

2008 catch is through March 22 unless otherwise stated

## **Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands**

### Bering Sea Pollock

All sectors including CDQ caught their 2008 A season allocation of 387,400 metric tons (mt). In 2008 the same number of vessels participated as in 2007. Sixteen catcher/processors, 79 catcher vessels delivering to inshore processors, 16 catcher vessels delivering to 3 motherships, and 12 catcher/processors in the CDQ sector targeted pollock.

### Salmon in pollock fishery

The 2008 Chinook Salmon Savings Area (CSSA) limit is 29,000 salmon. The 2008 A season pollock fishery caught 16,096 non-CDQ and 598 CDQ Chinook salmon. The 2007 A season pollock fishery caught 66,430 non-CDQ and 3,091 CDQ Chinook salmon. In 2007 the CSSA closed for non-CDQ fisheries February 6 to April 15 and September 1 to December 31.

### Trawl halibut mortality

In 2008 halibut mortality for trawl gear is allocated to BSAI trawl limited access, Amendment 80 limited access, and Amendment 80 cooperatives. Total trawl halibut mortality is 56% of the 2007 trawl halibut mortality for the same time period. For catcher/processors most of the reduction is in the rock sole, Pacific cod, and yellowfin sole targets. For catcher vessels the Pacific cod fishery is about 130 mt less than in 2007. The BSAI trawl limited access sector exceeded their 2008 annual halibut mortality limit of 125 mt for the Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species target by 38 mt.

### Atka mackerel

One catcher/processor in the Amendment 80 cooperative and three catcher/processors in the Amendment 80 limited access sector registered for the 2008 A season harvest limitation area (HLA) fisheries in the Central and Western Aleutian Districts (four in 2007). The catch is well below the HLA limits. As in 2007 not much effort has occurred in Area 542. The Eastern Aleutian District/Bering Sea fishery closed for the Amendment 80 limited access sector February 5. The Eastern Aleutian District/Bering Sea fishery for the BSAI trawl limited access sector closed January 20 and re-opened March 18-20.

### Pacific cod

#### Hook-and-line catcher/processors

In 2008, 36 hook-and-line catcher/processors participated in the Pacific cod fishery (36 in 2007). The A season closed February 8 catching 36,790 mt of the 37,660 mt total allowable catch (TAC). The 2007 A season closed February 12 catching 40,343 mt of the 38,419 mt TAC.

### Hook-and-line catcher vessels

The fishery for hook-and-line catcher vessels  $\geq$  60 ft LOA remains open since no effort has occurred. The 2007 A season closed February 21 catching 157 mt of the 144 mt TAC.

### Hook-and-line and pot catcher vessels < 60 feet length overall

In 2008, 20 vessels participated in this fishery (10 for each gear), and it closed March 21, 2008. Hook-and-line gear caught 17% and pot gear caught 83% of the total catch. In March, NMFS reallocated 1,200 mt from jig gear to the < 60 ft category. In 2007, 20 vessels also participated (six hook-and-line, 14 pot), and the fishery closed March 30. Hook-and-line gear caught 8% and pot gear caught 92% of the total catch.

### Jig

In 2008, no effort has occurred in this fishery. In 2007, three vessels participated in the A season catching 11 mt.

### Pot

The 2008 fishery for pot catcher vessels closed January 18 with 43 vessels catching about 6,600 mt of the 6,496 mt A season TAC. The 2007 fishery closed January 26 with 48 vessels catching about 8,077 mt of the 7,203 mt A season TAC.

In 2008, five pot catcher/processors participated in the Pacific cod fishery. The 2008 fishery closed February 20 catching 1,178 mt of the 1,160 mt A season TAC. In 2007, three pot catcher/processors participated in the Pacific cod fishery. This fishery closed February 20, 2007 catching 1,691 mt of the 1,586 mt A season TAC.

### Trawl

The 2008 A season for catcher vessels closed March 6 catching 25,807 mt of the 24,932 mt A season TAC. The overage from the A season will be subtracted from the B season TAC of 3,706 mt that opens April 1, 2008. The 2007 A season for catcher vessels closed March 12 catching 25,205 mt of the 25,977 mt A season TAC. In 2007, the B season was open for 9 days and a total of 4,450 mt was taken. Based on past rates and number of vessels fishing (~50) the 2008 B season likely will close during the first week of April.

The Amendment 80 cooperative is controlling their catch. The 2008 Amendment 80 limited access fishery closed for the A and B seasons. The 2008 A season closed for AFA catcher/processors effective March 24 and the B season will remain closed. The 2007 A season for all trawl catcher/processors closed March 17 catching 18,010 mt of the 18,555 mt A season TAC. The 2007 B season fishery opened April 1 until the 11,133 mt TAC was taken May 10. The C season opened June 10 until the TAC was taken August 6.

## **Gulf of Alaska**

### Western GOA Pacific cod

The 2008 A season Western GOA inshore Pacific cod fishery closed February 29. A total of 10,429 mt of the 10,502 mt A season TAC was caught by 80 vessels. The percentages by gear are: 37% from pot gear, 21% from hook-and-line gear, and 42% from trawl gear. The 2007 A season Western GOA inshore Pacific cod fishery closed March 8. A total of

10,707 mt of the 10,876 mt A season TAC was caught by 80 vessels. The percentages by gear are: 35% from pot gear, 25% from hook-and-line gear, and 40% from trawl gear. The offshore component closed March 4 in 2008 and February 14 in 2007.

#### Central GOA Pacific cod

The 2008 A season Central GOA inshore Pacific cod fishery closed February 20 and had a 1 day opener on February 29. A total of 13,941 mt of the 15,350 mt A season TAC was caught by 166 vessels. The percentages by gear are: 29% from pot gear, 32% from hook-and-line gear, and 39% from trawl gear. The 2007 A season Central GOA inshore Pacific cod fishery closed February 27. A total of 14,131 mt of the 15,339 mt A season TAC was caught by 163 vessels. The percentages by gear are: 39% from pot gear, 29% from hook-and-line gear, and 32% from trawl gear. The offshore component closed March 9 in 2008 and February 14 in 2007.

#### Pollock

The A season TAC of pollock in 610 is 3,322 mt. The fishery opened January 20 and closed January 22. NMFS re-opened the fishery for 24 hours, March 3-4, and March 7 until the B season opened March 10. The B season TAC is 3,321 mt for a total A and B season TAC of 6,643 mt. About 3,541 mt of pollock remains. The fishery has slowed down, but may increase when the State of Alaska's Pacific cod fisheries close.

The A season fishery in Area 620 remained open all A season. Only 4,723 mt of the 6,215 mt A season TAC was caught. The B season TAC is 7,576 mt for a total A and B season TAC of 13,791 mt. The B season opened March 10 and closed March 26. As of March 28 the total 2008 catch is 14,945 mt.

The A season TAC for 630 is 3,069 mt. The 2008 fishery opened January 20 and closed January 22. NMFS re-opened the fishery for 48 hours January 25-27 and February 23-25. The catch exceeded the A season TAC by 1,646 mt. After subtracting the A season overage from the B season TAC 63 mt remains. The B season did not open.

#### Deep and Shallow Water Complex Trawl Fisheries

The trawl deep and shallow water complex fisheries remain open in 2008. The second season allocation of halibut mortality becomes available April 1. In addition to the pollock and Pacific cod fisheries some shoreside effort is targeting arrowtooth flounder and shallow-water flatfish and some at-sea catcher/processors are targeting arrowtooth flounder, rex sole, and flathead sole.