

**10TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA**

6-9 September, 2005  
Busan, Korea

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea was held in Busan, Korea, from 6 to 9 September 2005. The Conference was attended by delegations of Japan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, Poland, People's Republic of China and the United States of America.

The Conference reviewed report of the Scientific and Technical Committee (S&T), which contained updated catch and effort statistics and results from research surveys. Recent studies indicate that the pollock stock in the Central Bering Sea continues to be low. It was acknowledged that numerous factors ranging from climate change to predation could affect pollock abundance. It was noted, that pollock stocks on the eastern Bering Sea shelf continued to improve, however, that improvement did not seem to have any effect on Aleutian Basin pollock stock levels, despite many years of the moratorium. There was no comprehensive survey that could be used to determine the status of the Aleutian Basin stock, and the Parties agreed that there was a need for an extensive international research program to study the Bering Sea pollock. No trial fishing occurred in 2005.

No consensus was reached on methodologies for determining an Allowable Harvest Level (AHL).

The Conference reviewed scientific data and conservation measures of the Coastal States related to pollock fishing in the Bering Sea. The Russian Federation and USA presented their reports.

With regard to establishing the allowable harvest level, the Parties basically had three different positions, and in the absence of consensus the annual harvest level is established in accordance with Article VII(2) of the Convention. Pursuant to provisions of Part 1 of the Annex to the Convention and since, as determined by all Parties, the biomass of pollock has not reached 1 670 000 t as set out in the Annex, the annual harvest level for pollock was set at zero. As AHL was not established, no individual national quotas were set.

Korea introduced a proposal for trial fishing in the Convention Area in 2006, which was supported. The Parties reaffirmed that any Party wishing to conduct trial fishing will abide by the Convention provisions and previously adopted terms and conditions of 1999 regarding trial fishing. It was emphasized that all species caught during trial fishing cruises should be recorded. Russia introduced a proposal for the BAPIS program (Bering-Aleutian Pollock International Survey) to further research and gather data on pollock stocks in the Aleutian Basin, which was also supported.

The S&T Committee recommendation to convene another workshop on stock genetics was endorsed as well as a proposal that it should also include research into changing pollock migration patterns.

No new advice from the S&T Committee was provided to the Parties, and no recommendations for new conservation and management measures were made by the Parties.

**Agenda item 8 – for information**

**AM 2005/24**

The Parties agreed to the same observer rules for 2006 that have been in use since 1998.

Poland provisionally agreed to host the Eleventh Annual Conference. The date and location of the Conference will be provided pending consultations after the 2005 Polish elections.