

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

News and Notes



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Halibut Charterboat Management



The Council reviewed two halibut management issues at this meeting. The Council reviewed and released to the public the analysis for implementing a *guideline harvest level* (GHL) and management measures to keep harvests under the GHL for the halibut charter fishery in Gulf of Alaska Areas 2C and 3A. It adopted the restructured alternatives as proposed by the staff to simplify the decision-making process (Attachment 1) and added to the analysis: (1) possession limits as a possible management tool; (2) a 3-year rolling average for determining whether an area GHL is exceeded; (3) an option to apply the GHL as a percentage to the constant exploitation yield (CEY) by area after non-guided sport and personal use deductions are made, but prior to deductions for commercial bycatch and wastage; (4) additional discussion of economic characterizations of the commercial and charter fisheries (particularly for Area 2C); and (5) additional discussion of implementation and trigger mechanisms during periods of low halibut abundance. It deleted an option that would have closed the halibut charter fishery in-season if the GHL was exceeded. The analysis will be available from the Council office and on the website by January 10. For final action in February, staff will also provide: (1) an update of the revised stock assessment and quotas as a result of the IPHC Annual Meeting in January 2000 and potential impacts on the analytical conclusions in the EA/RIR/IRFA and (2) estimated implementation costs.

Halibut Subsistence

The Council also reviewed a list of alternatives for defining *halibut subsistence* in Alaska from an analysis prepared in 1997. Management measures for halibut subsistence were first developed to address a conflict between the IFQ/CDQ regulations and customary and traditional practices of Alaska Natives in IPHC regulatory Area 4E, whereby halibut CDQ fishermen

were retaining undersized halibut for subsistence. In June 1997, the Council approved and the IPHC adopted a change in the halibut regulations to allow Area 4E CDQ fishermen to retain undersized halibut while commercial fishing. That measure took effect June 4, 1998, and sunsets on December 31, 1999. The Council did not include a sunset date, but the IPHC wanted to ensure an adequate data collection program. The Council sent a letter of support to the IPHC that it extend this IPHC regulation with no sunset date at its January meeting.

The Council reviewed the larger issue of defining eligibility, legal gear, customary and traditional trade, bag limits, and cooperative management. The Council revised the list of alternatives (Attachment 2) and set initial review of the revised analysis in April and final action in June 2000. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

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Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Specifications for 2000

The Council approved the combined BSAI/GOA EA/RIR/IRFA/SAFE and GOA total Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for 2000 of 431,830 mt, a 19% decrease from the total 1999 ABCs of 532,590 mt. The overall Total Allowable Catch (TAC) was set at 296,660 mt, a 3% decrease from the 1999 TACs of 306,535 mt. Table 1 shows ABCs and TACs for the GOA for 2000. Overall, the stock status in the Gulf of Alaska continues to appear relatively stable. The pollock ABC of 100,000 mt in 2000 stayed roughly the same as the 1999 ABC of 100,900 mt. The ABC recommendation for arrowtooth flounder dropped by 72,000 mt. ABCs and TACs dropped slightly for most other flatfish species. ABCs and TACs increased slightly for some rockfish species and dropped slightly for others.

The Pacific cod ABC dropped to 76,400 mt, down from 84,400 mt in 1999. The stock assessment continues to estimate a declining stock. The TAC was reduced to 59,800 mt to account for landings in the State fishery. According to ADF&G, the South Alaska Peninsula likely will take its full allocation in 1999, and will automatically ramp up in 2000 to 25% of the Federal ABC for the Western area. Therefore, the State fishery is expected to harvest 21.7% of the Federal ABC (16,600 mt).

The sablefish ABC/TAC increased by 5%, from 12,700 mt in 1999 to 13,330 mt in 2000. This increase reflected a 5% increase in weight and 10% increase in abundance relative to the 1998 longline survey. The Council adopted ABCs and TACs based on the fishery and survey-based apportionments, while the Plan Team and SSC based their recommendations on survey catch rate alone. The Council then combined the sablefish ABCs for the West Yakutat and East Yakutat/Southeast Outside (EY/SEO) areas to allow for a reallocation of the 5% eastern Gulf trawl allocation to West Yakutat due to the trawl prohibition east of 140° W longitude implemented in 1998.

The "other species" category, including sharks, skates, sculpins, squid, and octopus, was recommended as bycatch fisheries only. No changes were made to the Prohibited Species Caps (PSC) limits for halibut. The Council adopted IPHC's recommended halibut discard mortality rates as recommended by IPHC staff shown in Tables 2 and 3. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

Groundfish SEIS

NMFS prepared a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the groundfish fisheries authorized under the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands fishery management plans in December 1998. The U.S. District Court ruled in Greenpeace v. NMFS that the 1998 SEIS was legally inadequate, and remanded the document to NMFS for further action consistent with the requirements of NEPA. NMFS published a Notice of Intent to prepare a programmatic SEIS on Federal groundfish fishery management in the EEZ waters off Alaska in the *Federal Register* October 1, 1999. The scope of the analysis is to include all activities addressing the conduct of groundfish fisheries authorized and managed under both FMPs. NMFS published a supplementary notice on November 3, 1999 that presents a number of thematic alternatives for purposes of scoping and to stimulate public comment. This notice also announced NMFS' response to the Council's October request to extend the public scoping period, which was extended until December 15, 1999. NMFS has developed a proposed work schedule and held a series of scoping meetings during the week of November 8-12, 1999, in Juneau, Anchorage, Kodiak, Alaska, and in Seattle, Washington. Council staff contact is Jane DiCosimo. Steve Davis (907/271-3523) is the lead staff for NMFS.

Council and Board of Fish Issues

At this meeting the Council took a preliminary look at several proposals which will be considered by the Alaska Board of Fish this spring. As part of the joint protocol adopted by the two management bodies, the Council may provide comment to the BOF (and vice-versa) on issues of mutual concern, including annual management proposals. A meeting of the joint Committee, consisting of three members from each body, will be held on January 28, 2000 in Anchorage (at the Regal Alaskan Hotel) to discuss these proposals and other issues of mutual concern. The full Council and Board will meet on Tuesday, February 8 at the Anchorage Hilton and will review recommendations from the joint Committee. Staff contact is Chris Oliver.

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish Specifications

The Council adopted final groundfish specifications for the 2000 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish fisheries, including Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), Total Allowable Catch (TAC), and Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits and apportionments. The Council recommendations for ABCs, TACs, and apportionments are listed in Table 4. Abundance of Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish is high overall, but some stocks (cod, flatfish) are projected to decline in the short term due to poor recruitment. None of the groundfish stocks are overfished or approaching an overfished condition.

The pollock stock in the Eastern Bering Sea continues to remain healthy, with current spawning biomass estimated to be 18% above the biomass level that produces maximum sustainable yield (MSY). Projected 2000 biomass of age 3+ pollock in the Eastern Bering Sea stock was estimated at 7.7 million mt. Biomass has increased with recruitment of a strong 1996 year-class, and is expected to remain stable in the near future. Although the maximum allowable ABC for this stock based on an MSY fishing rate is 1.2 million mt, the plan team and SSC recommended a more conservative harvest strategy for 2000 to account for uncertainties in recruitment and other information. Based on this advice, the Council recommended a 1,139,000 mt ABC and TAC for Eastern Bering Sea pollock, an increase of about 13% (147,000 mt) from 1999. Seasonal and area allocations of the pollock TAC have been established by rules to protect Steller sea lions (see related newsletter item). The pollock TAC for the Aleutian Islands area was set at bycatch amounts only (2,000 mt), and 1,000 mt for the Bogoslof district. The Council recommended that no directed fishing for pollock occur in these areas given current low abundance and the importance of pollock as prey for Steller sea lions.

The Council recommended a 193,000 mt TAC for Pacific cod, which was 9% higher than last year. This increase was based on a higher estimated biomass. Nevertheless, the stock is projected to decline through 2003, because most recent year classes have been below average. Under the allocations of Amendment 46, 2% of the TAC will be reserved for jig gear, 51% for fixed gear (longline and pot gear), and 47% for trawl gear. The

trawl apportionment will be split between catcher vessels and catcher-processors 50/50. For the fixed gear seasonal apportionment of Pacific cod, the Council recommends that 65,000 mt be released the first trimester (January 1 - April 30), none for the second trimester (May 1 - September 1), and 26,048 mt for the third trimester.

Additional precaution was taken to protect other stocks that are declining or to address uncertainty in the assessment. Greenland turbot has declined since 1975 due to poor recruitment. Given the status of this stock and a projected continued decline, the 2000 TAC was set at only 9,300 mt, which is 73% below the ABC. The ABC for Atka mackerel was reduced, and the TAC for other species (sharks, skates, sculpins, and octopus) was set well below the recommended ABC to address uncertainty. Apportionment of the ABC and TAC for sablefish was based in part on fishery data.

Recommended apportionments of prohibited species catch (PSC) limits for 2000 are listed in Table 5 (trawl fisheries) and Table 6 (non-trawl fisheries). PSC limits for herring, red king crab, bairdi crab, and opilio crab are based on biomass. Halibut and crab PSC limits were further reduced due to pending regulations prohibiting the use of bottom trawl gear in the pollock fishery. For 2000, crab PSC limits will be 97,000 red king crab, 830,000 bairdi crab in Zone 1 and 2,520,000 bairdi crab in Zone 2, and 4,350,000 opilio crab. Halibut PSC was established at 3,675 mt of mortality. The Council recommended that no halibut PSC be apportioned to directed trawl fisheries for turbot, sablefish, or arrowtooth flounder. This recommendation essentially prohibits directed fishing for these species with trawl gear. The Council again recommended that pot gear, jig gear, and sablefish hook-and-line fisheries be exempt from the non-trawl PSC program for 2000. Staff contact is David Witherell.

Attention Website Users

If you are a regular visitor to the Council's website you're aware that agendas and newsletters, as well as notices of committee meetings and other activities appear there *well ahead* of the hard copy being dispatched by snail mail. **The question is, do you still need a "hard copy"?** If you have already printed yourself a hard copy from our website and then days later receive the exact same thing by snail mail, why not save some trees, postage, and staff time? If you would prefer to be removed from our "hard copy" mailing list for agendas and newsletters, please notify Maria Shawback by e-mail: Maria.Shawback@noaa.gov.

BSAI Pacific Cod License Limitation Program

The Council provided staff with direction on two specific aspects of the fixed gear BSAI Pacific cod License Limitation Program analysis scheduled for initial review in February and final review in April. First, the Council indicated that the analysis should provide information which would allow a different qualification criteria for pot catcher vessels and pot catcher processors. The list of options to determine if a vessels qualifies, developed at the October meeting, will be applied separately to pot catcher vessels and catcher processors. The Council also voted not to include any analysis of grandfather provisions in the analysis for initial review in February. However, the Council did notice the public that they would reconsider the grandfather provision at the February meeting. At that time they may add a grandfather provision into the analysis that would be available for final review by the Council in April.

If implemented by the Council, this program would add a Pacific cod endorsement to licenses held by fixed gear vessels that qualify for either a BS and/or AI area endorsement under the current LLP and meet the Pacific cod endorsement qualification criteria. At the earliest, Pacific cod endorsements would not be added to groundfish licenses until the 2001 fishing season.

On a related issue, the Council initiated a separate amendment that would divide the BSAI Pacific cod pot allocation among catcher vessels and catcher processors. This analysis would build on the information provided to the Council in October when they approved an allocation of BSAI Pacific cod among the fixed gear sectors. No schedule has been identified at this time for the initial and final review of this amendment package. Staff contact is Darrell Brannan.

Essential Fish Habitat

The interim final rule to implement the essential fish habitat (EFH) provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act was published in the Federal Register on December 19, 1997. On November 8, 1999, NMFS announced that it was reopening a public comment period to assist in developing final regulations for implementing essential fish habitat measures. Comments on four specific issues (improving regulatory guidance regarding description

and identification of EFH, providing guidance on how Regional Councils might document efforts to minimize the effects of fishing on EFH, evaluating environmental review procedures and EFH consultation, and modifying the EFH assessment requirement) will be accepted by NMFS through December 23, 1999. In their review, the Council felt that the interim final rule as written provides effective protection for EFH. Staff contact is David Witherell.

Steller Sea Lions

NMFS staff provided an update on the status of litigation on two claims pertaining to the Endangered Species Act and the potential effects of groundfish fisheries on Steller sea lions. First, the Plaintiffs have challenged the "no jeopardy" finding of the biological opinion on 1999 TAC specifications. NMFS hopes that this claim will be dismissed, as the 1999 fisheries are nearly over and the agency is in the process of preparing a subsequent opinion on TAC specifications for 2000. Second, Plaintiffs and Defendant-Intervenors are challenging the merits of the Revised Final Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives (RFRPAs) issued by NMFS. Briefing is underway for these challenges, but a complete schedule has not yet been established for resolution of this issue. In addition, the Court has recently requested that the parties consider mediation of these matters, and has requested that the parties consider designation of a scientific expert to assist the Court. The parties met in Portland, Oregon on December 2, 1999, to consider these requests, but have not yet come to any agreement on these matters.

Dr. Tim Regan reviewed the proposed rule for 2000 to implement the RFRPAs. It is anticipated that these measures will be implemented by emergency rule. A summary of these measures was provided in a handout distributed at the meeting (copies can be obtained from the Council office). A table showing the allocation of the proposed 1,139 mmt BSAI pollock TAC is shown in the attached table (Table 7). The table shows allocation among sector, season, directed fishery allowance (DFA), and amount allowed in the Sea Lion Conservation Area (SCA) (formerly called the Critical Habitat/Catcher Vessel Operational Area).

NMFS held a discussion meeting on Thursday, December 9, 1999 to provide an opportunity for members of the public to present their ideas on matters related to adaptive management of the groundfish fisheries and their potential effects on Steller sea lions. A range of related subtopics were discussed, including the definition of adaptive management, the scope of this approach (i.e., should it be applied to all matters related

to management of groundfish fisheries), and planned experiments that should facilitate our understanding of fishery effects on pollock distribution and abundance. Drs. Anne Hollowed and Chris Wilson of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center presented an overview of a study design focused on this last point. At present, the study is expected to require at least 4 years of work, will occur to the east and southeast of Kodiak Island, and will require considerable coordination and cooperation between the scientists and the fishing industry.

Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee Appointments

One vacancy on the 11-member Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) was filled by the appointment of **Larry Hendricks**. The PNCIAC was formed by the Council to provide the Bering Sea crab industry from the Pacific Northwest access to the Alaska regulatory process, similar to that of Alaskan residents. The committee meets several times a year to review proposed changes in crab fishery regulations and receive updates on the status of crab stocks off Alaska. Other members reappointed to two-year terms are:

Dave Benson, Trident Seafoods
Phil Hanson, Unisea, Inc.
Kevin Kaldestad, Fisherman
Garry Loncon, Royal Aleutian Seafoods
Gary Painter, Fisherman
Rob Rogers, Icicle Seafoods
Clyde Sterling, Peter Pan Seafoods
Gary Stewart, Fisherman
Lance Farr, Fisherman
Arni Thomson, Alaska Crab Coalition (non-voting)

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Appointments

One new appointment to the SSC was confirmed at the December meeting. Appointed to his first term on the SSC is **Jeff Hartman** with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Juneau, Alaska. The following members of the SSC were reappointed for the year 2000:

Jim Balsiger—AFSC, NMFS, Seattle
Keith Criddle—USU, Dept. of Economics

Douglas Eggers—ADF&G, Juneau
Steven Hare - International Pacific Halibut Commission
Susan Hills—UAF, School of Fisheries/Science
Douglas Larson—UC Davis, Dept Ag Economics
Seth Macinko—University of Connecticut
Richard Marasco—AFSC, NMFS, Seattle
Terrence Quinn II—UA Juneau Ctr. Ocean Sci.
Jack Tagart—Washington DFW, Fish Mgmt.
Albert Tyler—UAF, Sch of Fish/Ocean Sciences
Hal Weeks—Oregon, Dept of Fish & Wildlife

Advisory Panel Appointments Announced for Y2K

Two new members were appointed to the Advisory Panel for the year 2000: **David Boisseau**, of Wards Cove Packing Co. in Dutch Harbor, and **Jeff Steele**, a commercial fisherman out of Kodiak. **Doug Ogden**, a sport fishing representative from Anchorage, was asked in October to attend the remaining two meetings in 1999 to fill the seat vacated by John Lewis who retired and left the state. The following AP members were reappointed for the coming year:

<i>Ragnar Alstrom</i>	Commercial Fisherman
<i>Dave Benson</i>	Trident Seafoods
<i>John Bruce</i>	Jubilee Fisheries/DSFU
<i>Al Burch</i>	Alaska Dragger's Association
<i>Craig Cross</i>	Commercial Fisherman/Alaska Trawl Fisheries
<i>Dan Falvey</i>	Commercial Fisherman/ALFA
<i>Kris Fanning</i>	Commercial Crab Fisherman
<i>David Fraser</i>	Commercial Fisherman
<i>Arne Fuglvog</i>	Commercial Fisherman
<i>Steve Ganey</i>	Alaska Marine Conservation Council
<i>Justine Gundersen</i>	Commercial/Subsistence Fisher
<i>Spike Jones</i>	Commercial Fisherman
<i>Melody Jordan</i>	Icicle Seafoods
<i>Teressa Kandianis</i>	Kodiak Fish Company
<i>Stephanie Madsen</i>	Pacific Seafood Processors Assn.
<i>Hazel Nelson</i>	Bristol Bay Economic Development Co.
<i>Doug Ogden</i>	Sport Fishing Representative
<i>Jeff Stephan</i>	United Fishermen's Marketing Assn.
<i>Robert Ward</i>	A-Ward Charters
<i>Lyle Yeck</i>	Commercial Fisherman

American Fisheries Act

The Council reviewed and took action on several items related to implementation of the American Fisheries Act (AFA). A preliminary co-op performance report for 1999 was submitted by the Pollock Conservation Cooperative and the High Seas Catchers' Cooperative. This report responded to requirements of the AFA for catch and bycatch reporting as well as additional information requests from the Council. A final report will be submitted in February. The preliminary report showed the co-op member vessels (individually and collectively) stayed within their pollock allocations, as well as their sideboard and bycatch limits. Overall utilization rates were estimated to be 20% higher than in 1998. Copies of the report with all the details are available from the Council offices. Co-op agreements for the 2000 fishing season were not completed in time for Council review at this meeting, but are expected to be filed by the end of this month. They will be distributed to the Council by mail for review and possible comment prior to the start of fishing on January 20.

The Council received a report from NMFS regarding the rulemakings necessary to get the AFA co-ops and sideboards implemented by January 20. This will consist of two emergency rules between now and January 20 and a follow-up proposed rule which will be published prior to the February Council meeting. The first emergency rule will establish the permitting process for AFA operators and was supported by the Council. The second emergency rule contains all of the other necessary provisions, including co-op structure and sideboard limits, and will move forward incorporating actions by the Council at the December meeting. Foremost among those actions was resolution of the sideboard exemptions for year 2000 (for catcher vessels <125' which had less than 1700 mt of average annual pollock catch), including a provision to prohibit leasing of BSAI pollock, and a change allowing floating inshore sector processors to change geographic locations between fishing years. The Council also initiated a separate analysis (for possible review in April) to examine separate sideboard caps for these vessels.

The Council also notices the public that it will be reviewing all aspects of the proposed rule in February, and may be addressing specific items, either as comment on the proposed rule or to initiate separate rulemaking. Details of the actions taken, and potential future actions, are included in **Attachment 3** to this newsletter. Council staff contacts are Chris Oliver or Darrell Brannan.

Under this agenda item the Council discussed the issue of further development of crab fishery cooperatives. An evening meeting, attended by close to 100 crab fishermen and related industry members, was held during the Council meeting week and was facilitated by Council members Dave Fluharty and Kevin O'Leary. They discussed the prospect of a crab fishery cooperative, including drafting of a problem statement and initial list of alternatives and options for consideration. These materials, as well as the industry report from a November meeting, will be available on the Council's WEB site in the near future. The next full meeting will be scheduled for sometime around mid-late February (depending on when the opilio fishery ends) in Seattle, while there may be an informal meeting just prior to the opilio opening in Dutch Harbor. The Council office will continue to act as a contact point for information on this issue. Contact Chris Oliver or check our WEB site for information.

Observer Committee Announced

The Council announced the appointment of a new Observer Committee, to be chaired by Council member Joe Kyle and vice-chaired by Chris Blackburn. That Committee is expected to be active in 2000 - though the first meeting is not yet scheduled it is likely to be in late February. We will want to coordinate that Committee's activities with the review being conducted under NMFS contract to Marine Resource Assessment Group (MRAG), while also addressing more immediate issues regarding the observer program. The full list of Committee members is as follows:

Joe Kyle (Chair)	Pacific Associates
Chris Blackburn (VC)	AK Groundfish Databank
Paula Cullenberg	UAA Observer Training Ctr.
Kimberly Dietrich	Observer
John Gauvin	Groundfish Forum
John Iani	Unisea
Trevor McCabe	At Sea Processors Assn
Mandy Merklein	(Alt. For Dietrich) Observer
Bob Mikol	APICDA
Kathy Robinson	Saltwater, Inc.
Jeff Stephan	United Fisherman's Mktg. Assn.
Arni Thompson	Alaska Crab Coalition

Halibut Charterboat GHL Alternatives for final action in February 2000

Alternative 1: Status quo. Do not develop implementing regulations.

Alternative 2: Approve management measures to implement the halibut charter guideline harvest level

ISSUE 1: Apply GHLS to Areas 2C and/or 3A to trigger management measures as:

Option 1: Fixed percentage annually expressed in pounds.

Based on 1995: GHL equal to 12.76% in 2C, 15.61% in 3A.

Based on 1998: GHL equal to 18.01% in 2C, 13.85% in 3A.

Option 2: Fixed range in numbers of fish.

Based on 1995: GHL range equals 50 - 62 thousand fish in 2C; 138 - 172 thousand fish in 3A

Based on 1998: GHL range equals 61 - 76 thousand fish in 2C; 155 - 193 thousand fish in 3A

Option 3: Manage GHL as a 3 year rolling average

Option 4: Apply the GHL as a percentage to the CEY by area after non-guided sport and personal use deductions are made, but prior to deductions for commercial bycatch and wastage.

ISSUE 2: Implement management measures. None to all of the following management measures would be implemented up to 2 years after attainment of the GHL (1 year if data is available), but prior to January 1 for industry stability. Restrictions would be tightened or liberalized as appropriate to achieve a charter harvest below the GHL if a fixed percentage or within the GHL range if a range.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| • line limits | • super-exclusive registration |
| • boat limits | • sport catcher vessel only area |
| • annual angler limit | • sportfish reserve |
| • vessel trip limit | • rod permit |
| • bag limits | • possession limits |

ISSUE 3: Under varying halibut abundance.

Option 1: Status quo. The GHL fixed percentage varies on an annual basis with area halibut abundance.

Option 2: Reduce area-specific GHL ranges during years of significant stock decline. The following suboptions may be instituted in a stepwise fashion, and/or used in combination.

Suboption 1: Reduce to 75-100% of base year amount when the charter allocation is predicted to exceed a specified percentage (options: 15, 20, or 25%) of the combined commercial and charter TAC.

Suboption 2: Reduce area-specific GHL by a set percentage (options: 10, 15 or 20%). The trigger for implementing the reduction would be based on total harvests and would be IPHC area-specific:

<u>Area 2C Options</u>	<u>Area 3A Options</u>
4 million lb	10 million lb
6 million lb	15 million lb
8 million lb	20 million lb

ISSUE 4: GHL or allocation

Option 1: Under a GHL and the current IPHC setline quota formula, halibut not harvested by the charter fleet in one year are rolled into the commercial setline quota the following year.

Option 2: Unharvested halibut would remain unharvested under a direct allocation to the charter sector.
Suboption: unharvested halibut banked in a sportfish reserve

ISSUE 5: Establish a moratorium for the halibut charter industry.

Option 1: Establish an area-wide moratorium

Option 2: Establish a local moratorium

Suboption: Prohibit new charter licenses upon attainment of the GHL.

Halibut Subsistence Alternatives for initial review in April 2000

ALTERNATIVE 1. Status quo.

ALTERNATIVE 2. Allow the harvest of halibut for subsistence.

OPTION 1. Define subsistence.

Halibut subsistence regulations are needed to allow the continued practice of long-term customary and traditional practices of fishing halibut for food for families in a non-commercial manner for non-economic consumption. Subsistence is defined as 'long-term, customary and traditional use of halibut.'

OPTION 2. Define eligibility for halibut subsistence:

- Suboption A. Members of Alaska Native Federally-recognized Tribes with customary and traditional use of halibut and other permanent rural residents in such Native villages.
- Suboption B. Alaska rural residents as defined in ANILCA and identified in the table entitled 'Alaska Rural Places and Native Groups with Subsistence Halibut Uses,' and will also include other communities for which customary and traditional findings are developed in the future.
- Suboption C. Tribal members and other permanent residents of Native villages who have legitimate subsistence needs.

OPTION 3. Define legal gear.

- Suboption A. rod-and-reel gear.
- Suboption B. hook-and-line gear (including set and hand-held gear) with a range of:
 - 1. 2 hooks;
 - 2. 10 hooks;
 - 3. 30 hooks;
 - 4. 60 hooks.
- Suboption C. Allow Tribal governments to contract with NMFS to register designated fishermen to fish for the community using:
 - 1. 1 - 3 skates of gear, up to 60 hooks each;
 - 2. any gear type
- Suboption D. Allow retention of subsistence halibut using commercial gear while IFQ/CDQ fishing..

OPTION 4. Allow the customary and traditional trade of subsistence halibut.

Suboption 1. Customary and traditional trade through monetary exchange shall be limited to an annual maximum of:

- 1. \$0;
- 2. \$200;
- 3. \$400;
- 4. \$600.

Suboption 2. Customary and traditional trade through non-monetary exchange is allowed with:

- 1. other Alaska Tribes;
- 2. any Alaska rural resident;
- 3. any Alaska resident;
- 4. anyone.

OPTION 5. Define a daily bag limit of between 2-20 halibut.

Suboption. No bag limits for subsistence halibut.

OPTION 6. Develop cooperative agreements with Tribal, State, and Federal governments to collect, monitor, and enforce subsistence harvests and develop local area halibut subsistence use plans in coastal communities.

DECEMBER Amercian Fisheries Act (AFA) ActionsEMERGENCY RULES

C Express support to NMFS for the first emergency rule to ensure inshore co-ops and sideboards can be in place for 2000.

C Request NMFS to move forward with the 2nd Emergency Rule, with the following revisions:

–With regard to the single geographic location (SGL) issue, use same regulations as under Inshore-Offshore; i.e., vessels that process pollock at a SGL in State waters during a fishing year (can change between years).

–Under Section 679.61(4), the Council expressed the intent to allow NMFS to use the appropriate regulatory text to reflect the specific calculation of sideboards as approved by the Council.

–For AFA catcher vessels which meet the Council's qualifying criteria for exemptions under the 1700 mt rule in the Bering Sea cod and Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries:

1. Bering Sea cod:
 - A. Vessels less than 125 feet in length, and
 - B. The catcher vessel had a minimum of 30 landings in the directed Bering Sea cod fishery over the period of 1995, 1996 and 1997;
2. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish:
 - A. Vessels less than 125 feet in length, and
 - B. The catcher vessel had a minimum of 40 groundfish landings in the Gulf of Alaska over the period of 1995, 1996 and 1997,

Vessels qualifying for the GOA exemption cannot lease their pollock quota.

3. Catcher vessels that meet the requirements of being an exempt vessel shall be treated by NMFS, in those fisheries to which the exemption applies, as a non-AFA vessel. The catch history of the exempt vessel (in the fishery to which the exemption applies) will not be included within the AFA cap for that fishery and the harvest of the exempt vessel will not be counted against the AFA cap.

C With regard to accounting of crab sideboards, add language under (d) (p 35) of the 2nd Emergency Rule, to read: “. . . or as may be adjusted based on total catch, whichever is higher.”

The proposed rule will also be published with these provisions.

OTHER ACTIONS

1. Initiate an analysis for separate sideboard caps for AFA catcher vessels which meet the Council's qualifying criteria for exemptions in the Bering Sea cod and Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries, as follows:

Options:

1. 1700 mt
2. 1200 mt

Bering Sea cod:

- A. Vessels less than 125 feet in length, and
- B. The catcher vessel had a minimum of 30 landings in the directed Bering Sea cod fishery over the period of 1995, 1996 and 1997;

Gulf of Alaska Groundfish:

- A. Vessels less than 125 feet in length, and
- B. The catcher vessel had a minimum of 40 groundfish landings in the Gulf of Alaska over the period of 1995, 1996 and 1997,

Establish a separate sideboard pool in each area that is based on the aggregate catch history (95-97) of those vessels that qualify for the exemption.

Option: Require vessels that participate in these pools to fish their Bering Sea pollock, i.e., no leasing.

2. Notice the public that the Council will be reviewing all aspects of the Proposed Rule in February, and may be addressing the following items, either as comment to the Proposed Rule or to initiate separate rulemaking.
 - A. Ensure that the dates in the Proposed Rule and Final Rule for co-op agreement submittal will ensure review by the Council at the December meeting.
 - B. Require re-submittal of co-op agreements for Council review if modified, with re-submittal scheduled such that revised co-op agreements would be reviewed by the Council at its next regular meeting.
 - C. Establish requirements for co-ops to submit economic information, including price data, in their performance reports.
 - D. Establish an application deadline of December 1, 2000 to become an AFA-qualified vessel.
3. The Council in February will also be reviewing the issue of using total vs retained catch for calculating sideboards. Staff will provide to the public and the Council any existing analyses relevant to this issue, and to the extent possible, supplemental tables showing the difference between retained and total catch in the appropriate categories.
4. Add to current analysis of groundfish processing sideboards, the following option: For Bering Sea flatfish species, a processing cap for AFA qualified processors would apply in the aggregate to the at-sea, mothership and shoreside processor overall. The cap would be based on the total of each sector's average processing history of BS flatfish species for 1995-1997. (The intent is that the Council would have the option to apply such a cap either overall or by sector.)

Gulf of Alaska 2000 Specifications

Species	1999			2000			
	Area	ABC	TAC	Catch ¹	Area	ABC	TAC
Pollock	W (61)	23,120	23,120	23,387	W (61)	38,350	38,350
	C (62)	38,840	38,840	38,135	C (62)	22,820	22,820
	C (63)	30,520	30,520	30,095	C (63)	30,030	30,030
	WYAK	8,440	2,110	1,759	WYAK	2,340	2,340
	EYAK/SEO	0	6,330	4	EYAK/SEO	6,460	6,460
	Total	100,920	100,920	93,380	Total ²	100,000	100,000
Pacific Cod	W	29,540	23,630	23,154	W	27,500	20,625
	C	53,170	42,935	44,559	C	43,550	35,165
	E	1,690	1,270	857	E	5,350	4,010
	Total	84,400	67,835	68,570	Total	76,400	59,800
Flatfish, Deep Water	W	240	240	22	W	280	280
	C	2,740	2,740	1,865	C	2,710	2,710
	WYAK	1,720	1,720	389	WYAK	1,240	1,240
	EYAK/SEO	1,350	1,350	9	EYAK/SEO	1,070	1,070
	Total	6,050	6,050	2,285	Total	5,300	5,300
Rex Sole	W	1,190	1,190	603	W	1,230	1,230
	C	5,490	5,490	2,391	C	5,660	5,660
	WYAK	850	850	41	WYAK	1,540	1,540
	EYAK/SEO	1,620	1,620	22	EYAK/SEO	1,010	1,010
	Total	9,150	9,150	3,057	Total	9,440	9,440
Shallow water flatfish	W	22,570	4,500	252	W	19,510	4,500
	C	19,260	12,950	2,282	C	16,400	12,950
	WYAK	250	250	6	WYAK	790	790
	EYAK/SEO	1,070	1,070	5	EYAK/SEO	1,160	1,160
	Total	43,150	18,770	2,545	Total	37,860	19,400
Flathead Sole	W	8,440	2,000	184	W	8,490	2,000
	C	15,630	5,000	680	C	15,720	5,000
	WYAK	1,270	1,270	16	WYAK	1,440	1,440
	EYAK/SEO	770	770	11	EYAK/SEO	620	620
	Total	26,110	9,040	891	Total	26,270	9,060
Arrowtooth	W	34,400	5,000	3,656	W	16,160	5,000
	C	155,930	25,000	11,787	C	97,710	25,000
	WAYK	13,260	2,500	383	WAYK	23,770	2,500
	EYAK/SEO	13,520	2,500	236	EYAK/SEO	7,720	2,500
	Total	217,110	35,000	16,062	Total	145,360	35,000
Sablefish ³	W	1,820	1,820	1,487	W	1,840	1,840
	C	5,590	5,590	5,828	C	5,730	5,730
	WYAK	5,290	2,090	1,704	WYAK	5,760	2,207
	EYAK/SEO		3,200	3,080	EYAK/SEO		3,553
	Total	12,700	12,700	12,099	Total	13,330	13,330
Other slope rockfish	W	20	20	40	W	20	20
	C	650	650	615	C	740	740
	WYAK	470	470	122	WYAK	250	250
	EYAK/SEO	4,130	4,130	12	EYAK/SEO	3,890	3,890
	Total	5,270	5,270	789	Total	4,900	4,900
Northern rockfish	W	840	840	573	W	630	630
	C	4,150	4,150	4,825	C	4,490	4,490
	E	0	0	0	E	0	0
	Total	4,990	4,990	5,398	Total	5,120	5,120
Pacific Ocean Perch	W	1,850	1,850	1,935	W	1,240	1,240
	C	6,760	6,760	7,914	C	9,240	9,240
	WYAK	1,350	820	627	WYAK	840	840
	EYAK/SEO	3,160	3,160	0	EYAK/SEO	1,700	1,700
	Total	13,120	12,590	10,476	Total	13,020	13,020

Page 2	1999				2000		
Species	Area	ABC	TAC	Catch	Area	ABC	ABC
Shortraker/Rougheye	W	160	160	194	W	210	210
	C	970	970	577	C	930	930
	E	460	460	531	E	590	590
	Total	1,590	1,590	1,302	Total	1,730	1,730
Pelagic shelf rockfish	W	530	530	130	W	550	550
	C	3,370	3,370	3,835	C	4,080	4,080
	WYAK	740	740	672	WYAK	580	580
	EYAK/SEO	240	240	20	EYAK/SEO	770	770
	Total	4,880	4,880	4,657	Total	5,980	5,980
Demersal shelf rockfish		560	560	262		340	340
Atka Mackerel	Gulfwide	600	600	262	Gulfwide	600	600
Thornyhead	W	260	260	282	W	430	430
	C	700	700	582	C	990	990
	E	1,030	1,030	410	E	940	940
	Total	1,990	1,990	1,274	Total	2,360	2,360
Other Species	Gulfwide		14,600	3,735	Gulfwide		14,270
GULF OF ALASKA	TOTAL	532,590	306,535	227,044	TOTAL	431,410	299,650

1/ Catch through November 6, 1999

2/ pollock W/C/WY ABCs & TACs adjusted downwards by 1,420 mt for Prince William Sound State fishery GHL

3/ includes 5% transfer from EY/SEO TAC to WY TAC

OFL = Overfish level, ABC = Acceptable biological catch, TAC = Total allowable catch, WYAK = Western Yakutat, EYAK = Eastern Yakutat Southeast outside.

PSC Limits for Halibut

	Trawl		Hook and Line		
1st quarter	600 mt	30%	1st trimester	250 mt	86%
2nd quarter	400 mt	20%	2nd trimester	15 mt	5%
3rd quarter	600 mt	30%	3rd trimester	25 mt	9%
4th quarter	400 mt	20%	DSR	10 mt	
	<u>2,000 mt</u>			<u>300</u>	

Trawl apportionments

Quarter	Shallow water	Deep water	Total
	Complex	Complex	
1	500 mt	100 mt	600 mt
2	100 mt	300 mt	400 mt
3	200 mt	400 mt	600 mt
4	No apportionment		400 mt

Table 2. Summary of halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish fisheries during 1990-1998 and recommendations for Preseason Assumed DMRs in monitoring halibut bycatch mortality in 2000.

Gear and Target	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Trend?	2-Year Mean	Used in 1999	Recommendations for 2000
<i>Trawl</i>													
Atka mackerel	66	77	71	69	73	73	83	85	77	No	81	85	81
Bottom pollock	68	74	78	78	80	73	79	72	80	No	76	76	76
Pacific cod	68	64	69	67	64	71	70	67	66	Yes/dn	67	69	66
Other Flatfish	80	75	76	69	61	68	67	71	78	No	75	69	75
Rockfish	65	67	69	69	75	68	72	71	56	No	64	72	64
Flathead sole	-	-	-	-	67	62	66	57	70	No	64	62	64
Other species	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69	66
Pelagic pollock	85	82	85	85	80	79	83	87	86	No	87	85	87
Rock sole	64	79	78	76	76	73	74	77	79	Yes/up	78	76	79
Sablefish	46	66	-	26	20	-	-	-	-	No	23	23	23
Turbot	69	55	-	-	58	75	70	75	86	No	81	73	81
Yellowfin sole	83	88	83	80	81	77	76	80	82	No	81	78	81
<i>Pot</i>													
Pacific cod	12	4	12	4	10	10	7	4	13	No	9	4	9
Other species	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	9
<i>Longline</i>													
Pacific cod	19	23	21	17	15	14	12	11	11	No	11	11	11
Rockfish	17	55	-	6	23	-	20	4	52	No	28	12	28
Other species	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	11
Sablefish	14	32	14	13	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turbot	15	30	11	10	14	9	15	22	18	No	20	19	20
<i>CDQ Trawl</i>													
Bottom pollock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	-	-	76	90
Pelagic pollock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	-	-	81	90
<i>CDQ Longline</i>													
Pacific cod	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	11	10

Table 3. Summary of halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish fisheries during 1990-1998 and recommendations for Preseason Assumed DMRs in monitoring halibut bycatch mortality in 2000.

Gear and Target	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Trend?	2-Year Mean	Used in 1999	2000 Recommendation
<i>Trawl</i>													
Atka mackerel	67	89	81	67	53	-	60	-	-	No	57	57	57
Bottom pollock	51	62	66	57	48	66	79	66	55	No	61	73	61
Pacific cod	60	62	66	59	53	64	70	62	64	No	63	66	63
Deep wtr flats	61	58	70	59	60	56	71	61	51	No	56	66	56
Shallow wtr flats	66	71	69	65	62	70	71	71	67	No	69	71	69
Rockfish	65	75	79	75	58	71	65	63	68	No	66	64	66
Flathead sole	-	-	-	-	54	64	67	74	39	No	57	**	57
Other species	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66	66
Pelagic pollock	71	82	72	63	61	51	81	70	80	No	75	76	75
Sablefish	70	60	68	59	67	58	80	61	-	No	71	71	71
Arrowtooth fldr	-	-	-	-	-	-	66	48	62	No	55	57	55
Rex sole	-	-	-	-	56	76	63	47	58	No	53	55	53
<i>Pot</i>													
Pacific cod	12	7	16	24	17	21	7	11	16	No	14	6	14
Other species	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	14
<i>Longline</i>													
Pacific cod	15	18	13	7	11	13	11	22	11	No	17	16	17
Rockfish	6	-	-	7	-	4	13	-	9	No	11	9	11
Other species	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	17
Sablefish	17	27	28	30	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Catcher vessel fleet = 58%; Catcher/Processor fleet = 74%.

**Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
Council Recommended 2000 Catch Specifications (mt)**

Species	Area	2000	2000	2000	2000	1999	1999	1999
		Biomass	OFL	ABC	TAC	ABC	TAC	Catch
Pollock	EBS	7,700,000	1,680,000	1,139,000	1,139,000	992,000	992,000	884,133
	AI	106,000	31,700	23,800	2,000	23,800	2,000	1,003
	Bogoslof	475,000	30,400	22,300	1,000	15,300	1,000	21
Pacific cod	BS/AI	1,300,000	240,000	193,000	193,000	177,000	177,000	160,084
Yellowfin sole	BS/AI	2,820,000	226,000	191,000	123,262	212,000	207,980	67,392
Greenland turbot	BS/AI	233,000	42,000	9,300	9,300	14,200	9,000	
	BS			67%	67%	67%	67%	5,315
	AI			33%	33%	33%	33%	461
Arrowtooth	BS/AI	785,000	160,000	131,000	131,000	140,000	134,354	10,679
Rock sole	BS/AI	2,070,000	273,000	230,000	134,760	309,000	120,000	40,362
Flathead sole	BS/AI	611,000	90,000	73,500	52,652	77,300	77,300	17,777
Other flatfish	BS/AI	829,000	141,000	117,000	83,813	154,000	154,000	15,184
Sablefish	EBS	18,000	1,750	1,470	1,470	1,340	1,340	628
	AI	33,000	3,090	2,430	2,430	1,860	1,380	529
POP complex								
True POP	EBS	47,700	3,100	2,600	2,600	1,900	1,400	376
Other POP	EBS	8,200	259	194	194	267	267	217
True POP	AI	192,000	14,400	12,300	12,300	13,500	13,500	
	<i>Eastern</i>			3,120	3,120	3,430	3,430	2,416
	<i>Central</i>			3,510	3,510	3,850	3,850	2,815
	<i>Western</i>			5,670	5,670	6,220	6,220	6,545
Sharp/Northern	AI	115,000	6,870	5,150	5,150	4,230	4,230	5,181
Short/Rougheye	AI	41,500	1,180	885	885	965	965	474
Other rockfish	EBS	7,030	492	369	369	369	369	137
	AI	13,000	913	685	685	685	685	632
Atka mackerel	AI	565,000	119,000	70,800	70,800	73,300	66,400	
	<i>Eastern</i>			16,400	16,400	17,000	17,000	15,893
	<i>Central</i>			24,700	24,700	25,600	22,400	21,443
	<i>Western</i>			29,700	29,700	30,700	27,000	15,626
Squid	BS/AI	n/a	2,620	1,970	1,970	1,970	1,970	413
Other species	BS/AI	611,000	71,500	31,360	31,360	32,860	32,860	18,396
BS/AI TOTAL		18,580,430	3,139,274	2,260,113	2,000,000	2,247,846	2,000,000	1,223,618

EBS = eastern Bering Sea
BS/AI = Bering Sea & Aleutians
BS = Bering Sea
AI = Aleutian Islands

OFL = overfishing level
ABC = acceptable biological catch
TAC = total allowable catch

1999 catch as of 10/30/99
(CDQ catch not included)

**2000 BSAI Trawl Fisheries PSC
Council Recommended Apportionments and Seasonal Allowances**

DRAFT

Fishery Group	Halibut Mortality Cap (mt)	Herring (mt)	Red King Crab (animals) Zone1	C. bairdi Zone1	C. bairdi Zone2	C. opilio COBLZ
Yellowfin sole	26.06% 958	9.14% 169	12.99% 12,600	37.61% 312,163	64.98% 1,637,448	71.49% 3,109,815
January 20 - March 31	29.63%					
April 1 - May 20*	22.00%					
May 21 - July 3	5.45%					
July 4 - Dec 31	42.82%					
Rocksole/other flatfish	22.91% 842	1.31% 24	72.17% 70,005	40.29% 334,407	21.66% 545,832	21.62% 940,470
January 20 - March 31	57.62%					
April 1 - July 3	20.95%					
July 4 - December 31	21.31%					
Turbot/sablefish/ Arrowtooth		0.59% 11				1.02% 44,370
Rockfish	2.03% 75	0.47% 9			0.42% 10,884	1.02% 44,370
July 4 - Dec 31						
Pacific cod	42.18% 1,550	1.31% 24	12.99% 12,600	20.17% 167,411	11.83% 298,116	3.07% 133,545
Pollock/mackerel/o.species	6.82% 250	87.18% 1,616	1.85% 1,795	1.93% 16,019	1.10% 27,720	1.78% 77,430
TOTAL	3,675	1,853	97,000	830,000	2,520,000	4,350,000

- 1) Includes 7.5% CDQ allocation.
- 2) Unused PSC allowances may be rolled into the following seasonal apportionment.
- 3) 35% of the red king crab PSC for the rock sole fishery is apportioned to the 56 - 56' RKCSA strip.
- 4) Accounts for the reductions in halibut and crab PSCs due to ban on pollock bottom trawling
(halibut: -100 mt; RKC: -3,000; Z1 bairdi: -20,000; Z2 bairdi: -30,000; opilio: -150,000 crab)
- 5) Accounts for adjustments due to changes in biomass for herring, red king crab, Z2 bairdi, and opilio.
- 6) For herring PSC in pollock/mackerel/o.species category, 1,558 mt for midwater pollock fishery.

**2000 BSAI Non-Trawl Fisheries PSC Bycatch Allowances
and fixed gear Pacific cod seasonal apportionments**

Fishery Group	Halibut Mortality (mt)	Seasonal Apportion of cod TAC (mt)
Pacific Cod	810	
Jan 1 - April 30	495	65,000 first tr.
May 1 - August 31	0	0 second tr.
Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	315	26,048 third tr.
Other Non-Trawl*	90	
May 1 - December 31	90	
Groundfish Pot	Exempt	
TOTAL	900 mt	91,048

Note: unused halibut PSC or P. cod TAC from first trimester will be rolled into the third trimester.

Any halibut PSC removed from the CDQ fisheries will be replaced from PSC apportioned from the third trimester.

* Includes hook & line fisheries for rockfish and Greenland turbot.

Sablefish hook & line fisheries will be exempted from the halibut mortality cap.

Jig gear will also be exempted from the halibut mortality cap.

Table 7. Allocation of pollock TAC to be taken by the directed fishery (DFA) within the sea lion conservation area (SCA) by season and

Sector	Season	Annual TAC	TAC - CDQ	Bycatch -5%	Sector Allocation	Seasonal Apportion	Seasonal DFA	<i>Motion % in SCA</i>	<i>SCA ratio (RPAs)</i>	Sector % of DFA	Pollock SCA (mt)
Inshore	A	1,139,000	90%	95%	50%	40%	194,769	56%	75%	42%	81,803
	B	1,139,000	90%	95%	50%	40%		56%	25%	14%	27,268
	C	1,139,000	90%	95%	50%	60%	292,154	36%	37.5%	13.5%	39,441
	D	1,139,000	90%	95%	50%	60%		36%	62.5%	22.5%	65,735
<i>subtotal</i>							486,923				214,246
C/P	A	1,139,000	90%	95%	40%	40%	155,815	33%	75%	24.75%	38,564
	B	1,139,000	90%	95%	40%	40%		33%	25%	8.25%	12,855
	C	1,139,000	90%	95%	40%	60%	233,723	0%	37.5%	0%	
	D	1,139,000	90%	95%	40%	60%		0%	62.5%	0%	
<i>subtotal</i>							389,538				51,419
MS	A	1,139,000	90%	95%	10%	40%	38,954	50%	75%	37.5%	14,608
	B	1,139,000	90%	95%	10%	40%		50%	25%	12.5%	4,869
	C	1,139,000	90%	95%	10%	60%	58,431	0%	37.5%	0.0%	
	D	1,139,000	90%	95%	10%	60%		0%	62.5%	0.0%	
<i>subtotal</i>							97,385				19,477
CDQ at 45/55	A	1,139,000			10%	45%	51,255	83%	75%	62%	31,778
	B	1,139,000			10%	45%		83%	25%	20.5%	10,507
	C	1,139,000			10%	55%	62,645	37%	37.5%	14%	8,770
	D	1,139,000			10%	55%		37%	62.5%	23%	14,408
<i>subtotal</i>							113,900				65,464
Total				51,255			1,087,745				350,606

NPFMC Three Meeting Outlook

February 7, 2000
Anchorage

April 10, 2000
Anchorage

June 5, 2000
Portland

Halibut Charter GHL: **Final Action**

Inshore Co-op structure: **Final Action**

Groundfish Processor Sideboard Caps/Pollock Excess Share Analysis: **Initial Review**

Groundfish Processor Sideboard Caps/Excess Share Analysis: **Final Action**

Research Priorities

CV Sideboard pools: **Initial Review**

CV Sideboard pools: **Final Review**

LLP P.cod Endorsements: **Initial Review**

LLP P.cod endorsements: **Final Action**

Cook Inlet Non-Pelagic Trawl Ban: **Final Action**

Shark and Skate Management: **Final Action**

Groundfish SEIS: **Status Report**

Groundfish SEIS: **Status Report**

Steller Sea Lions: **Status Report**

HAPC: **Initial Review**

HAPC: **Final Review**

Observer Program: **Committee Report**

St. Matthew Blue and Opilio Crab Rebuilding Plan: **Initial Review**

St. Matthew Blue and Opilio Crab Rebuilding Plan: **Final Review**

SR/RE Retention: **Initial Review**

SR/RE Retention: **Final Review**

P. cod bycatch reg. Amendments: **Initial Review**

P. cod bycatch reg. Amendments: **Final Review**

Staff Tasking: Review Groundfish/IFQ proposals received: Direction to staff

Halibut Subsistence: **Initial Review**

Halibut Subsistence: **Final Review**

Joint Meeting with AK Board of Fish

*NOTE: This tentative timeline will be updated periodically, particularly after each Council meeting, as the Council works through its decision process.

AFA - American Fisheries Act
HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
LLP - License Limitation Program

GHL - Guideline Harvest Level
SEIS - Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
CDQ - Community Development Quota

CV - Catcher Vessel
SR/RE - Shortraker/Rougheye

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North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Tentative Meeting Dates for 2000-2002*

	February Week of/ Location	April Week of/ Location	June Week of/ Location	October Week of/ Location	December Week of/ Location
2000	7/Anchorage	10/Anchorage	5/Portland	2/Sitka	4/Anchorage
2001	5/Anchorage	9/Anchorage	4/Kodiak	1/Seattle	3/Anchorage
2002	4/Anchorage	8/Anchorage	3/Dutch Harbor	Sept 30/ Seattle	2/Anchorage

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