


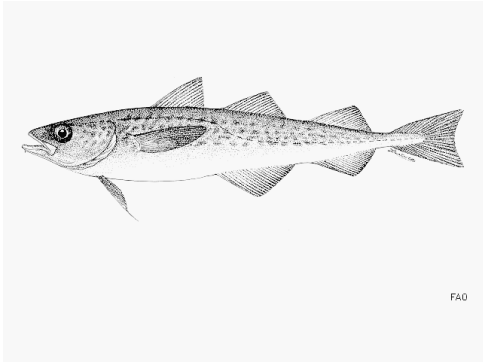


Alaska pollock Sea of Okhotsk

Fishery:  Russia N Okhotsk, W Kamchatka, Kamchatka-Kuril  Russian Federation  Midwater trawls

IDENTIFICATION



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Gadus chalcogrammus

SPECIES NAME(S)

Alaska pollock, Walleye pollock, pollock, Минтай.

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

Alaska pollock in the Sea of Okhotsk, Russia, is regarded as one single population with complex intrapopulation structure to the north of 50°N, frequently referred to as the northern Sea of Okhotsk (e.g., Zverkova, 1981; Zverkova et al., 2003; Shuntov et al. 2007), spanning three management sub-areas: North Okhotsk (sub-area 4), West Kamchatka (sub-area 5) and Kamchatka-Kuril (sub-area 6) as well as high seas in 61.52. Click [here](#) for a map with Russian Far East pollock management areas.



RELATED LINKS:

- [Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation](#)
- [Russia Pacific Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography \(TINRO\)](#)

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:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
9.6	10	≥ 6

Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
8.8	8.3

FIPS

No 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.