

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Meeting Summary

230th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
October 3-10, 2016
Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska

CONTENTS

A OATH OF OFFICE	4
B REPORTS.....	4
C1 BSAI CRAB SPECIFICATIONS FOR 6 STOCKS.....	4
C2 GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS	4
C3 ELECTRONIC MONITORING INTEGRATION	5
C4 2017 OBSERVER PROGRAM ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT PLAN	6
C5 OBSERVER LEAD LEVEL 2.....	7
C6 HALIBUT/SABLEFISH IFQ PROGRAM REVIEW	9
C7 AREA 4 HALIBUT IFQ LEASING BY CDQ GROUPS.....	11
D1 BSAI HALIBUT ABUNDANCE-BASED PSC LIMITS	12
D2 HALIBUT DISCARD MORTALITY RATES (DMRs).....	13
D3 ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT DESCRIPTION	13
E1 STAFF TASKING.....	14

Attachments

- 1) Time Log
- 2) Newsletter
- 3) OFLs & ABCs Crab Specs
- 4) OFLs & ABCs GOA Groundfish Specs
- 5) OFLs & ABCs BSAI Groundfish Specs

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met Wednesday October 5 through Monday, October 10, 2016 at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. The following Council, NPFMC staff, and SSC and AP members attended the meetings.

Council Members

Dan Hull, Chair	Kenny Downs	Simon Kinneen
Jim Balsiger/Glenn Merrill	Buck Laukitis	Theresa Peterson
Sam Cotten/Trent Harthill	Dave Hanson	Bill Tweit
Craig Cross	Roy Hyder	CAPT White/LCDR Sergeant
Maura Sullivan/John Lepore	Andy Mezirow	Aaron Martin/Steve Delehanty

NPFMC Staff

Jim Armstrong	Peggy Kircher	Chris Oliver
Shannon Gleason	Maria Shawback	Sam Cunningham
Sarah Marrinan	Diana Evans	Mike Fey (AKFIN)
David Witherell	Jon McCracken	Diana Stram
Steve MacLean	Joy Stein	

Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC met Monday, October 3 through Wednesday, October 5, 2016. Members present were:

Farron Wallace, Chair <i>NOAA Fisheries – AFSC</i>	Anne Hollowed <i>NOAA - AFSC</i>	Chris Anderson <i>UAF (Fairbanks)</i>
George Hunt <i>UW (Seattle)</i>	Brad Harris <i>APU (Anchorage)</i>	Terry Quinn <i>UAF (Fairbanks)</i>
Kari Fenske <i>Dept. F&W (Washington)</i>	Franz Mueter <i>UAF (Fairbanks)</i>	Alison Whitman <i>Dept. F&W (Oregon)</i>
Ian Stewart <i>IPHC</i>	Matt Reimer <i>UAA (Anchorage)</i>	Gordon Kruse <i>UAF (Fairbanks)</i>
Jennifer Burns <i>UAA (Anchorage)</i>	Lew Coggins <i>USF&W</i>	Jason Gasper <i>NOAA Fisheries</i>
Seth Macinko <i>URI (Rhode Island)</i>	Sherri Dressel <i>ADF&G</i>	Kate Reedy <i>Idaho State University</i>

Advisory Panel

The AP met Tuesday, October 4 through Saturday, October 8, 2016. Members present were:

Ruth Christiansen	Jeff Kauffman	Joel Peterson
Kurt Cochran	Angel Drobnica	Shannon Carroll
John Crowley	Alexus Kwachka	Sinclair Wilt
Jerry Downing	Craig Lowenberg	Jeff Stephan (Co-Vice Chair)
Jeff Farvour	Chuck McCallum	Matt Upton (Co-Vice Chair)
Art Nelson	Dan Donich	Ben Stevens
Paddy O'Donnell	Ernie Weiss (Chair)	John Gruver

A OATH OF OFFICE

Oath of Office was taken by Buck Laukitis and Theresa Peterson – new appointees to the Council.

B REPORTS

The following reports were given and discussed. No action was taken.

- B1 Executive Director's Report – Chris Oliver
- B2 NMFS Management Report – Glenn Merrill
- B3 ADF&G Report – Trent Harthill
- B4 USCG Report – LCDR Corrie Sergeant
- B5 USFWS Report – Mr. Taylor
- B6 Protected Species Report - Steve MacLean

C1 BSAI CRAB SPECIFICATIONS FOR 6 STOCKS

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram and Dr. Bob Foy from AFSC.
The following action was taken:

Mr. Cotten made the following motion which was seconded by Ms. Peterson:

The Council accepts the Crab SAFE report and adopts the OFL's and ABC's recommended by the SSC for the Eastern Bering Seas Snow Crab, Bristol Bay Red King Crab, Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab, Pribilof Islands Red and Blue King Crab, and St. Matthews Island Blue King Crab (attachment 3).

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 5, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

C2 GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram and Jim Armstrong.
The following action was taken:

Mr. Cross made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Kinneen:

The Council adopts the proposed 2017 and 2018 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and set TACs (attachment 4), with all proposed specifications consisting of rollovers of final specifications from 2017. The TACs for both Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod and Pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water GHL fisheries. The Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod adjustments are shown in the C2 action memo under Item 5.

The Council adopts the proposed 2017 and 2018 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the Gulf of Alaska as provided in Tables 9, 10, and 11 (attachment 4).

The Council adopts the proposed 2017 and 2018 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and proposed TACs rolled over from those adopted for 2017 (attached); and Tables 14, 16 and 17 for PSCs; and Table 13 rollover the flatfish flexibility reserves for 2017 and 2018 (attachment 5).

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 6, 2016 at 9:33 a.m.

C3 ELECTRONIC MONITORING INTEGRATION

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Diana Evans and Sam Cunningham, and NMFS staff, Gretchen Harrington and Jennifer Mondragon. The following action was taken:

Mr. Merrill made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Mezirow:

The EA/RIR/IRFA Analysis to Integrate Electronic Monitoring into the North Pacific Observer Program is ready to release for public review. Staff should address the SSC recommendations as practicable prior to release for public review.

Preferred Alternative

Alternative 2, Allow use of EM for catch estimation on vessels in the EM selection pool.

Alternative 2 includes the nine components identified in section 3.2.1 of the Analysis.

Alternative 2 would establish the process and structure for the Council to use EM as a tool for monitoring fixed gear vessels in the partial coverage category of the North Pacific Observer Program. Integral to Alternative 2 is the annual process for the Council and NMFS to make EM deployment decisions along with observer deployment decisions in the Annual Deployment Plan. Work should continue to develop the necessary annual analysis for determining the EM selection pool and balancing EM deployment with deployment of observers within budget.

Option for vessels fishing IFQ in multiple regulatory areas:

Add an option to Alternative 2 for a process to allow vessels to use EM instead of an observer for fishing IFQ in multiple regulatory areas.

Rockfish full retention:

The Council requests staff to develop a discussion paper for a subsequent action to consider requiring full retention of all rockfish species for fixed gear catcher vessels. Full retention is identified as an option under Alternative 2, however, this subsequent action would expand full retention to apply to all fixed gear catcher vessels, not just those selected to use EM as identified in the option.

2017 Pre-implementation Plan

The Council approves the draft 2017 Electronic Monitoring Pre-Implementation Plan, and supports the EM workgroup's suggestions for priorities for EM implementation.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 6, 2016 at 4:22 p.m.

C4 2017 OBSERVER PROGRAM ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT PLAN

The Council heard a presentation on the Annual Deployment Plan from NMFS staff, Craig Faunce and Chris Rilling. Council Staff Diana Evans gave the Observer Advisory Committee report. The following action was taken:

Ms. Merrill made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:

The Council supports the following recommendations for the draft 2017 Annual Deployment Plan:

- Use the trip-selection method to assign observers to vessels in partial coverage in 2017.
- Deploy observers in the trip selection pools defined by gear and tender, with optimal allocation based on discarded catch. Support the preliminary deployment rates resulting from this stratification:
 - Hook-and-line (11%)
 - Tender hook-and-line (27%)
 - Pot (3%)
 - Tender Pot (6%)
 - Trawl (18%)
 - Tender Trawl (14%)
- The no selection pool would include catcher vessels 1) less than 40 ft and vessels fishing with jig gear, and 2) vessels that have opted-in to the EM selection pool and will participate in the 2017 EM pre-implementation plan.
- No temporary exemptions from observer coverage are allowed due to insufficient life raft capacity, given the option for vessels to be in the electronic monitoring pool in 2017.
- Continue the policy (programming in ODDS) that prevents a 40 – 57.5' fixed gear vessel from being selected for a third consecutive observer trip.
- Maintain the ability for vessels to log up to three trips in advance in ODDS.
- Continue to encourage ODDS trip number to be entered on groundfish landing reports to facilitate data analysis and provide a better link between ODDS and eLandings.
- Maintain the current Chinook salmon sampling protocols to identify stock of origin.

Continue to conduct outreach in fall and winter 2016/2017 as appropriate, focusing on the new tender strata. In addition, the Council requests that more information about logging trips in the tender strata be included in the final 2017 ADP.

For the draft 2018 ADP, the Council requests that Observer Program staff include prioritization of PSC limited fisheries in the weighting schemes for optimal allocation of coverage.

The Council recommends that NMFS continue development of performance metrics to evaluate both the deployment performance and the reliability of the catch and bycatch estimates, including calculating the variances associated with point estimates, and as part of the annual report and ADP process.

Finally, the Council recommends that NMFS begin to consider approaches to address low coverage rates that include the following: (1) finding efficiencies within the existing sampling design, and (2) evaluating the present fee structure.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 7, 2016 at 11:43 a.m.

C5 OBSERVER LEAD LEVEL 2

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Diana Evans and AFSC staff Chris Rilling. The following action was taken:

Mr. Downs made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Cross:

The Council directs staff to move the analysis forward for initial review based on the discussion paper addressing the shortage of fixed gear Lead Level 2 (LL2) observers (agenda item C-5). Alternatives for review should include a no action alternative and Options 1 and 4 as described in the discussion paper and in the October 2015 Council motion on this issue. Alternatives should also include Option 6 developed by the Observer Program, with the sub-option added by the Observer Advisory Committee (OAC).

Alternatives (Option from discussion paper noted in parentheses):

- Alternative 1: No action

- Alternative 2 (Option 1): Allow deployment of a non-fixed gear LL2 observer on FLC vessels if the only alternative is that the vessel must stand down:
 - Deploy any non-LL2 observer
 - Deploy a trawl LL2 observer

- Alternative 3 (Option 4): Institute an at-sea training component to the Federal observer training program, whereby the agency would pay for fixed gear LL2 certification.

- Alternative 4 (Option 6): Allow freezer longline (FLL) vessels with flow scales to choose between a single LL2 observer or two level 2 observers
 - Sub-option: Allow FLL vessels with flow scales to choose between a single LL2 observer, or a level 2 and level 1 observer.

Lastly, the Council supports further exploration by the Observer Program of non-regulatory actions described in Section 5.7 of the discussion paper to increase the preparedness of new fixed gear LL2 observers deployed on freezer longline vessels.

Purpose and Need:

Under monitoring and enforcement regulations in place since October 2012, owners of freezer longline vessels named on License Limitation Program (LLP) licenses endorsed to catch and process Pacific cod in the (BSAI) are required to select between two monitoring options: carry two observers so that all catch can be sampled, or use a motion-compensated flow scale to weigh Pacific cod before it is processed and carry one observer. Under both monitoring options, at least one of the observers must be endorsed as a lead level 2 observer for vessels using fixed-gear.

All freezer longline vessels except one have chosen the flow scales with a single LL2 observer option. This, combined with current observer deployment model that places most fixed-gear catcher vessels in the partial observer coverage category, means that there are few fixed-gear vessels in the full observer coverage category which do not require a LL2 observer. Therefore, observers employed by the full coverage observer providers have few opportunities to gain the necessary experience to obtain the LL2 endorsement for vessels using fixed-gear. Since 2011, prior to the 2012 Final Rule, observer providers and freezer longline sector participants have raised concerns with NMFS and the Council over the difficulties in maintaining a sufficient pool of LL2 endorsed observers for deployment on freezer longline vessels under the new monitoring and enforcement regulations. On January 1, 2013, on the first day of the new requirements, a freezer longline vessel was stranded at the dock for three days due to a lack of an LL2 observer. In 2014, the shortage of LL2 observers meant that four additional vessels were not able to conduct fishing activity as planned. After these events, NMFS, observer providers, and industry undertook a series of non-regulatory actions designed to build and retain a pool of available LL2 endorsed observers. This included industry voluntarily deploying second observers on some freezer longline vessels, at a cost to the Industry, in order to allow them the experience to earn the LL2 endorsement.

The Council is concerned about the potential for a shortage of LL2 observers for deployment on freezer longline vessels and the resulting costs that could be incurred. This action is intended to address the need to maintain a high standard of observer data quality, and the need to minimize the potential for shortages of LL2 observers and additional costs to industry.

Mr. Merrill made the following amendment to modify the purpose and need statement, which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:

(Strikethrough indicates deletion of language from original purpose & need statement)

All freezer longline vessels except one have chosen the flow scales with a single LL2 observer option. This, combined with current observer deployment model that places most fixed-gear catcher vessels in the partial observer coverage category, means that there are few fixed-gear vessels in the full observer coverage category which do not require a LL2 observer. Therefore, observers employed by the full coverage observer providers have few opportunities to gain the necessary experience to obtain the LL2 endorsement for vessels using fixed-gear. ~~Since 2011, prior to the 2012 Final Rule, observer providers and freezer longline sector participants have raised concerns with NMFS and the Council over the difficulties in maintaining a sufficient pool of LL2 endorsed observers for deployment on freezer longline vessels under the new monitoring and enforcement regulations. On January 1, 2013, on the first day of the new requirements, a freezer longline vessel was stranded at the dock for three days due to a lack of an LL2 observer. In 2014, the shortage of LL2 observers meant that four additional vessels were not able to conduct fishing activity as planned. After these events, NMFS, observer providers, and industry undertook a series of non-regulatory actions designed to build and retain a pool of available LL2 endorsed observers. This included industry voluntarily deploying second observers on some freezer longline vessels, at a cost to the industry, in order to allow them the experience to earn the LL2 endorsement.~~

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection October 7, 2016 at 4:38 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: Motion passed with one objection (Mr. Merrill) October 7, 2016 at 4:43 p.m.

C6 HALIBUT/SABLEFISH IFQ PROGRAM REVIEW

The Council received presentations from analysts Marysia Szymkowiak (SeaGrant Fellow) on the 20-year review, and from Steve Kasperski (AFSC) on the community indices: The following actions were taken:

Mr. Balsiger made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Down:

The Council accepts the Halibut and Sablefish IFQ Program review as complete and final with the addition of the following information, to the extent practicable, as recommended by the AP and SSC:

- Add a section that describes the benefits and limitations of consolidation limits and entry level provisions with respect to overall program success and to the fleet consolidation that has taken place since IFQ Program implementation.
- Revise the description of the indices of community level engagement in IFQ fisheries to more clearly define the term engagement as it relates to multiple aspects of fisheries activity.

- Include graphics and maps that show the changes in quota share holdings for Alaska communities over time to better understand the effects of the program.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed no objection October 8, 2016 at 3:38 p.m.

Mr. Mezirow made the following motion which was seconded by Ms. Peterson:

The Council directs the IFQ Committee to evaluate the following issues and provide recommendations to the Council on potential future revisions to the IFQ program:

- Impacts of quota share loss on Alaska’s rural communities and further explore geographic distribution of quota ownership. Additionally, define rural communities by several population sizes (such as 1,500, 2,500 and 7,500) to better understand how population dynamics have resulted in different outcomes for rural community IFQ participation. This could also include examining the impacts on Alaska communities by region.
- Geographic distribution of new entrant quota ownership.
- Use of hired masters in the IFQ fisheries.
- The IFQ committee should bring forward to the Council any further concerns that they find in the document.

Mr. Balsiger made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Tweet:

(Add the following bullet points to original motion)

- Sweep-ups of small blocked QS units
- Use of medical lease provision
- Definition of “immediate family member” under the beneficiary lease provision

In addition, NMFS intends to undertake revisions to IFQ Program regulations to update administrative appeals and initial quota share issuance regulations.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection October 8, 2016 at 3:49 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 8, 2016 at 3:50 p.m.

C7 AREA 4 HALIBUT IFQ LEASING BY CDQ GROUPS

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Sarah Marrinan. The following action was taken:

Mr. Kinneen made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Cotten:

The Council expands the suite of options for the proposed action to lease halibut IFQ to CDQ groups in low abundance years as follows. These revisions should be incorporated into another initial review draft analysis at a future meeting.

Changes from the December 2015 motion are indicated (deletions are ~~strikethrough~~ and additions are underlined) and the Council's preliminary preferred alternative is shown in **bold**.

Alternative 1. No Action

Alternative 2. Allow CDQ groups to lease halibut IFQ in Areas 4B, 4C and 4D in years of low halibut catch limits in regulatory Areas 4B and 4CDE. Any IFQ transferred to a CDQ group under this provision would be added to their available halibut CDQ, intended for use by residents with a halibut CDQ permit and a CDQ hired master permit. No vessel over 51 feet LOA would be eligible to harvest the leased IFQ and vessels would have to comply with IFQ use restrictions. (Options below are not mutually exclusive.)

Option 1. Defining 'low catch limits' for the purpose of allowing leases. Designation of low catch limits is independently determined for Areas 4B and 4CDE. The threshold for designating a year of low halibut catch limit in each area is less than (separate sub-options may be selected for Area 4B and Area 4CDE):

Sub-option 1. 1 million pounds (Area 4B)

Sub-option 2. 1.3 million pounds

Sub-option 3. 1.5 million pounds (Area 4CDE)

~~**Option 2.** IFQ class designations do not apply when the IFQ is being leased by a CDQ group.~~

Option 3. Leased Area 4D IFQ may be fished in Area 4E.

Option 4. Any Area 4B, 4C, or 4D catcher vessel QS transferred after December 14, 2015 may not be leased as IFQ to CDQ groups under this action for a period of:

Sub-option 1. 3 years

Sub-option 2. 4 years

Sub-option 3. 5 years

Option 5. No individual halibut QS holder may lease halibut IFQ to any CDQ group, on a consecutive basis, for more than:

Sub-option 1. 2 years

Sub-option 2. 3 years

Sub-option 3. 4 years

Option 6. Limit the ability to lease Area 4B halibut IFQ to CDQ groups under this action to QS holders that own less than:

Sub-option 1. 2,000 pounds

Sub-option 2. 5,000 pounds

Sub-option 3. 7,500 pounds

The Council requests that the analysis address the SSC recommendations to the extent practicable as well as provide further analysis of the potential impacts on the pool of quota holders who are currently fishing on vessels they do not own in Areas 4B and Areas 4C/4D, and on the walk-on businesses that support these quota holders.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 9, 2016 at 10:28 a.m.

D1 BSAI HALIBUT ABUNDANCE-BASED PSC LIMITS

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram and Dr. Allen Hicks, IPHC staff. The following action was taken:

Mr. Kinneen made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:

The Council confirms the objectives for establishing abundance based halibut PSC limits as outlined in the discussion paper are consistent with Council intent and requests the workgroup use the objectives in developing a suite of abundance based indices and associated control rule options. The Council also clarifies that stability in annual PSC limits is an objective for this action and should be included in the development of abundance indices and associated control rules.

The Council directs the inter-agency workgroup to:

- Develop performance metrics and quantitative tools to evaluate the tradeoffs between the competing objectives for this action.
- Develop abundance indices and associated controls rules together.
- Develop a broader suite of halibut abundance indices and control rules as outlined by the SSC. Specifically, evaluate different indices that can be used to meet the Council's objectives, which could then be combined in a control rule or decision making framework. The workgroup should also evaluate the index concepts discussed in the AP motion.

- Evaluate developing control rules that could be combined in a 2-or 3-dimensional framework for setting PSC as outlined by the SSC.
- Evaluate developing separate control rules for the hook and line and trawl fisheries that could be used to establish PSC limits.

The Council appreciates the effectiveness of the September workshop in providing an opportunity for the public engagement, and requests that a similar workshop be held prior to the next Council discussion paper review if timing reasonably permits.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed no objection October 10, 2016 at 8:29 a.m.

D2 HALIBUT DISCARD MORTALITY RATES (DMRs)

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Jim Armstrong. No action was taken.

D3 ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT DESCRIPTION

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Steve MacLean. The following action was taken:

Mr. Tweit made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Mezirow:

1. Amend the FMP for Groundfish of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Management Area to update Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) descriptions in Appendices D and E of the FMP consistent with the stock assessment authors' recommendations in Sections 5.1 through 5.26 of the October 2016 Summary Report for the 2016 Review of Essential Fish Habitat in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Fishery Management Plans (Summary Report).

Replace the existing EFH maps in the FMP with the model-based maps by season (winter, spring, summer and fall) for each species and life stage as shown in the Laman et al., 2015 Technical Memorandum (Appendix A for Agenda Item D3). The Council adopts the 95th percentile maps for all EFH maps.

2. Amend the FMP for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska to update EFH descriptions in Appendices D and E of the FMP consistent with the stock assessment authors' recommendations in Sections 6.1 through 6.26 of the Summary Report.

Replace the existing EFH maps in the FMP with the model-based maps by season for each species and life stage as shown in the Turner et al., 2015 Technical Memorandum (Appendix B for Agenda Item D3). The Council adopts the 95th percentile maps for all EFH maps.

3. Amend the FMP for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs to update EFH descriptions in Appendix D of the FMP consistent with the stock assessment authors' bulleted recommendations in Section 7 of the Summary Report.

Replace the existing EFH maps in the FMP with the model-based maps by season for each species and life stage as shown in the Laman et al., 2015 Technical Memorandum (Appendix A for Agenda Item D3). The Council adopts the 95th percentile maps for all EFH maps.

4. Amend the FMP for the Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska to update EFH descriptions in Appendix A of the FMP consistent with the stock assessment authors' recommendations in Section 9 of the Summary Report.

Replace the existing EFH maps in the FMP with the model-based maps for each species and life stage as shown in Appendix H for Agenda Item D3 (excerpted from the Echave et al., 2012 Technical Memorandum).

5. Amend the FMP for Fish Resources of the Arctic Management Area to update EFH descriptions for all species in Appendix A of the FMP consistent with the stock assessment authors' recommendations in Section 10 of the Summary Report and replace the existing map for snow crab in Appendix B of the FMP with the map(s) recommended by the stock assessment author.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed no objection October 10, 2016 at 11:17 a.m.

E1 STAFF TASKING

The Council deliberated on various tasks which involved discussion of the AP Handbook, IFQ Committee letters of interest, community outreach, and other scheduling issues for the December and February meetings. No motions were made on this agenda item.

THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ON MONDAY OCTOBER 10, 2016 AT 3:25 P.M.

TIME LOG
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska
Hilton Hotel
October 5 – 10, 2016

Wednesday October 5, 2016

10/05/2016 08:07:48 AM	Call to Order
10/05/2016 08:09:48 AM	Oath of Office
10/05/2016 08:14:48 AM	Approval of Agenda
10/05/2016 08:16:48 AM	Election of Officers

B1 REPORTS

10/05/2016 08:16:48 AM	B1 Executive Director's Report – Chris Oliver
10/05/2016 09:09:31 AM	B2 NMFS Management Report – Sam Rauch
10/05/2016 09:22:50 AM	B2 NMFS Observer Report – Jane DiCosimo
10/05/2016 10:00:44 AM	Break
10/05/2016 10:18:06 AM	B2 NMFS Management Report – Glenn Merrill
10/05/2016 10:43:49 AM	NOAA GC Litigation Updates – Maura Sullivan
10/05/2016 10:50:57 AM	Glenn Merrill <i>continued</i>
10/05/2016 10:57:06 AM	Federal Groundfish Fisheries Update – Mary Furuness
10/05/2016 11:13:05 AM	B3 ADF&G Report – Trent Hartill
10/05/2016 11:18:32 AM	B4 USCG Report – Corrie Sergent
10/05/2016 11:37:31 AM	B5 USFWS Report – Mr. Taylor
10/05/2016 11:52:43 AM	B6 Protected Species Report – Steve MacLean
10/05/2016 12:55:14 PM	Lunch Break
10/05/2016 01:07:32 PM	B Public Testimony
10/05/2016 01:10:31 PM	David Martin
10/05/2016 01:15:02 PM	Bob Shavelson
10/05/2016 01:19:02 PM	Bob Alverson
10/05/2016 01:23:52 PM	Todd Loomis
10/05/2016 01:27:03 PM	Keith Colburn
10/05/2016 01:36:51 PM	Arni Thompson

C1 BSAI CRAB SPECIFICATION FOR 6 STOCKS

10/05/2016 01:05:01 PM	C1 Presentations – NPFMC Dr. Diana Stram & AFSC Dr. Bob Foy
10/05/2016 03:35:01 PM	SSC Report – Farron Wallace
10/05/2016 03:48:07 PM	AP Report – Matt Upton
10/05/2016 03:55:15 PM	C1 Public Testimony
10/05/2016 03:55:41 PM	Ryan Brummoid

10/05/2016 04:00:13 PM **C1 Mr. Cotten Motion**

C2 GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECS

10/05/2016 04:05:01 PM C2 Presentations – NPFMC Dr. Diana Stram & Jim Armstrong
10/05/2016 05:00:13 PM **Adjourn for the day**

Thursday October 6, 2016

10/06/2016 08:05:31 AM Call to Order
10/06/2016 08:05:54 AM C2 Presentation *continued*
10/06/2016 08:58:09 AM SSC Report – Farron Wallace
10/06/2016 09:04:17 AM AP Report – Jeff Stephan
10/06/2016 09:06:26 AM **C2 Public Testimony**
10/06/2016 09:06:26 AM Heather McCarty
10/06/2016 09:10:37 AM Break
10/06/2016 09:24:08 AM **C2 Mr. Cross BSAI Specs Motion**
10/06/2016 09:29:08 AM **C2 Mr. Cross GOA Specs Motion**
10/06/2016 09:34:53 AM Break

C3 ELECTRONIC MONITORING INTEGRAION; 2017 EM PRE-IMPLEMENTATION

10/06/2016 09:39:34 AM C3 Presentations – NPFMC Diana Evans, NMFS Gretchen
Harrington & Jennifer Mondragon
10/06/2016 11:16:50 AM Break
10/06/2016 11:38:09 AM NPFMC Staff Presentation – Sam Cunningham
10/06/2016 12:03:09 PM Lunch Break
10/06/2016 01:15:09 PM C2 Presentation *continued* – Sam Cunningham
10/06/2016 02:42:03 PM Enforcement Committee Report – Roy Hyder
10/06/2016 02:46:37 PM SSC Report – Farron Wallace
10/06/2016 03:03:20 PM AP Report – Jeff Stephens
10/06/2016 03:15:51 PM Break
10/06/2016 03:31:33 PM **C3 Public Testimony**
10/06/2016 03:32:29 PM Malcolm Milne & Nancy Munro
10/06/2016 03:49:16 PM John-Howard Jaskosky
10/06/2016 03:54:37 PM Dan Falvey
10/06/2016 04:04:30 PM Bernie Burkholder
10/06/2016 04:13:00 PM **C3 Mr. Merrill Motion**
10/06/2016 04:23:58 PM Adjourn for the day

Friday October 7, 2016

C4 2017 OBSERVER PROGRAM ANNUAL DEPOLOYMENT PLAN

10/07/2016 08:36:31 AM	Call to Order
10/07/2016 08:46:31 AM	C4 Presentations – AFSC Craig Faunce & Chris Rilling
10/07/2016 10:15:31 AM	Break
10/07/2016 10:28:59 AM	Senator Lisa Murkowski
10/07/2016 10:43:07 AM	OAC Report – Diana Evans
10/07/2016 10:51:03 AM	SSC Report – Farron Wallace
10/07/2016 11:07:37 AM	AP Minutes – Matt Upton
10/07/2016 11:13:49 AM	C4 Public Testimony
10/07/2016 11:13:49 AM	Bob Alverson
10/07/2016 11:19:24 AM	Jon Warrenchuk
10/07/2016 11:23:31 AM	Dan Falvey
10/07/2016 11:29:46 AM	Bob Krueger
10/07/2016 11:32:36 AM	Malcolm Milne
10/07/2016 11:35:35 AM	C4 Mr. Merrill Motion

C5 OBSERVER LEAD LEVEL 2

10/07/2016 01:12:24 PM	C5 Presentations – NPFMC Diana Evans & AFSC Chris Rilling
10/07/2016 03:00:05 PM	Break
10/07/2016 03:16:04 PM	OAC Report
10/07/2016 03:25:03 PM	SSC Report
10/07/2016 03:19:41 PM	AP Report – Matt Upton
10/07/2016 03:22:20 PM	C5 Public Testimony
10/07/2016 03:43:41 PM	Stacey Hansen
10/07/2016 03:52:25 PM	Troy Quinlan (out of order)
10/07/2016 04:07:01 PM	Chad See
10/07/2016 04:30:29 PM	C5 Mr. Down Motion
10/07/2016 04:44:42 PM	Adjourn for the day

Saturday October 8, 2016

10/08/2016 09:36:56 AM	Call to Order
10/08/2016 09:36:56 AM	SSC Report – Farron Wallace

C6 REVIEW OF THE HALIBUT/SABLEFISH IFQ PROGRAM REVIEW

10/08/2016 10:33:30 AM	C6 Presentation - Marysia Szymkowiak (NMFS)
10/08/2016 12:00:06 PM	Lunch Break
10/08/2016 01:22:24 PM	Presentation - AFSC Steve Kasperski
10/08/2016 01:38:40 PM	NIOSH Report – Samantha Case, Dr. Jennifer Lincoln
10/08/2016 02:03:23 PM	AP Report – Jeff Stephan

10/08/2016 02:10:16 PM	C6 Public Testimony
10/08/2016 02:10:33 PM	Bob Alverson
10/08/2016 02:17:39 PM	Clem Tillion
10/08/2016 02:30:35 PM	Glenn Reed
10/08/2016 02:49:32 PM	Dan Falvey
10/08/2016 02:57:49 PM	Malcolm Milne
10/08/2016 03:00:34 PM	Bernie Burckholder
10/08/2016 03:04:50 PM	Break
10/08/2016 03:27:43 PM	C6 Dr. Balsiger Motion
10/08/2016 03:41:17 PM	C6 Mr. Mezirow Motion
10/08/2016 03:52:40 PM	Break

C7 AREA 4 HALIBUT IFQ LEASING BY CDQ GROUPS

10/08/2016 04:10:33 PM	C7 Presentation – NPFMC Sarah Marrinan
10/08/2016 04:48:22 PM	AP Report – Matt Upton
10/08/2016 05:01:18 PM	Adjourn for the evening

Sunday October 9, 2016

10/09/2016 09:07:47 AM	Call to order
10/09/2016 09:08:09 AM	C7 Public Testimony
10/09/2016 09:10:16 AM	Clem Tillion & Rick Koso
10/09/2016 09:25:21 AM	Simeon Swetof & Mateo Paz-Soldan
10/09/2016 09:39:22 AM	Heather McCarty
10/09/2016 09:52:13 AM	Linda Behnken
10/09/2016 09:57:37 AM	Break
10/09/2016 10:10:38 AM	C7 Mr. Kinneen Motion
10/09/2016 10:29:49 AM	Break

D1 BSAI HALIBUT ABUNDANCE-BASED PSC LIMITS

10/09/2016 11:10:05 AM	D1 Presentations – NPFMC Dr. Diana Stram & AFSC Dr. Allen Hicks
10/09/2016 12:09:32 PM	Lunch Break
10/09/2016 01:22:35 PM	D1 Presentation <i>continued</i>
10/09/2016 02:09:46 PM	IPHC Presentation Report on Letter
10/09/2016 02:31:15 PM	Halibut Management Committee Report – ED, Chris Oliver
10/09/2016 02:35:50 PM	AP Report – Jeff Stephan
10/09/2016 02:51:05 PM	D1 Public Testimony
10/09/2016 02:49:55 PM	Mark Fina
10/09/2016 03:07:41 PM	Karl Haflinger
10/09/2016 03:17:32 PM	Simeon Swetof & Mateo Paz-Soldan
10/09/2016 03:40:19 PM	Fred Phillip
10/09/2016 03:46:07 PM	Bob Alverson

10/09/2016 03:53:26 PM	Chris Woodley
10/09/2016 04:06:37 PM	Linda Behnken
10/09/2016 04:24:24 PM	Shannon Carroll
10/09/2016 04:32:53 PM	John Gauvin
10/09/2016 04:37:03 PM	Verner Wilson
10/09/2016 04:42:34 PM	Heather McCarty
10/09/2016 04:57:21 PM	Adjourn for the day

Monday October 10, 2016

10/10/2016 08:12:11 AM	Call to Order
10/10/2016 08:13:09 AM	D1 Mr. Kinneen Motion
10/10/2016 08:33:46 AM	Break

D2 HALIBUT DISCARD MORTALITY RATES (DMRs)

10/10/2016 08:40:23 AM	D2 Presentation – NPFMC Jim Armstrong
10/10/2016 09:56:49 AM	Break
10/10/2016 10:13:23 AM	AP Report – Matt Upton
10/10/2016 10:16:40 AM	D2 Public Testimony
10/10/2016 10:16:52 AM	John Gauvin
10/10/2016 10:24:50 AM	Julie Bonney
10/10/2016 10:29:08 AM	Linda Behnken
10/10/2016 10:32:42 AM	Mr. Merrill & Mr. Cross speak to agenda item

D3 EFH DESCRIPTION – REVIEW AND IDENTIFY EFH

10/10/2016 10:43:16 AM	D3 Presentation – NPFMC Steve MacLean
10/10/2016 11:09:27 AM	AP Report – Jeff Stephan
10/10/2016 11:11:23 AM	D3 Mr. Tweit Motion
10/10/2016 11:25:58 AM	Lunch Break

NO PUBLIC TESTIMONY WAS TAKEN ON THIS AGENDA ITEM

E1 STAFF TASKING

10/10/2016 01:20:18 PM	NPFMC Executive Director, Chris Oliver
10/10/2016 02:13:24 PM	E1 Public Testimony
10/10/2016 02:14:07 PM	Simeon Swetozof & Mateo Paz-Soldan
10/10/2016 02:25:49 PM	Heather McCarty
10/10/2016 02:27:47 PM	Break
10/10/2016 02:55:11 PM	Deliberations
10/10/2016 03:25:53 PM	Adjourn

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

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News & Notes

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

October 2016

Welcome New Council Members

Newly appointed Council members Buck Laukitis and Theresa Peterson were sworn in at the opening of the Council meeting. Peterson, a Kodiak resident and commercial fisherwoman, is outreach coordinator for the Alaska Marine Conservation Council (AMCC) and served on the Council's advisory panel. Laukitis, also a commercial fisherman, has served as president of the North Pacific Fisheries Association and is involved in many fishery boards and commissions. Congratulations to the new Council members!

Council Elections and Appointments

The Council re-elected Dan Hull as Chairman, and re-elected Bill Tweit as Vice-Chair for the upcoming year. Shannon Carroll, AMCC's policy director in Anchorage, is appointed to the AP for the remainder of Theresa Peterson's term, which ends in 2017. The Council also appointed two new Plan Team members: Ben Daly, Research Coordinator ADFG Kodiak, was appointed to the Crab Plan Team and Dr. Kirstin Holsman, Research Fishery Biologist, AFSC Seattle, was appointed to the Bering Sea Groundfish Plan Team.

Murkowski Addresses Council

Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski visited the Council meeting on Thursday, October 6, and commended the Council for its continued hard work and leadership in fisheries management, reiterating her support for Alaska's fisheries and the people and communities which depend upon the sustainable management of these resources.



IFQ Program Review

The SSC, the AP, and the Council received a presentation of the first comprehensive review of the halibut and sablefish IFQ program, 20 years since implementation. Based on a scope determined through several iterations of discussion at the Council meetings, the document was framed around the 10 original objectives of the IFQ program, in addition to the topic of entry opportunities in these two fisheries.

Overall, the Council bodies found the document to be thorough and responsive to the recommendations provided during the scoping of this document. The Council approved the document as final and complete with the addition of further discussion as suggested by the SSC and AP, to the extent practicable. In particular, the final version of the document will include:

- a section describing the benefits and limitations of consolidation limits and entry level provisions with respect to overall program success and to the fleet consolidation that has taken place since IFQ Program implementation;
- a revision of the description of the indices of community level engagement in IFQ fisheries to more clearly define the term 'engagement' as it relates to multiple aspects of fisheries activity; and
- graphics and maps that show the changes in quota share holdings for Alaska communities over time to better understand the effects of the program.

The final version of the document will be made publicly available on the NPFMC website.

Subsequent to finalization of this document, the Council plans to reconstitute the IFQ Implementation Committee in order to provide recommendations to the Council regarding potential future revisions to the IFQ program. Current members of the IFQ Committee

should express their interest in continuing to serve. The Council is also soliciting nominations for new members. Membership is intended to represent a broad range of stakeholders in the IFQ fisheries, including representatives from both directed halibut and sablefish fisheries, representation covering multiple areas, and IFQ processors. **Nominations are due November 11.**

Based on findings from the IFQ Program review as well as discussion at the Council meeting, the following issues were proposed for consideration by the IFQ Committee:

- Sweep-ups of small blocked QS units
- Use of the medical lease provision
- Definition of "immediate family member" under the beneficiary lease provision
- Impacts of quota share loss on Alaska's rural communities and further exploration of the geographic distribution of quota ownership. Additionally, define rural communities by several population sizes (such as 1,500, 2,500 and 7,500) to better understand how population dynamics have resulted in different outcomes for rural community IFQ participation. This could also include examining the impacts on Alaska communities by region.
- Geographical distribution of new entrant quota ownership
- Use of hired masters in the IFQ fisheries
- In addition, the IFQ committee should bring forward to the Council any further concerns that they find in the review document

This new version of the IFQ Committee will be chaired by Council member Buck Laukitis. The timing of the next committee meeting will be determined by the availability of new members. The Council hopes to receive a committee report that responds to issues that stem from this program review at the February 2017 Council meeting in Seattle. Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

AP/SSC Nominations

The Council is accepting nominations for its Scientific and Statistical Committee, and its Advisory Panel.

SSC nominees should have areas of expertise in biology/stock assessment, marine mammals, statistics, fisheries/resource economics, sociology/anthropology, or other relevant disciplines and be federal employees, state employees, academicians, or independent experts not employed by advocacy or interest groups. SSC members serve one year terms but may be reappointed indefinitely. The SSC advises the Council on all aspects of the decision making process, including stock assessments and annual specifications, protected species interactions, and adequacy of analyses supporting various management actions.

The AP is composed of representatives of the fishing industry and others interested in the management of the North Pacific fisheries, and provides advice from those perspectives. Members of these panels are expected to attend up to five meetings, three to six days in length, each year. Current seats up for re-appointment are: Ruth Christiansen, Kurt Cochran, Jeff Kauffman, Alexis Kwachka, Paddy O'Donnell, Jeff Stephan, and Sinclair Wilt.

Please send letters of interest and/or nominations to npfmc.comments@noaa.gov.

Nominations close December 1.

Observer Issues

2017 Annual Deployment Plan

The Council reviewed the Draft 2017 Observer Annual Deployment Plan (ADP), received a report from its Observer Advisory Committee (OAC), and provided recommendations to NMFS. The Council supports the ADP's continuing recommendation to deploy observers by gear type in 2017, for trawl, longline, and pot gear (regardless of vessel length), as well as adding separate strata by gear type for vessels delivering to tenders. The remaining provisions of the ADP are the same as those in effect for 2016. The agency will conduct outreach this fall and winter, focusing on the implications of the new tender strata. Under optimal allocation of observer days among the strata based on discarded groundfish, the preliminary selection rates for the six strata would be:

- Trawl: 18% for trawl vessels, and 14% for trawl vessels delivering to tenders
- Hook-and-line: 11%, and 27% for hook-and-line vessels delivering to tenders
- Pot: 3% for pot vessels, and 6% for pot vessels delivering to tenders

The Council requested that for the draft 2018 ADP, the agency include prioritization of PSC-limited fisheries (to include both prohibited species and groundfish species on PSC status, as appropriate) in the weighting schemes for optimal allocation among strata. The Council also recommended that NMFS continue development of performance metrics to evaluate both the deployment performance and the reliability of the catch and bycatch estimates, as part of the Annual Report and ADP process.

The Council also noted the lower deployment rates that are projected for 2017 under the proposed strata, which are a direct result of the lower total observer days available in the budget, and the likelihood that these lower rates will continue for the next few years. The Council recommends that NMFS begin to consider approaches to address low coverage rates that include the following: 1) finding efficiencies within the existing sampling design, and 2) evaluating the present fee structure, which would include both the impact of integrating electronic monitoring, and consideration of the 1.25% industry-assessed fee for partial observer coverage. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

2017 EM Pre-Implementation Plan

The Council approved the 2017 Electronic Monitoring (EM) Pre-implementation Plan, as

recommended by the Council's Fixed Gear EM Workgroup. The plan defines EM deployment in 2017 for longline and pot vessels. The EMWG proposes a maximum 90-vessel EM pool for longline vessels in 2016, and a 30-vessel pool for pot vessels, under a trip selection model with a target selection rate of 30% of logged trips. Vessels participating in the EM pool will be placed in the "No Selection Pool" for human observer coverage in 2017.

There are approximately 90 vessels that have opted into the EM pool to date, responding to a letter sent by the NMFS Observer Program earlier this year. Now that the Council has finalized the program rules for 2017 pre-implementation, those vessels will be contacted to confirm their placement in EM selection pool, or to give them an opportunity to tell NMFS they would prefer to return to the human observer pool. There is also room within the Council's approved EM selection pool to accommodate some additional vessels that meet the Council's criteria.

The Council also concurred with EM Workgroup recommendations to continue other EM research and development in 2017, within the confines of the budget. Research projects include developing other EM technologies, including stereo cameras, EM lite (data from sensors only, no cameras), and real time data transmission, and developing EM for use on vessels under 40 ft. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Lead Level 2 Discussion Paper

The Council reviewed a discussion paper evaluating regulatory and additional non-regulatory measures to alleviate industry concern about the high potential for a shortage of fixed-gear lead level 2 (LL2) observers for freezer longline vessels in the BSAI, as a lack of availability of a LL2 observer could delay or prevent a vessel operator from fishing. The discussion paper provides a history and background on the LL2 shortage issue, including non-regulatory solutions that have been put in place since 2014; the Observer Program's evaluation of the experience requirements necessary to successfully deploy as a single LL2 observer on a freezer longline vessel; and a preliminary assessment of options identified by the Council in October 2015 to evaluate their feasibility in resolving the potential shortage of LL2 observers.

The Council directed staff to begin an analysis for initial review, and adopted a purpose and need statement as well as alternatives. The Council identified that the following options from the discussion paper should be considered in the analysis: Option 1, which allows deployment of a different observer if a LL2 observer is not available;

Observer safety Action Plan

The Council received a briefing from NMFS about the national Observer Safety Action Plan, released in August 2016 (<http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/stories/2016/10/observer-safety-review.html>). The plan includes three components: (1) a contracted external review of national and regional observer program safety policy and practices, to identify gaps and recommend safety and health standard actions to effectively safeguard fisheries observers at the regional, national, and international levels; (2) an online survey of past and present observers to identify incentives and disincentives for remaining an observer; and (3) improvements to observer insurance coverage, to be discussed at a national workshop on November 8-9, 2016 in Washington DC.

The observer survey is available to past and present observers to identify incentives and disincentives for remaining an observer www.surveymonkey.com/r/JQM63FL. The survey includes questions relevant to Lead Level 2 observer availability in Alaska.



Option 4, which institutes a Federally-sponsored at-sea training program for observers to get their LL2 endorsement; and Option 6, which allows freezer longline vessels with flow scales to choose between a single LL2 observer or two observers, of which one must have a level 2 endorsement. NMFS noted concerns about implementing Options 1 and 4, which will be evaluated in the analysis. The Council clarified that at final action, more than one option could be adopted simultaneously. The Council also encouraged the Observer Program to pursue the non-regulatory changes identified in the discussion paper, which could increase the preparedness of new LL2 observers deployed on freezer longline vessels by providing more training and revising data collection protocols for a single observer on freezer longline vessels. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Electronic Monitoring Integration Analysis

The Council reviewed the initial review draft of the Electronic Monitoring (EM) Integration Analysis. The document analyzes alternatives that would allow an EM system onboard vessels to monitor the harvest and discard of fish and other incidental catch at sea, as a supplement to human observer coverage. The analysis was developed with input from the Council's Fixed Gear EM Workgroup.

The Council selected Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative. Under Alternative 2, data from EM systems deployed at sea would be used for catch estimation in fishery management. The pre-implementation work has shown that Alternative 2 is viable, and it is the model that more closely mirrors the current Observer Program. The analysis would integrate EM into the established observer program process for the partial coverage category, so that the Council and NMFS would consider through the Annual Deployment Plan, how to optimize observer and EM deployment for fisheries in the partial

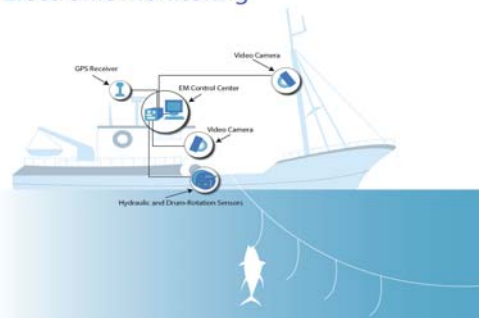
coverage category on an annual basis.

The Council also requested that staff add an option under Alternative 2 to allow fishing IFQ in multiple areas with monitoring by either an observer or EM. This option was recommended by the Council's EM Workgroup and OAC, and supported by the Enforcement Committee. EM could allow effective compliance of IFQ harvest in each IFQ area, addressing an issue that has been raised by stakeholders since the restructuring of the observer program in 2013, as vessels no longer have any choice as to when they are selected to take an observer. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Rockfish Retention

The Council also requested a discussion paper for a subsequent action to require all fixed gear vessels to retain all rockfish, regardless of species. This was included as an option in the EM analysis applying specifically to vessels using EM, but the Council elected to initiate this as a separate discussion applying to all fixed gear catcher vessels. Potential benefits of this action would be to make it easier for vessel operators by treating all rockfish consistently (retention requirements for demersal shelf rockfish already exist in Southeast Alaska) and potentially reducing waste. These and other issues will be evaluated in the discussion paper. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Electronic Monitoring



Streamer Lines

A limited number of new or replacement streamer lines are available for free to vessel operators that are required to use streamer lines. In Alaska, seabird avoidance measures are required to be used by operators of all vessels greater than 26 ft LOA using hook-and-line gear while fishing for 1) IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or IFQ sablefish in the EEZ off Alaska or State of Alaska waters (0 to 200 nm combined); or 2) groundfish in the EEZ off Alaska (3 to 200 nm). Streamer lines are currently available at NMFS Law Enforcement Offices in Dutch Harbor, Kodiak, and Juneau. Please visit <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/pr/seabird-avoidance-gear> for more information or contact Anne Marie Eich: (907) 586-7172, or annemarie.eich@noaa.gov.

Wakefield 2017

Abstracts for oral presentations and posters are invited for the 2017 Wakefield Symposium: Impacts of a Changing Environment on the Dynamics of High-latitude Fish and Fisheries, to be held May 9-12, 2017 in Anchorage, Alaska, USA. The abstract submission deadline is January 15, 2017. The symposium will examine the impacts of the environment, especially climate change and variability, on the dynamics of arctic and subarctic species of commercial, subsistence, and ecological importance. For more information, see <https://seagrant.uaf.edu/conferences/2017/wakefield-fish-dynamics/>

Upcoming meetings

Charter Halibut Implementation

Committee: October 24, 10-5,

Council Offices, Anchorage;

EM Workgroup: November 28-29,

Seattle, WA

December 7, 9am, Anchorage

Groundfish Plan Team: November

14-18, AFSC, Seattle

PNCIAC Nominations

The Council is seeking nominations to the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee, PNCIAC. There are 16 seats available, and each member serves a two-year term. Nominations close December 1.

Call for nominations

The IFQ Committee is seeking nominations for membership representing processors and quota holders from all areas and class size. Members of this committee will represent the current characteristics of QS holders in the IFQ fisheries, including new and historical participants, regulatory areas, and the processing sector. To make a nomination, please send a letter of interest to Chris.Oliver@noaa.gov by November 11.

EFH Review

The Council reviewed the summary report for the 2015/2016 review of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and passed a motion to update EFH text descriptions and maps, consistent with stock assessment author and Plan Team recommendations. Amended FMP appendices will be prepared for Council review at the April, 2017 meeting. Additionally, the Council will review the effects of non-fishing activities on EFH, as well as proposed methods to evaluate effects of fishing on EFH in December 2016. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

Proposed Groundfish Harvest Specifications

The SSC received a report from the BSAI and GOA Groundfish Plan Teams on issues covered at the September Plan Team meeting. The SSC and Council recommended, for proposed rulemaking, OFLs and ABCs for the 2017 and 2018 fishing years based on a rollover of existing 2017 specifications. Additionally, the Council recommended proposed TACs and PSC limits consistent with existing specifications. The SSC reviewed a number of issues for the upcoming assessment cycle and provided specific recommendations for authors to address in their assessment updates.

The Council received a letter from ADF&G indicating that the combined, post-season, three-river index (Upper Yukon, Unalakleet and Kuskokwim rivers) of Chinook salmon was 270,800 which is above the defined threshold (250,000) for a low Chinook year. Because of this, the existing Chinook PSC limits for the EBS pollock fishery will remain in place for 2017.

Based on review of a report from the Stock Structure Working Group, the SSC recommended that harvest of the BSAI blackspotted and rougheye rockfish stocks continue to be use a maximum sub-area species catch limit (MSSC) in the WAI in 2017 and that NMFS continue to report catch in conjunction with this limit.

Staff contact for BSAI groundfish is Diana Stram and for GOA groundfish is Jim Armstrong.

Stock Prioritization

The National Marine Fisheries Service provided a report to the Groundfish and Crab Plan Teams on progress towards application of the national Stock Assessment Prioritization (SAP) plan which serves as a guide for how stock assessments should be prioritized in a given year (Methot 2015). The guidelines for prioritization of stock assessments considered five themes: Fishery Importance, Stock Status, Ecosystem Importance, Assessment Information, and Stock Biology. The goal of the stock prioritization effort is to identify scenarios for NPFMC deliberation that simultaneously improve efficiency in the stock assessment process while maintaining the high quality and timely advice that has successfully delivered the stock assessment advice needed to build economically viable, sustainable and equitable fisheries within an ecosystem approach to fisheries management framework. The Joint Groundfish Plan teams will convene a special meeting in January to provide input on the scenarios for target assessment frequency considered as well as what assessment advice would be provided to the Council in years without an assessment. The Crab Plan Team initiated a sub-group to draft application of a modified target frequency plan for BSAI Crab stocks and will also provide their input and recommendations on this issue during their regular January meeting. The Council will receive reports from the Plan Teams as well as a report from NMFS at the February Council meeting on progress and plans on this initiative as it relates to stock assessments in the North Pacific. Staff contacts are Diana Stram and Jim Armstrong.

BSAI Abundance-Based Halibut PSC limits

The Council reviewed a discussion paper by an inter-agency working group tasked with evaluating abundance-based halibut PSC limits in the BSAI groundfish fisheries. Following extensive discussion of objectives, a range of indices and control rule formulations, the Council moved to provide direction to the workgroup for a subsequent discussion paper in order to move forward with developing alternative measures to set abundance-based halibut PSC limits. The Council confirmed the objectives inferred by the workgroup and requested that performance metrics and quantitative tools be developed to evaluate the tradeoffs between competing objectives for this action. The next iteration of this paper will consider a broad suite of halibut abundance indices and control rules including consideration of 2 or 3-dimensional frameworks for setting PSC limits as outlined in the SSC minutes. The Council specifically directed the workgroup to consider the development of separate control rules to set PSC limits by hook and line and trawl gear. The Council intends to hold a public workshop in conjunction with the February Council meeting in Seattle to solicit stakeholder feedback on the development of performance metrics and applications of control rules to a range of indices to address Council objectives for abundance-based halibut PSC management. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

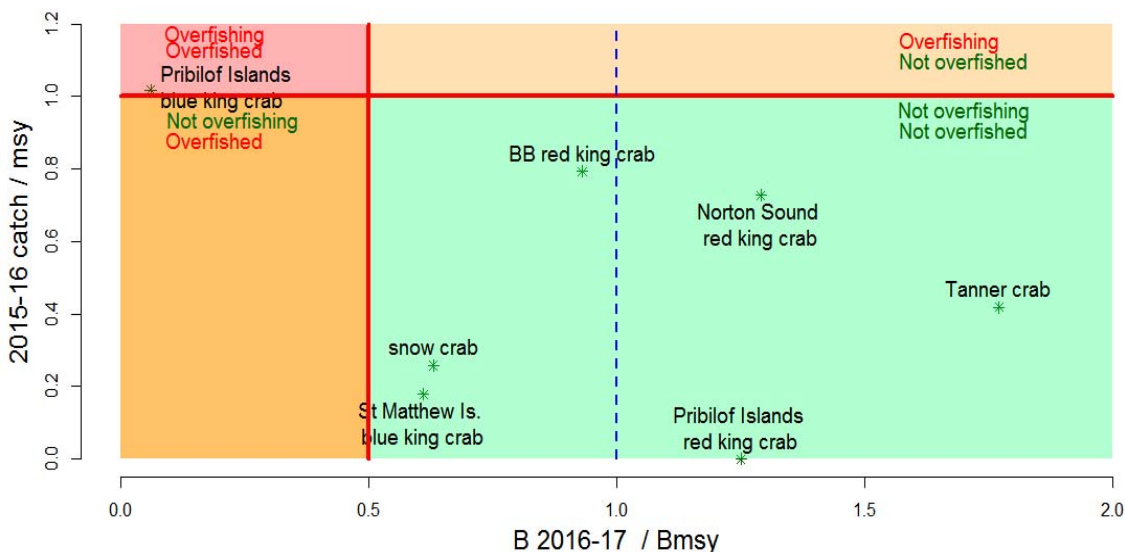
BSAI Crab Management

The SSC provided final recommendations to the Council on final OFLs and ABCs for six federally managed crab stocks. The stocks with summer fisheries as well as those established on catch data only have specifications set in June. The stocks which employ data from the EBS NMFS trawl survey thus cannot be assessed until survey data are available in early September. Summer catch data for NSRKC however are not available in time for fall specifications, nor is assessing this stock with the June timing feasible as the CDQ fishery can open as early as May thus this stock is assessed in the winter. A summary of assessment timing by stock is shown in the table below:

Stock	CPT review and recommendations to SSC	SSC review and recommendations to Council
Norton Sound red king crab (NSRKC)	January	February
Aleutian Is. golden king crab (AIGKC)	May	June
Pribilof Is. golden king crab (PIGKC)	May	June
Western Aleutian Is. red king crab (WAIRKC)	May	June
EBS snow crab	September	October
Bristol Bay red king crab(BBRKC)	September	October
EBS Tanner crab	September	October
Pribilof Is. red king crab (PIRKC)	September	October
Pribilof Is. blue king crab (PIBKC)	September	October
Saint Matthew blue king crab (SMBKC)	September	October

Three stocks are in Tier 3 (EBS snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab and EBS Tanner crab), four stocks in Tier 4 (St. Matthew blue king crab, Pribilof Islands blue king crab, Pribilof Islands red king crab, and Norton Sound red king crab) and three stocks in Tier 5 (Al golden king crab, Pribilof Islands golden king crab, and Adak red king crab). EBS Tanner crab and Pribilof Island red king crab are estimated to be above B_{MSY} for 2016/17 while snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, Saint Matthew blue king crab and Norton Sound red king crab are estimated below B_{MSY} . Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock remains overfished and estimated to be well below its MSST.

EBS crab stocks



The Pribilof Blue king crab stock experienced overfishing in the 2015/16 fishing year where total catch exceeded the OFL for this stock. NMFS indicated to the Council that it will use in-season management authority provided under 50 CFR 679.25 to publish a notification in the Federal Register specifying inseason adjustments to prevent overfishing of Pribilof Islands blue king crab. Precise inseason closures to vessels fishing for groundfish with bottom contact gear will be specified as needed in order to avoid overfishing in the future. The BSAI Crab SAFE report and specifications for 2016/2017 are posted to the Council's website. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

A report from the Halibut DMR working group was presented to the Council in order to provide an update on improved methods for estimating DMRs for the groundfish fisheries. These methods will be the basis for DMRs specified for the 2017 and 2018 fishing years. DMRs are applied to halibut discards through in-season management and are estimated based on observer data. The working group is proposing to revise the estimation process so that it is more consistent with the hierarchical structure of the observer program's sampling protocol. Additionally, rather than estimate and specify DMRs at the target fishery (species/gear) level, the working group is proposing to apply DMRs for operational groupings of groundfish fisheries. Compared to target fisheries, these operational aggregations are considered to be more directly linked to the basis for variation in DMRs. Prior to Council review, the revised methods were presented to the groundfish plan teams which supported their use for 2017. The Council recommended moving forward with the revised methods, pending minor adjustments. The resulting DMRs will be presented for plan team review in November and final Council specification in December.

Staff contact for halibut DMRs is Jim Armstrong.

IFQ Leasing by CDQ Groups

The Council conducted an initial review of a regulatory amendment package that would allow CDQ groups to lease halibut IFQ in Areas 4B, 4C and 4D in years of low halibut catch limits in regulatory Areas 4B and 4CDE. In effect, this proposal would allow CDQ groups to lease halibut IFQ for use by residents on vessels less than or equal to 51 ft LOA, subject to IFQ use regulations and the groups' internal management.

The Council established this action alternative as their preliminary preferred alternative, setting a threshold of 1 million pounds for Area 4B and 1.5 million pounds for Area 4CDE under which this flexibility would be available to the groups. The preliminary preferred alternative would also allow Area 4D IFQ that is leased to CDQ groups be fished in Area 4E and it would establish a "cooling off" period of 5 years, during which newly acquired QS could not be leased to a CDQ group.

Given concerns raised during public testimony on potential impacts to other users in Area 4B, the Council included two more options: restricting the duration of consecutive IFQ leasing (Option 5), and restricting the size of leasable pounds of QS (Option 6). The Council directed the next iteration of analysis to also include SSC recommendations as well as further analysis of the potential impacts on the pool of quota holders who are currently fishing on vessels they do not own in Areas 4B and Areas 4C/4D, and on the walk-on businesses that support these quota holders. Given these additional areas of analysis, the Council did not release the draft for public review, but asked for another initial review analysis to return at a later meeting.

Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

Enforcement Committee

At the June 2016 meeting, the Council tasked staff to prepare a discussion paper on information concerning co-mingling of guided and unguided halibut on the same vessel. The Enforcement Committee reviewed the draft discussion paper and recommended further development of the potential alternatives in the discussion paper and recognized that another work session will be necessary to finalize the potential alternatives. In the interim, members of the committee will assist staff in developing a description of the potential alternatives.

The Council had also tasked the Enforcement Committee to initiate a discussion paper to examine requirements for a regulatory amendment to allow donation of fish seized by law enforcement officers to local food banks or the SeaShare program. Will Ellis (Office of Law Enforcement), informed the committee that a discussion paper to the Council is not necessary at this time given Office of Law Enforcement and NOAA General Counsel has determined the agency has pre-existing statutory authority necessary to donate any seized fish species. NOAA Office of Law Enforcement is continuing to pursue the donation program internally through policy changes between Office of Law Enforcement and General Council. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

Chairman Recognizes Dr. Low

Chairman Dan Hull took time to recognize Dr. Loh-Lee Low, a fishery scientist at the Alaska Fishery Science Center in Seattle. Citing a long list of accomplishments, Hull noted Dr. Low has over 40 years dedicated to the science, conservation, and management of North Pacific Fisheries. Thank you for your service, Dr. Low.

Staff Tasking

In addition to discussing the relative priority of previously tasked projects, the Council provided clarifications on several issues and discussed tasking for its various committees. Additionally, the Council approved a revised Regional Operating Agreement and an Advisory Panel Handbook. The Council also tasked staff with the following:

- Write a letter of support for research on development of seasonal forecasting of oceanographic conditions, noting that this type of research is valuable for understanding groundfish recruitment and ecosystem-based fishery management;
- Write a letter to the NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries Program on the St. George sanctuary proposal, and provide a list of local community entities in the area, which is important for determining if there is adequate community-based support for this proposal.
- Write a comment letter on NOAA's draft roadmap for a national implementation strategy for ecosystem-based fishery management, with input from the Ecosystem Committee.
- Prepare an informational report on the potential for using AIS to mark sablefish pot buoys.



The Council will be hosting a 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management Act on December 8, 2016 at the Captain Cook in the evening, starting at 6pm.

Please register through our [website](#). Reservations are required, seats are limited.

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 10/9/2016

<p align="center">December 6-14, 2016 [SSC starts Tues, AP on Wed, Council on Thurs.] Anchorage, AK</p>	<p align="center">January 30-Feb 7, 2017 Seattle, WA</p>	<p align="center">April 3-11, 2017 Anchorage, AK</p>
<p>40 Year Anniversary Celebration Banquet - Thursday, Dec. 8</p> <p>GOA Trawl Bycatch Management: Preliminary Analysis</p> <p>2017 Charter halibut management measures: Final action</p> <p>Charter Halibut permit leasing: Discussion paper (T)</p> <p>Charter Halibut RQE Program: Final Action</p> <p>EFPs (Halibut deck sorting, RKC Savings Area, salmon excluder)</p> <p>Groundfish Harvest Specifications: Final specifications</p> <p>Am 80 Halibut PSC Measures: Report</p> <p>EM Integration: Final Action</p> <p>EFH Effects of Fishing Criteria: Discussion paper</p> <p>EFH non-fishing effects report: Review and approve</p> <p>Stock Assessment 101 Training (<i>evening presentation</i>)</p>	<p>Stock Assessment Prioritization: Review</p> <p>Observer disembark location: Initial Review (T)</p> <p>IFQ Committee recommendations for potential new actions: Report</p> <p>BSAI YFS TLA Fishery limited entry: Initial Review</p> <p>GOA Gear Specific Skate MRAs: Discussion paper</p> <p>BSAI Crab Specs for NSRKC: Final OFL/ABC specifications BSAI Crab Plan Team Report</p> <p>Area 4 Halibut IFQ Leasing: Initial Review (T)</p> <p>Mixing of guided & unguided halibut: Disc paper (T)</p> <p>Bristol Bay Red King Crab PSC: Discussion paper</p> <p>AFA 10-year Review: Review Report</p> <p>Squid to Ecosystem Component Category: Initial Review</p> <p>BSAI Salmon genetics spatial/temporal distribution: Disc paper (T)</p>	<p>GOA Trawl Bycatch Management: Action as necessary (T)</p> <p>Lead Level 2 Observers: Initial Review (T)</p> <p>EFH Omnibus Amendments: Initial Review</p> <p>Pollock ICA/IPA reports Update on salmon genetics (T) Co-op Reports (AFA, Am 80, GOA Rockfish, BSAI Crab)</p> <p>Bering Sea FEP: Update and action as necessary</p> <p>BSAI Halibut Abundance-based PSC limits: Action as necessary</p> <p>Crab binding arbitration fomula: Discussion paper</p> <p>BSAI Tanner crab custom processing cap: Discussion paper</p> <p>Scallop SAFE and catch specifications: Approve, PT report</p> <p>ITEMS BELOW NOT YET SCHEDULED</p> <p>Remove WAI Red King Crab from FMP: <i>Initial Review</i></p> <p>Bering Sea FEP: <i>Review Draft FEP</i></p> <p>Allocation Policy Directive: <i>Discussion paper</i></p> <p>Salmon FMP Amendment (?)</p> <p>Observer deployment trip determination/transfer: <i>Disc paper</i></p> <p>Fixed Gear CV Rockfish Retention: <i>Discussion paper</i></p> <p>Bering Sea Snow Crab PSC Limits: <i>Initial Review</i></p> <p>Observer Insurance Requirements: <i>Disc paper for Reg Am</i></p>

AI - Aleutian Islands
AFA - American Fisheries Act
BiOp - Biological Opinion
BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
BKC - Blue King Crab
BOF - Board of Fisheries
CQE - Community Quota Entity
CDQ - Community Development Quota
EM - Electronic monitoring
EFH - Essential Fish Habitat
EFP - Exempted Fishing Permit
EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan
FLL - Freezer longliners
GOA - Gulf of Alaska
GKC - Golden King Crab
GHL - Guideline Harvest Level

HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
ICA - Inter-cooperative Agreements
IPA - Incentive Program Agreements
LLP - Limited License Plan
MRA - Maximum Retainable Allowance
PSC - Prohibited Species Catch
RKC - Red King Crab
RQE - Recreational Quota Entity
SIR - Supplemental Information Report
SSC - Scientific and Statistical Committee
SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation
SSL - Steller Sea Lion
TAC - Total Allowable Catch
TLAS - Trawl Limited Access Sector
YFS - Yellowfin sole
VMS - Vessel Monitoring System

Future Meeting Dates and Locations

December 6-14, 2016, Anchorage
January 30 – February 7, 2017, Seattle
April 3-11, 2017, Anchorage
June 5-13, 2017, Juneau
October 2-10, 2017, Anchorage
December 4-12, 2017, Anchorage
February 5-13, 2018, Seattle
April 2-10, 2018, Anchorage
June 4-12, 2018, Nome (T)
October 1-9, 2018, Anchorage
December 3-11, 2018, Anchorage
February 4-12, 2019, Portland
April 1-9, 2019, Anchorage

(T) = Tentative

Table 1. Stock status of BSAI crab stocks in relation to status determination criteria for 2015/16 as estimated in September 2016. Values are in thousand metric tons (kt). Note, diagonal fill indicates parameters not applicable for that tier level.

Chapter	Stock	Tier	MSST	B _{MSY} or B _{MSYproxy}	2015/16 MMB ¹	2015/16 MMB / MMB _{MSY}	2015/16 OFL	2015/16 Total catch	Rebuilding Status
1	EBS snow crab	3	75.8	151.6	91.6	0.60	83.1	21.4	
2	BB red king crab	3	12.89	25.78	27.68	1.07	6.73	5.34	
3	EBS Tanner crab	3	12.82	25.64	73.93	2.88	27.19	11.38	
4	Pribilof Islands red king crab	4	2.76	5.52	9.06	1.64	2.12	0.00032	
5	Pribilof Islands blue king crab	4	2.06	4.12	0.36	0.09	0.00116	0.00118 ²	overfished
6	St. Matthew Island blue king crab	4	1.84	3.68	2.11	0.57	0.28	0.05	
7	Norton Sound red king crab	4	1.09	2.18	2.33	1.07	0.33	0.24	
8	AI golden king crab	5					5.69	Conf. ³	
9	Pribilof Islands golden king crab	5					0.09	0.001	
10	Adak red king crab	5					0.05	0.002	

¹ For stocks 1-6 MMB on 2/15/2016 is estimated using the current assessment in September 2016. For Norton Sound red king crab MMB on 2/1/2016 is estimated using the current assessment in January 2016.

² Overfishing occurred in 2015/16.

³ Confidential under State of Alaska Statute Sec. 16.05.815. TAC not attained.

ATTACHMENT 3

Table 2. SSC recommendations for 2016/17 (stocks 1-6). Values for stocks 7, 8, 9, and 10 were set by the SSC in February and June 2016. Diagonal fill indicates parameters not applicable for that tier. Values are in thousand metric tons (kt).

Chapter	Stock	Tier	Status (a,b,c)	FOFL	B _{MSY} or B _{MSYproxy}	Years ¹ (biomass or catch)	2016/17 ² MMB	2016 MMB / MMB _{MSY}	γ	Mortality (M) 0.23(females) 0.417 (imm) 0.259 (mat males)	2016/17 OFL	2016/17 ABC	ABC Buffer
1	EBS snow crab	3	b	1.14	151.6	1979-current [recruitment]	96.1	0.63			23.71	21.34	10%
2	BB red king crab	3	b	0.27	25.78	1984-current [recruitment]	24.00	0.93		Variable ³	6.64	5.97	10%
3	EBS Tanner crab	3	a	0.79	25.65	1982-current [recruitment]	45.34	1.77		Variable ⁴	25.61	20.49	20%
4	Pribilof Islands red king crab	4	a	0.18	5.51	1991-current	6.98	1.25	1.0	0.18	1.46	1.10	25%
5	Pribilof Islands blue king crab	4	c	0.18	4.12	1980-1984 1990-1997	0.233	0.06	1.0	0.18	0.00116	0.00087	25%
6	St. Matthew Island blue king crab	4	b	0.09	3.67	1978-current	2.23	0.61	1.0	0.18	0.14	0.11	20%
7	Norton Sound red king crab	4	a	0.18	2.06	1980-current [model estimate]	2.66	1.29	1.0	0.18 (≤ 123 mm) 0.648 (> 123 mm)	0.32	0.26	20%
8	AI golden king crab	5				See intro chapter					5.69	4.27	25%
9	Pribilof Island golden king crab	5				See intro chapter					0.093	0.070	25%
10	Adak red king crab	5				1995/96–2007/08					0.056	0.034	40%

¹ For Tiers 3 and 4 where B_{MSY} or B_{MSYproxy} is estimable, the years refer to the time period over which the estimate is made. For Tier 5 stocks it is the years upon which the catch average for OFL is obtained.

² MMB as projected on 02/01/2016 for Norton Sound red king crab and 2/15/2017 for remaining stocks.

³ Mortality is 0.18 except where noted: Male M = 0.64 (1980-1984); Female M = 0.99 (1980-1984) and 0.27 (1976-1979 and 1985-1993).

⁴ Mortality is estimated: Immature M = 0.24 (all years); Male M = 0.27 (1949-1979 and 1985-2015) and 0.76 (1980-1984); Female M = 0.33 (1949-1979 and 1985-2013) and 0.44 (1980-1984).

Table 3. Maximum permissible ABCs for 2016/17 and SSC recommended ABCs for those stocks where the SSC recommendation is below the maximum permissible ABC, as defined by Amendment 38 to the Crab FMP. Values are in thousand metric tons (kt).

Stock	Tier	2016/17 <i>MaxABC</i>	2016/17 ABC
EBS Snow Crab	3	23.69	21.34
Bristol Bay RKC	3	*	5.97
EBS Tanner Crab	3	25.57	20.49
Pribilof Island RKC	4	1.44	1.10
Pribilof Island BKC	4	*	0.00087
Saint Matthew BKC	4	*	0.11
Norton Sound RKC	4	*	0.26
Aleutian Islands GKC	5	5.12	4.27
Pribilof Island GKC ¹	5	0.08	0.07
WAI RKC	5	0.05	0.03

¹ For Pribilof Islands golden king crab, this is for the 2017 calendar year instead of the 2016-2017 crab fishing year.

* Not available in stock assessment document.

Attachment 1
Council GOA Groundfish Specifications, October 2016

Council GOA Groundfish Proposed OFL, ABC and TAC Recommendations (metric tons) for 2017-2018 (Page 1)

Species	Area	OFL	2016		Catch as of 9/3/16	2017			2018		
			ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	6,358	-	-	n/a	6,264	-	n/a	6,264	-
	W (610)	n/a	56,494	56,494	14,662	n/a	55,657	55,657	n/a	55,657	55,657
	C (620)	n/a	124,927	124,927	33,539	n/a	123,078	123,078	n/a	123,078	123,078
	C (630)	n/a	57,183	57,183	32,391	n/a	56,336	56,336	n/a	56,336	56,336
	WYAK	n/a	9,348	9,348	132	n/a	9,209	9,209	n/a	9,209	9,209
	Subtotal		322,858	254,310	247,952	80,724	289,937	250,544	244,280	289,937	250,544
	EYAK/SEO	13,226	9,920	9,920	-	13,226	9,920	9,920	13,226	9,920	9,920
	Total	336,084	264,230	257,872	80,724	303,163	260,464	254,200	303,163	260,464	254,200
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	40,503	28,352	16,090	n/a	34,998	24,499	n/a	34,998	24,499
	C	n/a	49,312	36,984	18,412	n/a	42,610	31,958	n/a	42,610	31,958
	E	n/a	8,785	6,589	61	n/a	7,592	5,694	n/a	7,592	5,693
	Total	116,700	98,600	71,925	34,563	100,800	85,200	62,150	100,800	85,200	62,150
Sablefish	W	n/a	1,272	1,272	698	n/a	1,163	1,163	n/a	1,163	1,163
	C	n/a	4,023	4,023	3,295	n/a	3,678	3,678	n/a	3,678	3,678
	WYAK	n/a	1,475	1,475	1,540	n/a	1,348	1,348	n/a	1,348	1,348
	SEO	n/a	2,317	2,317	1,933	n/a	2,118	2,118	n/a	2,118	2,118
	Total	10,326	9,087	9,087	7,466	9,825	8,307	8,307	9,825	8,307	8,307
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	20,851	13,250	138	n/a	19,159	13,250	n/a	19,159	13,250
	C	n/a	19,242	19,242	2,697	n/a	17,680	17,680	n/a	17,680	17,680
	WYAK	n/a	3,177	3,177	-	n/a	2,919	2,919	n/a	2,919	2,919
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,094	1,094	1	n/a	1,006	1,006	n/a	1,006	1,006
Total	54,520	44,364	36,763	2,836	50,220	40,764	34,855	50,220	40,764	34,855	
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	186	186	3	n/a	187	187	n/a	187	187
	C	n/a	3,495	3,495	133	n/a	3,516	3,516	n/a	3,516	3,516
	WYAK	n/a	2,997	2,997	9	n/a	3,015	3,015	n/a	3,015	3,015
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,548	2,548	4	n/a	2,563	2,563	n/a	2,563	2,563
	Total	11,102	9,226	9,226	149	11,168	9,281	9,281	11,168	9,281	9,281
Rex Sole	W	n/a	1,315	1,315	166	n/a	1,318	1,318	n/a	1,318	1,318
	C	n/a	4,445	4,445	1,219	n/a	4,453	4,453	n/a	4,453	4,453
	WYAK	n/a	766	766	1	n/a	767	767	n/a	767	767
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	967	967	-	n/a	969	969	n/a	969	969
	Total	9,791	7,493	7,493	1,386	9,810	7,507	7,507	9,810	7,507	7,507
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	28,183	14,500	843	n/a	28,659	14,500	n/a	28,659	14,500
	C	n/a	107,981	75,000	14,729	n/a	109,804	75,000	n/a	109,804	75,000
	WYAK	n/a	37,368	6,900	24	n/a	37,999	6,900	n/a	37,999	6,900
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	12,656	6,900	9	n/a	12,870	6,900	n/a	12,870	6,900
	Total	219,430	186,188	103,300	15,605	196,714	189,332	103,300	196,714	189,332	103,300
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	11,027	8,650	184	n/a	11,080	8,650	n/a	11,080	8,650
	C	n/a	20,211	15,400	1,605	n/a	20,307	15,400	n/a	20,307	15,400
	WYAK	n/a	2,930	2,930	-	n/a	2,944	2,944	n/a	2,944	2,944
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	852	852	-	n/a	856	856	n/a	856	856
Total	42,840	35,020	27,832	1,789	43,060	35,187	27,850	43,060	35,187	27,850	

Attachment 1
Council GOA Groundfish Specifications, October 2016

Council GOA Groundfish Proposed OFL, ABC and TAC Recommendations (metric tons) for 2017-2018 (Page 2)

Species	Area	OFL	2016 ABC	TAC	Catch as of 9/3/16	OFL	2017 ABC	TAC	OFL	2018 ABC	TAC
Pacific Ocean Perch	W	n/a	2,737	2,737	2,560	n/a	2,709	2,709	n/a	2,709	2,709
	C	n/a	17,033	17,033	15,641	n/a	16,860	16,860	n/a	16,860	16,860
	WYAK	n/a	2,847	2,847	2,826	n/a	2,818	2,818	n/a	2,818	2,818
	W/C/WYAK	26,313	22,617	22,617	21,027	26,045	22,387	22,387	26,045	22,387	22,387
	SEO	2,118	1,820	1,820	-	2,096	1,802	1,802	2,096	1,802	1,802
	Total	28,431	24,437	24,437	21,027	28,141	24,189	24,189	28,141	24,189	24,189
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	457	457	108	n/a	430	430	n/a	430	430
	C	n/a	3,547	3,547	3,017	n/a	3,338	3,338	n/a	3,338	3,338
	E (see note)	n/a	4	-	-	n/a	4	-	n/a	4	-
	Total	4,783	4,004	4,004	3,125	4,501	3,768	3,768	4,501	3,768	3,768
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	38	38	41	n/a	38	38	n/a	38	38
	C	n/a	301	301	219	n/a	301	301	n/a	301	301
	E	n/a	947	947	271	n/a	947	947	n/a	947	947
	Total	1,715	1,286	1,286	531	1,715	1,286	1,286	1,715	1,286	1,286
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	173	173	85	n/a	159	159	n/a	159	159
	C	n/a	4,147	4,147	3,076	n/a	3,791	3,791	n/a	3,791	3,791
	WYAK	n/a	275	275	6	n/a	251	251	n/a	251	251
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	91	91	8	n/a	83	83	n/a	83	83
	Total	5,733	4,686	4,686	3,175	5,253	4,284	4,284	5,253	4,284	4,284
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	105	105	38	n/a	105	105	n/a	105	105
	C	n/a	707	707	421	n/a	705	705	n/a	705	705
	E	n/a	516	516	98	n/a	515	515	n/a	515	515
	Total	1,596	1,328	1,328	557	1,592	1,325	1,325	1,592	1,325	1,325
Demersal shelf rockfish	Total	364	231	231	103	364	231	231	364	231	231
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	291	291	150	n/a	291	291	n/a	291	291
	C	n/a	988	988	572	n/a	988	988	n/a	988	988
	E	n/a	682	682	194	n/a	682	682	n/a	682	682
	Total	2,615	1,961	1,961	916	2,615	1,961	1,961	2,615	1,961	1,961
Other Rockfish	W/C	n/a	1,534	1,534	1,159	n/a	1,534	1,534	n/a	1,534	1,534
	WYAK	n/a	574	574	46	n/a	574	574	n/a	574	574
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	3,665	200	33	n/a	3,665	200	n/a	3,665	200
	Total	7,424	5,773	2,308	1,238	7,424	5,773	2,308	7,424	5,773	2,308
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	2,000	753	6,200	4,700	2,000	6,200	4,700	2,000
Big Skate	W	n/a	908	908	111	n/a	908	908	n/a	908	908
	C	n/a	1,850	1,850	1,455	n/a	1,850	1,850	n/a	1,850	1,850
	E	n/a	1,056	1,056	40	n/a	1,056	1,056	n/a	1,056	1,056
	Total	5,086	3,814	3,814	1,606	5,086	3,814	3,814	5,086	3,814	3,814
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	61	61	92	n/a	61	61	n/a	61	61
	C	n/a	2,513	2,513	728	n/a	2,513	2,513	n/a	2,513	2,513
	E	n/a	632	632	316	n/a	632	632	n/a	632	632
	Total	4,274	3,206	3,206	1,136	4,274	3,206	3,206	4,274	3,206	3,206
Other Skates	GOA-wide	2,558	1,919	1,919	1,319	2,558	1,919	1,919	2,558	1,919	1,919
Sculpins	GOA-wide	7,338	5,591	5,591	1,164	7,338	5,591	5,591	7,338	5,591	5,591
Sharks	GOA-wide	6,020	4,514	4,514	1,234	6,020	4,514	4,514	6,020	4,514	4,514
Squids	GOA-wide	1,530	1,148	1,148	186	1,530	1,148	1,148	1,530	1,148	1,148
Octopuses	GOA-wide	6,504	4,878	4,878	282	6,504	4,878	4,878	6,504	4,878	4,878
Total		892,964	727,684	590,809	182,870	815,875	708,629	573,872	815,875	708,629	573,872

Note: For management purposes the 4 mt apportionment of northern rockfish ABC to the WYK District of the Eastern GOA has been included in the "other rockfish" species group.

C2 Item 6: PSC Limits and Seasonal Apportionments
OCTOBER 2015

Proposed 2017 and 2018 GOA Harvest Specifications

Table 9. Proposed 2017 and 2018 Pacific Halibut PSC Limits, Allowances, and Apportionments
(Values are in metric tons)

Trawl gear			Hook-and-line gear ¹				
			Other than DSR			DSR	
Season	Percent	Amount ²	Season	Percent	Amount	Season	Amount
January 20 - April 1	27.5	469	January 1 - June 10	86	221	January 1 - December 31	9
April 1 - July 1	20	341	June 10 - September 1	2	5		
July 1 - September 1	30	512	September 1 - December 31	12	31		
September 1 - October 1	7.5	128					
October 1 - December 31	15	256					
Total		1,706			257		9

¹ The Pacific halibut PSC limit for hook-and-line gear is allocated to the demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) fishery and fisheries other than DSR. The hook-and-line IFQ sablefish fishery is exempt from halibut PSC limits, as are pot and jig gear for all groundfish fisheries.

Table 10. Proposed 2017 and 2018 Seasonal Apportionments of the Pacific Halibut PSC Limit Apportioned Between the Trawl Gear Shallow-Water and Deep-Water Species Fisheries
(Values are in metric tons)

Season	Shallow-water	Deep-water ¹	Total
January 20 - April 1	384	85	469
April 1 - July 1	85	256	341
July 1 - September 1	171	341	512
September 1 - October 1	128	Any remainder	128
Subtotal, January 20 - October 1	768	682	1,450
October 1 - December 31 ²			256
Total			1,706

¹ Vessels participating in cooperatives in the Rockfish Program will receive 191 mt of the third season (July 1 through September 1) deep-water species fishery halibut PSC apportionment.

² There is no apportionment between trawl shallow-water and deep-water species fisheries during the fifth season (October 1 through December 31).

C2 Item 6: PSC Limits and Seasonal Apportionments
OCTOBER 2015

Table 11. Proposed 2017 and 2018 Apportionments of the "Other hook-and-line fisheries" Halibut PSC Allowance Between the Hook-and-Line Gear Catcher Vessel and Catcher/Processor Sectors
(Values are in metric tons)

"Other than DSR" allowance	Hook-and-line sector	Sector annual amount	Season	Seasonal percentage	Sector seasonal amount
257	Catcher Vessel	129	January 1 - June 10	86	111
			June 10 - September 1	2	3
			September 1 - December 31	12	15
	Catcher/Processor	128	January 1 - June 10	86	110
			June 10 - September 1	2	3
			September 1 - December 31	12	15

Council Recommended Proposed OFLs, ABCs, TACs for 2017-2018 (metric tons).

Species	Area	2015			Catch	2016			Catch as of 9/3/16	2017 as specified			2018		
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	EBS	3,330,000	1,637,000	1,310,000	1,321,577	3,910,000	2,090,000	1,340,000	1,242,378	3,540,000	2,019,000	1,340,643	3,540,000	2,019,000	1,340,643
	AI	36,005	29,659	19,000	915	39,075	32,227	19,000	1,062	44,455	36,664	19,000	44,455	36,664	19,000
	Bogoslof	21,200	15,900	100	733	31,906	23,850	500	1,005	31,906	23,850	500	31,906	23,850	500
Pacific cod	BS	346,000	255,000	240,000	224,825	390,000	255,000	238,680	181,007	412,000	255,000	238,680	412,000	255,000	238,680
	AI	23,400	17,600	9,422	9,064	23,400	17,600	12,839	11,763	23,400	17,600	12,839	23,400	17,600	12,839
Sablefish	BS	1,575	1,333	1,333	210	1,304	1,151	1,151	352	1,241	1,052	1,052	1,241	1,052	1,052
	AI	2,128	1,802	1,802	430	1,766	1,557	1,557	242	1,681	1,423	1,423	1,681	1,423	1,423
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	266,400	248,800	149,000	126,937	228,100	211,700	144,000	89,711	219,200	203,500	144,000	219,200	203,500	144,000
Greenland turbot	BSAI	3,903	3,172	2,648	2,204	4,194	3,462	2,873	2,030	7,416	6,132	2,873	7,416	6,132	2,873
	BS	n/a	2,448	2,448	2,090	n/a	2,673	2,673	1,937	n/a	4,734	2,673	n/a	4,734	2,673
	AI	n/a	724	200	114	n/a	789	200	93	n/a	1,398	200	n/a	1,398	200
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	93,856	80,547	22,000	11,265	94,035	80,701	14,000	8,058	84,156	72,216	14,000	84,156	72,216	14,000
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	10,500	9,000	6,500	4,994	11,100	9,500	5,000	4,289	11,700	10,000	5,000	11,700	10,000	5,000
Northern rock sole	BSAI	187,600	181,700	69,250	45,466	165,900	161,000	57,100	43,290	149,400	145,000	57,100	149,400	145,000	57,100
Flathead sole	BSAI	79,419	66,130	24,250	11,307	79,562	66,250	21,000	7,341	77,544	64,580	21,000	77,544	64,580	21,000
Alaska plaice	BSAI	54,000	44,900	18,500	14,614	49,000	41,000	14,500	10,147	46,800	39,100	14,500	46,800	39,100	14,500
Other flatfish	BSAI	17,700	13,250	3,620	2,415	17,414	13,061	2,500	2,726	17,414	13,061	2,500	17,414	13,061	2,500
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	42,558	34,988	32,021	31,425	40,529	33,320	31,900	23,306	38,589	31,724	31,490	38,589	31,724	31,490
	BS	n/a	8,771	8,021	7,918	n/a	8,353	8,000	3,381	n/a	7,953	7,953	n/a	7,953	7,953
	EAI	n/a	8,312	8,000	7,865	n/a	7,916	7,900	5,654	n/a	7,537	7,537	n/a	7,537	7,537
	CAI	n/a	7,723	7,000	6,834	n/a	7,355	7,000	6,330	n/a	7,002	7,000	n/a	7,002	7,000
	WAI	n/a	10,182	9,000	8,808	n/a	9,696	9,000	7,941	n/a	9,232	9,000	n/a	9,232	9,000
Northern rockfish	BSAI	15,337	12,488	3,250	7,197	14,689	11,960	4,500	3,984	14,085	11,468	4,500	14,085	11,468	4,500
Blackspotted/Rougeye rockfish	BSAI	560	453	349	180	693	561	300	139	855	694	300	855	694	300
	EBS/EAI	n/a	149	149	64	n/a	179	100	62	n/a	216	100	n/a	216	100
	CAI/WAI	n/a	304	200	117	n/a	382	200	77	n/a	478	200	n/a	478	200
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	690	518	250	152	690	518	200	81	690	518	200	690	518	200
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,667	1,250	880	686	1,667	1,250	875	589	1,667	1,250	875	1,667	1,250	875
	BS	n/a	695	325	185	n/a	695	325	219	n/a	695	325	n/a	695	325
	AI	n/a	555	555	501	n/a	555	550	370	n/a	555	550	n/a	555	550
Atka mackerel	BSAI	125,297	106,000	54,500	53,269	104,749	90,340	55,000	41,363	99,490	85,840	55,000	99,490	85,840	55,000
	EAI/BS	n/a	38,492	27,000	26,344	n/a	30,832	28,500	17,796	n/a	29,296	28,500	n/a	29,296	28,500
	CAI	n/a	33,108	17,000	16,672	n/a	27,216	16,000	14,399	n/a	25,860	16,000	n/a	25,860	16,000
	WAI	n/a	34,400	10,500	10,253	n/a	32,292	10,500	9,168	n/a	30,684	10,500	n/a	30,684	10,500
Skates	BSAI	49,575	41,658	25,700	28,117	50,215	42,134	26,000	20,176	47,674	39,943	26,000	47,674	39,943	26,000
Sculpins	BSAI	52,365	39,725	4,700	4,979	52,365	39,725	4,500	3,752	52,365	39,725	4,500	52,365	39,725	4,500
Sharks	BSAI	1,363	1,022	125	107	1,363	1,022	125	105	1,363	1,022	125	1,363	1,022	125
Squids	BSAI	2,624	1,970	400	2,364	6,912	5,184	1,500	1,042	6,912	5,184	1,500	6,912	5,184	1,500
Octopuses	BSAI	3,452	2,589	400	446	3,452	2,589	400	231	3,452	2,589	400	3,452	2,589	400
Total	BSAI	4,769,174	2,848,454	2,000,000	1,905,879	5,324,080	3,236,662	2,000,000	1,700,169	4,935,455	3,128,135	2,000,000	4,935,455	3,128,135	2,000,000

Sources: 2015 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2016 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2014 and December 2015, respectively; 2015 catches through December 31, 2015 and 2016 catches through September 3, 2016 from AKR Catch Accounting.

TABLE 14-FINAL 2016 AND 2017 APPORTIONMENT OF PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES TO NON-TRAWL GEAR, THE CDQ PROGRAM, AMENDMENT 80, AND THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTORS

PSC species and area ¹	Non-trawl PSC	Total trawl PSC	Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ ²	CDQ PSQ reserve ²	Amendment 80 sector ³	BSAI trawl limited access fishery
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	710	2,805	n/a	315	1,745	745
Herring (mt) BSAI	n/a	2,631	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	n/a	97,000	86,621	10,379	43,293	26,489
C. <u>opilio</u> (animals) COBLZ	n/a	9,105,477	8,131,191	974,286		2,613,365
C. <u>bairdi</u> crab (animals) Zone 1	n/a	830,000	741,190	88,810	312,115	348,285
C. <u>bairdi</u> crab (animals) Zone 2	n/a	2,070,000	1,848,510	221,490	437,542	865,288

¹Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of zones.

²The PSQ reserve for crab species is 10.7 percent of each crab PSC limit.

Note: Sector apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

TABLE 16--FINAL 2016 AND 2017 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR (changes from action memo tables in **bold**)

BSAI trawl limited access fisheries	Prohibited species and area ¹				
	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	<u>C. opilio</u> (animals) COBLZ	<u>C. bairdi</u> (animals)	
				Zone 1	Zone 2
Yellowfin sole	150	23,338	2,463,587	293,234	826,258
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ²	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	0	0	0	0	0
Rockfish April 15 - December 31	4	0	4,069	0	697
Pacific cod	391	2,954	105,008	50,816	34,848
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ³	200	197	40,701	4,235	3,485
Total BSAI trawl limited access PSC	745	26,489	2,613,365	348,285	865,288

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas.

² “Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), flathead sole, Greenland turbot, rock sole, yellowfin sole, Kamchatka flounder, and arrowtooth flounder.

³ “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sculpins, sharks, squids, and octopuses.

Note: Seasonal or sector apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

TABLE 17—FINAL 2016 AND 2017 HALIBUT PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR NON-TRAWL FISHERIES

Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI				
Non-trawl fisheries	Seasons	Catcher/processor	Catcher vessel	All Non-Trawl
Pacific cod	Annual Pacific cod	648	13	n/a
	January 1-June 10	388	9	n/a
	June 10-August 15	162	2	n/a
	August 15-December 31	98	2	n/a
Total	May 1-December 31	n/a	n/a	49
Groundfish pot and jig	n/a	n/a	n/a	Exempt
Sablefish hook-and-line	n/a	n/a	n/a	Exempt
Total for all non-trawl PSC	n/a	n/a	n/a	710

Note: Seasonal or sector apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

TABLE 13. FINAL 2016 AND 2017 ABC SURPLUS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA (CDQ) ABC RESERVES, AND AMENDMENT 80 ABC RESERVES IN THE BSAI FOR FLATHEAD SOLE, ROCK SOLE, [Amounts are in metric tons]

Sector	2016 Flathead sole	2016 Rock sole	2016 Yellowfin sole	2017 Flathead sole	2017 Rock sole	2017 Yellowfin sole
ABC	66,250	161,100	211,700	64,580	145,000	203,500
TAC	21,000	57,100	144,000	21,000	57,100	144,000
ABC surplus	45,250	104,000	67,700	43,580	87,900	59,500
ABC reserve	45,250	104,000	67,700	43,580	87,900	59,500
CDQ ABC reserve	4,842	11,128	7,244	4,663	9,405	6,367
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	40,408	92,872	60,456	38,917	78,495	53,134
Alaska Groundfish Cooperative for 2016 ¹	4,145	22,974	24,019	n/a	n/a	n/a
Alaska Seafood Cooperative for 2016 ¹	36,263	69,898	36,437	n/a	n/a	n/a

¹ The 2017 allocations for Amendment 80 species between Amendment 80 cooperatives and the Amendment 80 limited access sector will not be known until eligible participants apply for participation in the program by November 1, 2016.