

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

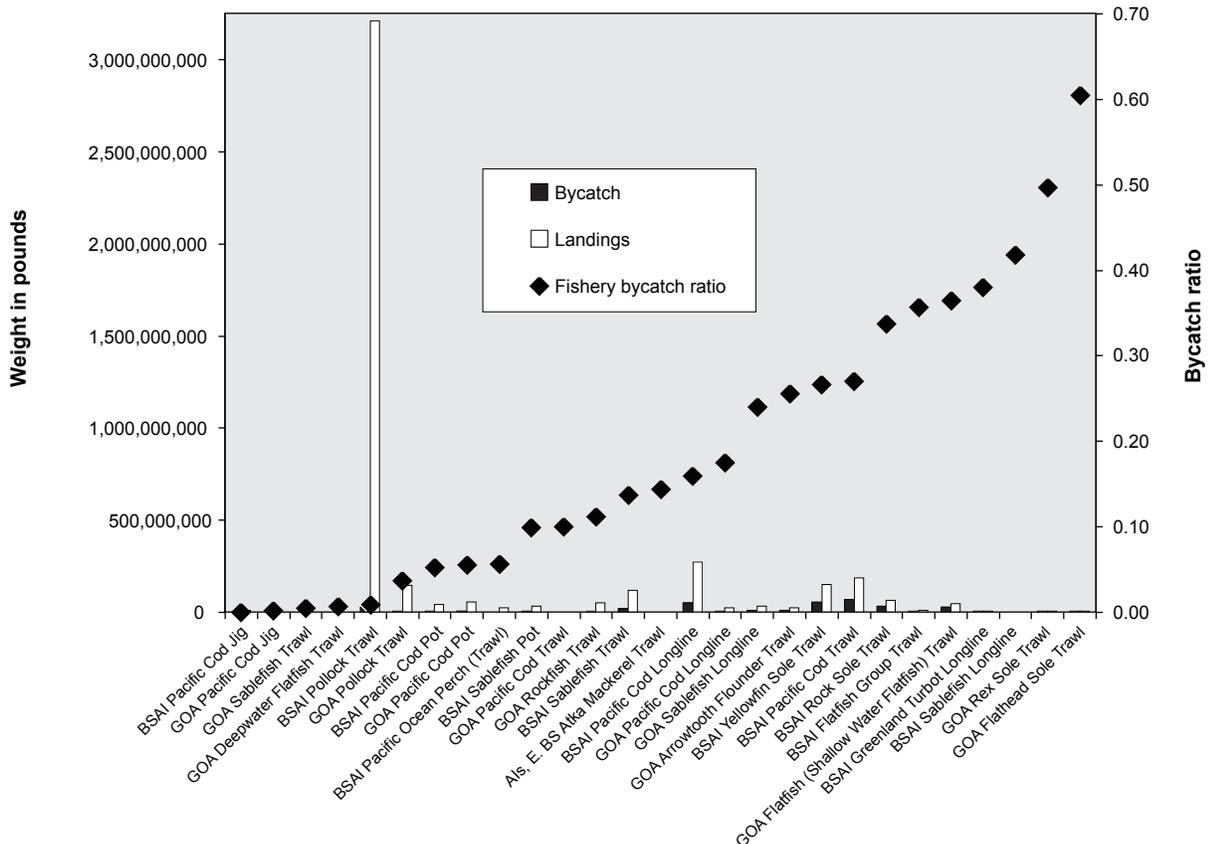


Fast facts:

- A total of 77 commercial fisheries are included in this report for the Alaska Region.
- Landings from all Alaskan fisheries were valued at approximately \$1.367 billion in 2005.
- Five FMPs regulate the harvest of federally managed species in the Alaska Region.
- Observer programs are in place for 27 of the 77 fisheries. All Federal fisheries are observed.
- Fish bycatch estimates are available for 27 fisheries and 91 species or species groups.
- Protected species bycatch estimates are available for 19 fisheries and 29 species or species groups.

Fish bycatch and landings by fishery for the Alaska Region

The Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands flatfish group (arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, and other flatfish) trawl fishery has been abbreviated as "BSAI Flatfish Group Trawl." (BSAI = Bering Sea / Aleutian Islands, BS = Bering Sea, GOA = Gulf of Alaska, Als = Aleutian Islands)



U.S. NATIONAL BYCATCH REPORT

Bycatch reduction success stories (2005 to present):

- Catch-share programs have eliminated the race for fish in many fisheries, greatly reducing economic discards.
- Annual quota specification process results in fishery closures (and bycatch reductions) when target or bycatch quotas are reached.
- Regulations limit or prohibit discard in many fisheries.
- Agency/industry collaboration has resulted in innovative measures such as streamer lines to reduce bird bycatch and gear improvements to reduce finfish bycatch.
- Industry-managed cooperatives in some fisheries have changed fleet behavior, leading to reduction of bycatch.
- Bycatch retention or harvest limits and/or time and area closures have resulted in bycatch reductions in some fisheries.

Bycatch of Alaska Region key stocks in 2005 ^a

Fish and invertebrates	Bycatch estimate (lb) ^b	Bycatch ratio
Blue king crab (multiple stocks)	5,400	*
Chinook salmon	72,100	*
Demersal shelf rockfish (multiple stocks)	160	*
Golden king crab, Aleutian Islands	16,900	*
Non-Chinook salmon	3,350,000	*
Red king crab (multiple stocks)	630,000	*

Protected species	Bycatch estimate (individuals) ^b
Bearded seal	0.4
Beluga whale, Cook Inlet	*
Bowhead whale	*
Fin whale	*
Harbor porpoise, Gulf of Alaska	36
Humpback whale, central north Pacific	2
Humpback whale, western north Pacific	0.2
Killer whale, eastern north Pacific Alaska resident	2
Killer whale, Gulf of Alaska, Aleutian Islands, and Bering Sea transient	0.4
Northern fur seal	0.8
Pacific walrus	2
Ribbon seal	1
Right whale, north Pacific	*
Ringed seal	1
Sei whale	*
Sperm whale	*
Spotted seal	1
Steller sea lion	10
Black-footed albatross	67
Red-legged kittiwake	4
Short-tailed albatross	0

^a Total # of key stocks for Alaska = 36; in some cases estimates are only available at the species (or species group) level and cannot be assigned to the appropriate key stock. Therefore, there are fewer than 36 bycatch estimates listed in this table. A full list of Alaska Region key stocks is included in Section 4.3. (Note: bycatch estimates of rare-event species may incorporate data from a range of years.)

^b Estimates have been rounded.

* Indicates landings were not available for a species (or species is not landed, as for protected species), bycatch was not observed or was observed but no estimate is available, or bycatch and landings were in different units, so no bycatch ratio could be developed (fish). Please see Section 4.3 for further information.