

13. Halibut: Overharvest and Underharvest of IFQs and TACs

13.1 TACs and Harvests: 1990 to 2011

Table 13-1 provides comparison of actual harvests in each management area with the total allowable catch (TAC) for each year from 1990 through 2011. It shows the difference, in pounds, between the harvest and TAC and the percent of the TAC harvested.

The 1990 through 1994 harvest data are based on halibut fish tickets. The 1995 through 2011 data come from the NMFS-RAM IFQ catch database. Harvest data in the table include commercial catch in the IFQ fishery and exclude catches made for CDQs.

The TACs in Table 13-1 are the total allowable catches for only the commercial IFQ harvest. They do not include the portion of the TACs that were set aside for CDQs in Areas 4B, 4C, 4D, and 4E. No harvests are shown for Area 4E from 1995 to 2011 because the entire TAC in this area is allocated to CDQ. The harvest data in Table 13-1 also do not include portions of the harvest that were retained by fishermen after the harvest was delivered and reported.⁵⁹

Prior to implementation of the IFQ program, “overages,” or catches that exceeded the TAC, were common. However, harvests in the IFQ fishery from 1995 to 1998 fell below the IFQ TAC in all areas.

The underharvest decreased from 1995 to 2008 in all areas except Area 4C. In 2005 new regulations allowed harvest of 4C allocation in either 4C or 4D. For this reason these areas are put in one table

The percentage of the TAC that was harvested in the IFQ fishery ranged from 51.4% of the TAC in Area 4E in 1992 to 99.4% in Area 3AB in 2011.

⁵⁹Under the NMFS IFQ catch reporting system, the entire harvest is required to be offloaded and weighed during the first delivery. If a portion of the catch is “retained” by the IFQ permit holder, it is entered on the catch reporting system as “retained catch.” Catch may be retained for personal use, or it may be retained to sell to another processor or customer. The subsequent sale of retained catch does not result in an additional entry on the NMFS catch reporting system; i.e., the harvest is only recorded once. Nevertheless, the system does not allow a precise breakout of catch that is sold versus catch that is kept for personal use. It is likely that some of the retained catch is subsequently sold and should be included with the commercial harvest.

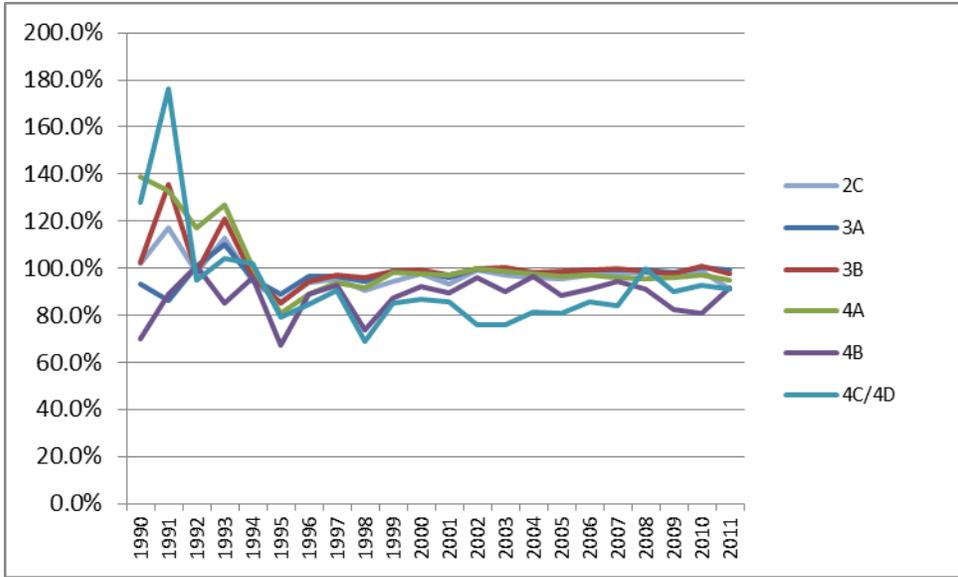


Figure 6. Percent of halibut TAC harvested by area

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