

the distribution of pollock biomass, as determined by the four most recent NMFS summer surveys. The Plan Team recommended an adjustment to the distribution of pollock in the Central Regulatory Area during the A season. The Plan Team recommended that during the A season, the winter and summer distribution of pollock be averaged in the Central Regulatory Area to better reflect the distribution of pollock and the performance of the fishery in the area during the A season. The SSC, AP, and Council concurred with the Plan Team's recommendation. Within any fishing year, the underage or overage of a seasonal apportionment may be added to or subtracted from subsequent seasonal apportionments in a manner to be determined by the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, (Regional Administrator), provided that

the sum of the revised seasonal apportionment does not exceed 30 percent of the annual TAC apportionment for the Central and Western Regulatory Areas in the GOA (§ 679.20(a)(5)(ii)(B)). For 2003, 30 percent of the annual TAC for the Central and Western Regulatory Areas is 14,044 mt. The WYK and SEO District pollock TACs of 1,078 mt and 6,460 mt, respectively are not apportioned seasonally.

Regulations at § 679.20(a)(6)(ii) require that the entire amount of the pollock TAC in all regulatory areas and all seasonal allowances thereof be allocated to vessels catching pollock for processing by the inshore component after subtraction of amounts that are projected by the Regional Administrator to be caught by, or delivered to, the offshore component incidental to

directed fishing for other groundfish species. The amount of pollock available for harvest by vessels harvesting pollock for processing by the offshore component is that amount actually taken as incidental catch during directed fishing for groundfish species other than pollock, up to the maximum retainable amounts allowed under regulations at § 679.20(e) and (f). At this time, these incidental catch amounts are unknown and will be determined during the fishing year.

The seasonal biomass distribution of pollock in the Western and Central GOA, area apportionments, and seasonal apportionments for the A, B, C, and D seasons are summarized in Table 3, except that allocations of pollock for processing by the inshore and offshore components are not shown.

Table 3 - Distribution of Pollock in the Central and Western Regulatory Areas of the GOA; Seasonal Biomass Distribution, Area Apportionments; and Seasonal Apportionments of Annual TAC in 2003. (Amounts are in mt)

Season	Shumagin (Area 610) (biomass distribution)	Chirikof (Area 620) (biomass distribution)	Kodiak (Area 630) (biomass distribution)	Total (biomass distribution)
A	2,894 (25%)	6,535 (56%)	2,274 (19%)	11,703 (100%)
B	2,894 (25%)	7,778 (66%)	1,031 (9%)	11,703 (100%)
C	5,500 (47%)	2,686 (23%)	3,517 (30%)	11,703 (100%)
D	5,500 (47%)	2,686 (23%)	3,517 (30%)	11,703 (100%)
Annual Total	16,788	19,685	10,339	46,812

Seasonal Apportionments of Pacific Cod TAC and Allocations for Processing of Pacific Cod TAC Between Inshore and Offshore Components

Pacific cod fishing is divided into two seasons in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas of the GOA. For hook-and-line, pot and jig gear the A season begins on January 1 and ends on June 10, and the B season begins on September 1 and ends on December 31. For trawl gear, the A season begins on January 20 and ends on June 10, and the B season begins on September 1 and ends on November 1 (§ 679.23(d)(3)). Sixty percent of the annual TAC will be available as a directed fishing allowance during the A season and, after

subtraction of incidental catch, the remaining 40 percent of the annual TAC will be available for catch during the B season, and will be allocated between the inshore and offshore processing components as provided in 50 CFR § 679.20(a)(6)(iii). Between the A and B seasons, directed fishing for Pacific cod is closed and fishermen participating in other directed fisheries may retain Pacific cod up to the maximum retainable amounts allowed under regulations at § 679.20(e) and (f). For purposes of clarification, NMFS points out that the A and B season Pacific cod fishery dates differ from those of the A, B, C, and D season dates for the pollock fisheries. In accordance with § 679.20(a)(11)(ii), any overage or

underage of Pacific cod harvest from the A season shall be subtracted from or added to the subsequent B season.

Regulations at § 679.20(a)(6)(iii) require that the TAC apportionment of Pacific cod in all regulatory areas be allocated to vessels catching Pacific cod for processing by the inshore and offshore components. Ninety percent of the Pacific cod TAC in each regulatory area is allocated to vessels catching Pacific cod for processing by the inshore component. The remaining 10 percent of the TAC is allocated to vessels catching Pacific cod for processing by the offshore component. These seasonal apportionments and component allocations of the Pacific cod TAC for 2003 are shown in Table 4.