

ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE
GROUNDFISH FISHERIES
OFF ALASKA, 2003

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Contents

- Catch
 - By area, gear, species, and residency of vessel owner
- Value
 - Ex-vessel value
 - By area, gear and species
 - Gross product value
 - By mode of operations (c/p, shoreside, mother) and subsets within each group
- Prices
 - AK prices for groundfish products by species and processing mode
 - Japanese market prices for selected groundfish and groundfish products

Contents

- Prohibited species bycatch
 - By area, species, gear and target fishery
- Discard totals and discard rates
 - By area, gear, and species
- Number of vessels operating
 - By gear type, area, residency, target fishery
- Total registered net tonnage
- Weeks spent fishing
 - By vessel type, gear type, target species

Contents

- Number of vessels and plants with observers
 - Observer deployment days
 - Estimated observer costs
- US per capita consumption of fish and shellfish, fillets and steaks, and fish sticks and portions.
- Producer and consumer price indexes, and foreign exchange rates
- Cold storage holdings of groundfish fillets and blocks

Contents

Regional Economic Info

- Total monthly employment
- Seafood processing labor income
- Seafood processing employment levels
- Share of total employment and total labor income for seafood processing industry
- Seafood processing income as share of total personal income

Note: most data are broken down by borough or census area, and often by year

Brief Overview

- Commercial groundfish catch increased from 2.1 million t to 2.2 million t in 2003
- Ex-vessel value for groundfish decreased from \$630 million to \$608 million
 - Groundfish accounted for 54% of total Alaska ex-vessel value
 - Shellfish fishery accounted for 16%
 - Salmon accounted for 15%
 - Halibut accounted for 14%

2003 Groundfish Catch Breakdown...

- **Pollock** catch of 1.54 million t (or 71%)
- **Pacific Cod** catch of 261K t (or 12%)
- **Flatfish** (yellowfin sole, rock sole, and arrowtooth flounder) catch of 201K (or 10%)
- **Sablefish, rockfish and Atka mackerel** make up the majority of the balance

Gear statistics...

- Around 90% of total catch is taken with trawl gear
- Most of the catch for any given species occurs using one particular type of gear (around 90%, on average, is taken with that gear type)
 - Exception is Pacific Cod
 - 37% by trawl
 - 46% by hook and line
 - 16% by pot

Catcher Vessels and Catcher-Processors...

- **Catcher vessels**
 - 47% of total groundfish catch
 - 54% of total ex-vessel value
- **Catcher-Processors**
 - 53% of total groundfish catch
 - 46% of ex-vessel value

Why?

- Catcher vessels take larger proportion of higher-priced species such as sablefish (\$2.37/lb)
- Gear choice
 - Trawl gear accounted for 90% of total catch, 70 % of ex-vessel value
 - Much of the trawl catch is of low-priced species such as pollock, (\$0.11 /lb)

Discards...

- Groundfish discard rates decreased slightly from 6.8% in 2002 to 6.7% in 2003
 - 15.6% in GOA
 - 5.8% in BSAI
- Discard rates higher for fixed gear than for trawl gear
 - 10% for fixed gear
 - 11.4% BSAI, 6% GOA
 - 6.3% for trawl gear
 - 5.3% BSAI, 19.2% GOA

Conclusion

- For more info see the Econ SAFE
- Email questions, corrections, or comments about this year's Econ SAFE to terry.hiatt@noaa.gov
- We also welcome suggestions for next year...