

Alaska Groundfish Cooperative
Report to the North Pacific
Fishery Management Council
for the 2012 Fishery

01 March 2013

Introduction

On January 20th 2012, the Alaska Groundfish Cooperative (AGC) began fishing under regulations implementing Amendment 80. This report summarizes AGC operations during 2012.

AGC membership

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

Company	Vessel/Permit	LLP LOA
Arctic Sole Seafoods, Inc.	Ocean Cape	122
Iquique U.S., L.L.C.	Tremont	125
O'Hara Corporation	Harvester Enterprise	181
The Fishing Company of Alaska, Inc.	Alaska Juris	238
	Alaska Spirit	221
	Alaska Victory	227
	Alaska Warrior	215
	Alaska Ranger	203
	Alaska Voyager	228

Co-op Management

The AGC co-op manager is responsible for the 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.

2011 was the first year for the Alaska Groundfish Cooperative. During the 2012 fishing year we lost a lot of the season due to shipyard time.

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.

GOA Sideboards

Some AGC vessels participated in the Rockfish Pilot 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.

2012 AGC Catch

The following tables provide AGC catch information. Data has been rounded to the nearest whole number. **All co-op catch during 2012 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	17,770	17,237	40	
Mackerel 542	5,016	4,709		
Mackerel 543	759	150		
Flathead Sole	4,976	318		2,714
Pacific Cod	6,188	4,074		1,145
POP 541	2,347	2,304	39	
POP 542	2,091	2,043		
POP 543	3,883	3,844		
Rock Sole	19,000	14,213		3,834
Yellowfin Sole	60,313	16,792		10,583
Bairdi Z1 (#)	109,094	61,544	52,135	15,337
Bairdi Z2 (#)	194,629	117,582	123,347	37,580
Halibut Mortality (mt)	716	444	7	116
COBLZ Opilio (#)	1,093,362	209,105	576,802	144,974
Red King Crab (#)	13,809	10,785	4,124	2,049

BSAI Salmon Catch Amounts

Species	AGC Catch (#)
Chinook	6
Non-Chinook	388



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2012 Groundfish Retention by the Alaska Groundfish Cooperative

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. Production data were processed 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 2012, the Ak groundfish cooperative total catch of FMP species was 76,960 mt. The round-weight equivalent of products from this catch was 67,006 mt. The coop-wide retention percentage was 87.1%