



Fish News

Dec. 18, 2009

NPFMC Takes Final Action on P. Cod Sector Split Motion

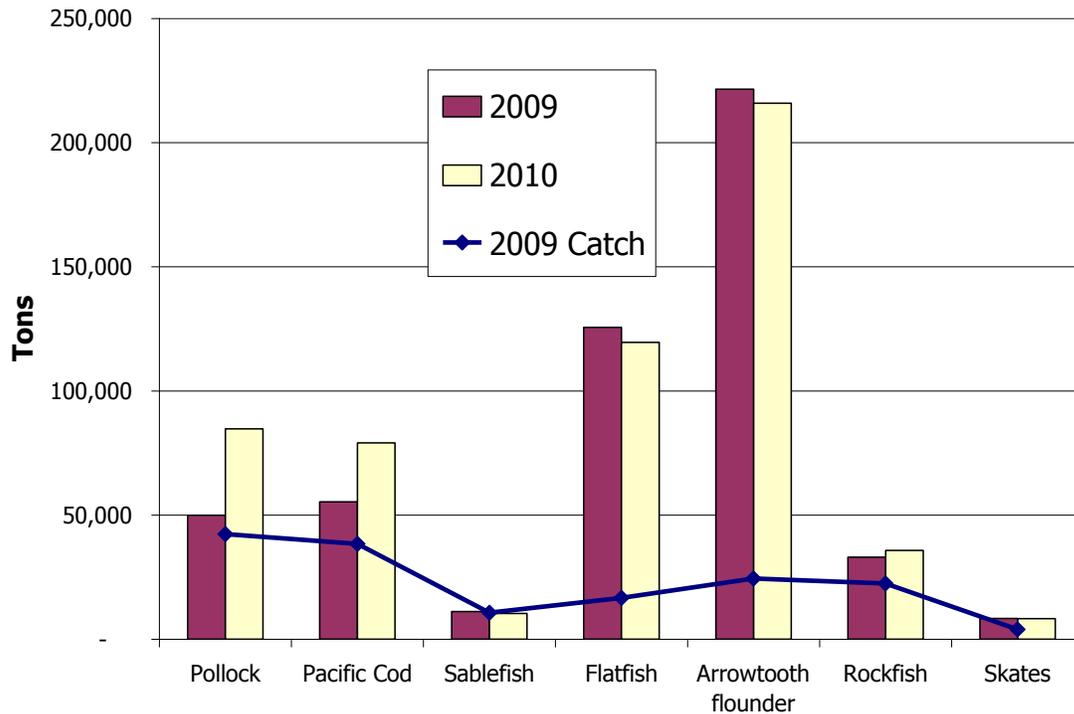
By Sam Cotten, AEB Fisheries Consultant and NPFMC Member

This week, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council took final action on the allocation of Pacific cod to the various fishing sectors. The allocations were:

Sectors	Allocations	A Season	B Season
Hook and line catcher processor	19.8%	55.3%	44.7%
Hook and line catcher vessel	1.4%	47.3%	52.7%
Pot vessel (combined catcher vessel and catcher processor)	38.0%	52%	48%
Trawl catcher vessel	38.4%	72.3%	27.7%
Trawl catcher processor	2.4%	38.2%	61.8%
Jig catcher vessel	1.5%		

The sector allocations were apportioned to the “A” season and “B” season based on the history of their harvest in each season. The trawl sector was allocated an additional 3% in the “A” season and had 3% deducted from the “B” season. The pot sector had 3% deducted from the “A” season and 3% added to the “B” season.

Gulf of Alaska Catch and Allowable Biological Catch Levels



Testimony from the Borough focused on allocating fish to sectors that delivered to local communities, as opposed to catcher processors. While the catcher processors retained close to their lowest historical numbers, some felt they should have been given less in light of no contribution to the local economies, no local participation on the CPs, and the highest halibut bycatch rates.

The council also discussed chum bycatch in the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BSAI) pollock trawl fishery. The reason the issue was raised is because of concern over the number of chums caught by the pollock trawlers in the Bering Sea. The discussion also focused on Area M salmon fishermen because they caught more chums than the pollock trawlers. This indicates that there could be an effort in February 2010 at the Board of Fisheries to restrict fishing in order to reduce the chum catch.

AEB Assembly Drafts Project Initiatives During Recent Retreat

The AEB Mayor, Assembly and staff met in Anchorage for a three-day retreat Dec. 7 - 9, 2009. The first day was dedicated to a joint strategic planning session between the AEB and the AEB School Board, however, due to weather conditions, several board members were unable to travel from the region. At this point, that meeting has been postponed until Feb. 11th (tentatively) in Sand Point.



AEB Resource Director Beth Stewart and Borough Fisheries Consultant Sam Cotten led the fisheries discussion during the recent AEB retreat.

Later that evening (Dec. 7, 2009), AEB Resource Director



The AEB Mayor, Assembly, staff members and residents participated in the fisheries discussion during the first evening of the Borough retreat.

Beth Stewart and Borough Fisheries Consultant Sam Cotten led the fisheries discussion. Beth and Sam reminded fishermen and Assembly Members about the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, scheduled for Feb. 2 - 6, 2009, at the Egan Center in Anchorage. At that meeting, the board will take up numerous proposals affecting Area M fishermen. The fisheries discussion also

focused on one of the Borough goals for the next several years, which includes fisheries development. Beth said that could mean mariculture (oysters, clams, etc.). Other ideas were to possibly explore markets for flatfish and rockfish. Another suggestion was to work with the school district and have a portion of the curriculum focused on fisheries. That would include teaching young people how to participate in the council process (testifying in front of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council on fisheries issues).



One of the Borough goals for the next several years is fisheries development, which could include mariculture.

The following day, AEB Mayor Stanley Mack, Assembly Members and staff listened to several presentations, including a report from Aleutia and the Borough's oil and gas consultant. Other presentations focused on a report on the socioeconomics of the North Aleutian Basin Planning Area, Akutan's

geothermal project and King Cove's hydro-electric system. (**See link to PowerPoint Presentations below**)

On the last day of the retreat, Facilitator Bill Dann of Professional Growth Systems assisted the Mayor, Assembly and staff in drafting strategic initiatives for projects to work on in 2010. Those projects include fisheries development (including mariculture), developing a Port Authority, alternative energy development (geothermal, hydro-electric, etc), implementing innovations in education and health programs and improving communications between the AEB offices.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentations \(Aleutia, Akutan Geothermal Project, Socioeconomic Environment for the NAB Lease Sale Prelim. EIS](#)

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