Information submitted
to the Scientific and Technical Committee

by the United States Party

for the 9th Annual Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea

Kushiro (Japan)
7-10 September 2004

Alaska Fisheries Science Center
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Suggested Schedule for the Ninth Annual Conference, Kushiro, Japan
September 7-10, 2005

Tuesday, September 7	10:30am-Noon	Opening of the Annual Conference
	1:30pm-5:00pm	Scientific and Technical Committee
	6:00pm–8:00pm	Reception Hosted by Japan
Wednesday, September 8	9:30am-Noon	Scientific and Technical Committee
	1:30pm-5:00pm	Scientific and Technical Committee
Thursday, September 9	9:30-Noon	Annual Conference Session
	1:30pm-5:00pm	Annual Conference Session
Friday, September 10	9:30-noon	Annual Conference Session

HOTEL BOOKING PROCEDURES:

HOTEL: KUSHIRO PRINCE HOTEL

7-1 Saiwai-cho Kushiro City Hokkaido 085-8581 Japan
Hotel Telephone:+81-154-31-1111
Hotel Facsimile: +81-154-31-1202
Rate(Single) : 8,500 Yen (tax included) per night (Single)
Home page(only japanese): http://www.princehotels.co.jp/kushiro/

TOYOKO-INN HOTEL

7-2-1 Hokudaidori Kushiro City Hokkaido 085-8581 Japan
Hotel Telephone:+81-154-23-1045
Hotel Facsimile: +81-154-23-1046
Rate(Single) :4,980 Yen (tax included) per night
Home page: http://www.toyoko-inn.com/e_hotel/00084/index.html

RESERVATIONS AND REGISTRATION:

Complete the Registration Form and fax or e-mail to Fisheries Agency of Japan (Tadaaki KAKINUMA). Reservations must be made prior to August 20, 2004
Fax:+81-3-3502-0571; e-mail:tadaaki_kakinuma@nm.maff.go.jp

TO GET FROM THE KUSHIRO AIRPORT TO THE HOTEL:

Taxi :30min (6,000 Yen)
Limousine Bus: 50min(910Yen)
PrinceHotel: get off the bus-stop in front of Kushiro City Office
Toyoko-inn: get off the bus-stop in front of Jyuji

A free shuttle bus from Kushiro airport to hotel for the parties is available for 14:00 hours and 18:00 hours.

TO GET FROM THE HOTEL TO THE CONFERENCE VENUE (KUSHIRO TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CENTER):

Kushiro Prince Hotel : 5min walk (300M)
Toyoko-inn Hotel: 10min walk(600M)

Section 2

Table United States Pollock Catches in metric tons, 1993-2004

Year	E. Bering Sea	Aleutians	Bogoslof	Gulf of Alaska
1993	1,198,790	54,074	885	108,066
1994	1,197,224	53,224	556	110,890
1995	1,169,614	60,184	264	73,248
1996	1,102,579	26,597	389	37,106
1997	1,036,789	24,721	163	89,893
1998	1,058,288	22,053	8	123,805
1999	889,561	965	1	93,422
2000	1,019,067	1,174	29	23,643
2001	1,247,305	788	61	70,485
2002	1,331,416	1,134	22	50,712
2003	1,340,949	1,653	24	48,613
Through Aug 7, 2004	961,527	928	0	31,638
Catch quota for 2004	1,342,851	1,000	50	63,460

Note: (Data from http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/catchstats.htm)

Table 2. Historical catch of pollock from the Bering Sea, in metric tons, 1977-2003

Year	Western Bering Sea	Donut Hole	Navarin Region	Bogoslof	Aleutian Region	Eastern Bering Sea	Total Bering Sea
1977	265000						1,250,995
1978	417000						
1979	546,000						
1980	825,000						
1981	1,133,000						
1982	976,000						
1983	1,006,000						
1984	755,000	181,200	503,000				
1985	662,000	363,400	488,000				
1986	867,000	1,039,800	570,000				
1995	506,300	Trace					
1996	787,000	Trace					
1997	765,000	Trace					
1998	744,000	Trace					
1999	685,000	Trace					
2000	522,000	Trace					
2001	551,000	Trace					
2002	378,000	Trace	370,000				
2003*	265,000	Trace	?	24	1,653	1,340,949	1,607,626
2004**	?	?	?	0	928	966,527	967,455

* Russian data through Aug 31, 2003

** U.S. Data through 7 August 2004. EBS pollock quota = 1,342,851 mt

Sources of Data

U.S. Data, 1979-1992 from Pollock stock assessment document at 7th Annual Conference

1993-2004 data from web site: www.fakr.noaa.gov

Navarin Data, 1994-2001 (from Russian pollock stock assessment document presented by the Russian Party at the 6th annual conference in Poland)

Navarin Data, 1984-1993 (from The Aleutian Basin Pollock Stock in 2001 written by TINRO and presented at 6th annual conference)

Western Bering Sea data from Balykin (1996)

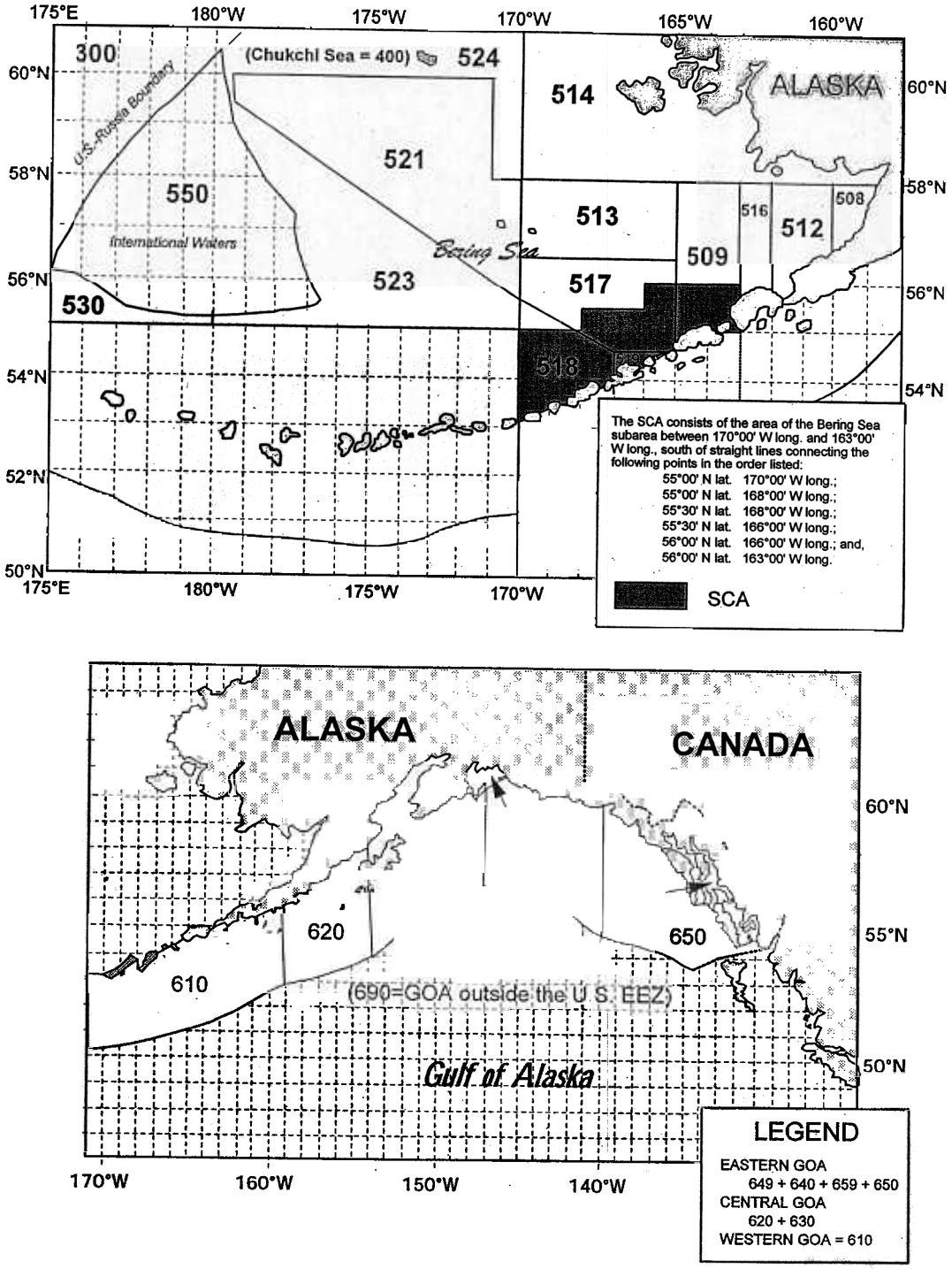


Figure. Upper Panel – Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands statistical and reporting areas with Stellar sea lion conservation area (SCA). Lower Panel – Gulf of Alaska statistical and reporting areas.

TABLE 1.—2004 OVERFISHING LEVEL (OFL), ACCEPTABLE BIOLOGICAL CATCH (ABC), TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC), INITIAL TAC (ITAC), AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA (CDQ) RESERVE ALLOCATION OF GROUNDFISH IN THE BSAI [1]

[Amounts are in metric tons]

	Area	OFL	ABC	TAC	ITAC [2]	
Pollock [4]	Bering Sea (BS)	2,740,000	2,560,000	1,492,000		149,200
	Aleutian Islands (AI)	52,600	39,400	1,000		.....
	Bogoslof District	39,600	2,570	50		.....
Pacific cod	BSAI	350,000	223,000	215,500		16,163
Sablefish [5]	BS	4,020	3,000	2,900		399
	AI	4,620	3,450	3,100		523
Atka mackerel	Total	78,500	66,700	63,000		4,725
	Western AI	.....	24,360	20,660		1,550
	Central AI	.....	31,100	31,100		2,333
	Eastern AI/BS	.....	11,240	11,240		843
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	135,000	114,000	86,075		6,456
Rock sole	BSAI	166,000	139,000	41,000		3,075
Greenland turbot	Total	19,300	4,740	3,500		263
	BS	.....	3,162	2,700		203
	AI	.....	1,578	800		60
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	142,000	115,000	12,000		900
Flathead sole	BSAI	75,200	61,900	19,000		1,425
Other flatfish [6]	BSAI	18,100	13,500	3,000		225
Alaska plaice	BSAI	258,000	203,000	10,000		750
Pacific ocean perch	BSAI	15,800	13,300	12,580		944
	BS	.....	2,128	1,408		106
	AI Total	.....	11,172	11,172		838
	Western AI	.....	5,187	5,187		389
	Central AI	.....	2,926	2,926		219
	Eastern AI	.....	3,059	3,059		229
Northern rockfish	BSAI	8,140	6,880	5,000		375
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	701	526	526		39
Rougheye rockfish	BSAI	259	195	195		15
Other rockfish [7]	BS	1,280	960	460		35
	AI	846	634	634		48
Squid	BSAI	2,620	1,970	1,275		96
Other species [8]	BSAI	81,150	46,810	27,205		2,040
Total		4,193,736	3,620,535	2,000,000	1,774,570	

[1] These amounts apply to the entire BSAI management area unless otherwise specified. With the exception of pollock, and for the purpose of these specifications, the Bering Sea subarea includes the Bogoslof District.

[2] Except for pollock and the portion of the sablefish TAC allocated to hook-and-line and pot gear, 15 percent of each TAC is put into a reserve. The ITAC for each species is the remainder of the TAC after the subtraction of these reserves.

[3] Except for pollock, squid, and the hook-and-line or pot gear allocation of sablefish, one half of the amount of the TACs placed in reserve, or 7.5 percent of the TACs, is designated as a CDQ reserve for use by CDQ participants (*see* §§ 679.20(b)(1)(iii) and 679.31).

[4] Under § 679.20(a)(5)(i)(A)(*1*), the annual Bering Sea pollock TAC, after subtraction for the CDQ reserve—10 percent and the ICA—3.0 percent, is further allocated by sector as directed fishing allowances as follows: inshore—50 percent; catcher/processor—40 percent; and motherships—10 percent. The entire Aleutian Islands and Bogoslof District pollock ITAC is allocated as an incidental catch allowance.

[5] The ITAC for sablefish reflected in Table 1 is for trawl gear only. Regulations at § 679.20(b)(1) do not provide for the establishment of an ITAC for the hook-and-line and pot gear allocation for sablefish. Twenty percent of the sablefish TAC allocated to hook-and-line gear or pot gear and 7.5 percent of the sablefish TAC allocated to trawl gear is reserved for use by CDQ participants (*see* § 679.20(b)(1)(iii)).

[6] "Other flatfish" includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), flathead sole, Greenland turbot, rock sole, yellowfin sole, arrowtooth flounder and Alaska plaice.

[7] "Other rockfish" includes all *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus* species except for Pacific ocean perch, northern, shortraker, and rougheye rockfish.

[8] "Other species" includes sculpins, sharks, skates and octopus. Forage fish, as defined at § 679.2, are not included in the "other species" category.

Reserves and the Incidental Catch Allowance (ICA) for Pollock

Regulations at § 679.20(b)(1)(i) require that 15 percent of the TAC for each target species or species group, except for pollock and the hook-and-line and pot gear allocation of sablefish, be placed in a non-specified reserve. Regulations at § 679.20(b)(1)(iii) require that one-half of each TAC amount placed in the non-specified reserve (7.5 percent), with the exception of squid, be allocated to the groundfish CDQ reserve and that 20 percent of the hook-and-line and pot gear allocation of sablefish be allocated to the fixed gear sablefish CDQ reserve. Regulations at § 679.20(a)(5)(i)(A) also require that 10 percent of the Bering Sea subarea pollock TAC be allocated to the pollock CDQ reserve. The entire Aleutian Islands subarea and Bogoslof District pollock TAC is allocated as an ICA (see § 679.20(a)(5)(i)(A)(*1*)). With the exception of the hook-and-line and pot gear sablefish CDQ reserve, the regulations do not further apportion the CDQ reserves by gear. Regulations at § 679.21(e)(1)(i) also require that 7.5 percent of each PSC limit, with the exception of herring, be withheld as a PSQ reserve for the CDQ fisheries. Regulations governing the management of the CDQ and PSQ reserves are set forth at §§ 679.30 and 679.31.

Under regulations at § 679.20(a)(5)(i)(A)(*1*), NMFS allocates a pollock ICA of 3.0 percent of the Bering Sea subarea pollock TAC after

TABLE 1.—FINAL 2004 ABCS, TACS, AND OVERFISHING LEVELS OF GROUNDFISH FOR THE WESTERN/CENTRAL/WEST YAKUTAT (W/C/WYK), WESTERN (W), CENTRAL (C), EASTERN (E) REGULATORY AREAS, AND IN THE WEST YAKUTAT (WYK), SOUTHEAST OUTSIDE (SEO), AND GULFWIDE (GW) DISTRICTS OF THE GULF OF ALASKA—Continued

[Values are in metric tons]

	Area [1]	ABC	TAC	
		26,490	26,490	
		14,040	14,040	
		1,280	1,280	
		64,740	64,740	91,060
		6,520	6,520	8,690
		71,260	71,260	
Pacific cod [3]		22,610	16,957	
	C	35,800	27,116	
		4,400	3,960	
Total		62,810	48,033	102,000
Flatfish [4] (deep-water)		310	310	
		2,970	2,970	
		1,880	1,880	
		910	910	
		6,070	6,070	8,010
Rex sole		1,680	1,680	
		7,340	7,340	
		1,340	1,340	
		2,290	2,290	
Total		12,650	12,650	16,480
Flathead sole		13,410	2,000	
	C	34,430	5,000	
		3,430	3,430	
		450	450	
Total		51,270	10,880	64,750
Flatfish [5] (shallow-water)		21,580	4,500	
		27,250	13,000	
		2,030	2,030	
		1,210	1,210	.....
Total .		52,070	20,740	63,840
Arrowtooth flounder		23,590	8,000	.....
		151,840	25,000	.....
		10,590	2,500	.....
		8,910	2,500	.....
		194,930	38,000	228,130
Sablefish [6]		2,930	2,930	.....
		7,300	7,300	.....
		2,550	2,550	
		3,770	3,770	
Subtotal		6,320	6,320	
Total		16,550	16,550	22,160
Pacific ocean perch [7]		2,520	2,520	2,990
		8,390	8,390	9,960
		830	830	.....
		1,600	1,600	
Subtotal		.....	.....	2,890
Total		13,340	13,340	15,840
Shortraker/rougheye [8]		254	254	.....
		656	656	.....
		408	408	
Total		1,318	1,318	2,510
Other rockfish [9 10]		40	40	.....
		300	300	.....
		130	130	.....
		3,430	200	.....
Total		3,900	670	5,150

TABLE 1.—FINAL 2004 ABCs, TACs, AND OVERFISHING LEVELS OF GROUNDFISH FOR THE WESTERN/CENTRAL/WEST YAKUTAT (W/C/WYK), WESTERN (W), CENTRAL (C), EASTERN (E) REGULATORY AREAS, AND IN THE WEST YAKUTAT (WYK), SOUTHEAST OUTSIDE (SEO), AND GULFWIDE (GW) DISTRICTS OF THE GULF OF ALASKA—Continued

[Values are in metric tons]

	Area [1]	ABC	TAC	
Northern Rockfish [10 12 15]	W	770	770	
	C	4,100	4,100	
	E	N/A	N/A	
Total		4,870	4,870	5,790
Pelagic shelf rockfish [13]	W	370	370	
	C	3,010	3,010	
	WYK	210	210	
	SEO	880	880	
Total		4,470	4,470	5,570
Thornyhead rockfish	W	410	410	
	C	1,010	1,010	
	E	520	520	
Total		1,940	1,940	2,590
Demersal shelf rockfish [11]	SEO	450	450	690
Atka mackerel	GW	600	600	6,200
Other species [14]	GW	N/A	12,592	N/A
Total [16]		498,948	264,433	649,460

[1] Regulatory areas and districts are defined at § 679.2.

[2] Pollock is apportioned in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas among three statistical areas. During the A season, the apportionment is based upon an adjusted estimate of the relative distribution of pollock biomass at 23.62 percent, 56.9 percent, and 19.48 percent in Statistical Areas 610, 620, and 630, respectively. During the B season, the apportionment is based on the relative distribution of pollock biomass at 23.62 percent, 64.47 percent, and 8.91 percent in Statistical Areas 610, 620, and 630, respectively. During the C and D seasons, pollock is apportioned based on the relative distribution of pollock biomass at 48.64 percent, 21.3 percent, and 30.6 percent in Statistical Areas 610, 620, and 630, respectively. These seasonal apportionments are shown in Table 3. In the West Yakutat and Southeast Outside Districts of the Eastern Regulatory Area, pollock is not divided into seasonal allowances.

[3] The annual Pacific cod TAC is apportioned 60 percent to the A season and 40 percent to the B season in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas of the GOA. Pacific cod is allocated 90 percent for processing by the inshore component and 10 percent for processing by the offshore component. Seasonal apportionments and component allocations of TAC are shown in Table 4.

[4] "Deep water flatfish" means Dover sole, Greenland turbot, and deepsea sole.

[5] "Shallow water flatfish" means flatfish not including "deep water flatfish", flathead sole, rex sole, or arrowtooth flounder.

[6] Sablefish is allocated to trawl and hook-and-line gears (Table 2).

[7] "Pacific ocean perch" means *Sebastes alutus*.

[8] "Shortraker/rougheye rockfish" means *Sebastes borealis* (shortraker) and *S. aleutianus* (rougheye).

[9] "Other rockfish" in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas and in the West Yakutat District means slope rockfish and demersal shelf rockfish. The category "other rockfish" in the Southeast Outside District means slope rockfish.

[10] "Slope rockfish" means *Sebastes aurora* (aurora), *S. melanostomus* (blackgill), *S. paucispinis* (bocaccio), *S. goodei* (chilipepper), *S. crameri* (darkblotch), *S. elongatus* (greenstriped), *S. variegatus* (harlequin), *S. wilsoni* (pygmy), *S. babcocki* (redbanded), *S. proriger* (redstripe), *S. zacentrus* (sharpchin), *S. jordani* (shortbelly), *S. brevispinis* (silvergrey), *S. diploproa* (splitnose), *S. saxicola* (stripetail), *S. miniatus* (vermilion), and *S. reedi* (yellowmouth). In the Eastern GOA only, "slope rockfish" also includes northern rockfish, *S. polyspinous*.

[11] "Demersal shelf rockfish" means *Sebastes pinniger* (canary), *S. nebulosus* (china), *S. caurinus* (copper), *S. maliger* (quillback), *S. helvomaculatus* (rosethorn), *S. nigrocinctus* (tiger), and *S. ruberrimus* (yelloweye).

[12] "Northern rockfish" means *Sebastes polyspinis*.

[13] "Pelagic shelf rockfish" means *Sebastes ciliatus* (dusky), *S. entomelas* (widow), and *S. flavidus* (yellowtail).

[14] "Other species" means sculpins, sharks, skates, squid, and octopus. The TAC for "other species" equals 5 percent of the TACs of assessed target species.

[15] N/A means not applicable.

[16] The total ABC and OFL is the sum of the ABCs and OFLs for assessed target species.

Apportionment of Reserves

Regulations at § 679.20(b)(2) implementing the FMP require 20 percent of each TAC for pollock, Pacific cod, flatfish, and the "other species" category be set aside in reserves for possible apportionment at a later date. In 2003, NMFS reapportioned all of the reserves in the final harvest specifications. NMFS proposed reapportionment of all reserves for 2004 in the proposed GOA groundfish specifications published in the **Federal Register** on December 5, 2003 (68 FR 68002). NMFS received no public comments on the proposed reapportionments. For the final 2004 GOA harvest specifications, NMFS has reapportioned all of the reserve for pollock, Pacific cod, flatfish, and "other species." Specifications of TAC shown in Table 1 reflect apportionment of reserve amounts for these species and species groups.

Allocations of the Sablefish TAC to Vessels Using Hook-and-Line and Trawl Gear

Under § 679.20(a)(4)(i) and (ii), sablefish TACs for each of the regulatory areas and districts are allocated to hook-and-line and trawl gear. In the Western and Central Regulatory Areas, 80 percent of each TAC is allocated to hook-and-line gear and 20 percent of each TAC is allocated to trawl gear. In the Eastern Regulatory Area, 95 percent of the TAC is allocated to hook-and-line gear and 5 percent is allocated to trawl gear. The trawl gear allocation in the Eastern Regulatory Area may only be used to support incidental catch of sablefish in directed fisheries for other target species (see § 679.20(a)(1)). In recognition of the trawl ban in the SEO District of the Eastern Regulatory Area, the Council recommended, and NMFS

TABLE 3.—2004 ALLOCATIONS OF THE POLLOCK TAC AND DIRECTED FISHING ALLOWANCE (DFA) TO THE INSHORE, CATCHER/PROCESSOR, MOTHERSHIP, AND CDQ RESERVES [1]

[Amounts are in metric tons]

	2004 allocations	A season [1]		
		A season DFA (40% of annual DFA)	SCA harvest limit [2]	
Bering Sea subarea	1,492,000			
CDQ reserve	149,200		41,776	89,520
ICA [1]	43,641			
AFA Inshore	649,580			389,748
AFA Catcher/Processors [3]	519,664			311,798
Catch by C/Ps	475,492			285,295
Catch by CVs [3]	44,171			26,503
Unlisted C/P Limit [4]	2,598			1,559
AFA Motherships	129,916			77,950
Excessive Harvesting Limit [5]	227,353			
Excessive Processing Limit [6]	389,748			
Total Bering Sea DFA	1,492,000	579,343	405,540	869,016
Aleutian Islands ICA [7]	1,000	.....	.....	
Bogoslof District ICA [7]	50	.....	.....	

[1] Under §679.20(a)(5)(i)(A), after subtraction for the CDQ reserve—10 percent and the incidental catch amount (ICA)—3.0 percent, the pollock TAC is allocated as a DFA as follows: inshore sector—50 percent, catcher/processor sector—40 percent, and mothership sector—10 percent. The A season, January 20—June 10, is allocated 40 percent of the DFA and the B season, June 10—November 1, is allocated 60 percent of the DFA.

[2] No more than 28 percent of each sector's annual DFA may be taken from the SCA before April 1. The remaining 12 percent of the annual DFA allocated to the A season may be taken outside of SCA before April 1 or inside the SCA after April 1. If 28 percent of the annual DFA is not taken inside the SCA before April 1, the remainder is available to be taken inside the SCA after April 1.

[3] Under §679.20(a)(5)(i)(A)(*4*), not less than 8.5 percent of the DFA allocated to listed catcher/processor shall be available for harvest only by eligible catcher vessels delivering to listed catcher/processors.

[4] Under §679.20(a)(5)(i)(A)(4)(iii), the unlisted AFA catcher/processors are limited to harvesting not more than 0.5 percent of the catcher/processor sector allocation of pollock.

[5] Under §679.20(a)(5)(i)(A)(*6*), NMFS establishes an excessive harvesting share limit equal to 17.5 percent of the sum of the pollock DFAs.

[6] Under §679.20(a)(5)(i)(A)(*7*), NMFS establishes an excessive processing share limit equal to 30.0 percent of the sum of the pollock DFAs.

[7] The Aleutian Islands subarea and the Bogoslof District are closed to directed fishing for pollock. The amounts specified are for ICA only, and are not apportioned by season or sector.

Section 3

Section 3 (for Agenda Item 4.3 – Review of Research Results)

1. Summary Report – U.S. pollock stock assessment for 2003

a. A status of stocks report for the EBS, Aleutians, and Bogoslof areas for 2003 was produced by Jim Ianelli for the NPFMC. A PDF file of this report is available at (http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/docs/2003/EBSpollock.pdf). A summary from the NPAFC Plan Team report is as follows.

b. Some summary figures of the stock assessment in 2003 also follows.

2. Bogoslof Survey on Pollock

At the 2003 Annual Conference held in Portland in September 2003, the U.S. discussed with the Parties that the NOAA R/V *Miller Freeman* will be changing its survey schedule in the Bogoslof area from an annual survey to one every two years. Thus no survey was conducted in 2004. The next survey in Bogoslof will be in 2005 during late February-early March.

A report of the survey that took place in March 2003 by the NOAA R/V *Miller Freeman* on pollock was provided at last year's meeting. This report will not be repeated here. Instead, the main result of the 2003 echo integration-trawl survey is compared with similar past surveys in the following figure. This figure shows estimated biomass of pollock in two areas – the Bogoslof survey area used by the U.S. and the "Specific Area" defined by the Central Bering Sea Pollock Convention.

Summary on Pollock Assessment for 2003 by the Bering Sea/Aleutians Groundfish Plan Team

Status and catch specifications (t) of **pollock** in recent years. Biomass for each year corresponds to the projection given in the SAFE report issued in the preceding year. The OFL and ABC for 2003 are those recommended by the Plan Team. Catch data are current through 11/02/02.

Area	Year	Age 3+ Bio.	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch
EBS	2001	10,500,000	2,350,000	1,842,000	1,400,000	1,388,276
	2002	9,800,000	3,530,000	2,110,000	1,485,000	1,484,927
	2003	11,100,000	3,530,000	2,330,000	n/a	n/a
AI	2001	106,000	31,700	23,800	2,000	824
	2002	106,000	31,700	23,800	1,000	1,079
	2003	175,000	52,600	39,400	n/a	n/a
Bogoslof	2001	300,000	60,200	8,470	1,000	29
	2002	232,000	46,400	4,310	100	38
	2003	227,000	45,300	34,000	n/a	n/a

Eastern Bering Sea:
The present assessment is a straightforward update of last year's assessment, incorporating new data from the 2002 fishery and bottom trawl and echo-integration trawl (EIT) surveys. The 2002 bottom trawl survey estimated a biomass of 4,820,000 t, an increase of 16% relative to the 2001 estimate. The 2002 EIT survey estimated a biomass of 3,600,000 t, an increase of 18% relative to the 2000 estimate (the last year an EIT survey was conducted). Other new inputs include age composition data from the 2001 fishery and the 2002 bottom trawl survey.

Seven alternative models are presented in the pollock chapter, all of which follow the statistical age-structured approach that has been used for the last several years. All of these models give point estimates of 2003 age 3+ biomass in the range 10,200,000 t to 13,200,000 t. Concurring with the assessment authors, the Plan Team based its recommendations for 2003 on the reference model (Model 1), which is essentially identical to last year's model.

The current assessment indicates that biomass is higher than estimated in last year's assessment. For example, this year's estimate of 2001 age 3+ biomass (11,800,000 t) is 6% higher than last year's estimate of 2001 age 3+ biomass (11,100,000 t). Such variability is well within the confidence intervals of the estimates. The coefficient of variation (CV) for the 2001 biomass estimate produced last year was 39% and the CV for the same estimate produced this year was 42%. Figure 1.22 compares estimates of year class strength between the current and previous assessments. Relative to last year's assessment, the current assessment gives higher estimates for the 1999 and 2000 year classes, but a lower estimate for the 1996 year class.

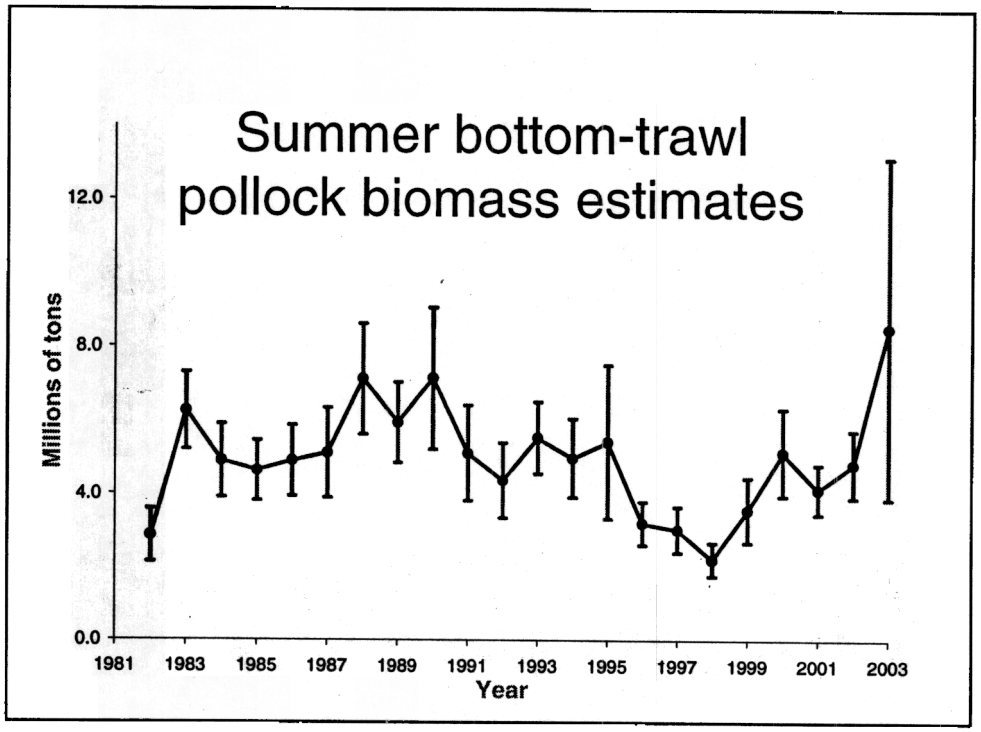
The SSC has determined that reliable estimates of B_{MSY} and the probability density function for F_{MSY} exist for this stock, and that EBS walleye pollock therefore qualify for management under Tier 1. The senior assessment author continues to feel that the Tier 1 reference points are reliably estimated given the

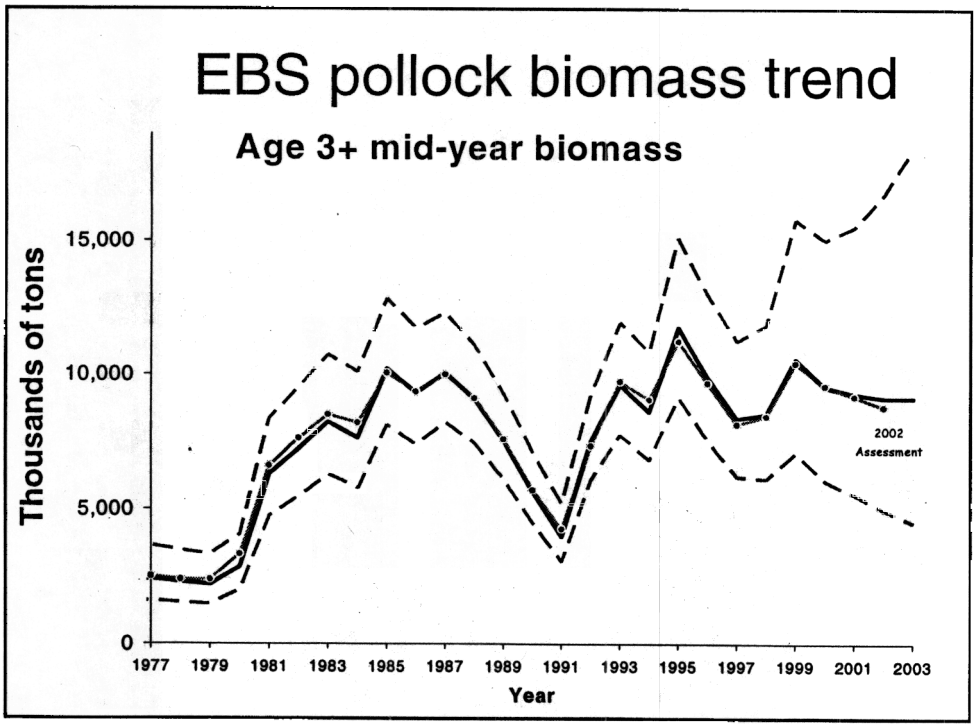
structure of the model, a conclusion with which the Plan Team concurs. The updated estimates of B_{MSY} and the harmonic and arithmetic means for F_{MSY} from the present assessment are 2,290,000 t, 0.52, and 1.1, respectively, compared to 2,140,000 t, 0.52, and 1.2, respectively, from last year's assessment. Projected spawning biomass for 2003 is 3,330,000 t (the confidence interval based on minus/plus one standard deviation extends from 2,700,000 t to 3,960,000 t), placing EBS walleye pollock in sub-tier "a" of Tier 1. The maximum permissible value of F_{ABC} under Tier 1a is 0.52, the harmonic mean of the probability density function for F_{MSY}. A fishing mortality rate of 0.52 translates into a 2003 catch of 2,330,000 t, which would be the maximum permissible ABC under Tier 1a (compared to 2,110,000 t in last year's assessment). This ABC is almost identical to the 2003 catch of 2,320,000 t that would be projected under an $F_{40\%}$ harvest rate. Last year, the senior assessment author, Plan Team, and SSC all recommended setting 2002 ABC at the maximum permissible value. This year, the senior author again recommends setting ABC at the maximum permissible value, a recommendation with which the Plan Team concurs.

Given that TAC will necessarily be set below the recommended ABC, the assessment also provides alternative harvest scenarios, including the seven standard scenarios analyzed in all age-structured assessments and two constant catch scenarios (1,300,000 t and 1,400,000 t).
The OFL fishing mortality rate under Tier 1a is 1.1, the arithmetic mean of the probability density function for F_{MSY}. A fishing mortality rate of 1.1 translates into a 2003 OFL of 3,530,000 t. The EBS walleye pollock stock is neither overfished nor approaching an overfished condition.

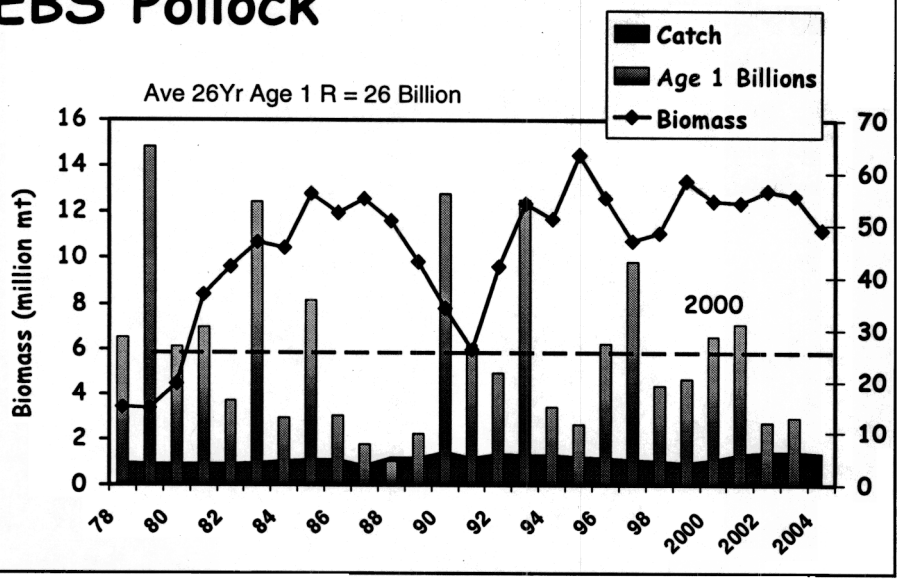
Aleutians:
The 2002 bottom trawl survey of the Aleutians Islands region resulted in a biomass estimate of 175,000 t (the confidence interval based on minus/plus one standard deviation extends from 133,000 t to 217,000 t), an increase of 65% relative to the 2000 estimate. Last year, the SSC determined that Aleutian pollock qualified for management under Tier 5. The maximum permissible ABC under Tier 5 is 75% of the product of the natural mortality rate (0.30) and biomass, giving a value of 39,400 t, which is the Plan Team's recommended ABC for 2003. This is an increase of 65% relative to last year's recommendation, an increase which is totally attributable to the change in the survey biomass estimate. The overfishing level under Tier 5 is the product of the natural mortality rate and biomass, giving an OFL of 52,600 t for 2003. As a Tier 5 stock, it is not possible to determine whether Aleutian pollock is overfished or whether it is approaching an overfished condition.

Bogoslof:
The 2002 hydroacoustic survey of the Bogoslof region resulted in a biomass estimate of 227,000 t (the confidence interval based on minus/plus one standard deviation extends from 200,000 t to 254,000 t). Last year, the SSC determined that Bogoslof pollock qualified for management under Tier 5. The maximum permissible ABC under Tier 5 is 75% of the product of the natural mortality rate (0.20) and biomass, giving a value of 34,000 t, which is the Plan Team's recommendation for 2003 ABC. This recommendation is 2% lower than last year's Plan Team's recommendation, but much higher than last year's SSC recommendation of 4,310 t. If the formula used last year by the SSC is applied again, the resulting fishing mortality rate is 0.019, giving a 2003 ABC of 4,070 t. The overfishing level under Tier 5 is the product of the natural mortality rate and biomass, giving an OFL of 45,300 t for 2003. As a Tier 5 stock, it is not possible to determine whether Bogoslof pollock is overfished or whether it is approaching an overfished condition.

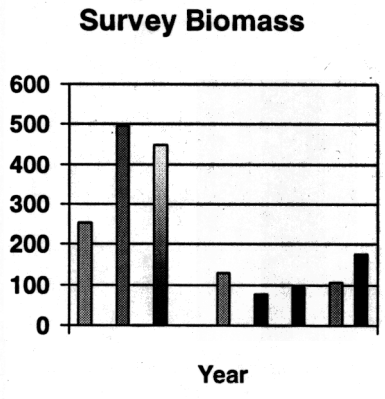

Summer bottom-trawl
pollock biomass estimates
Millions of tons
12.0
8.0
4.0
0.0
1981
1983
1985
1987
1989
1991
1993
1995
1997
1999
2001
2003
Year


EBS pollock biomass trend
Age 3+ mid-year biomass
Thousands of tons
15,000
10,000
5,000
0
1977
1979
1981
1983
1985
1987
1989
1991
1993
1995
1997
1999
2001
2003
Year
2002
Assessment

EBS Pollock

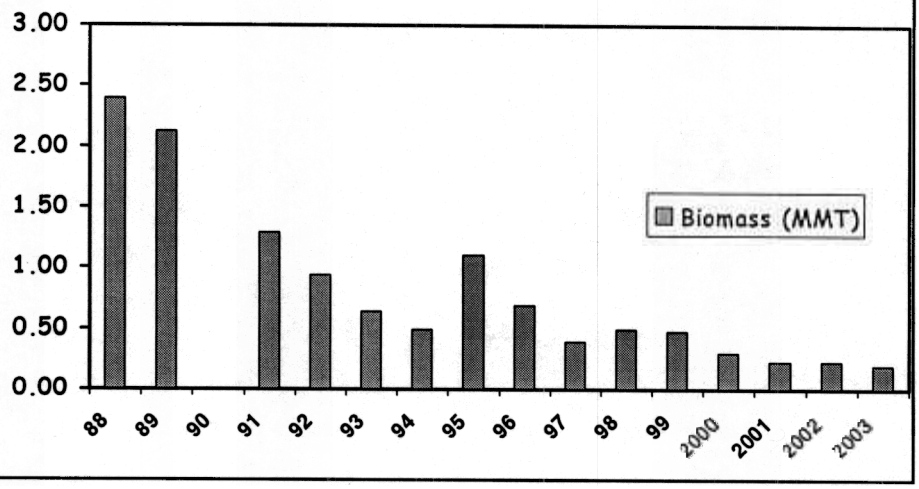


Aleutian Island Region Pollock Assessment



1. New age structured assessment; but needs further development
2. Depend on Survey Biomass
   - 1991 167,140
   - 1994 77,503
   - 1997 93,512
   - 2000 105,554
   - 2002 175,000
3. ABC from Tier 5 = 39,400 mt

Bogoslof Region
Pollock Survey Biomass



Bogoslof Region Pollock ABC

1. Plan Team Method Uses Tier 5
   ABC max permissible = Biomass x 0.75 M
   ABC = 29,700 mt

2. SSC Method Uses 2 mmt as Target Biomass and since 2003 Biomass was less than 10% of Target

   ABC was adjusted down by formula to 2,570 mt

Section 4

1. (for Agenda Item 4.4 – Review the status of Aleutian Basin pollock stocks)

a. Since there is no new information nor analyses on the status of the Aleutian Basin stock, the summary from the 2003 Annual Conference is shown as follows:

> "The United States reiterated that no surveys of the pollock biomass in the Aleutian Basin were conducted in 2002-2003. Therefore, the Bogoslof Island pollock biomass estimate should be used as a proxy for the Aleutian Basin, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. The Bogoslof Island pollock biomass is presumed to represent 60 percent of the Aleutian Basin pollock biomass."

2. (For Agenda Item 4.5 on Factors affecting recovery of the stocks)
and
(For Agenda Item 4.6 on Effects of the Moratorium and its continuation)

Comments:

a. Both these topics were the subject of a special workshop held in Seattle during July 17-21 2000.

b. Both these topics wer also addressed at another special workshop held in Pusan during May 19-21, 2003.

c. The reports from both of these workshops reside in the Convention website: (http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/cbs)

d. No new information and analyses have become available that would change the results of the two workshops materially.

Section 5

Section 5 (for Agenda Item 4.7 and – Methodologies to determine ABC and AHL)

Computation of 2003 ABC for Bogoslof pollock by the NPFMCouncil
(ABC for 2004 will not be calculated till November 2003
when the Plan Team meets)

2. Summary from the S&T meeting at the Annual Conference in 2003

"5.7. Methodologies to determine Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) and Allowable Harvest Level AHL)

i. At the May 2003 Pollock Workshop in Busan, it was agreed that an intermediary step of establishing an ABC should be conducted to prior to determining the AHL. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council process was determined to be an appropriate procedure to do this, based on the March 2003 Bogoslof survey results.

ii. The United States reviewed the formulation and determination of ABC procedures in Section IV of Attachment 4. The 2003 ABC was calculated to be 2,774 mt for the Specific Area and 4,623 mt for the Convention Area.

Japan stated, that since Bogoslof stocks are at a historically low level, it would be safer to calculate ABC, taking natural mortality into consideration from 2003 to 2004.

5.7.4. The United States said there is one procedure with two sets of alternative assumptions to project the Bogoslof biomass from 2003 to 2004. This results in a biomass of 198,000 mt, assuming that biomass remains the same, or a decline by natural mortality. Thus, ABC for 2004 for the entire Aleutian basin would be calculated to be 4,623 mt (assuming no biomass change) or 2,401 mt (if biomass changes).

Japan suggested to adopt specifically for 2004 an ABC of 2,401 mt (assuming biomass is reduced by natural mortality). No Parties objected and the ABC for 2004 was set at 2,401 mt."

Computation of 2003 ABC for Bogoslof Pollock

Jim Ianelli

Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NMFS

Since 1999 The Plan Team has presented 2 alternative methods for computing ABC values for the Bogoslof region to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. They include:

3. A Plan Team-preferred method that is a straight-forward application of the Tier 5 ABC calculation method where F_{ABC} =0.75*M; and
4. A Council SSC-preferred method that assumes from historical survey biomass trends that 2 million mt represents the best estimate of a target $B_{40\%}$ level.

Both calculations of ABCs for the Bogoslof area will be shown below. Both procedures depend upon the biomass estimated in the Bogoslof Island area by research survey vessels using the Echo-integration survey technique of the U.S. R/V *Miller Freeman* and the Japanese R/V *Kaiyo maru.*

The biomass estimates made by echo-integration-trawl (EIT) surveys since 1988 are shown in the Fig 1.1 and the table below as follows:

Biomass (million mt)														
1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
2.4	2.1	-	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.49	1.1	0.68	0.39	0.49	0.48	0.30	0.23	0.23

2003 CBS Specific area Pollock biomass = 198,000 mt

Plan Team-Preferred Procedure 1 -- Tier 5 computations use the most recent survey biomass estimate applied to an adjusted natural mortality for the Bogoslof pollock stock. This gives a 2003 ABC estimate of **29,760 t** (2003 survey biomass $\times M \times 0.75$) at a biomass of 198,400 t (with $M = 0.2$). The OFL is **39,680 t.**

SSC-Preferred Procedure 2 -- Given the survey estimate of exploitable biomass for the CBS specific area of 0.198 million t and M = 0.2 and based on the SSC discussions for further reductions in ABC based on considerations of a target stock size of 2 million tons, the F_{ABC} recommendation is computed as:

$$F_{abc} \le F_{40\%} \bullet \left(\frac{B_{2003}}{B_{40\%}} - 0.05 \right) \Big/ (1 - 0.05) = 0.27 \bullet \left(\frac{198{,}403}{2{,}000{,}000} - 0.05 \right) \Big/ (1 - 0.05) = 0.014$$

Using a fishing mortality rate of 0.014 translates to an exploitation rate of 0.014 which when multiplied by 198,000 t, gives a **2003 ABC of 2,774 t** for the Bogoslof region.

Both procedures of calculation were presented each year to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Council has always selected the SSC-preferred procedure.

Section 6

Section 6 (for Agenda Item 6 – Other matters and recommendations)

1. Web Site information of Convention reports

2. Agenda Item 8.1 of Annual Conference (Frequency of the Conference)

1. Web Site Information

for **Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea**

Temporary Website:

http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/cbs

The following records are currently in the Website:

Description of the Convention
Records of the Annual Conferences
Records of Workshops
Documents and Data Records
Key Contact person from each Party

Information about the next Annual Conference

Suggestions:

1. This website is in a temporary location in NOAA-REFM Division computer.
2. REFM Division (Loh-Lee Low) will be temporary custodian for maintenance of website.

The Convention on the Conservation and Management of the Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea

Annual Conferences

The Convention (Full Text)
Content
Description
Conferences
Workshops
Documents
Contacts

Past Conferences:

Conference*	Dates	Location
First Annual Conference	1996 November 13 - 15	
Second Annual Conference	1997 November 5 - 7	
Third Annual Conference	1998 November 30 - December 4	Tokyo, Japan
Fourth Annual Conference	1999 November 8 - 12	Pusan, Republic of Korea
Fifth Annual Conference	2000 November 6 - 10	Shanghai, China
Sixth Annual Conference	2001 September 17 - 21	Gdynia, Poland
Seventh Annual Conference	2002 September 16 - 19	Moscow, Russia
Eighth Annual Conference	2003 September 15 - 19	Portland, Oregon

* Click on conference name for a link to the conference report

Future Conferences:

Conference**	Scheduled Dates	Venue
Ninth Annual Conference	2004 September 7-9	

** Click on conference name for further information.

2. Issue: 2004 CBS Agenda Item 8.1 Frequency of the Conference

Japan has placed this new item on the agenda.
"Should Central Bering Sea Donut Pollock Annual Conference be held every few years? If so, how frequently and in what rotation order?"

Background: The Convention for the Conservation and Management of pollock resources in the Bring Sea was signed on 16 June, 1994 and became effective 8 December 1995. The six signatory Parties are: China, Japan, Korea, Poland, Russia, and the USA. Article III 1. of the Convention states that "the Parties agrees to: (a) convene an Annual Conference of the Parties; and... "

Eight annual conferences have taken place as follows:

First Conference, Moscow, 1996 November 13-15
Second Conference, Seattle, 1997 November 5-7
Third Conference, Tokyo, 1998 November 30-December 4
Fourth Conference, Pusan, 1999 November 8-12
Fifth Conference, Shanghai, 2000 November 6-10
Sixth Conference, Gdynia, 2001 September 17-21
Seventh Conference, Moscow, 2002 September 16-19
Eighth Conference, Portland, 2003 September 15-19
Ninth Conference, scheduled for Kushiro (Japan), 2004 September 7-10.

There was also one other pre-conference meeting held in Bellevue (Washington) in 1995 prior to full ratification of the Convention by all of the Parties.

The main business of the Annual Conference has become rather routine as the pollock resource has remained below the biomass level that would trigger an authorized pollock fishery in the central Bering Sea under Annex II of the Convention. The index survey of the pollock resource in the "specified area" in the vicinity of Bogoslof Island each March has also become rather routine as to give the Parties a reliable advanced 8-month look into the prospect of authorizing a pollock fishery in the upcoming year in the central Bering Sea.

There is, however, a new survey schedule for Bogoslof area pollock by the U.S. Party; the survey is now conducted every two years instead of annually. Our survey schedule is now years 2005, 2007, 2009, and so forth.