

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Dan Hull, Chairman
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Visit our website: <http://www.npfmc.org>

PUBLIC COMMENT INFORMATION

**Deadline for written comments for upcoming meeting:
Friday, February 2, 2018 by 5:00 pm (Alaska Time)**

Written Comments: Written comments and materials to be included in Council meeting notebooks must be received by the deadline noted above. Written comments should include a statement of the source and date of information provided as well as a brief description of the background and interests of the person(s) submitting the statement. **Comments should be submitted at our new ecomment portal: comments.npfmc.org**

The Comments must identify the submitter by legal name, affiliation, and date, and must also identify the specific agenda item by number (C1 for example), and must be submitted by the comment deadline. No comments can be submitted following this deadline.

Comment received after the deadline will not be copied and distributed and will not be considered as part of the official record. Emails submitted for the comments must be to the above address, and not to specific Council staff or Council members. Additionally, email comments will only be accepted on items that are on the scheduled agenda. A return receipt will be issued automatically upon opening the electronic comment.

Testimony Materials: Electronic copies of material provided by persons testifying during the meeting must be provided to the Council staff. A minimum of **25** paper copies should be provided for the Council, **25** for the Advisory Panel, and **18** for the Scientific and Statistical Committee. If presentations, photographs, or other materials shown during public testimony are intended to be part of the official record, it is the testifiers' responsibility to provide copies and electronic versions, if available, to Council staff. Electronic versions, if provided, will be uploaded to the Agenda.

Those Wishing to Testify in Person

Council. Sign-up sheets are available at the registration table for those wishing to provide public comments on a specific agenda item. Sign-up must be completed before public comment begins on that agenda item. Additional names are not accepted after public comment has begun. Groups and associations are given six minutes and individuals and businesses are allowed three minutes for their testimony. A projector is available for use upon request. Contact the staff ahead of time for arrangements.

Advisory Panel. The AP operating guidelines incorporate a strict time-management approach to its meetings. Rules for testimony before the Advisory Panel have been developed which are similar to those used by the Council. Members of the public wishing to testify before the AP must sign up on a separate sheet for each item listed on the agenda. Sign-up sheets are provided on a clipboard located at the back of the room with other reference materials. The deadline for registering to testify is just after the staff report is completed on that agenda topic. The time available for individual and group testimony will be based on the number registered and determined by the AP Chairman. The AP may not take public testimony on items for which they will not be making recommendations to the Council. Further information is available in the [AP Handbook](#) adopted in October 2016.

Scientific and Statistical Committee. The usual practice is for the SSC to call for public comment immediately following the staff presentation on each agenda item. The Committee will discourage testimony that does not directly address the technical issues of concern to the SSC. Presentations lasting more than five minutes will require prior approval from the Chair.

NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

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COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

ABC – Allowable Biological Catch
ADP – Annual Deployment Plan
AFA – American Fisheries Act
AI – Aleutian Islands
BBRKC – Bristol Bay Red King Crab
BiOp – Biological Opinion
BKC – Blue King Crab
BSAI – Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
BSFRF – Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation
BSIERP – Bering Sea Integrated Ecosystem Research Program
AK BOF – Alaska Board of Fisheries
CATCH – Catch Accountability Through Compensated Halibut
CDQ – Community Development Quota
CIE – Center for Independent Experts
CGOA – Central Gulf of Alaska
CQE – Community Quota Entity
CRP – Cooperative Research Plan
EDR – Economic Data Reporting
EFP – Exempted Fishing Permit
EIS – Environmental Impact Statement
EM – Electronic Monitoring
EFH – Essential Fish Habitat
FEP – Fishery Ecosystem Plan
FLL – Freezer Longliners

GOA – Gulf of Alaska
GKC – Golden King Crab
GHL – Guideline Harvest Level
HAPC – Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
IBA – Individual Bycatch Accounting
IBQ – Individual Bycatch Quota
ICA – Inter-cooperative Agreements
IFQ – Individual Fishing Quota
IPQ – Individual Processor Quotas
IPA – Incentive Program Agreements
MPA – Marine Protected Area
MRA – Maximum Retainable Allowance
NOI – Notice of Intent
OAC – Observer Advisory Committee
OFL – Overfishing Limit
PQS – Processor Quota Share
PSEIS – Programmatic Supplemental Impact Statement
PSC – Prohibited Species Catch
RKC – Red King Crab
ROFR – Right of First Refusal
RQE – Recreational Quota Entity
SAFE – Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation
SSL – Steller Sea Lion
TAC – Total Allowable Catch
VMS – Vessel Monitoring System