

# Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Best Use Cooperative

2012 Annual Report

December 15, 2012

Submitted to North Pacific Fishery Management Council

April 2013 Agenda Item C-6 (b)

**Introduction:**

Congress required the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), to establish a Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Pilot Program, under Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 ( Public Law 108-199). The Council adopted the Program on June 6, 2005, and it was implemented by Final Rule on November 20, 2006. The Pilot Program expired at the end of 2011. The Council adopted a new Rockfish Program, Amendment 88 to the Gulf of Alaska Fisheries Management Plan, at its June 2010 meeting. On December 27, 2011, NMFS published final regulations implementing the new Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program.

Under the new Program (RP), eligible trawl catcher/processors(CP) have the option to either opt-out of the RP or opt-in. If a CP opts-in to the program, the vessel must participate in a cooperative in order to receive quota share. Unlike the Pilot program, there is no CP limited access fishery.

Under the RP, NMFS issues each cooperative quota shares (QS) for Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern rockfish, and Dusky rockfish, the three primary rockfish targets. QS is also issued for four secondary species: Sablefish, Shortraker rockfish, Roughey rockfish and Thornyhead rockfish. Shares are issued for Halibut PSC mortality as well. The cooperative QS is then distributed among the participating vessels. All primary and secondary QS species are managed as hard caps, requiring 100% mandatory retention.

The GOA BUC coop increased its membership in 2012 to include the following vessels and licenses:

**Membership of the Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Best Use Cooperative:**

<u>Vessel Owner</u>	<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>LLP</u>	<u>ADF&amp;G No.</u>
U.S. Fishing, LLC	U.S. Intrepid	3662	54392
North Pacific Fishing, Inc.	American No. 1	2028	36202
M/V Savage, Inc.	Seafisher	2014	56964
Unimak Vessel, LLC	Unimak	3957	57211
Alaska Legacy, LLC	Legacy	1802	48183
Alaska Alliance, LLC	Alliance	2905	55045
Ocean Alaska, LLC	Ocean Alaska	4360	41219
American Seafoods Co., LLC		3838	

### **Monitoring the Fishing Plan and Catch:**

NMFS is notified in advance of the coop vessels intending to fish in the RP, in order for NMFS to have the opportunity to brief the observers. Each vessel is mandated to have two observers on board for the RP, or while the vessel has RP fish on board.

Each coop vessel has one of two catch monitoring programs on board, either “eHarvest” or “CatchPoint”. Observer files are downloaded to the onboard monitoring programs after the observers sample the hauls. The onboard programs use the same extrapolation methodology as the NMFS AK Region for determining official catch. In this way, the vessels have real time QS catch data on board.

When the observers send their files to NMFS, the Observer Program performs a data check and the information is forwarded for extrapolation by the AK Region in Juneau. The data is available to NMFS in-season managers, as well as to third party data managers such as the Alaska Seafood Cooperative and Seastate. Although the official NMFS data takes several days to process, the onboard monitoring program information is available immediately. The coop bases its official total catch on the NMFS account balance, however, rather than the onboard program data.

Vessel Captains update the home offices daily with the onboard haul data. Office QS managers compare the onboard monitoring program catch and QS balances with Seastate and with the NMFS region’s Account Balance for the coop. If any of these databases do not match, then tow by tow comparisons are made between the onboard program tow information and the Seastate data (Seastate data is obtained directly from NMFS after extrapolation and we can look at it on the individual tow level). We may also confer with NMFS AK Region on haul information if discrepancies cannot be solved by looking into the Seastate data. Since the inception of the Rockfish Pilot Program, NMFS In-Season managers have been extremely helpful to industry from a regulatory and data perspective. Alaska Seafood Cooperative managers are also available for additional assistance in verifying or corroborating numbers if requested.

The vessel Captains communicate directly with one another on the grounds, with the quota share managers, and they have the ability to communicate directly with the third party data managers if necessary. The quota share managers of the participating vessels maintain contact throughout the fishery.

### **Central Gulf Quota Share harvests and Transfers/Overages/Underages:**

The attached Table 1 shows the Coop Account Balance which details the coop initial quota allocations and sideboards, transfers in and out of the cooperative, and total harvests as of 9/5/2012. As of 9/5, all coop vessels had completed fishing and had transferred the remaining balance to another coop. Table 2 shows the Coop Account Balance as of 11/28/2012. One can see that the halibut catch changed from 9/5, reflecting an additional 0.192 mt (423 lbs) of halibut harvested. Slight changes are also reflected in other species’ harvests. These changes are likely due to final observer debriefing and post-harvest changes in the data base.

**Western Gulf and West Yakutat Sideboards:**

Vessels which have history in other Gulf fisheries in the month of July can fish up to a sideboard level equivalent to their historic average catch in those fisheries. The coop fish plan details the timing of the prosecution of the sideboard fisheries, in addition to timing of the harvest of the CGOA rockfish QS.

Table 2 provides the most up to date details of the total harvest of all QS, including sideboard rockfish species and halibut psc.

TABLE 1

[Menu](#) | [Change Password](#) | [Logout](#) | [Restricted Access Management](#) | [Home](#) --

**CDQ GROUP / COOP ACCOUNT BALANCE**

**Account Holder Name**  
GULF OF ALASKA ROCKFISH BEST USE COOPERATIVE

**Date/Time**  
2012-09-05 13:22:28.0

Account Year: 2012

Display Accounts for Year

Acct. ID	Acct Name	Species Group	Initial Quota	Trans. In	Trans. Out	Total Quota	Total Catch	Remain. Quota	% Taken
9158	CGOA Dusky CP Coop Rockfish_BUC	DUSK	1115.351	0	41.184	1074.167	1074.167	0	100
9197	GOA West Yakutat Dusky CP Coop RPP SB Rockfish_BUC	DUSK	539.276	0	0	539.276	.819	538.457	0
9208	WGOA Dusky CP Coop RPP SB Rockfish_BUC	DUSK	22.754	0	0	22.754	14.427	8.327	63
9665	CGOA Northern Rockfish CP Coop Rockfish_BUC	NORK	871.39	20	12.226	879.164	879.164	0	100
9657	WGOA Northern Rockfish CP Coop RPP SB Rockfish_BUC	NORK	194.082	0	0	194.082	64.439	129.643	33
9493	CGOA POP CP Coop Rockfish_BUC	POPA	1500.381	0	15.918	1484.463	1484.463	0	100
9508	GOA West Yakutat POP CP Coop RPP SB Rockfish_BUC	POPA	1546.398	0	0	1546.398	1240.347	306.051	80
9485	WGOA POP CP Coop RPP SB Rockfish_BUC	POPA	409.736	0	0	409.736	384.24	25.496	94
9698	CGOA Rougheye CP Coop Rockfish_BUC	REYE	262.422	0	23.924	238.498	238.498	0	100
9471	CGOA Sablefish CP Coop Rockfish_BUC	SABL	106.153	0	13.426	92.727	92.727	0	100
9709	CGOA Shortraker CP Coop Rockfish_BUC	SRKR	94.93	0	43.088	51.842	51.842	0	100
9519	CGOA Thornyhead CP Coop Rockfish_BUC	THDS	106.581	0	79.135	27.446	27.446	0	100
9625	CGOA Halibut CP Coop Rockfish_BUC	HLBT	38.906	0	26.536	12.37	12.36959	.00041	100
9637	GOA Halibut Deep Water Complex TRW CP Coop RPP SB Rockfish_BUC	HLBT	39.047	0	0	39.047	24.37987	14.66713	62
9646	GOA Halibut Shallow Water Complex TRW CP Coop RPP SB Rockfish_BUC	HLBT	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

**Note:** Crab Units = NUMBER of animals

**Questions?:** If you have any questions, please contact:  
 NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division  
 Phone: 1-800-304-4846 - option #3  
 Phone: (907) 586-7228  
 Fax: (907) 586-7465  
 Email: [nmfs.akr.inseason@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.akr.inseason@noaa.gov)

TABLE 2

[Menu](#) | [Change Password](#) | [Logout](#) | [Restricted Access Management](#) | [Home](#) --

**CDQ GROUP / COOP ACCOUNT BALANCE**

**Account Holder Name**  
GULF OF ALASKA ROCKFISH BEST USE COOPERATIVE

**Date/Time**  
2012-11-28 11:22:46.0

Account Year: 2012 ▾

Display Accounts for Year

Acct. ID	Acct Name	Species Group	Initial Quota	Trans. In	Trans. Out	Total Quota	Total Catch	Remain. Quota	% Taken
9158	CGOA Dusky CP Coop Rockfish_BUC	DUSK	1115.351	0	41.184	1074.167	1074.028	.139	100
9197	GOA West Yakutat Dusky CP Coop RPP SB Rockfish_BUC	DUSK	539.276	0	0	539.276	.819	538.457	0
9208	WGOA Dusky CP Coop RPP SB Rockfish_BUC	DUSK	22.754	0	0	22.754	14.653	8.101	64
9665	CGOA Northern Rockfish CP Coop Rockfish_BUC	NORK	871.39	20	12.226	879.164	880.093	-.929	100
9657	WGOA Northern Rockfish CP Coop RPP SB Rockfish_BUC	NORK	194.082	0	0	194.082	64.444	129.638	33
9493	CGOA POP CP Coop Rockfish_BUC	POPA	1500.381	0	15.918	1484.463	1484.46	.003	100
9508	GOA West Yakutat POP CP Coop RPP SB Rockfish_BUC	POPA	1546.398	0	0	1546.398	1240.571	305.827	80
9485	WGOA POP CP Coop RPP SB Rockfish_BUC	POPA	409.736	0	0	409.736	384.546	25.19	94
9698	CGOA Rougheye CP Coop Rockfish_BUC	REYE	262.422	0	23.924	238.498	238.431	.067	100
9471	CGOA Sablefish CP Coop Rockfish_BUC	SABL	106.153	0	13.426	92.727	92.721	.006	100
9709	CGOA Shortraker CP Coop Rockfish_BUC	SRKR	94.93	0	43.088	51.842	51.842	0	100
9519	CGOA Thornyhead CP Coop Rockfish_BUC	THDS	106.581	0	79.135	27.446	27.446	0	100
9625	CGOA Halibut CP Coop Rockfish_BUC	HLBT	38.906	0	26.536	12.37	12.56179	-.19179	102
9637	GOA Halibut Deep Water Complex TRW CP Coop RPP SB Rockfish_BUC	HLBT	39.047	0	0	39.047	24.46571	14.58129	63
9646	GOA Halibut Shallow Water Complex TRW CP Coop RPP SB Rockfish_BUC	HLBT	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

Note: Crab Units = NUMBER of animals

**Questions?:** If you have any questions, please contact:  
 NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division  
 Phone: 1-800-304-4846 - option #3  
 Phone: (907) 586-7228  
 Fax: (907) 586-7465  
 Email: [nmfs.akr.inseason@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.akr.inseason@noaa.gov)