Groundfish Data Bank

Alaska

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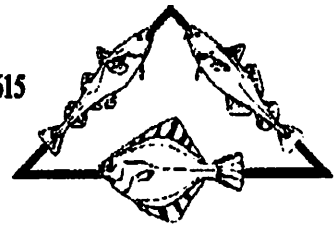

CGOA Rockfish Program 2015 Annual Cooperative Reports

December 11, 2015

To: North Pacific Fishery Management Council
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From: Julie Bonney
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Please find enclosed the 2015 Annual Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative Reports for the following cooperatives:

1. Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative
2. North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative
3. ISA Rockfish Cooperative
4. OBSI Rockfish Cooperative
5. Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative
6. Global Rockfish Cooperative
7. Pacific Rockfish Cooperative

Julie Bonney
Executive Director,
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc

Final Report
Global
Rockfish Cooperative

2015

December 15, 2015

Prepared by:
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc.
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I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)[1]. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allowed each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, and Thornyhead rockfish along with an allocation of Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained secondary catch or Halibut PSC mortality in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The 5-year RPP ended in 2011 and was rolled over into a new, modified, catch share program in June 2010 under Amendment 88 of the GOA Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). This Rockfish Program (RP) went into effect in 2012 and is scheduled to sunset after 10 years in 2022.

As in the RPP, the primary RP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for co-op members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allows co-op members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while minimizing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The Global Rockfish Cooperative is one of 7 inshore cooperatives (compared to five co-ops in the RPP) formed in March 2012 in accordance with Amendment 88 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2015 marked the fourth year of the new Rockfish Program and, in compliance with Amendment 88, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2015 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger website (efish).

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2015, the Global Rockfish Cooperative consisted of three member licenses with three member vessels (Table 1) of which three actively fished during the 2015 RP season: Leslie Lee, Pacific Storm and

[1] As of 2012, Pelagic shelf rockfish consists only of dusky rockfish

Vanguard. Global Seafoods, Kodiak served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the Global Rockfish Cooperative.

Table 1.LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the Global Rockfish Cooperative 2015.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
1183	LESLIE LEE, INC	LESLIE LEE	56119
2882	PACIFIC STORM FISHERIES, LLC.	PACIFIC STORM	76731
2565	FUTURA FISHERIES, INC.	VANGUARD	39946

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The Global Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the co-op president, Lee Woodard, the Global Seafoods assistant plant manager, Nik Morozov, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while minimizing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. *Monitoring*

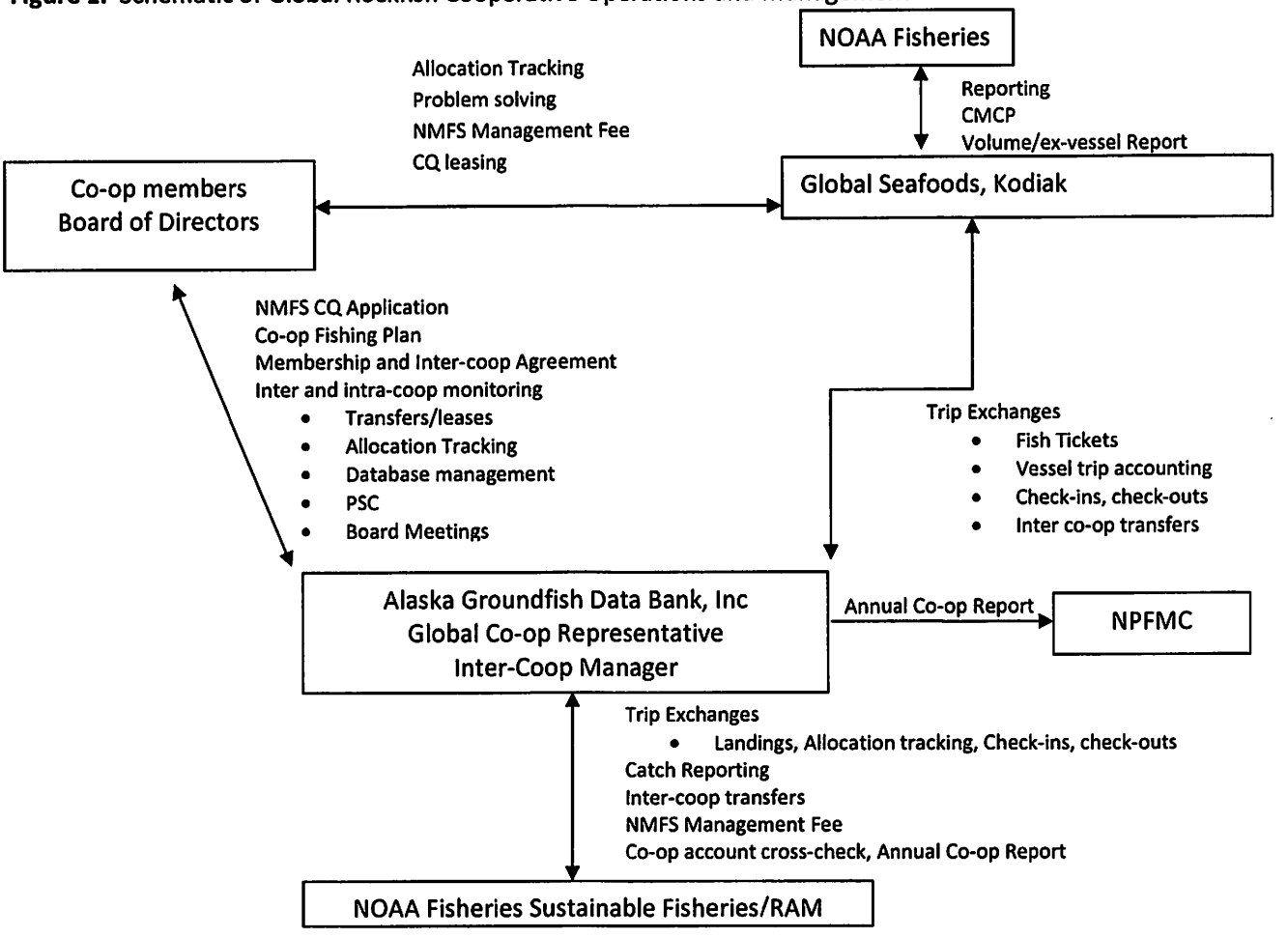
(1) **Check-ins and Check-outs:** To facilitate moving into and out of non-RP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" with no limits to the number of check ins as was the case for the RPP. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries.

(2) **Observer Coverage:** 100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels.

(3) **CMCP Monitor:** For the new Rockfish Program, NMFS hired a Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) specialist to monitor each Processor's CMCP. RP Processors are required to file with NMFS their CMCP prior to the start of the RP season. This plan details how the processor monitors the deliveries and complies with monitoring requirements. This is in lieu of 200% observer coverage at the plants required during the RPP.

(4) **NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management:** NOAA RAM's Co-op ledger web site was used to perform transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of Global Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. *Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests*

The Global Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2015 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 5. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the seven catcher vessel cooperatives, adhere to cooperative agreements and to cover overages.

Table 2. Global Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	Dusky	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial Global Allocation:	1,268,376	59,578	73,832	31,083	172,458	6,752	11,545
Transfers (Pacific):	33,500	9,891		3,788	5,069		
Total Transfers	33,500	9,891	0	3,788	5,069	0	0
Final Global Allocation:	**1,301,876**	**69,469**	**73,832**	**34,871**	**177,527**	**6,752**	**11,545**
Total CV Coops*:	18,589,626	4,712,318	4,195,642	696,246	3,862,977	153,087	258,602
Global % CV Allocation:	7.00%	1.47%	1.76%	5.01%	4.60%	4.41%	4.46%

**Includes CP CQ transferred onshore*

B. *Vessel Use, Co-op CQ and Processing Caps*

(1) **Vessel harvests**: A vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV sector is one of the new changes to the RP. In 2015, this amounted to 2,199,807 lbs of primary rockfish in the aggregate. During the 2015 season, no vessel exceeded this limit (see figure 2).

(2) **Co-op QS**: Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish allocated to the CV sector. Final quota share allocated to the Global co-op in 2015 amounted to 5.3% of the aggregate CV rockfish cooperative quota (Table 4).

(3) **Processing limits:** For the Rockfish Program, a provision was approved that states no processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish in the aggregate; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector. During the 2015 season, Global Seafoods, Kodiak did not exceed these caps. See Table 3. Note: CQ harvested by the Global rockfish cooperative may not equal the amount processed by Global because deliveries to other City of Kodiak processors are allowed by the co-op in the new Rockfish Program.

Table 3. LBS and % of CV allocations by CQ species received and processed by Global Seafoods in 2015.

Species	POP	NR	DUSKY	Total Primary RF	Sablefish	Cod	% RF	% Sable	% Cod
Global Processed	1,289,237	60,787	59,904	1,409,928	34,869	109,184	5.13%	5.01%	2.83%
CV Allocation	18,589,626	4,712,318	4,195,642	27,497,585	696,246	3,862,977			

Table 4. Primary rockfish CQ (POP, Northern Rockfish, Dusky rockfish): % of Final CV sector allocations by species and co-op

CV Co-op CQ	POP	NR	Dusky	Total Rockfish
NP	19.6%	19.1%	21.8%	19.8%
SOK	24.7%	30.3%	29.7%	26.4%
WAF	17.0%	7.2%	7.2%	13.8%
OBSI	18.7%	28.4%	26.8%	21.6%
ISA	8.7%	9.0%	8.9%	8.8%
Global	7.0%	1.5%	1.8%	5.3%
Pacific	4.2%	4.6%	3.8%	4.2%
Final Allocation	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 2.Harvests of primary rockfish by Global member vessels (% of aggregate CV primary rockfish). Vessel harvest cap is 8%

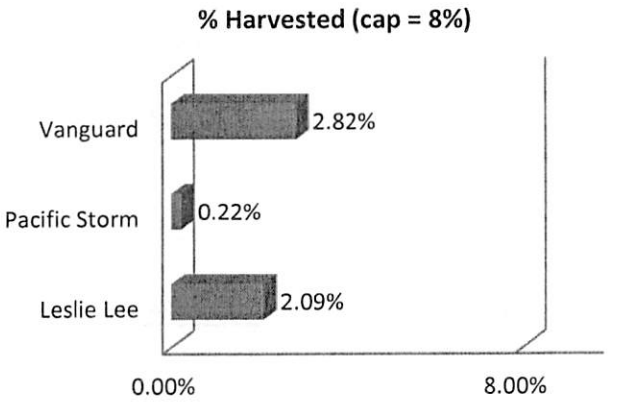


Table 5.Global Rockfish Cooperative 2015 allocations and harvests by species and co-op member. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts(as of December 11, 2015).

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2015 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
POP	LESLIE LEE	43%	543,344	574,131	(30,787)
	PACIFIC STORM	0%	31	150	(119)
	VANGUARD	57%	725,002	714,956	10,046
	Total	**100%**	**1,268,376**	**1,289,237**	**(20,861)**
		Transfers:	33,500		
		Final Total:	**1,301,876**	Net:	**12,639**
NR	LESLIE LEE	69%	40,848	-	40,848
	PACIFIC STORM	0%	17	50,756	(50,739)
	VANGUARD	31%	18,713	10,031	8,682
	Total	**100%**	**59,578**	**60,787**	**(1,209)**
		Transfers:	9,891		
		Final Total:	**69,469**	Net:	**8,682**
Dusky	LESLIE LEE	30%	22,366	418	21,948
	PACIFIC STORM	0%	22	8,882	(8,860)
	VANGUARD	70%	51,444	50,604	840
	Total	**100%**	**73,832**	**59,904**	**13,928**
		Transfers:	0		
		Final Total:	**73,832**	Net:	**13,928**
Sablefish	LESLIE LEE	44%	13,622	141	13,481
	PACIFIC STORM	0%	2	14,676	(14,674)
	VANGUARD	56%	17,459	20,052	(2,593)
	Total	**100%**	**31,083**	**34,869**	**(3,786)**
		Transfers:	3,788		
		Final Total:	**34,871**	Net:	**2**
P. Cod	LESLIE LEE	44%	75,579	639	74,940
	PACIFIC STORM	0%	11	6,608	(6,597)
	VANGUARD	56%	96,868	101,937	(5,069)
	Total	**100%**	**172,458**	**109,184**	**63,274**
		Transfers:	5,069		
		Final Total:	**177,527**	Net:	**68,343**
Thornyheads	LESLIE LEE	44%	2,959	-	2,959
	PACIFIC STORM	0%	0	566	(566)
	VANGUARD	56%	3,792	1,753	
	Total	**100%**	**6,752**	**2,319**	**2,393**
		Transfers:	0		
		Final Total:	**6,752**	Net:	**4,433**
Halibut	LESLIE LEE	44%	5,060	252	4,807
	PACIFIC STORM	0%	1	-	1
	VANGUARD	56%	6,485	7,259	
	Total	**100%**	**11,545**	**7,511**	**4,808**
		Transfers:	0		
		Final Total:	**11,545**	Net:	**4,034**

C. *Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ*

Federal regulations require the RP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Dusky Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2015 Global Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1–November 15, 2015), there were no occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species. Note: at-sea discards are not reflected in the official NMFS estimates of coop harvests.

D. *Sideboard limits and rockfish sideboard fishery harvests*

The Rockfish Program established sideboard limits and/or prohibitions that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard restrictions apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing. For the CV sector, the sideboard limits established in the RPP have been removed for ease of management. The following prohibitions remain in place during the month of July:

(1) For the month of July, limit all CVs to the shallow water complex fisheries (fishing in the deep complex is prohibited)
(2) Directed fishing for WYAK and WGOA primary rockfish species in the month of July is prohibited

V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

A. ***Halibut:*** The cooperative's fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op's RP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 6). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op's quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the co-op members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or "flying bottom") gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The Global Rockfish Co-op used 7,511 lbs or 65% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 11,545 lbs.

Table 6.Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the Global Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard		**Red Light Standard**		**Yellow Light Standard**	
Species	*% halibut*	*Species*	*% halibut*	*Species*	*% halibut*
POP	0.50%	POP	0.45%	POP	0.38%
NR/Dusky	2.20%	NR/Dusky	1.98%	NR/Dusky	1.65%
Sable/cod	4.00%	Sable/cod	3.60%	Sable/cod	3.00%

B. ***Chinook Salmon:*** A Amendment 97 to the GOA FMP, effective January 1, 2015, established Chinook salmon bycatch limits in the W/CGOA non-pollock trawl fisheries. The cap for the RP is 1,200 Chinook. All Shoreside Cooperatives agreed to the amended Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan adopted in 2014. The plan included four parts: i) "slow start" to test the fishing grounds; ii) individual vessel Chinook salmon bycatch standards for the months of May, June, July, and August, iii) Chinook salmon hotspot reporting requirements, and iv) full retention of all bycaught Chinook salmon (required by regulation as of January 1, 2015). Fish ticket (FT) data (not observer estimates) were used to monitor the

cooperative vessel's bycatch performance. Vessels had to wait until their offload was complete and bycatch rate available prior to starting their next fishing trip. If a Cooperative member's bycatch rate was at the red standard, the vessel agreed to stand down from targeted rockfish trips for four days from the date of that delivery. If the bycatch rate was at the yellow standard for two consecutive trips, the vessel agreed to stand down from targeted rockfish trips for four days from the date of the second delivery. These standards (including stand- downs) applied only to directed rockfish trips (i.e., if a vessel had to stand down due to high bycatch rate, he could still go out and do a cod or sablefish trip since there is virtually no Chinook salmon bycatch in these targets).

All operators were required to provide detailed information for the Chinook bycatch hotspot reports including target, set and haul times and locations, depth and gear type. Operators agreed to promptly self-report Chinook salmon hotspot areas from the grounds to AGDB and/or their Cooperative's affiliated processor. These "hot-spot" alerts were sent out to all co-op members, affiliated processors and vessel operators. Four hot spot alerts were issued in 2015 compared to three in 2014 and eight in 2013. Chinook salmon bycatch updates were sent out to Co-op members and vessel operators biweekly in May and June.

For the rockfish fishery, Chinook salmon PSC estimates are derived from observer at-sea samples to create a Chinook PSC rate for each observed trip (there is 100% observer coverage in the RP). The trip rate is applied to the groundfish delivered to the processing plant for that trip to determine the number of Chinook salmon that is debited from RP Chinook cap and also the amount for that individual vessel's trip. Because Chinook salmon is an uncommon species, the at-sea samples result in many zero counts for the individual vessel trips with an occasional hit resulting in an occasional large count to make up for all the previous zeros. This is in contrast to census counts for the observed pollock fishery trips where every salmon is enumerated for the trip at the point of offload (the processing plant). The RP observer sampling does not work for individual vessel accountability since the observer estimate for the vessel trip has no relationship to actual vessel bycatch - it only reflects whether there is or is not a Chinook salmon in the sample.

The co-op Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan uses Chinook salmon FT counts to manage individual vessel behavior, not the observer Chinook salmon PSC trip rates that estimate PSC amounts for NMFS catch accounting. The co-op Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan worked well and resulted in a fish ticket count across all RP deliveries totaling 642 salmon, well below the 1,200 RP cap. However, the Chinook PSC estimate based on observer sampling used by NMFS CAS resulted in a total of 1,784 Chinook taken by the seven CV co-ops over the 2015 rockfish season, 584 Chinook over the cap (see Table 7). There was no effect on the 2015 rockfish fishery when the cap was exceeded since the overage occurred during one of the last RP trips of the season. Note: NMFS shows 881 Chinook were taken during one of the last RP trips in November, upping the total from 774 to 1,655 salmon (33 Chinook were landed and sampled for genetics at the plant from this trip). Another 129 Chinook were attributed to the RP from a trip in early November (actual FT count of eight Chinook). This data did not enter the system until Nov. 26 when the observer was undergoing debriefing in Seattle: the identification of the one salmon that landed in his sample was changed from sockeye to Chinook based on examination of the scale sample in Seattle.

Table 7. Chinook PSC, total CV rockfish harvests and Chinook PSC rates for the RPP (2007-2011) and the first four years of the new Rockfish Program (2012-2015). Catcher vessel co-ops only. Source: Steve Whitney, NMFS.

Year	Chinook (no.)	Rockfish Harvest (mt)	Rate (Chinook/mt)
2007	840	7,748	0.108
2008	1,683	7,440	0.226
2009	892	6,874	0.130
2010	1,017	7,992	0.127
2011	396	7,071	0.056
2012	817	10,067	0.081
2013	1,271	8,820	0.144
2014	520	10,100	0.051
2015	1,784	10,768	0.166
Average	**1,024**	**8,542**	**0.120**

Rockfish Genetics Project: Whereas there is ample information on stock of origin of Chinook taken in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, data is still lacking on the origins of Chinook taken in the GOA trawl fisheries. Also uncertain is the proportion of Chinook bycatch that are of hatchery origin. To that end, the Rockfish Genetics project started in 2013 continued into 2014 and 2015. The genetic collections could continue beyond 2015 if additional industry funding becomes available or if NMFS takes over the Chinook salmon data collection.

The Project goals are:

1. Collect tissue samples from all landed Chinook salmon for DNA and stock of origin analysis.
2. Collect biological data (weight, length, sex) at the plant from all landed salmon.
3. Scan all landed Chinook salmon for the presence or absence of adipose fin clips and Coded Wire Tags (CWT). This will allow for an estimation of Chinook bycatch that originate from hatcheries.
4. Collect CWT's (snouts) from all salmon with positive CWT signal.

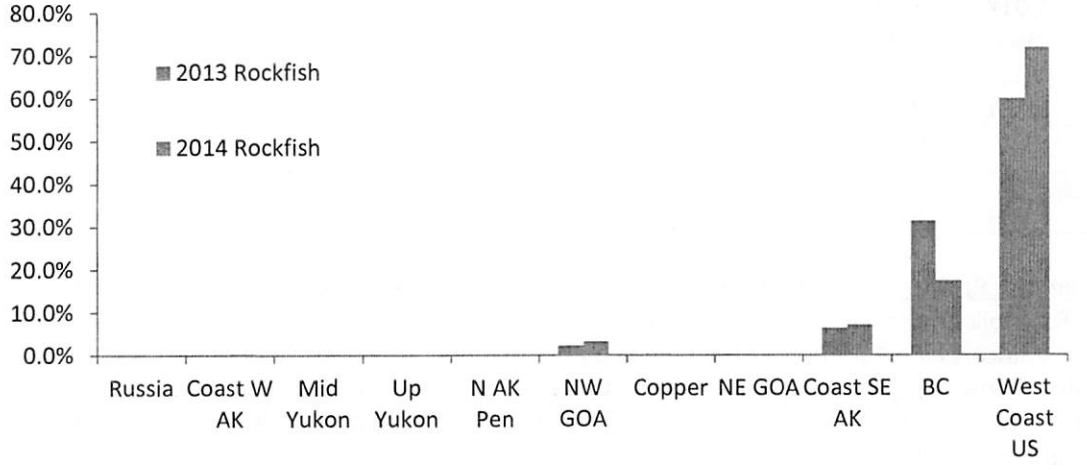
Over the 2015 season, tissue samples from 638 landed Chinook as well as snouts from 36 tagged salmon were collected and sent to NMFS Auke Bay Lab for processing. Preliminary results are expected Fall 2016. Stock of origin results from the 2013 and 2014 Rockfish fishery are shown in Table 8 and Figure 3 (2014 results are preliminary and courtesy of Jeff Guyon, NMFS Auke Bay; 2013 results can be found at: http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/Publications/AFSC-TM/NOAA-TM-AFSC-289.pdf).

Table 8. Stock of Origin results, 2013 and 2014 CGOA CV Rockfish fishery.

Area	2013 Rockfish	2014 Rockfish
No. Samples Processed	**2,070**	**398**
Russia	0.0%	0.1%
Coast W AK	0.0%	0.3%
Mid Yukon	0.0%	0.0%
Up Yukon	0.0%	0.0%
N AK Pen	0.0%	0.0%
NW GOA	2.2%	3.2%
Copper	0.3%	0.1%
NE GOA	0.0%	0.1%

Area	2013 Rockfish	2014 Rockfish
Coast SE AK	6.4%	7.1%
BC	31.3%	17.4%
West Coast US	59.9%	71.7%
SE, BC,WC combined	97.6%	96.2%
Total	**100.1%**	**100.0%**

Figure 3. Chinook stock of origin results from 2013 and 2014 census collections of tissue samples.



C. ***Other Prohibited Species Catch***: The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2015 RP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 63 non-Chinook salmon, 22 Bairdi tanner crab and 28 Opilio tanner crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS as of Dec. 11, 2015).

VI. PENALITIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation exactly on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. leases and clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the Global Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future excessive overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

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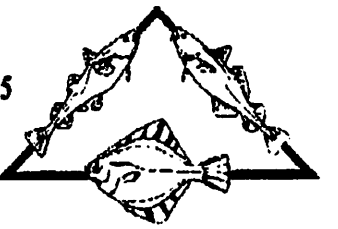

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The ISA Rockfish Cooperative is one of 7 inshore cooperatives (compared to five co-ops in the RPP) formed in March 2012 in accordance with Amendment 88 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2015 marked the fourth year of the new Rockfish Program and, in compliance with Amendment 88, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2015 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger website (efish).

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2015, the ISA Rockfish Cooperative consisted of five member licenses (compared to 6 LLPs in 2014) with five member vessels (Table 1) of which two actively fished during the 2015 RP season: Mar Del Norte and Mar Pacifico. The allocations of the Green Hope and Ocean Hope 3 were fished by the Mar

[1] As of 2012, Pelagic shelf rockfish consists only of dusky rockfish

Del Norte and Mar Pacifico as well as the F/V Laura (Ocean Beauty Rockfish Co-op). The Dawn and the Nicole (NP Rockfish co-op) fished the Chellissa's allocation as well as his portion of the OH3/GH CQ.

International Seafoods of Alaska (ISA) in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the ISA Rockfish Cooperative.

Table 1.LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the ISA Rockfish Cooperative 2015.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
1554	CHELLISSA FISHERIES, LLC	CHELLISSA	70459
2188	GREEN HOPE LLC	GREEN HOPE	47790
1841	NORTHERN SEAS FISHERIES LLC	MAR DEL NORTE	21650
2696	MAR PACIFICO, INC.	MAR PACIFICO	23131
2683	MARTIN FISHERIES, INC	OCEAN HOPE 3	48173

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The ISA Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the co-op president, Robert Krueger, the ISA plant manager, Mitch Kilborn and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while minimizing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. *Monitoring*

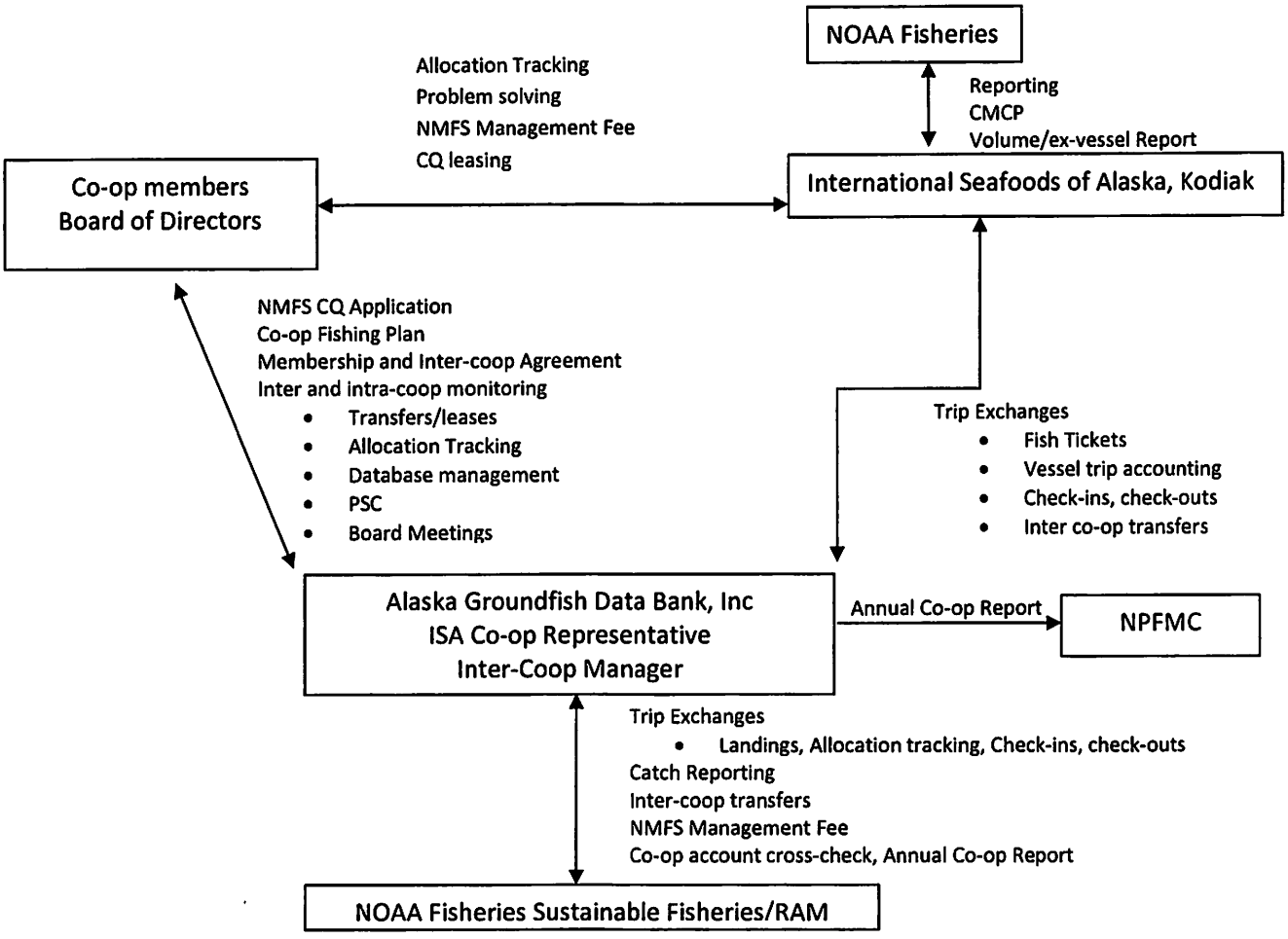
(1) **Check-ins and Check-outs:** To facilitate moving into and out of non-RP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" with no limits to the number of check ins as was the case for the RPP. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries.

(2) **Observer Coverage:** 100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels.

(3) **CMCP Monitor:** For the new Rockfish Program, NMFS hired a Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) specialist to monitor each Processor's CMCP. RP Processors are required to file with NMFS their CMCP prior to the start of the RP season. This plan details how the processor monitors the deliveries and complies with monitoring requirements. This is in lieu of 200% observer coverage at the plants required during the RPP.

(4) **NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management:** NOAA RAM's Co-op ledger web site was used to perform transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of ISA Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. *Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests*

The ISA Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2015 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 5. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the seven catcher vessel cooperatives, adhere to cooperative agreements and to cover overages.

Table 2. ISA Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	Dusky	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhd	Halibut
Initial ISA Allocation:	2,131,810	498,356	441,099	77,029	427,377	16,732	28,610
Transfers (OBSI):	(225,965)	(28,755)	(36,069)	(6,922)	(38,406)	(1,504)	(2,571)
Transfers (SOK)	80,921						
Transfers (NP)	(367,233)	(47,174)	(31,038)	(13,188)	(9,372)	(1,704)	
Total Transfers	(512,277)	(75,929)	(67,107)	(20,110)	(47,778)	(3,208)	(2,571)
Final ISA Allocation:	**1,619,533**	**422,427**	**373,993**	**56,918**	**379,599**	**13,524**	**26,039**
Total CV Coops*:	18,589,626	4,712,318	4,195,642	696,246	3,862,977	153,087	258,602
ISA % CV Allocation:	8.71%	8.96%	8.91%	8.18%	9.83%	8.83%	10.07%

**Includes CP CQ transferred onshore*

B. *Vessel Use, Co-op CQ and Processing Caps*

(1) **Vessel harvests:** A vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV sector is one of the new changes to the RP. In 2015, this amounted to 2,199,807 lbs of primary rockfish in the aggregate. During the 2015 season, no vessel exceeded this limit (see figure 2).

(2) **Co-op QS:** Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish allocated to the CV sector. Final quota share allocated to the ISA co-op in 2015 amounted to 8.8% of the aggregate CV rockfish cooperative quota (Table 4).

(3) **Processing limits:** For the Rockfish Program, a provision was approved that states no processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish in the aggregate; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector. During the 2015 season, ISA Seafoods, Kodiak did not exceed these caps. See Table 3. Note: CQ harvested by the ISA rockfish cooperative may not equal the amount processed by ISA Seafoods because deliveries to other City of Kodiak processors are allowed by the co-op in the Rockfish Program.

Table 3. LBS and % of CV allocations by CQ species received and processed by ISA Seafoods in 2015.

Species	POP	NR	DUSKY	Total Primary RF	Sablefish	Cod	%RF	%Sable	%Cod
ISA Processed	3,246,329	462,475	374,214	4,083,018	95,999	105,666	14.85%	13.79%	2.74%
CV Allocation	18,589,626	4,712,318	4,195,642	27,497,585	696,246	3,862,977			

Table 4. Primary rockfish CQ (POP, Northern Rockfish, Dusky rockfish): % of Final CV sector allocations by species and co-op

CV Co-op CQ	POP	NR	Dusky	Total Rockfish
NP	19.6%	19.1%	21.8%	19.8%
SOK	24.7%	30.3%	29.7%	26.4%
WAF	17.0%	7.2%	7.2%	13.8%
OBSI	18.7%	28.4%	26.8%	21.6%
ISA	8.7%	9.0%	8.9%	8.8%
Global	7.0%	1.5%	1.8%	5.3%
Pacific	4.2%	4.6%	3.8%	4.2%
Final Allocation	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 2.Harvests of primary rockfish by ISA member vessels (% of aggregate CV primary rockfish). Vessel harvest cap is 8%

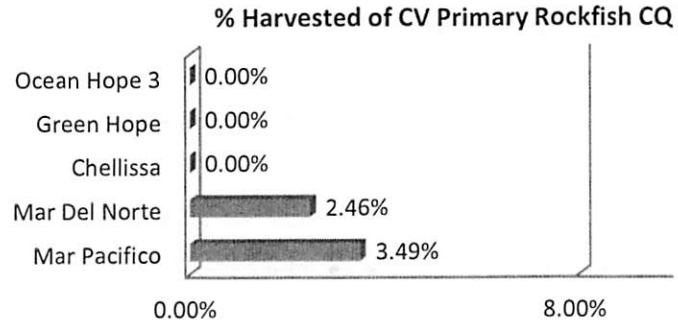


Table 5.ISA Rockfish Cooperative 2015 allocations and harvests by species and co-op member. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts**(as of December 11, 2015).**

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2015 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
	MAR PACIFICO	29%	611,425	952,692	(341,267)
	MAR DEL NORTE	22%	458,427	666,841	(208,414)
POP	CHELLISSA	7%	158,099	0	158,099
	GREEN HOPE	7%	144,232	0	144,232
	OCEAN HOPE 3	36%	759,627	0	759,627
	Total	**100%**	**2,131,810**	**1,619,533**	**512,277**
		Transfers:	(512,277)		
		Final Total:	**1,619,533**	Net:	**0**
	MAR PACIFICO	43%	212,839	204	212,635
	MAR DEL NORTE	26%	129,935	3,911	126,024
NR	CHELLISSA	8%	40,563	0	40,563
	GREEN HOPE	8%	41,279	0	41,279
	OCEAN HOPE 3	15%	73,741	0	73,741
	Total	**100%**	**498,356**	**4,115**	**494,241**
		Transfers:	(75,929)		
		Final Total:	**422,427**	Net:	**418,312**
	MAR PACIFICO	38%	168,016	6,162	161,854
	MAR DEL NORTE	21%	94,098	4,683	89,415
Dusky	CHELLISSA	8%	34,710	0	34,710
	GREEN HOPE	18%	77,737	0	77,737
	OCEAN HOPE 3	15%	66,538	0	66,538
	Total	**100%**	**441,099**	**10,845**	**430,254**
		Transfers:	(67,107)		
		Final Total:	**373,993**	Net:	**363,148**
	MAR PACIFICO	34%	26,017	39,276	(13,259)
	MAR DEL NORTE	23%	17,412	10,638	6,774
Sablefish	CHELLISSA	8%	5,911	0	5,911
	GREEN HOPE	9%	6,945	0	6,945
	OCEAN HOPE 3	27%	20,744	0	20,744
	Total	**100%**	**77,029**	**49,914**	**27,115**
		Transfers:	(20,110)		
		Final Total:	**56,918**	Net:	**7,004**

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2015 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
	MAR PACIFICO	34%	144,351	12,629	131,722
	MAR DEL NORTE	23%	96,607	8,867	87,740
P. cod	CHELLISSA	8%	32,794	0	32,794
	GREEN HOPE	9%	38,532	0	38,532
	OCEAN HOPE 3	27%	115,093	0	115,093
	Total	**100%**	**427,377**	**21,496**	**405,881**
		Transfers:	(47,778)		
		Final Total:	**379,599**	Net:	**358,103**
	MAR PACIFICO	34%	5,651	3,740	1,911
	MAR DEL NORTE	23%	3,782	852	2,930
Thornyhead	CHELLISSA	8%	1,284	0	1,284
	GREEN HOPE	9%	1,509	0	1,509
	OCEAN HOPE 3	27%	4,506	0	4,506
	Total	**100%**	**16,732**	**4,592**	**12,140**
		Transfers:	(3,208)		
		Final Total:	**13,524**	Net:	**8,932**
	MAR PACIFICO	34%	9,663	8,423	1,241
	MAR DEL NORTE	23%	6,467	2,969	3,498
Halibut PSC	CHELLISSA	8%	2,195	0	2,195
	GREEN HOPE	9%	2,579	0	2,579
	OCEAN HOPE 3	27%	7,705	0	7,705
	Total	**100%**	**28,610**	**11,392**	**17,218**
		Transfers:	(2,571)		
		Final Total:	**26,039**	Net:	**14,647**

C. *Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ*

Federal regulations require the RP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Dusky Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2015 ISA Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1– November 15, 2015), there were no occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species.

D. *Sideboard limits and rockfish sideboard fishery harvests*

The Rockfish Program established sideboard limits and/or prohibitions that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard restrictions apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing. For the CV sector, the sideboard limits established in the RPP have been removed for ease of management. The following prohibitions remain in place during the month of July:

(1) For the month of July, limit all CVs to the shallow water complex fisheries (fishing in the deep complex is prohibited)
(2) Directed fishing for WYAK and WGOA primary rockfish species in the month of July is prohibited

V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

A. *Halibut:* The cooperative's fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op's RP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was

reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 6). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op's quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the co-op members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or "flying bottom") gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The ISA Rockfish Co-op used 11,392 lbs or 43.8% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 26,039 lbs.

Table 6.Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the ISA Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard		Red Light Standard		Yellow Light Standard	
Species	*% halibut*	*Species*	*% halibut*	*Species*	*% halibut*
POP	0.50%	POP	0.45%	POP	0.38%
NR/Dusky	2.20%	NR/Dusky	1.98%	NR/Dusky	1.65%
Sable/cod	4.00%	Sable/cod	3.60%	Sable/cod	3.00%

B. ***Chinook Salmon:*** Amendment 97 to the GOA FMP, effective January 1, 2015, established Chinook salmon bycatch limits in the W/CGOA non-pollock trawl fisheries. The cap for the RP is 1,200 Chinook.

All Shoreside Cooperatives agreed to the amended Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan adopted in 2014. The plan included four parts: i) "slow start" to test the fishing grounds; ii) individual vessel Chinook salmon bycatch standards for the months of May, June, July, and August, iii) Chinook salmon hotspot reporting requirements, and iv) full retention of all bycaught Chinook salmon (required by regulation as of January 1, 2015). Fish ticket (FT) data (not observer estimates) were used to monitor the cooperative vessel's bycatch performance. Vessels had to wait until their offload was complete and bycatch rate available prior to starting their next fishing trip. If a Cooperative member's bycatch rate was at the red standard, the vessel agreed to stand down from targeted rockfish trips for four days from the date of that delivery. If the bycatch rate was at the yellow standard for two consecutive trips, the vessel agreed to stand down from targeted rockfish trips for four days from the date of the second delivery. These standards (including stand- downs) applied only to directed rockfish trips (i.e., if a vessel had to stand down due to high bycatch rate, he could still go out and do a cod or sablefish trip since there is virtually no Chinook salmon bycatch in these targets).

All operators were required to provide detailed information for the Chinook bycatch hotspot reports including target, set and haul times and locations, depth and gear type. Operators agreed to promptly self-report Chinook salmon hotspot areas from the grounds to AGDB and/or their Cooperative's affiliated processor. These "hot-spot" alerts were sent out to all co-op members, affiliated processors and vessel operators. Four hot spot alerts were issued in 2015 compared to three in 2014 and eight in 2013. Chinook salmon bycatch updates were sent out to Co-op members and vessel operators biweekly in May and June.

For the rockfish fishery, Chinook salmon PSC estimates are derived from observer at-sea samples to create a Chinook PSC rate for each observed trip (there is 100% observer coverage in the RP). The trip rate is applied to the groundfish delivered to the processing plant for that trip to determine the number

of Chinook salmon that is debited from RP Chinook cap and also the amount for that individual vessel's trip. Because Chinook salmon is an uncommon species, the at-sea samples result in many zero counts for the individual vessel trips with an occasional hit resulting in an occasional large count to make up for all the previous zeros. This is in contrast to census counts for the observed pollock fishery trips where every salmon is enumerated for the trip at the point of offload (the processing plant). The RP observer sampling does not work for individual vessel accountability since the observer estimate for the vessel trip has no relationship to actual vessel bycatch - it only reflects whether there is or is not a Chinook salmon in the sample.

The co-op Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan uses Chinook salmon FT counts to manage individual vessel behavior, not the observer Chinook salmon PSC trip rates that estimate PSC amounts for NMFS catch accounting. The co-op Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan worked well and resulted in a fish ticket count across all RP deliveries totaling 642 salmon, well below the 1,200 RP cap. However, the Chinook PSC estimate based on observer sampling used by NMFS CAS resulted in a total of 1,784 Chinook taken by the seven CV co-ops over the 2015 rockfish season, 584 Chinook over the cap (see Table 7). There was no effect on the 2015 rockfish fishery when the cap was exceeded since the overage occurred during one of the last RP trips of the season. Note: NMFS shows 881 Chinook were taken during one of the last RP trips in November, upping the total from 774 to 1,655 salmon (33 Chinook were landed and sampled for genetics at the plant from this trip). Another 129 Chinook were attributed to the RP from a trip in early November (actual FT count of eight Chinook). This data did not enter the system until Nov. 26 when the observer was undergoing debriefing in Seattle: the identification of the one salmon that landed in his sample was changed from sockeye to Chinook based on examination of the scale sample in Seattle.

Table 7. Chinook PSC, total CV rockfish harvests and Chinook PSC rates for the RPP (2007-2011) and the first four years of the new Rockfish Program (2012-2015). Catcher vessel co-ops only. Source: Steve Whitney, NMFS.

Year	Chinook (no.)	Rockfish Harvest (mt)	Rate (Chinook/mt)
2007	840	7,748	0.108
2008	1,683	7,440	0.226
2009	892	6,874	0.130
2010	1,017	7,992	0.127
2011	396	7,071	0.056
2012	817	10,067	0.081
2013	1,271	8,820	0.144
2014	520	10,100	0.051
2015	1,784	10,768	0.166
Average	**1,024**	**8,542**	**0.120**

Rockfish Genetics Project: Whereas there is ample information on stock of origin of Chinook taken in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, data is still lacking on the origins of Chinook taken in the GOA trawl fisheries. Also uncertain is the proportion of Chinook bycatch that are of hatchery origin. To that end, the Rockfish Genetics project started in 2013 continued into 2014 and 2015. The genetic collections could continue beyond 2015 if additional industry funding becomes available or if NMFS takes over the Chinook salmon data collection.

The Project goals are:

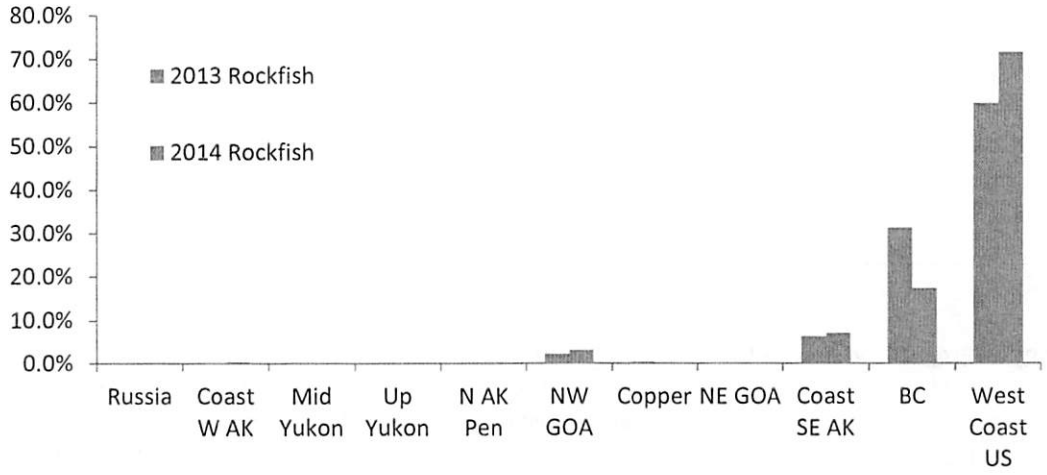
1. Collect tissue samples from all landed Chinook salmon for DNA and stock of origin analysis.
2. Collect biological data (weight, length, sex) at the plant from all landed salmon.
3. Scan all landed Chinook salmon for the presence or absence of adipose fin clips and Coded Wire Tags (CWT). This will allow for an estimation of Chinook bycatch that originate from hatcheries.
4. Collect CWT's (snouts) from all salmon with positive CWT signal.

Over the 2015 season, tissue samples from 638 landed Chinook as well as snouts from 36 tagged salmon were collected and sent to NMFS Auke Bay Lab for processing. Preliminary results are expected Fall 2016. Stock of origin results from the 2013 and 2014 Rockfish fishery are shown in Table 8 and Figure 3 (2014 results are preliminary and courtesy of Jeff Guyon, NMFS Auke Bay; 2013 results can be found at: http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/Publications/AFSC-TM/NOAA-TM-AFSC-289.pdf).

Table 8. Stock of Origin results, 2013 and 2014 CGOA CV Rockfish fishery.

Area	2013 Rockfish	2014 Rockfish
No. Samples Processed	**2,070**	**398**
Russia	0.0%	0.1%
Coast W AK	0.0%	0.3%
Mid Yukon	0.0%	0.0%
Up Yukon	0.0%	0.0%
N AK Pen	0.0%	0.0%
NW GOA	2.2%	3.2%
Copper	0.3%	0.1%
NE GOA	0.0%	0.1%
Coast SE AK	6.4%	7.1%
BC	31.3%	17.4%
West Coast US	59.9%	71.7%
SE, BC,WC combined	97.6%	96.2%
Total	**100.1%**	**100.0%**

Figure 3. Chinook stock of origin results from 2013 and 2014 census collections of tissue samples.



C. ***Other Prohibited Species Catch***: The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2015 RP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 63 non-Chinook salmon, 22 Bairdi tanner crab and 28 Opilio tanner crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS as of Dec. 11, 2015).

D. PENALITIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation exactly on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. leases and clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the ISA Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future excessive overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

Groundfish Data Bank

Alaska

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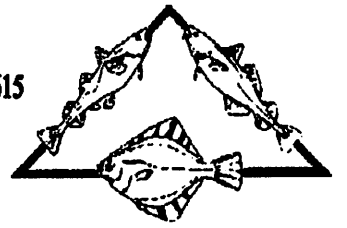

CGOA Rockfish Program 2015 Annual Cooperative Reports

December 11, 2015

To: North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 95501-2252
Fax: (907) 271-2817
npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

From: Julie Bonney
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak, AK 99615

Please find enclosed the 2015 Annual Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative Reports for the following cooperatives:

1. Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative
2. North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative
3. ISA Rockfish Cooperative
4. OBSI Rockfish Cooperative
5. Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative
6. Global Rockfish Cooperative
7. Pacific Rockfish Cooperative

Julie Bonney
Executive Director,
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc

Final Report
North Pacific
Rockfish Cooperative

2015

December 15, 2015

I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to

Prepared by:
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc.
P.O. Box 788
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the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)[1]. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allowed each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, and Thornyhead rockfish along with an allocation of Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained secondary catch or Halibut PSC mortality in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The 5-year RPP ended in 2011 and was rolled over into a new, modified, catch share program in June 2010 under Amendment 88 of the GOA Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). This Rockfish Program (RP) went into effect in 2012 and is scheduled to sunset after 10 years in 2022.

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The North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative is one of 7 inshore cooperatives (compared to five co-ops in the RPP) formed in March 2012 in accordance with Amendment 88 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2015 marked the fourth year of the new Rockfish Program and, in compliance with Amendment 88, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2015 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger website (efish).

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2015, as in 2014, the NP Rockfish Cooperative consisted of twelve member licenses with eleven member vessels (Table 1) of which six actively fished during the 2015 RP season: Alaska Beauty, Caravelle, Dawn, Nicole, Sea Mac and Topaz.

North Pacific Seafoods in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the NP Rockfish Cooperative.

[1] As of 2012, Pelagic shelf rockfish consists only of dusky rockfish

Table 1.LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the NP Rockfish Cooperative 2015.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
1590	ALASKA BEAUTY LLC	ALASKA BEAUTY	22011
3764	PELAGIC RESOURCES, INC.	ALASKAN	3734
2148	THOMAS TORMALA	CAPT'N ART	40967
2973	GOLDEN WEST FISHERIES, INC.	CARAVELLE	57634
2487	NICOLE FISHERIES LLC	NICOLE	9206
2165	DAWN FISHERIES LLC	DAWN	21636
1755	ENTERPRISE FISHERIES, LLC	ENTERPRISE	20339
1541	MAGIC FISH CO.	SEA MAC	6151
3785	SEA MAC SEAFOODS, LLC	SEA MAC	6151
3496	M/V DEFIANT, INC.	ANTHEM	76842
2653	ALASKA WIND, LLC	ALASKA WIND	55523
2535	CHANDLER FISHERIES, INC.	TOPAZ	40250

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The NP Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the co-op president, Patrick O'Donnell, the North Pacific Seafoods plant manager, Matt Moir and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while minimizing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. *Monitoring*

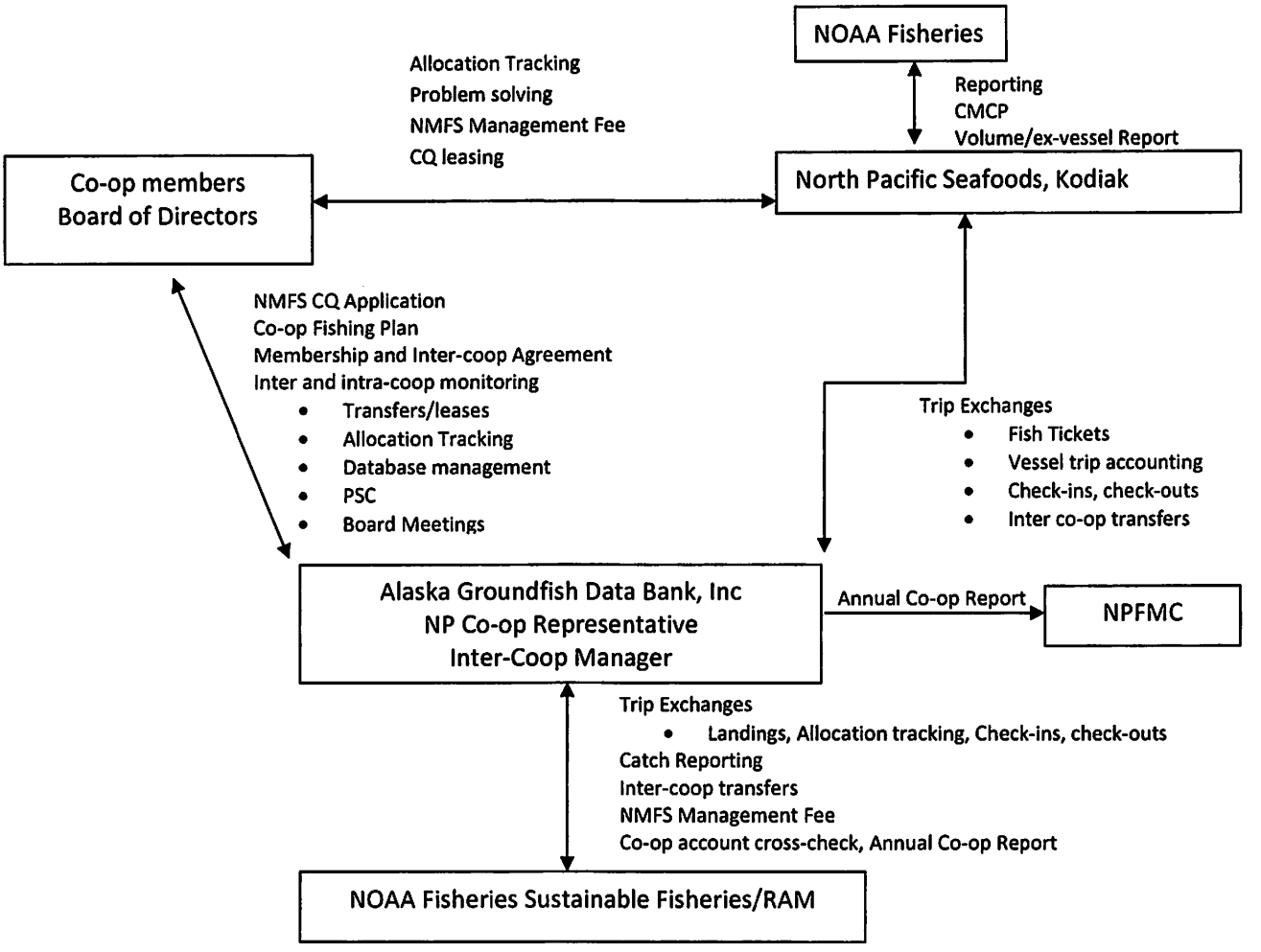
(1) **Check-ins and Check-outs:** To facilitate moving into and out of non-RP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" with no limits to the number of check ins as was the case for the RPP. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries.

(2) **Observer Coverage:** 100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels.

(3) **CMCP Monitor:** For the new Rockfish Program, NMFS hired a Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) specialist to monitor each Processor's CMCP. RP Processors are required to file with NMFS their CMCP prior to the start of the RP season. This plan details how the processor monitors the deliveries and complies with monitoring requirements. This is in lieu of 200% observer coverage at the plants required during the RPP.

(4) **NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management:** NOAA RAM's Co-op ledger web site was used to perform transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of NP Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. *Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests*

The NP Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2015 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 5. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the seven catcher vessel cooperatives, adhere to cooperative agreements and to cover overages.

Table 2. NP Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	Dusky	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial NP Allocation:	3,274,841	852,772	884,637	127,907	709,666	27,784	47,508
Transfers (ISA):	367,233	47,174	31,038	13,188	9,372	1,704	-
Transfers (OBSI):				947			
Total Transfers	367,233	47,174	31,038	14,135	9,372	1,704	-
Final NP Allocation:	**3,642,074**	**899,946**	**915,675**	**142,042**	**719,038**	**29,488**	**47,508**
Total CV Coops*:	18,589,626	4,712,318	4,195,642	696,246	3,862,977	153,087	258,602
NP % CV Allocation:	19.59%	19.10%	21.82%	20.40%	18.61%	19.26%	18.37%

**Includes CP CQ transferred onshore*

B. *Vessel Use, Co-op CQ and Processing Caps*

(1) **Vessel harvests:** A vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV sector is one of the new changes to the RP. In 2015, this amounted to 2,199,807 lbs of primary rockfish in the aggregate. During the 2015 season, no vessel exceeded this limit (see figure 2).

(2) **Co-op QS:** Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish allocated to the CV sector. Final quota share allocated to the NP co-op in 2015 amounted to 19.8% of the aggregate CV rockfish cooperative quota (Table 4).

(3) **Processing limits:** For the Rockfish Program, a provision was approved that states no processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish in the aggregate; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector. During the 2015 season, North Pacific Seafoods, Kodiak did not exceed these caps, but since Trident coop vessels were delivering to APS the amount of sablefish landed at the plant was closely monitored: the plant came within about 4,600 lbs of reaching the sablefish processing limit. See Table 3.

Table 3. LBS and % of CV allocations by CQ species received and processed by North Pacific Seafoods in 2015.

Species	POP	NR	DUSKY	Total Primary RF	Sablefish	Cod	% RF	% Sable	% Cod
Processed APS	4,702,561	784,543	982,856	6,469,960	204,267	925,296	23.53%	29.34%	23.95%
CV Allocation	18,589,626	4,712,318	4,195,642	27,497,585	696,246	3,862,977			

Table 4. Primary rockfish CQ (POP, Northern Rockfish, Dusky rockfish): % of Final CV sector allocations by species and co-op

CV Co-op CQ	POP	NR	Dusky	Total Rockfish
NP	19.6%	19.1%	21.8%	19.8%
SOK	24.7%	30.3%	29.7%	26.4%
WAF	17.0%	7.2%	7.2%	13.8%
OBSI	18.7%	28.4%	26.8%	21.6%
ISA	8.7%	9.0%	8.9%	8.8%
Global	7.0%	1.5%	1.8%	5.3%
Pacific	4.2%	4.6%	3.8%	4.2%
Final Allocation	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 2.Harvests of primary rockfish by NP member vessels (% of aggregate CV primary rockfish). Vessel harvest cap is 8%

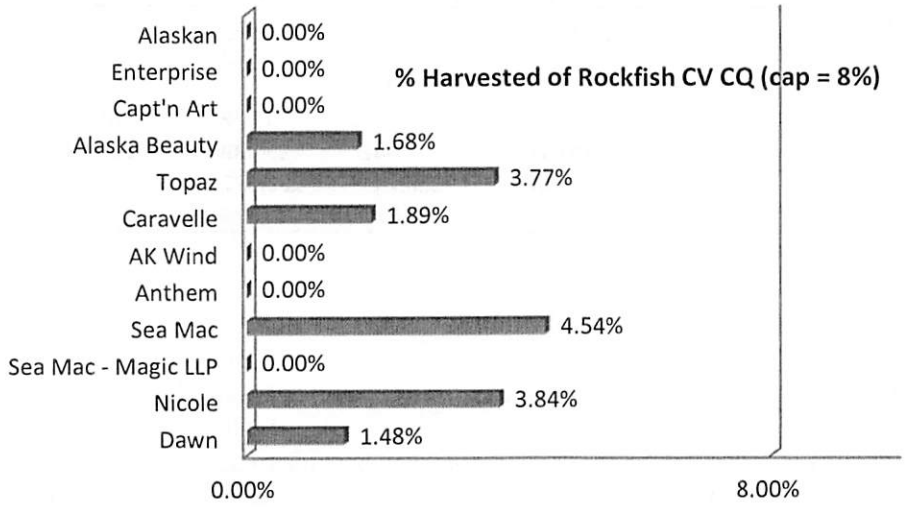


Table 5.NP Rockfish Cooperative 2015 allocations and harvests by species and co-op member. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts**(as of December 11, 2015).**

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2015 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
	DAWN	12%	389,490	400,688	(11,198)
	NICOLE	13%	416,977	773,012	(356,035)
	SEA MAC - MAGIC LLP	11%	344,352	0	344,352
	SEA MAC	5%	158,099	870,546	(712,447)
	ANTHEM	9%	301,206	0	301,206
	ALASKA WIND	2%	60,356	0	60,356
	CARAVELLE	12%	390,942	339,588	51,354
POP	TOPAZ	19%	614,105	814,431	(200,326)
	ALASKA BEAUTY	10%	318,834	358,890	(40,056)
	CAPT'N ART	3%	104,505	0	104,505
	ENTERPRISE	2%	51,756	0	51,756
	ALASKAN	4%	124,219	0	124,219
	Total	**100%**	3,274,841	**3,557,155**	**(282,314)**
		Transfers:	367,233		
		Final Total:	**3,642,074**	Net:	**84,919**
	DAWN	6%	52,238	361	51,877
	NICOLE	16%	135,288	132,303	2,985
	SEA MAC - MAGIC LLP	2%	16,475	0	16,475
	SEA MAC	5%	40,563	243,043	(202,480)
	ANTHEM	19%	162,459	0	162,459
	ALASKA WIND	0%	40	0	40
	CARAVELLE	17%	148,030	87,422	60,608
NR	TOPAZ	27%	228,082	56,205	171,877
	ALASKA BEAUTY	7%	57,154	39,080	18,074
	CAPT'N ART	0%	804	0	804
	ENTERPRISE	1%	10,379	0	10,379
	ALASKAN	0%	1,262	0	1,262
	Total	**100%**	**852,772**	**558,414**	**294,358**
		Transfers:	47,174		
		Final Total:	**899,946**	Net:	**341,532**

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2015 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
	DAWN	8%	73,086	5,536	67,550
	NICOLE	20%	176,634	150,857	25,777
	SEA MAC - MAGIC LLP	2%	17,041	0	17,041
	SEA MAC	4%	34,710	134,446	(99,736)
	ANTHEM	16%	142,909	0	142,909
	ALASKA WIND	0%	1,638	0	1,638
	CARAVELLE	15%	133,169	92,920	40,249
Dusky	TOPAZ	26%	228,307	165,366	62,941
	ALASKA BEAUTY	8%	66,936	63,495	3,441
	CAPT'N ART	0%	1,120	0	1,120
	ENTERPRISE	1%	5,070	0	5,070
	ALASKAN	0%	4,016	0	4,016
	Total	**100%**	**884,637**	**612,620**	**272,017**
		Transfers:	31,038		
		Final Total:	**915,675**	Net:	**303,055**
	DAWN	10%	12,363	25,386	(13,023)
	NICOLE	15%	19,237	20,349	(1,112)
	SEA MAC - MAGIC LLP	7%	8,360	-	8,360
	SEA MAC	5%	5,911	32,104	(26,193)
	ANTHEM	13%	16,833	-	16,833
	ALASKA WIND	1%	1,316	-	1,316
	CARAVELLE	14%	17,868	14,237	3,631
Sablefish	TOPAZ	22%	28,474	34,074	(5,600)
	ALASKA BEAUTY	9%	10,885	11,717	(832)
	CAPT'N ART	2%	2,254	-	2,254
	ENTERPRISE	1%	1,634	-	1,634
	ALASKAN	2%	2,772	-	2,772
	Total	**100%**	**127,907**	**137,867**	**(9,960)**
		Transfers:	14,135		
		Final Total:	**142,042**	Net:	**4,175**
	DAWN	10%	68,593	21,127	47,466
	NICOLE	15%	106,732	78,180	28,552
	SEA MAC - MAGIC LLP	7%	46,382	0	46,382
	SEA MAC	5%	32,794	49,527	(16,733)
	ANTHEM	13%	93,395	0	93,395
	ALASKA WIND	1%	7,300	0	7,300
	CARAVELLE	14%	99,137	16,782	82,355
P. cod	TOPAZ	22%	157,983	180,850	(22,867)
	ALASKA BEAUTY	9%	60,393	2,670	57,723
	CAPT'N ART	2%	12,508	0	12,508
	ENTERPRISE	1%	9,068	0	9,068
	ALASKAN	2%	15,382	0	15,382
	Total	**100%**	**709,666**	**349,136**	**360,530**
		Transfers:	9,372		
		Final Total:	**719,038**	Net:	**369,902**
Thornyhead	DAWN	10%	2,685	2,531	154
	NICOLE	15%	4,179	4,007	172
	SEA MAC - MAGIC LLP	7%	1,816	0	1,816
	SEA MAC	5%	1,284	1,844	(560)
	ANTHEM	13%	3,656	0	3,656
	ALASKA WIND	1%	286	0	286

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2015 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
	CARAVELLE	14%	3,881	2,247	1,634
Thornyhead	TOPAZ	22%	6,185	5,492	693
	ALASKA BEAUTY	9%	2,364	4,789	(2,425)
	CAPT'N ART	2%	490	0	490
	ENTERPRISE	1%	355	0	355
	ALASKAN	2%	602	0	602
	Total	**100%**	**27,784**	**20,910**	**6,874**
		Transfers:	1,704		
		Final Total:	**29,488**	Net:	**8,578**
	DAWN	10%	4,592	1,394	3,198
	NICOLE	15%	7,145	1,806	5,339
	SEA MAC - MAGIC LLP	7%	3,105	0	3,105
	SEA MAC	5%	2,195	653	1,542
	ANTHEM	13%	6,252	0	6,252
	ALASKA WIND	1%	489	0	489
	CARAVELLE	14%	6,637	2,473	4,164
Halibut PSC	TOPAZ	22%	10,576	7,982	2,594
	ALASKA BEAUTY	9%	4,043	134	3,909
	CAPT'N ART	2%	837	0	837
	ENTERPRISE	1%	607	0	607
	ALASKAN	2%	1,030	0	1,030
	Total	**100%**	**47,508**	**14,442**	**33,066**
		Transfers:	-		
		Final Total:	**47,508**	Net:	**33,066**

C. *Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ*

Federal regulations require the RP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Dusky Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2015 NP Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1– November 15, 2015), there were no occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species.

D. *Sideboard limits and rockfish sideboard fishery harvests*

The Rockfish Program established sideboard limits and/or prohibitions that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard restrictions apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing. For the CV sector, the sideboard limits established in the RPP have been removed for ease of management. The following prohibitions remain in place during the month of July:

(1) For the month of July, limit all CVs to the shallow water complex fisheries (fishing in the deep complex is prohibited)
(2) Directed fishing for WYAK and WGOA primary rockfish species in the month of July is prohibited

V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

A. ***Halibut:*** The cooperative's fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op's RP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 6). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were

achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op's quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the co-op members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or "flying bottom") gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The NP Rockfish Co-op used 14,442 lbs or 30% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 47,508 lbs.

Table 6.Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the NP Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard		Red Light Standard		Yellow Light Standard	
Species	*% halibut*	*Species*	*% halibut*	*Species*	*% halibut*
POP	0.50%	POP	0.45%	POP	0.38%
NR/Dusky	2.20%	NR/Dusky	1.98%	NR/Dusky	1.65%
Sable/cod	4.00%	Sable/cod	3.60%	Sable/cod	3.00%

B. ***Chinook Salmon:*** Amendment 97 to the GOA FMP, effective January 1, 2015, established Chinook salmon bycatch limits in the W/CGOA non-pollock trawl fisheries. The cap for the RP is 1,200 Chinook.

All Shoreside Cooperatives agreed to the amended Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan adopted in 2014. The plan included four parts: i) "slow start" to test the fishing grounds; ii) individual vessel Chinook salmon bycatch standards for the months of May, June, July, and August, iii) Chinook salmon hotspot reporting requirements, and iv) full retention of all bycaught Chinook salmon (required by regulation as of January 1, 2015). Fish ticket (FT) data (not observer estimates) were used to monitor the cooperative vessel's bycatch performance. Vessels had to wait until their offload was complete and bycatch rate available prior to starting their next fishing trip. If a Cooperative member's bycatch rate was at the red standard, the vessel agreed to stand down from targeted rockfish trips for four days from the date of that delivery. If the bycatch rate was at the yellow standard for two consecutive trips, the vessel agreed to stand down from targeted rockfish trips for four days from the date of the second delivery. These standards (including stand- downs) applied only to directed rockfish trips (i.e., if a vessel had to stand down due to high bycatch rate, he could still go out and do a cod or sablefish trip since there is virtually no Chinook salmon bycatch in these targets).

All operators were required to provide detailed information for the Chinook bycatch hotspot reports including target, set and haul times and locations, depth and gear type. Operators agreed to promptly self-report Chinook salmon hotspot areas from the grounds to AGDB and/or their Cooperative's affiliated processor. These "hot-spot" alerts were sent out to all co-op members, affiliated processors and vessel operators. Four hot spot alerts were issued in 2015 compared to three in 2014 and eight in 2013. Chinook salmon bycatch updates were sent out to Co-op members and vessel operators biweekly in May and June.

For the rockfish fishery, Chinook salmon PSC estimates are derived from observer at-sea samples to create a Chinook PSC rate for each observed trip (there is 100% observer coverage in the RP). The trip rate is applied to the groundfish delivered to the processing plant for that trip to determine the number of Chinook salmon that is debited from RP Chinook cap and also the amount for that individual vessel's trip. Because Chinook salmon is an uncommon species, the at-sea samples result in many zero counts

for the individual vessel trips with an occasional hit resulting in an occasional large count to make up for all the previous zeros. This is in contrast to census counts for the observed pollock fishery trips where every salmon is enumerated for the trip at the point of offload (the processing plant). The RP observer sampling does not work for individual vessel accountability since the observer estimate for the vessel trip has no relationship to actual vessel bycatch - it only reflects whether there is or is not a Chinook salmon in the sample.

The co-op Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan uses Chinook salmon FT counts to manage individual vessel behavior, not the observer Chinook salmon PSC trip rates that estimate PSC amounts for NMFS catch accounting. The co-op Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan worked well and resulted in a fish ticket count across all RP deliveries totaling 642 salmon, well below the 1,200 RP cap. However, the Chinook PSC estimate based on observer sampling used by NMFS CAS resulted in a total of 1,784 Chinook taken by the seven CV co-ops over the 2015 rockfish season, 584 Chinook over the cap (see Table 7). There was no effect on the 2015 rockfish fishery when the cap was exceeded since the overage occurred during one of the last RP trips of the season. Note: NMFS shows 881 Chinook were taken during one of the last RP trips in November, upping the total from 774 to 1,655 salmon (33 Chinook were landed and sampled for genetics at the plant from this trip). Another 129 Chinook were attributed to the RP from a trip in early November (actual FT count of eight Chinook). This data did not enter the system until Nov. 26 when the observer was undergoing debriefing in Seattle: the identification of the one salmon that landed in his sample was changed from sockeye to Chinook based on examination of the scale sample in Seattle.

Table 7. Chinook PSC, total CV rockfish harvests and Chinook PSC rates for the RPP (2007-2011) and the first four years of the new Rockfish Program (2012-2015). Catcher vessel co-ops only. Source: Steve Whitney, NMFS.

Year	Chinook (no.)	Rockfish Harvest (mt)	Rate (Chinook/mt)
2007	840	7,748	0.108
2008	1,683	7,440	0.226
2009	892	6,874	0.130
2010	1,017	7,992	0.127
2011	396	7,071	0.056
2012	817	10,067	0.081
2013	1,271	8,820	0.144
2014	520	10,100	0.051
2015	1,784	10,768	0.166
Average	**1,024**	**8,542**	**0.120**

Rockfish Genetics Project: Whereas there is ample information on stock of origin of Chinook taken in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, data is still lacking on the origins of Chinook taken in the GOA trawl fisheries. Also uncertain is the proportion of Chinook bycatch that are of hatchery origin. To that end, the Rockfish Genetics project started in 2013 continued into 2014 and 2015. The genetic collections could continue beyond 2015 if additional industry funding becomes available or if NMFS takes over the Chinook salmon data collection.

The Project goals are:

1. Collect tissue samples from all landed Chinook salmon for DNA and stock of origin analysis.
2. Collect biological data (weight, length, sex) at the plant from all landed salmon.

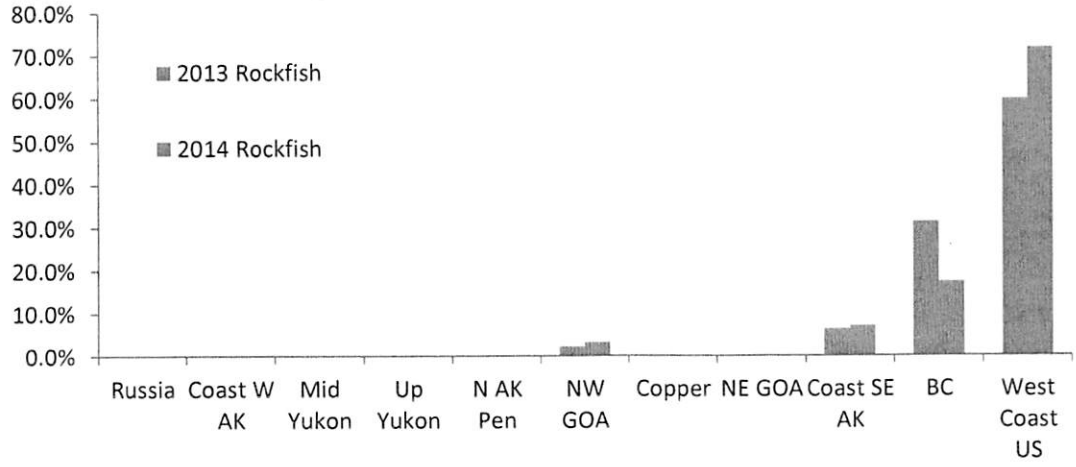
3. Scan all landed Chinook salmon for the presence or absence of adipose fin clips and Coded Wire Tags (CWT). This will allow for an estimation of Chinook bycatch that originate from hatcheries.
4. Collect CWT's (snouts) from all salmon with positive CWT signal.

Over the 2015 season, tissue samples from 638 landed Chinook as well as snouts from 36 tagged salmon were collected and sent to NMFS Auke Bay Lab for processing. Preliminary results are expected Fall 2016. Stock of origin results from the 2013 and 2014 Rockfish fishery are shown in Table 8 and Figure 3 (2014 results are preliminary and courtesy of Jeff Guyon, NMFS Auke Bay; 2013 results can be found at: http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/Publications/AFSC-TM/NOAA-TM-AFSC-289.pdf).

Table 8. Stock of Origin results, 2013 and 2014 CGOA CV Rockfish fishery.

Area	2013 Rockfish	2014 Rockfish
No. Samples Processed	**2,070**	**398**
Russia	0.0%	0.1%
Coast W AK	0.0%	0.3%
Mid Yukon	0.0%	0.0%
Up Yukon	0.0%	0.0%
N AK Pen	0.0%	0.0%
NW GOA	2.2%	3.2%
Copper	0.3%	0.1%
NE GOA	0.0%	0.1%
Coast SE AK	6.4%	7.1%
BC	31.3%	17.4%
West Coast US	59.9%	71.7%
SE, BC,WC combined	97.6%	96.2%
Total	**100.1%**	**100.0%**

Figure 3. Chinook stock of origin results from 2013 and 2014 census collections of tissue samples.



C. ***Other Prohibited Species Catch***: The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2015 RP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 63 non-Chinook salmon, 22 Bairdi tanner crab and 28 Opilio tanner crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS as of Dec. 11, 2015).

VI. PENALITIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation exactly on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. leases and clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the North Pacific Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future excessive overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

Groundfish Data Bank

Alaska

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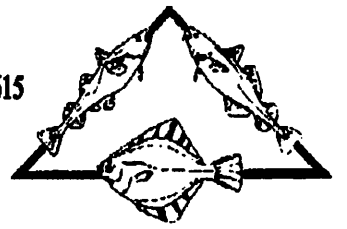

CGOA Rockfish Program 2015 Annual Cooperative Reports

December 11, 2015

To: North Pacific Fishery Management Council
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Anchorage, AK 95501-2252
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From: Julie Bonney
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak, AK 99615

Please find enclosed the 2015 Annual Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative Reports for the following cooperatives:

1. Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative
2. North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative
3. ISA Rockfish Cooperative
4. OBSI Rockfish Cooperative
5. Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative
6. Global Rockfish Cooperative
7. Pacific Rockfish Cooperative

Julie Bonney
Executive Director,
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc

Final Report
OBSI
Rockfish Cooperative
2015

December 15, 2015

Prepared by:
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc.
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Kodiak AK 99615

I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)[1]. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allowed each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, and Thornyhead rockfish along with an allocation of Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained secondary catch or Halibut PSC mortality in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The 5-year RPP ended in 2011 and was rolled over into a new, modified, catch share program in June 2010 under Amendment 88 of the GOA Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). This Rockfish Program (RP) went into effect in 2012 and is scheduled to sunset after 10 years in 2022.

As in the RPP, the primary RP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for co-op members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allows co-op members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while minimizing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The OBSI Rockfish Cooperative is one of 7 inshore cooperatives (compared to five co-ops in the RPP) formed in March 2012 in accordance with Amendment 88 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2015 marked the fourth year of the new Rockfish Program and, in compliance with Amendment 88, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2015 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger website (efish).

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2015, the OBSI Rockfish Cooperative consisted of seven member licenses (no change from 2014) with six member vessels (Table 1) of which four actively fished during the 2015 RP season (New Life, Pacific Star, Laura, Bay Islander). Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Inc (OBSI) in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary

[1] As of 2012, Pelagic shelf rockfish consists only of dusky rockfish

purchasing and processing facility for the OBSI Rockfish Cooperative. Per the OBSI co-op agreement, International Seafoods of Alaska, Inc received some deliveries from the Laura and from the Bay Islander when the OBSI plant shut down in November.

Table 1.LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the OBSI Rockfish Cooperative 2015.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
1367	NEW LIFE FISHERIES, INC	DOMINION	-
3504	BAY ISLANDER, INC.	BAY ISLANDER	49618
4465	MARATHON FISHERIES, INC.	MARATHON	49617
5201	NEW LIFE FISHERIES, INC	NEW LIFE	21845
2603	DEFIANT FISHERIES, INC.	TAASINGE	38001
4852	PAC STAR, INC.	PACIFIC STAR	55038
3665	LAURA FISHERIES JOINT VENTURE	LAURA	21591

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The OBSI Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the co-op president, Kent Helligso, the OBSI plant manager, James Turner, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while minimizing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. *Monitoring*

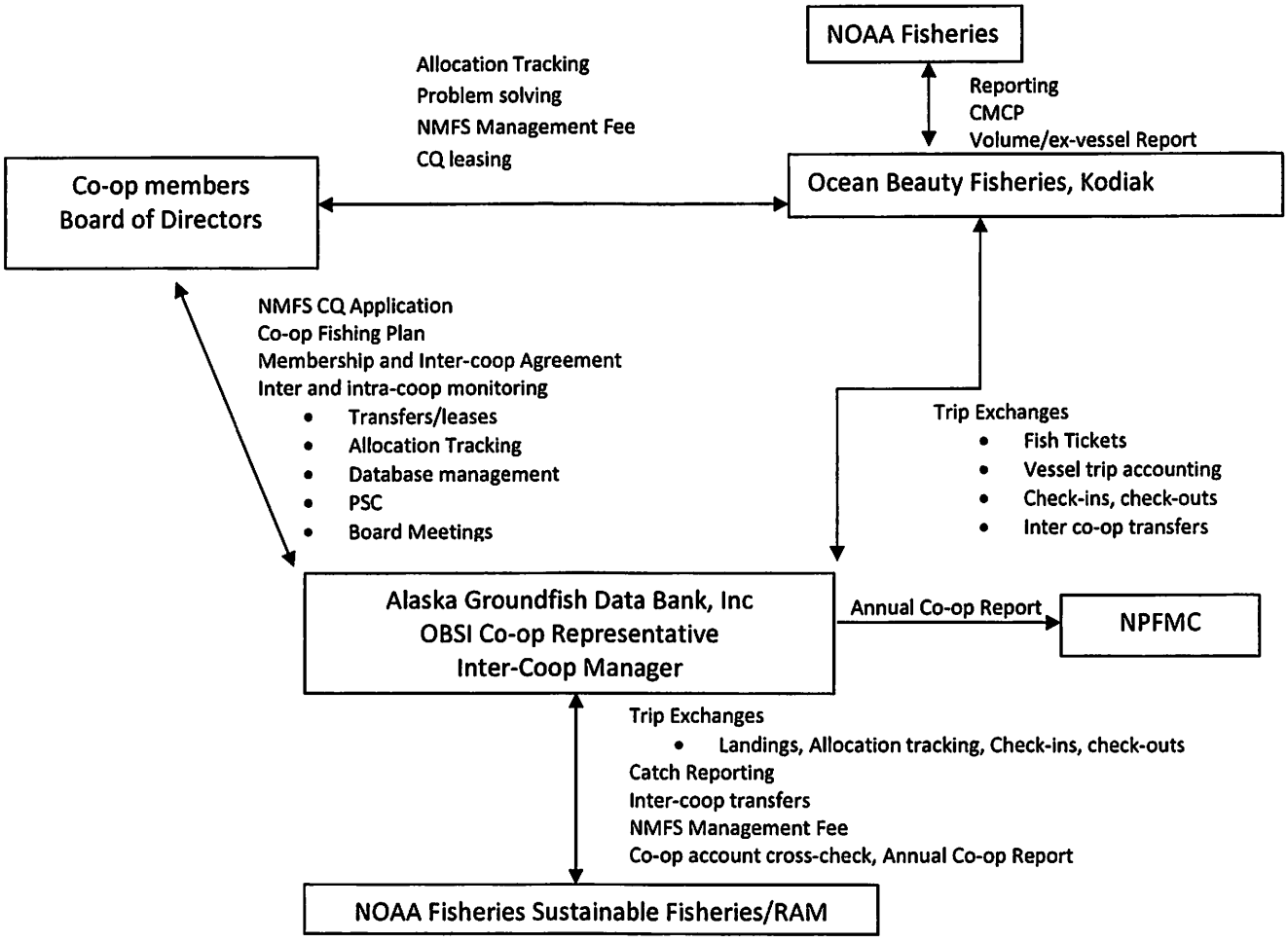
(1) **Check-ins and Check-outs**: To facilitate moving into and out of non-RP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" with no limits to the number of check ins as was the case for the RPP. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries.

(2) **Observer Coverage:** 100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels.

(3) **CMCP Monitor:** For the Rockfish Program, NMFS hired a Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) specialist to monitor each Processor's CMCP. RP Processors are required to file with NMFS their CMCP prior to the start of the RP season. This plan details how the processor monitors the deliveries and complies with monitoring requirements. This is in lieu of 200% observer coverage at the plants required during the RPP.

(4) **NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management:** NOAA RAM's Co-op ledger web site was used to perform transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of OBSI Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. *Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests*

The OBSI Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2015 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 5. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the seven catcher vessel cooperatives, adhere to cooperative agreements and to cover overages.

Table 2. OBSI Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	Dusky	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial OBSI Allocation:	3,259,533	1,073,213	937,841	137,620	763,555	29,893	51,115
Transfers (ISA):	225,965	28,755	114,204	6,922	38,406	1,504	2,571
Transfers (NP):				(947)			
Transfers (SOK):		90,374	71,042				
Transfers (WAF):		145,452					
Transfers (BUC):						1,850	
Total Transfers	225,965	264,581	185,246	5,975	38,406	3,354	2,571
Final OBSI Allocation:	**3,485,498**	**1,337,794**	**1,123,086**	**143,595**	**801,961**	**33,247**	**53,686**
Total CV Coops*:	18,589,626	4,712,318	4,195,642	696,246	3,862,977	153,087	258,602
OBSI % CV Allocation:	18.75%	28.39%	26.77%	20.62%	20.76%	21.72%	20.76%

**Includes CP CQ transferred onshore*

B. *Vessel Use, Co-op CQ and Processing Caps*

(1) **Vessel harvests**: A vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV sector is one of the new changes to the RP. In 2015, this amounted to 2,199,807 lbs of primary rockfish in the aggregate. During the 2015 season, no vessel exceeded this limit (see figure 2).

(2) **Co-op QS**: Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish allocated to the CV sector. Final quota share allocated to the OBSI co-op in 2015 amounted to 21.6% of the aggregate CV rockfish cooperative quota (Table 4).

(3) **Processing limits:** For the Rockfish Program, a provision was approved that states no processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish in the aggregate; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector. During the 2015 season, Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Kodiak did not exceed these caps. See Table 3. Note: CQ harvested by the OBSI rockfish cooperative may not equal the amount processed by OBSI because deliveries to other City of Kodiak processors are allowed by the co-op in the Rockfish Program.

Table 3. LBS and % of CV allocations by CQ species received and processed by OBSI Seafoods in 2015.

Species	POP	NR	DUSKY	Total Primary RF	Sablefish	Cod	% RF	% Sable	% Cod
OB Processed	2,174,912	732,127	709,271	3,616,310	115,322	66,993	13.15%	16.56%	1.73%
CV Allocation	18,589,626	4,712,318	4,195,642	27,497,585	696,246	3,862,977			

Table 4. Primary rockfish CQ (POP, Northern Rockfish, Dusky rockfish): % of Final CV sector allocations by species and co-op (includes CQ transferred to the CV coops from the offshore coops)

CV Co-op CQ	POP	NR	Dusky	Total Rockfish
NP	19.6%	19.1%	21.8%	19.8%
SOK	24.7%	30.3%	29.7%	26.4%
WAF	17.0%	7.2%	7.2%	13.8%
OBSI	18.7%	28.4%	26.8%	21.6%
ISA	8.7%	9.0%	8.9%	8.8%
Global	7.0%	1.5%	1.8%	5.3%
Pacific	4.2%	4.6%	3.8%	4.2%
Final Allocation	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 2.Harvests of primary rockfish by OBSI member vessels (% of aggregate CV primary rockfish). Vessel harvest cap is 8%

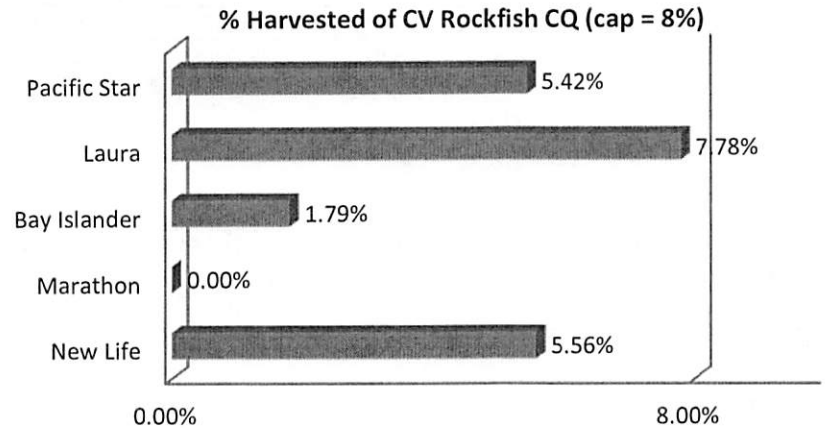


Table 5.OBSI Rockfish Cooperative 2015 allocations and harvests by species and co-op member. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts**(as of December 11, 2015).**

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2015 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
	DOMINION	8%	260,462	0	260,462
	NEW LIFE	12%	402,459	751,780	(349,321)
	MARATHON	18%	587,833	0	587,833
	BAY ISLANDER	0%	0	490,488	(490,488)
	LAURA	24%	776,449	1,175,529	(399,080)
POP	PACIFIC STAR	26%	850,046	1,040,808	(190,762)
	TAASINGE	12%	382,283	0	382,283
	Total	**100%**	3,259,533	**3,458,605**	**(199,072)**
		Transfers:	225,965		
		Final Total:	**3,485,498**	Net:	**26,893**
	DOMINION	10%	111,876	-	111,876
	NEW LIFE	12%	133,438	359,833	(226,395)
	MARATHON	16%	173,810	-	173,810
	BAY ISLANDER	3%	28,309	-	28,309
	LAURA	21%	220,101	542,198	(322,097)
NR	PACIFIC STAR	27%	290,884	245,193	45,691
	TAASINGE	11%	114,793	-	114,793
	Total	**100%**	**1,073,213**	**1,147,224**	**(74,011)**
		Transfers:	264,581		
		Final Total:	**1,337,794**	Net:	**190,570**
	DOMINION	11%	104,411	-	104,411
	NEW LIFE	15%	138,139	416,774	(278,635)
	MARATHON	17%	158,087	-	158,087
	BAY ISLANDER	1%	9,487	1,657	7,830
	LAURA	18%	167,055	420,615	(253,560)
Dusky	PACIFIC STAR	24%	224,603	203,271	21,332
	TAASINGE	15%	136,059	-	136,059
	Total	**100%**	**937,841**	**1,042,317**	**(104,476)**
		Transfers:	185,246		
		Final Total:	**1,123,086**	Net:	**80,769**

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2015 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
	DOMINION	9%	12,884	-	12,884
	NEW LIFE	13%	17,701	55,454	(37,753)
	MARATHON	17%	23,731	-	23,731
	BAY ISLANDER	1%	1,369	-	1,369
	LAURA	22%	29,724	38,861	(9,137)
Sablefish	PACIFIC STAR	26%	35,708	48,204	(12,496)
	TAASINGE	12%	16,503	-	16,503
	Total	**100%**	**137,620**	**142,519**	**(4,899)**
		Transfers:	5,975		
		Final Total:	**143,595**	Net:	**1,076**
	DOMINION	9%	71,486	0	71,486
	NEW LIFE	13%	98,212	57,436	40,776
	MARATHON	17%	131,667	0	131,667
	BAY ISLANDER	1%	7,593	46	7,547
	LAURA	22%	164,917	77,791	87,126
P. cod	PACIFIC STAR	26%	198,118	6,518	191,600
	TAASINGE	12%	91,562	0	91,562
	Total	**100%**	**763,555**	**141,791**	**621,764**
		Transfers:	38,406		
		Final Total:	**801,961**	Net:	**660,170**
	DOMINION	9%	2,799	0	2,799
	NEW LIFE	13%	3,845	13,877	(10,032)
	MARATHON	17%	5,155	0	5,155
	BAY ISLANDER	1%	297	0	297
	LAURA	22%	6,457	8,938	(2,481)
Thornyhead	PACIFIC STAR	26%	7,756	5,420	2,336
	TAASINGE	12%	3,585	0	3,585
	Total	**100%**	**29,893**	**28,235**	**1,658**
		Transfers:	3,354		
		Final Total:	**33,247**	Net:	**5,012**
	DOMINION	9%	4,786	0	4,786
	NEW LIFE	13%	6,575	350	6,225
	MARATHON	17%	8,814	0	8,814
	BAY ISLANDER	1%	508	0	508
	LAURA	22%	11,040	3,764	7,276
Halibut PSC	PACIFIC STAR	26%	13,263	2,610	10,653
	TAASINGE	12%	6,130	0	6,130
	Total	**100%**	**51,115**	**6,723**	**44,392**
		Transfers:	2,571		
		Final Total:	**53,686**	Net:	**46,963**

C. *Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ*

Federal regulations require the RP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Dusky Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2015 OBSI Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1–November 15, 2015), there was one occurrence of at-sea discards of CQ species: the Bay Islander discarded an estimated 5,000 lbs (2.268 mt) of POP when the codend tore while being brought up the

stern ramp. The discarded POP amount was debited from the vessel and co-op POP accounts (note: at-sea discards are not reflected in the official NMFS estimates of coop harvests).

D. *Sideboard limits and rockfish sideboard fishery harvests*

The Rockfish Program established sideboard limits and/or prohibitions that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard restrictions apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing. For the CV sector, the sideboard limits established in the RPP were removed for ease of management. The following prohibitions remain in place during the month of July:

(1) For the month of July, limit all CVs to the shallow water complex fisheries (fishing in the deep complex is prohibited)
(2) Directed fishing for WYAK and WGOA primary rockfish species in the month of July is prohibited

V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

A. ***Halibut:*** The cooperative's fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op's RP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 6). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op's quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the co-op members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or "flying bottom") gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The OBSI Rockfish Co-op used 6,723 lbs or 13% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 53,686 lbs.

Table 6.Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the OBSI Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard		**Red Light Standard**		**Yellow Light Standard**	
Species	*% halibut*	*Species*	*% halibut*	*Species*	*% halibut*
POP	0.50%	POP	0.45%	POP	0.38%
NR/Dusky	2.20%	NR/Dusky	1.98%	NR/Dusky	1.65%
Sable/cod	4.00%	Sable/cod	3.60%	Sable/cod	3.00%

B. ***Chinook Salmon:*** Amendment 97 to the GOA FMP, effective January 1, 2015, established Chinook salmon bycatch limits in the W/CGOA non-pollock trawl fisheries. The cap for the RP is 1,200 Chinook.

All Shoreside Cooperatives agreed to the amended Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan adopted in 2014. The plan included four parts: i) "slow start" to test the fishing grounds; ii) individual vessel Chinook salmon bycatch standards for the months of May, June, July, and August, iii) Chinook salmon hotspot reporting requirements, and iv) full retention of all bycaught Chinook salmon (required by regulation as of January 1, 2015). Fish ticket (FT) data (not observer estimates) were used to monitor the cooperative vessel's bycatch performance. Vessels had to wait until their offload was complete and bycatch rate available prior to starting their next fishing trip. If a Cooperative member's bycatch rate was at the red

standard, the vessel agreed to stand down from targeted rockfish trips for four days from the date of that delivery. If the bycatch rate was at the yellow standard for two consecutive trips, the vessel agreed to stand down from targeted rockfish trips for four days from the date of the second delivery. These standards (including stand- downs) applied only to directed rockfish trips (i.e., if a vessel had to stand down due to high bycatch rate, he could still go out and do a cod or sablefish trip since there is virtually no Chinook salmon bycatch in these targets).

All operators were required to provide detailed information for the Chinook bycatch hotspot reports including target, set and haul times and locations, depth and gear type. Operators agreed to promptly self-report Chinook salmon hotspot areas from the grounds to AGDB and/or their Cooperative's affiliated processor. These "hot-spot" alerts were sent out to all co-op members, affiliated processors and vessel operators. Four hot spot alerts were issued in 2015 compared to three in 2014 and eight in 2013. Chinook salmon bycatch updates were sent out to Co-op members and vessel operators biweekly in May and June.

For the rockfish fishery, Chinook salmon PSC estimates are derived from observer at-sea samples to create a Chinook PSC rate for each observed trip (there is 100% observer coverage in the RP). The trip rate is applied to the groundfish delivered to the processing plant for that trip to determine the number of Chinook salmon that is debited from RP Chinook cap and also the amount for that individual vessel's trip. Because Chinook salmon is an uncommon species, the at-sea samples result in many zero counts for the individual vessel trips with an occasional hit resulting in an occasional large count to make up for all the previous zeros. This is in contrast to census counts for the observed pollock fishery trips where every salmon is enumerated for the trip at the point of offload (the processing plant). The RP observer sampling does not work for individual vessel accountability since the observer estimate for the vessel trip has no relationship to actual vessel bycatch - it only reflects whether there is or is not a Chinook salmon in the sample.

The co-op Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan uses Chinook salmon FT counts to manage individual vessel behavior, not the observer Chinook salmon PSC trip rates that estimate PSC amounts for NMFS catch accounting. The co-op Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan worked well and resulted in a fish ticket count across all RP deliveries totaling 642 salmon, well below the 1,200 RP cap. However, the Chinook PSC estimate based on observer sampling used by NMFS CAS resulted in a total of 1,784 Chinook taken by the seven CV co-ops over the 2015 rockfish season, 584 Chinook over the cap (see Table 7). There was no effect on the 2015 rockfish fishery when the cap was exceeded since the overage occurred during one of the last RP trips of the season. Note: NMFS shows 881 Chinook were taken during one of the last RP trips in November, upping the total from 774 to 1,655 salmon (33 Chinook were landed and sampled for genetics at the plant from this trip). Another 129 Chinook were attributed to the RP from a trip in early November (actual FT count of eight Chinook). This data did not enter the system until Nov. 26 when the observer was undergoing debriefing in Seattle: the identification of the one salmon that landed in his sample was changed from sockeye to Chinook based on examination of the scale sample in Seattle.

Table 7. Chinook PSC, total CV rockfish harvests and Chinook PSC rates for the RPP (2007-2011) and the first four years of the new Rockfish Program (2012-2015). Catcher vessel co-ops only. Source: Steve Whitney, NMFS.

Year	Chinook (no.)	Rockfish Harvest (mt)	Rate (Chinook/mt)
2007	840	7,748	0.108
2008	1,683	7,440	0.226
2009	892	6,874	0.130
2010	1,017	7,992	0.127
2011	396	7,071	0.056
2012	817	10,067	0.081
2013	1,271	8,820	0.144
2014	520	10,100	0.051
2015	1,784	10,768	0.166
Average	**1,024**	**8,542**	**0.120**

Rockfish Genetics Project: Whereas there is ample information on stock of origin of Chinook taken in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, data is still lacking on the origins of Chinook taken in the GOA trawl fisheries. Also uncertain is the proportion of Chinook bycatch that are of hatchery origin. To that end, the Rockfish Genetics project started in 2013 continued into 2014 and 2015. The genetic collections could continue beyond 2015 if additional industry funding becomes available or if NMFS takes over the Chinook salmon data collection.

The Project goals are:

1. Collect tissue samples from all landed Chinook salmon for DNA and stock of origin analysis.
2. Collect biological data (weight, length, sex) at the plant from all landed salmon.
3. Scan all landed Chinook salmon for the presence or absence of adipose fin clips and Coded Wire Tags (CWT). This will allow for an estimation of Chinook bycatch that originate from hatcheries.
4. Collect CWT's (snouts) from all salmon with positive CWT signal.

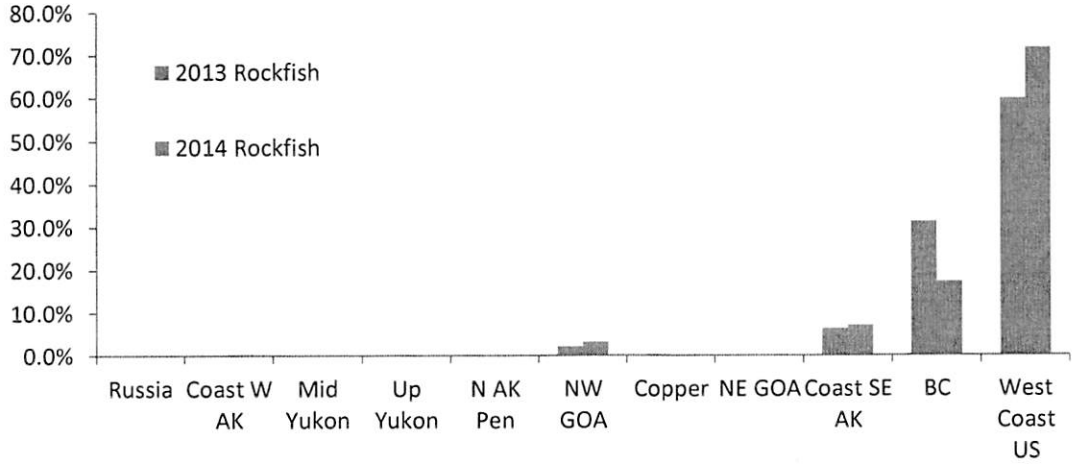
Over the 2015 season, tissue samples from 638 landed Chinook as well as snouts from 36 tagged salmon were collected and sent to NMFS Auke Bay Lab for processing. Preliminary results are expected Fall 2016. Stock of origin results from the 2013 and 2014 Rockfish fishery are shown in Table 8 and Figure 3 (2014 results are preliminary and courtesy of Jeff Guyon, NMFS Auke Bay; 2013 results can be found at: http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/Publications/AFSC-TM/NOAA-TM-AFSC-289.pdf).

Table 8. Stock of Origin results, 2013 and 2014 CGOA CV Rockfish fishery.

Area	2013 Rockfish	2014 Rockfish
No. Samples Processed	**2,070**	**398**
Russia	0.0%	0.1%
Coast W AK	0.0%	0.3%
Mid Yukon	0.0%	0.0%
Up Yukon	0.0%	0.0%
N AK Pen	0.0%	0.0%
NW GOA	2.2%	3.2%
Copper	0.3%	0.1%
NE GOA	0.0%	0.1%
Coast SE AK	6.4%	7.1%
BC	31.3%	17.4%

Area	2013 Rockfish	2014 Rockfish
West Coast US	59.9%	71.7%
SE, BC,WC combined	97.6%	96.2%
Total	**100.1%**	**100.0%**

Figure 3. Chinook stock of origin results from 2013 and 2014 census collections of tissue samples.



C. ***Other Prohibited Species Catch***: The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2015 RP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 63 non-Chinook salmon, 22 Bairdi tanner crab and 28 Opilio tanner crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS as of Dec. 11, 2015).

VI. PENALITIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation exactly on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. leases and clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the OBSI Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future excessive overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

Groundfish Data Bank

Alaska

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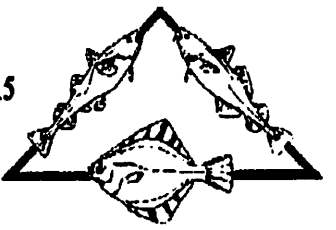

CGOA Rockfish Program 2015 Annual Cooperative Reports

December 11, 2015

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Please find enclosed the 2015 Annual Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative Reports for the following cooperatives:

1. Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative
2. North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative
3. ISA Rockfish Cooperative
4. OBSI Rockfish Cooperative
5. Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative
6. Global Rockfish Cooperative
7. Pacific Rockfish Cooperative

Julie Bonney
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Final Report
Pacific
Rockfish Cooperative

2015

December 15, 2015

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Kodiak AK 99615

I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)[1]. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allowed each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, and Thornyhead rockfish along with an allocation of Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained secondary catch or Halibut PSC mortality in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The 5-year RPP ended in 2011 and was rolled over into a new, modified, catch share program in June 2010 under Amendment 88 of the GOA Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). This Rockfish Program (RP) went into effect in 2012 and is scheduled to sunset after 10 years in 2022.

As in the RPP, the primary RP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for co-op members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allows co-op members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while minimizing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The Pacific Rockfish Cooperative is one of 7 inshore cooperatives (compared to five co-ops in the RPP) formed in March 2012 in accordance with Amendment 88 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2015 marked the fourth year of the new Rockfish Program and, in compliance with Amendment 88, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2015 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger website (efish).

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2015, as in 2014, the Pacific Rockfish Cooperative consisted of two member licenses with two member vessels (Table 1) of which one actively fished during the 2015 RP season: Stella. Pacific

[1] As of 2012, Pelagic shelf rockfish consists only of dusky rockfish

Seafoods, Kodiak served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the Pacific Rockfish Cooperative.

Table 1.LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the Pacific Rockfish Cooperative 2015.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
4851	PACIFIC FUTURE LLC	PACIFIC FUTURE	56189
1619	LOUGHBEG FISHERIES, INC	STELLA	71208

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The Pacific Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the co-op president, Carmel Carty, the Pacific Seafoods plant manager, Rey Blanco, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while minimizing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. *Monitoring*

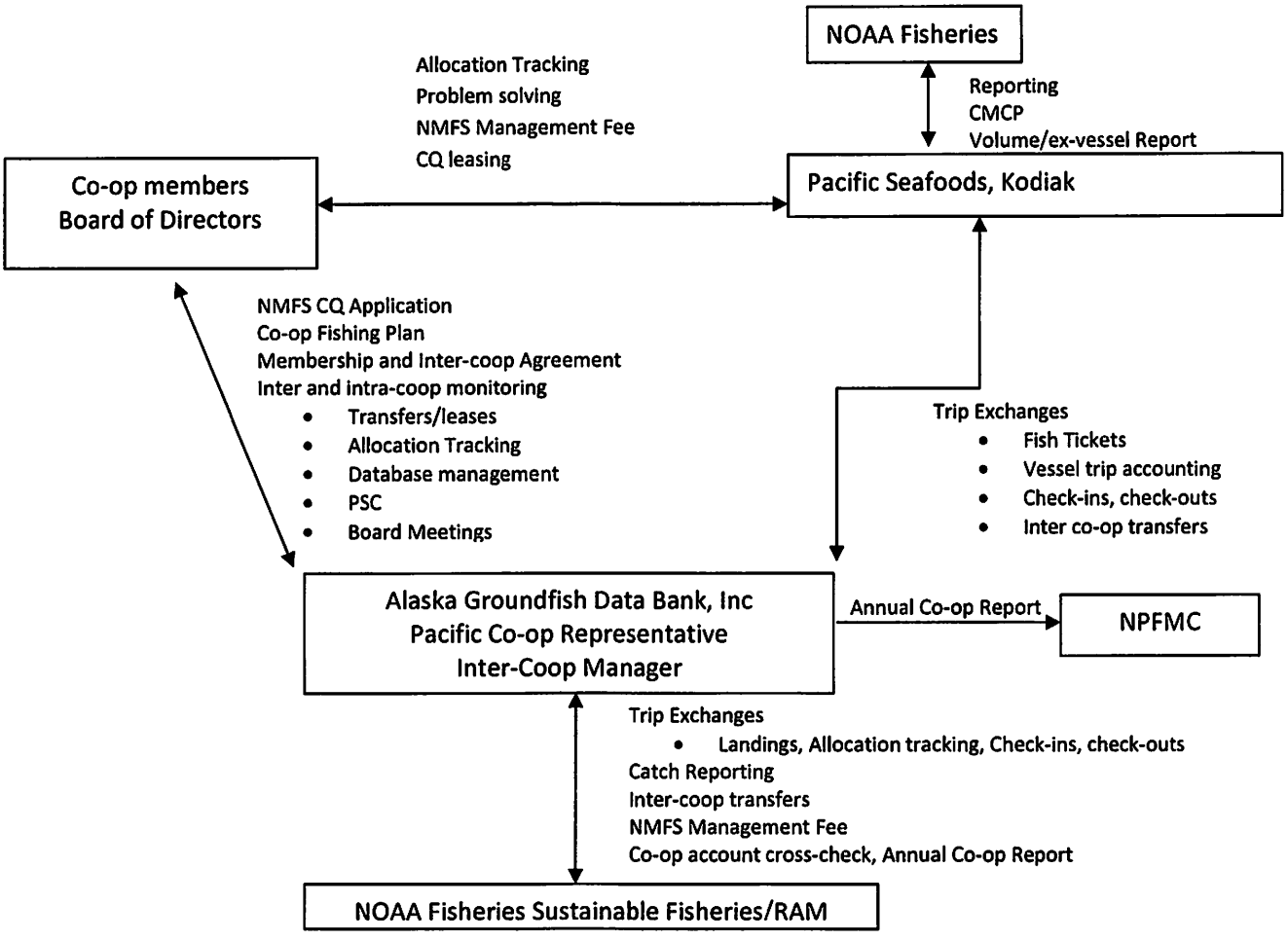
(1) **Check-ins and Check-outs:** To facilitate moving into and out of non-RP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" with no limits to the number of check ins as was the case for the RPP. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries.

(2) **Observer Coverage:** 100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels.

(3) **CMCP Monitor:** For the new Rockfish Program, NMFS hired a Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) specialist to monitor each Processor's CMCP. RP Processors are required to file with NMFS their CMCP prior to the start of the RP season. This plan details how the processor monitors the deliveries and complies with monitoring requirements. This is in lieu of 200% observer coverage at the plants required during the RPP.

(4) **NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management:** NOAA RAM's Co-op ledger web site was used to perform transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of Pacific Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. *Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests*

The Pacific Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2015 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 5. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the seven catcher vessel cooperatives, adhere to cooperative agreements and to cover overages.

Table 2. Pacific Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	Dusky	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial Pacific Allocation:	815,400	224,969	160,154	30,518	169,324	6,629	11,335
Transfers (Global)	(33,500)	(9,891)		(3,788)	(5,069)	-	-
Transfers (WAF)				(13,788)			
Total Transfers	(33,500)	(9,891)	0	(17,576)	(5,069)	0	0
Final Pacific Allocation:	781,900	215,078	160,154	12,942	164,255	6,629	11,335
Total CV Coops*:	18,589,626	4,712,318	4,195,642	696,246	3,862,977	153,087	258,602
Pacific % CV Allocation:	4.21%	4.56%	3.82%	1.86%	4.25%	4.33%	4.38%

**Includes CP CQ transferred onshore*

B. *Vessel Use, Co-op CQ and Processing Caps*

(1) **Vessel harvests:** A vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV sector is one of the new changes to the RP. In 2015, this amounted to 2,199,807 lbs of primary rockfish in the aggregate. During the 2015 season, no vessel exceeded this limit (see figure 2).

(2) **Co-op QS:** Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish allocated to the CV sector. Final quota share allocated to the Pacific Rockfish co-op in 2015 amounted to 3.8% of the aggregate CV rockfish cooperative quota (Table 4).

(3) **Processing limits:** For the Rockfish Program, a provision was approved that states no processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish in the aggregate; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector. During the 2015 season, Pacific Seafoods, Kodiak did not exceed these caps. See Table 3. Note: CQ harvested by the Pacific rockfish cooperative may not equal the amount processed by Pacific Seafoods because deliveries to other City of Kodiak processors are allowed by the co-op in the Rockfish Program.

Table 3. LBS and % of CV allocations by CQ species received and processed by Pacific Seafoods in 2015.

Species	POP	NR	DUSKY	Total Primary RF	Sablefish	Cod	%RF	%Sable	%Cod
Pac. Processed	781,736	3,911	1,030	786,677	26,888	286	2.86%	3.86%	0.01%
CV Allocation	18,589,626	4,712,318	4,195,642	27,497,585	696,246	3,862,977			

Table 4. Primary rockfish CQ (POP, Northern Rockfish, Dusky rockfish): % of Final CV sector allocations by species and co-op

CV Co-op CQ	POP	NR	Dusky	Total Rockfish
NP	19.6%	19.1%	21.8%	19.8%
SOK	24.7%	30.3%	29.7%	26.4%
WAF	17.0%	7.2%	7.2%	13.8%
OBSI	18.7%	28.4%	26.8%	21.6%
ISA	8.7%	9.0%	8.9%	8.8%
Global	7.0%	1.5%	1.8%	5.3%
Pacific	4.2%	4.6%	3.8%	4.2%
Final Allocation	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 2.Harvests of primary rockfish by Pacific Rockfish Co-op member vessels (% of aggregate CV primary rockfish). Vessel harvest cap is 8%

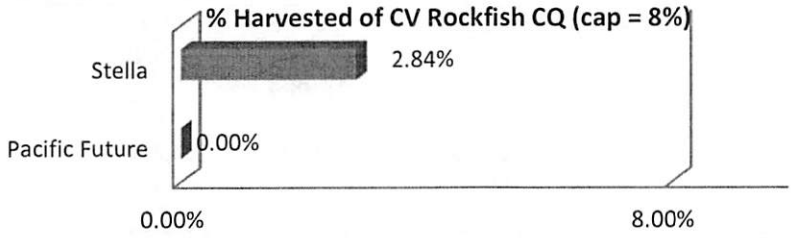


Table 5.Pacific Rockfish Cooperative 2015 allocations and harvests by species and co-op member. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts**(as of December 11, 2015).**

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2015 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
	PACIFIC FUTURE	42%	341,102	-	341,102
POP	STELLA	58%	474,298	781,718	(307,420)
	Total	**100%**	**815,400**	**781,718**	**33,682**
		Transfers:	(33,500)		
		Final Total:	**781,900**	Net:	**182**
	PACIFIC FUTURE	46%	103,281	-	103,281
NR	STELLA	54%	121,688	-	121,688
	Total	**100%**	**224,969**	**0**	**224,969**
		Transfers:	(9,891)		
		Final Total:	**215,078**	Net:	**215,078**
	PACIFIC FUTURE	35%	56,023	-	56,023
Dusky	STELLA	65%	104,131	315	103,816
	Total	**100%**	**160,154**	**315**	**159,839**
		Transfers:	-		
		Final Total:	**160,154**	Net:	**159,839**
	PACIFIC FUTURE	42%	12,786	-	12,786
Sablefish	STELLA	58%	17,732	12,942	4,790
	Total	**100%**	**30,518**	**12,942**	**17,576**
		Transfers:	(17,576)		
		Final Total:	**12,942**	Net:	**0**
	PACIFIC FUTURE	42%	70,942	-	70,942
P. Cod	STELLA	58%	98,382	46	98,336
	Total	**100%**	**169,324**	**46**	**169,278**
		Transfers:	(5,069)		
		Final Total:	**164,255**	Net:	**164,209**
	PACIFIC FUTURE	42%	2,777	-	2,777
Thornyheads	STELLA	58%	3,852	2,608	1,244
	Total	**100%**	**6,629**	**2,608**	**4,021**
		Transfers:	-		
		Final Total:	**6,629**	Net:	**4,021**
	PACIFIC FUTURE	42%	4,749	-	4,749
Halibut	STELLA	58%	6,586	96	6,490
	Total	**100%**	**11,335**	**96**	**11,239**
		Transfers:	-		
		Final Total:	**11,335**	Net:	**11,239**

C. *Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ*

Federal regulations require the RP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Dusky Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2015 Pacific Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1– November 15, 2015), there were no occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species (note: at-sea discards are not reflected in the official NMFS estimates of coop harvests).

D. *Sideboard limits and rockfish sideboard fishery harvests*

The Rockfish Program established sideboard limits and/or prohibitions that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard restrictions apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing. For the CV sector, the sideboard limits established in the RPP have been removed for ease of management. The following prohibitions remain in place during the month of July:

(1) For the month of July, limit all CVs to the shallow water complex fisheries (fishing in the deep complex is prohibited)
(2) Directed fishing for WYAK and WGOA primary rockfish species in the month of July is prohibited

V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

A. ***Halibut:*** The cooperative's fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op's RP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 6). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op's quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the co-op members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or "flying bottom") gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The Pacific Rockfish Co-op used 96 lbs or 1% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 11,335 lbs.

Table 6.Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the Pacific Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard		Red Light Standard		Yellow Light Standard	
Species	*% halibut*	*Species*	*% halibut*	*Species*	*% halibut*
POP	0.50%	POP	0.45%	POP	0.38%
NR/Dusky	2.20%	NR/Dusky	1.98%	NR/Dusky	1.65%
Sable/cod	4.00%	Sable/cod	3.60%	Sable/cod	3.00%

B. ***Chinook Salmon:*** Amendment 97 to the GOA FMP, effective January 1, 2015, established Chinook salmon bycatch limits in the W/CGOA non-pollock trawl fisheries. The cap for the RP is 1,200 Chinook.

All Shoreside Cooperatives agreed to the amended Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan adopted in 2014. The plan included four parts: i) "slow start" to test the fishing grounds; ii) individual vessel Chinook salmon bycatch standards for the months of May, June, July, and August, iii) Chinook salmon hotspot reporting requirements, and iv) full retention of all bycaught Chinook salmon (required by regulation as of January 1, 2015). Fish ticket (FT) data (not observer estimates) were used to monitor the cooperative

vessel's bycatch performance. Vessels had to wait until their offload was complete and bycatch rate available prior to starting their next fishing trip. If a Cooperative member's bycatch rate was at the red standard, the vessel agreed to stand down from targeted rockfish trips for four days from the date of that delivery. If the bycatch rate was at the yellow standard for two consecutive trips, the vessel agreed to stand down from targeted rockfish trips for four days from the date of the second delivery. These standards (including stand- downs) applied only to directed rockfish trips (i.e., if a vessel had to stand down due to high bycatch rate, he could still go out and do a cod or sablefish trip since there is virtually no Chinook salmon bycatch in these targets).

All operators were required to provide detailed information for the Chinook bycatch hotspot reports including target, set and haul times and locations, depth and gear type. Operators agreed to promptly self-report Chinook salmon hotspot areas from the grounds to AGDB and/or their Cooperative's affiliated processor. These "hot-spot" alerts were sent out to all co-op members, affiliated processors and vessel operators. Four hot spot alerts were issued in 2015 compared to three in 2014 and eight in 2013. Chinook salmon bycatch updates were sent out to Co-op members and vessel operators biweekly in May and June.

For the rockfish fishery, Chinook salmon PSC estimates are derived from observer at-sea samples to create a Chinook PSC rate for each observed trip (there is 100% observer coverage in the RP). The trip rate is applied to the groundfish delivered to the processing plant for that trip to determine the number of Chinook salmon that is debited from RP Chinook cap and also the amount for that individual vessel's trip. Because Chinook salmon is an uncommon species, the at-sea samples result in many zero counts for the individual vessel trips with an occasional hit resulting in an occasional large count to make up for all the previous zeros. This is in contrast to census counts for the observed pollock fishery trips where every salmon is enumerated for the trip at the point of offload (the processing plant). The RP observer sampling does not work for individual vessel accountability since the observer estimate for the vessel trip has no relationship to actual vessel bycatch - it only reflects whether there is or is not a Chinook salmon in the sample.

The co-op Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan uses Chinook salmon FT counts to manage individual vessel behavior, not the observer Chinook salmon PSC trip rates that estimate PSC amounts for NMFS catch accounting. The co-op Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan worked well and resulted in a fish ticket count across all RP deliveries totaling 642 salmon, well below the 1,200 RP cap. However, the Chinook PSC estimate based on observer sampling used by NMFS CAS resulted in a total of 1,784 Chinook taken by the seven CV co-ops over the 2015 rockfish season, 584 Chinook over the cap (see Table 7). There was no effect on the 2015 rockfish fishery when the cap was exceeded since the overage occurred during one of the last RP trips of the season. Note: NMFS shows 881 Chinook were taken during one of the last RP trips in November, upping the total from 774 to 1,655 salmon (33 Chinook were landed and sampled for genetics at the plant from this trip). Another 129 Chinook were attributed to the RP from a trip in early November (actual FT count of eight Chinook). This data did not enter the system until Nov. 26 when the observer was undergoing debriefing in Seattle: the identification of the one salmon that landed in his sample was changed from sockeye to Chinook based on examination of the scale sample in Seattle.

Table 7. Chinook PSC, total CV rockfish harvests and Chinook PSC rates for the RPP (2007-2011) and the first four years of the new Rockfish Program (2012-2015). Catcher vessel co-ops only. Source: Steve Whitney, NMFS.

Year	Chinook (no.)	Rockfish Harvest (mt)	Rate (Chinook/mt)
2007	840	7,748	0.108
2008	1,683	7,440	0.226
2009	892	6,874	0.130
2010	1,017	7,992	0.127
2011	396	7,071	0.056
2012	817	10,067	0.081
2013	1,271	8,820	0.144
2014	520	10,100	0.051
2015	1,784	10,768	0.166
Average	**1,024**	**8,542**	**0.120**

Rockfish Genetics Project: Whereas there is ample information on stock of origin of Chinook taken in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, data is still lacking on the origins of Chinook taken in the GOA trawl fisheries. Also uncertain is the proportion of Chinook bycatch that are of hatchery origin. To that end, the Rockfish Genetics project started in 2013 continued into 2014 and 2015. The genetic collections could continue beyond 2015 if additional industry funding becomes available or if NMFS takes over the Chinook salmon data collection.

The Project goals are:
1. Collect tissue samples from all landed Chinook salmon for DNA and stock of origin analysis.
2. Collect biological data (weight, length, sex) at the plant from all landed salmon.
3. Scan all landed Chinook salmon for the presence or absence of adipose fin clips and Coded Wire Tags (CWT). This will allow for an estimation of Chinook bycatch that originate from hatcheries.
4. Collect CWT's (snouts) from all salmon with positive CWT signal.

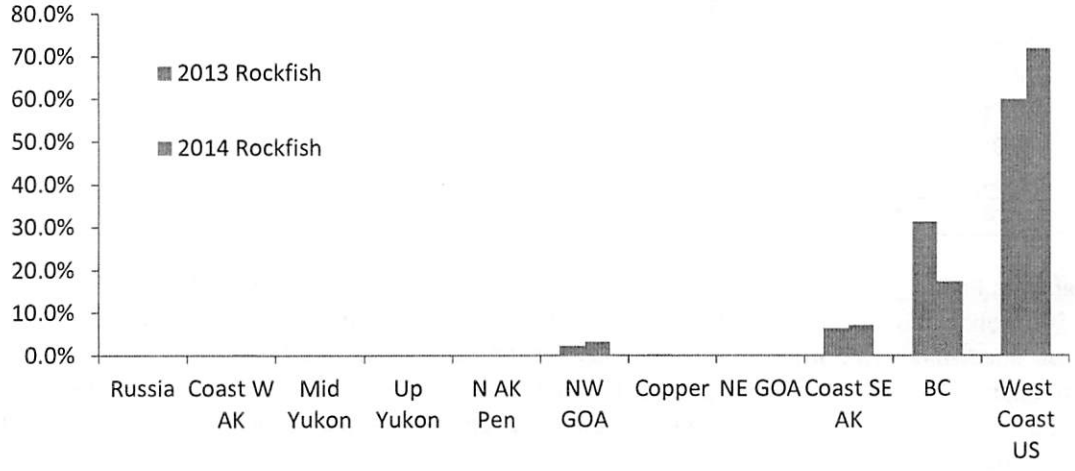
Over the 2015 season, tissue samples from 638 landed Chinook as well as snouts from 36 tagged salmon were collected and sent to NMFS Auke Bay Lab for processing. Preliminary results are expected Fall 2016. Stock of origin results from the 2013 and 2014 Rockfish fishery are shown in Table 8 and Figure 3 (2014 results are preliminary and courtesy of Jeff Guyon, NMFS Auke Bay; 2013 results can be found at: http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/Publications/AFSC-TM/NOAA-TM-AFSC-289.pdf).

Table 8. Stock of Origin results, 2013 and 2014 CGOA CV Rockfish fishery.

Area	2013 Rockfish	2014 Rockfish
No. Samples Processed	**2,070**	**398**
Russia	0.0%	0.1%
Coast W AK	0.0%	0.3%
Mid Yukon	0.0%	0.0%
Up Yukon	0.0%	0.0%
N AK Pen	0.0%	0.0%
NW GOA	2.2%	3.2%
Copper	0.3%	0.1%
NE GOA	0.0%	0.1%

Area	2013 Rockfish	2014 Rockfish
Coast SE AK	6.4%	7.1%
BC	31.3%	17.4%
West Coast US	59.9%	71.7%
SE, BC,WC combined	97.6%	96.2%
Total	**100.1%**	**100.0%**

Figure 3. Chinook stock of origin results from 2013 and 2014 census collections of tissue samples.



C. ***Other Prohibited Species Catch***: The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2015 RP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 63 non-Chinook salmon, 22 Bairdi tanner crab and 28 Opilio tanner crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS as of Dec. 11, 2015).

VI. PENALITIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation exactly on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. leases and clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the Pacific Rockfish Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future excessive overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

Groundfish Data Bank

Alaska

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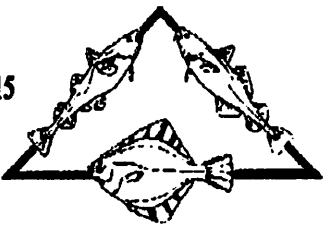

CGOA Rockfish Program 2015 Annual Cooperative Reports

December 11, 2015

To: North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 95501-2252
Fax: (907) 271-2817
npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

From: Julie Bonney
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak, AK 99615

Please find enclosed the 2015 Annual Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative Reports for the following cooperatives:

1. Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative
2. North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative
3. ISA Rockfish Cooperative
4. OBSI Rockfish Cooperative
5. Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative
6. Global Rockfish Cooperative
7. Pacific Rockfish Cooperative

Julie Bonney
Executive Director,
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc

Final Report
SOK
Rockfish Cooperative

2015

December 15, 2015

Prepared by:
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc.
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak AK 99615

I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)[1]. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allowed each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, and Thornyhead rockfish along with an allocation of Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained secondary catch or Halibut PSC mortality in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

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As in the RPP, the primary RP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for co-op members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allows co-op members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while minimizing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The SOK Rockfish Cooperative is one of 7 inshore cooperatives (compared to five co-ops in the RPP) formed in March 2012 in accordance with Amendment 88 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2015 marked the fourth year of the new Rockfish Program and, in compliance with Amendment 88, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2015 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger website (efish).

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In 2015, as in 2014, the SOK Rockfish Cooperative consisted of eleven member licenses with ten member vessels (Table 1) of which six actively fished during the 2015 RP season: Marcy J, Rosella, Cape

[1] As of 2012, Pelagic shelf rockfish consists only of dusky rockfish

Kiwanda, Excalibur II, Michelle Renee and Peggy Jo. Trident Seafoods /Star of Kodiak (SOK) in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the SOK Rockfish Cooperative.

Table 1.LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the SOK Rockfish Cooperative 2015.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
2278	FANNING'S DENALI, INC	MARCY J	00055
2364	ROSELLA INC	ROSELLA	21732
2567	TRIDENT SEAFOODS CORPORATION	ARCTIC RAM	57117
2636	ROYAL VIKING, INC.	CAPE KIWANDA	61432
3658	OCEAN STORM FISHERIES, INC.	OCEAN STORM	64667
3144	TRIDENT SEAFOODS CORPORATION	PACIFIC RAM	61792
3521	EXCALIBUR II, LLC	EXCALIBUR II	54653
3594	B & N FISHERIES COMPANY	PEGGY JO	09200
2550	BLACK SEA FISHERIES, INC.	MICHELLE RENEE	61244
2319	DAVID DAHL		21665
3463	TRAVELER FISHERIES LLC	TRAVELER	49108

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The SOK Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the co-op president, Jerry Downing, the SOK plant manager, Paul Lumsden, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while minimizing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. *Monitoring*

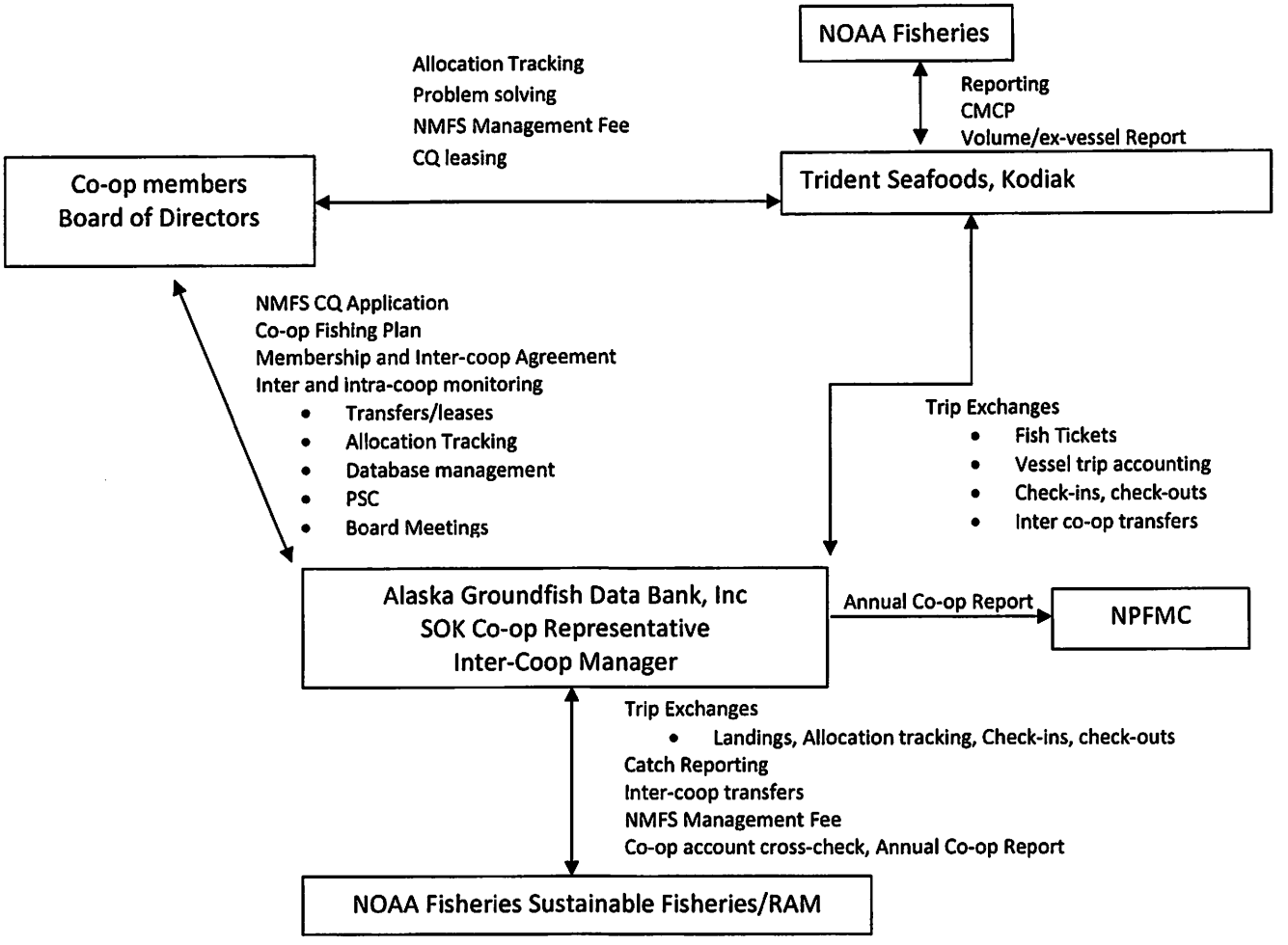
(1) **Check-ins and Check-outs**: To facilitate moving into and out of non-RP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" with no limits to the number of check ins as was the case for the RPP. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries.

(2) **Observer Coverage:** 100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels.

(3) **CMCP Monitor:** For the new Rockfish Program, NMFS hired a Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) specialist to monitor each Processor's CMCP. RP Processors are required to file with NMFS their CMCP prior to the start of the RP season. This plan details how the processor monitors the deliveries and complies with monitoring requirements. This is in lieu of 200% observer coverage at the plants required during the RPP.

(4) **NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management:** NOAA RAM's Co-op ledger web site was used to perform transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of SOK Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. *Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests*

The SOK Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2015 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 5. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the seven catcher vessel cooperatives, adhere to cooperative agreements and to cover overages.

Table 2. SOK Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	Dusky	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial SOK Allocation:	4,700,661	1,517,858	1,315,944	196,222	1,088,697	42,623	72,881
Transfers (OBSI):		(90,374)	(71,042)				
Transfers (WAF):	(24,542)			3,254			
Transfers (ISA):	(80,921)						
Total Transfers	(105,463)	(90,374)	(71,042)	3,254	0	0	0
Final SOK Allocation:	**4,595,198**	**1,427,484**	**1,244,902**	**199,476**	**1,088,697**	**42,623**	**72,881**
Total CV Coops*:	18,589,626	4,712,318	4,195,642	696,246	3,862,977	153,087	258,602
SOK % CV Allocation:	24.72%	30.29%	29.67%	28.65%	28.18%	27.84%	28.18%

**Includes CP CQ transferred onshore*

B. *Vessel Use, Co-op CQ and Processing Caps*

(1) **Vessel harvests:** A vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV sector is one of the new changes to the RP. In 2015, this amounted to 2,199,807 lbs of primary rockfish in the aggregate. During the 2015 season, no vessel exceeded this limit (see figure 2).

(2) **Co-op QS:** Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish allocated to the CV sector. Final quota share allocated to the SOK co-op in 2015 amounted to 26.4% of the aggregate CV rockfish cooperative quota (Table 4).

(3) **Processing limits:** For the Rockfish Program, a provision was approved that states no processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish in the aggregate; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector. During the 2015 season, Trident Seafoods, Kodiak did not exceed these caps. See Table 3. Note: Trident Seafoods purchased the Western Alaska Fisheries plant in Kodiak in December 2014. NMFS ruled that the processing cap applies to the processor entity, not the facility. Therefore, all CQ landed at the Star of Kodiak plant, the old WAF plant (renamed in 2015 Trident's Pillar Mountain plant) as well as Trident's newly constructed addition next door to SOK which went online July 1, 2015 counted towards the 30% caps. For this reason, about 36% of the coop's harvested rockfish, 44% of its sablefish and 58% of its harvested cod was landed and processed at other City of Kodiak non-Trident processing plants.

Table 3. LBS and % of CV allocations by CQ species received and processed by Trident Seafoods in 2015 (Star of Kodiak and its recent addition as well as the old WAF plant)

Species	POP	NR	DUSKY	Total Primary RF	Sablefish	Cod	%RF	%Sable	%Cod
Trident Processed	6,220,621	685,716	466,890	7,373,227	198,664	544,861	26.81%	28.53%	14.10%
CV Allocation	18,589,626	4,712,318	4,195,642	27,497,585	696,246	3,862,977			

Table 4. Primary rockfish CQ (POP, Northern Rockfish, Dusky rockfish): % of Final CV sector allocations by species and co-op (includes CQ transferred to the CV coops from the offshore coops)

CV Co-op CQ	POP	NR	Dusky	Total Rockfish
NP	19.6%	19.1%	21.8%	19.8%
SOK	24.7%	30.3%	29.7%	26.4%
WAF	17.0%	7.2%	7.2%	13.8%
OBSI	18.7%	28.4%	26.8%	21.6%
ISA	8.7%	9.0%	8.9%	8.8%
Global	7.0%	1.5%	1.8%	5.3%
Pacific	4.2%	4.6%	3.8%	4.2%
Final Allocation	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 2.Harvests of primary rockfish by SOK member vessels (% of aggregate CV primary rockfish). Vessel harvest cap is 8%

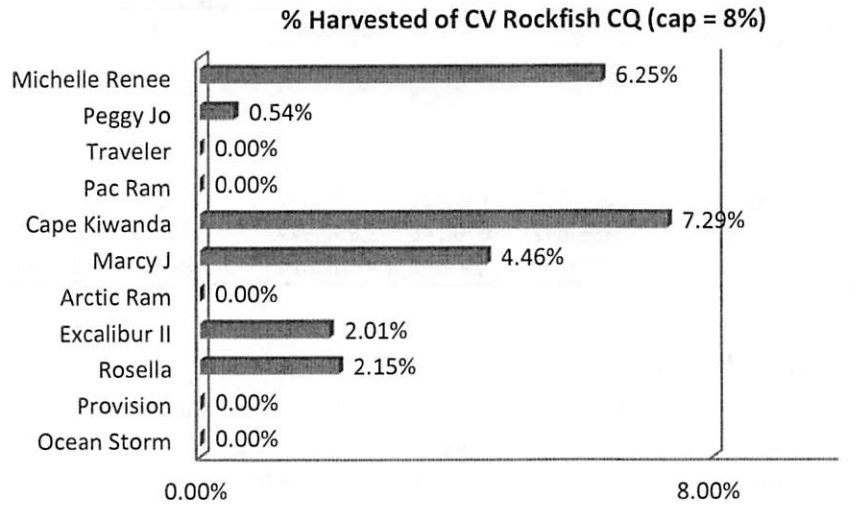


Table 5.SOK Rockfish Cooperative 2015 allocations and harvests by species and co-op member. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts**(as of December 11, 2015).**

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2015 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
	OCEAN STORM	2%	96,342	0	96,342
	PROVISION	6%	300,837	0	300,837
	ROSELLA	4%	210,971	481,429	(270,458)
	EXCALIBUR II	12%	562,663	552,882	9,781
	ARCTIC RAM	5%	228,465	0	228,465
	MARCY J	9%	442,421	744,425	(302,004)
POP	CAPE KIWANDA	8%	379,363	1,809,872	(1,430,509)
	PACIFIC RAM	1%	67,197	0	67,197
	TRAVELER	10%	473,355	0	473,355
	PEGGY JO	24%	1,121,760	146,695	975,065
	MICHELLE RENEE	17%	817,285	810,298	6,987
	Total	**100%**	**4,700,661**	**4,545,601**	**155,060**
		Transfers:	(105,463)		
		Final Total:	**4,595,198**	Net:	**49,597**
	OCEAN STORM	0%	465	0	465
	PROVISION	1%	12,474	0	12,474
	ROSELLA	3%	48,899	26,833	22,066
	EXCALIBUR II	8%	121,450	17	121,433
	ARCTIC RAM	5%	80,819	0	80,819
	MARCY J	11%	172,419	172,375	44
NR	CAPE KIWANDA	9%	133,462	100,998	32,464
	PACIFIC RAM	0%	3,989	0	3,989
	TRAVELER	1%	12,564	0	12,564
	PEGGY JO	21%	323,862	272	323,590
	MICHELLE RENEE	40%	607,454	580,651	26,803
	Total	**100%**	**1,517,858**	**881,146**	**636,712**
		Transfers:	(90,374)		
		Final Total:	**1,427,484**	Net:	**546,338**

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2015 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
	OCEAN STORM	1%	15,742	0	15,742
	PROVISION	2%	19,934	0	19,934
	ROSELLA	10%	128,560	83,175	45,385
	EXCALIBUR II	6%	80,146	564	79,582
	ARCTIC RAM	7%	86,042	0	86,042
	MARCY J	19%	251,477	308,318	(56,841)
Dusky	CAPE KIWANDA	8%	108,012	93,858	14,154
	PACIFIC RAM	1%	13,995	0	13,995
	TRAVELER	0%	2,736	0	2,736
	PEGGY JO	17%	217,689	532	217,157
	MICHELLE RENEE	30%	391,610	328,676	62,934
	Total	**100%**	**1,315,944**	**815,123**	**500,821**
		Transfers:	(71,042)		
		Final Total:	**1,244,902**	Net:	**429,779**
	OCEAN STORM	1%	2,511	-	2,511
	PROVISION	4%	7,382	-	7,382
	ROSELLA	5%	10,167	18,311	(8,144)
	EXCALIBUR II	10%	18,851	18,281	570
	ARCTIC RAM	5%	10,472	-	10,472
	MARCY J	12%	23,447	12,311	11,136
Sablefish	CAPE KIWANDA	8%	16,310	91,156	(74,846)
	PACIFIC RAM	1%	1,983	-	1,983
	TRAVELER	5%	10,482	-	10,482
	PEGGY JO	22%	42,454	-	42,454
	MICHELLE RENEE	27%	52,162	53,257	(1,095)
	Total	**100%**	**196,222**	**193,316**	**2,906**
		Transfers:	3,254		
		Final Total:	**199,476**	Net:	**6,160**
	OCEAN STORM	1%	13,933	0	13,933
	PROVISION	4%	40,958	0	40,958
	ROSELLA	5%	56,411	109,047	(52,636)
	EXCALIBUR II	10%	104,592	14,190	90,402
	ARCTIC RAM	5%	58,103	0	58,103
	MARCY J	12%	130,090	190,546	(60,456)
P. cod	CAPE KIWANDA	8%	90,492	402,483	(311,991)
	PACIFIC RAM	1%	11,000	0	11,000
	TRAVELER	5%	58,157	0	58,157
	PEGGY JO	22%	235,549	1,665	233,884
	MICHELLE RENEE	27%	289,412	288,263	1,149
	Total	**100%**	**1,088,697**	**1,006,194**	**82,503**
		Transfers:	-		
		Final Total:	**1,088,697**	Net:	**82,503**
	OCEAN STORM	1%	546	-	546
	PROVISION	4%	1,604	-	1,604
	ROSELLA	5%	2,208	3,894	(1,686)
	EXCALIBUR II	10%	4,095	6,690	(2,595)
	ARCTIC RAM	5%	2,275	-	2,275
	MARCY J	12%	5,093	1,068	4,025
Thornyhead	CAPE KIWANDA	8%	3,543	9,796	(6,253)
	PACIFIC RAM	1%	431	-	431

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2015 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
	TRAVELER	5%	2,277	-	2,277
	PEGGY JO	22%	9,222	-	9,222
Thornyhead	MICHELLE RENEE	27%	11,331	2,166	9,165
	Total	**100%**	**42,623**	**23,614**	**19,009**
		Transfers:	-		
		Final Total:	**42,623**	Net:	**19,009**
	OCEAN STORM	1%	933	0	933
	PROVISION	4%	2,742	0	2,742
	ROSELLA	5%	3,776	1,702	2,074
	EXCALIBUR II	10%	7,002	2,775	4,226
	HAZEL LORRAINE	5%	3,890	0	3,890
	MARCY J	12%	8,709	3,176	5,533
Halibut PSC	CAPE KIWANDA	8%	6,058	9,342	(3,284)
	PACIFIC RAM	1%	736	0	736
	TRAVELER	5%	3,893	0	3,893
	PEGGY JO	22%	15,768	653	15,115
	MICHELLE RENEE	27%	19,374	15,351	4,024
	Total	**100%**	**72,881**	**32,999**	**39,883**
		Transfers:	-		
		Final Total:	**72,881**	Net:	**39,883**

C. *Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ*

Federal regulations require the RP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Dusky Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2015 SOK Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1– November 15, 2015), there were two occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species: the Excalibur II discarded 170 lbs of thornyheads during his May 30 sablefish trip and the Marcy J discarded an estimated 1,000 lbs of thornyheads during his Oct. 30 sablefish trip. The amounts were deducted from the vessel and co-op accounts. Note: at-sea discards are not reflected in the official NMFS estimates of coop harvests (note: at-sea discards are not reflected in the official NMFS estimates of coop harvests).

D. *Sideboard limits and rockfish sideboard fishery harvests*

The Rockfish Program established sideboard limits and/or prohibitions that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard restrictions apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing. For the CV sector, the sideboard limits established in the RPP have been removed for ease of management. The following prohibitions remain in place during the month of July:

(1) For the month of July, limit all CVs to the shallow water complex fisheries (fishing in the deep complex is prohibited)
(2) Directed fishing for WYAK and WGOA primary rockfish species in the month of July is prohibited

V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

A. ***Halibut:*** The cooperative's fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op's RP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was

reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 6). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op's quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the co-op members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or "flying bottom") gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The SOK Rockfish Co-op used 32,999 lbs or 45% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 72,881 lbs.

Table 6.Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the SOK Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard		Red Light Standard		Yellow Light Standard	
Species	*% halibut*	*Species*	*% halibut*	*Species*	*% halibut*
POP	0.50%	POP	0.45%	POP	0.38%
NR/Dusky	2.20%	NR/Dusky	1.98%	NR/Dusky	1.65%
Sable/cod	4.00%	Sable/cod	3.60%	Sable/cod	3.00%

B. ***Chinook Salmon:*** Amendment 97 to the GOA FMP, effective January 1, 2015, established Chinook salmon bycatch limits in the W/CGOA non-pollock trawl fisheries. The cap for the RP is 1,200 Chinook.

All Shoreside Cooperatives agreed to the amended Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan adopted in 2014. The plan included four parts: i) "slow start" to test the fishing grounds; ii) individual vessel Chinook salmon bycatch standards for the months of May, June, July, and August, iii) Chinook salmon hotspot reporting requirements, and iv) full retention of all bycaught Chinook salmon (required by regulation as of January 1, 2015). Fish ticket (FT) data (not observer estimates) were used to monitor the cooperative vessel's bycatch performance. Vessels had to wait until their offload was complete and bycatch rate available prior to starting their next fishing trip. If a Cooperative member's bycatch rate was at the red standard, the vessel agreed to stand down from targeted rockfish trips for four days from the date of that delivery. If the bycatch rate was at the yellow standard for two consecutive trips, the vessel agreed to stand down from targeted rockfish trips for four days from the date of the second delivery. These standards (including stand- downs) applied only to directed rockfish trips (i.e., if a vessel had to stand down due to high bycatch rate, he could still go out and do a cod or sablefish trip since there is virtually no Chinook salmon bycatch in these targets).

All operators were required to provide detailed information for the Chinook bycatch hotspot reports including target, set and haul times and locations, depth and gear type. Operators agreed to promptly self-report Chinook salmon hotspot areas from the grounds to AGDB and/or their Cooperative's affiliated processor. These "hot-spot" alerts were sent out to all co-op members, affiliated processors and vessel operators. Four hot spot alerts were issued in 2015 compared to three in 2014 and eight in 2013. Chinook salmon bycatch updates were sent out to Co-op members and vessel operators biweekly in May and June.

For the rockfish fishery, Chinook salmon PSC estimates are derived from observer at-sea samples to create a Chinook PSC rate for each observed trip (there is 100% observer coverage in the RP). The trip rate is applied to the groundfish delivered to the processing plant for that trip to determine the number

of Chinook salmon that is debited from RP Chinook cap and also the amount for that individual vessel's trip. Because Chinook salmon is an uncommon species, the at-sea samples result in many zero counts for the individual vessel trips with an occasional hit resulting in an occasional large count to make up for all the previous zeros. This is in contrast to census counts for the observed pollock fishery trips where every salmon is enumerated for the trip at the point of offload (the processing plant). The RP observer sampling does not work for individual vessel accountability since the observer estimate for the vessel trip has no relationship to actual vessel bycatch - it only reflects whether there is or is not a Chinook salmon in the sample.

The co-op Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan uses Chinook salmon FT counts to manage individual vessel behavior, not the observer Chinook salmon PSC trip rates that estimate PSC amounts for NMFS catch accounting. The co-op Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan worked well and resulted in a fish ticket count across all RP deliveries totaling 642 salmon, well below the 1,200 RP cap. However, the Chinook PSC estimate based on observer sampling used by NMFS CAS resulted in a total of 1,784 Chinook taken by the seven CV co-ops over the 2015 rockfish season, 584 Chinook over the cap (see Table 7). There was no effect on the 2015 rockfish fishery when the cap was exceeded since the overage occurred during one of the last RP trips of the season. Note: NMFS shows 881 Chinook were taken during one of the last RP trips in November, upping the total from 774 to 1,655 salmon (33 Chinook were landed and sampled for genetics at the plant from this trip). Another 129 Chinook were attributed to the RP from a trip in early November (actual FT count of eight Chinook). This data did not enter the system until Nov. 26 when the observer was undergoing debriefing in Seattle: the identification of the one salmon that landed in his sample was changed from sockeye to Chinook based on examination of the scale sample in Seattle.

Table 7. Chinook PSC, total CV rockfish harvests and Chinook PSC rates for the RPP (2007-2011) and the first four years of the new Rockfish Program (2012-2015). Catcher vessel co-ops only. Source: Steve Whitney, NMFS.

Year	Chinook (no.)	Rockfish Harvest (mt)	Rate (Chinook/mt)
2007	840	7,748	0.108
2008	1,683	7,440	0.226
2009	892	6,874	0.130
2010	1,017	7,992	0.127
2011	396	7,071	0.056
2012	817	10,067	0.081
2013	1,271	8,820	0.144
2014	520	10,100	0.051
2015	1,784	10,768	0.166
Average	**1,024**	**8,542**	**0.120**

Rockfish Genetics Project: Whereas there is ample information on stock of origin of Chinook taken in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, data is still lacking on the origins of Chinook taken in the GOA trawl fisheries. Also uncertain is the proportion of Chinook bycatch that are of hatchery origin. To that end, the Rockfish Genetics project started in 2013 continued into 2014 and 2015. The genetic collections could continue beyond 2015 if additional industry funding becomes available or if NMFS takes over the Chinook salmon data collection.

The Project goals are:

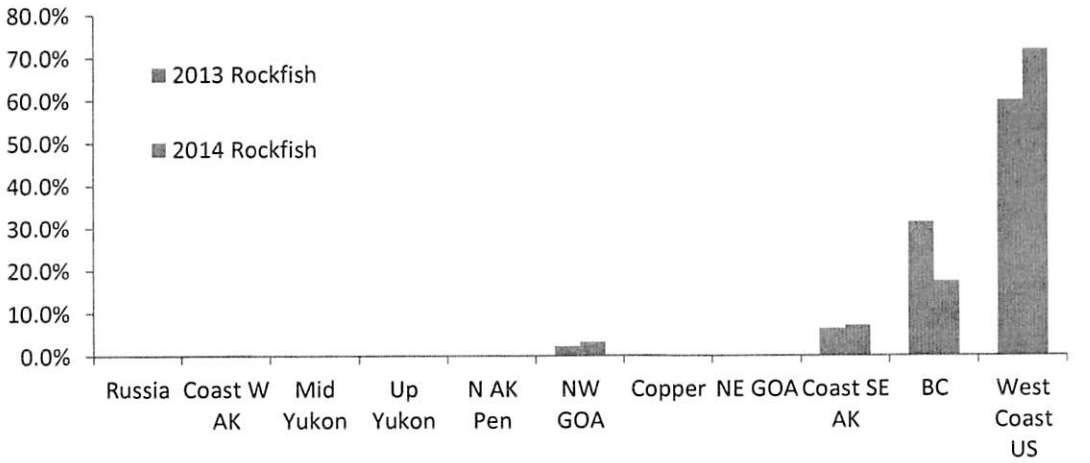
1. Collect tissue samples from all landed Chinook salmon for DNA and stock of origin analysis.
2. Collect biological data (weight, length, sex) at the plant from all landed salmon.
3. Scan all landed Chinook salmon for the presence or absence of adipose fin clips and Coded Wire Tags (CWT). This will allow for an estimation of Chinook bycatch that originate from hatcheries.
4. Collect CWT's (snouts) from all salmon with positive CWT signal.

Over the 2015 season, tissue samples from 638 landed Chinook as well as snouts from 36 tagged salmon were collected and sent to NMFS Auke Bay Lab for processing. Preliminary results are expected Fall 2016. Stock of origin results from the 2013 and 2014 Rockfish fishery are shown in Table 8 and Figure 3 (2014 results are preliminary and courtesy of Jeff Guyon, NMFS Auke Bay; 2013 results can be found at: http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/Publications/AFSC-TM/NOAA-TM-AFSC-289.pdf).

Table 8. Stock of Origin results, 2013 and 2014 CGOA CV Rockfish fishery.

Area	2013 Rockfish	2014 Rockfish
No. Samples Processed	**2,070**	**398**
Russia	0.0%	0.1%
Coast W AK	0.0%	0.3%
Mid Yukon	0.0%	0.0%
Up Yukon	0.0%	0.0%
N AK Pen	0.0%	0.0%
NW GOA	2.2%	3.2%
Copper	0.3%	0.1%
NE GOA	0.0%	0.1%
Coast SE AK	6.4%	7.1%
BC	31.3%	17.4%
West Coast US	59.9%	71.7%
SE, BC,WC combined	97.6%	96.2%
Total	**100.1%**	**100.0%**

Figure 3. Chinook stock of origin results from 2013 and 2014 census collections of tissue samples.



C. ***Other Prohibited Species Catch***: The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2015 RP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 63 non-Chinook salmon, 22 Bairdi tanner crab and 28 Opilio tanner crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS as of Dec. 11, 2015).

VI. PENALITIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation exactly on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. leases and clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the SOK Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future excessive overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

Groundfish Data Bank

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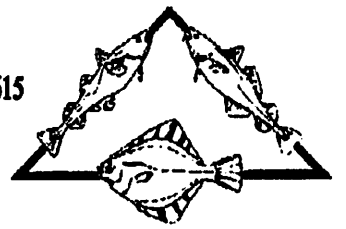

CGOA Rockfish Program 2015 Annual Cooperative Reports

December 11, 2015

To: North Pacific Fishery Management Council
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From: Julie Bonney
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak, AK 99615

Please find enclosed the 2015 Annual Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative Reports for the following cooperatives:

1. Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative
2. North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative
3. ISA Rockfish Cooperative
4. OBSI Rockfish Cooperative
5. Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative
6. Global Rockfish Cooperative
7. Pacific Rockfish Cooperative

Julie Bonney
Executive Director,
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc

Final Report
WAF
Rockfish Cooperative

2015

December 15, 2015

Prepared by:
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc.
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak AK 99615

I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)[1]. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allowed each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, and Thornyhead rockfish along with an allocation of Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained secondary catch or Halibut PSC mortality in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The 5-year RPP ended in 2011 and was rolled over into a new, modified, catch share program in June 2010 under Amendment 88 of the GOA Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). This Rockfish Program (RP) went into effect in 2012 and is scheduled to sunset after 10 years in 2022.

As in the RPP, the primary RP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for co-op members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allows co-op members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while minimizing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The WAF Rockfish Cooperative is one of 7 inshore cooperatives (compared to five co-ops in the RPP) formed in March 2012 in accordance with Amendment 88 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2015 marked the fourth year of the new Rockfish Program and, in compliance with Amendment 88, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2015 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger website (efish).

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2015, the WAF Rockfish Cooperative consisted of six member licenses (compared to 5 LLPs in 2014) with six member vessels (Table 1) all of which actively fished during the 2015 RP season. Trident

[1] As of 2012, Pelagic shelf rockfish consists only of dusky rockfish

Seafoods in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the WAF Rockfish Cooperative (Star of Kodiak plant).

Table 1.LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the WAF Rockfish Cooperative 2015.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
1273	ELIZABETH F, INC.	ELIZABETH F	14767
1271	ELIZABETH F, INC.	WALTER N	34919
1523	COLLIER BROS LLC	COLLIER BROS	54648
3600	EVENING STAR, INC.	HICKORY WIND	47795
3896	PROGRESS FISHING, LLC ET AL.	PROGRESS	6
3987	F/V GOLD RUSH FISHERIES LLC	GOLD RUSH	40309

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The WAF Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the co-op president, Don Ashley, the Trident plant manager, Paul Lumsden, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while minimizing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. *Monitoring*

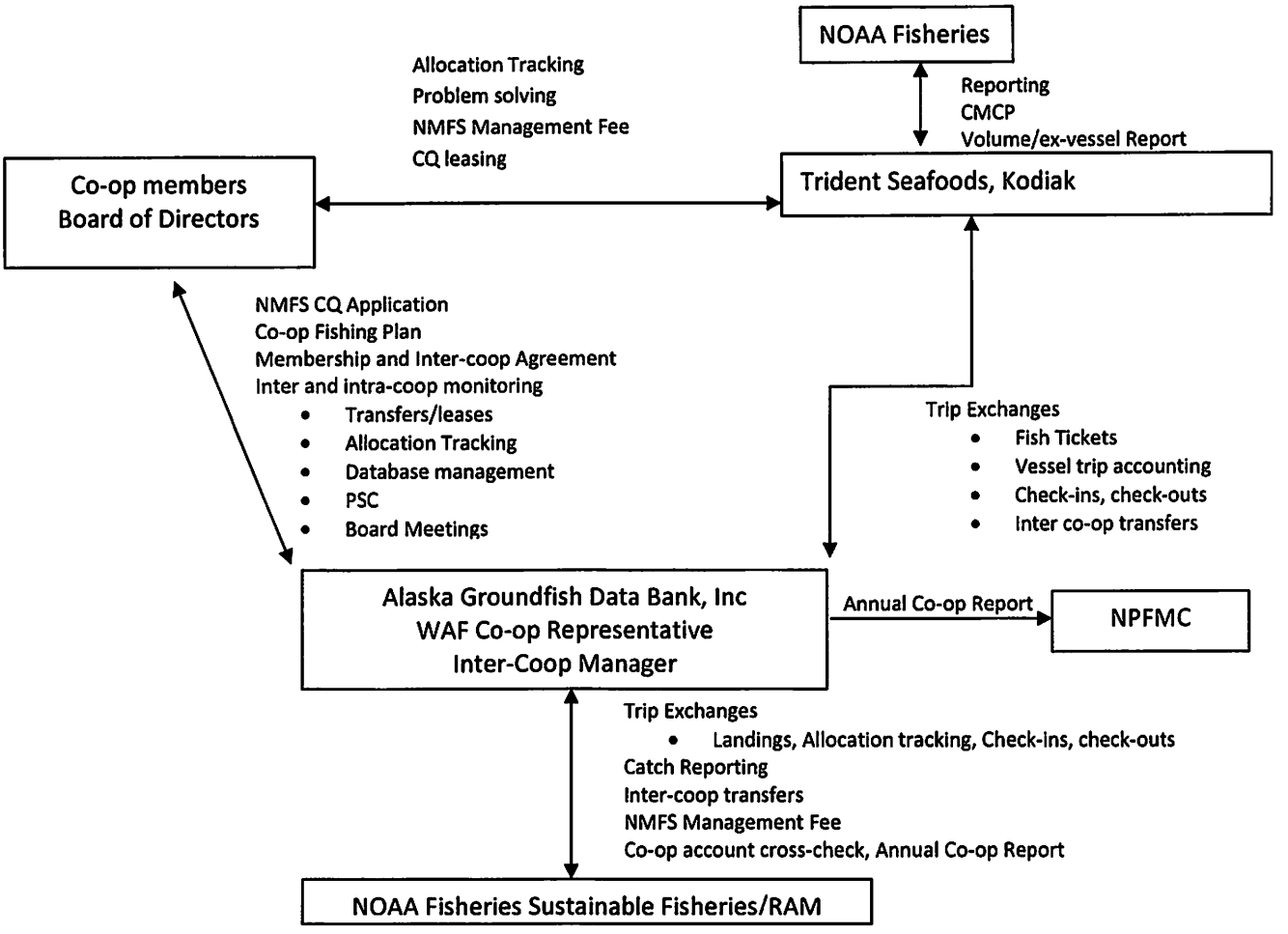
(1) **Check-ins and Check-outs:** To facilitate moving into and out of non-RP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" with no limits to the number of check ins as was the case for the RPP. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries.

(2) **Observer Coverage:** 100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels.

(3) **CMCP Monitor:** For the new Rockfish Program, NMFS hired a Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) specialist to monitor each Processor's CMCP. RP Processors are required to file with NMFS their CMCP prior to the start of the RP season. This plan details how the processor monitors the deliveries and complies with monitoring requirements. This is in lieu of 200% observer coverage at the plants required during the RPP.

(4) **NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management:** NOAA RAM's Co-op ledger web site was used to perform transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of WAF Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. *Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests*

The WAF Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2015 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 5. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the seven catcher vessel cooperatives, adhere to cooperative agreements and to cover overages.

Table 2. WAF Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	Dusky	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial WAF Allocation:	3,139,005	485,573	382,134	95,867	531,900	20,824	35,607
Transfers (OBSI)		(145,452)	(78,135)				
Transfers (Pacific)				13,788			
Transfers (SOK)	24,542			(3,254)			
Total Transfers	24,542	(145,452)	(78,135)	10,534	0	0	0
Final WAF Allocation:	**3,163,547**	**340,121**	**303,999**	**106,401**	**531,900**	**20,824**	**35,607**
Total CV Coops*:	18,589,626	4,712,318	4,195,642	696,246	3,862,977	153,087	258,602
WAF % CV Allocation:	17.02%	7.22%	7.25%	15.28%	13.77%	13.60%	13.77%

**Includes CP CQ transferred onshore*

B. *Vessel Use, Co-op CQ and Processing Caps*

(1) **Vessel harvests:** A vessel harvest cap of 8% of total primary rockfish quota allocated to the CV sector is one of the new changes to the RP. In 2015, this amounted to 2,199,807 lbs of primary rockfish in the aggregate. During the 2015 season, no vessel exceeded this limit (see figure 2).

(2) **Co-op QS:** Control of harvest shares by a CV cooperative shall be capped at 30% of aggregate POP, northern rockfish and Dusky rockfish allocated to the CV sector. Final quota share allocated to the WAF co-op in 2015 amounted to 13.8% of the aggregate CV rockfish cooperative quota (Table 4).

(3) **Processing limits:** For the Rockfish Program, a provision was approved that states no processor shall process or receive more than 30% of: (1) primary rockfish in the aggregate; (2) sablefish; (3) Pacific cod allocated to the CV sector. During the 2015 season, Trident Seafoods in Kodiak did not exceed these caps. See Table 3. Note: Trident Seafoods purchased the Western Alaska Fisheries plant in Kodiak in December 2014. NMFS ruled that the processing cap applies to the processor entity, not the facility. Therefore, all CQ landed at the Star of Kodiak plant, the old WAF plant (renamed in 2015 Trident's Pillar Mountain plant) as well as Trident's newly constructed addition next door to SOK which went online July 1, 2015 counted towards the 30% caps.

Table 3. LBS and % of CV allocations by CQ species received and processed by Trident Seafoods in 2015.

Species	POP	NR	DUSKY	Total Primary RF	Sablefish	Cod	%RF	%Sable	%Cod
Trident Processed	6,220,621	685,716	466,890	7,373,227	198,664	544,861	26.81%	28.53%	14.10%
CV Allocation	18,589,626	4,712,318	4,195,642	27,497,585	696,246	3,862,977			

Table 4. Primary rockfish CQ (POP, Northern Rockfish, Dusky rockfish): % of Final CV sector allocations by species and co-op

CV Co-op CQ	POP	NR	Dusky	Total Rockfish
NP	19.6%	19.1%	21.8%	19.8%
SOK	24.7%	30.3%	29.7%	26.4%
WAF	17.0%	7.2%	7.2%	13.8%
OBSI	18.7%	28.4%	26.8%	21.6%
ISA	8.7%	9.0%	8.9%	8.8%
Global	7.0%	1.5%	1.8%	5.3%
Pacific	4.2%	4.6%	3.8%	4.2%
Final Allocation	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 2.Harvests of primary rockfish by WAF member vessels (% of aggregate CV primary rockfish). Vessel harvest cap is 8%

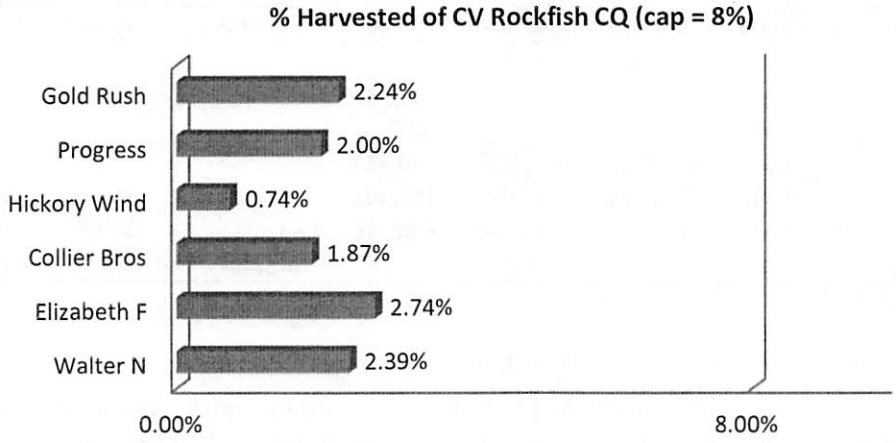


Table 5.WAF Rockfish Cooperative 2015 allocations and harvests by species and co-op member. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts**(as of December 11, 2015).**

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2015 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
	Walter N	22%	686,972	656,032	30,940
	Elizabeth F	17%	545,908	752,150	(206,242)
	Collier Bros	11%	344,768	388,276	(43,508)
	Hickory Wind	8%	256,455	202,516	53,939
POP	Progress	19%	604,980	548,842	56,138
	Gold Rush	22%	699,923	615,731	84,192
	Total	**100%**	**3,139,005**	**3,163,547**	**(24,542)**
		Transfers:	24,542		
		Final Total:	**3,163,547**	Net:	**0**
	Walter N	10%	47,176	51	47,125
	Elizabeth F	3%	14,325	236	14,089
	Collier Bros	26%	126,122	77,406	48,716
	Hickory Wind	10%	46,147	0	46,147
NR	Progress	22%	106,281	110	106,171
	Gold Rush	30%	145,522	70	145,452
	Total	**100%**	**485,573**	**77,873**	**407,700**
		Transfers:	(145,452)		
		Final Total:	**340,121**	Net:	**262,248**
	Walter N	19%	70,948	547	70,401
	Elizabeth F	14%	53,800	1,887	51,913
	Collier Bros	17%	64,647	48,819	15,828
	Hickory Wind	8%	29,260	50	29,210
Dusky	Progress	22%	85,158	1,470	83,688
	Gold Rush	20%	78,322	268	78,054
	Total	**100%**	**382,134**	**53,041**	**329,093**
		Transfers:	(78,135)		
		Final Total:	**303,999**	Net:	**250,958**

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2015 Allocation	Catch	Under/ overage
	Walter N	19%	18,339	15,887	2,452
	Elizabeth F	14%	13,609	27,568	(13,959)
	Collier Bros	15%	13,997	18,956	(4,959)
	Hickory Wind	8%	8,021	0	8,021
Sablefish	Progress	20%	19,309	20,909	(1,600)
	Gold Rush	24%	22,593	21,262	1,331
	Total	**100%**	**95,867**	**104,582**	**(8,715)**
		Transfers:	10,534		
		Final Total:	**106,401**	Net:	**1,819**
	Walter N	19%	101,748	207	101,541
	Elizabeth F	14%	75,509	18,113	57,396
	Collier Bros	15%	77,657	48,274	29,383
	Hickory Wind	8%	44,502	0	44,502
P. cod	Progress	20%	107,132	8,873	98,259
	Gold Rush	24%	125,352	48,732	76,620
	Total	**100%**	**531,900**	**124,199**	**407,701**
		Transfers:	-		
		Final Total:	**531,900**	Net:	**407,701**
	Walter N	19%	3,983	949	3,034
	Elizabeth F	14%	2,956	3,710	
	Collier Bros	15%	3,040	4,656	(1,616)
	Hickory Wind	8%	1,742	0	1,742
Thornyhead	Progress	20%	4,194	976	3,218
	Gold Rush	24%	4,908	4,464	444
	Total	**100%**	**20,824**	**14,755**	**6,823**
		Transfers:	-		
		Final Total:	**20,824**	Net:	**6,069**
	Walter N	19%	6,811	147	6,665
	Elizabeth F	14%	5,055	2,053	
	Collier Bros	15%	5,199	555	4,644
	Hickory Wind	8%	2,979	0	2,979
Halibut PSC	Progress	20%	7,172	3,105	4,067
	Gold Rush	24%	8,392	4,920	3,472
	Total	**100%**	**35,607**	**10,779**	**21,826**
		Transfers:	-		
		Final Total:	**35,607**	Net:	**24,828**

C. *Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ*

Federal regulations require the RP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Dusky Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2015 WAF Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1–November 15, 2015), there were two occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species: the Gold Rush discarded 5,000 lbs POP during his May 13 rockfish trip and the Progress discarded an estimated 7,000 lbs of Pacific cod during his June 3 rockfish trip. The amounts were deducted from the vessel and co-op accounts (note: at-sea discards are not reflected in the official NMFS estimates of coop harvests).

D. *Sideboard limits and rockfish sideboard fishery harvests*

The Rockfish Program established sideboard limits and/or prohibitions that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard restrictions apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing. For the CV sector, the sideboard limits established in the RPP have been removed for ease of management. The following prohibitions remain in place during the month of July:

(1) For the month of July, limit all CVs to the shallow water complex fisheries (fishing in the deep complex is prohibited)
(2) Directed fishing for WYAK and WGOA primary rockfish species in the month of July is prohibited

V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

A. ***Halibut:*** The cooperative's fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op's RP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 6). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op's quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the co-op members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or "flying bottom") gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The WAF Rockfish Co-op used 10,779 lbs or 30% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 35,607 lbs.

Table 6.Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the WAF Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard		Red Light Standard		Yellow Light Standard	
Species	*% halibut*	*Species*	*% halibut*	*Species*	*% halibut*
POP	0.50%	POP	0.45%	POP	0.38%
NR/Dusky	2.20%	NR/Dusky	1.98%	NR/Dusky	1.65%
Sable/cod	4.00%	Sable/cod	3.60%	Sable/cod	3.00%

B. ***Chinook Salmon:*** Amendment 97 to the GOA FMP, effective January 1, 2015, established Chinook salmon bycatch limits in the W/CGOA non-pollock trawl fisheries. The cap for the RP is 1,200 Chinook. All Shoreside Cooperatives agreed to the amended Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan adopted in 2014. The plan included four parts: i) "slow start" to test the fishing grounds; ii) individual vessel Chinook salmon bycatch standards for the months of May, June, July, and August, iii) Chinook salmon hotspot reporting requirements, and iv) full retention of all bycaught Chinook salmon (required by regulation as of January 1, 2015). Fish ticket (FT) data (not observer estimates) were used to monitor the cooperative vessel's bycatch performance. Vessels had to wait until their offload was complete and bycatch rate available prior to starting their next fishing trip. If a Cooperative member's bycatch rate was at the red standard, the vessel agreed to stand down from targeted rockfish trips for four days from the date of that delivery. If the bycatch rate was at the yellow standard for two consecutive trips, the vessel agreed to stand down from targeted rockfish trips for four days from the date of the second delivery. These standards (including stand- downs) applied only to directed rockfish trips (i.e., if a vessel

had to stand down due to high bycatch rate, he could still go out and do a cod or sablefish trip since there is virtually no Chinook salmon bycatch in these targets).

All operators were required to provide detailed information for the Chinook bycatch hotspot reports including target, set and haul times and locations, depth and gear type. Operators agreed to promptly self-report Chinook salmon hotspot areas from the grounds to AGDB and/or their Cooperative's affiliated processor. These "hot-spot" alerts were sent out to all co-op members, affiliated processors and vessel operators. Four hot spot alerts were issued in 2015 compared to three in 2014 and eight in 2013. Chinook salmon bycatch updates were sent out to Co-op members and vessel operators biweekly in May and June.

For the rockfish fishery, Chinook salmon PSC estimates are derived from observer at-sea samples to create a Chinook PSC rate for each observed trip (there is 100% observer coverage in the RP). The trip rate is applied to the groundfish delivered to the processing plant for that trip to determine the number of Chinook salmon that is debited from RP Chinook cap and also the amount for that individual vessel's trip. Because Chinook salmon is an uncommon species, the at-sea samples result in many zero counts for the individual vessel trips with an occasional hit resulting in an occasional large count to make up for all the previous zeros. This is in contrast to census counts for the observed pollock fishery trips where every salmon is enumerated for the trip at the point of offload (the processing plant). The RP observer sampling does not work for individual vessel accountability since the observer estimate for the vessel trip has no relationship to actual vessel bycatch - it only reflects whether there is or is not a Chinook salmon in the sample.

The co-op Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan uses Chinook salmon FT counts to manage individual vessel behavior, not the observer Chinook salmon PSC trip rates that estimate PSC amounts for NMFS catch accounting. The co-op Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Plan worked well and resulted in a fish ticket count across all RP deliveries totaling 642 salmon, well below the 1,200 RP cap. However, the Chinook PSC estimate based on observer sampling used by NMFS CAS resulted in a total of 1,784 Chinook taken by the seven CV co-ops over the 2015 rockfish season, 584 Chinook over the cap (see Table 7). There was no effect on the 2015 rockfish fishery when the cap was exceeded since the overage occurred during one of the last RP trips of the season. Note: NMFS shows 881 Chinook were taken during one of the last RP trips in November, upping the total from 774 to 1,655 salmon (33 Chinook were landed and sampled for genetics at the plant from this trip). Another 129 Chinook were attributed to the RP from a trip in early November (actual FT count of eight Chinook). This data did not enter the system until Nov. 26 when the observer was undergoing debriefing in Seattle: the identification of the one salmon that landed in his sample was changed from sockeye to Chinook based on examination of the scale sample in Seattle.

Table 7. Chinook PSC, total CV rockfish harvests and Chinook PSC rates for the RPP (2007-2011) and the first four years of the new Rockfish Program (2012-2015). Catcher vessel co-ops only. Source: Steve Whitney, NMFS.

Year	Chinook (no.)	Rockfish Harvest (mt)	Rate (Chinook/mt)
2007	840	7,748	0.108
2008	1,683	7,440	0.226
2009	892	6,874	0.130
2010	1,017	7,992	0.127
2011	396	7,071	0.056

Year	Chinook (no.)	Rockfish Harvest (mt)	Rate (Chinook/mt)
2012	817	10,067	0.081
2013	1,271	8,820	0.144
2014	520	10,100	0.051
2015	1,784	10,768	0.166
Average	**1,024**	**8,542**	**0.120**

Rockfish Genetics Project: Whereas there is ample information on stock of origin of Chinook taken in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, data is still lacking on the origins of Chinook taken in the GOA trawl fisheries. Also uncertain is the proportion of Chinook bycatch that are of hatchery origin. To that end, the Rockfish Genetics project started in 2013 continued into 2014 and 2015. The genetic collections could continue beyond 2015 if additional industry funding becomes available or if NMFS takes over the Chinook salmon data collection.

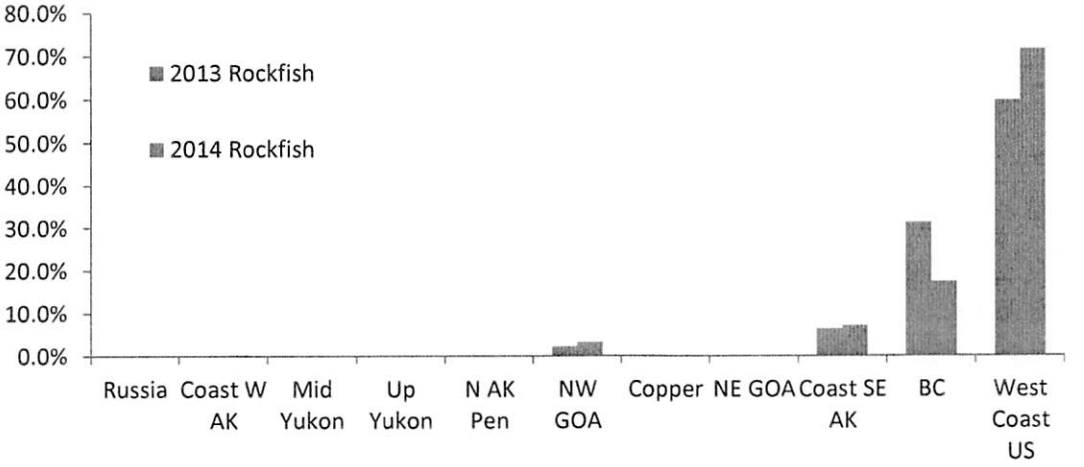
The Project goals are:
1. Collect tissue samples from all landed Chinook salmon for DNA and stock of origin analysis.
2. Collect biological data (weight, length, sex) at the plant from all landed salmon.
3. Scan all landed Chinook salmon for the presence or absence of adipose fin clips and Coded Wire Tags (CWT). This will allow for an estimation of Chinook bycatch that originate from hatcheries.
4. Collect CWT's (snouts) from all salmon with positive CWT signal.

Over the 2015 season, tissue samples from 638 landed Chinook as well as snouts from 36 tagged salmon were collected and sent to NMFS Auke Bay Lab for processing. Preliminary results are expected Fall 2016. Stock of origin results from the 2013 and 2014 Rockfish fishery are shown in Table 8 and Figure 3 (2014 results are preliminary and courtesy of Jeff Guyon, NMFS Auke Bay; 2013 results can be found at: http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/Publications/AFSC-TM/NOAA-TM-AFSC-289.pdf).

Table 8. Stock of Origin results, 2013 and 2014 CGOA CV Rockfish fishery.

Area	2013 Rockfish	2014 Rockfish
No. Samples Processed	**2,070**	**398**
Russia	0.0%	0.1%
Coast W AK	0.0%	0.3%
Mid Yukon	0.0%	0.0%
Up Yukon	0.0%	0.0%
N AK Pen	0.0%	0.0%
NW GOA	2.2%	3.2%
Copper	0.3%	0.1%
NE GOA	0.0%	0.1%
Coast SE AK	6.4%	7.1%
BC	31.3%	17.4%
West Coast US	59.9%	71.7%
SE, BC,WC combined	97.6%	96.2%
Total	**100.1%**	**100.0%**

Figure 3. Chinook stock of origin results from 2013 and 2014 census collections of tissue samples.



C. ***Other Prohibited Species Catch***: The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2015 RP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 63 non-Chinook salmon, 22 Bairdi tanner crab and 28 Opilio tanner crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS as of Dec. 11, 2015).

VI. PENALITIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation exactly on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. leases and clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the WAF Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future excessive overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.