

2024

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE UNALASKA FLEET COOPERATIVE

PRESENTED TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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I. INTRODUCTION

The 1998 American Fisheries Act (AFA) allowed for the rationalization of the Bering Sea Pollock fishery by providing an avenue for the creation of cooperatives, and thus the Unalaska Fleet Cooperative (UFC). The cooperative structure serves to eliminate the ‘race for fish’ and promote efficiency, economic stability, and safety for participants. The Unalaska Fleet Cooperative was formed in December of 1999 with the objective of creating flexible fishing strategies to reduce bycatch and maximize the utilization of all species in a fishery.

In compliance with AFA regulations, the Unalaska Fleet Cooperative submits this report as a summary of harvest and performance for the 2024 fishing season.

Catch figures are compiled from the best available source, either actual fish ticket information or extrapolations from NMFS observer data, and are included in sections III (AFA Pollock) and IV (Sideboards) in both the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. Included under Section III are tables that list the distribution and catch of AFA Pollock and prohibited species catch (PSC) on a vessel-by-vessel basis as well as any associated contract fishing and transfer schedules. Section IV of this report lists sideboard allocations for the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. The included tables show directed fishery participation and associated PSC on a per-vessel basis as well as aggregate groundfish bycatch.

II. UNALASKA FLEET COOPERATIVE

A. Membership

In accordance with the American Fisheries Act section 2 (10)(b), management representing seven catcher vessels signed the Unalaska Fleet Cooperative Membership Agreement (Exhibit 1) (Attachment 1) in association with Alyeska Seafoods Inc. for the 2024 fishing year. In turn, vessels receive a specific allocation of pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands according to their historical catch in 1995, 1996, and 1997 as published in 50 CFR 679 Table 47C. Through improved fleet monitoring, pooling of resources, and use of the latest technology, co-op members strive to reduce bycatch and increase target species utilization, thereby allowing for safer and more efficient operations.

EXHIBIT 1. 2024 Unalaska Fleet Cooperative Membership with Length Overall, AFA Permit #, and Sideboard Status

MEMBER	VESSEL	LOA	AFA PERMIT #	SIDEBOARD STATUS
Alaska Rose, Alaska LLC**	Alaska Rose	124'	515	Non exempt
Bering Rose, Alaska LLC	Bering Rose	124'	516	Non exempt
Destination, Alaska LLC	Destination	180'	3988	Non exempt
Great Pacific, Alaska LLC	Great Pacific	124'	511	Non exempt
Sea Wolf, Alaska LLC	Sea Wolf	143'	1652	Non exempt
Dona Martita LLC*	Northern Defender	148'	208	Non exempt
Bering North LLC	Commodore	133'	2657	Non exempt

* The F/V Morning Star vessel name changed to the F/V Northern Defender in 2018. It will be referred to as the F/V Northern Defender for the remainder of this report.

** Alaska Rose was named as the replacement vessel for the F/V Messiah, approved by NMFS on October 3rd, 2022.

B. Co-op Management

The Co-op contracted a manager to assist in the implementation of fishing strategies which maximize resource utilization, bycatch reduction, and promote safety within the fishery. The manager relayed information between member vessels and Alyeska Seafoods Inc. regarding allocations, transfers, pollock catches, sideboard catches, and PSC. The manager distributed pollock allocations using vessel inshore percentages as published by NMFS and set seasonal and area caps to meet NMFS regulations for Stellar Sea Lions.

In an effort to reduce salmon bycatch, member vessels participated in both the Salmon Savings Incentive Plan Agreement (SSIP) and the Rolling Hotspot Closure System within the Intercooperative Agreement (ICA). The co-op manager facilitated compliance with the guidelines set forth in these programs by providing the fleet with the most up-to-date information made available from our own records and fleet-wide data from Sea State Inc. Please refer to section V of this report for further information on member vessel compliance within each of these programs.

As part of our goal for improved utilization, the co-op manager filed transfer agreements between members within the co-op and Amendment 69 contract fishing documents for harvest by members outside of our co-op. F/V American Eagle, F/V Patricia L, F/V Progress, and the F/V Storm Petrel contracted with UFC and delivered a total of 1472.97 MT of Pollock from the BSAI during 2024. The F/V Northern Defender was contracted to deliver outside of the cooperative, a total of 768.48MT, with the F/V Commodore contracted and delivering 2209.95MT in 2024. All Pollock landings during the 2024 fishing season were made within the state of Alaska.

III. AFA Pollock

A. Allocation of Bering Sea Pollock

The total 2024 TAC for Pollock was set at 1,300,000 MT, of which 19,000 MT was allocated to the Aleutian Islands. There was an 11,680 MT rollover from the Aleutian Islands to the Bering Sea in 2024. The Incidental Catch Allowance (ICA) was calculated after subtracting the CDQ DFA of 10% from the TAC. The remainder is then divided among the AFA inshore, offshore, and mothership fleets (Exhibit 2).

EXHIBIT 2. 2024 Allocation of Pollock TAC to Directed Pollock Fisheries and CDQ Directed Fishing Allowances (MT) in the Bering Sea

TAC	1,300,000
CDQ	130,000
INCIDENTAL CATCH ALLOWANCE (ICA)	50,000
* OFFSHORE – 40%	480,000
* MOTHERSHIP – 10%	112,000
* INSHORE – 50%	560,000

* Amounts calculated after deductions for CDQ and ICA.

TAC and directed fisheries allowances are as listed at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/03/10/2024-04877/fisheries-of-the-exclusive-economic-zone-off-alaska-bering-sea-and-aleutian-islands-final-2024-and#p-25>

B. Allocation of Bering Sea Pollock to the Inshore Cooperatives

Six cooperatives comprised the inshore sector in 2024, with vessels also participating in Open Access this year. The allocation to each cooperative is based on the sum of each of its member's individual allocations, which was based upon catch from the best two of three years 1995-1997.

EXHIBIT 3. Percent Distribution of Inshore Pollock Allocation between the six inshore AFA Pollock Cooperatives

COOPERATIVE	% of INSHORE ALLOCATION	2024 FINAL ALLOCATIONS (MT)
Akutan Catcher Vessel Association	33.788%	189,212
Northern Victor Cooperative	9.346%	52,336
Unalaska Fleet Cooperative	12.261%	68,663
Unisea Fleet Cooperative	23.122%	129,486
Westward Fleet Cooperative	19.380%	108,526
Open Access	2.103%	11,777
TOTAL	100.00%	560,000

Inshore cooperative allocations are listed at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/sustainable-fisheries/alaska-fisheries-management-reports#american-fisheries-act>

C. UFC Member Vessel Initial Pollock Allocations

Vessels in the cooperative received initial allocations based on their catch histories in the best two of three years in 1995-1997. UFC member vessels' initial allocation of AFA Pollock totaled 68,663 MT. Allocations are expressed as a percentage of the inshore AFA CV fleet, a percentage within the co-op, and in tonnage. The Alaska Rose was listed as the replacement vessel for the F/V Messiah on October 3rd, 2022. The Commodore joined the Unalaska Fleet Cooperative in 2024.

EXHIBIT 4. UFC Member Vessel Initial BSAI Pollock Allocations Expressed as Inshore Percentages, Co-op Percentages, and in MT for 2024

VESSEL	INSHORE %	COOP %	2024 MT
Alaska Rose	2.4008%	19.5801%	13444.5
Bering Rose	1.7238%	14.0588%	9653.3
Commodore	1.2595%	10.2721%	7053.2
Destination	2.1528%	17.5575%	12055.7
Great Pacific	1.2361%	10.0812%	6922.2
Northern Defender	1.9728%	16.0895%	11047.7
Sea Wolf	1.5156%	12.3607%	8487.4
TOTAL	12.2614%	100.00%	68,663

D.UFC Intra Cooperative Transfers, Contract Fishing, and Harvest of Directed Pollock

Transfer agreements were negotiated among members of the co-op to increase efficiency and maximize resource utilization. The co-op manager was responsible for filing these transfers with Intercooperative Manager, in addition to preparing documents outlining the transfer. The F/V Destination did not participate in the directed Pollock fishery during 2024 and transferred nearly all their allocation to other member vessels. The F/V Northern Defender harvested 764.48 MT of BSAI pollock for the Westward Fleet and Akutan Cooperatives. The F/V Commodore harvested 2209.95 MT of pollock for the Northern Victor Fleet Cooperative. The coop contracted the F/V American Eagle, F/V Patricia L, F/V Progress, and the F/V Storm Petrel to harvest 1472.97 MT of pollock in 2024 (Exhibit 5)(Exhibit 6). All landings were made within the state of Alaska.

EXHIBIT 5. 2024 UFC BSAI Pollock Contract Fishing Schedule

VESSEL	CONTRACTING COOPERATIVE	HOME COOPERATIVE	DELIVERY LOCATION	CONTRACT AMOUNT (MT)	HARVEST AMOUNT (MT)
American Eagle	Unalaska	Northern Victor	Northern Victor	1500	380.84
Commodore	Northern Victor	Unalaska	Alyeska/Northern Victor	3500	2209.95
Northern Defender	Akutan	Unalaska	Unisea	750	712.62
Northern Defender	Westward	Unalaska	Westward	1900	55.86
Patricia L	Unalaska	Northern Victor	Alyeska/Northern Victor	2,000	689.67
Progress	Unalaska	Northern Victor	Northern Victor	1,500	163.29
Storm Petrel	Unalaska	Northern Victor	Alyeska	2,000	239.16
Total Contract Fishing for UFC				7,000.00	1,472.97
Total Contract Fishing by UFC Vessels				6,150.00	2,978.43

EXHIBIT 6. 2024 UFC Member Vessel Directed Bering Sea Pollock Allocations, Intra Cooperative Transfers, Contract Fishing, Directed Harvest and Discards

VESSEL	Final 2024 MT	CO-OP TRANSFERS	CONTRACT FISHING	A SEASON HARVEST	B SEASON HARVEST	TOTAL DISCARDS	TOTAL HARVEST	REMAINING ALLOCATION
American Eagle (Am 69)		380.84	380.84				380.84	
Alaska Rose	13,584.69	(1,662.69)	-	4,649.34	7,250.51	22.15	11,921.99	0.0
Bering Rose	9,753.95	4,564.01	-	7,111.89	7,205.58	0.50	14,317.96	0.0
Commodore	7,126.75	504.71	-	2,941.04	4,690.42	-	7,631.47	0.0
Destination	12,181.40	(12,163.92)		-	-	-	-	17.48
Great Pacific	6,994.35	1,702.17	-	4,204.72	4,491.81	0.06	8,696.59	0.0
Northern Defender	11,162.89			5,009.06	6,152.92	0.80	11,162.77	0.0
Sea Wolf	8,575.87	5,582.75	-	6,794.98	7,362.96	0.68	14,158.62	0.0
Patricia L (Am 69)		689.67	689.67				689.67	
Progress (Am 69)		163.29	163.29				163.29	
Storm Petrel (Am 69)		239.16	239.16				239.16	
TOTAL*	69,380	(0)	1,472.97	30,711.03	37,154.19	24.18	69,362.37	17.48

*Quotas were managed in pounds to facilitate the reconciliation of numbers with fish ticket information. Differences are due to rounding errors in repeated conversion of weights from pounds to metric tons and back.

E. UFC AFA Directed Pollock Fishery Catch and Bycatch

Using the most up to date bycatch information from Sea State Inc., as well as historic migration patterns of both PSC and pollock, the co-op manager worked with member vessels and Alyeska Seafoods Inc. to develop a fishing plan that helped achieve their goals for the 2024 fishing season.

UFC directed Pollock catch for 2024 totaled 69,362 MT (Exhibit 6)(Exhibit 7). UFC Pollock deliveries represented 99.97% of their allocation. All deliveries were landed in the state of Alaska.

With the passage of Amendment 84 (the salmon bycatch ICA), salmon avoidance was made a priority by establishing additional reporting requirements and promoting vessel-level accountability. UFC members have participated in both the SSIP and Chum RHS agreements, which use fleet wide catch data to advise vessels of high salmon bycatch areas. In 2020 these agreements were combined into a singular salmon bycatch avoidance plan. As required by the SSIP, all members of the co-op use salmon excluders and follow protocols to promote salmon escapement. The revised SSIP does not include a 'Dirty 20' list and will no longer be included in this report. No members of our co-op were in violation of salmon closures and Exhibit 8 reflects UFC salmon bycatch in 2024. Further information regarding the effectiveness of these programs will be made available in the Inshore Salmon Savings Incentive Plan Agreement annual report.

EXHIBIT 7. 2024 UFC Directed Bering Sea Pollock Catch and Bycatch

VESSEL	Harvested Pollock (MT)	Other Groundfish (MT)	Herring (MT)	Halibut Mortality (MT)	Red King Crab #	Opilio #	Bairdi #	Chinook #	Other Salmon #
American Eagle (AM 69)	380.84	7.22	0.07		-			-	10
Alaska Rose	11,921.99	50.00	0.96	0.03	-	1	5	85	1,054
Bering Rose	14,317.96	50.32	77.51	0.07	-			71	1,032
Commodore	7,631.47	54.68			-	2	11	51	323
Destination		-	-	-	-			-	
Great Pacific	8,696.59	14.44	23.90	0.01	-	1	4	44	398
Northern Defender	11,162.77	45.60	1.69	0.08	1	1	2	38	78
Sea Wolf	14,158.62	66.05	9.57	0.11			1	70	436
Patricia L (Am 69)	689.67	12.99	0.83	0.01	-			17	8
Progress (Am 69)	163.29	-	-	-	-			-	
Storm Petrel (Am 69)	239.16	1.05	0.01	-	-			1	5
TOTAL*	69,362.37	302.34	114.47	0.32	1	5	23	377	3,344

*All catch totals are derived from fish tickets in UFC and include all catch landed as well as discarded at sea.

EXHIBIT 8. UFC 2024 Salmon Bycatch by Season in the Directed Bering Sea Pollock Fishery

	CHINOOK		CHUM	
	A Season	B Season	A Season	B Season
Vessel	#	#	#	#
American Eagle (Am 69)	-	-	-	10
Alaska Rose	38	47	2	1,049
Bering Rose	41	30	-	1,032
Commodore	28	23	-	323
Destination			-	-
Great Pacific	14	30	-	398
Northern Defender	31	7	-	78
Sea Wolf	38	32	1	434
Patricia L (Am 69)	-	17	-	8
Progress (Am 69)	-	-	-	-
Storm Petrel (Am 69)	-	1	-	5
TOTAL	190	187	3	3,337

IV. Sideboard Limits, Allocations, and Catch

In response to the laws of the AFA, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council established sideboard species caps for the GOA and BSAI, which restricted harvest by AFA catcher vessels to historic levels with a few exceptions. Vessels would be exempt from the BSAI Pacific Cod sideboard limit (BSAI Cod-exempt) if they met the following: less than 125' LOA, with more than 30 deliveries of BSAI P. cod, and less than 1,700 MT of BSAI Pollock landed during 1995-1997. In addition, vessels could be exempt from GOA sideboard limits (Gulf-exempt) if they met the following: less than 125' LOA, with more than 40 deliveries of GOA groundfish, and less than 1,700 MT of BSAI Pollock during 1995-1997. Sideboard caps are issued as an aggregate for all AFA catcher vessels and are further allocated to individual cooperatives within the Intercooperative Agreement (ICA). The AFA requires that all sideboard species harvested, whether target catch or bycatch, be accounted for and reported in final harvest specifications.

A. BSAI Sideboard Limits, Intercooperative Transfers, and Directed Catch

With the implementation of the Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative Program (PCTC) in 2024, BSAI Pacific Cod harvest during the A and B seasons will no longer be managed by sideboards. Directed fishing during that time is now managed with Pacific Cod quota and associated Prohibited Species Catch limits allocated to vessels and processors with qualifying historical participation. C season is now the only BSAI P. Cod sideboard fishery and no UFC vessels took part in the Pacific Cod C season in 2024.

EXHIBIT 9. 2024 UFC BSAI Sideboard Limits and Aggregate Catch

BSAI Sideboard Species	Landed (MT)*	Discard (MT)
BSAI Pacific Cod	152.18	-
BS Sablefish	1.45	-
AI Sablefish	-	-
Eastern BSAI Atka Mackerel	0.67	-
Central AI Atka Mackerel	-	-
Western AI Atka Mackerel	-	-
BSAI Rock Sole	15.40	-
BS Greenland Turbot	0.02	-
AI Greenland Turbot	-	-
BSAI Arrowtooth Flounder	9.00	-
BSAI Kamchatka flounder	-	-
BSAI Alaska Plaice	0.00	-
BSAI Other Flatfish	10.14	-
BSAI Flathead Sole	30.86	-
BS Pacific Ocean Perch	5.88	0.01
Eastern AI Pacific Ocean Perch	-	-
Central AI Pacific Ocean Perch	-	-
Western AI Pacific Ocean Perch	-	-
BSAI Northern Rockfish	1.83	-
BSAI Shortraker Rockfish	0.00	-
EBS/AI Rougheye Rockfish	0.01	-
CAI/WAI Rougheye Rockfish	-	-
BS Other Rockfish	0.50	-
AI Other Rockfish	-	-
BSAI Skates	15.82	-
BSAI Sculpins	0.26	-
BSAI Sharks	1.81	3.84
BSAI Octopuses	0.01	-
All Species Sideboard Total	245.85	3.85

* All catch values were incurred as bycatch in the AFA CV pollock fishery. Catch and discard amounts were calculated from Fish Ticket Data.

** As of 2020 AFA CV Sideboard limits are no longer posted due to the small amounts and no directed fishery. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/03/09/2024-04475/fisheries-of-the-exclusive-economic-zone-off-alaska-bering-sea-and-aleutian-islands-final-2024>

B. GOA Sideboard Limits, Intercooperative Transfers, and Directed Catch

Initial sideboard limits for the Unalaska Fleet Cooperative totaled 102 MT (Exhibit 10). In addition to Intercooperative sideboard transfers, allocations remaining at the end of each season in the Pollock and Pacific Cod fisheries are ‘rolled over’ into the subsequent season and thus accumulate throughout the year. Final sideboard allocations include the initial allocation, transfers, and any rollovers from the prior season. UFC member vessels did not participate in any Gulf of Alaska fisheries and no transfers occurred in 2024.

EXHIBIT 10. 2024 UFC GOA Directed Fisheries Sideboard Allocations, Transfers, Rollovers, and Directed Catch

FISHERY	AREA	SEASON	Initial UFC Sideboard Limit (MT)	Inter Co-op Sideboard Transfer (MT)	Final Sideboard Limit (MT)	UFC Co-op Catch (MT)**	Remainder (MT)
GOA POLLOCK	610	A	14.00		14.00		14.00
GOA POLLOCK	610	B	87.00		87.00		87.00
GOA POLLOCK	620	A			-		-
GOA POLLOCK	620	B			-		-
GOA POLLOCK	630	A			-		-
GOA POLLOCK	630	B			-		-
GOA POLLOCK	640	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA POLLOCK	650	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA P. COD	WESTERN	A	1.00		1.00		1.00
GOA P. COD	WESTERN	B			-		-
GOA P. COD	CENTRAL	A			-		-
GOA P. COD	CENTRAL	B			-		-
GOA P. COD	EASTERN	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA SHALLOW WATER FLATFISH	WESTERN	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA SHALLOW WATER FLATFISH	CENTRAL	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA SHALLOW WATER FLATFISH	EASTERN	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA DEEP WATER FLATFISH	WESTERN	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA DEEP WATER FLATFISH	CENTRAL	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA DEEP WATER FLATFISH	EASTERN	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA REX SOLE	WESTERN	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA REX SOLE	CENTRAL	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA REX SOLE	EASTERN	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA ARROWTOOTH FLOUNDER	WESTERN	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA ARROWTOOTH FLOUNDER	CENTRAL	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA ARROWTOOTH FLOUNDER	EASTERN	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA FLATHEAD SOLE	WESTERN	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA FLATHEAD SOLE	CENTRAL	ANNUAL			-		-
GOA FLATHEAD SOLE	EASTERN	ANNUAL		-	-		-
Total Directed Fishery Sideboard			102.00	-	102.00	-	102.00

V. UFC Monitoring and Enforcement

All UFC activities in the Bering Sea directed Pollock fishery were successfully monitored for 2024 and no enforcement actions were necessary for this year.