

Listed AFA Catcher/processor Sideboard Limits

In 2003, the formula for setting AFA catcher/processor sideboard limits for non-pollock groundfish changed from calculations made for the sideboard limits in 2000 through 2002. The Council made a distinction between retained and total catch for the purpose of calculating sideboard limits and determined that AFA vessels should not receive sideboard credit for groundfish that were discarded and not utilized. Under regulations at § 679.64(a), the listed catcher/processor sideboard limits for BSAI groundfish (except Atka mackerel, Pacific cod, and some Pacific

ocean perch) will be based on the 1995 through 1997 retained catch of such groundfish species by the 20 AFA catcher/processors listed in paragraphs 208(e)(1) through (20) of the AFA and the nine ineligible catcher/processors listed in section 209 of the AFA. For Pacific cod, the sideboard limit will be based on 1997 retained catch only and for Pacific ocean perch in the Aleutian Islands subarea, the sideboard limits will be based on 1996 and 1997 retained catch only. The AFA catcher/processor sideboard limit for Atka mackerel is zero percent of the Bering Sea subarea and Eastern Aleutians annual TAC, 11.5 percent of the Central Aleutian districts

annual TAC, and 20 percent of the Western Aleutian districts annual TAC.

The basis for these sideboard limits is described in detail in the final rule implementing major provisions of the AFA (67 FR 79692, December 30, 2002). The 2003 catcher/processor sideboard limits are set out in Table 12.

All non-pollock groundfish that is harvested by listed AFA catcher/processors, whether as targeted catch or incidental catch, will be deducted from the sideboard limits in Table 12. However, non-pollock groundfish that are delivered to listed catcher/processors by catcher vessels will not be deducted from the 2003 sideboard limits for the listed catcher/processors.

TABLE 12.—2003 LISTED BSAI AFA CATCHER/PROCESSOR GROUNDFISH SIDEBOARD LIMITS

[Amounts are in mt]

Target species	Area	1995—1997			2003 ITAC available to trawl C/Ps	2003 C/P sideboard limit
		Retained catch	Available TAC	Ratio		
Pacific cod trawl	BSAI	12,424	51,450	0.241	45,105	10,870
Sablefish trawl	BS	8	1,736	0.005	1,233	6
	AI	0	1,135	0.000	659	0
Atka mackerel	Western AI .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	A season ¹	n/a	n/a	0.200	9,245	1,849
	HLA limit ² .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,109
	B season ¹	n/a	n/a	0.200	9,245	1,849
	HLA limit ² .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,109
	Central AI .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	A season ¹	n/a	n/a	0.115	13,579	1,562
	HLA limit ² .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	937
	B season ¹	n/a	n/a	0.115	13,579	1,562
	HLA limit ² .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	937
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	100,192	527,000	0.190	71,188	13,526
Rock sole	BSAI	6,317	202,107	0.031	37,400	1,159
Greenland turbot	BS	121	16,911	0.007	2,278	16
	AI	23	6,839	0.003	1,122	3
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	76	36,873	0.002	10,200	20
Flathead sole	BSAI	1,925	87,975	0.022	17,000	374
Alaska plaice	BSAI	3,243	.....	0.035	9,250	324
Other flatfish	BSAI	3,243	92,428	0.035	2,775	97
Pacific ocean perch	BS	12	5,760	0.002	1,199	2
	Western AI	54	12,440	0.004	5,411	22
	Central AI	3	6,195	0.000	3,090	0
	Eastern AI	125	6,265	0.020	3,238	65
Northern rockfish	BS	8	.....	0.008	112	1
	AI	83	13,254	0.006	5,438	33
Shortraker/rougheye	BS	8	.....	0.008	126	1
	AI	42	2,827	0.015	538	8
Other rockfish	BS	18	1,026	0.018	888	16
	AI	22	1,924	0.011	539	6
Squid	BSAI	73	3,670	0.020	1,675	34
Other species	BSAI	553	65,925	0.008	29,886	239

¹ The seasonal apportionment of Atka mackerel in the open access fishery is 50 percent in the A season and 50 percent in the B season. Unrestricted AFA catcher/processors are limited to incidental catch amounts in the Eastern Aleutian district and Bering Sea subarea, 20 percent of the available TAC in the Western Aleutian district, and 11.5 percent of the available TAC in the Central Aleutian district.

² HLA limit refers to the amount of each seasonal allowance that is available for fishing inside the HLA (§ 679.2). In 2003, 60 percent of each seasonal allowance is available for fishing inside the HLA in the Western and Central Aleutian districts. Pacific cod harvest by trawl gear in the Aleutian Islands HLA, west of 178 degrees W. long. is prohibited during the Atka mackerel HLA directed fisheries.

Regulations at § 679.64(a)(5) establish a formula for PSC sideboard limits for listed AFA catcher/processors. These amounts are equivalent to the percentage of the PSC amounts taken in

the non-pollock groundfish fisheries by the AFA catcher/processors listed in subsection 208(e) and section 209 of the AFA from 1995 through 1997. PSC amounts taken by listed catcher/

processors in BSAI non-pollock groundfish fisheries from 1995 through 1997 are shown in Table 13. These data were used to calculate the relative amount of PSC limits by pollock