

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Dan Hull, Chairman  
Chris Oliver, Executive Director



605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Telephone (907) 271-2809

Fax (907) 271-2817

Visit our website: <http://www.npfmc.org>

## Meeting Summary

233<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Session  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
April 5 - 10, 2017  
Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska

## CONTENTS

B REPORTS.....	4
C1 SCALLOP SAFE AND PLAN TEAM REPORT .....	4
C2 SALMON FMP AMENDMENT .....	4
C3 POLLOCK ICA/IPA REPORTS; UPDATE ON SALMON GENETICS .....	6
C4 CO-OP REPORTS (AFA, AM80, GOA ROCKFISH, BSAI CRAB) .....	7
C5 CENTRAL GOA ROCKFISH PROGRAM REVIEW WORK PLAN.....	7
C8 CDQ OWNERSHIP CAPS.....	7
C6 EFH OMNIBUS AMENDMENTS.....	8
C7 HALIBUT ABUNDANCE-BASED PSC LIMITS.....	9
C10 LEAD LEVEL 2 OBSERVERS.....	11
C9 EM WORKGROUP REPORT .....	12
D1 BSAI CRAB BINDING ARBITRATION FORMULA .....	13
D2 BSAI TANNER CRAB CUSTOM PROCESSING CAP .....	13
D3 BSAI FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN.....	13
D4 PROGRAMMATIC GROUND FISH OBJECTIVES .....	13
E1 STAFF TASKING.....	13
NORTHERN FUR SEALS .....	13
OBSERVER COVERAGE.....	14
CHINOOK PSC .....	15
BSAI COD CVs .....	15

## Attachments

- 1) List of Co-op Reports
- 2) EMWG March 2017 Minute Bullet Points
- 3) Time Log
- 4) Newsletter

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met Wednesday, April 5, through Monday, April 10, 2017 at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. The following Council, NPFMC staff, SSC, and AP members attended the meetings.

**Council Members**

Balsiger, Jim	Hyder, Roy	Peterson, Theresa
Cotten, Sam	Kinneen, Simon	LCDR Corrie Sergeant
Cross, Craig	Laukitis, Buck	Smoker, Lauren (GC)
Down, Kenny	Sullivan, Maura (GC)	Tweit, Bill (Vice Chair)
Hanson, Dave	CAPT Stephen White	
Hartill, Trent (Alt for Cotten)	Merrill, Glenn (Alt for Balsiger)	
Hull, Dan (Chair)	Mezirow, Andy	

**NPFMC Staff**

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

**Scientific and Statistical Committee**

The SSC met from April 3 - 5, 2017 at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK.

Members present were:

Farron Wallace, Chair <i>NOAA Fisheries—AFSC</i>	Chris Anderson <i>University of Washington</i>	Jennifer Burns <i>University of Alaska Anchorage</i>
Robert Clark <i>Alaska Department of Fish and Game</i>	Jason Gasper <i>NOAA Fisheries—Alaska Region</i>	Brad Harris <i>Alaska Pacific University</i>
Anne Hollowed <i>NOAA Fisheries—AFSC</i>	Seth Macinko <i>University of Rhode Island</i>	Franz Mueter <i>University of Alaska Fairbanks</i>
Terry Quinn <i>University of Alaska Fairbanks</i>	Matt Reimer <i>University of Alaska Anchorage</i>	Ian Stewart <i>Intl. Pacific Halibut Commission</i>

Members absent were:

Lew Coggins <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>	Sherri Dressel, Vice Chair <i>Alaska Department of Fish and Game</i>	George Hunt <i>University of Washington</i>
Gordon Kruse <i>University of Alaska Fairbanks</i>	Dayv Lowry <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	Kate Reedy <i>Idaho State University Pocatello</i>
Alison Whitman <i>Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>		

### Advisory Panel

The AP met Tuesday, April 4, through Friday, April 7, 2017. Members present were (absent ~~stricken~~):

Carroll, Shannon	Farvour, Jeff	<del>O'Donnell, Paddy</del>
Christiansen, Ruth	<del>Gruver, John</del>	Peterson, Joel
Cochran, Kurt	Kauffman, Jeff	Stephan, Jeff (Vice Chair)
Crowley, John	<del>Kwachka, Alexis</del>	Stevens, Ben
Donich, Dan	Lowenberg, Craig	Upton, Matt
Downing, Jerry	McCallum, Chuck	Weiss, Ernie (Chair)
Drobnika, Angel	Nelson, Art	Wilt, Sinclair

## 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 Hartill
- B4 NIOSH Report – Devin Lucas
- B5 USCG Report – LCDR Corrie Sergent
- B6 USFWS Report – Aaron Poe
- B7 Protected Species Report - Steve MacLean

## C1 SCALLOP SAFE AND PLAN TEAM REPORT

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Jim Armstrong and Dept. of Fish and Game, Quinn Smith. The following action was taken:

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

The Council adopts the 2017 Scallop SAFE report and sets the 2017/2018 ABC at 1.161 million pounds of shucked meats and the OFL equal to 1.29 million pounds, as recommended by the Scallop Plan Team and SSC.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection April 6, 2017 at 8:14 a.m.

## C2 SALMON FMP AMENDMENT

The Council heard a presentation from NMFS' staff, Gretchen Harrington and Jason Gasper. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council directs NMFS and Council staff to initiate an analysis and work with the State of Alaska to develop alternatives to amend the *Fishery Management Plan for the Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ Off Alaska* (Salmon FMP).

The Council adopts the following preliminary purpose and need and a preliminary range of alternatives.

### **Preliminary Purpose and Need**

The Council intends to amend the Salmon FMP to manage the three traditional net commercial fishing areas that occur in Federal waters; Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and South Alaska Peninsula. Federal management in an FMP must meet the Magnuson-Stevens Act required provisions for an FMP in section 303(a) and related Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions. This proposed action is necessary to bring the Salmon FMP into compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act consistent with the recent Ninth Circuit ruling (*UCIDA et al., v. NMFS*).

### **Preliminary Alternatives**

**Alternative 1:** Status quo – no amendments to the 2012 Salmon FMP.

**Alternative 2:** Amend the Salmon FMP to include three traditional net fishing areas in the FMP's fishery management unit in the West Area and establish cooperative management for these salmon fisheries that delegates specific management measures to the State of Alaska, to use existing State salmon management to the extent possible, in compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and Ninth Circuit ruling. Alternative 2 would identify those management functions that would be under Federal jurisdiction or delegated to the State and the process for delegation and cooperative management.

**Alternative 3:** Amend the Salmon FMP to include three traditional net fishing areas in the FMP's fishery management unit in the West Area and apply Federal management to these three areas.

**Options for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3:** Direct staff to develop a range of options for the conservation and management measures required under 303(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and related Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions. Staff should prioritize their work on the following requirements —

- management policy and objectives,
- conservation and management measures,
- status determination criteria,
- annual catch limits and accountability measures,
- methods to report bycatch and measures to minimize bycatch and the mortality of unavoidable bycatch,
- the salmon plan team or other process for annually determining status of the stocks and providing stock assessment and fishery evaluation information, and
- the process for review and appeal of State management measures applicable under the FMP.

After receiving this preliminary analysis, the Council intends to form a stakeholder workgroup comprised of stakeholders from Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and the South Alaska Peninsula to ensure that the affected public has appropriate input in the development of a new Salmon FMP amendment. The composition, scope, and schedule for a stakeholder workgroup will be determined at a future meeting.

**Mr. Tweit made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Hyder:**

(add the following language in **bold** in the final paragraph)

After receiving this preliminary analysis, the Council intends to form a stakeholder workgroup comprised of stakeholders from Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and the South Alaska Peninsula, **as well as the East Area** to ensure that the affected public has appropriate input in the development of a new Salmon FMP amendment. The composition, scope, and schedule for a stakeholder workgroup will be determined at a future meeting.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed with no objection April 6, 2017 at 1:48 p.m.

**Mr. Laukitis made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Cotten:**

(Under Alternative 3, ~~strike~~ and **add** the following language)

**Alternative 3:** Amend the Salmon FMP to include three traditional net fishing areas in the FMP's fishery management unit in the West Area and apply Federal management to ~~these three areas~~ **those portions of the fishery that occur in the EEZ.**

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed with no objection April 6, 2017 at 1:50 p.m.

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

(~~Strike~~ the following language in the Purpose and Need)

#### **Preliminary Purpose and Need**

The Council intends to amend the Salmon FMP to manage the three traditional net ~~commercial~~ fishing areas that occur in Federal waters; Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and South Alaska Peninsula. Federal management in an FMP must meet the Magnuson-Stevens Act required provisions for an FMP in section 303(a) and related Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions. This proposed action is necessary to bring the Salmon FMP into compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act consistent with the recent Ninth Circuit ruling (*UCIDA et al., v. NMFS*).

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed with no objection April 6, 2017 at 1:51 p.m.

**VOTE ON MAIN AMENDED MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection April 6, 2017 at 1:52 p.m.

## **C3 POLLOCK ICA/IPA REPORTS; UPDATE ON SALMON GENETICS**

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

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

The Council requests that the Salmon Genetics working group be expanded to include members of the SSC. The Council also requests the working group hold a public workshop to facilitate industry feedback on how these reports can be improved to better inform industry bycatch avoidance efforts. The workshop should seek advice on appropriate spatial and temporal resolution, or other analysis from stakeholders.

The Council also directs staff to retrospectively apply the same spatial and temporal strata used to report 2015 stock composition to samples from 2013 and 2014, and earlier years if possible.

The Council also supports the SSCs recommendations for the working group to consider;

- The feasibility and benefits of collection of fin status (i.e. presence/absence) and otoliths in the Gulf of Alaska to help inform hatchery contributions of the total Chinook salmon bycatch,
- Updating the baseline groupings as additional genetic markers or baseline refinements become available.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection April 7, 2017 at 9:54 a.m.

## **C4 CO-OP REPORTS (AFA, AM80, GOA ROCKFISH, BSAI CRAB)**

The Council heard reports from the following cooperatives: AFA, Am80, GOA Rockfish, and BSAI Crab Cooperatives (attachment 1). No action was taken.

The Council developed several cooperative programs as options to manage the groundfish fisheries as well as the crab fisheries. Some cooperatives are required or therefore requested to provide annual reports to the Council. These reports are intended to be a resource for the Council to track the effectiveness of the cooperative program and the ability to meet the Council's goals in that particular program. In general these reports have been provided by the cooperative managers at each annual April Council meeting.

## **C5 CENTRAL GOA ROCKFISH PROGRAM REVIEW WORK PLAN**

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC contractor, Darrell Brannan. No action was taken.

## **C8 CDQ OWNERSHIP CAPS**

The Council heard a presentation from NMFS' staff, Keeley Kent. The following action was taken:

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

The Council adopts the purpose and need statement as described in the analysis and recommends Alternative 2 as its preferred alternative.

Alternative 2. Revise the regulations governing the ownership attribution model for CDQ groups for excessive share limitations under the AFA Program; revise the regulations and the Crab FMP governing the ownership attribution model for CDQ groups for the PQS ownership and IPQ use caps under the CR Program to provide as directed in the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

**Mr. Tweit made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Hyder:**

The Council deems proposed regulations that clearly and directly flow from the provisions of this motion to be necessary and appropriate in accordance with Section 303c and therefore the Council authorizes the Executive Director and the Chairman to review the draft proposed

regulations when provided by NMFS to ensure that the proposed regulations to be submitted to the Secretary under Section 303c are consistent with these instructions.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed with no objection April 7, 2017 at 2:38 p.m.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed 10/0 with one recusal (Mr. Kinneen) April 7, 2017 at 2:40 p.m.

## C6 EFH OMNIBUS AMENDMENTS

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

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

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and recommends the following alternatives under Actions 1 through 8 as its preferred alternative. Changes to the purpose and need statement and the recommended alternatives are shown in ~~strikethrough~~ and **bold and underlined text** where applicable.

### **Purpose and Need Statement**

The purpose of the eight proposed actions is to comply with the Final Rule implementing the EFH provisions of the MSA (50 CFR Part 600, Subpart J). The EFH Final Rule and each of the Council's FMPs state that a review of EFH components should be completed every 5 years and the EFH provisions should be revised or amended, as warranted, based on the best available information. ~~To comply with the EFH Final Rule, the most recent 5-year review of EFH was completed in October 2016 and synthesized in a Final Summary Report (Summary Report, NPFMC 2016) presented to the Council.~~ Based on the review, the Council determined that new information is available to revise many of the EFH descriptions and maps in the Council FMPs. There are eight actions ~~considered included~~ in this omnibus EFH amendment package, all of which are intended to update the Council FMPs to incorporate the best new information available. ~~Descriptions of each action follow in the sections below.~~ The proposed actions are FMP amendments only; there are no regulations that will be changed as a result of these amendments.

### **Action 1 – BSAI Groundfish**

**Alternative 2** – Update EFH descriptions in the FMP consistent with the **EA Appendix 1** ~~stock assessment authors' recommendations in Sections 5.1 through 5.26 of the Summary Report, NPFMC 2016.~~ Replace the existing EFH maps in the FMP with **maps that represent** the 95th percentile maps by season (winter, spring, summer and fall) for each species and life stage, **as available** ~~as shown in Appendix 1.~~

### **Action 2 – GOA Groundfish**

**Alternative 2** – Update EFH descriptions in the FMP consistent with the ~~stock assessment authors' recommendations in Sections 6.1 through 6.26 of the Summary Report, NPFMC 2016~~ **EA Appendix 2**. Replace the existing EFH maps in the FMP with **maps that represent** the 95th percentile maps by season for each species and life stage, **as available** ~~as shown in Appendix 2.~~

### **Action 3 – BSAI King and Tanner Crab**



**Alternative 2** – Update EFH descriptions in the FMP consistent with the **EA Appendix 3** stock assessment authors' bulleted recommendations in Section 7 of the Summary Report, NPFMC 2016. Replace the existing EFH maps in the FMP with **maps that represent** the 95th percentile maps by season for each species and life stage, **as available** as shown in Appendix 3.

#### **Action 4 – Salmon**

**Alternative 2** – Update EFH descriptions in the FMP consistent with ~~the stock assessment authors' recommendations in Section 9 of the Summary Report, NPFMC 2016~~ **EA Appendix 4**. Replace the existing marine EFH maps in the FMP with the model-based maps for each species and life stage as shown in the Appendix 4.

#### **Action 5 – Arctic Management Area**

**Alternative 2** – Update EFH descriptions for all species in the FMP consistent with **EA Appendix 5** ~~the stock assessment authors' recommendations in Section 10 of the Summary Report, NPFMC 2016~~. Replace the existing map for snow crab in Appendix B of the FMP with the **snow crab** maps recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee, as noted in their April 2016 minutes **in EA Appendix 5**.

#### **Action 6 – Non-Fishing Activities**

**Alternative 2** – Update EFH conservation recommendations for non-fishing activities in all Council FMPs. **Revise the appropriate FMP appendices where conservation recommendations for non-fishing activities are described.**

#### **Action 7 – HAPC**

**Alternative 1 – No Action; status quo**

#### **Action 8 – EFH Research Priorities**

**Alternative 1 – No Action; status quo**

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed 10/0 with one recusal (Mr. Kinneen) April 8, 2017 at 11:28 a.m.

## **C7 HALIBUT ABUNDANCE-BASED PSC LIMITS**

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram, IPHC staff, Allen Hicks, and NMFS' staff, Jim Ianelli and Rachel Baker. The following action was taken:

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

The Council requests the working group include the following modifications in an expanded discussion paper:

- Consider alternative approaches for addressing the coastwide halibut stock status (i.e. 30:20 control rule for spawning biomass from the IPHC assessment).
- Consider alternative approaches to account for recruitment (i.e. number of low recruitment events, average recruitment over a period of years).
- Consider replacing O32 survey catch with IPHC setline survey catch as an index.
- Provide additional analysis on inter-annual stability in PSC limits as described in the SSC minutes.

In the development of halibut abundance indices, the Council seeks to better understand the characteristics and applicability of each of the proposed component indices that comprise the strawmen ABMs. Incorporating the above modifications as appropriate, the Council directs the working group to;

- Describe the extent to which the indices represent the segment of the population they are assumed to represent (in terms of life history, quality and frequency of data collection) and what is actually encountered by the fisheries.
- Describe the extent each index meets each working group principle.
- Analyze strawman ABMs using an 'all else equal' approach as specified by the SSC.

Given the aforementioned direction and modifications, the SSC's recommendations, and working group principles outlined in the discussion paper, the Council requests the working group develop additional ABM alternatives for consideration as appropriate.

The Council directs the working group to remove the Gulf of Alaska from further consideration of an abundance based approach to PSC limits in this analytical package.

The Council acknowledges and supports the SSC comments suggesting development of a framework for evaluating ABM alternatives; however, prior to tasking development of a complex computer simulation model or other framework, the Council intends to undertake an iterative process of understanding the strengths and weaknesses of each of the component indices as they relate to informing ABM development. This process would be followed by development of ABM alternatives, and development of a computer simulation or other framework to evaluate the ABM alternatives.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection April 9, 2017 at 9:55 a.m.

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

The Council recommends staff produce a discussion paper to review the FVOA/DSFU proposal to see how the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands FMP would have to be amended and what mechanisms or changes they would recommend to meet the intent of this proposal.

Discussion paper should include discussion on:

- Comparison of the FVOA/DSFU proposal to the Council's work group abundance-based concept from an incentive / disincentive perspective.
- Discussion on necessary changes or potential changes in the BS FMP to allow the Council to be in annual (or biannual) control of the PSC limit.
- Discussion of any mechanical problems as a framework option. And recommendations for altering the option to best accommodate the current operating procedures of the Council.
- Discussion of whether an analysis is needed to ratchet the PSC CAP based on this option, on an annual (or biannual) basis and if so what does the staff see in that workload being.
- Discussion on whether this proposal would fit into the current ABM as an option or the need to go forward as a standalone or supplemental package.
- Discussion on conflict of interest recusals in an annual (or biannual) adjustment of halibut PSC.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion failed 3/8 (Mr. Balsiger, Mr. Cotten, Mr. Hyder, Mr. Kinneen, Mr. Laukitis, Mr. Mezirow, Ms. Peterson, and Mr. Hull voting in opposition) April 9, 2017 at 9:55 a.m.

## **C10 LEAD LEVEL 2 OBSERVERS**

The Council received a presentation from NMFS' staff, Alicia Miller. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council recommends the analysis be released for public review after the following revisions are made:

1. Accept the recommendation to revise the purpose and need as included in the initial review draft on page 13. The sentence added to the end of the first paragraph in the purpose and need is revised to read (**in bold**):

**In addition to freezer longline vessels, pot catcher/processors participating in the groundfish CDQ fisheries are also required to carry a nontrawl LL2 observer.**

2. Accept the recommended revision in the initial review draft (page 24) to add Option 3.2 under Alternative 3, and identify it as the Council's preliminary preferred alternative.

3. Move Alternative 4 to the list of alternatives considered but not analyzed further.

4. Under Alternatives 2 and 3, remove suboptions that would allow deployment of a certified observer.

Under Alternative 2, require a substitute observer to have a LL2 endorsement for a catcher/processor using trawl gear.

5. SSC and AP recommendations should be considered to the extent practicable. Specifically, additional information to clarify implementation considerations for the observer training and pre-cruise meeting requirements under Alternative 3.2 should be added to the analysis.

The revised alternatives are shown below, with the Council's preliminary preferred alternative in **bold**:

Alternative 1: No action. Continue to require owners of freezer longline vessels selecting the scales with a single observer option to carry a nontrawl LL2 observer, and provide no exceptions if a nontrawl LL2 observer is not available.

Alternative 2: LL2 Exception. Create a regulatory exception that would allow a freezer longline vessel to carry a substitute observer if a nontrawl LL2 observer is not available. The substitute observer must have a LL2 endorsement for a catcher/processor using trawl gear.

**Alternative 3: Observer Options. Modify the nontrawl LL2 observer coverage requirement.**

Option 3.1: Allow two observers to deploy as an alternate observer coverage option to the one nontrawl LL2 observer on a freezer longline vessel selecting the scales option. Both observers must have a Level 2 endorsement.

**Option 3.2: Modify the nontrawl lead level 2 endorsement to allow sampling experience on trawl CPs to count toward nontrawl LL2 endorsement with an additional training requirement and require vessel owners to participate in a pre-cruise meeting if requested to do so by NMFS.**

**Mr. Tweit made the following amendment which was seconded by Ms. Peterson:**  
(Changes to Alternative 3 are indicated with ~~strickthrough~~ and underlined text)

**Alternative 3: Observer Options. Modify the nontrawl LL2 observer coverage requirement. Require vessel owners to participate in a pre-cruise meeting if requested to do so by NMFS.**

Option 3.1: Allow two observers to deploy as an alternate observer coverage option to the one nontrawl LL2 observer on a freezer longline vessel selecting the scales option. Both observers must have a Level 2 endorsement.

**Option 3.2: Modify the nontrawl lead level 2 endorsement to allow sampling experience on trawl CPs to count toward nontrawl LL2 endorsement with an additional training requirement, ~~and require vessel owners to participate in a pre-cruise meeting if requested to do so by NMFS.~~**

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed with no objection April 9, 2017 at 2:20 p.m.

**VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection April 9, 2017 at 2:21 p.m.

## **C9 EM WORKGROUP REPORT**

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Diana Evans. The following action was taken:

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

### **EM Deployment Plan in 2018**

The Council requests that the agency incorporate the following program elements for EM deployment in 2018, as part of the Observer Annual Deployment Plan:

- deployment using trip selection,
- for longline and pot vessels of any size,
- at a 30% selection rate,
- with EM service in major ports (Sitka, Homer, and Kodiak for longline, and Homer, Kodiak and Sand Point for pot) and other ports limited to remote support or periodically-scheduled visits by primary port technicians, as funding permits.

With respect to the size of the EM pool in 2018, the Council supports accommodating up to 120 longline vessels and up to 45 pot vessels, provided there is funding to support this pool size.

### **EM Integration Proposed Rule**

The Council directs staff to submit comments on behalf of the Council to the agency on the EM Integration Proposed Rule during the public comment period. The comments should reflect the six issues that the EM Workgroup recommended should be revised or further considered before the final rule is published, listed in bullets on the bottom of page 4 and top of page 5 of the EMWG March 28-29, 2017 minutes (attachment 2)

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection April 9, 2017 at 3:41 p.m.

## **D1 BSAI CRAB BINDING ARBITRATION FORMULA**

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

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

The Council recommends that a letter be sent to the formula arbitrator noting that the formula arbitrator has the ability to consider operational costs under the existing standards for arbitration.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion failed 4/7 (Mr. Cotten, Mr. Down, Mr. Hyder, Mr. Kinneen, Mr. Laukitis, Mr. Mezirow and Ms. Peterson voting in opposition) April 9, 2017 at 5:58 p.m.

## **D2 BSAI TANNER CRAB CUSTOM PROCESSING CAP**

The Council received a presentation from NMFS' staff, Keeley Kent. The following action was taken:

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

The Council recommends no further action on the agenda item at this time.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection April 10, 2017 at 9:18 a.m.

## **D3 BSAI FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN**

The Council received a report from NPFMC staff, Diana Evans on recent progress towards developing a Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) for the Eastern Bering Sea. A discussion paper describing the concept for a FEP was developed in 2015 following extensive scoping. Given widespread support among stakeholders for a FEP the Council created a scientific and technical Bering Sea FEP Team in December 2016 to write the FEP. No actions were taken.

## **D4 PROGRAMMATIC GROUND FISH OBJECTIVES**

The Council received a report from NPFMC staff, Jim Armstrong on the implementation of the Council's Programmatic Groundfish management Policy. At this meeting the Council conducted an annual review of the Management Policy's Objectives and Workplan. No action was taken.

## **E1 STAFF TASKING**

In addition to discussing the relative priority of previously tasked projects, the Council initiated new actions and clarified direction and tasking for its various committees. The following actions were taken:

### **NORTHERN FUR SEALS**

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

The Council requests that staff develop a discussion paper providing a synthesis of population and vital rates information for the Northern Fur Seal. The Council remains concerned about the continued decline of Northern Fur Seals on the Pribilof Islands, and requests additional information to better understand current trends and potential impediments to population recovery.

The Council requests staff include recent trends on abundance in the Eastern North Pacific (Alaskan) stock and other stocks, globally; an update on recent research, including but not limited to food habits, vital rates, summer and winter movements, and conditions in the north Pacific potentially impacting winter survival (if available).

The Council, additionally, requests regular (annual) updates from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center Marine Mammal Laboratory and the Alaska Region on their northern fur seal research and management plans.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection April 10, 2017 at 2:35 p.m.

## OBSERVER COVERAGE

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

The Council recommends establishing a process for developing options for increasing observer coverage rates in the partial coverage fisheries.

The Council requests the OAC to provide recommendations on addressing the challenge of increasing the current and projected observer coverage rates in the partial coverage fisheries. In June and October 2016, the Council stated its concerns about the current year coverage rates, which are likely to decrease further in 2018.

The Council is interested in recommendations that focus on methods to:

- Increase economic efficiencies in the partial coverage program
  - Within the partial coverage contract
  - Formation of monitoring co-ops
  - Develop tools that motivate harvesters to choose least expensive alternatives
- Make operational changes that increase the utility of current coverage levels
  - Catch accounting program modifications
  - Re-evaluate use of the zero selection pool including multi-year strategies
  - Evaluate deployment strategies that minimize observer down-time between vessels
  - Evaluate a sampling rate analysis
  - Evaluate a technical report on observer performance
- Increase revenues for funding the program
  - Existing fee
  - External funds
  - A hybrid pay-as-you-go and fee-based system

The examples listed under each major bullet are illustrative and are not intended to be exclusive.

Development of a cost model for EM integration and a tool for assessing data quality improvements resulting from increases in EM and human observer coverage rates will be important for the success of this effort.

Any recommendations that concern the next contract for partial coverage will be needed by the October Council meeting in order to meet the NMFS schedule for developing the next contract.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection April 10, 2017 at 2:49 p.m.

## CHINOOK PSC

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

The Council requests staff initiate an analysis evaluating increasing the Gulf of Alaska catcher vessel non-pollock Chinook salmon prohibited species cap by:

Rockfish Program

- 300 fish
- 600 fish
- 900 fish

Non-pollock non-rockfish program

- 1,000 fish
- 2,000 fish
- 3,000 fish

The analysis should include:

- A comparison of observer information available when the cap was established and observer information available after the cap was implemented.
- Consideration of the Chinook salmon genetic stock composition analysis.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with one objection (Ms. Peterson) April 10, 2017 at 3:10 p.m.

## BSAI COD CVs

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

The Council requests staff prepare a discussion paper to evaluate participation and effort in the Bering Sea Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel fishery in response to a potential need to limit entry and participation in the trawl catcher vessel sector and the sector's deliveries to Am 80 CPs acting as motherships. The Council further establishes a control date of April 10, 2017 that may be used as a reference date for a future management action to limit access to the Bering Sea trawl catcher vessel cod fishery and trawl CV deliveries of Pacific cod to Am 80 vessels acting as motherships.

**Mr. Cotten made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:**

(Changes are made in ~~strikethrough~~ text)

The Council requests staff prepare a discussion paper to evaluate participation and effort in the Bering Sea Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel fishery in response to a potential need to limit entry and participation in the trawl catcher vessel sector and the sector's deliveries to Am 80 CPs acting as motherships. ~~The Council further establishes a control date of April 10, 2017 that may be used as a~~

~~reference date for a future management action to limit access to the Bering Sea trawl catcher vessel cod fishery and trawl CV deliveries of Pacific cod to Am 80 vessels acting as motherships.~~

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed 6/5 (Mr. Cross, Mr. Down, Mr. Hyder, Mr. Kinneen, Mr. Tweit voting in opposition) April 10, 2017 at 3:29 p.m.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with two objections (Mr. Cotten and Mr. Laukitis) April 10, 2017 at 3:39 p.m.

**THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ON MONDAY APRIL 10, 2017 AT 3:40 P.M.**



## List of Cooperative Reports

### Crab Coop Reports (Am 18-19 Crab Ratz)

1. Alaska King Crab Harvesters Coop
2. Aleutian Island Coop
3. Alternative Crab Exchange (ACE)
4. Coastal Villages Crab Coop
5. Crab Producers and Harvesters LLC
6. Dog Boat Coop – Ed Poulsen
7. Independent Crabbers Coop
8. Inter-cooperative Exchange (ICE)
9. R& B Coop – Mary Mezich
10. Trident Affiliated Crab Harvesting Coop

### Amendment 80 Cooperative Reports (H&G bottom trawlers)

1. Alaska Seafood Cooperative
2. Alaska Groundfish Cooperative (FSA)

### Central GOA Rockfish Cooperative Reports (Goa Am 88)

1. I.S.A. Rockfish Cooperative
2. North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative
3. OBSI Rockfish Cooperative
4. Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative
5. Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative
6. Global Rockfish Cooperative
7. Pacific Rockfish Cooperative
8. FCA Cooperative
9. Best Use Cooperative

### AFA (American Fisheries Act) Cooperative Reports

1. Peter Pan Fleet Cooperative
2. Unisea Fleet Cooperative
3. Westward Fleet Cooperative
4. Catcher Vessel Intercooperative
5. Unalaska Fleet Cooperative
6. Akutan Catcher Vessel Cooperative
7. Northern Victor Fleet Cooperative
8. Mothership Fleet Cooperative
9. Pollock Conservation Cooperatives and High Sea Catchers' Cooperative

## SALMON SAVINGS

### IPA (Incentive Plan Agreement) Reports (Am 91)

1. Bering Sea Pollock Mothership Salmon Saving Incentive Plan (MSSIP)
2. Inshore Salmon Savings Incentive Plan (SSIP)
3. Chinook Salmon Bycatch Reduction Incentive Plan

### ICA (Intercooperative Agreement) Reports (Am 84)

1. Bering Sea Pollock Intercooperative Salmon Avoidance Agreement
2. Audit of Salmon Closure Zone Compliance Monitoring, Bering Sea Pollock Fishery

- May-September – FMA will prepare a draft Statement of Work for the contract
- end September/beginning October – AGO is planning an “Industry Week” (publicized in the Federal Register and on FedBizOpps), where they will try to solicit input from as many industry members as possible on the draft Statement of Work. They are willing to travel to Alaska ports, and overlap their visit with the Council meeting. All questions that are put to them at the outreach meetings will be published as Questions and Answers.
- Post-Oct 2017 – AGO will work with FMA to incorporate public input into a final Statement of Work, and released with the final RFP in Spring 2018 with the intent to have the contract awarded by early 2019.

**The Workgroup appreciates the flexibility the AGO and the Observer Program have demonstrated in trying to accommodate the Council’s interest in providing input on the contract(s).** The Workgroup had several questions about how industry week would work, where meetings would be, and how to design it to meet people effectively. Other questions focused on how the statement of work will identify milestones and timeframes (e.g. for installing/removing equipment), and how that affects costing; how it will accommodate or encourage technical innovation; whether it will allow for multiple contracts and/or multiple EM awards within the contract; and if the contract begins in mid-June 2019, how a potential transition to a different provider would be accommodated mid-fishing season. Lisa indicated that these questions should be directed to AGO representatives at the May OAC meeting. EMWG members can either provide their questions to Diana or Bill, or may participate directly in the meeting, which will be teleconferenced.

### **EM Integration - Proposed Rule**

Gretchen Harrington and Jennifer Watson presented the various sections of the proposed rule to integrate EM as part of the Observer Program. **The Workgroup appreciates the quality of the proposed rule, and the staff work that was required to have it published quickly.** The proposed rule also does a good job of capturing a flexible program, as envisioned by the Workgroup, through the use of the Annual Deployment Plan and Vessel Monitoring Plans. **The Workgroup highlighted the following areas of the proposed rule, and recommends that they be revised or further considered before the final rule is published.** NMFS clarified that in order to be considered, these comments need to be formally submitted at regulations.gov, either in a letter from the Council or as comments from individuals or organizations.

- 679.51(f)(5)(iii) and 679.7(g)(2) state that to use an EM system, the vessel must have the approved VMP onboard while fishing. However, this should be clarified so that the VMP is only required onboard when the vessel is fishing in fisheries that are subject to observer regulations, and not, for example, when fishing in state fisheries. A vessel may reconfigure their boat, for example in salmon fisheries, in which case it could be out of compliance with the VMP.
- 679.7(g)(9) states that vessels may not tamper with or disconnect the EM system. There should be some provision in the regulations or the VMP to accommodate deck reconfiguration (for example, for participation in salmon fisheries) or vessel repairs without triggering a violation.
- 679.2 definition of a “fishing trip,” paragraph (3)(iv), defines an EM trip as beginning and ending in a shore port. This means that when vessels are delivering to a tender, their “fishing trip” for purposes of being selected for EM coverage may include multiple deliveries to a tender. It is possible to get an EM hard drive mailed mid-trip, while the vessel is delivering to a tender, which would result in more timely data. The Workgroup recommends changing this definition for vessels in the EM selection pool so that a fishing trip begins with an empty hold and ends when all fish are delivered.
- 679.51(f)(2)(i) states that vessels must register their anticipated trip in ODDS a minimum of 72 hours prior to embarking on the fishing trip. The Workgroup believes this requirement, a legacy of the human observer ODDS regulations, is unnecessary for EM. The regulations separately

specify the conditions that must be met for EM vessels to leave on an EM-selected trip, and as long as these are clear, the additional 72-hour notice requirement seems unnecessary and onerous.

- 679.51(f)(6)(iv) states that when a vessel is fishing IFQ in multiple areas, the vessel must cease fishing and contact OLE immediately if an EM system malfunction occurs during a fishing trip. If a vessel is unable to contact OLE (for example, because they are not in range of communication), the regulations or the VMP should clarify that the vessel is not required to abandon their gear before proceeding to a location from which they can contact OLE. Also, the VMP template should include information on the ways to contact OLE.
- page 14857, column 3, paragraph 2 – the preamble language states that vessels can use an EM system if it is already onboard to meet the specifications in the VMP. It should be clarified that the system must also meet the specifications required in the observer provider contract for data quality and specificity of data output.

**The Workgroup also discussed three other areas of the rule without reaching consensus that these requirements should be changed.**

- 679.51(f)(3)(ii) (and tangentially 679.51(f)(5)(vii)) requires vessel operators to a) close their EM-selected trip in ODDS and b) close the trip within 24 hours of the end of the fishing trip. The proposed rule links the closure of a trip in ODDS with instructions to send in the hard drive with EM data. While the EM Workgroup did not oppose requiring vessels to close their trips in ODDS, some members raised concerns about the 24-hour time requirement. This would represent a difference from regulations for the human observer pool, where there is currently no explicit requirement for closing your trip. It was noted that the 24-hour timeframe is inconsistent with the current practice of some vessel operators to go out on a couple of trips before doing their ‘book-keeping’ in ODDS to close out and log new trips, and that it would help to have some consideration of the pros and cons of, for example, a 24-hour versus a 48-hour time requirement. At the same time, a short timeframe for closing the trip would allow flexibility in the future for vessels to be selected after the trip for submitting their EM data, rather than before. One suggestion would be to remove this element from the proposed rule, and instead address the timing of closing out trips in ODDS comprehensively across partial coverage.
- 679.51(f)(5)(vii) requires hard drives on EM-selected trips be postmarked no later than 2 business days after the end of the fishing trip. The Workgroup agrees with the principle that data needs to get to the agency as quickly as possible, but the discussion focused on how to accommodate the postmarking requirement in ports that have very limited post office hours, and no resident postmaster. Some members of the Workgroup felt strongly that the timeframe for submitting hard drives should be included in the VMP, rather than in the regulations.
- 679.51(f)(4)(i) states that vessel owners are required annually to sign and submit their VMPs, even if nothing in the VMP has changed. This requirement is in part to accommodate the potential that the VMP template may change from year to year, for example as a result of different priorities in the ADP, and also because the annual approval is the opportunity for the agency to disapprove the VMP of vessels that are consistently not following the requirements of their VMP. Members of the Workgroup were concerned about the burden on vessels, providers, and the agency of signing, submitting, and approving potentially 165 VMPs annually, especially when the VMPs do not change, and would like to see an expedited mechanism to accomplish this if it remains in the final rule.

#### *Vessel monitoring plan template*

Jennifer Mondragon and Jennifer Watson presented the VMP template as updated for 2017, and a draft malfunction matrix that they have developed to help vessels identify what their response should be to EM malfunctions before they leave port, during a trip, and when IFQ fishing in multiple areas. The Workgroup noted that a vessel is not able to check for lighting malfunctions pre-departure, and in general

**TIME LOG**  
**North Pacific Fishery Management Council**  
**Meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska**  
**Hilton Hotel**  
**April 5 – 10, 2017**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 5, 2017**

---

04/05/2017 08:05:03 AM Call to Order  
 04/05/2017 08:06:03 AM Approval of Agenda

**B1 REPORTS**

04/05/2017 08:07:15 AM **B1 Executive Director’s Report** – Chris Oliver  
 04/05/2017 08:38:21 AM B1 Phil Lenfest Report Presentation  
 04/05/2017 09:07:13 AM B1 Executive Report Continued  
 04/05/2017 09:32:15 AM Legislative Committee Report  
 04/05/2017 10:00:24 AM Break  
 04/05/2017 10:22:20 AM **B2 NMFS Report** – Glen Merrill  
 04/05/2017 10:22:20 AM **B2 AFSC FY17 Budget Research Report** – Doug Demaster  
 04/05/2017 11:20:05 AM **B2 Fur Seal Status** – Mike Williams  
 04/05/2017 11:45:52 PM Lunch  
 04/05/2017 01:09:12 PM NOAA GC Report – Lauren Smoker  
 04/05/2017 01:32:41 PM **B3 ADF&G Report** – Trent Hartill  
 04/05/2017 01:57:32 PM **B4 NIOSH Report** – Devin Lucas  
 04/05/2017 02:11:58 PM **B5 USCG Report** – LT Corrie Sergent  
 04/05/2017 02:22:49 PM **B6 USFWS Report** – Aaron Poe  
 04/05/2017 03:00:33 PM Break  
 04/05/2017 03:17:33 PM **B7 Protected Species Report** – Steve MacLean  
**B Public Testimony**  
 04/05/2017 03:20:25 PM Linda Behnken  
 04/05/2017 03:28:26 PM Lori Swanson  
 04/05/2017 03:33:06 PM Jon Warrenchuk  
 04/05/2017 03:37:04 PM Simeon Swetzof  
 04/05/2017 03:40:17 PM Brent Paine  
 04/05/2017 03:44:41 PM Donna Parker  
 04/05/2017 03:53:38 PM Julie Bonney  
 04/05/2017 04:00:46 PM Mark Fina

**C1 SCALLOP SAFE & PLAN TEAM REPORT**

04/05/2017 04:30:09 PM **C1 Presentation** – Jim Armstrong & Quinn Smith  
 04/05/2017 05:03:09 PM Recess

**THURSDAY APRIL 6, 2017**

---

**C1 CONTINUED**

04/06/2017 08:06:27 AM SSC Report – Farron Wallace  
04/06/2017 08:11:22 AM AP Report – Ernie Weiss  
04/06/2017 08:13:28 AM **C1 Mr. Hartill Motion**

NO PUBLIC TESTIMONY WAS TAKEN ON THIS AGENDA ITEM

**C2 SALMON FMP AMENDMENT**

04/06/2017 08:17:28 AM **C2 Presentation** – NMFS’ Gretchen Harrington & Jason Gasper  
04/06/2017 08:40:53 AM Break  
04/06/2017 10:02:02 AM AP Report – Angel Drobnica  
04/06/2017 10:07:27 AM **C2 Public Testimony**  
04/06/2017 10:08:08 AM Paul Gronholdt  
04/06/2017 10:13:27 AM Bruce Gabrys  
04/06/2017 10:16:48 AM Steve Brown  
04/06/2017 10:28:23 AM Jerry McCune  
04/06/2017 10:42:22 AM Arni Thompson  
04/06/2017 10:50:21 AM Erik Huebsch  
04/06/2017 11:16:27 AM Israel Payton  
04/06/2017 11:25:22 AM David Martin  
04/06/2017 11:35:34 AM Mike Stanley  
04/06/2017 11:47:11 AM Andrew Couch  
04/06/2017 11:51:02 AM Ricky Gease  
04/06/2017 11:57:15 AM Lunch  
04/06/2017 01:36:11 PM **C2 Mr. Balsiger Motion**  
04/06/2017 01:52:46 PM Break

**C3 POLLOCK ICA/IPA REPORTS; UPDATE ON SALMON GENETICS**

04/06/2017 02:00:49 PM **C3 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram  
04/06/2017 03:20:11 PM Break  
04/06/2017 03:46:53 PM **Pollock Industry Reports**  
04/06/2017 03:47:07 PM ICA Report – Karl Haflinger  
04/06/2017 04:09:38 PM Mothership Report – James Mize  
04/06/2017 04:16:13 PM MSSIP Report – Brent Paine & Ruth Christiansen  
04/06/2017 04:35:10 PM CP IPA Report - Stephanie Madsen & Austin Estabrooks  
04/06/2017 04:49:44 PM Recess

## **FRIDAY April 7, 2017**

---

04/07/2017 08:10:15 AM      SSC Report – Farron Wallace

### **C3 CONTINUED**

04/07/2017 09:27:08 AM      AP Report – Matt Upton  
04/07/2017 09:34:53 AM      **C3 Public Testimony**  
04/07/2017 09:35:10 AM      Julie Bonney  
04/07/2017 09:46:21 AM      **C3 Mr. Hartill Motion**  
04/07/2017 09:54:44 AM      Break

### **C4 CO-OP REPORTS (AFA, AM 80, GOA ROCKFISH, BSAI CRAB)**

04/07/2017 10:17:22 AM      Co-op Report Intro, NPFMC staff Jon McCracken, Sarah Marrinan  
04/07/2017 10:22:34 AM      AM 80 Reports – Mark Fina & Bill Orr  
04/07/2017 10:32:43 AM      ACE Co-op Report – Gretar Gudmundsson  
04/07/2017 10:36:54 AM      ICE Report - Joe Sullivan & Jake Jacobsen  
04/07/2017 11:28:03 AM      GOA Rockfish Reports – Julie Bonney  
04/07/2017 11:48:34 AM      Best Use Cooperative Report - Annika Saltman  
04/07/2017 11:53:22 AM      FCA Offshore Cooperative Report - Bill Orr  
04/07/2017 11:57:06 AM      Lunch Break  
04/07/2017 01:11:02 PM      Intercooperative Report - Ruth Christiansen  
04/07/2017 01:16:13 PM      HSCC Report - Stephanie Madsen

NO PUBLIC TESTIMONY WAS TAKEN ON THIS AGENDA ITEM

### **C5 CENTRAL GOA ROCKFISH PROGRAM REVIEW**

04/07/2017 01:20:13 PM      **C5 Presentation** – Darrell Brannan  
04/07/2017 01:54:29 PM      AP Report – Matt Upton  
04/07/2017 01:55:42 PM      **C5 Public Testimony**  
04/07/2017 01:55:48 PM      John Jaskoski  
04/07/2017 02:05:52 PM      Break

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS AGENDA ITEM

### **C8 CDQ OWNERSHIP CAPS**

04/07/2017 02:35:16 PM      **C8 Presentation** – NMFS’ staff Keeley Kent  
04/07/2017 02:35:22 PM      AP Report – Angel Drobznica  
04/07/2017 02:42:51 PM      **C8 Mr. Merrill Motion**  
04/07/2017 02:52:51 PM      Recess

## SATURDAY APRIL 8, 2017

---

### C6 EFH OMNIBUS AMENDMENTS

04/08/2017 09:02:24 AM Call to Order  
04/08/2017 09:03:24 AM Governor Bill Walker & Byron Mallott  
04/08/2017 09:10:24 AM C6 Presentation – NPFMC Staff, Steve MacLean  
04/08/2017 10:28:00 AM AP Report – Angel Drobica  
04/08/2017 10:30:56 AM **C6 Public Testimony**  
04/08/2017 10:55:21 AM Lori Swanson  
04/08/2017 11:00:18 AM Jon Warrenchuk  
04/08/2017 11:15:19 AM John Gauvin  
04/08/2017 11:33:34 AM **C6 Mr. Merrill Motion**  
04/08/2017 11:48:09 AM Lunch Break

### C7 HALIBUT ABUNDANCE-BASED PSC LIMITS

04/08/2017 01:06:22 PM Peggy Parker – Public Testimony Out of Order  
04/08/2017 01:14:10 PM **C7 Presentation** -NPFMC Staff, Dr. Diana Stram, Allen Hicks, Jim Inanelli, NMFS', Rachel Baker  
04/08/2017 03:25:03 PM Break  
04/08/2017 03:37:37 PM AP Report – Matt Upton  
04/08/2017 03:51:14 PM **C7 Public Testimony**  
04/08/2017 03:51:39 PM Mark Fina  
04/08/2017 03:58:01 PM Bob Alverson and Jim Johnson  
04/08/2017 04:16:39 PM Steve Martell  
04/08/2017 04:33:14 PM John Gauvin  
04/08/2017 04:33:32 PM Gerry Merrigan  
04/08/2017 04:44:32 PM Shannon Carroll  
04/08/2017 04:49:22 PM Arne Fuglvog  
04/08/2017 04:56:36 PM Julie Bonney  
04/08/2017 04:57:16 PM Chris Woodley  
04/08/2017 05:01:06 PM Linda Behnken  
04/08/2017 05:16:13 PM Jeff Kauffman and Heather McCarty  
04/08/2017 05:25:33 PM Simeon Swetozof and Mateo Paz-Soldan  
04/08/2017 05:40:22 PM Recess

## SUNDAY APRIL 9, 2017

---

### C7 CONTINUED

04/09/2017 08:56:39 AM Call to Order  
04/09/2017 09:17:01 AM **C7 Mr. Hartill Motion**  
04/09/2017 09:54:29 AM **Mr. Down Motion**  
04/09/2017 10:44:17 AM Break



## **C10 LEAD LEVEL 2 OBSERVERS**

04/09/2017 10:59:27 AM **C10 Presentation** – NMFS’ staff, Alicia Miller  
04/09/2017 12:25:46 PM Lunch Break  
04/09/2017 01:35:14 PM AP Report – Angel Drobnica  
04/09/2017 01:37:58 PM **C10 Public Comment**  
04/09/2017 01:38:58 PM Chad See  
04/09/2017 01:45:43 PM Brett Iwataki  
04/09/2017 02:09:48 PM **C10 Mr. Merrill Motion**

## **C9 EM WORKING GROUP REPORT**

04/09/2017 02:21:16 PM **C9 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Diana Evans  
04/09/2017 02:45:24 PM AP Report – Angel Drobnica  
04/09/2017 02:46:28 PM C9 Public Testimony  
04/09/2017 02:48:31 PM Nancy Munro  
04/09/2017 03:00:23 PM Dan Falvey and Linda Behnken  
04/09/2017 03:11:57 PM Jody Cook  
04/09/2017 03:20:54 PM John Jaskoski  
04/09/2017 03:27:24 PM Brent Paine  
04/09/2017 03:36:46 PM **C9 Mr. Tweit Motion**  
04/09/2017 03:46:07 PM Break

## **D1 BSAI CRAB BINDING ARBITRATION FORMULA**

04/09/2017 04:01:44 PM **D1 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Sarah Marrinan  
04/09/2017 04:55:38 PM AP Report – Matt Upton  
04/09/2017 05:04:59 PM **D1 Public Testimony**  
04/09/2017 05:05:08 PM Jake Jacobsen & Joe Sullivan  
04/09/2017 05:21:04 PM John Iani  
04/09/2017 05:30:43 PM Stand Down  
04/09/2017 05:35:29 PM **D1 Mr. Merrill Motion**  
**04/09/2017 05:58:56 PM Recess**

## **MONDAY APRIL 10, 2017**

---

## **D2 BSAI TANNER CRAB CUSTOM PROCESSING CAP**

04/10/2017 08:03:56 AM Call to Order  
04/10/2017 08:04:09 AM **D2 Presentation** – NMFS’ staff, Keeley Kent  
04/10/2017 08:37:15 AM AP Report – Angel Drobnica  
04/10/2017 08:38:07 AM **D2 Public Testimony**  
04/10/2017 08:38:33 AM Jake Jacobsen and Joe Sullivan  
04/10/2017 08:44:24 AM Bill Orr

04/10/2017 08:54:16 AM Jonathan Thorpe  
04/10/2017 08:59:45 AM Steve Minor  
04/10/2017 09:02:39 AM John Iani  
04/10/2017 09:10:21 AM Heather McCarty and Mateo Paz-Soldan  
04/10/2017 09:17:35 AM **D2 Mr. Merrill Motion**

### **D3 BSAI FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN**

04/10/2017 09:18:46 AM **D3 Presentation** - NPFMC staff, Diana Evans

NO AP REPORT, NO PUBLIC TESTIMONY, NO ACTION

### **D4 PROGRAMMATIC GROUND FISH OBJECTIVES**

04/10/2017 09:55:35 AM **D4 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Jim Armstrong  
04/10/2017 10:31:43 AM Break

NO AP REPORT, NO PUBLIC TESTIMONY, NO ACTION

### **E1 STAFF TASKING**

04/10/2017 10:56:05 AM NPFMC Executive Director, Chris Oliver  
04/10/2017 11:22:52 AM **E1 Public Testimony**  
04/10/2017 11:23:02 AM Steve Minor  
04/10/2017 11:24:06 AM Brent Paine  
04/10/2017 11:45:16 AM Jonathan Thorpe  
04/10/2017 11:54:14 AM Lauren Divine  
04/10/2017 12:02:10 PM Lunch Break  
04/10/2017 01:05:50 PM Chris Woodley  
04/10/2017 01:08:48 PM Jody Cook  
04/10/2017 01:19:08 PM Matt Upton  
04/10/2017 01:29:42 PM Heather McCarty  
04/10/2017 01:36:17 PM Julie Bonney  
04/10/2017 01:47:32 PM Matt Haegy  
04/10/2017 02:00:17 PM Break  
04/10/2017 02:27:38 PM **E1 Ms. Peterson Motion – Northern Fur Seals**  
**04/10/2017 02:37:53 PM E1 Mr. Tweit Motion – Observer Coverage**  
**04/10/2017 03:01:39 PM E1 Mr. Cross Motion – Chinook PSC**  
**04/10/2017 03:12:46 PM E1 Mr. Cross Motion – BSAI Cod CVs**  
**04/10/2017 03:39:33 PM** Appointments  
**04/10/2017 03:40:06 PM** Meeting Adjourned

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Dan Hull, Chairman  
Chris Oliver, Executive Director



605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Telephone (907) 271-2809

Fax (907) 271-2817

Visit our website: <http://www.npfmc.org>

## April 2017 Newsletter

Appointments .....	1
C1 Scallop SAFE and Plan Team Report.....	1
C2 Salmon FMP Amendment .....	2
C3 Pollock ICA/IPA Reports and Salmon Genetics .....	2
C4 Co-op Reporting .....	3
C5 Central GOA Rockfish Program Review Workplan .....	3
C6 EFH Amendments.....	3
C7 Halibut Abundance-based PSC Limits .....	4
C8 CDQ Ownership Caps .....	4
C9 Electronic Monitoring .....	5
C10 Lead Level 2 Observers.....	5
Vacancies on the OAC .....	6
D1 BSAI Crab Binding Arbitration Formula.....	6
D2 BSAI Tanner Crab Custom Processing Cap .....	6
D3 BS Fishery Ecosystem Plan .....	6
D4 Programmatic Groundfish Objectives.....	7
E Staff Tasking.....	7
Upcoming Meetings.....	8
Three-Meeting Outlook .....	9

## Appointments

The Council appointed Davin Holen to the newly formed Bering Sea Ecosystem Plan Team. Holen is currently the Coastal Community Resilience Specialist at Alaska Sea Grant. Tyson Fick was appointed to the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) as a non-voting member. Fick is based out of Juneau, and is currently the executive director of the Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers. We welcome them both to their new roles.

### C1 Scallop SAFE and Plan Team Report

The Council reviewed the 2017 SAFE report for Alaska weathervane scallops. The Council’s SSC set the ABC at 1.161 million pounds of shucked scallops, a level equivalent to 90% of the OFL, and consistent with the ABC control rule for scallops. While the ABC is specified federally for the entire stock, guideline harvest levels (GHLs) are established by ADF&G for the State’s scallop registration areas and districts. Constraining harvest to the GHLs is facilitated by State monitoring of fishery CPUE, and districts are closed to scallop harvest when catch rates fall below established minimum performance standards.

More than 85% of the total Alaska scallop harvest occurs in the Yakutat and Kodiak registration areas. Catch rates have been variable among those areas with increases occurring in Yakutat, but decreases in Kodiak. Declines have been strongest in the Shelikof District of Kodiak and the State lowered GHLs

there by about 30% (105k lbs to 75k lbs) in the 2015/16 season. While overall declines have occurred in statewide scallop harvest over the past seven years, revenue has been stable. The stock status of Alaska weathervane scallops is not viewed as a conservation concern since scallops are distributed in many areas that have been closed to fishing to protect crab populations and in areas not defined as commercial beds.

Staff contact is Jim Armstrong.

## C2 Salmon FMP Amendment

The Council was presented with a discussion paper that provided a preliminary review of the steps needed to impose federal jurisdiction over portions of three traditional salmon net fishing areas currently managed by the State of Alaska. These net areas include federal waters in Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and the South Alaska Peninsula.

The Council's existing Salmon FMP divides federal waters off Alaska into two management areas, East and West, with a boundary line at Cape Suckling. The FMP delegates management of salmon sport fishing and commercial trolling in the East Area to the State and prohibits all commercial salmon harvest in the West Area. Commercial salmon fishing in federal water portions of the traditional net areas would be prohibited since they partially overlap with federal waters of the West Area but these areas are specifically excluded from the federal FMP. This arrangement was facilitated by the Council through Amendment 12 to the Salmon FMP in 2012 recognizing the State's superior ability to respond to in-season data by quickly and continually adjusting run-specific harvest measures.

In 2013, Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishermen and seafood processors desiring federal management of their fisheries filed a lawsuit challenging Amendment 12 and its implementing regulations. Although the Federal District Court did not support their claim, they appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court which overturned the initial finding in 2016. Adding these three net areas (not just Cook Inlet) to the Federal FMP is, therefore, a necessary response to the Ninth Circuit Court's determination that their exclusion is contrary to the MSA.

The Council acted on this issue by directing staff to provide further analysis and to work with ADF&G to develop alternatives to amend the Salmon FMP. The Council provided a preliminary range of alternatives that included 1) no action, 2) cooperative Federal and State management with as much delegation to the State as possible under the MSA, and 3) full federal management of federal water portions of the three net areas.

Under any Council action on this issue, management of salmon fishing in state waters will remain under full jurisdiction of the State of Alaska. After their review of the requested further analysis, the Council intends to form a stakeholder workgroup to ensure public access and input during development of the amendment.

Staff contact is Jim Armstrong.

## C3 Pollock ICA/IPA Reports and Salmon Genetics

The Council received genetics reports on the stock of origin of Chinook and chum salmon bycatch in the 2015 Bering Sea pollock fishery, the GOA pollock fishery, GOA rockfish (and arrowtooth) CV trawl fishery and the GOA non-pollock CP trawl fisheries. The Council requested that the salmon genetics inter-agency working group hold a public workshop to facilitate industry feedback on appropriate spatial and temporal resolution or other analyses to facilitate industry bycatch avoidance. The Council also requested that the workgroup consider a feasibility study to collect adipose fin status and otoliths in the Gulf of Alaska rockfish fishery to help inform the relative contributions to overall bycatch from hatcheries. Additional requests for further analyses are contained in the SSC minutes and the Council motion available online.

The Council also received annual reports from the pollock industry on their 2016 incentive plan agreements (IPA) for Chinook salmon avoidance in the Bering Sea. A report on the chum salmon avoidance by the pollock fleet under the inter-cooperative agreement (ICA) was also presented. Following this year, in accordance with regulatory changes under amendment 110, chum salmon bycatch avoidance will be incorporated into sector-specific IPAs.

Staff contact is Diana Stram.

## C4 Co-op Reporting

At the April meeting, the Council reviewed cooperative reports for the Amendment 80 Program, Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program, American Fisheries Act Program, and BSAI Crab Rationalization Program. As part of the cooperative programs, cooperatives have provided annual written reports detailing the use of the cooperative quota or addressing other specific areas of Council interest. These reports create a dialogue between the Council and industry groups outside of what can be discerned from just available statistical data. The Council expressed their appreciation to the cooperative managers for work gone into the written reports and the initiative to provide oral presentations. The Council underscored the importance of participation to those cooperatives in the crab program that chose not to submit. The Council made no requests for additional information to be included in the cooperative reports. Copies of the cooperative reports are available on the Council website.

Staff contacts are Jon McCracken and Sarah Marrinan.

## C5 Central GOA Rockfish Program Review Workplan

The Council reviewed the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program work plan and recommended that staff proceed with the proposed development of an initial review document. The program review document will include recommendations outlined in the SSC and AP minutes and discussions to the extent possible. Currently the program review document is scheduled to be presented at the October 2017 Council meeting.

The proposed Central GOA Rockfish Program review is required under Section 303A(c)(1)(G) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act. That provision states that all Limited Access Privilege Programs must include a formal and detailed 5 years after implementation of the program. The program review document is intended to fulfill the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act requirements.

Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

## C6 EFH Amendments

The Council took final action in April to modify the Council's BSAI Groundfish, GOA Groundfish, BSAI King and Tanner Crab, Salmon, and Arctic FMPs to update descriptions and maps of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), and to update recommendations for non-fishing activities that may affect EFH. The Council reviewed an Environmental Assessment (EA) that examined the potential impacts to the human environment from 8 actions to update EFH definitions in the Council's FMPs, update recommendations for non-fishing activities, consider initiating a process to identify Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC), and update EFH research priorities in the FMPs. The Council elected to take no action to initiate the HAPC process, or to update EFH research priorities. The Environmental Assessment concluded that there were no significant impacts to the human environment from any of the alternatives analyzed for the 8 actions. The Council motion passed 10-0, with one recusal.

The 2017 update to EFH incorporated model-based definitions and maps of EFH for the BSAI Groundfish, GOA Groundfish, BSAI King and Tanner Crab, Salmon, and Arctic FMPs, and incorporated results from the Fishing Effects model to assess the impacts of commercial fishing on EFH. These new

models make use of considerable new data available since the last EFH review in 2010, and incorporate the Catch-In-Areas (CIA) database to describe fishing effort with greater precision than previously allowed. The Ecosystem Committee, AP, and SSC all recommended updates to EFH, and recommended that the analysis be accepted as initial and final review. The action taken by the Council concludes the EFH review, the next review is scheduled for 2022.

Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

## C7 Halibut Abundance-based PSC Limits

The Council has tasked an inter-agency workgroup of NMFS AKR, NMFS AFSC, IPHC, and Council staff to develop abundance-based approaches for BSAI halibut PSC limits, building upon previous work by IPHC staff. The workgroup has met numerous times and has produced two different discussion papers (in April 2016 and again in October 2016) to provide information necessary to establish abundance-based PSC limits as well as to provide draft index and control rule formulations for Council consideration. Per Council direction, two different stakeholder workshops have also been held, the most recent in conjunction with the February 2017 Council meeting. The Council reviewed the recent discussion paper which builds upon these previous papers with direction as provided by the Council and the SSC in October. This discussion paper addressed the Council's October requests for further development of indices and control rules as well as incorporated feedback from the workshop held in February 2017.

The Council made several requests for the workgroup to incorporate into an expanded discussion paper, including much of the feedback received from the SSC. These include suggestions on alternative approaches for estimating recruitment, stock status of halibut, providing additional rationale and analysis for each proposed index as well as an analysis of the step-wise inclusion of each index in combination for the proposed abundance-based management (ABM) alternative examples provided. As an interim step towards the preliminary analysis of these indices by the workgroup in October, the workgroup will provide draft measurable objectives and performance metrics building upon feedback from the February workshop for review and consideration in June. These will include those draft metrics by which the workgroup would analyze the proposed indices as well as a methodology to analyze the combined indices (for October). The workgroup will also provide some additional information requests regarding the characteristics of the individual indices as well as an outline of the information to be included in the expanded discussion paper for October to allow for further feedback on these aspects at the June meeting.

Staff contact is Diana Stram.

## C8 CDQ Ownership Caps

The Council took final action on a housekeeping amendment package that would revise the American Fisheries Act (AFA) Program and the Crab Rationalization (CR) Program ownership attribution regulations and the Crab Fisheries Management Plan to provide for the different requirements for the CDQ groups, as distinguished from other program participants, which is mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Act (as amended by the Coast Guard Act). Specifically, this action would remove the application of the "10-percent" rule for the CDQ groups and replace it with the proportional "individual and collective" rule. Since the 2006 amendment to the Magnuson-Stevens Act mandating the use of the individual and collective rule for CDQ groups, NMFS implemented this modification in practice by using the individual and collective rule but has not revised the AFA or CR Program regulations or the Crab FMP. This action would revise the regulations and the Crab FMP to make them consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act. It would not change current management practice.

Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

## C9 Electronic Monitoring

The Council reviewed the Electronic Monitoring (EM) Workgroup report from their March 2017 meeting. In addition to discussing how the 2017 program is working, a workplan for giving public input on the statement of work for an EM contract, and planning for the transition of the current EM pre-implementation program to an integrated Observer Program, the Workgroup also reviewed the EM Integration action proposed rule and the scope of the 2018 EM deployment pool. The Council [motion](#) addressed two areas:

- The Council requests that the agency develop an EM program for 2018 that is generally similar to EM deployment in 2017, except that the Council supports expanding the size of the EM pool in 2018 to accommodate up to 120 longline vessels and up to 45 pot vessels, provided there is funding to support this pool size.
- The Council directed staff to submit comments to the agency on behalf of the Council on the EM Integration Proposed Rule, in line with the six areas highlighted by the [consensus of the EM Workgroup](#).

The Council also heard in testimony that there is continued interested in applying EM to the trawl fisheries. The Council has previously issued a statement in support of pilot projects testing EM in the GOA trawl fisheries, in June 2016. The Council encourages proposals for testing EM in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, which will build largely on the ongoing use of EM for compliance monitoring of full retention in the west coast whiting fishery, to also consider how that work could apply to the use of EM in the GOA pollock fisheries, or even to bottom trawl fisheries in both areas.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## C10 Lead Level 2 Observers

The Council selected a preliminary preferred alternative in an analysis to address the potential for a shortage of fixed-gear lead level 2 (LL2) observers for deployment on freezer longline vessels. The majority of freezer longline vessels operate under monitoring requirements that require them to have at-sea scales and carry a single LL2 observer onboard at all times when the Pacific cod fishery is open in the BSAI. Vessel owners and observer coverage providers have reported challenges with LL2 observer availability, the consequence of which can be that the vessel has to delay fishing (with attendant cost).

The Council's preliminary preferred alternative would allow sampling experience on trawl catcher processors to count toward qualifying for a fixed gear LL2 endorsement, with the addition of a fixed-gear-specific training class. This alternative would open up the number of eligible observers available to deploy on freezer longline vessels, while ensuring that the vessels continue to be monitored by experienced observers. The Council also expanded the application of these alternatives to all fixed gear vessels that have a LL2 requirement.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

### Observer Partial Coverage Selection Rates

In October 2016, the Council highlighted its concern about the low 2017 [partial coverage observer selection rates](#), and requested that NMFS begin to consider approaches to address them. During staff tasking at this meeting, the Council expanded on that request by establishing a Council process to develop options to increase observer coverage rates, through the Observer Advisory Committee. The Council noted that the schedule for providing input to the statement of work for the next partial coverage observer provider contract is set, and therefore any recommendations that should be reflected in the contract need to be developed before October 2017. The Council requests that recommendations focus on increasing

economic efficiencies in the partial coverage program, making operational changes that increase the utility of current coverage levels, and increasing revenues for funding the program.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## Vacancies on the OAC

The Council is looking to fill vacancies on its Observer Advisory Committee (OAC). In particular, the Council is interested in appointing an active observer, and will also consider individuals with expertise in CDQ fisheries and/or processors. Interested persons should contact Diana Evans at the Council office by May 10, ideally with a view to being able to attend the next OAC meeting in Seattle on May 23-24, 2017.

## D1 BSAI Crab Binding Arbitration Formula

The Council considered a discussion paper on the non-binding price formula that is part of the Arbitration System in the Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands crab rationalization program. The discussion paper reviewed the current criteria used by the non-binding price formula arbitrator to aid the Council in determining whether operational cost changes to the participants in the crab fisheries should be considered in setting the non-binding price formula.

The Council had extensive discussion on the type of action that was appropriate in response to this discussion paper. A motion was made to send a letter to formula arbitrator, which would have stated that the formula arbitrator can consider operational costs under the existing standards for arbitration. This motion failed. Some Council members stated that they believed that the formula arbitrator already has the ability to consider operational costs under the existing standards for arbitration. They were concerned that sending a letter could be misconstrued as justification for the inclusion of a certain operational cost, rather than a clarification that appropriate operational costs could be considered under the existing standards. Other Council members considered this to be a change to the policy interpretation of the standards, which may require more extensive analysis and a regulatory amendment package. Some Council members also expressed concern about the legal interpretation of the current arbitration standards and the formula arbitrator's ability to consider operational costs.

Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

## D2 BSAI Tanner Crab Custom Processing Cap

At this meeting, the Council reviewed a discussion paper that evaluated additional solutions to the *C. bairdi* crab IPQ use cap issue. The Council recommended no further action on this agenda item at this time. The discussion paper provided a brief analysis of three options: 1) raise the *C. bairdi* crab IPQ use cap to 40 percent; 2) convert Class A IFQ shares to Class B IFQ shares; and 3) apply exemption only in years when capacity to process is not sufficient (i.e., when there are less than four processors). The provided discussion paper evaluated these options under a scenario where Amendment 47 was repealed and one of these options would replace it. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

## D3 BS Fishery Ecosystem Plan

The Council received a report from staff about progress with developing the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP). The report addressed how the Council's [preliminary outline for the FEP](#), adopted in December 2015 is consistent with more recent national guidance from NMFS, in the form of an [Ecosystem-based Fishery Management \(EBFM\) Roadmap](#), and Lenfest, which recently published a [report on Building Effective Fishery Ecosystem Plans](#). Dr. Phil Levin gave a presentation on the Lenfest report at the meeting.



The Council's Bering Sea FEP Team is preparing the core FEP document and a review of the Council's current EBFM approach (which is the Council's first action module) tentatively for review in October. The Team will continue to liaise with the Ecosystem Committee as the work progresses.

## D4 Programmatic Groundfish Objectives

The Council conducted its annual review of the Programmatic Groundfish Management Policy, as required under the GOA and BSAI Groundfish FMPs. The management policy was added to the FMPs through the 2004 Programmatic SEIS and reflects the Council's vision for management of these fisheries from an ecosystem based management perspective. The Council's anticipation that management of the groundfish fisheries will always be a dynamic process was built into the management policy and so annual review was identified as a necessary tool to ensure that management continues to be adaptive to changes in the fisheries and ecosystem. More specifically, annual review allows the Council to evaluate the adequacy of the Policy relative to current issues and concerns such that revisions, if necessary, can be identified. It also allows the Council to review its numerous actions and statements and whether those are fulfilling the Policy. Finally, it provides a framework for revision to the Council's workplan for the coming year.

The 2004 PSEIS included an exhaustive review of Alaska groundfish fisheries and the components of the ecosystem affected by those fisheries. The policy itself is comprised of a management approach statement, nine general priorities, and 45 management objectives. Each of these components was discussed as a part of the review. The Council found that its Policy continues to guide development of actions that are consistent with the vision identified during its development: Management that is judicious and responsible, based on sound scientific research and analyses, proactive rather than reactive, and adaptive to changing conditions. The Council also found numerous areas of activity outside of the Groundfish FMPs that were developed using the framework established by the Groundfish Management Policy. These include the AIFEP, the Arctic FMP, and current the progress on the BSFEP. The programmatic workplan, provided at every Council meeting, continues to serve as a bridge between the Policy and current Council activities. Although the Council anticipates that the Management Policy will likely need to be revised at some point as circumstances continue to change, this year's annual review confirmed the ongoing legitimacy of the Policy relative to current priorities and circumstances.

Staff contact is Jim Armstrong.

## E Staff Tasking

In addition to discussing the relative priority of previously tasked projects, the Council initiated new actions and clarified direction and tasking for its various committees. The Council also took the following actions:

- Tasked staff to prepare a discussion paper that provides a synthesis of population and vital rate information for northern fur seals, to better understand current trends and impediments to population recovery.
- Tasked staff to prepare a discussion paper that evaluates participation in the Bering sea Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel fishery in response to a potential need to limit entry and participation.
- Initiated an analysis of evaluating increasing the GOA catcher vessel Chinook salmon PSC caps.
- Established a Council process for developing options for increasing observer coverage rates in the Partial coverage categories, beginning with recommendations from the OAC.
- Directed staff to send letters regarding: support for strengthening the UAF Quantitative Fisheries program, requesting information on the appointment process for commissioners and advisors to the North Pacific Fisheries Commission, support for the AFSC budget to provide for continued

abundance survey efforts, and information for the CCC to focus discussion on conflict of interest  
recusal determinations.

Motions are posted on the Council's agenda. Staff contact is David Witherell.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team:** April 24-26, Homer, AK

**Crab Plan Team:** May 2-5, Juneau, Alaska, Federal building

**Observer Advisory Committee:** May 23-24, AFSC, Seattle, WA

## Three Meeting Outlook

(attached)

**DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 4/19/2017**

June 5-13, 2017 Juneau, AK	October 2-10, 2017 Anchorage, Alaska	December 4-12, 2017 Anchorage, Alaska
Joint Meeting with IPHC  Lead Level 2 Observers: <b>Final Action</b> 2016 Observer Annual Report: <b>Review; Action as necessary</b> OAC Report  EFH Consultation Report Social Science Planning Team: <b>Update</b>  BSAI YFS TLA Fishery limited entry: <b>Final Action</b>  Allocation Review Triggers: <b>Discussion Paper</b>  AFA/non-AFA small sideboard elimination: <b>Discussion Paper</b>  Area 4 Halibut IFQ Leasing: <b>Final Action</b>  Halibut Abundance-based PSC limits (candidate performance metrics): <b>Action as necessary</b>  Best Scientific Information Available: Report  Stock Assessment Improvement Plan: Report  CPT Report; ABC/OFL for 3 stocks: <b>Final Action</b>  Squid to Ecosystem Component Category: <b>Final Action</b>  GOA Crab habitat conservation measures: <b>Disc paper</b>  5-year research priorities: <b>Finalize</b>	Alaska Climate Integrated Modeling (ACLIM): Update (T) Deep Sea Coral Program Report Northern fur seal synthesis: <b>Discussion paper</b>  2017 Observer and EM Annual Deployment Plan; Observer Committee and EMWG Reports Observer disembark location: <b>Initial Review</b> Halibut Decksorting EFP: <b>Review and approve (T)</b> BSAI Crab SAFE and ABC/OFL 6 stocks: <b>PT Report; final specs</b>  Groundfish Harvest Specifications: <b>PT Report; Initial Specs</b>  Fixed Gear CV Rockfish Retention: <b>Discussion paper</b> GOA Rockfish Program Review: <b>Review and Approve</b> Charter Halibut Annual Permit Registration: <b>Initial Review</b>  Mixing of guided and unguided halibut: <b>Initial Review</b>  Halibut Abundance-based PSC limits: <b>Discussion paper</b>  IFQ medical lease provision: <b>Discussion Paper</b> IFQ beneficiary designation provision: <b>Discussion Paper</b> IFQ small unfishable quota: <b>Data review</b> IFQ quota migration: <b>Data review</b> Bering Sea FEP: <b>Initial Review (T)</b>  Salmon FMP Amendment: <b>Action as necessary</b>  WGOA Pcod A season halibut PSC rates: <b>Discussion Paper</b> WGOA pollock C/D season timing Chinook PSC: <b>Disc paper</b> WGOA pollock trip limits: <b>Discussion paper</b>	BS cod trawl CV participation: <b>Discussion paper (T)</b>  Stranded Cod in GOA Trawl B Season: <b>Discussion paper (T)</b>  Groundfish Harvest Specifications: <b>PT Report; Final Specs</b>  GOA CV Chinook PSC limit adjustments: <b>Initial Review</b>  2018 Charter halibut management measures: <b>Final Action</b>  Charter Halibut Permit Ownership Caps: <b>Discussion paper (T)</b>  Charter Halibut Permit Latent Capacity: <b>Discussion paper (T)</b>  <div style="background-color: yellow; text-align: center;"><b>ITEMS BELOW NOT YET SCHEDULED</b></div> Remove WAI Red King Crab from FMP: <b>Initial Review</b> Bering Sea Snow Crab PSC Limits: <b>Initial Review</b> Observer Insurance Requirements: <b>Disc paper for Reg Am</b> Clarify LLP CV and CP Requirements (NMFS)

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  
 GHLL - 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**

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, Kodiak  
 October 1-9, 2018, Anchorage  
 December 3-11, 2018, Anchorage  
 February 4-12, 2019, Portland  
 April 1-9, 2019, Anchorage

**(T) = Tentative**