

Meeting Summary

225th Plenary Session  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK

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Attachments (8)

- 1) GOA Specs
- 2) PSC Limits
- 3) BSAI Specs
- 4) BSAI PSC Limits
- 5) CDQ ABC Reserves
- 6) GOA & BSAI DMR's
- 7) Time Log
- 8) Newsletter

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in October at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 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	Duncan Fields	David Long
Sam Cotten/Nicole Kimball	Dave Hanson	Bill Tweit
Craig Cross	Roy Hyder	CAPT Phillip Thorne
John Lepore (NOAA General Council)	Andy Mezirow	

#### **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	Matt Robinson (Sea Grant Fellow)	

#### **Scientific and Statistical Committee**

The SSC met from October 5<sup>th</sup> through October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Members present were:

<b>Farron Wallace, Chair</b> <i>NOAA Fisheries – AFSC</i>	<b>Robert Clark, Vice Chair</b> <i>ADF&amp;G</i>	<b>Chris Anderson</b> <i>UAF (Fairbanks)</i>
<b>Jennifer Burns</b> <i>UAA (Anchorage)</i>	<b>Sherri Dressel</b> <i>ADF&amp;G</i>	<b>Brad Harris</b> <i>APU (Anchorage)</i>
<b>Anne Hollowed</b> <i>NOAA – AFSC</i>	<b>George Hunt</b> <i>UW (Seattle)</i>	<b>Seth Macinko</b> <i>URI (Rhode Island)</i>
<b>Steve Martell</b> <i>IPHC</i>	<b>Lew Queirolo</b> <i>NOAA – AK Region</i>	<b>Lew Coggins</b> <i>U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife</i>
<b>Kate Reedy</b> <i>ISU (Pocatello)</i>	<b>Matt Reimer</b> <i>UAA (Anchorage)</i>	<b>Kari Fenske</b> <i>Dept. F&amp;W (Washington)</i>
<b>Franz Mueter</b> <i>UAF (Fairbanks)</i>	<b>Gordon Kruse</b> <i>UAF (Fairbanks)</i>	<b>Alison Whitman</b> <i>Dept. F&amp;W (Oregon)</i>

#### **Advisory Panel**

The AP met from October 6<sup>th</sup> through October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Members present were:

Ruth Christiansen (Chair)	Jeff Kauffman	Joel Peterson
Kurt Cochran	Mitch Kilborn	Theresa Peterson
John Crowley	Alexus Kwachka	Sinclair Wilt
Jerry Downing	Craig Lowenberg	Jeff Stephan
Jeff Farvour	Chuck McCallum	Matt Upton (Co-Vice Chair)
Art Nelson	Dan Donich	Anne Vanderhoeven
John Gruver	Paddy O'Donnell	Ernie Weiss (Co-Vice Chair)

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Council unanimously elected Dan Hull Chairman, and Bil Tweit as Vice-Chairman.

## B REPORTS

The following reports were given and heavily discussed. Public Comment was taken on item B1 and B2 items. No action was taken.

B1 Executive Director's Report – Chris Oliver  
B2 NMFS Management Report – Glenn Merrill  
B3 ADF&G Report – Karla Bush  
B4 USCG Report – CAPT Phillip Thorne, LCDR Corrie Sargent  
B5 USFWS Report  
B6 Protected Species Report - Steve MacLean

## C1 CRAB MANAGEMENT

The Council heard Presentations on the SAFE and received a Crab Plan Team Report. The following actions were taken:

**Commissioner Cotten made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Kinneen:**

The Council moves to accept the BSAI Crab SAFE report and adopts the SSC's recommendations for OFLs and ABCs for snow crab, Tanner crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, Saint Matthew blue king crab, Pribilof Island red king crab and Pribilof Island blue king crab.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes 9/0 October 8, 2015 at 8:50 a.m.

## C2 GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

The Council heard presentations from NPFMC staff Diana Stram and Jim Armstrong. The following actions were taken:

**Mr. Cross made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Fields:**

The Council adopts the proposed Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC for 2016 and 2017 and set TACs as shown in Item 4 in the action memo, with final TACs from 2016 rolled over for proposed 2016 and 2017 TACs. Proposed federal TACs for 2016 and 2017 for Pacific cod have been revised to account for the State cod fisheries.

The Council adopts the 2016 and 2017 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the Gulf of Alaska as provided in Tables 9, 10, and 11 for Item 6 in the action

memo.

The Council adopts the proposed Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC for 2016 and 2017 and set TACs as shown in Item 2, with final TACs from 2016 rolled over for proposed 2016 and 2017 TACs.

The Council adopts BSAI PSC specifications as shown in Tables 8, 9, 10 and 11 listed as HANDOUT: C2 BSAI PSC limits.pdf on the Council's Granicus Agenda. The Council recommends that the Council adopt Table 7 in Item 3a for ABC reserves for flathead sole, yellowfin sole, and rock sole.

The Council adopts the proposed Discard Mortality Rates (DMRs) for 2016 and 2017 for the GOA and BSAI as shown below.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes 11/0 October 8, 2015 at 11:50 a.m.

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

The Council will form a workgroup and begin discussion and development of stock structure and spatial management for BSAI and GOA with an emphasis to begin the discussion with BSAI Blackspotted/Rougheye rockfish.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes with no objection October 8, 2015 at 12:11 p.m.

**Mr. Cross made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Mezirow:**

The Council supports the Plan Team and SSC recommendations that the squid assessment for November include different approaches for establishing OFL, fishing mortality and using survey biomass as a minimal biomass estimate

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes no objection October 8, 2015 at 12:13 p.m.

**Mr. Fields made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Balsiger:**

It is the Council's intent to review BSAI species specification setting in December recognizing a shared responsibility with the IPHC to maintain a viable commercial halibut fishery in Areas 4CDE for the sustained participation of Saint Paul and other Western Alaska communities. Further, it is the Council's intent to continue to minimize bycatch by assessing the adequacy of the Amendment 80 cooperatives bycatch savings agreements(s) as well as actual halibut bycatch savings up to the December specifications setting as the Council determines final species specifications for the 2016 season.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes 9/2 (Mr. Tweit and Mr. Cross) October 8, 2015 at 12:19 p.m.

### C3 PRIBILOF CANYON CORALS

The Council heard presentations from Alaska Fishery Science Center staff Mike Sigler and Chris Rooper as well as NPFMC staff Steve MacLean. The following actions were taken:

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

Scientific evidence does not suggest there is a risk to the deep-sea corals present in the Pribilof and Zhemchug canyons and adjacent slope areas under current management. This conclusion is based on both the coral abundance model developed by NOAA Fisheries and the recent stereo camera survey. The evidence shows low occurrence and density of deepsea corals, lack of substrate to support corals, and low vulnerability of existing deep-sea corals in these areas to fishery impacts. In order to be responsive to the purpose and need to evaluate the historical and current patterns of fishing effort, the Council requests the agency provide updated data on the distribution, intensity, and depth of fishing effort in locations of both known and predicted coral abundance. In order to provide continued monitoring of the current coral communities in the Bering Sea canyons and slope, the Council also requests that AFSC report in the Ecosystem SAFE, chapter: 1. Changes in coral frequency, composition and distribution in the trawl survey and chapter 2. Changes in trawl and fixed gear effort in areas of model predicted coral abundance.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes 11/0 October 9, 2015 at 8:05 a.m.

**Mr. Fields made the following substitute motion and was seconded by Mr. Long:**

Moves that the Council take no further action on this agenda item.

**VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Motion fails 3/8 (Mr. Tweit, Mr. Merrill, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Cross, Mr. Kinneen, Mr. Mezirow, Mr. Hull) October 9, 2015 at 8:27 a.m.

### C4 AI PACIFIC COD ALLOCATION – FINAL ACTION

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff Jon McCracken. The following actions were taken:

**Ms. Kimball made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Long:**

The Council recommends Alternative 2, with the following changes, as its preferred alternative (additions in **bold**, deletions in ~~striketrough~~):

**Alternative 2:** Prior to (options: March ~~1, 15, 21~~) the A season trawl CV Pacific cod harvest in the Bering Sea shall be limited to an amount equal to the BSAI aggregate CV trawl sector A season allocation minus the lessor of the AI directed Pacific cod non-CDQ TAC or (options: ~~3,000 mt~~, **5,000 mt**, ~~7,000 mt~~). Directed fishing for **non-CDQ** AI Pacific cod is prohibited for all vessels except CVs delivering to shoreplants west of 170° longitude in the AI prior to (options: March ~~1, 7, 15~~), **unless restrictions are removed earlier under Option 3 or 4 below. If the non-CDQ AI Pacific cod TAC is taken before these dates, the restriction on**

**the trawl CV Pacific cod harvest in the Bering Sea is suspended for the remainder of the year at that time.**

**Option 1:** Any amount of the AI **directed** Pacific cod non-CDQ TAC above the amount set aside from the trawl CV BSAI allocation may be available to any sector for directed fishing and is not subject to the regional delivery requirement.

**Option 2:** ~~If less than 50% of the AI Pacific cod non-CDQ TAC has been landed shoreside by (options: February 28, March 7, 15), the restriction on the delivery to other processors and the restriction on the trawl CV sector allocation shall be removed.~~

**Option 3:** If less than 1,000 mt of the AI Pacific cod non-CDQ TAC has been landed shoreside **at AI shoreplants** by (options: February 21, **28**) the restriction on delivery to other processors and the restriction on the trawl CV sector allocation shall be suspended for the remainder of the year.

**Option 4:** If prior to (options: **November 1**, ~~December 15~~), neither the City of Adak nor the City of Atka have notified NMFS of the intent to process **non-CDQ directed AI** Pacific cod in the upcoming year, the Aleutian Islands shoreside delivery requirement **and restriction on the trawl CV sector allocation** is suspended for the upcoming year. Cities can voluntarily provide notice prior to the selected date if they do not intend to process.

~~Option 5: Any processor that has processed cod in the Aleutian Islands management area in at least 12 years between 2000 and 2014 shall be exempt from these restrictions for processing levels up to 2,000 mt.~~

Shoreplant is defined as a processing facility physically located on land.

**AMENDMENT TO MOTION:** Mr. Twiet moves to amend the following and was seconded by Mr. Fields.

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 therefor 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 TO MOTION:** Amendment passes unanimously October 9, 2015 at 4:28 p.m.

**VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:** Motion passes 8/3 (Mr. Twiet, Mr. Cross, Mr. Hyder)  
October 9, 2015 4:29 at p.m.

## C5 ELECTRONIC MONITORING WORKGROUP 2016

The Council heard from NPFMC staff Diana Evans present on the 2016 Electronic Pre-Implementation Plan. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council approves the draft 2016 Electronic Monitoring Pre-implementation Plan, and supports the EM Workgroup's suggestions for next priorities for EM implementation, which are for longliners under 40 ft, longliners over 57.5 ft, and vessels fishing with pot gear.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes no objection October 9, 2015 5:22 at p.m.

(Note – Public Testimony taken out of place at 5:08 p.m. by Dan Falvey)

## C6 OBSERVER PROGRAM 2016 ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT PLAN

The Council heard presentations on the Annual Report and EM Workgroup 2016 Recommendations from NMFS AFSC Observer Program staff Dr. Craig Faunce and Chris Rilling. NPFMC staff Diana Evans presented on the Observer Advisory Committee report. The following actions were taken.

**Ms. Kimball made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Kinneen:**

The Council recommends the following for the draft 2016 Annual Deployment Plan:

- Use the trip-selection method to assign observers to vessels in partial coverage in 2016.
- Deploy observers in the trip-selection pool by gear in 2016, with optimal allocation. Support the following preliminary coverage rates resulting from this stratification:

Trawl (29%)

Longline (14%)

Pot (14%)

The no selection pool would include catcher vessels <40 ft LOA; vessels fishing with jig gear; and fixed gear vessels that participate in the 2016 electronic monitoring (EM) cooperative research.

- No temporary exemptions from observer coverage are allowed due to insufficient life raft capacity, given the option for these vessels to be in the electronic monitoring pool in 2016.
- Continue the policy (programming in ODDS) that prevents a 40 – 57.5' fixed gear vessel from being selected for a third consecutive observed trip.
- Maintain the ability for vessels to log up to three trips in advance in ODDS.



- Modify eLandings to enable the ODDS trip number to be entered voluntarily 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.
- Allow BSAI cod trawl catcher vessels to opt-in to full coverage and carry an observer at all times when fishing in the BSAI.
- Continue to conduct outreach in fall and winter 2015/2016, with efforts to meet in Kodiak earlier than the proposed April 2016.

The Council also supports the OAC's recommendations with regard to the status of analytical projects related to the observer program.

The Council requests that Observer Program staff evaluate different weighting schemes in the sampling design based on gear with optimal allocation, such that discards are weighted more heavily than retained catch, for the draft 2017 annual deployment plan.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes no objection October 10, 2015 at 1:37 p.m.

## **C7 OBSERVER COVERAGE ON BSAI TRAWL CVs**

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff Sam Cunningham and Sustainable Fisheries' staff Alicia Miller. The following actions were taken:

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

Add a new suboption under Alternative 3

**Suboption 3** -- Vessels must opt-in to full (100%) coverage by October 15 of the previous year.

The Council identifies the following preliminary preferred alternative:

**Alternative 3** – Allow trawl catcher vessels currently assigned to partial observer coverage to voluntarily choose full (100%) observer coverage for all fishing in the BSAI, and

**Suboption 1** – Vessels must opt-in to full (100%) coverage by July 1 of the previous year.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes no objection October 10, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

## C8 GOA TRAWL BYCATCH MANAGEMENT

The Council heard presentations from NPFMC staff Sam Cunningham and NPFMC's contractor, Darrell Brannan. The following actions were taken:

**Commissioner Cotten made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Fields:**

The Council approves the following alternative for inclusion in the Gulf of Alaska trawl bycatch management program analysis and revisions to the purpose and need statement. This alternative would apportion Chinook salmon and halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limits to voluntary inshore trawl cooperatives, based on their member vessels. The analysis should evaluate: how well such a program may meet the Council's stated objectives; methods for distributing PSC to cooperatives; approaches for cooperative formation; consolidation controls; effects on processors, communities, and harvesters; and additional decision points necessary for implementation. The result is intended to further the Council's objective of advancing bycatch reduction and management and provide industry with additional tools to adapt to present and future management needs. The paper should also discuss whether such a program would be subject to the Limited Access Privilege Program provisions under Section 303A of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

The following elements comprise **Alternative 4** for a Gulf of Alaska Trawl Bycatch Management Program for trawl catcher vessels in the Western Gulf, Central Gulf and West Yakutat areas:

### **1. Observer Coverage and Monitoring**

All trawl vessels in the GOA will be in the 100% observer coverage category (or carry electronic monitoring at such time it is a regulated option for trawl vessels), whether they participate in the voluntary cooperative structure or the limited access fishery with trawl gear. The Council authorizes NMFS to report weekly vessel-level bycatch information as authorized under MSA Sec 402(b)(2)(A). NMFS will develop monitoring and enforcement provisions necessary to track cooperative allocations of PSC.

### **2. Sector allocations of target species**

Allocations to the trawl sectors for WG and CG Pacific cod (Am 83), CGOA rockfish program (Am 88), and GOA pollock (Am 23) are maintained. GOA flatfish eligibility for the trawl CP sector under Am 80 is maintained.

#### Pollock and cod apportionments:

Option 1.        Revise the GOA-wide pollock apportionments to 30% (A); 30% (B); 20% (C); 20% (D)

Option 2.        Modify the pollock fishery to two seasons: Jan 20 to June 10 and June 10 to Nov 1.

(If selected with Option 1, the seasonal split would be 60%/40%).

None of the options change the distribution of GOA pollock among Areas 610, 620, or 630 as established through the specifications process.

Option 3. Modify the trawl cod fishery seasons: Jan 20 – June 10 and June 10 – Nov 1. No change to the A and B seasonal allocations.

### **3. Sector allocations of PSC**

#### Chinook salmon:

The pollock trawl CV Chinook salmon PSC limit is:

Option 1. 25,000 (status quo based on Am 93)

Option 2. 18,750 (25% reduction)

The non-pollock/non-rockfish trawl CV Chinook salmon PSC limit is 2,700 (status quo based on GOA Am 97). Any Chinook salmon PSC caught in WY comes off of the (cooperative or limited access fishery) Chinook salmon PSC limit. The CG rockfish program Chinook PSC limit for the trawl CV sector is 1,200 (status quo based on Am 97). The Chinook salmon PSC limit for the trawl CP fishery is 3,600 (status quo based on Am 97); any Chinook salmon PSC caught by CPs in the GOA accrues to this limit.

#### Halibut:

The apportionment of the halibut PSC limit between the CP and CV sectors will be based on halibut PSC use by each sector during:

Option 1. 2008 - 2012

Option 2. 2007 – 2012

Option 3. 2003 - 2012

The halibut PSC limit (excluding the CG rockfish program) for each (CP and CV) sector is reduced by:

Option 1. 10% (phased in over a two-year period)

Option 2. 15% (phased in over a three-year period)

Option 3. 20% (phased in over a three-year period)

Option 4. 25% (phased in over a three-year period)

Different percentage reductions can be applied to the CP and CV sectors.

All CPs operating in the GOA are subject to the CP halibut PSC limit. The CP halibut PSC limit is not further divided by area (CG/WG). Vessels can only be in one sector (i.e., vessels with CP licenses that have delivered shoreside during the selected years can elect to be in the CV sector and deliver their catch shoreside).

#### Rockfish Program PSC:

Option: Any Rockfish Program halibut or Chinook salmon PSC that would roll over for use in other trawl CV fisheries under the current rules (after the set aside for halibut savings) can be transferred to the trawl CV cooperatives through inter-cooperative transfer.

#### 4. Voluntary inshore cooperative structure

- a. Cooperative eligibility: Shoreside processors with an eligible FPP and harvesters with an eligible FPP and a CV trawl LLP or a CP trawl LLP that did not process catch onboard during the years selected above. Eligible harvesters must have the applicable area endorsement to use PSC apportioned to the cooperative in that area.
- b. PSC species allocated to the cooperative are halibut and Chinook salmon, divided first by area (WG and CG/WY) based on historical PSC use (*options: 2003 – 2012; 2007 – 2012; 2008 - 2012*). Once in the cooperative, PSC can be used to support any target fisheries within the cooperative in that area at any time (no seasonal PSC apportionments). PSC would be apportioned to the cooperatives as follows (a different option may be selected for each area, WG and CG/WY):

Option 1. Equal shares. Annually apportion PSC limits to each cooperative on an equal share basis relative to the number of member vessels in the cooperative.

Suboption: The non-pollock Chinook salmon PSC limit and halibut PSC limit would first be divided between cod and flatfish landings, before allocating equal shares per vessel to each cooperative. A vessel must have historical target cod and/or flatfish landings in order to receive a PSC apportionment associated with the flatfish and/or cod fishery.

Option 2. Vessel capacity. Apportion halibut PSC and Chinook salmon PSC limits to each cooperative on a pro rata basis relative to the capacity of the vessel assigned to the cooperative member's LLP the first year it enters a cooperative. The vessel capacity to determine the PSC apportionment associated with that LLP does not change in subsequent years.

Suboption: Vessel capacity is based on highest GOA groundfish landing associated with the license on which the vessel is designated during 2008 – 2012 (or most recent 5 years of landings).

Option 3. (can be selected with Option 1 or 2 above): Each processor controls a portion of the annual PSC [options: 5% - 20%] within a cooperative associated with its member vessels.

Each processor would assign the incremental PSC to vessels in the cooperative under the terms of the cooperative agreement. PSC made available by these agreements cannot be used by vessels owned by the processor (a vessel with more than 10% ownership by a processor using individual and collective rules for determining ownership).

Suboption 1: Cooperatives that consist exclusively of processor-owned vessels are exempt from this prohibition.

Suboption 2: No prohibition on processor-owned vessels using processor-controlled PSC. Processor-owned vessels cannot access an amount of the cooperative's processor-controlled PSC greater than the amount they brought into the cooperative.

- c. Participants can choose to either join a cooperative or operate in a limited access fishery on an annual basis. Harvesters would need to be in a cooperative with a processor by November 1 of the previous season to access a transferable PSC allocation. A trawl CV license holder can be in one cooperative per region (WG and CG/WY) on an annual basis.

Option 1: Cooperative formation requires at least [options: 2 – 5] vessels with a CV trawl LLP.

Option 2: One cooperative for CG/WY and one cooperative for WG (more than one processor is allowed in each cooperative)

- d. Each cooperative would be required to have an annual cooperative contract filed with NMFS by November 1 of the previous year. Cooperative members shall internally allocate and manage the cooperative's PSC allocation per the cooperative contract. Cooperatives are intended only to conduct and coordinate harvest activities of the members and are not FCMA cooperatives.
- e. The annual cooperative contract must include:
  - Bylaws and rules for the operation of the cooperative
  - Annual fishing plan
  - Operational plan for monitoring and minimizing PSC, with vessel-level accountability
  - Provisions that prohibit, on a species or species group basis (pollock, cod, flatfish), an LLP holder/vessel that has had PSC allocated to the cooperative for that species or species group from receiving economic benefits from the cooperative for PSC quota use unless the vessel actively participates in the fishery for which the cooperative was awarded PSC. Active participation shall be determined by the cooperative agreement but shall not be less than 3 annual deliveries per species or species group (pollock, cod, flatfish).
  - Specification that processor affiliated harvesters cannot participate in price-setting negotiations except as permitted by general anti-trust law.
- f. Cooperative members are jointly and severally responsible for cooperative vessels harvesting in the aggregate no more than their cooperative's PSC allowances, as may be adjusted by annual inter-cooperative transfers.
- g. Cooperatives will submit a written report annually to the Council and NMFS. Specific criteria for reporting shall be developed by the Council and specified by NMFS as part of the program implementing regulations.
- h. Permit post-delivery transfers of annual PSC among cooperatives. All post-delivery transfers must be completed by December 31.

## **5. Transferability and consolidation limits**

(Annually) Allow transferability of PSC cooperative quota for annual use within the cooperative. Limit the amount of each species of annual PSC cooperative quota a person can use in the cooperative to (options: 110% - 150%) of what they brought into the cooperative.

Cooperatives can engage in inter-cooperative transfers of PSC to other cooperatives on an annual basis. Inter-cooperative transfers must be processed and approved by NMFS. Limit the amount of annual PSC cooperative quota a cooperative can transfer to another cooperative to no more than (option: 10% - 50%) of the initial cooperative allocation.

(Long-term) LLPs are transferable. PSC cannot be permanently transferred separately from a license or vessel.

## **6. Limited access trawl CV fishery**

If a license holder chooses not to join a cooperative, it may fish in the limited access fishery with an eligible FFP and LLP endorsed for GOA trawl. Vessels must pre-register to operate in the limited access fishery by November 1 of the previous year.

Option 1. Sector-level PSC limits. PSC limits in the limited access fishery will retain status quo apportionments by area, season, and/or fishery. Halibut and Chinook salmon PSC limits are annually apportioned to the limited access fishery (sector-level) based on the number of vessels that are not assigned to a cooperative, using the same method selected for the cooperatives, as reduced by:

Suboption 1.	10%
Suboption 2.	20%
Suboption 3.	25%

Option 2. Individual PSC limits. Non-transferable halibut and Chinook salmon PSC limits are annually apportioned to the limited access fishery participants using the same method selected for the cooperatives, as reduced by:

Suboption 1.	10%
Suboption 2.	20%
Suboption 3.	25%

## **7. Program review**

A program review would be conducted five years after implementation and every seven years thereafter.

### **Revisions to the Purpose and Need Statement are in bold-underline and ~~strikeout~~:**

Management of Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish trawl fisheries has grown increasingly complicated in recent years due to the implementation of measures to protect Steller sea lions and reduced Pacific halibut and Chinook salmon Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits under variable annual total allowable catch (TACs) limits for target groundfish species. These changes complicate effective management of target and non-target resources, and can have significant adverse social and economic impacts on harvesters, processors, and fishery-dependent GOA coastal communities.

The current management tools in the GOA Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) do not provide the GOA trawl fleet with the ability to effectively address these challenges, especially with regard to the fleet's ability to best reduce and utilize PSC. As such, the Council has determined that consideration of a new management regime for the GOA trawl fisheries is warranted.

The purpose of the proposed action is to create a new management structure which allocates **prohibited species catch limits and/or** allowable harvest to individuals, cooperatives, or other entities, which will mitigate the impacts of a derby-style race for fish. It is expected to improve stock conservation by creating vessel-level and/or cooperative-level incentives to eliminate wasteful fishing practices, provide mechanisms to control and reduce bycatch, and create accountability measures when utilizing PSC, ~~target,~~ **and secondary species**. It will also **increase at-sea monitoring in the GOA trawl fisheries**, have the added benefit of reducing the incentive to fish during unsafe conditions, and ~~improving~~ operational efficiencies.

The Council recognizes that GOA harvesters, processors, and communities all have a stake in the groundfish trawl fisheries. The new program shall be designed to provide tools for the effective management and reduction of PSC and bycatch, and promote increased utilization of both target and secondary species harvested in the GOA. The program is also expected to increase the flexibility and economic efficiency of the GOA groundfish trawl fisheries and support the continued direct and indirect participation of the coastal communities that are dependent upon those fisheries. These management measures could apply to those species, or groups of species, harvested by trawl gear in the GOA, **and/or** ~~as well as~~ to PSC. This program will not modify the overall management of other sectors in the GOA, or the Central GOA rockfish program, which already operates under a catch share system.

#### Goals and Objectives:

1. Balance the requirements of the National Standards in the Magnuson Stevens Act
2. Increase the ability of the groundfish trawl sector to avoid PSC species and utilize available amounts of PSC more efficiently by allowing groundfish trawl vessels to fish more slowly, strategically, and cooperatively, both amongst the vessels themselves and with shore-based processors
3. Reduce bycatch and regulatory discards by groundfish trawl vessels
4. Authorize fair and equitable access privileges that take into consideration the value of assets and investments in the fishery and dependency on the fishery for harvesters, processors, and communities
5. Balance interests of all sectors and provide equitable distribution of benefits and similar opportunities for increased value
6. Promote community stability and minimize adverse economic impacts by limiting consolidation, providing employment and entry opportunities, and increasing the economic viability of the groundfish harvesters, processors, and support industries
7. Improve the ability of the groundfish trawl sector to achieve Optimum Yield, including increased product retention, utilization, landings, and value by allowing vessels to choose the time and location of fishing to optimize returns and generate higher yields
8. Increase stability relative to the volume and timing of groundfish trawl landings, allowing processors to better plan operational needs as well as identify and exploit new products and markets

9. Increase safety by allowing trawl vessels to prosecute groundfish fisheries at slower speeds and in better conditions
10. Include measures for improved monitoring and reporting
11. Increase the trawl sector's ability to adapt to applicable Federal law (i.e., Endangered Species Act)
12. Include methods to measure the success and impacts of all program elements
13. Minimize adverse impacts on sectors and areas not included in the program
14. Promote active participation by owners of harvest vessels and fishing privileges

**AMENDMENT TO MOTION:** Mr. Fields moves to include the following language (in **bold**) and was seconded by Mr. Cotton:

**Section 4 - Voluntary Inshore Cooperative Structure, C:**

Participants can choose to either join a cooperative or operate in a limited access fishery on an annual basis. Harvesters would need to **indicate by affidavit their intent to participate in the GOA trawl Pollock, Pacific cod, or flatfish fisheries in the upcoming year** and be in a cooperative with a processor by November 1 of the previous season to access a transferable PSC allocation. A trawl CV license holder can be in one cooperative per region (WG and CG/WY) on an annual basis.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passes with no objection October 11, 2015 at 3:36 p.m.

**AMENDMENT TO MOTION:** Mr. Tweit moves the following and was seconded by Mr. Cross:

Under Option 3 change the range of analysis from 5% - 20% to 5%-**40%** of the portion of the annual PSC.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment fails 3/8 (Mr. Tweit, Mr. Cross, Mr. Down)  
October 11, 2015 at 3:40 p.m.

**AMENDMENT TO MOTION:** Mr. Tweit moves to include the following language in the Purpose and Needs Statement and was seconded by Mr. Cross:

Strike the striking and instead insert the word **and/or target, and secondary species**.

The purpose of the proposed action is to create a new management structure which allocates **prohibited species catch limits and/or** allowable harvest to individuals, cooperatives, or other entities, which will mitigate the impacts of a derby-style race for fish. It is expected to improve stock conservation by creating vessel-level and/or cooperative-level incentives to eliminate wasteful fishing practices, provide mechanisms to control and reduce bycatch, and create accountability measures when utilizing PSC, **and/or target, and secondary species**. It will also **increase at-sea monitoring in the GOA trawl fisheries**, have the added benefit of reducing the incentive to fish during unsafe conditions, and improving operational efficiencies.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passes with no objection October 11, 2015 at 3:43 p.m.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes with no objection October 11, 2015 at 3:45 p.m.



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

Mr. Merrill moves to amend the following provisions (in **bold**) of Alternative 2:

Observer Coverage and Monitoring:

All trawl vessels in the GOA will be in the 100% observer coverage category, whether they participate in the voluntary cooperative structure or the limited access fishery with trawl gear. NMFS will develop monitoring and enforcement provisions necessary to track quota, harvests, and use caps for catcher vessels and catcher processors, including those necessary for gear conversion. **The Council authorizes NMFS to report weekly vessel-level bycatch information as authorized under MSA Sec 402(b)(2)(A).** Full retention of allocated target species is required.

**The Council request staff to evaluate the ability/challenges for the fleet to meet the full retention requirement for allocated species if the prohibition for directed fishing for Pollock and cod remains in effect for the time period of Nov 1 to Dec 31.**

Pollock and Pacific cod:

**Option 3. Modify the Pollock trip limit from 136 mt (300,000 lbs.) to 159 mt (350,000 lbs.).**

**Option 4: Modify the trawl Pacific cod fishery to two seasons: Jan 20 to June 10 and June 10 to November 1. (The seasonal split for trawl gear would be maintained per Am 83).**

Other target species and secondary species: Sector allocations would be based on each sector's retained catch (**Option: total catch for secondary species**) from:

Option 1. 2008 – 2012

Option 2. 2007 – 2012

Option 3. 2003 – 2012

Halibut:

**Option 4. 1,212 mt (additional 20% reduction relative to 2016, phased in over a three-year period)**

**Option 5. 1,136 mt (additional 25% reduction relative to 2016, phased in over a three-year period)**

Voluntary Inshore Cooperative Structure:

**Suboption: No prohibition on processor-owned vessels using processor-controlled PSC. Processor-owned vessels cannot access an amount of the cooperative's PSC greater than the amount they brought into the cooperative.**

**AMENDMENT TO MOTION:** Mr. Tweit moves to include the following additional language and was seconded by Mr. Cross:

Voluntary Inshore Cooperative Structure:

Suboption: Alternatives for distribution of PSC quota to processors:

- 1) NMFS holds the PSC and distributes the PSC quota upon the processor's request.

- 2) Distribute to processors using the same method as harvester's portion of the PSC quota is distributed.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passes with no objection October 11, 2015 at 4:25 p.m.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes with no objection October 11, 2015 at 4:26 p.m.

**Mr. Merrill made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Fields:**

Council and NMFS staff are requested to provide a workplan that outlines the analytic and procedural requirements to complete the EIS, and tasking for specific analytic products. Staff are requested to provide the Council with a brief review of the timelines required to complete EIS's prepared for past comprehensive management programs (example: BSAI Crab Rationalization Program). The Council recognizes that progress on Gulf of Alaska Trawl Bycatch Management will be the top analytic priority for staff.

**WITHDRAW OF MOTION:** Mr. Merrill withdrew the motion October 11, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

## **C9 100% OBSERVER COVERAGE ON GOA TRAWL**

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff Sam Cunningham. No Action was taken on this agenda item.

(Note: Public Testimony Beth Stewart and Jody Cook were taken out of order 8:57 a.m.)

## **C10 GOA SALMON PSC REAPPORTIONMENT**

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff Sam Cunningham. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council adopts the following revisions to the Purpose and Need statement (additions in **bold**, deletions in ~~strike through~~):

Regulations establish a Chinook salmon prohibited species catch (PSC) limits of 32,500 Chinook in the Central and Western Gulf of Alaska (GOA) trawl fisheries. Chinook salmon PSC limits are managed under two separate programs; one that ~~allocates~~ **apportions** 25,000 Chinook to the catcher vessels in the pollock trawl fishery (Amendment 93 to the GOA FMP), and another that ~~allocates~~ **apportions** 7,500 Chinook to three sectors in the non-pollock trawl fisheries: the catcher/processor (3,600), Rockfish Program catcher vessel (1,200), and the non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel (2,700) sectors (Amendment 97 to the GOA FMP). Closures could occur under the existing Chinook salmon PSC limits.

The 2,700 Chinook salmon PSC limit on the non-pollock/non-rockfish catcher vessel sector has resulted in a closure in that fishery. Currently, there is no ability for managers to ~~reallocate~~ **reapportion** unused Chinook salmon PSC between the pollock or non-pollock fisheries. Fishery closures could be avoided, or limited, by providing NMFS the authority to use inseason management to ~~reallocate~~ **reapportion** unused Chinook salmon PSC between the GOA pollock and non-pollock fisheries would provide increased management flexibility without exceeding the overall 32,500 Chinook salmon PSC limit, increase the likelihood that groundfish resources are more fully harvested, and minimize the adverse socioeconomic impacts of the fishery closures on harvesters, processors, and communities.

The Council adopts the following alternatives for analysis (additions in **bold**, deletions in ~~strikethrough~~):

If the Council selects Alternative 2 it can modify the main Alternative with one or a combination of the options.

Alternative 1. No action alternative (status quo)

Alternative 2. Allow NMFS to ~~reallocate~~ **reapportion** unused Chinook salmon PSC between the GOA pollock and non-pollock sectors based on criteria established for inseason ~~reallocations~~ **reapportionments** (examples in regulations at §679.20). Existing ~~reallocation~~ **reapportionment** procedures from the Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector to the non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector would not be modified.

Option 1. Only allow ~~reallocations~~ **reapportionments** between the GOA pollock and the non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sectors (no ~~reallocation~~ **reapportionment** to Rockfish Program catcher vessels).

Option 2. Only allow ~~reallocations~~ **reapportionments** that do not exceed (Suboptions: 10%, 20%, or 30%) of any initial ~~allocation~~ **apportionment** of a Chinook salmon PSC limit during a calendar year.

Option 3. Prohibit the ~~reallocation~~ **reapportionment** of Chinook salmon PSC from catcher vessel sectors to the non-pollock catcher/processor sector.

**Option 4. To increase flexibility and options for NMFS Alaska region to manage the different catcher vessel non-pollock Chinook salmon PSC caps, revise the Rockfish Program Chinook salmon PSC reapportionment provision to read as follows:**

**If, on October 1 of each year, the Regional Administrator determines that more than 150 Chinook salmon are available in the Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector Chinook salmon PSC limit, the Regional Administrator may reapportion Chinook salmon PSC available to the Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector except for 150 Chinook salmon to the non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector Chinook salmon PSC limit.**

**AMENDMENT TO MOTION:** Ms. Kimball moves to include the following option and was seconded by Mr. Fields.

Option 5. Only allow a sector to receive a reapportionment that does not exceed (Suboptions: 10% to 50%) of the sector's initial Chinook salmon PSC limit during a calendar year.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passes with no objection October 12, 2015 10:25 a.m.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes with no objection October 12, 2015 10:30 a.m.

## **C11 WESTERN AI GOLDEN KING CRAB OFFLOAD REQUIREMENT**

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff Sarah Marrinan. The following actions were taken. (Note: Mr. Kinneen recused from vote)

**Mr. Fields made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Mezirow:**

The Council adopt Alternative 2 and create an exemption from the prohibition from resuming fishing for CR crab on board a vessel once a landing has commenced and until all CR crab are landed for vessels harvesting in the western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery, and that we adopt the current purpose and need statement.

**Mr. Tweit made the following amendment and was seconded by Mr. Fields:**

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 303 (C) 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 303 (C) are consistent with these instructions.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passes with no objection October 12, 2015 at 11:21 a.m.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes 10/0 October 12, 2015 at 11:21 a.m.

## **D1 ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff Steve MacLean and Diana Evans. No action was taken.

## E1 STAFF TASKING

A handout was given with “Additional Items for Staff Tasking Discussion, October 2015.”  
The following actions were taken:

## SQUID MANAGEMENT

**Mr. Cross made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Fields:**

The Council moves the following problem statement and suite of alternatives for an analysis of moving squid species into the Ecosystem Component in both the BSAI and GOA Groundfish FMPs.

Draft problem statement:

Establishing appropriate catch specifications for squid species in the BSAI and GOA has been problematic. The abundance of squid in the BSAI and GOA is uncertain and trawl survey biomass estimates, while available, likely greatly underestimate the true population level. Development of biological reference points is complicated by a lack of information. OFL and ABC specifications for squid have been based on average catch calculations which poorly estimate the OFL and potentially constrain fisheries. Squid are short-lived, highly productive, and an important prey species. There are no directed fisheries for squid in either the BSAI or GOA, there is limited retention, and there are no conservation concerns for squid populations in either region. According to the National Standard 1 guidelines, in order to be designated as an “ecosystem component” (EC), the species or species group should be a non-targeted species or species group; not subject to overfishing, overfished, or approaching an overfished condition; not likely to become subject to overfishing or overfished in the absence of conservation and management measures; and not generally retained (a small amount could be retained) for sale or personal use. As such, moving squid to the Ecosystem Component seems to meet the intent of this category in the FMPs, and will continue to promote conservation and management measures for squid while alleviating unnecessary constraints on other groundfish fisheries.

**Alternative 1:** Status quo. Continue to manage squid ‘in the fishery’ in both the BSAI and GOA groundfish FMPs. OFL, ABC and TAC will continue to be set for squid in both areas. Stock assessments for squid will continue to be done.

**Alternative 2:** Move squid in both BSAI and GOA FMPs into the ‘Ecosystem Component’. Catch specifications (OFL, ABC, TAC) will no longer be required. Directed fishing for squid species would be prohibited.

**Option 1:** Continue to monitor and report catch of squid species annually and continue to report on the status of the stock in periodic stock assessments for squid in both BSAI and GOA.

**Option 2:** Establish an MRA for squid species as incidental catch in the BSAI and GOA using the MRAs (20%) in tables 10 and 11 of 50 CFR 678 when directed fishing for groundfish species at a level to discourage retention while allowing flexibility to prosecute groundfish fisheries.

**Suboption 1:** establish MRA at 2% consistent with forage fish species

**Suboption 2:** establish MRA at 10%

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes with no objection October 13, 2015 at 11:15 a.m.

## AI GROUND FISH LIMITED ACCESS FOR OFFSHORE SECTORS

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

The Council initiate a discussion paper looking at methods for limiting access to groundfish fisheries in the offshore sectors in the Aleutian Islands. This would be in conjunction with the establishment of a control date of December 31, 2015 that may be used as a reference for future management actions that limit offshore participation.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes with no objection October 13, 2015 at 11:27 a.m.

## HALIBUT MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

**Chairman Hull made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Fields:**

The Council tasks staff to refine the draft halibut framework paper for review by the Council as follows:

1. Describe existing halibut bycatch management objectives from the BSAI and GOA Fishery Management Plans and the Programmatic SEIS for the groundfish fisheries.
2. Clarify and elaborate on the description of primary research issues on page 3 and how they relate to Council and IPHC decision making; including the lead agency. Add the following to the list:
  - Natural mortality variability with age/size/sex/density, to understand the effects of bycatch, wastage, and discards on the spawning biomass and harvestable biomass.
  - An integrated decision-making framework that addresses biological, economic, and social issues, as identified by the June 2015 SSC minutes
  - Development of abundance based approaches to management, in particular Dr. Martell's MPR approach, and implications for Council and IPHC decision making.
3. Task the SSC to review the halibut management framework in December with a focus on identifying primary research issues and data needs from a halibut management perspective.

4. Describe the processes that the Council and IPHC use to receive public input and review scientific information. Identify opportunities within our processes that can be used to provide more formal and regular communications between the bodies, to be more substantive, direct, and informative to each body's decision making process.
  - Explore methods by which the Council can more formally and regularly communicate with US Commissioners.
  - Explore the potential for a joint NPFMC-IPHC committee, similar to the NPFMC-BOF Joint Protocol Committee, through which regular communication on issues of mutual interest could be discussed. Draft TOR for such a committee.
5. Explore the potential for a broad stakeholder workgroup, region specific or coastwide, composed of domestic US stakeholders that would explore solutions to problems identified by the Council that are consistent with Council short-term and/or long-term management objectives. The solutions may include voluntary or regulatory management measures. Draft TOR for such a workgroup and describe conditions under which they are likely to be successful – e.g., a common understanding of why we are in the current situation, etc.
6. Revise the section on public review of the draft framework to reflect Council decisions in October 2015.
7. Revise the tasks identified in Attachment 1 as follows and include updates to potential timelines:
  - Revise #4 to read that discussion of annual IPHC data needs from the Observer Program would first occur between Observer Program, NMFS AK Region and IPHC staff.
  - Eliminate #8, since there is no action required and it is encompassed in issue #11.
  - Revise #9 to read that initially a determination of research priorities of mutual interest should be a discussion between NMFS, IPHC, and Council staff.
  - Eliminate #10, since no particular action is required and bycatch allocations are part of the Council's GOA trawl bycatch management action.
  - Eliminate #12, since the June 2015 action on BSAI halibut PSC has been taken.
  - Eliminate #18, not necessary.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes with no objection October 13, 2015 at 12:57 p.m.

## LL2 OBSERVERS

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

The Council request staff to update a discussion paper requested by Council at the June 2014 meeting, addressing considerations for regulatory changes to alleviate the ongoing shortage of LL2 observers available for deployment to the hook-and-line CP fleet in the BSAI. To initiate discussion, the paper should consider the following concepts.

- 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
- Allow observer experience on fixed gear vessels in other regions to count towards LL2 certification.
- Allow full-coverage providers to deploy observers on pot CVs (in the partial coverage category) to secure fixed gear LL2 certification.
- Institute an at-sea training component to the Federal observer training program, whereby the agency would pay for fixed gear LL2 certification.

As well as the following non-regulatory option:

- Encourage AIS to become a certified observer provider, and supply LL2 observers to FLC vessel.

As well as the following updated options from June 9<sup>th</sup> 2014 D-5 Staff tasking motion for Lead Level 2 Observer Discussion Paper.

1. Identify how many fixed-gear, newly LL2 qualified observers were certified in 2013, 2014 and 2015 working in each the full coverage and partial coverage programs
2. How many fixed-gear, LL2 certified observers were available for deployment in 2013, 2014 and 2015 compared to 2012.
3. Identify alternative methods to develop a sustainable, renewable and adequate pool of fixed- gear, LL2 qualified observers. Methods could be regulatory (such as further modifications to prior experience requirements) or non-regulatory (such as additional work with an in-season advisor via ATLAS, especially during the early days of the cruise).

The discussion paper is intended to guide the Council in developing potential alternatives for a regulatory amendment package to the Observer Program.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes no objections October 13, 2015 at 1:12 p.m.



## YELLOWFIN TLAS OFFSHORE PARTICIPATION EVALUATION

**Mr. Long made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Cotten:**

The Council requests a discussion paper to evaluate participation and effort in the Bering Sea yellowfin sole limited access fishery in response to a potential need to limit entry into that fishery.

**Mr. Kinneen made the following amendment and was seconded by Mr. Tweit:**

The Council further establishes a control date of October 13, 2015 for any council action considering future participation in the offshore sector of this fishery.

**VOTE ON Kinneen AMENDMENT:** Amendment passes 7/4 (Mr. Balsiger, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Fields, Mr. Hull) October 13, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

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

The Council requests a discussion paper to evaluate participation and effort in the Bering Sea yellowfin sole limited access fishery in response to a potential need to limit entry ~~into that~~ **in the offshore sector in that** fishery.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passes with no objection October 13, 2015 at 1:55 p.m.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passes with no objection October 13, 2015 at 1:56 p.m.

**THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 13, 2015 AT 2:22 P.M.**

September GOA Plan Team Proposed OFL and ABC Recommendations (metric tons) for 2016-2017 (Page 1)

Species	Area	2014			Catch	2015			Catch as of 9/12/15	2016 as specified			2017		
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	W (61)	n/a	36,070	36,070	13,364	n/a	31,634	31,634	10,248	n/a	41,472		n/a	41,472	
	C (62)	n/a	81,784	81,784	83,082	n/a	97,579	97,579	72,215	n/a	127,936		n/a	127,936	
	C (63)	n/a	39,756	39,756	42,757	n/a	52,594	52,594	22,975	n/a	68,958		n/a	68,958	
	WYAK	n/a	4,741	4,741	1,056	n/a	4,719	4,719	250	n/a	6,187		n/a	6,187	
	Subtotal	211,998	162,351	162,351	140,259	256,545	191,309	186,526	105,688	321,067	250,824		321,067	250,824	
	EYAK/SEO	16,833	12,625	12,625	1	16,833	12,625	12,625	-	16,833	12,625		16,833	12,625	
Total		228,831	174,976	174,976	140,260	273,378	203,934	199,151	105,688	337,900	263,449		337,900	263,449	
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	32,745	22,922	21,686	n/a	38,702	27,091	16,127	n/a	38,702		n/a	38,702	
	C	n/a	53,100	39,825	40,219	n/a	61,320	45,990	27,585	n/a	61,320		n/a	61,320	
	E	n/a	2,655	1,991	318	n/a	2,828	2,121	77	n/a	2,828		n/a	2,828	
	Total	107,300	88,500	64,738	62,223	140,300	102,850	75,202	43,789	133,100	102,850		133,100	102,850	
Sablefish	W	n/a	1,480	1,480	1,200	n/a	1,474	1,474	670	n/a	1,338		n/a	1,338	
	C	n/a	4,681	4,681	4,729	n/a	4,658	4,658	3,687	n/a	4,232		n/a	4,232	
	WYAK	n/a	1,716	1,716	1,669	n/a	1,708	1,708	1,661	n/a	1,552		n/a	1,552	
	SEO	n/a	2,695	2,695	2,824	n/a	2,682	2,682	2,341	n/a	2,436		n/a	2,436	
	Total	12,500	10,572	10,572	10,422	12,425	10,522	10,522	8,359	11,293	9,558		11,293	9,558	
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	20,376	13,250	246	n/a	22,074	13,250	243	n/a	19,577		n/a	19,577	
	C	n/a	17,813	17,813	4,499	n/a	19,297	19,297	1,486	n/a	17,114		n/a	17,114	
	WYAK	n/a	2,039	2,039	2	n/a	2,209	2,209	1	n/a	1,959		n/a	1,959	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	577	577	1	n/a	625	625	1	n/a	554		n/a	554	
	Total	50,007	40,805	33,679	4,748	54,207	44,205	35,381	1,731	48,407	39,205		48,407	39,205	
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	302	302	68	n/a	301	301	53	n/a	299		n/a	299	
	C	n/a	3,727	3,727	278	n/a	3,689	3,689	146	n/a	3,645		n/a	3,645	
	WYAK	n/a	5,532	5,532	5	n/a	5,474	5,474	2	n/a	5,409		n/a	5,409	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	3,911	3,911	4	n/a	3,870	3,870	2	n/a	3,824		n/a	3,824	
	Total	16,159	13,472	13,472	355	15,993	13,334	13,334	203	15,803	13,177		15,803	13,177	
Rex Sole	W	n/a	1,270	1,270	126	n/a	1,258	1,258	74	n/a	1,234		n/a	1,234	
	C	n/a	6,231	6,231	3,450	n/a	5,816	5,816	1,435	n/a	5,707		n/a	5,707	
	WYAK	n/a	813	813	1	n/a	772	772	-	n/a	758		n/a	758	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,027	1,027	-	n/a	1,304	1,304	-	n/a	1,280		n/a	1,280	
	Total	12,207	9,341	9,341	3,577	11,597	9,150	9,150	1,509	11,733	8,979		11,733	8,979	
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	31,142	14,500	1,895	n/a	30,752	14,500	385	n/a	29,545		n/a	29,545	
	C	n/a	115,612	75,000	34,326	n/a	114,170	75,000	14,865	n/a	109,692		n/a	109,692	
	WYAK	n/a	37,232	6,900	52	n/a	36,771	6,900	37	n/a	35,328		n/a	35,328	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	11,372	6,900	17	n/a	11,228	6,900	17	n/a	10,787		n/a	10,787	
	Total	229,248	195,358	103,300	36,290	226,390	192,921	103,300	15,304	217,522	185,352		217,522	185,352	
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	12,730	8,650	219	n/a	12,767	8,650	113	n/a	12,776		n/a	12,776	
	C	n/a	24,805	15,400	2,336	n/a	24,876	15,400	1,244	n/a	24,893		n/a	24,893	
	WYAK	n/a	3,525	3,525	1	n/a	3,535	3,535	1	n/a	3,538		n/a	3,538	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	171	171	-	n/a	171	171	-	n/a	171		n/a	171	
	Total	50,664	41,231	27,746	2,556	50,792	41,349	27,756	1,358	50,818	41,378		50,818	41,378	

Sources: 2014 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2013; 2015 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from the harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2014, 2014 catches through December 31, 2014 and 2015 catches through September 12, 2015 from AKR Catch Accounting.

September GOA Plan Team Proposed OFL and ABC Recommendations (metric tons) for 2016-2017 (Page 2)

Species	Area	2014			Catch	2015			Catch as of 9/12/15	2016 as specified			2017		
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pacific Ocean Perch	W		2,399	2,399	2,096	n/a	2,302	2,302	2,039	n/a	2,358		n/a	2,358	
	C		12,855	12,855	13,697	n/a	15,873	15,873	12,360	n/a	16,184		n/a	16,184	
	WYAK		1,931	1,931	1,870	n/a	2,014	2,014	1,980	n/a	2,055		n/a	2,055	
	W/C/WYAK	19,864	17,185	17,185	17,663	23,406	20,189	20,189	16,379	23,876	20,597		23,876	20,597	
	SEO	2,455	2,124	2,124	-	954	823	823	-	973	839		973	839	
	Total	22,319	19,309	19,309	17,663	24,360	21,012	21,012	16,379	24,849	21,436		24,849	21,436	
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	1,305	1,305	853	n/a	1,226	1,226	977	n/a	1,158		n/a	1,158	
	C	n/a	4,017	4,017	3,423	n/a	3,772	3,772	2,853	n/a	3,563		n/a	3,563	
	E	n/a	-	-	-	n/a	-	-	-	n/a	-		n/a	-	
	Total	6,349	5,322	5,322	4,276	5,961	4,998	4,998	3,830	5,631	4,721		5,631	4,721	
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	92	92	76	n/a	92	92	45	n/a	92		n/a	92	
	C	n/a	397	397	324	n/a	397	397	253	n/a	397		n/a	397	
	E	n/a	834	834	282	n/a	834	834	231	n/a	834		n/a	834	
	Total	1,764	1,323	1,323	682	1,764	1,323	1,323	529	1,764	1,323		1,764	1,323	
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	317	317	139	n/a	296	296	182	n/a	273		n/a	273	
	C	n/a	3,584	3,584	2,831	n/a	3,336	3,336	2,494	n/a	3,077		n/a	3,077	
	WYAK	n/a	1,384	1,384	87	n/a	1,288	1,288	1	n/a	1,187		n/a	1,187	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	201	201	4	n/a	189	189	6	n/a	174		n/a	174	
	Total	6,708	5,486	5,486	3,061	6,246	5,109	5,109	2,683	5,759	4,711		5,759	4,711	
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	82	82	26	n/a	115	115	27	n/a	117		n/a	117	
	C	n/a	864	864	540	n/a	632	632	318	n/a	643		n/a	643	
	E	n/a	298	298	173	n/a	375	375	141	n/a	382		n/a	382	
	Total	1,497	1,244	1,244	739	1,345	1,122	1,122	486	1,370	1,142		1,370	1,142	
Demersal shelf rockfish	Total	438	274	274	105	438	225	225	101	361	225		361	225	
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	235	235	244	n/a	235	235	182	n/a	235		n/a	235	
	C	n/a	875	875	667	n/a	875	875	499	n/a	875		n/a	875	
	E	n/a	731	731	219	n/a	731	731	186	n/a	731		n/a	731	
	Total	2,454	1,841	1,841	1,130	2,454	1,841	1,841	867	2,454	1,841		2,454	1,841	
Other Rockfish	W/C	n/a	1,031	1,031	888	n/a	1,031	1,031	1,015	n/a	1,031		n/a	1,031	
	WYAK	n/a	580	580	61	n/a	580	580	31	n/a	580		n/a	580	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,470	200	38	n/a	2,469	200	16	n/a	2,469		n/a	2,469	
	Total	5,347	4,081	1,811	987	5,347	4,080	1,811	1,062	5,347	4,080		5,347	4,080	
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	2,000	1,042	6,200	4,700	2,000	1,089	6,200	4,700		6,200	4,700	
Big Skate	W	n/a	589	589	157	n/a	731	731	141	n/a	731		n/a	731	
	C	n/a	1,532	1,532	1,414	n/a	1,257	1,257	902	n/a	1,257		n/a	1,257	
	E	n/a	1,641	1,641	102	n/a	1,267	1,267	45	n/a	1,267		n/a	1,267	
	Total	5,016	3,762	3,762	1,673	4,340	3,255	3,255	1,088	4,340	3,255		4,340	3,255	
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	107	107	60	n/a	152	152	43	n/a	152		n/a	152	
	C	n/a	1,935	1,935	1,162	n/a	2,090	2,090	801	n/a	2,090		n/a	2,090	
	E	n/a	834	834	363	n/a	976	976	279	n/a	976		n/a	976	
	Total	3,835	2,876	2,876	1,585	4,291	3,218	3,218	1,123	4,291	3,218		4,291	3,218	
Other Skates	GOA-wide	2,652	1,989	1,989	1,941	2,980	2,235	2,235	1,184	2,980	2,235		2,980	2,235	
Sculpins	GOA-wide	7,448	5,569	5,569	1,167	7,448	5,569	5,569	743	7,448	5,569		7,448	5,569	
Sharks	GOA-wide	7,986	5,989	5,989	1,526	7,986	5,989	5,989	648	7,986	5,989		7,986	5,989	
Squids	GOA-wide	1,530	1,148	1,148	93	1,530	1,148	1,148	330	1,530	1,148		1,530	1,148	
Octopuses	GOA-wide	2,009	1,507	1,507	1,293	2,009	1,507	1,507	563	2,009	1,507		2,009	1,507	
Total		790,468	640,675	499,274	299,394	870,064	685,597	536,158	210,646	910,895	731,049		910,895	731,049	

Sources: 2014 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2013; 2015 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from the harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2014, 2014 catches through December 31, 2014 and 2015 catches through September 12, 2015 from AKR Catch Accounting.

Proposed 2016 and 2017 GOA Harvest Specifications

Table 9. Proposed 2016 and 2017 Pacific Halibut PSC Limits, Allowances, and Apportionments (Values are in metric tons)

Trawl gear			Hook-and-line gear <sup>1</sup>				
			Other than DSR			DSR	
Season	Percent	Amount <sup>2</sup>	Season	Percent	Amount <sup>2</sup>	Season	Amount
January 20 - April 1	27.5	469	January 1 - June 10	86	220	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			256		9

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> These amounts incorporate the percentage reductions implemented by Amendment 95 to the GOA FMP, which yields an incremental decrease from the final 2015 halibut PSC limits.

Table 10. Proposed 2016 and 2017 Seasonal Apportionments<sup>3</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>2</sup>			256
Total			1,706

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> These amounts incorporate the percentage reductions implemented by Amendment 95 to the GOA FMP, which yields an incremental decrease from the final 2015 halibut PSC apportionments for trawl gear.

Table 11. Proposed 2016 and 2017 Apportionments<sup>1</sup> 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
256	Catcher Vessel	140	January 1 - June 10	86	120
			June 10 - September 1	2	3
			September 1 - December 31	12	17
	Catcher/Processor	116	January 1 - June 10	86	100
			June 10 - September 1	2	2
			September 1 - December 31	12	14

<sup>1</sup> These amounts incorporate the percentage reductions implemented by Amendment 95 to the GOA FMP, which yields an incremental decrease from the final 2015 halibut PSC apportionments for this PSC category.

## Attachment 3

## September BSAI Plan Team Proposed OFL and ABC Recommendations (metric tons) for 2016-2017

Species	Area	2014				2015			Catch as of 9/12/15	2016 as specified			2017		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch	OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	EBS	2,795,000	1,369,000	1,267,000	1,297,411	3,330,000	1,637,000	1,310,000	1,247,995	3,490,000	1,554,000		3,490,000	1,554,000	
	AI	42,811	35,048	19,000	2,375	36,005	29,659	19,000	875	38,699	31,900		38,699	31,900	
	Bogoslof	13,413	10,059	75	427	21,200	15,900	100	733	21,200	15,900		21,200	15,900	
Pacific cod	BS	299,000	255,000	246,897	230,715	346,000	255,000	240,000	173,172	389,000	255,000		389,000	255,000	
	AI	20,100	15,100	6,997	6,145	23,400	17,600	9,422	8,537	23,400	17,600		23,400	17,600	
Sablefish	BS	1,584	1,339	1,339	312	1,575	1,333	1,333	173	1,431	1,211		1,431	1,211	
	AI	2,141	1,811	1,811	817	2,128	1,802	1,802	307	1,934	1,637		1,934	1,637	
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	259,700	239,800	184,000	156,774	266,400	248,800	149,000	85,636	262,900	245,500		262,900	245,500	
Greenland turbot	BSAI	2,647	2,124	2,124	1,656	3,903	3,172	2,648	2,092	6,453	5,248		6,453	5,248	
	BS	n/a	1,659	1,659	1,479	n/a	2,448	2,448	1,984	n/a	4,050		n/a	4,050	
	AI	n/a	465	465	177	n/a	724	200	108	n/a	1,198		n/a	1,198	
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	125,642	106,599	25,000	19,108	93,856	80,547	22,000	9,675	91,663	78,661		91,663	78,661	
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	8,270	7,100	7,100	6,459	10,500	9,000	6,500	4,683	11,000	9,500		11,000	9,500	
Northern rock sole	BSAI	228,700	203,800	85,000	51,724	187,600	181,700	69,250	43,656	170,100	164,800		170,100	164,800	
Flathead sole	BSAI	79,633	66,293	24,500	16,514	79,419	66,130	24,250	9,620	76,504	63,711		76,504	63,711	
Alaska plaice	BSAI	66,800	55,100	24,500	19,449	54,000	44,900	18,500	10,533	51,600	42,900		51,600	42,900	
Other flatfish	BSAI	16,700	12,400	2,650	4,391	17,700	13,250	3,620	2,331	17,700	13,250		17,700	13,250	
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	39,585	33,122	33,122	32,383	42,558	34,988	32,021	23,887	40,809	33,550		40,809	33,550	
	BS	n/a	7,684	7,684	7,437	n/a	8,771	8,021	2,847	n/a	8,411		n/a	8,411	
	EAI	n/a	9,246	9,246	9,024	n/a	8,312	8,000	6,697	n/a	7,970		n/a	7,970	
	CAI	n/a	6,594	6,594	6,439	n/a	7,723	7,000	6,107	n/a	7,406		n/a	7,406	
	WAI	n/a	9,598	9,598	9,485	n/a	10,182	9,000	8,236	n/a	9,763		n/a	9,763	
Northern rockfish	BSAI	12,077	9,761	2,594	2,342	15,337	12,488	3,250	6,385	15,100	12,295		15,100	12,295	
Blackspotted/Roughley rockfish	BSAI	505	416	416	197	560	453	349	165	688	555		688	555	
	EBS/EAI	n/a	177	177	98	n/a	149	149	58	n/a	178		n/a	178	
	CAI/WAI	n/a	239	239	98	n/a	304	200	107	n/a	377		n/a	377	
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	493	370	370	197	690	518	250	139	690	518		690	518	
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,550	1,163	773	945	1,667	1,250	880	563	1,667	1,250		1,667	1,250	
	BS	n/a	690	300	323	n/a	695	325	152	n/a	695		n/a	695	
	AI	n/a	473	473	621	n/a	555	555	411	n/a	555		n/a	555	
Atka mackerel	BSAI	74,492	64,131	32,322	30,947	125,297	106,000	54,500	41,564	115,908	98,137		115,908	98,137	
	EAI/BS	n/a	21,652	21,652	21,185	n/a	38,492	27,000	17,156	n/a	35,637		n/a	35,637	
	CAI	n/a	20,574	9,670	9,520	n/a	33,108	17,000	15,809	n/a	30,652		n/a	30,652	
	WAI	n/a	21,905	1,000	242	n/a	34,400	10,500	8,599	n/a	31,848		n/a	31,848	
Skates	BSAI	41,849	35,383	26,000	27,510	49,575	41,658	25,700	19,796	47,035	39,468		47,035	39,468	
Sculpins	BSAI	56,424	42,318	5,750	4,861	52,365	39,725	4,700	3,966	52,365	39,725		52,365	39,725	
Sharks	BSAI	1,363	1,022	125	137	1,363	1,022	125	139	1,363	1,022		1,363	1,022	
Squids	BSAI	2,624	1,970	310	1,678	2,624	1,970	400	2,187	2,624	1,970		2,624	1,970	
Octopuses	BSAI	3,450	2,590	225	428	3,452	2,589	400	223	3,452	2,589		3,452	2,589	
<b>Total</b>	<b>BSAI</b>	<b>4,196,553</b>	<b>2,572,819</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>1,915,902</b>	<b>4,769,174</b>	<b>2,848,454</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>1,699,032</b>	<b>4,935,285</b>	<b>2,731,897</b>		<b>4,935,285</b>	<b>2,731,897</b>	

Sources: 2014 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2015 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2013 and December 2014, respectively; 2014 catches through December 31, 2014 and 2015 catches through September 12, 2015 from AKR Catch Accounting.

## Reallocations of TAC

2014	From	To	Difference
Pollock - BS	1,267,000	1,280,650	13,650
Pollock - AI	19,000	5,350	(13,650)
Other Rockfish - BS	300	400	100
Skates	26,000	26,600	600
Sharks	125	225	100
Squids	310	1,764	1,454
Octopuses	225	425	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,312,960</b>	<b>1,315,414</b>	<b>2,454</b>
2015	From	To	Difference
Pollock - BS	1,310,000	1,324,454	14,454
Pollock - AI	19,000	4,546	(14,454)
Yellowfin sole	149,000	149,600	600 2nd Flatfish Exchange
Rock sole	69,250	68,925	(325) 2nd Flatfish Exchange
Flathead sole	24,250	23,975	(275) 2nd Flatfish Exchange
Northern Rockfish	3,250	6,263	3,013
Squids	400	1,970	1,570
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,575,150</b>	<b>1,579,733</b>	<b>4,583</b>

TABLE 8—PROPOSED 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 <sup>1</sup>	Total non-trawl PSC	Non-trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ <sup>2</sup>	Total trawl PSC	Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ <sup>2</sup>	CDQ PSQ reserve <sup>2</sup>	Amendment 80 sector <sup>3</sup>	BSAI trawl limited access fishery
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	900	832	3,675	3,349	393	2,325	875
Herring (mt) BSAI	n/a	n/a	2,742	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	n/a	n/a	97,000	86,621	10,379	43,293	26,489
<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	n/a	n/a	4,708,314	4,204,524	503,790	2,066,524	1,351,334
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 1	n/a	n/a	830,000	741,190	88,810	312,115	348,285
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 2	n/a	n/a	2,520,000	2,250,360	269,640	532,660	1,053,394

<sup>1</sup> Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of zones.

<sup>2</sup> Section 679.21(e)(3)(i)(A)(2) allocates 326 mt of the trawl halibut mortality limit and § 679.21(e)(4)(i)(A) allocates 7.5 percent, or 67 mt, of the non-trawl halibut mortality limit as the PSQ reserve for use by the groundfish CDQ program. The PSQ reserve for crab species is 10.7 percent of each crab PSC limit.

<sup>3</sup> The Amendment 80 program reduced apportionment of the trawl PSC limits by 150 mt for halibut mortality and 20 percent for crab PSC. These reductions are not apportioned to other gear types or sectors.

TABLE 9—PROPOSED 2016 AND 2017 HERRING AND RED KING CRAB SAVINGS SUBAREA PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES FOR ALL TRAWL SECTORS

Fishery categories	Herring (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1
Yellowfin sole	148	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish <sup>1</sup>	24	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth/sablefish <sup>2</sup>	16	n/a
Rockfish	11	n/a
Pacific cod	33	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	1776	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species <sup>3,4</sup>	164	n/a
Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear <sup>5</sup>	n/a	24,250
Total trawl PSC	2,172	97,000

<sup>1</sup>“Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

<sup>2</sup>“Arrowtooth flounder” for PSC monitoring includes Kamchatka flounder.

<sup>3</sup> Pollock other than pelagic trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and “other species” fishery category.

<sup>4</sup>“Other species” for PSC monitoring includes sculpins, sharks, skates, and octopuses.

<sup>5</sup>In October 2014 the Council recommended that the red king crab bycatch limit for non-pelagic trawl fisheries within the RKCSS be limited to 25 percent of the red king crab PSC allowance (see § 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(2)).



TABLE 10—PROPOSED 2016 AND 2017 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

BSAI trawl limited access fisheries	Prohibited species and area <sup>1</sup>				
	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	<i>C. bairdi</i> (animals)	
				Zone 1	Zone 2
Yellowfin sole	167	23,338	1,273,886	293,234	1,005,879
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	0	0	0	0	0
Rockfish April 15-December 31	5	0	2,104	0	849
Pacific cod	453	2,954	54,298	50,816	42,424
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species <sup>3</sup>	250	197	21,046	4,235	4,242
Total BSAI trawl limited access PSC	875	26,489	1,351,334	348,285	1,053,394

<sup>1</sup> Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas.

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

<sup>3</sup> “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes sculpins, sharks, skates, and octopuses.

TABLE 11—PROPOSED 2016 AND 2017 HALIBUT PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR NON-TRAWL FISHERIES

Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI		
Non-trawl fisheries	Catcher/processor	Catcher vessel
Pacific cod-Total	760	15
January 1-June 10	455	10
June 10-August 15	190	3
August 15-December 31	115	2
Other non-trawl-Total	58	
May 1-December 31	58	
Groundfish pot and jig	Exempt	
Sablefish hook-and-line	Exempt	
Total non-trawl PSC	833	

TABLE 7—EXAMPLE FOR PROPOSED 2016 AND 2017 ABC SURPLUS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA (CDQ) ABC RESERVES, AND AMENDMENT 80 ABC RESERVES IN THE BSAI FOR FLATHEAD SOLE, ROCK SOLE, AND YELLOWFIN SOLE

[Amounts are in metric tons]			
	Flathead sole	Rock sole	Yellowfin sole
ABC	63,711	164,800	245,500
TAC	24,250	69,250	149,000
ABC Surplus	39,461	95,550	96,500
ABC reserve	39,461	95,550	96,500
CDQ ABC reserve	4,222	10,224	10,326
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	35,239	85,326	86,175

<sup>1</sup> The 2016 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, 2015.

Non-CDQ					
BSAI			GOA		
Gear/Target	2013-2015	2016	Gear/Target	2013-2015	2016
<b>Trawl</b>			<b>Trawl</b>		
Atka mack	77	82	Bottom poll	60	58
Bottom poll	77	81	Pacific cod	62	62
Pacific cod	71	66	Dpwtr flats	43	43
Other Flats	71	63	Shallwtr flats	67	66
Rockfish	79	83	Rockfish	66	65
Flathead sole	73	72	Flathead sole	65	67
Midwtr poll	88	88	Midwtr poll	71	59
Rock sole	85	86	Sablefish	71	59
Sablefish	75	75	Arr. fldr	73	76
Turbot	64	82	Rex sole	69	71
Arr. Fldr	76	84			
Yellowfin sole	83	84			
<b>Pot</b>			<b>Pot</b>		
Pacific cod	8	20	Pacific cod	17	21
<b>Longline</b>			<b>Longline</b>		
Pacific cod	9	9	Pacific cod	11	10
Rockfish	4	4	Rockfish	9	9
Turbot	13	11			

CDQ - BSAI		
Trawl	2013-2015	2016
Atka mack	86	82
Bottom poll	83	86
Pacific cod	90	87
Rockfish	80	69
Flathead sole	79	79
Midwater poll	90	90
Rock sole	88	86
Turbot	89	89
Yellowfin sole	86	85
<b>Pot</b>		
Sablefish	34	41
<b>Longline</b>		
Pacific cod	10	10
Turbot	4	4

**TIME LOG**  
**North Pacific Fishery Management Council**  
**Meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska**  
**October 7-13, 2015**

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**Wednesday 10-07-15**

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Call to Order	07:58
Oath of Office	08:03
Vote on Chair and Vice Chair	08:03
Approval of Agenda	08:04
Sam Rauch, Director of fisheries	08:06
<b>B1 ED Report - Chris Oliver</b>	<b>08:12</b>
Paula Cullenberg and Matt Robinson	08:14
Chris Oliver	08:41
Halibut Management Framework	08:58
John Gauvin, Jason Anderson Update on Deck Sorting	09:28
Samuel Rauch Ecosystem Based Fishery Management	10:07
Jeannie Hansen	10:26
<b>B2 NMFS Management Report - Glenn Merrill</b>	<b>10:37</b>
Mary Furuness	10:59
<b>Northern Bering Sea Juvenile Chinook Survey – Dr Katie Howard</b>	<b>11:16</b>
Dr. Katie Howard Resume questions on survey	11:30
<b>B3 ADFG Report - Karla Bush</b>	<b>11:36</b>
<b>B4 USCG Report - Alanna McGovern</b>	<b>11:54</b>
<b>B5 USFW Report - George Pappas</b>	<b>12:14</b>
<b>B6 Protected Species Report - Steve MacLean</b>	<b>12:17</b>
Doug DeMaster	12:25
Chris Oliver reviewing all B items	12:48
Public Testimony all B items	12:54
Bob Alverson	12:54
Heather McCarty, Mateo Paz Soldon, Jeff Kauffman	12:55
Dan Falvey, Linda Behnken, Shannon Carroll	01:11
Mark Fina	01:30
Peggy Parker	01:44
Gerry Merrigan	01:49
Action on B items	02:12
Craig Cross Discussion on Deck Sorting	02:12
<b>C1 Crab Management - Diana Stram, Bob Foy</b>	<b>02:15</b>
Recess for the day	05:28

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**Thursday 10-08-15**

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Call to Order	08:06
SSC report on C1, Farron Wallace	08:07
AP report on C1, Ernie Weiss	08:50
Council action C1	08:51
Sam Cotten	08:51
<b>C2 Groundfish Specs - Diana Stram, Jim Armstrong</b>	<b>09:01</b>
SSC report, Farron wallace	10:52
AP report, Ernie Weiss	11:11
Public Testimony on C2	11:14
Heather McCarty, Mateo Paz Soldon, Jeff Kauffman	11:14
Brent Paine	11:22
Merrick Burden	11:35
Dan Falvey	11:36
John Warrenchuck	11:39
Council action on C2	11:51
Cross Motion	11:51
	12:13
Duncan Fields' motion	12:22
<b>C3 Pribilof Canyon Corals</b>	<b>12:38</b>
Steve MacLean	12:38
Mike Sigler, Chris Roper	12:48
SSC Minutes	02:20
Farron Wallace	02:20
AP report	02:42
Public Testimony, Merrick Burden	02:42
Bob Alverson	02:56
Heather Brandon, Margaret Williams	02:59
Jon Warrenchuck	03:09
Brent Paine	03:18
Chad See	03:25
Donna Parker (10 min earlier)	03:41
Jackie Dragon (5 min earlier)	03:41
Gerry Merrigan	03:41
Stephanie Madsen	03:44
Recess for day	05:08

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**Friday 10-09-15**

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Call to Order	08:08
Action on C3	08:27
Farron Wallace, remainder of SSC report	09:15
<b>C4 AI Pacific Cod Allocation</b>	<b>10:07</b>
Jon McCracken	10:07
Ernie Weiss, AP report on C3	11:41
C4 Public Testimony	11:51
Chad See and Doug WElls	11:52
Mark Fina (15 min earlier)	12:28
Layton Locket	12:28
Clem Tillion	12:36
Angel Drobnika	12:41
Dan Martin	12:48
Mike Hyde	12:51
Gerry Merrigan	01:03
Lori Swanson	01:07
Todd Loomis	01:16
Dave Fraser	01:24
Brent Paine	01:43
Action on C4	02:26
<b>C5 EM Workgroup - Diana Evans</b>	<b>03:29</b>
AP Report, Ernie Weiss	03:53
Public Testimony on C5 Dan Falvey	03:55
Recess for the day	05:28

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**Saturday 10-10-15**

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Call to Order	09:07
<b>C6 Observer Draft Annual Deployment Plan</b>	<b>09:09</b>
Staff report, Craig Faunce, Chris Rilling	09:09
Staff report, Diana Evans	11:04
Observer Advisory Committee Report	11:04
Public Testimony on C6	11:42
Bob Kruger	11:42
Paddy O'Donnell	11:46
Paul Olsen	11:50
Chad See	11:51
Julie Bonney	11:58
C6 Motion Nicole Kimball	12:07
<b>C7 Observer Coverage in BSAI Trawl CV</b>	<b>12:27</b>
Staff report, Sam Cunningham	12:27
Alacia Miller Observer Data Entry and Transmission	12:51
AP report, Matt Upton	01:21
Public Testimony on C7	01:24
Brent Paine, Dan Marten	01:24
Curt Cochran	01:36
Council action on C7 Craig Cross	01:37
<b>C8 GOA Trawl Bycatch Management</b>	<b>02:08</b>
Staff Reports, Sam Cunningham, Darrell Brannan	02:08
Recess for the day	05:01

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**Sunday 10-11-15**

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Call to Order	08:37
<b>C8 Continued</b>	<b>08:42</b>
Rachel Baker, EIS	08:42
AP report, Ernie Weiss	09:01
Public Testimony on C8	09:30
Alexus Kwachka	09:30
Paul Grondholdt	09:46
Lori Swanson	09:54
Luke Lester	10:19
Paddy O'Donnell	10:30
George Hutchings	10:54
Paul Olson	10:59
Bob Krueger	11:06
Don Ashley	11:20
Beth Stewart	11:22
Andrew Menos	11:34
Jody Cook	11:38
Joe Plesha	11:49
Break for lunch	11:59
Pat Branson, Chris Lynch, Heather McCarty	12:01
Ernie Weiss, Theresa Peterson	12:15
Hunter Burns	12:27
Julie Bonney	12:35
Jeff Stephan	12:50
Glenn Reed	12:59
Action on C8, Sam Cotten Motion	01:33
Questions on Motion	02:08
Duncan amendment:	02:31
Tweit amendment	02:32
Merrill amendment	02:56
Adjourn for the day	04:27



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**Monday 10-12-15**

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Call to Order	08:07
<b>C9 100% Trawl Observer Coverage in GOA</b>	<b>08:08</b>
Staff Report, Sam Cunningham	08:08
Paddy O'Donnell	08:41
Public Testimony on C9	08:41
Jason Chandler	08:45
Paul Olsen	08:46
Bob Kruger	08:49
Don Ashely	08:52
Beth Stewart	08:57
Jody Cook	09:01
Kimball discussion on C9	09:07
<b>C10 GOA Salmon PSC Re-apportionment</b>	<b>09:35</b>
Staff Report, Sam Cunningham	09:35
AP report	10:01
Matt Upton	10:01
Public Testimony on C10	10:06
Bob Kruger	10:06
Paddy O'Donnell	10:09
Beth Stewart	10:11
Action on C10	10:27
<b>C11 WAG Exemption - Sarah Marrinan</b>	<b>10:40</b>
AP report, Ernie Weiss	11:02
Public Testimony on C11, Linda Kozak	11:06
Fields motion on C11	11:11
<b>D1 Ecosystem Committee Report</b>	<b>11:22</b>
Staff Report, Steve MacLean	11:22
Recess for the day	11:34

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**Tuesday 10-13-15**

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Call to Order	08:07
<b>E1 Staff Tasking - Chris Oliver</b>	<b>08:09</b>
Staff Reports on staff tasking items	08:45
AP Report, Ernie Weiss	08:55
Public Testimony - Bob Kruger	08:56
Beth Stewart	08:57
Stephanie Madsen,	09:06
Heather McCarty Jeff Kauffman, Mateo Paz Soldon	09:30
Shannon Carroll	09:50
Todd Loomis	09:57
Action on Staff Tasking	10:53
Tweit Short-Tailed Albatross Recommendation	10:56
Resume action on Staff Tasking	11:30
Hull Motion on Halibut Framework	11:32
Kenny Down, LL2 Observer	12:07
David Long, TLAS	12:35
Discussion regarding Rural Outreach Committee	01:01
And Committees	01:04
Discussion regarding priorities	01:06
Announcements	01:26
Meeting Adjourned	02:22

Dan Hull, Chairman  
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

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# News & Notes

## North Pacific Fishery Management Council

October 2015

## Council Elections and Appointments

The Council re-elected Dan Hull as Chairman, and Bill Tweit as vice-chair. Dr. Jim Balsiger administered the Oath of Office to new Council member Andy Mezirow, and to re-appointed members Dan Hull and Craig Cross. Mezirow owns and operates Crackerjack Charters out of Seward and has served on the AP as well as participated in the Halibut Charter Implementation Committee meetings. Cross is serving his 2nd 3-year term on the Council and works for Aleutian Spray Fisheries out of Seattle, and Hull is serving his 3<sup>rd</sup> 3-year term and participates in the longline and gillnet fisheries in Cordova.

The Council also appointed Kari Fenske to fill a position on the SSC for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, where she is a part of the Marine Fish Science Team. Lew Coggins has also been appointed to the SSC from the USFWS, where he is a fishery biologist for the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.



## Pribilof Canyon Corals

The Council reviewed a report from NMFS on the occurrence of deep-sea coral habitat in the eastern Bering Sea slope and canyons. The NMFS conducted a line-transect survey in 2014 along the Bering Sea slope and canyons using an underwater, stereo, drop camera. A total of 250 transects were completed and more than 250,000 photos were analyzed to estimate coral, sponge, and sea whip abundance, distribution, height, and vulnerability to anthropogenic damage.

The survey results validated the modeled predictions of coral abundance and confirmed that densities of corals in the Eastern Bering Sea were low, even where they occurred (around Pribilof Canyon and the slope area to the northwest of the canyon). The average transect-wide density of corals in the Eastern Bering Sea was 0.005 individuals/m<sup>2</sup>, and the maximum density was 0.28 individuals/m<sup>2</sup>. These estimates are substantially lower than the average (1.23 individuals/m<sup>2</sup>), and maximum (3.85 individuals/m<sup>2</sup>) densities found in the Aleutian Islands where the Council enacted protections for deep-sea corals in 2005. Coral densities differ among the different areas in Alaska because of differences in the amount of suitable substrates available for colonization. Camera surveys in the Aleutian Islands, Bowers Bank, and Gulf of Alaska found rocky habitat on 63%, 42%, and 58% of transects, respectively, compared to 18% in the Eastern Bering Sea.

To determine vulnerability of corals to fishery impacts, the AFSC modeled the upper quartiles of coral height and density. Because the corals in the Eastern Bering Sea are relatively small (averaging 8 inches or less in height for most taxonomic groups), and the occurrence is low, vulnerability of corals to fishery related impacts are lower than in other places in Alaska. This low vulnerability was supported by survey observations showing little damage due to fishing. Although direct evidence of fishing (trawl

tracks, trawl net, pot and longline gear) occurred on 32 (24%) transects and damaged invertebrates (sea whips, sponges, corals) occurred on 68 (27%) transects, damaged taxa and direct evidence of fishing occurred on only 8 (3%) transects. This suggests that direct evidence of fishing damage to invertebrates was rare, and it is likely that much of the damage that was observed was not of anthropogenic origin.

After reviewing the report, and based upon a review by the Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Council concluded that scientific evidence (from trawl surveys, the NOAA stereo-camera survey, and a third party video transect survey) does not suggest that there is a risk to the deep-sea corals present in Pribilof and Zhemchug Canyons and adjacent slope areas under current management. The evidence shows low occurrence and density of deep-sea corals, lack of substrate to support corals, and low vulnerability to fishery impacts of existing deep-sea corals in these areas. To be responsive to its stated need to evaluate historical and current patterns of fishing effort, the Council requested that NMFS provide updated data on the distribution, intensity, and depth of fishing effort in locations of known and predicted coral abundance. The Council also requested that AFSC continue to monitor the coral communities in the Bering Sea, by reporting in the Ecosystem SAFE chapter:

1. Changes in coral frequency, composition, and distribution in the trawl survey,
2. Changes in trawl and fixed gear effort in areas of model predicted coral abundance.

This concludes a nearly decade-long public process at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to understand the distribution and abundance of deep-sea corals in the Bering Sea, and to determine whether additional measures are needed at this time to protect corals in the Bering Sea, similar to measures implemented to protect corals in the Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

# AP/SSC Nominations

The Council is accepting nominations for its Scientific and Statistical Committee and 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. There are 8 AP seats up for nomination which serve three-year terms, and one special one-year appointment for GOA issues. AP members eligible for re-appointment and whose terms expire at the end of this year include: Art Nelson (finishing out the year for Becca Robbins Gisclair), Dan Donich (finishing out the year for Andy Mezirow), John Gruver, Mitch Kilborn, Craig Lowenberg, Joel Peterson, and Anne Vanderhoeven. Paddy O'Donnell currently serves the special one year appointment. Please send letters of interest and/or nominations along with a resume to

[npfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:npfmc.comments@noaa.gov).

**Nominations close December 1.**

# Observer Actions

## ***2016 Annual Deployment Plan***

The Council reviewed the Draft 2016 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 use the trip selection method to assign observers to vessels, and concurs with deploying exclusively into three gear strata in 2016, for trawl, longline, and pot gear (regardless of vessel length). The ADP will use an optimal allocation method to deploy observers among the strata, with preliminary selection rates of 29% for trawl vessels, and 14% each for hook-and-line and pot vessels.

The 2016 ADP also expands the "No Selection Pool" to include an EM Selection pool of fixed gear vessels that elect to opt-in and participate in electronic monitoring (EM) research, in addition to vessels fishing with jig gear and vessels less than 40 feet length overall. The Council agreed that for 2016, no conditional releases or temporary exemptions from observer coverage will be granted for limited bunk space or liferaft capacity, as the EM pre-implementation pool provides a monitoring alternative for these vessels. The Council recommended, however, that a limited exemption be continued in 2016, where ODDS programming prevents a small vessel from being selected for a third consecutive observed trip. A second area where the Council recommendation differed from the draft ADP was with respect to reducing the number of trips that can be logged at one time in ODDS, from three to two. The Council heard testimony from stakeholders that in some fisheries, being able to log three trips is critical in a race for fish situation, to avoid delays associated with the potential 72 hour lag time between logging a trip and obtaining an observer. The Council recommended no changes to ODDS for 2016, but asked the agency to further evaluate the scope of potential data bias associated with this issue and the third consecutive trip exemption in the next Annual Report, as well as alternate solutions.

The Council supports retaining Chinook salmon sampling protocols as in 2015, and also continuing to allow trawl catcher vessels fishing for Pacific cod in the BSAI the opportunity to opt-in to the full coverage pool by arrangement with the agency. The Council also supports a change in the 2016 ADP whereby vessel operators and processors will be asked to fill in the ODDS trip tracking number when reporting deliveries in eLandings. Linking the ODDS

trip with eLandings will help NMFS better understand how well observer coverage is distributed across fisheries. Outreach this winter will focus on this and other observer program changes, and meetings are planned for Seattle, Homer, Anchorage, Kodiak, Petersburg, and Sitka. The most current meeting information can be found at <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/observers/>.

Finally, the Council requested that in preparation for the development of the 2017 ADP, the agency evaluate different weighting schemes for optimal allocation among gear strata, such that discards are weighted more heavily than retained catch. The Council anticipates that information to allow Council feedback could be included in the Annual Report.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## ***Observer Coverage for BSAI Trawl CVs***

The Council completed initial review of an action that could alter the observer coverage requirements for trawl catcher vessels that target non-pollock species in the BSAI area. The Council considered how to allow CV owners to select the observer coverage category that best suits their fishing plan and enables them to comply with cooperative bycatch management goals, without creating undue burdens on other vessels or on the Observer Program itself. Duplicative requirements for some vessels to provide observers with data logging technology were also discussed.

The Council added a new suboption for consideration at final action, and identified a preliminary preferred alternative in order to focus further analysis and public comment on a particular approach. The new suboption relates to Alternative 3, which is the preliminary preferred alternative. Alternative 3 would provide the owner of any BSAI trawl catcher vessel with the choice to be in the full coverage category for the upcoming year; an owner could choose a different category from one year to the next, depending on his or her business plan. With the additional suboption, the Council will consider whether the deadline for this annual determination will be July 1 of the year preceding the one in which the categorical selection will apply, or October 15. Staff contact is Sam Cunningham.

## Electronic Monitoring

The Council approved the 2016 Electronic Monitoring (EM) Pre-implementation Plan as recommended by the Council's Fixed Gear EM Workgroup. The plan defines EM deployment in 2016 for vessels that meet the Council's priority criteria, namely longline vessels, 40-57.5 feet length overall, which have trouble carrying an observer due to insufficient life raft or bunk space capacity. The EMWG proposes a 60-vessel EM pool for these vessels in 2016, with four deployment time periods and a 30% target coverage level in each deployment period. Vessels participating in the EM pool will be placed in the "No Selection Pool" for human observer coverage in 2016.

There are currently 56 longline vessels in the 40-57.5 feet size class that have opted into the EM pool, by responding to a letter sent by the NMFS Observer Program earlier this year. Now that the Council has finalized the program rules for 2016 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 a small number of additional vessels that meet the Council's priority criteria. In 2016, vessels in the human observer pool will not be granted conditional releases or temporary exemptions for limited bunk space or liferaft capacity, as the EM pre-implementation pool provides a monitoring alternative. Any vessels that are interested in participating in the EM pre-implementation program in 2016 should contact Liz Chilton at the Observer Program by November 20, at (206) 526-4197, or by email at [elizabeth.chilton@noaa.gov](mailto:elizabeth.chilton@noaa.gov).

The Council also concurred with EM Workgroup recommendations to continue other EM research and development in 2016, within the confines of the budget. Research projects include developing other EM technologies, expanding EM into other fixed gear sectors, and developing infrastructure to integrate EM data into the observer database. Three to five 40-57.5 ft longline vessels are being solicited to test stereo cameras in 2016, and will be placed into the "No Selection Pool" in addition to the 60 pre-implementation vessels. Pot cod EM research will continue into 2016 through a NFWF grant to the North Pacific Fishing Association. Vessels that are interested in using EM in the future are also encouraged to contact the Observer Program, so that the EM Workgroup can continue to build the list of vessels who might eventually participate in the EM program.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## Other observer items

The Council also received a status report on all the observer analytical projects under staff tasking, and received recommendations from the OAC about observer regulatory amendments. The Council had previously tasked a discussion paper to evaluate regulatory and non-regulatory solutions to the shortage of fixed gear lead level 2 observers, and under staff tasking, asked staff to address additional solutions proposed by the OAC. The Chair also appointed Luke Szymanski, of AIS, to the Observer Advisory Committee. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## Staff Tasking

In addition to discussing the relative priority of previously tasked projects, the Council initiated several new projects and clarified direction and tasking for its various committees. Additionally, the Council tasked staff to do the following:

- Send a letter to the USFWS suggesting that 1) the new take guidelines for short-tailed albatross be robust to population growth, and 2) extend the deadline for re-consultation if necessary to ensure that all existing information is considered, and 3) the Council should have an opportunity to review proposed changes (if any) to the take guidelines;
- Provide comments on NOAA's Habitat Enterprise Strategic Plan;
- Activate a small spatial management/stock structure workgroup consisting of Council staff, NMFS staff, other plan team members, and SSC members, with an initial focus on BSAI RE/BS rockfish;
- Prepare a discussion paper to evaluate methods for limiting access to groundfish fisheries in the Al offshore sectors, and establish a control date of December 31, 2015 for future management actions that limit participation in those fisheries;
- Prepare a discussion paper that would evaluate participation and effort in the Bering Sea yellowfin sole trawl limited access fishery in response to a potential need to limit entry in the offshore sector in that fishery. The Council established a control date of October 13, 2015 for any action considering future participation in the offshore sector of this fishery;
- Initiate an analysis to move squid in the BSAI and GOA into the ecosystem component category, with no catch specifications required;
- Include additional information in the previously tasked Lead Level 2 discussion paper to help guide the Council in developing alternatives for a potential regulatory amendment package;
- Revise the draft Halibut Management Framework for public comment at the December meeting.

## Call for Nominations

### The Charter Halibut

**Implementation Committee** will meet on October 21, in Anchorage and via teleconference, to recommend 2016 charter halibut management measures for analysis. Results of the analysis will be presented to the committee on December 8, 2014, in Anchorage, where the committee will select charter halibut management measures for recommendation to the Council for implementation in 2016. The Council is soliciting nominations for an Area 3A charter halibut representative to serve on the Charter Halibut Implementation Committee. Please submit nominations to [npfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:npfmc.comments@noaa.gov) by November 15, 2015. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

### The Recreational Quota Entity Committee

will meet on December 7 2015, in Anchorage, to review the initial review draft of the RQE Analysis. The Council is soliciting nominations for an Area 3A charter halibut representative to serve on the Recreational Quota Entity Committee. Please submit nominations to [npfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:npfmc.comments@noaa.gov) by November 15, 2015. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.



## Upcoming meetings

### **Charter Halibut Implementation**

**Committee:** October 21, via  
Teleconference, 1pm – 5pm. 907-  
271-2869

**Ecosystem Committee:** October  
29, 1pm to October-30; NMFS, 222  
W 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Anchorage

**EM Workgroup:** November 2-3,  
Marriott Hotel, Anchorage. 12.30p-  
5p Monday, 8a-5p Tuesday.

### **Groundfish Plan Team meetings:**

November 16-20, AFSC, Seattle.  
The agenda for the meeting is  
posted on the Council's website.  
PLEASE NOTE: Beginning October  
10th, US Driver's licenses will be  
accepted for admittance to the  
NOAA facility only if they are Real  
ID compliant. Alternative  
identification, such as a passport,  
will be required if a license is non-  
compliant. For more information  
see [http://www.dhs.gov/real-id-  
public-faqs](http://www.dhs.gov/real-id-public-faqs)

### **Recreational Quota Entity**

**Committee:** December 7, 1-5 pm,  
Anchorage Hilton.

### **Charter Halibut Implementation**

**Committee:** December 8, 1-5 pm,  
Anchorage Hilton.

**IFQ Committee:** December 8,  
Anchorage Hilton

**Enforcement Committee:**  
December 8, Anchorage Hilton

**EM Workgroup:** January 2016,  
Dates and location TBD.

**Crab Plan Team meeting:** January  
11-13, Anchorage AK. Place TBD.

**Crab Modeling workshop:**  
January 14-15, Anchorage AK.  
Place TBD

## Halibut Framework

At this meeting the Council reviewed a draft halibut management Framework discussion paper, which attempts to provide an improved structure for informing Council decision-making on halibut issues, and to provide better coordination with IPHC management processes. The Council requested staff to expand on this draft Framework in several areas (motion is posted on the Council's website), for consideration at its upcoming December meeting where stakeholder input and Council discussion is expected to further refine this evolving management Framework. Council contact is Chris Oliver.

Related to the halibut management Framework, the Council received an update at this meeting regarding the ongoing initiatives by the industry to effect deck sorting of halibut to reduce overall mortality. This work is being conducted through Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) which are reviewed by the Council and approved by NMFS. Mr. John Gauvin provided an overview of current and projected EFP activities, including ongoing discussions between EFP applicants and NMFS regarding the specific monitoring requirements needed for the deck sorting EFPs, as well as monitoring requirements associated with potential regulatory allowances of deck sorting. In order to facilitate these ongoing discussions, the Council expressed its desire to be periodically updated on the progress of those discussions, and volunteered Council member Craig Cross to participate in those discussions, as necessary, in order to keep the Council apprised of the status of the deck sorting initiatives. Council contact for this issue is Diana Evans.

## Crab Management

The Council took final action to approve the annual BSAI Crab stock assessment and fishery evaluation (SAFE) report and to establish final specifications (overfishing limits and acceptable biological catch) for 6 annually surveyed crab stocks. EBS Tanner crab and Pribilof Islands red king crab are estimated to be above target biomass levels ( $B_{MSY}$ ) for 2015/16 while Saint Matthew blue king is estimated below  $B_{MSY}$ . Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock remains overfished and estimated to be well below its MSST. The BSAI Crab SAFE report and SSC recommendations to the Council on crab specifications are posted on the Council's website. The Council requested that the Crab Plan Team give considerations to options for modifying the

timing of the stock assessment process to allow additional review time following the availability of the summer survey data each fall. The Crab plan team will discuss this at their January meeting and provide recommended options to the Council for February. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

## Groundfish Specifications

The Council received reports from the Joint, BSAI and GOA groundfish plan teams on a variety of upcoming assessment related issues and adopted proposed specifications for 2016-2017 for BSAI and GOA groundfish. These proposed specifications are only used to inform the proposed rule for final specifications. Final specifications for 2016-2017 will be established at the December Council meeting following updated stock assessments reviewed by the Plan Teams in November and the SSC in December.

It is the Council's intent to review BSAI species specification setting in December recognizing a shared responsibility with the IPHC to maintain a viable commercial halibut fishery in Areas 4CDE for the sustained participation of Saint Paul and other Western Alaska communities. Further, it is the Council's intent to continue to minimize bycatch by assessing the adequacy of the Amendment 80 cooperatives bycatch savings agreements(s) as well as actual halibut bycatch savings up to the December specifications setting as the Council determines final species specifications for the 2016 season.

In conjunction with groundfish specifications the Council took two additional actions. The first was to initiate an amendment analysis to move squid species into the Ecosystem Component of the FMPs in both the BSAI and GOA. The Council's problem statement and alternatives for analysis are posted on the Council's website. The second action was to initiate an internal workgroup of Plan Team, SSC, Regional office and Council staff to provide recommendations on the application of the Council's spatial management policy to stock structure and spatial issues. The Joint Groundfish Plan Teams have requested clarification on a number of issues with the respect to the application of the management policy. The workgroup will meet prior to the November Plan Team meeting and provide recommendations on progress at that time. The Council specifically requested that the workgroup prioritize discussions of management options for the BSAI Blackspotted/Rougheye rockfish complex.

Staff contacts for groundfish are Diana Stram (BSAI) and Jim Armstrong (GOA).

# WAG Crab Exemption

The Council heard a staff presentation on proposed amendment that would exempt harvesters in the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab (WAG) fishery from the regulation that prohibits the continuation of a fishing trip subsequent to a partial offload of crab in the Crab Rationalization program.

In effect, this action would allow vessels harvesting WAG to deliver partial offloads of crab to the live crab market in Adak, opportunistically; when the markets and commercial airlines allow for it, and subsequently continue fishing. While the processing plant in Adak does not currently have the product volume or rate of product supply required to justify accepting and processing a full offload from catcher vessels prosecuting this fishery, the processor can accept small deliveries of live crab product to be packed and shipped by the commercial airline. Eliminating the full offload requirement for this fishery could allow vessels a better opportunity to supply small deliveries of WAG to Adak, without subsequently incurring the harvest inefficiency costs associated with traveling significant distances to deliver a partially-full vessel of WAG.

The draft analysis for Public Review was expanded primarily in two ways for final action: 1) It includes a more thorough description justifying why it is not believed that illegal discarding of crab is a common occurrence in the rationalized fisheries and why it is not expected that this action would encourage illegal discarding of crab; and 2) the analysis is expanded in its discussion of the state observer program and its discussion of why this action is not expected to motivate harvesters to conduct non-representative fishing when observers are present.

The Council took final action by selecting this regulatory exemption for the WAG fishery as a preferred alternative. Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

# AI Pacific Cod Processing

At this meeting, the Council took final action to provide stability to Aleutian Islands (AI) shoreplant operations and the communities dependent on shoreside processing activity. Specifically, the Council recommended that prior to March 21, the A season trawl catcher vessel (CV) Pacific cod harvest in the Bering Sea shall be limited to an amount equal to the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) aggregate CV trawl sector A season allocation minus the lessor of the AI directed Pacific cod non-community development quota (CDQ) total

allowable catch (TAC) or 5,000 mt. In addition, directed fishing for non-CDQ AI Pacific cod is prohibited for all vessels except CVs delivering to shoreplants west of 170° longitude in the AI prior to March 15, unless restrictions preventing stranding of AI Pacific cod TAC are removed earlier.

In their preferred alternative, the Council included Option 1 which allows for any amount of the AI directed Pacific cod non-CDQ TAC about the amount set aside from the trawl CV BSAI allocation to be available to any sector for directed fishing and is not subject to the regional delivery requirement.

To assist in preventing stranding of AI Pacific cod TAC, the Council included Option 3. Under that option, if less than 1,000 mt of the AI Pacific cod non-CDQ TAC has been landed at AI shoreplants by February 28, the restriction on delivery to other processors and the restriction on the trawl CV sector allocation shall be suspended for the remainder of the year.

Finally, the Council included Option 4 in their preferred alternative, as another measure to prevent stranding of AI Pacific cod TAC. If prior to November 1, neither the City of Adak nor the City of Atka have notified NMFS of the intent to process non-CDQ directed AI Pacific cod in the upcoming year, the AI shoreside delivery requirement and restriction on the trawl CV sector allocation is suspended for the upcoming year. Cities can voluntarily provide notice prior to the selected date if they do not intend to process AI Pacific cod.

The Council's purpose is to provide community protection measures in the AI through prioritizing AI Pacific cod for all catcher vessels delivering to AI shoreplants under small AI Pacific cod TACs, while allowing opportunities for all sectors in the AI Pacific cod fishery later in March and during periods of high AI Pacific cod TACs. The Council noted that this recommendation strikes a balance between providing community protections and ensuring that the harvest sector has an opportunity to achieve optimum yield.

Finally, during staff tasking, the Council requested staff prepare a discussion paper looking at methods for limiting access to groundfish fisheries in the offshore sectors in the AI. As a reference for future management actions that limit offshore participation in the AI groundfish fisheries, the Council included a control date of December 31, 2015. The Council also clarified that this tasking is to be combined with a previous Council tasking in February 2015 to prepare a discussion paper on the conservation and management issues associated with establishing a seasonal split for the AI Pacific cod TAC.

Staff contact for this action is Jon McCracken.

# GOA Trawl Actions

## GOA Trawl Bycatch Management Program

The Council reviewed a discussion paper on elements of the previously proposed framework for a new GOA trawl management structure, which was set forth in October 2014. The Council took action to add several options to the pre-existing Alternatives (Alternative 2 and 3), and to add Alternative 4 to the range for analysis. The current range of Alternatives includes:

Alternative 1: No action;

Alternative 2: Voluntary Inshore and Catcher/Processor cooperatives with transferrable annual allocations of PSC, target, and secondary species, full observer coverage, community stability measures for Inshore cooperatives, and opportunities for gear conversion;

Alternative 3: Options to allocate between 5% and 15% of allocated fishing quota to either a Community Fisheries Association or an Adaptive Management program;

Alternative 4: Voluntary Inshore cooperatives with transferrable annual PSC allocations, and full observer coverage.

For Alternative 2, the Council expanded the range of potential reductions to the GOA trawl halibut PSC limits for analysis, and added suboptions that further define how the program might place a portion of each cooperative's annual PSC allocation under the control of the processor member. Alternative 4 has many elements in common with Alternative 2. Under Alternative 4, allocations of PSC quota to cooperatives would be made on the basis of either (1) equal shares relative to the number of vessels in a cooperative, or (2) based on the capacity of the vessels in a given cooperative. The primary difference from Alternative 2 is that Alternative 4 would not allocate groundfish harvest privileges to the cooperatives. Elements that are specific to the CP sector or to the allocation of groundfish species are not included in Alternative 4. Similarly, elements of Alternative 2 that establish measures to protect communities from potential adverse impacts associated with groundfish allocation are not part of Alternative 4. However, Alternative 4 does contain elements that could restrict PSC quota transferability and limit fleet consolidation.

The Council tasked the drafting of a work plan that details how staff will develop an Environmental Impact Statement. That plan will be presented to the Council at the December 2015 meeting, and will include the identification of key personnel, information gaps, and the prioritization of analytical tasks that might receive interim review and public feedback.

### Observer Coverage on GOA Trawl CVs

The Council reviewed a discussion paper that identified potential effects of requiring 100% observer coverage on GOA trawl catcher vessels, while the fishery remains managed under a limited access structure. The paper considered effects on CV operations, Observer Program administration, and the partial coverage category. The Council did not recommend any further action at this time, but the provided information was noted as useful for future consideration in the context of developing the GOA Trawl Bycatch Management program.

## GOA Chinook Salmon Reapportionment

The Council reviewed a preliminary draft of an RIR/IRFA on Alternatives that would provide the NMFS Regional Administrator with greater in-season flexibility to reapportion Chinook salmon PSC limits between GOA trawl sectors. The purpose of the action is to prevent sector closures, when practicable, without permitting the total amount of Chinook salmon PSC to exceed the existing limit for the GOA trawl fishery as a whole. The Council added one option to the action Alternative, to be analyzed for the next round of review. That option would provide NMFS in-season managers with flexibility in how they apply the "Chinook PSC rollover" provision for the Central GOA Rockfish Program, which was established under GOA Groundfish FMP Amendment 97. Rather than automatically moving Chinook salmon PSC from the Rockfish Program CV sector to the non-pollock CV sector on October 1 of each year, the option would allow NMFS in-season managers to determine an appropriate amount to roll over based on anticipated Rockfish Program CV effort levels for the part of the season that falls after October 1. Staff contact for all GOA trawl actions is Sam Cunningham.

## Council Record Maintained Online

For those interested, all documents related to a council meeting can now be found online through the Council's website and linked through items on the agenda. Items handed out during meetings, as well as Council motions, are also posted to the agenda and are accessible. Audio of the meetings will be available through an online storage site, box.net, and are also available through links on the agenda.

Meeting items are also available to those who use mobile devices through the app iLegislate on google play or itunes. If you are interested in any of these online items and want more information, give the office a call or email [maria.shawback@noaa.gov](mailto:maria.shawback@noaa.gov).



*North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee.*



# DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 10/20/2015

December 7-15, 2015 Anchorage, AK	February 1-9, 2016 Portland, OR	April 4-12, 2016 Anchorage, AK
North Pacific Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Review	NEPA Training for SSC, AP, and Council (T)	
BS FEP: <b>Discussion paper, Ecosystem Ctte Report</b>	Redesignation of SSL CH: Agency progress report (T)	EFH 5-year Review: <b>Review Draft Report (T)</b>
GOA Trawl Bycatch Management: <b>Review workplan</b>	GOA Trawl Bycatch Management: <b>Action as necessary (T)</b>	GOA Trawl Bycatch Management: <b>Action as necessary (T)</b>
Halibut Management Framework: <b>Review and Next Steps</b>	BS TLAS YFS Fishery Limited Entry: <b>Discussion Paper (T)</b>	
Biomass based BSAI Halibut PSC Limits: <b>Discussion paper</b>	Halibut Deck Sorting Scales 2016 EFP: <b>Review</b>	Halibut DMRs methodology: <b>Discussion paper</b>
Am 80 Coop Reports on 2016 Halibut PSC Management Plans	Deck Sorting Implementation Industry Workgroup Report (T)	
Charter Halibut RQE Program: <b>Initial Review</b>		Charter Halibut RQE Program: <b>Final Action (T)</b>
Charter Halibut Measures for 2016		
Halibut/Sablefish IFQ program review: <b>Review outline; Cttee Report</b>	Halibut/Sablefish IFQ program review: <b>Cttee Rep/Workplan</b>	Salmon genetics spatial/temporal refinement: <b>Disc Paper</b>
Halibut retention in sablefish pots: <b>Discussion paper</b>		Pollock ICA Reports
Area 4 Halibut Leasing Options for CDQ Vessels: <b>Disc paper</b>		Co-op Reports (AFA, Am 80, GOA Rockfish, BSAI Crab)
Observer Annual Deployment Plan: <b>Update on Final ADP</b>	Observer coverage on BSAI trawl CVs: <b>Final Action</b>	AI groundfish offshore sector limited access, and
AFA program review: <b>Review Workplan</b>	EM Analysis: <b>Review Alternatives and Methods</b>	AI Pcod A/B season split: <b>Discussion paper (T)</b>
GOA Salmon PSC Reapportionment: <b>Initial/Final Review</b>	GOA tendering activity: <b>Annual Review</b>	Observer Tendering: <b>Initial Review (T)</b>
Final groundfish harvest specs: <b>Approve; PT report</b>	BSAI snow crab bycatch data evaluation: <b>Disc paper (T)</b>	Scallop SAFE and catch specifications: <b>Approve, PT report</b>
Halibut DMRs 2016-2018: <b>Review and approve</b>	WAI RKC Stocks in FMP: <b>Discussion paper</b>	
	BSAI Crab 10-year Review: <b>Review Report (T)</b>	
Bristol Bay RKC Savings Area EFP: <b>Review and Approve</b>	Crab Plan Team Report	Squid to Ecosystem Component Category: <b>Initial Review (T)</b>
	Crab Modeling Workshop Report (SSC Only)	
	NS RKC OFL/ABC Catch Specifications: <b>Approve</b>	
Enforcement Precepts: <b>Enforcement Cttee Review</b>	Groundfish Policy and Workplan: <b>Review</b>	

## ITEMS BELOW NOT YET SCHEDULED

EM Integration: Initial Review (October 2016)  
Observer Lead Level 2: **Discussion paper**  
Observer Insurance Requirements: **Disc paper for Reg Am**

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 7-15, 2015, Anchorage  
February 1-9, 2016, Portland  
April 4 - 12, 2016, Anchorage  
June 6-14, 2016, Kodiak  
October 3 -11, 2016 Anchorage  
December 5-13, 2016, Anchorage

(T) = Tentative