ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE GROUNDFOISH FISHERIES OFF ALASKA, 2003

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Contents

- **Catch**
  - By area, gear, species, and residency of vessel owner

- **Value**
  - Ex-vessel value
    - By area, gear and species
  - Gross product value
    - By mode of operations (c/p, shoreside, mother) and subsets within each group

- **Prices**
  - AK prices for groundfish products by species and processing mode
  - Japanese market prices for selected groundfish and groundfish products
Contents

- Prohibited species bycatch
  - By area, species, gear and target fishery
- Discard totals and discard rates
  - By area, gear, and species
- Number of vessels operating
  - By gear type, area, residency, target fishery
- Total registered net tonnage
- Weeks spent fishing
  - By vessel type, gear type, target species
Contents

- Number of vessels and plants with observers
  - Observer deployment days
  - Estimated observer costs

- US per capita consumption of fish and shellfish, fillets and steaks, and fish sticks and portions.

- Producer and consumer price indexes, and foreign exchange rates

- Cold storage holdings of groundfish fillets and blocks
Contents

Regional Economic Info

- Total monthly employment
- Seafood processing labor income
- Seafood processing employment levels
- Share of total employment and total labor income for seafood processing industry
- Seafood processing income as share of total personal income

Note: most data are broken down by borough or census area, and often by year
Brief Overview

- Commercial groundfish catch increased from 2.1 million t to 2.2 million t in 2003

- Ex-vessel value for groundfish decreased from $630 million to $608 million
  - Groundfish accounted for 54% of total Alaska ex-vessel value
    - Shellfish fishery accounted for 16%
    - Salmon accounted for 15%
    - Halibut accounted for 14%
2003 Groundfish Catch Breakdown...

- **Pollock** catch of 1.54 million t (or 71%)
- **Pacific Cod** catch of 261K t (or 12%)
- **Flatfish** (yellowfin sole, rock sole, and arrowtooth flounder) catch of 201K (or 10%)
- **Sablefish, rockfish and Atka mackerel** make up the majority of the balance
Gear statistics...

- Around 90% of total catch is taken with trawl gear

- Most of the catch for any given species occurs using one particular type of gear (around 90%, on average, is taken with that gear type)
  - Exception is Pacific Cod
    - 37% by trawl
    - 46% by hook and line
    - 16% by pot
Catcher Vessels and Catcher-Processors...

- **Catcher vessels**
  - 47% of total groundfish catch
  - 54% of total ex-vessel value

- **Catcher-Processors**
  - 53% of total groundfish catch
  - 46% of ex-vessel value

Why?
  - Catcher vessels take larger proportion of higher-priced species such as sablefish ($2.37/lb)
  - Gear choice
    - Trawl gear accounted for 90% of total catch, 70% of ex-vessel value
    - Much of the trawl catch is of low-priced species such as pollock, ($0.11/lb)
Discards...

- Groundfish discard rates decreased slightly from 6.8% in 2002 to 6.7% in 2003
  - 15.6% in GOA
  - 5.8% in BSAI

- Discard rates higher for fixed gear than for trawl gear
  - 10% for fixed gear
    - 11.4% BSAI, 6% GOA
  - 6.3% for trawl gear
    - 5.3% BSAI, 19.2% GOA
Conclusion

- For more info see the Econ SAFE

- Email questions, corrections, or comments about this year’s Econ SAFE to terry.hiatt@noaa.gov

- We also welcome suggestions for next year…