Quota-based Catch Share Programs
Bering Sea Pollock

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Basic structure of North Pacific Catch Shares

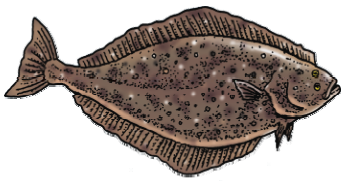
- Long-term privilege "quota share" based on historic catch.
- Quota share = annual exclusive harvesting privileges if…

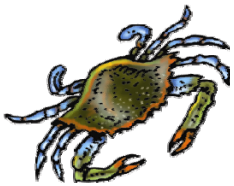
Why were Catch Shares adopted in North Pacific?

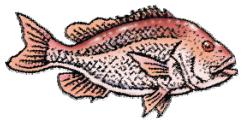
- **Settle allocation disputes**
- **Reduce costs**
- **Improve value**
- **Safety**

Overfishing not a driver!

Most Federal Fisheries in Alaska are Catch Shares







1970s – 1980s

BSAI/GOA Halibut & Sablefish — **1995**

Bering Sea Pollock — **2000**

BSAI Crab — **2005**

Central GOA — **2007**

BSAI Amendment — **2008**

Industry-led discussions Goal: All eventually catch share.

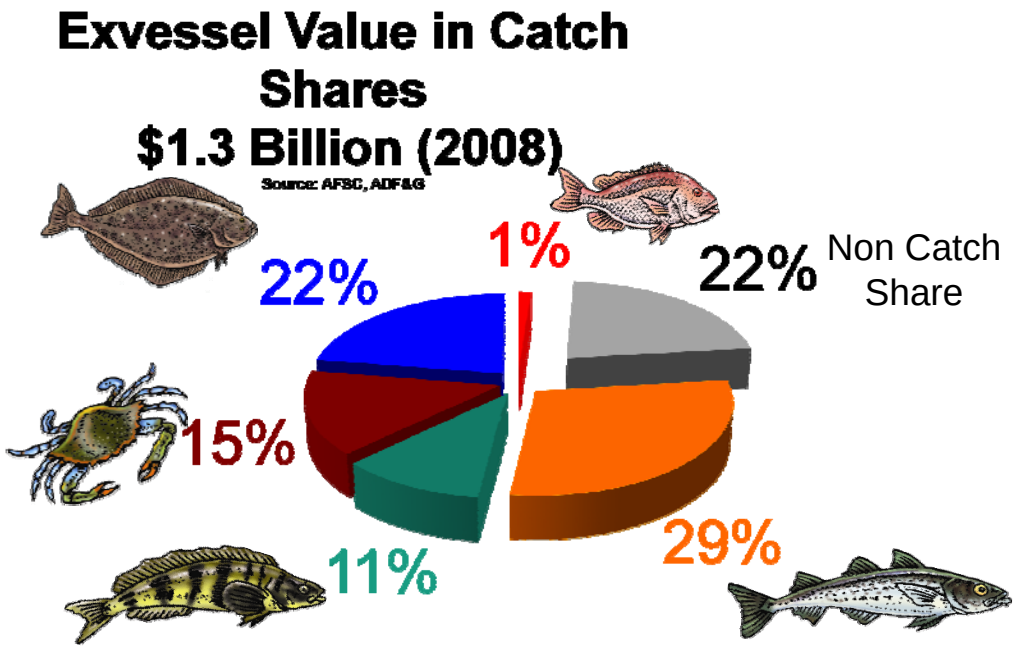
Over 2,000 initial holders, area and vessel size quota. Controversy!

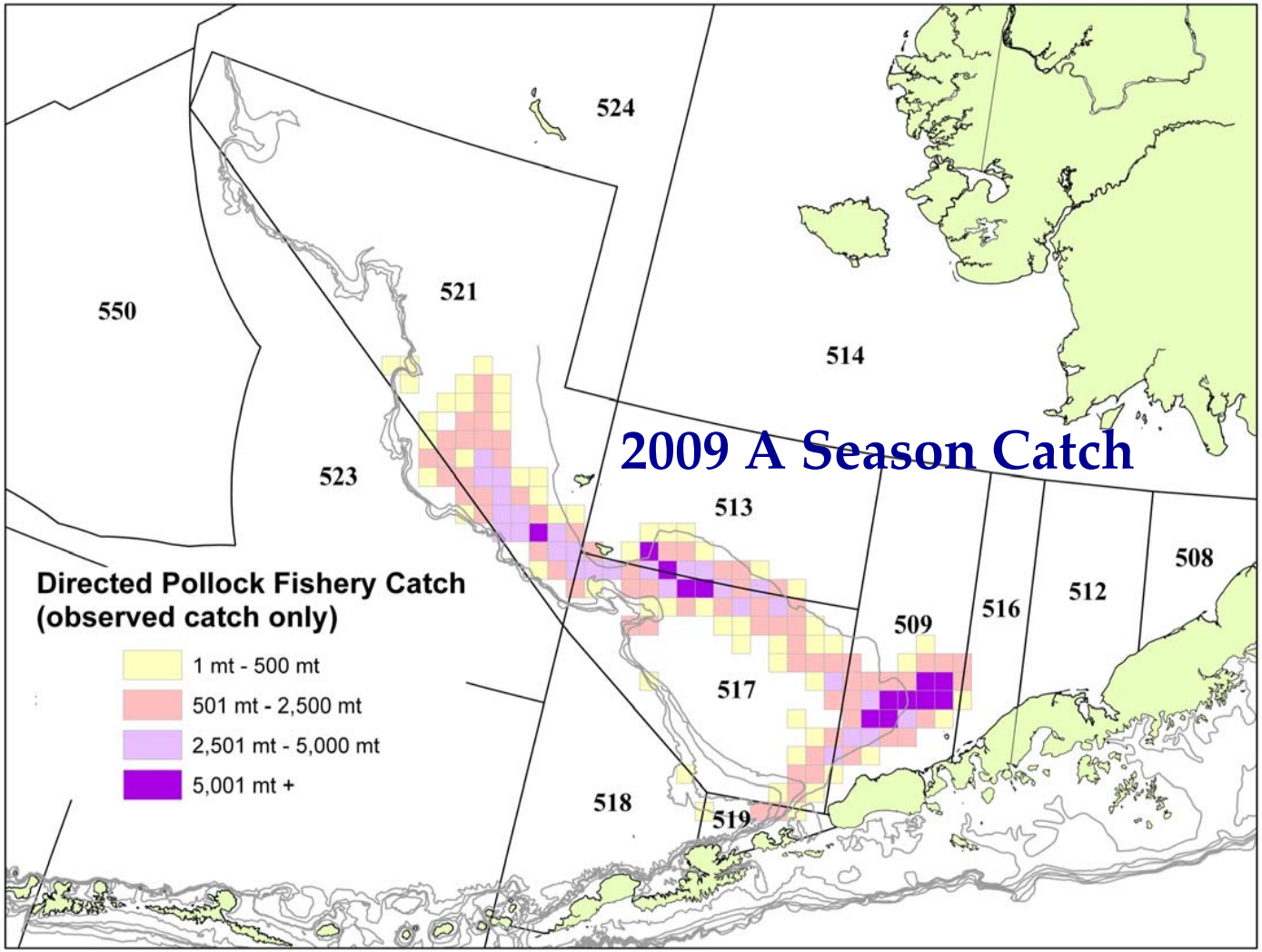
Congress passes (AFA) American Fisheries Act. Allocation debates settled, use caps.

Congress provides authority, Council's plan…

Congress authority for AFA-style coop.

Council based non-pollock cooperative.





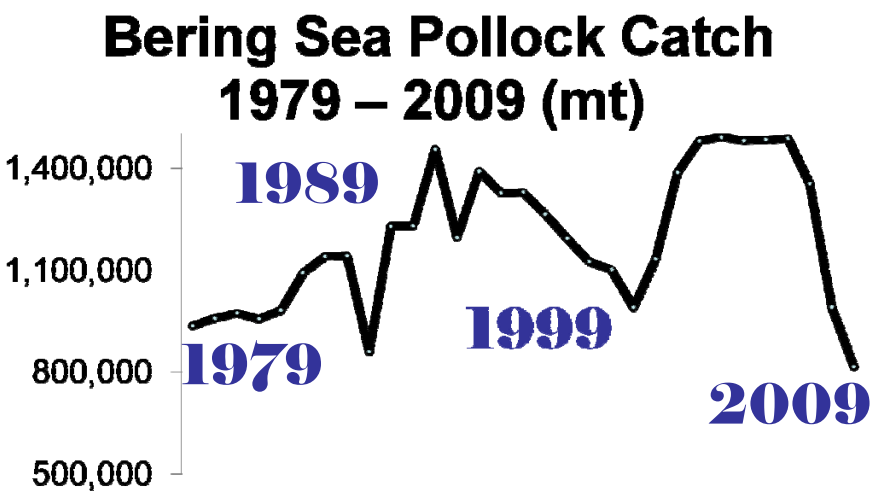
Bering Sea Pollock Fishery

Largest U.S. fishery by volume.

"A Season" High value roe fishery peaks in February and March – 40 % TAC.

B season fishery begins June, ends by October – 60% of TAC.

Steller sea lion measures led to restrictions.



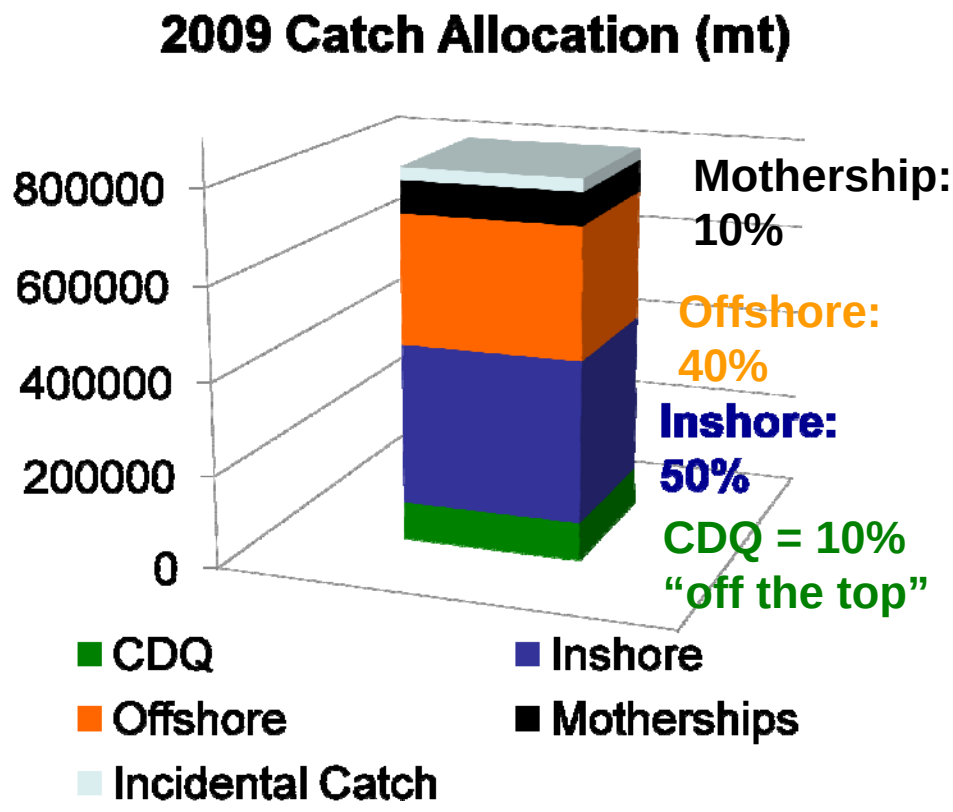
AFA ended the "race for fish"

Prior to AFA (pre - 2000): -- Primary products surimi and roe. Surimi = roughly 50% by weight and 40% of value.

After AFA (post 2000): -- Rapid shift from surimi to fillets. Wholesale value $$$.

The Basics

- American Fisheries Act allocates TAC to CDQ and sectors ….
- Specific vessels defined in AFA are eligible to target Bering Sea pollock… Not specific quota.
- No person may harvest more than 17.5% of TAC… The AFA creates an "affiliation test". Affiliated corporations are considered "one person."
- AFA required "sideboards" to limit AFA vessels….



- Inshore Sector = 98 Catcher vessels. All are in cooperatives.
- Offshore Sector = 21 vessels. Binding private arrangements for "catch shares." 7 catcher vessels deliver offshore.
- Motherships = 3 processing vessels, 19 vessels (some inshore).

Cooperative Model A
Inshore Pollock & Rockfish

- Cooperative if linked with processor – **Requires legislation**
- No cooperative = limited access **NOT a catch share!**

Cooperative Model B
Amendment 80

- Cooperative if minimum number of persons or vessels – **Do not need legislation**
- No cooperative = IFQ instead **Catch share**

Cooperative Model C
Crab

More at: www.fakr.noaa.gov

Why Cooperate?

- Internalize transfers
- Share monitoring costs
- Pool "small shares"
- Manage bycatch – Salmon & Halibut
- Coordinate Sideboards
- Revenue Sharing

Risks

- Liability