

**Report of the
Akutan Catcher Vessel Association
2002**

**Presented to the
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
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Cooperative Organization and Membership

The Akutan Catcher Vessel Association (ACVA) was formed in December of 1999 in order to promote the rationalization of the onshore pollock harvest in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands trawl fisheries through mutual cooperation of its member vessels. In 2002, the Akutan Catcher Vessel Association was made up of 33 vessels eligible under the American Fisheries Act to harvest pollock in the Bering Sea directed pollock fishery. This cooperative was formed in affiliation with the Trident Seafoods plant in Akutan, Alaska, as its primary purchasing and processing facility. Within the coop, member vessels were allocated a percentage of the directed pollock fishery, as well as sideboard fisheries, based on the relevant catch history of the individual vessels. All potential member vessels catch history was submitted to Sea State, Inc. prior to the ACVA inception. Sea State was hired as an independent third party to aid in the catch history verification process. Sea State verified all of the data brought forth which resulted in the coop pollock percentages listed below. The following table shows the 2002 Akutan Catcher Vessel Association member vessels and their corresponding pollock percentage.

Vessel	Coop percent 2002
ALDEBARAN	5.14%
ARCTIC EXPLORER	5.77%
NORDIC EXPL.	3.85%
INTREPID EXPL.	4.17%
ARCTURUS	5.42%
BLUE FOX	1.22%
COLUMBIA	5.06%
CAPE KIWANDA	0.82%
DOMINATOR	6.24%
SOVEREIGNTY	8.38%
NORTHERN PATRIOT	8.60%
EXODUS	1.07%
GLADIATOR	5.85%
GOLDEN DAWN	6.44%
GOLDEN PISCES	0.96%
HAZEL LORRAINE	1.39%
LESLIE LEE	1.93%
LISA MELINDA	0.76%
MAJESTY	3.55%
MARCY J	0.64%
MARGARET LYN	0.12%
NW EXPLORER	0.84%
PACIFIC RAM	0.73%
PACIFIC VIKING	3.91%
PEGASUS	2.48%
PEGGY JO	1.18%
PERSEVERANCE	1.05%
PREDATOR	0.78%
RAVEN	2.49%
ROYAL AMERICAN	3.46%
SEEKER	1.32%
TRAVELER	0.15%
VIKING EXPLORER	4.24%

The vessel percentages listed in the table were not only used for the distribution of pollock shares but also as a method for sharing costs needed for operation of the cooperative for the year.

Decisions regarding political positions or coop operations were made either by the ACVA membership or by the Board of Directors for the coop, depending on the issue. The ACVA was very active in the inter-coop process and was bound contractually through the Inter-Coop Agreement. Relevant inter-coop issues were brought back and voted on at the coop membership level to assure members were being well represented at the inter-coop. The following is a description of the workings and purpose of the Inter-Coop Agreement:

Introduction

During early January 2000, representatives of the nine catcher vessel cooperatives developed an agreement that governs the relationships between the individual cooperatives. This agreement was approved by all the catcher vessel (CV) cooperatives on January 19, 2000. Modifications to the original agreement were made for the year 2002, however, the majority of the original agreement remained the same. The primary reasons for this agreement include:

- 1) Allocation, monitoring and compliance of the GOA and BSAI groundfish limits among the coops;
- 2) Allocation, monitoring and compliance of certain PSC caps by the individual cooperatives;
- 3) Allocation, monitoring and compliance of the harvest of BSAI pollock inside the Stellar Sea Lion Conservation Area (over and =/under 99' vessels);
- 4) Establishment of penalties for a coop exceeding its pollock and sideboard allocations;
- 5) Provide for the harvest of BSAI P. cod for the "< 1700 MT" exempt vessels while complying with AFA PSC limits;
- 6) Establishment and monitoring of sideboard species transfers between cooperatives, and
- 7) To promote compliance of the Council's recommended Sideboard measures and PSC limits while allowing for maximum harvest of the AFA pollock and sideboard allocations.

Sideboard Management

In accordance with Section 211(c) of the AFA, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (Council) adopted sideboard species caps to give assurances to non-AFA vessel owners that AFA vessels would not harvest more than their traditional levels of groundfish fisheries in the GOA and BSAI. However, the Council and NMFS did not provide allocations of sideboard species to the individual cooperatives. Rather, they established an aggregate groundfish sideboard cap for all AFA catcher vessels. In order to work together to meet the Council's intent of not exceeding these caps, all nine CV cooperatives agreed to individual coop harvest limits and penalties for all sideboard fisheries, combined with an industry funded and established catch monitoring program (Sea State, Inc.).

The cooperatives agreed to limit their collective members' harvest of each sideboard species to the amount determined by a history-based formula set out in the Inter-Coop Agreement. The formula includes reserving an amount of each sideboard species necessary to fund bycatch needs of other directed fisheries (example: P. cod bycatch in the Pollock or YFS fisheries).

Making this agreement somewhat difficult was that the Council established exempt vessel classification for CVs. The Council established an exemption to the BSAI P cod limit for AFA vessels < 125' LOA whose annual BSAI Pollock landings during 1995-1997 were less than 1700mt and had made more than 30 deliveries of P. cod during those years. The Council also exempted the Mothership AFA vessels from the BSAI P. cod cap after March 1st. In addition, the Council made an exemption to the GOA groundfish limits for AFA vessels < 125' LOA whose annual BSAI Pollock landings during 1995-1997 were less than 1700mt and had made more than 40 GOA deliveries of groundfish during those years. The agreement allows the exempt vessels unlimited access to the directed fishery, while constraining them to an acceptable PSC rate.

The Council's exempt recommendation was for an exemption to the directed species (in this case P. cod), and not an exemption to associated PSC bycatch. To address this problem, the Inter-Coop Agreement contains language that provides for the AFA exempt vessels to fish the BSAI CV cod directed fishery allowance unconstrained. The agreement also provides for an allocation of PSC to these exempt vessels' coop as long as these vessels PSC rate below the acceptable AFA fleet rate.

PSC Management

Each coop receives PSC cap allocations for its non-exempt vessels proportionate to its related sideboard species allocations. In addition, each coop receives an initial PSC allocation for its exempt vessels. If a coop's exempt vessels' PSC rate remains at or below the predetermined acceptable rate, the coop can receive additional PSC when needed, as determined by the Monitoring Agent (Sea State), in order to continue fishing for BSAI P. cod. This "refreshing of PSC" only applies to the exempt AFA Vessels within a coop. The non-exempt AFA vessels have to live with their initial allocation of PSC.

Monitoring

The agreement acknowledges that timely reported catch data is necessary. Coops are required to provide timely data on sideboard catch and PSC to a monitoring agent. The nine CV coops have agreed to contract with Sea State, Inc. to provide centralized monitoring and reporting. Data sources include the NMFS Shoreside Logbook Reporting Program, along with the Observer Program information. An inter-coop manager was hired and retained by United Catcher Boats to facilitate inter-coop operations.

For example, using information available on the Sea State web site, the coop managers were able to determine general trends in fleet bycatch by time and area. Halibut mortality rates were established by Sea State based on in season observer data. Weekly rates were available to coops by area and in aggregate. Overall fleet directed and bycatch amounts were monitored to facilitate transfers, cap utilization and bycatch reduction.

Another example involves coop members' efforts to manage salmon bycatch this fall. A chum salmon bycatch program was developed by the inter-coop group to aid in the avoidance of chum salmon during the B season pollock fisheries. This program relied upon daily and often tow-by-tow salmon bycatch data in order to determine real time bycatch rates that could be used immediately by the fleet. The program set up two Bering Sea management regions and incorporated weekly savings closures triggered for each one of the Bering Sea regions. These closures were triggered by bycatch rates for the particular week that were in excess of the pre-determined threshold levels. This program also required vessels that experience an incident of high salmon bycatch to notify the rest of the fleet with information about the "hot spot". A daily on-grounds reporting system was developed to allow timely data transfer from the fishing grounds.

Communications between coop managers, Sea State and the inter-coop manager were paramount to the success of fleet-wide measures aimed at reducing prohibited species bycatch in both the pollock and cod fisheries.

Penalties

The nine CV coops agreed to establish a penalty clause in the Inter-Coop Agreement in order to create over harvest disincentives. The penalty for an Inshore Coop member exceeding its pollock allocation amount for area or season is \$500/mt for the pollock "A" season and \$300/mt for the "B" season. For exceeding a BS, AI and GOA P. cod sideboard allocation, the penalty amount is \$1,000/mt. For exceeding all other groundfish sideboard species, the penalty amount is \$300/mt.

Transfers

The Inter-Coop Agreement allows for the facilitation of transfers of pollock allocation and sideboard limits among members. Upon verification of available cap by Sea State and the approval of transfer by the inter-coop manager, sideboard caps of directed and prohibited species were transferred between coops. By allowing transfers, coops managed fleets to improve utilization of target species, reduce bycatch and provide a mechanism by which coops could manage their fleets to comply with the inter-coop agreement.

Coop Daily Operations

The Coop Manager carried out daily operations and allocation management for Akutan Catcher Vessel Assoc. fisheries. Member vessels were required, to the best of their ability, to advise the Coop Manager of their intended fisheries and dates of operation for their vessel(s) prior to the start of January openings. These operational plans were used to help determine start dates for the coop fisheries to assure that entire coop allocations could be harvested within the dates allowed by the regulations. The Akutan Catcher Vessel Association was successful in allowing member vessels to harvest their allocations as it best suited each individual vessel.

The intra-coop monitoring of target fishery allocations and sideboard fisheries was accomplished through a joint effort between the cooperative manager and Sea State, Inc. The data required for in-season management of target species was derived from fish tickets and NMFS Delivery Reports which were transmitted to Sea State and the coop manger on a daily basis from the processing facility. Data was sent to Sea State via the use of the NMFS Electronic Logbook software. Data on remaining allocations by vessel was transmitted back to the fleet via the coop manager on a daily basis. The coop manager and Sea State both kept independent records of coop fishing activity but worked closely to assure the two data sets were consistent. This process assured the coop that no data or deliveries were unaccounted for.

Data for monitoring the usage of prohibited species within the ACVA fisheries was obtained from both the NMFS Observer Program offices as well as through the NMFS delivery reports. Observer data for individual vessels is available on the NMFS Observer Program web site 24 hours a day. Sea State, Inc. was authorized by the ACVA to have access to this data and to process it into a format that was useful to the coop.

All data generated by Sea State, inc. was available to the coop manager on the password protected Sea State web site. Data on the web site is available in the aggregate or by individual vessel deliveries.

ACVA Pollock Allocations and Harvest

Based on the NMFS verified catch history of its member vessels, the ACVA was allocated 28.085% of the pollock available to the Bering Sea onshore component. This resulted in a total 2002 Bering Sea pollock allocation of 181,433 MT. This total allocation was distributed to member vessels using the same criteria that NMFS used to determine the total ACVA pollock allocation. Individual members relevant pollock catch history was submitted and verified by Sea State, Inc. Each vessel's harvest allocation was then determined based on the member's share of the cooperative's overall pollock harvest allocation. This was based on the total amount of pollock harvested by that member's vessel in the directed inshore pollock fishery, using the best two (2) of the three (3) years 1995, 1996 and 1997, relative to the aggregate total amount of pollock harvest by all member vessels during the same years. In addition, member vessels were credited for deliveries in excess of 499 MT that were made to catcher/processors. Table 1 shows the initial pollock allocation to the coop and individual vessels as well as the aggregate group harvest and individual vessel harvest. Following that table is Table 2 which shows the pollock harvest along with non-groundfish catch and PSC catch.

TABLE 1

As indicated on this table in the bottom right corner, 150 MT of pollock was left unharvested in the ACVA for the year 2002. The majority of the remaining pollock was allocation that was left on the table by the coop members that were classified as exempt vessels in the GOA and, therefore, were unable to lease, trade or sell their Bering Sea pollock allocation. Most GOA exempt vessels, however, were able to harvest most of their BS allocations in 2002.

As you can see by looking at each individual member vessel's harvest of pollock over the year as compared to their allocations, many intra-coop transfers of pollock allocation were done. These transfers were done to allow member vessels to fish their allocation when desired and as a result of eligible vessels leasing or trading their allocation within the coop. Also, in an effort to continue to rationalization process, some vessels did not participate in the 2002 fisheries. Their allocation was stacked on other coop vessels, which allowed it to be harvested more economically.

The bycatch reserve release column of this table is the amount of pollock this coop received as a result of NMFS releasing the unused portion of the pollock bycatch reserves near the end of the 2002 pollock "B" season. Enforcement penalties were established for 2002 for vessels that exceeded their allocations of pollock, however, no vessels exceeded their allowed harvest level and, therefore, no enforcement penalties were assessed. The vessels that harvested in excess of their allocation did so under the direction of the coop and as a result of additional fish being transferred or sold to the vessel.

TABLE 2

“A” season restrictions to protect the Stellar sea lions likely had an effect on the performance of the fishery this year as it related to the bycatch of PSC species and non-target species. However, the relief from some of those restrictions in the “B” season allowed vessels more access to fishing grounds which allowed them to target higher quality pollock and operate in areas with lower bycatch rates. Vessels were also able to operate more economically and safer as a result of the “B” season available fishing areas. No transfers of the ACVA Bering Sea pollock allocations were made to vessels outside of the coop.

TABLE 1
AKUTAN CATCHER VESSEL ASSOCIATION
2002 POLLOCK ALLOCATIONS AND HARVEST BY VESSEL

2002 Total Pollock Allocation: 180,169 MT
1,264 MT Reserve
181,433 MT Total With Reserve Release

Vessel	Coop percent 2002	2002 Initial Allocation (MT)	2002 Bycatch Res. Realloc. (MT)	2002 Total Allocation (MT)	Vessel Harvest (MT)	(Over/Under Allocation (MT))
ALDEBARAN	5.14%	9,264	65	9,329	9,055	274
ARCTIC EXPLORER	5.77%	10,404	73	10,477	11,268	(791)
NORDIC EXPL.	3.85%	6,943	49	6,992	0	6,992
INTREPID EXPL.	4.17%	7,512	53	7,564	5,034	2,530
ARCTURUS	5.42%	9,763	68	9,832	9,165	667
BLUE FOX	1.22%	2,194	15	2,210	2,288	(78)
COLUMBIA	5.06%	9,110	64	9,174	9,203	(29)
CAPE KWANDA	0.82%	1,474	10	1,485	1,479	6
DOMINATOR	6.24%	11,241	79	11,319	12,710	(1,391)
SOVEREIGNTY	8.38%	15,102	106	15,208	18,176	(2,968)
NORTHERN PATRIOT	8.60%	15,489	109	15,598	19,044	(3,446)
EXODUS	1.07%	1,920	13	1,934	1,921	13
GLADIATOR	5.85%	10,537	74	10,611	9,916	695
GOLDEN DAWN	6.44%	11,596	81	11,678	12,422	(744)
GOLDEN PISCES	0.96%	1,738	12	1,750	2,309	(559)
HAZEL LORRAINE	1.39%	2,496	18	2,514	2,512	2
LESLIE LEE	1.93%	3,479	24	3,503	3,456	47
LISA MELINDA	0.76%	1,377	10	1,387	1,375	12
MAJESTY	3.55%	6,394	45	6,439	1,760	4,679
MARCY J	0.64%	1,156	8	1,164	1,159	5
MARGARET LYN	0.12%	219	2	221	0	221
NW EXPLORER	0.84%	1,522	11	1,532	11,151	(9,619)
PACIFIC RAM	0.73%	1,307	9	1,316	1,306	10
PACIFIC VIKING	3.91%	7,039	49	7,088	2,772	4,316
PEGASUS	2.48%	4,464	31	4,495	5,128	(633)
PEGGY JO	1.18%	2,133	15	2,148	2,147	1
PERSEVERANCE	1.05%	1,897	13	1,910	0	1,910
PREDATOR	0.78%	1,399	10	1,409	1,762	(353)
RAVEN	2.49%	4,495	32	4,527	4,609	(82)
ROYAL AMERICAN	3.46%	6,229	44	6,273	6,428	(155)
SEEKER	1.32%	2,373	17	2,390	2,478	(88)
TRAVELER	0.15%	265	2	267	287	(20)
VIKING EXPLORER	4.24%	7,638	54	7,692	8,963	(1,271)
TOTALS	100.00%	180,169	1264	181,433	181,283	150

TABLE 2
AKUTAN CATCHER VESSEL ASSOCIATION
2002 ACTUAL CATCH AND BYCATCH IN DIRECTED POLLOCK FISHERY

Vessel	Pollock Harvest (MT)	Non-Target Groundfish (MT)	Halibut Mort. (MT)	Red King Crab (N)	Bairdi (N)	Other Tanner (N)	Chinook (N)	Other Salmon (N)
ALDEBARAN	9,055	65.48	1	0	3	2	182	763
ARCTIC EXPLORER	11,268	44.01	1	1	4	2	146	442
NORDIC EXPL.	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
INTREPID EXPL.	5,034	22.41	1	0	1	1	59	278
ARCTURUS	9,165	84.11	2	0	3	2	252	817
BLUE FOX	2,288	11.08	0	0	1	1	32	483
COLUMBIA	9,203	73.78	3	0	178	30	241	394
CAPE KIWANDA	1,479	12.16	1	0	1	0	70	205
DOMINATOR	12,710	92.08	2	0	3	3	241	456
SOVEREIGNTY	18,176	241.72	4	0	104	19	476	1562
NORTHERN PATRIOT	19,044	167.72	2	0	6	4	375	1368
EXODUS	1,921	7.09	0	0	1	1	39	640
GLADIATOR	9,916	104.51	1	0	3	2	284	1240
GOLDEN DAWN	12,422	101.60	5	0	2	2	745	966
GOLDEN PISCES	2,309	11.43	1	0	1	0	4	35
HAZEL LORRAINE	2,512	32.89	0	0	1	0	80	431
LESLIE LEE	3,456	25.75	2	0	1	1	66	73
LISA MELINDA	1,375	9.23	0	0	0	0	16	66
MAJESTY	1,760	7.40	0	0	0	0	40	2
MARCY J	1,159	16.57	0	0	0	0	20	56
MARGARET LYN	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
NW EXPLORER	11,151	38.01	1	0	4	3	231	511
PACIFIC RAM	1,306	9.03	0	0	1	0	45	58
PACIFIC VIKING	2,772	9.77	0	0	0	0	111	2
PEGASUS	5,128	31.26	1	0	2	1	175	127
PEGGY JO	2,147	16.10	1	0	1	0	70	1369
PERSEVERANCE	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
PREDATOR	1,762	12.33	0	0	0	0	54	378
RAVEN	4,609	19.95	1	0	2	1	130	168
ROYAL AMERICAN	6,428	53.46	2	0	1	1	73	73
SEEKER	2,478	9.45	0	0	1	1	37	208
TRAVELER	287	2.79	0	0	0	0	1	34
VIKING EXPLORER	8,963	79.97	1	0	3	2	213	908
TOTALS	181,283	1,413.14	33	1	328	79	4,508	14,113
TOTAL ALLOCATION	181,433							
UNHARVESTED ALLOC.	150							

ACVA Bering Sea Sideboards

Sideboard caps in the Bering Sea were established for each individual coop for Pacific cod, Yellowfin sole and Rock sole. No member vessels in the Akutan Catcher Vessel Association participated in either the Yellowfin or Rock sole fishery.

Based on the Sea State verified catch history of its member vessels, the ACVA was allocated 25.19% of the Pacific cod available to the catcher vessel fleet directed fishery. This percentage resulted in a 2002 P. cod sideboard total of 9,074 MT to the ACVA non-exempt vessels. This amount was distributed to the Bering Sea non-exempt member vessels only, as Bering Sea exempt cod vessels had their own allocation set aside prior to distribution of the non-exempt shares. The ACVA total cod sideboard share was derived from the cod allocation agreement negotiated at the inter-coop level. Table 3 shows the cod coop percentage for each of the non-exempt member vessels as well as the associated sideboard amount and harvest for 2002. The bottom of the table also shows the BS exempt member vessels and their associated cod harvest for 2002. Table 4 shows the total cod harvest as well as the non-target groundfish and the associated PSC catches for both the non-exempt and the exempt vessels for the 2002 cod fishery.

TABLE 3:

A total of 3,385.61 MT of the cod sideboard was not harvested during 2002. A net of 416.97 MT of BS cod sideboards were transferred to this coop over the course of the year. This was a result of both incoming and outgoing transfers of sideboards. After transfers, the total 2002 BS cod sideboard amount was 9,491.48 MT, of which, 64% was harvested. The large majority of the harvest took place in late winter and early spring. The annual allocation was released at three different times during the year. Initial allocations were harvested almost completely. However, sideboard amount that came out in April and again in June were not harvested due to the overall poor performance of the fishery during that time.

As with pollock, many intra-coop transfers were made in an attempt to accommodate vessel's fishing plans and to harvest as much of the cod sideboard as possible. All vessels that harvested amounts in excess of their own allocation did so under the direction of the coop and its in-season manager.

TABLE 4:

PSC caps were established formally for halibut, Zone 1 Red King crab as well as Zone 1 bairdi and opilio. As the harvest data shows, PSC bycatch was very low in 2002. Only 13% of the coops available halibut mortality was used to harvest the cod. This is largely due to the fishing grounds where a lot of the cod was harvested. This is also true for the other PSC species.

**TABLE 3
AKUTAN CATCHER VESSEL ASSOCIATION
2002 BS PACIFIC COD SIDEBOARD ALLOCATIONS AND HARVEST**

2002 Initial Sideboard Total: 9,074 MT

Non-Exempt Vessels	Coop Percent	2002 Allocation (MT)	Inter Coop Transfers (MT)	Total Sideboard with Transfers	Vessel Harvest (MT)	(Over)/Under Allocation (MT)
ALDEBARAN	6.30%	571.66		571.66	0.00	571.66
ARCTIC EXPLORER	5.60%	508.14		508.14	0.00	508.14
NORDIC EXPLORER	2.87%	260.42		260.42	0.00	260.42
INTREPID EXPLORER	4.75%	431.02	330.18	761.20	1105.18	(343.99)
ARCTURUS	5.49%	498.16		498.16	319.03	179.13
CAPE KIWANDA	4.15%	376.57		376.57	21.76	354.81
COLUMBIA	6.60%	598.88		598.88	325.50	273.38
DOMINATOR	5.74%	520.85		520.85	672.63	(151.78)
SOVEREIGNTY	1.88%	170.59		170.59	0.00	170.59
NORTHERN PATRIOT	0.91%	82.57	(49.61)	32.96	0.00	32.96
EXODUS	1.94%	176.04		176.04	0.00	176.04
GLADIATOR	5.09%	461.87		461.87	353.34	108.53
GOLDEN DAWN	5.41%	490.90		490.90	368.71	122.19
HAZEL LORAINÉ	1.35%	122.50		122.50	0.00	122.50
LESLIE LEE	0.84%	76.22		76.22	0.00	76.22
LISA MELINDA	0.53%	48.09		48.09	33.83	14.26
MAJESTY	7.00%	635.18	136.00	771.18	1054.27	(283.09)
MARCY J	0.57%	51.72		51.72	0.00	51.72
NW EXPLORER	0.00%	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
PACIFIC RAM	1.75%	158.80		158.80	104.12	54.68
PACIFIC VIKING	7.07%	641.53		641.53	737.20	-95.67
PEGASUS	6.26%	568.03		568.03	267.22	300.81
RAVEN	4.80%	435.55		435.55	295.41	140.14
ROYAL AMERICAN	7.21%	654.24		654.24	447.67	206.57
VIKING EXPLORER	5.90%	535.37		535.37	0.00	535.37
TOTALS	100.01%	9,074.91	416.57	9491.48	6105.87	3385.61

Exempt Vessels	Coop Percent	2001 "A" Cod Harvest
BLUE FOX	EXEMPT	1,058.27
GOLDEN PISCES	EXEMPT	913.18
PERSEVERANCE	EXEMPT	444.89
PREDATOR	EXEMPT	1,023.37
PEGGY JO	EXEMPT	0.00
SEEKER	EXEMPT	1,334.76
TOTAL (MT)		4,774.47

TABLE 4
AKUTAN CATCHER VESSEL ASSOCIATION
2002 BERING SEA PACIFIC COD "A" SIDEBOARD HARVEST AND PSC BYCATCH

Non-Exempt Vessels	Pacific Cod Harvest (MT)	Non-Target Groundfish (MT)	Halibut Mort. (MT)	Red King Crab (N)	Bairdi (N)	Other Tanner (N)	Chinook (N)	Other Salmon (N)
ALDEBARAN	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ARCTIC EXPLORER	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NORDIC EXPLORER	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INTREPID EXPLORER	1105.18	46	1	0	96	34	17	7
ARCTURUS	319.03	12	1	0	82	7	1	0
CAPE KIWANDA	21.76	2	0	0	11	2	0	0
COLUMBIA	325.50	102	5	0	560	174	4	0
DOMINATOR	672.63	44	2	0	288	25	0	0
SOVEREIGNTY	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NORTHERN PATRIOT	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EXODUS	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GLADIATOR	353.34	20	1	0	116	16	0	0
GOLDEN DAWN	368.71	23	4	0	72	19	0	0
HAZEL LORAINÉ	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LESLIE LEE	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LISA MELINDA	33.83	4	1	0	45	4	0	0
MAJESTY	1054.27	56	1	0	306	57	0	0
MARCY J	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NW EXPLORER	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PACIFIC RAM	104.12	18	0	0	23	13	0	0
PACIFIC VIKING	737.20	38	1	0	237	37	0	0
PEGASUS	267.22	63	3	0	178	78	0	0
RAVEN	295.41	68	3	0	171	62	0	0
ROYAL AMERICAN	447.67	17	2	0	75	5	0	0
VIKING EXPLORER	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	6105.87	513	25	0	2260	533	22	7
TOTAL ALLOCATION	9,491.48		187	1,523.00	23,913.00	16,289.00		
UNHARVESTED ALLOC.	3,385.61		162	1,523.00	21,653.00	15,756.00		

Exempt Vessels	Pacific Cod Harvest (MT)	Non-Target Groundfish (MT)	Halibut Mort. (MT)	Red King Crab (N)	Bairdi (N)	Other Tanner (N)	Chinook (N)	Other Salmon (MT)
BLUE FOX	1,058.27	179	15	0	1214	317	4	0
GOLDEN PISCES	913.18	210	14	0	2444	423	22	10
PERSEVERANCE	444.89	55	5	0	391	90	1	0
PREDATOR	1,023.37	191	13	0	1323	300	0	0
SEEKER	1,334.76	315	18	0	4086	643	0	0
PEGGY JO	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Chum Salmon Bycatch Program

As described earlier, a chum salmon bycatch program was created and implemented through the work of the inter-coop group. The result was a Chum Salmon Bycatch Agreement that was adopted by all of the coops. One of the goals of this program was to collect timely salmon bycatch data and get the results of this data back out to the fleet in a real-time fashion. The hope was that by having timely bycatch rates in specific areas the fleet could better avoid chum salmon bycatch. Incorporated in this program were weekly closures, which effected coops that had shown high bycatch rates over the course of the season.

The catalyst to this program was timely tow-by-tow salmon bycatch data. It was necessary to transmit this data from the fishing grounds as much as possible to allow for bycatch rates to be as real time as possible. This would allow the fleet to react to these rates and assume them the most current snapshot of what was happening on the grounds. Many of the Akutan Catcher Vessel Association vessels used software in conjunction with their onboard VMS system to transmit data through the VMS unit directly to Sea State from the fishing grounds. Vessels that did not have the VMS software transmitted their data to the Coop Manager and to Sea State in text format via their Sat C units. Both methods allowed for rapid data transfer from the fishing grounds. Data that could not be sent from the grounds, for one reason or another, was obtained from fish ticket data or if possible at the time of offload.

The Akutan Catcher Vessel Association vessels finished the Bering Sea pollock B season with a season rate of 0.128 chum salmon per MT of pollock harvested. Higher rates this season did result in more weekly closures to most of the coops. This appears largely due to the large and widespread numbers of Chum salmon on the grounds this summer. Despite higher rates it is the consensus of this coop that the program was quite successful in saving countless numbers of salmon. The coop fleet worked very closely among themselves, with the plant, coop manager and Sea State to keep all vessels aware of areas reporting higher salmon.

To further our commitment to learning more about behavior of the migrating salmon and how to avoid them, this coop chartered one of its vessels, the F/V Gladiator, to NMFS during the height of the B season pollock fishery. The vessel was used to study salmon and monitor their numbers and interactions with pelagic trawl gear in the Bering Sea. Data gathered will hopefully be available soon from the NMFS scientists. It is our hope that this data will be shared with the trawl industry and will serve as a teaching tool to reduce salmon bycatch in the future.

ACVA Gulf of Alaska Sideboards

Sideboard caps were established for most of the larger target fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska. For the year 2002 NMFS published informational tables with GOA sideboard percentages for each coop's non-exempt vessels. These percentages resulted in GOA non-exempt sideboard caps for each coop based upon the relevant verified catch histories of their member vessels.

Four vessels from the Akutan Catcher Vessel Association participated in GOA sideboard fisheries in 2002.

Table 5 and 6 which follow, show the ACVA GOA pollock and cod sideboard allocations, any inter-coop transfers executed and the harvest in each sideboard fishery by vessel. All additional harvesting in the GOA by Akutan Catcher Vessel Association vessels took place on vessels that were classified as GOA exempt vessels.

In addition to pollock and cod we had one member vessel, the F/V Traveler, participate in the 2002 POP fishery in the GOA. The ACVA had a total of 221 MT of POP sideboards for the 2002 GOA fishery. The Traveler made two trips of POP and landed a total of 161 MT of POP.

TABLE 5:

The figures here are total sideboard amounts by area and season based on member vessel's catch histories. Intra-coop transfers made are noted in the center columns and allocations after transfers are the result.

TABLE 6:

As noted above, four vessels participated in GOA sideboard fisheries in 2002. No annual sideboard caps were reached due to closure of the fisheries prior to vessels being able to harvest sideboard caps.

TABLE 5
AKUTAN CATCHER VESSEL ASSOCIATION
2002 GOA POLLOCK AND COD SIDEBOARD ALLOCATIONS BY AREA

Area/Species	Coop Sideboard Shares "A" Season (MT)	Inter Coop Transfers (MT)	"A" Sideboard Shares After Transfers (MT)
610 Pollock	650	0	650
620 Pollock	744	0	744
630 Pollock	144	0	144

Area/Species	Coop Sideboard Shares "B" Season (MT)	Inter Coop Transfers (MT)	"B" Sideboard Shares After Transfers (MT)
610 Pollock	650	0	650
620 Pollock	744	0	744
630 Pollock	144	0	144

Area/Species	Coop Sideboard Shares "C" Season (MT)	Inter Coop Transfers (MT)	"C" Sideboard Shares After Transfers (MT)
610 Pollock	1326	0	1326
620 Pollock	251	0	251
630 Pollock	488	0	488

Area/Species	Coop Sideboard Shares "D" Season (MT)	Inter Coop Transfers (MT)	"D" Sideboard Shares After Transfers (MT)
610 Pollock	1326	0.00	1326.00
620 Pollock	251	0	251
630 Pollock	488	0.00	488.00

Area/Species	Coop Sideboard Shares 2002 Total (MT)	Inter Coop Transfers (MT)	2002 Sideboard Shares After Transfers (MT)
640 Pollock	0	134	134
650 Pollock	0	0	0

TABLE 6
AKUTAN CATCHER VESSEL
ASSOCIATION
2002 GOA COD SIDEBOARD ALLOCATIONS BY AREA

Area/Species	"A" Coop Sideboard Shares (MT)	Inter Coop Transfers (MT)	Sideboard Shares After Transfers (MT)
Pacific Cod Western	426	0	426
Pacific Cod Central	485	0	485

Area/Species	"B" Coop Sideboard Shares (MT)	Inter Coop Transfers (MT)	Sideboard Shares After Transfers (MT)
Pacific Cod Western	284	0	284
Pacific Cod Central	324	0	324

Area/Species	2002 Coop Sideboard Shares (MT)	Inter Coop Transfers (MT)	Sideboard Shares After Transfers (MT)
Pacific Cod Eastern	17	0	17

AFA Red King Crab Sideboards

Nine of the ACVA eligible vessels participated in the 2002 Bering Sea Red King crab fishery. These vessels operated under the management structure that was established by industry to assure that the participating vessels did not exceed the AFA Red King sideboard cap.

Table 8 below shows the round landings of the ACVA vessels. A total of 210,212 lbs. of Red King crab were landed by ACVA vessels during this short 46-hour opener. The inter-coop manger served as the AFA vessel in-season manger for this fishery. ACVA vessels were successful in transmitting all catch data to the manger during this short fishery and were able to operate within the guidelines set up by the inter-coop group and ADF&G.

TABLE 8
AKUTAN CATCHER VESSEL ASSOCIATION
2001 RED KING CRAB SIDEBOARD HARVEST

Vessel	Red King Crab Landings (lbs)
Arcturus	26,097
Aldebaran	21,968
Dominator	29,803
Majesty	21,680
Viking Explorer	22,613
Gladiator	17,875
Golden Dawn	29,446
Royal American	14,756
Marcy J	25,974