

Report of the
Arctic Enterprise Association
2004

Presented to the
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
February 1, 2005

Table of Contents

- I. Arctic Enterprise Association (Pg. 3)**
 - A. Cooperative Membership**
 - B. Coop Management**
 - C. In-Season Management**

- II. AFA Pollock (Pg. 5)**
 - A. Cooperative Pollock Allocation**
 - B. Vessel Allocations and Harvest**

- III. BSAI Sideboards (Pg. 8)**
 - A. BSAI Cod Sideboard Allocations**
 - B. Cod Sideboard Transfers**
 - C. Vessel Cod and PSC Harvest**

- IV. Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch Management (Pg. 11)**

- V. Gulf Of Alaska Sideboards (Pg. 12)**

- VI. AFA Red King Crab (Pg. 14)**

I. Arctic Enterprise Association

A. Cooperative Membership

The Arctic Enterprise Association was made up of 3 member vessels for the year 2004. Coop membership remained unchanged from 2003. The table below shows the member vessels and their associated Coop percentages. As in the past, Coop percentages listed represent the vessels share of the Coop pollock based on the relevant catch history of each member vessel. Since all member vessels in this Coop are owned and operated by the same Company, all allocations and administration expenses for the Coop have been split evenly among the three vessels. The M/V Arctic Enterprise owned and operated by Trident Seafoods Corp served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the Arctic Enterprise Association. The Arctic Enterprise is a floating processor operating in Akutan Bay during 2004.

Vessel	Coop Percent
BRISTOL EXPLORER	36.07%
OCEAN EXPLORER	32.93%
PACIFIC EXPLORER	31.00%
TOTALS	100.00%

B. Cooperative Management

The Arctic Enterprise Association is governed by a Board of Directors as well as through active participation by the owners and operators of the member vessels. The Arctic Enterprise Assoc. remains very active in the Inter Coop process and is bound contractually to the Inter Coop through the Inter Coop Agreement. Inter Coop issues and fishery management decisions are brought to the Coop level in the form of preferred alternatives. The preferred alternatives are a result of discussions and negotiations with the other Coops resulting in unanimous decisions by all Coop representatives. All preferred alternatives are discussed and voted on at the Coop level prior to being supported at the Inter Coop level by the Coop representatives.

C. In-Season Management

The day to day management of the Coop is the responsibility of the Coop Manager. The Coop Manager is responsible for all communications with the fleet regarding Coop and Inter Coop issues as well as providing all Coop information back to the vessel owners and managers. The Coop Manager also schedules all meetings, budgets and manages Coop costs and attends all Inter Coop meetings.

In addition to the above duties, the Coop Manager is also responsible for all pollock and sideboard distribution as well as the in-season management of all pollock, sideboard fisheries and PSC. Prior to individual season openings, it is requested that the Coop members “pre-register” for fisheries they will participate in. This is not always a formal process but it provides the Coop Manager adequate information as to which vessels will participate in which fisheries prior to the fisheries commencing. During this process, member vessels are informed of allocations or sideboard restrictions and any other pertinent information that needs to be conveyed. As the fisheries proceed, landing data is obtained by the Coop Manager from the plant that received the catch and landing totals are tabulated and compared against allocation or sideboards in the pertinent area. Vessels keep updated on their allocation progress via direct communication with the Coop Manager. An update is also sent to the processor and the vessel owners on a regular basis. This process ensures that no allocation or sideboard limits are exceeded.

It is also the responsibility of the Coop Manager to complete all Coop reporting requirements as outlined by the Government. This includes the submission and reconciliation of all weekly reports and the compilation and completion of the annual report to the Council.

Transfers of allocation are used within and between Coops to allow for efficient use of our allocations. The Coop Manager is responsible for tracking all transfers and preparing any necessary paper work to facilitate the transfers. All completed transfers are then reported to the Coop via changes to the allocation spreadsheets that are distributed regularly. In many cases the Manager aids in the transfer process by identifying remaining allocations or fishing situations in which a transfer might be beneficial or requested.

All landings data, including prohibited species catches, are also gathered by Sea State, Inc. Since the inception of AFA Coops, Sea State has been hired to act as a third party to aid in our fishery management. This data is obtained by Sea State via the NMFS Electronic Logbook, submitted by the plants, or via observer data which is acquired through the observer program office in Seattle. This data allows Sea State to aid the Coop Manager with in-season management as needed. This service is used primarily to monitor the harvest of prohibited species and the facilitation of the various bycatch programs put in place by the inter-coop group. All data gathered by Sea State is available to the Coop Manager via a password protected website. Data on the website is available in the aggregate or by individual vessel deliveries.

II. Arctic Enterprise Association AFA Pollock

A. Cooperative Pollock Allocation

Based on the NMFS verified catch histories of its member vessels, the Arctic Enterprise Association was allocated 4.21% of the pollock available for directed fishing by the Bering Sea onshore sector. This resulted in a 2004 Bering Sea pollock allocation of **27,348 MT**. As mentioned earlier, this total allocation was distributed evenly to member vessels rather than by their individual Coop percentage. Pollock was distributed to the vessels 40%/60%, meaning that 40% of their annual allocation was given to them in the “A” season and the balance in the “B” season.

B. Vessel Allocations and Harvest

Table 1 shows initial pollock allocations to the Arctic Enterprise member vessels as well as the total harvest of pollock by member vessels. Table 2 shows the pollock harvest along with non-groundfish and PSC catch.

TABLE 1:

As indicated on this table in the bottom right hand corner, 49.60 MT of pollock was left unharvested in this Coop for 2004. Most of this was left in the “A” season, however, a small amount was also left in the “B” season intentionally as a cushion to prevent over harvesting.

As evident by looking the each vessel’s harvest compared to their allocations, several intra-coop transfers were made. These transfers were made primarily to most efficiently schedule the three boats delivery times. Transferring the fish to another vessel allowed the plant to finish without down time waiting for the last vessel’s delivery. These transfers were also done to allow member vessels to move on to other fisheries.

The large Chum and Chinook Salmon Savings Areas that were closed for much of the “B” season had a dramatic effect on the fleet’s ability to find pollock while still avoiding the salmon. Available fishing areas outside of the closed areas were very few and late in the season were rather void of pollock. Vessels that had finished their allocations were forced to stay much longer than planned to aid other Coop vessels in harvesting their fish. In addition to the slow fishing, the fleet was also working extremely hard to avoid salmon bycatch. This compounded the problem as often times when pollock were found, they were accompanied by high salmon numbers. It is the belief of this Coop that more economical fishing could have been found with fewer salmon had the fleet had access to the areas closed by the Chum and Chinook Salmon Savings Areas.

As seen in table 1, four vessels from the Akutan Coop were contracted by the Arctic Enterprise Association to aid the Coop in completing both their seasonal allocations. Three of them were contacted in the “B” season to aid in the “B” season catch. A summary of the contract fishing is seen in Table 1. No member vessels in this Coop exceeded their annual allocation of BS pollock without approval of the Coop manager.

TABLE 2:

Table 2 shows the PSC harvest and non-target harvest by member vessels and the vessels contracted by this Coop.

TABLE 1
ARCTIC ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION
2004 POLLOCK ALLOCATIONS AND HARVEST BY VESSEL (MT)

2004 Total Pollock Alloc: 27,348 MT

Vessel	Coop Percent	2004 Initial Allocation (MT)	Vessel Harvest "A" Season	Vessel Harvest "B" Season	Total 2004 Harvest	(Over)/Under Allocation (MT)
BRISTOL EXPLORER	36.07%	9,116	4,409.82	5,508.55	9,918.37	(802.37)
OCEAN EXPLORER	32.93%	9,116	3,211.78	4,538.12	7,749.90	1366.10
PACIFIC EXPLORER	31.00%	9,116	3,265.67	5,412.92	8,678.59	437.41
Arcturus	Am69	0	14.31	0.00	14.31	(14.31)
Arctic Explorer	Am69	0	0.00	215.46	215.46	(215.46)
Majesty	Am69	0	0.00	255.45	255.45	(255.45)
Pacific Viking	Am69	0	0.00	466.32	466.32	(466.32)
TOTALS	100.00%	27,273	10,901.58	16,396.82	27,298.40	49.60

TABLE 2
ARCTIC ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION
2004 ACTUAL CATCH AND BYCATCH IN DIRECTED POLLOCK FISHERY
(MT)

Vessel	Pollock Harvest (MT)	Non-Target Groundfish (MT)	Halibut Mort. (MT)	RKC (N)	Bairdi (N)	Tanner Other (MT)	Chinook (N)	Other Salmon (N)
BRISTOL EXPLORER	9,918.37	67.63	1	0	79	12	255	646
OCEAN EXPLORER	7,749.90	73.10	1	0	57	11	371	1,906
PACIFIC EXPLORER	8,678.59	59.41	1	0	79	13	220	4,933
Arcturus	14.31	0.69	0	0	0	0	1	0
Arctic Explorer	215.46	1.77	0	0	0	0	43	22
Majesty	255.45	2.90	0	0	2	0	4	61
Pacific Viking	466.32	2.91	0	0	1	1	22	32
TOTALS	27,298.40	208.41	3.00	0	218	37	916	7,600
TOTAL ALLOC	27,348.00							
UNHARVESTED	49.60							

III. 2004 Bering Sea Sideboards

A. BSAI Cod Sideboard Allocations

BSAI sideboards were established for each AFA Coop for Pacific cod, Yellowfin sole and Rock sole. No vessels from the Arctic Enterprise Association participated in either Bering Sea flatfish fishery in 2004. Coop sideboard allocations for Bering Sea flatfish have not been distributed to individual vessels in the Coop.

Based on the Sea State verified catch history of its member vessels, the Arctic Enterprise Association was allocated 4.30% of the BSAI cod sideboards available to the AFA non-exempt fleet. This resulted in a total 2004 Pacific cod sideboard total of 1,573 MT to the Arctic Enterprise fleet. All vessels in this Coop are Bering Sea non-exempt vessels.

B. Cod Sideboard Transfers

In addition to the annual sideboard allocation indicated above, this Coop also received an additional 868.93 MT of BSAI cod sideboards via transfer from other Coops. All transfers took place during the late winter/spring fishery to allow participating member vessels to harvest beyond the Coop sideboard allocations at that point in the year. A summary of these transfers are listed at the bottom of Table 3.

C. Bering Sea Cod Sideboard and PSC Harvest

Table 3 shows the cod Coop percentage for each of the member vessels. As with pollock, initial cod sideboard totals were split up evenly among the three vessels rather than by their Coop percentage. Table 4 shows the total cod sideboard harvest as well as the non-target groundfish and PSC harvest for the member vessels. Only two of the three member vessels participated in the BSAI cod fishery in 2004

TABLE 3:

A total of 455.71 MT of cod was left unharvested during 2004. This includes cod sideboards transferred to this Coop as described above. All of the cod harvest took place in the winter and spring during the January through April time frame. No member vessels participated in the cod fishery during the second half of the year as this time of the year usually results in poor fishery performance and higher bycatch of non-target species and PSC.

As you can see by looking at each vessel's sideboard totals and harvest amounts, several intra-coop transfers were made. These transfers were the result of vessels stacking sideboards in order to allow some vessels to finish pollock and others to harvest cod in the spring. All vessels that harvested amounts in excess of their own sideboard total did so under the direction of the Coop Manager.

TABLE 4:

PSC caps were established for halibut, Zone 1 red King crab as well as zone 1 Bairdi and Opilio. As the harvest data shows, PSC bycatch was once again low in 2003. A total of 0.00 MT of the Coop's halibut mortality was used to harvest the cod. This was largely due to the area in which the cod was harvested.

**TABLE 3
ARCTIC ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION
2004 BS PACIFIC COD SIDEBOARD ALLOCATIONS AND HARVEST (MT)**

Vessel	Coop Percent	2004 Sideboard (MT)	Sideboard Transfers (MT)	2004 Total Sideboard	Vessel Harvest (MT)	(Over)/Under Allocation (MT)
BRISTOL EXPLORER	33.33%	524.33	0.00	524.33	0.00	524.33
OCEAN EXPLORER	33.34%	524.33	309.04	833.37	939.11	(105.74)
PACIFIC EXPLORER	33.33%	524.33	559.89	1,084.22	1,047.10	37.12
TOTALS	100.00%	1,572.99	868.93	2,441.92	1,986.21	455.71

**Transfer
Summary:**

Transferred From:	Transferred To:	Amount (MT)
Akutan Coop	Pacific Explorer	559.89
Unalaska Coop	Ocean Explorer	65.80
Westward Coop	Ocean Explorer	16.44
Northern Victor	Ocean Explorer	226.80

TABLE 4
ARCTIC ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION
2004 BSAI PACIFIC COD SIDEBOARD HARVEST AND PSC BYCATCH

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)
BRISTOL EXPLORER	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
OCEAN EXPLORER	939.11	11.89	0	0	6	7	0	0
PACIFIC EXPLORER	1,047.10	15.90	0	0	8	8	0	0
TOTALS	1,986.21	27.79	0	0	14	15	0	0
TOTAL ALLOC	2,441.92		32	597	4115	2803		
UNHARVESTED	455.71		32	597	4101	2788		

IV. Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch Management

Chinook and Chum salmon bycatch programs were created for 2004 through the work of the inter-coop group. The results of these programs were the Chinook and Chum Salmon Bycatch Agreements which were adopted by all of the Coops. All Coops were bound contractually to these agreements. The overall goal of both programs is to provide to the fleet real-time bycatch data that is used to alter fishing grounds as needed to harvest pollock with as little salmon bycatch as possible. Incorporated in to these programs were weekly closed areas affecting Coops that had shown high salmon bycatch over the previous couple of weeks.

Under these programs, vessels were asked to transmit tow-by-tow salmon bycatch data to Sea State. Sea State was hired to monitor the fishery and salmon bycatch performance by the Coops. Sea State was responsible for gathering the data, notifying the Coop Managers of bycatch rates by area as well as announcing the weekly closures. Vessels in the Arctic Enterprise Association used two methods for transmitting bycatch data. All of the vessels used software that worked in conjunction with the vessel's VMS system to send the tow data from the grounds. In cases where the VMS transmission was failing, vessels send data directly to Sea State via Sat C email.

It is the general feeling of this Coop that the programs were a success. We feel we were very successful in getting vessel operators to put salmon bycatch as one of their top priorities. We did an adequate job sending our tow-by-tow salmon bycatch estimates to Sea State and we were compliant to all weekly closures that were placed upon us as a result of higher than allowed bycatch rates. Vessels changed harvest areas frequently and as needed to attempt to find cleaner fishing. We had excellent communication between the fleet, the processor and the Coop Manager regarding salmon bycatch issues. Despite all of these efforts, we still had a very difficult time finding clean fishing both in the winter roe fishery as well as throughout the late summer and fall fishery. This appears to be a direct result of the high number of salmon that roamed the Bering Sea this year and the large closure areas that persisted throughout the "B" season.

We feel fishing restrictions as a result of the regulatory closures of the Chinook and Chum Salmon Savings Areas significantly impacted the performance of the Chum and Chinook salmon bycatch programs this year. During the times of these closures, fishing grounds were so limited that there were very few places to look for clean fishing. In addition, there were times that vessels had a hard time finding pollock to work on resulting in longer tows and likely more salmon bycatch. We feel that better fishing, with fewer salmon, may have existed within the boundaries of the Chum and Chinook Savings Areas during times vessels were forced to fish outside that area. It is likely that not having access to the Savings Areas may have actually increases to overall bycatch of salmon for 2004.

V. Gulf of Alaska Sideboards

Sideboards were established for the major target fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska. NMFS published informational tables with GOA sideboards percentages for each Coop's non-exempt vessels. Sideboard totals for each Coop were calculated by taking the Coop's percentage of the overall AFA sideboard for that area and species. Coop percentages are based on the relevant verified catch histories of member vessels.

No vessels from the Arctic Enterprise Association participated in GOA sideboard fisheries in 2004.

Table 5 shows the Arctic Enterprise Association 2004 non-exempt sideboard limits for pollock and cod. This Coop has no rockfish or flatfish sideboards in the GOA.

TABLE 5:

This table lists the total sideboard amounts in MT by area and season based on a total of the member's catch histories.

Again, no harvest of GOA sideboard species took place by vessels in this Coop during 2004. The Area 640 annual pollock allocation of 31.72 MT was transferred to another Coop for harvest in 2004.

TABLE 5
ARCTIC ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION
2004 GOA SIDEBOARD ALLOCATIONS BY AREA

Area/Species	Coop Sideboards "A" Season (MT)	Coop Sideboards "B" Season (MT)	Coop Sideboards "C" Season (MT)	Coop Sideboards "D" Season (MT)
610 Pollock	11.68	11.68	22.19	22.19
620 Pollock	0	0	0	0
630 Pollock	0	0	0	0
640 Pollock	26.69 Annual			

Area/Species	Coop Sideboards "A" Season (MT)	Coop Sideboards "B" Season (MT)	Coop Sideboards Total Shares (MT)
Pacific Cod Western	106.95	71.27	178.22
Pacific Cod Central	0	0	0
Pacific Cod Eastern	0	0	0

VI. AFA Red King Crab Sideboards

None of the three member vessels in the Arctic Enterprise Association are eligible to fish Red King Crab under the AFA.