

**17th THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE PARTIES  
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT  
OF POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA**

**FINAL REPORT**

17 September – 19 October 2012 Virtual Process Meeting

Final Version 19 October 2012

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

Inja Yeon (Korea) served as the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting. A list of the participants is provided in Attachment 1.

**2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Seok-Gwan Choi (Korea) served as rapporteur to compile the S&T report. The following individuals served as the contact point from each party for email exchange – Japan (Orio Yamamura), Poland (Jerzy Janusz), the Russian Federation (Alexander I. Glubokov), the United States (Pat Livingston) and the Republic of Korea (Seok-Gwan Choi). The People's Republic of China did not participate in the email exchanges.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

3.1: The agenda (Attachment 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 (Attachment 3-4, See Table 1, 4).

**4.2. Review results of trial fishing**

4.2.1. There was no trial fishing reported by the Parties for 2012 (Attachment 5, See Table 3).

**4.3. Review results of research cruises**

4.3.1. The United States submitted the preliminary results of the Pollock research cruise in the Bogoslof area in 2012 (Attachment 6).

4.3.2. The Russian Federation submitted results of the Russian research on the Status of Bering Sea Pollock Stocks in 2011-2012 (Attachment 7).

4.3.3. Japan submitted the report of bycatch information aboard R/V Hokko-maru during the salmon survey in the Central Bering Sea (Attachment 8).

**4.4. Review the status of Aleutian Basin Pollock stocks**

4.4.1. The United States submitted the estimated Biomass (mt) of Pollock in the Aleutian Basin region of the Convention Area (Attachment 9, See Table 2) and the Pollock assessment numbers for determined for management of the U.S. 2008-12 Pollock fisheries (Attachment 10, See Table 5).

4.4.2. The United States and Russian Federation provided the stock status for the Bering Sea by region (Attachment 11, 7).

4.4.2.1 The following table extracted from the U.S. submission 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 2012 are through 21 July 2012.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Age 3+ Pollock Biomass</b>	<b>Overfishing Level (mt)</b>	<b>Acceptable Biological Catch (mt)</b>	<b>Total allowable Catch (mt)</b>	<b>Catch (mt)</b>
<b>1.E Bering Sea</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>4,620,000</b>	<b>918,000</b>	<b>813,000</b>	<b>813,000</b>	<b>810,395</b>
	<b>2011</b>	<b>9,620,000</b>	<b>2,450,000</b>	<b>1,270,000</b>	<b>1,253,000</b>	<b>1,197,571</b>
	<b>2012</b>	<b>8,340,000</b>	<b>2,470,000</b>	<b>1,220,000</b>	<b>1,200,000</b>	<b>817,296*</b>
<b>2.Aleutians</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>242,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>33,100</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>1,285</b>
	<b>2011</b>	<b>261,000</b>	<b>44,500</b>	<b>36,700</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>1,162</b>
	<b>2012</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>39,600</b>	<b>32,500</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>620*</b>
<b>3.Bogoslof</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>176</b>
	<b>2011</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>140</b>
	<b>2012</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>79*</b>

Recruitment strength of year classes (that are highly variable) seem to drive the variations in biomass of the pollock stocks as the U.S. management process always set total allowable catches below acceptable biological levels and substantially below overfishing levels. Catches in the Aleutians area are set substantially below acceptable biological levels because of low biomass due to a long series of poor recruitments. The Bogoslof area also has a long series of poor recruitments and has been closed to direct pollock fishing since 1992. Total allowable catches have been set low to serve bycatch needs only (Attachment 11).

4.4.2.2. Russian Pollock studies conducted in 2009-2011 showed that in recent years there were three numerous generations – in 2006, 2008 and 2009. In this regard, the pollock biomass increased in the Western Bering sea in 2010-2011, mainly due to generations of 2006 and 2008 (Attachment 7).

#### **4.5. Factors affecting recovery of the stock**

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. No new information was provided.

**4.8. Recommendation on AHL**

4.8.1. No new information was provided.

**4.9. Research Plans**

4.9.1. The United States plans to conduct the next Bogoslof Island Pollock survey in 2014

**5. Discussion of Enforcement and Management Issues**

5.1. Violations of the Convention

5.1.1. No new information was provided.

**5.2. Trial fishing terms and conditions for 2011**

5.2.1. No new information was provided.

**6. Other Issues and Recommendations**

6.1. Future Meetings of the Scientific and Technical Committee

6.1.1. The 2013 meeting of the Committee will be discussed during the 2012 Annual Conference.

**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.

8.2. The participants thanked the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Committee for leading the meeting.

## **Attachment 1. List of Participants**

### China

No one from China participated in the S&T exchange.

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Attachment 2. **Proposed Agenda for the Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting**

**17<sup>th</sup> Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea**

Virtual Meeting hosted by the Korean Party  
17 September - 19 October 2012

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Appointment of the Rapporteur (Korea 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