



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Meeting Summary

246th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
October 3 - 9, 2019
Quarter Deck Land's End Resort, Homer, Alaska

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Attachments

Timelog	BSAI Specifications Motion
Newsletter	GOA Specifications Motion
D2 Motion on BSAI Pcod Trawl/pot CV Mgmt	E Motion on FMAC

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.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met Thursday, October 3, 2019 through Wednesday, October 9, 2019, at the Land's End Resort, Homer, Alaska. The following Council, Council staff, SSC, and AP members attended the meetings.

Council Members

Jim Balsiger/Glenn Merrill/ Chris Oliver <i>National Marine Fisheries Service</i>	Kimball, Nicole <i>Appointed</i>
Rachel Baker/Karla Bush (for Doug Vincent-Lang) <i>Alaska Department Fish and Game</i>	Kinneen, Simon, Chair <i>Appointed</i>
Cora Campbell <i>Appointed</i>	Steve Marx (for Curt Melcher) <i>Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife</i>
Craig Cross <i>Appointed</i>	Andy Mezirow <i>Appointed</i>
Kenny Down <i>Appointed</i>	Bill Tweit (for Kelly Susewind), Vice Chair <i>Washington Department Fish & Wildlife</i>
Dave Hanson <i>Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission</i>	RADM Matthew Bell Jr/LCDR Yvonne Yang <i>United States Coast Guard</i>
John Jensen <i>Appointed</i>	

Council Staff

Armstrong, Jim	Fey, Mike (PSMFC)	MacLean, Steve
Cleaver, Sara	Gleason, Shannon	McCracken, Jon
Cunningham, Sam	Haapala, Kate	Schmidt, Nicole
Davis, Maria	Henry, Anna	Stram, Diana
Evans, Diana (DD)	La Belle, Sarah	Witherell, Dave (ED)

Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC met from September 30, 2019 to October 3, 2019 at the Land's End Resort, Homer, Alaska. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings (absent members are shown in ~~strikeout~~)

Anderson, Chris	Harris, Brad	Munro, Andrew
Bishop, Amy	Hollowed, Anne (Co-Chair)	Reedy, Kate
Down, Mike	Hunt, George	Reimer, Matt
Dressel, Sherri (Vice-Chair)	Kruse, Gordon (Co-Chair)	Renner, Heather
Gaspar, Jason	Lowry, Dayv	Stewart, Ian
Hanselman, Dana	Mueter, Franz	Whitman, Alison

Advisory Panel

The AP met Tuesday, October 1, through Saturday, October 5, 2019 at the Best Western Bidarka Inn, Homer, Alaska. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings (absent members are show in ~~strikeout~~):

Christiansen, Ruth	Kauffman, Jeff	Stevens, Ben
Cochran, Kurt	Kwachka, Alexis	Upton, Matt (Co-Vice Chair)
Donich, Daniel	Lowenberg, Craig	Vanderhoeven, Anne
Drobica, Angel (Co-Vice Chair)	O'Connell, Victoria	Velsko, Erik
Gruver, John	O'Connor, Jamie	Weiss, Ernie (Chair)
Gudmundsson, Gretar	O'Donnell, Paddy	Wilt, Sinclair
Hayden, Natasha	Peterson, Joel	
Johnson, Jim	Scoblic, John	

A CALL MEETING TO ORDER/Oath of Office/ Election of Officers

Dr. Jim Balsiger administered the Oath of Office to new Council member Cora Campbell. Glenn Merrill administered the Oath of Office to new Council member Nicole Kimball.

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

The Council approved the agenda without objection.

B REPORTS

The following reports were given and discussed. Public testimony was heard, and actions were deferred to staff tasking.

B1 Executive Director's Report – David Witherell

Maria Davis – Council efforts on engagement

John Gauvin – Desksorting EFP

Julie Decker and Heather McCarty – Alaska Mariculture Initiative

Dr. Mandy Lindeberg – Gulfwatch

Sue Mauger – Warming Water

Steve Maclean – Protected Species Report

Sam Rauch – NMFS Briefing

B2 NMFS Management Report – Glenn Merrill

Mary Furuness – In-season management

B3 NOAA GC Report – John LePore

B4 AFSC Report – Dr. Bob Foy

Elizabeth Siddon and Stephani Zador – Ecosystem Presentation

B5 ADF&G Report – Karla Bush

B6 USCG Report – Lt. Drew Stafford

B7 USFWS Report - Jon Gerken

C1 BSAI HALIBUT ABM PSC LIMITS

- Council Staff:** Dr. Diana Stram, Sam Cunningham, Anna Henry
- Other Presenters:** Dr. Mike Downs (Wislow Research Associates); AFSC - Dr. Carey McGilliard, Dr. Jim Ianneli, Dr. Dana Hanselman
- SSC Report:** Dr. Anne Hollowed
- AP Report:** Angel Drobnica
- Action Required:** Initial review of preliminary Draft EIS, including alternatives, halibut simulation model, and performance metrics.
- Summary:** The Council reviewed an analysis to modify halibut bycatch limits applied to most trawl and longline vessels fishing in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI). A major change from current bycatch limits is that new ones under consideration would fluctuate up and down annually with changes in BSAI halibut abundance. The Council will decide if the range of limits considered in the analysis is sufficient or should be modified.

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

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

The Council requests that staff incorporate the SSC's suggested revisions to the operating model and the preliminary draft EIS to the extent practicable, with the exception of including a new alternative that allows regulatory flexibility for adjusting PSC limits within season based on encounter rates. The resulting preliminary draft EIS should come back to the Council for another initial review.

Staff should evaluate the alternatives using the following performance metrics in addition to other metrics the workgroup considers appropriate.

1. Objective to index PSC limits to halibut abundance:
 - a. Rate of change in PSC limit relative to rate of change of total biomass
 - b. Rate of change in PSC limit relative to rate of change of spawning biomass
2. Objective to provide for a directed fishery in 4CDE:
 - a. The average percentage of the BSAI TCEY available to the Bering Sea directed fishery
3. Objective to protect the halibut spawning stock biomass at low levels of abundance:
 - a. Probability of PSC limit exceeding BSAI TCEY
 - b. Probability of PSC use exceeding BSAI TCEY

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed with no objection on 10/4/2019.

C2 OBSERVER FEE ANALYSIS

Council Staff:	Diana Evans
Other Presenters:	Alicia Miller (NMFS-AKR), Jennifer Ferdinand (AFSC), Geoff Mayhew (PSMFC/AFSC), Cathy Tide (NMFS-AKR)
SSC Report:	The SSC did not have this item on their agenda.
AP Report:	Matt Upton
Action Required:	1. Review public review draft of observer fee analysis, 2. Review Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee report on the fee analysis, 3. Identify a preferred alternative and final recommendations

Summary: The Council is deciding whether to increase the observer fee from 1.25% up to 2% for most trawl, longline, pot, and jig catcher vessels fishing for cod, sablefish, and halibut in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA), and some vessels in the BSAI. The analysis includes options to raise the fee to different amounts for trawl, longline, pot, and jig vessels.

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

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

The Council identifies cost efficiency as its highest priority for work on the partial coverage observer program. Immediate efforts should focus on:

- Pelagic trawl EM combined with shoreside sampling (Analytical tasks 14,16);
- Integrated monitoring plan for fixed gear that combines EM, shoreside sampling, and at-sea observer coverage as needed (e.g., consider whether the 15% hurdle is still the appropriate baseline level for observer coverage in combination with EM coverage; develop average weight protocols to support use of EM, Analytical tasks 18, 19);
- Optimizing the size and composition of the fixed gear observed and EM fleets, taking into account both cost priorities and data needs for average weights and biological samples (including consideration of expansion of the zero-coverage pool to include vessels fishing from remote ports harvesting small amounts of fish).

The Council requests that staff work with the agency to provide a detailed workplan with timelines for each priority.

Motion passed without objection 10/5/2019 1:39 PM.

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

The Council recommends adjusting the observer fee percentage and adopts the following fee percentage as its preferred alternative:

Increase the observer fee to 1.65 percent.

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: Passed without objection 10/5/2019 2:07 PM

VOTE ON MOTION: Passed by roll call vote without objection 10/5/2019 2:08 PM

C3 OBSERVER 2020 ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT PLAN

Council Staff: Diana Evans, Kate Haapala
Other Presenters: Jennifer Ferdinand (AFSC), Dr. Phil Ganz (NMFS AKR), Dr. Craig Faunce (AFSC)
SSC Report: Dr. Anne Hollowed
AP Report: Matt Upton
Action Required: 1. Review the draft 2020 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP), 2. Review Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC) report, 3. Provide recommendations to NMFS for the final 2020 ADP, 4. Provide other recommendations based on the FMAC report, as necessary

Summary: NMFS has developed a plan for how to deploy observers in 2020 on vessels that take an observer on only some, not all, of their trips, and how many fixed gear vessels can opt in to carry electronic monitoring systems instead of an observer. The Council will review and provide feedback on the plan, including proposed coverage rates for each fishery gear sector (trawl, longline, pot and jig).

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

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

The Council supports NMFS' recommendations for the three gear-based deployment strata and allocation scheme of 15% plus optimized allocation based on discarded groundfish and halibut PSC and Chinook PSC as described in the Draft 2020 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP).

The Council recommends that NMFS continue to evaluate coverage levels achieved on vessels delivering to tenders using EM and observers in the Annual Report.

The Council recommends that if additional funds become available that NMFS expand the EM trip selection pool with 30 additional vessels, using the order of priority as presented in the Draft 2020 ADP.

To the extent possible, consider expansion of the zero selection pool to include vessels unlikely to cause data gaps. A more robust assessment should be included in the 2019 annual report (provided to the Council in June 2020).

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed unanimously on 10/5/2019 at 3:51pm. Mr. Mezirow was absent.

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

The Council continues to highlight the importance of finding solutions to observer recruitment and retention issues, and will continue to provide support for this priority issue whenever applicable.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed unanimously on 10/5/2019 at 4:05 pm. Mr. Mezirow was absent.

C4 BSAI CRAB

Council Staff:	Jim Armstrong
Other Presenters:	Dr. Martin Dorn (Co-Chair, AFSC Seattle), Katie Palof, (Co-Chair, ADF&G Juneau), Dr. Buck Stockhausen (AFSC Seattle), Dr. Cody Szuwalski (AFSC Seattle), Dr. Jon Richar (AFSC Kodiak)
SSC Report:	Dr. Anne Hollowed
AP Report:	Matt Upton
Action Required:	1. Review/approve 2018 BSAI Crab SAFE Report, 2. Review Crab Plan Team Report, 3. Recommend final 2019/2020 OFL/ABC specifications for 5 stocks, 4. Review/recommend projection scenario for SMBKC rebuilding plan.

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

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

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

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

Species	OFL (t)	ABC (t)
Eastern Bering Sea snow crab	54,900	43,900
Bristol Bay red king crab	3,400	2,720
Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab	28,860	23,090
Pribilof Islands red king crab	864	648
St. Matthew Island blue king crab	44	35

t = metric ton

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote on 10/6/2019 at 9:13am. Mr. Mezirow was absent.

C5 BSAI GROUND FISH

Council Staff:	Steve MacLean, Dr. Diana Stram
Other Presenters:	Dr. Jim Ianelli, (AFSC)
SSC Report:	Dr. Anne Hollowed
AP Report:	Matt Upton
Action Required:	1. Review Joint Groundfish-Crab, Joint Groundfish, and BSAI Groundfish Plan Team reports, 2. Recommend proposed BSAI groundfish harvest and prohibited species specifications for 2020-2021

Summary: The Council reviewed the report from a joint team of technical experts (the BSAI and GOA Groundfish Plan Teams) about the status of the ecosystem, summer survey results, and other issues relevant to the upcoming assessment of groundfish fish stocks. The Council recommended preliminary proposed catch limits for the 2020 BSAI groundfish fisheries. Final catch limits will be set in December.

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

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

NOTE: Full packet of tables included as an attachment to these minutes.

The Council adopts the proposed 2020 and 2021 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish specifications of 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 final specifications from 2020 with a change to reduce TAC of Pacific cod by 824 mt to accommodate the increased GHL in the AI. The 824 mt of TAC will be added to the TAC for pollock in the BS.

The Council adopts the 2020 and 2021 flatfish flexibility ABC reserves as shown in Table 7, attached.

The Council adopts the PSC limits as shown in Tables 8, 9, 10, and 11, attached, for halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, opilio crab, and herring and their gear type and target fishery apportionments. The 2020 and 2021 crab PSC limits have been revised using current biomass amounts and herring PSC limits will be revised when the most current biomass amounts are known.

The Council adopts the halibut DMRs for 2020 and 2021 as shown in Table 12, attached.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed unanimously on 10/6/2019 at 11:53. Mr. Mezirow was absent.

C6 GOA GROUND FISH

Council Staff:	Sara Cleaver
Other Presenters:	Dr. Jim Ianelli (NMFS AFSC, GOA Plan Team Co-Chair)
SSC Report:	Dr. Anne Hollowed
AP Report:	Angel Drobnica
Action Required:	1. Review GOA Groundfish Plan Team Report, 2. Recommend proposed GOA groundfish harvest and prohibited species specifications for 2020-2021

Summary: The Council will receive a report from a team of technical experts (the GOA Groundfish Plan Team) with updates relevant to the upcoming assessment of groundfish stocks and recommend proposed catch limits for the 2020 GOA groundfish fisheries. Final catch limits are chosen in December.

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

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

NOTE: Full packet of tables included as an attachment to these minutes.

The Council adopts the proposed 2020 and 2021 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC, and sets the TACs as recommended by the Advisory Panel as shown in the attached table. The TACs for both Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod and pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water GHL fisheries. The GOA Pacific cod adjustments are shown in attached Table 2.

The Council adopts the proposed 2020 and 2021 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the GOA as provided in attached Tables 9, 10, and 11.

The Council adopts the updated halibut discard mortality rates for the GOA for 2020 and 2021 as shown in attached Table 12.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed without objection on 10/6/2019 at 2:04 pm. Mr. Mezirow was absent.

C7 SCULPINS TO ECOSYSTEM COMPONENT

Council Staff:	Steve MacLean
Other Presenters:	Megan Mackey, NMFS (Presenter)
SSC Report:	The SSC did not have this item on their agenda.
AP Report:	Angel Drobnica
Action Required:	1. Review the Public Review Draft of the analysis, 2. Recommend a preferred alternative

Background: Sculpins are not intentionally caught in any commercial fishery, population levels are considered healthy, and bycatch is low enough that overfishing is not a concern. The Council reviewed an analysis to remove sculpins from the list of species that are managed with catch limits. This may provide some economic benefit to Bering Sea fishermen without putting any sculpin population in danger of becoming overfished. This action will not affect any subsistence harvest.

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

Ms. Bush made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Cross:

The Council adopts the following alternative and option for final action. The preferred alternative is indicated in **bold**.

Alternative 1: Status quo. Continue to manage sculpins as a target species in both the BSAI and GOA groundfish FMPs. OFL, ABC, and TAC will continue to be set for sculpins in both areas.

Alternative 2: Designate sculpins in both BSAI and GOA FMPs as non-target ecosystem component species. Establishment of OFL, ABC, and TAC will no longer be required.

Remove regulations referring to sculpins as target species and implement regulations for the groundfish fishery that:

- **Prohibit directed fishing for sculpins,**
- **Establish a sculpin maximum retainable amount (MRA) when directed fishing for other fisheries at a level to discourage retention while allowing flexibility to prosecute other fisheries:**

Option 1 MRA = 2%

Option 2 MRA = 10%

Option 3 MRA = 20%

- **Require recordkeeping and reporting to monitor and report catch and discards of sculpin species annually.**

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

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: The amendment passed without objection on 10/6/2019 at 2:35pm. Mr. Mezirow was absent.

VOTE ON MOTION: The amended main motion passed without objection on 10/16/2019 at 2:40. Mr. Mezirow was absent.

C8 BSAI PARALLEL WATERS

Council Staff:	Jon McCracken
SSC Report:	Dr. Anne Hollowed
AP Report:	Angel Drobnica
Action Required	1. Review Initial Review draft analysis, 2. If desired, identify a preliminary preferred alternative, 3. Recommend any changes and release document for public review

Background: The Council is reviewing a management measure to prohibit all Federal vessels from fishing for Pacific cod in waters from shore to 3 miles in the BSAI without the proper permits and licenses. Even with the proper permit, these vessels would still be required to stop fishing if the federal waters fishery to which they are linked closes. The analysis also evaluates an additional requirement that if a vessel removes the permit from their vessel, they must wait three years before it could be re-issued.

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

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

The Council adopts the following three elements:

1) The Council adopts the following changes to the Purpose and Need statement, with additions noted by bold and underlined text and deletions noted by strike-out:

Purpose and Need

Currently, there are no limits on entry by federally permitted catcher vessels into the **Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI)** parallel waters groundfish fisheries, and no limits on the proportion of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Pacific cod TAC that may be harvested in parallel waters. **Current management inadvertently allows fishing in BSAI parallel waters off a federal Pacific cod TAC even when a sector's federal Pacific cod allocation has been achieved.** There is concern that harvests of Pacific cod in the parallel waters fishery by vessels that do not hold **BSAI groundfish** LLP licenses **or the appropriate Pacific cod endorsement** may continue to increase. **This complicates conservation and management measures which hold sectors to their allocations and circumvents the intent of previous Council decisions regarding license limitation, sector allocations, and catch reporting.** The Council, in consideration of options and recommendations for **federal catcher vessels that participate in** the parallel fishery, **intends to ensure robust catch accounting while considering participation in and reliance on the Pacific cod fisheries** will need to balance the objectives of providing stability to the long-term participants in the sectors, while recognizing that new entrants who do not hold Federal **fishery** permits or licenses may participate in the parallel fishery.

2) The Council adopts Alternative 2 as the preliminary preferred alternative, with additions noted by bold and underlined text and deletions noted by strike-out:

Alternative 2: Limit access to the parallel fishery for Federal fishery participants.

Hook and line and pot Fixed gear vessels - require any pot or **hook and line** longline vessel designated on an LLP or FFP to have the appropriate Pacific cod endorsement and area endorsement on the LLP; and the Bering Sea (BS) or Aleutian Islands (AI) area designation and the appropriate gear and operation type designations on the FFP in order to participate in the BS or AI Pacific cod parallel waters fishery.

Trawl gear vessels - require any trawl vessel with an LLP or an FFP to have the appropriate gear and area endorsements on the LLP; and the BS or AI area designation and the appropriate gear and operation type designations on the FFP in order to participate in the BS or AI Pacific cod parallel waters fishery.

In addition, require the above Federally permitted or licensed vessels that fish in the parallel waters to adhere to Federal seasonal closures of the BSAI sector allocations corresponding to the sector in which the vessel operates.

Vessels with a BS or AI area, gear, and operation type designations specified in this alternative cannot remove these designations from the FFP and can only surrender or reactivate the FFP once every three years.

3) The Council recommends releasing the Initial Review Draft for public review, subject to the changes in the Purpose and Need noted above, and subject to the clarifications and additions recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed without objection on 10/8/2019. Mr. Mezirow was absent.

D1 TRAWL EM

Council Staff: Anna Henry
Other Presenters: Ruth Christiansen (United Catcher Boats), Julie Bonney (Alaska Groundfish Databank), Charlotte Levy (Aleutians East Borough)
SSC Report: The SSC did not have this item on their agenda.
AP Report: Matt Upton
Action Required: 1. Review Trawl EM EFP and provide feedback, 2. Review Trawl EM Committee report

Background: The Council is reviewing an Exempted Fishing Permit application to allow vessels testing a trawl electronic monitoring (EM) system to retain all fish onboard until bycatch can be monitored dockside. The Council's Trawl Electronic Monitoring Committee met in August, and will provide recommendations to the Council.

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

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

The Council recommends that NMFS approve the EFP taking into account recommendations of the SSC and the Trawl EM Committee.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed without objection on 10/5/2019. Mr. Mezirow was absent.

D2 BSAI Pcod TRAWL/POT CV MANAGEMENT

Council Staff: Jon McCracken
Other Presenters: Stephanie Warpinski (NMFS)
SSC Report: The SSC did not have this on their agenda
AP Report: Matt Upton
Action Required: 1. Review the Scoping Paper, 2. Decide whether to initiate further action for either the BSAI Pacific cod trawl CV sector and/or the BSAI Pacific cod pot CV \geq 60 ft sector

Background: The Council is considering developing catch share programs for two sectors of the BSAI Federal Pacific cod fisheries: one for trawl catcher vessels and one for large pot catcher vessels. The Council will decide at this meeting whether to initiate an analysis of such programs.

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

Mr. Cross made a motion which was seconded by LCDR Yang and is attached to this document. Amendments to the motion are listed below.

Element 1:

An amendment was made by Ms. Baker and seconded by Ms. Kimball to add a suboption:

Suboption: Reduce halibut and crab PSC apportioned to the BSAI trawl CV limited access fishery by 25% - 40%

Amendment passed without objection.

An amendment was made by Mr. Tweit and seconded by Ms. Baker to add a suboption under element 1, option 2:

Minimum of 3 LLP holders are needed to form a cooperative.

The amendment passed without objection.

Element 2:

Mr. Tweit made an amendment which was seconded by Ms. Campbell to add a 3rd suboption under element 2.2 option 4:

suboption 20%-80%

The amendment passed without objection.

Element 3:

Ms. Baker made an amendment which was seconded by Ms. Kimball to add the following:

Add the text "Option 1" in front of Status Quo, and add:

Suboption under option 1: Establish trawl CV Pacific cod halibut PSC apportionment based on historic use between the trawl CV sector and the AFA CP sector.

Option 2: Reduce halibut and crab PSC apportionment to BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod sector that would be harvested under a status quo methodology by 10% to 25%.

~~Option 2: Establish trawl CV Pcod halibut PSC apportionment based on historical use between the Trawl CV section and AFA CP section~~

~~Option 3: Reduce the halibut and crab apportionment to the BSAI trawl CV and Pcod sector that would be harvest under a status quo methodology by 10% 25%~~

Amendment passed without objection.

Ms. Kimball made an amendment which was seconded by Ms. Campbell to:

Strike all numbers in element 3,(Option 1 – status quo) for the animals.

Mr. Tweit moved to amend the amendment, and was seconded by Ms. Kimball, by adding:
text that adds "the annual Crab and halibut" PSC available...

Amendment to the amendment passed without opposition

Vote on amendment passed without objection.

Element 5

Ms. Baker amended, and was seconded by Ms. Kimball, to add an element 5.2:

5.2 Limit (sideboard) on directed BSAI Pcod that can be delivered by Trawl CV's to eligible CPs acting as motherships. The sideboard would be based on BSAI Pcod processing history by eligible CPs during qualifying years under element 2.

Amendment passed without objection.

Mr. Tweit moved and Ms. Campbell seconded to amend element 5.3 by adding “and offshore processors.” Amendment passed without objection.

Ms. Campbell moved to amend under Element 5, and was seconded by Ms. Baker, to:
Strike option 4 - 30% and add 5%

Mr. Tweit made an amendment to the amendment and was seconded by Ms. Kimball to:
Retain the 30% and add the 5%
The amendment to the amendment passed without objection and overrides the first amendment.

Mr. Tweit moved to amend Element 5 and was seconded by Mr. Down to:
Add suboption: with PSC, without PSC
Amendment passed without objection.

Element 6:

Ms. Baker moved to amend, and Mr. Tweit seconded:
Under option 2 add a suboption:
If the community of Adak or Atka files a notice of intent to process annual harvest quota should be issued to an entity representing the community designated in the notice of intent
Amendment passed without objection.

Mr. Tweit moved to amend, which was seconded by Mr. Cross to:
add suboption: allocations are transferrable between qualified entities
Amendment passed without objection.

Element 8

Ms. Kimball moved to amend, which was seconded by Mr. Tweit to:
Strike the word ‘Quota’ 8.1 8.2, 8.3 as it relates to PSC
Amendment passed without objection.

Ms. Kimball moved to amend, which was seconded by Mr. Cross to:
Add 8.4 new suboption
Processing facilities over the cap at the time of implementation are grandfathered.
Amendment passed without objection.

Element 11

Mr. Tweit moved to amend, which was seconded by Ms. Baker to add:
All vessels in the program will be in the full coverage program (100% observer or EM)
Amendment passed without objection.

Ms. Campbell moved to amend, which was seconded by Ms. Kimball to add a new element:

Element 14 Gear conversion

Pcod allocations associated with trawl CV license may be fished with pot gear. A pot endorsement is not necessary but the LLP license must have the appropriate area endorsement and will not affect sector allocations.

Mr. Down moved to amend the amendment, and Mr. Balsiger seconded to:

Strike pot and replace with fixed gear.

Mr. Down withdrew his amendment with concurrence of second.

Amendment passed without objection.

Ms. Kimball moved to amend, and was seconded by Ms. Baker to add under Element 5.3:

Onshore and offshore processors (Option: subject to eligibility requirements under the April 2019 Council action to limit catcher processors acting as motherships) that have a history of practicing...(cont.)

Amendment passed without objection.

VOTE ON MOTION: Main amended motion passed without objection on 10/8/2019 at 11:35am. Mr. Mezirow was absent.

D3 STRANDED BSAI AND GOA Pcod

Council Staff: Jon McCracken
Other Presenters: Mary Furuness
SSC Report: The SSC did not have this on their agenda
AP Report: The AP did not address this agenda item
Action Required: 1. Review discussion paper 2. Decide whether to initiate further action

Background: The Council will review a paper outlining regulatory constraints resulting in unharvested Pacific cod in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska. The paper includes information on when Pacific cod becomes available late in the year and potential ways to make that fish available earlier. The paper evaluates harvest opportunities in both State and federal waters. Note: there was no AP report or SSC report, and there was no public testimony.

After staff presentations, the following action was taken:

Mr. Down moved to postpone this agenda item indefinitely. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tweit and passed unanimously on 10/8/2019 at 1:27 pm. Mr. Mezirow was absent.

D4 BSAI Pcod POT CP PARTICIPATION

Council Staff: Jon McCracken
SSC Report: The SSC did not have this item on their agenda
AP Report: Angel Drobica
Action Required: 1. Review Discussion Paper, 2. Decide whether to initiate action

Background: The Council will review the fishing activity of pot catcher processors fishing in the Bering Sea, relative to all those who hold a pot CP endorsed license, to determine whether to consider removing inactive licenses.

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

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

The Council directs staff to create a Draft Initial Review Analysis and adopts the following purpose and need statement and alternatives:

- *Amendment 85 assigned a portion of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Pacific cod TAC to the pot CP sector with the primary goals of aligning Pacific cod allocations with actual dependency and use and providing stability to all sectors.*
- *Three major changes have occurred since the implementation of Amendment 85, which has resulted in less stability for the dependent vessels on which the Amendment 85 allocation was based:*
 1. *low crab TACS and consolidation within the crab fisheries has provided increased flexibility for pot CPs,*
 2. *the total allowable catch for Pacific cod in the BSAI has decreased over the last several years, and*
 3. *the availability of rollovers to the CP pot sector has declined.*
- *The Council is considering action to eliminate latent capacity in the fishery, in order to increase stability for cod dependent pot CPs, maintain consistently low rates of halibut and crab bycatch, and ensure that condensed fishing seasons do not result in safety-at-sea concerns.*

Alternative 1: No Action.

Alternative 2: Remove the Pacific cod endorsements on C/P pot LLPs unless the license is credited with a minimum directed landing of 1000 mt in the management area based on the following threshold criteria:

Option 1: 2005-2019

Option 2: 2012-2019

Suboptions:

A: In any three years

B: In any four years

Option 3: (applies to either option 1): Management area endorsement applicability

Suboptions

A: Bering Sea only

B: Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

The Council also recommends that the Council establish a control date of October 8, 2019 for any action considering future participation in the Pacific cod catcher processor pot sector.

Mr. Cross moved to amend the motion which was seconded by Mr. Tweit by:

Eliminating option 3 entirely, and in Alternative 2, add "Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands" to describe the Pacific cod endorsements

Amendment passed unanimously.

Ms. Campbell moved to amend the motion which was seconded by Mr. Cross to:

rewrite the last sentence to say, “the Council also establishes a control date of October 8 2019 for any action considering future participation in the Pacific cod catcher processor pot sector.”

Ms. Baker moved to amend the amendment which was seconded by Mr. Tweit to:

add “BSAI” in front of Pacific cod

Amendment to the amendment passed without objection, and the amendment passed without objection.

VOTE ON MOTION: Main amended motion passed without objection 10/8/2019 at 1:18pm. Mr. Mezirow was absent.

D5 COOK INLET SALMON FMP

Council Staff: Jim Armstrong

Other Presenters: Gretchen Harrington (NMFS, AKRO)

SSC Report: The SSC did not have this item on their agenda.

AP Report: Angel Drobica

Action Required: 1. Review committee minutes and timeline for completing analysis, 2. Provide direction to the Committee as necessary

Background: The State of Alaska has historically had management authority over all salmon fishing in Cook Inlet, but following a recent court decision, the Council and National Marine Fisheries Service must now manage the fishery in federal waters (more than three miles from the shoreline). The Council has created a Committee of people who fish for salmon in Cook Inlet to explore rules that should apply, especially for reporting catch. The Committee is meeting on Monday September 30, and staff will report results to the Council.

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

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

The Council supports the Salmon FMP Committee recommendation to pursue further collaborative work by committee members to develop recommendations under Alternative 2 prior to the next committee meeting.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed without objection on 10/8/2019 at 3:45 pm.

E1 STAFF TASKING

Council Staff: David Witherell, Steve MacLean, Doug Duncan (NMFS)

Action Required: 1) Review committees/meetings 2) Provide direction on tasking and scheduling

The Council reviewed committee membership, identified agendas for upcoming committee meetings, and received updates on events and committees that met during the course of the week in Homer (Recreational Fisheries Roundtable, Community Engagement Committee).

The Council heard a summary of a proposed rule to identify Critical Habitat for the Western North Pacific and Mexico Distinct Population Segments of humpback whales. Staff were directed to write a letter summarizing Council comments.

The Council also heard testimony from the public about existing and new management measures and provided feedback to staff and the Council Chair about how to prioritize staff work on existing and new projects.

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

Squid to ecosystem component

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

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and initiates an analysis with the following alternatives. The Council also recommends Alternative 2 as its preliminary preferred alternative, to continue to designate squid and sculpins in both the BSAI and GOA FMPs as a non-target 'Ecosystem Component Species', establish a maximum retainable amount (MRA), and allow for limited use and sale of incidentally caught squid and sculpins consistent with past practice.

Purpose and Need

Squid is defined in the ecosystem component (EC) category. The Council took action to recommend that sculpins be defined in EC category as well. There are no directed fisheries for squid or sculpins in either the BSAI or GOA. Incidental catch of squid is retained in some fisheries and often utilized to prevent waste. Typically, sculpins are not retained but can be in some circumstances.

The Council's June 2017 action to reclassify the squid complex into the ecosystem component in the BSAI and GOA groundfish FMPs was based on the best available scientific information and was consistent with the revised National Standard 1 guidelines. However, the federal rulemaking to implement the Council's action incorrectly prohibited any use or sale of incidentally caught squid unless processed into fish meal. The June 2017 Council action and supporting analyses indicated: 1) retention of squids would continue at or slightly above current levels, and 2) past production types would continue to be allowed including whole bait and whole fish/food fish. The purpose of this action is to align regulations with the long-standing use of squid, the permissible use of squid based on the Council's June 2017 analysis and preferred alternative, and the permissible use of squid under the EC category.

The Council's recent recommendation to establish sculpins in the EC category would limit the use of sculpins consistent with existing regulations for all other EC category species (50 CFR 679.20(i)). The Council does not wish to increase the time required to move sculpins into the EC category by modifying that action, but intends to review the disposition of sculpins consistent with squids and the flexibility provided by the EC category.

Alternatives

Alternative 1: Squids and sculpins in both the BSAI and GOA FMPs are designated as non-target "ecosystem component species" with prohibition on the use of squids and sculpins other than as fishmeal.

Establishment of OFL, ABC, and TACs are not required. Directed fishing for squids and sculpins is prohibited, and the squids and sculpins maximum retainable amount when directed fishing for other

fisheries is 20%. The sale, barter, trade, or processing of squids and sculpins is prohibited, except as fishmeal. Recordkeeping and reporting to monitor and report catch and discards of squids and sculpins annually is required.

Alternative 2: Squids and sculpins in both the BSAI and GOA FMPs are designated as non-target “ecosystem component species”.

Establishment of OFL, ABC, and TACs are not required. Directed fishing for squids and sculpins are prohibited, and the squids and sculpins maximum retainable amount when directed fishing for other fisheries is 20%. There is no prohibition on the sale, barter, trade, or processing of incidental, retained squids or sculpins. Recordkeeping and reporting to monitor and report catch and discards of squids and sculpins annually is required.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed without objection on 10/9/2019 at 10:32. Mr. Mezirow was absent.

AI Pacific cod management

Ms. Baker moved the following, with a second by Ms Kimball:

The Council requests a discussion paper on management options available to promote conservation of AI Pacific cod and the sustained participation of AI fishing communities. In particular, the Council is interested in an update to the June 2019 discussion paper, including changes to BSAI Amendment 113 to include the modifications approved by the Council in December 2018, an update on the status of the Amendment 113 litigation, a discussion of how Amendment 113 addresses the national standards, and a thorough examination of options available under MSA 303A for Limited Access Privilege Programs and outside of 303A to meet these objectives.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed without objection on 10/9/2019 at 10:38 am. Mr. Mezirow was absent.

Fishery Monitoring

Mr. Tweit moved and Ms. Kimball seconded a motion to establish a Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee. NOTE: the full motion is included as an attachment to this document.

Ms. Kimball moved to amend, which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:

to prioritize cost efficiencies and change tasks 14 and 16 to tasks 6 and 7 respectively.

VOTE ON MOTION: Amendment passed without objection, and main amended motion passed without objection on 10/9/2019 at 11:06.

Rockfish Reauthorization

Ms. Kimball made the following motion with a second by Mr. Tweit:

Per NMFS recommendations on the Central Groundfish Rockfish Program reauthorization package, the Council approves inclusion of the proposed elements in the October 2019 paper with the exception of items #1 and #4 (related to the season closure date and the prior notice of landing/CMCP requirements).

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed without objection on 10/9/2019 at 11:12. Mr. Mezirow was absent.

BS Pacific Cod Small Boat Access

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

The Council requests a discussion paper in response to community concerns and small boat access challenges identified in the <60 ft fixed gear BSAI Pacific cod sector. The discussion paper should consider the potential impact of expanding the allowable participants to fish off of the jig sector allocation to small fixed gear catcher vessels (e.g. <57 ft, trip limits up to 15,000 lbs, pot limits less than 25 pots).

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed without objection on 10/9/2019 at 11:16. Mr. Mezirow was absent.

Mr. Kinneen read the list of appointments and thanked everyone in Homer for hosting, and for the public attending.

THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9, 2019 AT 1 P.M.



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
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TIME LOG Meeting held in Homer, Alaska Land's End Resort October 3 – 9, 2019

Thursday October 3, 2019

10/3/2019 8:10 AM Call to Order
10/3/2019 8:11 AM Oath of Office – Cora Campbell
10/3/2019 8:13 AM Election of Officers – Simon Kinneen & Bill Tweit
10/3/2019 8:14 AM Mr. Mayor Ken Castner

B1 REPORTS

10/3/2019 8:22 AM **B1 Executive Director Report** – David Witherell
10/3/2019 8:24 AM Maria Davis speaks to Council 101 and to Agenda Platform
10/3/2019 8:45 AM Deck Sorting EFP Presentation – John Gauvin
10/3/2019 9:20 AM Alaska Mariculture Initiative Presentation – Julie Decker & Heather McCarty
10/3/2019 9:39 AM Gulf Watch Alaska Briefing – Mandy Lindeberg
10/3/2019 9:59 AM Break
10/3/2019 10:14 AM Warming Waters and Salmon Presentation – Sue Mauger
10/3/2019 10:30 AM Protected Species Report – Steve MacLean
10/3/2019 10:32 AM **B1 Executive Director Report Continued** – David Witherell
10/3/2019 10:51 AM NMFS Briefing - Sam Rauch
10/3/2019 11:00 AM **B2 NMFS Management Report** – Glenn Merrill
10/3/2019 11:12 AM In-Season Management Report – Mary Furuness
10/3/2019 11:47 AM **B3 NOAA GC Report** – John Lepore
10/3/2019 11:53 AM **B4 AFSC Report** – Bob Foy
10/3/2019 12:17 PM Lunch Break
10/3/2019 1:20 PM **B4 AFSC Ecosystem Presentation** – Elizabeth Siddon & Stephani Zador
10/3/2019 2:05 PM **B5 ADF&G Report** – Karla Bush
10/3/2019 2:18 PM **B6 USCG Report** – LT Drew Stafford
10/3/2019 2:22 PM **B7 USFWS Report** – Jon Gerken

B PUBLIC TESTIMONY

10/3/2019 2:26 PM Linda Behnken
10/3/2019 2:33 PM Bob Alverson
10/3/2019 2:38 PM AK Seafood Cooperation
10/3/2019 2:52 PM Catie Bursch
10/3/2019 3:00 PM **Break**
10/3/2019 3:21 PM George Polluk
10/3/2019 3:24 PM Dave Fraser
10/3/2019 3:27 PM Steve Minor
10/3/2019 3:32 PM Brent Paine

C1 BSAI HALIBUT ABM PSC LIMITS

10/3/2019 3:55 PM C1 Presentation – NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram & AFSC, Dr. Carrey
McGilliard and Jim Ianelli
10/3/2019 5:22 PM Recess

Friday October 4, 2019

C1 BSAI Halibut ABM PSC Limits Continued

10/4/2019 8:03 AM Call to Order
10/4/2019 8:05 AM C1 Presentation Continued
10/4/2019 9:15 AM C1 Fishery Impacts; Background & Economic Overview, NPFMC Staff –
Anna Henry, Sam Cunningham
10/4/2019 10:00 AM Break
10/4/2019 10:20 AM C1 Social Impact Assessment – Wislow Research, Mike Downs
10/4/2019 11:00 AM C1 Performance Metrics - Dr. Diana Stram & Dr. Carrey McGilliard
10/4/2019 11:09 AM SSC Report – Anne Hollowed
10/4/2019 11:23 AM Break
10/4/2019 11:35 AM AP Report – Angel Drobnica
10/4/2019 11:59 AM **Lunch Break**
10/4/2019 1:06 PM Oath of Office – Nicole Kimball
10/4/2019 1:07 PM Balance of SSC Report – Anne Hollowed
10/4/2019 2:13 PM Break

C1 PUBLIC TESTIMONY

10/4/2019 2:28 PM Gerry Merrigan
10/4/2019 2:36 PM John Gauvin
10/4/2019 2:40 PM Molly Zaleski
10/4/2019 2:45 PM Bob Alverson
10/4/2019 2:13 PM Ben Martin
10/4/2019 Malcom Milne
10/4/2019 Greg Sutter
10/4/2019 Eric Lehm
10/4/2019 Forrest Braden
10/4/2019 Jeff Kauffman
10/4/2019 Arne Fuglevog
10/4/2019 Chris Woodley
10/4/2019 Simeon Swetzoff
10/4/2019 Joe Kashevarof
10/4/2019 Ricardo Mercurief and Brooke Winger
10/4/2019 Mateo Paz Soldon
10/4/2019 Peggy Parker
10/4/2019 Rachel Donkersloot
10/4/2019 4:15 PM Linda Behnken
10/4/2019 4:24 PM Jim Martin
10/4/2019 4:28 PM Heather McCarty

ACTION ON C1

10/4/2019 4:50 PM MOTION Rachel Baker
10/4/2019 5:02 PM Kimball question staff response
10/4/2019 5:07 PM Bill Tweit questions on modeling
10/17/2019 5:15 PM Comments on motion from Council
10/4/2019 5:16 PM Vote on Final Moton
10/4/2019 5:20 PM Recess for the day

Saturday October 5, 2019

10/5/2019 8:04 AM Call to Order

C2 OBSERVER FEE ANALYSIS

10/5/2019 8:07 AM Staff Reports
Diana Evans, Jennifer Ferdinand, Alicia Miller, Cathy Tide, Geoff Mayhew
10/5/2019 10:27AM AP Report Matt Upton

C2 PUBLIC TESTIMONY

10/5/2019 11:01AM Bob Alverson
10/5/2019 11:10AM Alexis Kwachka
10/5/2019 11:15AM Molly Zaleski
10/5/2019 11:18AM Todd Hoppe
10/5/2019 11:30AM Tom Evich
10/5/2019 11:35AM Malcom Milne
10/5/2019 11:45AM Heather Mann
10/5/2019 11:50AM Steve Brown
10/5/2019 12:05PM Julie Bonney

ACTION on C2

10/5/2019 1:15 PM Nicole Kimball Motion
10/5/2019 1:37 PM Motion passed unanimously
10/5/2019 1:38 PM Glenn Merrill Motion
10/5/2019 2:00 PM Bill Tweit Deeming amendment
10/5/2019 2:08 PM Deeming amendment passed and final motion passed

C3 OBSERVER 2020 ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT PLAN

10/5/2019 2:15 PM Staff Presentation
Diana Evans, Jennifer Ferdinand, Craig Faunce
10/5/2019 3:40 PM AP Report – Matt Upton

C3 PUBLIC TESTIMONY

10/5/2019 3:42 PM Scott Adams
10/5/2019 3:46 PM Molly Zaleski

C3 ACTION

10/5/2019 3:52 PM Glenn Merrill - Motion
10/5/2019 4:00 PM Motion passed unanimously

10/5/2019 4:01 PM Bill Tweit - Motion
10/5/2019 4:05 PM Motion passed unanimously

D1 TRAWL EM a) Trawl EM EFP review, b) Trawl EM Committee Report

10/5/2019 4:06 PM Staff Report, Anna Henry
10/5/2019 4:08 PM EFP Presentation, Julie Bonney and Ruth Christiansen
AP report Matt Upton

D1 PUBLIC TESTIMONY

10/5/2019 4:52 PM Molly Zaleski

ACTION ON D1

10/5/2019 5:15 PM Bill Tweit Motion
10/5/2019 5:23 PM Motion passed unanimously

10/5/2019 5:24 PM Recess for the day

Sunday October 6, 2019

10/6/2019 8:02 AM Call to Order

C4 BSAI CRAB a) ABC/OFL for 5 STOCKS

10/6/2019 8:08 AM Staff Reports
Jim Armstrong, Martin Dorn
10/6/2019 9:05 AM AP report, Matt Upton

C4 PUBLIC TESTIMONY

10/6/2019 9:06 AM Jamie Goen
10/6/2019 9:13 AM MOTION Karla Bush
10/6/2019 9:15 AM Motion passed unanimously
10/6/2019 9:16 AM BREAK

C5 BSAI GROUND FISH

10/6/2019 9:45 AM Staff Reports
Dr. Jim Ianelli, Dr. Diana Stram, Steve MacLean
10/6/2019 10:40 AM Dr. Stram BSAI PT Report
10/6/2019 11:08 AM AP Report Matt Upton

C5 PUBLIC TESTIMONY

10/6/2019 11:09 AM Jamie Goen – Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers
10/6/2019 11:13 AM Oysten Lone
10/6/2019 11:16 AM Lenny Hertzog
10/6/2019 11:20 AM Mark Fina US Seafoods
10/6/2019 11:25 AM John Gruver UCB IC Coop
10/6/2019 11:33 AM Hannah Heimbach
10/6/2019 11:44 AM Staff clarifications – Dr. Diana Stram

ACTION ON C5

10/6/2019 11:52 AM Craig Cross Motion
10/6/2019 12:09 PM Vote on motion by roll call vote: passed unanimously
10/6/2019 12:09 PM Break for lunch
10/6/2019 1:19 PM Resume
10/6/2019 1:19 PM Out of order D2 Frank Kelty

C6 GOA GROUND FISH

10/6/2019 1:33 PM Staff Presentation
Sara Cleaver, Dr. Jim Ianelli
10/6/2019 1:59 PM AP Report – Angel Drobnika

C6 PUBLIC TESTIMONY

10/6/2019 2:01 PM Julie Bonney

ACTION ON C6

10/6/2019 2:04 PM Nicole Kimball Motion
10/6/2019 2:07 PM Vote on motion by roll call vote: passed unanimously

C7 SCULPINS TO ECOSYSTEM COMPONENT

10/6/2019 2:10 PM Staff Report
Megan Macky
10/6/2019 2:23 PM AP report Angel Drobnika

C7 PUBIC TESTIMONY

10/6/2019 2:23 PM Christopher Oliver Groundfish Forum AK Seafood Cooperative
10/6/2019 2:27 PM Julie Bonney

ACTION ON C7

10/6/2019 2:30 PM Karla Bush – Motion
10/6/2019 2:33 PM Council Comment – remarking on National Standards
10/6/2019 2:35 PM Deeming motion, Bill Tweit
10/6/2019 2:37 PM Amendment passed unanimously, and amended main motion passed
unanimously by roll call vote

Monday October 7, 2019

10/7/2019 8:34 AM Call to Order

D2 BSAI PCOD TRAWL/POT CV MANANGEMENT

10/7/2019 8:35 AM Staff Presentation
Jon McCracken, Stephanie Warpinski
10/7/2019 10:08 AM Break
10/7/2019 10:29 AM Staff reports resume
10/7/2019 11:28 AM AP Report Matt Upton
10/7/2019 11:53 AM Break for lunch

D2 PUBLIC TESTIMONY

10/7/2019 1:05 PM Oysten Lone and Nikoli Sivestol
10/7/2019 1:15 PM Craig Lowenberg
10/7/2019 1:24 PM Scott Campbell
10/7/2019 1:28 PM Bob Breskovich
10/7/2019 1:33 PM Steve Beard
10/7/2019 1:38 PM Tom Evich
10/7/2019 1:42 PM Phillip Powell
10/7/2019 1:47 PM Kate Yaeger
10/7/2019 1:53 PM Mark Cooper
10/7/2019 1:58 PM Brent Paine
10/7/2019 2:17 PM John Iani, Chris Barrows, Glenn Reed
10/7/2019 2:28 PM Don Ashley
10/7/2019 2:31 PM Todd Loomis
10/7/2019 2:36 PM Marcus Alden, Tim Cusak
10/7/2019 2:40 PM Hannah Heimbach
10/7/2019 2:46 PM Ian Pitzman
10/7/2019 2:51 PM Chris Cooper
10/7/2019 3:02 PM Afternoon Break
10/7/2019 3:22 PM Jim Seavers
10/7/2019 3:24 PM Dan Martin
10/7/2019 3:31 PM Jamie Goen
10/7/2019 3:34 PM Gerry Merrigan
10/7/2019 3:42 PM Justin Johnson
10/7/2019 3:47 PM George Pollock
10/7/2019 3:51 PM Steve Minor, Jason Oglive
10/7/2019 3:57 PM Hunter Burns
10/7/2019 4:00 PM Heather Mann
10/7/2019 4:11 PM Julie Kavanaugh
10/7/2019 4:16 PM Jeff Lackey
10/7/2019 4:18 PM Dave Frazer
10/7/2019 4:31 PM John Gruver
10/7/2019 4:37 PM Dan Matisen
10/7/2019 4:41 PM Rachael Donkersloot
10/7/2019 4:49 PM Stephanie Moreland
10/7/2019 4:52 PM Clem Tillion
10/7/2019 4:56 PM Patrick Odonnel
10/7/2019 5:00 PM Julianne Curry
10/7/2019 5:05 PM Malcom Milne
10/7/2019 5:07 PM Recess for the day

Tuesday October 8, 2019

10/8/2019 8:02 AM Call to Order

D2 BSAI PCOD TRAWL/POT CV MANANGEMENT (continued)

10/8/2019 8:05 AM Questions of staff
10/8/2019 8:16 AM Craig Cross Motion, Second by Yang

10/8/2019 8:33 AM Craig speaks to motion – takes questions
10/8/2019 9:47 AM Rachel Baker Amendment
10/8/2019 10:04 AM Baker amendment in Element 3
10/8/2019 11:02 AM Final comments on motion
10/8/2019 11:14 AM Motion passed without objection
10/8/2019 11:15 AM Break
10/8/2019 11:32 AM Resume with D2 discussion

10/8/2019 11:39 AM Mary Boggs Pavalof Fisheries Public testimony out of order

C8 BSAI PARALLEL WATERS

10/8/2019 11:45 AM Staff report Jon McCracken
10/8/2019 12:00 PM Break for lunch
10/8/2019 1:04 PM AP report Angel Drobnika

C8 PUBLIC TESTIMONY

10/8/2019 1:06 PM Hannah Heimbach

ACTION ON C8

10/8/2019 1:07 PM Kenny Down Motion
10/8/2019 1:18 PM Vote on motion – passes without objection

D3 STRANDED BSAI AND GOA PCOD

10/8/2019 1:19 PM Mary Furuness Staff report
10/8/2019 1:27 PM Ken Down Motion

D4 BSAI PCOD POT CP PARTICIPATION

10/8/2019 1:29 PM Staff Report Jon McCracken
10/8/2019 1:43 PM AP Report Angel Drobnika

D5 PUBLIC TESTIMONY

10/8/2019 1:48 PM Mike Shefford
10/8/2019 1:55 PM Shannon Carroll
10/8/2019 1:58 PM Lenny Hertzog

ACTION ON D4

10/8/2019 2:13 PM Motion Kenny Down

D5 COOK INLET SALMON FMP

10/8/2019 2:35 PM Staff Report
Jim Armstrong, Gretchen Harrington
10/8/2019 2:56 PM John Jensen, remarks about salmon committee

D5 PUBLIC TESTIMONY

10/8/2019 3:22 PM Roland Maw
10/8/2019 3:31 PM Dan Anderson
10/8/2019 3:35 PM Hannah Heimbach
10/8/2019 3:39 PM Scott Adams

10/8/2019 3:43 PM Revelle Russell

ACTION ON D5

10/8/2019 3:45 PM John Jensen Motion

E1 STAFF TASKING

10/8/2019 4:00 PM Steve MacLean – CEC report
10/8/2019 4:17 PM Doug Duncan – REC fisheries roundtable report
10/8/2019 4:20 PM Stephani Warpinski
10/8/2019 4:31 PM Steve MacLean
10/8/2019 4:47 PM AP REPORT Angel Drobnika

10/8/2019 5:00 PM Recess for the day

Wednesday October 9, 2019

10/9/2019 8:09 AM Call to Order
10/9/2019 8:20 AM Diana Stram outlining ABM

E PUBLIC COMMENT

10/9/2019 8:44 AM Dave Fraser
10/9/2019 8:58 AM Rachel Donkersloot
10/9/2019 9:04 AM Steve Minor
10/9/2019 9:07 AM Patrick O'Donnell
10/9/2019 9:18 AM Heather McCarty and Mateo Paz Soldan
10/9/2019 9:23 AM Todd Hoppe
10/9/2019 9:29 AM Shannon Carroll
10/9/2019 9:32 AM Jamie OConnor
10/9/2019 9:33 AM Chris Woodley
10/9/2019 9:35 AM Julie Kavanaugh
10/9/2019 9:38 AM Clem Tillion
10/9/2019 9:41 AM Julie Bonney
10/9/2019 9:46 AM John Gruver
10/9/2019 9:47 AM Break

ACTION on E

10/9/2019 10:24 AM Kimball motion Squid/Sculpin to Ecosystem component
10/9/2019 10:32 AM Passes unanimously
10/9/2019 10:38 AM Baker motion on AI Pcod management
10/9/2019 10:48 AM Bill Tweit motion
10/9/2019 11:04 AM Kimball amendment
10/9/2019 11:24 AM Announcements
10/9/2019 11:24 AM Appointments

10/9/2019 11:26 AM Adjourn

October 2019 Newsletter

Thank you, Homer!

The Council held its October meeting in Homer, Alaska. We thank everyone in Homer who worked to ensure our meetings and our stay was a success. The meetings on the spit provided incredible views and a stunning background to the daily fish discussions. Evening events hosted by local residents, industry participants, and Homer businesses allowed participants to engage in less formal settings.

Special thanks to the City of Homer and its administration who assisted in the many logistics required when hosting a Council meeting. A big shout out to the staff at the Land's End hotel who also provided a majority of the accommodations and meeting space. And thanks to all the local businesses, service providers, fishermen's groups, fisheries organizations, and individuals who helped make our meeting a success! We hope to return to Homer for meetings in the future.



Guests at the industry reception at the Lands End

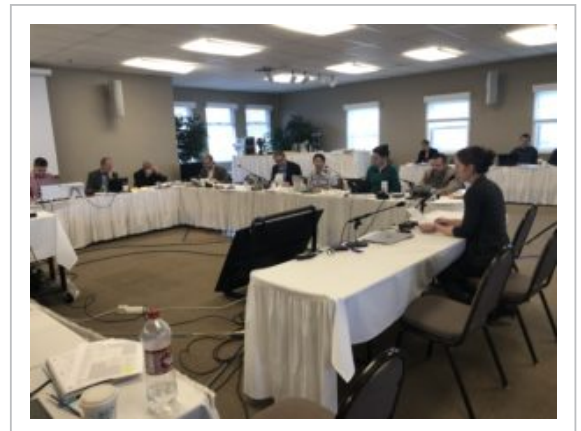


Meeting participants on a Harbor Tour

New Council members and Election of Officers

At this meeting, the Council re-elected Simon Kinneen as Chairman, and re-elected Bill Tweit as Vice-Chair for the upcoming year. Additionally, Ms. Nicole Kimball and Ms. Cora Campbell were sworn in as new Council members for a three-year term.

Ms. Kimball is the vice-president of the Pacific Seafood Processors Association, a non-profit trade association comprised of motherships and shore-based seafood processors across Alaska. Prior to this, she served as Federal



Fisheries Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, where she represented the state in regional, national, and international fisheries venues, and served as the alternate to the Commissioner on the North Pacific Council (2012-2016). Before that, Nicole worked as a fisheries analyst for the Council for 12 years.

Council members in Homer, Alaska

Ms. Campbell is president and chief executive officer of Silver Bay Seafoods LLC, a fishermen-owned Alaska seafood processing company. Her fisheries career started in Petersburg Alaska, where she grew up fishing with her family. She served as policy advisor to two Alaska governors on fisheries, wildlife, climate change, natural resources, seafood marketing, and Arctic development. Ms. Campbell is former Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and previously represented the State of Alaska on the North Pacific Council (2010-2014).

Full bios for both new Council members, as well as the rest of the Council, [are available on our website](#).

Appointments

SSC Appointments

Dr. Amanda Bishop, of the Alaska Sea Life Center, will replace Dr. Jennifer Burns, who has resigned from the SSC, for the remainder of her appointment period. Dr. Bishop has been acting as the alternate for Dr. Burns since 2017. At the October SSC meeting, Dr. Milo Atkinson, of the University of Alaska Fairbanks College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, stepped in to replace Dr. Terry Quinn, who passed away over the summer, and in December, Dr. Curry Cunningham (of the same affiliation) will act as the interim member. CVs for all current SSC members [are available on our website](#).

Plan Team Appointment

The Council appointed Dr. Marysia Szymkowiak to serve on the **GOA Groundfish Plan Team**, as a replacement for Dr. Dan Lew. Dr. Szymkowiak is a social scientist at the AFSC, and on a variety of management issues in the North Pacific. She has expertise working directly with fishers and fishing communities and also conducts research on individual fishing quota (IFQ) fisheries and markets, new entry and diversification strategies for fishers, and the use of qualitative and mixed methods.

Committee Appointments

The Council appointed Craig Evens, Jerry Dahl Jr, and Jeff Peterson to the **IFQ Committee**, and appointed Council member Cora Campbell to chair that committee. The former Committee Chair, Buck Laukitis, will also remain on the Committee as a member.

Council members Bill Tweit and Nicole Kimball will co-Chair the **Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC)**, with Bill Tweit remaining as Chair of the Trawl EM Committee, and Nicole Kimball chairing the newly create **Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC)**. The following FMAC members will also become members of the PCFMAC: Bob Alverson, Julie Bonney, Tom Evich, Dan Falvey, Kathy Hansen, Abigail Turner-Franke, Julie Kavanaugh, Luke Szymanski, Caitlin Yeager. In addition, the PCFMAC will be expanded to include representatives of the two EM service providers for the fixed gear EM program.

Council member Cora Campbell was appointed to the **Joint Protocol Committee**. For the **Community Engagement Committee**, former co-Chair Theresa Peterson will remain on the Committee as a member. Council member Kenny Down will represent the Council on the Alaska Ocean Observing Systems (AOOS) Board, and Council member Rachel Baker will represent the Council on the IPHC's Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB).

Bering Sea FEP Taskforces

The Council appointed membership for two taskforces to work on two Action Modules, or projects, that implement the Council's Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP). The two initiated Action Modules are the following: the Climate Change Action Module, to evaluate short- and long-term effects of climate change on fish, fisheries, and the Bering Sea ecosystem, and develop management considerations; and the LK/TK/Subsistence Action Module, to develop protocols for using local knowledge (LK) and traditional knowledge (TK) in management, and understanding impacts of Council decisions on subsistence use.

The following members are appointed to the **Bering Sea FEP Climate Change Action Module**:

- Kirstin Holsman, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center
- Steve Martell, SeaState
- Jeremy Sterling, NMFS Marine Mammal Commission
- Diana Stram, Council staff
- Mike LeVine, The Ocean Conservancy
- Lauren Divine, Aleut Community of St. Paul
- Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian, Sandhill.Culture.Craft
- Scott Goodman, Natural Resources Consultants / Bering Sea Fisheries Research Fund
- Joe Krieger, NMFS Alaska Regional Office

The following members are appointed to the **Bering Sea FEP LK/TK/Subsistence Action Module**:

- Sarah Wise, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center
- Alida Trainor, ADFG Subsistence Division
- Rachel Donkersloot, Coastal Cultures Research and Consulting
- Robert Murphy, Alaska Pacific University
- Toby Anungazuk Jr., Golovin, Alaska
- Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Kawerak
- Simeon Swetzof, St. Paul, Alaska
- Darcy Peter, Beaver, Alaska
- Richard Slats, Chevak, Alaska
- Bridget Mansfield, NMFS Alaska Regional Office
- Kate Haapala, Council staff

Call for Nominations

The Council is accepting nominations for its Scientific and Statistical Committee, and its Advisory Panel.

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. **Nominations, letters of interest, and a resume should be submitted to the Executive Director through our comment portal by November 29th at 12pm Alaska time.**



The Council's Advisory Panel in Homer, Alaska

The **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. 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.

There are seats available for appointment on the AP. Of these, six are held by existing AP members who are eligible to serve another term, and have indicated interest in doing so: Ruth Christiansen, Jeff Kauffman, Victoria O'Connell, Patrick O'Donnell, John Scoblic, and Sinclair Wilt. Two current AP members have terms that are expiring: Alexis Kwachka and Kurt Cochran, and the remaining seat is held by John Gruver, who was appointed to a one-year term only. **Nominations, letters of interest, and a resume should be submitted to the Executive Director through our comment portal by November 29th at 12pm Alaska time. Letters of support are not required but will also be considered.** Please note that the names of those who submit a nomination will be made public.

Halibut Abundance Based Management

The Council reviewed a preliminary draft analysis of a management program for BSAI halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limits tied to the abundance of halibut (also described as halibut abundance-based management (ABM)). The Council is considering modifying current static PSC limits to fulfill multiple objectives: to index PSC limits to halibut abundance which may achieve different goals of providing flexibility to the groundfish fisheries in times of high halibut abundance, protecting spawning biomass of halibut especially at low levels of abundance, and stabilizing the inter-annual variability of PSC limits, all of which may provide additional harvest opportunities in the commercial halibut fishery.

The SSC provided constructive feedback for the analysts and requested that the analysis come back for another initial review once their recommendations have been addressed. Recommendations were grouped around minor modifications to the halibut operating model, additional simulations to run under lower than

present recruitment assumptions and clarifications in the presentation of the range of alternatives and related impacts. The Council moved to modify and broaden the performance metrics that are being considered in the analysis, and requested that staff incorporate the SSC's suggested revisions to the operating model and the preliminary draft EIS to the extent practicable. The Council did not move forward with changes to the current alternative set nor recommended inclusion of the SSC's recommendation for including a new alternative that allows regulatory flexibility for adjusting PSC limits within season based on observed encounter rates.



The analysts will be providing the public with an interactive spreadsheet that can be used as a tool to estimate what PSC limits would have been historically under the range of alternatives being considered. The analysis will be modified to address Council revisions and SSC recommendations and will be brought back for initial review in 2020. A work plan for this will be presented in December 2019. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Observer Fee Analysis

The Council approved an increase to the observer fee that supports the deployment of observers and electronic monitoring (EM) systems in the commercial groundfish and Pacific halibut fisheries under partial coverage monitoring throughout the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea Aleutian Islands. The Council adopted a fee increase from the current 1.25% to 1.65%. Under the fastest implementation scenario, the change would go into effect in 2021, and the revenue would be available to affect coverage rates in mid-2022.



The Council heard extensive public testimony about controlling costs in the partial coverage observer program, and before taking action on the fee increase, passed a motion to set cost efficiency as its highest priority for work on the partial coverage observer program. The Council prioritized several immediate efforts to consider how to potentially lower costs and yet increase coverage rates for monitoring, by developing the pelagic trawl EM program, integrating EM and observer data for fixed gear, and optimizing the size and composition of fixed gear observed and EM fleets (including moving some vessels in remote ports, harvesting small amounts of fish, to zero-coverage).

Ultimately, the Council decided that because observer program data, scientifically collected, is foundational to the Council's management program, both additional revenue and mechanisms to reduce costs would be required to address projected revenue shortfalls identified in the analysis. The Council selected an amount that would improve the stability of the partial coverage observer program, increase the fee in an equitable way across sectors, and along with cost containment measures that have been initiated, ensure the Council's monitoring objectives can continue to be met.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Trawl Electronic Monitoring

The Council reviewed an exempted fishing permit (EFP) application on Implementing Electronic Monitoring systems in the Eastern Bering Sea (EBS) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Pollock Pelagic Trawl Catcher Vessel Fisheries and recommended that the EFP be approved, taking into account recommendations of the SSC and the Trawl EM Committee.

This EFP would exempt participating pollock pelagic trawl catcher vessels in the EBS and GOA from regulations related to vessel discard requirements and onboard observer coverage. These exemptions are necessary for participating vessels to achieve maximized retention for all harvested species and to fully test the use of EM as a compliance monitoring tool for ensuring no salmon are discarded at sea. The EFP facilitates the Council's long-term vision and ongoing commitment to a trawl EM program.

The Council noted that the EFP application was extremely thorough and developed in a collaborative manner between the applicants and multiple NMFS divisions.

During [staff tasking](#), the Council also endorsed the [description](#) of the scope and purpose of Council monitoring committees including the Trawl EM Committee, and discussed [scheduling](#) for upcoming meetings.

Staff contact is Anna Henry.



Photo credit: Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

Observer Program Draft 2020 Annual Deployment Plan

The Council reviewed the Observer Program Draft 2020 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP), received a report from the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC), and supported NMFS' recommendations for observer deployment in the partial coverage fisheries in 2020. The Council supported NMFS' recommendation to not deploy observers into tender-specific strata in 2020, and to instead only deploy observers into strata defined by gear type. This change is not likely to substantially affect realized coverage rates on tendered trips, which will continue to be evaluated separately in the Annual Report. The Council also supported NMFS' recommendations for the coverage allocation scheme of 15% plus optimized allocation based on discarded groundfish and halibut PSC and Chinook PSC, as described in the Draft 2020 ADP.

The Council reaffirmed its recommendation to NMFS that the EM trip selection pool be increased by 30 vessels, if additional funding is available to purchase and install EM systems. The Council appreciated the addition

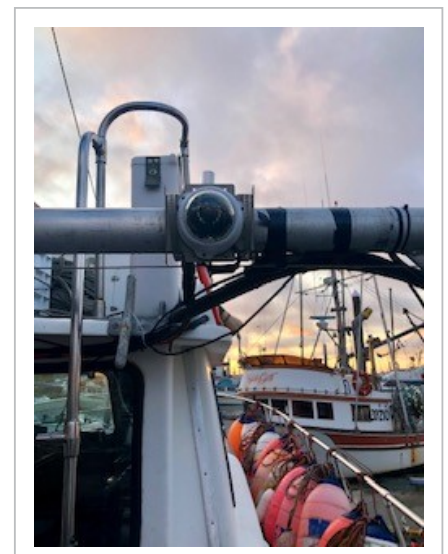


Photo Credit: Elizabeth Figus

of a new criterion for prioritizing among vessels opting in if funding is insufficient to accommodate all vessels, namely to prioritize vessels that are unlikely to introduce data gaps. The Council also supports the agency's planning to accommodate vessels participating in the [Trawl EM EFP](#), should it be approved.

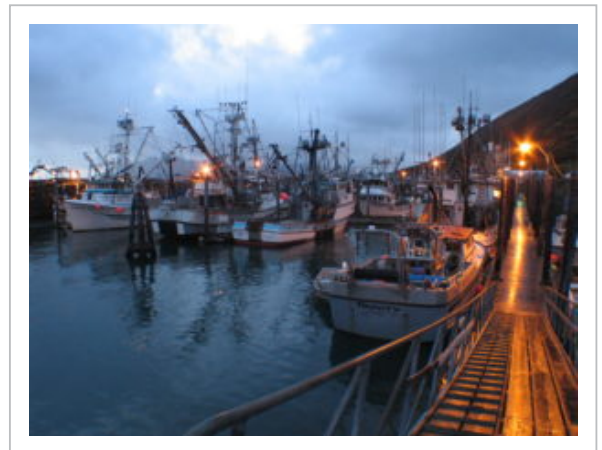
Finally, the Council commended NMFS' ongoing work to improve observer safety, and made a statement supporting the importance of finding a solution to observer recruitment and retention. During [staff tasking](#), the Council also endorsed the [description](#) of the scope and purpose of Council monitoring committees reviewed by the committees, and created a separate Partial Coverage FMAC Committee (comprised of existing FMAC members representing partial coverage fishery sectors) to streamline advice to the Council. The Council also addressed [scheduling](#) for upcoming monitoring committee meetings.

Staff contact for observer issues is Kate Haapala.

BSAI Groundfish Preliminary Harvest Specifications

The Council reviewed reports from the BSAI and Joint Groundfish Plan Teams, and recommended 2020 and 2021 groundfish harvest and prohibited species catch (PSC) specifications for proposed rulemaking.

The SSC was presented with the Joint Groundfish and Crab Teams [report](#), the Joint Groundfish Teams [report](#), and the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team [report](#) which summarized the issues discussed and actions taken by the Plan Teams at their September meeting in Seattle, WA. Highlights of the Joint Groundfish and Crab Teams report included a summary and discussion of the Vector Autoregressive Spatio-Temporal (VAST) model, including the benefits, drawbacks, and proposed terms of reference for using VAST in the 2019 SAFE reports; and EM and Observer Program issues. Highlights of the Joint Groundfish Plan Teams' report included: EBS/NBS shelf trawl survey results; a discussion of sablefish discards; updates on the sablefish assessment; and the use of the risk table. The BSAI Plan Team report addressed Team discussions with individual assessment authors. The AP and Council received similar, but abbreviated, reports.



The Joint Groundfish Plan Teams recommended combining the OFL for sablefish in the BS and AI, and potentially Statewide. The sablefish stock is assessed as a single, Alaska-wide stock, but OFL and ABC are apportioned by area between the BS, AI, and GOA. Apportioning OFL by area is a legacy of earlier Council action and has not previously been revisited. The SSC recommended that the 2020/2021 interim specifications retain the area-specific OFL, but noticed the public that they may consider a combined BS and AI OFL after the December meeting, for Final Specifications. Updated stock assessments for all BSAI species, incorporating this year's survey data and PT and SSC recommendations, will be reviewed by the Plan Team at their upcoming meeting, November 12-15.

For proposed rulemaking for the 2020 and 2021 fishing years, the Council recommended OFLs and ABCs consistent with SSC recommendations based on rollover of the existing 2020 specifications for all stocks,

and recommended proposed TACs and PSC limits and adopted Halibut DMRs for 2020 and 2021. Full details are included in the Council motion for the [BSAI](#).

The Council received a letter from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) indicating that the combined, post-season sum of the three-river index (Upper Yukon, Unalakleet, and Kuskokwim Rivers) of Chinook salmon is 315,626 Chinook salmon. This is above the threshold (250,000 Chinook salmon) that would trigger lower PSC limit and performance threshold. Therefore, the higher PSC limit (60,000) and performance threshold (47,491) will be in place for 2020.

Information for the GOA Interim Specifications are available in the [GOA Plan Team newsletter article](#). Staff contact for BSAI Groundfish Plan Team is Steve MacLean.

GOA Groundfish Preliminary Harvest Specifications

The Council received a report from the GOA Groundfish Plan Team and adopted proposed harvest and prohibited species catch (PSC) specifications for 2020 and 2021. The [GOA Groundfish Plan Team report](#) summarized the issues discussed and actions taken by the Plan Team at its September meeting in Seattle, WA. Highlights of the GOA Plan Team report included overviews of the various surveys conducted in support of stock assessments, as well as Team discussions with individual assessment authors. The SSC provided guidance and recommendations on these issues as well as on harvest specifications for 2020. Some of the issues that pertain to GOA Groundfish were covered in the Joint Plan Team Report (discussed further under the [BSAI Groundfish newsletter article](#)).



For proposed rulemaking for the 2020 and 2021 fishing years, the SSC recommended OFLs and ABCs based on a rollover of existing 2020 specifications for all stocks. Updated stock assessments incorporating this year's survey data and PT and SSC recommendations will be reviewed by the Plan Team at the upcoming meeting November 12-15 in Seattle. The Council recommended OFLs and ABCs consistent with SSC recommendations and proposed TACs. The Council also recommended halibut PSC limit apportionments and adopted updated halibut DMRs for 2019; full details are included in the [Council motion for the GOA](#).

Staff contact for the GOA Groundfish Plan Team is Sara Cleaver.

BSAI Crab Harvest Specifications

The Council reviewed the BSAI Crab Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report, and specified crab OFLs and ABCs for 2019/2020.

Approval of the SAFE and 2019/2020 OFL/ABC

Dr. Martin Dorn, Co-Chair of the Crab Plan Team, presented the 2019 Bering Sea and Aleutian Island Crab Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) and the September 2019 CPT meeting report to the Council. Included in the presentation were final 2019 CPT recommendations for five crab stocks and CPT reviews of

the 2019 Eastern Bering Sea (EBS) trawl survey, State fishery performance reports, State survey plans, and several crab research topics. The SSC endorsed all of the CPT recommendations on overfishing levels (OFLs) and acceptable biological catches (ABCs). Based on the review and recommendations of its SSC, the Council approved the SAFE and specified OFLs and ABCs for EBS snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, EBS Tanner crab, and Pribilof Island red king crab for 2019/20.

Crab Stock Status

The Crab SAFE describes the process for determining stock status based on a five-tier system that takes into account variation in the availability of information on a given crab stock. For most of the crab stocks managed by the Council, data are sufficient to support estimation of stock biomass (B), which allows stock status to be characterized by the ratio of current biomass (i.e., B_{2019}) to target (B_{MSY}) and threshold ($\frac{1}{2} B_{MSY}$) biomass (see Figure 1 and Table 1 below). The updated SAFE indicates that EBS snow crab, Aleutian Islands golden king crab, and Pribilof Islands red king crab are all above B_{MSY} , while EBS Tanner crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, and Norton Sound red king crab are below B_{MSY} but above $\frac{1}{2} B_{MSY}$. The biomass estimate for EBS Tanner crab was above B_{MSY} last year, and so the updated biomass estimate represents a decline.

Saint Matthew blue king crab and Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock are both below $\frac{1}{2} B_{MSY}$ (Figure 1, Table 1) which defines the minimize stock size threshold (MSST) for these stocks and means that they are both overfished. Pribilof Islands blue king crab has been overfished since 2002, while Saint Matthew blue king crab was declared to be overfished in October 2018. A rebuilding plan is in development for Saint Matthew blue king crab and will be presented to the Council for initial review in December 2019. At the October 2019 meeting, the SSC provided guidance to analytical staff on information to consider in developing a timeframe for rebuilding.

Under the five-tier system described in the Crab SAFE methods are provided for estimating catch levels that constitute overfishing (i.e., the OFL). According to the 2019 SAFE, overfishing did not occur for any of the Council’s crab stocks.

Next Steps

The Crab Plan Team will hold its next meeting in Kodiak, Alaska from January 14-18, 2020 and will provide a report of that meeting to the Council at the February 2020 Council meeting in Seattle. At the January CPT meeting, the Team will review the final 2020 Norton Sound red king crab stock assessment, preliminary assessments for three crab stocks, the 2019 Crab Economic SAFE, the Gmacs framework for modeling crab population dynamics, and a range of crab research topics.

Staff contact for BSAI crab stocks is Jim Armstrong.

Table 1: Stock biomass estimates and OFL/ABC specifications, in thousands of metric tons, for 2019/20 for all crab stocks managed by the NPFMC. Note that no biomass estimates are possible for the Tier 5 stocks (PIGKC, WAIRKC).

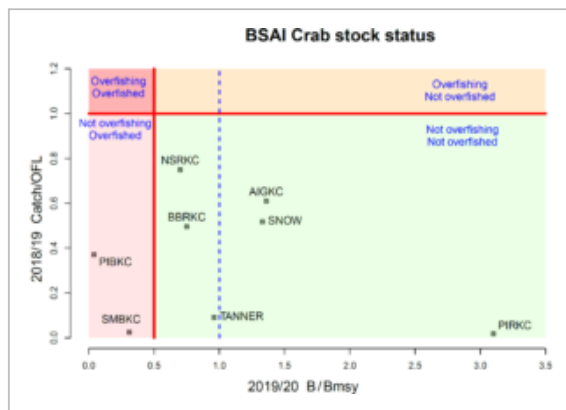


Figure 1: Status of Bering Sea crab stocks in 2019 in relation to status determination criteria (BMSY, ½ BMSY, OFL).

Stock	Tier	B_{MSY} or BMSYproxy	2019/20 Biomass	2019/20 B/B_{MSY}	2019/20 OFL	2019/20ABC
EBS						
snow crab	3a	126.1	167.3	1.33	54.90	43.90
BB red king crab	3b	21.25	15.96	0.75	3.40	2.72
EBS						
Tanner crab	3b	41.07	39.55	0.96	28.86	23.09
Pribilof Islands red king crab						
	4a	1.73	5.37	3.10	0.86	0.65
Pribilof Islands blue king crab						
	4c	4.11	0.175	0.04	0.00116	0.00087
St. Matthew Island blue king crab						
	4c	3.48	1.08	0.31	0.044	0.035
Norton Sound red king crab						
	4b	2.06	1.41	0.68	0.11	0.09
AI golden king crab						
	3a	11.76	15.94	1.36	5.25	3.94

Pribilof

Islands

golden

king crab

5	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.09	0.07
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Western

Al red

king crab

5	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.06	0.01
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Sculpins as Ecosystem Component Species

The Council reviewed a Public Review Draft of an Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Impact Review (EA/RIR) and concluded that sculpins meet the requirements for classification as an ecosystem component species in both the BSAI and GOA FMPs.

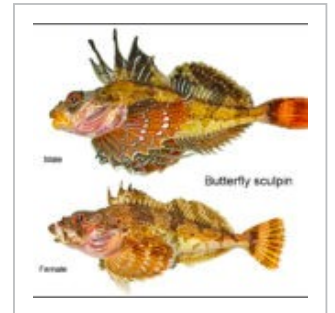
The analysis included alternatives for classifying sculpins as target species or ecosystem component species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Groundfish Fishery Management Plans (FMPs). **At this**

meeting, the Council identified a Preferred Alternative to designate sculpins

in both BSAI and GOA FMPs as non-target ecosystem component species, and to establish the Maximum Retainable Amount (MRA) for sculpins at 20% for all basis species. The Preferred Alternative will preclude the establishment of OFL, ABC, and TAC, and prohibit directed fishing for sculpins. Recordkeeping and reporting to monitor and report catch and discards of sculpins will still be required.

During review, members of the public expressed concern about the requirement that ecosystem component species can only enter commerce in the form of fish meal, and requested that the Council initiate a discussion paper to revisit that requirement. During Staff Tasking, the Council directed staff to initiate a following analysis to evaluate eliminating the prohibition on any use or processing of sculpins and squid except for fishmeal.

Summaries of previous action related to this agenda item are available in the April 2019 [newsletter](#) and the June 2019 [newsletter](#). Council staff contact is Steve MacLean.



BSAI Pacific cod Pot Catcher Processor Participation

The Council, after reviewing a discussion paper that evaluated participation and effort in the Bering Sea Pacific cod catcher processor fishery, adopted a purpose and need statement (provided below) and initiated an analysis to eliminate latent capacity in the fishery in order to increase stability for Pacific cod dependent

CPs, maintain consistently low rates of halibut and crab bycatch, and ensure that condensed fishing seasons do not result in safety-at-sea concerns.

The Council adopted the following purpose and need statement:

Amendment 85 assigned a portion of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Pacific cod TAC to the pot CP sector with the primary goals of aligning Pacific cod allocations with actual dependency and use and providing stability to all sectors. Three major changes have occurred since the implementation of Amendment 85, which has resulted in less stability for the dependent vessels on which the Amendment 85 allocation was based:



1. *low crab TACS and consolidation within the crab fisheries has provided increased flexibility for pot CPs,*
2. *the total allowable catch for Pacific cod in the BSAI has decreased over the last several years, and*
3. *the availability of rollovers to the CP pot sector has declined.*

The Council is considering action to eliminate latent capacity in the fishery, in order to increase stability for cod dependent pot CPs, maintain consistently low rates of halibut and crab bycatch, and ensure that condensed fishing seasons do not result in safety-at-sea concerns.

Under the proposed action, Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod endorsements on catcher processor pot License Limitation Program licenses would be removed unless the license is credited with a minimum directing landing of 1,000 mt in the management area based on two different year combinations. **The Council also established a control date of October 8, 2019 for any action considering future participation in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod pot catcher processor sector.**

Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

BSAI Pacific Cod Trawl and Pot CV LAPP Scoping Paper

At this meeting, the Council adopted a revised purpose and need statement and provided alternatives, elements, and options for a proposed BSAI Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel (CV) cooperative style-limited access privilege program (LAPP), which are summarized below. The Council did not move forward with development of a pot CV \geq 60' LAPP at this time. Instead, the Council encouraged the pot sector participants to work together to provide a more inclusive LAPP for all sector participants.

For the trawl CV LAPP, the Council is currently considering two different cooperative approaches: 1) two cooperatives, one for AFA vessels and one for non-AFA vessels (Element 1, Option 1), or 2) voluntary harvester cooperatives in association with a licensed processor (Element 1, Option 2).

Based on the Council's motion, any LLP license assigned to a vessel that authorized that vessel's legal landings of targeted trawl catcher vessel BSAI Pacific cod during the qualifying years is eligible to receive harvest

shares (Element 2.1).

To determine harvest allocations, the Council included three different year combinations based on targeted BSAI Pacific cod harvest (Element 2.2, Options 1-3) and a fourth option that would blend both catch history and sideboard history for AFA BSAI Pacific cod sideboarded vessels only (Element 2.2, Option 4). The Council included an option to allocate only A season and B season harvest quota, leaving C season to remain as a limited access fishery to any vessel with an eligible groundfish LLP license and appropriate endorsements (Element 2.5).



With regards to prohibited species catch (PSC), the Council would continue to utilize the current harvest specifications process to determine the amount of halibut and crab PSC that would be apportioned to the trawl catcher vessel cooperatives (Element 3, Option 1). For example, halibut PSC is currently assigned to the trawl limited access sector and is further divided by fishery with 391 mt designated for use in the BSAI Pacific cod fishery for the 2019 fishing year. This halibut PSC limit is shared by the BSAI Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel sector and AFA catcher processor sector. The Council included a suboption to establish a trawl CV Pacific cod halibut PSC apportionment based on historic use between trawl catcher vessel sector and the AFA catcher processor sector (Element 3, Option 1, Suboption). The Council also included an option to reduce halibut and crab PSC apportionment to BSAI trawl catcher vessel Pacific cod sector by 10% to 25% (Element 3, Option 2).

The Council also included options to limit spillover effects from the BSAI Pacific cod trawl CV LAPP on GOA fisheries. These options include sideboard limits for AFA LLPs and CVs (Element 4, Option 1) and non-AFA LLP licenses (Element 4, Option 3) based on their GOA catch history during the BSAI Pacific cod qualifying period and restricting transfers of BSAI Pacific cod history on their respective LLP license for AFA GOA sideboard exempt trawl catcher vessels as a condition of continuing to benefit from their GOA sideboard exemption (Element 4, Option 2). The Council did include a provision to exempt non-AFA catcher vessels from GOA sideboards if their qualifying BSAI Pacific cod history was less than a yet to be determined threshold amount (Element 4, Option 3, suboption).

Included in the Council's elements and options were provisions addressing processors. These include allowing all processors with an eligible federal processor permit to process BSAI Pacific cod (subject to eligibility requirements under the April 2019 Council action to limit catcher processors acting as motherships) (Element 5.1); a limit on targeted BSAI Pacific cod that can be delivered by trawl CVs (Element 5.2), and allocating harvest shares to onshore and offshore processors for use in a trawl catcher vessel cooperative (Element 5.3). The percent of shares allocated to eligible processors ranges from 5% to 30%.

The Council included provisions to promote sustained participation of Aleutian Islands (AI) processors and communities (Element 6). Option 1 requires the cooperative(s) to reserve a set-aside ranging from 10% to 25% of the BSAI trawl catcher vessel A season harvest amount for delivery to a shoreplant in the AI management region. Option 2 would issue annual harvest quota, the lesser of 5,000 mt or 5.5% of the total BSAI trawl catcher vessel Pacific cod quota, to the plant operator if the community of Adak or Atka files a notice of intent to process.

The Council also included transferability provisions. Specifically, Element 7 notes that catch histories are attached to the LLP license and are non-severable from the LLP license. Transfer of an LLP license eligible for this program results in the transfer of any program eligibility and catch history/harvest shares associated with the LLP (Element 7.1). Allocations based on processing history will be issued as separate permits and use and transfer restrictions on these processor cooperative shares, if selected, will be determined at a later date (Element 7.2).

With regards to ownership and use caps, the Council included options for a use cap for harvester-issued (Element 8.1) and processor-issued cooperative shares (Element 8.3), vessel use caps (Element 8.2), and processing cap (Element 8.4). Ownership and use cap percentages will be determined after further analysis. The Council included options to grandfather persons over the harvester-issued and processor-issued use caps and the processing cap.

Finally, the Council included elements to address cooperative provisions (Element 9), share duration (Element 10), monitoring (Element 11), reporting and program review (Element 12), cost recovery (Element 13), and gear conversion to fish BSAI Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel quota with pot gear (Element 14).

Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

BSAI Pacific cod Parallel Fishery Limited Access

At this meeting, the Council adopted a revised purpose and need statement, selected a preliminary preferred alternative for an analysis that considers prohibiting all Federal vessels from fishing for Pacific cod in waters from shore to 3 miles in the BSAI without the proper permits and licenses, and released the document for public review. The directed fisheries for Pacific cod in state waters (0 to 3 nm) that are open concurrently with the directed fisheries in federal waters (3 nm to 200 nm) are referred to as the parallel fishery and are prosecuted under virtually the same rules as the federal fisheries, with catch counted against the federal TAC. The parallel State waters fisheries are managed separately from the State waters Pacific cod fisheries.

The Council's preliminary preferred alternative would preclude hook-and-line, pot, and trawl gear vessels from participating in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod parallel fisheries unless they have a License Limitation Program license with the correct license endorsements and a designated Federal Fisheries Permit. The preliminary preferred alternative would also require the above Federal permitted or licensed vessels that fish in the parallel fishery to adhere to federal sector and seasonal BSAI Pacific cod closures and would restrict those vessels from surrendering and later reapplying for the FFP within a three-year time period.

Below is the revised purpose and need statement:

Currently, there are no limits on entry by federally permitted catcher vessels into the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) parallel waters groundfish fisheries, and no limits on the proportion of the BSAI Pacific cod TAC that may be



harvested in parallel waters. Current management inadvertently allows fishing in BSAI parallel waters off a federal Pacific cod TAC even when a sector's federal Pacific cod allocation has been achieved. There is concern that harvests of Pacific cod in the parallel waters fishery by vessels that do not hold BSAI groundfish LLP licenses or the appropriate Pacific cod endorsement may continue to increase. This complicates conservation and management measures which hold sectors to their allocations and circumvents the intent of previous Council decisions regarding license limitation, sector allocations, and catch reporting. The Council, in consideration of options and recommendations for federal catcher vessels that participate in the parallel fishery, intends to ensure robust catch accounting while considering participation in and reliance on the Pacific cod fisheries while recognizing that new entrants who do not hold Federal fishery permits may participate in the parallel fishery.

Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

BSAI and GOA Unused Pacific Cod

After reviewing a discussion paper overviewing reasons for unused Pacific cod (sometimes referred to as stranded cod) and options for reducing unused Pacific cod in the BSAI and GOA, the Council postponed indefinitely any further action on this discussion paper. The Council noted that several of the issues included in the discussion paper will be addressed in many of the upcoming Council Pacific cod actions.

The purpose of the paper was to outline the process for reallocating Pacific cod, and options for NMFS and the State of Alaska's Department of Fish and Game to facilitate the harvest by state and federal fishery participants of unused allocation of Pacific cod in guideline harvest level (GHL) fisheries, with a focus on the Aleutian Island Subdistrict GHL fishery. Other issues noted in the discussion paper included options for addressing impediments to complete harvest of Pacific cod allocations in the federal fisheries, including incidental catch allowance (ICA) for the hook-and-line and pot gear in the BSAI, ICA in the GOA, GOA Rockfish Program allocations, and Amendment 80 allocation.

Staff contact is Jon McCracken.



Cook Inlet Salmon

The Council heard from the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee on progress with recommendations on the Salmon FMP amendment under development.



The Cook Inlet Salmon Committee was created to involve salmon stakeholders in the development of an FMP amendment that will extend federal management authority to salmon fisheries in EEZ waters of Cook Inlet. Under Alternative 2 in the amendment, commercial salmon fisheries in EEZ waters of Cook Inlet would be cooperatively managed with the State of Alaska, and authority would be delegated to the State for several types of management measures. The Committee met on Monday, September 30 to develop recommendations on management measures including reporting and monitoring tools, as well as to review an analysis of economic and community considerations and a timeline for amending the FMP. In order to better develop specific management measure recommendations to the Council, Committee members will work collaboratively in a shared document and transmit written submissions to the Council.

Salmon driftnet boats, Kenai River, August 2019
(photo by J.Armstrong)

At the meeting, the Committee reviewed a list of several types of management measures (i.e., Category II measures) that could be delegated and expressed their interest in establishing mechanisms in the Salmon FMP, like those in the Crab FMP, that guide the State on implementation. The Committee also recommended creating a role for stakeholders in the review of information supporting harvest-limit setting. The Committee discussed the logistical and technological challenges presented by existing harvest reporting options and recommended mechanisms be developed for Cook Inlet driftnetters that would simplify or minimize costs, especially those needed to differentiate catches from Federal and State waters. The Committee was interested in establishing an option for choosing no-retention or full-retention of bycatch, though stakeholders maintained that very little bycatch occurs in their fishery.

The Committee reviewed a range of salmon fishery economic and community data and made suggestions for additional information to consider, as well as explanations for existing spatial patterns and trends. The Committee did not make recommendations on the timeline for completing the amendment, which, according to staff, could be in place by the start of the 2022 fishing season.

The Council was presented with a report of the Committee meeting and encouraged the Committee to work collaboratively to further develop recommendations prior to the next Committee meeting. Based on the Council response, the Committee is expected to hold additional meetings prior to Council review of the Salmon FMP Amendment.

Staff Contact is Jim Armstrong.

Community Engagement Committee

The Council received a progress report from the Community Engagement Committee (CEC). The CEC met on October 1 and reviewed the recent Council activities to implement earlier recommendations from the committee, NMFS' Tribal Consultation procedures, and identify strategies to improve Council engagement with rural and Alaska Native communities. The CEC will continue to meet to develop engagement strategies and will provide periodic progress reports to the Council. The CEC expects to complete their report in 2020. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.



Akutan small boat harbor. Photo by Anna Henry, Council staff.

Staff Tasking

In addition to discussing the relative priority and scheduling of previously tasked projects, the Council requested staff prepare a series of letters:

- to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), describing the importance of continued funding for trawl surveys, especially within the context of the watershed change in ecosystem conditions in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska in 2019.
- to NMFS, providing feedback on the draft electronic monitoring data retention and storage procedural directive, along the lines of comments provided by the Council's Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee.
- to NMFS, for Council review in December, about the designation of humpback whale critical habitat.



Members of the public listen in on the Council's Advisory Panel, October 2019

The Council also initiated the following new actions:

- an analysis to consider the disposition of squid and sculpins when in the non-target ecosystem component species category.
- a discussion paper on management options available to promote conservation of AI Pacific cod and the sustained participation of AI fishing communities.
- a discussion paper in response to community concerns and small boat access challenges identified in the <60 ft fixed gear BSAI Pacific cod sector.

Additionally, the Council discussed the following issues:

- The Council created a new Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee, composed primarily of the partial coverage representatives on the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee. The

scope and purpose for this and other Council monitoring committees is described in a [staff discussion paper](#).

- The Council supports NMFS recommendations to revise reporting requirements for observer providers and the small CP partial coverage request process, as presented in the FMAC minutes.
 - Given concerns about sablefish bycatch in the trawl fisheries, the Council asked representatives of the Amendment 80 and AFA pollock fleets to report to the Council in December about how they intend to minimize sablefish bycatch in 2020.
 - The Council asked staff to check in with Pacific Council staff about progress underway with the coastwide sablefish assessment and report back to the Council.
 - The Council requested that staff report back to the Council with a workplan for the requested changes to the [halibut abundance-based management action](#) in December.
 - The Council endorsed NMFS additional recommended inclusions for the [Central GOA rockfish reauthorization initial review draft](#), with the exception of items 1 and 4. If it does not delay the completion of the analysis, the Council also requested staff bring back information about allowing retention of rockfish outside of the Rockfish Program and eliminating regulatory discards due to season restrictions which include a 5% MRA.
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Upcoming meetings

- Charter Halibut Management Committee, October 29th, Anchorage, AK
- Social Science Planning Team, November 6th, teleconference
- Groundfish Plan Teams, November 12-15, AFSC, Seattle, WA
- Community Engagement Committee, December 2, Anchorage, AK
- Enforcement Committee, December 3, Anchorage, AK
- Charter Halibut Management Committee, December 3, Anchorage, AK
- BSAI Crab Plan Team, January 13-17, 2020, Kodiak, AK
- Bering Sea FEP LK/TK/Subsistence Action Module Taskforce, tentatively January 2020, Anchorage, AK
- Bering Sea FEP Climate Change Action Module Taskforce, tentatively January 2020, AFSC, Seattle, WA
- Ecosystem Committee, January 27 or 28, Seattle, WA
- Scallop Plan Team, February 19, 2020, Kodiak, AK
- Bering Sea FEP Team, March 3-5, 2020, AFSC, Seattle, WA
- Community Engagement Committee, March or April 2020, Location TBD
- Community Engagement Committee, June 2020, tentatively Juneau AK

Council Motion
C5 BSAI Groundfish Harvest Specifications
October 6, 2019

The Council adopts the proposed 2020 and 2021 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish specifications of 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 final specifications from 2020 with a change to reduce TAC of Pacific cod by 824 mt to accommodate the increased GHL in the AI. The 824 mt of TAC will be added to the TAC for pollock in the BS.

The Council adopts the 2020 and 2021 flatfish flexibility ABC reserves as shown in Table 7, attached.

The Council adopts the PSC limits as shown in Tables 8, 9, 10, and 11, attached, for halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, opilio crab, and herring and their gear type and target fishery apportionments. The 2020 and 2021 crab PSC limits have been revised using current biomass amounts and herring PSC limits will be revised when the most current biomass amounts are known.

The Council adopts the halibut DMRs for 2020 and 2021 as shown in Table 12, attached.

Table 1. SSC recommended OFL, ABC, and Council recommended TAC for Groundfish in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (metric tons) for 2020 and 2021.

Species	Area	2018				Catch as of 12/31/2018	2019				Proposed 2020/2021		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 9/7/2019		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC	
Pollock	EBS	4,797,000	2,592,000	1,364,341	1,379,306	3,914,000	2,163,000	1,397,000	1,237,975	3,082,000	1,792,000	1,420,824	
	AI	49,289	40,788	19,000	1,860	64,240	52,887	19,000	1,453	66,981	55,125	19,000	
	Bogoslof	130,428	60,800	450	14	183,080	137,310	75	117	183,080	137,310	75	
Pacific cod	BS	238,000	201,000	188,136	186,702	216,000	181,000	166,475	121,981	183,000	137,000	124,625	
	AI	28,700	21,500	15,695	14,719	27,400	20,600	14,214	12,459	27,400	20,600	13,390	
Sablefish	BSAI												
	BS	2,887	1,464	1,464	1,598	3,221	1,489	1,489	2,820	4,576	1,994	1,994	
	AI	3,917	1,988	1,988	660	4,350	2,008	2,008	465	6,209	2,688	2,688	
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	306,700	277,500	154,000	131,544	290,000	263,200	154,000	100,656	284,000	257,800	166,425	
Greenland turbot	BSAI	13,148	11,132	5,294	1,835	11,362	9,658	5,294	2,831	10,476	8,908	5,294	
	BS	n/a	9,718	5,125	1,672	n/a	8,431	5,125	2,663	n/a	7,777	5,125	
	AI	n/a	1,414	169	163	n/a	1,227	169	168	n/a	1,131	169	
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	76,757	65,932	13,621	7,002	82,939	70,673	8,000	6,840	83,814	71,411	8,000	
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	11,347	9,737	5,000	3,108	10,965	9,260	5,000	4,195	11,260	9,509	5,000	
Northern rock sole	BSAI	147,300	143,100	47,100	28,275	122,000	118,900	47,100	24,720	147,500	143,700	57,100	
Flathead sole	BSAI	79,862	66,773	14,500	11,061	80,918	66,625	14,500	12,652	83,190	68,448	14,500	
Alaska plaice	BSAI	41,170	34,590	16,100	23,342	39,880	33,600	18,000	13,861	37,860	31,900	18,000	
Other flatfish	BSAI	17,591	13,193	4,000	5,984	21,824	16,368	6,500	3,539	21,824	16,368	6,500	
	BSAI	51,675	42,509	37,361	34,749	61,067	50,594	44,069	32,562	59,396	49,211	43,625	
Pacific Ocean perch	BS	n/a	11,861	11,861	9,635	n/a	14,675	14,675	6,219	n/a	14,274	14,274	
	EAI	n/a	10,021	9,000	8,946	n/a	11,459	11,009	8,191	n/a	11,146	11,146	
	CAI	n/a	7,787	7,500	7,312	n/a	8,435	8,385	8,264	n/a	8,205	8,205	
	WAI	n/a	12,840	9,000	8,856	n/a	16,025	10,000	9,888	n/a	15,586	10,000	
Northern rockfish	BSAI	15,888	12,975	6,100	5,767	15,507	12,664	6,500	8,549	15,180	12,396	6,500	
Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish	BSAI	749	613	225	238	676	555	279	371	868	715	279	
	EBS/EAI	n/a	374	75	66	n/a	351	75	67	n/a	448	75	
	CAI/WAI	n/a	239	150	173	n/a	204	204	304	n/a	267	204	
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	666	499	150	250	722	541	358	283	722	541	358	
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,816	1,362	845	987	1,793	1,344	663	1,066	1,793	1,344	663	
	BS	n/a	791	275	212	n/a	956	275	564	n/a	956	275	
	AI	n/a	571	570	775	n/a	388	388	502	n/a	388	388	
Atka mackerel	BSAI	108,600	92,000	71,000	70,393	79,200	68,500	57,951	46,873	73,400	63,400	53,635	
	EAI/BS	n/a	36,820	36,500	36,085	n/a	23,970	23,970	13,113	n/a	22,190	22,190	
	CAI	n/a	32,000	21,000	20,889	n/a	14,390	14,390	14,319	n/a	13,310	13,310	
	WAI	n/a	23,180	13,500	13,419	n/a	30,140	19,591	19,441	n/a	27,900	18,135	
Skates	BSAI	46,668	39,082	27,000	31,207	51,152	42,714	26,000	14,801	48,944	40,813	26,000	
Sculpins	BSAI	53,201	39,995	5,000	5,109	53,201	39,995	5,000	4,484	53,201	39,995	5,000	
Sharks	BSAI	689	517	180	103	689	517	125	114	689	517	125	
Squids	BSAI	6,912	5,184	1,200	1,736	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	250	290	4,769	3,576	400	193	4,769	3,576	400	
Total	BSAI	6,235,729	3,779,809	2,000,000	1,947,838	5,340,955	3,367,578	2,000,000	1,655,860	4,492,132	2,967,269	2,000,000	

Sources: 2018 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2019 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2017 and December 2018, respectively; 2018 catches through December 31, and 2019 catches through September 7, 2019 from AKR Catch Accounting.

TABLE 7—PROPOSED 2020 AND 2021 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	68,448	143,700	257,800
TAC	14,500	57,100	166,425
ABC surplus	53,948	86,600	91,375
ABC reserve	53,948	86,600	91,375
CDQ ABC reserve	5,772	9,266	9,777
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	48,176	77,334	81,598

TABLE 8—PROPOSED 2020 AND 2021 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 fishery
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,515	710	315	n/a	1,745	745
Herring (mt) BSAI	1,830	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	97,000	n/a	10,379	86,621	43,293	26,489
<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	8,580,898	n/a	918,156	7,662,742	3,766,238	2,462,805
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 1	980,000	n/a	104,860	875,140	368,521	411,228
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 2	2,970,000	n/a	317,790	2,652,210	627,778	1,241,500

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 2020 AND 2021 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	80	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ¹	39	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	5	n/a
Rockfish	5	n/a
Pacific cod	9	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	1,662	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2,3}	30	n/a
Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴	n/a	24,250
Total trawl PSC	1,830	97,000

¹“Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), 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 sculpins, sharks, skates, and octopuses.

⁴In October 2019, the Council recommended that the red king crab bycatch limit for non-pelagic trawl fisheries within the RKCSS be limited to 25 percent of the red king crab PSC allowance (see § 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(2)).

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

TABLE 10–PROPOSED 2020 AND 2021 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

BSAI trawl limited access 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	150	23,338	2,321,656	346,228	1,185,500
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ²	-	-	-	-	-
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	-	-	-
Rockfish April 15-December 31	4	-	3,835	-	1,000
Pacific cod	391	2,954	98,959	60,000	49,999
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ³	200	197	38,356	5,000	5,000
Total BSAI trawl limited access PSC	745	26,489	2,462,805	411,228	1,241,500

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas.

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

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

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

TABLE 11–PROPOSED 2020 AND 2021 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	n/a
	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 2020 AND 2021 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	75
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	58
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	9
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	9
Pot	All	27

Council motion
C6 GOA Groundfish Harvest Specifications
October 6, 2019

The Council adopts the proposed 2020 and 2021 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC, and sets the TACs as recommended by the Advisory Panel as shown in the attached table. The TACs for both Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod and pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water GHL fisheries. The GOA Pacific cod adjustments are shown in attached Table 2.

The Council adopts the proposed 2020 and 2021 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the GOA as provided in attached Tables 9, 10, and 11.

The Council adopts the updated halibut discard mortality rates for the GOA for 2020 and 2021 as shown in attached Table 12.

**D2 BSAI Pacific Cod Trawl Catcher Vessel Management
Council Motion
October 7, 2019**

The Council adopts the following revised purpose and need statement and alternatives, elements, and options for a preliminary review analysis. Deleted text is shown in strikethrough and added text is in bold.

Purpose and Need

*Over the last several years, total allowable catch for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands has steadily decreased. ~~At the same time, the number of LLP licenses used by trawl CVs to participate in the BSAI non-CDQ trawl Pacific cod fishery has increased.~~ The pace of the BSAI Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel fishery has contributed to an increasingly compressed season, resulting in decreased ability to maximize the value of the fishery and negatively impacting all fishery participants (CVs, catcher vessels, motherships, shoreside processors, and communities). This race for fish also discourages fishing practices that can minimize bycatch **and threatens the sustained viability of the fishery.** The Council is considering the development of management tools ~~a cooperative-based program~~ **a cooperative-based program** to improve the prosecution of the fishery, ~~including the development of a cooperative-based program,~~ with the intent of promoting safety and stability in the harvesting and processing sectors, increasing the value of the fishery, **providing for the sustained participation of fishery dependent communities, and insuring the sustainability and viability of the resource.***

Alternative 1. No action

Alternative 2. Implement a cooperative style limited access privilege program for the BSAI Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel sector.

Element 1. Cooperative Style Systems

Option 1: One cooperative will be formed for AFA vessels and one cooperative will be formed for non-AFA vessels.

Each eligible license will be eligible for one cooperative and must join that cooperative to participate in the Pacific cod cooperative fishery.

Cooperative requires membership of 80% of the eligible catch history for that cooperative.

Vessels and LLPs that do not join a cooperative would be eligible to fish in a limited access fishery. Harvest and PSC in the limited access fishery would be limited to the Pacific cod and halibut and crab PSC that would have been issued to cooperatives had the eligible LLPs joined a cooperative.

Supoption: Reduce halibut and crab PSC apportionment to the BSAI trawl CV limited access fishery by 25% to 40%.

Option 2: Voluntary harvester cooperatives with no minimum number of licenses required.

Holders of qualified LLPs must join a cooperative annually in association with a licensed processor (FFP) to harvest allocations of Pacific cod. Harvesters may change cooperatives and cooperative associations may change annually without penalty.

No limitation on the number of LLP holders or eligible catch history needed to form a cooperative.
No limitation on the number of cooperatives that may form.

Suboption: A minimum of three LLP license holders are needed to form a cooperative

Suboption (applicable to Options 1 and 2): inter-cooperative formation is allowed.

Element 2: Allocation to LLPs

2.1. Eligibility – Any LLP license assigned to a vessel that authorized that vessel’s legal landings of targeted trawl catcher vessel BSAI cod during the qualifying years is eligible to receive harvest shares.

2.2. Harvester Allocations – Eligible LLPs must be assigned to a cooperative to receive annual Pacific cod quota. The sector’s harvest shares will be allocated to eligible LLPs, with each LLP’s allocation based on the Pacific cod catch history (legal landings) of targeted BSAI cod authorized by that LLP during the following qualifying years:

Option 1: 2014 - 2019

Option 2: 2009 –2019

Option 3: 2004 –2019

Option 4: Allocations based on a blend of catch history and AFA sideboard history

Suboptions to credit catch history/sideboard at:

1. 50%/50%

2. 80%/20%

3. 20%/80%

Suboptions (applicable to Options 1 – 4):

1. Drop 1 Year

2. Drop 2 Years

2.3. Catch history is attached to the LLP license at the time of harvest. If multiple licenses authorized catch by a vessel, in the absence of agreement of the license holders at the time of application, history will be:

Option 1: divided equally between those licenses.

Option 2: assigned to an LLP by the owner of the vessel that made the catch.

2.4. Annual quota will be issued to each license based on its share of the total qualifying BSAI trawl catcher vessel catch history. Allocations will not be designated for harvest in a management area (i.e., BS or AI) but may be harvested from either area.

2.5. Option to allocate A and B season BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod only:

A and B season TACs (after deduction of the ICAs) will be allocated to cooperatives as annual cooperative quota (and to seasonal limited access fisheries, if applicable). Annual cooperative allocations (and seasonal limited access allocations, if applicable) attributable to each LLP will be that LLPs proportional share of the total qualifying Pacific cod history.

Staff should analyze distributional impacts of this option based on differential catch histories in the A and B season.

The C season allocation will remain 15 percent and remain a limited access fishery to any vessel with an eligible groundfish LLP with an applicable area endorsement. The C season limited access fishery will be managed as currently by NMFS, including management of incidental catches of Pacific cod in other directed fisheries. C season TAC (and A and B season ICAs) that NMFS projects to go unused are subject to reallocation to other sectors under current reallocation rules.

2.6 All species not allocated to cooperatives will be managed by maximum retainable amounts (MRAs), as under current management.

Element 3. Prohibited Species Catch Limits

The annual crab and halibut PSC available to the BSAI trawl catcher vessel Pacific cod sector will be as follows:

Option 1: Status quo methodology

Suboption: Establish trawl CV Pacific cod halibut PSC apportionment based on historic use between the trawl CV sector and the AFA CP sector.

Option 2: Reduce halibut and crab PSC apportionment to BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod sector that would be harvested under a status quo methodology by 10% to 25%.

Element 4: Gulf of Alaska Sideboards

Option 1: AFA LLPs or CVs will be sideboarded as to all Gulf of Alaska (GOA) fishing activity, except for the CGOA Rockfish Program, based on their Gulf catch history during the BSAI Pacific cod qualifying period.

Option 2: AFA GOA-Exempt CVs will not be permitted to transfer their BSAI cod history on their respective LLP as a condition of continuing to benefit from its GOA exemption.

Suboption: AFA GOA Exempt CVs with LLPs of less than a threshold amount of qualifying BSAI cod history may transfer their BSAI cod history and continue to benefit from GOA exemption.

Option 3: Non-AFA LLPs would be sideboarded in the GOA (with the exception of the CGOA Rockfish Program) based on their GOA catch history during the qualifying years with the exception that those non-AFA CV with less than a threshold amount of qualifying BSAI cod history, which would be exempt from the sideboard limitation.

Suboption: Any eligible CV LLP that opts out of the BSAI Pacific cod program at implementation of the program will be exempt from GOA sideboards created by this program (one-time option).

Element 5: Processor and Community Provisions

5.1. No closed class of processors; all processors with an eligible FPP are eligible to process BSAI Pacific cod (subject to eligibility requirements under the April 2019 Council action to limit catcher processors acting as motherships).

5.2. Limit (sideboard) on directed BSAI Pacific cod that can be delivered by trawl CVs to eligible CPs acting as motherships. The sideboard would be based on BSAI Pacific cod processing history by eligible CPs during qualifying years under Element 2.

5.3. Allocation of harvest shares to processors (option: only applicable to Bering Sea processors and eligible CPs if different AI shoreside protections are selected under element 6):

Onshore and offshore processors (Option: subject to eligibility requirements under the April 2019 Council action to limit catcher processors acting as motherships) that have history of processing in the federal BSAI Pacific cod trawl CV fishery will be eligible to receive a percentage of total harvesting shares based on each onshore processor's and offshore processor's processing history. To be used, the processor's harvest shares would be transferred to the CV cooperative. *Additional restrictions on use of this quota must be developed through further analysis.*

Percent of harvest shares and PSC to be allocated to eligible processors:

- Option 1: 5%
- Option 2: 10%
- Option 3: 15%
- Option 4: 25%
- Option 5: 30%

Suboption: Harvest shares only

Processing history years to receive harvest shares are the same as harvester years in Element 2.

Element 6: Aleutian Islands Processor Provisions

Option 1: Require the cooperative(s) to reserve a set-aside for delivery to a shoreplant in the Aleutian Island management region. The amount of the set-aside will be 10% to 25% of the BSAI CV trawl directed A season harvest amount.

Suboption: The set-aside will be reduced by any amount Adak/Atka processors receive as a direct allocation of harvesting shares pursuant to this LAPP Program, regulation or legislation.

Option 2: In any year when the community of Adak or Atka files a notice of intent to process, annual harvest quota shall be issued to the plant operator designated in that notice of intent. In the event, one community issues a notice, the lesser of 5,000 mt or 5.5% of the total BSAI trawl catcher vessel Pacific cod quota (prior to allocations based on harvesting or processing histories) (1,961 mt in 2019) shall be issued to the plant. In the event both communities issue a notice the allocation shall be divided equally between two plants.

Suboption: Allocations are transferrable between qualified entities.

Annual Aleutian Islands community shore plant allocations shall be transferable to any cooperative(s) (and between cooperatives) for harvest by member vessels that are assigned an AI trawl CV LLP eligible under this program. Quota shall be harvestable exclusively in the AI and any catch must be landed to the shore plant operated by the annual quota recipient (i.e., plant operator).

In the event any Aleutians community shore plant allocation is not fully harvested by March 21, that unharvested allocation will expire and an amount of annual quota equivalent to the unharvested portion will be reissued to cooperatives (holders of LLPs with BS and AI harvest history in proportion to their annual allocations).

Suboption: If the community of Adak and Atka files a notice of intent to process, annual harvest quota should be issued to an entity representing the community designated in the notice of intent.

Element 7. Transferability

7.1. Catch histories are attached to LLPs and are non-severable from the LLP. Transfer of an LLP eligible for this program results in the transfer of any program eligibility and catch history/harvest shares associated with the LLP.

7.2. Allocations based on processing history are issued as separate permits. *To be analyzed: Use and transfer restrictions on processor cooperative shares if selected (e.g., options for restrictions on use on company-owned vessels, transferability restrictions).*

7.3. Annual allocations of Pacific cod and PSC are transferable between cooperatives.

7.4. Post-delivery transfers of cooperative quota are permitted, but must be completed by December 31 (i.e., prior to annual cooperative quota expiring).

Element 8: Ownership and Use Caps

8.1. Harvester-issued cooperative shares: No person may hold or use more than ___ percent of the Pacific cod cooperative quota or PSC apportionment issued:

Option 1. using the individual and collective rule or

Option 2. using 10% ownership threshold or management and control for assigning quota to a holder's/entity's cap.

Suboption: Persons over the cap at the time of implementation are grandfathered.

8.2. No vessel may harvest more than ___ percent of the annual Pacific cod cooperative quota or PSC apportionment issued in the fishery.

8.3. Processor-issued cooperative shares: No person may hold or use more than ___ percent of the Pacific cod cooperative quota or PSC apportionment:

Option 1. using the individual and collective rule or

Option 2. using 10% ownership threshold or management and control for assigning quota to a holder's/entity's cap.

Suboption: Persons over the cap at the time of implementation are grandfathered.

8.4. No processing facility may process more than ___percent of the Pacific cod cooperative quota.

Suboption: Processing facilities over the cap are grandfathered.

Element 9. Cooperative Provisions

Annual cooperative applications must be filed on or before ____ of the preceding year.

Cooperatives shall be formed by qualified LLPs with Pacific cod history. Each LLP is eligible to join one cooperative. A vessel assigned a qualified LLP is a member of that LLP's cooperative. A vessel may join a single cooperative.

Cooperatives are intended only to conduct and coordinate harvest activities of members and are not FCMA cooperatives.

Membership agreements will specify that processor affiliated members cannot participate in any price setting negotiations, except as permitted by antitrust laws.

Each cooperative will receive annual cooperative quota allocations of Pacific cod and apportionments of halibut and crab PSC based on members' qualifying catch histories (and processing histories, if applicable) to be harvested in accordance with the harvest cooperative agreement. The sector's halibut and crab PSC will be apportioned to cooperatives in proportion to their members' Pacific cod qualifying catch histories (and processing histories, if applicable).

Option: Maintain crab PSC limits at the sector level.

Element 10. Share duration

All allocations and allowances under this program are revocable privileges that 1) may be revoked, limited or modified at any time; 2) shall not confer any right of compensation to the holder, if they are revoked limited, or modified, and; 3) shall not create or be construed to create any right, title or interest in or to any fish before the fish is harvested by the holder.

The duration of all harvest shares and associated PSC apportionments is 10 years. These permits will be renewed before their expiration, unless revoked, limited, or modified.

Element 11. Monitoring

All vessels in the program will be in the full coverage program (100% observer or electronic monitoring coverage category) (if applicable). NMFS will develop monitoring and enforcement provisions necessary to track quota, harvest, and use caps. The Council authorizes NMFS to report weekly vessel-level bycatch information as authorized under MSA Sec 402(b)(2)(A).

Element 12. Reporting and Program Review

Each cooperative shall annually produce a report for the council describing its performance in the preceding year.

Per the Magnuson Stevens Act, a formal detailed review of the program shall be undertaken 5 years after implementation, with additional reviews, at a minimum, each seven years thereafter.

Element 13. Cost recovery

A fee, not to exceed 3% of the ex-vessel value, will be charged on all program landings to cover the actual costs directly related to the management, data collection, and enforcement of the program.

Element 14. Gear Conversion

Pacific cod allocations associated with trawl CV license may be fished with pot gear. A pot endorsement is not necessary but the LLP license must have the appropriate area endorsement and will not affect sector allocations.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
E1 Staff Tasking Motion; FMAC
October 9, 2019

1. The Council establishes the Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC) and endorses the scope purpose and tasking for the Council’s three monitoring committees (FMAC, PCFMAC, and Trawl EM Committee) as described in the staff document, “Strategic overview of Council monitoring committees”.

The Council recommends the Council Chair identify the partial coverage representatives of the FMAC as members of the PCFMAC, as identified on page 2 of the staff document, and recommends the Chair add representation to ensure that partial coverage EM service providers are appointed to the PCFMAC.

2. The Council recommends the Council Chair appoint a representative of the trawl EFP western GOA applicants to the Trawl EM Committee.
3. The Council supports continued analysis of NMFS recommendations to revise reporting requirements for observer providers and the small CP partial coverage request process as presented in the staff discussion paper and endorsed by the FMAC.
4. Scheduling of committees
 - FMAC: The FMAC will next meet in May 2020, to discuss issues including the Annual Report; topics relating to both full and partial coverage, including an update on observer retention and recruitment; and revisions to the national electronic technologies implementation plan.
 - PCFMAC: The PCFMAC will next meet at the February Council meeting, to review workproducts on cost efficiencies that are to be presented to the Council. Members of the PCFMAC may convene by teleconference in the intervening time, or provide input to staff by email, as appropriate.
 - Trawl EM Committee: The Trawl EM Committee will next meet in May 2020 to hear reports on early results from the 2020 Trawl EM program, discuss the national electronic technologies implementation plan and structure of cost reporting. A teleconference meeting can be scheduled if needed to address any unexpected issues that may arise prior to the 2020 season.
5. The Council revises priorities in the Observer Analytical Task list as reflected in the revised task list, attached.

Status of analytical projects related to the Observer Program

E1 Staff Tasking Motion – Revised Priority

Priority	Name	Description	Status / Due Date / Target Date
Program-level Projects			
1	Annual Report/ Annual Deployment Plan	Every year, an Annual Report of the preceding fishing year and an Annual Deployment Plan (ADP) for the upcoming fishing year are prepared.	The FMAC and the Council will review the Draft 2020 ADP in September and October respectively.
2	Analysis of catch and bycatch estimation methods	Ongoing analysis of catch and bycatch estimation methods, including evaluating design-based and ratio estimators; incorporating variance from at-sea sampling through to the trip level; and then assessing post-strata definitions.	NMFS is continuing work to incorporate programming into CAS and evaluate alternative estimators and post-strata. Staff are finishing up a Tech Memo on variance estimates.
3	Report on onboard observer sampling	Report on observer sampling results, e.g., proportion of total hauls that are sampled, by vessel size and gear. This item was requested by the Council in June 2016 during review of the Annual Report.	This report was presented to the FMAC in May 2017, and an AFSC tech memo is in peer review and is expected to be published by the end of 2019.
4	Biological Data Assessment	The AFSC is conducting an assessment of the current way biological information collected by observers is used in stock assessments. The result of this project is to provide the scale and scope of data needs in the current program.	Preliminary information has been collected from stock assessment authors. FMA will compile this by early 2020.
5	Average weight of halibut wastage	Impact analysis of differences in average weights on the final wastage (discard) estimates of halibut in the IFQ fishery. Currently, CAS estimates halibut discard based on mean weight from the unsorted (retained and discarded) catch. Since halibut <32" are required to be discarded, CAS may be overestimating discarded halibut.	In 2016 NMFS modified data collection methods for halibut viability so that it is part of randomized biological sampling. Staff have begun analysis and will present preliminary results at the American Fisheries Society meeting in October, 2019.
6	Halibut DMRs REMOVED	Evaluation of appropriate methods to determine halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) given observer monitoring sampling design and available data; undertaken by the NPFMC's DMR Workgroup.	Updated DMR estimation methods were adopted, after Council review, at the October 2016 Council meeting and have been used annually to specify DMRs through 2021. The DMR workgroup is ongoing and future changes will be made as needed.

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Priority	Name	Description	Status / Due Date / Target Date
Program-level Projects (Continued)			
44 6	Trawl CV EM Development	Engage with the Trawl Electronic Monitoring Committee (EMC) to develop EM for compliance monitoring on pelagic trawl catcher vessels. Research projects include EM for compliance monitoring of full retention in pollock fisheries including tender vessels in the Western Gulf as well as EM to support alternate methods of dockside salmon accounting.	The EMC met August 21-22, 2019, to discuss current and ongoing research projects and the status of the 2020 EFP development. The Council will review the EFP application in October 2019.
46 7	Partial Coverage Cost Efficiencies Subgroup Moved up one project	In April 2019, the Council tasked this group to continue to develop ideas related to how to best integrate the different monitoring tools, such as dockside monitoring, EM, and monitoring cooperatives.	The FMAC partial coverage subgroup report describes a long term vision for integrating monitoring tools in the partial coverage category to increase cost efficiencies. The near term priority is to task staff to create a discussion paper to scope what a dockside monitoring program would look like. Work is currently tasked to subgroup members and NMFS staff have not been assigned to work on this project.
6 8	Agency ODDS Subgroup	In June 2018, NMFS recommended and the Council supported the formation of an Agency Subgroup to document how ODDS operates and identify alternatives for improvement. Changes could include improvements to the linkage between ODDS and eLandings, changes to allow vessels that also fish trawl gear to be placed in the EM selection pool, and the trip cancellation and inherit process.	FMA staff have begun documenting existing ODDS logic so that potential changes can be discussed with the FMAC. Staff have currently been pulled off this project to make ODDS changes required to enable the trawl EM EFP.
7 9	Explore alternative approaches to evaluate observer effects	In June 2018, NMFS recommended and the Council supported reassessing the performance standards used to evaluate observer effects in the Annual Report and explore alternative approaches.	OSC members had a preliminary discussion in March 2019 on this issue but do not have a conclusion about how best to proceed. No other work has been completed.
8 10	Identify best practices for estimating species weight when it is unavailable for an observed haul	Catch estimates for EM and observer data rely on weight measurements from observed hauls. This project would identify the best algorithm for assigning weights when they are unavailable.	Staff have not yet been assigned to this project. FMAC RECOMMENDATION - Moved up one project

Priority	Name	Description	Status / Due Date / Target Date
9 11	Effects of changes to the observer program	Evaluate the effects of changes to data collection protocols that occur because of observer restructuring, potential funding limitations and the introduction of electronic monitoring. Ensure that data collected provides a valid representation of the catch and can be compared easily to the previous data collection methods and time series remain intact. Because there have been no changes to data collection protocols and funding limitations and representativeness are addressed through the annual deployment and review process, this project will focus on potential corrections for the halibut fishery not being observed prior to 2013.	This project was moved to here from the research priorities list where it was originally listed as "Urgent". Staff have not yet been assigned to this project.
Projects in NMFS Development or Review (Council has taken action or major work at current stage is NMFS's responsibility)			
41	Halibut PSC deck sorting EFP	Exempted fishing permit (EFP) projects are being used to develop the components of a regulated program to allow deck sorting of halibut on trawl catcher/processors in the Bering Sea to reduce halibut mortality rates. In 2018 and 2019, catcher/processors may fish in the GOA under the EFP.	NMFS has issued a modified permit for 2019, and EFP fishing began in January 2019. FMA, AKR, and OLE staff regularly engage with EFP applicants on the ongoing administration of the EFP. WILL BE REMOVED - Full Implementation in 2020
42	Halibut PSC deck sorting rulemaking	Regulatory Impact Review analysis and rulemaking to allow trawl catcher/processors to sort halibut on deck to reduce halibut mortality rates in non-pollock fisheries.	The final rule package and response to comments was transmitted to NMFS HQ on August 21, 2019. WILL BE REMOVED - Full Implementation in 2020
40 12	Observer provider insurance requirements	In May 2015, NMFS determined that some observer provider insurance requirements in § 679.52(b)(11)(vi) are inapplicable and should be removed or revised. NMFS National Observer Program (NOP) staff hosted a workshop in Nov 2016. The NOP published a tech memo in November 2017 and a request for information in the Federal Register on July 16, 2018 with comments invited through September 14, 2018 regarding possible insurance packages and cost that could address observers, observer providers, and the fishing industry concerns in the event of an occupational injury.	NMFS HQ staff continue to gather additional information to prepare a Regulatory Impact Review to modify observer provider insurance requirements. The FMAC received an update on the status of this project in May 2019. A proposed rule is expected in 2019 with a final rule to follow in 2020.
44 13	Trawl EM EFP	The collaboration with the Council's Trawl EM Committee, Industry representatives are developing an EFP application to test full retention with shoreside sampling for pelagic pollock trawl fishery in the BSAI and GOA in 2020.	Observer Program and AKRO staff are engaging with the applicants as the draft EFP application is being developed through the summer and fall of 2019. Council review of the EFP is planned for October 2019.

Priority	Name	Description	Status / Due Date / Target Date
Projects in NMFS Development or Review (Continued)			
42 14	Observer fee rulemaking	In October 2017, the Council initiated an analysis to consider raising the observer fee. The analysis is a response to low sampling rates in partial coverage.	The FMAC and the Council will receive the public review draft analysis in September and October 2019, respectively. Moved to Projects in NMFS Development
43 15	Record keeping regulatory changes	Observer Provider Portal and Small CP request process changes.	NMFS would develop an RIR and regulatory change in consultation with the FMAC and the Council. NEW Project
Projects in Council Review (Council or NMFS have tasked staff and scheduled review at a future Council or FMAC meeting)			
45 16	Sablefish Discards	Since April 2018, a regulatory change that would allow discarding of small sablefish in the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) sablefish fishery has been discussed as a potential tool to mitigate economic impacts to the fishery while also accounting for possible population-level impacts to the sablefish spawning stock during years of very large sablefish recruitment.	The Council reviewed discussion papers in October 2018 and April 2019. The council will review a third discussion paper in December 2019. This project includes a request for an evaluation of discard estimates including information on lengths, number, and mortality rates, based on observer and EM data.
47 17	Partial coverage EM/ Shoreside Sampling	In May 2019, the FMAC partial coverage subgroup identified information needed to scope the next steps toward an integrated cost efficient observer/EM/shoreside sampling program.	The FMAC requests the Council task staff to scope a shoreside sampling program in the partial coverage category. No staff have been assigned to work on this project.
48 18	Change tender trip definition, consider deploying observers from tenders	In October 2017, the Council initiated an analysis to look at changing the definition of a tender trip to start a new trip with each delivery to a tender or to limit the number of deliveries that can be made before a vessel must log back into ODDS. The analysis should also evaluate options to deploy observers at sea from tenders.	Initial scoping of a similar action was undertaken in 2015-2016, before the analysis was tabled. In December 2018, the Council received a summary of progress on this project and recommended no further action at that time. No staff have been assigned to work on this project.