

HJR

53



Alaska State Legislature

House

HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

FISH & GAME ISSUES

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HEARING NOTIFICATIONS

BILL	DATE INFORMED	LETTER/PHONE	INFORMED	HEARING DATE
HJR53	1/18/80	274-4563	North Pacific Fisheries Management Council	1/22/80
	1/18/80	3755	Pres. Clem Tillion - Chem. NPFMC	1/22/80
	1/23		Gregory Baker, Alaska Longline Fishermen Assoc.	1/24/80
	1/23			1/24/80

Recalled

POSTPONED

From:
Fishery Management
Plan for the Groundfish
Fishery in the Bering Sea /
Aleutian Island Area

11.0 OPTIMUM YIELD (OY)

There are four categories of species and species groups (Annex VI) that are likely to be taken by the groundfish fishery of this region, to each of which the optimum yield concept is applied somewhat differently:

by North
 Pacific
 Fishery
 Management
 Council
 Nov., 1979

1. Prohibited Species -- those species and species groups which must be immediately returned to the sea by vessels operating in the groundfish fishery. Records of catch of each species must be maintained.
2. Target Species -- species and species groups which are commercially important, targeted upon by the groundfish fishery, and for which a sufficient data base exists that allows each to be managed on the basis of its own biological, social, economic, and ecological merits. A specific OY applies to each species or species group. Records of catch of each species must be maintained.
3. Other Species -- species and species groups which currently are of only slight economic value and not generally targeted upon. This category, however, contains species with economic potential or are important ecosystem components, but sufficient data is lacking to manage each separately. Accordingly, a single OY, equal to 5 percent of the combined OY's for the "Target Species", applies to this category as a whole. Records of catch of this category as a whole must be maintained.
4. Non-specified Species -- species and species groups of no current or foreseeable economic value and which are taken by the groundfish fishery only as an accidental bycatch to target fisheries. Virtually no data exists which would allow population assessments, but occasional records from U.S. observers aboard

foreign vessels and from U.S. research vessels show no noticeable decline in abundance. The OY for this category is that amount which is taken incidentally while fishing for target species, whether retained or discarded. No record of catch is necessary. (Note: If observer or enforcement records show that any species in this category is being actively targeted upon or that the abundance of any species is becoming substantially reduced, that species will be transferred to either the Target Species or Other Species category and subject to an absolute OY.)

With the expectation over the near term of only a modest domestic involvement in this fishery (see Section 12.0 below), and having identified no social or economic reasons for reducing the yield of stocks in this fishery below ABC, Optimum Yield for all but the "Non-specified" species will be considered equal to ABC, as shown in Annex I.

It should be noted, especially by foreign participants in the fishery, that such economic factors as higher catch rates or greater average size than can be expected when production is at the level of ABC, or limited seasonal availability to this fishery by domestic fishing vessels could be introduced as OY considerations if they are considered necessary for U.S. fishery development, and can be shown to not have an unreasonable impact on the U.S. consumer.

13.0 ALLOCATIONS BETWEEN FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC FISHERMEN

13.1 Reserve

As mentioned in Section 12.2 and Annex II, U.S. participation in the fishery in the near future is expected to consist of a relatively modest catch for crab bait and limited pilot efforts for foodfish production.

In order to prevent OY's from being exceeded without preventing unexpected domestic fishery development; i.e. an unanticipated increase in U.S. catching capability and intent, 500 mt or 5 percent of the OY (whichever is the greater) of each species will be held in reserve for allocation late in the year on the basis of domestic need. Specific reserve amounts are shown in Annex III.

Unless specifically withheld by the NMFS Regional Director acting with the advice of the Council, up to 25 percent of the reserve of each species will be released to TALFF every two months, beginning with the end of the second month of the fishing year, with the intention that by the end of the eighth month of the fishing year, all of the reserve will either be made available to foreign fishermen or reserved for domestic use.

13.2 Total Allowable Level of Foreign Fishing (TALFF)

The initial TALFF for each species shall be determined by the equation $TALFF = OY - DAF - Reserve$. TALFF may increase during the year as reserves are apportioned between domestic and foreign fishermen, or if after reassessment during the year it is found that not all of it will be used by U.S. processors and harvesters, DAF may be released to TALFF. Initial TALFF's are shown in Annex III. The estimation of DAF is shown in Annex II.

ANNEX III -- Derivation of Total Allowable Level of Foreign Fishing

(TALFF) (Metric Tons)

Reference: Species group	Sub-area <u>1/</u>	Annex I ABC = OY	Section 13.1 Reserve	Annex II Initial DAH	Initial TALFF
Pollock	Bering Sea	1,000,000	50,000	19,550	930,450
Pollock	Aleutian	100,000	<u>3/</u>	--	100,000
Yellowfin sole		117,000	5,850	2,050	109,100
Turbots		90,000	4,500	1,075	84,425
Other flatfishes <u>2/</u>		61,000	3,050	1,300	56,650
Pacific cod		58,700	2,935	24,265	31,500
Pacific ocean perch	Bering Sea	3,250	162	1,380	1,708
Pacific ocean perch	Aleutian	7,500	375	1,380	5,745
Other rockfish		7,727	00	1,550	5,677
Sablefish	Bering Sea	3,500	350	700	2,450
Sablefish	Aleutian	1,500	150	700	650
Atka mackerel		24,800	1,240	100	23,460
Squid		10,000	500	50	9,450
Others		74,249	3,712	2,000	68,537
Total		1,559,226	73,324	56,100	1,429,802

*1/ BS Bering Sea (Statistical Areas I, II, III combined).

AL Aleutian Island Area (Statistical Area IV).

2/ Excluding Pacific halibut.

This OY calculated for the offshore pollock population in deep water is discussed in Annex I (p. A-13). No reserve is considered necessary at this time since there is little U.S. capability for a pelagic trawl fishery and resource abundance on the continental shelf is expected to keep any U.S. effort on that segment identified as "B.Sea."

Includes territorial waters.