



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Meeting Summary

261st Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
October 3-11, 2022
Hybrid – Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel and Zoom Webinar

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Attachments

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1) BSAI Specification Tables | 3) Time Log |
| 2) GOA Specification Talbes | 4) Newsletter |

The time log is included as a reference attachment for names, dates and times of each agenda item, and the newsletter is included to provide details of the agenda items and the meeting as a whole. All documents and information related to the meeting are accessible online at: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2946>

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met October 6-11, 2022 at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. The following Council members, Council staff, SSC, and AP members attended the meetings either in person or virtually.

Council Members

Jon Kurland
National Marine Fisheries Service

LCDR Jedediah Raskie
United States Coast Guard

Rachel Baker/Karla Bush (for Doug Vincent-Lang)
Alaska Department Fish and Game

Aaron Martin (for Sara Boario)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Angel Drobnica
Appointed

Andy Mezirow
Appointed

John Jensen
Appointed

Bill Tweit (for Kelly Susewind), **Vice Chair**
Washington Department Fish & Wildlife

Nicole Kimball
Appointed

Steve Williams (for Curt Melcher)
Oregon Department Fish & Wildlife

Simon Kinneen, **Chair**
Appointed

Anne Vanderhoeven
Appointed

Council Staff

Cleaver, Sara
Cunningham, Sam
Davis, Maria
Evans, Diana (DD)
Fey, Mike (PSMFC)
Gleason, Shannon

Haapala, Kate
Henry, Anna
Hillary, Kaylah (contractor)
La Belle, Sarah
Marrinan, Sarah
McCracken, Jon

McKean, Clay (Sea Grant)
Rheinsmith, Sarah
Schmidt, Nicole
Stram, Diana
Watson, Nicole
Witherell, Dave (ED)

Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC met October 3-5, 2022, at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings (absent members are ~~stricken~~).

Sherri Dressel, Co-Chair
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

Kathryn Meyer
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Curry Cunningham
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Dana Hanselman
NOAA Fisheries—AFSC

~~Andrew Munro~~
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

Kailin Kroetz
Arizona State University

Franz Mueter, Co-Chair
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Ian Stewart
Intl. Pacific Halibut Commission

Mike Downs
Wislow Research

Brad Harris
Alaska Pacific University

Chris Anderson
University of Washington

Patrick Sullivan
Cornell University

Alison Whitman, Vice Chair
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Amy Bishop
Alaska Sea Life Center

~~Jason Gasper~~
NOAA Fisheries – Alaska Region

George Hunt
University of Washington

Chris Siddon
ADF&G

Robert Foy
Alaska Fishery Science Center

Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel met October 4-6, 2022, at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings (absent members are ~~stricken~~):

Briggie, Tamara
Christiansen, Ruth (Co-Vice Chair)
Gudmundsson, Gretar
~~Heuker, Tim~~
Johnson, Jim
Johnson, Mellisa

Kauffman, Jeff
Kavanaugh, Julie
Mann, Heather
Mitchell, Lauren (Co-Vice Chair)
O'Donnell, Paddy
O'Neil, Megan

Ritchie, Brian (Chair)
Upton, Matt
Wilkins, Paul
Wilt, Sinclair
Zagorski, Suzie

A1 Call Meeting to Order/Oath of Office/Election of Officers

Jon Kurland administered the Oath of Office to Council members Angel Drobnica and Nicole Kimball.

For the upcoming year, Simon Kinneen was re-elected Chair and Bill Tweit was re-elected Vice-chair by unanimous consent.

The Council approved the agenda without objection.

B Reports

The following reports were provided in writing and discussed.

B1 Executive Director's Report – David Witherell

- Update on Ideas for change presentation – Diana Evans

B2 NMFS Management Report – Josh Keaton and Alicia Miller

- B2 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy – Tim Sartwell
- B2 Economic Data Reports Adjustments Update – Brian Garber-Yonts
- B2 NMFS Alaska Region 5-year strategic plan, petition for emergency rule (ER) to close Red King Crab savings area – Josh Keaton
- B2 Status of regulatory actions, Crab C share ER, IFQ Medical Transfer, update on Halibut Vessel Use Caps – Alicia Miller
- B2 In-season Management Report – Mary Furuness
- B2 NMFS Staffing update – Alicia Miller

B3 NOAA GC Report – Molly Watson

B4 AFSC Report – Dr. Robert Foy

- IPCC Presentation – Dr. Kirstin Holsman

B5 ADFG Report – written only

B6 USCG Report – LCDR Jedediah Raskie

B7 USFWS Report – written only

B9 SSC Report – Dr. Franz Mueter (SSC Co-Chair)

B10 AP Report – Ruth Christiansen and Lauren Mitchell (AP Co-Vice Chairs)

After staff presentations and public comment, the following actions were taken:

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

The Council supports NMFS analyzing the emergency rule request to prohibit pelagic trawl, pot and hook-and-line fisheries in the Red King Crab Savings Area and Subarea from January 1 through June 30, 2023. The Council requests that NMFS coordinate with Council staff to prepare the analysis for Council review and input at the December 2022 meeting. The Council requests that its input is considered before an agency decision is made on the request.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously on October 6, 2022, at 10:36 a.m.

C1 BSAI Crab Specifications

- Council Staff:** Sarah Rheinsmith
- Other Presenters:** Katie Palof (ADF&G, Crab Plan Team Co-Chair), Dr. Mike Litzow (NMFS, Crab Plan Team Co-Chair)
- Action Required:**
1. EBS Snow crab– Specify OFL/ABC for 2022/23
 2. Bristol Bay Red King Crab- Specify OFL/ABC for 2022/23
 3. St. Matthew Blue King Crab- Specify OFL/ABC for 2022/23
 4. Pribilof Island Red King Crab- Specify OFL/ABC for 2022/23
 5. Tanner Crab- Specify OFL/ABC for 2022/23
 6. Review Crab Plan Team Report for the September 2022 meeting
 7. Review/Approve final SAFE report
 8. Review snow crab rebuilding projections (SSC only)

Summary: A team of technical experts met (the Crab Plan Team) in September to discuss the status of five crab stocks in the Bering Sea and to make recommendations on harvest specifications. The Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee will review the recommendations and the Council will set harvest specifications based on their recommendations.

After staff presentations and public comment, the following action was taken:

Ms. Baker made the following motion which was seconded by Ms. Vanderhoeven:

The Council accepts the Crab SAFE report and adopts the following OFLs and ABCs recommended by the SSC for Eastern Bering Sea snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab, St. Matthew Island blue king crab, and Pribilof Islands red king crab.

Species	OFL (kt)	ABC (kt)	YEARS
Eastern Bering Sea snow crab	10.3	7.7	2022/23
Bristol Bay red king crab	3.04	2.43	2022/23
Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab	32.81	26.25	2022/23
St. Matthew Island blue king crab	0.066	0.050	2022/23, 2023/24
Pribilof Islands red king crab	0.685	0.514	2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25

kt = thousand metric tons

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously on October 7, 2022, at 10:51 a.m.

C2 BSAI Pacific Cod Vessel Boat Access – Final Action

- Council Staff:** Dr. Kate Haapala
- Other Presenters:** Abby Jahn (NMFS)
- Action Required:**
1. Review analysis
 2. Recommend a preferred alternative for Council final action

Summary: *The Council will decide whether or not to recommend requiring smaller hook and line and pot vessels to fish for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands off the jig sector's allocation.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following actions were taken:

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

The Council recommends Alternative 2 as its preferred alternative, with Option 1 and the Suboption. Additions to the alternative are shown in underline.

Alternative 2: Redefine the current BSAI Pacific cod jig sector to include H&L or pot CVs less than or equal to:

Option 1: 55' LOA

Suboption: B- and C-season fishery would remain jig gear only fishery. After the jig sector's A-season ends, all H&L or pot CVs less than 60' LOA would be in the same sector.

This action redefines the BSAI Pacific cod jig sector during the A-season (January 1 – April 30) to include H&L or pot CVs less than or equal to 55' LOA. All harvest from the redefined jig sector would be deducted from the jig sector's 1.4 percent allocation.

Likewise, the current <60' H&L or pot CV sector would be redefined during the A-season so that harvest only from H&L or pot CVs with a reported LOA of 56' or greater (i.e., 56'-59' LOA) would be deducted from the current <60' H&L or pot CV sector's 2 percent allocation. After the jig A-season ends on April 30, all H&L or pot CVs less than or equal to 60' LOA would be in the same sector and would be eligible for reallocations utilizing the reallocation hierarchy defined at 50 CFR 679.20(a)(7)(iii) of Federal regulations.

It is the Council's intent to maintain the current reallocation hierarchy defined at 50 CFR 679.20(a)(7)(iii)(A) that prioritizes the jig sector or the <60' H&L or pot CV sector to receive a reallocation of projected unused BSAI Pacific cod TAC from other CV sectors. It is also the Council's intent to maintain the jig sector reallocation regulation at 50 CFR 679.20(a)(7)(iv)(C) which requires a projected unused portion of a seasonal allowance from the jig sector to be reallocated to the <60' H&L or pot CV sector on or near September 1st of each year.

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

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

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed unanimously on October 7, 2022, at 3:43 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDMED MAIN MOTION: Motion passed 10/1 (Mr. Jensen voting in opposition) on October 7, 2022, at 3:47 p.m.

C3 Trawl EM Analysis

Council Staff:	Anna Henry
Other Presenters:	Dr. Maggie Chan (NMFS), Melanie Rickett (NMFS), Darrell Brannan (Brannan and Associates)
Action Required:	1. Review analysis 2. Identify a preferred alternative

Summary: *The Council will decide whether or not to allow electronic monitoring to be used in addition to shoreside observers on pollock catcher vessels and tender vessels that deliver pollock. This action is cost-effective, will improve data collection and monitoring of discards.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following actions were taken:

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

The Council recommends Alternative 2 as its preferred alternative, and includes the following additional clarifications on implementation:

Alternative 2: Electronic Monitoring is implemented on pelagic trawl pollock catcher vessels and tenders delivering to shoreside processors in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, as the preferred alternative.

Opt-in approach in the GOA

The Council recommends the revised annual opt-in approach for vessels in the GOA. Under this approach, vessels participating in the trawl EM program will be required to use EM on all trips using only pelagic trawl gear. All trips using multiple gear types will remain in the partial coverage observer selection pool.

Partial Coverage Fee

The partial coverage 1.65% fee will be used to pay for EM equipment, service, and maintenance costs for vessels that do not participate in trawl catch share programs with an EM option. Additionally, the fee should be used to pay for housing and food for shoreside observers during deployments at processors to monitor partial coverage directed pelagic pollock deliveries from vessels using EM.

Incentive plans

Implement industry-managed incentive plans that provide a framework to meet annual performance standards to limit changes in fishing behavior due to the removal of MRA and pollock trip limits for vessels participating in the Trawl EM program.

BSAI EM fee

Implement a BSAI EM fee for video review. Each vessel participating in the BSAI trawl EM program will pay a fee covering the costs of EM video review calculated as the annual cost of EM review, data storage and transmission for the prior year divided by the proportion of actual annual pollock harvested in the prior year by each vessel that participates in the BSAI trawl EM program.

CDQ/AI pollock fisheries

Clarify that should CDQ or AI pollock fishery be open and prosecuted with catcher vessels they would not be precluded from the opportunity to participate in the trawl EM program.

Ms. Vanderhoeven made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Kurland:

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

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed unanimously on October 8, 2022, at 10:52 a.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION: Motion passed unanimously on October 8, 2022, at 11:02 a.m.

C4 Greenland Turbot in Longline Pots

Council Staff: Sam Cunningham

Other Presenters: Dr. Kelly Cates (NMFS AKRO SF)

Action Required:

1. Initial Review of EA/RIR
2. Consider selection of preliminary preferred alternative

Summary: *The Council will review a paper that considers the authorization of longline pot gear for fishing Greenland turbot in the Bering Sea. Greenland turbot is currently fished with trawl and hook-and-line gear; killer whales are known to take turbot catch from hook-and-line gear.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following action was taken:

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

Add the following text to the end of the current Purpose and Need Statement (new text in bold)

Whale depredation is precluding directed fishing for Greenland turbot by commercial hook- (HAL) gear vessels in the Bering Sea. Participation in this fishery has been a significant and line source of income for a number of HAL CP vessels that primarily target Pacific cod. The importance of turbot fishing increased for these vessels as Pacific cod TACs in the Bering Sea saw major declines between 2012 and 2021. Although single pot gear is currently authorized for Greenland turbot, single pots have not been deployed because of their inefficiency in the depth and location where the fishery occurs. A regulatory amendment that would allow vessels to use longline pots when fishing for Greenland turbot would likely resolve the depredation problem and allow this fishery to resume. Other benefits of reduced whale depredation on Greenland turbot could include improved catch accounting for managers, and data quality for the Greenland turbot stock assessment. **The use of longline pots could disrupt historic and current participants in the HAL CP and the Amendment 80 sectors should it encourage new entrants with no previous activity in the fishery.**

Alternatives (added alternative 3 and designate alternative 3 and Option 1 as a preliminary preferred alternative – PPA is underlined)

Alternative 1: No Action. (Longline pot gear is not authorized for Greenland turbot in the Bering Sea Subarea)

Alternative 2: Authorize the use of longline pot gear when directed fishing for Greenland turbot in the Bering Sea subarea

Alternative 3: Authorize the use of longline pot gear only for vessels in the HAL CP sector when directed fishing for Greenland turbot in the Bering Sea subarea

Option 1: Exemption from the 9-inch maximum tunnel opening restriction. (The 9-inch maximum tunnel opening requirement does not apply to longline pots used to directed fish for Greenland turbot in the Bering Sea subarea.)

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously on October 8, 2022, at 2:30 p.m.

C5 BSAI/GOA Groundfish Specifications

Council Staff: Sara Cleaver (GOA), Dr. Diana Stram (BSAI)

Other Presenters: Chris Lunsford (AFSC, GOA Plan Team Co-Chair)

Action Required:

1. Review Joint, BSAI, and GOA Plan Team reports
2. Recommend proposed BSAI and GOA groundfish harvest limits, prohibited species catch limit apportionments, and halibut discard mortality rates for 2023-2024
3. Review Spatial Management Policy Papers and take action as needed

Summary: *The Council will review information from teams of technical experts about the status of the ecosystem, available scientific information, and other issues relevant to the upcoming assessment of groundfish stocks. The Council will recommend proposed catch limits for the 20223 groundfish fisheries, however, final catch limits will not be chosen until December.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following actions were taken:

Ms. Vanderhoeven made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Down:

The Council adopts the proposed 2023 and 2024 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish harvest specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and sets the TACs, as shown in the attached BSAI Table 1, with all proposed specifications consisting of rollovers of 2023 final specifications from 2022/2023 harvest specifications as approved in December 2021. The TACs for both BS and AI Pacific cod have been adjusted to account for the State water GHL fisheries. The BS sablefish TAC has been adjusted to account for the State water GHL fishery (attachment 1).

The Council adopts the proposed flatfish ABC reserves, 2023 and 2024 annual and seasonal PSC limits and apportionments in the BSAI as provided in attached Tables 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, for halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, opilio crab and herring and their gear type and target fishery apportionments. The 2023 and 2024 crab PSC limits have been revised using current biomass amounts (attachment 1).

The Council adopts the proposed 2023 and 2024 halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for the BSAI as shown in Table 12 (attachment 1).

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously on October 8, 2022, at 4:26 p.m.

Ms. Kimball made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:

The Council adopts the proposed 2023 and 2024 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and the TACs shown in Table 1. Final specifications will be approved in December. The TACs for both Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod and pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water GHF fisheries. The proposed Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod adjustments for state water GHF fisheries are shown in Table 2 (attachment 2).

The Council adopts the proposed 2023 and 2024 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the Gulf of Alaska as provided in Tables 9, 10, and 11.

The Council adopts the proposed 2023 and 2024 halibut discard mortality rates for the Gulf of Alaska as shown in Table 12 (attachment 2).

Regarding spatial management of the demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) complex, the Council supports consideration of moving the seven DSR species which currently occur in the 'other rockfish' complex (i.e., those occurring to the west of EY/SEO) into the DSR assessment and expanding the DSR complex assessment to be GOA-wide during the 2023 Plan Team cycle when the next full assessment for 'other rockfish' is scheduled. Information should be included on the impacts of this change to both DSR and the 'other rockfish' complex.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously on October 8, 2022, at 4:31 p.m.

Ms. Kimball made the following motion which was seconded by Ms. Vanderhoeven:

The Council responds to the process questions provided by the Joint Groundfish Plan Teams as follows:

If the application of the spatial management policy did not result in the Council adopting management changes, the authors and the Plan Teams should continue to monitor and the SSC should advise the Council if there are associated conservation concerns and any changes in the scale of concern, if identified, during the the next full assessment cycle.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously on October 8, 2022, at 4:35 p.m.

D1 Stock Prioritization

Council Staff: Dr. Diana Stram

Other Presenters: Chris Lunsford, AFSC

Action Required: 1. Review NMFS recommendations on stock prioritization

***Summary:** The NMFS will review a plan that outlines how often fish stocks should be evaluated and assessed. The Alaska Fishery Science Center will update the Council on recommended improvements and changes to the plan and process.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following action was taken:

Ms. Kimball made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:

The Council endorses the NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) recommendations on SAFE guidelines and best practices for producing stock assessments. The Council also supports NMFS/AFSC providing recommendations on the frequency of specific stock assessments for SSC and Council review in early 2023.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously on October 8, 2022, at 5:22 p.m.

D2 BBRKC Expanded Discussion Paper

Council Staff: Sam Cunningham

Other Presenters: Dr. Kelly Cates (NMFS); Dr. Ben Daly (ADF&G), Krista Milani (NMFS)

Action Required:

1. Review comments submitted under Request for Information (RFI)
2. Review discussion paper
3. Determine whether to initiate consideration of a future action through either a subsequent discussion paper or by establishing a Purpose and Need Statement and alternatives for analysis
4. Consider any statements of support for specific research consistent with understanding the BBRKC stock, as desired.

Summary: *The Council will review a paper covering topics that might inform the Council or other Federal/State agencies as they consider strategies around the Bristol Bay Red King Crab (BBRKC) stock decline. Additionally, they will review public comments made in response to requests for information on voluntarily reducing BBRKC mortality.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following actions were taken:

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

The Council acknowledges the current low stock status for several key BSAI crab species and the impact it is having on harvesters, processors, and communities dependent on commercial crab fisheries. Science indicates changes in the ecosystem and temperature as the primary driver of poor crab recruitment and low abundance, which furthers the need for a comprehensive ecosystem-based approach in crab assessments, research and management.

The Council identifies the Bristol Bay red king crab and snow crab stocks as a priority conservation concern and takes the following actions at this time.

1. The Council will review an analysis of the emergency rule request to prohibit pelagic trawl, pot and hook-and-line fisheries in the Red King Crab Savings Area and Subarea at the December 2022 meeting.
2. The Council appreciates industry responses to requests for information on voluntary measures for implementation in 2023 and beyond to avoid BBRKC and EBS snow crab and reduce crab mortality in the non-directed fisheries and to reduce discard mortality in the directed fishery. The Council encourages all sectors to implement these voluntary measures in the 2023 season and provide a status report on the efficacy of these measures in December 2023.
3. The Council encourages continued research and testing on:
 - pot gear modifications, soak times and handling practices that reduce unintended mortality of crab PSC
 - evaluating the interactions of pelagic trawl gear with the sea floor and crab to inform gear modifications to reduce unintended mortality of crab PSC and impacts on benthic habitat
 - methods to gather data on interannual and seasonal distribution of crab, such as additional surveys and tagging studies

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

(Under Item number 1 insert the following language in bold)

1. The Council will review an analysis of the emergency rule request to prohibit pelagic trawl, pot and hook-and-line fisheries in the Red King Crab Savings Area and Subarea at the December 2022 meeting. **This analysis could be used as a basis to initiate a regulatory amendment in December through the normal rule making process to close the savings area and subarea to some or all gear types.**

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed unanimously on October 10, 2022, at 9:09 a.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION: Motion passed unanimously on October 10, 2022, at 9:35 a.m.

D3 Universal Data Collection Components

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan, Mike Fey (PSMFC/AKFIN)

Action Required: 1. Review the discussion paper
2. Take Action as necessary

***Summary:** The Council is reviewing a paper that identifies economic information, including data on crew, that could be collected to improve decision-making.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following action was taken:

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

The Council directs staff to provide an expanded discussion paper evaluating implementation of a universal data collection program to collect ADFG or CFEC crew license data; crew compensation; and number of crew positions on vessels operating in federal fisheries. Staff should evaluate the scale of data to be collected by fishery and area and outline a simple annual collection mechanism(s) and associated cost/burden. The paper should also evaluate the associated analytical value and ability of NMFS to collect quota lease costs as part of the annual quota applications administered by the NMFS Restricted Access Management Division, for those programs that currently do not report lease costs.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously on October 10, 2022, at 10:27 a.m.

D4 Workplan for Amendment 80 Program and Allocation Review

Council Staff: Jon McCracken

Action Required: 1. Review workplan and provide feedback as necessary

***Summary:** The Amendment 80 program split up several BSAI non-pollock trawl groundfish species among trawl fishery sectors, and allowed the formation of cooperatives among some trawl catcher/processors. The Council will review an outline for a document that will analyze if the program is still meeting its goals.*

**No action was taken under this agenda item.*

D5 PCFMAC Report

Council Staff: Sara Cleaver

Action Required:

1. Receive the Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC) Report.
2. Provide recommendations to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as necessary.

Summary: *The Council will review a report from a group of people familiar with observer-related issues met to review and make recommendations on an analysis that evaluates where money can be saved and how electronic monitoring fits in to the program. The analysis is scheduled to be released in 2023 and results incorporated into the Observer Annual Deployment Plan.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following action was taken:

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

The Council recommends the analytical staff provide further description and evaluation of the proposed deployment designs, evaluation criteria, and underlying assumptions for the partial coverage cost efficiencies analysis as outlined in the September 2022 PCFMAC report. The Council supports an abbreviated 2022 Observer Annual Report (Chapters 3 and 4) to meet these requests and complete the cost efficiencies analysis in time for incorporation in the draft 2024 observer annual deployment plan.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously on October 10, 2022, at 11:20 a.m.

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

The Council requests staff develop a discussion paper that would delineate the regulatory changes required to allow the partial coverage fleet to secure their observer coverage directly from the NOAA approved observer companies and be reimbursed at the end of the season from the fees collected from this fleet and their processors.

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

Table Mr. Tweit's motion on developing a discussion paper.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection on October 10, 2022, at 12 p.m.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Motion passed unanimously on October 10, 2022, at 12:02 p.m.

**Note, a related action was taken under E staff tasking.*

D6 BS FEP Climate Change Taskforce

Council Staff: Dr. Diana Stram (CCTF Co-Chair)

Other Presenters: Dr. Kirstin Holsman (AFSC, CCTF Co-Chair)

Action Required:

1. ACLIM and IPCC update
2. Review Draft Climate Readiness Synthesis Report and provide direction as necessary
3. Review Climate Change Taskforce report

Summary: *The Council will review progress reports from advisory groups working on Bering Sea ecosystem issues and the effects of climate change on Bering Sea fisheries.*

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

The Council supports the ongoing work of the Climate Change Taskforce and the development of the draft Climate Readiness Synthesis Report. The report provides a baseline for assessing the current state of Council management readiness, and the Council directs staff to incorporate comments from SSC, Ecosystem Committee, and Council review at this meeting, and to bring back the revised Report in February.

The Council supports the Taskforce continuing to lead consideration of near-term adjustments to support additional resiliency. In particular, the Council endorses holding public climate change scenario-planning workshops in order to build out adaptive and resilient management measures. Should additional resources become available to support additional Taskforce work, such as through a post-doctoral fellow, the Council directs that those efforts should be placed under the oversight of the Taskforce, which would remain the primary body responsible for providing advice to the Council.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection on October 10, 2022, at 3:19 p.m.

D7 Ecosystem Committee Report

Council Staff: Diana Evans, Nicole Watson

Action Required:

1. Review the Committee Report
2. Action as necessary

Summary: *A group that advises the Council on how fishery actions impact the ecosystem will provide recommendations on habitat, climate change, and other issues.*

**No action was taken under this agenda item. A related action was taken under E staff tasking.*

E1 Staff Tasking

Council Staff: David Witherell and Diana Evans

Action Required:

1. Review Committees and Plan Teams
2. Provide direction on tasking priorities and scheduling

Summary: *The Council will listen to public testimony about existing and new management measures that the public may be interested in and will provide feedback to staff and the Council Chair about how to prioritize staff work on existing and new projects.*

The Council will also review its committee membership, identify agendas for any upcoming committee meetings.

After staff presentations and public comment, the Council provided direction to staff on tasking and letters, and the following actions were taken:

E1 Trawl EM Committee

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

The Council directs the Trawl EM Committee to meet regarding the status of current and potential future EM projects and the future role and appropriate makeup of the trawl EM committee. The Committee will report back to the Council at the February meeting with recommendations, and we encourage public input at that time.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection on October 11, 2022, at 11:27 a.m.

E1/D5 PCFMAC Substitute Motion

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

Bring back tabled motion on D5 PCFMAC Report.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection on October 11, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.

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

The Council tasks the PCFMAC with considering the potential implications of allowing fishing vessels to contract directly with observer providers as a potential way to reduce costs and/or increase observer coverage in the partial coverage component of the observer program. The Council intends that this work should not begin until the PCFMAC completes the broader cost efficiencies analysis that is currently in progress, and that the PCFMAC will recommend how to prioritize this new tasking relative to other priorities being considered by the committee.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection on October 11, 2022, at 11:37 a.m.

E1 Salmon FMP Amendment

Mr. Kurland made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Tweet:

The Council requests that staff develop an analysis for a new amendment to the Salmon FMP for initial review at the December 2022 Council meeting with the following purpose and need statement. Staff should update the previous final review draft considered by the Council in December 2020 to reflect recent events and identify possible variations on the alternatives analyzed in that document that meet the purpose and need. This action is necessary now to make timely progress and allow for NMFS to implement an FMP amendment before June 2024.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection on October 11, 2022, at 11:56 a.m.

E1 Vessel Use Cap

Ms. Drobnica made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and alternatives for analysis.

Purpose and Need:

Action is needed to provide continued flexibility to IFQ participants in IPHC Area 4 while the Council analyzes options for a long-term adjustment to the vessel use caps initiated in June 2022. In recent years, utilization of halibut quota in Area 4 has declined and conditions including limited local markets, increases in operating costs, and reductions from historical TACs have all contributed to fewer vessels participating in the Area 4 fisheries.

Alternatives:

Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 2: Remove vessel cap limitations specified at 50 CFR Section 679.42(h)(1) for IFQ halibut harvested in Areas 4A, 4B, 4C and 4D through the 2027 fishing season. If the Council decides to take subsequent action to permanently modify vessel cap limits in area 4, such action will supersede if taken before 2027.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection on October 11, 2022, at 12:47 p.m.

E1 Crab Program Facility Use Cap

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

The Council bifurcates the facility use cap discussion from the Aleutian Island Golden King crab start date discussion in our previously tasked discussion paper, with the intent to review the facility cap issue on a faster timeline.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection on October 11, 2022, at 12:56 p.m.

E1 Alaska Native Tribal Advisory Panel Seat

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

The Council directs the Staff to revise the SOPPS and the AP Handbook to specify criteria for a new, designated seat on the Advisory Panel for an Alaska Native Tribal representative for a recurring, 3-year term. The deadline to apply should be February 3.

The Council can consider applicants and at the conclusion of the February 2023 meeting, the Chairman will announce the new AP member. The first term begins at on 04 April at the beginning of April Council meeting in Anchorage. The term will be prorated to end at the same time as other 3-year terms.

The Council direct the staff to explore providing a one-day First Alaskans Institute training in Tribal Governance for the Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection on October 11, 2022, at 1:17 p.m.

E1 Programmatic Groundfish SEIS

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

The Council initiates a discussion paper for a roadmap and timeline for reevaluating the Programmatic Groundfish SEIS, in order to better address the impacts of climate change on our marine ecosystems and on the people who are dependent on those ecosystems. The discussion paper should include the following:

- Outline of the information relevant to understanding the impacts of groundfish fisheries that will be necessary for revising the PSEIS, such as a compilation of new assessments of the impacts of climate change.
- Assessment of how existing Council initiatives as well as other related efforts such as the ACLIM project will inform Council reevaluation of the PSEIS (e.g. Climate Change Taskforce work, SSC workshops)
- Primer on the 2004 PSEIS, its structure and alternatives; a summary of the findings from periodic reviews of the PSEIS; and guidelines for what would be required in a new evaluation
- Discussion of available and new opportunities to ensure robust tribal and stakeholder engagement in Council consideration of alternatives for a revised PSEIS
- A timeline for how to framework ongoing initiatives, staff work, and public input opportunities

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection on October 11, 2022, at 1:43 p.m.

E1 Appointments

The Council approved the following Plan Team nominations:

Gulf of Alaska Plan Team – Dr. Cecilia O’Leary and Dr. Ben Williams

The Council adjourned on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 1:50 P.M.

Table 1. Council recommended proposed harvest specifications for Groundfish in the BSAI (metric tons) for 2023-2024

Species	Area	2021				Catch as of 12/31/2021	2022				2023/2024		
		OFL	ABC	TAC			OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 9/10/2022	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	EBS	2,594,000	1,626,000	1,375,000	1,376,250	1,469,000	1,111,000	1,111,000	1,088,062	1,704,000	1,289,000	1,289,000	
	AI	61,856	51,241	19,000	1,840	61,264	50,752	19,000	2,694	61,379	50,825	19,000	
	Bogoslof	113,479	85,109	250	8	113,479	85,109	250	256	113,479	85,109	250	
Pacific cod	BS	147,949	123,805	111,380	109,202	183,012	153,383	136,466	113,251	180,909	151,709	133,459	
	AI	27,400	20,600	13,796	7,298	27,400	20,600	13,796	4,861	27,400	20,600	13,796	
Sablefish	BSAI/GOA	60,426	29,558	n/a		40,432	34,521	n/a		42,520	36,318	n/a	
	BS	n/a	3,396	3,396	4,169	n/a	5,264	5,264	4,146	n/a	6,529	5,813	
	AI	n/a	4,717	4,717	1,578	n/a	6,463	6,463	1,987	n/a	7,786	7,786	
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	341,571	313,477	200,000	108,788	377,071	354,014	250,000	102,234	382,035	358,675	230,000	
Greenland turbot	BSAI	8,568	7,326	6,025	1,597	7,687	6,572	6,572	1,421	6,698	5,724	5,724	
	BS	n/a	6,176	5,125	1,130	n/a	5,540	5,540	989	n/a	4,825	4,825	
	AI	n/a	1,150	900	467	n/a	1,032	1,032	432	n/a	899	899	
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	90,873	77,349	15,000	9,014	94,445	80,389	20,000	5,887	97,944	83,389	20,000	
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	10,630	8,982	8,982	6,667	10,903	9,214	9,214	8,166	11,115	9,393	9,393	
Northern rock sole	BSAI	145,180	140,306	54,500	14,393	214,084	206,896	66,000	17,070	280,621	271,199	55,000	
Flathead sole	BSAI	75,863	62,567	25,000	10,259	77,967	64,288	35,500	13,257	80,034	65,988	25,500	
Alaska plaice	BSAI	37,924	31,657	24,500	15,862	39,305	32,697	29,221	8,398	39,685	32,998	29,082	
Other flatfish	BSAI	22,919	17,189	6,500	2,638	22,919	17,189	10,000	2,041	22,919	17,189	10,000	
	BSAI	44,376	37,173	35,899	35,479	42,605	35,688	35,385	24,190	40,977	34,322	33,952	
Pacific Ocean perch	BS	n/a	10,782	10,782	10,693	n/a	10,352	10,352	4,860	n/a	9,956	9,956	
	EAI	n/a	8,419	8,419	8,288	n/a	8,083	8,083	5,000	n/a	7,774	7,774	
	CAI	n/a	6,198	6,198	5,993	n/a	5,950	5,950	4,668	n/a	5,722	5,722	
	WAI	n/a	11,774	10,500	10,505	n/a	11,303	11,000	9,662	n/a	10,870	10,500	
Northern rockfish	BSAI	18,917	15,557	13,000	6,212	23,420	19,217	17,000	7,321	22,594	18,538	17,000	
Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish	BSAI	576	482	482	515	598	503	503	326	615	517	517	
	EBS/EAI	n/a	313	313	196	n/a	326	326	114	n/a	334	334	
	CAI/WAI	n/a	169	169	319	n/a	177	177	212	n/a	183	183	
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	722	541	500	496	722	541	541	194	722	541	541	
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,751	1,313	916	1,002	1,751	1,313	1,144	903	1,751	1,313	1,313	
	BS	n/a	919	522	392	n/a	919	750	467	n/a	919	919	
	AI	n/a	394	394	610	n/a	394	394	436	n/a	394	394	
Atka mackerel	BSAI	85,580	73,590	62,257	36,171	91,870	78,510	66,481	37,467	84,440	71,990	60,958	
	EAI/BS	n/a	25,760	25,760	25,183	n/a	27,260	27,260	10,688	n/a	25,000	25,000	
	CAI	n/a	15,450	15,450	15,308	n/a	16,880	16,880	15,502	n/a	15,470	15,470	
	WAI	n/a	32,380	21,047	20,863	n/a	34,370	22,341	21,965	n/a	31,520	20,488	
Skates	BSAI	49,297	41,257	18,000	20,029	47,790	39,958	30,000	22,892	46,475	38,824	30,000	
Sharks	BSAI	689	517	200	221	689	517	500	121	689	517	500	
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	700	170	4,769	3,576	700	199	4,769	3,576	700	
Total	BSAI	3,945,315	2,747,727	2,000,000	1,795,041	2,953,182	2,383,653	1,871,000	1,478,032	3,253,770	2,648,254	1,999,284	

Sources: 2021 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2022 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2020 and December 2021 respectively; 2021 catches through December 31, and 2022 catches through September 10, 2022 from AKR Catch Accounting.

TABLE 7—PROPOSED 2023 AND 2024 ABC SURPLUS, ABC RESERVES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA (CDQ) ABC RESERVES, AND AMENDMENT 80 ABC RESERVES IN THE BSAI FOR FLATHEAD SOLE, ROCK SOLE, AND YELLOWFIN SOLE

[Amounts are in metric tons]			
Sector	Flathead sole	Rock sole	Yellowfin sole
ABC	65,988	271,199	358,675
TAC	25,500	55,000	230,000
ABC surplus	40,488	216,199	128,675
ABC reserve	40,488	216,199	128,675
CDQ ABC reserve	4,332	23,133	13,768
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	36,156	193,066	114,907

TABLE 8—PROPOSED 2023 AND 2024 APPORTIONMENT OF PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES TO NON-TRAWL GEAR, THE CDQ PROGRAM, AMENDMENT 80, AND THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTORS

PSC species and area ¹	Total PSC	Non-trawl PSC	CDQ PSQ reserve ²	Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ	Amendment 80 sector ³	BSAI trawl limited access sector	BSAI PSC limits not allocated ²
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,515	710	315	n/a	1,745	745	n/a
Herring (mt) BSAI	3,819	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	32,000	n/a	3,424	28,576	14,282	8,739	5,555
<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	4,350,000	n/a	465,450	3,884,550	1,909,256	1,248,494	726,799
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 1	830,000	n/a	88,810	741,190	312,115	348,285	80,790
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 2	2,520,000	n/a	269,640	2,250,360	532,660	1,053,394	664,306

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of zones.

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

³ The Amendment 80 program reduced apportionment of the trawl PSC limits for crab below the total PSC limit. These reductions are not apportioned to other gear types or sectors.

TABLE 9-PROPOSED 2023 AND 2024 HERRING AND RED KING CRAB SAVINGS SUBAREA PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES FOR ALL TRAWL SECTORS

Fishery categories	Herring (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1
Yellowfin sole	222	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish ¹	110	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	11	n/a
Rockfish	11	n/a
Pacific cod	20	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	3,400	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2,3}	45	n/a
2022 Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴	n/a	-
2023 Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁵	n/a	8,000
Total trawl PSC	3,819	32,000

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

²Pollock other than midwater trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and “other species” fishery category.

³“Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

⁴Section 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B) establishes criteria under which an annual red king crab bycatch limit must be specified for the Red King Crab Savings Subarea (RKCSS) if the State has established a GHF fishery for red king crab in the Bristol Bay area in the previous year. Based on the final 2022 NMFS trawl survey data for the Bristol Bay red king crab stock, the State of Alaska closed the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery for the 2022/2023 crab season. NMFS and the Council will not specify the red king crab bycatch limit for the RKCSS in 2023, and pursuant to § 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(1) directed fishing for groundfish is prohibited for vessels using non-pelagic trawl gear in the RKCSS for 2023.

⁵If the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery remains closed in the 2023/2024 crab season, the RKCSS specification will be zero. . If the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery is open in the 2022/2023 crab season, NMFS, after consultation with the Council, will specify an annual red king crab bycatch limit for the RKCSS, which is limited by regulation to up to 25 percent of the red king crab PSC allowance (§ 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(2)).

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

TABLE 10-PROPOSED 2023 AND 2024 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

BSAI trawl limited access sector fisheries	Prohibited species and area ¹				
	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	<i>C. bairdi</i> (animals)	
				Zone 1	Zone 2
Yellowfin sole	265	7,700	1,192,179	293,234	1,005,879
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ²	-	-	-	-	-
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	-	-	-
Rockfish April 15-December 31	5	-	1,006	-	849
Pacific cod	300	975	50,281	50,816	42,424
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ³	175	65	5,028	4,235	4,243
Total BSAI trawl limited access sector PSC	745	8,739	1,248,494	348,285	1,053,394

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

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

³ “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

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

TABLE 11–PROPOSED 2023 AND 2024 HALIBUT PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR NON-TRAWL FISHERIES

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

TABLE 12–PROPOSED 2023 AND 2024 PACIFIC HALIBUT DISCARD MORTALITY RATES (DMR) FOR THE BSAI

Gear	Sector	Halibut discard mortality rate (percent)
Pelagic trawl	All	100
Non-pelagic trawl	Mothership and catcher/processor	85
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	62
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	9
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	9
Pot	All	26

Table 1. SSC recommended OFLs and ABCs and AP recommended TACs for Proposed Harvest Specifications for Groundfish in the GOA (metric tons) for 2023 and 2024

10/6/2022

Species	Area	2021			Catch 12/31/2021	2022			Catch 9/10/2022	2023-2024		
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	2,643	n/a		n/a	3,327	n/a		n/a	3,298	n/a
	W (610)	n/a	18,477	18,477	18,015	n/a	23,714	23,714	11,382	n/a	23,506	23,506
	C (620)	n/a	54,870	54,870	52,429	n/a	69,250	69,250	49,326	n/a	68,642	68,642
	C (630)	n/a	24,320	24,320	23,431	n/a	30,068	30,068	18,431	n/a	29,803	29,803
	WYAK	n/a	5,412	5,412	5,144	n/a	6,722	6,722	6,441	n/a	6,663	6,663
	EYAK/SEO	Subtotal	123,455	105,722	103,079	99,019	154,983	133,081	129,754	85,580	153,097	131,912
	EYAK/SEO	13,531	10,148	10,148	-	15,150	11,363	11,363	-	15,150	11,363	11,363
	Total	136,986	115,870	113,227	99,019	170,133	144,444	141,117	85,580	168,247	143,275	139,977
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	7,986	5,590	4,285	n/a	9,942	6,959	4,344	n/a	8,699	6,089
	C	n/a	13,656	10,242	8,794	n/a	19,752	14,814	10,476	n/a	17,282	12,962
	E	n/a	1,985	1,489	202	n/a	3,117	2,338	233	n/a	2,727	2,045
	Total	28,977	23,627	17,321	13,281	39,555	32,811	24,111	15,053	34,673	28,708	21,096
Sablefish	W	n/a	3,224	2,428	1,994	n/a	3,727	3,727	2,099	n/a	3,951	3,951
	C	n/a	9,527	8,056	7,311	n/a	9,965	9,965	5,694	n/a	9,495	9,495
	WYAK	n/a	3,451	2,929	2,330	n/a	3,437	3,437	2,271	n/a	3,159	3,159
	SEO	n/a	5,273	4,579	3,873	n/a	5,665	5,665	3,749	n/a	5,398	5,398
	GOA Total	n/a	21,475	17,992	15,508	n/a	22,794	22,794	13,813	n/a	22,003	22,003
	AK Total	60,426	29,588	n/a	n/a	40,432	34,521	n/a	n/a	42,520	36,318	n/a
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	24,151	13,250	27	n/a	21,256	13,250	31	n/a	22,464	13,250
	C	n/a	28,082	28,082	1,828	n/a	25,305	25,305	1,167	n/a	26,743	26,743
	WYAK	n/a	2,808	2,808	1	n/a	2,531	2,531	8	n/a	2,674	2,674
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,123	1,123	1	n/a	1,518	1,518	1	n/a	1,605	1,605
	Total	68,841	56,164	45,263	1,857	62,273	50,610	42,604	1,207	65,676	53,486	44,272
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	225	225	1	n/a	256	256	2	n/a	256	256
	C	n/a	1,914	1,914	83	n/a	2,139	2,139	101	n/a	2,105	2,105
	WYAK	n/a	2,068	2,068	7	n/a	1,431	1,431	2	n/a	1,408	1,408
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,719	1,719	4	n/a	2,082	2,082	5	n/a	2,049	2,049
	Total	7,040	5,926	5,926	95	7,026	5,908	5,908	110	6,920	5,818	5,818
Rex Sole	W	n/a	3,013	3,013	14	n/a	2,981	2,981	39	n/a	3,222	3,222
	C	n/a	8,912	8,912	285	n/a	12,076	12,076	627	n/a	13,054	13,054
	WYAK	n/a	1,206	1,206	2	n/a	1,361	1,361	-	n/a	1,439	1,439
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,285	2,285	-	n/a	2,723	2,723	-	n/a	2,879	2,879
	Total	18,779	15,416	15,416	301	23,302	19,141	19,141	666	25,049	20,594	20,594
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	32,377	14,500	361	n/a	33,658	14,500	269	n/a	33,214	14,500
	C	n/a	69,072	69,072	9,481	n/a	68,394	68,394	9,893	n/a	67,493	67,493
	WYAK	n/a	8,380	6,900	81	n/a	6,707	6,707	28	n/a	6,619	6,619
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	17,141	6,900	61	n/a	11,020	6,900	42	n/a	10,875	6,900
	Total	151,723	126,970	97,372	9,984	143,100	119,779	96,501	10,232	141,231	118,201	95,512
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	14,209	8,650	111	n/a	14,755	8,650	26	n/a	14,708	8,650
	C	n/a	20,826	15,400	596	n/a	22,033	15,400	468	n/a	21,962	15,400
	WYAK	n/a	2,427	2,427	-	n/a	1,511	1,511	-	n/a	1,506	1,506
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,915	1,915	-	n/a	1,876	1,876	-	n/a	1,870	1,870
	Total	47,982	39,377	28,392	707	48,928	40,175	27,437	494	48,757	40,046	27,426
Pacific ocean perch	W	n/a	1,643	1,643	1,622	n/a	2,602	2,602	2,499	n/a	2,523	2,523
	C	n/a	27,429	27,429	25,616	n/a	30,806	30,806	21,758	n/a	29,869	29,869
	WYAK	n/a	1,705	1,705	1,662	n/a	1,409	1,409	1,398	n/a	1,366	1,366
	W/C/WYAK	36,563	30,777	30,777	28,900	41,470	34,817	34,817	25,655	40,211	33,758	33,758
	SEO	6,414	5,400	5,400	-	4,110	3,451	3,451	-	3,985	3,346	3,346
Total	42,977	36,177	36,177	28,900	45,580	38,268	38,268	25,655	44,196	37,104	37,104	
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	2,023	2,023	709	n/a	1,944	1,944	474	n/a	1,859	1,859
	C	n/a	3,334	3,334	1,668	n/a	3,202	3,202	1,131	n/a	3,061	3,061
	E	n/a	1	-	-	n/a	-	-	-	n/a	-	-
	Total	6,396	5,358	5,357	2,377	6,143	5,146	5,146	1,605	5,874	4,920	4,920
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	52	52	8	n/a	51	51	7	n/a	51	51
	C	n/a	284	284	210	n/a	280	280	172	n/a	280	280
	E	n/a	372	372	310	n/a	374	374	125	n/a	374	374
	Total	944	708	708	528	940	705	705	304	940	705	705
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	270	270	146	n/a	269	269	103	n/a	259	259
	C	n/a	4,548	4,548	2,751	n/a	4,534	4,534	2,200	n/a	4,373	4,373
	WYAK	n/a	468	468	30	n/a	427	427	6	n/a	412	412
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	103	103	1	n/a	142	142	-	n/a	137	137
	Total	8,655	5,389	5,389	2,928	8,614	5,372	5,372	2,309	8,146	5,181	5,181
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	168	168	22	n/a	184	184	95	n/a	182	182
	C	n/a	456	456	182	n/a	235	235	72	n/a	234	234
	E	n/a	588	588	203	n/a	369	369	144	n/a	365	365
	Total	1,456	1,212	1,212	407	947	788	788	311	937	781	781
Demersal shelf rockfish	Total	405	257	257	109	579	365	365	125	579	365	365
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	352	352	42	n/a	352	352	107	n/a	352	352
	C	n/a	910	910	101	n/a	910	910	152	n/a	910	910
	E	n/a	691	691	130	n/a	691	691	65	n/a	691	691
	Total	2,604	1,953	1,953	273	2,604	1,953	1,953	324	2,604	1,953	1,953
Other Rockfish	W/C	n/a	940	940	1,054	n/a	940	940	988	n/a	940	940
	WYAK	n/a	369	369	125	n/a	370	370	68	n/a	370	370
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,744	300	37	n/a	2,744	300	46	n/a	2,744	300
	Total	5,320	4,053	1,609	1,216	5,320	4,054	1,610	1,102	5,320	4,054	1,610
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	3,000	939	6,200	4,700	3,000	878	6,200	4,700	3,000
Big Skate	W	n/a	758	758	128	n/a	591	591	107	n/a	591	591
	C	n/a	1,560	1,560	446	n/a	1,482	1,482	450	n/a	1,482	1,482
	E	n/a	890	890	191	n/a	794	794	102	n/a	794	794
	Total	4,278	3,208	3,208	765	3,822	2,867	2,867	659	3,822	2,867	2,867
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	158	158	42	n/a	151	151	19	n/a	151	151
	C	n/a	1,875	1,875	522	n/a	2,044	2,044	449	n/a	2,044	2,044
	E	n/a	554	554	471	n/a	517	517	343	n/a	517	517
	Total	3,449	2,587	2,587	1,035	3,616	2,712	2,712	811	3,616	2,712	2,712
Other Skates	GOA-wide	1,166	875	875	732	1,311	984	984	586	1,311	984	984
Sharks	GOA-wide	5,006	3,755	3,755	1,933	5,006	3,755	3,755	1,243	5,006	3,755	3,755
Octopuses	GOA-wide	1,307	980	980	55	1,307	980	980	62	1,307	980	980
TOTAL		610,917	476,037	407,976	182,949	626,738	508,311	448,118	163,129	622,931	517,507	443,615

Sources: 2022 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2021, 2021 catches through December 31, 2021, and 2022 catches through September 15, 2022 from AKR Catch Accounting.

Note: The sablefish ABC total for the GOA is not included in the grand total. The Alaska-wide sablefish OFL and ABC are included in the grand total. The sablefish GOA TAC is included in the total

Table 2. Proposed 2023 and 2024 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod ABCs, TACs and State Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) in metric tons.

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	8,699	17,282	2,727	28,708
State GHL	2,610	4,321	682	7,612
(%)	30%	25%	25%	25-30
Federal TAC	6,089	12,962	2,045	21,096

Table 9. Proposed 2023 and 2024 Pacific Halibut PSC Limits, Allowances, and Apportionments

(Values are in metric tons)

Trawl gear			Hook-and-line gear ¹				
			Other than DSR			DSR	
Season	Percent	Amount	Season	Percent	Amount ²	Season	Amount
January 20 - April 1	30.5	519	January 1 - June 10	86	221	January 1 - December 31	9
April 1 - July 1	20	341	June 10 - September 1	2	5		
July 1 - August 1	27	462	September 1 - December 31	12	31		
August 1 - October 1	7.5	128					
October 1 - December 31	15	256					
Total		1,706			257		9

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

Table 10. Proposed 2023 and 2024 Seasonal Apportionments of the Pacific Halibut PSC Limit Apportioned Between the Trawl Gear Shallow-Water and Deep-Water Species Fisheries

(Values are in metric tons)

Season	Shallow-water	Deep-water ¹	Total
January 20 - April 1	384	135	519
April 1 - July 1	85	256	341
July 1 - August 1	121	341	462
August 1 - October 1	53	75	128
Subtotal, January 20 - October 1	643	807	1,450
October 1 - December 31 ²			256
Total			1,706

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

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

Table 11. Proposed 2023 and 2024 Apportionments of the “Other hook-and-line fisheries” Halibut PSC Allowance Between the Hook-and-Line Gear Catcher Vessel and Catcher/Processor Sectors

(Values are in metric tons)

“Other than DSR” allowance	Hook-and-line sector	Sector annual amount	Season	Seasonal percentage	Sector seasonal amount
257	Catcher Vessel	150	January 1 - June 10	86	129
			June 10 - September 1	2	3
			September 1 - December 31	12	18
	Catcher/Processor	107	January 1 - June 10	86	92
			June 10 - September 1	2	2
			September 1 - December 31	12	13

Table 12. Proposed 2023 and 2024 Halibut Discard Mortality Rates for Vessels Fishing in the Gulf of Alaska. (Values are in percent of halibut assumed to be dead.)

Gear	Sector	Groundfish fishery	Halibut discard mortality rate (percent)
Pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	All	100
	Catcher/processor	All	100
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	Rockfish Program	66
	Catcher vessel	All others	69
	Mothership and catcher/processor	All	83
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	All	15
	Catcher vessel	All	12
Pot	Catcher vessel and catcher/processor	All	29



TIME LOG
NPFMC October Council Meeting – 261st Plenary Session
Meeting held at the Hilton Hotel and virtually via Zoom Webinar
October 6-11, 2022

Thursday, October 6, 2022

10/6/2022 8:00 AM Call to order
10/6/2022 8:03 AM Oath of Office
10/6/2022 8:05 AM Election of Officers

B REPORTS

10/6/2022 8:09 AM **B1 Executive Director Report** – NPFMC ED, David Witherell
10/6/2022 8:20 AM SCS7 Report – NPFMC Staff, Dr. Diana Stram
10/6/2022 8:38 AM B1 Council Process ideas for change – NPFMC DD Diana Evans
10/6/2022 8:50 AM B1 Website redesign walkthrough – Maria Davis
10/6/2022 9:00 AM B1 Continued
10/6/2022 9:15 AM **B2 NMFS Management Report** – Josh Keaton introduction, order of Speakers
10/6/2022 9:16 AM **B2 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy** – Tim Sartwell
10/6/2022 9:40 AM **B2 EDR Adjustments Update** – Brian Garbor-Yants
10/6/2022 10:05 AM Break
10/6/2022 10:25 AM B2 AKR 5-year plan, Petition for ER to close Red King Crab, Savings Area and Subarea to All Fishing Gears – Josh Keaton
10/6/2022 11:10 AM B2 Status of regulatory actions, Crab C share ER, IFQ Medical Transfer, update on Halibut Vessel Use Caps – Alicia Miller
10/6/2022 11:18 AM **B2 InSeason Management Report** – Mary Furuness
10/6/2022 11:31 AM B2 Staffing update – Alicia Miller
10/6/2022 11:57 PM Lunch Break
10/6/2022 1:05 PM **B3 NOAA GC Report** – Molly Watson
10/6/2022 1:18 PM **B4 AFSC Report** – Dr. Robert Foy
10/6/2022 1:46 PM **B4 IPCC Presentation** – Dr. Kirstin Holsman (AFSC)
10/6/2022 2:22 PM **B6 USCG Report** – LCDR Jed Raskie
10/6/2022 2:39 PM B Public Testimony
10/6/2022 2:39 PM Jamie Goen
10/6/2022 2:48 PM Linda Behnken
10/6/2022 2:55 PM Break
10/6/2022 3:16 PM Mateo Paz-Soldan
10/6/2022 3:27 PM Chad See
10/6/2022 3:35 PM Heather McCarty
10/6/2022 3:40 PM **B Ms. Baker Motion**

**B5 Report and B7 – written only*

C1 BSAI Crab Specifications – Review SAFE; adopt ABC/OFLs for BBRKC, Tanner crab, snow crab, PIRKC, SMBKC; Crab Plan Team Report

10/6/2022 3:50 PM	C1 Presentation – NPFMC staff, Sarah Rheinsmith, Katie Palof (ADFG), Dr. Mike Litzow (NMFS)
10/6/2022 5:00 PM	C1 Public Testimony Out of Order
10/6/2022 5:03 PM	Jamie Goen and Cory Lescher
10/6/2022 5:16 PM	Daniel White
10/6/2022 5:19 PM	Craig Lowenberg
10/6/2022 5:23 PM	Lance Farr
10/6/2022 5:32 PM	Oystein Lone
10/6/2022 5:36 PM	Scott Hansen
10/6/2022 5:40 PM	Recess

Friday, October 7, 2022

C1 BSAI Crab Specifications Continued

10/7/2022 8:07 AM	C1 Public Testimony Out of Order - Continued
10/7/2022 8:06 AM	Mateo Paz-Soldan and Heather McCarty
10/7/2022 8:20 AM	Frank Kelty and Group (City of Unalaska)
10/7/2022 8:28 AM	C1 SSC Report – Dr. Franz Mueter
10/7/2022 9:03 AM	C1 AP Report – Ruth Christiansen and Lauren Mitchell
10/7/2022 8:07 AM	C1 Public Testimony continued
10/7/2022 9:06 AM	Andy Hillstrand
10/7/2022 9:10 AM	Austin Estabrooks and Stephanie Madsen
10/7/2022 9:40 AM	Joshua Songstad
10/7/2022 9:46 AM	Nikolai A Siverstol
10/7/2022 9:53 AM	Chad Lowenberg
10/7/2022 10:00 AM	Break
10/7/2022 10:17 AM	Siri Dammarell
10/7/2022 10:22 AM	Edward Poulsen
10/7/2022 10:28 AM	Mike Shelford
10/7/2022 10:36 AM	C1 Ms. Baker Motion

C2 BSAI Pacific Cod Small Boat Access

10/7/2022 10:54 AM	C2 Presentation - Kate Haapala (NPFMC), Abby Jahn (NMFS)
10/7/2022 11:38 AM	C2 AP Report – Ruth Christiansen and Lauren Mitchell
10/7/2022 11:40 AM	C2 Public Testimony
10/7/2022 11:40 AM	Dustin Dickerson
10/7/2022 11:50 AM	Vinnie James
10/7/2022 11:54 AM	Dennis Robinson
10/7/2022 11:57 AM	Frank Kelty and group (City of Unalaska)
10/7/2022 12:08 PM	Lunch Break
10/7/2022 1:11 PM	Balance of the SSC Report – Dr. Franz Mueter and Dr. Sherri Dressel
10/7/2022 2:19 PM	C2 Public Testimony Continued

October 2022 Time Log

10/7/2022 2:19 PM	Buck Laukitis
10/7/2022 2:23 PM	Peter Neaton
10/7/2022 2:30 PM	Scott Patrick Lorenzen
10/7/2022 2:32 PM	John Merrion
10/7/2022 2:35 PM	Todd Hoppe
10/7/2022 2:40 PM	Ron Kavanaugh
10/7/2022 2:46 PM	Erik Velsko
10/7/2022 2:59 PM	Hannah Heimbuch
10/7/2022 3:07 PM	Julie Kavanaugh
10/7/2022 3:10 PM	Break
10/7/2022 3:29 PM	C2 Ms. Bush Motion
10/7/2022 3:47 PM	Recess

Saturday, October 8, 2022**C3 Trawl EM Analysis**

10/8/2022 8:00 AM	C3 Presentation – NPFMC staff, Anna Henry, Maggie Chan, Melanie Rickett (NMFS) and Darrell Brannan (Brannan & Associates)
10/8/2022 9:37 AM	C3 AP Report – Ruth Christiansen
10/8/2022 9:37 AM	C3 Public Testimony
10/8/2022 9:37 AM	Julie Bonney, Chelsae Radell, Ruth Christiansen
10/8/2022 9:50 AM	Rebecca Skinner and Paddy O'Donnell
10/8/2022 9:57 AM	Gretar Gudmundsson
10/8/2022 9:59 AM	Cory Lescher
10/8/2022 10:09 AM	Philip Powell
10/8/2022 10:22 AM	Break
10/8/2022 10:29 AM	C3 Mr. Tweit Motion

C4 Greenland Turbot in Longline Pots

10/8/2022 11:17 AM	C4 Presentation – NPFMC staff, Sam Cunningham and NMFS Kelly Kates
10/8/2022 12:10 PM	Lunch Break
10/8/2022 1:18 PM	C4 AP Report – Lauren Mitchell
10/8/2022 1:25 PM	C4 Public Testimony
10/8/2022 1:25 PM	Chad See and Chris Woodley
10/8/2022 1:37 PM	Joel Peterson and Dave Little
10/8/2022 1:42 PM	Arne Fuglov and Jason Anderson
10/8/2022 1:49 PM	Oystein Lone
10/8/2022 2:17 PM	C4 Mr. Down Motion

C5 BSAI/GOA Groundfish Specifications

10/8/2022 2:32 PM **C5 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram and Sara Cleaver, Chris Lundsford (AFSC, GOA Plan Team Coordinator)

10/8/2022 3:20 PM **Break**

10/8/2022 3:39 PM C5 Presentation Continued

10/8/2022 4:00 PM **C5 Public Testimony**

10/8/2022 4:01 PM C5 Dr. Megan Williams and Theresa Peterson

10/8/2022 4:10 PM Todd Loomis

10/8/2022 4:13 PM Julie Bonney

10/8/2022 4:21 PM **C5 Ms. Vanderhoeven Motion** – BSAI Groundfish Specs

10/8/2022 4:27 PM **C5 Ms. Kimball Motion** – GOA Groundfish Specs

10/8/2022 4:33 PM **C5 Ms. Kimball Motion** – Spatial Policy Process

D1 Stock Prioritization

10/8/2022 4:36 PM **D1 Presentation** – Dr. Diana Stram, Chris Lundsford (AFSC, GOA Plan Team Coordinator)

10/8/2022 5:17 PM **Ms. Kimball Motion**

10/8/2022 5:22 PM Recess

Sunday, October 9, 2022**D2 BBRKC Expanded Discussion Paper**

10/9/2022 9:03 AM **D2 Presentation** – Sam Cunningham, Dr. Kelly Cates

10/9/2022 10:30 AM Break

10/9/2022 10:50 AM D2 Presentation Continued

10/9/2022 12:06 PM D2 Gretar Gundmussón public testimony out of order

10/9/2022 12:20 PM Lunch Break

10/9/2022 1:25 PM D2 & E AP Report – Ruth Christiansen

10/9/2022 2:00 PM **D2 Public Testimony**

10/9/2022 2:00 PM Lance Farr

10/9/2022 2:10 PM Oystein Lone

10/9/2022 2:14 PM Austin Esabrooks & Stephanie Madsen

10/9/2022 2:45 PM Steve Minor

10/9/2022 2:49 PM John Gauvin

10/9/2022 3:01 PM Scott Goodman

10/9/2022 3:10 PM Break

10/9/2022 3:30 PM Chad See

10/9/2022 3:38 PM Edward Poulsen

10/9/2022 3:51 PM Doug Wells

10/9/2022 3:56 PM Heather McCarty, Jeff Kauffman

10/9/2022 4:06 PM Jamie Goen, Cory Lescher

10/9/2022 4:27 PM Mateo Paz-Soldan

10/9/2022 4:30 PM Hannah Heimbuch

10/9/2022 4:46 PM Marissa Wilson

October 2022 Time Log

10/9/2022 4:56 PM Heather Mann
 10/9/2022 5:04 PM Craig Lowenberg
 10/9/2022 5:10 PM Recess for day

Monday, October 10, 2022**D2 BBRKC Expanded Discussion Paper - Continued**

10/10/2022 8:04 AM Call to Order
 10/10/2022 8:04 AM D2 Public Testimony Continued
 10/10/2022 8:04 AM Greg Wallace
 10/10/2022 8:21 AM **D2 Ms. Baker Motion**
 10/10/2022 9:04 AM D2 Ms. Kimball Amendment
 10/10/2022 9:35 AM Break

D3 Universal Data Collection Components

10/10/2022 9:43 AM **D3 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Sarah Marrinan and PSMFC/AKFIN
 Michael Fey
 10/10/2022 10:00 AM Break
 10/10/2022 10:23 AM **D3 Ms. Kimball Motion**

**No public testimony under this agenda item.*

D4 Amendment 80 Program and Allocation Review

10/10/2022 10:28 AM **D4 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Jon McCracken
 10/10/2022 10:43 AM **D4 Public Testimony**
 10/10/2022 10:43 AM Chris Woodley

**No action was taken under this agenda item.*

D5 PCFMAC Report

10/10/2022 10:46 AM **D5 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Sara Cleaver
 10/10/2022 11:02 AM **D5 Public Testimony**
 10/10/2022 11:02 AM Bob Alverson
 10/10/2022 11:17 AM **D5 Ms. Kimball Motion**
 10/10/2022 11:31 AM D5 Mr. Tweit Motion – *(This motion was tabled)*
 10/10/2022 12:00 PM Lunch Break

D6 BS FEP Climate Change Taskforce

10/10/2022 1:25 PM	D6 Presentation – NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram and Dr. Kirstin Holsman (AFSC and CCTF Co-Chair)
10/10/2022 2:30 PM	D6 Ecosystem Committee Report on CCTF – NPFMC DD, Diana Evans
10/10/2022 2:34 PM	D6 Public Testimony
10/10/2022 2:34 PM	Mike LeVine
10/10/2022 2:40 PM	Julie Raymond-Yakoubian
10/10/2022 2:45 PM	Theresa Peterson
10/10/2022 3:00 PM	D6 Mr. Tweit Motion
10/10/2022 3:20 PM	Break

D7 Ecosystem Committee Report

10/10/2022 3:43 PM	D7 Presentation – NPFMC DD, Diana Evans and Nicole Watson
10/10/2022 4:02 PM	D7 Public Testimony
10/10/2022 4:02 PM	Theresa Peterson

**No action was taken under this agenda item.*

E Staff Tasking

10/10/2022 4:11 PM	E Staff Tasking Ticker List – NPFMC ED, David Witherell
10/10/2022 4:24 PM	Recess

Tuesday, October 11, 2022**E Staff Tasking Continued**

10/11/2022 8:00 AM	E Public Testimony
10/11/2022 8:01 AM	Vivian Korthuis
10/11/2022 8:08 AM	Chuck McCallum
10/11/2022 8:11 AM	Keenan Sanderson
10/11/2022 8:18 AM	Rob Sanderson Jr.
10/11/2022 8:33 AM	Mellisa Johnson
10/11/2022 8:42 AM	Marina Anderson
10/11/2022 8:45 AM	Patrick O'Donnell
10/11/2022 8:50 AM	Ernie Weiss
10/11/2022 8:55 AM	Megan Williams
10/11/2022 9:11 AM	Shawaan Jackson-Gamble
10/11/2022 9:17 AM	Hannah Heimbuch
10/11/2022 9:21 AM	Paul Olson
10/11/2022 9:24 AM	John Iani
10/11/2022 9:34 AM	Teresa Schomogyi
10/11/2022 9:39 AM	Craig Lowenberg
10/11/2022 9:42 AM	Cory Lescher
10/11/2022 9:54 AM	Gretar Gudmundsson

E Staff Tasking Public Testimony Continued

10/11/2022 10:00 AM	Break
10/11/2022 10:21 AM	Linda Behnken
10/11/2022 10:24 AM	Julie Raymond-Yakoubian
10/11/2022 10:26 AM	Joel Jackson
10/11/2022 10:30 AM	Theresa Peterson
10/11/2022 10:34 AM	Marissa Wilson
10/11/2022 10:37 AM	Heather McCarty
10/11/2022 10:47 AM	Mateo Paz-Soldan
10/11/2022 10:52 AM	Marcie Haynes
10/11/2022 10:56 AM	Fay Ewan
10/11/2022 11:00 AM	Break
10/11/2022 11:19 AM	Update on Recreational Fishery Policy – Andy Mezirow
10/11/2022 11:26 AM	Mr. Tweit Motion – Trawl EM Committee
10/11/2022 11:30 AM	Mr. Kurland Motion – Substitute Motion for D5 PCFMAC tabled motion
10/11/2022 11:40 AM	Mr. Kurland Motion – Amending Salmon FMP
10/11/2022 11:57 AM	Lunch break
10/11/2022 12:35 PM	Ms. Drobnica Motion – Vessel Use Cap
10/11/2022 12:47 PM	Ms. Baker Motion – Crab Program Facility Use Cap
10/11/2022 12:56 PM	Mr. Mezirow Motion – Tribal AP Seat
10/11/2022 1:21 PM	Mr. Tweit Motion – PSEIS
10/11/2022 1:44 PM	Ms. Baker speaks to EFH public testimony
10/11/2022 1:46 PM	Announcements – Community Engagement Committee and Plan Teams
10/11/2022 1:50 PM	Meeting Adjourned



NORTH PACIFIC
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

(<https://www.npfmc.org/>).

OUR MEETINGS ▾

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HOW WE WORK ▾

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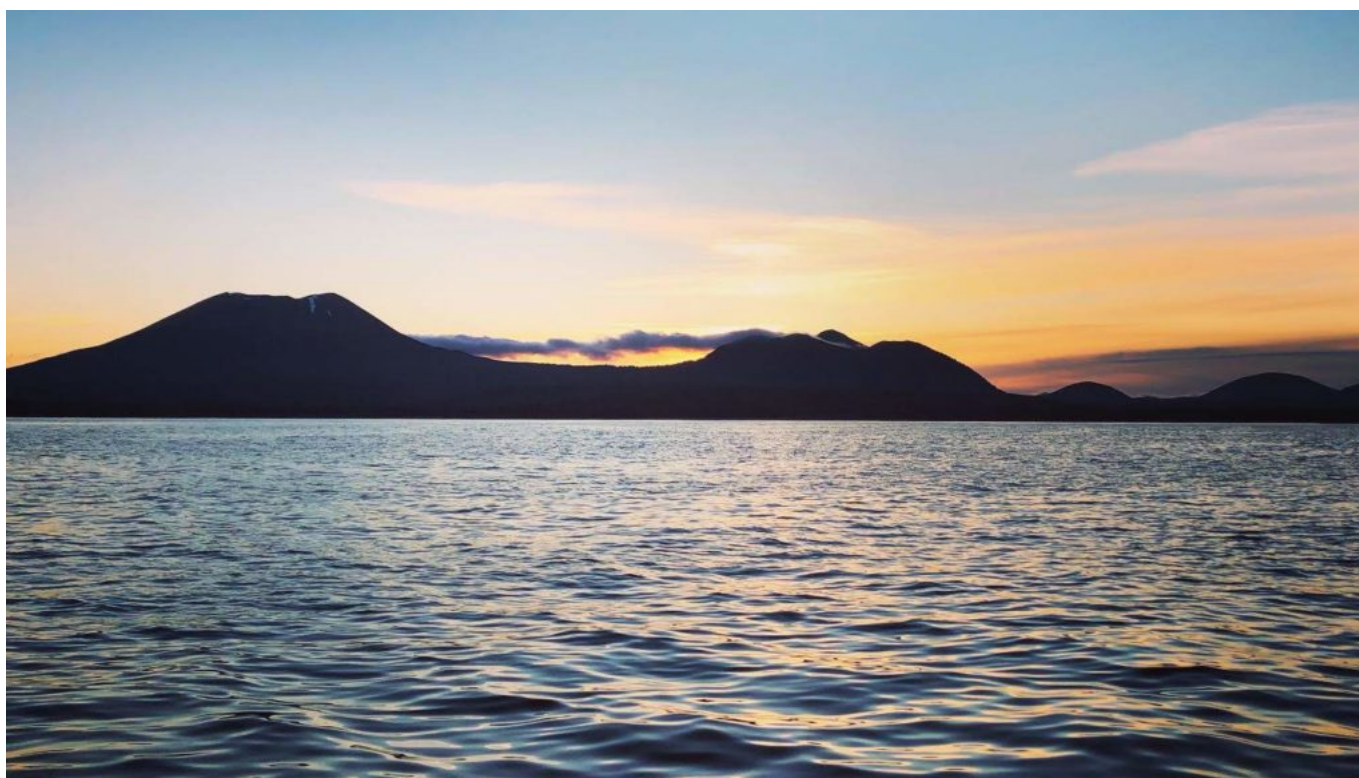
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eAGENDA

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OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



[Elections](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#elections) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#elections>) |
 [Nominations](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#nominations) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#nominations>) |
 [BSAI Crab](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#bsaicrab) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#bsaicrab>) |
 [Small Vessel Access](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#small) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#small>) |
 [Trawl EM](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#em) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#em>) |
 [Greenland Turbot](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#greenland) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#greenland>) |
 [Groundfish Specs](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#specs) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#specs>) |
 [Spatial Management Policy](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#spatial) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#spatial>) |
 [Stock Prioritization](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#stock) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#stock>) |
 [Bristol Bay Red King Crab](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#bbrkc) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#bbrkc>) |
 [Universal Data Collection](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#udc) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#udc>) |
 [AM80 Program Review](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#a80) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#a80>) |
 [PCFMAC](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#pcfmac) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#pcfmac>) |
 [CCTE](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#cctf) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#cctf>) |
 [Ecosystem](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#ecosystem) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#ecosystem>) |
 [EFH](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#efh) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#efh>) |
 [Staff Tasking](https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#staff) (<https://www.npfmc.org/october-2022-newsletter/#staff>).

Elections and New Members

The Council swore in Angel Drobnic as its newest member, and swore in Nicole Kimball for a second term at the beginning of its October meeting. The Council also unanimously re-elected Simon Kinneen as Chair and Bill Tweit as Vice-Chair.

Ms. Drobnic, from Juneau, has participated in the council process as an Advisory Panel member and Chair of the AP. She is the Director of Fisheries and

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Nicole Kimball was re-appointed for a second term. Ms. Kimball is the vice president of the Pacific Seafood Processors Association.

Additionally, Steve Williams joined the Council as a representative of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Mr. Williams is recently retired from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The Council's Advisory Panel convened with an Election of Officers selecting Brian Ritchie as the Chair and Lauren Mitchell and Ruth Christiansen as the Co-Vice Chairs. Matt Upton resigned as the Co-Vice Chair and Angel Drobnic (former AP Chair) was nominated to serve on the Council.

Call for Nominations for AP Tribal Seat

The Council has received consistent and increased engagement from Alaska Native Tribes and communities in its process and wants to ensure Tribal perspectives are included and represented on its Advisory Panel. **The Council is accepting nominations from Alaska Native Tribes and/or Tribal Consortia for one designated Alaska Native Tribal seat on its Advisory Panel.** The Council's intent is to consider applicants for this seat with the same term limits and qualifications as 3-year appointments (pro-rated for the 1st term).

Details about how to apply for this seat can be found [here \(https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2960\)](https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2960). Please note that submissions will be viewable to the public on the webpage for submissions. The nominations period for the designated Alaska Native Tribal seat will be open until 5pm on February 3rd, 2023. This deadline differs from other AP nominations that close at 5pm on November 15th, 2022. The Council chose a later deadline for the designated Alaska Native Tribal seat on its Advisory Panel to have adequate time to notice and reach out to interested members of the public, Tribes, and Tribal Consortia, especially after Typhoon Merbok. Please reach out to Kate Haapala, Council staff, Tribal/rural community liaison, if you have any questions or would like further information, [kate.haapala@noaa.gov \(mailto:kate.haapala@noaa.gov\)](mailto:kate.haapala@noaa.gov); 907-271-2809.


Call for Nominations for SSC and AP

The Council is accepting nominations for its Scientific and Statistical Committee, and its Advisory Panel. Nominations, letters of interest, and a resume should be submitted to the Executive Director through [the comment portal \(https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2943\)](https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2943) by **November 15th at 5 pm** Alaska time. Please note that submissions will be viewable on the webpage.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (<https://www.npfmc.org/about-the-council/advisory-groups/scientific-and-statistical-committee/>) (SSC) nominees should have areas of expertise in biology/stock assessment, marine mammals, statistics, fisheries/resource economics, sociology/anthropology, or other relevant disciplines and be federal employees, state employees, academicians, or independent experts not employed by advocacy or interest groups. SSC members serve one-year terms but may be reappointed. The SSC advises the Council on all aspects of the decision-making process, including stock assessments and annual specifications, protected species interactions, and adequacy of analyses supporting various management actions. New SSC candidates should submit nominations, letters of interest, and a resume to the Executive Director through our [nomination portal \(https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2943\)](https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2943) by **November 15th at 5pm** Alaska time. More information on the terms of reference, appointment process, and duties of SSC members can be found in the [SSC Handbook \(https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=32f535c0-7ab4-468f-8283-41b14b8fbd85.pdf&fileName=E%20SSC%20Handbook%20April%202021.pdf\)](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=32f535c0-7ab4-468f-8283-41b14b8fbd85.pdf&fileName=E%20SSC%20Handbook%20April%202021.pdf).

The **Advisory Panel** (<https://www.npfmc.org/about-the-council/advisory-groups/advisory-panel/>) (AP) is composed of representatives of the fishing industry and others interested in the management of the North Pacific fisheries, and provides advice from those perspectives. AP members generally serve for three-year terms, and may be reappointed for up to two subsequent, consecutive terms. Members of the panel are expected to attend up to five meetings, four to five days in

length, each year. In 2022, we hope to hold meetings in-person, but it is possible that some meetings may need to be held virtually. Note that no seats on the Advisory Panel are designated to a particular stakeholder group or geographical area, and the Council encourages all interested stakeholders to apply. Of paramount importance, the Council will consider the demonstrated ability of the candidate to be objective and to consider all aspects of an issue. More information on the terms of reference, appointment process, and duties of AP members can be found in the [AP Handbook](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=66b0af99-c099-4e23-8f93-0c4f119021ea.pdf&fileName=E%20AP%20Handbook%20April%202021.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=66b0af99-c099-4e23-8f93-0c4f119021ea.pdf&fileName=E%20AP%20Handbook%20April%202021.pdf>).

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BSAI Crab Specifications

2022/2023 OFLs and ABCs

The Council specified OFLs and ABCs for five BSAI crab stocks for the 2022/2023 fishing season. The Council took this action based on SSC recommendations, a review of the crab stocks status, and the BSAI Crab Plan Team's report from their September 2022 meeting. The SSC also received a preview of ecosystem status reports (ESRs) that highlighted areas of concern, noteworthy topics and developing narratives for the Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands. The Council's [motion](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=86297b13-716f-423b-8f06-058fa2ca255d.pdf&fileName=C1%20Council%20Motion.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=86297b13-716f-423b-8f06-058fa2ca255d.pdf&fileName=C1%20Council%20Motion.pdf>) to adopt the 2022/2023 OFLs and ABCs for eastern Bering Sea (EBS) snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, EBS Tanner crab, Saint Matthew blue king crab (SMBKC) and Pribilof Island red king crab is on the eAgenda.

Approval of the SAFE report and BSAI Crab Stock Status

The Council reviewed and approved the final [2022 BSAI Crab SAFE report](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=c0a7a6cc-fed5-4369-a441-b487db9bd60f.pdf&fileName=BSAI%20Crab%20SAFE%202022%20Introduction.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=c0a7a6cc-fed5-4369-a441-b487db9bd60f.pdf&fileName=BSAI%20Crab%20SAFE%202022%20Introduction.pdf>) at this meeting. The SAFE report describes how the status of a crab stock is determined based on a system of five tiers, differentiated by the amount of information that can be generated in the stock assessment. For eight of the ten crab stocks managed by the Council, data are available to support estimation of stock biomass (B), so stock status compares current biomass (i.e., B_{2022}) to target (B_{MSY}) and threshold ($\frac{1}{2} B_{MSY}$) biomass (see Figure below). The final 2022 SAFE report indicates that Aleutian Islands golden king crab, Pribilof Islands red king crab, Norton Sound red king crab, and EBS Tanner crab are all above B_{MSY} , while Bristol Bay red king crab is below B_{MSY} but above $\frac{1}{2} B_{MSY}$, and EBS snow crab, Pribilof Islands blue king crab, and St Matthew blue king crab are below $\frac{1}{2} B_{MSY}$.

The biomass of EBS snow crab, Saint Matthew blue king crab, and Pribilof Islands blue king crab stocks are all below the minimum stock size threshold (MSST) for these stocks, which means that they are overfished. St. Matthew blue king crab and Pribilof Islands blue king crab are under rebuilding plans. An update on rebuilding progress for SMBKC was provided at this meeting, and the SSC noted that SMBKC is rebuilding as expected under the rebuilding plan. EBS snow crab are overfished and a rebuilding plan is being developed (see below). None of the other six crab stocks are overfished or approaching overfished status. None of the crab stocks were subject to overfishing.

Snow Crab Rebuilding Plan

The SSC reviewed rebuilding parameters to include in the upcoming analysis of a rebuilding plan for eastern Bering Sea snow crab. EBS snow crab biomass was declared overfished by NMFS on October 19, 2021. The Council selected draft alternatives for a rebuilding plan in June 2022, and analysis of the rebuilding plan is scheduled to be reviewed by the Council in December. The SSC reviewed several recommended model scenarios for establishing model parameters and the selection of T_{min} and T_{max} , which establish in the plan the minimum and maximum time limits for rebuilding the snow crab stock. The SSC recommended the rebuilding parameters of $T_{min}=6$ years, $T_{max}=10$, using the recruitment and mortality time frame scenarios from 1982-2017. These SSC recommendations will be included in the December 2022 analysis.

BBRKC emergency rule request

Due to ongoing concerns with the status of the Bristol Bay red king crab (BBRKC), the Council [requested](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=1f631d76-5e1f-4d3b-b36c-fa0509c60972.pdf&fileName=D2%20Council%20Motion%20BBRKC.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=1f631d76-5e1f-4d3b-b36c-fa0509c60972.pdf&fileName=D2%20Council%20Motion%20BBRKC.pdf>) a December 2022 review of NMFS' analysis of an [emergency rule request](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=40bf8d06-59df-4c3a-aed0-) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=40bf8d06-59df-4c3a-aed0->

[25a047a9cb00.pdf&fileName=B2%20ABSC%20Oct%202022%20Emergency%20petition.pdf](#)) to prohibit pelagic trawl, pot, and hook-and-line fisheries in the Red King Crab Savings Area and Subarea from January 1 through June 30, 2023. The Council will review the information in the analysis so that it can make an informed recommendation on the emergency rule request.

Support for stock assessment improvements

OUR MEETINGS: The Council supported a proposal for the detailed research needs (https://www.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?ID=33677-786749c-8f60-2b94ed3100f4.pdf&fileName=C1%20SSC%20Report%20DRAFT_BSAI%20Crab.pdf) of the SSC on research and model development for crab stocks. In addition, the Council encourages the formation of a working group to develop a framework for how to estimate the magnitude of unobserved mortality for crab stocks and how these estimations may be utilized in BSAI crab stock assessments.

Staff contact is Sarah Rheinsmith.

BSAI Small Vessel Access

The Council evaluated the final action draft of the Bering Sea Aleutian Island (BSAI) small vessel analysis. After receiving a presentation on the analysis, public comment, and recommendations from the Advisory Panel, the Council selected a preferred alternative to submit to the Secretary of Commerce.

The Council's preferred alternative would redefine the BSAI Pacific cod jig sector during the A-season (January 1–April 30) to include hook-and-line (H&L) and pot catcher vessels (CVs) less than or equal to 55' LOA. The current less than 60' H&L or pot CV sector would also be redefined during the jig A-season so that only the Pacific cod harvest from H&L or pot CVs with a reported LOA between 56-59' would be deducted from the current sector's 2% allocation of Federal BSAI Pacific cod. After the jig sector's A-season ends on April 30, all H&L or pot CVs less than 60' LOA would be in the same sector and eligible for reallocations of Federal BSAI Pacific cod later in the year (typically September–December).

The Council's preferred alternative could provide stability and additional opportunities for fishery participants with smaller H&L or pot CVs less than or equal to 55' LOA, particularly early in the year during the jig sector's A-season.

Staff contact is Kate Haapala.

Trawl Electronic Monitoring

The Council took final action to implement electronic monitoring (EM) on pelagic trawl pollock catcher vessels and tenders delivering to shoreside processors in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. The trawl EM program is designed to use EM for compliance monitoring, meaning that EM video data does not directly feed into catch accounting or stock assessments. Instead, catch accounting uses industry-reported data (verified through EM) and data collected by shoreside observers. Maximized retention ensures that unsorted catch will be delivered and available to be sampled by shoreside observers, allowing for non-biased data to be collected at the trip level by shoreside observers at the processing plant. The trawl EM program has been operating under an exempted fishing permit (EFP) to evaluate the efficacy of EM systems and shoreside observers since 2020. The intended timeline is to implement the regulatory program in 2024 to ensure there is no gap between the EFP and the regulated program. The purpose of the action is to improve catch accounting for salmon, advance cost efficiency, and monitor for compliance with discard restrictions.

This is a voluntary program in which vessels request to enter the EM program each year. Vessels that are not in the trawl EM program remain in full coverage or the partial coverage observer selection pool, to carry an at-sea observer. Vessels participating in the trawl EM program will be required to use EM on all trips using only pelagic trawl gear. All trips using multiple gear types will remain in the observer selection pool.

The Council also clarified that the partial coverage 1.65% fee will be used to pay for EM equipment, service, and maintenance costs for vessels that do not participate in trawl catch share programs with an EM option. Additionally, the fee should be used to pay for housing and food for shoreside observers during deployments at processors to monitor partial coverage directed pelagic pollock deliveries from vessels using EM. Costs for video review in the Bering Sea will be paid for by a new BSAI EM fee. This fee will be calculated as the annual cost of EM review, data storage and transmission for the prior year divided by the proportion of actual annual pollock harvested in the prior year by each vessel that participates in the BSAI trawl EM program.

The Council supported the implementation of industry-managed incentive plans that provide a framework to meet annual performance standards to limit changes in fishing behavior due to the removal of MRA (maximum retainable amount) incidental catch limits and pollock trip limits for vessels participating in the Trawl EM program. These incentive plans will be developed by industry and approved by NMFS, and will be specific to either the Bering Sea or the Gulf of Alaska. Each incentive plan will designate an individual as the plan representative who will be required to submit a written annual report to the Council.

The Council also clarified that should the CDQ or AI pollock fishery be open and prosecuted with catcher vessels, they would not be precluded from the

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Trawl EM Committee

The Council directed the Trawl EM Committee to meet regarding the status of current and potential future EM projects and the future role and appropriate makeup of the Trawl EM Committee. The Committee will report back to the Council at the February meeting with recommendations; public input is encouraged at that time.

Staff contact is Anna Henry.

Greenland Turbot in Longline Pots

The Council completed an initial review of an analysis to authorize the use of longline pot gear when directed fishing for Greenland turbot in the Bering Sea subarea. After reviewing the analysis, the Council released the analysis for final action, adjusted the problem statement, included a new alternative (Alternative 3), and identified a preliminary preferred alternative (PPA). The SSC also reviewed the analysis and suggested some minor modifications to the analysis that staff will incorporate in the final review draft to the extent practicable.

The Council's problem statement including the new language (bolded text) is provided below:

*Whale depredation is precluding directed fishing for Greenland turbot by commercial hook-and-line (HAL) gear vessels in the Bering Sea. Participation in this fishery has been a significant source of income for a number of HAL catcher processor (CP) vessels that primarily target Pacific cod. The importance of turbot fishing increased for these vessels as Pacific cod TACs in the Bering Sea saw major declines between 2012 and 2021. Although single pot gear is currently authorized for Greenland turbot, single pots have not been deployed because of their inefficiency in the depth and location where the fishery occurs. A regulatory amendment that would allow vessels to use longline pots when fishing for Greenland turbot would likely resolve the depredation problem and allow this fishery to resume. Other benefits of reduced whale depredation on Greenland turbot could include improved catch accounting for managers, and data quality for the Greenland turbot stock assessment. **The use of longline pots could disrupt historic and current participants in the HAL CP and the Amendment 80 sectors should it encourage new entrants with no previous activity in the fishery.***

The intent of the new Alternative 3 is to reduce the potential for disruption to the historic and current participants should this new longline pot gear encourage new entrants in the directed Greenland turbot fishery in the Bering sea subarea. Recognizing the potential for disruption, the Council selected Alternative 3 and Option 1 as its preliminary preferred alternative. The existing suite of alternatives and the new alternative are provided below:

Alternative 1: No Action. (Longline pot gear is not authorized for Greenland turbot in the Bering Sea Subarea)

Alternative 2: Authorize the use of longline pot gear when directed fishing for Greenland turbot in the Bering Sea subarea


Alternative 3 (PPA): Authorize the use of longline pot gear only for vessels in the HAL CP sector when directed fishing for Greenland turbot in the Bering Sea subarea

Option 1 (PPA): Exemption from the 9-inch maximum tunnel opening restriction. (The 9-inch maximum tunnel opening requirement does not apply to longline pots used to directed fish for Greenland turbot in the Bering Sea subarea.)

Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

Groundfish Proposed Specifications

The Council received reports from the recent Joint, BSAI, and GOA Groundfish Plan Team meetings and recommended 2023 and 2024 BSAI and GOA groundfish harvest specifications and prohibited species catch (PSC) limit apportionments for proposed rulemaking. The Council also received two Spatial Management Policy Discussion papers on BSAI blackspotted and rougheye rockfish and GOA Demersal Shelf Rockfish, resulting in direction for the GOA DSR complex in 2023 as described below and a modification to the Council's Spatial Management Policy. That modification is described in a separate section of the newsletter.

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The SSC was presented with the Joint Groundfish Plan Team Report, the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team Report, and the GOA Groundfish Plan Team Report that summarized the issues discussed and actions taken by the Plan Teams at their September meetings. The SSC received a preview of ecosystem status reports (ESRs) which highlighted areas of concern, noteworthy topics, and developing narratives for the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska under their C1 Crab Specifications agenda item. Full presentations of these reports will be provided to the Council in December.

The Council received condensed presentations of the Groundfish Plan Team reports that focused on issues most relevant to proposed specifications. Updated groundfish stock assessments will be reviewed by the Plan Teams at the upcoming meetings November 14-18 and the Council will receive full reports at its December meeting prior to recommending final BSAI and GOA groundfish harvest specifications. Highlights from the Joint Plan Team meeting included preliminary survey results and proposed modeling updates.

BSAI Groundfish

For proposed rulemaking for the 2023 and 2024 fishing years, the Council recommended OFLs and ABCs consistent with SSC recommendations, based on rollover of the existing 2023 specifications for all BSAI groundfish stocks. The Council also recommended proposed TACs for all species, PSC limit apportionments for halibut, crab, and herring, and adopted halibut Discard Mortality Rates (DMRs) for 2023 and 2024. Full details are included in the Council [motion](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=56b83d83-d849-4c4d-ba94-3cf868f11773.pdf&fileName=C5%20Council%20Motion%20-%20BSAI%20Groundfish%20Specs.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=56b83d83-d849-4c4d-ba94-3cf868f11773.pdf&fileName=C5%20Council%20Motion%20-%20BSAI%20Groundfish%20Specs.pdf>) for proposed BSAI groundfish harvest specifications.

The Council received a [letter](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=092aa19b-ee57-49fa-8d01-76feedffed28.pdf&fileName=C5%20ADFG%202022%20Chinook%20index%20letter%20to%20NMFS.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=092aa19b-ee57-49fa-8d01-76feedffed28.pdf&fileName=C5%20ADFG%202022%20Chinook%20index%20letter%20to%20NMFS.pdf>) from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) indicating that the combined, post-season sum of the run sizes from the rivers comprising the three-river index (Upper Yukon, Unalakleet, and Kuskokwim Rivers) of Chinook salmon is 158,646 and is below the threshold level of 250,000. Therefore, the performance standard for the Bering Sea pollock fishery will remain at 33,318 Chinook salmon, and the PSC limit will remain at 45,000, as identified in 50 CFR 679.21.

Highlights from the BSAI Plan Team report included results and from the acoustic trawl and bottom trawl surveys. In discussions of BS/RE with the Council as it relates to the spatial management policy (described in a separate article), the BSAI Plan Team will review the full assessment for BS/RE in November and address any resulting spatial issues in accordance with the revised policy at that time. Any further recommendations will come to the Council in December as needed for that stock.

Staff contact for BSAI groundfish is Diana Stram.

GOA Groundfish

For proposed rulemaking for the 2023 and 2024 fishing years, the Council recommended OFLs and ABCs consistent with SSC recommendations, based on rollover of the existing 2023 specifications for all GOA groundfish stocks. The Council also recommended proposed TACs for all species. Lastly, the Council recommended GOA halibut PSC limit apportionments and adopted updated halibut DMRs for 2023 and 2024; full details are included in the [Council motion for the GOA](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=80edfe65-11ce-4c01-a242-5f6dd461c2d3.pdf&fileName=C5%20Council%20Motion%20-%20GOA%20Groundfish%20Specs.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=80edfe65-11ce-4c01-a242-5f6dd461c2d3.pdf&fileName=C5%20Council%20Motion%20-%20GOA%20Groundfish%20Specs.pdf>). Regarding spatial management of the demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) complex, the Council supports consideration of moving the seven DSR species which currently occur in the 'other rockfish' complex (i.e., those occurring to the west of EY/SEO) into the DSR assessment and expanding the DSR complex assessment to be GOA-wide during the 2023 Plan Team cycle when the next full assessment for 'other rockfish' is scheduled. Information should be included on the impacts of this change to both DSR and the 'other rockfish' complex.

Highlights from the GOA Plan Team report included results from the Shelikof winter acoustics survey.

Staff contact for GOA groundfish is Sara Cleaver.

Spatial Management Policy

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The Council reviewed a discussion paper addressing spatial management issues for BSAI black spotted and rougheye rockfish and concerns relating to the overall application of the Spatial Management Policy. Adopted in 2014, the Council's Spatial Management Policy is intended to guide discussions and considerations of spatial management of fish and invertebrate stocks. Based upon clarifications requested by the Joint Groundfish Plan Teams, the Council moved to amend the policy to include the following guidance on iterative reviews of spatial issues:

If the application of the spatial management policy did not result in the Council adopting management changes, the authors and the Plan Teams should continue to monitor and the SSC should advise the Council if there are associated conservation concerns and any changes in the scale of concern, if identified, during the next full assessment cycle.

Staff contacts are Diana Stram and Sara Cleaver.

Stock Prioritization

The Council received a review of the North Pacific stock assessment prioritization process and a proposal for reducing the assessment frequency for candidate groundfish stocks, and supports proposed efficiencies and developing information to consider additional changes in early 2023. The North Pacific approach for applying the National Stock Assessment Prioritization Plan was developed by NMFS and the Council in February 2017. The national plan envisions a common approach for all regions to determine how often their stock assessments would be conducted. Under the approach, assessments for some stocks with consistently low catches relative to harvest limits, and no ongoing management concerns, were reduced in frequency such that formerly annual assessments were switched to a longer (2-4 year) cycle.

In 2017, the Council requested a review be conducted after one complete cycle of the revised assessment frequencies. At this meeting, AFSC staff provided an update on the groundfish assessment process, highlighting increasing demands on AFSC stock assessment authors and reviewers, differentiating the types of assessment conducted in the North Pacific ('benchmark', 'full update' and 'partial update'), and information about the stability in specifications from species that were put on a less frequent assessment cycle. The AFSC also proposed additional recommendations to continue to improve efficiency while maintaining the ability to meet the need for timely and high-quality assessments.

Due to staffing constraints, two groundfish assessments in the BSAI that were slated to have been full assessments in 2022 will now be partial assessments (BSAI flathead sole and BSAI skates). At least nine additional groundfish stocks have been proposed for reduced assessment frequency beginning in 2023. On the recommendation of the SSC, the Council endorsed AFSC staff recommendations on developing revised groundfish SAFE guidelines and standards of documentation for the different types of assessment, and best practices for producing stock assessments. The Council also supports AFSC staff preparing a discussion paper for review in early 2023 which summarizes stock-specific metrics and considerations for the candidate groundfish stocks. The SSC requested the groundfish and crab Plan Teams provide input on the AFSC workproducts, and specifically requested that the Crab Plan Team conduct a similar process to re-evaluate stock prioritization for BSAI crab assessments.

Staff contact is Diana Stram.

BBRKC discussion paper

At this meeting the Council identified the Bristol Bay red king crab (BBRKC) and Bering Sea snow crab stocks as a priority conservation concern. The Council provided direction to address this level of concern through several avenues. First, the Council will consider an emergency rulemaking petition in December 2022. Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers submitted an emergency petition to the to the Secretary of Commerce under section 305(c)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to close the Red King Crab Savings Area and the Red King Crab Savings Subarea to all fishing gears from January 1, 2023 to

June 30, 2023. NMFS invited the Council to review and provide input on this request. **The Council intends to review an analysis for an emergency rule request prepared by NMFS staff and provide any recommendation to the Secretary in December 2022.** This analysis could also be used as a basis to initiate a regulatory amendment in December through the normal rule making process to consider permanently closing the savings area and subarea to some or all gear types.

Secondly, the Council received feedback from the public through a Request for Information (RFI) on a number of topics including: voluntary measures that could be implemented as soon as 2023 to avoid BBRKC and reduce crab mortality in non-directed fisheries, measures to reduce discard mortality in the directed crab

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better evaluate unobserved mortality of crab due to trawl gear interactions. The Council appreciated industry responses to requests for information on voluntary measures and encourages all sectors to implement these voluntary measures in the 2023 season. **The Council requests trade association representatives in both the non-directed sectors and the directed crab fishing sectors provide a status report on the efficacy of these measures in December 2023.**

Based on projects described in the Request for Information and public testimony, **the Council encourages continued research and testing on:**

- pot gear modifications, soak times and handling practices that reduce unintended mortality of crab PSC
- evaluating the interactions of pelagic trawl gear with the sea floor and crab to inform gear modifications to reduce unintended mortality of crab PSC and impacts on benthic habitat
- methods to gather data on interannual and seasonal distribution of crab, such as additional surveys and tagging studies

ADF&G staff also intend to work with Council and NMFS staff to develop a draft workplan targeted at addressing Bristol Bay red king crab and Eastern Bering Sea snow crab conservation concerns and the need for a comprehensive ecosystem-based approach for crab research and management. The workplan will prioritize reducing fishing impacts on molting and mating crab, providing protections to improve recruitment, protecting habitat, and building in resilience to changing environmental conditions, predation, and fishing pressure. This may include promoting specific areas of research and/ or further development of conservation and management actions focused on restoring and sustaining BSAI crab stocks. **ADF&G will provide the draft workplan for the Council's consideration at the December meeting.**

Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

Universal Data Collection

The Council reviewed and provided direction on a discussion paper which identified a few data components that could be collected across all federal fishing sectors to improve Fishery Management Plan amendment and regulatory impact analyses. In particular, staff identified potential pathways for collecting data on 1) crew licenses, 2) crew positions, 2) fuel/ lube costs, and 4) regulatory expenses (e.g., lease costs).

In response, the Council directed staff to prepare an expanded discussion paper evaluating implementation of a universal data collection program to collect ADF&G or CFEC crew license data; crew compensation; and number of crew positions on vessels operating in federal fisheries. Staff were asked to evaluate the scale of data to be collected by fishery and area, and outline a simple annual collection mechanism(s) and associated cost/burden. The paper will also evaluate the associated analytical value and ability of NMFS to collect quota lease costs as part of the annual quota applications administered by the NMFS Restricted Access Management Division, for those programs that currently do not report lease costs.

Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

Amendment 80 Program Review

The Council and its advisory bodies reviewed and approved the Amendment 80 workplan for the required first 7-year program review for the Amendment 80 Program, and the workplan for its required allocation review.

The Amendment 80 Program (AM80 Program) has been in place since the 2008 fishing year. Section 303A(c)(1)(G) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act states that all Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPP) must include provisions for regular monitoring and review. A formal and detailed review must occur 5 years after implementation of the LAPP (which occurred in October 2014) and every 7 years thereafter. This 7-year review will assess whether the program is

continuing to meet the Council's original goals and, if not, highlight those program areas that appear to diverge from those goals.

In addition, the Council is also required to conduct an AM80 Program allocation review based on NMFS Fisheries Allocation Policy Directive that was published in July 2016. Allocation reviews are intended to be a brief periodic review of the allocation to ensure it is contributing to overall groundfish optimal yield under current conditions.

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The Council approved the Workplan and asked staff to include information on revenues by communities from the harvest of CDQ installations of Amendment 80 species, and include the SSC's suggestions to the extent practicable.

Staff contact is Sam Cunningham

PCFMAC

The Council received a report from the Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC) which summarized recommendations coming out of the committee's recent meeting. Per Council direction in June, the purpose of the meeting was for the committee to receive an update on the [Partial Observer Coverage Cost Efficiencies Integrated Analysis](#) for the Draft 2024 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP). This analysis is intended to evaluate deployment designs to more efficiently spend observer fee revenues (fixed as a percentage of ex-vessel revenue) such that greater coverage and/or improved monitoring is achieved using both observers and electronic monitoring (EM). The analysis is being conducted in 2022 and early 2023, will be released for public and Council review in mid-2023, and incorporated into the 2024 ADP. The Council will review the draft 2024 Observer ADP at its October 2023 meeting.

The Council supported the Committee's recommendations (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=b57f74ae-9818-42ab-9abf-de782b32bc34.pdf&fileName=C5%20Council%20Motion%20.pdf>) for analytical staff to provide further description and evaluation of the proposed deployment designs, evaluation criteria, and underlying assumptions for the partial coverage cost efficiencies analysis as outlined in the September 2022 PCFMAC report. The Council also supported the agency providing an abbreviated 2022 Observer Annual Report (Chapters 3 and 4) in June 2023, in order to make analytical time for these requests and complete the cost efficiencies analysis in time for incorporation in the draft 2024 Observer ADP.

Under staff tasking, the Council tasked the PCFMAC with considering the potential implications of allowing fishing vessels to contract directly with observer providers as a potential way to reduce costs and/or increase observer coverage in the partial coverage component of the observer program. However, the Council intends that this work should not begin until the PCFMAC completes the broader cost efficiencies analysis that is currently in progress, and that the PCFMAC will recommend how to prioritize this new tasking relative to other priorities being considered by the committee.

Staff contact is Sara Cleaver.

Climate Change Taskforce and Climate Readiness Synthesis Report

The Council reviewed a draft Climate Readiness Synthesis report prepared by the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Climate Change Taskforce (CCTF) and supports continued leadership by the Taskforce to finalize the report and begin to identify a toolbox of adaptive and resilient management measures. The CCTF has compiled the Climate Readiness Synthesis as a starting point for the Council in ascertaining how "climate ready" the current management system is overall, meaning whether management tools, assessments, and information on-ramps are designed to address and consider long-term climate change and the unprecedented conditions and unique challenges that it presents (in contrast to addressing natural *climate variability*). The report also identifies opportunities to augment existing management for improved climate resilience.

The Council also received an update on ongoing work under the Alaska Climate Integrated Modeling project (ACLIM), and an overview of the findings of the 6th assessment from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). ACLIM represents a comprehensive effort by AFSC and partners to describe and project responses of the Bering Sea ecosystem – both the physical environment and human communities – to varying climate conditions. This effort informs managers of the risks of climate change on fish and fisheries and enables the evaluation of a range of adaptation strategies.

The Council indicated its support for the ongoing work of the Climate Change Taskforce and the development of the draft Climate Readiness Synthesis Report, and the Council directs staff to incorporate comments from SSC, Ecosystem Committee, and Council review at this meeting, and to bring back the revised Report in February 2023. The Council also endorses the next phase of the Taskforce workplan to lead consideration of near-term adjustments to support additional resiliency. In particular, the Council supports holding public climate change scenario-planning workshops in order to build out adaptive and resilient management measures. The CCTF will develop a plan for such a workshop for the February 2023 meeting.

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Ecosystem Newsletter

The Council received a [report \(https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=6dc44d09-65bd-48e9-baa1-6f9be789b23a.pdf&fileName=D7%20Ecosystem%20Committee%20October%202022%20Report.pdf\)](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=6dc44d09-65bd-48e9-baa1-6f9be789b23a.pdf&fileName=D7%20Ecosystem%20Committee%20October%202022%20Report.pdf) from the Ecosystem Committee regarding their October meeting and supported Committee recommendations. The Committee's agenda focused on issues linked to climate change. Based on the Committee's report, the Council:

- endorsed the recommendation to review the Essential Fish Habitat 5-year Review Summary Report at a future meeting, likely February 2023.
- supported the Committee's recommendation for the Climate Change Taskforce to continue to identify possible adjustments to improve climate readiness, develop a toolbox for climate resilient management, and plan an inclusive workshop for stakeholder engagement (see also separate newsletter).
- tasked staff with a discussion paper to provide a basis for beginning informal scoping that will inform revisions to the 2004 programmatic groundfish fishery evaluation (PSEIS) to better address the impacts of climate change with respect to groundfish fisheries.

The Committee was scheduled to discuss developing a scoping process for a potential GOA Fishery Ecosystem Plan, but this will be taken up at a future meeting. The Council also received notice of opportunities for stakeholder engagement with the development of an Alaska Marine Debris Action Plan, which NMFS is spearheading this fall. The Committee plans to meet again prior to the February Council meeting.

Staff contact is Nicole Watson.

Essential Fish Habitat 5-year Review

The SSC reviewed two components of the essential fish habitat (EFH) 5-year review report that is being prepared for Council review early in 2023, and recommended using the descriptions and maps of EFH by species as presented, and methodology and estimates from evaluating the effects of fishing on EFH as a reasonable basis for the determination of habitat disturbance. Based on the information provided, the SSC finds that the 2022 FE evaluation supports the continued conclusion that the adverse effects of fishing activity on EFH are minimal and temporary in nature, and that no species should be elevated for mitigation due to fishing impacts.

Staff reported on additional information gathered from the species distribution model (SDM)-based EFH maps, which have also undergone additional review by stock assessment authors. The SSC found that overall, the additional information provided clarity and transparency for those stocks where stock authors exhibited concerns. For the fishing effects model, the SSC found that the results brought forth during this analysis are the best available scientific data, and all results exhibit that the fishing effects on the FMP species assessed are minimal and temporary in nature. This endorsement allows analysts to incorporate the results of the fishing effects model into EFH definitions brought forth in the EFH 5-year review summary report.

The EFH 5-year Summary Report will contain an evaluation of all ten EFH components, which in addition to those already identified, include effects on habitat of non-Federal fisheries, non-fishing activities, and cumulative impacts; EFH conservation recommendations and habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC); consideration of prey species; and research needs. The SSC identified several recommendations for areas of future research to incorporate into the next EFH 5-year review as noted in their report. Specifically, the SSC encourages further consideration of what products or areas of research are necessary to satisfy EFH regulatory requirements as compared to what would benefit fishery management more generally, and whether a working group of EFH analysts and SSC members should be created to guide future research in this area.

The Council is tentatively scheduled to review the 2022 EFH 5-year Review Summary Report in February 2023. Staff contact is Sarah Rheinsmith.

Staff Tasking

The Council discussed the relative priority and scheduling of previously-tasked projects, and identified new tasking. The revised [3 meeting outlook](mailto:https://www.npfmc.org/3meeting/) (<mailto:https://www.npfmc.org/3meeting/>), reflects this guidance.

Under the Executive Director's report, staff provided an update on two issues from the "Council process ideas for change" paper that the Council has been considering throughout 2022. With respect to harvest specifications timing and details, the subject of Annual Board meetings from NOAA. No Council decision point was suggested for the October meeting, and staff will report back in April 2023. The Council will hold both the February 2023 and February 2024 meetings in Seattle, WA.

Following review of the **Council advisory groups**, the Council took the following actions:

- Call for nominations for a newly established [Alaska Tribal representative seat](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=add6309d-7bee-43c0-8b4f-1310ae91d857.pdf&fileName=E%20Motion%20-%20Tribal%20AP%20Seat.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=add6309d-7bee-43c0-8b4f-1310ae91d857.pdf&fileName=E%20Motion%20-%20Tribal%20AP%20Seat.pdf>), on the **Advisory Panel** (see also separate newsletter).
- Appointed Dr. Ben Williams and Dr. Cecilia O'Leary to the **GOA Groundfish Plan Team**.
- Appointed Ernie Weiss and Megan Onders to the **Community Engagement Committee**.
- Directed the **Trawl EM Committee** to report back in February with the status of current and future EM projects.
- Tasked the **Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee** to consider implications of vessels contracting directly with observer providers, once work on the broader cost efficiencies analysis is complete.

The Council provided the following **direction and guidance**:

- Write a letter to NOAA Fisheries with support for and comments on the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries [policy](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/recreational-fishing/national-saltwater-recreational-fisheries-policy) (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/recreational-fishing/national-saltwater-recreational-fisheries-policy>).
- Request to NMFS to consider public testimony on the interim policy establishing a minimum age of 18 years old for the issuance of a Transfer Eligibility Certificate, and direction to staff to include this issue as part of the IFQ program review.

Under the B reports, the NMFS Alaska Regional Office reported that due to staffing issues that they are working to resolve, it is having to prioritize staff workload. The highest priority items are those that keep fishing operational and prevent overfishing (in-season management, monitoring programs, specifications, halibut management measures), legal mandates (for example, rebuilding plans, freedom of information act requests, and litigation), and responding to emergency rules. As time becomes available, NMFS staff can work on FMP and regulatory amendments, with a priority on conservation, legal considerations, Council priorities, and proximity to mandatory deadlines. Rulemaking for final actions will be a higher priority than input on analyses that are making way through Council process.



As a result, the Council reviewed an [assessment](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=1efaab07-1095-41cb-9730-d7771ef8c376.pdf&fileName=E%20Assessment%20of%20projects%20Oct%202022.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=1efaab07-1095-41cb-9730-d7771ef8c376.pdf&fileName=E%20Assessment%20of%20projects%20Oct%202022.pdf>), of how currently tasked projects (i.e., those that appear on the 3-meeting outlook either scheduled or in the batter's box) match with NMFS priorities. High priority items will continue to move through the Council process as normal. For lower priority items, the Council acknowledged that for the immediate future, staff will be less predictive about when items can be scheduled on the 3-meeting outlook, if they require input from NMFS staff before a Council decision, and instead will capitalize on windows of availability to move projects along. The Council was cautioned to prepare for a longer time between Council final action and implementation, and staff noted that a backlog in implementation could result in duplicative efforts as staff is required to update analyses on which the Council has taken final action with new information.

The Council tasked staff with the following **new projects**:

- An [analysis](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=7f020597-204a-4ff5-8e3e-39ac23c99246.pdf&fileName=E%20Motion%20-%20Salmon%20FMP%20Amendment.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=7f020597-204a-4ff5-8e3e-39ac23c99246.pdf&fileName=E%20Motion%20-%20Salmon%20FMP%20Amendment.pdf>) for a **new amendment to the Salmon FMP**, building on the final review draft considered by the Council in December 2020 but with a revised purpose and need statement. The amendment to the Salmon FMP is a direct response to a recent summary judgment opinion of the Alaska District Court.
- An [analysis](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=590f1ebe-a881-4749-9370-fa214aad45e.pdf&fileName=E%20Motion%20-%20Vessel%20Use%20Cap%20.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=590f1ebe-a881-4749-9370-fa214aad45e.pdf&fileName=E%20Motion%20-%20Vessel%20Use%20Cap%20.pdf>) to provide continued **vessel use cap flexibility** through 2027 to IFQ participants in IPHC Area 4 while the Council

analyzes options for a long-term adjustment. The Council acknowledged that the longer-term analysis will likely be delayed given NMFS' workload constraints.

- A [change](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=e828964a-0a92-483c-803f-9403aa6de363.pdf&fileName=E%20Motion%20-%20Crab%20Program%20Facility%20Use%20Cap.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=e828964a-0a92-483c-803f-9403aa6de363.pdf&fileName=E%20Motion%20-%20Crab%20Program%20Facility%20Use%20Cap.pdf>), to the Council's tasking for a discussion paper to look at adjustments in the **Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab**, to bifurcate the action and address the crab program facility use cap issue (which requires less analytical input from NMFS staff) on a faster timeline.

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This discussion paper (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=6000-4f6f-851e-f607039744df.pdf&fileName=E%20Motion%20-%20PSEIS.pdf>), for a roadmap and timeline for reevaluating the Programmatic Groundfish Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (PSEIS), in order to better address the impacts of climate change. The initial work for the discussion paper and compilation of information would be prepared by Council staff.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Upcoming Meetings

The following Committee and Plan Team meetings are currently anticipated:

- **Charter Halibut Management Committee** (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2956>) – October 21, 2022; Anchorage, AK/hybrid
- **Joint Groundfish Plan Teams** – week of November 14-18, 2022; Seattle, WA/hybrid
- **Salmon Bycatch Committee** – November 2022 (T)
- **BSAI Crab Plan Team** special meeting to review snow crab rebuilding – November 2022 (T); virtual
- **BS FEP Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence Taskforce** (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2954>) (LTKTS) – December 5, 2022; Anchorage, AK
- **Charter Halibut Management Committee** – December 7, 2022; Anchorage, AK/hybrid
- **BSAI Crab Plan Team** – January 17-20, 2023; Kodiak, AK (T)/hybrid
- **Joint Groundfish Plan Teams** special meeting to review stock prioritization – January 2023 (T); virtual
- **Trawl Electronic Monitoring Committee** – January 2023 (T)
- **Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC)** – January 2023
- **Ecosystem Committee** – January 2023 (T)

The SSC is also hosting an [SSC workshop](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=58d992d0-ab32-4690-89b5-40b4768f521b.pdf&fileName=B1%20SSC%20Workshop%20Feb%202023%20Flyer.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=58d992d0-ab32-4690-89b5-40b4768f521b.pdf&fileName=B1%20SSC%20Workshop%20Feb%202023%20Flyer.pdf>), on February 7-8, 2022, as part of the Council meeting in Seattle, WA.

Also, the Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) is developing an annual workshop program for the North Pacific. By and for those involved in and impacted by fisheries, MREP provides fishermen and others with an interest in federal fisheries with an opportunity to gain insight into how fisheries data are collected and how those data lead to regulations. The first North Pacific Fisheries Science and Management Workshop has been scheduled for April 24-28, 2023, in Juneau, AK. The workshop is free to participants; more information and applications to participate can be found at: <https://mrep.gmri.org/apply>

We respectfully acknowledge that the Council regularly meets, and its staff office resides, in Anchorage on Dena'ina homelands. The Council wants to honor the Dena'ina, the Indigenous Peoples who have stewarded this land across generations and continue to do so. We are glad to be part of this community, and to honor the culture, resilience, and tradition of the Dena'ina people.

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