

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

News and Notes



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December 2003

2004 Appointments Announced

At its December meeting the Council announced the following appointments:

Advisory Panel: The Council made a few changes in the membership of the Advisory Panel. **Bob Jacobson** of Oregon was appointed to replace Bill Jacobson who did not seek reappointment. Also appointed to the panel were **John Moller** of the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association, **Cora Crome** of the Petersburg Vessel Owners Association, and **Jan Jacobs** of American Seafoods. We would like to take a minute to thank Tracey Mayhew, Jeff Steele, Bill Jacobson, Dave Boisseau and Sandra Moller for their time and hard work this year.

Scientific and Statistical Committee: As many of you may know, Jack Tagart has retired from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and will be replaced by **Farron Wallace**, also of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Council added a new seat; **Dr. Franz Josef-Mueter**, of the University of Washington (working out of Fairbanks). Additionally, there will be a new appointee from the state of Oregon to be announced in February.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: The Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) was formed in 1989 to provide the Bering Sea crab industry from the Pacific Northwest access to the Alaska regulatory process. Appointments to this committee are for two years. The committee typically meets a few times a year, usually in the Seattle area, to review proposed changes in crab fishery regulations and meets at least once a year with representatives of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on current crab issues.

Letters of interest or nomination, along with a resume of experience, for persons wishing to be considered for the PNCIAC panels, should be sent to the NPFMC, 605 W. 4th Avenue, #306, Anchorage, AK 99501, by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 23rd. Appointments will be announced at the end of the next Council meeting the week of February 2nd at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage and will become effective for the 2004/2005 term. For more information, contact the Council office.

GOA Groundfish Rationalization

The Council reviewed a staff discussion paper to assist it in revising the suite of alternatives, elements, and options to rationalize the GOA groundfish fisheries. The Council added one new alternative for analysis (Alternative 2C in the Council motion) which would allocate a portion of the harvest share allocation to qualified processors. No additional processor protections would be provided by this alternative. The Council also began the process of identifying the specific elements and options that define each alternative by including the suite of elements and options that define Alternative 3. In addition, the Council adopted numerous other changes to the elements and options under consideration. The Council scheduled a further review of the motion identifying alternatives for analysis for its February meeting. At that meeting the Council intends to focus on (1) processor provisions including licensing, linkages, and processing caps; (2) catcher/processor provisions, including provisions affecting transfers; and (3) leasing provisions. The Council also will review a staff discussion paper on possible salmon and crab bycatch limits for inclusion in the EIS. The Council's motion, including the revised alternatives, elements, and options are posted on the Council website.

The Council/BOF Joint Protocol Committee may meet on February 3, 2004. The agenda for the meeting will be posted in late January, but would include: (1) a discussion of preliminary recommendations by the BOF GOA Groundfish Rationalization Steering Committee on options for managing state water groundfish fisheries for inclusion in the Environmental Impact Statement; and two industry proposals (www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/fishinfo/meetinfo/ffeb04pb.pdf) on expanding state water fisheries in the GOA and BSAI which are scheduled for action by the BOF at its February meeting. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Observer Program

The Council reviewed a preliminary draft analysis for an FMP amendment to restructure the funding and deployment mechanism in the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program. Under the new system, NMFS would contract directly with observer providers for observer coverage, supported by a broad-based user fee and/or direct Federal funding. The primary alternative would apply the new program to all Gulf of Alaska groundfish vessels, with additional alternatives to add halibut vessels, Gulf of Alaska shoreside processors, and BSAI vessels with currently less than 100% coverage requirements. Vessels and processors that are not covered under the new program will continue to operate under the existing program, whereby vessels contract directly with observer providers. The primary purpose of the review was to facilitate a discussion of the current list of alternatives and the analytical approach developed by staff.

The Council also reviewed a letter from NMFS regarding various issues that affect the schedule for the analysis. The two primary issues identified involve: 1) the administrative appeals process for suspending and decertifying an observer, and 2) overtime pay for observers in programs where NMFS contracts directly with observer providers. NMFS has requested time to address these issues and to determine whether they will affect the agency's ability to implement two different observer programs: (1) in the GOA (modified program funded by fee, where NMFS contracts directly with observer providers) and (2) the BSAI (existing pay-as-you-go structure, where vessels contract directly with observer providers). Due to the above concerns, the schedule has been revised to include an update for the Council at the February 2004 Council meeting and an Observer Advisory Committee meeting in late February or March. Initial review of the draft analysis is tentatively scheduled for April. The preliminary draft analysis is on the Council website. The Council did not take any formal action on this issue. Staff contact is Nicole Kimball.

Aleutian Islands Pollock Fishery

In a pending Legislative action in U.S. Congress, scheduled for a vote in early 2004, the Council may be required to provide a directed pollock fishery in the Aleutian Islands. The Council tasked staff with preparing a discussion document for review during their February meeting on what options are available to the Council should the pending legislation pass, and what are the cumulative effects and other issues associated with opening the Aleutian Islands to a directed pollock fishery. A formal analysis and possible plan amendment is scheduled for review in June 2004. Staff contact is Bill Wilson.

IR/IU

The Council received a status report from NMFS on approval issues relevant to Amendment 79 (Groundfish Retention Standards). The status report identified three principal analytical issues that need further clarification. Council staff reported that the three issues identified by NMFS have been reviewed, and the issues will be addressed before the amendment package is formally submitted to NMFS.

The Council also received a report on the recommendations made by the IR/IU Technical Committee regarding proposed changes to the list of components and options being considered for Amendment 80a (BSAI sector allocations of groundfish species and PSC) and Amendment 80b (Non-AFA Trawl CP sector cooperative structure).

The Council finalized the components and options for Amendment 80a and 80b for initial analysis. Significant changes to the components and options include:

- Component 4 - A new option was added that allows the Council to allocate groundfish to sectors based on a percentage rather than a set of years.
- Component 5 - Several catch history years options were deleted.
- Component 6 - Options with TAC in the denominator were deleted.
- Component 7 - Two new options for Pacific cod allocations to the jig and <60' fixed gear catcher vessel sectors were added.
- Component 9 - Options for allocating PSC to sectors were revised.
- Component 10 - A new component was added that would establish a threshold for underutilized species in the BSAI, and make available the TAC amount in excess of these thresholds to sectors whose ability to harvest that TAC exceeds its sector allocation of that species.

Very few changes were made to the components and options for Amendment 80b. Those changes were limited to the following:

- Component 2 - The Council clarified that the options for reducing PSC in Component 2 would be in addition to those PSC options selected in Component 9 of 80a.
- Component 4 - A new option was added that would allow a cooperative to be formed if all, less one, distinct and separate harvesters using the 10 percent threshold rule vote to form a cooperative.
- Component 6 - Several catch history options for calculating allocations between the cooperative and open access pool were deleted.

Amendment 80a and 80b are scheduled for initial review in April 2004 and final action is scheduled for June 2004. A list of components and options for Amendment 80a and 80b are available on the Council website. Staff Contact is Jon McCracken.

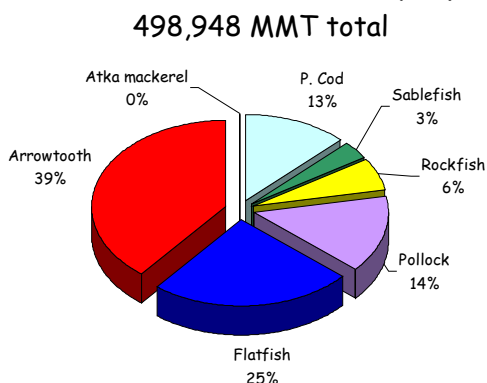
GOA Groundfish

The Council approved the 2003 Gulf of Alaska Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report and recommended final catch specifications for the 2004 groundfish fisheries, including Overfishing (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), and Total Allowable Catch (TAC) levels. The Council also approved Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits and seasonal apportionments of Pacific halibut to target fishery (PSC) categories based on recommendations from its Scientific and Statistical Committee and Advisory Panel.

The Council recommendations for OFLs, ABCs, TACs, and apportionments are listed in **Attachment 1**. The Council also adopted revised halibut discard mortality rates for the 2004-2006 non-CDQ fisheries as recommended by International Pacific Halibut Commission staff. This will be posted as Table 8 on www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/catchstats.htm.

The sum of the recommended ABCs for 2004 is 498,948 mt, an increase of 19.8 % from the 2003 ABC of 416,600 mt. This is principally due to an increase in pollock (+31%), Pacific cod (+19%), flathead sole (+25%) and Arrowtooth flounder (+26%). The species group-specific ABCs that declined relative to 2003 are Northern rockfish (-12%), other slope rockfish (-23%) and pelagic shelf rockfish (-19%). Other stocks such as thornyhead rockfish and Pacific ocean perch remained relatively the same. The abundances of pollock, Pacific cod and sablefish are below target stock size, while abundances of Pacific ocean perch, northern rockfish, light dusky rockfish, thornyheads, flathead sole and Arrowtooth flounder are all above target stock size. None of the Gulf of Alaska stocks are overfished or approaching an overfished condition.

2004 Groundfish ABCs by species



For most stocks the Council established TACs equal to ABCs with some exceptions. These exceptions include Pacific cod, where the quota was reduced approximately 23.5% to account for the State waters fishery, and those fisheries where the bycatch of other target species is a concern, specifically for Shallow water flatfish, Flathead sole, Arrowtooth flounder and Other slope rockfish. For those fisheries, the TAC was set below the ABC. The SAFE report for the GOA groundfish may be viewed on our website. Additional information on the summary of GOA groundfish stocks may be seen at www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/docs/2003/GOA_Plan_Team.ppt Staff contact is Diana Stram.

GOA Skates

The Council also recommended ABCs and TACs for GOA skate species. The Council approved amendment 63 in October 2003. This amendment would separate skate species from the 'other species' complex and add them to the 'target species' categories, thus allowing for separate ABCs and TACs to be established for skates and skate complexes. This action was initiated in response to conservation concerns regarding a rapidly emerging fishery on two skate species and the need for this fishery to develop in a sustainable manner. The Council recommended the following ABCs and TACs for skates contingent upon Secretarial approval of amendment 63:

Species	Area	2004 OFL	2004 ABC	2004 TAC
All Skates*	Gulf Wide	4,935	3,709	3,709
Big and Longnose skates	Central GOA(only)	5,914	4,435	3,284

*All Skates includes big skates, longnose (*Raja spp.*) and "other" (*Bathyraja spp.*) skates except in the Central GOA where big skates and longnose skates have a separate ABC and OFL.

Due to specific concerns regarding the developing fishery in the Central GOA, the Council recommended a separate OFL and ABC for combined Big and Longnose skates in the Central GOA region. They further recommended that a conservative TAC be established for combined Big and Longnose skates in the Central Gulf. This is consistent with the Plan Team's recommendation for the conservation of Big and Longnose skates in this region.

While a small, directed, skate fishery will be allowed in 2004, the Council may not allow a directed fishery in 2005 without an approved data collection plan. The Council requested that staff work with industry to develop an adequate data collection plan, and that state and federal agencies also work together to enhance data collection and research in order to address the serious data gaps identified for these skate species. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Fur Seal Committee

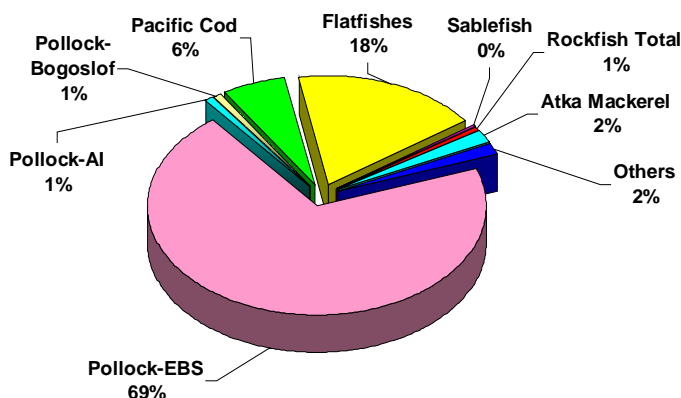
The Council's Fur Seal Committee met during the evening of December 11 to discuss the organization of the committee, the Council's charge to this committee, and several other issues associated with the northern fur seal population in Alaska. NMFS is currently preparing a draft Environmental Impact Statement on renewing the Pribilof Islands subsistence fur seal harvest regulations, and the Council has asked its Fur Seal Committee to track the development of this EIS. The Committee encountered some confusion over how groundfish fishery effects may be addressed in the EIS, and has asked NOAA General Counsel for guidance. The Committee plans to meet January 17 in Anchorage. Staff Contact is Bill Wilson.

BSAI Groundfish

The Council adopted final specifications for the 2004 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish fisheries **Attachment 2**. It approved Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), Total Allowable Catch (TAC), bycatch allowances, and seasonal apportionments of Pacific halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, opilio crab, and herring to target fishery (PSC) categories based on recommendations its Scientific and Statistical Committee and Advisory Panel. It also adopted the halibut discard mortality rates for the 2004 CDQ groundfish fisheries and 2004-2006 non-CDQ fisheries as recommended by International Pacific Halibut Commission staff.

Overall, the status of the stocks continues to appear relatively favorable, although biomass for some stocks has declined due to below average recruitment. The sum of recommended ABCs by the Plan Team for 2004 is 3,664,065 mt, more than 350,000 mt above that in 2003. The 2003 Eastern Bering Sea bottom trawl survey estimated a 77% increase in pollock biomass and the highest estimate in the entire time series. The 2003 bottom trawl survey resulted in a Pacific cod biomass estimate of 606,000 mt, down 2% from the 2002 estimate and near the minimum for the time series (534,000 t). The 2002 Aleutian Islands survey resulted in a Pacific cod biomass estimate that was down 39% from 2000 and is the lowest value of the time series. The yellowfin sole stock had been declining since the mid-1980s, due to the low recruitment in the last decade. However, the stock may be more stable in the near future, due in part to an above average 1995 year class. The Greenland turbot biomass estimate increased modestly in 2003, but may decline in the long-term due to continued lack of recruitment. The sablefish survey abundance index decreased 7% from 2002 to 2003, but is 10% higher than in 2000. The fishery abundance index for sablefish also generally increased and is 6% higher in 2002 than in 2000. The arrowtooth flounder biomass estimate increased 56% in 2003; rock sole increased by 12%; Pacific ocean perch declined by 7%; Atka mackerel declined by 20%.

BSAI Groundfish Complex ABCs
Yr 2003 Total = 3.664 MMT
(Up 347,700 mt from 2002 - mostly from EBS Pollock)



None of the BSAI groundfish stocks are overfished or approaching an overfished condition. The BSAI stock assessments can be viewed on our website. An overview of the status of Bering Sea stocks is at www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/docs/2003/2003BSAI_Plan_Team_Pres.pdf.

The Council's recommendations for bycatch allowance apportionments, and seasonal apportionments of Pacific halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, opilio crab, and herring to target fishery (PSC) categories are unchanged from 2003, except for an increase in the red king crab and herring PSC limits (an increase from 97,000 crabs in 2003 to 197,000 crabs in 2004 and from 1,526 mt to 1,876 mt for herring). The Council rolled over the 2003 seasonal apportionments of bycatch limits and gear and seasonal apportionments of the BSAI Pacific cod TAC for 2004. Revised halibut discard mortality rates for the 2004 CDQ groundfish fisheries and 2004-2006 non-CDQ fisheries will be posted as Table 8 on www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/catchstats.htm. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

Electronic Newsletter

If you would like to receive our newsletter in your *e-mail* inbox, just send your e-mail address to maria.shawback@noaa.gov. You will be sent the next newsletter and agenda immediately instead of having to wait for it to arrive in the regular mail or watching for it to show up on our website. If you are already getting the electronic version, but are also getting the hardcopy in the mail and would like to discontinue this, just send a short e-mail and we can take you off the paper mailing list and save postage and paper. If you have questions about this process, feel free to call our office.

Website Changes

You may have noticed a few changes in our website. We have undergone a complete redesign and, while it may take a minute to find things at first - we are certain this new look will make it easier to navigate, archive, categorize, download and access the Council and its documents. A new feature we have added is archiving relevant documents *by council meeting*. This will make it a bit easier to put together what happened at a past meeting - the electronic information will be in one place; agenda, newsletter, minutes, analyses, motions, and anything else we may have posted for that meeting. You can access this through our website at www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc and clicking on *Council*, under the *Meetings* heading. If you have trouble finding something through our site, or are unable to access a file, drop a line to maria.shawback@noaa.gov or call the office directly.

IFQ Program

The Council reviewed 19 new proposals for amendments to the halibut and sablefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program, along with amendments approved for analysis in 2001 based on proposals submitted in 1999. The Council initiated analysis on the following proposed actions in two analyses for review in 2004 and approved language for a draft problem statement for amending the IFQ program. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

IFQ Problem Statement: The halibut/sablefish vessel size classes and block plan were designed to maintain a diverse, owner-operated fleet and provide an entry-level to the IFQ fisheries. Large quota increases and other factors suggest that these provisions should be reviewed to determine if changes are needed to ensure program goals are met. Due to consolidation and use pattern of the fleet, a review of block structure and its application is appropriate for all areas. To address medical hardships, establish a transfer provision for a limited period to address bona-fide medical problems by QS holders. Product recovery rate provisions may be a disincentive for fishermen to bleed fish, thereby reducing the quality of fish delivered. Due to whale depredations, the sablefish fisheries in the BSAI offer unique challenges to harvesting. Due to concerns over this harvest in other regulatory areas, options to verify fishing locations need to be developed.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYSIS:

Action 1. Amend regulations to allow medical transfers

- Alternative 1. No action.
- Alternative 2. Allow medical transfers.

Action 2. Amend QS use rights/hired skipper provisions

- Alternative 1. No action.
- Alternative 2. Tighten the criteria for the 20 percent ownership requirement (ownership is documented by contemporary abstract of title).
 - Option 1. Document 20% ownership by contemporary abstract of title continuously for previous:
 - a. 12 months
 - b. 24 months
 - c. year-to-date plus previous calendar year; and/or
 - Option 2. A vessel is limited to a maximum of 5 QS holders who may hire a skipper(s) on that vessel in the previous:
 - a. 12 months
 - b. 24 months
 - c. year-to-date plus previous calendar year

Action 3. Amend check-in/check out requirements

- Alternative 1. No action.
- Alternative 2. Add check-in/check out and/or VMS requirements to the BS and AI sablefish regulations.

- Option 1. Add check-in/check-out for the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea sablefish fishery (e.g., in Dutch Harbor, Adak, St Paul, St George)
- Option 2. Require VMS when fishing in the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea sablefish fishery

- Action 4. Amend sablefish product recovery rate**
- Alternative 1. No action.
- Alternative 2. Change product recovery rate from 0.98 to 1 for bled sablefish.

ALLOCATIVE ANALYSIS

Action 1. Amend halibut block program in Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D

- Alternative 1. No action.
- Alternative 2. Increase blocks from 2, to 3 or 4
- Alternative 3. Unblock all QS > 20,000 lbs. (now in QS units) where the 2003 TAC level exceeds a 20,000 lb. unit equivalent
- Alternative 4. Allow QS > 20,000 lbs. to be divided into smaller blocks
- Alternative 5. Increase the Area 2C and 3A halibut sweep-up level to the 5,000 lb equivalent in current QS units (2C: 35,080 units; 3A: 40,860 units)

Action 2. Amend Area 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C and 4D halibut QS categories

- Alternative 1. No action.
- Alternative 2. Allow D category QS to be fished as C category shares
- Alternative 3. Allow D category QS to be fished as C or B category QS
- Alternative 4. Combine C and D category QS

Action 3. Amend the fish down regulations for halibut (Area 2C) and sablefish (Southeast)

- Alternative 1. No action.
- Alternative 2. Eliminate the exception to the fish down regulations for halibut (Area 2C) and sablefish (Southeast)

Action 4. Amend IFQ and CDQ halibut regulations to allow Area 4C fishermen to harvest Area 4C IFQ and CDQ in Area 4D.

- Alternative 1. No action.
- Alternative 2. Allow Area 4C fishermen to harvest Area 4C IFQ and CDQ in Area 4D
- Option: Allow Area 4D fishermen to harvest Area 4D IFQ and CDQ in Area 4C

**Gulf of Alaska Groundfish
2003 Specifications and North Pacific Council Recommendations for 2004 Final Specifications (mt)**

Species	Area	2003 Biomass	2003 OFL	2003 ABC	2003 TAC	2003 *Catch	2004 Biomass	2004 OFL	2004 ABC	2004 TAC	2003-4 ABC diff.	2003-4 TAC diff.
Pollock	W (61)			16,788	16,788	16,574			22,930	22,930	36.6%	36.6%
	C (62)			19,685	19,685	19,504			26,490	26,490	34.6%	34.6%
	C (63)			10,339	10,339	12,283			14,040	14,040	35.8%	35.8%
	WYAK		69,410	1,078	1,078	943			1,280	1,280	18.7%	18.7%
	SubTotal	670,410	69,410	47,890	47,890		740,440	91,060	64,740	64,740	35.2%	35.2%
	EYAK/SEO	28,710	8,610	6,460	6,460	0	28,980	8,690	6,520	6,520	0.9%	0.9%
	Total	699,120	78,020	54,350	54,350	49,304	769,420	99,750	71,260	71,260	31.1%	31.1%
Pacific Cod	W			20,600	15,450	16,108			22,610	16,957	9.8%	9.8%
	C			29,000	22,690	24,549			35,800	27,116	23.4%	19.5%
	E			3,200	2,400	66			4,400	3,960	37.5%	65.0%
	Total	452,000	70,100	52,800	40,540	40,723	484,000	102,000	62,810	48,033	19.0%	18.5%
Sablefish	W			2,570	2,570	2,058			2,930	2,930	14.0%	14.0%
	C			6,440	6,440	6,957			7,300	7,300	13.4%	13.4%
	WYAK			2,320	2,320	1,801			2,550	2,550	9.9%	9.9%
	SEO			3,560	3,560	3,179			3,770	3,770	5.9%	5.9%
	Total	182,000	20,020	14,890	14,890	13,995	179,000	22,160	16,550	16,550	11.1%	11.1%
Deep water flatfish ¹	W			180	180	28			310	310	72.2%	72.2%
	C			2,220	2,220	903			2,970	2,970	33.8%	33.8%
	WYAK			1,330	1,330	2			1,880	1,880	41.4%	41.4%
	EYAK/SEO			1,150	1,150	3			910	910	-20.9%	-20.9%
	Total	68,260	6,430	4,880	4,880	936	99,620	8,010	6,070	6,070	24.4%	24.4%
Rex sole	W			1,280	1,280	763			1,680	1,680	31.3%	31.3%
	C			5,540	5,540	2,642			7,340	7,340	32.5%	32.5%
	WYAK			1,600	1,600	1			1,340	1,340	-16.3%	-16.3%
	EYAK/SEO			1,050	1,050	1			2,290	2,290	118.1%	118.1%
	Total	71,330	12,320	9,470	9,470	3,407	99,950	16,480	12,650	12,650	33.6%	33.6%
Shallow water flatfish ²	W			23,480	4,500	192			21,580	4,500	-8.1%	0.0%
	C			21,740	13,000	4,289			27,250	13,000	25.3%	0.0%
	WYAK			1,160	1,160	0			2,030	2,030	75.0%	75.0%
	EYAK/SEO			2,960	2,960	3			1,210	1,210	-59.1%	-59.1%
	Total	349,990	61,810	49,340	21,620	4,484	375,950	63,840	52,070	20,740	5.5%	-4.1%
Flathead sole	W			16,420	2,000	496			13,410	2,000	-18.3%	0.0%
	C			20,820	5,000	1,725			34,430	5,000	65.4%	0.0%
	WYAK			2,900	2,900	0			3,430	3,430	18.3%	18.3%
	EYAK/SEO			1,250	1,250	0			450	450	-64.0%	-64.0%
	Total	132,260	51,560	41,390	11,150	2,221	292,670	64,750	51,720	10,880	25.0%	-2.4%
Arrowtooth flounder	W			17,990	8,000	8,120			23,590	8,000	31.1%	0.0%
	C			113,050	25,000	20,412			151,840	25,000	34.3%	0.0%
	WYAK			18,190	2,500	40			10,590	2,500	-41.8%	0.0%
	EYAK/SEO			5,910	2,500	45			8,910	2,500	50.8%	0.0%
	Total	1,302,000	181,390	155,140	38,000	28,617	2,453,390	228,130	194,930	38,000	25.6%	0.0%
Other Slope rockfish	W			90	90	130			40	40	-55.6%	-55.6%
	C			550	550	698			300	300	-45.5%	-45.5%
	WYAK			270	150	226			130	130	-51.9%	-13.3%
	EYAK/SEO			4,140	200	18			3,430	200	-17.1%	0.0%
	Total	107,960	6,610	5,050	990	1,072	89,460	5,150	3,900	670	-22.8%	-32.3%
Northern rockfish	W			890	890	530			770	770	-13.5%	-13.5%
	C			4,640	4,640	4,771			4,100	4,100	-11.6%	-11.6%
	E ³			0	0	0			0	0		
	Total	108,830	6,560	5,530	5,530	5,301	95,150	5,790	4,870	4,870	-11.9%	-11.9%

Species	Area	2003 Biomass	2003 OFL	2003 ABC	2003 TAC	2003 *Catch	2004 Biomass	2004 OFL	2004 ABC	2004 TAC	2003-4 ABC diff.	2003-4 TAC diff.
Pacific ocean perch	W	3,220	3,220	2,700	2,700	2,139	50,430	2,990	2,520	2,520	-6.7%	-6.7%
	C		10,120	8,510	8,510	8,000	167,901	9,960	8,390	8,390	-1.4%	-1.4%
	WYAK			810	810	606	16,610		830	830	2.5%	2.5%
	SEO			1,640	1,640	0			1,600	1,600	-2.4%	-2.4%
	E		2,900				32,019	2,890				
	Total	298,820	16,240	13,660	13,660	10,745	266,960	15,840	13,340	13,340	-2.3%	-2.3%
Shortraker/ rougheye	W			220	220	238			254	254	15.5%	15.5%
	C			840	840	935			656	656	-21.9%	-21.9%
	E			560	560	387			408	408	-27.1%	-27.1%
	Total	66,830	2,340	1,620	1,620	1,560	73,000	2,510	1,318	1,318	-18.6%	-18.6%
Pelagic shelf rockfish	W			510	510	219			370	370	-27.5%	-27.5%
	C			3,480	3,480	2,200			3,010	3,010	-13.5%	-13.5%
	WYAK			640	640	607			210	210	-67.2%	-67.2%
	EYAK/SEO			860	860	11			880	880	2.3%	2.3%
	Total	62,500	8,220	5,490	5,490	3,037	57,400	5,570	4,470	4,470	-18.6%	-18.6%
Demersal Shelf Rockfish	Total	17,510	540	390	390	229	20,168	690	450	450	15.4%	15.4%
Thornyhead rockfish	W			360	360	339			410	410	13.9%	13.9%
	C			840	840	748			1,010	1,010	20.2%	20.2%
	E			800	800	98			520	520	-35.0%	-35.0%
	Total	85,760	3,050	2,000	2,000	1,185	86,200	2,590	1,940	1,940	-3.0%	-3.0%
Atka Mackerel	Total	unk	6,200	600	600	565	unk	6,200	600	600	0.0%	0.0%
Other Species	Total	unk	NA	NA	11,260	6,108	unk	NA	NA	12,592		11.8%
Total		4,005,170	531,410	416,600	236,440	173,489	5,557,238	649,460	498,948	264,433	19.8%	11.8%

1 "Deep water flatfish" includes Dover sole, Greenland turbot and deepsea sole.

2 "Shallow water flatfish" includes rock sole, yellowfin sole, butter sole, starry flounder, English sole, Alaska plaice, and sand sole.

3 The EGOA ABC of 5 mt for northern rockfish has been included in the WYAK ABC for other slope rockfish.

NOTE: ABCs and TACs are rounded to nearest 10 mt.; *2003 catch data through 11/08/03;

Prohibited Species Catch Limits:

The Council adopted the following prohibited species catch limits for 2004:

2004 Trawl		2004 Hook and Line	
Jan 1 - Apr 1	550 mt	1st trimester	Jan 1 - Jun 10 250 mt
Apr 1 - Jun 29	400 mt	2nd trimester	Jun 10 - Sep 1 5 mt
Jun 29 - Sep 1	600 mt	3rd trimester	Sept 1 - Dec 31 35 mt
Sept 1 - Oct 1	150 mt		
Oct 1 - Dec 31	300 mt	DSR	Jan 1 - Dec 31 10 mt

TOTAL	2,000 mt	300 mt
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Trawl fishery categories

Season	Shallow Water	Deep Water	Total
Jan 1 - Apr 1	450 mt	100 mt	550 mt
Apr 1 - Jun 29	100 mt	300 mt	400 mt
Jun 29 - Sep 1	200 mt	400 mt	600 mt
Sep 1 - Oct 1	150 mt	any rollover	150 mt
Oct 1 - Dec 31	no apportionment		300 mt
TOTAL	900 mt	800 mt	2,000 mt

Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Groundfish Recommendations

DRAFT

2003 Specifications and North Pacific Council Recommendations for 2004 Final Specifications (mt)

Species	Area	2003 Biomass	2003 OFL	2003 ABC	2003 TAC	2003 *Catch	2004 Biomass	2004 OFL	2004 ABC	2004 TAC	2003-04 ABC diff.	2003-04 TAC diff.
Pollock	EBS	11,100,000	3,530,000	2,330,000	1,491,760	1,489,419	11,000,000	2,740,000	2,560,000	1,492,000	9.9%	0.0%
	AI	175,000	52,600	39,400	1,000	1,641	175,000	52,600	39,400	1,000	0.0%	0.0%
	Bogoslof	227,000	45,300	4,070	50	24	198,000	39,600	2,570	50	-36.9%	0.0%
Pacific cod	BSAI	1,680,000	324,000	223,000	207,500	186,314	1,660,000	350,000	223,000	215,500	0.0%	3.9%
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	1,550,000	136,000	114,000	83,750	78,738	1,560,000	135,000	114,000	86,075	0.0%	2.8%
Greenland turbot	BSAI	112,000	17,800	5,880	4,000	3,017	132,000	19,300	4,740	3,500	-19.4%	-12.5%
	BS			3,920	2,680	2,368			3,162	2,700	-19.3%	0.7%
	AI			1,960	1,320	649			1,578	800	-19.5%	-39.4%
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	597,000	139,000	112,000	12,000	12,556	696,000	142,000	115,000	12,000	2.7%	0.0%
Rock sole	BSAI	877,000	132,000	110,000	44,000	35,832	1,160,000	166,000	139,000	41,000	26.4%	-6.8%
Flathead sole	BSAI	550,000	81,000	66,000	20,000	14,053	505,000	75,200	61,900	19,000	-6.2%	-5.0%
Alaska plaice	BSAI	1,080,000	165,000	137,000	10,000	9,896	1,050,000	258,000	203,000	10,000	48.2%	0.0%
Other flatfish	BSAI	107,000	21,400	16,000	3,000	2,818	90,300	18,100	13,500	3,000	-15.6%	0.0%
Sablefish	EBS	31,000	4,290	2,900	2,900	948	32,000	4,020	3,000	2,900	3.4%	0.0%
	AI	39,000	4,590	3,100	3,100	1,076	39,000	4,620	3,450	3,100		
Pacific Ocean Perch	BSAI	375,000	18,000	15,100	14,100	15,644	349,000	15,800	13,300	12,580	-11.9%	-10.8%
	BS			2,410	1,410	1,196			2,128	1,408	-11.7%	-0.1%
	AI			12,690	12,690	14,448			11,172	11,172	-12.0%	-12.0%
	Eastern			3,500	3,500	3,934			3,059	3,059	-12.6%	-12.6%
	Central			3,340	3,340	4,120			2,926	2,926	-12.4%	-12.4%
Western			5,850	5,850	6,394			5,187	5,187	-11.3%	-11.3%	
Northern rockfish	BSAI	156,000	9,468	7,101			142,000	8,140	6,880	5,000	-3.1%	2.0%
	BS				121	74						
	AI				5,879	4,828						
Shortraker/rougheye	BSAI	32,000	1,289	967								
	BS				137	112						
	AI				830	298						
Shortraker	BSAI						23,400	701	526	526	NA	NA
Rougheye	BSAI						10,400	259	195	195	NA	NA
Other rockfish (incl. sharpchin)	EBS	18,300	1,280	960	960	314	18,300	1,280	960	460	0.0%	-52.1%
	AI	12,100	846	634	634	393	12,100	846	634	634	0.0%	0.0%
Atka mackerel	BSAI	358,300	99,700	63,000	60,000	57,875	286,000	78,500	66,700	63,000	5.9%	5.0%
	Eastern			10,650	10,650	11,425			11,240	11,240	5.5%	5.5%
	Central			29,360	29,360	27,512			31,100	31,100	5.9%	5.9%
	Western			22,990	19,990	18,938			24,360	20,660	6.0%	3.4%
Squid	BSAI	n/a	2,620	1,970	1,970	1,274	n/a	2,620	1,970	1,275	0.0%	-35.3%
Other Species	BSAI	695,000	81,100	43,300	32,309	25,437		81,150	46,810	27,205	8.1%	-15.8%
BS/AI TOTAL		19,771,700	4,867,283	3,296,382	2,000,000	1,957,029	19,138,500	4,193,736	3,620,535	2,000,000	9.8%	0.0%

BSAI = Bering Sea & Aleutians

EBS = eastern Bering Sea

OFL = overfishing level

BS = Bering Sea

AI = Aleutian Islands

ABC = acceptable biological catch

*through 11/08/03 including CDQ harvest

TAC = total allowable catch

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 12/19

February 2, 2004 Anchorage Hilton	March 29, 2004 Anchorage Hilton	June 7, 2004 Portland, Oregon
<p>AFA: Review 2003 Co-op Reports & 2004 Coop Agmts</p> <p>SSC- Review Overfishing Definitions, multi species models, and receive progress report from crab workgroup</p> <p>GOA Rationalization: Review Alternatives & Options (including GOA salmon/crab bycatch information)</p> <p>HAPC: Report on proposals received</p> <p>DPSEIS: Review comments on Draft; FMP Revisions initial review</p> <p>SSL adjustments in GOA: Informal consultation review</p> <p>Crab EIS: Initial Review</p> <p>Flatfish IRIU Trailing Amendment 80A & 80B: Review Progress</p> <p>Observer Program: Report/Direction</p> <p>Pending Congressional Action: Discussion and action as necessary</p> <p>Scallop SAFE: Review</p> <p>Scallop FMP: Discuss Update</p>	<p>Joint Council/Board meeting (T)</p> <p>Repeal VIP: Initial Review</p> <p>IFQ Administrative Changes: Initial Review (T)</p> <p>GOA Rationalization: Action as necessary</p> <p>HAPC: Develop Alternatives for Analysis</p> <p>DPSEIS and FMP Revisions: Final Action</p> <p>SSL adjustments in GOA: Initial Review (T)</p> <p>Flatfish IRIU Trailing Amendment 80A & 80B: Initial Review (T)</p> <p>Observer Program: Initial Review (T)</p> <p>Non -Target Species: Discuss and action as necessary</p> <p>Scallop FMP: Review Draft Update (T)</p>	<p>CDQ Eligibility Amendments: Report</p> <p>Repeal VIP: Final Action</p> <p>IFQ Administrative Changes: Final Action (T)</p> <p>GOA Rationalization: Action as necessary</p> <p>HAPC: Report and action as necessary</p> <p>SSL adjustments in GOA: Final Action (T)</p> <p>Crab EIS: Final Action</p> <p>Flatfish IRIU Trailing Amendment 80A & 80B: Final Action (T)</p> <p>Observer Program: Final Action (T)</p> <p>Non -Target Species: Discuss/action as necessary</p> <p>AI Pollock Fishery: Initial Review</p> <p>Scallop FMP: Final Review (T)</p>

TAC - Total Allowable Catch
 BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
 IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
 AFA - American Fisheries Act
 HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
 LLP - License Limitation Program
 PSC - Prohibited Species Catch

MSA - Magnuson Stevens Act
 GOA - Gulf of Alaska
 SSL - Steller Sea Lion
 VIP - Vessel Incentive Program
 SEIS - Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
 CDQ - Community Development Quota
 IRIU - Improved Retention/Improved Utilization

SAFE - Stock assessment and fishery evaluation
 VMS - Vessel Monitoring System
 CV - Catcher Vessel CP- Catcher Processor
 SSC - Scientific & Statistical Committee
 FMP - Fishery Management Plan
 DPSEIS - Draft Programmatic Groundfish SEIS
(T) Tentatively scheduled



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NPFMC Tentative Meeting Dates for 2004-2007

	February Week of/ Location	April Week of/ Location	June Week of/ Location	October Week of/ Location	December Week of/ Location
2004	2/Anchorage	3/29 Anchorage	7/Portland	4/Sitka	6/Anchorage
2005	7/Seattle	4/Anchorage	6/Dutch Harbor*	3/Anchorage	5/Anchorage
2006	6/Seattle	3/Anchorage	5/Kodiak*	2/Anchorage	4/Anchorage
2007	5/Portland*	2/Anchorage	4/Sitka*	1/Anchorage	3/Anchorage

*Meeting dates subject to change depending on availability of meeting space. Any changes will be published in the Council's newsletter.