Federal Fisheries in the North Aleutian Basin

Jane DiCosimo & Diana Evans
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
March 18, 2008
Plan for talk

- Background
  - North Pacific Fishery Management Council
  - Federal fisheries management process

- Fishery distribution within the proposed sale area of the North Aleutian Basin
  - Groundfish
  - Pacific Halibut
  - Crab
  - Scallop
Fishery Management Process

Council recommends management measures for each fishery (fishery management plan and regulatory amendments)

Secretary of Commerce (through NMFS) approves, partially approves, or disapproves Council recommendation

NMFS implements management measures through regulation

NMFS assesses populations, monitors Fisheries, and enforces regulations
What is the Council?

Responsibilities under Congressional Statute (Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act):

1. Prepare a Fishery Management Plan for each fishery under its authority
2. Submit amendments to FMPs and regulations, as necessary
3. Conduct hearings to receive public comment on proposed changes to FMPs and regulations
4. Review stock assessments and recommend quotas
Council membership

- **11 voting members**
  - (3) WA, OR, AK State Fishery Dept heads
  - (1) NMFS Regional Administrator
  - (5) AK ‘at large’ seats nominated by governor
  - (2) WA ‘at large’ seats nominated by governor

- **4 non-voting members**
  - Department of State
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - US Coast Guard
  - Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Fishery Management Plans (FMPs)

- BSAI Groundfish
- GOA Groundfish
- BSAI King and Tanner Crab
- Alaska-wide Scallop
- Alaska-wide Salmon
- Pacific Halibut – regulations only
# Setting Annual Harvest Limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Optimum Yield and Overfishing Levels</th>
<th>Harvest levels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Groundfish</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Council “Quotas”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crab</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>State of Alaska “Guideline Harvest Levels”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scallop</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>State of Alaska “GHLs”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific Halibut</td>
<td>International Pacific Halibut Commission</td>
<td>International Pacific Halibut Commission “Catch Limits”</td>
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North Aleutian Basin area
Groundfish
Groundfish regulatory areas - Overlap with North Aleutian Basin
### Target fisheries occurring in area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trawl</th>
<th>Longline</th>
<th>Pot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walleye Pollock</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific cod</td>
<td>Pacific cod</td>
<td>Pacific cod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flatfish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Yellowfin sole</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Rock sole</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Flathead sole</td>
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Pollock Trawl Fishery
Pacific Cod + Flatfish Trawl Fisheries
Pacific Cod Longline Fishery
Pacific Cod Pot Fishery
Pacific Halibut Fixed Gear Fishery

North Aleutian Basin area is contained within halibut closed area

from IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations, 1997
Commercial Shellfish Fisheries

Source: BSAI King and Tanner Crab FMP
Bristol Bay Red King Crab Fishery

- Blue box represents vast majority of 2005 landings
- By week, anywhere from 1-51 vessels participating
- 2.5 million crabs harvested, 16.5 million lb
- Crab rationalization has changed fishery patterns
Weathervane Scallop Fishery

- NMFS trawl survey stations
- ADF&G trawl survey stations
- Stations with scallops

Closed to scallop fishing

Scallop fishing effort

2% of total Alaska scallop catch
Groundfish Harvest - 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Harvested (Mlb) in 509, 512, 516</th>
<th>Value of Harvest (using 2006 ex-vessel prices)</th>
<th>% of Total BSAI Harvest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pollock trawl</td>
<td>403 Mlb</td>
<td>$52M</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific cod trawl</td>
<td>46 Mlb</td>
<td>$16M</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific cod longline</td>
<td>18 Mlb</td>
<td>$8M</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific cod pot</td>
<td>14 Mlb</td>
<td>$5M</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellowfin sole trawl</td>
<td>31 Mlb</td>
<td>$6M</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flathead sole trawl</td>
<td>7 Mlb</td>
<td>$1M</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock sole trawl</td>
<td>40 Mlb</td>
<td>$8M</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Target</strong></td>
<td><strong>558 Mlb</strong></td>
<td><strong>$97M</strong></td>
<td><strong>15%</strong></td>
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