

GOA Tendering Report¹

June 2013

Introduction

The Council tasked staff to prepare a brief report on GOA tendering activity in the pollock and Pacific cod fisheries at its April 2013 meeting. This report provides an overview of legal framework associated with tendering in the GOA groundfish fisheries; a description of tendering activity in the GOA pollock and Pacific cod fisheries from 2010 through April 2013; and a brief description of the management and observer implications for tendering activity in the GOA pollock and Pacific cod fisheries.

Legal Framework for GOA Tendering Activity

The term “tendering” refers to the fishing practice where one vessel (the tender) takes the unprocessed catch from a second fishing vessel and transports the catch to port. This practice allows the fishing vessel to resume fishing without the delay associated with traveling to port and returning to the fishing area. One tendering vessel can service multiple fishing vessels, depending on its capacity and the regulations that limit tendering activity.

A tender vessel is defined in regulations as a vessel that is used to transport unprocessed fish or shellfish received from another vessel to an associated processors (50 CFR §679.2). A tender, like a land-based entity, can also be defined as a buying station, which receives unprocessed groundfish from a vessel for delivery to a shoreside processor, stationary floating processor, or mothership. A tender vessel does not process fish (50 CFR §679.2). A tender can be a support vessel. A support vessel is used in support of other vessels that include but not limited to, supplying a fishing vessel with water, fuel, provisions, fishing equipment, fish processing equipment or other supplies, or transporting processed fish (50 CFR §679.2).

The authority to regulate tenders is provided through the definition of fishing under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). The MSA defines fishing to include at-sea vessels that assist in catching, taking, or harvesting fish. Authority to regulate tenders is also reflected in the requirement for vessels to be issued a Federal fisheries permit (FFP) before being deployed to conduct operations as a tender vessel in Federal waters of the GOA or BSAI (50 CFR §679.4(b)).

The Council recommended and NMFS implemented Steller sea lion management measures for the BSAI and GOA in 2001. That action implemented a variety of measures to slow the pace of the pollock fishery. One measure prohibits catcher vessels from fishing in both the GOA and BS during the same fishing season (50 CFR §679.23(i)). Another measure restricts tendering activities in the GOA. Specifically, tender vessels cannot operate east of 157°00' W longitude for pollock in the GOA (50 CFR §679.7(b)(3))². The Council recommended tendering west of 157°00' W longitude, under Steller sea lion

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² Area 620 (Central GOA Regulatory Area, Chirikof District) is defined as the area along the south side of the Alaska Peninsula, between 159°00' W longitude and southward to the limits of the U.S. EEZ. Therefore, tenders are allowed to operate in the western portion of area 620, but not east of 157° 00 W longitude.

regulations, because smaller vessels delivering to Sand Point and King Cove may be more dependent on tenders than the larger vessels that operate east of 157°00' W longitude and deliver primarily to Kodiak shoreside processors.

In addition to location restrictions for tender vessels in the GOA pollock fishery, the Council also recommended and NMFS implemented restrictions prohibiting tender vessels from retaining more than 600,000 lb. (272 mt) of unprocessed pollock that was harvested in the GOA (50 CFR §679.7(b)(3)). The Council recommended this restriction to prevent the large scale use of tender vessels to circumvent the trip limit restriction.

Regulations prohibit catcher vessels and catcher processors from operating as a tender vessel before offloading all groundfish or groundfish product harvested or processed by that vessel. Those same regulations also prohibit catcher vessels and catcher processors from harvesting groundfish while operating as a tender vessel (50 CFR §679.7(a)(17)).

Finally, catcher vessels are prohibited from retaining more than 300,000 lbs. (136 mt) of unprocessed GOA pollock on board the vessel at any time during a fishing trip (50 CFR §679.6(b)(2)). A fishing trip is defined as the time a vessel starts harvesting groundfish until the offload or transfer of all fish or fish products from that vessel is completed. Catcher vessels are also prohibited from landing more than 300,000 lbs. (136 mt) of unprocessed pollock harvested in any GOA reporting area to any processor or tender vessel during a calendar day. Finally, catcher vessels harvesting GOA pollock from any reporting area are prohibited from harvesting a cumulative amount of unprocessed pollock that exceeds the 300,000 lbs. (136 mt) multiplied by the number of days the fishery is open to directed fishing.

GOA Tender Activity

Tables 1a and 1b provide catcher vessel deliveries of GOA pollock and Pacific cod to Kodiak shoreside processors and non-Kodiak processors (shoreside processors, motherships, and catcher processors) from 2010 through April of 2013. The table includes pollock and Pacific cod deliveries to tenders that were delivered to shoreside processors (see Tables 2 and 3 for further information on GOA tender activity).

As seen in Table 1a, most of the harvested GOA pollock harvested by catcher vessels since 2010 (not including 2013) has been delivered to Kodiak shoreside processors. Specially, from 2010 through 2012, over 60% of the all GOA pollock harvested in areas 610, 620, and 630 were delivered to Kodiak shoreside processors, while remaining proportion of the GOA pollock in these areas were delivered to non-Kodiak processors. In the Central GOA pollock (areas 620 and 630), pollock deliveries from 2010 through 2012 were skewed towards Kodiak, with 97% of area 620 and over 99% of area 630 harvested pollock delivered to Kodiak shoreside processors. In contrast, area 610 pollock deliveries were skewed toward non-Kodiak processors. Specific proportions of for area 610 pollock deliveries by community could not be provided because too few Kodiak processors took deliveries of area 610 pollock, and as a result, the data are considered confidential. During the first four months of 2013 there was a change in the proportion of area 620 pollock delivered to Kodiak and non-Kodiak processors. During this 4 month period of 2013, 90% of area 620 pollock was delivered to Kodiak shoreside processors and 10% was delivered to non-Kodiak processors.

In Table 1b, GOA Pacific cod delivery patterns by catcher vessels during 2010 through April 2013 were similar to pollock, with over 60% of all GOA Pacific cod harvested in areas 610, 620, and 630 being delivered to Kodiak shoreside processors. The remaining proportion of the GOA Pacific cod in these areas was delivered to shoreside processors outside of Kodiak. On an area basis, almost all of the area 610 Pacific cod was delivered to non-Kodiak processors. A large majority of areas 620 and 630 Pacific cod

was delivered to Kodiak shoreside processors. Once again, confidentiality rules prohibit reporting amounts or percentages by area.

Table 1a Annual metric tons of GOA pollock catch by season and reporting area delivered to Kodiak shoreside processors and non-Kodiak processors (shoreside processors, motherships, and catcher processors) from 2010 through April 2013

Year	Community	A and B seasons for pollock catch (mt)			C and D seasons for pollock catch (mt)		
		Area 610	Area 620	Area 630	Area 610	Area 620	Area 630
2010	Kodiak	*	18,694	7,150	0	8,458	10,728
	Other	9,714	444	19	16,030	*	*
	Total	*	19,138	7,169	16,030	*	*
2011	Kodiak	0	26,174	6,092	0	8,337	12,362
	Other	8,323	1,081	5	11,968	*	15
	Total	8,323	27,255	6,097	11,968	*	12,378
2012	Kodiak	0	30,213	7,319	0	10,504	17,302
	Other	8,463	551	3	18,692	2,899	*
	Total	8,463	30,764	7,321	18,692	13,402	*
2013**	Kodiak	0	32,303	8,365	NA		
	Other	5,861	3,518	*			
	Total	5,861	35,820	*			

Source: NOAA Fisheries

Table originates from GOA_Tendering(04-30) excel file

* denotes confidential data

** Data was only available through April 2013

Table 1b Annual metric tons of GOA Pacific cod catch by season and reporting area delivered to Kodiak shoreside processors and non-Kodiak processors (shoreside processors, motherships, and catcher processors) from 2010 through April 2013

Year	Community	A season for Pacific cod catch (mt)			B season for Pacific cod catch (mt)		
		Area 610	Area 620	Area 630	Area 610	Area 620	Area 630
2010	Kodiak	*	3,286	15,269	2	9,579	18,697
	Other	10,306	742	1,734	5,111	50	161
	Total	*	4,028	17,003	5,113	9,629	18,858
2011	Kodiak	0	2,093	15,444	8	11,338	23,229
	Other	10,737	303	1,515	5,419	148	1,082
	Total		2,396	16,960	5,427	11,486	24,312
2012	Kodiak	*	2,919	16,546	5	12,667	24,428
	Other	10,145	2,921	2,280	4,468	302	700
	Total	*	5,839	18,826	4,473	12,970	25,128
2013**	Kodiak	0	2,806	12,377	NA		
	Other	10,479	3,448	1,388			
	Total	10,479	6,253	13,765			

Source: NOAA Fisheries

Table originates from GOA_Tendering(04-30) excel file

* denotes confidential data

** Data was only available through April 2013

Table 2 provides estimates of catcher vessel delivers of GOA pollock and Pacific cod to tender vessels from 2010 through April 2013. Most apparent in the GOA pollock fisheries is the inconsistent use of tenders across the three GOA areas. Likely the inconsistency is due to the prohibition on tendering pollock east of 157°00' W longitude. The tendering prohibition was the result of the Steller sea lion protection measures in 2001 to reduce the speed of the pollock fishery.

In general, very little area 630 pollock was delivered to tenders³, while area 610 catcher vessels have consistently utilized tenders in the pollock fishery. Pollock tendering activity in area 620 is more of a mixed bag. Prior to 2012, the use of tender vessels was limited. However, in 2012, tendering increased. In 2011, only 28 mt of area 620 pollock was tendered. In 2012, the amount of 620 pollock delivered to tenders increased to 2,238 mt, with most delivered in September. During the first three months of 2013, approximately 3,324 mt of area 620 pollock was delivered to tender vessels, with most of the deliveries taking place in March.

In the GOA Pacific cod fishery, tendering activity was more consistent across all three areas since Steller sea lion regulation do not prohibit the use of tenders east of 157° 00' W longitude for Pacific cod. In area 610, tendered Pacific cod ranged from 6,307 mt in 2012 to 8,831 mt during the first three months of 2013. Area 620 Pacific cod ranged from 5,573 mt in 2010 to 8,074 mt during the first three months of 2013. Deliveries of area 630 Pacific cod to tender vessels ranged from 2,811 mt in 2010 to 6,668 mt in 2012.

Table 2 Annual metric tons of GOA pollock and Pacific cod by reporting area delivered to tender vessels from 2010 through April 2013

Year	GOA pollock catch (mt)			GOA Pacific cod catch (mt)		
	Area 610	Area 620	Area 630	Area 610	Area 620	Area 630
2010	*	3	*	*	5,573	2,811
2011	6,233	28	1	7,939	5,778	4,685
2012	13,013	2,238	*	8,074	6,083	6,668
2013**	3,311	3,324	*	8,831	8,074	2,849
Source: Fish tickets received from ADF&G						
Table originates from GOA_Tendering(04-30) excel file						
* denotes confidential data						
** Data was only available through April 2013						

Once pollock and Pacific cod have been delivered to tender vessels, the fish is delivered to shoreside processors for processing. Table 3 provides deliveries of tendered area 620 pollock and Pacific cod to shoreside processors by community⁴. Unfortunately, much of the information in Table 3 is masked to protect confidential data. In general, during the 2010 through 2013 period most of the tendered pollock is delivered to non-Kodiak processors, while deliveries of tendered area 620 Pacific cod is more evenly divided between Kodiak, Sand Point, King Cove, and Akutan shoreside processors. The table also includes tendered deliveries to floating processors.

³ In this paper, the location of all tenders receiving GOA pollock deliveries are west of 157° 00' longitude.

⁴ Deliveries to floating processors are also included as a community category.

Table 3 Annual metric tons of tendered GOA area 620 pollock and Pacific cod delivered by tenders to processors by community from 2010 through April 2013

Year	Community	Pollock		Pacific cod	
		Weight (mt)	Number of shore processors receiving tendered pollock	Weight (mt)	Number of shore processors receiving tendered Pacific cod
2010	Kodiak	*	3	2,583	5
	Sand Point	0	0	*	1
	Floating processors	0	1	*	1
	Total	*	4	*	7
2011	Kodiak	*	3	3,153	5
	Sand Point	0	0	*	1
	King Cove	*	1	*	1
	Floating processors	*	1	*	1
	Total	28	5	5,778	8
2012	Kodiak	*	2	3,809	4
	Sand Point	*	1	*	1
	King Cove	*	1	*	1
	Floating processors	0	0	*	3
	Total	2,238	4	6,083	9
2013**	Kodiak	*	3	3,617	5
	Sand Point	*	1	*	1
	King Cove	*	1	*	1
	Akutan	*	1	*	1
	Floating processors	0	0	*	1
	Total	3,325	6	8,146	9
Source: Fish tickets received from ADF&G					
Table originates from GOA_Tendering(04-30) excel file					
* denotes confidential data					
** Data was only available through April 2013					

Tables 4 and 5 provide annual counts of tender vessels, processors, and catcher vessels prosecuting tendered GOA pollock and Pacific cod by reporting area. Most apparent in Table 4 is the increase in the number of tenders receiving deliveries of area 620 pollock during the first three months of 2013. Prior to 2013, the maximum number of tenders receiving area 620 pollock was nine in 2012, but during the first 3 months of 2013, 18 tenders received area 620 pollock. The number of catcher vessels delivering area 620 pollock also increased during this period from 20 vessels in 2012 to 37 vessels in 2013. Information in the table also reflects patterns noted in Table 2 with regards to area 610 and area 630 tendering activity. For area 610 pollock, vessel counts indicate wide use of tendering vessels, while the numbers of tendering vessels receiving area 630 pollock are few.

Table 4 Annual counts of tenders, shoreside processors, and catcher vessels prosecuting tendered GOA pollock by reporting area from 2010 through April 2013

Year	Area 610			Area 620			Area 630		
	Tender	Processor	Catcher Vessel	Tender	Processor	Catcher Vessel	Tender	Processor	Catcher Vessel
2010	8	3	36	5	4	14	2	2	9
2011	13	4	35	7	5	7	6	4	13
2012	18	5	35	9	4	20	5	3	16
2013*	16	4	39	18	6	37	5	3	10
Source: Fish tickets received from ADF&G									
Table originates from GOA_Tendering(04-30) excel file									
* Data was only available through April 2013									

In Pacific cod fishery, the large number of tenders in all three areas indicates their wide use throughout GOA. The number of tenders receiving area 610 Pacific cod has ranged from a low of eight in 2010 to a high of 23 in 2012. For area 620 Pacific cod, the number of tenders has ranged from a low of nine in 2010 to a high of 24 in 2012 and during the first three months of 2013. Finally, the number of tenders receiving area 630 Pacific cod has ranged from eight in 2010 to a high of 18 in 2012.

Table 5 Annual counts of tenders, shoreside processors, and catcher vessels prosecuting tendered GOA Pacific cod by reporting area from 2010 through April 2013

Year	Area 610			Area 620			Area 630		
	Tender	Processor	Catcher Vessel	Tender	Processor	Catcher Vessel	Tender	Processor	Catcher Vessel
2010	8	3	42	9	7	29	8	6	34
2011	15	6	54	11	8	31	16	7	76
2012	23	7	65	24	9	81	18	8	132
2013*	17	5	45	24	9	73	11	5	55
Source: Fish tickets received from ADF&G									
Table originates from GOA_Tendering(04-30) excel file									
* Data was only available through April 2013									

Tables 6 and 7 provide monthly counts of tenders, processors, and catcher vessels prosecuting GOA pollock and Pacific cod by reporting area from 2010 through April 2013. Unlike annual data provided in the previous tables, the information in these two tables highlights the increase in activity during the month of March 2013 for both area 620 pollock and area 620 Pacific cod relative to the two previous months. Table 6 depicts a recent increase in the number of tenders and catcher vessels prosecuting area 620 pollock. In March of 2013, 17 tenders received area 620 pollock from 31 catcher vessels. In contrast, February 2013 saw 15 catcher vessels delivering area 620 pollock to 5 tender vessels. Also noticeable in Table 6 is an increase in tendering activity in September 2012 relative to tendering activity in the two years prior. During that September 2012 period, 10 catcher vessels delivered area 620 pollock to six tender vessels. As for monthly tendering activity in other areas, Table 6 shows large numbers of catcher vessels delivering area 610 pollock to large numbers of tenders throughout the 2010 to 2013 period, while very few tenders received area 630 pollock during this period.

Table 6 Monthly counts of tenders, processors, and catcher vessels prosecuting GOA pollock by reporting area from 2010 through April 2013

Year	Month	Area 610			Area 620			Area 630		
		Tender	Processor	Catcher Vessel	Tender	Processor	Catcher Vessel	Tender	Processor	Catcher Vessel
2010	1	3	1	8	4	4	13	2	2	8
	2	6	2	27	2	2	3	1	1	2
	3	6	2	15						
	4	4	3	10						
	8	5	1	8						
	9	5	2	11	1	1	3			
	10	5	1	11						
2011	1	1	1	4	5	4	6	2	1	1
	2	6	2	20	2	1	1	3	2	8
	3	9	2	31	1	1	1			
	4							1	1	1
	8	6	2	6						
	9	8	2	18	1	2	1	2	2	3
	10	5	1	12						
2012	1	3	2	4	2	1	5	5	3	12
	2	6	2	11	4	3	7	3	2	9
	3	7	3	19						
	4	1	1	5						
	8	11	3	19						
	9	11	3	18	6	3	10			
	10	10	4	18	2	2	4			
2013*	1	8	2	26	3	2	4	2	1	4
	2	8	2	18	5	4	15	3	2	5
	3	12	4	33	17	6	31	3	2	8
	4							1	1	1

Source: Fish tickets received from ADF&G
Table originates from GOA_Tendering(04-30) excel file
Blank cells represent no tendering activity
* Data was only available through April 2013

Monthly tendering activity for the GOA Pacific cod fishery (Table 7) indicates wide use of tenders in all three areas. For deliveries of area 610 and area 630 Pacific cod to tender vessels, the information in Table 7 indicates consistent trends in tendering activity. However, tendering activity for area 620 Pacific cod has increased in recent months. In March 2013, 23 tender vessels received area 620 Pacific cod from 55 catcher vessels, which is a substantial increase from previous months. The largest number of tender vessels active in any given month prior to March 2013 was 13 in September 2012. Although monthly Pacific cod amounts cannot be provided to protect confidential data, this large increase in the number of tender vessels is reflected in the increase in area 620 Pacific cod delivered to tender vessels during that month, which was the highest monthly amount during the 2010 through April 2013 period.

Table 7 Monthly counts of tenders, processors, and catcher vessels prosecuting GOA Pacific cod by reporting area from 2010 through April 2013

Year	Month	Area 610			Area 620			Area 630		
		Tender	Processor	Catcher Vessel	Tender	Processor	Catcher Vessel	Tender	Processor	Catcher Vessel
2010	1	3	1	12	5	5	16	5	4	17
	2	7	3	33	3	3	5	5	4	13
	3	7	2	29	4	2	11			
	4	4	3	10	4	2	12			
	5							1	1	10
	8	5	1	8						
	9	5	2	19	1	1	3	1	1	3
	10	5	1	11	1	1	2			
2011	1	2	2	7	5	4	6	4	4	8
	2	8	3	41	3	3	3	6	5	26
	3	12	4	39	7	5	22	4	3	17
	4				1	1	3	4	3	14
	8	6	2	6						
	9	9	3	22	1	2	3	9	6	29
	10	6	2	14	2	2	3	3	3	5
	11				1	1	2			
	12						1	1	3	
2012	1	5	3	9	5	4	7	9	5	43
	2	7	3	23	10	6	22	10	6	67
	3	11	5	38	11	7	21	7	4	41
	4	2	1	8	4	2	21	4	2	55
	5				2	2	6	3	2	22
	6							1	1	1
	8	11	3	19						
	9	12	4	27	13	7	18	8	5	17
	10	10	4	18	7	5	11	3	2	4
	11				1	1	2	1	1	1
		12								
2013*	1	8	2	30	6	5	10	7	5	13
	2	8	2	18	8	7	30	7	4	19
	3	14	5	40	23	9	55	10	5	41
	4				1	1	1	3	3	7

Source: Fish tickets received from ADF&G
Table originates from GOA_Tendering(04-30) excel file
Blank cells represent no tendering activity
* Data was only available through April 2013

Table 8 provides the number of catcher vessels and the length of those vessels that have delivered GOA pollock to tender vessels from 2010 through April 2013. As noted in Table 8, most of the catcher vessels delivering GOA pollock to tender vessels are less than 66 feet in length. In 2010, 33 of the 36 vessels delivering area 610 pollock to tender vessels were less than 66 feet in length, 11 of the 14 vessels delivering 620 pollock to tender vessels were less than 66 feet, and 7 of 9 vessels delivering area 630 pollock to tender vessels were less than 66 feet. The first part of 2013 shows the same general trend, with 35 of the 39 vessels delivering area 610 pollock to tender vessels, 24 of the 37 vessels delivering area 620 pollock to tender vessels, and 8 of 10 vessels delivering 630 pollock to tender vessels. All vessels were less than 66 feet in length. The remaining catcher vessels delivering GOA pollock to tenders ranged in length from 66 feet to 116 feet. With the exception of area 620 pollock in 2013, the number of these larger vessels making deliveries to tenders by area and year ranged from 2 to 6 vessels. In 2013, there were 13 catcher vessels over 66 feet in length that made deliveries of area 620 pollock to tenders. Of these 13 catcher vessels, four had not made deliveries to tender vessels during the 2010 through 2012 period. Those four vessels delivered area 620 pollock to shoreside processors 2010 through 2012.

Table 8 Count of catcher vessels delivering GOA pollock to tenders by vessel length and GOA area

Year	Vessel length (feet)	Number of vessels		
		Area 610	Area 620	Area 630
2010	36-46	4	1	3
	46-56	17	5	4
	56-66	12	5	0
	66-76	0	1	1
	76-86	3	2	1
2010 Total		36	14	9
2011	36-46	5	0	3
	46-56	19	3	5
	56-66	9	2	2
	66-76	0	1	1
	76-86	0	1	1
	96-106	1	0	1
	106-116	1	0	0
2011 Total		35	7	13
2012	36-46	1	1	3
	46-56	13	6	6
	56-66	15	9	2
	66-76	1	2	4
	76-86	2	1	1
	96-106	2	1	0
	106-116	1	0	0
2012 Total		35	20	16
2013*	26-36	0	0	1
	36-46	4	1	1
	46-56	15	10	1
	56-66	16	13	5
	66-76	0	3	0
	76-86	1	5	2
	86-96	0	4	0
	96-106	1	1	0
106-116	2	0	0	
2013 Total		39	37	10
Source: Fish tickets received from ADF&G				
Table originates from GOA_Tendering(04-30) excel file				
* Data was only available through April 2013				

Finally, Figure 1 provides average weekly catch of pollock for the Central and Western GOA from 2004 through April 2013. In the Central GOA, average weekly catch of pollock declined from 7,967 mt in 2004

to 5,201 mt in 2007, but then increased to a high of 12,084 mt in 2011. Since 2011, the average weekly catch for Central GOA pollock has been declining. The average weekly catch of Central GOA pollock through April 2013 was 6,352 mt. In the Western GOA, average weekly catch declined from a high of 12,645 mt in 2005 to a low of 3,299 mt in 2007, but then increased to 9,262 mt in 2010. Since 2010, average weekly catch of Western GOA pollock has declined to a low of 868 mt through April 2013.

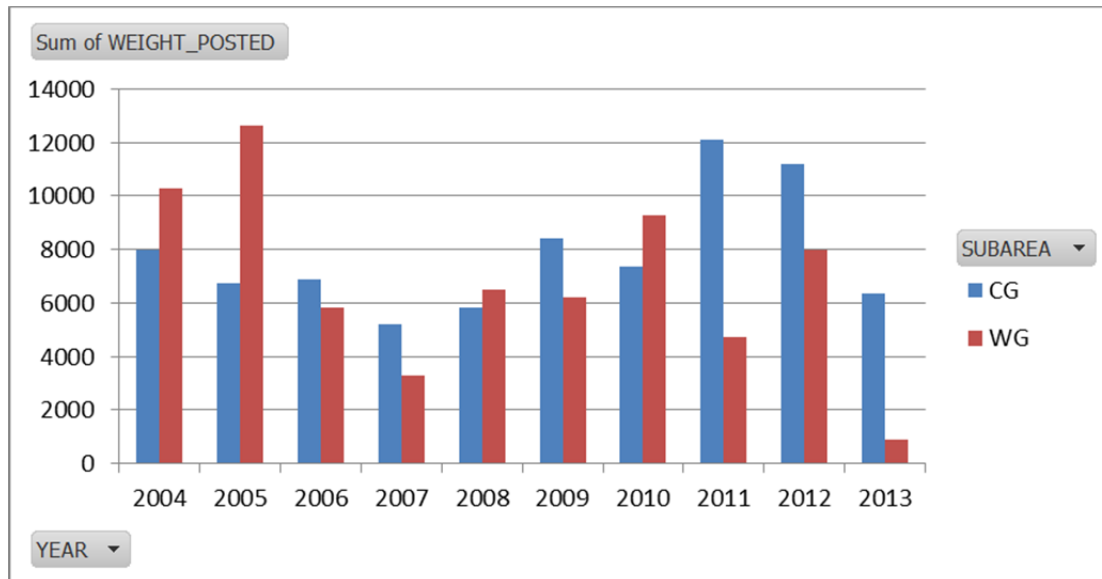


Figure 1 Average weekly pollock catch for the Central and Western GOA from 2004 through April 2013

Management and Observer Implications

From the management perspective, there are two main management implications from pollock and Pacific cod delivered to tenders: projecting catch rates and timelines of data from tender deliveries. However, both of these management implications can be mitigated to some extent. First, NMFS uses a shoreside processor's daily processing capacity (based on historical data and current vessels delivering to the shoreside processor) to determine the daily catch rates to project a closure. However, when shoreside processors utilize tenders, then the processing capacity for those shoreside processors are likely different and not known by NMFS. The tenders may hold the delivery several days or deliver to another processor. To help mitigate the loss of the amount of processing capacity associated with deliveries to tenders, NMFS can ask the processors how many tenders they are using and how many vessels they have delivering to both the shoreside processors and the tenders. NMFS can also ask the shoreside processors to provide the vessel's hail weights (landing estimates) from the tenders on a daily basis when NMFS get close to a closure.

The second management implication from the use of tenders is the slowing of catch data (up to 5 to 7 days) entering the catch accounting system compared to deliveries to shoreside processors. The tender requires the vessel's Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit at the landing and issues the vessel a fish ticket. From the time of landing there is seven days for the tender to get the fish ticket data to the shoreside processor and the processor to enter the fish ticket information into eLandings⁵. Tenders do not have eLandings and the shoreside processors do not have the vessel's CFEC

⁵ eLandings is the Interagency Electronic Reporting System for reporting commercial fishery landings in Alaska.

permit. To reduce the delay in catch information, shoreside processors could get the delivering vessel's CFEC permit from the tenders and enter the vessel's hail weights until the tender deliveries the fish ticket data to the shoreside processor. NMFS could also mitigate the delay by asking shoreside processors for estimates of tender deliveries. NMFS and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) are also implementing a tender component to eLanding, called tLandings. Originally developed for salmon tender reporting, the system is being expanded to some groundfish tendering in 2013. This system enables electronic data entry on board tender vessels without an internet connection. The application and the landings reports (fish tickets) are stored on a portable thumb drive. Using the tLandings application, tender operators can create and print tick tickets similar to the current method on paper. When the tender makes a delivery to the shoreside processor, then landing data are uploaded into the eLandings system. Use of tLandings still results in a delay of the information until the tender delivery, but reduces the time needed for the shoreside processor to enter the data.

Another issue that has been raised with deliveries to tenders is estimation of salmon Prohibited Species Catch (PSC). In the pollock catcher vessel fishery, salmon PSC are based on counts of the salmon PSC that are generated from offload sampling that occurs during the delivery to the shoreside processor. This is due to the logistics of at-sea observer sampling on a pollock catcher vessel. In the pollock catcher vessel fishery, pollock is generally either dropped or mechanically pumped from a codend directly into Refrigerated Seawater (RSW) tanks. Because of the size of the codends, opportunities for sorting of any species, including salmon PSC, are extremely low. Observers obtain random, species composition samples by collecting small amounts of catch as it flows from the codend to the RSW tanks. For uncommon species such as salmon, a larger sample size is desired and large sample sizes are generally not logistically possible for pollock catcher vessels. For this reason, whenever possible, estimates of salmon PSC by catcher vessels are obtained from offload sampling that occurs during the delivery to the shoreside processor.

For deliveries to tenders, the observer on the catcher vessel cannot logistically sample for salmon PSC during offloading because the pollock is pumped from a holding tank on the catcher vessel to a holding tank on the tender. In addition, the observer is on the catcher vessel and cannot easily get to the tender. Once the tender is ready to deliver its accumulated unprocessed pollock to a processor, the holding tank likely has catch from multiple trips from multiple vessels in some cases that have been mixed together. For this reason, plant observers do not sample the tender's offload to estimate salmon PSC since it would be a biased sample. Therefore, estimates of salmon PSC for deliveries to tenders are obtained from the vessel's observer's at-sea sampling. Due to the rarity of salmon in the catch, salmon PSC estimates derived from at-sea samples can be variable. The variance does not mean that the estimate is incorrect or invalid, but it does make it more difficult for NMFS to manage inseason.

In other GOA trawl fisheries, including Pacific cod, observers collect species composition at-sea since catcher vessels sort their catch extensively at-sea and the offload sampling is not feasible. Therefore, PSC estimates from catcher vessels in other GOA trawl fisheries are all derived from observer at-sea samples whether the catcher vessel deliveries to a tender or a shoreside processor.