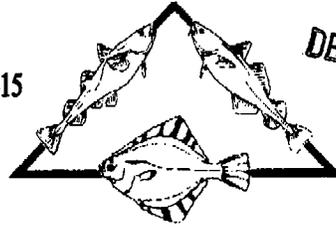


Groundfish Data Bank

Alaska

PH: 907-486-3033 FAX: 907-486-3461 P.O. BOX 788 - KODIAK, AK. 99615

Julie Bonney, Executive Director jbonney@gci.net
Katy McGauley, Fisheries Biologist agdb@gci.net



RECEIVED
DEC 15 2011

CGOA Rockfish Pilot Program 2011 Annual Cooperative Reports

December 14, 2011

To: North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 95501-2252

From: Julie Bonney
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak, AK 99615

Please find enclosed the 2011 Annual Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative Reports for the following cooperatives:

1. Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative
2. North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative
3. ISA Rockfish Cooperative
4. OBSI Rockfish Cooperative
5. Western Alaska Fisheries Cooperative
6. Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative Association

These annual reports are being submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service and to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council pursuant to and in accordance with 50 C.F.R § 679.81(i)(3)(xxiv).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Bonney".

Julie Bonney
Executive Director,
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc

Final Report Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative

2011

December 15, 2011

Prepared by:
Julie Bonney
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak AK 99615

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION	2
II.	COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP	3
III.	COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT	4
A.	Monitoring.....	4
IV.	COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE.....	6
A.	Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests.....	6
B.	Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ	9
C.	Sideboard Limitations.....	9
V.	COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH	10
A.	Halibut	10
B.	Chinook Salmon.....	11
C.	Other Prohibited Species Catch	11
VI.	PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS.....	11

I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allows each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, Thornyhead rockfish and Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained catch or Halibut PSC mortality usage of these species in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The primary RPP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RPP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for co-op members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allowed co-op members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while reducing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative is one of 5 inshore cooperatives formed in March 2011 in accordance to Amendment 68 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2011 marked the fifth and final year of the 5-year Rockfish Pilot Program and, in compliance with Amendment 68, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2011 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger websites.

¹ Pelagic shelf rockfish consists of dusky rockfish, yellowtail rockfish and widow rockfish.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2011, the Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative consisted of twelve member licenses with twelve member vessels (Table 1), of which seven actively fished during the RPP: Mar Del Norte, Hazel Lorraine, Marcy J, Cape Kiwanda, Caravelle, Peggy Jo and the Progress. The Cape Kiwanda fished the Traveler's and Nordic Explorer's CQ. The Caravelle leased the Miss Leona and Pacific Ram CQ. The Rosella CQ was transferred to the ISA cooperative and delivered to Trident Seafoods in Kodiak.

Trident Seafoods, Inc. in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative.

Table 1. LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the SOK Rockfish Cooperative 2011.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
1841	Mar Del Norte, Inc	Mar Del Norte	21650
2278	Marcy J, Inc	Marcy J	00055
2364	Rosella, Inc	Rosella	21732
2567	Geiser, Albert	Hazel Lorraine	57117
2636	Royal Viking, Inc	Cape Kiwanda	61432
2973	Golden West Fisheries, Inc	Caravelle	57634
3144	Blue Seas Fisheries, Inc.; Blue Moon Fisheries, Inc.	Pacific Ram	61792
3463	Traveler Fisheries LLC	Traveler	58821
3594	B&N Fisheries Company	Peggy Jo	09200
3756	B&N Fisheries Company	Nordic Explorer	51092
3896	Rondy's Inc.	Progress	00006
1710	Miss Leona, Inc	Miss Leona	25227

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the Co-op President, Jerry Downing, Star of Kodiak Seafood's Plant Manager, Greg Hathaway and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while reducing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

(1) Check-ins and Check-outs

To facilitate moving into and out of non-RPP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" but limited them to 3 times the number of LLP's within the co-op. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RPP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries. With twelve LLP's, the SOK Rockfish Cooperative was limited to 3x12 or 36 check-ins: 17 were used.

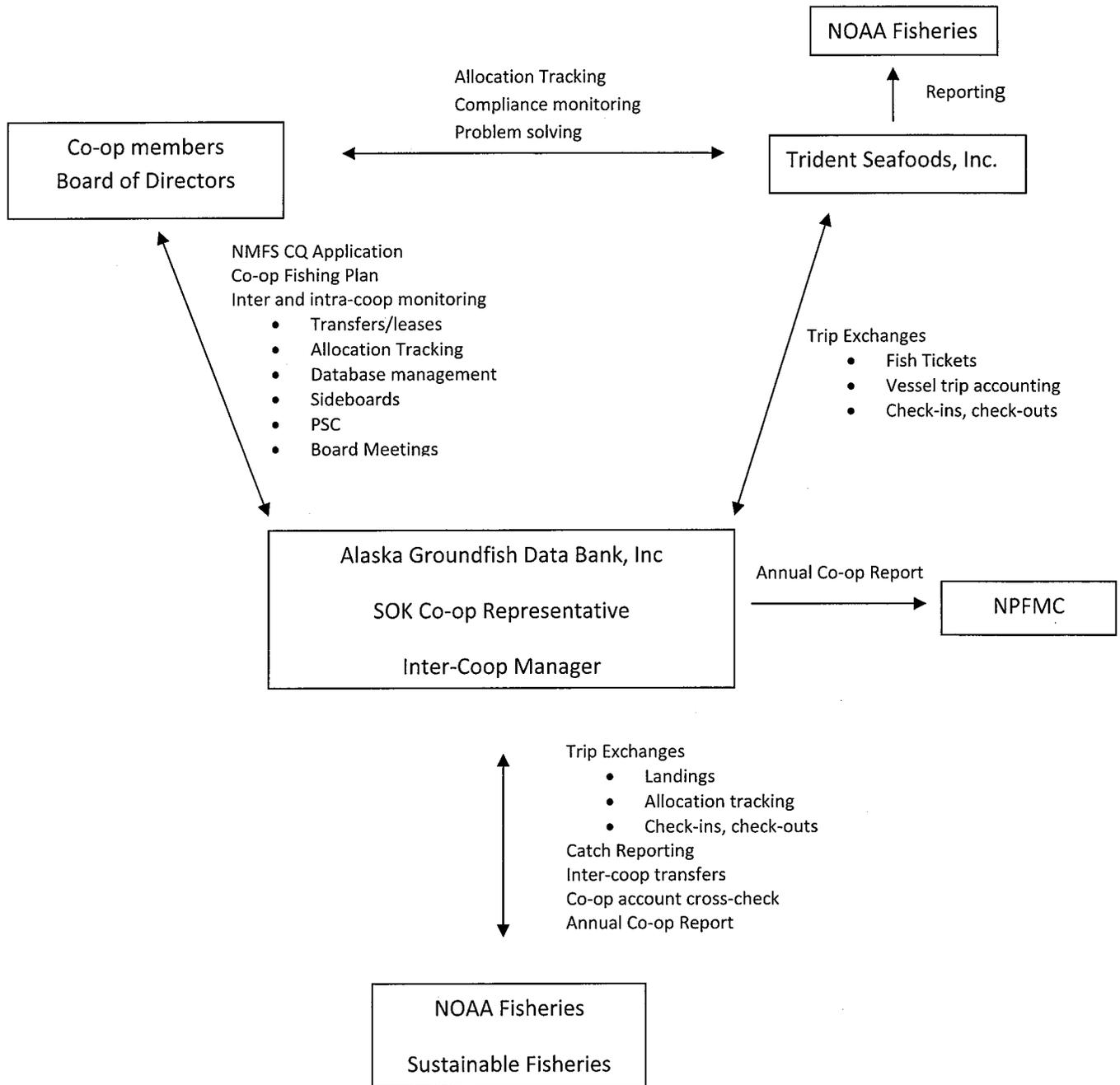
(2) Observer Coverage

100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels and per 12 hour processing period at the shoreside processing plants.

(3) NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management

NOAA RAM's Co-op ledger web site was used to confirm transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of SOK Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management.



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. *Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests*

The SOK Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2011 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 3. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the five catcher vessel cooperatives and to bring the catcher processor cooperative allocations on shore.

Table 2. SOK Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	PSR	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial SOK Allocation:	2,309,989	650,121	748,435	155,167	437,632	35,856	60,076
Transfers In (Trident CP):	713,342	66,808	217,462	54,614	-	5,554	4,120
Transfers In (OBSI):				1,409			
Transfers Out (WAF):	(139,298)	(20,478)		(132)	(1,222)		
Transfers Out (ISA):	(145,919)	(42,223)	(119,875)	(13,182)	(37,328)	(3,046)	(5,104)
Final SOK Allocation:	2,738,113	654,228	846,023	197,875	399,082	38,364	59,092
Total CV Co-ops:	10,264,542	2,802,840	2,800,734	659,389	1,859,742	152,371	255,295
SOK % CV Allocation:	22.50%	23.20%	26.72%	23.53%	23.53%	23.53%	23.53%

Trident CP: (Catcher processor off-shore co-op); OBSI: Ocean Beauty Seafood, Inc. Rockfish Co-op; ISA: International Seafoods of Alaska Rockfish Co-op; WAF: Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Co-op.

Table 3. SOK Rockfish Cooperative 2011 allocations and harvests by species and vessel. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website <https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts> (as of December 7, 2011).

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2011 Allocation*	Catch	Under/overage
POP	Mar Del Norte	11%	250,251	238,400	11,851
	Marcy J	6%	149,725	172,595	(22,870)
	Miss Leona	1%	34,500	-	34,500
	Rosella	6%	145,919	-	145,919
	Hazel Lorraine	10%	238,065	183,156	54,909
	Cape Kiwanda	21%	484,124	673,885	(189,761)
	Caravelle	6%	146,289	263,138	(116,849)
	Pacific Ram	2%	52,094	-	52,094
	Peggy Jo	16%	363,391	834,648	(471,257)
	Progress	19%	445,632	306,334	139,298
	Total	100%	2,309,989	2,672,156	(362,167)
		Transfers:	428,124		
		Final Total:	2,738,113	Net:	65,957
NR	Mar Del Norte	6%	41,815	8,767	33,048
	Marcy J	11%	72,590	87,849	(15,259)
	Miss Leona	3%	20,095	-	20,095
	Rosella	6%	42,223	-	42,223
	Hazel Lorraine	11%	73,424	14	73,410
	Cape Kiwanda	8%	53,176	67,363	(14,187)
	Caravelle	5%	29,402	47,531	(18,129)
	Pacific Ram	0%	3,177	-	3,177
	Peggy Jo	25%	163,322	215	163,107
	Progress	23%	150,897	10	150,887
	Total	100%	650,121	211,749	438,372
		Transfers:	4,107		
		Final Total:	654,228	Net:	442,479
PSR	Mar Del Norte	5%	35,428	8,774	26,654
	Marcy J	24%	180,733	232,196	(51,463)
	Miss Leona	1%	5,781	-	5,781
	Rosella	16%	119,875	-	119,875
	Hazel Lorraine	13%	100,719	1,672	99,047
	Cape Kiwanda	9%	66,541	86,205	(19,664)
	Caravelle	6%	44,345	78,937	(34,592)
	Pacific Ram	2%	12,070	-	12,070
	Peggy Jo	9%	67,335	8,490	58,845
	Progress	15%	115,608	10	115,598
	Total	100%	748,435	416,284	332,151
		Transfers:	97,587		
		Final Total:	846,023	Net:	429,739
Sablefish	Mar Del Norte	8%	12,652	17,730	(5,078)
	Marcy J	12%	18,279	17,215	1,065
	Miss Leona	2%	2,829	-	2,829
	Rosella	8%	13,182	-	13,182
	Hazel Lorraine	11%	17,530	31,037	(13,506)
	Cape Kiwanda	14%	22,365	41,075	(18,709)
	Caravelle	6%	8,830	13,479	(4,649)
	Pacific Ram	2%	2,444	-	2,444
	Peggy Jo	17%	26,570	44,646	(18,076)
	Progress	20%	30,484	30,971	(487)
	Total	100%	155,167	196,152	(40,985)
		Transfers:	42,709		
		Final Total:	197,875	Net:	1,723

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2011 Allocation*	Catch	Under/overage
P. cod	Mar Del Norte	8%	35,684	46,096	(10,413)
	Marcy J	12%	51,555	62,894	(11,339)
	Miss Leona	2%	7,979	-	7,979
	Rosella	8%	37,178	-	37,178
	Hazel Lorraine	11%	49,442	172	49,270
	Cape Kiwanda	14%	63,080	44,928	18,152
	Caravelle	6%	24,905	61,368	(36,463)
	Pacific Ram	2%	6,893	-	6,893
	Peggy Jo	17%	74,938	33,654	41,285
	Progress	20%	85,978	1,167	84,811
	Total	100%	437,632	250,279	187,353
		Transfers:	(38,550)		
		Final Total:	399,082	Net:	148,803
Thornyhead	Mar Del Norte	8%	2,924	392	2,532
	Marcy J	12%	4,224	4,931	(707)
	Miss Leona	2%	654	-	654
	Rosella	8%	3,046	-	3,046
	Hazel Lorraine	11%	4,051	2,812	1,239
	Cape Kiwanda	14%	5,168	1,778	3,390
	Caravelle	6%	2,041	968	1,073
	Pacific Ram	2%	565	-	565
	Peggy Jo	17%	6,140	9,248	(3,108)
	Progress	20%	7,044	1,388	5,656
	Total	100%	35,856	21,517	14,339
		Transfers:	2,508		
		Final Total:	38,364	Net:	16,847
Halibut PSC	Mar Del Norte	8%	4,898	1,063	3,835
	Marcy J	12%	7,077	7,678	(601)
	Miss Leona	2%	1,095	-	1,095
	Rosella	8%	5,104	-	5,104
	Hazel Lorraine	11%	6,787	885	5,902
	Cape Kiwanda	14%	8,659	2,215	6,444
	Caravelle	6%	3,419	629	2,790
	Pacific Ram	2%	946	-	946
	Peggy Jo	17%	10,287	3,136	7,151
	Progress	20%	11,803	1,820	9,982
	Total	100%	60,076	17,427	42,649
		Transfers:	(984)		
		Final Total:	59,092	Net:	41,665

*Cape Kiwanda initial allocation includes Nordic Explorer and Traveler CQ

B. Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ

Federal regulations require the RPP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2011 SOK Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1 – November 15, 2011), there were zero occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species – all harvested CQ species catch was retained and delivered to a Kodiak RPP processing plant.

C. Sideboard Limitations

The Rockfish Pilot Program established sideboard limitations (not allocations) that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard limits apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing.

(1) Prohibited Fishing

For the catcher vessel sector, the BS/AI was closed for flatfish and rockfish.

(2) Catch Limits

A collective CV Sector limit was imposed for the following (all were closed to the CV sector during the 2011 RPP since the allocations were too small to support directed fishing):

<u>BS/AI</u>	<u>West Yakutat</u>	<u>Western GOA</u>
Pacific Cod	POP	POP
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish

(3) Halibut Mortality Limits

A collective RPP co-op CV/CP sector halibut mortality sideboard limit was also imposed on the GOA shallow-water flatfish and deep-water flatfish fisheries. The deep-water complex remained closed throughout July due to an insufficient amount of halibut mortality to sustain the fishery. Therefore, shallow-water flatfish, including rock sole and flathead sole, was the only non-RPP fishery harvested by CV RPP co-op vessels during the month of July, but the vessels fished on an "open-access" basis, not cooperatively. For the month of July, the CP's and CV's collectively caught 11 MT of the total available 143 MT of shallow-water complex halibut mortality (7.7%) (as of December 7, 2011).

V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

A. Halibut: The cooperative's fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op's RPP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 4). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op's quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the co-op members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were again used to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or "flying bottom") gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The SOK Rockfish Co-op used 17,427 lbs or 29% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 59,092 lbs.

Table 4. Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the SOK Rockfish Cooperative

Inter-coop standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%
NR/PSR	2.20%
Sable/cod	4.00%
Cooperative Red Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.45%
NR/PSR	1.98%
Sable/cod	3.60%
Cooperative Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.38%
NR/PSR	1.65%
Sable/cod	3.00%

B. Chinook Salmon: SOK cooperative members continued with the voluntary Chinook salmon avoidance program implemented in 2010. Members were provided with a summary of Chinook bycatch in the RPP 2007-2010 fisheries and hotspot reports from 2010. Vessel operators were advised to monitor the hotspot areas, depths and time frames during the 2011 season and agreed to avoid areas of high Chinook salmon bycatch. Operators reported hotspots from the grounds to AGDB and/or to their processor. In turn the processor relayed this information to the inter-coop manager, AGDB, if they were the original point of contact. AGDB distributed hotspot information to the fleet and processors so that vessels on the fishing grounds could avoid the hotspots. AGDB also provided feedback to the vessel operators and their affiliated processor by reporting the number of Chinook salmon on the fish ticket on a trip by trip basis if >10 Chinook occurred in the delivery. Starting in 2011, SOK Co-op vessels were required to submit a Vessel Chinook Reporting Form for all RPP trips reporting area, depth, time, gear (pelagic, non-pelagic), target and number of salmon seen in the haul as an additional measure to monitor salmon bycatch and gather information. The SOK co-op had a total of 73 Chinook reported on the fish tickets over 36 trips compared to 57 Chinook in NMFS Catch Accounting System (CAS). According to CAS, there were a total of 396 Chinook taken by the CV co-ops over the 2011 season.

C. Other Prohibited Species Catch: The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2011 RPP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 70 non-Chinook salmon, 25 Bairdi tanner crab and 127 Golden king crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS).

VI. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RPP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the SOK Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

Final Report North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative

2011

December 15, 2011

Prepared by:
Julie Bonney
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak AK 99615

Table of Contents

I.	INTRODUCTION	2
II.	COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP	3
III.	COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT	4
A.	Monitoring.....	4
IV.	COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE.....	6
A.	Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests.....	6
B.	Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ	8
C.	Sideboard Limitations.....	8
V.	COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH	9
A.	Halibut	9
B.	Chinook Salmon.....	10
C.	Other Prohibited Species Catch.	10
VI.	PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS.....	10

I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allows each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, Thornyhead rockfish and Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained catch or Halibut PSC mortality usage of these species in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The primary RPP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RPP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for co-op members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allowed co-op members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while reducing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative is one of 5 inshore cooperatives formed in March 2011 in accordance to Amendment 68 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2011 marked the fifth and final year of the 5-year Rockfish Pilot Program and, in compliance with Amendment 68, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2011 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger websites.

¹ Pelagic shelf rockfish consists of dusky rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and widow rockfish.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2011, as in the previous 4 years, the North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative consisted of six member licenses with six member vessels (Table 1), of which three actively fished during the 2011 RPP season: F/V Coho, F/V Dawn and F/V Topaz. The Topaz, Alaskan, Taasinge and Alaska Beauty allocations were fished by the Topaz. Alaska Pacific Seafoods in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative.

Table 1. LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the NP Rockfish Cooperative 2011.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
1590	Alaska Beauty, LLC	Alaska Beauty	22011
2487	Burch, Alvin R	Dawn	09206
2535	Chandler Fisheries, Inc.	Topaz	40250
2603	Defiant Fisheries, Inc.	Taasinge	38001
3764	Pelagic Resources, Inc.	Alaskan	3734
4851	Island Coho, LLC	Coho	56189

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the Co-op President, Mark Chandler, Alaska Pacific Seafood's Plant Manager, Matt Moir and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while reducing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. *Monitoring*

(1) Check-ins and Check-outs

To facilitate moving into and out of non-RPP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" but limited them to 3 times the number of LLP's within the co-op. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RPP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries. With six LLP's, the NP Rockfish Cooperative was limited to 3x6 or 18 check-ins: 7 were used.

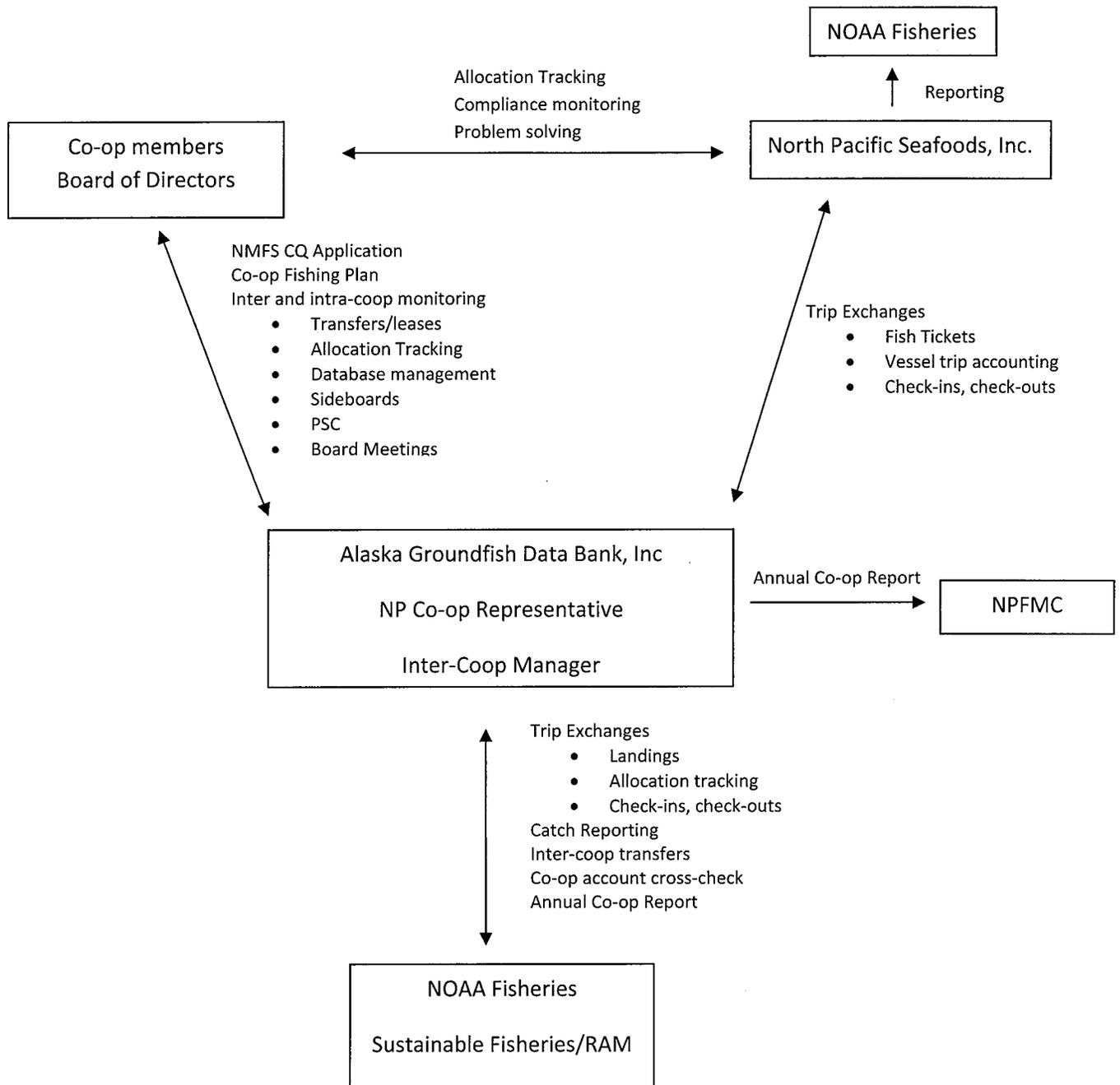
(2) Observer Coverage

100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels and per 12 hour processing period at the shoreside processing plants.

(3) NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management

NOAA RAM's Co-op ledger web site was used to confirm transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of NP Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management.



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. *Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests*

The NP Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2011 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 3. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the five catcher vessel cooperatives and to bring the catcher processor cooperative allocations on shore although the NP co-op had no offshore transfers this year.

Table 2. NP Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	PSR	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial NP Alloc.:	1,098,049	352,105	377,862	77,900	219,709	18,001	30,160
Transfers Out (ISA):				(825)			-
Final NP Allocation:	1,098,049	352,105	377,862	77,075	219,709	18,001	30,160
Total CV Coops:	10,264,542	2,802,840	2,800,734	659,389	1,859,742	152,371	255,295
NP % CV Allocation:	10.7%	12.6%	13.5%	11.8%	11.8%	11.8%	11.8%

ISA: International Seafood of Alaska Rockfish Co-op

Table 3. NP Rockfish Cooperative 2011 allocations and harvests by species and harvesting vessel. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website <https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts> (as of December 7, 2011).

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2011 Allocation*	Catch	Under/overage
POP	Coho	15.3%	167,531	178,353	(10,822)
	Dawn	21.6%	236,715	97,831	138,884
	Topaz	63.2%	693,803	680,031	13,772
	Total	100.0%	1,098,049	956,215	141,834
	Transfers:		0		
	Final Total:		1,098,049	Net:	141,834
NR	Coho	7.3%	25,609	29,100	(3,491)
	Dawn	29.1%	102,425	9,812	92,613
	Topaz	63.6%	224,071	240,260	(16,189)
	Total	100.0%	352,105	279,172	72,933
	Transfers:		0		
	Final Total:		352,105	Net:	72,933
PSR	Coho	7.6%	28,673	16,226	12,447
	Dawn	31.1%	117,451	17,701	99,750
	Topaz	61.3%	231,738	225,343	6,395
	Total	100.0%	377,862	259,270	118,592
	Transfers:		0		
	Final Total:		377,862	Net:	118,592
Sablefish	Coho	10.9%	8,521	13,543	(5,022)
	Dawn	26.1%	20,360	13,807	6,553
	Topaz	62.9%	49,019	46,378	2,641
	Total	100.0%	77,900	73,728	4,172
	Transfers:		(825)		
	Final Total:		77,075	Net:	3,347
P. cod	Coho	10.9%	24,033	17,654	6,379
	Dawn	26.1%	57,423	17,562	39,861
	Topaz	62.9%	138,253	126,160	12,093
	Total	100.0%	219,709	161,376	58,333
	Transfers:		0		
	Final Total:		219,709	Net:	58,333
Thornyhead	Coho	10.9%	1,969	787	1,182
	Dawn	26.1%	4,705	2,334	2,371
	Topaz	62.9%	11,327	10,851	476
	Total	100.0%	18,001	13,972	4,029
	Transfers:		0		
	Final Total:		18,001	Net:	4,029
Halibut PSC	Coho	10.9%	3,299	1,145	2,155
	Dawn	26.1%	7,883	2,191	5,691
	Topaz	62.9%	18,979	4,825	14,153
	Total	100.0%	30,160	8,161	21,999
	Transfers:		0		
	Final Total:		30,160	Net:	21,999

*Topaz initial allocations include those of the Alaska Beauty, Alaskan and Taasinge

B. *Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ*

Federal regulations require the RPP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2011 NP Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1 – November 15, 2011), there were zero occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species – all harvested CQ species catch was retained and delivered to a Kodiak RPP processing plant.

C. *Sideboard Limitations*

(1) Prohibited Fishing

For the catcher vessel sector, the BS/AI was closed for flatfish and rockfish.

(2) Catch Limits

A collective CV Sector limit was imposed for the following (all were closed to the CV sector during the 2011 RPP since the allocations were too small to support directed fishing):

<u>BS/AI</u>	<u>West Yakutat</u>	<u>Western GOA</u>
Pacific Cod	POP	POP
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish

(3) Halibut Mortality Limits

A collective RPP co-op CV/CP sector halibut mortality sideboard limit was also imposed on the GOA shallow-water flatfish and deep-water flatfish fisheries. The deep-water complex remained closed throughout July due to an insufficient amount of halibut mortality to sustain the fishery. Therefore, shallow-water flatfish, including rock sole and flathead sole, was the only non-RPP fishery harvested by CV RPP co-op vessels during the month of July, but the vessels fished on an "open-access" basis, not cooperatively. For the month of July, the CP's and CV's collectively caught 11 MT of the total available 143 MT of shallow-water complex halibut mortality (7.7%) (as of December 7, 2011).

V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

A. *Halibut*: The cooperative’s fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op’s RPP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 4). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op’s quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the co-op members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were again used to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or “flying bottom”) gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The NP Rockfish Co-op used 8,161 lbs or 27% of its halibut PSC allocation of 30,160 lbs.

Table 4. Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the NP Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%
NR/PSR	2.20%
Sable/cod	4.00%
Cooperative Red Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.45%
NR/PSR	1.98%
Sable/cod	3.60%
Cooperative Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.38%
NR/PSR	1.65%
Sable/cod	3.00%

B. *Chinook Salmon:* NP cooperative members continued with the voluntary Chinook salmon avoidance program implemented in 2010. Members were provided with a summary of Chinook bycatch in the RPP 2007-2010 fisheries and hotspot reports from 2010. Vessel operators were advised to monitor the hotspot areas, depths and time frames during the 2011 season and agreed to avoid areas of high Chinook salmon bycatch.

Operators reported hotspots from the grounds to AGDB and/or to their processor. In turn the processor relayed this information to the inter-coop manager, AGDB, if they were the original point of contact. AGDB distributed hotspot information to the fleet and processors so that vessels on the fishing grounds could avoid the hotspots. AGDB also provided feedback to the vessel operators and their affiliated processor by reporting the number of Chinook salmon on the fish ticket on a trip by trip basis if >10 Chinook occurred in the delivery.

Starting in 2011, NP Co-op vessels were required to submit a Vessel Chinook Reporting Form for all RPP trips reporting area, depth, time, gear (pelagic, non-pelagic), target and number of salmon seen in the haul as an additional measure to monitor salmon bycatch and gather information. The NP co-op had a total of 19 Chinook reported on the fish tickets over 18 trips compared to 9 Chinook in NMFS Catch Accounting System (CAS). According to CAS, there were a total of 396 Chinook taken by the CV co-ops over the 2011 season.

c. *Other Prohibited Species Catch:* The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2011 RPP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 70 non-Chinook salmon, 25 Bairdi tanner crab and 127 Golden king crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS).

VI. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RPP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the NP Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events.

There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

Final Report
International Seafoods of Alaska, Inc.
Rockfish Cooperative

2011

December 15, 2011

Prepared by:
Julie Bonney
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak AK 99615

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION	2
II.	COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP	3
III.	COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT	4
A.	Monitoring.....	4
IV.	COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE.....	6
A.	Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests.....	6
B.	Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ	8
C.	Sideboard Limitations.....	8
V.	COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH	9
A.	Halibut	9
B.	Chinook Salmon.....	10
C.	Other Prohibited Species Catch	10
VI.	PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS.....	10

I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allows each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, Thornyhead rockfish and Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained catch or Halibut PSC mortality usage of these species in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The primary RPP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RPP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for co-op members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allowed co-op members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while reducing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The ISA Cooperative is one of 5 inshore cooperatives formed in March 2011 in accordance to Amendment 68 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2011 marked the fifth and final year of the 5-year Rockfish Pilot Program and, in compliance with Amendment 68, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2011 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger websites.

¹ Pelagic shelf rockfish consists of dusky rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and widow rockfish.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2011, the International Seafoods of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative consisted of ten member licenses with ten member vessels (Table 1) of which two actively fished during the 2011 RPP season: Mar Pacifico and the Elizabeth F. The allocations of the Forum Star, Capt'n Art, Pacific Challenger, Morning Star, Green Hope, Ocean Hope 3, Muir Milach and Winona J were fished jointly by the Mar Pacifico and Elizabeth F.

International Seafoods of Alaska, Inc. in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the International Seafoods of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative.

Table 1. LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the ISA Rockfish Cooperative 2011.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
1273	Elizabeth F Inc	Elizabeth F	14767
2148	Thomas A. Tormala	Capt'n Art	40967
2164	Dona Martita LLC	Morning Star	70323
2188	Green Hope LLC	Green Hope	47790
2683	Evening Star, Inc	Ocean Hope 3	48173
2608	Pacific Dawn LLC	Pacific Challenger	6931
2394	American Seafoods Co. LLC	Forum Star	59687
2554	Aleutian Spray Reverse LLC	Muir Milach	41021
2653	Reliance Fisheries, Inc	Winona J	43383
2696	Mar Pacifico, Inc	Mar Pacifico	23131

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The International Seafoods of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the co-op president, Jan Jacobs, the ISA plant manager, Mitch Kilborn and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while reducing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

(1) Check-ins and Check-outs

To facilitate moving into and out of non-RPP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" but limited them to 3X the number of LLP's within the co-op. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RPP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries. With 10 LLP's, the ISA Rockfish Cooperative was limited to 3x10 or 30 check-ins: 8 were used.

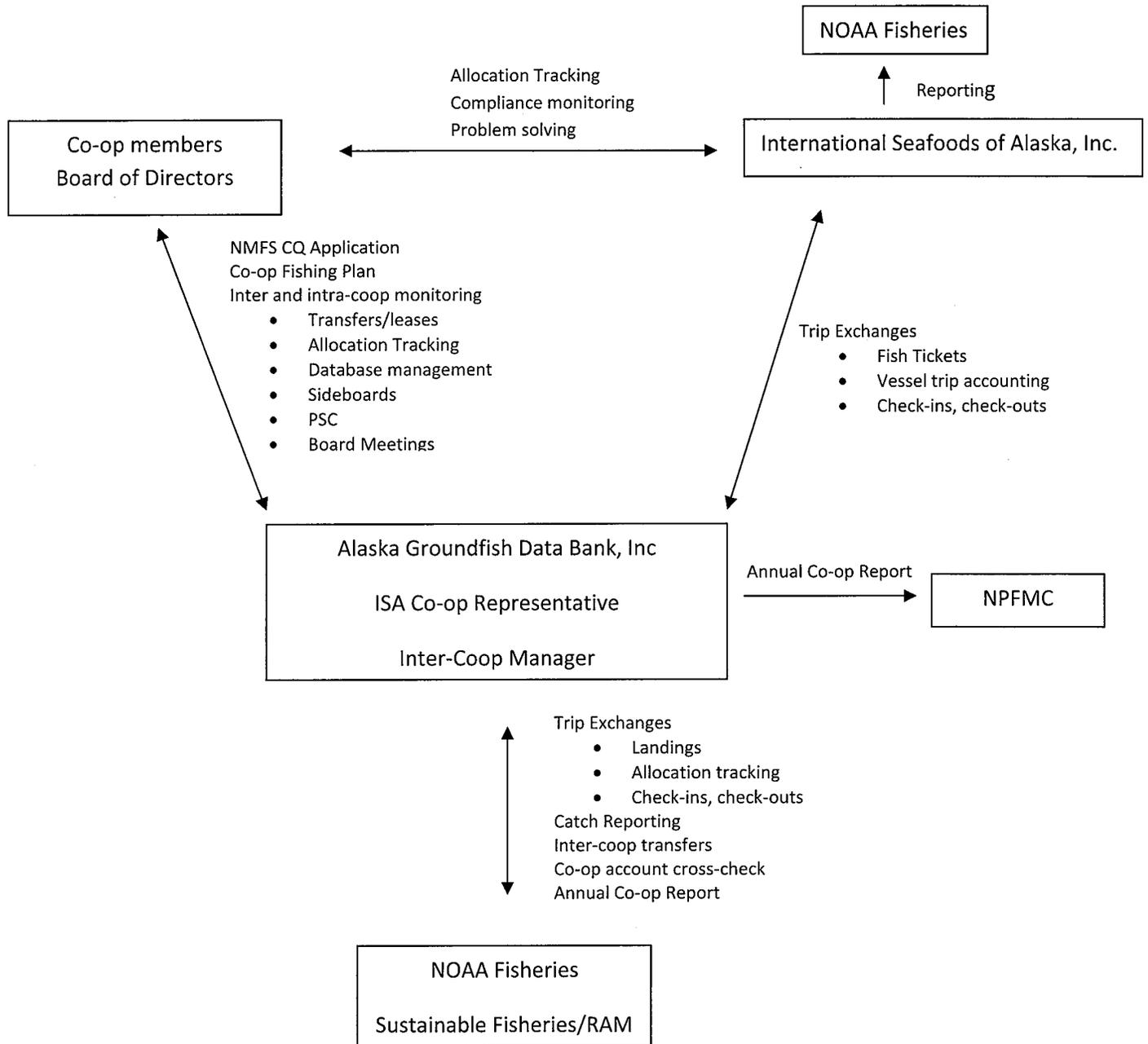
(2) Observer Coverage

100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels and per 12 hour processing period at the shoreside processing plants.

(3) NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management

NOAA RAM's Co-op ledger web site was used to confirm transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of ISA Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management.



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. *Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests*

The ISA Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2011 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 3. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the five catcher vessel cooperatives and to bring the catcher processor cooperative allocations on shore.

Table 2. ISA Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	PSR	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial ISA Allocation:	1,873,706	334,633	357,763	100,499	283,448	23,223	38,910
Transfers In (Trident CP):	-	-	-	1,527	-	-	-
Transfers In (SOK):	145,919	42,223	119,875	13,182	37,328	3,046	5,104
Transfers In (BUC):	74,366	-	-	268	-	-	-
Transfers In (NP):	-	-	-	825	-	-	-
Final ISA Allocation:	2,093,991	376,857	477,638	116,301	320,777	26,269	44,014
Total CV Coops:	10,264,542	2,802,840	2,800,734	659,389	1,859,742	152,371	255,295
ISA % CV Allocation:	18.25%	11.94%	12.77%	15.24%	15.24%	15.24%	15.24%

Trident CP: (Catcher processor off-shore co-op); SOK: Star of Kodiak Rockfish Co-op; BUC: GOA Best Use Rockfish Cooperative; NP: North Pacific Rockfish Co-op;

Table 3. ISA Rockfish Cooperative 2011 allocations and harvests by species and harvesting vessel. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website <https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts> (as of December 7, 2011).

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2011 Allocation*	Catch	Under/overage
POP	Elizabeth F	54%	1,009,408	960,661	48,747
	Mar Pacifico	46%	864,298	1,127,570	(263,272)
	Total	100%	1,873,706	2,088,231	(214,525)
	Transfers:		220,285		
	Final Total:		2,093,991	Net:	5,760
NR	Elizabeth F	42%	141,280	44,173	97,107
	Mar Pacifico	58%	193,353	147,822	45,531
	Total	100%	334,633	191,995	142,638
	Transfers:		42,223		
	Final Total:		376,857	Net:	184,862
PSR	Elizabeth F	47%	166,634	19,683	146,951
	Mar Pacifico	53%	191,129	72,890	118,239
	Total	100%	357,763	92,573	265,190
	Transfers:		119,875		
	Final Total:		477,638	Net:	385,065
Sablefish	Elizabeth F	50%	50,115	49,329	786
	Mar Pacifico	50%	50,385	66,881	(16,496)
	Total	100%	100,499	116,209	(15,710)
	Transfers:		15,802		
	Final Total:		116,301	Net:	92
P. cod	Elizabeth F	50%	141,344	126,676	14,668
	Mar Pacifico	50%	142,105	194,081	(51,976)
	Total	100%	283,448	320,757	(37,308)
	Transfers:		37,328		
	Final Total:		320,777	Net:	20
Thornyhead	Elizabeth F	50%	11,580	4,095	7,485
	Mar Pacifico	50%	11,643	156	11,487
	Total	100%	23,223	4,251	18,972
	Transfers:		3,046		
	Final Total:		26,269	Net:	22,018
Halibut PSC	Elizabeth F	50%	19,403	7,515	11,888
	Mar Pacifico	50%	19,507	11,982	7,526
	Total	100%	38,910	19,497	19,414
	Transfers:		5,104		
	Final Total:		44,014	Net:	24,517

*The initial allocations for Eliz F and Mar Pacifico include their own initial allocations plus one-half of the initial allocations from the remaining ISA LLP's: Green Hope, Ocean Hope 3, Forum Star, Capt Art, Pacific Challenger, Winona J, Morning Star, Muir Milach.

B. Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ

Federal regulations require the RPP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2011 ISA Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1 – November 15, 2011), there were no occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species.

C. Sideboard Limitations

The Rockfish Pilot Program established sideboard limitations (not allocations) that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard limits apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing.

(1) Prohibited Fishing

For the catcher vessel sector, the BS/AI was closed for flatfish and rockfish.

(2) Catch Limits

A collective CV Sector limit was imposed for the following (all were closed to the CV sector during the 2011 RPP):

<u>BS/AI</u>	<u>West Yakutak</u>	<u>Western GOA</u>
Pacific Cod	POP	POP
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish

(3) Halibut Mortality Limits

A collective RPP co-op CV/CP sector halibut mortality sideboard limit was also imposed on the GOA shallow-water flatfish and deep-water flatfish fisheries. The deep-water complex remained closed throughout July due to an insufficient amount of halibut mortality to sustain the fishery. Therefore, shallow-water flatfish, including rock sole and flathead sole, was the only non-RPP fishery harvested by CV RPP co-op vessels during the month of July, but the vessels fished on an "open-access" basis, not cooperatively. For the month of July, the CP's and CV's collectively caught 11 MT of the total available 143 MT of shallow-water complex halibut mortality (7.7%) (as of December 7, 2011).

V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

A. **Halibut:** The cooperative's fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op's RPP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 4). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op's quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the coop members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or "flying bottom") gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The ISA Rockfish Co-op used 19,497 lbs or 44% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 44,014 lbs.

Table 4. Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the ISA Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%
NR/PSR	2.20%
Sable/cod	4.00%
Red Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.45%
NR/PSR	1.98%
Sable/cod	3.60%
Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.38%
NR/PSR	1.65%
Sable/cod	3.00%

- B. ***Chinook Salmon:*** ISA cooperative members continued with the voluntary Chinook salmon avoidance program implemented in 2010. Members were provided with a summary of Chinook bycatch in the RPP 2007-2010 fisheries and hotspot reports from 2010. Vessel operators were advised to monitor the hotspot areas, depths and time frames during the 2011 season and agreed to avoid areas of high Chinook salmon bycatch.

Operators reported hotspots from the grounds to AGDB and/or to their processor. In turn the processor relayed this information to the inter-coop manager, AGDB, if they were the original point of contact. AGDB distributed hotspot information to the fleet and processors so that vessels on the fishing grounds could avoid the hotspots. AGDB also provided feedback to the vessel operators and their affiliated processor by reporting the number of Chinook salmon on the fish ticket on a trip by trip basis if >10 Chinook occurred in the delivery.

Starting in 2011, ISA Co-op vessels were required to submit a Vessel Chinook Reporting Form for all RPP trips reporting area, depth, time, gear (pelagic, non-pelagic), target and number of salmon seen in the haul as an additional measure to monitor salmon bycatch and gather information. The ISA co-op had a total of 59 Chinook reported on the fish tickets over 19 trips compared to 0 Chinook in NMFS Catch Accounting System (CAS). According to CAS, there were a total of 396 Chinook taken by the CV co-ops over the 2011 season.

- C. ***Other Prohibited Species Catch:*** The following were attributed to the combined in shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2011 RPP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 70 non-Chinook salmon, 25 Bairdi tanner crab and 127 Golden king crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS).

VI. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RPP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the ISA Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

Final Report
Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Inc.
Rockfish Cooperative

2011

December 15, 2011

Prepared by:
Julie Bonney
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc
PO Box 788
Kodiak AK 99615

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION	2
II.	COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP	3
III.	COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT	4
A.	Monitoring.....	4
IV.	COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE.....	6
A.	Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests.....	6
B.	Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ	8
C.	Sideboard Limitations.....	8
1.	Prohibited Fishing.....	8
2.	Catch Limits	8
3.	Halibut Mortality Limits.....	8
V.	COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH	9
A.	Halibut:	9
B.	Chinook Salmon.....	10
C.	Other Prohibited Species Catch	10
VI.	PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS.....	10

I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allows each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, Thornyhead rockfish and Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained catch or Halibut PSC mortality usage of these species in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The primary RPP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RPP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for coop members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allowed co-op members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while reducing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Inc Rockfish Cooperative is one of 5 inshore cooperatives formed in March 2011 in accordance to Amendment 68 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2011 marked the fifth and final year of the 5-year Rockfish Pilot Program and, in compliance with Amendment 68, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2011 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger websites.

¹ Pelagic shelf rockfish consists of dusky rockfish, yellowtail rockfish and widow rockfish.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2011, the Ocean Beauty Seafoods Rockfish Cooperative consisted of eight member licenses with seven member vessels (Table 1), of which four actively fished during the RPP: Excalibur II, Laura, New Life and the Pacific Star. The Bay Islander, Marathon and New Life Fisheries, Inc LLP allocations were fished by the New Life; the allocations for the Defiant were fished by the Laura. Ocean Beauty Seafoods in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Inc. Rockfish Cooperative.

Table 1. LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the OBSI Rockfish Cooperative 2011.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
1367	New Life Fisheries, Inc	na	-
3504	Bay Islander, Inc	Bay Islander	49618
4465	Marathon Fisheries, Inc	Marathon	49617
5201	New Life Fisheries, Inc	New Life	21845
3496	M/V Defiant, INC	Defiant	40141
3521	Excalibur II LLC	Excalibur II	54653
4852	Pac Star, Inc	Pacific Star	55038
3665	Laura Fisheries Joint Venture	Laura	21591

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The Ocean Beauty Seafoods Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the Co-op President, Kent Helligso, Ocean Beauty Seafoods Seafood's Plant Manager, Tim Blott and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while reducing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

(1) Check-ins and Check-outs

To facilitate moving into and out of non-RPP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" but limited them to 3 times the number of LLP's within the coop. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RPP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries. With eight LLP's, the OBSI Rockfish Cooperative was limited to 3x8 or 24 check-ins: 8 were used.

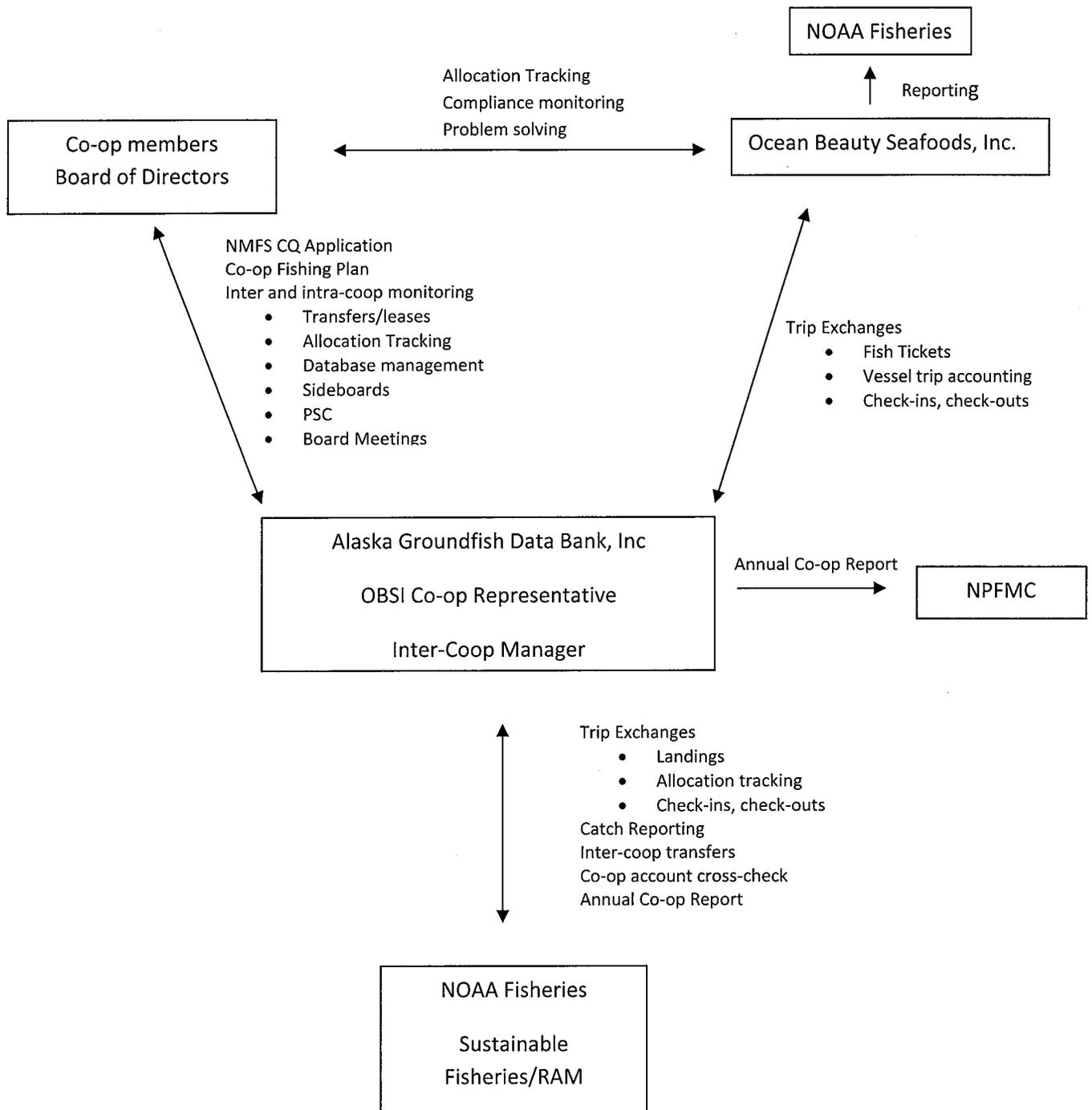
(2) Observer Coverage

100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels and per 12 hour processing period at the shoreside processing plants.

(3) NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management

NOAA RAM's Co-op ledger web site was used to confirm transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of OBSI Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management.



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. *Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests*

The OBSI Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2011 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 3. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the five catcher vessel cooperatives and to bring a portion of the catcher processor cooperative allocations on shore.

Table 2. OBSI Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	PSR	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial OBSI Allocation:	1,934,740	699,632	647,464	142,200	401,061	32,859	55,055
Transfers In (TCP):	41800	41324	91192	10,000	-	-	5,962
Transfers Out (SOK):	-	-	-	(1,408)	-	-	-
Final OBSI Allocation:	1,976,540	740,956	738,656	150,792	401,061	32,859	61,018
Total CV Coops:	10,264,542	2,802,840	2,800,734	659,389	1,859,742	152,371	255,295
OBSI %CV Allocation:	18.85%	24.96%	23.12%	21.57%	21.57%	21.57%	21.57%

TCP - Trident CP: (Catcher processor off-shore co-op); SOK: Star of Kodiak Rockfish Co-op

Table 3. OBSI Rockfish Cooperative 2011 allocations and harvests by species and harvesting vessel. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website <https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts> (as of December 7, 2011).

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2011 Allocations*	Catch	Under/ overage
POP	Excalibur II	6%	117,474	144,088	(26,614)
	Laura	25%	482,314	502,339	(20,025)
	New Life	21%	414,785	865,336	(450,551)
	Marathon	26%	507,662	-	507,662
	Pac Star	21%	412,505	445,999	(33,494)
	Total	100%	1,934,740	1,957,762	(23,022)
	Transfers:		41,800		
	Final Total:		1,976,540	Net:	18,778
NR	Excalibur II	13%	91,627	47,904	43,723
	Laura	18%	125,732	124,834	898
	New Life	15%	104,445	401,999	(297,554)
	Marathon	24%	170,323	-	170,323
	Pac Star	30%	207,505	74,214	133,291
	Total	100%	699,632	648,951	50,681
	Transfers:		41,324		
	Final Total:		740,956	Net:	92,005
PSR	Excalibur II	8%	54,704	93,682	(38,978)
	Laura	26%	165,879	52,580	113,299
	New Life	18%	115,292	406,158	(290,866)
	Marathon		153,583	-	153,583
	Pac Star	24%	158,006	83,750	74,256
	Total	76%	647,464	636,170	11,294
	Transfers:		91,192		
	Final Total:		738,656	Net:	102,486
Sablefish	Excalibur II	9%	12,914	22,041	(9,127)
	Laura	23%	32,105	31,181	924
	New Life	18%	26,099	59,827	(33,728)
	Marathon	25%	35,606	-	35,606
	Pac Star	25%	35,476	37,660	(2,185)
	Total	100%	142,200	150,709	(8,510)
	Transfers:		8,592		
	Final Total:		150,792	Net:	82
P. cod	Excalibur II	9%	36,423	24,130	12,293
	Laura	23%	90,549	74,609	15,939
	New Life	18%	73,610	155,954	(82,344)
	Marathon	25%	100,423	-	100,423
	Pac Star	25%	100,055	85,238	14,817
	Total	100%	401,061	339,932	61,129
	Transfers:		0		
	Final Total:		401,061	Net:	61,129
Thornyhead	Excalibur II	9%	2,984	1,509	1,475
	Laura	23%	7,419	1,620	5,799
	New Life	18%	6,031	15,213	(9,182)
	Marathon	25%	8,228	-	8,228
	Pac Star	25%	8,198	1,995	6,203
	Total	100%	32,859	20,337	12,522
	Transfers:		0		
	Final Total:		32,859	Net:	12,522

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2011 Allocations*	Catch	Under/ overage
Halibut PSC	Excalibur II	9%	5,000	7,150	(2,150)
	Laura	23%	12,430	7,240	5,190
	New Life	18%	10,105	3,475	6,630
	Marathon	25%	13,786	-	13,786
	Pac Star	25%	13,735	17,434	(3,699)
	Total	100%	55,055	35,299	19,756
	Transfers:		5,962		
	Final Total:		61,018	Net:	25,718

*Laura initial allocations include those of the F/V Laura and F/V Defiant; New Life initial allocations include those of the F/V New Life, F/V Bay Islander and LLP 1367.

B. Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ

Federal regulations require the RPP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2011 NP Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1 – November 15, 2011), there were zero occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species – all harvested CQ species catch was retained and delivered to a Kodiak RPP processing plant.

C. Sideboard Limitations

1. Prohibited Fishing

For the catcher vessel sector, the BS/AI was closed for flatfish and rockfish.

2. Catch Limits

A collective CV Sector limit was imposed for the following (all were closed to the CV sector during the 2011 RPP since the allocations were too small to support directed fishing):

<u>BS/AI</u>	<u>West Yakutat</u>	<u>Western GOA</u>
Pacific Cod	POP	POP
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish

3. Halibut Mortality Limits

A collective RPP co-op CV/CP sector halibut mortality sideboard limit was also imposed on the GOA shallow-water flatfish and deep-water flatfish fisheries. The deep-water complex remained closed throughout July due to an insufficient amount of halibut mortality to sustain the fishery. Therefore, shallow-water flatfish, including rock sole and flathead sole, was the only non-RPP fishery harvested by CV RPP co-op vessels during the month of July, but the vessels fished on an "open-access" basis, not cooperatively. For the month of July, the CP's and CV's collectively caught 11 MT of the total available 143 MT of shallow-water complex halibut mortality (7.7%) (as of December 7, 2011).

V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

A. **Halibut:** The cooperative's fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op's RPP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 4). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op's quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the co-op members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were adopted to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or "flying bottom") gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The OBSI Rockfish Co-op used 35,299 lbs or 57.85% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 61,018 lbs.

Table 4. Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the OBSI Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%
NR/PSR	2.20%
Sable/cod	4.00%
Cooperative Red Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.45%
NR/PSR	1.98%
Sable/cod	3.60%
Cooperative Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.38%
NR/PSR	1.65%
Sable/cod	3.00%

B. ***Chinook Salmon:*** OBSI cooperative members continued with the voluntary Chinook salmon avoidance program implemented in 2010. Members were provided with a summary of Chinook bycatch in the RPP 2007-2010 fisheries and hotspot reports from 2010. Vessel operators were advised to monitor the hotspot areas, depths and time frames during the 2011 season and agreed to avoid areas of high Chinook salmon bycatch.

Operators reported hotspots from the grounds to AGDB and/or to their processor. In turn the processor relayed this information to the inter-coop manager, AGDB, if they were the original point of contact. AGDB distributed hotspot information to the fleet and processors so that vessels on the fishing grounds could avoid the hotspots. AGDB also provided feedback to the vessel operators and their affiliated processor by reporting the number of Chinook salmon on the fish ticket on a trip by trip basis if >10 Chinook occurred in the delivery.

Starting in 2011, OBSI Co-op vessels were required to submit a Vessel Chinook Reporting Form for all RPP trips reporting area, depth, time, gear (pelagic, non-pelagic), target and number of salmon seen in the haul as an additional measure to monitor salmon bycatch and gather information. The OBSI co-op had a total of 55 Chinook reported on the fish tickets over 31 trips compared to 35 Chinook in NMFS Catch Accounting System (CAS). According to CAS, there were a total of 396 Chinook taken by the CV co-ops over the 2011 season.

C. ***Other Prohibited Species Catch:*** The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2011 RPP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 70 non-Chinook salmon, 25 Bairdi tanner crab and 127 Golden king crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS).

VI. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RPP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation on a vessel-by-vessel basis: such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the OBSI Co-op Member Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events.

There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

Final Report
Western Alaska Fisheries
Rockfish Cooperative

2011

December 15, 2011

Prepared by:
Julie Bonney
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak AK 99615

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION	2
II.	COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP	3
III.	COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT	4
A.	Monitoring.....	4
IV.	COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE.....	6
A.	Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests.....	6
B.	Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ	9
C.	Sideboard Limitations.....	9
V.	COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH	10
A.	Halibut	10
B.	Chinook Salmon.....	11
C.	Other Prohibited Species Catch	11
VI.	PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS.....	11

I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing catcher vessel Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allows each catcher vessel/harvester to join a cooperative in association with the processor to which it delivered the most pounds of CGOA rockfish during the processor qualifying period. Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of target rockfish, catcher vessel cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include Sablefish, Pacific cod, Thornyhead rockfish and Halibut PSC mortality. Allocations to the catcher vessel sector are based on the average percentage of retained catch or Halibut PSC mortality usage of these species in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

The primary RPP objective is to stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes, particularly May and June, and to remove the processing conflict with salmon. Additionally, the RPP reduces the competition for fish among harvesters thereby promoting safety, high quality seafood production, and increased economic performance and stability for co-op members, fishermen and processors. The extended, non-derby style season allowed co-op members to improve harvesting efficiency in the target fisheries while reducing incidental bycatch of prohibited species through better fishing practices and efficient fleet monitoring and information distribution.

The Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative is one of 5 inshore cooperatives formed in March 2011 in accordance to Amendment 68 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2011 marked the fifth and final year of the 5-year Rockfish Pilot Program and, in compliance with Amendment 68, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of allocations, harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2011 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Catch figures and statistics were provided by the cooperative's manager and representative, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc. (AGDB) and cross-checked with NMFS Co-op catch data accessed through the NMFS Co-op ledger websites.

¹ Pelagic shelf rockfish consists of dusky rockfish, yellowtail rockfish and widow rockfish.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2011, the Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative consisted of ten member licenses with ten member vessels (Table 1) of which seven actively fished during the 2011 RPP season: Leslie Lee, Walter N, Collier Brothers, Dusk, Michelle Renee, Vanguard, and the Gold Rush.

Western Alaska Fisheries in Kodiak, Alaska served as the primary purchasing and processing facility for the Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative.

Table 1. LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels of the WAF Rockfish Cooperative 2011.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
1183	Leslie Lee, Inc	Leslie Lee	56119
1271	Elizabeth F, Inc	Walter N	34919
1523	James A. Schones	Collier Brothers	54648
1905	Gilbert, William T. Jr./Norma	Alaska Dawn	69765
2165	Burch, Alvin R.	Dusk	21636
2222	Lady Joanne, Inc	Lady Joanne	62922
2550	Black Sea Fisheries, Inc	Michelle Renee	61244
2565	Futura Fisheries, Inc	Vanguard	39946
3600	Hickory Wind, LLC	Hickory Wind	47795
3987	F/V Gold Rush Fisheries, LLC	Gold Rush	40309

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative was represented and managed by Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc in collaboration and coordination with the Co-op President, Mike Martin, Western Alaska Fisheries Seafood's Plant Manager, Sune Forsman and NOAA Fisheries.

Fishing plans were devised to harvest the allocations efficiently while reducing the amount of prohibited and non-marketable species. Harvest numbers, observer data and fish ticket information were analyzed, updated and distributed to the appropriate and interested parties in a timely manner to ensure proper management. Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

(1) Check-ins and Check-outs

To facilitate moving into and out of non-RPP fisheries during the rockfish season, NMFS instituted "Check-ins" and "Check-outs" but limited them to 3 times the number of LLP's within the coop. Co-op vessels were required to check into the RPP fishery 48 hours prior to starting a trip and to check out of the program before participating in other fisheries. With ten LLP's, the WAF Rockfish Cooperative was limited to 3x10 or 30 check-ins: 18 were used.

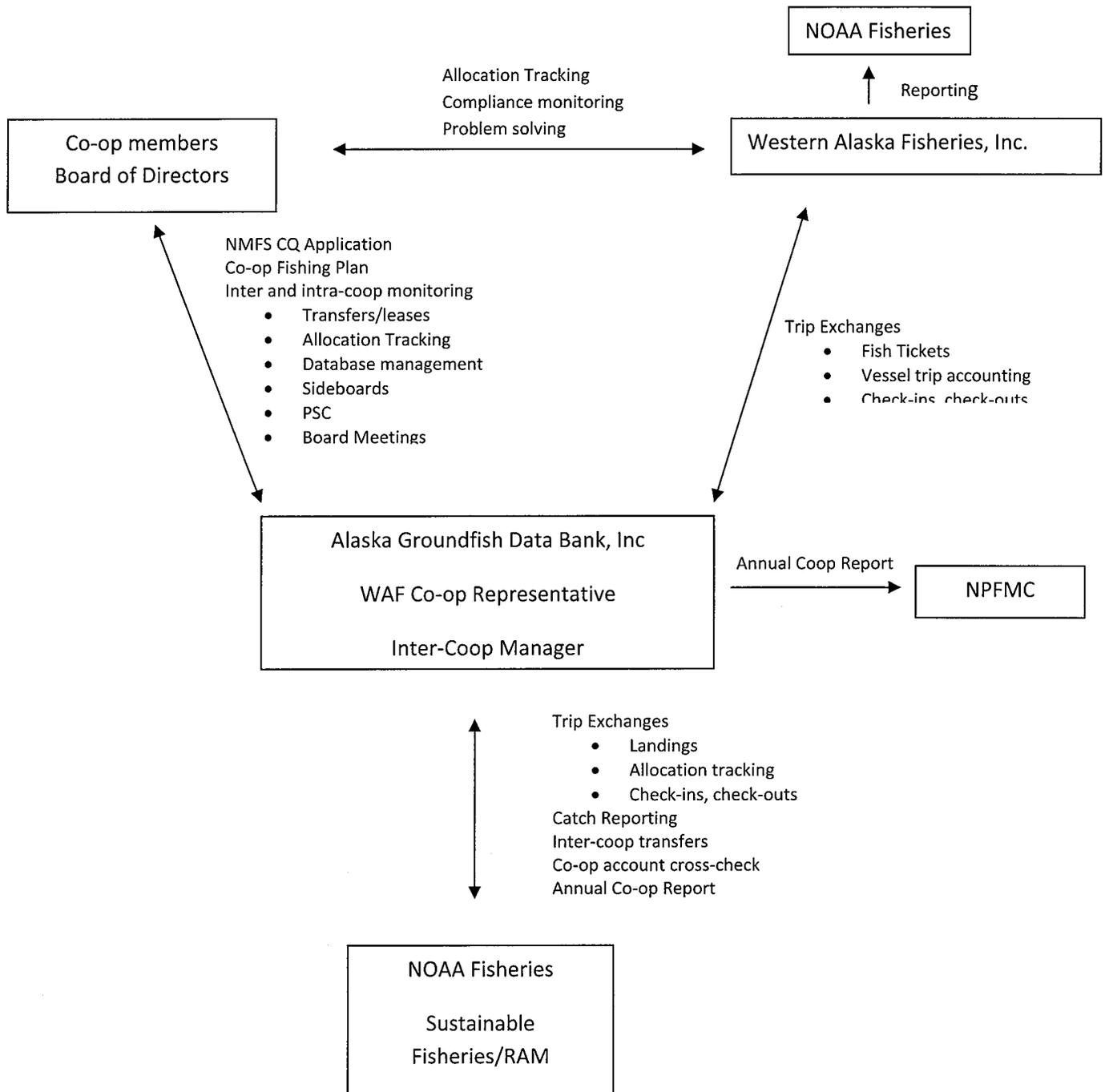
(2) Observer Coverage

100% Observer coverage was required by all participating vessels and per 12 hour processing period at the shoreside processing plants.

(3) NOAA Fisheries/Restricted Access Management

AGDB maintained close contact with NMFS/RAM personnel to monitor the co-op's harvest activities and bycatch rates and to discuss and resolve actual or potential management issues. NOAA RAM's Co-op ledger web site proved very useful and was accessed frequently to confirm transfers, conduct cross-checks, check co-op balances and detect missing database information.

Figure 1. Schematic of WAF Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management.



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. *Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests*

The WAF Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and harvests for the 2011 season are summarized by species and vessel in Table 3. Note that cooperative fishing allowed individual vessel overages to be offset by quota not harvested by other member vessels. Inter-coop transfers (Table 2) were arranged by the Inter-coop manager to maximize harvesting of the allocations among the five catcher vessel cooperatives and to bring the catcher processor cooperative allocations on shore. Post-delivery transfers were submitted to NMFS over the season to cover co-op overages.

Table 2. WAF Rockfish Co-op allocations and inter-coop transfer summary (weights are in pounds).

	POP	NR	PSR	Sablefish	P. cod	Thornyhead	Halibut
Initial WAF Allocation:	3,047,306	761,005	668,396	183,173	516,621	42,327	70,919
Transfers In (Trident CP):	1,007,617	74,259	137,183	39,386	-	4,548	-
Transfers In (SOK):	139,298	20,478	-	132	1,222	-	-
Final WAF Allocation:	4,194,221	855,742	805,579	222,691	517,843	46,875	70,919
Total CV Coops:	10,264,542	2,802,840	2,800,734	659,389	1,859,742	152,371	255,295
WAF % CV Allocation:	29.69%	27.15%	23.87%	27.78%	27.78%	27.78%	27.78%

Trident CP: (Catcher processor off-shore co-op); SOK: Star of Kodiak Rockfish Co-op.

Table 3. WAF Rockfish Cooperative 2011 allocations and harvests by species and harvesting vessel. Weights are in pounds. CQ totals from ADF&G Fish Tickets (includes dock and at-sea discards). Halibut mortality PSC is from NMFS/RAM Co-op ledger website <https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/webapps/coopaccounts> (as of December 7, 2011).

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2011 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
POP	Leslie Lee	15%	455,839	499,391	(43,552)
	Walter N	14%	412,720	545,997	(133,277)
	Collier Brothers	8%	229,176	233,321	(4,145)
	Alaska Dawn	0%	12,477	-	12,477
	Dusk	7%	215,565	101,008	114,557
	Lady Joanne	2%	65,737	-	65,737
	Michelle Renee	15%	443,079	1,502,234	(1,059,155)
	Vanguard	13%	386,995	557,083	(170,088)
	Hickory Wind	13%	382,395	-	382,395
	Gold Rush	15%	443,323	716,313	(272,990)
	Total	100%	3,047,306	4,155,347	(1,108,041)
	Transfers:	1,146,915			
	Final Total:	4,194,221	Net:	38,874	
NR	Leslie Lee	12%	90,533	609	89,924
	Walter N	6%	46,767	1,212	45,555
	Collier Brothers	11%	84,122	72,865	11,257
	Alaska Dawn	1%	7,359	-	7,359
	Dusk	3%	21,047	146	20,901
	Lady Joanne	1%	7,530	-	7,530
	Michelle Renee	30%	229,747	306,131	(76,384)
	Vanguard	11%	82,317	113,252	(30,935)
	Hickory Wind	11%	82,342	-	82,342
	Gold Rush	14%	109,240	83,719	25,521
	Total	100%	761,005	577,934	183,071
	Transfers:	94,737			
	Final Total:	855,742	Net:	277,808	
PSR	Leslie Lee	6%	43,003	730	42,273
	Walter N	9%	58,719	737	57,982
	Collier Brothers	7%	49,399	52,650	(3,251)
	Alaska Dawn	0%	0	-	0
	Dusk	6%	43,208	637	42,571
	Lady Joanne	0%	2,716	-	2,716
	Michelle Renee	40%	267,290	267,141	149
	Vanguard	13%	86,883	61,449	25,434
	Hickory Wind	9%	58,214	-	58,214
	Gold Rush	9%	58,963	61,205	(2,242)
	Total	100%	668,396	444,549	223,847
	Transfers:	137,183			
	Final Total:	805,579	Net:	361,030	
Sablefish	Leslie Lee	13%	23,115	29,732	(6,617)
	Walter N	11%	19,262	26,921	(7,659)
	Collier Brothers	9%	15,696	20,259	(4,563)
	Alaska Dawn	1%	935	-	935
	Dusk	6%	10,383	6,273	4,111
	Lady Joanne	2%	2,773	-	2,773
	Michelle Renee	23%	43,035	81,879	(38,844)
	Vanguard	12%	22,309	23,025	(716)
	Hickory Wind	11%	20,862	-	20,862
	Gold Rush	14%	24,803	26,725	(1,922)
	Total	100%	183,173	214,814	(31,641)
	Transfers:	39,518			
	Final Total:	222,691	Net:	7,878	

Species	Vessel	Coop %	Initial 2011 Allocation	Catch	Under/overage
P. cod	Leslie Lee	13%	65,194	71,442	(6,248)
	Walter N	11%	54,326	81,682	(27,356)
	Collier Brothers	9%	44,268	49,084	(4,815)
	Alaska Dawn	1%	2,637	-	2,637
	Dusk	6%	29,286	20,183	9,102
	Lady Joanne	2%	7,820	-	7,820
	Michelle Renee	23%	121,376	107,345	14,031
	Vanguard	12%	62,920	71,451	(8,531)
	Hickory Wind	11%	58,840	-	58,840
	Gold Rush	14%	69,955	74,722	(4,767)
	Total	100%	516,621	475,910	40,712
	Transfers:	1,222			
	Final Total:		517,843	Net:	41,934
Thornyhead	Leslie Lee	13%	5,341	2,375	2,966
	Walter N	11%	4,451	3,146	1,305
	Collier Brothers	9%	3,627	2,598	1,029
	Alaska Dawn	1%	216	-	216
	Dusk	6%	2,399	2,334	65
	Lady Joanne	2%	641	-	641
	Michelle Renee	23%	9,944	8,416	1,528
	Vanguard	12%	5,155	6,390	(1,235)
	Hickory Wind	11%	4,821	-	4,821
	Gold Rush	14%	5,731	1,930	3,801
	Total	100%	42,327	27,189	15,138
	Transfers:	4,548			
	Final Total:		46,875	Net:	19,686
Halibut PSC	Leslie Lee	13%	8,950	3,940	5,010
	Walter N	11%	7,458	1,170	6,287
	Collier Brothers	9%	6,077	4,382	1,695
	Alaska Dawn	1%	362	-	362
	Dusk	6%	4,020	223	3,797
	Lady Joanne	2%	1,073	-	1,073
	Michelle Renee	23%	16,662	13,159	3,503
	Vanguard	12%	8,637	7,081	1,556
	Hickory Wind	11%	8,077	-	8,077
	Gold Rush	14%	9,603	2,432	7,171
	Total	100%	70,919	32,388	38,531
	Transfers:	0			
	Final Total:		70,919	Net:	38,531

B. Retained and Discarded Catch of CQ

Federal regulations require the RPP participants to retain all Cooperative Quota (CQ) species: at-sea discards of Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish, Pacific cod, Thornyheads, and Sablefish are not allowed. During the 2011 WAF Rockfish Cooperative's fishing season (May 1, 2011 – November 15, 2011), there were no occurrences of at-sea discards of CQ species by WAF co-op members.

C. Sideboard Limitations

The Rockfish Pilot Program established sideboard limitations (not allocations) that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard limits apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing.

(1) Prohibited Fishing

For the catcher vessel sector, the BS/AI was closed for flatfish and rockfish.

(2) Catch Limits

A collective CV Sector limit was imposed for the following (all were closed to the CV sector during the 2011 RPP since the allocations were too small to support directed fishing):

<u>BS/AI</u>	<u>West Yakutat</u>	<u>Western GOA</u>
Pacific Cod	POP	POP
	Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	Northern Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf Rockfish

(3) Halibut Mortality Limits

A collective RPP co-op CV/CP sector halibut mortality sideboard limit was also imposed on the GOA shallow-water flatfish and deep-water flatfish fisheries. The deep-water complex remained closed throughout July due to an insufficient amount of halibut mortality to sustain the fishery. Therefore, shallow-water flatfish, including rock sole and flathead sole, was the only non-RPP fishery harvested by CV RPP co-op vessels during the month of July, but the vessels fished on an "open-access" basis, not cooperatively. For the month of July, the CP's and CV's collectively caught 11 MT of the total available 143 MT of shallow-water complex halibut mortality (7.7%) (as of December 7, 2011).

V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

A. **Halibut:** The cooperative's fishing plan instituted a management scheme to discourage high halibut bycatch rates since the co-op's RPP fishing would cease once its halibut PSC mortality cap was reached. Standards were set and enforced by the co-op members to abide by the halibut PSC mortality rate limits (Table 4). These standards were set based on what the co-op members thought were achievable and acceptable bycatch rates while assuring that there would be sufficient halibut available to harvest the co-op's quota of CQ species. If a vessel approached or exceeded these pre-set rates during a trip, the co-op members would convene to discuss possible actions. Fishing practices were again used to aid in reducing halibut bycatch: (1) more frequent use of pelagic (off-bottom or "flying bottom") gear, (2) temporal distribution of catches to avoid high halibut bycatch time frames.

The WAF Rockfish Co-op used 32,388 lbs or 46% of its final halibut PSC allocation of 70,919 lbs.

Table 4. Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the WAF Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%
NR/PSR	2.20%
Sable/cod	4.00%
Cooperative Red Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.45%
NR/PSR	1.98%
Sable/cod	3.60%
Cooperative Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.38%
NR/PSR	1.65%
Sable/cod	3.00%

B. **Chinook Salmon:** WAF cooperative members continued with the voluntary Chinook salmon avoidance program implemented in 2010. Members were provided with a summary of Chinook bycatch in the RPP 2007-2010 fisheries and hotspot reports from 2010. Vessel operators were advised to monitor the hotspot areas, depths and time frames during the 2011 season and agreed to avoid areas of high Chinook salmon bycatch. Operators reported hotspots from the grounds to AGDB and/or to their processor. In turn the processor relayed this information to the inter-coop manager, AGDB, if they were the original point of contact. AGDB distributed hotspot information to the fleet and processors so that vessels on the fishing grounds could avoid the hotspots. AGDB also provided feedback to the vessel operators and their affiliated processor by reporting the number of Chinook salmon on the fish ticket on a trip by trip basis if >10 Chinook occurred in the delivery.

Starting in 2011, WAF Co-op vessels were required to submit a Vessel Chinook Reporting Form for all RPP trips reporting area, depth, time, gear (pelagic, non-pelagic), target and number of salmon seen in the haul as an additional measure to monitor salmon bycatch and gather information. The WAF co-op had a total of 295 Chinook reported on the fish tickets over 38 trips compared to 295 Chinook in NMFS Catch Accounting System (CAS). According to CAS, there were a total of 396 Chinook taken by the CV co-ops over the 2011 season.

C. **Other Prohibited Species Catch:** The following were attributed to the combined in-shore catcher vessel cooperative catch accounts by NMFS CAS during the 2011 RPP fishing season (May 1st – November 15th): 70 non-Chinook salmon, 25 Bairdi tanner crab and 127 Golden king crab (source: Steve Whitney, NMFS).

VI. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

The multispecies aspect of the RPP precludes harvesting the co-op's allocation on a vessel-by-vessel basis - such is the advantage of fishing the quota cooperatively where the vessels can balance out each other's catches with no penalty incurred on the group as a whole. However, individuals who exceed their individual co-op quota share (except by prior agreement – e.g. clean up trips) are penalized monetarily as a disincentive for future occurrences. As per the WAF Co-op Membership Agreement, 100% of the ex-vessel revenue of the overage is paid by the offender directly to the member vessel that covers the overage. This discourages future overage events. There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.

Final Report
Trident Offshore Rockfish
Cooperative Association

2011

December 15, 2011

Prepared by:
Julie Bonney
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak AK 99615

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. INTRODUCTION	2
II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP	3
III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT	3
A. Monitoring.....	3
IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE.....	5
A. Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests.....	5
V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH	7
VI. SIDEBOARDS	7
VII. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS.....	7

I. INTRODUCTION

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress included a Directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council), a pilot program for management of three primary rockfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA): Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish (NR), and pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries (PSR)¹. The ensuing Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) allowed for the formation of rockfish fishing cooperatives in the catcher vessel (CV) and catcher processor (CP) sectors, the latter of which requires at least two limited license permits (LLP's) for formation. Five offshore (catcher processor) cooperatives were established in 2011 in addition to the five inshore rockfish cooperatives: the Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative Association (TCP), the Gulf of Alaska Best Use Cooperative (BUC), Cascade Unimak Rockfish Cooperative (CURC), US Seafoods Rockfish Cooperative (USS) and the Fishing Company of Alaska (FCA) Rockfish Cooperative.

Each cooperative receives an annual harvest share allocation based on the qualified harvest history of its members (combined vessel quota shares or QS). In addition to the allocation of primary rockfish species (POP, NR, PSR), catcher processor cooperatives also receive allocations of secondary species, which include sablefish, thornyhead rockfish, shortraker rockfish, rougheye rockfish and halibut PSC mortality. The catcher vessel co-ops receive allocations of Pacific cod (managed by maximum retainable amounts - MRA's - in the CP sector) but were not allocated any shortraker or rougheye rockfish which are managed by MRA's in the CV sector. Allocations to both the inshore and catcher processor sectors are based on the average percentage of retained catch and Halibut PSC mortality usage of these species in the target rockfish fisheries during the qualifying period. These allocations are distributed to the cooperative members based on the amount of primary rockfish that the cooperative member holds.

Provisions in the RPP regulations allow for one-way transfers of CQ from a CP co-op to a CV co-op, and during the 2011 RPP season significant amounts of Trident Offshore CP cooperative quotas for POP, NR, PSR and sablefish were transferred to the inshore CV co-ops (detailed in section IV). Two-way transfers were allowed among the five CP co-ops to facilitate transfers to the inshore co-op sector as well as to facilitate CQ fishing for the other four CP co-ops.

The Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative Association was one of 5 offshore/catcher processor cooperatives formed in March 2011 in accordance to Amendment 68 of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. 2011 marked the fifth and final year of the 5-year Rockfish Pilot Program and, in compliance with Amendment 68, this Final Report is submitted to NMFS and the Council as a summary of harvests, transfers and cooperative performance during the 2011 rockfish fishing season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA).

¹ Pelagic shelf rockfish consists of dusky rockfish, yellowtail rockfish and widow rockfish.

II. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

In 2011, the Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative Association consisted of three member licenses with three member vessels (Table 1), none of which actively fished during the RPP (all allocations were transferred – see section IV).

Table 1. Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative LLPs, LLP owners and member vessels, 2011.

LLP No.	LLP Owner	Member Vessel	ADFG No.
3740	San Juan Seafoods, Inc	Sovereignty	55199
3741	Epic Alaska, LLC	Epic Explorer	8500
3744	O'Hara Corporation	Harvester Enterprise	55183

III. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative Association was represented and managed by Joseph Plesha of Trident Seafoods, Inc. in collaboration and coordination with the Co-op President, Christopher Arnim, the inshore inter-coop manager, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank Inc, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

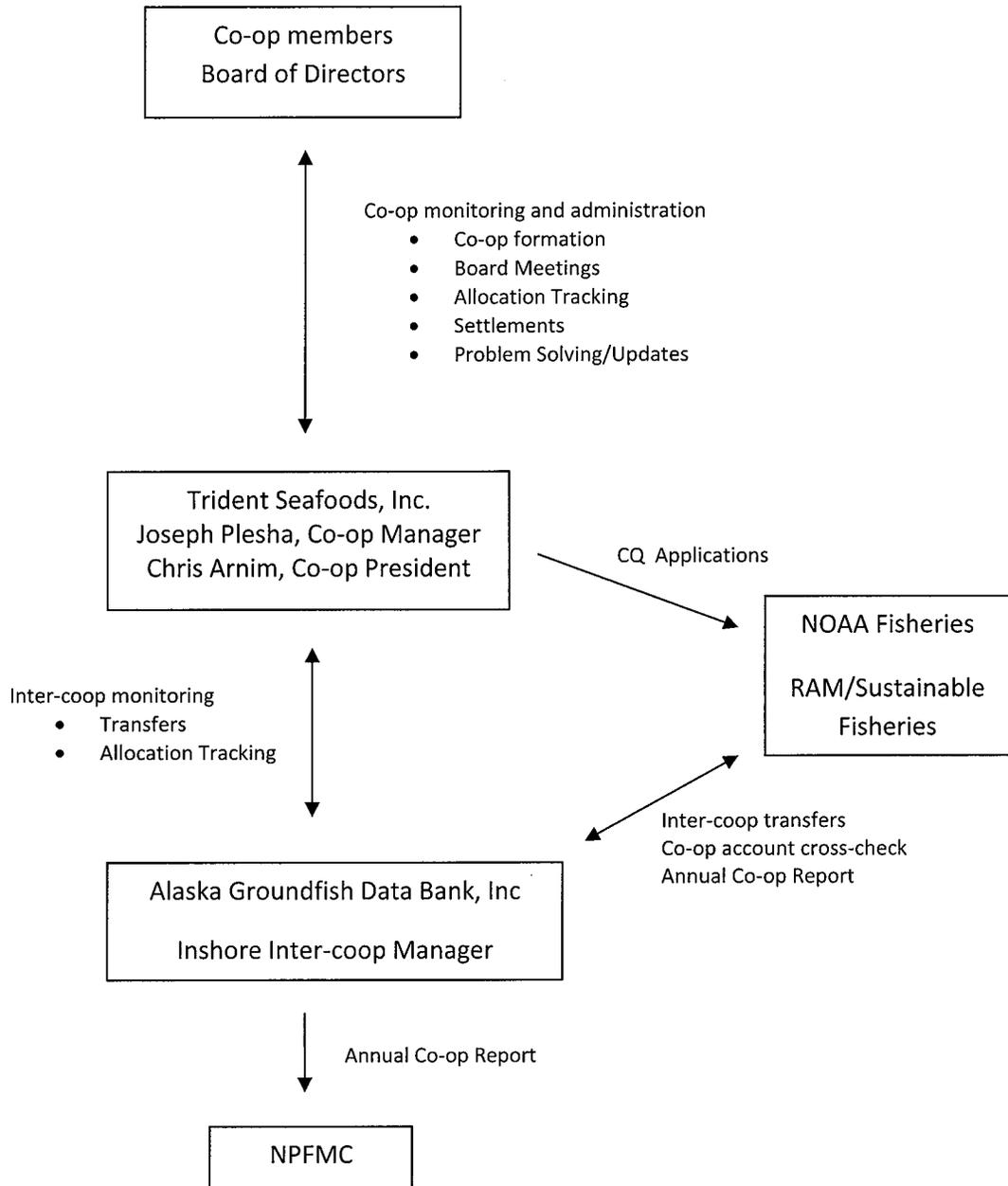
The Trident CP co-op goal was to bring their allocation on shore, thus no fishing plan was necessary - only development of a plan to bring this fish on shore. The Trident CP co-op was a member of the catcher vessel inter-coop management structure which included the five CV coops (none of the other CP co-ops were members). While the Trident CP co-op did not fish, the co-op set aside a portion of their allocation as a reserve pool to support the CV co-ops (i.e. thornyhead rockfish) and to help establish the appropriate fishing standards.

Figure 1 shows the schematic outlining the Co-op's operations and flow of information among the contributing parties.

A. Monitoring

None of the three vessels in the Trident offshore CP co-op actively fished for the RPP because the co-op's quota was transferred to either the inshore co-ops or to the other offshore co-ops, so no monitoring was necessary.

Figure 1. Schematic of Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative Operations and Management.



IV. COOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE

A. Co-op Allocations, Transfers and Harvests

The Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative's allocations and transfers for the 2011 season are summarized by species and co-op in Table 2.

There were no harvests by the Trident CP co-op member vessels: the following Trident CP allocations of POP, Northern rockfish, pelagic shelf rockfish, sablefish, thornyhead rockfish and halibut PSC were transferred to the inshore catcher vessel cooperatives:

CQ Species	Initial TCP CQ (lbs)	From CP Co-ops (lbs)	Total TCP CQ (lbs)	To CV Co-ops (lbs)	% Transferred to CV Co-ops
POP	1,828,350	11,023	1,839,373	1,762,759	95.83%
NR	295,788	0	295,788	182,391	61.66%
PSR	849,082	0	849,082	445,837	52.51%
Sablefish	86,571	18,960	105,531	105,527	100.00%
Thornyhds	62,067	0	62,067	10,102	16.28%
Halibut	46,042	0	46,042	5,962	12.95%

All of the shortraker rockfish CQ (18.803 mt or 41,454 lbs) was transferred to the Cascade Unimak Rockfish co-op. The Rougheye allocation was neither transferred out nor harvested. There was no Pacific cod allocation (CV only).

Table 2: Trident Offshore Rockfish Cooperative 2011 Allocations and Transfers by Species and Co-op (weights are in pounds; some differences may occur due to conversion and rounding). Source: NMFS/RAM Co-op access website. Balances as of December 7, 2011.

	POP	NR	PSR	Sablefish	Thornyhead	Halibut	Shortraker	Rougheye
Initial Trident CP Allocation:	1,828,350	295,788	849,082	86,571	62,067	46,042	41,454	217,040
Transfers In (CURC):				11,023				
Transfers In (BUC):	11,023	-	-	7,937	-	-	-	-
Transfers Out (SOK):	(713,342)	(66,808)	(217,462)	(54,614)	(5,554)	(4,120)	-	-
Transfers Out (WAF):	(1,007,617)	(74,259)	(137,183)	(39,386)	(4,548)	-	-	-
Transfers Out (ISA):	-	-	-	(1,527)	-	-	-	-
Transfers Out (OBSI):	(41,800)	(41,324)	(91,192)	(10,000)	-	(5,962)		
Transfers Out (CURC):							(41,454)	
Transfers Out (BUC):	-	(77,162)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Transfers:	(1,751,736)	(259,553)	(445,837)	(86,567)	(10,102)	(10,082)	(41,454)	0
Remaining Trident CP Quota:	76,615	36,235	403,245	4	51,965	35,960	0	217,040
Total CP RPP Allocation:	10,425,927	1,765,022	3,381,902	162,523	1,16,520	86,437	77,823	407,458
Trident % of CP Allocation	17.5%	16.8%	25.1%	53.3%	53.3%	53.3%	53.3%	53.3%

BUC: Best Use Rockfish Cooperative; CURC: Cascade Unimak Rockfish Cooperative; OBSI: Ocean Beauty Seafood, Inc. Rockfish Co-op; WAF: Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Co-op; SOK: Star of Kodiak Rockfish Co-op; ISA: International Seafoods of Alaska Rockfish Co-op.

V. COOPERATIVE PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

While the Trident CP co-op did not fish, the co-op was involved in setting standards to discourage high halibut bycatch rates (Table 3).

Table 3. Halibut bycatch standards adopted by the Trident CP Rockfish Cooperative.

Inter-coop standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.50%
NR/PSR	2.20%
Sable/cod	4.00%
Cooperative Red Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.45%
NR/PSR	1.98%
Sable/cod	3.60%
Cooperative Yellow Light Standard	
<i>Species</i>	<i>% halibut</i>
POP	0.38%
NR/PSR	1.65%
Sable/cod	3.00%

VI. SIDEBOARDS

The Rockfish Pilot Program established sideboard limitations (not allocations) that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. These sideboard limits apply only in July, historically the most active month for rockfish fishing.

The F/V Sovereignty participated in the Bering Sea AFA pollock fishery during the month of July which is exempt from the RPP sideboard provisions. The F/V Epic Explorer fished Aleutian Islands Atka mackerel and rockfish in July while the F/V Harvester Enterprise was tied up in Seattle.

VII. PENALTIES/CIVIL ACTIONS

There were no civil actions taken against any co-op member.