

prohibited species biomass, (4) expected variations in bycatch rates throughout the year, (5) expected start of fishing effort, and (6) economic effects of seasonal PSC apportionments on

industry sectors. In December 2002, the Council's AP recommended seasonal PSC apportionments in order to maximize harvest among gear types, fisheries, and seasons while minimizing

bycatch of PSC based upon the above criteria.

The Council adopted and NMFS approves the PSC apportionments specified in Table 7.

TABLE 7.—PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL AND NON-TRAWL FISHERIES ¹

	Prohibited Species and Zone					
	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI ⁶	Herring (mt) BSAI	Red King Crab (animals) Zone 1	C. opilio (animals) COBLZ ²	C. bairdi (animals)	
					Zone 1	Zone 2
Trawl Fisheries						
Yellowfin sole	886	139	16,664	2,776,981	340,844	1,788,459
January 20—April 1	262					
April 1—May 21	195					
May 21—June 29	49					
June 29—December 31	380					
Rock sole/flat. sole/other flatfish ³	779	20	59,782	969,130	365,320	596,154
January 20—April 1	448					
April 1—June 29	164					
June 29—December 31	167					
RKCSS ³			20,924			
Turbot/sablefish/arrowtooth ⁴		9		40,238		
Rockfish (June 29—Dec. 31)	69	7		40,237		10,988
Pacific cod	1,434	20	13,079	124,736	183,112	324,176
Pollock/Atka/other ⁵	232	146	200	72,428	17,224	27,473
Midwater trawl pollock		1,184				
Total Trawl PSC	3,400	1,526	89,725	4,023,750	906,500	2,747,250
Non-Trawl Fisheries						
Pacific cod—Total	775					
January 1—June 10	320					
June 10—August 15	0					
August 15—December 31	455					
Other non-trawl—Total	58					
May 1—December 31	58					
Groundfish pot & jig	Exempt					
Sablefish hook-&-line	Exempt					
Total Non-Trawl	833					
PSQ RESERVE ⁷	342		7,275	326,250	73,500	222,750
GRAND TOTAL	4,575	1,526	97,000	4,350,000	980,000	2,970,000

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas.

² *C. opilio* Bycatch Limitation Zone. Boundaries are defined at 50 CFR part 679, Figure 13.

³ The Council at its December 2002 meeting recommended that red king crab bycatch for trawl fisheries within the RKCSS be limited to 35 percent of the total allocation to the rock sole, flathead sole, and other flatfish fishery category (§ 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)). "Other flatfish" for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for Pacific halibut (a prohibited species), greenland turbot, rock sole, yellowfin sole and arrowtooth flounder.

⁴ Greenland turbot, arrowtooth flounder, and sablefish fishery category.

⁵ Pollock other than pelagic trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and "other species" fishery category.

⁶ With the exception of the non-trawl Pacific cod directed fishery, any unused halibut PSC apportionment may be added to the following season's apportionment. Any unused halibut PSC apportioned to the non-trawl Pacific cod directed fishery during the January 1 through June 10 time period will not be available until August 15.

⁷ With the exception of herring, 7.5 percent of each PSC limit is allocated to the CDQ program as PSQ reserve. The PSQ reserve is not allocated by fishery, gear or season.

Halibut Discard Mortality Rates

To monitor halibut bycatch mortality allowances and apportionments, the Regional Administrator will use observed halibut bycatch rates, assumed mortality rates, and estimates of groundfish catch to project when a fishery's halibut bycatch mortality allowance or seasonal apportionment is reached. The assumed mortality rates are based on the best information available, including information contained in the annual SAFE report.

The Council recommended, and NMFS concurs, that the assumed halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) developed by the International Pacific

Halibut Commission (IPHC) for the 2002 BSAI groundfish fisheries be adopted for purposes of monitoring halibut bycatch allowances established for 2003 (Table 8). In 2001, the IPHC recommended, and the Council and NMFS concurred, to use the 10-year average DMRs for the 2001 through 2003 BSAI non-CDQ groundfish fisheries. Plots of annual DMRs against the 10-year average indicated little change since 1990 for some fisheries, particularly the major trawl fisheries. DMRs were more variable for the smaller fisheries which typically take minor amounts of halibut bycatch. The IPHC also will continue to conduct

annual analyses of observer data and recommend changes to the Preseason Assumed DMR where a fishery DMR shows large variation from the average. Results from analysis of halibut release condition data for 2002 showed continued stability in halibut DMRs for many fisheries. The IPHC annually examines the CDQ fisheries and provides recommendations for any appropriate DMR revisions for those fisheries. The IPHC has been calculating the CDQ fisheries DMRs since 1998 and a 10-year average is not available. The Council recommended, and NMFS concurs, with the DMRs recommended by the IPHC for 2003 CDQ fisheries. The