

## **Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands**

### Bering Sea Pollock

For 2007, the Chinook Salmon Savings Area (CSSA) limit is 29,000 salmon. The 2007 chinook salmon catch of 15,651 salmon through January 27 is tracking higher than in 2006 with 8,437 salmon taken through January 28. NMFS projects the CSSA will close during the week ending February 10. During the 2006 A season 57,144 non-CDQ and 1,580 CDQ chinook salmon were taken. The CSSA closed for non CDQ February 15, 2006.

### Catcher/processors

As in 2006, 16 catcher/processors (c/ps) are targeting Pollock. In 2007, for the first full week they caught 37,774 mt compared to 38,701 mt the first week of 2006. The 2006 average for the A season was 3,681 mt/day.

### Inshore processors

Currently, 52 catcher vessels are targeting pollock (48 for same time period in 2006). In 2006 a total of 73 catcher vessels participated in the A season. In 2007, for the first full week they caught 27,856 mt compared to 33,376 the first week of 2006. The 2006 average for the A season was 4,330 mt/day.

### Motherships

All three motherships are currently active. In 2007, for the first full week they caught 8,251 mt compared to 9,281 mt the first week of 2006. The 2006 average for the A season was 1,500 mt/day.

### Flatfish

Currently in 2007 15 c/ps are primarily targeting rock sole (10 in 2006). The catch through January 27, 2007, is 4,793 mt which compares to 1,498 mt through January 28, 2006. In 2006, the first seasonal trawl rock sole fishery opened January 20 and closed February 21 due to halibut mortality. As in 2006, the 2007 red king crab zone 1 limit for all targets is 197,000 crab. The rock sole/other flatfish/flathead sole target has a limit of 121,413 crab. Zone 1 remained open for the rock sole/other flatfish/flathead sole category in 2006. The red king crab savings subarea (RKCSS) limit is 42,495 crab. As of January 27, about 26,000 red king crab have been taken inside the RKCSS. In 2006, the RKCSS closed April 5 to non-pelagic trawl gear.

### Atka mackerel

Four c/ps registered for the 2007 A season harvest limitation area (HLA) fisheries in 543 and 542 (6 in 2006). NMFS closed the area 541/Bering Sea subarea fishery February 3, 2007. The HLA fisheries started February 5. The last HLA fishery closes March 7. In the 2006 A season, 86% of the 542 HLA and 1% of the 543 were taken in the HLAs. In 2006, the entire area for 542 closed February 18 and for 543 April 15.

### Pacific cod

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

### Hook-and-line C/Ps

In 2007, 36 hook-and-line c/ps have checked into the Pacific cod fishery (38 in 2006). Catch for 2007 is 22,927 mt through January 27. In 2006, the catch was 24,524 mt through January 28 and the A season closed February 18. The 2007 A season TAC under the final specifications is 38,419 mt. At the current catch rates, the A season is expected to close the around February 14.

### Pot

The 2007 fishery for pot catcher vessels closed January 26 with 49 vessels taking about 7,933 mt. In 2006, the fishery closed February 3 with 38 vessels taking about 9,798 mt. Pot catcher vessels less than 60 ft LOA may continue to fish under the less than 60 ft LOA pot and hook-and-line allocation.

In 2007, 3 pot c/ps have checked into the Pacific cod fishery (2 in 2006). Catch for 2007 is 596 mt through January 27. In 2006, effort started during the week ending February 18 and the A season closed April 8. The 2006 A season TAC under the final specifications is 1,586 mt. At the current catch rates, the A season is expected to close the end of February.

### Trawl

Seventeen trawl catcher vessels delivering shore side are targeting Pacific cod (24 in 2006). The total Pacific cod catch through January 27 is 1,784 mt (including pelagic gear and mothership effort). In 2006, the catch was 4,167 mt through January 28 and the A season closed March 8.

Six trawl c/ps are targeting Pacific cod (15 in 2006). The total Pacific cod catch through January 27 is 1,114 mt (including pelagic gear). In 2006, the catch was 2,890 mt through January 28 and the A season closed March 12.

## **Gulf of Alaska**

### Western GOA Pacific cod

The inshore Pacific cod fishery in the Western GOA has taken about 1,058 mt through January 27. The 2007 A season TAC for the inshore component is 10,876 mt under the final specifications. NMFS set an incidental catch allowance (ICA) of 100 mt to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries and the remaining 10,776 mt as a directed fishing allowance (DFA). Pot gear has taken 95% and trawl gear 5%. For the entire 2006 A season pot gear took 45%, trawl gear 46%, and hook-and-line gear 9%. In 2006, the A season fishery for inshore Pacific cod closed March 2, taking about 12,200 mt. No effort has shown up for the offshore fishery.

### Central GOA Pacific cod

As of January 27, inshore deliveries total 4,700 mt. The 2007 A season TAC under the final specifications for the inshore component is 15,339 mt, with an ICA of 2,000 mt and a DFA of 13,339 mt. Pot gear has taken 46%, hook-and-line gear 37% and trawl gear 17%. For the entire 2006 A season, pot gear took 44%, trawl gear 25%, jig gear 1%, and hook-and-line gear 30%. In 2006, the A season fishery for inshore Pacific cod closed February 28, taking about 14,640 mt. 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 610 closed after two days taking about 28% of the final A season TAC of 4,511 mt. NMFS will reopen the fishery when the weather improves. The fishery in 630 closed after two days taking about 3% of the final A season TAC of 3,320 mt. The fishery reopened February 6 for 48 hours. The last couple of years fishing in area 620 has not accelerated until late February or early March. In 2006, area 620 closed March 21.