Alaska pollock

**Sea of Okhotsk**

**Fishery:** N Okhotsk, W Kamchatka, Kamchatka-Kuril

**Russian Federation**

**Midwater trawls**

**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**

- Stock assessment is conducted annually and the assessment has been peer-reviewed.
- The stock is above its target reference point and has been since 2009.
- Fishing mortality is below the target.
- A harvest control rule is used in TAC setting.
- Only pelagic trawl and coastal Danish seine may be used so benthic impacts are expected to be limited.

**Weaknesses**

- Until recently, it was reported that real catches had been substantially larger than reported catches mainly because of high levels of pollock roe production and unreported discards of undersized pollock. Contradicting reports suggest the situation has improved in recent years and that compliance by fishers is high, but scientific observer coverage remains below desirable levels.
- Some uncertainty remains as to the environmental impacts of the fishery, requiring improved reporting.
- Public access to the stock assessment summary reports had been improving in recent years, but further improvements are still required, including publication of the full assessment reports.

**SCORES**

**Management Quality:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>≥ 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stock Health:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FIPS**

For related FIPS

**MSC**

- Russia Sea of Okhotsk pollock: MSC Recertified

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN**

- Press the Pollock Catchers Association to amend the Pollock Sustainability website (www.russianpollock.com) to include pages specifically related to the Sea of Okhotsk pollock fishery and address recommendations from the 2018 Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification report and 2019 surveillance report.
- Ask the Russian Pacific Fisheries Research Centre (TINRO) to publish the most recent annual stock assessments, including the time series resulting from the assessments (particularly fishing mortality), and summaries of data collected by scientific observers on all types of catches and discards.
- Seek to have managers clarify uncertainty about the scale of any under reporting of catches.
- Improve the level of at-sea observer coverage to reduce uncertainty about fishery impacts.