



North Pacific Fishery Management Council - 2018 Review

Bill Tweit

Fish Program

Major Issues

- Overview of NPFMC
- Stock summary
- Halibut Bycatch Management
- Salmon Issues
- Pacific Cod stock status
- Electronic Monitoring
- Transition to EBFM



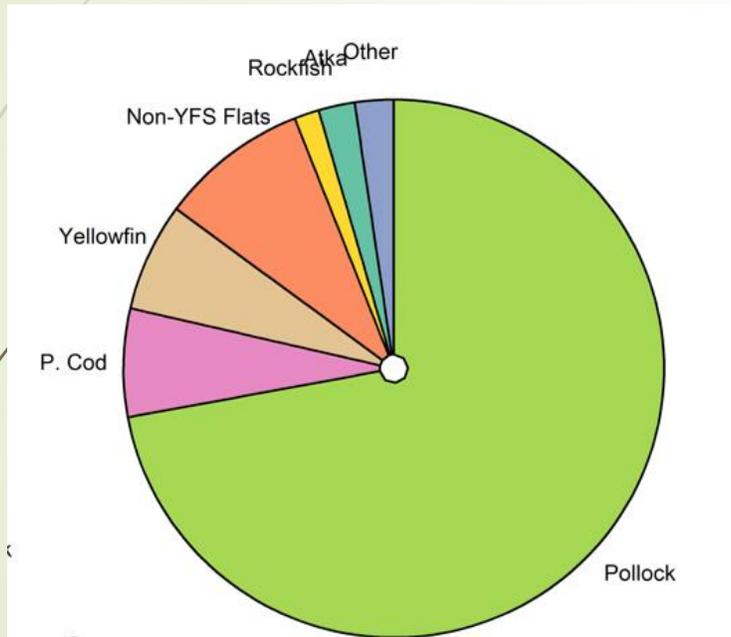
Fisheries off Alaska

- Would rank in the top 10 producing countries
- Represent 50% of total U.S. catch
- Catch between 3 and 5 billion pounds of groundfish annually for 30 years
- 2.5 million metric ton harvest in 2017 is 3% of global harvest of 80 million mt
- Alaska fisheries, including NPFMC and state managed salmon fisheries contribute \$1.3 billion annually in labor earnings to the economy of the Puget Sound region.



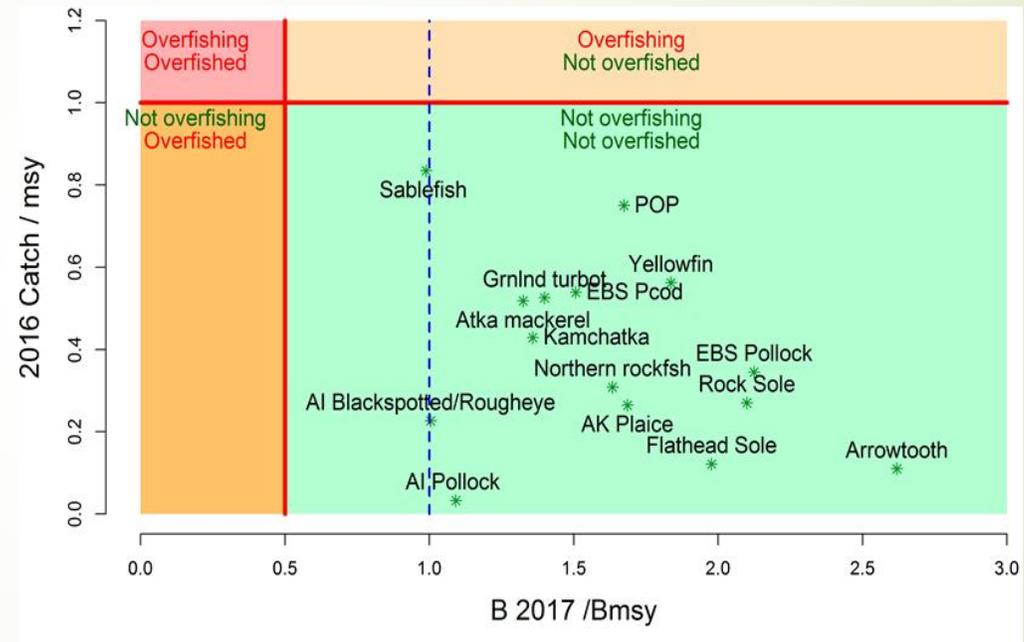
Bering Sea Groundfish

Relative ABC Catch Limits



Total biomass = 23,260,672 mt
Sum of 2017 BSAI ABCs = 4,010,000 mt
Sum of 2017 BSAI TACs = 2,000,000 mt

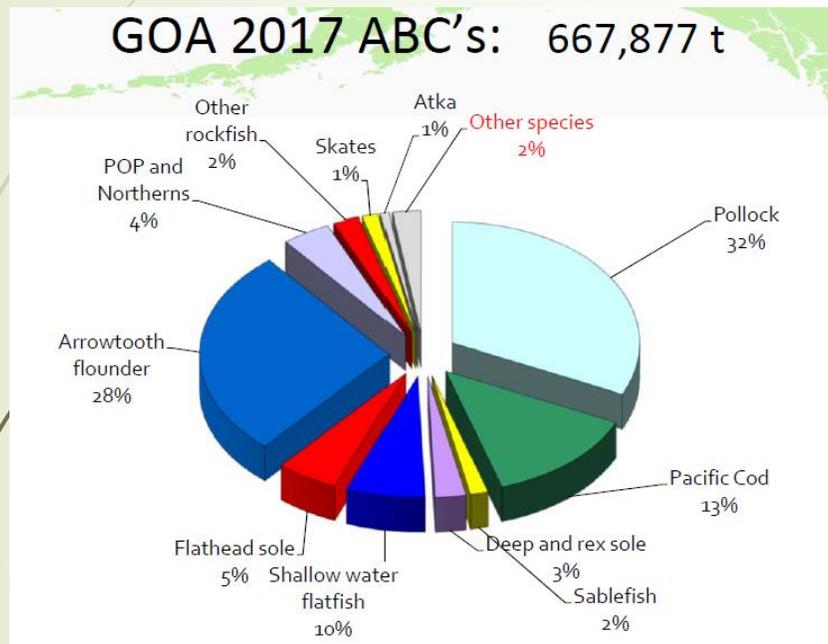
Stock Status



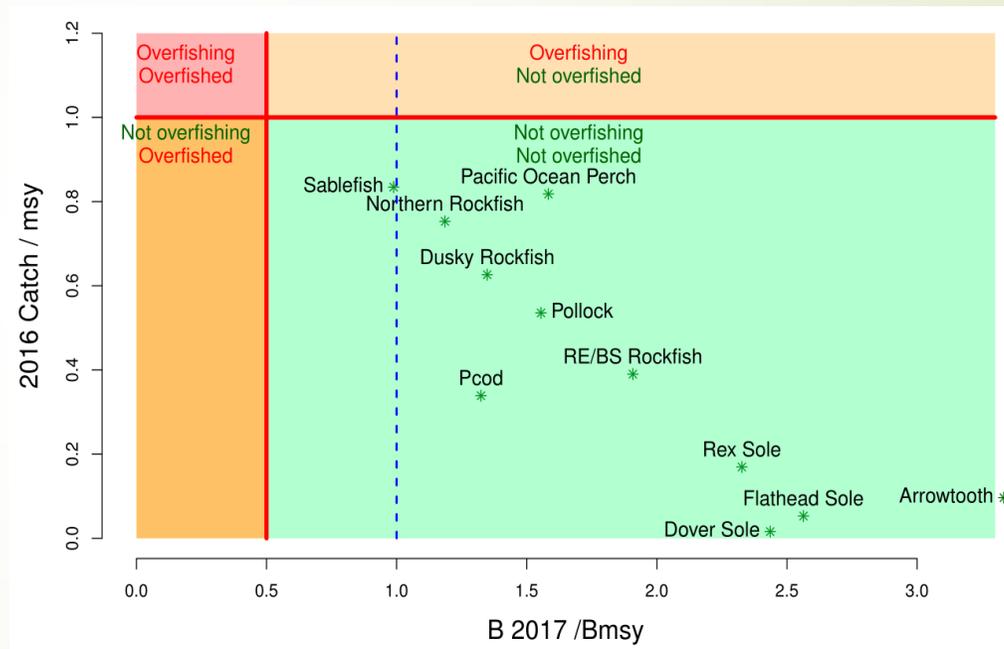
No stocks overfished or subject to overfishing

Gulf of Alaska Groundfish

Relative Catch Limits



Stock Status



Total biomass = 6,036,346 mt

No stocks overfished or subject to overfishing

Sum of 2017 ABCs = 667,877 mt

Sum of 2017 TACs = 535,863 mt

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Information subject to changes and amendments over time

Commission Presentation August 10, 2018



Halibut Bycatch Management

- ▶ Halibut Management Framework – adopted in 2015, provides policy direction and a work plan. Objectives include improved management coordination with IPHC.
- ▶ Abundance based approach – Under development, significant conceptual issues remain.
- ▶ Industry measures – Amendment 80 cooperative agreements and yellow fin sole cooperative agreements, annual measures.
- ▶ Deck Sorting – Moving from development into regulation, broad adoption.

2017 Halibut Mortality in Bering Sea Groundfish Fisheries

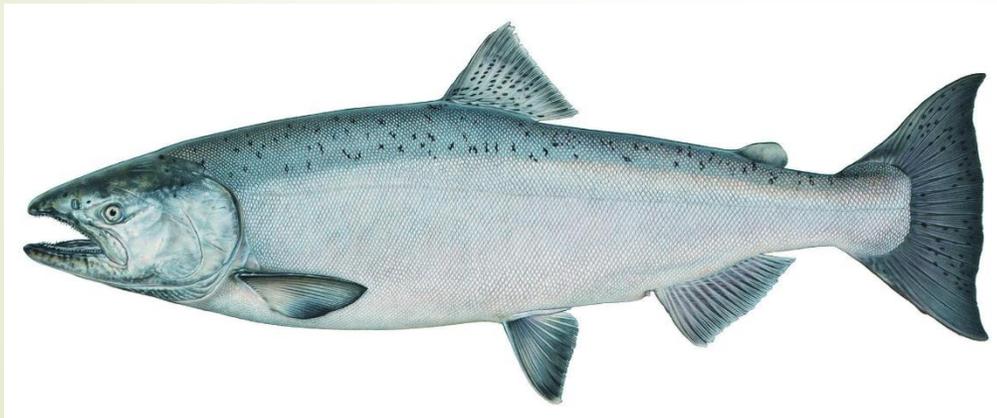
Fishery	Mortality (metric tons)	Limit (metric tons)
Trawl (all sectors)	1599	2490
Trawl (Amendment 80)	1140	
Pacific Cod Hook and Line	163	710

- Amendment 80 sector showed a 32% reduction from 2012-2016 average
- 2017 mortality rate in groundfish fisheries was 1.0kg of halibut per metric ton of groundfish, or about 0.01% of the groundfish harvest.
- Total Bering Sea groundfish harvest in 2017 was 1.95 million metric tons.

Bycatch of chinook salmon

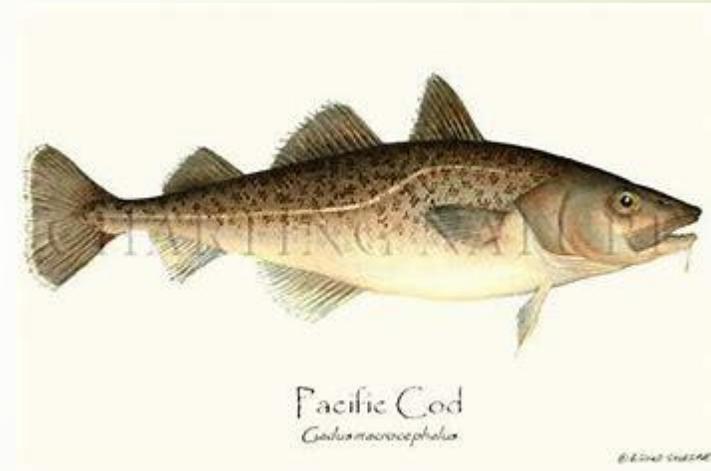
➤ BSAI Trawl	
➤ Pollock	30,058
➤ Non-Pollock	6,024
➤ Total	36,082
➤ Limit	60,000

➤ GOA Trawl	
➤ Pollock WGOA	7,088
➤ Pollock CGOA	14,412
➤ Other fisheries	2,675
➤ Total	24,715
➤ Limit	33,340



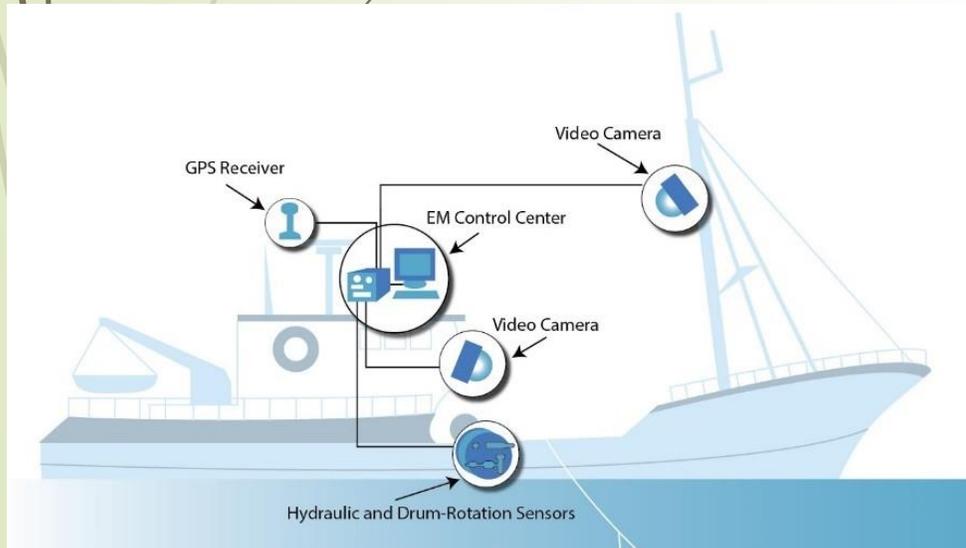
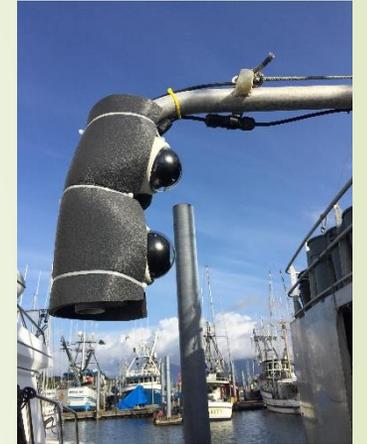
Pacific Cod Stock Status

- ▶ Most significant fisheries effect of the “Blob”
- ▶ 80% decrease in Gulf TAC (2017-2018)
- ▶ Loss of the 2012 year class

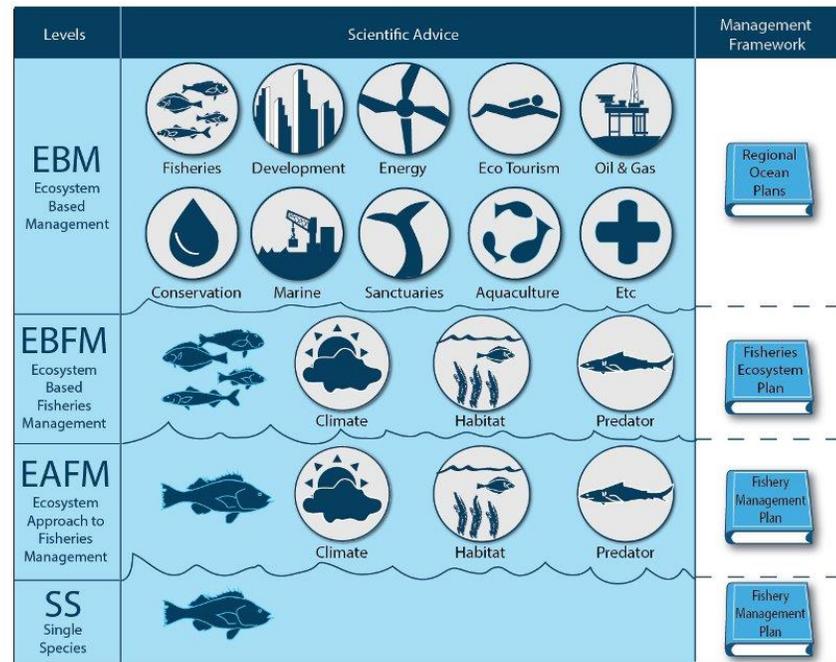


Electronic monitoring tools for onboard catch and bycatch estimation

- ▶ Adopted tools for over 40' vessels fishing hook and line and/or pots
- ▶ Costs are decreasing
- ▶ Initiating development on trawl catcher vessels
- ▶ NFWF support in development



Ecosystem Based Fishery Management



- Ecosystem Indicators
- Use of TK and LK
- Bering Sea FEP
- Climate change models
- Recent Workshops