

**REPORT OF THE 19th MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA**

01 September – 15 September 2014 Virtual Process Meeting

1. Opening of the Meeting

Alexander Glubokov (Russia) served as the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting. A list of the participants is provided in Appendix 1.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mikhail Stepanenko (Russia) served as a rapporteur to compile the S&T report. The following individuals served as the contact point from each party for email exchange – Japan (Orio Yamamura), the Russian Federation (Alexander I. Glubokov), the United States (Patricia Livingston), the Republic of Korea (In-Ja Yeon), Poland/EU (Adam Augustynowicz). The People's Republic of China did not participate in the email exchanges.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

3.1. The agenda (Appendix 2) was adopted.

4. Discussion of Science Issues

4.1. Update catch and effort statistics

4.1.1. The United States and Russian Federation provided the updated pollock catch statistics by year and region (Appendix 3).

4.2. Review results of trial fishing

4.2.1. There was no trial fishing reported by the Parties for 2014. Summary of trial fishing on pollock in the Convention Area for the years 1993-2014 is presented in Appendix 4 – Table 3.

4.3. Review results of research cruises

4.3.1. Russian Federation reported that it conducted echointegration and midwater trawl (EI MWT) pollock survey in the northwestern Bering Sea (Russian and US EEZs) in August-September 2013 and the same survey is planning in September-October 2014 onboard the R/V TINRO. Russian pollock studies showed that in recent years there were some year classes above average abundance – in 2006, 2008, 2012 and there were year

classes average abundance – in 2009-2011, 2013. In this regard, the pollock biomass in the Western Bering Sea is stable on average level since 2010 (Appendix 5).

4.3.2. Poland/EU question to US. Did the US conduct a research cruise in the area of Eastern Bering Sea in 2014?

4.3.3. The United States responded that they conducted an Eastern Bering Sea (EBS) groundfish and crab survey from 3 June to 6 August 2014 aboard the chartered vessels FV *Vesteraalen* and FV *Alaska Knight*. The United States also conducted an Aleutian Islands Bottom Trawl survey (June 5 – August 13) aboard the chartered vessels FV *Sea Storm* and FV *Alaska Provider*. The results of these cruises, that will include pollock stock assessments, are expected to be reported at the end of September 2014. The NOAA ship *Oscar Dyson* also conducted a summer pollock acoustic trawl survey (12 June to 13 August 2014), working in the western and northwestern Bering Sea. The ship surveyed both sides of the U.S.-Russia Convention Line going back and forth from the U.S. EEZ to the Russian Federation EEZ as part of a cooperative study of Bering Sea pollock with Russia's Pacific Fisheries Research Institute (TINRO-Center) in Vladivostok. Walleye pollock were detected throughout the surveyed area. Many juveniles were found throughout area (mainly observed west of 170° W). The survey measured that the Eastern Bering Sea temperatures were warmer than in the past 8 years. The report of this cruise will be reported at the end of September 2014.

4.3.4. Poland/EU question to Japan. Did Japan conduct a salmon gillnet survey in the central Bering Sea in 2013 and 2014?

4.3.5. Japan responded that it conducted salmon surface trawl surveys in the central Bering Sea from 20 July to 10 August in 2013 and from 23 July to 12 August in 2014. No pollock was caught in the central Bering Sea area in both years.

4.3.6. Poland/EU question to US. According to Bachelier et. al. (2010) pollock spawn in two pulses spanning 4-6 weeks: first in late February then again in mid - late April in the Eastern Bering Sea. Is it possible that a similar spawning pattern occurred in the Bogoslof area?

4.3.7. The United States responded that survey of Bogoslof Island area is timed for late February-early March when aggregations of spawning pollock are expected each year. The surveys of the past indicated that some pollock were in the process of spawning or would spawn shortly after the end of February. It is unlikely that there is any major spawning in April as the spawning locations are expected to progress northwards as warming occurs.

The Russian Federation added that time series of ichthyoplankton and midwater trawl surveys conducted by Russia in late 1980th and early 1990th in entire Bering Sea including Bogoslof Island area demonstrated that in the Bering Sea there are two distinct pollock spawning group: 'shelf'(spawning along the shelf) and 'basin'(spawning in deep water). The main spawning of 'basin' pollock take place in the Bogoslof Island area late February and early March and off central Aleutian Island (Kanaga Sound) in middle

March. Summary data of the Eastern Bering Sea pollock spawning and reproduction described in paper published by Stepanenko et al. (Fisheries Science, vol. 80, number 1, 2014).

4.3.8. Japan question to Russia. On the page 8 of Russia's submission, a figure compares "total stock biomass" and "trawl surveys' data". How was the "total stock biomass" estimated?

4.3.9. Russia responded that total stock pollock biomass was estimated on the basis of surveys and fish statistics data by modelling method.

4.4. Review the status of Aleutian Basin Pollock stocks

4.4.1. The United States submitted the summary on status of Pollock stocks in the U.S. EEZ of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Island Area (Appendix 4).

4.4.2. Russian pollock studies conducted in 2013-2014 showed that the pollock biomass in the Western Bering Sea is stable since 2010 (Appendix 5).

4.4.3. The United States and Russian Federation provided the information about stocks status for the Bering Sea by region.

The following table extracted from the U.S. document summarises the status and catch specifications of the walleye pollock stocks in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands (BSAI) management areas in the U.S. EEZ. All units are in metric tons. *The catches for 2014 are through 02 August 2014.

Area	Year	Age 3+ Pollock Biomass	Overfishing Level (t)	Acceptable Biological Catch (t)	Total Allowable Catch (t)	Catch (t)
1.E Bering Sea	2010	4,620,000	918,000	813,000	813,000	810,395
	2011	9,620,000	2,450,000	1,270,000	1,253,000	1,197,571
	2012	8,340,000	2,470,000	1,220,000	1,212,400	1,202,560
	2013	8,140,000	2,550,000	1,375,000	1,261,900	1,270,746
	2014	8,045,000	2,795,000	1,369,000	1,276,650	972,313*
2.Aleutians	2010	242,000	40,000	33,100	19,000	1,285
	2011	261,000	44,500	36,700	4,600	1,208
	2012	251,000	39,600	32,500	6,600	975
	2013	266,000	45,600	37,300	4,100	2,964
	2014	259,525	42,811	35,048	9,350	1,746
3.Bogoslof	2010	110,000	22,000	156	50	176
	2011	110,000	22,000	156	150	140
	2012	110,000	22,000	16,500	500	79
	2013	67,100	13,400	10,100	100	57
	2014	67,063	13,413	10,059	75	123

EBS—The EBS pollock spawning biomass in 2008 was at the lowest level since 1980, but has increased by 71 percent since then. The 2008 low was the result of extremely poor recruitments from the 2002-2005 year classes. Recent and projected increases of biomass are fuelled by slightly above average recruitment from the 2006 year class and very strong recruitment from the 2008 year class along with reductions in average fishing mortality from 2009-2012. Spawning biomass is projected to be 23% above B_{msy} in 2014. Based on US fishery management status determination criteria, the pollock stock in the EBS is not being subjected to overfishing, is not overfished, and is not approaching an overfished condition.

Aleutians – The estimated spawning biomass reached a minimum level of about $B_{23\%}$ in 1999 and then has generally increased, with a projected value of $B_{33\%}$ for 2014. Spawning biomass for 2014 is projected to be 79,029 t. The pollock stock in the Aleutian Islands is not being subjected to overfishing, is not overfished, and is not approaching an overfished condition.

Bogoslof: The trend in estimated biomass in the Bogoslof Island area has been steadily down. The low biomass was detected in 2012 (67,100 t). The latest survey by NOAA ship *Oscar Dyson* estimated the 2014 pollock biomass to be 112,000 t. This is an increase from 2012. The pollock stock in the Bogoslof Island area, while low in biomass, is not subjected to overfishing as directed fishing has been set at zero and as defined by US fisheries management interpretations. However it is not possible to determine whether this stock is overfished or whether it is approaching an overfished condition since there is insufficient information about the population dynamics of the stock.

4.5. Factors affecting recovery of the stocks

4.5.1. No new information was provided.

4.6. The effects of the moratorium and its continuation

4.6.1. No new information was provided.

4.7. Methodologies to determine Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) and Allowable Harvest Level (AHL)

4.7.1. Japan proposed to discuss about establishing a new rule for setting an AHL below the recovery level of the Convention.

No new information was provided.

4.8. Recommendation on AHL

4.8.1. No new information was provided.

4.9. Research Plans

5. Discussion of Enforcement and Management Issues

5.1. Violations of the Convention.

5.1.1. No new information was provided by the US Coast Guard.

5.2. Terms and conditions for trial fishing for the following year

5.2.1. The Committee recommended that the terms and conditions for trial fishing in 2015 remain the same as in the previous years.

6. Other Issues and Recommendations

6.1. Future Meetings of the Scientific and Technical Committee.

6.1.1. The 2015 meeting of the Committee will be held via email exchanges as in 2010-2014. The 2015 meeting will be chaired by USA.

7. Report to the Annual Conference

7.1. The Chair of the Scientific and Technical Committee will convey the Scientific and Technical Meeting Report to the Annual Conference.

8. Closing Remarks

8.1. The Chair thanked all for participating in the virtual meeting process.

**THE 19th SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING
OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
OF THE POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA**

hosted by the Russian Federation

List of Participants

China

Japan

Tadaaki Kakinuma, Deputy Director, International Affairs Division, Resource Management Department Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF), tadaaki_kakinuma@nm.maff.go.jp

Takeshi Sato, Section Chief, International Affairs Division, Resource Management Department, FAJ, MAFF, takeshi_sato2@nm.maff.go.jp

Hiroshi Nishida, Deputy Director, Resource and Environment Research Division, Resource Enhancement Promotion Department, FAJ, MAFF, hiroshi_nishida@nm.maff.go.jp

Ryouichi Nakamura, Section Chief, Resource and Environment Research Division, Resource Enhancement Promotion Department, FAJ, MAFF, ryouichi_nakamura@nm.maff.go.jp

Toshinori Uoya, Deputy Director, Fisheries Management Division, Resource Management Department, Fisheries Agency, MAFF, toshinori_uoya@nm.maff.go.jp

Mitsunori Yoshida, President, Japan Overseas Fishing Association, 22m.yoshida@jdsta.or.jp

Junichiro Okamoto, Councilor, Japan Overseas Fishing Association, jokamoto@jdsta.or.jp

Naohiko Akimoto, Manager, Japan Overseas Fishing Association, naohiko@sol.dti.ne.jp

Keizou YABUKI, Director, Fisheries Management Division, Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute, Fisheries Research Agency, yabuki@fra.affrc.go.jp

Orio YAMAMURA, Head, Higher Trophic Levels Group, Fisheries Management Division, Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute, Fisheries Research Agency, contact person orioy@fra.affrc.go.jp

Tomonori HAMATSU, Senior Researcher, Higher Trophic Levels Group, Fisheries Management Division, Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute, Fisheries Research Agency, newmory@fra.affrc.go.jp

Koji ODA, Section Chief, International Affairs Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Government of Japan, kouji_oda@nm.maff.go.jp

Republic of Korea

In-Ja Yeon, Scientist, Fisheries Resource Management Division, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, head of the Republic Korea delegation, contact person, ijyeon@korea.kr

Seok-Gwan Choi, Scientist, Fisheries Resource Management Division, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, sgchoi@korea.kr

Jong-Hee Lee, Scientist, Fisheries Resource Management Division, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, jonghlee@korea.kr

Kyujin Seok, Scientist, Fisheries Resource Management Division, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, aquatopia@korea.kr

Jeongseok Park, Fisheries Negotiator, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, jeongseok.korea@gmail.com/ icdmomaf@chol.com

Chungmo Jung, Deputy Director, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, ijames@hanmail.net

Tae Won Kim, Director, Korean Overseas Fishing Association, kodefa2@kosfa.org

Poland and the European Union

Louise Head, head of the Poland/EU delegation, Louise.head@ec.europa.eu

Adam Augustynowicz, Management of Marine Resources Division, Fisheries Department Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, contact person, adam.augustynowicz@minrol.gov.pl

National Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Gdynia

Jerzy Janusz, Department of Biology and Fish Resources Conservation, jjanusz@mir.gdynia.pl

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Fisheries Department, Warsaw

Tomasz Nawrocki – Director, tomasz.nawrocki@minrol.gov.pl

Marta Kaniewska – Królak, Head of Unit, Management of Marine Resources Division,
marta.kaniewska@minrol.gov.pl

Russian Federation

Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO)

Alexander I. Glubokov, Centre of International Fisheries Cooperation, Head of the Russian Federation delegation, contact person, glubokov@vniro.ru

Pacific Scientific Research Fisheries Centre (TINRO-Center)

Igor V. Melnikov, Deputy Director, melnikov@tinro.ru

Mikhail A. Stepanenko, Leading Scientist, mikhail.stepanenko@tinro-center.ru

United States

National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

James Balsiger, Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, Juneau, Alaska,
Jim.Balsiger@noaa.gov

Douglas Mecum, Deputy Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, Juneau, Alaska
Doug.Mecum@noaa.gov

Patricia Livingston, Division Director, Resource Ecology and Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), Seattle, Washington, Head of the United States delegation, contact person Pat.Livingston@noaa.gov

Loh-Lee Low, International Coordinator, AFSC/Alaska Region, Seattle, Washington,
Loh-Lee.Low@noaa.gov

Paul Niemeier, Foreign Affairs Specialist, Office of International Affairs, Silver Spring, Maryland, Paul.Niemeier@noaa.gov

Matthew Brown, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Alaska Enforcement Division, Office for Law Enforcement, Juneau, Alaska, Matthew.Brown@noaa.gov

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Niel Moeller, Office of the General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation, Seattle, WA
niel.moeller@noaa.gov

Jonathan Pollard, Deputy Alaska Regional Counsel, Office of the General Counsel,
Alaska Region, Juneau, Alaska, Jonathan.Pollard@noaa.gov

U.S. Department of State

Michael Clark, Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of Marine Conservation, Washington,
D.C., clarkml2@state.gov

United States Coast Guard

CAPT Phillip Thorne, Chief of Enforcement, U.S. Coast Guard District 17, Juneau,
Alaska, Phillip.R.Thorne@uscg.mil

CDR Christopher Barrows, Deputy Chief, Law Enforcement, U.S. Coast Guard District
17, Juneau, Alaska, Chris.M.Barrows@uscg.mil

CDR Daniel Schaeffer, Chief, Fisheries and Marine protected Species Enforcement, U.S.
Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D.C., Daniel.E.Schaeffer@uscg.mil

LCDR James Binniker, U.S. Coast Guard Liaison, Office for Law Enforcement, Silver
Spring, Maryland, James.A.Binniker@uscg.mil

LT Karl. H. Mueller, International Section Leader , U.S. Coast Guard District 17, Juneau,
Alaska, Karl.H.Mueller@uscg.mil

North Pacific and Bering Sea Fisheries Advisors

David Benson, Director of Government Relations, Trident Seafoods Corporation, Seattle,
Washington, daveb@tridentseafoods.com

David Benton, Juneau, Alaska, davebenton@gci.net

Alvin Burch, Executive Director, Whitefish Trawlers Association, Kodiak, Alaska,
alaska@ptialaska.net

Mark Gleason, Executive Director, Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers, Seattle, Washington,
markhgleason@gmail.com

John Henderschedt, Executive Director, Fisheries Leadership and Sustainability Forum,
Seattle, Washington, john.henderschedt@duke.edu

Howard "Dan" Hull, Hull Fisheries LLC, Anchorage, Alaska, dnhull@alaska.net

Frank Kelty, City of Unalaska, Unalaska, Alaska, fkelly@ci.unalaska.ak.us

Nicole Kimball, Federal Fisheries Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage, Alaska, nicole.kimball@alaska.gov

Simon Kinneen, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, Nome, Alaska, simon@nsedc.com

Paul MacGregor, Partner, Law Firm of Mundt, MacGregor, Happel, Falconer, Zulauf, and Hall, Seattle, Washington, and General Counsel for the At-Sea Processors Association, Seattle, Washington, pmacgregor@mundtmac.com

Christopher Oliver, Executive Director, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Anchorage, Alaska, chris.oliver@noaa.gov

William Tweit, Distant Waters Program Manager, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, Washington, tweitwmt@dfw.wa.gov

Marlyn Twitchell, Consultant, Seattle, Washington, mjtwitchell@msn.com

**AGENDA
for the 19th Scientific and Technical Committee Virtual Meeting**

hosted by the Russian Federation
1 - 15 September 2014

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Appointment of the Rapporteur (Russian Federation will undertake this task)
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Discussion of Science Issues
 - 4.1 Update catch and effort statistics
 - 4.2 Review results of trial fishing
 - 4.3 Review results of research cruises
 - 4.4 Review the status of Aleutian Basin pollock stocks
 - 4.5 Factors affecting recovery of the stocks
 - 4.6 The effects of the moratorium and its continuation
 - 4.7 Methodologies to determine Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) and Allowable Harvest Level (AHL)
 - 4.8 Recommendation on AHL
 - 4.9 Research plans
5. Discussion of Enforcement and Management Issues
 - 5.1 Violations of the Convention
 - 5.2 Terms and Conditions for Trial Fishing for the following year
6. Other Issues and Recommendations
7. Report to the Annual Conference
8. Closing Remarks

Appendix 3

All-nation historical catch of pollock from the Bering Sea, in metric tons, 1977-2013

Year	Olyutorskiy-Karagin (W of 170W)	Navarin Region (E of 170W)	Donut Hole	Bogoslof	Aleutian Region	Eastern Bering Sea	Total Bering Sea
1977	265 000				7 625	978 370	1 250 995
1978	417 000				6 282	979 431	1 402 713
1979	546 000				9 504	935 714	1 491 218
1980	825 000				58 156	958 280	1 841 436
1981	1 133 000				55 516	973 502	2 162 018
1982	976 000				57 978	955 964	1 989 942
1983	1 006 000				59 026	981 450	2 046 476
1984	252 000	503 000	181 200		81 834	1 092 055	2 110 089
1985	134 000	488 000	363 400		58 730	1 139 676	2 183 806
1986	297 000	570 000	1 039 800		46 641	1 141 993	3 095 434
1987	349 000	463 000	1 326 300	377 436	28 720	859 416	3 403 872
1988	475 000	852 000	1 395 900	87 813	30 000	1 228 721	4 069 434
1989	345 000	684 000	1 447 600	36 073	15 531	1 229 600	3 757 804
1990	582 000	232 000	917 400	151 672	79 025	1 455 193	3 417 290
1991	326 000	178 000	293 400	264 760	78 649	1 217 301	2 358 110
1992	282 000	315 000	10 000	160	48 745	1 164 440	1 820 345
1993	288 000	389 000	1 957	885	54 074	1 198 790	1 932 706
1994	204 000	288 900	NA	556	53 224	1 197 224	1 743 904
1995	79 000	427 300	Trace	264	60 184	1 169 614	1 736 362
1996	34 000	753 000	Trace	389	26 597	1 102 579	1 916 565
1997	30 000	735 000	Trace	163	24 721	1 036 789	1 826 673
1998	25 000	719 000	Trace	8	22 053	1 058 288	1 824 349
1999	46 000	639 000	Trace	1	965	889 561	1 575 527
2000	15 000	507 000	Trace	29	1 174	1 019 067	1 542 270
2001	25 000	526 000	0	61	788	1 247 305	1 799 154
2002	8 000	370 000	0	22	1 134	1 331 416	1 710 572
2003	14 600	411 200	0	24	1 653	1 491 356	1 918 833
2004	6 200	424 500	0	0	1 150	1 493 394	1 925 244
2005	4 400	446 800	0	0	1 622	1 483 398	1 936 220
2006	3 900	462 500	0	0	1 736	1 486 414	1 954 550
2007	62 600	587 900	0	0	2 519	1 354 091	2 007 110
2008	50 632	507 127	0	9	1 277	990 314	1 549 359

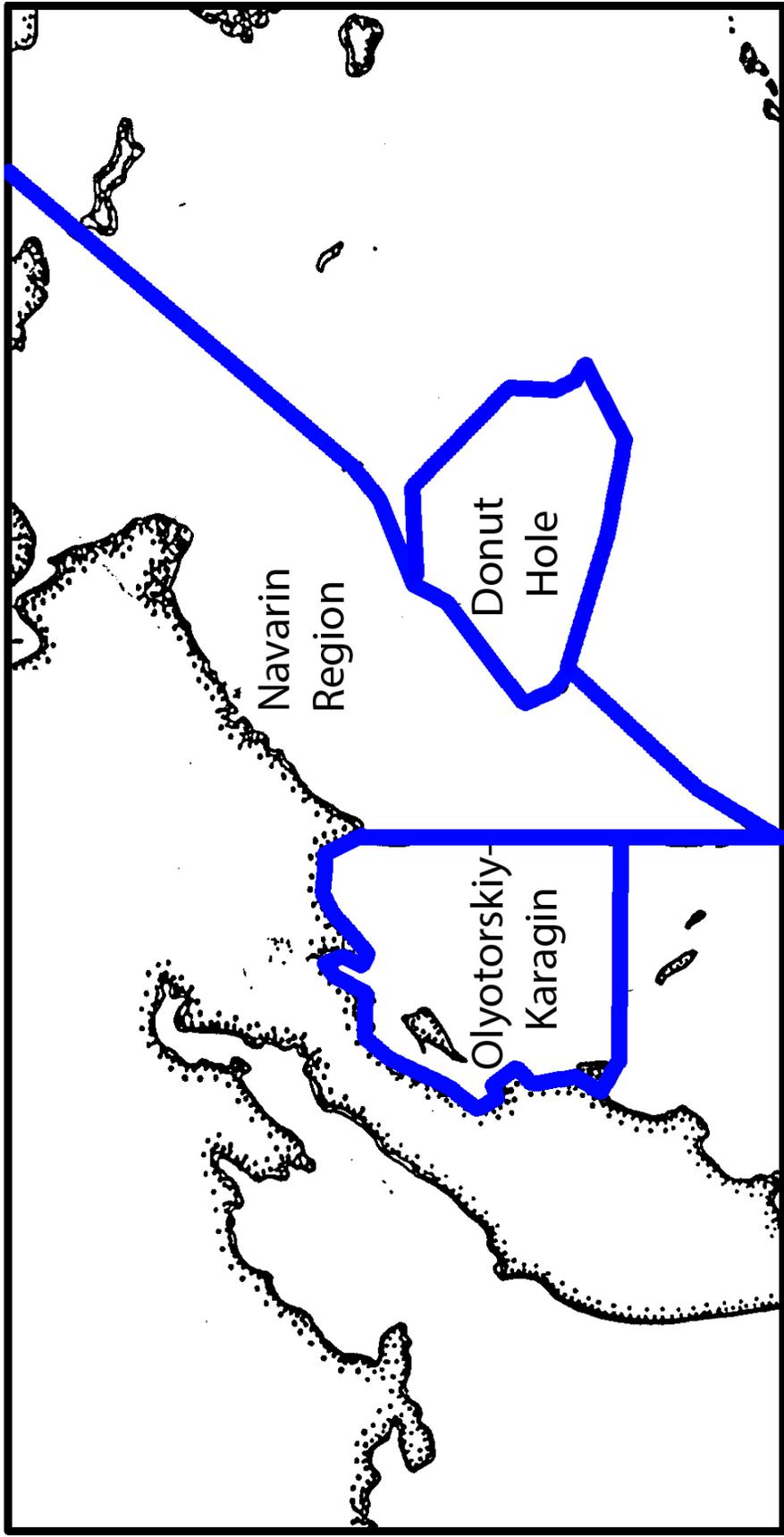
2009	26 052	328 517	0	46	1 729	810 821	1 167 165
2010	43 352	319 543	0	176	1 285	810 195	1 174 551
2011	37 189	336 690	0	173	1 208	1 199 066	1 574 326
2012	26 300	390 040	0	79	975	1 205 371	1 622 765
2013	29 800	363 300	0	57	2 961	1 270 732	1 666 850
2014**	7028	216774	0	123	1 746	972313	1167788

Sources of Data

Reported by the Parties to the Convention

**US data through 2 August 2014, Russian data through 4 September 2014

Statistic areas in the Bering Sea



Bogoslof (518) area

