

North Pacific Scallop Cooperative

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Alaska Weathervane Scallop Fishery

- Occurs mostly in federal waters
- Managed by the State of Alaska
- Very small resource
- Spread from the 137 line to almost the 167 line
- About 200 sq nm footprint

Fishery History

- Boom & Bust
- Remoteness from markets
- Incidental catch concerns (crab)
- No influence on supply
- No influence in Alaska

Management Measures

- 80's
 - - time and area closures
 - - 4" rings
- 90's
 - - TAC's
 - - 100% observer requirement
 - - crab caps
 - - crew size
 - - more closures
 - - fleet moved to freezing at sea

Overcapitalization

- Started work towards a license limitation program
- Mr. Big
- 18 month closure 1995-1996
- State and federal moratorium
- Federal management allowed by Magnuson Act change

Cooperative Formation

- NPFMC approved conservative license program
- Stakeholders met and came to agreement
- Cooperative fishery began in 2000
- Transparent to management agencies
- No fishery regulations govern coop

Problems to resolve

- Geographic distribution of vessel allocations
- Crab bycatch cap calculation
- Penalty schedules
- Monitoring requirements (3rd party)
- Provisions for catch of non-coop license holders
- Provisions for early closures
- Voluntary restrictions
- Contract length
- Provisions to protect retired vessel histories
- Provision to stay out of areas utilized by

Four Years Later

- Two vessels fished in 2004
- Quota has declined by ~30%
- No area has closed due to crab bycatch
- Bycatch of bottom disturbance indicators cut in half
- Trading/leasing allows efficiencies
- Adding value to product
- VMS to track footprint
- Confidentiality waived

How we've gained

- Improved safety
- Impact of breakdowns minimized
- Crew stabilized
- Market stabilized

What self governance can't do!

- Perception of “undercapitalization”
- Price is not under our control
- NGO's have their own agenda
 - - Essential Fish Habitat
 - - HAPC
 - - Endangered Species
- Ecosystem changes that affect scallop (and crab) populations
- Protect coop against regulation changes