

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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## Meeting Summary

238<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
April 2 - 9, 2018  
Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK

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### Attachments

- 1) Time Log
- 2) Newsletter

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met Wednesday, April 4, through Monday, April 9, 2018, at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. The following Council, NPFMC staff, SSC, and AP members attended the meetings.

#### **Council Members**

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

#### **NPFMC Staff**

Armstrong, Jim	Kircher, Peggy	Shawback, Maria
Cunningham, Sam	MacLean, Steve	Schmidt, Nicole
Evans, Diana (DD)	Marrinan, Sarah	Stram, Diana
Fey, Mike (AKFIN)	McCracken, Jon	Witherell, Dave (ED)
Gleason, Shannon	Cleaver, Sara (SeaGrant Fellow)	

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

The SSC met from April 2 - 4, 2018 at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK.

Members present were:

Anne Hollowed, Co-Chair <i>NOAA Fisheries—AFSC</i>	Amy Bishop <i>Alaska Sea Life Center</i>	Robert Clark <i>Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game</i>
Jason Gasper, <i>NOAA Fisheries – Alaska Region</i>	Brad Harris <i>Alaska Pacific University</i>	Ian Stewart <i>IPHC</i>
George Hunt <i>University of Washington</i>	Gordon Kruse <i>University of Alaska Fairbanks</i>	Dayv Lowry <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Game</i>
Mike Downs <i>Northern Economics</i>	Franz Mueter <i>University of Alaska Fairbanks</i>	Terry Quinn <i>University of Alaska Fairbanks</i>
Heather Renner <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife</i>	Matt Reimer <i>University of Alaska Anchorage</i>	Ian Stewart <i>Intl. Pacific Halibut Commission</i>
Alison Whitman <i>Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	Chris Anderson <i>University of Washington</i>	Dana Hanselman <i>NOAA Fisheries - AFSC</i>

Members absent were:

Kate Reedy <i>Idaho State University Pocatello</i>	Sherri Dressel, Vice Chair <i>Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game</i>
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### Advisory Panel

The AP met Tuesday, April 3, through Friday, April 6, 2018. Members present were (absent members are ~~stricken~~):

Carroll, Shannon	Kauffman, Jeff	Upton, Matt (Co-Vice Chair)
Christiansen, Ruth	Kwachka, Alexis	
<del>Cochran, Kurt</del>	Lowenberg, Craig	Vanderhoeven, Anne
Donich, Daniel	Nichols, Carina	Weinstein, Samantha
Drobnica, Angel (Co-Vice Chair)	O'Donnell, Paddy	Weiss, Ernie (Chair)
Gruver, John	Peterson, Joel	Wilt, Sinclair
Hayden, Natasha	Scoblic, John	
Johnson, Jim	Stevens, Ben	

## B REPORTS

The following reports were given and discussed. Actions were deferred to staff tasking.

### **B1 Executive Director's Report** – David Witherell

- 2018 Research Priorities – Diana Evans
- Community Outreach Update – Steve MacLean
- Northern Edge Presentation – John Mosher & Andrea Balla-Holden

### **B2 NMFS Management Report** – Glenn Merrill

### **B3 ADF&G Report** – Trent Hartill

### **B4 NOAA GC Report** – Lauren Smoker

### **B5 NIOSH Report** – Samantha Case & Laura Syron

### **B6 USCG Report** – LCDR Corrie Sergeant

### **B7 USFWS Report** – Aaron Martin

### **B8 Protected Species Report** - Steve MacLean

- Seabird Presentation – Anne Marie Eich & Liz Labunski

## C1 SALMON FMP AMENDMENT FOR COOK INLET

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Jim Armstrong and NMFS staff, Gretchen Harrington. The following action was taken:

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

In response to public requests, the Council intends to establish the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee to assist in developing management measures for the commercial salmon fishery in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) adjacent to Cook Inlet. The Council adopts the following elements to guide the development of the Committee.

**Purpose.** The Council establishes a Cook Inlet Salmon Committee to consult on matters related to the completion of an amendment to the Salmon FMP that would manage the commercial salmon fishery in the EEZ adjacent to Cook Inlet. The Committee's primary function will be to (1) review and provide comments on specific, Council-identified issues; (2) develop options for fishery management measures

for specific, Council-identified management needs, and (3) provide perspectives on potential social and economic impacts of proposed fishery management measures.

**Scope of Work.** In order to contribute to the development of the Salmon FMP amendment, the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee will provide recommendations to the Council on the following issues:

- 1) Salmon fishery management measures that address MSA 303(a) requirements, focusing on;
  - a) A description of the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors which participate in the fishery.
  - b) Standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in the fishery and monitoring measures.
  - c) Social, economic, and community impacts of management measures.
- 2) Analytical documents prepared by Council and NMFS staff.

**Organizing Principles.** The Cook Inlet Salmon Committee's organizing principles will be based on the principles in the summary report prepared for this agenda item.

**Membership.** The Council will initiate a call for nominations for Cook Inlet salmon fishery stakeholders to be members of the committee. The Council Chair will appoint members to achieve a representative group of stakeholders to accomplish the purpose and scope of work. The Council Chair will appoint a Council member as the Committee Chair. Committee membership may change as needed to reflect the needs of the committee as determined by the Council.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously April 5, 2018, at 9:01 a.m.

## **C2 SCALLOP SAFE AND PLAN TEAM REPORTS**

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Jim Armstrong, ADF&G, Quinn Smith, and NMFS', Scott Miller. The following action was taken:

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

The Council adopts the 2018 Scallop SAFE report and sets the 2018/2019 ABC at 1.161 million pounds of shucked meats and the OFL equal to 1.29 million pounds, as recommended by the Scallop Plan Team and SSC.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously April 5, 2018, at 10:45 a.m.

## C3 CHARTER HALIBUT PERMIT ANNUAL RENEWAL

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Sarah Marrinan. The following actions were taken:

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

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

Alternative 2.

Implement an annual registration process for transferable and non-transferable charter halibut permits (CHP). 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),
- CHP holder address, and
- CHP holder phone number and/ or email address

If a CHP is not registered with NMFS, the CHP would not be valid for use during the applicable fishing year.

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

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

(Add the following question under Alternative 2):

Ask: Did you receive financial compensation for use of a CHP in the preceding year?

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed with no objection April 5, 2018, at 2:08 p.m.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously April 5, 2018, at 2:10 p.m.

## C4 MIXING OF GUIDED AND UNGUIDED HALIBUT

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

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

The Council selects Alternative 3, with the following revisions (shown in bolded text), as its preferred alternative:

### **Alternative 3.**

If halibut harvested using sport fishing guide services is possessed with halibut not using sport fishing guide services on Convention waters in Area 2C or 3A, the **following Federal or** IPHC annual management measures for guided sport fishing for the area that the halibut was harvested apply to all halibut onboard the fishing vessel: **carcass retention requirements, daily bag and possession limits, size limits, and day-of-week closures (if applicable).**

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

Strike the following language (shown in strikethrough text)

If halibut harvested using sport fishing guide services is possessed with halibut not using sport fishing guide services on Convention waters in Area 2C or 3A, the **following Federal or** IPHC annual management measures for guided sport fishing for the area that the halibut was harvested apply to all halibut onboard the fishing vessel: **carcass retention requirements, daily bag and possession limits, size limits, and day-of-week closures (if applicable).**

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

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

If halibut harvested using sport fishing guide services is possessed with halibut not using sport fishing guide services on Convention waters in Area 2C or 3A, the following Federal or IPHC annual management measures for guided sport fishing for the area that the halibut was harvested apply to all halibut onboard the fishing vessel: carcass retention requirements, daily bag and possession limits, size limits, ~~and day-of-week closures~~ (**if applicable**).

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed with no objection April 5, 2018, at 2:55 p.m.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed unanimously April 5, 2018, at 2:57 p.m.

**VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously April 5, 2018, at 3:01 p.m.

## C5 SALMON BYCATCH – POLLOCK IPA REPORTS, SALMON GENETICS

The Council received a series of reports on the stock of origin of Chinook and chum salmon bycatch taken incidentally in selected BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries, as well as reports from the Bering Sea Pollock industry, and an update on efforts by SeaShare to distribute bycaught fish for hunger relief. The following action was taken:

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

The Council establishes a Salmon Stock Composition Workgroup, to be comprised of staff from: AFSC, ADF&G, Council/SSC and the NMFS Alaska Region. The Council tasks this workgroup to hold a public workshop to facilitate industry feedback on how stock composition reports can be improved to better inform industry bycatch avoidance efforts. The workshop should facilitate development of the appropriate spatial and temporal resolution of stock identification, or other associated analyses that could be used by stakeholders to minimize salmon bycatch. The Council requests a summary report of results from the workshop and the inclusion of updated information and analyses in future salmon genetics reports.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection April 6, 2018, at 12:13 p.m.

## C6 GOA CV CHINOOK PSC LIMIT ADJUSTMENTS

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

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

Postpone indefinitely any further action on Chinook salmon PSC limits for GOA trawl catcher vessels.

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

The analysis should come back for initial review with the following additions:

1) Incorporate the SSC's recommendations

2) Incorporate the AP's recommendation of adding a sub option under option 4:

Option 4 can be selected in combination with options 1-3 or as a stand alone option in Alternatives 2 and 3.

3) Staff incorporate new information as it pertains to:

- The most recent salmon escapements to streams that have salmon encountered in these fisheries.
- The results of the 2018 fishery
- The status and /or results from the Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiations.

**VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Motion failed 2/9 (Dr. Balsiger, Mr. Cotten, Mr. Down, Mr. Kinneen, Mr. Laukitis, Mr. Mezirow, Ms. Peterson, Mr. Tweit, and Mr. Hull voting in opposition) April 7, 2018, at 11:21 a.m.

**VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:** Motion passed with one objection (Mr. Cross) April 7, 2018, at 11:35 a.m.

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

The Council requests that staff develop a report that includes the following items, once the requisite information becomes available:

- Status of Chinook salmon runs and escapement in Alaska, British Columbia, and U.S. West Coast stocks;
- Progress of Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiations;
- Performance (harvest, effort, timing) of GOA non-pollock trawl CV fisheries that are subject to Chinook PSC limits.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection April 7, 2018, at 11:41 a.m.

## **C7 COOPERATIVE REPORTS**

The Council reviewed cooperative reports for the American Fisheries Act Program, Amendment 80 Program, Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program, and BSAI Crab Rationalization Program. As part of these programs, cooperatives have been required or requested to provide an annual written report detailing the use of the cooperative quota or addressing other specific areas of Council interest. The written reports and the voluntary presentations are a resource for the Council to track the effectiveness of the cooperatives and whether the cooperative programs are meeting their intended goals. The reports and presentations also facilitate feedback from cooperative managers to the Council on successes of the program and areas of the program that may need adjustment. No action was taken.

## **C8 HALIBUT RETENTION IN BSAI SABLEFISH POTS**

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Sarah Marrinan, SeaGrant Fellow, Sara Cleaver, and NMFS staff, Stephanie Warpinski. The following action was taken:

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

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and suite of alternatives for initial review.

### **Purpose and Need Statement:**

Interactions with whales throughout the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands affect the ability of sablefish and halibut QS holders to harvest their IFQ by reducing catch per unit of effort and increasing fishing costs. Whale depredation is increasing for vessels fishing halibut IFQ with longline gear, and for halibut discarded when using pot gear to fish sablefish IFQ in the BSAI. The purpose of this action is to address whale depredation on discarded halibut and to allow for more efficient harvest of halibut in areas with whale depredation. Research into developing technological solutions to deter whales and changes in fishing strategies has not resolved this problem. The problem may be addressed by revisions to current regulations that authorize pot gear as legal gear to retain halibut in the BSAI. Allowing retention of



halibut caught in pot gear in the BSAI could address the negative impacts of whale depredation on QS holders. This action seeks to reduce the problems associated with whale depredation, including unobserved halibut mortality, while minimizing gear conflicts.

The Council recommends the following revised alternatives, elements and options to allow halibut retention in pot gear in the BSAI.

**Alternative 1:** No action (status quo).

**Alternative 2:** Allow retention of legal-sized halibut in single or longline pot gear used to fish for halibut or sablefish IFQ/CDQ in the BSAI provided the IFQ/CDQ holder holds sufficient halibut IFQ/CDQ for that IFQ regulatory area.

Element 1: Gear retrieval

Option 1: No gear tending requirements (status quo)

Option 2: A vessel with unfished IFQ/CDQ onboard cannot leave gear on the grounds untended for more than (sub-options 5-10 days)

Element 2: Limit of a 9-inch maximum width of tunnel opening does not apply when vessel has unfished halibut IFQ/CDQ onboard.

Element 3: All vessels using pot gear to fish IFQ/CDQ are required to use logbooks and VMS.

Element 4: Require escapement mechanism in the mesh panels of pots.

Element 5: Establish regulations that would allow NMFS to close IFQ fishing for halibut if an overfishing limit is approached consistent with regulations in place for groundfish.

This analysis should examine:

- How fishing for IFQ/CDQ halibut and sablefish is defined, and whether additional regulatory clarifications are required to define IFQ/CDQ halibut and sablefish fishing for pot gear.
- Whether additional regulations (e.g., pot tags) are needed to account for IFQ/CDQ halibut and sablefish fishing with pot gear.
- The need and potential options for escapement mechanisms and gear modifications for pots intended to be used to fish halibut IFQ/CDQ.
- Potential gear conflict from the use, storage, retrieval, or loss of IFQ/CDQ halibut and sablefish pots and potential management measures to reduce gear conflict.
- The potential implications of allowing retention of IFQ/CDQ halibut and sablefish by vessels directed fishing for Pacific cod, crab, or other groundfish species.
- The potential scope of closure areas for pot gear (e.g., the Pribilof Islands Habitat Conservation Zone) that may be required to minimize the risk of overfishing Pribilof Islands Blue King Crab.

The Council requests that NMFS include IFQ pot gear effort in its annual inseason management report to the Council. The Council intends to review the effects of allowing retention of halibut in pot gear five years after implementation.

Staff should consider and address comments from the SSC and AP to the extent practicable.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously April 8, 2018, at 9:32 a.m.

## **D1 HALIBUT ABUNDANCE BASED PSC LIMITS**

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram and NMFS staff, Dr. Carey McGilliard. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council initiates analysis of the following alternatives (No changes have been made to the purpose and need statement).

**Alternative 1:** No action

**Alternative 2:** Index trawl PSC to EBS trawl survey biomass. Index longline PSC to setline survey biomass.

**Alternative 3** (former ABM 4): Index trawl gear PSC and fixed gear PSC to both EBS trawl survey (primary index for trawl, secondary index for longline) and setline survey (primary index for longline, secondary index for trawl). The secondary index modifies a multiplier on the starting point of the control rule when the secondary index is in a “high state” or a “low state” (e.g., the PSC is multiplied by 1.1 when the secondary index is at a “high” value and by 0.9 when the secondary index is a “low” value).

**Alternative 4** (former ABM 4): Index trawl gear PSC and fixed gear PSC to both EBS trawl survey (primary index for trawl, secondary index for longline) and setline survey (primary index for longline, secondary index for trawl). The secondary index modifies the multiplier on the final PSC limit after the primary index is applied when the secondary index is in a “high state” or a “low state” (e.g., the PSC is multiplied by 1.1 when the secondary index is at a “high” value and by 0.9 when the secondary index is at a “low” value).

For each alternative above the slope of the control rule is fixed at a value of 1.0

The following elements and options are exclusive to alternatives 2-4

***Element 1 – PSC limit responsiveness to abundance changes***

- Option 1: PSC limit varies no more than 5% per year
- Option 2: PSC limit varies no more than 15% per year
- Option 3: PSC limit varies no more than 25% per year

***Element 2 – Starting point for PSC limit***

- Option 1. 10% below 2016 PSC use (2,119 t)
- Option 2. Average of 2016 PSC use and limit (2,935 t)
- Option 3. 2016 PSC limit (3,515 t)

***Element 3 - Maximum PSC limit (ceiling)***

- Option 1. 2016 PSC limit (3,515 t)
- Option 3. 2015 PSC limit (4,426 t)
- Option 4. No ceiling

***Element 4 - Minimum PSC limit (floor)***

- Option 1. No floor (PSC goes to 0)

Option 2. 2016 use (2,354 t)

Option 3. ½ of 2016 PSC limit (1,758)

Option 4. PSC limit is zero at IPHC 20% Coastwide stock status (or proxy)

***Element 5 – High and low values for secondary index (Only applies to Alternatives 3 and 4)***

Option 1. High = 2nd lowest value of time series, Low = 2nd highest value of time series

Option 2. Index is 25% below or above average

Option 3. Index is above or below average

***Element 6 – Multiplier for secondary index (only applies to Alternative 3 and 4)***

Option 1. High = range of 1.1 to 1.5

Option 2. Low = range of 0.5 to 0.9

Option 3. Other high, medium and low ranges to be selected between 0.5 and 1.5

**Alternative 5:** Combination of IPHC Area 4 O26 survey and EBS shelf trawl survey. PSC limit is presented in a look-up table based on halibut abundance from the IPHC Area 4 setline survey and the EBS trawl survey.

The following elements are exclusive to Alternative 5

***Element 1 – PSC limit responsiveness to abundance changes***

A reduction (options 25-50%) in the EBS index for either survey triggers a reduction from the existing cap to the floor. Also, SB 20 coastwide halibut control rule (or proxy) triggers going to the floor (independent of the two surveys).

***Element 2. Starting Point***

Option 1. 2016 limit (710 mt)

Option 2. 10% below 2016 limit (639 mt)

Option 3. 20% below 2016 limit (568 mt)

Option 4: 2016 PSC use (205 mt).

***Element 3. Maximum PSC limit (ceiling)***

Option 1. 2015 PSC limit (833 mt)

Option 2. 2016 PSC limit (710 mt)

Option 3. Option 3. No ceiling

***Element 4. Minimum PSC limit (floor)***

Option 1. 2002-2016 avg. PSC use = 462 mt

Option 2. 50% of 2016 PSC limit = 355 mt

Option 3. PSC limit is zero at SB 20% Coastwide stock status (or proxy)

In this analysis, the Council also tasks staff to evaluate the following items, and other comments from the SSC as practicable:

- *Time series of the indices used.* Provide the Council biological considerations for selecting the baseline years for the index, as described by the SSC.
- *Index values for high, medium and low.* In Alternatives 3 and 4 a secondary index may modify the PSC limit based on the secondary index being high, medium or low. The Council request a biological basis for determining when an index is high or low, as well as guidance on how to the response associated with each value.
- *Alternative PSC limits.* A small number of fixed PSC values should be included in the analysis to allow investigation of the performance of ABM alternatives relative to differences in the scale of the starting points, as outlined by the SSC.
- Evaluate using a 3-5 year rolling average of PSC limits, as described by the SSC.
- Consider how to allocate CDQ PSC between fixed gear and trawl gear.
- Describe the steps and process that produces the EBS trawl IPHC survey index values.

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

Delete (shown in ~~strike through~~) and add (shown in **bold**) the following language Under Alternative 5

**Alternative 5:** Combination of IPHC Area 4 ~~O26~~ survey and EBS shelf trawl survey. **BSAI fixed gear** PSC limit is presented in a look-up table based on halibut abundance from the IPHC Area 4 setline survey and the EBS trawl survey

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed with no objection April 8, 2018, at 5:55 p.m.

**Mr. Kinneen made the following amendment which was seconded by Dr. Balsiger:**

Add Option 4 under Element 2, Alternative 4 (**in bold**)

*Element 2 – Starting point for PSC limit*

Option 1. 10% below 2016 PSC use (2,119 t)

Option 2. Average of 2016 PSC use and limit (2,935 t)

Option 3. 2016 PSC limit (3,515 t)

**Option 4. 2017 use (1,958 t)**

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed with two objections (Mr. Tweit and Mr. Cross) April 8, 2018, at 6:04 p.m.

**VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection April 8, 2018, at 6:06 p.m.

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

The Council is interested in evaluating a PSC performance standard associated with O26 halibut. Preliminary understanding of O26 data suggests there may be limitations in the data available to establish a performance standard. The Council tasks staff to work with NMFS and the Observer Program to provide a white paper describing the available O26/U26 halibut abundance and mortality data, and any sources of bias. This paper should identify the amount (weight and numbers) of O26 halibut mortality in the Bering Sea. The paper should also include a description of sampling protocols in the halibut deck sorting EFP, the effect deck sorting may have on the number and weight of halibut mortality, and any anomalies with existing data.

In addition, the Council requests this paper develop O26 performance standard options and evaluate the ability to achieve the objectives of this action. Staff should identify biological linkages or correlations between data sources of O26 halibut abundance and mortality.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously April 8, 2018, at 6:12 p.m.

## **D2 REGULATORY REFORM**

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

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

The Council reviewed the regulations under its authority, the Council's current projects and priorities, and the recordkeeping and reporting revisions NMFS identified to reduce or simplify existing regulations.

Based on this review, the Council requests the Executive Director and Council Chairman to respond to NMFS's request for recommendations under the Regulatory Reform Executive Orders by noting that the Council's current projects and 3-meeting outlook represent its current conservation and management priorities. Some of these on-going projects may include components that reduce the burden of existing regulations and those will be noted when the Council submits future FMP and regulatory amendment recommendations to NMFS. In addition, the Council response should note that the Council may identify additional regulations that require review in the future. These future reviews will be conducted through the Council process with consideration of the scope, priority, and process appropriate for the particular issue.

The Council also supports NMFS continuing to remove recordkeeping and reporting requirements that are no longer necessary, and to simplify or reduce the burden of existing requirements. Several of these revisions were identified by NMFS in this review. These regulatory revisions may be included in future Council analyses, reported to the Council in the NMFS management report, or implemented through NMFS-initiated rulemaking that could be reviewed by the Council Chairman and Executive Director through the standard review of regulatory amendment packages prepared by NMFS Alaska Region.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously April 9, 2018, at 9:35 a.m.

## **E1 STAFF TASKING**

Executive Director, David Witherell presented a list of items for discussion at staff tasking from the B reports and other items during the meeting and other staff tasking materials. In addition to discussing the relative priority of previously tasked projects, the Council initiated new actions and letters and clarified direction and tasking for its various committees. The following actions were taken:

### **BSAI Crab Electronic Logbook**

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

The Council requests staff develop a discussion paper evaluating the steps necessary to develop and implement an electronic logbook to replace the paper logbooks currently used in the Crab Rationalization program.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously April 9, 2018, at 2:15 p.m.

## BSAI Crab Partial Deliveries

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

The Council requests staff provide a discussion paper considering an FMP amendment allowing partial deliveries of all BSAI crab program species.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection April 9, 2018, at 2:17 p.m.

## AM113 AI Pacific Cod

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

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and initiates analysis of the following alternatives:

Purpose and Need:

*Amendment 113 to the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Fishery Management Plan was intended to address the Council's concern of the continued risk of increased processing participation by rationalized sectors in the non-rationalized Aleutian Island cod fishery. In the first year Amendment 113 was in effect changes in fishery participation patterns and total allowable catches in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, resulted in the fishery progressing a manner that may have been counter to the intent of providing community protections in the Aleutian Islands. The Council intends to modify Amendment 113 such that the prosecution of the BSAI cod fishery aligns with the Council's original objective of addressing the risk that participants in BSAI rationalized fisheries may diminish the historical share of BSAI cod of other industry participants and communities that depend on shoreplant processing in the region.*

Alternative 1. No action

Alternative 2. Amend CFR 679.20 (a)(7)(viii)(E) as follows (changes in **bold and underlined**):

- (1) Language is unchanged
- (2) Language is unchanged

(3) Aleutian Islands Unrestricted Fishery. Prior to March 15, vessels otherwise authorized to directed fish for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands may directed fish for that portion of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod non-CDQ directed fishing allowance that is specified as the Aleutian Islands Unrestricted Fishery as determined in paragraph (a)(7)(viii)(B) of this section and may deliver their catch to any eligible processor, **provided directed fishing for Pacific cod by the catcher vessel trawl sector is allowed in the BS Subarea.**

**(4) Management of Trawl Catcher Vessels in the Aleutian Islands Unrestricted Fishery. If the trawl catcher vessel sector is closed in the BS Subarea prior to March 15, only trawl catcher vessels that deliver their catch of Aleutian Islands Pacific cod to an Aleutian Islands shoreplant for processing may directed fish for that portion of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod non-CDQ directed fishing allowance that is specified as the Aleutian Islands Unrestricted Fishery as determined in paragraph (a)(7)(viii)(B) of this section.**

**(4)(5) Minimum Aleutian Islands shoreplant landing requirement.** If less than 1,000 mt of the Aleutian Islands Catcher Vessel Harvest Set-Aside is landed at Aleutian Islands shoreplants on or before

February 28, then paragraphs (a)(7)(viii)(E)(1) thru (4) of this section will not apply for the remainder of the fishing year.

~~(5)~~(6) Language is unchanged

### **Alternative 3:**

If the Aleutian Islands Catcher Vessel Harvest Set-Aside is in effect, the trawl CV sector may not engage in directed fishing for cod from the Aleutian Islands Unrestricted Fishery until the earlier of March 15 or until the entire Set-Aside is landed.

This prohibition will be removed if less than 1,000 mt of the Aleutian Islands Catcher Vessel Harvest Set-Aside has not been landed by February 28.

### **Alternative 4:**

1) Prior to March 21, the A season trawl CV Pacific cod harvests in the Bering Sea and trawl CV Pacific cod harvests in the Aleutian Islands except harvests delivered shoreside west of 170° longitude in the AI shall be limited to an amount equal to the BSAI aggregate CV trawl sector A season allocation minus the lesser of the AI directed Pacific cod non CDQ DFA or 5,000 mt.

Upon the closure under the above provision, directed trawl CV fishing for non CDQ BSAI Pacific cod is prohibited for all trawl CVs vessels except trawl CVs delivering shoreside west of 170° longitude in the AI prior to March 21, unless restrictions are removed earlier under 3 or 4 below.

2) Prior to March 15 AI directed Pacific cod non CDQ harvests of any sector other than the CV sector delivering shoreside west of 170° longitude in the AI as defined in 1) are limited to the amount of the AI directed Pacific cod non CDQ DFA above minus the amount set aside from the trawl CV BSAI allocation under 1). Catches of those other sectors under this provision are not subject to the regional delivery requirement.

3) If less than 1,000 mt of the AI Pacific cod non CDQ TAC has been landed shoreside west of 170° longitude in the AI by February 28 the restrictions under 1) and 2) shall be suspended for the remainder of the year.

4) If prior to November 1, neither the City of Adak nor the City of Atka have notified NMFS of the intent to process non CDQ directed AI Pacific cod in the upcoming year, the Aleutian Islands shoreside delivery requirement and restriction on the trawl CV sector allocation is suspended for the upcoming year. Cities can voluntarily provide notice prior to the selected date.

Shoreside deliveries are defined as deliveries made to a facility physically located on land.

The Council also tasks staff to:

- Provide a discussion of the tradeoffs and benefits of combining this action with the BSAI CV cod action the Council will address in June
- Provide a description of the 2018 BSAI CV trawl fishery, and how it was, or was not consistent with the intent of Amendment 113.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection April 9, 2018, at 2:39 p.m.

## **Economic Data Report**

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

The Council requests that NMFS prepare a discussion paper that describes the Economic Data Report requirements for all programs, explains how the data are used, and provides estimates of the costs of complying with the EDR requirements. The Council can then use the information in the discussion paper to determine if revisions to EDR requirements are needed and the priority and process for analysis of proposed revisions.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection April 9, 2018, at 2:50 p.m.

### Retain Small Sablefish

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

Initiate a discussion paper to consider modifying the requirement to retain small sized sablefish in the Alaska IFQ longline and pot fisheries (GOA and BSAI).

The discussion paper should include a description of available data to inform development of a discard mortality rate for sablefish in the Alaska longline and pot fisheries, with the intent of informing potential changes in retention regulations to allow for the release of smaller sablefish.

The paper should include a discussion about the potential trade-offs of a minimum size requirement regulation for sablefish versus allowing careful release of small juvenile sablefish.

The paper should include an economic section describing the value of sablefish of different sizes.

The paper should also include a discussion about the effects on observer sampling of modifying the sablefish retention requirement.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection April 9, 2018, at 3:05 p.m.

**THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ON MONDAY APRIL 9, 2018 AT 3:08 P.M.**



**TIME LOG**  
**North Pacific Fishery Management Council**  
**Meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska**  
**Hilton Hotel**  
**April 4–9, 2018**

**WEDNESDAY, April 4, 2018**

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04/04/2018 08:05:25 AM      Call to Order  
04/04/2018 08:06:24 AM      Motion – Approval of the Agenda

**B1 REPORTS**

04/04/2018 08:07:07 AM      **B1 Executive Director’s Report** – David Witherell  
04/04/2018 08:09:49 AM      CAPT Stephen White Farewell  
04/04/2018 08:10:52 AM      B1 Continued  
04/04/2018 08:20:46 AM      2018 Research Priorities – Diana Evans  
04/04/2018 08:23:34 AM      B1 Continued  
04/04/2018 08:24:33 AM      Community Outreach Update – Steve MacLean  
04/04/2018 08:50:32 AM      B1 Continued  
04/04/2018 09:10:28 AM      Northern Edge Presentation - John Mosher and  
Andrea Balla-Holden  
04/04/2018 09:41:30 AM      **B2 NMFS Report – Glenn Merrill**  
04/04/2018 10:04:23 AM      Break  
04/04/2018 10:22:31 AM      **B4 NOAA GC Report** – Lauren Smoker  
04/04/2018 10:29:15 AM      **B3 ADF&G Report** – Trent Hartill  
04/04/2018 10:45:43 AM      **B5 NIOSH Report** – Samantha Case & Laura Syron  
04/04/2018 11:22:02 AM      **B6 USCG Report** – LCDR Corrie Sergeant  
04/04/2018 11:32:08 AM      **B7 USFWS Report** – Aaron Martin  
04/04/2018 11:34:30 AM      **B8 Protected Species Report** – Steve MacLean  
04/04/2018 11:36:54 AM      Seabird Presentation – Anne Marie Eich & Liz Labunski  
04/04/2018 12:15:07 PM      Break  
04/04/2018 01:31:01 PM      B8 Continued  
04/04/2018 01:38:13 PM      SSC Report B items only – Anne Hollowed  
04/04/2018 02:05:24 PM      **B Public Testimony**  
04/04/2018 02:07:33 PM      Mark Fina  
04/04/2018 02:20:45 PM      Dave Fraser  
04/04/2018 02:25:11 PM      Clem Tillion  
04/04/2018 02:28:07 PM      Steve Minor  
04/04/2018 02:39:40 PM      Lauren Divine  
04/04/2018 02:45:51 PM      Ron Kawanauch  
04/04/2018 02:55:52 PM      Heather McCarty  
04/04/2018 03:13:49 PM      Julie Raymond-Yakoubian  
04/04/2018 03:28:23 PM      Brent Paine & Heather Mann  
04/04/2018 03:36:48 PM      Layton Lockett  
04/04/2018 03:45:01 PM      Break

## **C1 SALMON FMP AMENDMENT FOR COOK INLET**

04/04/2018 04:03:15 PM	<b>C1 Presentation</b> – Jim Armstrong & Gretchen Harrington
04/04/2018 04:55:27 PM	<b>AP Report</b> – Matt Upton
04/04/2018 04:57:33 PM	<b>C1 Public Testimony</b>
04/04/2018 04:57:42 PM	Andrew Couch – Out of order
04/04/2018 05:02:17 PM	Israel Payton – Out of order
04/04/2018 05:07:43 PM	Recess

## **THURSDAY, April 5, 2018**

04/05/2018 08:05:17 AM	<b>C1 Public Testimony</b>
04/05/2018 08:09:27 AM	Jeff Berger
04/05/2018 08:10:29 AM	Teague Vanek
04/05/2018 08:17:55 AM	Erik Huebsch
04/05/2018 08:32:32 AM	David Martin
04/05/2018 08:43:47 AM	<b>C1 Mr. Merrill Motion</b>
04/05/2018 09:02:08 AM	Break

## **C2 SCALLOP SAFE AND PLAN TEAM REPORTS**

04/05/2018 09:18:37 AM	<b>C2 Presentation</b> – Jim Armstrong, Quinn Smith, Scott Miller
04/05/2018 09:37:34 AM	Fishery Economic Update – Scott Miller
04/05/2018 10:26:13 AM	SSC Report – Anne Hollowed
04/05/2018 10:26:01 AM	<b>AP Report</b> – Matt Upton
04/05/2018 10:28:17 AM	<b>C2 Public Testimony</b>
04/05/2018 10:28:24 AM	Jim Stone
04/05/2018 10:42:49 AM	<b>C2 Mr. Hartill Motion</b>

## **C3 CHARTER HALIBUT PERMIT ANNUAL RENEWAL**

04/05/2018 11:05:56 AM	<b>C3 Presentation</b> – Sarah Marrinan
04/05/2018 11:35:24 AM	Enforcement Committee Report – Jon McCracken
04/05/2018 11:58:59 AM	<b>AP Report</b> – Angel Drobnica
04/05/2018 12:01:46 PM	Break
04/05/2018 01:15:15 PM	<b>C3 Mr. Mezirow Motion</b>
04/05/2018 01:34:25 PM	Break
04/05/2018 02:00:31 PM	C3 Motion Continued

*No public testimony was taken on this agenda item.*

## **C4 MIXING OF GUIDED AND UNGUIDED HALIBUT**

04/05/2018 02:11:40 PM	<b>C4 Presentation</b> – Jon McCracken
04/05/2018 02:33:06 PM	Enforcement Committee Report – Jon McCracken
04/05/2018 02:37:39 PM	<b>AP Report</b> – Angel Drobnica
04/05/2018 02:44:22 PM	<b>C4 Mr. Merrill Motion</b>
04/05/2018 03:03:10 PM	Break
04/05/2018 03:20:29 PM	SSC Report – Anne Hollowed
04/05/2018 04:09:23 PM	Recess

*No public testimony was taken on this agenda item.*

## **FRIDAY, April 6, 2018**

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### **C5 SALMON BYCATCH – POLLOCK ICA/IPA REPORTS; UPDATE ON SALMON GENETICS AND BSAI SALMON ADULT EQUIVALENCY**

04/06/2018 08:06:14 AM	<b>C5 Introduction</b> – Diana Stram
04/06/2018 08:14:58 AM	Chum Salmon Bycatch - Dr. Jeff Guyon & Dr. Chris Kondzela
04/06/2018 08:53:38 AM	Chinook Salmon Bycatch - Dr. Chuck Guthrie
04/06/2018 09:45:54 AM	Chinook Salmon Baseline - Dr. Bill Templin
04/06/2018 10:25:20 AM	AEQ Report – Dr. Diana Stram
04/06/2018 10:39:11 AM	IPA Reports – John Gruver
04/06/2018 10:51:37 AM	CP Chinook and Chum Salmon Report –Stephanie Madsen and Austin Estabrooks
04/06/2018 11:18:31 AM	MSSIP Report - James Mize
04/06/2018 11:23:16 AM	SeaShare Report - Jim Harmon
04/06/2018 11:42:31 AM	<b>C5 Public Testimony</b>
04/06/2018 11:43:18 AM	Michael Barrow
04/06/2018 11:47:16 AM	Zach Stevenson
04/06/2018 11:56:22 AM	<b>C5 Mr. Hartill Motion</b>
04/06/2018 12:13:56 PM	Break

### **C6 GOA CV CHINOOK PSC LIMIT ADJUSTMENTS**

04/06/2018 01:22:21 PM	C6 Public Testimony - Natasha Hayden (out of order)
04/06/2018 02:10:51 PM	<b>C6 Presentation</b> – Sam Cunningham
04/06/2018 02:53:09 PM	<b>AP Report</b> – Angel Drobnica
04/06/2018 03:00:24 PM	Recess

## **SATURDAY, April 7, 2018**

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04/07/2018 08:06:29 AM	Call to Order
04/07/2018 08:07:25 AM	<b>C6 Public Testimony</b>
04/07/2018 08:07:33 AM	Neil DeWitt
04/07/2018 08:11:33 AM	Alexus Kwachka

04/07/2018 08:18:07 AM	Michael Barrow
04/07/2018 08:20:36 AM	Beth Stewart
04/07/2018 08:32:17 AM	Rebecca Skinner
04/07/2018 08:37:42 AM	Patrick O'Donnell
04/07/2018 09:02:09 AM	Julie Bonney
04/07/2018 09:22:41 AM	Jeff Farvour
04/07/2018 09:31:33 AM	Linda Behnken
04/07/2018 09:37:50 AM	Break
04/07/2018 10:01:52 AM	<b>C6 Mr. Cotten Motion</b>
04/07/2018 10:20:59 AM	<b>C6 Mr. Cross Substitute Motion</b>
04/07/2018 10:41:24 AM	Break
04/07/2018 11:06:18 AM	<b>C6 Mr. Cross Revised Substitute Motion</b>
04/07/2018 11:42:56 AM	<b>C6 Mr. Cross Second Motion</b>

### **C7 COOPERATIVE REPORTS (AFA, AM80, GOA ROCKFISH, BSAI CRAB)**

04/07/2018 11:42:35 AM	Coop Report Introduction – Jon McCracken
04/07/2018 11:54:20 AM	Break
04/07/2018 01:02:43 PM	AFA Intercooperative – John Gruver
04/07/2018 01:12:17 PM	APA – PCC HSCC Annual Report – Stephanie Madsen & Austin Estabrooks
04/07/2018 01:19:49 PM	AM80 Reports – Beth Concepcion & Todd Loomis
04/07/2018 01:35:41 PM	Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program - Julie Bonney
04/07/2018 01:56:58 PM	Best Use & FCA - Todd Loomis & Anica Saltman
04/07/2018 02:05:57 PM	ACE Crab Coop Report – Gretar Gudmundsson
04/07/2018 02:10:18 PM	Dog Boat Crab Coop - Caitlin Yeager
04/07/2018 02:15:13 PM	ICE Cooperative Report – Dave Jacobsen & Joe Sullivan
04/07/2018 03:06:41 PM	Break

*No public testimony was taken on this agenda item.*

### **C8 HALIBUT RETENTION IN BSAI SABLEFISH POTS**

04/07/2018 03:25:43 PM	<b>C8 Presentation</b> – Sarah Marrinan, Sara Cleaver, Stephanie Warpinski
04/07/2018 04:53:51 PM	<b>AP Report</b> – Angel Drobnica
04/07/2018 05:02:31 PM	<b>C8 Public Testimony</b>
04/07/2018 05:02:39 PM	Heather McCarty & Mateo Paz Soldan
04/07/2018 05:13:41 PM	Jeff Kauffman & Ricardo Merculief
04/07/2018 05:32:21 PM	Bob Alverson
04/07/2018 05:35:36 PM	Linda Behnken
04/07/2018 05:41:55 PM	Recess

## **SUNDAY, April 8, 2018**

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04/08/2018 09:00:51 AM Call to Order  
04/08/2018 09:32:34 AM **C8 Mr. Merrill Motion**  
04/08/2018 09:32:30 AM Break

### **D1 HALIBUT ABUNDANCE BASED PSC LIMITS**

04/08/2018 09:41:19 AM **D1 Presentation** – NPFMC, Dr. Diana Stram, & Dr. Carey McGilliard  
04/08/2018 12:04:21 PM Lunch break  
04/08/2018 01:35:29 PM D1 Presentation Continued  
04/08/2018 02:09:11 PM Scoping Report from NMFS – Dr. Anna Maria Eich  
04/08/2018 02:14:06 PM **AP Report** – Matt Upton  
**04/08/2018 02:40:11 PM D1 Public Testimony**  
04/08/2018 02:40:16 PM Chris Woodley  
04/08/2018 02:50:39 PM John Gauvin  
04/08/2018 02:57:13 PM Jeff Kauffman & Heather McCarty  
04/08/2018 03:12:05 PM Chad See  
04/08/2018 03:20:29 PM Break  
04/08/2018 03:38:09 PM Ricardo Merculief & Brooke Winger  
04/08/2018 03:41:23 PM Dan Martin  
04/08/2018 03:47:59 PM Gerry Merrigan  
04/08/2018 04:05:02 PM Shannon Carroll & Angel Drobnica  
04/08/2018 04:08:31 PM Linda Behnken  
04/08/2018 04:21:44 PM Peggy Parker  
04/08/2018 04:27:03 PM Break  
04/08/2018 04:50:30 PM **D1 Mr. Hartill Motion #1**  
04/08/2018 06:08:35 PM **D1 Mr. Hartill Motion #2**  
04/08/2018 06:13:11 PM Recess

## **MONDAY, April 9, 2018**

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04/09/2018 08:35:22 AM Call to Order

### **D2 REGULATORY REFORM REVIEW**

04/09/2018 08:37:40 AM **D2 Presentation** – Sally Bibb  
04/09/2018 09:08:07 AM **D2 Public Testimony**  
04/09/2018 09:06:47 AM Julie Bonney & Rebecca Skinner  
04/09/2018 09:26:47 AM **D2 Dr. Balsiger Motion**

### **E1 STAFF TASKING**

04/09/2018 09:56:20 AM Staff tasking materials Three-Meeting Outlook – David Witherell  
04/09/2018 09:57:50 AM Break

04/09/2018 10:17:07 AM	<b>PNCIAC Report</b> – Lance Farr
04/09/2018 10:24:12 AM	Remaining <b>Enforcement Committee Report</b> – LT Corrie Sergeant
04/09/2018 10:26:04 AM	<b>AP Report</b> – Matt Upton
04/09/2018 10:46:08 AM	<b>E1 Public Testimony</b>
04/09/2018 10:42:31 AM	Stephen Rhoads
04/09/2018 10:54:20 AM	Bob Alverson
04/09/2018 11:02:02 AM	Steve Minor
04/09/2018 11:06:54 AM	Clem Tillion
04/09/2018 11:08:45 AM	Hunter Berns
04/09/2018 11:12:05 AM	Joe Plesha
04/09/2018 11:13:26 AM	Heather McCarty
04/09/2018 11:17:35 AM	Julie Raymond-Yakoubian
04/09/2018 11:29:42 AM	Lauren Divine
04/09/2018 11:46:58 AM	Julie Bonney
04/09/2018 11:51:00 AM	Dave Fraser
04/09/2018 12:00:30 PM	Lunch Break
04/09/2018 01:31:19 PM	E Deliberations
04/09/2018 02:14:46 PM	<b>E Mr. Hartill Motion</b> – PNCIAC and Electronic Logbook
04/09/2018 02:17:24 PM	<b>E Mr. Tweit Motion</b> – FMP Partial Deliveries – BSAI Crab
04/09/2018 02:18:55 PM	<b>E Mr. Hartill Motion</b> – AM 113 & Adak
04/09/2018 02:41:25 PM	<b>E Mr. Cross Motion</b> – EDRs
04/09/2018 02:51:53 PM	<b>E Mr. Laukitis Motion</b> – Sablefish
04/09/2018 03:06:16 PM	Committee Meetings
04/09/2018 03:08:06 PM	Meeting Adjourned

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# April 2018 Newsletter

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April 11, 2018

## Appointments and Committee Changes

Four new members were appointed to the **Social Science Planning Team**: Sally Bibb (NMFS Regional Office) to replace Rachel Baker; Mike Fey (AKFIN); Dr. Mike Downs (SSC member); and Dr. Elizabeth Figus (Council staff).

The Chair also appointed new industry and Electronic Monitoring (EM) provider members to the **EM Workgroup**, as its focus changes from fixed gear to a trawl EM development. Agency representation on the Workgroup remains unchanged. The Workgroup will hold a joint meeting with old and new industry and EM provider members on May 15<sup>th</sup> as a transition.



**Council meeting in progress**

Finally, Council member Steve Marx (Oregon DFW) will replace departing Capt. Stephen White (USCG) as co-Chair of the Enforcement Committee, with Will Ellis (NOAA OLE).

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## U.S. Coast Guard Changes

Captain Stephen White is undergoing a change of command and this was his last meeting as a Council member representing the United States Coast Guard. Captain White has contributed to Council discussions on a variety of issues and has participated and chaired the Council's Enforcement Committee. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.



## Salmon FMP

The Council reviewed proposals that stakeholders submitted in response to an October 2017 call for public comment on measures to manage the commercial salmon fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) adjacent to Cook Inlet. The Council is amending the FMP in order to incorporate the Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery in the EEZ, currently managed entirely by the State of Alaska, into the Federal Salmon FMP.

The Council also reviewed NOAA General Counsel guidance on the geographic scope of federal authority under the Salmon FMP, specifically to the questions below:

1. Did the Ninth Circuit in *UCIDA v. NMFS* hold that the Council and NMFS must prepare an FMP amendment that includes salmon fisheries conducted within State waters of Cook Inlet?
2. Does the Magnuson-Stevens Act authorize and require the Council to prepare an FMP amendment that includes salmon fisheries occurring within State waters of Cook Inlet?

According to General Counsel, the answer to both questions is “No”. A rationale for that answer is provided in a [memo to the Council](#) provided at the April meeting.

A further [letter to the Council](#) addressed the question of whether or not it is necessary to include in the FMP the salmon sport fishery that occurs in the EEZ waters of Upper Cook Inlet. The answer to this question was left for the Council to determine at a later date.

Finally, the Council is initiating a CALL FOR NOMINATIONS for membership on the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee. The Committee's primary function will be to (1) review and provide comments on specific, Council-identified issues; (2) develop options for fishery management measures for specific, Council-identified management needs, and (3) provide perspectives on potential social and economic impacts of proposed fishery management measures. The Council will accept nominations and applications for membership on the Committee until **noon** (Alaska time), **June 1, 2018**. If interested, please send a letter of interest and brief resume to [james.armstrong@noaa.gov](mailto:james.armstrong@noaa.gov) or mail to:



North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

If you have previously applied to be on the Committee, your application is on file with us and YOU DO NOT HAVE TO RE-APPLY.

After reviewing the nominations, the Council Chair will appoint members to the Committee to achieve a representative group of stakeholders to accomplish the Committee's purpose and scope of work. The Council Chair will also appoint a Council member to serve as the Committee Chair. The first Committee meeting is likely to be scheduled for the fall of 2018.

The motion is available [here](#). Staff contact is Jim Armstrong.

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## Scallops

The Council reviewed the 2018 Alaska weathervane scallop SAFE report that was prepared by the Scallop Plan Team. The Council set scallop ABC at 1.161 million pounds of shucked scallop meats, a level equivalent to 90% of the OFL (1.29 million pounds), which is consistent with the ABC control rule under the Scallop FMP. Scallop OFL and ABC are specified for all waters off Alaska, and guideline harvest levels (GHLs) are established by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for each of the State's various scallop registration areas and districts.

Total scallop harvest off Alaska in the 2016/17 season was 233,003 lb (117 t) of shucked meats, which is 20% of specified ABC (1.161 million lb; 527 t). Area-specific harvest limits were met in a little over half of the fishing areas, specifically the Yakutat, Prince William Sound, Kodiak Shelikof, Kodiak Southwest, Unimak Bight, and Bering Sea Districts.

Areas that were abandoned by the fleet before the GHL was harvested included District 16, Cook Inlet, Kodiak Northeast, and Dutch Harbor. The preliminary total catch estimate for the 2017/18 season is 238,710 lb (119 t) of shucked meats. This is 20.6% of the ABC specified for 2017/18 (1.161 million lb; 527 t). While overall declines have occurred in statewide scallop harvest over the past seven years, revenue has been stable. The stock status of Alaska weathervane scallops is not viewed as a conservation concern since scallops are distributed in many areas that have been closed to fishing to protect crab populations and in areas not defined as commercial beds.

An overview of the updated fishery economics appendix to the 2018 Scallop SAFE was presented to the Council. The update included statewide scallop harvest statistics from 1967-2017. It was noted that while price per pound is currently at a high point (\$12.53), catch in pounds of meats is near a low in the time trend and has declined steadily since the early-1990s.



An analysis of the number of vessels that could break even from a cost perspective under various price and landing scenarios was also presented. Under current price-per-pound and harvest, the fishery could support slightly more than 3 boats. There are currently two vessels participating in the fishery, and it is uncertain whether a third will fish in 2018. It is likely that fleet consolidation has resulted in a more efficient fleet with lower operating costs, greater average crew wages, and improved returns. Low harvest levels, even with high prices, however, are likely preventing new entrants to the State waters fishery.

Finally, Federal scallop permit history and current activity was presented based on information publicly available from State and Federal sources. Ownership attribution shows that the greatest level of cumulative ownership shares is equivalent to 1.1 LLPs. LLP ownership under the FMP is limited to no more than two LLPs by one person.

The Council appreciated the expansion of economic information in the 2018 SAFE and looks forward to regular updates and additions to the break-even analysis, as well as permitting dynamics, and the potential for new entrants to the scallop fishery.

The motion can be viewed [here](#). Staff contact is Jim Armstrong.

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## Charter Halibut Permit (CHP) Renewal

The Council took final action on an issue that would create an annual renewal process for charter halibut permits (CHPs) in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A. This application process would require CHP holders (including Community Quota Entities and U.S. Military Morale, Welfare, and Recreation groups) to submit CHP number, CHP holder name, address, phone number and/or email address, as well as any updates to the CHP ownership structure. The application would also include a question asking whether financial compensation was received from use of a CHP in the preceding year.

The intent of this renewal process is to provide more complete and useful information to evaluate whether changes to the CHP Program are necessary as a result of changes in ownership and participation of CHPs, to facilitate retirement of non-transferable permits when ownership changes, and improve the ability of enforcement agents to ensure valid permits are being used.

The CHP renewal application will not be required until the action is approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and the appropriate capacity for collecting this type of information has been implemented.

The motion is available [here](#). Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

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## Mixing of Guided and Unguided Halibut

In February 2017, the Council initiated an analysis for limiting the simultaneous possession of guided halibut with unguided halibut in IPHC Areas 2C and 3A in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action was undertaken by the

Council because different regulations apply to guided and unguided (i.e., charter and non-charter) halibut fishing trips, which presents difficulties for accountability and enforcement. At the April 2018 meeting, the Council selected a modified Alternative 3 as its preferred alternative. Under Alternative 3, if guided and unguided halibut are onboard the fishing vessel at the same time, the stricter IPHC annual management measures for guided sport fishing would apply to all halibut anglers on board the fishing vessel.



The Council selected Alternative 3 because it provides some flexibility for charter operations to mitigate impacts of stricter guided restrictions, while also to improving accountability and enforcement by providing regulations that are clear and concise. When both guided and unguided halibut is onboard, vessels must comply with guided sport fishing regulations for bag and possession limits, size restrictions, and carcass retention requirements. The Council did not, however, require compliance with three other regulatory requirements that apply to guided anglers: day-of-the-week closures, recording harvest in a saltwater logbook, and annual limits. The Council did not include these additional regulations for unguided anglers because of their implementation difficulties, enforcement challenges, and the potential for financial harm to multi-day fishing vessels.

You can view the [motion here](#). Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

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## Salmon Bycatch

The Council received a [series of reports](#) on the stock of origin of Chinook and chum salmon bycatch taken incidentally in selected BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries, the relative adult equivalence and impact rate to streams of origin of Chinook bycatch in the Bering Sea, reports from the Bering Sea pollock industry on their efforts to avoid chum and Chinook by sector in the Bering Sea, as well as an update on efforts by SeaShare to distribute bycaught fish for hunger relief. Following the reports, the Council established a Salmon Stock Composition Workgroup comprised of staff from AFSC, ADF&G, Council/SSC, and NMFS Alaska Region. This group is tasked to hold a public workshop to best facilitate industry feedback on the use of salmon genetics in bycatch avoidance efforts by the fleet, and other analytical efforts to assist in minimizing bycatch. The report from the workshop will be presented next April when salmon bycatch issues are annually scheduled for review at the Council. A summary of the reports follows. Staff contact is Diana Stram.



**Researchers during a BASIS research cruise in the Bering Sea sort immature and maturing chum salmon catch. Photo by Jim Murphy.**

### Salmon bycatch genetics

**Genetics reports** on stock of origin of Chinook and chum salmon bycatch were provided for the 2016 groundfish fisheries including: the Bering Sea pollock fishery, the GOA pollock fishery, GOA rockfish (and arrowtooth) CV trawl fishery, and the GOA non-pollock CP trawl fisheries. As with previous years, Bering Sea pollock fishery samples were dominated by the Coastal Western Alaska stock grouping (34%) with a large contribution also from the British Columbia region (29%). Some variability in stock composition groupings is seen between A and B seasons. Chum salmon in the Bering Sea continues to be dominated by Asian-origin stocks. Spatial and temporal sampling efforts continue to provide additional detail within season on the locations of western Alaskan chum stocks. In the GOA, Chinook samples continue to be dominated by the West Coast U.S. followed by British Columbia stock compositions (64% and 27%, respectively). As with previous years, chum salmon samples in the GOA continue to be dominated by the eastern GOA/Pacific Northwest stock grouping. These reports are available as NOAA technical memos on the Council's website.

### Salmon Adult Equivalency (AEQ) update

An **updated analysis** of Chinook salmon adult equivalency (AEQ) was provided to estimate the relative number of salmon caught annually as bycatch that would otherwise be returning to river systems. Chinook salmon bycatch and length composition data from the pollock fishery were converted to age composition estimates using the strata configurations and available age data from the previous analyses. These estimates were then applied to a model to arrive at adult equivalency (AEQ) estimates and then applied to the latest available genetics data to estimate AEQ to regional origins. Finally, these estimates were compared with the recent run-size estimates provided by ADF&G. Results indicate that the ratio of AEQ relative to regional run strengths for coastal west Alaska and Yukon river stocks remains low (<2% of run sizes) since implementation of new management measures under Amendments 91 (2011) and 110 (2016).

### Chinook salmon Incentive Plan Agreements annual reports

Under regulations to implement the Amendment 91 Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch management program, annual reports are required of each IPA entity and provided to the Council at this meeting. The three IPA entities report annually on the efficacy of bycatch reduction measures. The reports include but are not limited to the following:

- Incentive measures in effect in the previous year;
- How incentive measures affected individual vessels;
- How incentive measures affected salmon savings beyond current levels;
- Transfer information between vessels as well as entities

Regulations promulgated under Amendment 110 incorporated reporting on chum salmon bycatch into the IPAs as well, and the reports also include a description of how chum salmon is managed under each of the three IPAs. The IPA reports are posted on the Council's website.

### SeaShare program update

SeaShare provided a **presentation** to the Council on participation in and donations to the Prohibited Species Donation Program, whereby bycaught salmon and halibut in BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries may be reclaimed and distributed to hunger-relief programs. This program has been in operation since 1993 and has expanded to include donations of target fish species in addition to donated prohibited species. In 2017,

SeaShare donated over 363,000 pounds of fish in Alaska. The annual report from the program is available on the Council's agenda [here](#).

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## GOA Chinook PSC

The Council has indefinitely [postponed any further action](#) on modifications to the Chinook salmon prohibited species catch (PSC) limit for GOA trawl catcher vessels in non-pollock fisheries. The action could have either increased limits or added flexibility in the form of annual rollovers of unused PSC for trawl vessels targeting Pacific cod, rockfish, and flatfish in the Central and Western GOA. The alternatives that were under consideration had been developed as a revisitation of whether the existing PSC limits appropriately balance management objectives in light of the best and most recently available information. More information on the region of origin for Chinook PSC taken in this fishery has

become available since the Council set the fishery's PSC limit in 2013 (implemented in 2015). The fishery's Chinook PSC predominately come from the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia, and to a lesser extent from Southeast Alaska and the Northwest GOA (Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and the eastern Aleutians). After reviewing alternatives in both February and April, the Council determined that modifying the limit was not appropriate at this time due to concerns about the status of Chinook salmon stocks that are known to occur as bycatch in the GOA non-pollock trawl fishery. The Council also noted the possibility that Federal actions relating to Chinook salmon removals could create an unintended interference with the decadal renegotiation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty between the U.S. and Canada, which are currently ongoing.



The Council did not identify a future time at which this action should be revisited, noting that the timing and direction of trends in affected Chinook salmon stocks cannot be anticipated. The Council did, however, signal its intent to monitor both the status of Chinook salmon stocks and the performance of the PSC-limited GOA trawl catcher vessel sector. The Council will receive a report on Chinook stock status throughout the Pacific coast and on GOA trawl harvest and participation. The report will be made after 2018 fisheries occur, and after the Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiation has been resolved.

Motion is available [here](#). Staff contact is Sam Cunningham.

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## Cooperative Reports

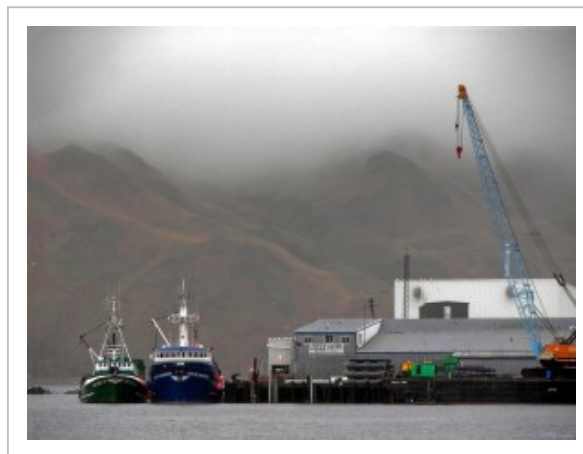
At the April meeting, the Council reviewed [cooperative reports](#) for the American Fisheries Act Program, Amendment 80 Program, Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program, and BSAI Crab Rationalization Program. As part of these programs, cooperatives have been required or requested to provide an annual written report detailing the use of the cooperative quota or addressing other specific areas of Council interest. The written



reports and the voluntary presentations (available under [Agenda Item C7](#)) are a resource for the Council to track the effectiveness of the cooperatives and whether the cooperative programs are meeting their intended goals. The reports and presentations also facilitate feedback from cooperative managers to the Council on successes of the program and areas of the program that may need adjustment.

The Council expressed their appreciation to the cooperative managers that provided presentations, and those managers that took the initiative to provide a more thorough and comprehensive report and presentation. The Council encourages all cooperative managers to continue providing comprehensive written reports and voluntary presentations even when questions are few since all reports and presentations are important to the Council as a resource. The Council also underscored the importance of written reports and presentations to those cooperatives in the crab program that chose not to submit a report. The lack of written crab program reports makes it difficult for the Council to measure the success of the crab program and whether the goals of the crab program are being met.

The Council made no requests for additional information to be included in the cooperative reports. Copies of the cooperative reports are available on the Council [website](#). Staff contacts are Jon McCracken and Sarah Marrinan.



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## Halibut Retention in Pots

After reviewing the initial review analysis for halibut retention in sablefish pots in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI), the Council revised its purpose and need statement and revised the action alternative to expand the scope of action. The action considered by the Council at this April meeting proposed an opportunity to retain halibut in sablefish pots in the BSAI, if the participants have both the halibut and sablefish quota available for the appropriate regulatory area. After hearing public testimony on stakeholder interest and intent for this opportunity, the Council expanded the action to allow increased flexibility for fishery participants to more effectively harvest halibut with pot gear without a requirement to concurrently possess sablefish IFQ/CDQ. The new purpose and need statement addresses issues arising from whale depredation in both the sablefish pot fishery as well as in the sablefish and halibut hook-and-line fisheries. Noting that the IPHC recently revised its regulations to allow halibut retention in pot gear and that halibut retention is currently allowed in the GOA, the Council seeks to better align federal retention regulations with the IPHC.



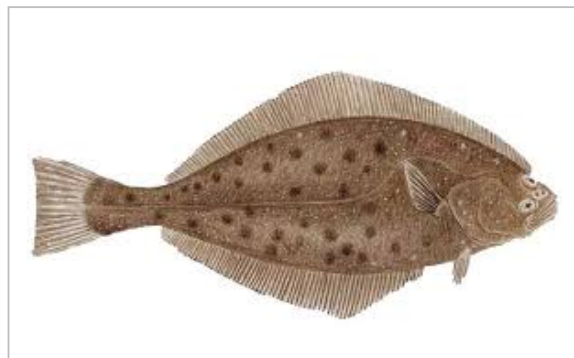
Given this expanded scope, the Council requested another initial review which analyzes the new action alternative and potential impacts. This action alternative contains two new elements: 1) to require an escapement mechanism in the mesh panels of pots, and 2) to establish regulations that would allow NMFS to close IFQ fishing for halibut if an OFL is approached. These elements are in addition to the existing elements which address gear retrieval, an exemption to the 9-inch maximum width of tunnel opening, and VMS/logbook requirements. The analysis will also explore potential management measures to reduce gear conflict related to the use, storage, retrieval and gear loss of pots; implications of this action on the Pacific cod, crab, or other groundfish fisheries; whether definitions for IFQ/CDQ fishing or additional regulations to account for IFQ/CDQ fishing with pot gear are needed; and conservation concerns related to Pribilof Islands Blue King Crab and the Pribilof Islands Habitat Conservation Zone.

The full motion is available [here](#). Staff contact is Sara Cleaver.

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## BSAI Halibut Abundance-based Management of PSC Limits

After review of a staff discussion paper, the Council drafted a suite of alternatives to establish abundance-based halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limits for the BSAI groundfish fisheries, for preliminary analysis. The discussion paper synthesized staff work on ABM control rules and their relative performance compared to Council objectives, using the Council's draft suite of October 2017 elements and options to develop "strawman ABMs" (example ABM alternatives) based on various combinations of trawl and setline survey indices of halibut abundance. The paper also evaluated how different control rules function, the relative features of different control rules, and tradeoffs among control rules with respect to setting PSC limits for BSAI groundfish fisheries (by gear type), through a preliminary analysis of the example ABMs using both historical data and hypothetical scenarios illustrating contrasting halibut abundance trends. After extensive discussion of the relative features of control rules and specific elements and options, the Council drafted a suite of five alternatives for preliminary analysis by the interagency staff workgroup:



Alternative 1: Status quo (current fixed PSC limits and allocations)

Alternative 2: Index PSC by gear type. Index trawl PSC to EBS trawl survey biomass. Index longline PSC to IPHC setline survey in 4ABCDE biomass.

Alternatives 3 and 4: Index PSC by gear type. Index trawl gear PSC and fixed gear PSC to both EBS trawl survey biomass (primary index for trawl, secondary index for longline) and IPHC setline survey in 4ABCDE biomass (primary index for longline, secondary index for trawl). Alternatives 2 and 3 differ in the methodology by which the PSC is adjusted to the secondary index.

Alternative 5: Index fixed gear PSC to both EBS trawl survey biomass and IPHC setline survey in 4ABCDE biomass using a look-up table which combines information from both surveys in establishing a PSC limit.

Each of these alternatives contains elements and options for establishing the responsiveness of the PSC limit to changes in abundance, and the starting point, ceiling and floors for the PSC limit. The Council requested that staff also evaluate a series of items including the time series for the indices used, the relative values selected for 'high, medium, and low' stock status in Alternatives 3 and 4, analysis of a range of fixed PSC limits to contrast with PSC limits indexed to abundance, and use of a 3-5 year rolling average on PSC limits. The complete motion is available [here](#). The Council acknowledged that the development of alternatives for this action will be an iterative process, and that it is likely that alternatives will be adjusted further at the next review of the analysis.

One such iterative adjustment could be the inclusion of a performance standard to directly address the O26 component of the bycatch, and implications for the directed halibut fishery in the Bering Sea. The Council did not include this provision in the alternative set at this time, but requested a discussion paper that would bring forward data on relative O26:U26 proportions of halibut bycatch by weight, numbers, and gear type, as well as discussion of potential anomalies and bias in the data due both to sampling changes by the Observer Program in recent years as well as differences in sampling resulting from the practices of deck-sorting and use of halibut excluders. The paper should also develop some options for performance standards that are consistent with potential data limitations and have the ability to achieve the objectives of the overall action.

The Council has requested that the SSC review a report from the workgroup in June which outlines the methodological approach for the analysis. This would include the approach to analyze the biological and economic impacts of the current range of alternatives, given the complexity of the range of elements and options. Should O26 data be available in time for consideration by the workgroup, the discussion paper on O26 bycatch by sector, and proposed performance standard options, will also be available for the June meeting.

The Council received a scoping report from NMFS, as it has been determined that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) may be required for this action because abundance-based halibut PSC limits may have effects on target and bycatch species and their users that are uncertain or unknown and may result in significant impacts on the human environment not previously analyzed. This report summarizes the comments received during the December 12, 2017, to February 16, 2018, scoping period for the BSAI Halibut Abundance-Based PSC EIS. The purpose of this report is to inform the Council and the public of the results of scoping and to assist in the development of the range of alternatives for analysis in the draft EIS.

Staff contact is Diana Stram.

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## Staff Tasking

In addition to discussing the relative priority and scheduling of previously tasked projects, the Council took the following actions and clarified direction and tasking for its committees:



- Initiated an **analysis** to adjust regulations implementing the **Aleutian Islands Pacific cod set aside** for catcher vessels delivering to shore-based processors in Aleutian Islands communities (implemented under BSAI Groundfish Amendment 113). A discussion of the tradeoffs and benefits of combining this action interacts with the BSAI Pacific cod trawl CV analysis will be provided to the Council in June 2018. The analysis will also include a description of the 2018 BSAI CV trawl fishery and how it was or was not consistent with the intent of Amendment 113.
- Received a report from the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) and initiated two discussion papers for the **BSAI crab fisheries**, to evaluate the steps necessary to implement an **electronic logbook**, and to consider allowing **partial deliveries** of all BSAI crab program species.
- Initiated a **discussion paper** to describe the **Economic Data Report** requirements for all programs, how the collected data are used, and estimates for the cost associated with complying with EDR requirements.
- Initiated a **discussion paper** to consider modifying the requirement to retain **small sablefish** in the Alaska IFQ longline and pot fisheries.
- Directed staff to submit comments to NMFS on the draft **policy** on using **Best Scientific Information Available** as recommended by the Council's SSC.
- Reviewed a staff discussion paper on the Council's **community outreach** efforts and began planning for the appointment of an outreach or community engagement committee to meet in the fall.
- Reviewed and approved a proposal for the process for determining five-year **research priorities** in 2018 which will be undertaken at the June 2018 meeting.
- Requested staff develop a one-page framework of data needed for the **Catch Sharing Plan allocation review** scheduled for 2021 so that any needed research can be prioritized as appropriate. This framework will be considered in the assessment of research priorities at the June meeting.
- Directed staff to post guidance documents on the Council website with respect to the operational procedures of Council committees and submitting written comments to the Council or its committees.
- Proposed holding a Joint Protocol Committee meeting with Board of Fish representatives, tentatively on October 19<sup>th</sup> in Anchorage, AK, to discuss Pacific cod and Salmon FMP issues.



Motions are posted on the Council website through the **Agenda**. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## Regulatory Reform

The Regulatory Reform agenda and requirements in Executive Order (E.O.) 13771 and E.O. 13777 require NMFS, as part of the Department of Commerce, to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations regarding repeal, replacement, or modification, consistent with applicable law. As the fishery management plans and associated regulations for the conservation and management of the federally managed fisheries off Alaska were developed by the Council, NMFS requested that the Council assist in review of these regulations and provide recommendations to NMFS. To facilitate the review, NMFS prepared a discussion paper that provides information about the regulations under the Council's authority, existing regulatory review

processes (through the Council process and those conducted separately at the regional office), and some recommended regulatory revisions that have been identified through these processes.

The Council reviewed the discussion paper, and by extension the regulations under its authority, at the April 2018 meeting. Through the Council process, regulations are continuously reviewed and revised to reflect current conservation and management needs, as reflected in the Council's current list of ongoing projects, some of which include components that reduce the burden of existing regulations. The Council also supports NMFS continuing to remove recordkeeping and reporting requirements that are no longer necessary, and to simplify or reduce the burden of existing requirements.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

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## Research Priorities

Every year, the SSC and Council review five-year research priorities. This is an obligation under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and publication of Council research needs informs research and funding entities about potential research opportunities. Following annual review at the June 2017 meeting, the Council expressed a desire to streamline its annual review process. In April 2018, the SSC and Council reviewed and endorsed a [proposal](#) on how to improve the process for 2018, which is scheduled to occur at the June meeting in Kodiak.

For 2018, the Council's Plan Teams and SSC will continue to review and update, as needed, the priority designation and research status for all listed research items, as well as potentially adding or eliminating research items. Following that step, items in the "Critical" and "Strategic" categories will be set aside for this year. Items in the "Urgent" and "Important" categories will then be reviewed by the Plan Teams with the goal of identifying a small number of projects (3-5 per Plan Team) that the Teams consider to be the highest priority this year. At the June 2018 Council meeting, the SSC will consider the Plan Team recommendations, along with other "urgent" and "important" research priorities that have not been reviewed by the Plan Teams (for example, relating to the halibut fishery or seabird avoidance research priorities). The SSC will then compile a "top ten" list (the number ten is not set in stone) based on Plan Team recommendations, with a rationale for each research priority so that the Council review can achieve greater focus and depth. After Council review, the entire list of research priorities, with the top priorities highlighted, will be communicated to the usual research/funding entities and the Secretary of Commerce.

Staff contact is Jim Armstrong

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## Northern Edge 2017 Report

John Mosher and Andrea Balla-Holden from the U.S. Navy provided an after-action [presentation](#) on Northern Edge 2017 joint training exercise that was completed May 1-12, 2017, in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). The Council had previously received a presentation from the Alaska Command and the U.S. Navy explaining plans for the Northern Edge 2017 joint training exercise in the GOA in February 2017. During the earlier presentation, a

few concerns were raised by stakeholders regarding potential environmental impacts of the training exercise, and the Council requested the Navy provide a follow-up presentation regarding the Northern Edge 2017 after completion of the exercise. The Council also requested confirmation that the organizational plan and level of activity as presented during the February 2017 Council meeting was followed, and if not, how it may have differed.

In reporting on the 2017 exercise, it was noted that the exercise was primarily conducted further offshore within the permitted training area, and that protective measures and mitigation techniques were successfully used, for example, on Portlock Bank and to protect North Pacific Right whales. The presentation also noted that the usage of training ordnances and sonar was very minimal relative to the amount authorized, minimizing the impacts of the exercise on the environment. The Council appreciated the presentation and looks forward to interaction with the Navy on future Northern Edge exercises.

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## Charter Halibut Economic Data

The Council requested that staff develop a brief framework on economic data needs for the upcoming 2021 Halibut Catch Sharing Plan allocation review. The framework will be available for review and approval by the Council at the June 2018 meeting. It is anticipated that data gaps would inform the Council's research priorities regarding research projects necessary to obtain data for the allocation review. Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

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## Community Engagement and Outreach

In response to public testimony in February and April, and a staff discussion paper on the Council's approach to outreach in recent years, the Council expressed interest in creating a community engagement and outreach committee. The Council will further discuss the purpose and scope of such a committee at the June 2018 meeting.

The discussion paper that the Council reviewed during B reports briefly outlined the activities of the Council's Rural Outreach Committee, which was extant from 2009–2011. The ROC was established to provide guidance to the Council on ways to improve communication between the Council and rural communities for Council actions that may affect communities in rural Alaska. The three-tiered method suggested by the ROC, and which has been applied during the last ten years, includes direct mailings, statewide teleconference presentations, and direct presentations to US Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Advisory Councils and other regional meetings. These methods have been successfully employed for several Council projects since 2011, most recently in March 2018, with positive feedback from the Regional Advisory Councils and communities.

With the Council's recent engagement in more programmatic initiatives such as the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan and abundance-based bycatch management, members of the public have requested that the Council reconsider their engagement with rural Alaskan and Alaska Native communities to foster direct two-way communications on relevant Council activities. During Staff Tasking, members of the public requested

that the Council consider reconvening the Rural Outreach Committee with an expanded role or establishing an ad-hoc committee specifically tasked with soliciting and considering community engagement strategies. There was also a request to ask communities directly for input on how they would like to engage in the Council process.

The Council expressed interest both in creating a committee and in thinking about how to solicit input from communities about engagement. Council members noted that it is important that the process is transparent, and that information shared with a Committee is also available to Council members. They also discussed how to solicit input while also setting appropriate expectations. Ultimately, the Council indicated that it would consider a scope of work for a committee at the June meeting, and tasked staff to develop ideas for a draft solicitation announcement for a request for proposals from the public on ways to effectively engage rural and Alaska Native communities during the Council process, for review in June. If the establishment of a committee is approved by the Council in June, the Council would issue a call for nominations for Committee representation, with plans for the Committee to meet in Fall 2018. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

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## NIOSH Report

At the April Council meeting, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) provided a [presentation](#) on safety and health in Alaska's Commercial fishing and seafood processing industry. Information from the presentation showed Alaska commercial fishing fatalities declining faster than US commercial fishing fatalities. The presentation also included information on surviving fishing vessel sinkings and information on new research of non-fatal injuries and illnesses in Alaska seafood processing industry. Results from the new research indicated that hazards to target for prevention of injury and illness include the following:

### Vessels

- Overexertion from lifting and lowering
- Struck by equipment and falling boxes
- Slips, trips, and falls
- And caught in machinery

### Onshore plants

- Overexertion from lifting, lowering, pushing, and pulling
- Struck by trays, fish (fresh/frozen), and boxes/bags
- Slips, trips, and falls
- Exposure to harmful substances
- Repetitive motion

For more information on NIOSH, see their [fishing website](#). Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

## Upcoming Meetings

Here is the revised [Three-Meeting Outlook](#) resulting from this Council meeting.

- [Fishing Families Workshop](#), May 7, 5:15-7:15 pm  
Birch/Willow Room, Anchorage Hilton
- [Crab Plan Team](#) meeting, May 8-10, Anchorage, AK
- [Social Science Planning Team](#) meeting, May 8-9, Anchorage, AK
- [OAC](#) Subgroup teleconference, May 11, 9am-12pm
- [EM Workgroup](#) meeting, May 15, AFSC, Seattle, WA
- [Observer Advisory Committee](#), May 16-17, AFSC, Seattle, WA
- [Ecosystem Committee](#), June 5, 9am-5pm (T), Kodiak, AK
- [Enforcement Committee](#), June 5, 1-4 pm, Kodiak, AK
- [IFQ](#) Outreach meeting, June 5, 5-6:30pm, Kodiak, AK
- [BSAI Assessment Modeling Workshop](#), June 27-28, AFSC, Seattle, WA
- [Ecosystem Committee](#) meeting – BS FEP review, July 24, Anchorage, AK



### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, June 4	
NPFMC Meeting - Kodiak, AK	
5:15pm	Fishing Families Work
Tuesday, June 5	
NPFMC Meeting - Kodiak, AK	
8:30am	Legislative Committee
9:00am	Ecosystem Committee
1:00pm	Enforcement Committe
5:00pm	IFQ Outreach Meeting
Wednesday, June 6	
NPFMC Meeting - Kodiak, AK	
Thursday, June 7	

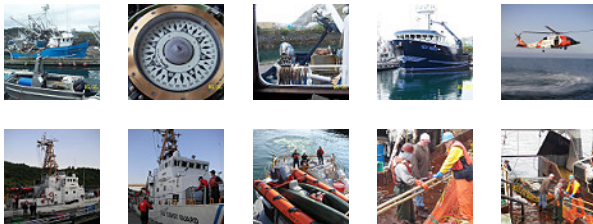
Calendar

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