

Annual Report  
of the  
Mothership Fleet Cooperative  
2024

Presented to the  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
April 1, 2025

## Introduction

In 2024 the mothership sector (as defined in Section 208 (c) and (d) of the American Fisheries Act) managed its Bering Sea pollock allocation under the provisions of a cooperative agreement. Nineteen of the catcher vessels qualified to participate in the mothership sector are members of the “Mothership Fleet Cooperative” (MFC) and are bound by the terms of that cooperative’s membership agreement. Only eleven of the nineteen vessels belonging to the MFC participated in Alaska groundfish fisheries in 2024. The mothership sector is assigned 10% of the BSAI directed pollock quota as per Section 206 (b) of the American Fisheries Act (AFA).

As in previous years, the MFC is a signatory to the 2024 Intercooperative Agreement, and the Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch Data Sharing Agreement. Chinook salmon is managed under the NMFS approved Mothership Salmon Savings Incentive Program (MSSIP).

## Reporting Requirements

This report is intended to fully disclose all information required and identified for inclusion in an annual report to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council pursuant to Section 210 (a)(1) A and B of the American Fisheries Act and 50 C.F.R. 679.61(f) (American Fisheries Act Management Measures).

## Mothership Fleet Cooperative Shares

Membership in the MFC consists of all 19 eligible catcher vessels. Each vessel has a cooperative share representing its percentage share of the directed pollock quota allocation by the AFA to the mothership sector. Vessel names, owners, and their cooperative shares are listed in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Mothership Fleet Cooperative Share Percentages**

Co-op Member	Vessel(s)	Cooperative Share
Alakanuk Beauty LLC	American Beauty	6.000%
Emmonak Leader LLC	Ocean Leader	6.459%
Nordic Fury LLC	Nordic Fury	6.177%
Fury Group, Inc.	Pacific Fury	5.889%
Vanguard Fisheries LLC	Vanguard	5.350%
GAS Western Dawn LLC	Western Dawn	4.150%
Great West Seafoods, L.P.	Margaret Lyn	5.643%
F/V Misty Dawn LLC	Misty Dawn	3.569%
CV Morning Star LLC	California Horizon	3.786%
CV Morning Star LLC	Papado II	2.953%
CV Morning Star LLC	Morning Star	3.601%
MarGun Enterprises, LLC	Mar-Gun	6.251%
Mark I, Inc.	Mark I	6.251%
Nunam Iqua Harvester LLC	Aleutian Challenger	4.926%
Oceanic Fisheries, LLC	Oceanic	7.038%
Kotlik Challenger LLC	Pacific Challenger	9.671%
Traveler Fisheries LLC	Traveler	4.272%
Vesteraalen L.L.C.	Vesteraalen	6.201%
Wa'atch, Inc.	Alyeska	1.813%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100%</b>

## Transfer of Shares Between Catcher Vessels

The Mothership Fleet Cooperative Membership Agreement allows members of the coop to transfer cooperative shares among themselves. Transfers of quota made within a fleet of catcher vessels delivering to a particular mothership (intra-fleet) must be reported to that mothership at the time of delivery. Both intra- and inter-fleet transfers occurred in 2024

## Catch Monitoring

The MFC has contracted with Sea State, Inc. to process the catch data provided by the NMFS observer program and to provide in-season management support. Sea State regularly provides catch reports to each mothership fleet. These reports include cumulative fleet-wide and vessel-level catch data as well as a tow-by-tow summary. Fleet managers are able to reconcile the tow-by-tow catch information provided by Sea State against their own catch records to identify possible data errors and insure accurate catch accounting throughout the fishing season.

## Catch and Bycatch of Groundfish and Prohibited Species

The harvest and bycatch of non-pollock and prohibited species (PSC) in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska is limited by sideboards. The Mothership Fleet Cooperative Membership Agreement authorized the cooperative board to allocate sideboard amounts available for directed harvest to each catcher vessel in the cooperative in amounts pro-rated to each boat's catch history.

The Mothership Fleet Cooperative Membership Agreement provides that PSC sideboard apportionments may be administered as aggregate caps within the mothership sector. Where necessary and appropriate, the cooperative board is authorized to allocate PSC apportionments to individual vessels. The board is further authorized to order a vessel to stop fishing if that vessel exceeds an assigned apportionment or rate, and to obtain an injunction restraining the activity of any vessel that fails to heed such an order. PSC was not assigned to individual vessels in 2024. Vessels were given guidelines to help reduce bycatch.

Vessels in the Mothership Fleet Cooperative did not participate in the Yellowfin Sole TLAS fishery. As per the Inter Cooperative Agreement, dual qualified vessels (inshore and Mothership) were managed under their inshore cooperative for all sideboarded fisheries other than the BSAI P. Cod fishery.

The 2024 BSAI Pacific Cod Fishery was managed as part of Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative (PCTC) Program and therefore is not part of the sideboard management program. Based on the new sideboard allocations as a result of Amendment 122, the PCTC program, the Mothership Coop share of Gulf of Alaska sideboards was reduced to zero. The Mothership Coop did not participate in any directed sideboarded fisheries or the Yellowfin Sole TLAS fishery.

All Pollock was delivered to motherships operating in federal waters of the U.S. EEZ adjacent to the State of Alaska.

## Penalties

The Mothership Fleet Cooperative Agreement includes provisions allowing penalties to be assessed against vessels that exceed their agreed harvest share of pollock and non-pollock species. In 2024 penalties were set at \$800 per metric ton for pollock harvested in excess of a vessel's allocation. The penalty for overages in the non-pollock fisheries includes \$1500 per metric ton of cod harvest in excess of an allocation, \$300 per metric ton for over-harvests of all other flatfish fisheries. Penalties were also established for exceeding assigned PSC caps as

follows: Upon the Mothership Fleet Cooperative (MFC) receiving notice from the Monitoring Agent that it does not have an adequate PSC Limit, Halibut Allowance or Crab Allowance allocation to support further fishing activity by its members' vessels, the MFC shall immediately cause its members' vessels to cease fishing in the relevant directed fisheries. The MFC hereby adopt as a uniform penalty for each landing following such notice that includes a PSC species harvested in excess of a Coop's PSC Limit or Allowance allocation an amount equal to \$1,000 per metric ton of all commercially harvestable species delivered in such landing. Coop catch data produced by the Monitoring Agent in conformance with NMFS catch accounting and bycatch estimation procedures will be presumed accurate for this calculation.

The Mothership Fleet Cooperative assessed no penalties in 2024.

## 2024 Directed Pollock Fishery Results

**Table 2. 2024 Mothership Fleet Co-op Pollock Allocations and Harvest - MT**

	Co-op %	Co-op MT	Actual MT	Actual % of TAC
Aleutian Challenger	4.926%	5517.12	-	-
Alyeska	1.813%	2030.56	-	-
American Beauty	6.000%	6720.00	17,197.26	15.355%
California Horizon	3.786%	4240.32	-	-
Mar-Gun	6.251%	7001.12	-	-
Margaret Lyn	5.643%	6320.16	-	-
Mark 1	6.251%	7001.12	13,636.71	12.176%
Misty Dawn	3.569%	3997.28	12,824.05	11.450%
Morning Star	3.601%	4033.12	-	-
Nordic Fury	6.177%	6918.24	2,615.84	2.336%
Ocean Leader	6.459%	7234.08	16,700.70	14.911%
Oceanic	7.038%	7882.56	7,487.58	6.685%
Pacific Challenger	9.671%	10831.52	2,218.75	1.981%
Pacific Fury	5.889%	6595.68	12,189.16	10.883%
Papado II	2.953%	3307.36	-	-
Traveler	4.272%	4784.64	9,857.78	8.802%
Vanguard	5.350%	5992.00	7,413.25	6.619%
Vesteraalen	6.201%	6945.12	9,624.84	8.594%
Western Dawn	4.150%	4648.00	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>112,000.00</b>	<b>111,765.93</b>	<b>99.791%</b>
		UNHARVESTED	234.07	0.209%

**Table 3. PSC Bycatch in 2024 Mothership Fleet Co-op Directed Pollock Fishery by Vessel**

	Halibut mortality (mt)	Herring (mt)	Red king crab	C bairdi (N)	C opilio (N)	Chinook A (N)	Chinook B (N)	Chum Salmon A (N)	Chum salmon B (N)
Aleutian Challenger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alyeska	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Beauty	0.417	20.506	-	-	-	31	36	1	366
California Horizon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mar-Gun	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Margaret Lyn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mark 1	0.141	10.034	-	-	-	46	9	2	695
Misty Dawn	0.154	5.273	-	7	-	57	6	1	454
Morning Star	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nordic Fury	0.043	8.903	-	-	-	16	2	0	586
Ocean Leader	0.284	44.312	-	-	-	27	39	1	311
Oceanic	0.155	19.875	-	-	-	17	13	0	215
Pacific Challenger	0.00	7.504	-	-	-	0	6	0	62
Pacific Fury	0.386	16.092	-	7	-	63	11	1	614
Papado II	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Traveler	0.114	8.355	-	-	-	27	8	0	639
Vanguard	0.020	11.532	-	-	-	13	33	0	199
Vesteraalen	0.046	1.064	-	6	-	57	11	3	288
Western Dawn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.760</b>	<b>153.452</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4,429</b>

**Table 4. Groundfish Bycatch in 2024 Mothership Fleet Co-op Directed Pollock Fishery by Vessel**

Catcher	P. Cod	Sablefish	Yellowfin Sole	Rock Sole	Flathead Sole	Alaska Plaice	Arrowtooth	POP	Squid	All Other
Aleutian Challenger										-
Alyeska										-
American Beauty	31.29	2.55	0.41	5.30	8.87	0.01	1.94	13.03	540.46	92.70
California Horizon										-
Mar-Gun										-
Margaret Lyn										-
Mark I	26.63	0.77	0.12	6.83	4.22	0.02	1.35	6.99	23.21	79.34
Misty Dawn	25.61	0.89	0.15	3.72	6.10	0.00	0.95	8.45	45.57	75.44
Morning Star										-
Nordic Fury	4.56	0.72	0.05	0.09	0.63	0.01	0.38	4.26	42.90	21.32
Ocean Leader	25.42	4.34	0.49	4.94	12.09		3.27	20.99	402.26	69.56
Oceanic	19.77	0.65	0.03	4.12	5.36		0.54	6.61	242.86	21.83
Pacific Challenger	0.35	1.31		0.12	2.66		0.32	2.48	170.81	5.39
Pacific Fury	19.99	0.73	0.18	3.30	6.96	0.01	0.84	8.91	103.43	72.12
Papado II										-
Traveler	14.94	1.69	0.03	0.13	2.12	0.01	1.12	8.33	16.41	53.93
Vanguard	19.23	0.01	0.22	1.74	3.53		1.16	6.40	8.29	41.37
Vesteraalen	19.13	0.30	0.10	3.76	4.07	0.01	0.59	4.87	13.21	68.70
Western Dawn										-
<b>TOTAL</b>	206.93	13.96	1.77	34.03	56.63	0.06	12.46	91.33	1,609.43	601.70

## Non-Pollock Groundfish Fisheries

In 2024 mothership catcher vessels did not participate in any sideboarded fisheries. There were no GOA groundfish landings by non-dual qualified MFC vessels.

The Mothership Fleet Cooperative is a signatory to the inter-cooperative agreements and was actively involved in the development of measures and protocols by which the catcher vessels ensure compliance with the groundfish and PSC sideboard provisions.

Some of the catcher vessels qualified to participate in the Mothership Fleet Cooperative also qualify to participate in an inshore cooperative. All “dual qualified” member vessels operated under their prospective inshore cooperatives or in Open Access designation for catch of their historical BSAI inshore pollock and sideboard shares. Open Access vessels entered into a voluntary cooperative agreement and participated in the inter co-op.

As mentioned previously, 2024 was the first year for the Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative program. All operations for directed Pacific Cod harvest were executed in that program and will be reported by cooperatives formed under that program.

## Salmon Bycatch Avoidance Reporting

The Mothership Fleet Cooperative is a signatory to the Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch Data Sharing Agreement and Mothership Salmon Savings Incentive Plan. In an effort to maximize the incentive to avoid salmon bycatch within the mothership fleet, the MFC continued use of an intra-fleet salmon bycatch reporting program for the 2024 “A” and “B” seasons. This program consists of a daily report from each mothership to the other two motherships and their fleet managers. This report, sent via e-mail, includes the amount of groundfish delivered during the previous day, the number of salmon, by species, in the delivered catch, the salmon bycatch rate for that day, and more specific information regarding any tows with a bycatch rate in excess of a pre-determined threshold. In addition to these daily reports, deliveries with high salmon bycatch were reported as an alarm. These reports are an efficient way to monitor “real-time” bycatch performance within the mothership fleet and an effective vehicle for “peer pressure”-motivated bycatch reduction.

## Salmon Avoidance Program

The number of salmon taken in 2024 is included in Tables 3. Amendment 110 superseded Amendment 84 such that chum salmon bycatch is managed under an Incentive Plan Agreement.

## Mothership Salmon Savings Incentive Plan

Under Amendment 91 and 110, the Mothership Fleet Cooperative manages its Chinook and Chum salmon bycatch through an Incentive Plan Agreement approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Mothership Salmon Savings Incentive Plan (MSSIP) consists of three key incentive measures: the ability to earn Salmon Savings Credits for use in later years, a Rolling Hotspot Closure (“RHC”) program that restricts access to fishing grounds where bycatch is unacceptably high, and a set of Best Management Practices that establish rules that participants agree upon as a condition of participation in the MSSIP.



As in previous years, in 2024, the Mothership Fleet Cooperative operated under the MSSIP. There is a separate report on results and catch under the Mothership Salmon Savings Incentive Program. No vessels were found to be in violation of any terms of the MSSIP.

## Summary

The Mothership Fleet Cooperative succeeded in harvesting its pollock allocations while staying within its groundfish and prohibited species sideboards. Thanks to fleet-wide use of salmon excluders and effective avoidance measures, the MFC maintained relatively low Chinook bycatch rates throughout the year and generated some Chinook Savings Credits as allowed under the MSSIP program rules. Through a coordinated industry effort, the MFC executed their share of the pollock fishery in a manner that resulted in full utilization and reduced bycatch.

## Report Author:

Sylvia Ettefagh  
Sylver Fishing Company  
PO Box 2281  
Wrangell, AK 99929  
907-874-2998  
sylverfishing@me.com