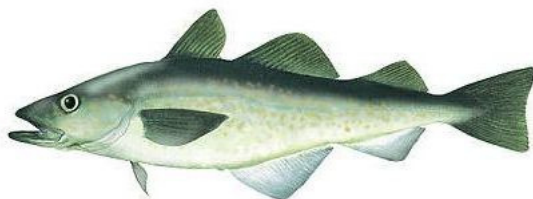


# Alaska Pollock



## Biology facts

<b>Depth Range</b>	benthopelagic, 0–1280 m
<b>Max Age</b>	15 years
<b>Maturity Age</b>	3-4 years
<b>Max Size</b>	91 cm
<b>Max Weight</b>	1.4 kg
<b>Prey</b>	crustaceans, fish
<b>Other</b>	The US BS/AI Pollock fishery is the world's largest whitefish fishery. The BS/AI Pollock fishery accounts for approximately 30 percent of all fish landed in the U.S. by weight

## Fishery Facts

<b>Latin Name</b>	<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>
<b>Fishing Method</b>	Predominantly midwater (pelagic) trawls, some bottom trawls
<b>Annual catch</b>	The US Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BS/AI) Pollock fishery has had average annual landings over the past 20 years of about 1.1 million metric tonnes. For 2008, the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is 1 000 000 metric tonnes. The Gulf of Alaska fishery is a fraction of its former size, with estimated biomass dropping from over four million tonnes in 1983 to less than 600 000 tonnes in 2007.
<b>Market</b>	The primary markets for Alaska Pollock products are Japan (primarily as surimi (minced fish) and roe), the US and Europe (mainly fillet-type products; fillets are used for fish and chips and fish fingers). Most of the white fish in McDonald's and other fast food restaurants comes from the Alaska Pollock fishery.
<b>Management</b>	The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is charged with developing management measures for the fishery, including

### Spendenkonto

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recommending catch levels. The Council's recommendations are submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for approval.

<b>Main fishing nations</b>	Only US flagged vessels are allowed to fish for Alaska Pollock. Outside US waters, Russia is by far the largest fishing nation targeting Alaska Pollock on the Russian side of the Bering Sea.
<b>IUU</b>	Pirate fishing and heavy fishing pressure on the Russian side of the Bering Sea is having an unknown effect on Alaska Pollock.
<b>Certification</b>	In 2004, the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified the US BS/AI and Gulf of Alaska Pollock fisheries. Oceana, Greenpeace International, the National Environmental Trust and Alaska Oceans Program objected to the certification because of possible impacts on endangered Steller Sea Lions and low stock size of Alaska Pollock, particularly in the Gulf of Alaska.

## Main Concerns

- **Poor stock status.** There have been five consecutive years of below average recruitment in the Bering Sea. Fisheries in the Aleutians, Bogoslof/Donut Hole and Gulf of Alaska are all either closed or extremely reduced. The remaining stock capable of supporting a large commercial fishery, in the Eastern Bering Sea, is subject to heavy fishing pressure on the spawning aggregation.
- **Stock levels have declined significantly in recent years.** Biomass of adult Pollock are the lowest since the late 1970s, when the fishery was open to international vessels.
- **Increasing Catch per Unit Effort is exacerbating already significant bycatch concerns.** It includes protected species like Salmon, and Halibut.
- **Continued damage to protected corals in known coral habitats by trawls.** The fleet is fishing in areas known to contain coral and sponge habitats that NMFS ecologists have recommended should be prioritized for protection.
- **Food web impacts: Pollock is the dominant prey species for much of the marine life in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.** As industry has removed over 60% of the Pollock from Alaska waters, this has resulted in a dramatic reduction in the available forage for endangered Steller Sea Lion, depleted Northern Fur Seals and other marine mammals, as well as fish and sea birds. Percent catch inside the Steller Sea Lion Conservation Area during the Pollock A season reached 57% in 2006, the highest level since 1998.

## Main Sources

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