

Alaska Groundfish Cooperative
Report to the North Pacific
Fishery Management Council
for the 2017 Fishery

March 01, 2018

Introduction

On January 20th 2017, the Alaska Groundfish Cooperative (AGC) began fishing under regulations implementing Amendment 80. This report summarizes AGC operations during 2017.

AGC membership

AGC membership includes the following three companies, and eight non-AFA trawl catcher processors and/or permits.

Company	Vessel/Permit	LLP LOA
Iquique U.S., L.L.C.	Ocean Cape	122
Victory, Inc	Alaska Victory	227
The Fishing Company of Alaska, Inc.	Alaska Juris	
	Alaska Warrior	215
	Alaska Voyager	
O'Hara Corporation	Araho	295
	Alaska Ranger	203
	Alaska Spirit	221
	Defender	295

Co-op Management

AGC activities are governed by a Board of Directors, which is appointed by AGC members. The Members executed a cooperative agreement that outlines harvest strategies, harvest shares and agreement compliance provisions.

The AGC co-op manager is responsible for the day-to-day management of the cooperative. This includes communications, regulatory compliance, catch and bycatch tracking, and QS management.

Transfers occurred during the year between co-op members, and between Am 80 cooperatives.

Catch Monitoring

The AGC manager receives observer data from the vessels fishing. Catch and species composition information is received from the Observer Program, and from NMFS Alaska Region. Production information is received from Alaska Region. All of these sources are used to ensure that the

vessels do not exceed quotas. Software on the vessels allows the Captains to keep close track of quota usage.

Seastate, Inc. also monitors AGC catch and production, and the co-op manager is able to compare information through a secure web site to ensure any possible errors are caught and resolved.

During the 2017 fishing season, neither QS allocations, nor PSC allocations were exceeded.

GOA Sideboards

Some AGC vessels participated in the Rockfish Program Co-op fishery in the CGOA. These vessels are sideboarded under the rockfish program. One AGC vessel participated in the WGOA Am 80 rockfish sideboard fishery. At the time AGC's WGOA Am 80 sideboard eligible vessel left the GOA, no sideboard limits were exceeded.

2017 AGC Catch

The following tables provide AGC catch information. Data has been rounded to the nearest whole number. **All co-op catch during 2017 fell within allocation levels and no overages occurred.**

BSAI AGC Allocated Quota & PSC and Catch Amounts

Species	AGC Am 80 Allocation (mt)	AGC Catch (mt)	Total Transfer In (mt)	Total Transfer Out (mt)
Mackerel 541	15,096	13,021.88	2,165.93	4,239.315
Mackerel 542	8,552	7,253.44	232.69	1,512.23
Mackerel 543	6,853	5,878.14	0	948.59
Flathead Sole	918	801.74	636.00	443.14
Pacific Cod	4522	4018.577	2,189.20	1,034.25
POP 541	3,319	2,412.65	48.82	949.74
POP 542	2,954	2,626.13	0	313.11
POP 543	4,171	3,699.46	0	442.06
Rock Sole	9,168	3,149.58	1,506.00	3,432.37
Yellowfin Sole	45,638	17,367.44	5,819.00	30,816.98
Bairdi Z1 (#)	82,136	13,822	8,935	1,469
Bairdi Z2 (#)	112,839	15,379	13,577	2,019
Halibut Mortality (mt)	474	269.64	90.33	88.28

COBLZ Opilio (#)	1,258,109	10,063	148,969	13,782
Red King Crab (#)	12,459	4,278	838	1,698

BSAI Salmon Catch Amount

Species	AGC Catch (#)
Chinook	503
Non-Chinook	961

Retention Compliance Standard

After NMFS removed the Groundfish Retention Standards in 2013, AGC adopted a Retention Compliance Standard program to help continue the high levels of retention achieved by the fleet. The RCS is implemented through a civil contract and compliance is monitored by an independent third party audit. The RCS requires groundfish retention of 85%. In 2017, AGC achieved a groundfish retention at a rate of 90.8%.



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Listed below are results of an audit of the Alaska Groundfish Cooperative's groundfish retention for 2017.

Materials and Methods:

Observer data were supplied to Sea State, Inc via the Northwest Groundfish Observer Program's password-protected web site. Logon credentials were supplied by all members of the Alaska Groundfish Cooperative. Production data were obtained via the NMFS Alaska Region e-Landings system, again using credentials supplied by member companies. Unsampled hauls in the observer data were extrapolated using standard methods documented by NMFS Alaska Region to produce total groundfish catch estimates in accord with those in the Alaska Region Catch Accounting System. Retained product data were expanded to round weight equivalents using published Product Recovery Rates (PRRs). Groundfish retention was then calculated according to the formula:

$$\text{Retention percentage} = \text{Retained catch (retained product RWE)} / \text{Total catch (CAS)}$$

For 2017, the Alaska Groundfish Cooperative's Total catch of FMP species was 76,053 mt. The round-weight equivalent of products (RWE) from this catch was 67,725 mt. The coop-wide retention percentage was 89.0%

Sincerely,

Karl Haflinger
Sea State, Inc