North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Meeting Summary

231st Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
December 6-14, 2016
Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska

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Attachments
1) C6 BSAI Groundfish SAFE and Specifications (Tables 1, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17)
2) C7 GOA Groundfish SAFE Specification Tables
3) Halibut DMRs for BSAI and GOA
4) Time Log
5) Newsletter

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met Thursday, December 6, through Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. The following Council, NPFMC staff, SSC, and AP members attended the meetings.

Council Members

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

NPFMC Staff

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

Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC met from December 6th through 8th at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK.

Members present were:

Farron Wallace, Chair
NOAA Fisheries—AFSC

Robert Clark, Vice Chair
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Jennifer Burns
University of Alaska Anchorage

Sherri Dressel
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Jason Gasper
NOAA Fisheries—Alaska Region

Brad Harris
Alaska Pacific University

Anne Hollowed
NOAA Fisheries—AFSC

George Hunt
University of Washington

Gordon Kruse
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Dayv Lowry
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Seth Macinko
University of Rhode Island

Terry Quinn
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Kate Reedy
Idaho State University Pocatello

Ian Stewart
Intl. Pacific Halibut Commission

Alison Whitman
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Members absent were:

Chris Anderson
University of Washington

Lew Coggins
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Franz Mueter
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Matt Reimer
University of Alaska Anchorage

Advisory Panel

The AP met Wednesday, December 7, through Saturday, December 10 , 2016. Members present were:

Carroll, Shannon
Christiansen, Ruth
Cochran, Kurt
Crowley, John*
Donich, Dan
Downing, Jerry*
Drobnika, Angel
(* *absent Dec. 10-11, 2016)*

Farvour, Jeff
Gruver, John
Kauffman, Jeff
Kwachka, Alexus
Lowenberg, Craig
McCallum, Chuck
Nelson, Art (absent 12/8)

O'Donnell, Paddy
Peterson, Joel
Stephan, Jeff (Vice Chair)
Stevens, Ben
Upton, Matt
Weiss, Ernie (Chair)
Wilt, Sinclair

B REPORTS

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

B1 Executive Director's Report – Chris Oliver
B2 NMFS Management Report – Glenn Merrill
B3 ADF&G Report – Trent Harthill
B4 NOAA Enforcement Report – Jackie Smith
B5 USCG Report – LCDR Corrie Sergent and Jeff Schoknecht
B6 USFWS Report – Kathy Kuletz – Seabird Die-Off Situation
B7 Protected Species Report - Steve MacLean
B8 IPHC Report – Steve Keith & Claude Dykstra

C1 CHARTER HALIBUT MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2017

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Steve MacLean and ADF&G staff, Scott Meyer. The following action was taken:

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

The Council recommends the following charter halibut management measures for implementation in 2017 in Areas 2C and 3A:

Area 2C
The Council recommends the following management measures be implemented with a one-fish bag limit.

- If the halibut charter allocation is at the Blue Line, implement a reverse slot limit (U40:O80), with an annual limit of 3 halibut
- If the halibut charter allocation is below the Blue Line, implement an annual limit of 3 fish, and a reverse slot limit with a maximum size limit of 80". Incrementally reduce the lower size limit until projected harvest falls within the allocation.

- If the halibut charter allocation is above the Blue Line, but below SPR, implement a reverse slot limit of O80 and an annual limit of 5 fish. Select a lower limit for the reverse slot to allow the largest lower limit while maintaining the projected harvest within the allocation.

Area 3A

The Council recommends the following 2016 management measures also be implemented in 2017; a two fish bag limit with a maximum size limit of one fish of 28 inches; an annual limit of four fish (with a recording requirement); Wednesdays closed all year; and one charter vessel trip per permit per day.

In addition, the following are new management measures recommended for 2017. Assuming a 1.32% reduction in charter halibut harvest for each Tuesday closed during the season, the Council recommends closing the minimum number of Tuesdays required to bring the projected charter removals below the charter allocation (as specified in the catch sharing plan). To the extent possible, select Tuesdays between late July and mid-August such that 2/3 to 3/4 of the closed Tuesdays are before August 1.

No. closed Tuesdays	Projected Charter Removals (Mlbs)	Dates
0	1.951	NA
1	1.925	July 25
2	1.899	Jul 25 - Aug 1
3	1.874	Jul 18 - Aug 1
4	1.848	Jul 11 - Aug 1
5	1.822	Jul 11 - Aug 8
6	1.796	Jul 4 - Aug 8
7	1.771	Jul 4 - Aug 15
8	1.745	Jun - 27 - Aug 15

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

Add the following language **(in bold)** to the Area 2C text:

Area 2C

The Council recommends the following management measures be implemented with a one-fish bag limit.

- If the halibut charter allocation is at the Blue Line, implement a reverse slot limit (U40:O80), with an annual limit of 3 halibut **with a recording requirement**
- If the halibut charter allocation is below the Blue Line, implement an annual limit of 3 fish **with a recording requirement,** and a reverse slot limit with a maximum size limit of 80". Incrementally reduce the lower size limit until projected harvest falls within the allocation.
- If the halibut charter allocation is above the Blue Line, but below SPR, implement a reverse slot limit of O80 and an annual limit of 5 fish **with a recording requirement**. Select a lower limit for the reverse slot to allow the largest lower limit while maintaining the projected harvest within the allocation.
- **If halibut charter allocation is at or above the SPR, implement an upper reverse slot limit of 080 and select a lower limit for the reverse slot to allow the larges lower limit while maintaining the projected harvest within the allocation. No annual limit.**

Mr. Cross made the following amendment to the amendment:

Add the following language **(in bold and underline)** to Area 2C bullet 3 text:

- If the halibut charter allocation is above the Blue Line, but below SPR, implement a reverse slot limit of **U40:**O80 and an annual limit of 5 fish **with a recording requirement**. Select a lower limit for the reverse slot to allow the largest lower limit while maintaining the projected harvest within the allocation.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection December 9, 2016 at 9:29 a.m.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection December 9, 2016 at 9:31 a.m.

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

Add the following language **(in bold)** and delete the following language (~~strikethrough~~) to Area 3A:

Area 3A
The Council recommends the following 2016 management measures also be implemented in 2017; a two fish bag limit with a maximum size limit of one fish of 28 inches; an annual limit of four fish (with a recording requirement); Wednesdays closed all year; and one charter vessel trip per permit per day.

In addition, the following are new management measures recommended for 2017. Assuming a 1.32% reduction in charter halibut harvest for each Tuesday closed during the season, the Council recommends closing the minimum number of Tuesdays required to bring the projected charter removals below the charter allocation, **as described in the table above** (table as shown in original motion page 4), as specified in the catch sharing plan. ~~To the extent possible, select Tuesdays between late July and mid-August such that 2/3 to 3/4 of the closed Tuesdays are before August 1.~~

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection December 9, 2016 at 9:34 a.m.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Motion passed with no objection December 9, 2016 at 9:35 a.m.

C2 CHARTER HALIBUT PERMIT USAGE

The Council heard a presentation from NMFS' staff Julie Scheurer. The following action was taken:

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

The Council initiates an analysis with the following purpose and need statement and alternatives.

Purpose and Need:

Developing an annual registration for the Charter Halibut Permit (CHP) Program will provide much needed information about the trends of the usage and ownership of CHPs. It will also insure that the Council and stakeholders will get more complete information about the performance and usage of CHPs and to ensure that CHP holders are demonstrating active participation in the fishery. This information will be the first step to understanding the capacity and growth of the fleet. Finally, the annual registration program could limit the use of non-transferable CHPs only to persons, vessels, and areas identified during the registration process.

Alternative 1 – Status quo

Alternative 2 – Implement an annual registration process for transferable and non-transferable charter halibut permits. A CHP holder must submit the following information to NMFS on an annual basis to register a CHP: CHP number, CHP holder name (individual or non-individual entity), and CHP holder address. If a CHP is not registered with NMFS, the CHP would not be valid for use during the applicable fishing year.

Options for additional requirements could include (options are not mutually exclusive):

Option 1. CHP ownership (e.g., ownership holdings for the CHP by individual(s), partners, or a corporate entity).

Option 2. Natural person(s) and/or vessel(s) that will use the permit.

Sub-option. If a non-transferable CHP is used by a natural person(s) and/or vessel(s) that was not submitted to NMFS during the annual registration, the CHP would not be valid for use during the following fishing year.

Option 3. For non-transferable permits, the CHP holder must notify NMFS where the permit will be used (i.e., the beginning and/or ending port(s) to trips where the CHP is used.

Suboption. If a non-transferable CHP is used for a trip that begins or ends in a port that was not submitted to NMFS during the annual registration, the CHP would not be valid for use during the following year.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection December 9, 2016 at 11:45 a.m.

C3 CHARTER HALIBUT RECREATIONAL QUOTA ENTITY PROGRAM

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Sarah Marrinan and Jonathan King of Northern Economics. The following action was taken:

Mr. Mezirow made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:
(The motion is based on the AP motion with additions in **bold and underline** and deletions in ~~strikeout)~~

The Council recommends Alternative 2, with the following elements and options, as its preferred alternative:

Alternative 2. Establish a Recreational Quota Entity (RQE) as a qualified non-profit entity to purchase and hold commercial halibut QS for use by the guided halibut sector.

Element 1. Number of entities

Option 2. One entity with two area quota pools, Area 2C and Area 3A

Element 2. Restrictions on transfers. Two-way transfers are allowed. Quota class and block designation is retained if the quota is transferred back to the commercial sector. (Options below are not mutually exclusive)

Option 2. Annual limit on transfers to the RQE in each regulatory area (1% of commercial QS units in Area 2C and 1.5% in Area 3A **amounts based on 2015 QS pool**)

Option 3A. Total (cumulative) limit on amount of commercial quota share held by RQE and leased under GAF

10% of the 2015 commercial QS pool may be held as RQE and GAF combined in Area 2C and 15% of the 2015 commercial QS pool may be held as RQE and GAF combined in Area 3A.

Cumulative cap will be managed annually on a sliding scale between RQE and GAF, with GAF transfers restricted to accommodate RQE QS holdings.

Option 4. Restrictions on RQE quota share purchases (in either or both areas)

Sub-option 1. Restrict purchase of D class quota share (limits selected under Option 2 and 3 are calculated including D class QS)

Sub-option 2. Restrict purchase of blocked QS by class that equates to (≤1,500 lb in 2015 lb) (limits selected under Option 2 and 3 are calculated including blocked QS)

Element 3. Setting of annual charter management measures. Use RQE quota share holdings as of October 1 each year as the basis to estimate IFQ pounds to add to the estimated guided recreational allocation under the catch sharing plan for the upcoming year. This amount must be maintained for the following fishing year. This estimated combined allocation would be used to recommend the guided recreational harvest measures for the following year. The procedural process steps and timeline would remain unchanged.

Option 1. If the RQE holdings provide a charter harvest opportunity greater than the unguided recreational bag limit in either area, NMFS would not issue annual IFQ in excess of the amount needed for the charter sector to obtain the unguided recreational bag limit to the RQE for that area. Unallocated RQE IFQ would be reallocated as follows:

Sub-option 1. 50% goes equally to all catcher vessel QS holders in the applicable area (Area 2C or Area 3A) who hold not more than 32,333 QS units in Area 2C, and 47,469 QS units in Area 3A (i.e., the amount of QS that yielded 2,000 pounds of IFQ in 2015). This 50% would be redistributed among qualified QS holders proportional to their QS holdings.

Sub-option 2. 50% goes **equally among all** CQEs ~~actively~~ **that held halibut QS** ~~participating~~ **in the applicable area (**Area 2C or Area 3A**) in the year prior to the reallocation**. **If no CQE held QS in the**

applicable area (Area 2C or Area 3A) in the preceding year, unallocated RQE IFQ would not be allocated **in that area** (left in the water).

~~**Element 4**. Limit on use of RQE funds. RQE funds are~~ The Council envisions the RQE will use funds primarily for the acquisition of commercial halibut quota; ~~acquisition of charter halibut permits~~; halibut conservation/research; promotion of the halibut resource; and administrative costs. ~~RQE Funds Shall Not Be Used directly or indirectly to lobby local, State, or Federal officials~~

Element 5. RQE Organizational Structure. **To be approved as an entity eligible to purchase and hold commercial halibut QS**, **the RQE must submit articles of incorporation and management organization information to NMFS, including 1) bylaws and 2) a list of key personnel including, but not limited to, the board of directors, officers, representatives and managers. In addition:**

Option 1. A representative of the Alaska Department of Revenue may sit as an ex-officio member of the RQE board.

Option 2. The Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, or their designee, may sit as a voting member of the RQE board.

~~Option 2. The RQE shall hold no less than two board meetings annually.~~

Option 3. The RQE shall file an annual report detailing RQE activities during the prior year by 31 January. **The annual report shall be provided to the Council and shall include:**

1) List of all purchases or sales of QS

2) Any changes to the bylaws from the preceding year

3) Any changes to Board of Directors or key personnel from the preceding year

4) Number of charter halibut permits purchased or held

5) Funds spent on conservation, research and promotion of the halibut resource and a summary of the results

6) Administrative expenses

Mr. Hyder requested to add the following language in **bold** and delete the following language (~~strikethrough~~) for clarification:

Option 4. Restrictions on RQE quota share purchases (in either or both areas)

Suboption 1. ~~Restric~~t Prohibit purchase of D class quota share (limits selected under Option 2 and 3 are calculated including D class QS)

Suboption 2. ~~Restrict~~ Prohibit purchase of blocked QS by class that equates to (≤1,500 lb in 2015 lb)

(limits selected under Option 2 and 3 are calculated including blocked QS)

Mr. Mezirow clarified that this was the intent of the motion.

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

Add the following language **(in bold)**:

Alternative 2. Establish a Recreational Quota Entity (RQE) as a qualified non-profit entity **registered with the IRS** to purchase and hold commercial halibut QS for use by the guided halibut sector.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection December 10, 2016 at 3:37 p.m.

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

Add the following language **(in bold)**:

~~**Element 4**. Limit on use of RQE funds. RQE funds are~~ The Council envisions the RQE will use funds primarily for the acquisition of commercial halibut quota; ~~acquisition of charter halibut permits~~; halibut conservation/research; promotion of the halibut resource; and administrative costs. ~~RQE Funds Shall Not Be Used directly or indirectly to lobby local, State, or Federal officials.~~ **The Council intends RQE resources not be involved in political campaigns.**

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with 4 objections (Mr. Cotten, Mr. Down, Mr. Laukitis, Mr. Hull) December 10, 2016 at 3:42 p.m.

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

Add the following language **(in bold)**:

Option 3. The RQE shall file an annual report detailing RQE activities during the prior year by 31 January.

The annual report shall be provided to the Council and shall include:

1) List of all purchases or sales of QS
2) Any changes to the bylaws from the preceding year
3) Any changes to Board of Directors or key personnel from the preceding year
4) Number of charter halibut permits purchased or held
5) Funds spent on conservation, research and promotion of the halibut resource and a summary of the results
6) Administrative expenses
7) All Other expenses

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection December 10, 2016 at 3:44 p.m.

Ms. Peterson made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Kinneen:

Add the following language **(in bold)** and delete the following language (~~strikethrough~~):

Element 2. Restrictions on transfers. Two-way transfers are allowed. Quota class and block designation is retained if the quota is transferred back to the commercial sector. (Options below are not mutually exclusive)

Option 2. Annual limit on transfers to the RQE in each regulatory area (1% of commercial QS units in Area 2C and ~~1.5%~~ **1.2%** in Area 3A amounts based on 2015 QS pool)

Option 3A. Total (cumulative) limit on amount of commercial quota share held by RQE and leased under GAF

10% of the 2015 commercial QS pool may be held as RQE and GAF combined in Area 2C and ~~15%~~ **12%** of the 2015 commercial QS pool may be held as RQE and GAF combined in Area 3A.

Cumulative cap will be managed annually on a sliding scale between RQE and GAF, with GAF transfers restricted to accommodate RQE QS holdings.

Option 4. Restrictions on RQE quota share purchases (in either or both areas)

Sub-option 1. Restrict purchase of D class quota share (limits selected under Option 2 and 3 are calculated including D class QS)

Sub-option 2. Restrict purchase of blocked QS by class that equates to (≤1,500 lb in 2015 lb) (limits selected under Option 2 and 3 are calculated including blocked QS)

Mr. Down made the following amendment to the amendment which was seconded by Mr. Laukitis:

Add the following language **(in bold and *italicized*)** and delete the following language (~~strikethrough~~):

Element 2. Restrictions on transfers. Two-way transfers are allowed. Quota class and block designation is retained if the quota is transferred back to the commercial sector. (Options below are not mutually exclusive)

Option 2. Annual limit on transfers to the RQE in each regulatory area (1% of commercial QS units in Area 2C and ~~1.5%~~ ~~**1.2%**~~ ***1%*** in Area 3A amounts based on 2015 QS pool)

Option 3A. Total (cumulative) limit on amount of commercial quota share held by RQE and leased under GAF

10% of the 2015 commercial QS pool may be held as RQE and GAF combined in Area 2C and ~~15%~~ ~~**12%**~~ ***10%*** of the 2015 commercial QS pool may be held as RQE and GAF combined in Area 3A.

Cumulative cap will be managed annually on a sliding scale between RQE and GAF, with GAF transfers restricted to accommodate RQE QS holdings.

Option 4. Restrictions on RQE quota share purchases (in either or both areas)

Sub-option 1. Restrict purchase of D class quota share (limits selected under Option 2 and 3 are calculated including D class QS)

Sub-option 2. Restrict purchase of blocked QS by class that equates to (≤1,500 lb in 2015 lb) (limits selected under Option 2 and 3 are calculated including blocked QS)

VOTE ON AMENDMENT to the AMENDMENT: Amendment failed 5/6 (Mr. Balsiger, Mr. Cotten, Mr. Cross, Mr. Kinneen, Mr. Mezirow, and Mr. Tweit voting in opposition) December 10, 2016 at 3:57 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection December 10, 2016 at 4:03 p.m.

Ms. Peterson made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Down:

Add the following language **(in bold)** under Element 2, Option 4:

Option 4. Restrictions on RQE quota share purchases (in either or both areas)

Sub-option 1. Restrict purchase of D class quota share **in are 3A and limit to 10% of D class QS in Area 2C (based on the D class QS pool in 2015)** (limits selected under Option 2 and 3 are calculated including D class QS).

Sub-option 2. Restrict purchase of blocked QS by class that equates to (≤1,500 lb in 2015 lb) (limits selected under Option 2 and 3 are calculated including blocked QS).

Sub-option 3. Restrict purchase of B class QS to 10% (of the B class QS pool in 2015) in Area 2C.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection December 10, 2016 at 4:12 p.m.

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

The Council deems proposed regulations that clearly and directly flow from the provisions of this motion to be necessary and appropriate in accordance with Section 303c and therefore the Council authorizes the Executive Director and the Chairman to review the draft proposed regulations when provided by NMFS to ensure that the proposed regulations to be submitted to the Secretary under Section 303c are consistent with these instructions.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection December 10, 2016 at 4:39 p.m.

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

Delete the following language (~~strikethrough~~) under Element 3, Option 1, Sub-option 1:

Sub-option 1. 50% goes ~~equally~~ to all catcher vessel QS holders in the applicable area (Area 2C or Area 3A) who hold not more than 32,333 QS units in Area 2C, and 47,469 QS units in Area 3A (i.e., the amount of QS that yielded 2,000 pounds of IFQ in 2015). This 50% would be redistributed among qualified QS holders proportional to their QS holdings.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection December 10, 2016 at 4:45 p.m.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Motion passed 8/3 (Mr. Down, Mr. Hyder, and Mr. Laukitis voting in opposition) December 10, 2016 at 5:10 p.m.

C4 AM 80 HALIBUT PSC MEASURES

The Council heard industry reports from Mark Fina, Maria Jacob, and Bill Orr. No action was taken.

C5 EFP-1 INTERIM REPORT ON HALIBUT DECK SORTING

The Council heard a presentation from AM 80 Fishery Consultant, Jon Gauvin. No action was taken.

C6 BSAI GROUNDFISH SAFE AND HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram and Co-Chair of the BS Plan Team, Dana Hanselman. The Council also heard a report from NMFS' staff, Stephani Zador on Ecosystem Considerations. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council moves to adopt the 2017 and 2018 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs for Groundfish in the BSAI as seen in Table 1 & 13 (attachment 1).

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection December 11, 2016 at 2:58 p.m.

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

The Council moves to approve the BSAI SAFE Report.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection December 11, 2016 at 3:01 p.m.

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

The Council moves to approve the PSC amounts as shown in Table 14, 15, 16, & 17 (attachment 1).

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection December 11, 2016 at 3:03 p.m.

C7 GOA GROUNDFISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Jim Armstrong and Co-Chair of GOA Plan Team, Jon Heifetz. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council approved the 2016 GOA Groundfish SAFE report, and recommends for implementation the attached (attachment 2) 2017 and 2018 GOA groundfish OFLs, ABCs, and TACs as well as the attached (attachment 2) halibut PSC limits and apportionments.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection December 11, 2016 at 4:54 p.m.

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

The Council adopts the recommended 2017 and 2018 Halibut DMRs for in-season management of the BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries (attachment 3).

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection December 11, 2016 at 4:55 p.m.

C8 EFP-2 BRISTOL BAY RED KING CRAB SAVINGS AREA

The Council heard a presentation from AM 80 Fishery Consultant, John Gauvin. The following action was taken:

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

The Council supports NMFS AK Region's issuance of the AKSC's RCKSA EFP application subject to the following modification to the permitted EFP activities in year one of the EFP (2017).

1) No more than one AKSC vessel authorized to conduct experimental fishing in RKCSA in 2017
2) Vessel authorized for 2017 must:
   A) Not exceed 85 tows inside RKCSA in 2017
   B) Must have sea samplers and follow all EFP data collection procedures for all fishing while engaged in the EFP from January –April 30 2017
   C) Shall cease to conduct fishing inside the RKCSA if the vessel catches the number of RKC it has taken on average annually from 2014-2016 (not exceed its three year average number of RKC PSC)
   D) Data fully illustrating where/when the authorized vessel fished inside and outside the RKCSA during the EFP in 2017 and associated groundifsh and PSC catches shall be presented to the board of the BSFRF after EFP activities are completed in 2017
   E) AKSC shall present data on areas fished and associated groundfish and PSC catches by the authorized vessel to NPFMC in June of 2017 (or another meeting as council schedule allows)

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion failed 3/7 (Mr. Cotten, Mr. Down, Mr. Kinneen, Mr. Laukitis, Mr. Mezirow, Ms. Peterson, and Mr. Hull voting in opposition) December 12, 2016 at 11:09 a.m.

C9 ELECTRONIC MONITORING INTEGRATION

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Diana Evans. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council adopts Alternative 2, Allow use of EM for catch estimation on vessels in the EM selection pool, with Option A, Allow EM as a monitoring tool when IFQ fishing in multiple regulatory areas.

Alternative 2 includes the nine components identified in section 3.1.2 of the Analysis.

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

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). 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 passed with no objection December 12, 2016 at 1:37 p.m.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed 10/1 with one objection (Mr. Laukitis) December 12, 2016 at 1:43 p.m.

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

Revised tasking for the Fixed Gear Electronic Monitoring Workgroup (Workgroup)

The Council recognizes that the Workgroup's purpose has changed with the successful development of the EM Integration analysis. The Council continues to see a need for the Workgroup to track the EM program over the next two years through the transition to implementation. Specifically, the Council directs the Workgroup to focus on the following tasks:

- Review the proposed rule for EM integration and provide comments to the Council
- Provide input to the Council about policy considerations that NMFS should address when developing the Request for Proposals for an EM service provider contract
- Continue to consider EM program efficiencies, costs and cost optimization, working closely with the Observer Program, including:
    - Develop the appropriate tools and metrics to evaluate the performance of the EM selection pool for the Annual Report.
    - Compare the EM selection pool and the human observer pool for purposes of allocating observer fees and optimizing EM deployment in the Annual Deployment Plan.
- Review and provide feedback on EM research and development projects

The Council concurs with the Workgroup's recommendation to initiate a Discussion Paper to identify the practicality of moving vessels in the <40 ft fleet out of the zero-selection pool and into EM coverage. The Council assigns this discussion paper as the last priority on the Council's observer analytical project list.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection December 12, 2016 at 2:03 p.m.

D3 EFP-3 FINAL REPORT ON SALMON EXCLUDER EFP

The Council heard a presentation from AM 80 Fishery Consultant, John Gauvin. No action was taken.

C10 GOA TRAWL BYCATCH MANAGEMENT

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Sam Cunningham, and contractors Darrell Brannan and Mike Downs. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council moves to postpone further work on the Gulf of Alaska Trawl Bycatch Management action indefinitely.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed 8/3 (Mr. Merrill, Mr. Cross, and Mr. Down voting in opposition) December 13, 2016 at 3:29 p.m.

D1 ESSENTIAL FISH ABITAT – FISHING EFFECTS

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Steve MacLean. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council adopts the methods proposed by the SSC Subcommittee to evaluate the effects of fishing on Essential Fish Habitat for BSAI and GOA groundfish and crab resources.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection December 13, 2016 at 5:24 p.m.

D2 ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT – NON-FISHING EFFECTS REPORT

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Steve MacLean and NMFS' staff, Matt Eagleton. NPFMC staff, Jon McCracken presented the Ecosystem Committee Report. No actions were taken.

E1 STAFF TASKING

RQE

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

The Council requests that staff develop a discussion paper exploring the possibility of changing or eliminating the ownership cap on Charter Halibut Permits for the Recreational Quota Entity to hold up to 30% of the CHP's in either area 3A or 2C.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection December 14, 2016 at 12:50 p.m.

CHARTER HALIBUT PERMIT PROGRAM

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

The Council requests that the staff develop a discussion paper to explore mechanisms for reducing latent capacity in the Charter Halibut Permit program. This latent capacity could jeopardize the success of the RQE program and impact non-guided, subsistence and the directed longline sector. Some possible

mechanisms might be explored; a single tier of limitation based on an average minimum use of the permit, a multiple set of limitation tiers that are based on low (less than 20 trips), medium (less than 50 trips) and high usage (51 or more trips), limit of the number of angler days per permit.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection December 14, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

HALIBUT ABUNDANCE BASED MANAGEMENT

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

Council moves to direct staff to include a section in the Abundance Based Management (ABM) paper to include a list of considerations of what it would take to include the Gulf in the ABM Program.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection December 14, 2016 at 1:41 p.m.

PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH

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

The Council tasks staff to evaluate the following measures as potential options to reduce PSC.

- Evaluate the temporal distribution of halibut PSC during the Western Gulf Pacific cod A season. Specifically, changes in halibut PSC rates as the season progresses.
- Evaluate the timing of pollock harvest and Chinook salmon PSC in the Western Gulf C and D seasons to determine if there are times with higher Chinook salmon PSC.
- Evaluate the impacts and effects of lowering the Western Gulf pollock trip limits to 200,000 pounds per trip.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with 8/3 (Mr. Cross, Mr. Down, and Mr. Tweit voting in opposition) December 14, 2016 at 2:07 p.m.

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

Council tasks staff to form a discussion paper to evaluate the impacts and effects of stranded GOA cod in the trawl B season, including the effects of sector splits, season dates, and apportionments.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with 2 objections (Mr. Cross and Mr. Hyder) December 14, 2016 at 2:15 p.m.

GOA CRAB HABITAT PROTECTION

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

The Council request that staff develop a discussion paper that summarizes the Council's actions protecting crab habitat in the Central Gulf of Alaska and information on stock abundance and distribution.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed 6/5 (Mr. Cross, Mr. Down, Mr. Hyder, Mr. Mezirow, and Mr. Tweit voting in opposition) December 14, 2016 at 2:18 p.m.

HALIBUT COMMISSION

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

The Council send a letter to the IPHC recommending that they continue the evaluation of the biological and yield impacts of the current minimum size limit and alternate size limits.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection December 14, 2016 at 2:28 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS

The Council deliberated on various tasks that involved scheduling issues for the February and April meetings. The Council also made the following committee, SSC, and AP appointments:

IFQ Committee – Michael Offerman, Shawn McManus, Matt Robinson, Linda Kozak, Jared Bright, Erick Velsko, Jeff Farvour, Jeff Kauffman, Bob Linville, Natasha Hayden, Nicole Kimball, Peggy Parker

PINCIAC – Lance Farr, Kevin Kaldestad, Steve Minor, Gary Painter, Dale Schwarzmiller, Gary Stewart, Tom Suryan, Elizabeth Wiley, Bret Reisner, Dean Fasnacht, Erling Jacobsen, Stephanie Moreland, and Ruth Christiansen

BS Ecosystem PT Members - Kerim Aydin, Mike Dalton, Diana Evans, Anthony Fischbach, Brandee Gerke, Jim Ianelli, Brad Harris, JoAnn Mellish, Heather Renner, Elizabeth Siddon, Ian Stewart, and Stephani Zador

SSC Members – The Council approved all current SSC members for another one-year term, as well as the appointment of Dayv Lowry from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

AP Members - The Advisory Panel added two new members; Carina Nichols of Sitka, a commercial fisher who will replace Jeff Farvour for the remaining one year of his term; and John Scoblic of Ketchikan's Trident and Norquest for a three-year term. The following AP members were re-appointed for three years: Ruth Christiansen, Kurt Cochran, Jeff Kauffman, Alexus Kwachka, Patrick O'Donnell, Sinclair Wilt; and Jeff Stephan for a one-year appointment.

THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2016 AT 2:48 P.M.

Table 1-Final 2017 and 2018 BSAI overfishing level (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and total allowable catch (TAC) amounts recommended by the Council

		2016				2017			2018		
Species	**Area**	**OFL**	**ABC**	**TAC**	**12/5/2016**	**OFL**	**ABC**	**TAC**	**OFL**	**ABC**	**TAC**
Pollock	EBS	3,910,000	2,090,000	1,340,000	1,352,007	3,640,000	2,800,000	1,345,000	4,360,000	2,979,000	1,345,000
	AI	39,075	32,227	19,000	1,288	43,650	36,061	19,000	49,291	40,788	19,000
	Bogoslof	31,906	23,850	500	1,005	130,428	**60,800**	500	130,428	**97,428**	500
Pacific co	BS	390,000	255,000	238,680	220,039	284,000	239,000	223,704	302,000	255,000	223,704
	AI	23,400	17,600	12,839	12,357	28,700	21,500	15,695	28,700	21,500	15,695
Sablefish	BS	1,304	1,151	1,151	525	**1,499**	1,274	1,274	**1,519**	1,291	1,274
	AI	1,766	1,557	1,557	349	**2,044**	1,735	1,735	**2,072**	1,758	1,735
Yellowfin	BSAI	228,100	211,700	144,000	135,346	287,000	260,800	154,000	276,000	250,800	154,000
Greenland	BSAI	4,194	3,462	2,873	2,230	11,615	**6,644**	4,500	12,831	10,864	4,500
	BS	n/a	2,673	2,673	2,108	n/a	**5,800**	4,375	n/a	9,484	4,375
	AI	n/a	789	200	122	n/a	**844**	125	n/a	1,380	125
Arrowtoot	BSAI	94,035	80,701	14,000	11,026	76,100	65,371	14,000	67,023	58,633	14,000
Kamchatk	BSAI	11,100	9,500	5,000	4,842	10,360	8,880	5,000	10,700	9,200	5,000
Northern r	BSAI	165,900	161,000	57,100	45,074	159,700	155,100	47,100	147,300	143,100	47,100
Flathead s	BSAI	79,562	66,250	21,000	10,194	81,654	68,278	14,500	79,136	66,164	14,500
Alaska pla	BSAI	49,000	41,000	14,500	13,291	42,800	36,000	13,000	36,900	32,100	13,000
Other flatf	BSAI	17,414	13,061	2,500	2,821	17,591	13,193	2,500	17,591	13,193	2,500
Pacific Oc	BSAI	40,529	33,320	31,900	31,401	53,152	43,723	34,900	51,950	42,735	34,900
	BS	n/a	8,353	8,000	8,179	n/a	**12,199**	11,000	n/a	**11,924**	11,000
	EAI	n/a	7,916	7,900	7,569	n/a	**10,307**	7,900	n/a	**10,074**	7,900
	CAI	n/a	7,355	7,000	6,765	n/a	**8,009**	7,000	n/a	**7,828**	7,000
	WAI	n/a	9,696	9,000	8,888	n/a	**13,208**	9,000	n/a	**12,909**	9,000
Northern r	BSAI	14,689	11,960	4,500	4,538	16,242	13,264	5,000	15,854	12,947	5,000
Blackspot	BSAI	693	561	300	158	612	501	225	750	614	225
rockfish	EBS/EAI	n/a	179	100	71	n/a	**306**	100	n/a	**374**	100
	CAI/WAI	n/a	382	200	87	n/a	**195**	125	n/a	**240**	125
Shortrake	BSAI	690	518	200	105	666	499	125	666	499	125
Other rock	BSAI	1,667	1,250	875	794	1,816	1,362	875	1,816	1,362	875
	BS	n/a	695	325	281	n/a	791	325	n/a	791	325
	AI	n/a	555	550	513	n/a	571	550	n/a	571	550
Atka mack	BSAI	104,749	90,340	55,000	54,320	102,700	87,200	65,000	99,900	85,000	65,000
	EAI/BS	n/a	30,832	28,500	28,195	n/a	34,890	34,500	n/a	34,000	34,000
	CAI	n/a	27,216	16,000	15,795	n/a	30,330	18,000	n/a	29,600	18,500
	WAI	n/a	32,292	10,500	10,330	n/a	21,980	12,500	n/a	21,400	12,500
Skates	BSAI	50,215	42,134	26,000	27,564	49,063	41,144	26,000	46,583	39,008	26,000
Sculpins	BSAI	52,365	39,725	4,500	4,659	56,582	42,387	4,500	56,582	42,387	4,500
Sharks	BSAI	1,363	1,022	125	128	689	517	125	689	517	125
Squids	BSAI	6,912	5,184	1,500	1,282	6,912	5,184	1,342	6,912	5,184	1,342
Octopuses	BSAI	3,452	2,589	400	430	4,769	3,576	400	4,769	3,576	400
Total	BSAI	5,324,080	3,236,662	2,000,000	1,937,773	5,110,344	4,013,993	2,000,000	5,807,962	4,214,648	2,000,000

Sources: 2015 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2016 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2014 and December 2015, respectively; 2015 catches through December 31, 2015 and 2016 catches through December 5, 2016 from

TABLE 13–FINAL 2017 AND 2018 ABC SURPLUS,COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA (CDQ) ABC RESERVES,
[Amounts are in metric tons]

Sector	2017 Flathead sole	2017 Rock sole	2017 Yellowfin sole	2018 Flathead sole	2018 Rock sole	2018 Yellowfin sole
ABC	68,278	155,100	260,800	66,164	143,100	250,800
TAC	14,500	47,100	154,000	14,500	47,100	154,000
ABC surplus	53,778	108,000	106,800	51,664	96,000	96,800
ABC reserve	53,778	108,000	106,800	51,664	96,000	96,800
CDQ ABC reserve	5,754	11,556	11,428	5,528	10,272	10,358
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	48,024	96,444	95,372	46,136	85,728	86,442
Alaska Groundfish Cooperative for 2017[1]	4,926	23,857	37,891	n/a	n/a	n/a
Alaska Seafood Cooperative for 2017[1]	43,098	72,587	57,481	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] The 2018 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, 2017.

TABLE 14-FINAL 2017 AND 2018 APPORTIONMENT OF PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES TO NON-TRAWL GEAR, THE CDQ PROGRAM, AMENDMENT 80, AND THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTORS

PSC species and area[1]	Non-trawl PSC	Total trawl PSC	Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ	CDQ PSQ reserve[2]	Amendment 80 sector	BSAI trawl limited access fishery
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	710	2,805	n/a	315	1,745	745
Herring (mt) BSAI	n/a	2,013	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	n/a	97,000	86,621	10,379	43,293	26,489
C. opilio (animals) COBLZ	n/a	9,105,477	8,131,191	974,286	3,996,480	2,613,365
C. bairdi crab (animals) Zone 1	n/a	830,000	741,190	88,810	312,115	348,285
C. bairdi crab (animals) Zone 2	n/a	2,070,000	1,848,510	221,490	437,542	865,288

[1] Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of zones.

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

[3] The Amendment 80 program reduces the apportionment of the trawl PSC limits by 20 percent for crab. These reductions are not apportioned to other gear types or sectors.

TABLE 15-FINAL 2017 AND 2018 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	100	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish [1]	43	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sa	5	n/a
Rockfish	5	n/a
Pacific cod	10	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	1,800	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species[2,3]	50	n/a
Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear[4]	n/a	24,250
Total trawl PSC	2,013	97,000

[1] "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.

[2] Pollock other than pelagic trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and "other species" fishery category.

[3] "Other species" for PSC monitoring includes skates, sculpins, sharks, squids, and octopuses.

[4] In December 2016 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*)).

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

TABLE 16–FINAL 2017 AND 2018 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

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

[1] Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas.

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

[3] "Other species" for PSC monitoring includes skates, sculpins, sharks, squids, and octopuses.

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

TABLE 17–FINAL 2017 AND 2018 HALIBUT PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR NON-TRAWL FISHERIES

Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI				
Non-trawl fisheries	Seasons	Catcher/processor	Catcher vessel	All Non-Trawl
Pacific cod	Total Pacific cod	648	13	661
	January 1-June 10	388	9	n/a
	June 10-August 15	162	2	n/a
	August 15-December 31	98	2	n/a
Non-Pacific cod non-trawl-Total	May 1-December 31	n/a	n/a	49
Groundfish pot and jig	n/a	n/a	n/a	Exempt
Sablefish hook-and-line	n/a	n/a	n/a	Exempt
Total for all non-trawl PSC	n/a	n/a	n/a	710

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

C-7
Council Motions
Dec 11, 2016

Pacific Halibut PSC Limits, Allowances, and Apportionments for 2017 and 2018
(Values are in metric tons)

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

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

Seasonal Apportionments of Pacific Halibut PSC Limits for Trawl Gear between Shallow-Water and Deep-Water Species Fisheries for 2017-2018.
(Values are in metric tons)

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

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

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

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

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

ATTACHMENT 2

Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Specifications: Council recommended OFLs, ABCs and TACs for 2017 and 2018 (metric tons).

Species	Area	2016 OFL	2016 ABC	2016 TAC	Catch 11/5/2016	2017 OFL	2017 ABC	2017 TAC	2018 OFL	2018 ABC	2018 TAC
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	6,358	-	-		5,094	n/a		3,937	n/a
	W (610)	n/a	56,494	56,494	61,222	n/a	43,602	43,602	n/a	33,701	33,701
	C (620)	n/a	124,927	124,927	46,968	n/a	98,652	98,652	n/a	76,249	76,249
	C (630)	n/a	57,183	57,183	64,605	n/a	48,929	48,929	n/a	37,818	37,818
	WYAK	n/a	9,348	9,348	132	n/a	7,492	7,492	n/a	5,791	5,791
	Subtotal	322,858	254,310	247,952	172,927	235,807	203,769	198,675	182,204	157,496	153,559
	EYAK/SEO	13,226	9,920	9,920	-	13,226	9,920	9,920	13,226	9,920	9,920
	Total	336,084	264,230	257,872	172,927	249,033	213,689	208,595	195,430	167,416	163,479
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	40,503	28,352	17,539	n/a	36,291	25,404	n/a	32,565	22,795
	C	n/a	49,312	36,984	21,939	n/a	44,180	33,135	n/a	39,644	29,733
	E	n/a	8,785	6,589	66	n/a	7,871	5,903	n/a	7,063	5,297
	Total	116,700	98,600	71,925	39,544	105,378	88,342	64,442	94,188	79,272	57,825
Sablefish	W	n/a	1,272	1,272	1,037	n/a	1,349	1,349	n/a	1,367	1,367
	C	n/a	4,023	4,023	4,147	n/a	4,514	4,514	n/a	4,574	4,574
	WYAK	n/a	1,475	1,475	1,640	n/a	1,605	1,605	n/a	1,626	1,626
	SEO	n/a	2,317	2,317	2,457	n/a	2,606	2,606	n/a	2,640	2,640
	Total	10,326	9,087	9,087	9,281	11,885	10,074	10,074	12,045	10,207	10,207
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	20,851	13,250	145	n/a	20,921	13,250	n/a	21,042	13,250
	C	n/a	19,242	19,242	3,445	n/a	19,306	19,306	n/a	19,418	19,418
	WYAK	n/a	3,177	3,177	-	n/a	3,188	3,188	n/a	3,206	3,206
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,094	1,094	1	n/a	1,099	1,099	n/a	1,105	1,105
	Total	54,520	44,364	36,763	3,591	54,583	44,514	36,843	54,893	44,771	36,979
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	186	186	4	n/a	256	256	n/a	257	257
	C	n/a	3,495	3,495	161	n/a	3,454	3,454	n/a	3,488	3,488
	WYAK	n/a	2,997	2,997	9	n/a	3,017	3,017	n/a	3,047	3,047
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,548	2,548	5	n/a	2,565	2,565	n/a	2,590	2,590
	Total	11,102	9,226	9,226	179	11,182	9,292	9,292	11,290	9,382	9,382
Rex Sole	W	n/a	1,315	1,315	169	n/a	1,459	1,459	n/a	1,478	1,478
	C	n/a	4,445	4,445	1,492	n/a	4,930	4,930	n/a	4,995	4,995
	WYAK	n/a	766	766	1	n/a	850	850	n/a	861	861
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	967	967	-	n/a	1,072	1,072	n/a	1,087	1,087
	Total	9,791	7,493	7,493	1,662	10,860	8,311	8,311	11,004	8,421	8,421
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	28,183	14,500	985	n/a	28,100	14,500	n/a	25,747	14,500
	C	n/a	107,981	75,000	17,970	n/a	107,934	75,000	n/a	98,895	75,000
	WYAK	n/a	37,368	6,900	25	n/a	37,405	6,900	n/a	34,273	6,900
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	12,656	6,900	13	n/a	12,654	6,900	n/a	11,595	6,900
	Total	219,430	186,188	103,300	18,993	219,327	186,093	103,300	196,635	170,510	103,300
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	11,027	8,650	214	n/a	11,098	8,650	n/a	11,282	8,650
	C	n/a	20,211	15,400	2,069	n/a	20,339	15,400	n/a	20,677	15,400
	WYAK	n/a	2,930	2,930	-	n/a	2,949	2,949	n/a	2,998	2,998
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	852	852	-	n/a	857	857	n/a	872	872
	Total	42,840	35,020	27,832	2,283	43,128	35,243	27,856	43,872	35,829	27,920

Sources: 2016 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from the havest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2015; 2016 catches through November 5, 2016 from AKR Catch Accounting.

ATTACHMENT 2

Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Specifications: Council recommended OFLs, ABCs and TACs for 2017 and 2018 (metric tons).

		2016			Catch	2017			2018		
Species	Area	OFL	ABC	TAC	as of 11/5/16	OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pacific Ocean Perch	W	n/a	2,737	2,737	2,627	n/a	2,679	2,679	n/a	2,627	2,627
	C	n/a	17,033	17,033	17,566	n/a	16,671	16,671	n/a	16,347	16,347
	WYAK	n/a	2,847	2,847	2,827	n/a	2,786	2,786	n/a	2,733	2,733
	W/C/WYAK	26,313	22,617	22,617	23,020	25,753	22,136	22,136	25,252	21,707	21,707
	SEO	2,118	1,820	1,820	-	2,073	1,782	1,782	2,032	1,747	1,747
	Total	28,431	24,437	24,437	23,020	27,826	23,918	23,918	27,284	23,454	23,454
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	457	457	115	n/a	432	432	n/a	400	400
	C	n/a	3,547	3,547	3,274	n/a	3,354	3,354	n/a	3,108	3,108
	E	n/a	4	-		n/a	4	-	n/a	4	-
	Total	4,783	4,008	4,004	3,389	4,522	3,790	3,786	4,175	3,512	3,508
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	38	38	52	n/a	38	38	n/a	38	38
	C	n/a	301	301	395	n/a	301	301	n/a	301	301
	E	n/a	947	947	299	n/a	947	947	n/a	947	947
	Total	1,715	1,286	1,286	746	1,715	1,286	1,286	1,715	1,286	1,286
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	173	173	91	n/a	158	158	n/a	146	146
	C	n/a	4,147	4,147	3,184	n/a	3,786	3,786	n/a	3,499	3,499
	WYAK	n/a	275	275	7	n/a	251	251	n/a	232	232
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	91	91	8	n/a	83	83	n/a	77	77
	Total	5,733	4,686	4,686	3,290	5,233	4,278	4,278	4,837	3,954	3,954
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	105	105	40	n/a	105	105	n/a	104	104
	C	n/a	707	707	467	n/a	706	706	n/a	702	702
	E	n/a	516	516	114	n/a	516	516	n/a	512	512
	Total	1,596	1,328	1,328	621	1,594	1,327	1,327	1,583	1,318	1,318
Demersal shelf rockfish	Total	364	231	231	115	357	227	227	357	227	227
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	291	291	207	n/a	291	291	n/a	291	291
	C	n/a	988	988	663	n/a	988	988	n/a	988	988
	E	n/a	682	682	222	n/a	682	682	n/a	682	682
	Total	2,615	1,961	1,961	1,092	2,615	1,961	1,961	2,615	1,961	1,961
Other Rockfish	W/C	n/a	1,534	1,534	1,294	n/a	1,534	1,534	n/a	1,534	1,534
	WYAK	n/a	574	574	48	n/a	574	574	n/a	574	574
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	3,665	200	38	n/a	3,665	200	n/a	3,665	200
	Total	7,424	5,773	2,308	1,380	7,424	5,773	2,308	7,424	5,773	2,308
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	2,000	993	6,200	4,700	3,000	6,200	4,700	3,000
Big Skate	W	n/a	908	908	134	n/a	908	908	n/a	908	908
	C	n/a	1,850	1,850	1,874	n/a	1,850	1,850	n/a	1,850	1,850
	E	n/a	1,056	1,056	44	n/a	1,056	1,056	n/a	1,056	1,056
	Total	5,086	3,814	3,814	2,052	5,086	3,814	3,814	5,086	3,814	3,814
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	61	61	131	n/a	61	61	n/a	61	61
	C	n/a	2,513	2,513	843	n/a	2,513	2,513	n/a	2,513	2,513
	E	n/a	632	632	336	n/a	632	632	n/a	632	632
	Total	4,274	3,206	3,206	1,310	4,274	3,206	3,206	4,274	3,206	3,206
Other Skates	GOA-wide	2,558	1,919	1,919	1,568	2,558	1,919	1,919	2,558	1,919	1,919
Sculpins	GOA-wide	7,338	5,591	5,591	1,293	7,338	5,591	5,591	7,338	5,591	5,591
Sharks	GOA-wide	6,020	4,514	4,514	1,841	6,020	4,514	4,514	6,020	4,514	4,514
Squids	GOA-wide	1,530	1,148	1,148	241	1,516	1,137	1,137	1,516	1,137	1,137
Octopuses	GOA-wide	6,504	4,878	4,878	323	6,504	4,878	4,878	6,504	4,878	4,878
Total		892,964	727,688	590,809	291,734	796,158	667,877	535,863	708,843	597,052	483,588

Sources: 2016 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from the havest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2015; 2016 catches through November 5, 2016 from AKR Catch Accounting.

Final Halibut Discard Mortality Rates for BSAI and GOA in 2017 – 2018.

Operational Group				
Sector	**Region**	**Gear**	**Target**	**DMR**
CP	BSAI	PTR	pollock	100%
			non-pollock	100%
		NPT	all	85%
		HAL	all	8%
		POT	all	6%
	GOA	PTR	pollock	100%
			non-pollock	100%
		NPT[a]	all	85%
		HAL	all	11%
		POT	all	10%
CV	BSAI	PTR	pollock	100%
			non-pollock	100%
		NPT	all	52%
		HAL	all	14%
		POT	all	6%
	GOA	PTR	pollock	100%
			non-pollock	100%
		NPT	Rockfish Program	67%
			non-RP	65%
		HAL	all	12%
		POT	all	10%

CP = Catcher Processor or mothership
CV = Catcher Vessel
BSAI = Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
GOA = Gulf of Alaska
PTR = pelagic trawl gear
NPT = non-pelagic trawl gear
HAL = hook and line (longline) gear
POT = pot gear

TIME LOG
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska
Hilton Hotel
December 8 – 14, 2016

THURSDAY DECEMBER 8, 2016

12/08/2016 08:08:08 AM	Call to Order
12/08/2016 08:09:32 AM	Approval of Agenda

B1 REPORTS

12/08/2016 08:11:16 AM	**B1 Executive Director's Report** – Chris Oliver
12/08/2016 08:17:51 AM	Nick Delaney Tribute
12/08/2016 08:38:22 AM	**B2 NMFS Management Report –** Glenn Merrill
12/08/2016 08:54:11 AM	NOAA GC Litigation Updates – John Lepore
12/08/2016 09:06:10 AM	GOA Inseason Management Report – Mary Furuness
12/08/2016 09:50:45 AM	Break
12/08/2016 10:11:12 AM	BSAI Inseason Management Report – Mary Furuness
12/08/2016 10:59:51 AM	**B3 ADF&G Report –** Trent Hartill
12/08/2016 11:08:27 AM	**B4 NOAA Enforcement Report** – Jackie Smith
12/08/2016 11:25:53 AM	**B5 USCG Report** – Corrie Sergent & Jeff Schnoknik
12/08/2016 11:38:42 AM	**B6 USFWS Report –** Kathy Kuletz Seabird Die-Off Situation
12/08/2016 11:53:42 AM	**B7 Protected Species Report** – Steve MacLean
12/08/2016 12:04:28 PM	Lunch Break
12/08/2016 01:07:59 PM	B8 IPHC Report – Steve Keith & Clode Dykstra

C6 PRESENTATION - OUT OF ORDER

12/08/2016 01:37:14 PM	Stephani Zador – Ecosystem Considerations
12/08/2016 02:52:10 PM	**C6 Public Testimony** – Clem Tillion
12/08/2016 03:00:21 PM	Eileen Sobeck
12/08/2016 03:14:59 PM	Break

C1 CHARTER HALIBUT MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2017

12/08/2016 03:33:53 PM	C1 Presentation – NPFMC Staff Steve MacLean & Scott Meyer
12/08/2016 04:17:59 PM	Adjourn for the day

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9, 2016

12/09/2016 08:10:31 AM	C1 Presentation Continued
12/09/2016 08:18:59 AM	Charter Halibut Management Report – Steve MacLean
12/09/2016 08:27:21 AM	AP Report – Jeff Stephens
12/09/2016 08:27:54 AM	**C1 Public Testimony**
12/09/2016 08:28:04 AM	Linda Behnken
12/09/2016 08:29:59 AM	Ann Bayes
12/09/2016 08:41:36 AM	**C1 Mr. Mezirow Motion**
12/09/2016 09:03:42 AM	Break

C2 CHARTER HALIBUT PERMIT USAGE

12/09/2016 09:37:29 AM	C2 Presentation – Julie Scheurer
12/09/2016 10:113:37 AM	Break
12/09/2016 10:23:31 AM	AP Report – Jeff Stephen
12/09/2016 10:25:55 AM	**C2 Public Testimony**
12/09/2016 10:26:18 AM	Bruce Gabrys
12/09/2016 10:37:21 AM	Bob Alverson
12/09/2016 10:39:16 AM	Ann Bayes
12/09/2016 10:40:10 AM	Malcom Milne
12/09/2016 10:41:39 AM	Rhonda Hubbard
12/09/2016 10:47:18 AM	Tom Gemmell & Linda Behnken
12/09/2016 11:11:15 AM	**C2 Mr. Mezirow Motion**
12/09/2016 11:45:36 AM	Break for Lunch

C3 CHARTER HALIBUT RECREATIONAL QUOTA ENTITY PROGRAM

12/09/2016 01:15:02 PM	C3 Presentation – NPFMC staff, Sarah Marrinan & Jonathan King
12/09/2016 03:08:14 PM	Public Testimony – Out of Order
12/09/2016 03:11:20 PM	Break
12/09/2016 03:29:38 PM	RQE Minutes – Steve MacLean
12/09/2016 03:43:05 PM	AP Report – Jeff Stephens
12/09/2016 04:00:52 PM	**C3 Public Testimony**
12/09/2016 04:04:13 PM	Melvin Grove
12/09/2016 04:04:47 PM	Nate Smith
12/09/2016 04:08:26 PM	Carter Hughes
12/09/2016 04:14:09 PM	Eric Lehm
12/09/2016 04:17:39 PM	Ben Martin
12/09/2016 04:26:44 PM	Richard Yamada
12/09/2016 04:52:59 PM	Dave Goldstein
12/09/2016 04:59:44 PM	Adjourn for the Day

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10, 2016

12/10/2016 08:08:38 AM	SSC Report – Farron Wallace
12/10/2016 09:07:19 AM	**C3 Public Testimony**
12/10/2016 09:08:01 AM	Alexus Kwachka
12/10/2016 09:17:27 AM	Bruce Gabrys
12/10/2016 09:40:32 AM	Bob Alverson & Jack Knutsen
12/10/2016 10:01:25 AM	Break
12/10/2016 10:19:52 AM	Samantha Weinstein
12/10/2016 10:34:01 AM	Matt Alward
12/10/2016 10:39:18 AM	Ricky Gease
12/10/2016 10:51:03 AM	Ilia Kuzmin
12/10/2016 10:53:53 AM	Malcolm Milne
12/10/2016 11:08:54 AM	Mike Sullivan
12/10/2016 11:15:54 AM	Erik Velsko
12/10/2016 11:21:39 AM	Matt Kopec
12/10/2016 11:26:49 AM	Jim Mackovjak
12/10/2016 11:37:02 AM	Rhonda Hubbard
12/10/2016 11:40:10 AM	Peggy Parker – Out of Order
12/10/2016 11:47:49 AM	Russell Thomas – Out of Order
12/10/2016 11:53:42 AM	Tom Ohaus
12/10/2016 01:05:46 PM	David Martin
12/10/2016 01:09:22 PM	Carina Nichols
12/10/2016 01:13:18 PM	Megan O'Neil
12/10/2016 01:17:44 PM	Jim Hubbard
12/10/2016 01:22:33 PM	Jeff Farvour
12/10/2016 01:28:54 PM	Chad Matthews
12/10/2016 01:32:34 PM	Duncan Fields
12/10/2016 01:47:05 PM	Linda Behnken
12/10/2016 02:05:33 PM	Tom Gemmell
12/10/2016 02:09:05 PM	Dan Falvey
12/10/2016 02:14:04 PM	Henry Mitchell – out of order
12/10/2016 02:25:18 PM	Break
12/10/2016 02:48:35 PM	**C3 Mr. Mezirow Motion**
12/10/2016 05:14:38 PM	Adjourn for the day

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11, 2016

C4 AM 80 HALIBUT PSC MEASURES - INDUSTRY REPORTS

12/11/2016 10:13:00 AM	C4 Report – Mark Fina, Maria Jacob, & Bill Orr
12/11/2016 10:55:00 AM	**C4 Public Tesimony**
12/11/2016 10:53:59 AM	Mateo Paz-Soldan, Simeon Swetzof, Heather McCarty

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS AGENDA ITEM

C5 EFP-1 INTERIM REPORT ON HALIBUT DECK SORTING

12/11/2016 11:21:30 AM C5 Report - Jon Gauvin
12/11/2016 11:54:57 AM **C5 Public Testimony**
12/11/2016 11:55:07 AM Arne Fuglvog
12/11/2016 12:02:08 PM Lunch Break

12/11/2016 01:05:18 PM **C9 Public Testimony**
12/11/2016 01:05:28 PM Megan O'Neil – Out of Order

C6 BSAI GROUNDFISH SAFE AND HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

12/11/2016 01:16:17 PM C6 Presentation – NPFMC Staff, Dr. Diana Stram & Dana Hanselmen – Co Chair BS Plan Team
12/11/2016 02:38:50 PM **C6 Public Testimony**
12/11/2016 02:38:50 PM APA, GFF, UCB, PACPA, FLC, MTC
12/11/2016 02:56:19 PM Heather McCarty, Mateo Paz-Soldan
12/11/2016 02:58:51 PM **C6 Mr. Cross Motion**
12/11/2016 03:15:11 PM Break

C7 GOA GROUNDFISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

12/11/2016 03:27:02 PM GOA SAFE Harvest Specs Report – Jon Heifetz
12/11/2016 04:14:26 PM Halibut DMRs – NPFMC staff, Jim Armstrong
12/11/2016 04:30:14 PM AP Report – Matt Upton
12/11/2016 04:32:14 PM **C7 Public Testimony**
12/11/2016 04:33:57 PM Paddy O'Donnell
12/11/2016 04:36:21 PM Julie Bonney
12/11/2016 04:45:16 PM Break
12/11/2016 04:51:04 PM **C7 Mr. Cross Motion**
12/11/2016 04:56:41 PM Adjourn for the day

MONDAY DECEMBER 12, 2016

C8 EFP-2 BRISTOL BAY RED KING CRAB SAVINGS AREA

12/12/2016 08:16:41 AM C8 Presentation – Jon Gauvin
12/12/2016 09:14:29 AM **C8 Public Testimony**
12/12/2016 09:14:47 AM Anne Vanderhoeven & Frank Kelty
12/12/2016 09:27:57 AM Annika Saltman
12/12/2016 09:32:09 AM Heather McCarty & Mateo Paz-Soldan
12/12/2016 09:39:39 AM Jon Warrenchuk

12/12/2016 09:58:49 AM Break
12/12/2016 10:19:29 AM **C8 Mr. Cross Motion**
12/12/2016 11:13:00 AM Break

C9 ELECTRONIC MONITORING INTEGRATION

12/12/2016 11:20:34 AM C9 Presentation – NPFMC Staff, Diana Evans
12/12/2016 012:15:31 PM Lunch Break
12/12/2016 01:28:31 PM C9 Presentation Questions
12/12/2016 01:28:57 PM AP Report – Ernie Weiss
12/12/2016 01:37:49 PM **Mr. Merrill Motion**
12/12/2016 01:56:41 PM **Mr. Tweit Motion**
12/12/2016 02:04:06 PM NOAA GC Financial Disclosure and Recusal Requirements – Lauren Smoker

12/12/2016 02:23:41 PM **E1 Public Testimony**
12/12/2016 02:23:41 PM Clem Tillion – Out of Order

C10 GOA TRAWL BYCATCH MANAGEMENT

12/12/2016 02:29:11 PM NPFMC Staff, Sam Cunningham Intro to GOA Presentations
12/12/2016 03:29:44 PM Break
12/12/2016 03:45:51 PM Darrell Brannan Presentation
12/12/2016 04:44:16 PM Sam Cunningham - Review of impacts on the Processing Sector
12/12/2016 05:18:37 PM Adjourn for the day

TUESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2016

12/13/2016 08:04:34 AM **C10 Public Testimony**
12/13/2016 08:08:11 AM Clem Tillion – Out of Order
12/13/2016 08:11:40 AM AP Report – Ernie Weiss
12/13/2016 08:25:55 AM Paul Gronholdt & Ernie Weiss
12/13/2016 08:38:32 AM Darius Kasprzak
12/13/2016 08:48:25 AM Natasha Hayden
12/13/2016 09:13:05 AM Rob Zyanich
12/13/2016 09:23:12 AM Jason Chandler – F/V Topaz
12/13/2016 09:30:01 AM George Hutchins
12/13/2016 09:35:24 AM Tom Manos
12/13/2016 09:45:31 AM Paddy O'Donnell
12/13/2016 10:01:34 AM Don Ashely – Out of Order
12/13/2016 10:19:11 AM Break
12/13/2016 10:38:20 AM Tom Evich
12/13/2016 10:42:24 AM Matt Hegge
12/13/2016 10:54:38 AM Kiley Thompson

12/13/2016 11:03:02 AM	Duncan Fields
12/13/2016 11:28:20 AM	Heather Mann
12/13/2016 11:46:58 AM	Beth Stewart & Andrew Manos
12/13/2016 11:55:38 AM	Break

D3 EFP-3 FINAL REPORT ON SALMON EXCLUDER EFP

12/13/2016 12:31:52 PM	EFH Salmon Excluder – Jon Gauvin
12/13/2016 01:12:38 PM	Break

C10 GOA TRAWL BYCATCH MANAGEMENT CONTINUED

12/13/2016 01:17:27 PM	**C10 Public Comment Continued**
12/13/2016 01:17:55 PM	Bob Kruegor
12/13/2016 01:25:40 PM	Julie Bonney
12/13/2016 01:43:07 PM	Glenn Reed
12/13/2016 02:01:54 PM	Heather McCarty
12/13/2016 02:10:49 PM	Jody Cook
12/13/2016 02:19:14 PM	Jon Warrenchuk
12/13/2016 02:24:59 PM	Break
12/13/2016 02:49:29 PM	**C10 Mr. Cotton Motion**
12/13/2016 03:33:17 PM	Break

D1 ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT - FISHING EFFECTS

12/13/2016 03:49:29 PM	NPFMC Staff Presentation – Steve MacLean & Mr. Olson
12/13/2016 04:58:33 PM	Ecosystem Committee Report – Steve MacLean
12/13/2016 05:00:22 PM	AP Report – Ernie Weiss
12/13/2016 05:02:41 PM	**D1 Public Comment**
12/13/2016 05:03:05 PM	Jon Warrenchuk
12/13/2016 05:09:00 PM	John Gauvin
12/13/2016 05:17:06 PM	**D1 Mr. Tweit Motion**
12/13/2016 05:24:53 PM	Adjourn for the day

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2016

D2 ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT – NON FISHING EFFECTS REPORT

12/14/2016 08:10:29 AM	NPFMC Staff Report - Steve MacLean & Matt Eagleton
12/14/2016 08:39:44 AM	Ecosystem Committee Report – Jon McCracken
12/14/2016 08:44:48 AM	Break

E1 STAFF TASKING

12/14/2016 09:07:57 AM	Jody Cook – Out of Order
12/14/2016 09:10:46 AM	Staff Report – Chris Oliver
12/14/2016 09:30:03 AM	Enforcement Report – Roy Hyder
12/14/2016 09:33:46 AM	3 Meeting Outlook Report – Chris Oliver
12/14/2016 09:38:19 AM	AP Report
12/14/2016 09:41:53 AM	**E1 Public Testimony**
12/14/2016 09:41:53 AM	Beth Stewart
12/14/2016 09:54:55 AM	Andy Varner
12/14/2016 09:57:24 AM	George Hutchings
12/14/2016 10:13:38 AM	Kiley Thompson
12/14/2016 10:17:40 AM	William Peterson
12/14/2016 10:27:40 AM	Duncan Fields
12/14/2016 10:42:38 AM	Bob Krueger
12/14/2016 10:44:03 AM	Julie Bonney
12/14/2016 10:59:21 AM	Darius Kasparzak
12/14/2016 11:02:41 AM	John Jaskoski
12/14/2016 11:10:31 AM	Break for Lunch
12/14/2016 12:50:09 PM	**Mr. Mezirow Motions - RQE**
12/14/2016 01:15:34 PM	**Mr. Cotton Motion – Abundance Based**
12/14/2016 01:31:34 PM	**Mr. Kinneen Substitute Motion**
12/14/2016 01:43:08 PM	**Mr. Cotton Motion – PSC**
12/14/2016 02:29:09 PM	**Mr. Tweit Motion – IPHC Letter**
12/14/2016 02:42:24 PM	**Appointments**
12/14/2016 02:48:21 PM	**Meeting Adjourned**

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Chris Oliver, Executive Director
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NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2016

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40th Anniversary Celebration

Nearly 350 guests enjoyed a banquet at the Captain Cook Hotel on December 8 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

At the event, Alaska Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan provided video addresses, thanking the Council and NOAA Fisheries for their efforts in maintaining profitable fisheries so important to Alaska. Past Council Chair Stephanie Madsen provided remarks that reflected on the actions the council has taken to achieve sustainable fisheries and how everyone involved in the process has contributed to achieving a successful fishery management program here in the North Pacific. Eileen Sobek, the

Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries also provided congratulatory remarks, noting that the North Pacific Council has been a model for the nation.

Special 40th Anniversary recognition plaques were presented to individuals with a long history of service to the Council: Terry Quinn for his commitment to science and service as a member of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee; Dave Hanson for his dedication to the process and long membership on the Council, and Ken Bettisworth for his support as the Council's Audio Technician since 1977. Paul MacGregor was also recognized, roasted and "toasted" by his colleagues for his outstanding career as a fishing industry lawyer and representative. Glenn Reed hosted an interactive gameshow "Are You Smarter Than the Council Family?" which provided a light-hearted review of policy decisions and trivia from the last 40 years. The contestants (Glenn Merrill, John Gauvin, and Simon Kinneen) were good sports, and we all enjoyed more than a few laughs! A commemorative booklet documenting the history of the Council, as well as reflections of some members of the "Council Family", was distributed at the event. Please contact the Council office if you would like a paper copy of the booklet. A special thank you to the many individuals and organizations who donated wine and door prizes. It was an enjoyable evening for everyone!

Council Appointments

The Council approved all current **SSC members** for another year term, as well as the appointment of Dayv Lowry from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. On the **Pacific Northwest Crab Advisory Committee**, the following members were appointed for two years: Lance Farr, Chair, Kevin Kaldestad, Steve Minor, Gary Painter, Dale Schwarzmiller, Gary Stewart, Tom Suryan, Elizabeth Wiley, Ruth Christiansen, Brett Reasoner, Dean Fasnacht, Erling Jacobsen, and Stefanie Moreland. The **Advisory Panel** added two new members; Carina Nichols of Sitka, a commercial fisher who will replace Jeff Favour for the remainder one year of his term; and John Scoblic of Ketchikan's Trident and Norquest. The following AP members were re-appointed for three years: Shannon Carroll, Ruth Christiansen, Kurt Cochran, John Crowley, Dan Donich, Jerry Downing, Angel Drobnica, John Gruver, Jeff Kauffman, Alexus Kwachka, Craig Lowenburg, Chuck McCallum, Art Nelson, Patrick O'Donnell, Joel Peterson, Ben Stephans, Matt Upton, Ernie Weiss, Sinclair Wilt, and Jeff Stephan (a one-year appointment).

Additional committee appointments:

IFQ Committee: Jared Bright, Jeff Farvour, Natasha Hayden, Jeff Kauffman, Nicole Kimball, Linda Kozak, Buck Laukitis (Chair), Bob Linville, Shawn McManus, Michael Offerman, Peggy Parker, Matt Robinson, and Erik Velsko.

BS Ecosystem Plan Team: Kerim Aydin, Mike Dalton, Diana Evans, Anthony Fischbach, Brandee Gerke, Brad Harris, Jim Ianelli, Jo-Ann Mellish, Heather Renner, Elizabeth Siddon, Ian Stewart, and Stephani Zador.

Charter Halibut Management Measures

The Charter Halibut Management Implementation Committee met in October 2016, and again in December 2016 to consider management measures designed to keep the charter halibut harvest within each area's (2C and 3A) 2017 allocation. Management measures recommended by the committee were evaluated by Scott Meyer (ADF&G) to determine their likelihood to keep the charter harvest within the IPHC FCEY identified at the 2016interim IPHC meeting, 0.747 million pounds in Area 2C and 1.778 million pounds in Area 3A. After receiving the report from Mr. Meyer, and from the Charter Halibut Management Implementation Committee, and hearing from members of the public, the Council

approved the following charter halibut management measures for recommendation to the International Pacific Halibut Commission for implementation in 2017:

Area 2C

- One fish daily bag limit
- If the halibut charter allocation is at the Blue Line, implement a reverse slot limit (U40:O80), with an annual limit of 3 halibut with a recording requirement.
- If the halibut charter allocation is below the Blue Line, implement an annual limit of 3 fish with a recording requirement, and a reverse slot limit with a maximum size limit of 80 inches. Incrementally reduce the lower size limit until projected harvest falls within the allocation.
- If the halibut charter allocation is above the Blue Line, but below the SPR, implement a reverse slot limit of U40:O80 and an annual limit of 5 fish with a recording requirement. Select a lower limit for the reverse slot to allow the largest lower limit while maintaining the projected harvest within the allocation.
- If halibut charter allocation is at or above the SPR, implement an upper slot limit of O80 and select a lower limit for the reverse slot to allow the largest lower limit while maintaining the projected harvest within the allocation. No annual limit.

Area 3A

- Two fish bag limit.
- Maximum size limit of 28 inches on one fish.
- Annual limit of four fish with a recording requirement.
- Prohibition on halibut charter fishing on Wednesdays, all year.
- Use of each charter halibut permit is limited to one charter halibut fishing trip per calendar day. Each charter vessel is limited to one trip per calendar day.
- Prohibition on halibut charter fishing on Tuesdays, as described in the table below, to bring projected charter removals below the charter allocation, as specified in the catch sharing plan.

No. closed Tuesdays	Projected Charter Removals (Mlbs)	Dates
0	1.951	NA
1	1.925	July 25
2	1.899	Jul 25 - Aug 1
3	1.874	Jul 18 - Aug 1
4	1.848	Jul 11 - Aug 1
5	1.822	Jul 11 - Aug 8
6	1.796	Jul 4 - Aug 8
7	1.771	Jul 4 - Aug 15
8	1.745	Jun - 27 - Aug 15

Charter Halibut Permit Usage

The Council reviewed a discussion paper that presented information on the use of charter halibut permits (CHPs). The discussion paper addressed Council data requests on latent capacity and use of CHPs by non-CHP holders (i.e., leasing). The discussion paper highlighted some of the challenges

associated with the CHP database, including the lack of a verification process to determine whether non-transferable permits are still active (for example, if the permit holder passes away, a non-transferable permit is no longer valid), and previous obstacles the Council encountered when considering methods to limit the leasing of CHPs.

Based on this discussion paper, and concerns expressed in public testimony, the Council initiated an Initial Review analysis to consider developing an annual registration process for both transferable and nontransferable CHPs. The Council's purpose and need statement speaks to a desire for a clearer and more accurate understanding of CHP holdings, usage, and trends in active participation. The action alternative would implement an annual registration process to renew permits for the upcoming fishing year. Options that the Council will consider under the action alternative include a requirement to report

all CHPs held by an individual, partnership, or corporate entity (Option 1); the names of the individuals and/ or vessels that will use each CHP during that season (Option 2); and a requirement for non-transferable permits to list the beginning and ending ports where the CHP will be used during the upcoming season (Option 3). Sub-options for Options 2 and 3 are included that would penalize a CHP holder who allowed his or her non-transferable CHP to be used by a person or vessel (Option 2) or in a location (Option 3) that was not reported to NMFS during annual registration. The penalty under these sub-options for improper use of a non-transferable CHP would be that the non-transferable CHP would be invalid for the following year. Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

Halibut Charter Recreational Quota Entity

The Council took final action on a package that would allow the formation of a non-profit charter halibut recreational quota entity (RQE) to purchase and hold commercial halibut quota share (QS), to augment the charter catch limits in IPHC Regulatory Area 2C and Area 3A. Under the Council's preferred alternative, any IFQ annually generated from the RQE's QS holdings would augment the pounds allocated to the sector through the Catch Sharing Plan (CSP). The charter catch limit plus any pounds of IFQ holdings would be the new basis on which halibut charter annual management measures are established (for example, size limits, annual limits, day of the week closure, etc.). In this way, RQE QS holdings would allow for an opportunity for the charter halibut sector to reduce the restrictiveness of annual management measures for all charter anglers in Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A.

The Council's preferred alternative sought to balance efficacy of this program, while mitigating the negative impacts on other halibut user groups by including a series of transfer restrictions. An RQE would have an annual transfer restriction of 1% of the commercial QS in Area 2C (based on the total Area 2C 2015 QS pool) and 1.2% of the commercial QS in Area 3A (based on the total Area 3A 2015 QS pool). The Council's preferred alternative also recommends a combined cumulative limit for both guided angler fish (GAF) usage and the RQE holdings of no more than 10% of the commercial QS in Area 2C and 12% of the commercial QS holdings in Area 3A (both based on the 2015 QS pools). The Council recommended GAF transfers would be restricted based on the annual RQE holdings.

In addition, the Council identified several specific prohibitions and limitations on RQE QS acquisition. In Area 2C an RQE would be limited to purchasing no more than 10% of the D Class QS pool (in Area 2C), and no more than 10% of the B Class QS pool (in Area 2C), and would be prohibited from purchasing blocked QS less than or equal to 1,500 pounds (in 2015 pounds). In Area 3A, an RQE would be prohibited from purchasing both D Class QS and blocked QS less than or equal to 1,500 pounds (in 2015 pounds).

The combination of the RQE's IFQ and the charter catch limit may allow annual management measures for the charter sector to be relaxed. However, the annual management measures for charter halibut anglers could only be relaxed up to the limits in place for unguided anglers (i.e., 2 fish of any size).

Charter anglers would not be allowed to catch more fish than unguided anglers, even if the RQE held enough QS to do so. The Council's PA included provisions to redistribute excess pounds of IFQ in the event that the RQE held more QS than was necessary to reach the unguided limit in either Area 2C or 3A. In this case, there would be an annual redistribution of the resulting pounds of IFQ to some of the commercial sector participants, issued at no cost to the recipient. The Council's preferred alternative recommends that 50% of this "excess" IFQ would be redistributed to all catcher vessels QS holders in the applicable area who hold not more than 32,333 QS units in Area 2C and 47,469 QS units in Area 3A, proportionately, based on their QS holdings (i.e., the amount of QS that yielded 2,000 pounds of IFQ in 2015). The remaining 50% of "excess" IFQ would be redistributed equally among the Community Quota Entities (CQEs) that held halibut QS in the applicable area in the preceding year. If no CQE held QS in the corresponding area, that portion of the excess IFQ would not be redistributed and would be left in the water for conservation.

The Council included a policy statement about the intended use of RQE funds, and a requirement to submit articles of incorporation, management organization, bylaws, and a list of board members (with some Council guidance on the representation of the board) to NMFS in order to be approved as an eligible entity to purchase and hold QS. An RQE would also be required to submit an annual report to the Council. The Council's preferred alternative lists several items of RQE activity and expenses that would be required in the annual report. Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

Halibut Deck Sorting EFP

The Council reviewed a presentation on the exempted fishing permit (EFP) application to allow on-deck sorting of Pacific halibut on non-pelagic trawl catcher processor vessels, as a means of reducing halibut bycatch mortalities. Under the EFP, vessels are allowed to sort halibut removed from a codend on the deck, rather than routing halibut over the flow scale and below deck, and release those fish back into the water after sampling halibut for length and condition, using IPHC halibut mortality assessment methods. All groundfish and halibut harvested must be within existing allocations for groundfish and halibut mortality. For the period May – November 15, 2016, 12 boats have participated in the EFP, and it is estimated that deck sorting under the EFP has allowed a halibut savings of 288 mt.

The EFP granted to the Amendment 80 cooperatives and co-applicants expires at the end of April 2017, and the applicants and NMFS are working towards extending the EFP for another year. NMFS, after consultation with the Council at this meeting, will consider modifications to the permit that would begin at the start of 2017, which would allow the applicants to test different requirements for the number of observers, depending on vessel production constraints. It remains the intent of the Council that once the experimental work is complete, an analysis will be initiated to implement deck sorting in regulation. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

BSAI Harvest Specifications for 2017/2018

The Council approved the BSAI Groundfish SAFE report and annual catch limits based on recommendations from its advisory committees. The sum of the total allowable catches (TACs) or quotas for all BSAI groundfish is 2 million t for 2017 and 2018. The TACs were set below the sum of the recommended ABCs. The sum of the recommended ABCs for 2017 and 2018 are 4,013,993 t and 4,214,648 t, respectively. The primary increase from previous years is due to EBS pollock. The abundances of all stocks with the exception of sablefish are projected to be above B_{MSY} or the B_{MSY} proxy of $B_{35\%}$ in 2016. Overall, the status of the stocks continues to appear favorable. Nearly all stocks are above their target biomass size (B_{MSY}). The sum of the biomasses for 2017 represents an 9% increase from 2015.

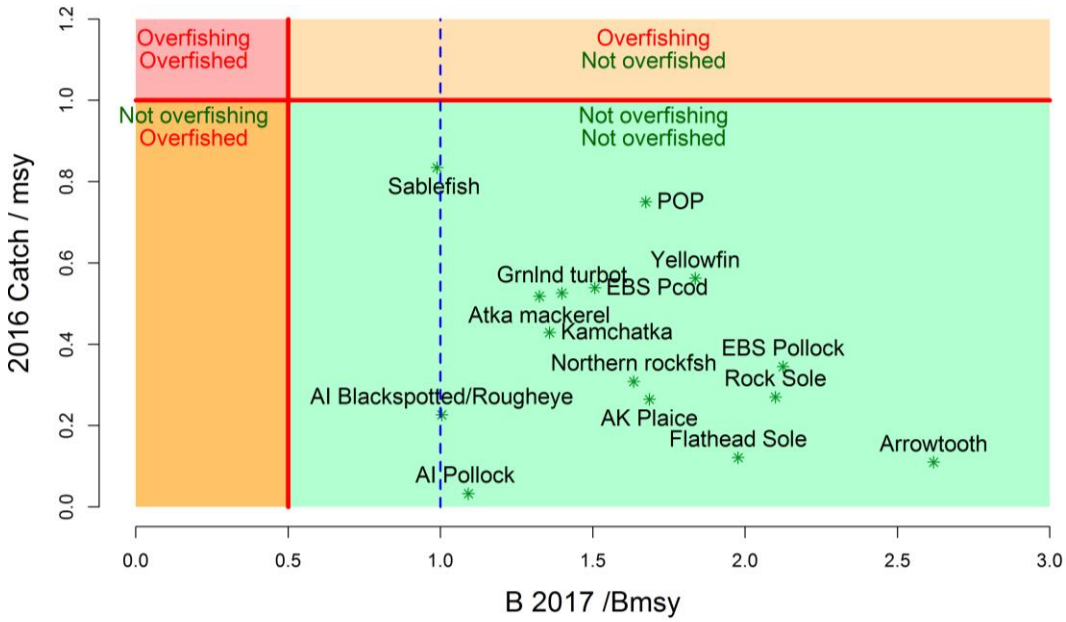


Figure 1. Summary of Bering Sea stock status next year (spawning biomass relative to Bmsy; horizontal axis) and current year catch relative to fishing at Fmsy (vertical axis).

The Council set the annual ABC reserve for three flatfish species, northern rock sole, flathead sole and yellowfin sole. The Council approved the entire ABC surplus as the ABC reserve. This ABC surplus is used to allow for more efficiency in the harvest of these flatfish species. The Council also adopted revised PSC limits for crab stocks, Pacific halibut, and herring including apportionments where applicable.

The final BSAI groundfish harvest specifications will be published as a final rule in the Federal Register by late February/early March 2017. They will replace the current 2016 harvest specifications that were approved by the Council in December 2015. Groundfish specifications for 2017-2018 as well as additional motions related to halibut indicators and consideration in TAC-setting are available on the Council's website. Staff Contact is Diana Stram.

Table 1-Final 2017 and 2018 BSAI overfishing level (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and total allowable catch (TAC) amounts recommended by the Council

		2016				2017			2018		
Species	**Area**	**OFL**	**ABC**	**TAC**	**12/5/2016**	**OFL**	**ABC**	**TAC**	**OFL**	**ABC**	**TAC**
Pollock	EBS	3,910,000	2,090,000	1,340,000	1,352,007	3,640,000	2,800,000	1,345,000	4,360,000	2,979,000	1,345,000
	AI	39,075	32,227	19,000	1,288	43,650	36,061	19,000	49,291	40,788	19,000
	Bogoslof	31,906	23,850	500	1,005	130,428	**60,800**	500	130,428	**97,428**	500
Pacific co	BS	390,000	255,000	238,680	220,039	284,000	239,000	223,704	302,000	255,000	223,704
	AI	23,400	17,600	12,839	12,357	28,700	21,500	15,695	28,700	21,500	15,695
Sablefish	BS	1,304	1,151	1,151	525	**1,499**	1,274	1,274	**1,519**	1,291	1,274
	AI	1,766	1,557	1,557	349	**2,044**	1,735	1,735	**2,072**	1,758	1,735
Yellowfin	BSAI	228,100	211,700	144,000	135,346	287,000	260,800	154,000	276,000	250,800	154,000
Greenland	BSAI	4,194	3,462	2,873	2,230	11,615	**6,644**	4,500	12,831	10,864	4,500
	BS	n/a	2,673	2,673	2,108	n/a	**5,800**	4,375	n/a	9,484	4,375
	AI	n/a	789	200	122	n/a	**844**	125	n/a	1,380	125
Arrowtoot	BSAI	94,035	80,701	14,000	11,026	76,100	65,371	14,000	67,023	58,633	14,000
Kamchatk	BSAI	11,100	9,500	5,000	4,842	10,360	8,880	5,000	10,700	9,200	5,000
Northern r	BSAI	165,900	161,000	57,100	45,074	159,700	155,100	47,100	147,300	143,100	47,100
Flathead s	BSAI	79,562	66,250	21,000	10,194	81,654	68,278	14,500	79,136	66,164	14,500
Alaska pla	BSAI	49,000	41,000	14,500	13,291	42,800	36,000	13,000	36,900	32,100	13,000
Other flatf	BSAI	17,414	13,061	2,500	2,821	17,591	13,193	2,500	17,591	13,193	2,500
Pacific Oc	BSAI	40,529	33,320	31,900	31,401	53,152	43,723	34,900	51,950	42,735	34,900
	BS	n/a	8,353	8,000	8,179	n/a	**12,199**	11,000	n/a	**11,924**	11,000
	EAI	n/a	7,916	7,900	7,569	n/a	**10,307**	7,900	n/a	**10,074**	7,900
	CAI	n/a	7,355	7,000	6,765	n/a	**8,009**	7,000	n/a	**7,828**	7,000
	WAI	n/a	9,696	9,000	8,888	n/a	**13,208**	9,000	n/a	**12,909**	9,000
Northern r	BSAI	14,689	11,960	4,500	4,538	16,242	13,264	5,000	15,854	12,947	5,000
Blackspot rockfish	BSAI	693	561	300	158	612	501	225	750	614	225
	EBS/EAI	n/a	179	100	71	n/a	**306**	100	n/a	**374**	100
	CAI/WAI	n/a	382	200	87	n/a	**195**	125	n/a	**240**	125
Shortrake	BSAI	690	518	200	105	666	499	125	666	499	125
Other rock	BSAI	1,667	1,250	875	794	1,816	1,362	875	1,816	1,362	875
	BS	n/a	695	325	281	n/a	791	325	n/a	791	325
	AI	n/a	555	550	513	n/a	571	550	n/a	571	550
Atka mack	BSAI	104,749	90,340	55,000	54,320	102,700	87,200	65,000	99,900	85,000	65,000
	EAI/BS	n/a	30,832	28,500	28,195	n/a	34,890	34,500	n/a	34,000	34,000
	CAI	n/a	27,216	16,000	15,795	n/a	30,330	18,000	n/a	29,600	18,500
	WAI	n/a	32,292	10,500	10,330	n/a	21,980	12,500	n/a	21,400	12,500
Skates	BSAI	50,215	42,134	26,000	27,564	49,063	41,144	26,000	46,583	39,008	26,000
Sculpins	BSAI	52,365	39,725	4,500	4,659	56,582	42,387	4,500	56,582	42,387	4,500
Sharks	BSAI	1,363	1,022	125	128	689	517	125	689	517	125
Squids	BSAI	6,912	5,184	1,500	1,282	6,912	5,184	1,342	6,912	5,184	1,342
Octopuse	BSAI	3,452	2,589	400	430	4,769	3,576	400	4,769	3,576	400
Total	BSAI	5,324,080	3,236,662	2,000,000	1,937,773	5,110,344	4,013,993	2,000,000	5,807,962	4,214,648	2,000,000

Sources: 2015 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2016 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2014 and December 2015, respectively; 2015 catches through December 31, 2015 and 2016 catches through December 5, 2016 from

GOA Groundfish Specifications for 2017/2018

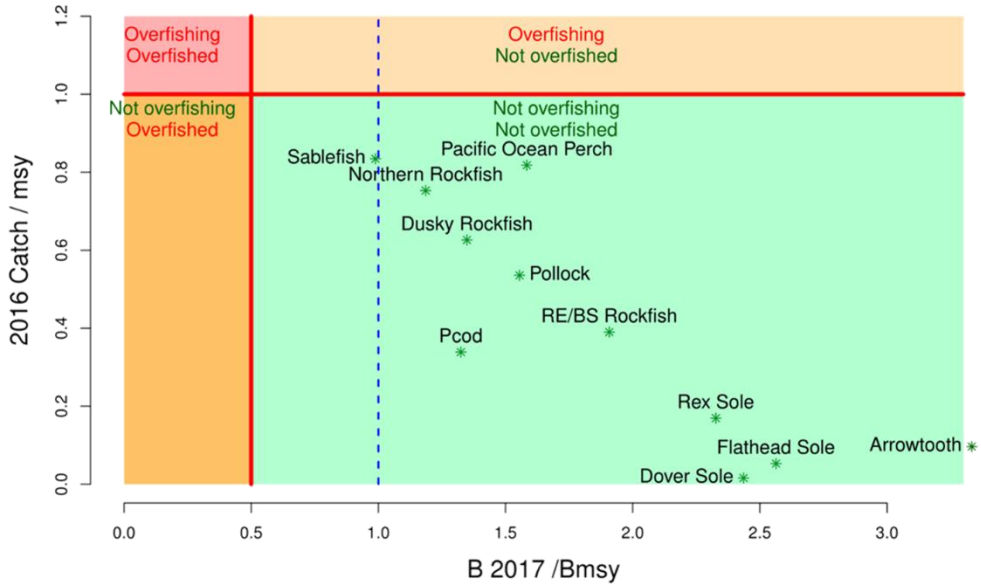
The Council approved the Gulf of Alaska Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report and recommended final catch specifications for the 2017 and 2018 groundfish fisheries. The Plan Team presentations included stock status updates and a report on the ecosystem SAFE report section. Because there was no summer trawl survey in the GOA in 2016 full assessments were only conducted for GOA pollock, Pacific cod, and sablefish, with other species updated using primarily catch data.

The sum of the species' ABCs for 2017 decreased by 8% (-59,811 t) compared with 2016. This was primarily driven by decreases in pollock -50,541 t (-19%) and Pacific cod -10,258 t (-10 %) ABCs as well as a 9% reduction (-408 t) for dusky rockfish and 5% reduction (218 t) for northern rockfish. Notable increases occurred for sablefish 987 t (+11%), and rex sole +818 t (+11%). All other GOA species' ABCs change by 2% or less.

For most stocks the Council established TACs equal to ABCs with some exceptions. For Pacific cod the ABC is reduced by 25% in EGOA and CGOA and by 30% in WGOA to accommodate the state managed fishery. Additional exceptions those fisheries where the bycatch of other target species is a concern, specifically for shallow water flatfish (W and Central GOA), flathead sole (W and C GOA), arrowtooth flounder (GOA wide) and other rockfish (EYAK/SEO). For those fisheries, the TAC is also set below the ABC. Specifications for 2017-2018 are posted on the Council's website.

None of the GOA groundfish stocks are overfished or experiencing overfishing. The abundances of all species except sablefish are above target stock size. Estimated sablefish female spawning stock biomass (91,553 t) is 1% below target stock size (92,606 t).

Stock Status Summary from 2016 GOA SAFE report



Whale depredation of sablefish

An important change in the sablefish assessment for this year is the correction for whale depredation that occurs both in the longline survey and the fishery. Sperm whales remove significant numbers of sablefish from the longline gear in the eastern GOA as the gear is being retrieved while killer whales predominantly do this in the western GOA. Total annual depredation in the fisheries is estimated to have ranged between 250 – 800 t. Correcting for this loss in the fishery-independent survey results in a larger biomass estimate than without the correction. The resulting larger GOA and BSAI ABCs, however,

are reduced to account for expected removals by whales in 2017 and 2018. Those reductions vary by area according to observed spatial distribution of whale depredation and are reflected in the apportionment of the ABCs

Prohibited species catch limits

The Council approved halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limits, by season and gear apportionment for 2017-2018 and further specified apportionments of the 'other hook and line fisheries' annual halibut PSC allowance between the hook-and-line gear catcher vessel and catcher/processor sectors following the Pacific cod sector split allocation. The PSC numbers for 2017 and 2018 are unchanged compared to 2016.

Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Specifications: Council recommended OFLs, ABCs and TACs for 2017 and 2018 (metric tons).

Species	Area	2016 OFL	2016 ABC	2016 TAC	Catch 11/5/2016	2017 OFL	2017 ABC	2017 TAC	2018 OFL	2018 ABC	2018 TAC
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	6,358	-	-		5,094	n/a		3,937	n/a
	W (610)	n/a	56,494	56,494	61,222	n/a	43,602	43,602	n/a	33,701	33,701
	C (620)	n/a	124,927	124,927	46,968	n/a	98,652	98,652	n/a	76,249	76,249
	C (630)	n/a	57,183	57,183	64,605	n/a	48,929	48,929	n/a	37,818	37,818
	WYAK	n/a	9,348	9,348	132	n/a	7,492	7,492	n/a	5,791	5,791
	Subtotal	322,858	254,310	247,952	172,927	235,807	203,769	198,675	182,204	157,496	153,559
	EYAK/SEO	13,226	9,920	9,920	-	13,226	9,920	9,920	13,226	9,920	9,920
	Total	336,084	264,230	257,872	172,927	249,033	213,689	208,595	195,430	167,416	163,479
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	40,503	28,352	17,539	n/a	36,291	25,404	n/a	32,565	22,795
	C	n/a	49,312	36,984	21,939	n/a	44,180	33,135	n/a	39,644	29,733
	E	n/a	8,785	6,589	66	n/a	7,871	5,903	n/a	7,063	5,297
	Total	116,700	98,600	71,925	39,544	105,378	88,342	64,442	94,188	79,272	57,825
Sablefish	W	n/a	1,272	1,272	1,037	n/a	1,349	1,349	n/a	1,367	1,367
	C	n/a	4,023	4,023	4,147	n/a	4,514	4,514	n/a	4,574	4,574
	WYAK	n/a	1,475	1,475	1,640	n/a	1,605	1,605	n/a	1,626	1,626
	SEO	n/a	2,317	2,317	2,457	n/a	2,606	2,606	n/a	2,640	2,640
	Total	10,326	9,087	9,087	9,281	11,885	10,074	10,074	12,045	10,207	10,207
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	20,851	13,250	145	n/a	20,921	13,250	n/a	21,042	13,250
	C	n/a	19,242	19,242	3,445	n/a	19,306	19,306	n/a	19,418	19,418
	WYAK	n/a	3,177	3,177	-	n/a	3,188	3,188	n/a	3,206	3,206
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,094	1,094	1	n/a	1,099	1,099	n/a	1,105	1,105
	Total	54,520	44,364	36,763	3,591	54,583	44,514	36,843	54,893	44,771	36,979
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	186	186	4	n/a	256	256	n/a	257	257
	C	n/a	3,495	3,495	161	n/a	3,454	3,454	n/a	3,488	3,488
	WYAK	n/a	2,997	2,997	9	n/a	3,017	3,017	n/a	3,047	3,047
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,548	2,548	5	n/a	2,565	2,565	n/a	2,590	2,590
	Total	11,102	9,226	9,226	179	11,182	9,292	9,292	11,290	9,382	9,382
Rex Sole	W	n/a	1,315	1,315	169	n/a	1,459	1,459	n/a	1,478	1,478
	C	n/a	4,445	4,445	1,492	n/a	4,930	4,930	n/a	4,995	4,995
	WYAK	n/a	766	766	1	n/a	850	850	n/a	861	861
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	967	967	-	n/a	1,072	1,072	n/a	1,087	1,087
	Total	9,791	7,493	7,493	1,662	10,860	8,311	8,311	11,004	8,421	8,421
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	28,183	14,500	985	n/a	28,100	14,500	n/a	25,747	14,500
	C	n/a	107,981	75,000	17,970	n/a	107,934	75,000	n/a	98,895	75,000
	WYAK	n/a	37,368	6,900	25	n/a	37,405	6,900	n/a	34,273	6,900
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	12,656	6,900	13	n/a	12,654	6,900	n/a	11,595	6,900
	Total	219,430	186,188	103,300	18,993	219,327	186,093	103,300	196,635	170,510	103,300
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	11,027	8,650	214	n/a	11,098	8,650	n/a	11,282	8,650
	C	n/a	20,211	15,400	2,069	n/a	20,339	15,400	n/a	20,677	15,400
	WYAK	n/a	2,930	2,930	-	n/a	2,949	2,949	n/a	2,998	2,998
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	852	852	-	n/a	857	857	n/a	872	872
	Total	42,840	35,020	27,832	2,283	43,128	35,243	27,856	43,872	35,829	27,920

Sources: 2016 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from the havest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2015; 2016 catches through November 5, 2016 from AKR Catch Accounting.

Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Specifications: Council recommended OFLs, ABCs and TACs for 2017 and 2018 (metric tons).

		2016			Catch	2017			2018		
Species	Area	OFL	ABC	TAC	as of 11/5/16	OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pacific Ocean Perch	W	n/a	2,737	2,737	2,627	n/a	2,679	2,679	n/a	2,627	2,627
	C	n/a	17,033	17,033	17,566	n/a	16,671	16,671	n/a	16,347	16,347
	WYAK	n/a	2,847	2,847	2,827	n/a	2,786	2,786	n/a	2,733	2,733
	W/C/WYAK	26,313	22,617	22,617	23,020	25,753	22,136	22,136	25,252	21,707	21,707
	SEO	2,118	1,820	1,820	-	2,073	1,782	1,782	2,032	1,747	1,747
	Total	28,431	24,437	24,437	23,020	27,826	23,918	23,918	27,284	23,454	23,454
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	457	457	115	n/a	432	432	n/a	400	400
	C	n/a	3,547	3,547	3,274	n/a	3,354	3,354	n/a	3,108	3,108
	E	n/a	4	-		n/a	4	-	n/a	4	-
	Total	4,783	4,008	4,004	3,389	4,522	3,790	3,786	4,175	3,512	3,508
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	38	38	52	n/a	38	38	n/a	38	38
	C	n/a	301	301	395	n/a	301	301	n/a	301	301
	E	n/a	947	947	299	n/a	947	947	n/a	947	947
	Total	1,715	1,286	1,286	746	1,715	1,286	1,286	1,715	1,286	1,286
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	173	173	91	n/a	158	158	n/a	146	146
	C	n/a	4,147	4,147	3,184	n/a	3,786	3,786	n/a	3,499	3,499
	WYAK	n/a	275	275	7	n/a	251	251	n/a	232	232
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	91	91	8	n/a	83	83	n/a	77	77
	Total	5,733	4,686	4,686	3,290	5,233	4,278	4,278	4,837	3,954	3,954
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	105	105	40	n/a	105	105	n/a	104	104
	C	n/a	707	707	467	n/a	706	706	n/a	702	702
	E	n/a	516	516	114	n/a	516	516	n/a	512	512
	Total	1,596	1,328	1,328	621	1,594	1,327	1,327	1,583	1,318	1,318
Demersal shelf rockfish	Total	364	231	231	115	357	227	227	357	227	227
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	291	291	207	n/a	291	291	n/a	291	291
	C	n/a	988	988	663	n/a	988	988	n/a	988	988
	E	n/a	682	682	222	n/a	682	682	n/a	682	682
	Total	2,615	1,961	1,961	1,092	2,615	1,961	1,961	2,615	1,961	1,961
Other Rockfish	W/C	n/a	1,534	1,534	1,294	n/a	1,534	1,534	n/a	1,534	1,534
	WYAK	n/a	574	574	48	n/a	574	574	n/a	574	574
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	3,665	200	38	n/a	3,665	200	n/a	3,665	200
	Total	7,424	5,773	2,308	1,380	7,424	5,773	2,308	7,424	5,773	2,308
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	2,000	993	6,200	4,700	3,000	6,200	4,700	3,000
Big Skate	W	n/a	908	908	134	n/a	908	908	n/a	908	908
	C	n/a	1,850	1,850	1,874	n/a	1,850	1,850	n/a	1,850	1,850
	E	n/a	1,056	1,056	44	n/a	1,056	1,056	n/a	1,056	1,056
	Total	5,086	3,814	3,814	2,052	5,086	3,814	3,814	5,086	3,814	3,814
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	61	61	131	n/a	61	61	n/a	61	61
	C	n/a	2,513	2,513	843	n/a	2,513	2,513	n/a	2,513	2,513
	E	n/a	632	632	336	n/a	632	632	n/a	632	632
	Total	4,274	3,206	3,206	1,310	4,274	3,206	3,206	4,274	3,206	3,206
Other Skates	GOA-wide	2,558	1,919	1,919	1,568	2,558	1,919	1,919	2,558	1,919	1,919
Sculpins	GOA-wide	7,338	5,591	5,591	1,293	7,338	5,591	5,591	7,338	5,591	5,591
Sharks	GOA-wide	6,020	4,514	4,514	1,841	6,020	4,514	4,514	6,020	4,514	4,514
Squids	GOA-wide	1,530	1,148	1,148	241	1,516	1,137	1,137	1,516	1,137	1,137
Octopuses	GOA-wide	6,504	4,878	4,878	323	6,504	4,878	4,878	6,504	4,878	4,878
Total		892,964	727,688	590,809	291,734	796,158	667,877	535,863	708,843	597,052	483,588

Sources: 2016 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from the havest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2015; 2016 catches through November 5, 2016 from AKR Catch Accounting.

Halibut DMRs

As part of the specification process, the Council also established halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for use by NMFS in-season management for the 2017-2018 fishing years. DMRs are applied to halibut discards that occur in the groundfish fisheries for both the BSAI and GOA and reflect the estimated percentage of discarded halibut PSC that do not survive. Importantly, the methods for estimating and applying DMRs have changed significantly. The halibut DMR working group developed improved methods that follow the statistical design of the observer program and are applied to operational groupings within the groundfish fleet rather than fisheries defined by target species.

2017 and 2018 Final Halibut Discard Mortality Rates

Operational Group						
Sector	Region	Gear	Target	Sample Size (Mean Annual $N_{Viabilities}$)	Estimate DMR?	DMR
CP	BSAI	PTR	pollock	6,051	N	100%
			non-pollock	1	N	100%
		NPT	all	4,306	Y	85%
		HAL	all	11,210	Y	8%
		POT	all	686[b]	Y	6%
	GOA	PTR	pollock	0	N	100%
			non-pollock	0	N	100%
		NPT[a]	all	493	N	85%
		HAL	all	1,295	Y	11%
		POT	all	523[c]	Y	10%
CV	BSAI	PTR	pollock	569	N	100%
			non-pollock	14	N	100%
		NPT	all	2,174	Y	52%
		HAL	all	62[d]	Y	14%
		POT	all	686[b]	Y	6%
	GOA	PTR	pollock	2	N	100%
			non-pollock	4	N	100%
		NPT	RPP[e]	103	Y	67%
			non-RPP	1,265	Y	65%
		HAL	all	490	Y	12%
		POT	all	523[c]	Y	10%

[a] GOA CP NPT RPP and non-RPP pooled
[b] CV, CP pots in same group by design
[c] CV, CP in same group by design
[d] Most vessels not required to have observer coverage prior to 2013
[e] GOA CV NPT RPP based on GOA CV NPT rockfish target

Bristol Bay red king crab savings area EFP

The SSC and Council reviewed an application for an exempted fishing permit to allow for some flatfish trawling within the Bristol Bay red king crab savings area (RKCSA) closure in order to evaluate the

relative differences in crab bycatch rates inside and outside of the closure area. The Bristol Bay red king crab savings area has been closed to bottom trawling since the mid 1990's. The underlying hypothesis of this EFP is that red king crab bycatch rates in the winter/spring flatfish fisheries could be reduced with access to the closed areas. The SSC provided extensive comments on the EFP design and expressed concerns regarding the proposed trawling in relation to low stock status for Bristol Bay red king crab and the potential for encountering molting male crab. The actual winter distribution of red king crab in this area is unknown. The Council had a lengthy discussion on the relative merits of this proposal as it relates to examination of the efficacy of the RKCSA closure. A motion to approve a modified EFP application did not pass. In the end the Council reiterated its general support of evaluating the efficacy of the RKCSA and other area closures but did not move forward with approval of this EFP at this time. The Council noted that a staff discussion paper specific to Bristol Bay red king crab PSC management measures will be reviewed in February and further discussion on evaluation of the efficacy of closure areas will likely ensue at that time. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Electronic Monitoring

The Council took final action to establish electronic monitoring (EM) as a part of the North Pacific Observer Program. Under the Council's preferred alternative, Alternative 2, regulations would be implemented to allow EM to be used for catch estimation. EM would be integrated into the established Observer Program process, by which the Council and NMFS can annually determine the best monitoring tool for the Alaska fixed gear fisheries, in the Observer Annual Deployment Plan. Through that process, the Council and NMFS will consider how to optimize observer and EM deployment for fisheries in the partial coverage category each year, based on an analysis of costs, budget, fishing effort, and monitoring needs. The Council also included Option A in the preferred alternative, which would allow vessels opting in to the EM selection pool to use EM for compliance monitoring when fishing IFQ or halibut CDQ in multiple areas.

The Council also specified additional tasking for the EM Workgroup, to continue to track the EM program over the next two years through the transition to implementation. Specifically, the Council directs the Workgroup to review the proposed rule for EM integration and provide comments to the Council; provide input to the Council about policy considerations that NMFS should address when developing the Request for Proposals for an EM service provider contract; continue to consider EM program efficiencies, costs and cost optimization, working closely with the Observer Program on EM metrics in the Annual Report and the Annual Deployment Plan; and review and provide feedback on EM research and development projects.

The Council also noted that there will be opportunities to discuss costs in the partial coverage category of the Observer Program more generally in conjunction with rebidding the human observer contract, which expires in 2019. The Observer Program will be developing a timeline for developing a combined EM and observer provider contract in early 2017, and the Council will be informed of the appropriate timing and mechanism for providing input into the Request for Proposals at the June 2017 Council meeting. It is likely that the Council will need to provide any input by October 2017. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

GOA Trawl Bycatch Management

The Council received staff reports on three documents: a summary of the public comment scoping process that was undertaken over the summer, a preliminary draft Social Impact Assessment, and a

preliminary draft Regulatory Impact Review. After reviewing the staff reports and considering public testimony, the Council voted to postpone further action on this issue indefinitely.

The Council indicated its intent to consider other management options that could address GOA trawl vessel operators' and processors' concerns about their ability to minimize bycatch while executing the fishery in a viable manner. Staff contact is Sam Cunningham.

EFH Fishing Effects Methods

The Council reviewed and approved a proposed method to evaluate the effects of fishing on Essential Fish Habitat for BSAI and GOA Groundfish and BSAI crabs, developed by a subcommittee of the SSC. The proposal presented a three-tiered approach to evaluating the effects of commercial fishing on EFH using the outputs from the Fishing Effects model developed by NMFS AKR and Alaska Pacific University researchers. This method makes use of substantial new habitat, sediment, and oceanographic data available since the last EFH review. Stock assessment authors will apply the new methods in January and February 2017, the results of their assessment will be reviewed by the BSAI and GOA Groundfish Plan Teams in March 2017, and by the Council in April 2017 as part of the Omnibus EFH package. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

EFH Non-Fishing Effects Report

The Council reviewed a report by NMFS AKR Habitat Conservation Division on the projected effects of non-fishing activities on Essential Fish Habitat. The report summarizes expected impacts on EFH from headwater streams to the offshore marine environments, and presents examples of mitigation measures that NMFS might suggest for projects in those environments with the potential to adversely affect EFH. The report will be finalized by NMFS and included as part of the Omnibus EFH package that the Council will review in April 2017. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

Salmon Excluder EFP

The Council received a final report on the exempted fishing permit for testing salmon excluder devices in the EBS pollock fisheries. The excluder tested in this EFP employs an 'over and under" (O/U) design that achieved successful escapement (33-54%) in the GOA pollock fishery during previous trials. Three vessels were used and testing spanned the 2015 A season, the 2015 B season and the 2016 A season. Overall salmon escapement rates were lower than in the GOA (3-18% across the three vessels.) Previous flapper-type excluders used in the EBS pollock fishery had achieved higher escapement rates than the new O/U design. Lower performance was related to a variety of factors including higher catch rates and fish flow through net differences between the GOA and EBS pollock fisheries. Further refinement of the O/U design for use in the Bering Sea is likely to occur in subsequent experiments. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Bering Sea FEP Update

The Council appointed 12 people to a Council Bering Sea FEP team, to begin developing the Council's Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP). The Team's primary responsibilities are to develop the core FEP document, to discuss potential and ongoing FEP action modules, make recommendations to the Ecosystem Committee and the Council about future steps, and to help communicate results to the Council. While the team is a scientific and technical team, the focus is also to ensure that FEP action modules interface with the Council's management needs, and can be integrated into the Council's decision making and management process. The intent has been to include a diversity of expertise and representatives from

various agencies on the team, which will function as a Council plan team. To that end, the Council has also requested that membership be expanded to include social science, crab/shellfish, and oceanography expertise, and potentially a member from the Coast Guard. The first meeting of the Team will be scheduled for early 2017. 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. The Council also took the following actions:

- Send a letter to USFWS requesting continued monitoring of seabird colonies in the Bering Sea, to monitor effects of the seabird mortality events observed in 2016.
- Include in the annual management letter to IPHC a recommendation that the IPHC continue to examine biological and yield impacts of alternative lower size limits.
- Requested that NMFS provide information about Chinook salmon in the GOA, including contributions from hatchery fish and a description of what information is currently being collected, and what additional information might be collected in the future.
- Directed staff to prepare a discussion paper that explores changing the ownership cap on Charter Halibut Permits for the RQE to hold up to 30% of the permits in either Area 3A or 2C.
- Directed staff to prepare a discussion paper that examines mechanisms to reduce latent capacity in the Charter Halibut Permit program based on average minimum use of the permit, and a limit on the number of angler days per permit.
- Directed staff to include information on the GOA in the next discussion paper on halibut abundance based management PSC limits. Specifically, the staff will include considerations of what would it take to include the GOA in the ABM program for PSC limits.
- Directed staff to prepare a discussion paper that evaluates several measures as potential options to reduce PSC, including evaluation of temporal distribution of halibut PSC rates in the WGOA Pacific cod A season, evaluation of the timing of pollock harvest and Chinook salmon PSC in the WGOA C and D seasons, evaluation of the impacts of lowering the WGOA pollock trip limits to 200,000 lbs.
- Directed staff to prepare a discussion paper that evaluates the impacts and effects of stranding GOA Pacific cod in the trawl B season, including examination of sector splits, season dates, and apportionments, with an eye towards achieving OY in the fishery.
- Directed staff to prepare a discussion paper that summarizes actions taken to protect crab habitat in the CGOA and information on crab stock abundance and distribution, to determine if additional closures may be warranted.
- Announced appointments to the SSC, AP, PNCIAC, and BS Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team.

Upcoming meetings

- Joint Groundfish PT meeting for Stock Prioritization: January 11-12, 2017, AFSC, Seattle WA
- Crab Plan Team meeting: January 17-19, 2017 The Mountaineers Club, Seattle WA.
- BS FEP Team meeting: January 19, 2017 AFSC, Seattle WA
- NPFMC Council meeting: January 30 – February 7, 2017 Renaissance Hotel, Seattle WA
- IFQ Committee meeting (T): January 30, 2017 Renaissance Hotel, Seattle WA
- Ecosystem Committee meeting: January 31, 2017 Renaissance Hotel, Seattle WA
- Scallop Plan Team meeting: February 22, 2017 Kodiak, Alaska
- EMWG meeting: March 28 – 29, 2017 AFSC, Seattle WA