

14. Halibut: Consolidation of Permit holders on Fishing Operations

Table 14-1 provides data on halibut harvest and participation by persons and vessels in each management area from 1990 through 2011. The table shows the annual harvest, the number of unique persons and vessels with landings, the number of landing days by persons and vessels, the average number of pounds landed per person and vessel, and the ratio of the number of persons with landings to the number of vessels with landings.

The 1990 through 1994 harvest data are pre-IFQ Program and are based on halibut fish tickets. The counts of persons reflect CFEC permit holders who recorded landings. The 1995 through 2011 data come from NMFS-RAM databases. The number of persons in those years represent unique persons with IFQ identifiers who recorded landings. These persons may be QS owners, hired skippers, or persons leasing QS.

Harvest data in the table exclude catches made for CDQs. Note that no harvests are shown for Area 4E after 1994 because the entire TAC in that area has been allocated to the CDQ Program.

Annual harvests depend primarily upon the total allowable catch (TAC), which is set annually by the IPHC. Table 14-1 indicates that harvests over the 1990-2011 period were relatively high in most areas in the early 1990's but declined in 1995, when catches in six of the seven areas were the lowest over the time period. Since 1995, TACs and corresponding harvests have generally risen until 2006 when the TAC decreased steadily till 2011.

After the IFQ fisheries commenced in 1995, the number of persons and vessels with landings either rose or fell from the 1990-1994 averages, depending upon the area. In Areas 2C, 3A, and 4C the number of persons and vessels with landings fell substantially, but in Areas 3B, 4A, 4B, and 4D there has not been a pronounced change in either direction. Consolidation of QS among fewer holders contributes to a decrease in the number of persons and vessels with landings.

Person landing-days are calculated by summing the number of days with landings for each person. Vessel landing-days are calculated in a similar fashion. Larger harvests appear to be correlated with high numbers of person and vessel landing-days in some areas, particularly Areas 3B and 4C, but in other areas there appears to be no clear relationship between harvests and landing-days.

Before the IFQ program began in 1995, it was not uncommon for more than one CFEC permit holder to make landings off one vessel in the halibut fishery. After the IFQ fisheries were implemented, two or more IFQ permit holders might join together to fish their IFQ off one vessel. Table 14-1 indicates that in 2C, 3A, and 3B the ratio of the number of unique persons with landings to the number of unique vessels has risen

substantially over the 1990-1994 average, which provides some evidence that the practice of multiple persons recording landings off a single vessel has increased since inception of the program in parts of Alaska.

Table 14-2 shows harvest data for 1995 through 2011, broken out by area and vessel category. Total and mean harvests are shown, as well as the number of persons who reported landings. The percent of the total area harvest attributed to each vessel category is given and the percent of total persons with landings in each vessel category is also shown.

The source of harvest data in this table is similar to Table 14-1. Catch data are derived from NMFS-RAM databases and harvests made for CDQs have been excluded. Area 4E does not appear on the table because the entire TAC from 1995 to 2011 was devoted to CDQs.

Note that some persons have landings in more than one vessel category in an area; therefore, the sum of persons with landings in each vessel category is greater than the overall unique number of persons with landings shown in Table 14-1.

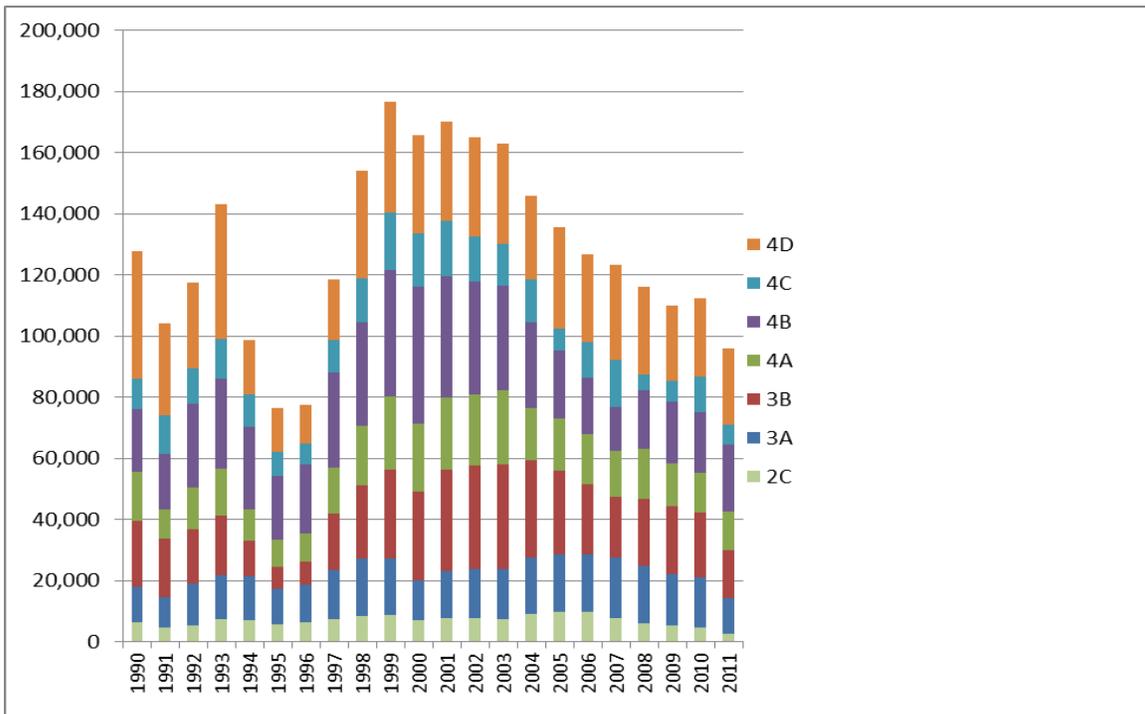


Figure 7. Average pounds per person

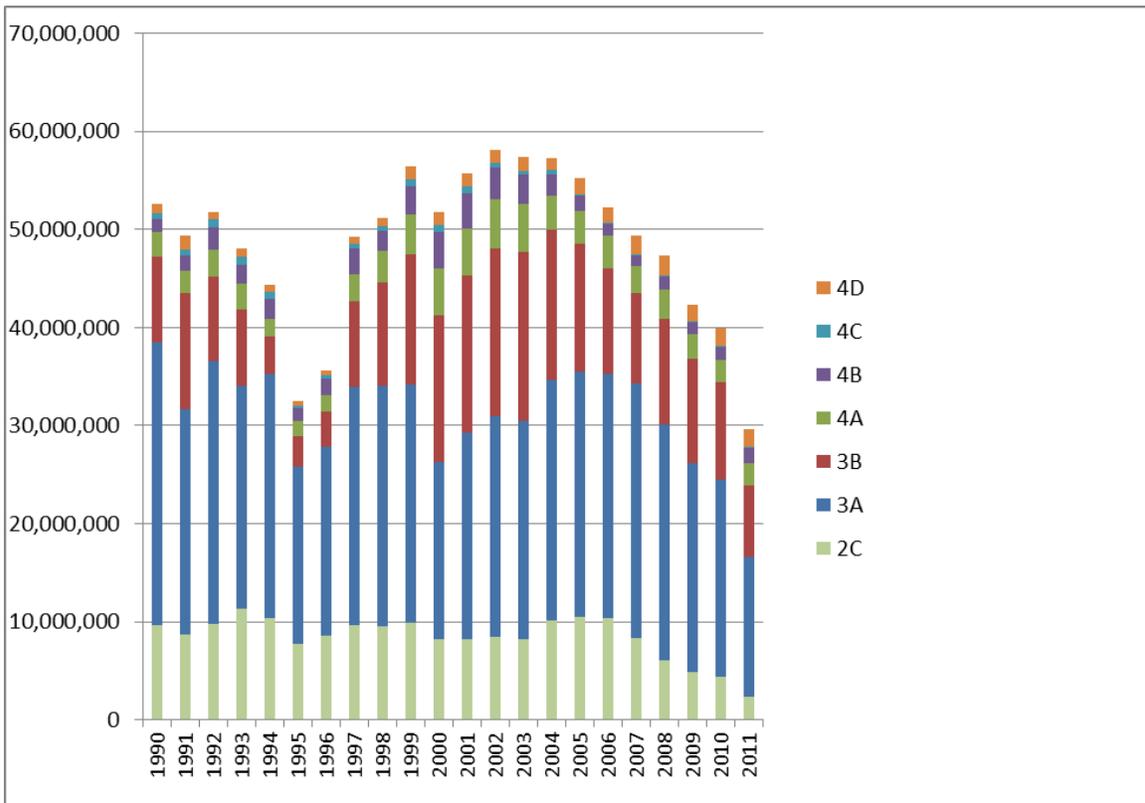


Figure 8. Halibut total harvest by area and year

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