Alaska pollock, Walleye pollock, pollock, Мингай

Two populations of pollock are thought to be present in the western Bering Sea: pollock east of 174ºE, in the Navarinsky area, is likely subject to immigration of pollock from the East Bering Sea, and a West Bering Sea (WBS) population is found in waters to the west of 174ºE including the Karaginsky Bay area (PCA, 2010a). This profile addresses the WBS population.

ASSESSMENT

Strengths
- An annual analytical assessment is conducted.
- Recommended TACs are based on a precautionary harvest control rule.
- TACs for 2016 were explicitly set in line with scientific advice for the first time in over a decade, dividing the West Bering Sea stock from the Navarinsky stock.

Weaknesses
- The stock is at low levels and decreasing in size, and recruitment may be being compromised.
- There is a general shortage of regularly published and complete information on the fishery assessment and management: public access to results of the stock assessments has been improving in recent years, but further improvements are still required, including publication of the full assessment report.
- Fishing mortality estimates for the stock are not available so the future state of the stock cannot be evaluated.
- Despite separate annual scientific advice on TACs being provided for the Navarinsky and WBS stocks, formal TACs and officially reported catches were provided for the entire western Bering Sea (zone 61.01), covering the Navarinsky stock and a part of the WBS stock, from 2001 to 2015, leading to overfishing of the WBS stock.

SCORES

Management Quality:
- Management Strategy ≥ 6
- Managers Compliance 10
- Fishers Compliance ≥ 6

Stock Health:
- Current Health 6.6
- Future Health < 6

RECOMMENDATIONS

CATCHERS & REGULATORS
- Ensure separate catch reporting for West Bering Sea (WBS) and Navarinsky stocks in the western Bering Sea fisheries zone, including sub-zones where specific TACs are set or recommended.
- Develop and implement a stock rebuilding plan with long-term objectives for the WBS stock over entire area of its distribution.
- Start a fishery improvement project to address sustainability issues in this fishery. For advice on starting a FIP, see SFP’s Seafood Industry Guide to FIPs at http://www.sustainablefish.org/publications/2014/04/30/the-seafood-industry-guide-to-fips.

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN
- Ask regulators to ensure separate catch reporting for the West Bering Sea (WBS) and Navarinsky stocks in the western Bering Sea fisheries zone, including sub-zones, where specific TACs are set or recommended.
- Ask regulators and their fisheries institutes to develop and implement a stock rebuilding plan with long-term objectives for the WBS stock over entire area of its distribution.
- Request that your supply chain pre-SFP’s Russian Far East Whitefish Supply Chain Roundtable.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
- Russia Pacific Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (TINRO)