

### Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

#### Bering Sea Pollock

For 2004 and 2005, the Chinook Salmon Savings Area limit is 29,000 salmon. In 2004, the pollock fishery had a high rate of chinook bycatch and took 54,100 chinook salmon with a directed fishery catch of 1,436,154 mt of pollock. During the 2004 A season 22,800 chinook salmon were taken. The 2005 pollock directed fishing allowance including CDQ is 1,433,923 mt. The 2005 chinook salmon catch is tracking close to last years rate with 3,700 salmon taken through January 29.

#### Catcher/processors

In 2005, sixteen catcher/processors (c/ps) are targeting pollock (17 in 2004) and the fleet average for the first full week is 4,900 mt per day. The 2004 average for the A season was 3,300 mt per day.

#### Inshore processors

Currently, 56 catcher vessels are targeting pollock (55 in 2004). In 2005, for the first full week of the fishery, shoreside catch showed a similar trend as the at-sea c/ps, averaging about 4,900 mt per day. The 2004 daily rate for the first full week was 4,400 mt.

#### Mothership

All 3 motherships are currently active. The average for the 2004 A season was about 1,100 mt per day. The 2005 catch rate is higher at about 1,500 mt per day.

#### Flatfish

In 2005, the fishery started with 9 c/ps primarily targeting rock sole with roe (15 in 2004). The catch through January 29, 2005 is 3,100 mt which is about half that reported through January 31, 2004. In 2004, the number of c/ps increased to 21 later in February. In 2004, the first seasonal trawl rock sole fishery began January 20 and closed on February 24 due to halibut mortality. Halibut mortality averaged about 17 mt per day for the first few weeks and then decreased to about 9 mt per day at the end of the season. Because of low rate of halibut bycatch, the first season in 2004 lasted 2 weeks longer in 2004 than in 2003. Also, in 2003 the rock sole catch averaged about 700 mt per day compared to 2004, which averaged 1,200 mt per day. As in 2004, the 2005 red king crab zone 1 limit is 197,000 crab. The rock sole/other flatfish/flathead sole target has a limit of 121,413 crab in 2005. Zone 1 remained open for the rock sole/other flatfish/flathead sole category in 2004. The red king crab savings subarea (RKCSS) limit is 42,495 under the final specifications. As of January 29, 6,872 mt of red king crab has been taken inside the RKCSS.

#### Atka mackereel

As in 2003, six c/ps registered for the 2005 A season harvest limitation area (HLA) fisheries in 543 and 542. The area 541/Bering Sea subarea fishery was closed to directed

fishing since the TAC only supports incidental catch amounts. The HLA fisheries started on January 22. The last HLA fishery closes February 21. However, in 2005 most of the catch is from outside HLA. Of the 8,200 mt taken in 542, only 3,300 mt is from inside HLA. Of the 620 mt taken in 543 almost all is from outside the HLA. In 2004, the outside HLA fishery closed for 542 on March 26 and for 543, by regulation, on April 15. The 542 catch is strong enough the fishery may close before the opening of the second HLA fishery.

#### Pacific cod

The hook-and-line, pot and jig fisheries started January 1. Trawl fisheries began January 20.

#### Hook-and-line C/Ps

Thirty-eight hook-and-line c/ps have checked into the Pacific cod fishery compared to 32 in 2004. Catch for 2005 is 25,000 mt through January 29. In 2004, the catch was 18,400 mt through January 31. The daily rate is about 900 mt in 2005 and was about 600 mt in 2004.

#### Pot

About 1,651 mt of Pacific cod has been delivered shoreside by pot gear in 2005, which is comparable to 2004. The fishery closed on February 14 in 2004. With the closure of the C. opilio crab fishery on January 20, pot effort is expected to increase. A small amount of effort is showing up in the pot c/p fishery. Jig and hook-and-line catcher vessels have delivered less than 10 mt.

#### Trawl

About 11 trawl catcher vessels are targeting Pacific cod. The total Pacific cod catch through January 29 is 3,064 mt. The c/p mixed flatfish fleet generally targets cod as an alternative to flatfish when the crab bycatch rates are high in the rock sole target. However, the majority of the trawl fleet that will later target Pacific cod are focused on pollock at this time of the A season.

#### Gulf of Alaska

##### Western GOA Pacific cod

The inshore fishery for Pacific cod in the Western GOA has taken about 998 mt through January 29. The 2004 A season TAC for the inshore component is 8,471 mt under the final specifications. NMFS is setting aside 90 mt as an incidental catch amount (ICA) to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries and the remaining as a directed fishing allowance (DFA) of 8,381 mt. About 10% of that catch is credited to at-sea c/ps that are part of the inshore component and 90% to shore deliveries. With the closure of the C. opilio crab fishery on January 20, pot effort is expected to increase. Currently no vessels are active in the offshore fishery.

##### Central GOA Pacific cod

In 2004, the A season fishery for inshore Pacific cod closed on January 31, taking about 15,000 mt. In 2005, the A season inshore fishery closed on January 26. The 2005 A season TAC under the final specifications for the inshore component is 13,547 mt, with an ICA 2,000 mt and a DFA of 11,547 mt. As of January 29, inshore deliveries total 11,179 mt. Pot gear took 38%, trawl gear 35% and hook-and-line gear 26% compared to 2004 A season where pot gear took 26%, trawl gear 41% and hook-and-line gear 33%. No effort has shown up for the offshore component.

### Pollock

The pollock fisheries in areas 610, 620 and 630 opened January 20. The fishery in area 610 closed after 3 days taking about 192% of the final A season quota. Currently, the trawl vessels have agreed to wait to target pollock in the Central GOA. The industry has agreed to wait until about February 10 before targeting pollock in area 630. When the pollock roe is more matured fishermen should get a higher price. Area 620 remains open and a few vessels are targeting pollock with a total catch of 140 mt. About 9 shoreside trawl vessels are targeting mostly shallow water flatfish and some arrowtooth flounder.