DPF to the Aleut Corporation for the purpose of economic development of Adak, Alaska.

## Inter-Cooperative Agreement on Salmon Bycatch Avoidance

In 2004, all BSAI pollock cooperatives voluntarily participated in an inter-cooperative salmon bycatch avoidance program. Representatives of the PCC and the HSCC presented a report on the results of the 2004 inter-cooperative salmon bycatch avoidance program to the NPFMC at its meetings in October and December, 2004. In 2004, PCC-companies donated 59,257 pounds of incidentally caught Chinook and chum salmon to SeaShare, a Seattle-based seafood donation program which distributes donated products through America's Second Harvest and their national network of foodbanks.

## Monitoring and Enforcement

All data used in monitoring PCC pollock and non-pollock fishing activities was obtained from the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program office. Information concerning the catch and bycatch of individual vessels is available on a NMFS password-protected web site 24 hours a day, and is generally accessible 20 minutes after transmission from the vessels. SeaState, Inc., a company that provides catch accounting services, is authorized by the PCC and its members to receive and process this observer data and report back to the members on the status of the harvest. Observer data are downloaded one or two times per day, processed to generate target catch and bycatch information, and then sent to a SeaState web site where company representatives can examine the data for their vessel(s).

Aboard each vessel, a direct weight reading from flow scales is taken for the total catch for each haul. The species composition of the catch is determined from observer sampling. Since two observers are required on AFA-eligible catcher-processors in the groundfish fisheries, the number of unsampled hauls is very low. In 2004, 97 percent of pollock hauls were sampled and these sampled hauls included 98 percent of the pollock catch and 97 percent of the total catch of groundfish (includes directed fishing activities in all targets). For those hauls that were not sampled, species composition was determined as per Community Development Quota program regulations, where species composition for an unsampled haul is presumed to be the same as the previous haul. Once the catch and species composition is posted on the SeaState web site, it is available for review by vessel owners and representatives. Typically, either an operations manager or vessel operator checks into the site each day to make sure vessel harvest amounts are consistent with vessel tallies.

Companies with several vessels tend to provide initial by-season allocations for each vessel, and then manage vessel harvests independently until late in the season. Typically, inter- and intra-company transfers occur late in the season to facilitate quota usage. For example, if a vessel at off-load has only 150 tons of pollock remaining to harvest, then the quota is likely to be reallocated to another vessel to avoid the necessity of steaming back to the grounds to catch such a small amount of pollock. No enforcement actions were taken by the PCC against any member companies during 2004, as all members complied with the provisions of the PCC Membership Agreement.

## Pollock Fishery Bycatch Detail and an Error

Our annual reports provide groundfish bycatch amounts in the pollock target fishery in Table 2 as by-vessel and total amounts of non-pollock groundfish. These groundfish bycatch amounts include all of the species represented on the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands "TAC sheet." In the 2003 annual report the non-pollock groundfish bycatch reported in Table 2 was miscalculated because the bycatch of Pacific cod was not included in the Table 2 amounts. Table 2A in this report provides a correct version of Table 2 for 2003.

In contrast to groundfish bycatch, groundfish discards include all groundfish catches, including pollock, from which no edible, saleable product can be produced. Our annual reports provide groundfish discards as a footnote to Table 2. For this report, we have added a Table 7 to provide additional pollock-fishery bycatch detail, including in particular the bycatch of non-specified species. In general, the non-specified species category includes species that occur infrequently in the BSAI, or have little or no economic value, and so are neither targeted by the commercial fisheries nor managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service. In 2004, jellyfish comprised over 90 percent of PCC non-specified species bycatch in the pollock fishery.

Table 1. PCC and HSCC Pollock Allocations and Catch.

	Company	Vessel	Cooperative shares			2004 Harvest		Over (under) Allocation	
			Coop Amount	2004 Transfers	2004 Allocation	Vessel Harvest	Company Total		
PCC	Alaska Ocean		39,027	(196)	38,831	38,829	38,829	(2)	
	American Seafoods		215,297	12,048	227,345		227,342	(3)	
		Northern Eagle				43,452			
		American Triumph				43,257			
		Northern Jaeger				42,311			
		Northern Hawk				41,879			
		Ocean Rover				40,033			
		American Dynasty				15,088			
		Katie Ann				1,322			
		Arctic Fjord		23,281	8,677	31,958	31,932	31,932	(26)
		Arctic Storm		23,917	10,680	34,597	34,575	34,575	(22)
		Glacier Fish Ltd.		41,807	196	42,003		42,003	0
			Northern Glacier				15,788		
			Pacific Glacier				26,215		
		Highland Light		22,917	7,141	30,058	30,084	30,084	0
	Starbound Ltd.		20,592	5,619	26,211	26,160	26,160	0	
	Trident Seafoods		88,655	7	88,662		88,662	0	
		Island Enterprise				28,315			
		Kodiak Enterprise				28,581			
		Seattle Enterprise				31,765			
HSCC	Forum Star		3,171	(3,171)	0		0	0	
	American Challenger		4,091	(4,091)	0		0	0	
	Ocean Harvester		5,619	(5,619)	0		0	0	
	Tracy Anne		6,031	(6,031)	0		0	0	
	Neahkanie		8,677	(8,677)	0		0	0	
	Sea Storm		10,687	(10,687)	0		0	0	
	Muir Milach		5,896	(5,896)	0		0	0	
	Totals		519,665	0	519,665	519,588	519,588	(52)	

Table 2. PCC and HSCC Directed Pollock Fishing Catch and Bycatch.

	Vessel	Pollock (mt)	Non-pollock Groundfish (mt)	Halibut Mortality (mt)	Herring (mt)	Red King Crab (N)	Bairdi (N)	Other Tanner (N)	Chinook (N)	Other Salmon (N)
PCC	Alaska Ocean	38,829	786	5	1	0	26	2	741	4,520
	American Dynasty	15,088	425	4	0	6	11	28	545	15
	American Triumph	43,257	649	7	1	0	4	8	1,334	5,745
	Katie Ann	1,322	39	1	0	0	0	0	96	0
	Northern Eagle	43,452	251	1	2	3	44	78	547	5,714
	Northern Hawk	41,879	552	3	1	4	6	5	1,188	6,478
	Northern Jaeger	42,311	637	4	1	2	14	29	468	2,277
	Ocean Rover	40,033	535	5	1	0	8	0	635	4,459
	Arctic Storm	34,575	382	3	0	0	0	12	802	9,195
	Arctic Fjord	31,932	251	2	0	0	4	15	931	6,874
	Northern Glacier	15,788	260	1	0	0	12	16	301	2,969
	Pacific Glacier	26,215	397	2	1	0	7	2	457	1,910
	Highland Light	30,084	270	1	2	0	4	14	366	2,179
	Starbound	26,160	394	3	1	0	18	112	457	7,523
	Island Enterprise	28,315	246	2	1	0	53	274	893	3,095
Kodiak Enterprise	28,581	218	2	1	0	13	18	438	4,066	
Seattle Enterprise	31,765	249	2	22	0	3	6	813	9,112	
HSCC	Forum Star	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	American Challenger	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ocean Harvester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Tracy Anne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Neahkanie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sea Storm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Muir Milach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Totals	519,588	6,541	47	34	14	225	620	11,012	76,131

\* Of the 526,129 tons of total groundfish catch (pollock and non-pollock), only 2,770 tons were discarded. Thus, 99.5 percent of all groundfish caught by PCC vessels in the directed pollock fishery was retained and used to produce a marketable product.

Table 2A. PCC and HSCC Directed Pollock Fishing Catch and Bycatch - 2003.

Vessel	Pollock (mt)	Non-pollock Groundfish (mt)	Halibut Mortality (mt)	Herring (mt)	Red King Crab (N)	Bairdi (N)	Other Tanner (N)	Chinook (N)	Other Salmon (N)
PCC	Alaska Ocean	382	3	47	0	2	8	1,094	1,652
	American Dynasty	288	2	0	0	0	15	891	78
	American Triumph	622	6	1	0	3	3	1,333	1,358
	Northern Eagle	248	1	14	0	294	95	1,178	2,139
	Northern Hawk	519	7	4	0	0	9	1,359	1,389
	Northern Jaeger	438	3	4	0	19	48	1,143	1,825
	Ocean Rover	507	5	2	0	7	35	796	832
	Arctic Storm	285	2	2	0	13	19	626	995
	Arctic Fjord	229	1	3	0	0	3	1,100	2,674
	Northern Glacier	335	2	1	0	18	35	536	475
	Pacific Glacier	196	1	7	0	3	8	830	703
	Highland Light	173	1	1	0	4	45	719	769
	Starbound	168	2	0	0	0	23	744	323
	Island Enterprise	290	0	26	0	13	32	1,442	3,501
	Kodiak Enterprise	270	2	3	0	14	47	1,094	2,999
	Seattle Enterprise	226	1	1	0	1	23	1,327	1,171
HSCC	Forum Star	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	American Challenger	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ocean Harvester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Tracy Anne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Neahkanie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sea Storm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Muir Milach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Totals	5,175	40	116	0	391	446	16,213	22,884

\* Of the 527,606 tons of total groundfish catch (pollock and non-pollock), only 2,184 tons were discarded. Thus, 99.6 percent of all groundfish caught by PCC vessels in the directed pollock fishery was retained and used to produce a marketable product.

Table 3. PCC Directed Cod Fishing Catch and Bycatch.

Vessel	Pacific Cod (mt)	Total Groundfish (mt)	Halibut Mortality (mt)	Herring (mt)	Chinook (N)	Other Salmon (N)	Red King Crab (N)	Bairdi (N)	Other Tanner (N)
Katie Ann	1,187	1,860	13	0	352	0	384	1,223	1,178
Catch Rate	0.64	1.00	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.21	0.66	0.63

Table 4. PCC Directed Yellowfin Sole Fishing Catch and Bycatch.

Vessel	Yellowfin Sole (mt)	Total Groundfish (mt)	Halibut Mortality (mt)	Herring (mt)	Chinook (N)	Other Salmon (N)	Red King Crab (N)	Bairdi (N)	Other Tanner (N)
Arctic Storm	1,450	1,571	0	0	0	0	0	0	176
Northern Eagle	1,833	2,091	3	0	0	0	0	652	4,842
Northern Hawk	875	1,009	0	1	0	0	0	207	2,802
Total	4,158	4,671	3	1	0	0	0	859	7,820
Catch Rate	0.89	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	1.67

Table 5. PCC Sideboard Limits and Catches of Sideboard Species.

Species	2004 Catch	2004 Sideboard Limit	2004 Limit less Catch *
Pacific Cod (mt)	3,354	12,080	8,726
Sablefish - BS (mt)	2	20	18
Atka Mackerel - BS + EAI (mt)	48	0	-48
Atka Mackerel - CAI (mt)	1	6,616	6,615
Atka Mackerel - WAI (mt)	0	3,822	3,822
Yellowfin Sole (mt)	4,999	16,821	11,822
Rock Sole (mt)	1,684	1,300	-384
Greenland Turbot - BS (mt)	11	16	5
Greenland Turbot - AI (mt)	5	3	-2
Arrowtooth Flounder (mt)	192	23	-169
Flathead Sole (mt)	984	589	-395
Other Flatfish (mt)	75	172	97
Alaska Plaice (mt)	302	3,178	2,876
Pacific Ocean Perch - BS (mt)	124	3	-121
Pacific Ocean Perch - EAI (mt)	27	32	5
Pacific Ocean Perch - CAI (mt)	1	1	0
Pacific Ocean Perch - WAI (mt)	0	19	19
Northern Rockfish - BS (mt)	17	32	15
Shortraker/Rougheye - BS (mt)	50	12	-38
Northern Rockfish - AI (mt)	5	33	28
Shortraker/Rougheye - AI (mt)	1	20	19
Other Rockfish - BS (mt)	5	12	7
Other Rockfish - AI (mt)	0	15	15
Squid (mt)	182	24	-158
Other Species (mt)	590	186	-404
Halibut Mortality (mt)	72	286	214
Red King Crab - Zone 1 (N)	14	1,276	1,262
Other Tanner Crab - COBLZ (N)	9,424	615,634	606,210
Bairdi Zone 1 (N)	242	126,910	126,668
Bairdi Zone 2 (N)	1,022	137,363	136,341

\*American Fisheries Act sideboards limit directed-fishing activities by AFA-eligible vessels. All of the sideboard overages shown above resulted from bycatches in the directed fisheries for pollock, Pacific cod, and yellowfin sole.

Table 6. PCC Catches of Non-Pollock Groundfish by Vessel.

Vessel	Pacific Cod (mt)	Mackerel BS (mt)	Mackerel AI (mt)	Yellowfin Sole (mt)	Arrowtooth Flounder (mt)	Other Flatfish (mt)	Rock Sole (mt)	Flathead Sole (mt)
Alaska Ocean	275	0	0	9	22	12	225	141
American Dynasty	120	0	0	93	5	2	106	63
American Triumph	167	1	0	70	7	5	138	59
Arctic Fjord	105	0	0	18	4	3	54	39
Arctic Storm	113	0	0	1,525	4	4	103	39
Highland Light	73	0	0	15	5	2	90	66
Island Enterprise	123	0	0	4	7	3	43	36
Katie Ann	1,216	34	34	146	77	3	57	7
Kodiak Enterprise	90	0	0	32	6	2	33	34
Northern Eagle	137	0	0	1,842	4	9	60	44
Northern Glacier	110	0	0	17	3	3	51	50
Northern Hawk	122	1	0	917	9	12	136	55
Northern Jaeger	164	0	0	49	8	4	250	117
Ocean Rover	176	8	0	70	12	3	120	86
Pacific Glacier	152	0	0	54	4	2	93	51
Seattle Enterprise	74	1	0	29	6	2	65	44
Starbound	137	0	0	107	7	4	59	54

Table 6. PCC Catches of Non-Pollock Groundfish by Vessel (continued).

Vessel	Squid (mt)	Other Species (mt)	Other Rockfish BS (mt)	Other Rockfish AI (mt)	Pacific Ocean Perch AI (mt)	Pacific Ocean Perch BS (mt)	Northern Rockfish AI (mt)	Northern Rockfish BS (mt)
Alaska Ocean	4	93	0	0	0	2	0	0
American Dynasty	2	33	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Triumph	88	48	2	0	0	31	0	5
Arctic Fjord	5	19	1	0	0	0	0	0
Arctic Storm	8	38	0	0	0	7	0	0
Highland Light	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Island Enterprise	2	18	0	0	0	6	0	0
Katie Ann	0	39	0	0	27	0	5	0
Kodiak Enterprise	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Eagle	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Glacier	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Hawk	74	33	1	0	0	78	0	7
Northern Jaeger	0	42	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ocean Rover	0	53	0	0	0	0	0	3
Pacific Glacier	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	1
Seattle Enterprise	0	20	0	0	0	1	0	0
Starbound	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0



Table 6. PCC Catches of Non-Pollock Groundfish by Vessel (continued).

Vessel	Red King Crab (N)	Bairdi Crab (N)	Bairdi Zone 1 (N)	Bairdi Zone 2 (N)	Other Tanner COBLZ (N)	Chinook Salmon (N)	Other Salmon (N)
Alaska Ocean	0	26	19	7	2	741	4,520
American Dynasty	6	11	8	4	28	545	15
American Triumph	0	4	4	0	8	1,334	5,745
Arctic Fjord	0	4	0	4	11	931	6,874
Arctic Storm	0	0	0	0	187	802	9,195
Highland Light	0	4	0	4	14	366	2,179
Island Enterprise	0	53	12	40	196	893	3,095
Katie Ann	384	182	182	0	1,089	447	0
Kodiak Enterprise	0	13	0	13	18	438	4,066
Northern Eagle	3	693	10	682	4,913	547	5,714
Northern Glacier	0	12	2	10	12	301	2,969
Northern Hawk	4	213	0	213	2,806	1,188	6,478
Northern Jaeger	2	14	2	12	27	468	2,277
Ocean Rover	0	8	2	6	0	635	4,459
Pacific Glacier	0	7	0	7	0	457	1,910
Seattle Enterprise	0	3	0	3	6	813	9,112
Starbound	0	18	0	18	106	457	7,523

Table 7. PCC Pollock-Fishery Groundfish Bycatch and Discards.

Species Category	2004 Discard Amount (mt)		Year	Groundfish Bycatch Rate (mt/mt)	Groundfish Discard Rate (mt/mt)
Pollock	8				
Other Roundfish	66		1999	0.010	—
Squid	314				
Other Species	463		2000	0.016	0.006
Flatfish	1,919				
			2001	0.011	0.006
Total Groundfish	2,770				
			2002	0.011	0.004
Unknown	37				
Non-specified Species	2,350		2003	0.010	0.004
Total Discards *	5,158		2004	0.012	0.005

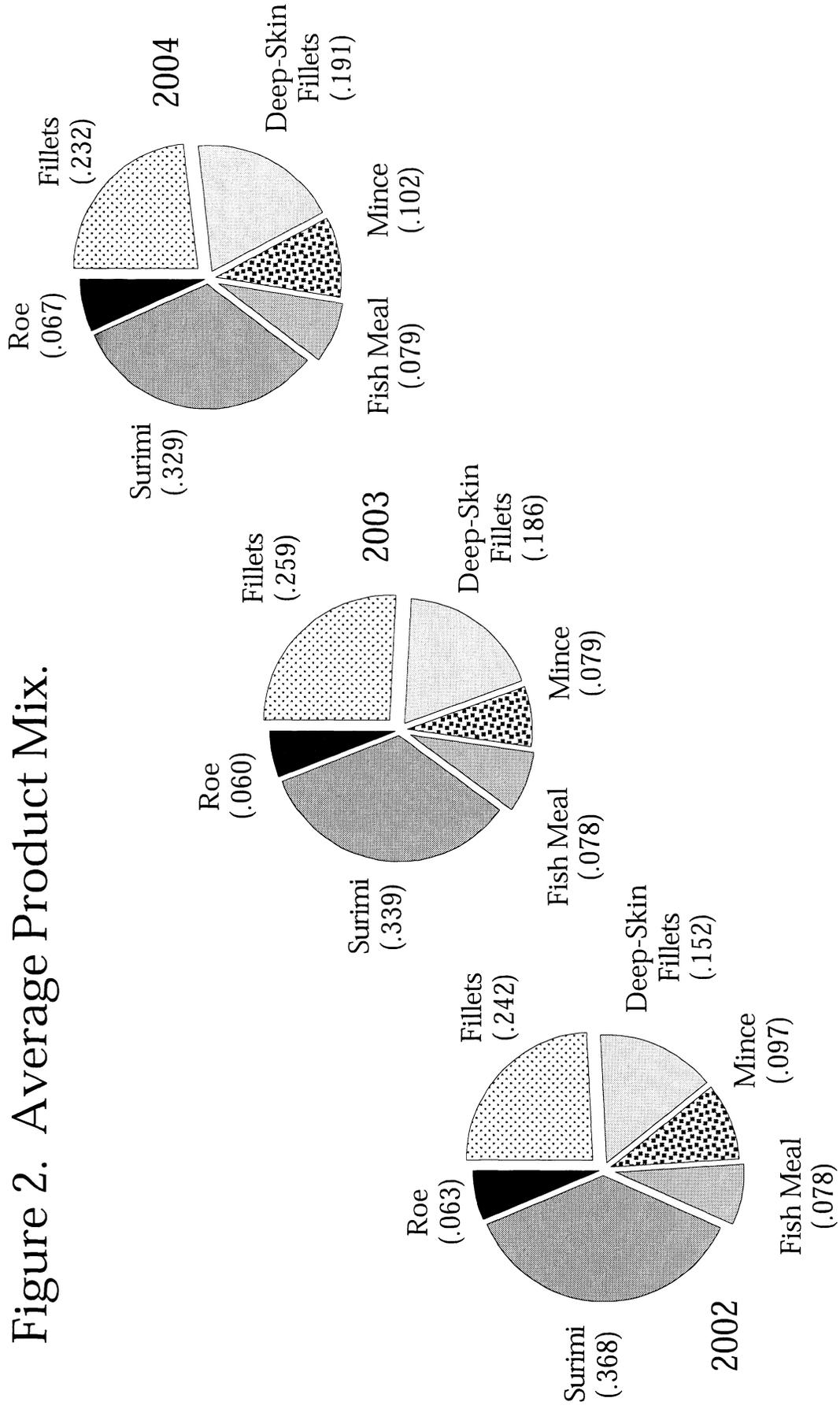
\* Does not include the prohibited species bycatch amounts listed in Table 2. By regulation, all prohibited crab species must be discarded while salmon and halibut may either be donated to food banks or must be discarded.

Figure 1. Total Product Recovery.



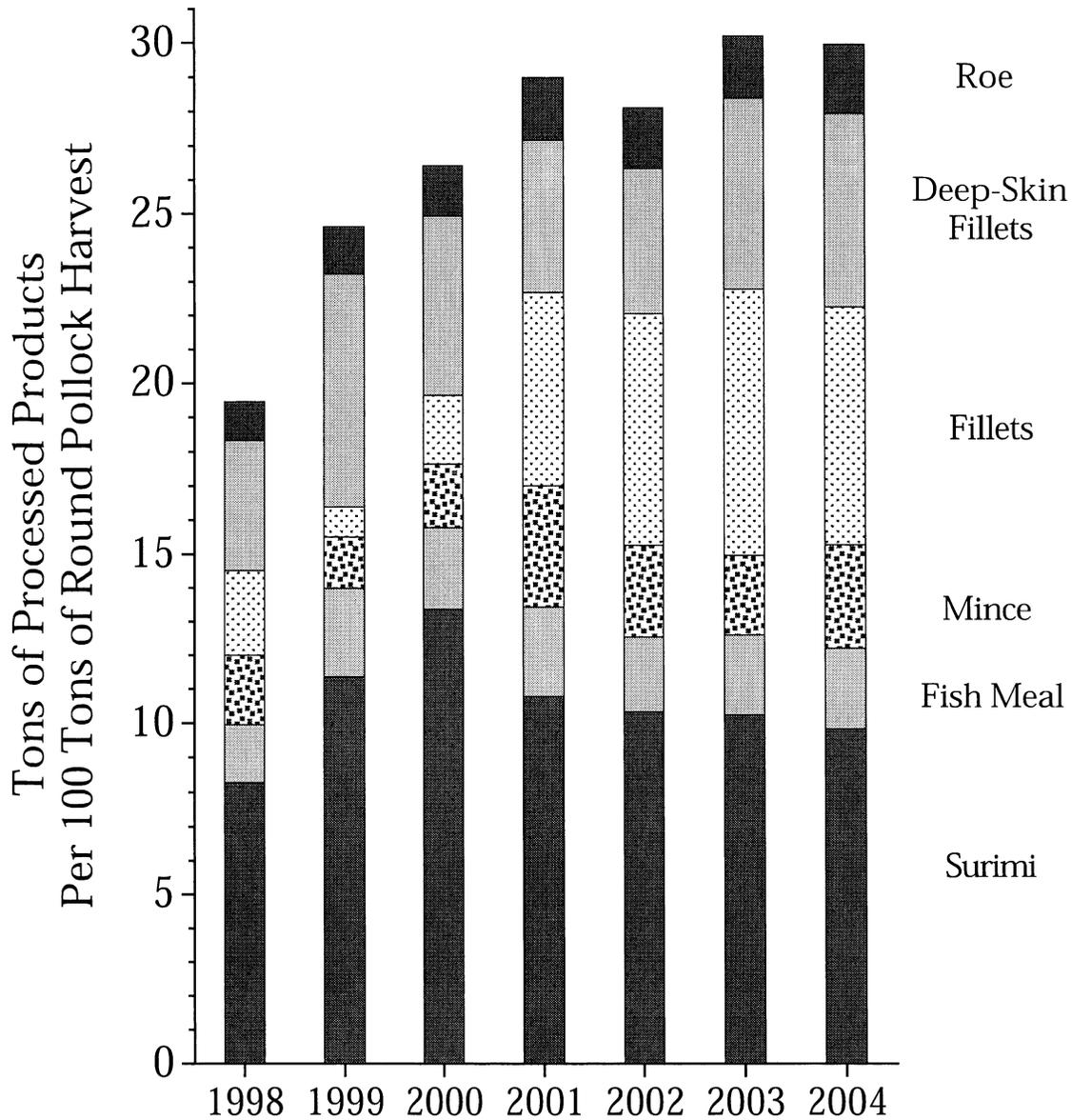
Source: SeaState, Inc. PCC and CDQ catch per haul, 1998-2004; NMFS AK Region Pacific cod and pollock products by processing mode, 1998-2004, BSAI groundfish quotas and preliminary catch in round metric tons, 1999-2004, and CDQ participation and catch by gear, 1999-2004. Total product recovery estimates include both directed-fishing and CDQ pollock harvests, and are calculated as the weight of all products produced divided by the weight of the round pollock used to obtain the products.

Figure 2. Average Product Mix.



Source: NMFS AK Region Pacific cod and pollock products by processing mode, 2002-2004. Note that this figure does not show individual product recovery rates, but instead the average product mix that was produced from the total amount of pollock harvested throughout the entire year. Pollock Conservation Cooperative vessels produce small amounts of pollock cheeks, milt, oil, stomachs and whole-round pollock that are not shown in the product mix pies.

Figure 3. Total Product Recovery and Mix.



During 2001-2004 total product recovery is estimated to have increased by 50% over the 1998 open-access "race-for-fish" baseline.

Source: SeaState, Inc. PCC and CDQ catch per haul, 1998-2004; NMFS AK Region Pacific cod and pollock products by processing mode, 1998-2004, BSAI groundfish quotas and preliminary catch in round metric tons, 1999-2004, and CDQ participation and catch by gear, 1999-2004. Note that this figure does not show product recovery rates, but instead the average product mix produced from the total amount of pollock harvested throughout the entire year by all PCC member vessels.

## High Seas Catchers Cooperative Annual Report

### Introduction

The High Seas Catchers Coop is a fisheries cooperative of all vessels eligible under section 208(b) of the American Fisheries Act. HSCC is party to an inter-cooperative agreement with the PCC for purposes of pollock harvest management, and a participant in a catcher-vessel inter-cooperative agreement for purposes of sideboard species harvest management.

### High Seas Catchers Cooperative Members and Allocations

The member vessels of HSCC include: American Challenger; Forum Star; Muir Milach; Neahkahnie; Ocean Harvester; Sea Storm; and Tracy Anne. The HSCC Membership agreement is on file at the NPFMC. There were no substantive changes to the membership agreement during 2004.

Allocations of pollock to members of HSCC were established within the HSCC membership agreement, as well as within the Cooperative Agreement with the PCC. Allocations of the BSAI Pacific cod sideboard amounts available for 2004, and further sub-divided in the Intercoop BSAI Cod Sideboard Allocation Agreement, were made by the HSCC board of directors through a roll over of the consent of directors document included as an appendix to the HSCC 2000 Annual Report. Other sideboard species were allocated by action of the HSCC Board of Directors. Prior to participation in any sideboard fishery, members were required to provide notice to the Executive Director, and-or the Catcher Vessel Inter-Cooperative Agreement (CVICA) Manager. There is additional information about the flow of information between the vessels, the HSCC, SeaState, the CVICA Manager, and NMFS in the Catcher Vessel Inter-Cooperative Agreement.

The 2004 distribution in metric tons of the 206(b)(2) allocation of 8.5% of the 40% allocation of the directed pollock fishery to catcher-processors and catcher vessels, including releases from the BSAI pollock incidental catch allowance, is as follows:

Forum Star	3,171
American Challenger	4,091
Ocean Harvester	5,619
Muir Milach	5,896
Tracy Anne	6,031
Neahkahnie	8,677
Sea Storm	10,687
Total	<u>44,172</u>

### Inter-Cooperative Agreement Between HSCC and PCC

The members of PCC and HSCC are allocated pollock under section 206(b)(2) of the AFA. As noted, HSCC is a party to the Cooperative Agreement Between Offshore Pollock Catchers Cooperative and Pollock Conservation Cooperative for purposes of pollock management, and this agreement is on file at the NPFMC.

## Catcher Vessel Inter-Cooperative Agreement

HSCC is also a party to the Catcher Vessel Inter-Cooperative Agreement (CVICA) for purposes of groundfish sideboard harvest management. Compliance with both agreements is based upon monitoring of catch and bycatch by SeaState, Inc. A copy of the CVICA is on file at the NPFMC. Information concerning CVICA allocations and rules as well as inter-cooperative transfer arrangements are contained in an annual report submitted to the NPFMC by the CVICA Manager. Among other things, the CVICA contains specific provisions on management of halibut prohibited-species catches (PSC) in the BSAI Pacific cod fishery. Detailed PSC use by vessel is provided in Tables 8-10 below.

## Bering Sea Pollock Transfers and Directed BSAI Pollock Fishing

Based upon the January 1999 Cooperative Agreement Between Offshore Pollock Catchers Cooperative and Pollock Conservation Cooperative, individual members of HSCC have made transfers of pollock to individual members of PCC. Transfers are reported in Table 1 above. Catch and bycatch information for the BSAI directed pollock fishery is provided in Table 2 above.

## HSCC Pollock Utilization and Recovery Rates

Processing of all of the HSCC pollock allocation was done by members of PCC. As such, there is no distinction between utilization and recovery between the PCC allocation and the HSCC allocation. See Figures 1-3 above for details on increased utilization in the catcher-processor sector of the pollock fishery.

## HSCC Participation in Shellfish Fisheries

One vessel participated in the *opilio* crab fishery, harvesting 70,181 lbs. of crab. Three vessels participated in the 2004 Bristol Bay Red King Crab fishery, making one delivery each, for a total of 125,143 lbs. (Table 7). Management of this fishery is described in the CVICA report. No HSCC vessels participated in the scallop fishery during 2004.

## HSCC Participation in BSAI Cod and GOA Pollock Directed Fisheries

One exempt vessel and three non-exempt vessels landed a total of 5,372 tons of cod in the BSAI directed cod fishery. Pollock was an incidental bycatch in this fishery, and of the 6,301 tons of groundfish that were harvested by HSCC vessels in the Pacific cod fishery, 4.3 percent, or 272 tons, was pollock. Together these vessels used 53 tons of halibut bycatch mortality. The HSCC average halibut bycatch mortality rate per ton of groundfish in the directed cod fishery was 0.8 percent. In addition, one vessel landed 1,538 tons of pollock in the Western Gulf of Alaska (GOA) directed pollock fishery and 11 tons of pollock in the Central GOA directed pollock fishery (Tables 8-10).

## HSCC Sideboard Harvest Limits

Sideboard limits for all AFA catcher vessels and a series of Information Tables were published by NMFS that sub-allocated by cooperative the sideboards amounts of those species for which directed fishing was allowed. The NMFS regulations provided that two or more cooperatives could enter into an inter-cooperative agreement that limited the members to their combined aggregate sideboard caps. Table 11 provides the initial sideboard limits, the adjusted sideboard limits for HSCC vessels, and the actual harvest of sideboard species by HSCC vessels. There were no overages in any directed sideboard fisheries.

## Monitoring and Enforcement

All data used in monitoring HSCC pollock and non-pollock fishing for delivery to offshore processors was obtained from the NMFS observer program office. Information is available on the NMFS password-protected web site 24 hours a day, and is generally accessible 20 minutes after transmission from the vessel. Sea State, Inc. is authorized by the HSCC and its members to receive and process this observer data and report back to the members on the status of the harvest. The process is identical to that described above under PCC Monitoring and Enforcement.

For deliveries to shoreside processors, each company submitted copies of its Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) fish tickets to SeaState, Inc. for tabulation through the NMFS Electronic Fish Ticket program. This information was also made available to all HSCC members on the SeaState web site. HSCC member companies provided confidentiality waiver requests to ADF&G for release of the data directly to SeaState so to verify the completeness and accuracy of data submitted by HSCC members. However, observer data for shoreside deliveries was not incorporated in the preparation of this report. Fish ticket data was used for shoreside deliveries, and observer data was used for offshore deliveries. Total groundfish catches by all HSCC vessels are shown for the BSAI and GOA in Tables 12 and 13, respectively.

## Penalty Structures within the HSCC and Between Cooperatives

The Cooperative Agreement between HSCC and PCC provides for inter-cooperative enforcement of penalties in the event of over-harvest of pollock. The CVICA also contains penalty provisions for over-harvest of sideboard species. The HSCC membership agreement is on file with the Council. No enforcement actions were taken by HSCC in either pollock or sideboard fisheries, as members complied with the provisions of the membership agreement.

Table 8. HSCC Bristol Bay Red King Crab Catch.

Vessel	Catch (pounds)
Muir Milach	19,139
Ocean Harvester	53,279
Sea Storm	52,725
Total	125,143

Table 9. HSCC BSAI Directed Cod Fishing Catch and Bycatch.

Vessel	Landed Cod (mt)	Total Groundfish Catch (mt)	Halibut Bycatch (mt)	Halibut Mortality (mt)	Chinook Salmon (N)	Other Salmon (N)	Red King Crab (N)	Bairdi Crab (N)	Other Tanner Crab (N)	Herring (mt)
Forum Star (exempt)	1,723	2,012	19	13	23	9	0	3,313	138	0
Muir Milach	1,308	1,350	1	1	21	0	0	11	20	0
Ocean Harvester	1,042	1,371	34	22	0	12	0	4,608	879	0
Sea Storm	1,299	1,567	27	17	56	0	0	1,209	66	0

Table 10. HSCC Western GOA Directed Pollock Fishing Catch and Bycatch.

Vessel	Landed Cod (mt)	Landed Pollock (mt)	Total Groundfish Catch (mt)	Halibut Bycatch (mt)	Halibut Mortality (mt)	Chinook Salmon (N)	Other Salmon (N)	Red King Crab (N)	Bairdi Crab (N)	Other Tanner Crab (N)
Muir Milach	1	1,538	1,543	0	0	133	48	0	0	0

Table 11. HSCC Central GOA Directed Pollock Fishing Catch and Bycatch.

Vessel	Landed Cod (mt)	Landed Pollock (mt)	Total Groundfish Catch (mt)	Halibut Bycatch (mt)	Halibut Mortality (mt)	Chinook Salmon (N)	Other Salmon (N)	Red King Crab (N)	Bairdi Crab (N)	Other Tanner Crab (N)
Muir Milach	0	11	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 12. HSCC Sideboard Limits and Catches of Sideboard Species.

Species/Area	Initial Sideboard Allocation (mt)	Sideboard Cap Transfers (mt)	Final Sideboard Allocation (mt)	Harvest (mt)	Sideboard Limit Less Harvest (mt)	Over Sideboard Limit
BSAI Cod	4,227	1,222	5,449	3,649	1,800	No
BSAI Cod (exempt)	NA	NA	NA	1,723	NA	No
BSAI YFS	125	0	125	6	119	No
BSAI Rocksole	183	0	183	242	-59	No*
WG Cod Inshore+Offshore	215	0	215	0	215	No
CG Cod Inshore+Offshore	123	-79	49	0	49	No
EGOA Cod	0	0	0	0	0	No
610 Pollock	38	1,627	1,665	1,538	127	No
620 Pollock	68	123	191	11	180	No
630 Pollock	136	0	136	0	136	No
640 Pollock	0	0	0	0	0	No
650 Pollock	2,281	0	2,281	0	2,281	No
WGOA Shallow Flats	20	0	20	0	20	No
CGOA Deep Flats	4	0	4	0	4	No
CGOA N Rock	2	0	2	0	2	No
CGOA POP	79	0	79	0	79	No
CGOA Shallow Flats	79	0	79	0	79	No
EGOA Arrowtooth	10	0	10	0	10	No
EGOA Deep flats	34	0	34	0	34	No
EGOA Pelagic Rockfish	10	0	10	0	10	No
EGOA POP	113	0	113	0	113	No
EGOA Rex sole	41	0	41	0	41	No
EGOA Sablefish	14	0	14	0	14	No
EGOA Shallow Flats	48	0	48	0	48	No
EGOA SR/RE	7	0	7	0	7	No
EGOA Thornyhead	11	0	11	0	11	No

\* American Fisheries Act sideboards limit directed fishing activities by AFA-eligible vessels. However, the overage for BSAI rock sole was taken as bycatch in the cod fishery. There was no directed rock sole fishery for AFA-eligible vessels in 2004.

Table 13. HSCC Catches of BSAI Groundfish by TAC Group.

TAC Group	TAC Code	Total Catch (Landed+Discard)
Pacific Cod	110	5,375
Other Flatfish	120	23
Arrowtooth Flounder	121	170
Flathead Sole	122	26
Rock Sole	123	242
Yellowfin Sole	127	6
Greenland Turbot	134	0
AI - SC/NO	136	3
BS - SC/NO	136	1
Other Rockfish	139	2
Pacific Ocean Perch	141	0
Other Species	160	85
SR/RE AI	171	0
SR/RE BS	171	0
Atka Mackerel BS	193	25
Sablefish	710	0
Squid	875	0
Pollock Incidental	2700	272
AI Turbot	541134	0
Eastern AI POP	541141	2
Eastern AI Mackerel	541193	11
AI Sablefish	541710	0
Central AI POP	542141	0
Central AI Mackerel	542193	8

Table 14. HSCC Catches of GOA Groundfish by TAC Group.

TAC Group	TAC Code	Total Catch (Landed+ Discard)
WGOA Pacific Cod	610110	1
WGOA Shallow Water Flatfish	610120	0
WGOA Arrowtooth Flounder	610121	1
WGOA Flathead Sole	610122	0
WGOA Rock Sole	610123	0
WGOA Rex sole	610125	0
WGOA Yellowfin Sole	610127	0
WGOA Deep Water flatfish	610134	0
WGOA Other Species	610160	0
WGOA Atka Mackerel	610193	0
WGOA Pacific Ocean Perch	610141	0
610 Pollock	610270	1,538
620 Pollock	610710	11
WGOA Northern Rockfish	6102136	0
WGOA Demersal Shelf Rockfish	6102141	0
WGOA Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	6102142	0