

Pollock Conservation Cooperative  
and  
High Seas Catchers' Cooperative

Joint Annual Report 2018



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

March 15, 2019

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# **Pollock Conservation Cooperative Annual Report**

## ***Introduction***

In 1998, the owners of the catcher-processors and catcher-vessels that deliver to catcher-processors in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) pollock fishery formed separate fishing cooperatives to coordinate pollock harvesting under the American Fisheries Act. The Pollock Conservation Cooperative (PCC) is the catcher-processor cooperative, and the High Seas Catchers' Cooperative (HSCC) is the catcher-vessel cooperative. On January 21, 1999, the PCC and HSCC completed an inter-cooperative agreement to facilitate efficient management and accurate accounting between the two cooperatives. The agreement, "Cooperative Agreement Between Offshore Pollock Catchers' Cooperative and Pollock Conservation Cooperative" remains in force, has not been changed, and is available upon request from the NPFMC.

## ***Purpose of Report***

This report is intended to disclose all information required or identified in the American Fisheries Act (AFA), per the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) October 1999 recommendation to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, and in further guidance provided by the NPFMC in letters dated October 21, 1999 and November 1, 1999. The tables and figures in this report are largely self-explanatory, although some notes have been included to provide detail. The catch data in this report was provided by SeaState, Inc., and was obtained from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program.<sup>1</sup>

## ***Reporting Requirements***

Fishing cooperatives formed under the AFA are subject to certain annual reporting requirements. Section 210(a)(1)(B) of the AFA requires the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the US Secretary of Commerce to "make available to the public in such a manner as the North Pacific Council and Secretary deem appropriate, catch information for all species (including bycatch) in the directed pollock fishery on a vessel-by-vessel basis." In doing so, however, the NPFMC and Secretary must take into account "the interest of the parties to [a fishing cooperative] in protecting the confidentiality of proprietary information."

In October 1999, the NPFMC took action to implement section 210(a)(1)(B) of the AFA by requiring that cooperatives annually prepare a report containing: (1) the allocation of pollock and sideboard species to a cooperative; (2) any sub-allocations of pollock and sideboard species on a vessel-by-vessel basis; (3) retained and discarded catch on an area-by-area and vessel-by-vessel basis; (4) the methods used to monitor fisheries in which cooperative vessels participated; (5) any actions taken by cooperatives to enforce vessel or aggregate catches that exceed allowed catch and bycatch in the pollock and sideboard fisheries; (6) the total weight of pollock landed outside the State of Alaska on a vessel-by-vessel basis; (7) the number of salmon taken by species and season; and (8) the number of times each vessel appears on the weekly 'dirty 20' lists for non-Chinook salmon

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<sup>1</sup> The NMFS catch database for the 2018 fishing year is still subject to revision as catch data and other information from the fishery is finalized. To the extent that information in this report is based on NMFS data, it is still subject to revision. At this point, however, neither the PCC nor the HSCC are aware of any data discrepancies that would materially alter the substantive elements of this report.

## *Cooperative Members and Allocations*

The Pollock Conservation Cooperative was formed in December 1998 in order to promote the rational and orderly harvest of pollock by the catcher-processor (CP) sector of the BSAI pollock trawl fishery. The PCC is made up of the companies that today operate 19 CPs eligible to harvest and process pollock in the BSAI directed pollock fishery under section 208(e)(1)-(20) of the AFA. In September 2005 the PCC companies adopted an amended and restated membership agreement.

According to the PCC harvest schedule, each member is allocated a percentage of the directed fishery specified under Section 206(b) of the AFA. The percentage of the catcher-processor directed pollock fishery allocated to each PCC member by the amended membership agreement is shown below<sup>2</sup>.

<b>Company</b>	<b>Directed Pollock Fishery Share (%)</b>	<b>PCC Share (%)</b>
C/P Northern Hawk, L.L.C.	1.000	2.73
Starbound, L.L.C.	1.585	4.33
Arctic Fjord, Inc.	1.792	4.90
Arctic Storm, Inc.	1.841	5.03
Glacier Fish Company, L.L.C.	6.222	17.00
Trident Seafoods Corp.	6.824	18.64
American Seafoods, L.L.C.	17.336	47.37
<b>Total:</b>	<b>36.600</b>	<b>100.00</b>

## *Inter-Cooperative Agreement Between PCC and HSCC*

Under the inter-cooperative agreement, the PCC and HSCC established a joint harvest schedule and agreed to retain the same independent quota monitoring service. The inter-cooperative agreement governs the harvest and processing of the HSCC members' share of the BSAI directed pollock fishery and the transfer of pollock allocations between members of the two cooperatives. Table 1 shows PCC and HSCC pollock allocations and catch for 2018 by company and vessel, and Table 2 shows PCC pollock directed fishing catch and prohibited species bycatch (PSC) for 2018.

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<sup>2</sup> Under sections 205(4) (definitions) and 206 (allocations) of the AFA, the BSAI directed pollock fishery (DPF) is the amount of the total allowable catch remaining after 10 percent has been deducted for the western Alaska Community Development Quota program and an additional amount has been deducted for the incidental catch of pollock in other groundfish fisheries. Section 206(b)(2) of the American Fisheries Act allocates a total of 40 percent of the DPF to catcher-processors and the catcher vessels that deliver to catcher-processors, and section 210(c) allocates 8.5 percent of this amount (3.4 percent of the DPF) to catcher vessels that deliver to catcher processors. Subsequently, the AFA was amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, which reallocated the AI DPF to the Aleut Corporation for the purpose of economic development of Adak, Alaska.

**Table 1. PCC and HSCC Pollock Allocations and Catch.**

2018	Company Vessel	Cooperative Shares (mt)			Catch (mt)		
		Harvest Schedule	Transfers	Final Allocation	Vessel Harvest	Company Total	Amount Remaining
<b>PCC</b>	<b>American Seafoods</b>	<b>207,114</b>	<b>1,764</b>	<b>208,878</b>		<b>208,769</b>	<b>109</b>
	American Dynasty				41,693		
	American Triumph				46,087		
	Northern Eagle				38,838		
	Northern Jaeger				42,349		
	Ocean Rover				39,803		
	<b>Arctic Fjord Ltd.</b>	<b>21,407</b>	<b>8,830</b>	<b>30,237</b>		<b>30,237</b>	<b>0</b>
	Arctic Fjord				30,237		
<b>Arctic Storm Ltd.</b>	<b>21,995</b>	<b>8,980</b>	<b>30,975</b>		<b>30,974</b>	<b>1</b>	
Arctic Storm				30,974			
<b>C/P Northern Hawk Ltd.</b>	<b>11,953</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>11,945</b>		<b>11,920</b>	<b>25</b>	
Northern Hawk				11,920			
<b>Glacier Fish Co.</b>	<b>74,335</b>	<b>11,145</b>	<b>85,480</b>		<b>85,480</b>	<b>0</b>	
Alaska Ocean				51,204			
Pacific Glacier				34,276			
<b>Starbound Ltd.</b>	<b>18,932</b>	<b>10,399</b>	<b>29,331</b>		<b>29,331</b>	<b>0</b>	
Starbound				29,331			
<b>Trident Seafoods</b>	<b>81,531</b>	<b>(494)</b>	<b>81,037</b>		<b>81,035</b>	<b>2</b>	
Island Enterprise				28,948			
Kodiak Enterprise				27,063			
Seattle Enterprise				25,024			
<b>HSCC</b>	Forum Star	<b>8,462</b>	<b>(8,462)</b>	-			
	American Chall.	<b>3,762</b>	<b>(3,762)</b>	-			
	Ocean Harvester	<b>5,167</b>	<b>(5,167)</b>	-			
	Neahkanie	<b>7,980</b>	<b>(7,980)</b>	-			
	Sea Storm	<b>9,828</b>	<b>(9,828)</b>	-			
	Muir Milach	<b>5,422</b>	<b>(5,422)</b>	-			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>477,888</b>		<b>477,883</b>	<b>477,746</b>	<b>477,746</b>	<b>137</b>	

**Table 2. 2018 BSAI PCC Pollock Directed Fishing Catch and Bycatch.**

<b>Vessel</b>	<b>Pollock (mt)</b>	<b>Other Ground-fish (mt)</b>	<b>Halibut Mortality (mt)</b>	<b>Herring (mt)</b>	<b>Red King Crab (N)</b>	<b><i>Bairdi</i> Crab (N)</b>	<b><i>Opilio</i> Crab (N)</b>	<b>Chinook Salmon A (N)</b>	<b>Chinook Salmon B (N)</b>	<b>Other Salmon A (N)</b>	<b>Other Salmon B (N)</b>
Alaska Ocean	51,205	191	2	16	0	12	16	180	29	2	2,184
American Dynasty	41,693	514	7	0	0	21	4	383	179	16	2,099
American Triumph	46,087	591	4	0	0	0	9	290	99	16	4,634
Arctic Fjord	30,237	500	1	3	5	0	22	203	75	4	10,441
Arctic Storm	30,974	282	2	10	0	35	98	226	68	5	728
Island Enterprise	28,948	250	1	2	0	10	44	346	61	17	12,325
Kodiak Enterprise	27,063	442	3	1	0	34	5	161	65	5	12,343
Northern Eagle	38,838	347	1	1	0	0	3	311	354	20	1,634
Northern Hawk	11,920	90	1	0	0	3	0	67	23	0	9,768
Northern Jaeger	42,349	529	1	0	0	7	36	236	68	1	5,538
Ocean Rover	39,803	1,017	4	0	0	24	0	495	53	84	17,071
Pacific Glacier	34,276	373	2	4	0	25	0	177	31	6	1,993
Seattle Enterprise	25,024	464	1	3	0	5	11	185	84	5	14,546
Starbound	29,331	375	3	0	0	16	3	151	70	8	4,122
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>477,747</b>	<b>5,965</b>	<b>31.91</b>	<b>41.52</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>3,411</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>99,426</b>
<b>Catch Rate (species catch/total groundfish)</b>		0.0123	0.0001	0.0001	0.0000	0.0004	0.0005	0.0071	0.0026	0.0004	0.2055

\*Of the 483,713 tons of total groundfish catch (pollock and other non-pollock groundfish), 1,876 tons were discarded. Thus, over 99.6 percent of all groundfish harvested by PCC vessels in the directed-pollock fishery was retained and used to make a marketable product.

## *Yellowfin Sole, Atka Mackerel, and Pacific Cod Fisheries*

A total of four PCC vessels participated in the directed fishery for BSAI yellowfin sole in 2018. Groundfish catch and PSC bycatch for PCC yellowfin sole directed fishing is shown in Table 3. Catch rates are provided to assess target catch and PSC bycatch per ton of total groundfish catch. For example, in 2018, average halibut mortality was 5.5 kilograms per ton of groundfish in the yellowfin sole directed fishery, and yellowfin sole catches were on average about 57 percent of the total groundfish catch. To interpret catch rates of PSC collected as number of individuals (N): In 2018, 3.8 *Opilio* crabs were caught per ton of groundfish in the yellowfin sole directed fishery. Table 4 shows similar information for the catch of the F/T Northern Glacier in the 2018 Central Aleutian Islands Atka mackerel fishery and the catch of the F/T Katie Ann in the 2018 directed Pacific cod fishery.

**Table 3. PCC Yellowfin Sole Directed Fishing Catch and Bycatch**

<b>Vessel</b>	<b>Yellowfin Sole (mt)</b>	<b>Total Groundfish (mt)</b>	<b>Halibut Mortality (mt)</b>	<b>Herring (mt)</b>	<b>Red King Crab (N)</b>	<b><i>Bairdi</i> Crab (N)</b>	<b><i>Opilio</i> Crab (N)</b>	<b>Chinook Salmon (N)</b>	<b>Other Salmon (N)</b>
Arctic Storm	852	1,677	21	0	113	4,622	1,350	0	0
Katie Ann	4,221	6,546	30	1	174	1,985	62,054	135	0
Northern Glacier	4,340	8,180	31	5	378	1,925	152	20	0
Seattle Enterprise	257	432	10	0	174	262	51	113	0
<b>2018 Totals</b>	<b>9,670</b>	<b>16,836</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>8,794</b>	<b>63,607</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>0</b>
Catch Rate	0.574	1.000	0.005	0.000	0.049	0.522	3.778	0.016	0

**Table 4. PCC Atka Mackerel and Pacific Cod Directed Fishing Catch and Bycatch.**

Vessel	Atka Mackerel CAI (mt)	Total Groundfish (mt)	Halibut Mortality (mt)	Herring (mt)	Red King Crab (N)	Bairdi Crab (N)	Opilio Crab (N)	Chinook Salmon (N)	Other Salmon (N)
Northern Glacier	652	723	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>2018 Totals</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Catch Rate	0.901	1.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Vessel	Pacific Cod (mt)	Total Groundfish (mt)	Halibut Mortality (mt)	Herring (mt)	Red King Crab (N)	Bairdi Crab (N)	Opilio Crab (N)	Chinook Salmon (N)	Other Salmon (N)
Katie Ann	1,436	1,662	10	0	0	148	0	42	0
Northern Glacier	36	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>2018 Totals</b>	<b>1,473</b>	<b>1,719</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0</b>
Catch Rate	0.857	1.000	0.006	0	0	0.086	0	0.024	0

***AFA Sideboard Limits and Total Groundfish Catch***

PCC vessels are all AFA Catcher Processors. The 2018 AFA C/P sideboard limits and catches of sideboard-limited groundfish and PSC species are shown in Table 5. The groundfish sideboard limits control PCC directed fishing for each species listed. For some groundfish species catch is greater than the sideboard limit, but in every case this catch occurred as bycatch in the pollock, yellowfin sole, Atka mackerel and Pacific cod fisheries, and not as directed fishing on these sideboard species. Note yellowfin sole was not sideboard limited in 2018. The PSC limits cap bycatch of these species in the non-pollock fisheries, therefore the PSC bycatch amounts in Table 5 reflect total PCC bycatch of PSC species in the yellowfin sole, Atka mackerel, and Pacific cod fisheries only. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council took action in February 2018 to close directed fishing for AFA Program sideboard limits that are not large enough to support a directed fishery in the BSAI. The final rule was published February 8, 2019 and became effective March 11, 2019. Future reports will therefore not report on sideboard catches. Table 6 shows PCC catches of all groundfish and PSC species by vessel from the pollock, yellowfin sole, Atka mackerel, and Pacific cod fisheries combined. Note the difference between the pollock catch given in Table 1 and that in Table 6 is because Table 6 includes all pollock catches from PCC vessels, including incidental pollock catch in the yellowfin sole, Atka mackerel, and Pacific cod fisheries, while Table 1 includes only directed pollock fishing catch.



**Table 5. PCC Species Sideboard Limits and Catch.**

<b>Groundfish Species</b>	<b>2018 Catch</b>	<b>2018 Limit</b>	<b>Over (Under) Limit*</b>
Alaska plaice - BSAI (mt)	1,693	14	1,679
Arrowtooth flounder - BSAI (mt)	138	23	115
Atka mackerel - BS + EAI (mt)	45	0	45
Atka mackerel - CAI (mt)	652	2,156	(1,504)
Atka mackerel - WAI (mt)	0	2,412	(2,412)
Flathead sole - BSAI (mt)	738	466	272
Greenland turbot - BS (mt)	5	30	(25)
Greenland turbot - AI (mt)	1	1	0
Kamchatka flounder - BSAI (mt)	9	9	0
Northern rockfish - BSAI (mt)	86	36	50
Octopus - BSAI (mt)	2	2	0
Other flatfish - BSAI (mt)	723	197	526
Other Rockfish - BS (mt)	6	8	(2)
Other Rockfish - AI (mt)	0	15	(15)
Pacific Ocean perch - BS (mt)	2,370	20	2,350
Pacific Ocean perch - EAI (mt)	0	161	(161)
Pacific Ocean perch - CAI (mt)	6	7	(1)
Pacific Ocean perch - WAI (mt)	0	32	(32)
Rock sole -BSAI (mt)	1,969	1,556	413
Rougheye rockfish - EBS+EAI (mt)	1	1	0
Rougheye rockfish - CAI+WAI (mt)	0	3	(3)
Sablefish - BS (mt)	37	10	27
Sablefish - AI (mt)	0	0	0
Sculpins - BSAI (mt)	154	34	120
Sharks - BSAI (mt)	21	1	20
Shortraker rockfish - BSAI (mt)	25	3	22
Skates - BSAI (mt)	327	184	143
Squid - BSAI (mt)	333	22	311
<b>Prohibited Species</b>	<b>2018 Catch</b>	<b>2018 Limit</b>	<b>Over (Under) Limit</b>
Halibut mortality - BSAI (mt)	134	286	(152)
Red king crab - Zone 1 (N)	230	606	(376)
<i>C. opilio</i> crab - COBLZ (N)	57,608	1,246,130	(1,188,522)
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab - Zone 1 (N)	2,045	103,767	(101,722)
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab - Zone 2 (N)	6,900	112,518	(105,618)

\* For some groundfish species catch is greater than the sideboard limit, but in every case this catch occurred as bycatch in the pollock, yellowfin sole, and Atka mackerel fisheries, and not as directed fishing on these sideboard species.

**Table 6. All 2018 PCC Catches by Vessel.**

Vessel	Pollock (mt)	Atka Mac-kereel (mt)	Yellowfin Sole (mt)	Pacific Cod (mt)	Sablefish (mt)	Alaska Plaice (mt)	Arrowtooth Flounder (mt)	Flathead Sole (mt)
Alaska Ocean	51,205	0.1	7	109	0.01	0	2	18
American Dynasty	41,693	1.7	47	139	14.28	2	8	59
American Triumph	46,087	0.4	27	149	13.56	0	8	52
Arctic Fjord	30,237	8.7	20	114	0.56	0	3	33
Arctic Storm	31,245	0.1	877	228	0.01	241	11	116
Island Enterprise	28,948	0.1	21	99	0.60	0	2	21
Katie Ann	806	0.5	4,224	1,792	1.19	416	61	116
Kodiak Enterprise	27,063	0.6	30	95	1.18	1	6	37
Northern Eagle	38,838	0.0	7	56	0.19	0	2	18
Northern Glacier	813	651.6	4,343	622	0.00	995	11	68
Northern Hawk	11,920	0.4	12	31	1.60	0	1	15
Northern Jaeger	42,349	2.7	13	64	0.28	0	2	16
Ocean Rover	39,803	21.5	23	154	2.97	1	8	60
Pacific Glacier	34,276	0.7	16	172	0.11	0	5	33
Seattle Enterprise	25,073	1.1	265	88	0.52	36	5	46
Starbound	29,331	5.9	4	118	0.02	0	4	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>479,687</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>9,935</b>	<b>4,028</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1,693</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>738</b>

Table 6 continued

Vessel	Green-land Turbot (mt)	Kam-chatka Flounder (mt)	Rock Sole (mt)	Other Flat-fishes (mt)	Northern Rockfish (mt)	Rougheye Rockfish (mt)	Short-raker Rockfish (mt)	Pacific Ocean Perch (mt)
Alaska Ocean	0.1	0	29	1	1	0.0	0.0	12
American Dynasty	0.2	1	65	5	0	0.1	4.6	91
American Triumph	0.5	1	76	4	1	0.5	11.5	171
Arctic Fjord	0.2	0	32	2	9	0.0	0.2	253
Arctic Storm	0.2	1	103	3	0	0.0	0.0	13
Island Enterprise	0.1	0	45	2	2	0.0	0.0	33
Katie Ann	0.4	2	544	150	0	0.0	0.0	14
Kodiak Enterprise	0.3	0	50	7	1	0.0	1.9	145
Northern Eagle	0.5	0	21	1	1	0.1	2.7	165
Northern Glacier	0.9	2	759	536	50	0.0	0.0	9
Northern Hawk	0.0	0	17	1	0	0.0	0.0	8
Northern Jaeger	0.0	0	38	2	3	0.0	0.9	334
Ocean Rover	0.3	0	90	3	3	0.0	0.2	603
Pacific Glacier	0.2	0	25	1	1	0.0	0.0	101
Seattle Enterprise	0.1	1	41	4	0	0.2	2.6	298
Starbound	1.5	0	35	2	13	0.0	0.0	124
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1,969</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>2,376</b>

Table 6 continued

Vessel	Other Rockfishes (mt)	All sculpins (mt)	All sharks (mt)	All skates (mt)	All octopi (mt)	All squids (mt)
Alaska Ocean	0.0	1	0	11	0.0	0.3
American Dynasty	0.0	1	2	17	0.6	54.7
American Triumph	0.0	1	3	27	0.1	45.1
Arctic Fjord	0.0	1	1	20	0.0	1.2
Arctic Storm	0.0	7	2	62	0.0	24.9
Island Enterprise	0.0	3	2	11	0.0	6.8
Katie Ann	0.0	54	0	26	0.0	0.0
Kodiak Enterprise	0.0	7	1	25	0.1	33.1
Northern Eagle	0.0	0	1	4	0.1	66.4
Northern Glacier	0.1	71	0	29	0.0	0.0
Northern Hawk	0.0	0	0	3	0.0	0.2
Northern Jaeger	0.0	0	3	5	0.1	44.4
Ocean Rover	0.0	2	3	25	0.7	16.4
Pacific Glacier	0.0	1	2	15	0.0	0.2
Seattle Enterprise	0.0	3	0	20	0.0	35.3
Starbound	0.0	1	1	28	0.3	4.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>333</b>

Table 6 continued

Vessel	Halibut Mortality (mt)	Pacific Herring (mt)	Red King Crab (N)	Tanner Crab, <i>Bairdi</i> (N)	Snow Crab, <i>Opilio</i> (N)	Chinook Salmon (N)	Other Salmon (N)
Alaska Ocean	2	16.2	0	12	16	209	2,186
American Dynasty	7	0.2	0	21	4	562	2,133
American Triumph	4	0.4	0	0	9	389	4,652
Arctic Fjord	1	2.8	5	0	22	278	10,446
Arctic Storm	23	10.3	113	4,657	1,448	294	745
Island Enterprise	1	2.3	0	10	44	407	12,342
Katie Ann	40	1.1	174	2,133	62,054	177	0
Kodiak Enterprise	3	0.7	0	34	5	226	12,348
Northern Eagle	1	0.6	0	0	3	665	1,655
Northern Glacier	32	5.1	378	1,925	152	20	0
Northern Hawk	1	0.2	0	3	0	90	9,771
Northern Jaeger	1	0.1	0	7	36	304	5,542
Ocean Rover	4	0.3	0	24	0	548	17,186
Pacific Glacier	2	3.8	0	25	0	208	2,000
Seattle Enterprise	11	3.2	174	267	62	382	14,551
Starbound	3	0.5	0	16	3	221	4,130
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>47.7</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>9,134</b>	<b>63,858</b>	<b>4,980</b>	<b>99,687</b>

## ***Pollock Fishery Discards***

Groundfish bycatch amounts and total amounts of other (non-pollock) groundfish<sup>3</sup> in the pollock target fishery are reported in Table 2 by vessel. These groundfish bycatch amounts include catches of all of the species groups listed on the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands “TAC sheet.” In contrast to groundfish bycatch, groundfish discards include all groundfish catches, including pollock, from which no edible, saleable product was produced. An estimate of the total groundfish discard amount is provided as a footnote to Table 2. Table 7 provides additional pollock-fishery bycatch and discards detail, including in particular the bycatch and discard of forage and non-specified species. These discard estimates are made by the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program. The non-specified category includes species that occur infrequently in the BSAI, or have little or no economic value, and so are neither targeted by the commercial fisheries nor managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service. In 2018, jellyfish accounted for 95.5 percent of the non-specified species bycatch in the pollock fishery. Table 8 shows the estimated pollock discards by vessel in the pollock fishery for 2018.

**Table 7. PCC Pollock Fishery Discards.**

<b>Species Category</b>	<b>2018 Discard Amount (mt)</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Groundfish Bycatch Ratio (mt/mt)**</b>	<b>Groundfish Discard Ratio (mt/mt)***</b>
Pollock	279	2006	0.007	0.004
Other Roundfish	1,141	2007	0.007	0.005
Flatfish	362	2008	0.025	0.008
Skates	136	2009	0.040	0.010
Squid and Octopi	171	2010	0.030	0.009
Sharks	19	2011	0.038	0.010
<b>Total Groundfish</b>	<b>2,109</b>	2012	0.034	0.014
Forage	0	2013	0.031	0.007
Non-specified	2,315	2014	0.020	0.006
<b>Total discards*</b>	<b>4,423</b>	2015	0.018	0.005
		2016	0.017	0.004
		2017	0.018	0.006
		<b>2018</b>	<b>0.012</b>	<b>0.004</b>

\*Does not include the prohibited species amounts listed in Table 2. By regulation, all prohibited crab species, halibut, and herring must be discarded, while salmon may be discarded or donated to food banks.

\*\*Groundfish bycatch ratio is groundfish bycatch divided by total groundfish catch.

\*\*\*Groundfish discard ratio is groundfish discards divided by total groundfish catch.

<sup>3</sup> In this report the term “bycatch” includes all non-target groundfish species that are taken incidental to directed fishing for pollock, yellowfin sole, Pacific cod and Atka mackerel, whether such catch is retained and sold or discarded. This is different from the definition of “bycatch” in Section 3(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act 16 USC 1802, which defines bycatch as non-retained (discarded) catch.

**Table 8. Pollock Discards by Vessel.**

<b>Vessel</b>	<b>Amount (mt)</b>
Alaska Ocean	0
American Dynasty	0
American Triumph	0
Arctic Fjord	0
Arctic Storm	0
Island Enterprise	20
Kodiak Enterprise	0
Northern Eagle	0
Northern Hawk	0
Northern Jaeger	0
Ocean Rover	33
Pacific Glacier	78
Seattle Enterprise	10
Starbound	140
<b>2018 Total</b>	<b>281</b>

### ***Pollock Landed Outside of Alaska***

No pollock was landed outside the state of Alaska in 2018.

### ***Chinook and Chum Salmon Bycatch Avoidance***

#### ***Chinook***

Amendment 91 to the BSAI FMP limits Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. Regulations implementing the Amendment 91 program came into force in 2011. The program is an innovative approach to managing Chinook salmon bycatch that combines overall, sector-specific limits on the amount of Chinook salmon bycatch with a voluntary incentive plan agreement (IPA) and performance standard requirement designed to minimize Chinook bycatch by each individual vessel. These vessel-level incentives are created through contracts among the IPA participants. Amendment 110 to the BSAI FMP further specifies incentive plan components as well as reduces the Chinook salmon bycatch limits in the Bering Sea pollock fishery in years when a 3-river run index of Western Alaskan Chinook is determined to be low abundance. Regulations implementing the Amendment 110 program came into force in 2017.

The PCC member companies participate in a *Chinook and Chum Salmon Bycatch Reduction Incentive Plan and Agreement*. The agreement was first implemented in 2011, revised in 2017, and is designed to provide the incentives necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives of Amendment 91 and 110. The plan builds on experience gained in the development and refinement of time-and-area-based salmon “hot-spot” (bycatch avoidance-area) programs. The plan creates incentives to avoid Chinook bycatch by restricting the pollock fishing opportunities of vessels with poor bycatch performance while allowing vessels with good bycatch performance less restricted access to fishing grounds. Losing access to good fishing grounds increases vessel operating costs

and reduces product values; avoiding these costs and producing more high-value products increases vessel profitability.

The plan is designed to work in concert with the annual Chinook bycatch limits specified in Amendment 91 and 110. Primary plan components include: (1) data gathering, monitoring, reporting, and information sharing; (2) identification of bycatch avoidance areas; and (3) pollock fishing prohibitions for vessels with poor bycatch performance. The plan also includes an A-season closure area (Chinook Salmon Conservation Area). This 735 square-mile area is on the northwestern flank of the Bering Canyon, and remains closed to pollock fishing for the entire A-season. An analysis of A-season data from 1995-2007 showed that in some years nearly 20 percent of the Chinook salmon bycatch occurred in this area along with only 2-3 percent of the pollock catch.

### *Chum*

Prior to 2017, all BSAI pollock cooperatives participated in an inter-cooperative chum salmon bycatch avoidance (hot-spot closure) program. The PCC first began participating in this program in 2001, and since then has worked to improve the program. The program became a regulated component of the Bering Sea pollock fishery in 2006 (Amendment 84 to the BSAI Fishery Management Plan). As with the Chinook bycatch management program, the chum bycatch avoidance program was implemented via contracts among the program participants.

However, Amendment 110 to the BSAI FMP, required pollock fishery participants who conduct fishing operations under incentive plan agreements to include measures for avoiding chum salmon as well as Chinook salmon. Since Amendment 110 regulations superseded those of Amendment 84, the inter-cooperative agreement and contracts were annulled and along with it the cooperative rolling hot spot program as well as the “Dirty 20 List”. The PCC amended its Incentive Plan Agreement to include new measures that reduce chum salmon bycatch during the B-season at all levels of pollock and chum salmon abundance. The incentive measures created to reduce chum salmon bycatch utilize the same time-and-area-based salmon “hot-spot” (bycatch avoidance-area) program along with the same plan components described above for Chinook salmon. Details of the revised IPA agreement and incentive measure performance results are provided in the CP IPA report available from the NPFMC.

### ***Monitoring and Enforcement***

All data used in monitoring pollock and non-pollock fishing activities was obtained from the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program. Aboard each vessel, the catch is weighed using motion-compensated flow scales. The species composition of the catch is determined from observer sampling. Since two observers are required on AFA catcher-processors, the number of unsampled hauls is very low. In 2018, virtually 100 percent of pollock hauls were sampled. For the rare hauls that were not sampled, species composition data from the next nearest haul (in time and area) within the same vessel and gear type is applied to the unsampled catch. Priority in this imputation process is given to a sampled haul that occurs on the same day, but prior to the non-sampled haul.

Information concerning the catch and bycatch of individual vessels is available from a NMFS data server 24 hours a day, and is generally accessible 20 minutes after transmission from the vessels. SeaState, Inc., a company that provides catch accounting services, is authorized by the PCC and HSCC companies to receive and process this data and report on the status of the harvest. Observer data are downloaded one or two times per day,



processed to generate catch and bycatch information, and then sent to a SeaState web site where company representatives may verify catch and bycatch data for their vessel(s). Typically, either an operations manager or vessel operator checks into the site each day to make sure recorded harvest amounts for his vessel(s) are consistent with vessel tallies.

Companies with several vessels often set initial vessel allocations, and then manage vessel harvests independently until late in the season. Typically, inter- and intra-company transfers of pollock occur near the end of the season to promote quota usage. No enforcement actions were taken by the PCC against any members during 2018.

# High Seas Catchers’ Cooperative Annual Report

## *Introduction*

The High Seas Catchers Coop is a fisheries cooperative of all vessels eligible to fish for BSAI pollock under section 208(b) of the American Fisheries Act (AFA). The HSCC is party to an inter-cooperative agreement with the PCC for purposes of pollock harvest management, and a participant in an AFA catcher-vessel inter-cooperative agreement for purposes of sideboard species harvest management.

## *Cooperative Members and Allocations*

The member vessels of HSCC include the F/Vs American Challenger, Forum Star, Muir Milach, Neahkahnie, Ocean Harvester, and Sea Storm. The HSCC Membership agreement was amended in 2015 to replace the Tracy Anne with the vessel Forum Star and is available from the NPFMC.

Allocations of pollock to members of HSCC were established within the HSCC membership agreement, as well as within the Cooperative Agreement with the PCC. Allocations of the BSAI Pacific cod sideboard amounts available for 2018 in the “Intercoop BSAI Cod Sideboard Allocation Agreement” were made by the HSCC Board of Directors through a roll over of the “Consent of Directors” document included as an appendix to the HSCC 2000 Annual Report. Other sideboard species were allocated by action of the HSCC Board of Directors. Prior to participation in any sideboard fishery, members were required to provide notice to the HSCC Executive Director, and-or the Manager of the Catcher Vessel Inter-Cooperative Agreement (CVICA). There is additional information about the flow of information between the vessels, the HSCC, SeaState, the CVICA Manager, and NMFS in the Catcher Vessel Inter-Cooperative Agreement (available from the NPFMC).

The 2018 distribution in metric tons to the HSCC vessels based on 206(b)(2) allocation of the directed pollock fishery to catcher-processors and catcher vessels, including releases from the pollock incidental catch allowance and rollovers from the Aleutian Islands fishery, is as follows:

<b>Vessel</b>	<b>Allocation (mt)</b>
Forum Star	<b>8,462</b>
American Challenger	<b>3,762</b>
Ocean Harvester	<b>5,167</b>
Neahkahnie	<b>7,980</b>
Sea Storm	<b>9,828</b>
Muir Milach	<b>5,422</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,620</b>

### ***Inter-Cooperative Agreement Between HSCC and PCC***

The members of PCC and HSCC are allocated pollock under section 206(b)(2) of the AFA. As noted, HSCC is a party to the “Cooperative Agreement Between Offshore Pollock Catchers’ Cooperative and Pollock Conservation Cooperative” for purposes of pollock management, and this agreement is available from the NPFMC.

### ***Catcher Vessel Inter-Cooperative Agreement***

HSCC is also a party to the Catcher Vessel Inter-Cooperative Agreement (CVICA) for purposes of groundfish sideboard harvest management. Compliance with both agreements is based upon monitoring of catch and bycatch by SeaState, Inc. Information concerning CVICA allocations and rules as well as inter-cooperative transfer arrangements is contained in an annual report submitted to the NPFMC by the CVICA Manager. Among other things, the CVICA contains specific provisions on management of halibut prohibited-species catches (PSC) in the BSAI Pacific cod fishery, in which some HSCC vessels participate (see below). Prohibited species bycatch (PSC) by HSCC vessels is provided in Table 9.

### ***Bering Sea Pollock Transfers and Directed Pollock Fishing***

Based upon the January 1999 “Cooperative Agreement Between Offshore Pollock Catchers’ Cooperative and Pollock Conservation Cooperative,” individual members of HSCC have made transfers of pollock to individual members of PCC. These transfers are reported in Table 1 while no directed catch of Bering Sea pollock by HSCC vessels occurred in 2018.

### ***Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Shellfish Fisheries***

The BSAI crab rationalization program was implemented in August 2005. As part of that program, the AFA crab sideboard limits were eliminated. The HSCC vessel Forum Star leased all of its scallop catch history and so did not catch any scallops in 2018.

### ***AFA Sideboard Limits***

The NMFS publishes in the Federal Register the sideboard limits for all AFA catcher vessels as well as a set of information tables which provide historic catches of sideboard species by cooperative for those species for which directed fishing is allowed. The regulations allow two or more cooperatives to enter into an inter-cooperative agreement where vessel catches are limited by the combined cooperative sideboard limits.

## *Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Sideboard Fisheries*

Three non-sideboard-exempt vessels participated in the Pacific cod fishery in 2018 and caught 2,555 metric tons of cod. Table 9 shows target, bycatch, and prohibited species catch by vessel for this fishery. Catch rates are provided to assess target catch and PSC use. Total groundfish catch by species is shown in Table 10.

**Table 9 . HSCC BSAI Directed Pacific Cod Catch and Bycatch by Vessel.**

Vessel	Total Groundfish (mt)	Cod (mt)	Halibut mortality (mt)	King crab (N)	<i>Bairdi</i> (N)	<i>Opilio</i> (N)	Herring (mt)	Chinook (N)	Other salmon (N)
Muir Milach	1,299	1,281	2.68	0	0	4.1	0	2.4	0
Ocean Harvester	549	535	1.62	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sea Storm	762	739	5.29	0	4.1	0	0	1.5	0
<b>2018 Totals</b>	<b>2,611</b>	<b>2,555</b>	<b>9.59</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>0</b>
Catch Rate	1.000	0.979	0.004	0	0.002	0.002	0	0.002	0.000

**Table 10. HSCC Catch of BSAI Groundfish.**

Species	Catch (mt)
Pacific Cod	2,555
Pollock BSAI	14
Alaska Plaice	0.22
Arrowtooth Flounder	3.97
Flathead Sole	3.74
Kamchatka Flounder	0.07
Rock Sole	8.83
Yellowfin Sole	0.09
Northern Rockfish	0.54
Other Flatfish	1.04
Other Rockfish	0.13
Octopus	0.28
Pacific Ocean Perch	0.03
Sculpins	10.27
Rougheye Rockfish	0.01
Skates	12.84
<b>2018 Total</b>	<b>2,611</b>

## *Gulf of Alaska Sideboard Fisheries*

No HSCC vessels participated in Gulf of Alaska sideboard fisheries in 2018.

## ***Monitoring and Enforcement***

All data used in monitoring HSCC pollock and non-pollock fishing for delivery to offshore processors was obtained from the NMFS North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program. Information is available on the NMFS password-protected web site 24 hours a day, and is generally accessible 20 minutes after transmission from the vessel. Sea State, Inc. is authorized by the HSCC and its members to receive and process this observer data and report back to the members on the status of the harvest. The methods are the same as those described above under PCC Monitoring and Enforcement.

For deliveries to shore-side processors, each company submitted copies of its Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) fish tickets to SeaState, Inc. for tabulation through the NMFS Electronic Fish Ticket Program. In addition, HSCC member companies provided confidentiality waiver requests to ADFG for release of the data directly to SeaState to verify the completeness and accuracy of data submitted by HSCC members. This information was then made available to all HSCC members on the SeaState web site.

## ***Penalty Structures within the HSCC and Between Cooperatives***

The Cooperative Agreement between HSCC and PCC provides for inter-cooperative enforcement of penalties in the event of over-harvest of pollock. The CVICA also contains penalty provisions for over-harvest of sideboard species. HSCC members took no enforcement actions in either its pollock or sideboard fisheries in 2018; members complied with the provisions of the membership agreement.