

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

Bering Sea Pollock

The A season fisheries finished during the week of April 5 with all the AFA components taking 100% of their A season allocations (519,000 mt). Seventeen catcher/processors, seventy-seven catcher vessels and three motherships participated. The Pollock B season starts at noon, June 10. In 2003, 5 catcher/processors and 10 shoreside delivering catcher vessels started the first week and the motherships started during the third week of the B season.

About 85% of the 2004 Chinook Salmon Savings Area limit has been reached with 22,809 chinook salmon taken out of the 26,825 non-CDQ limit. A closure of the savings area is expected on September 1.

Flatfish

Flatfish fisheries (rock sole, flathead sole, 'other flatfish' and yellowfin sole targets) have taken about 146,000 mt of groundfish through May, compared to about 93,600 mt through the same time period in 2003. Of the 146,000 mt of groundfish caught about 63% was taken in the yellowfin sole target. Halibut bycatch mortality was much lower in 2004 with 1,656 mt taken compared to the same time period in 2003 with 2,143 mt. Yellowfin sole, rock sole, Alaska plaice and "other flatfish" have all closed to directed fishing as the TACs have been reached. Usually these fisheries close because the halibut bycatch mortality allowances have been reached.

The third season for the rock sole/flathead sole/"other flatfish" fishery opens at noon, July 4 with an apportionment of 167 mt of halibut mortality available. Flathead sole will be the targeted species during this opening.

Atka mackerel

Preparations are being made for the second harvest limitation area (HLA) 'platoon' fisheries in 542 and 543. The registration deadline is July 31. Six catcher/processors registered for the A season HLA fisheries in 542 and 543. In 2003, ten catcher/processors participated in the September fishery.

BSAI Pacific cod

Hook-and-Line Catcher Processor

Thirty-seven hook-and-line catcher/processors participated in the Pacific cod fishery during the 2004 A season and the 2003 B season. The B season opens August 15 when the third seasonal apportionment of halibut mortality becomes available. The fishery is expected to take the remaining Pacific cod allocation of about 32,372 mt plus any

rollover available from allocations to other gears. The actual rollover amounts will be established in early September as effort by other gear types slows down.

Pot Gear

Sixty-six catcher vessels and 3 catcher/processors participated in the A season fisheries. The Pacific cod fishery for pot catcher/processors and catcher vessels > 60 ft LOA opens at noon, September 1.

Trawl Gear

Seventy-three catcher vessels, 1 mothership and 19 catcher/processors participated in the Pacific cod target taking a total of 64,925 mt. The catcher/processor fishery currently is open with 18,900 mt of the annual allocation remaining. The catcher vessel fishery opens June 10 with 9,900 mt remaining.

Hook-and-Line Catcher Vessel

Effort in this fishery started about February 7 and ended March 18 with 4 catcher vessels catching the 182 mt 'A' season allocation. The catcher vessels < 60 ft continued to fish on the allocation to vessels < 60' using hook-and-line or pot gear. The B season allocation of 121 mt becomes available on August 15.

Hook-and-Line and Pot Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 ft Length Overall

Eleven pot vessels caught 2,014 mt and 4 hook-and-line vessels caught 363 mt of the current < 60 ft allocation. The annual allocation is 1,416 mt and an additional 1,545 mt of the first seasonal jig allocation was reallocated to the < 60 ft allocation. Additional amounts of Pacific cod from the jig allocation may be reallocated to the < 60 ft since approximately 755 mt remains in the second season's and 1,545 mt in the third season's allocation. Fishing for Pacific cod by hook-and-line vessels closes June 10 until August 15 because zero mt of halibut mortality is allocated to the second season.

Jig

Through the end of May, 15 jig vessels caught 100 mt of Pacific cod compared to 2003 when 13 vessels caught 80 mt of Pacific cod. Currently, 5 vessels are participating averaging about 11 mt a week. Under Amendment 77, 1,545 mt of the first seasonal jig quota was reallocated to the hook-and-line/pot vessels < 60 feet LOA.

Greenland Turbot

The directed Greenland turbot fishery using hook-and-line gear opened May 1. This year's effort of 5 catcher/processors is similar to the start of the fishery in 2003. During all of 2003, 10 vessels targeted turbot and historic participation in this fishery has been as high as 25 catcher/processors. Currently, 200 mt has been taken in the directed fishery.

Gulf of Alaska

Skates

The Central GOA TAC for big and longnose skates is 3,284 mt of which about 1,000 mt are available to the directed fishery. The current estimate of total catch is 770 mt of which less than 118 mt has been taken in the directed fishery. The “other skates” category has a GOA-wide TAC of 3,709 mt and a directed fishing allowance also about 1,000 mt. The “other skates” catch is at 1,150 mt with about 245 mt taken in a directed fishery. Skates catch in the Central GOA is lower this year compared to the same time period in 2003. The big and longnose skates exvessel price is about 15 to 17 cents/pound this year compared to 25 cents/pound round weight in 2003.

Pacific cod

The second season for Pacific cod in the Western and Central GOA opens on September 1. The halibut bycatch mortality remaining for hook-and-line gear is 97 mt and for trawl gear about 150 mt is allocated to the September 1 season.

Western GOA Pacific cod

The remaining amount of Pacific cod for the inshore component is 4,800 mt and for the offshore component is 1,090 mt. In 2003, between June and September, 200 mt of inshore component and 100 mt of offshore component Pacific cod was taken in other target fisheries.

Central GOA Pacific cod

The remaining amount of Pacific cod for the inshore component is 9,300 mt and for the offshore component is 1,350 mt. In 2003, between June and September, 2,500 mt of inshore component and 50 mt of offshore component Pacific cod was taken in other target fisheries.

Pollock

Participation during the A and B seasons in 2004 was similar to 2003 with 21 catcher vessels in Area 610, 41 in Area 620 and 32 in Area 630. The C season fisheries open at noon, August 25.

Flatfish

About 13,600 mt (21,000 mt in 2003) of flatfish have been taken so far this year with non-pelagic gear. Catcher/processors caught 35% of the flatfish with arrowtooth flounder the majority of their catch followed by rex sole and flathead sole. Shore delivering catcher vessels caught 65% of the flatfish and most of it was arrowtooth flounder followed by shallow water flatfish (rock sole) and flathead sole. Currently, the shallow-water complex is open and could remain open until July 4 when the next allocations of trawl halibut mortality become available (deep-water, 400 mt and shallow-water, 200 mt).