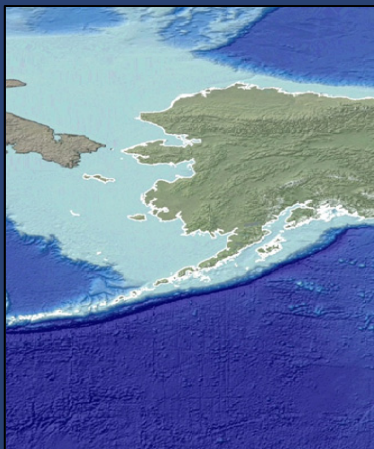




NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE: Alaska Region



Alaska is the largest U.S. state and is in itself an entire NOAA Fisheries region. Its Exclusive Economic Zone of over one million square miles contains more than 70% of the total area of U.S. continental shelves. The Alaska Region includes part or all of several Large Marine Ecosystems (Aleutian Islands, Eastern Bering Sea, Western Bering Sea, Gulf of Alaska, Chukchi Sea, and the Beaufort Sea).

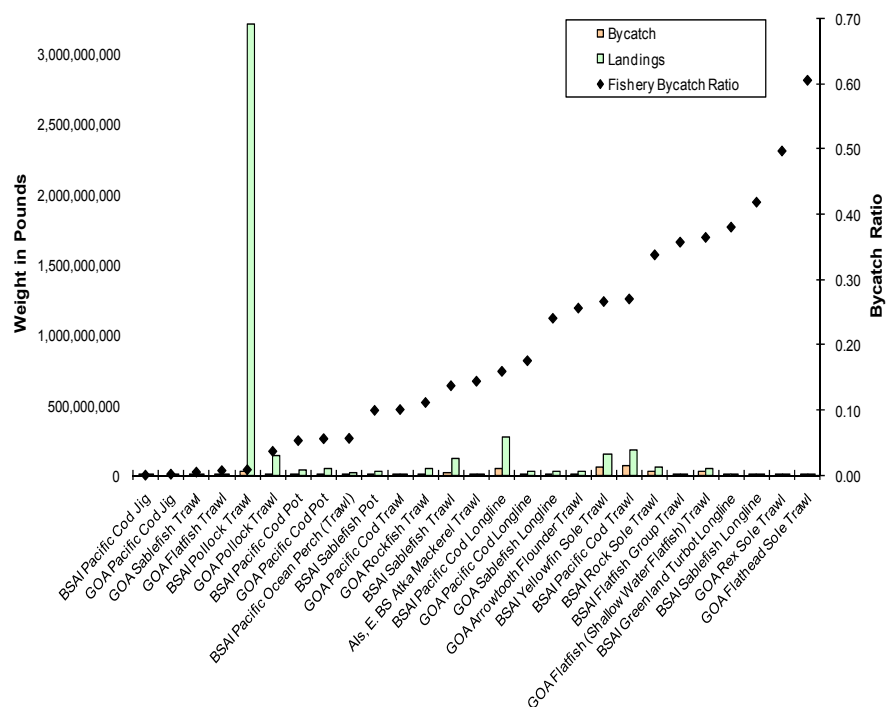
The National Bycatch Report: Alaska Region

Reducing fisheries bycatch is a top priority for NOAA Fisheries and is required under guiding legislation and international laws. Monitoring and reducing fisheries bycatch promotes healthy marine ecosystems and the best use of the nation's living marine resources. NOAA Fisheries new report, the National Bycatch Report, provides bycatch estimates by fishery and species for each of the six NOAA Fisheries Regions. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries, is responsible for managing fisheries in the Alaska Region.

Alaska Region Fast Facts

- 77 commercial fisheries (federal, state, tribal, and international) are included in this report for the Alaska Region.
- 5 fishery management plans regulate the harvest of federally managed species in the Alaska Region.
- Landings from Alaska Region commercial fisheries included in the report were valued at approximately \$1.367 billion in 2005.
- Observer programs are currently in place for 27 of the 77 fisheries. All federal fisheries are observed.
- Fish bycatch estimates were available for 27 fisheries and 91 species in 2005.
- Protected species (marine mammals, seabirds, and sea turtles) bycatch estimates are available for 19 fisheries and 29 species groups in 2005.

Alaska Region 2005 Fish Bycatch and Landings by Fishery



The National Bycatch Report



National Bycatch Report: Alaska Region Bycatch Reduction Success Stories:



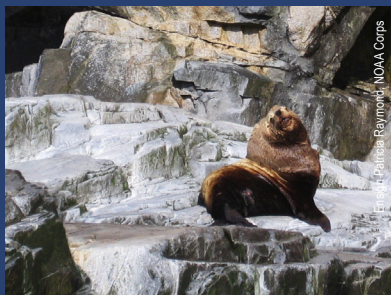
AKFSC



NOAA



Tom Kleckhoffer, NOAA



Erin E. Reynolds, Raymond, NOAA Corps

- Catch share programs have eliminated the race for fish in many fisheries, greatly reducing economic discards.
- Annual quota specification process results in fishery closures (and bycatch reductions) when target or bycatch quotas are reached.
- Regulations limit or prohibit discard in many fisheries.
- Collaboration between NOAA Fisheries, Washington SeaGrant, and the fishing industry has resulted in innovative measures such as streamer lines to reduce seabird bycatch and gear improvements to reduce finfish bycatch.
- Industry-managed cooperatives in some fisheries have changed fleet behavior, leading to reduction of bycatch.
- Bycatch retention or harvest limits and/or time and area closures have resulted in bycatch reductions in some fisheries.



Streamer lines deployed aboard an Alaskan fishing vessel.
Credit: Washington SeaGrant/ NOAA

The underside of a red king crab: Kodiak, Alaska-2005.
Credit: David Csepp, NMFS/ AKFSC/ABL



View the complete
National Bycatch Report
at:

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/bycatch.htm