



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Meeting Summary

241st Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
December 3 - 10, 2018
Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska

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Attachments

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1) GOA GF Specifications | 3) Time Log |
| 2) BSAI GF Specifications | 4) Newsletter |

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met Wednesday, December 5, 2018 through Monday, December 10, 2018, at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. The following Council, Council staff, SSC, and AP members attended the meetings.

Council Members

Balsiger, Jim	Laukitis, Buck	Peterson, Theresa
Bush, Karla (alt for Vincent-Lang)	Lepore, John (GC)	LT Stafford, Drew
CAPT, Allison Caputo	Kinneen, Simon (Chair)	Tweit, Bill (Vice Chair)
Cross, Craig	Marx, Steve	Watson, Molly (GC)
Down, Kenny	Merrill, Glenn (alt for Balsiger)	LCDR Yvonne, Yang (alt for Caputo)
Hanson, Dave	Mezirow, Andy	
Jensen, John	Moller, John (alt for Vincent-Lang)	

Council Staff

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

Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC met from December 3 - 5, 2018 at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK. The following members were present:

Anderson, Chris	Gasper, Jason	Lowry, Dayv
Bishop, Amy	Hanselman, Dana	Mueter, Franz
Clark, Robert	Harris, Brad	Quinn, Terry
Down, Mike	Hollowed, Anne (Co-Chair)	Reedy, Kate
Dressel, Sherri (Vice-Chair)	Hunt, George	Renner, Heather
Felthoven, Ron	Kruse, Gordon (Co-Chair)	Stewart, Ian
		Whitman, Alison

Advisory Panel

The AP met Tuesday, December 4, through Saturday, December 8, 2018 at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings (absent members are show in strikeout):

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

B REPORTS

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

B1 Executive Director's Report – David Witherell

- AM 80 Halibut Report – Beth Concepcion, Mark Fina, & John Gauvin

B2 NMFS Management Report – Glenn Merrill

- GOA In-Season Management Report – Mary Furuness
- BSAI In-Season Management Report – Mary Furuness

B3 NOAA GC Report – Molly Watson

B4 NOAA Enforcement Report – Will Ellis & Nathan Lagerwey

- Observer Program Report – Jaclyn Smith

B5 ADF&G Report – Jocelyn Runnebaum

B6 USCG Report – LCDR Yvonne Yang

B7 USFWS Report – No Report Given

B8 IPHC Report – Dave Wilson & Ian Stewart

B9 Protected Species Report – Council staff, Steve MacLean & AK Sea Life Center Director, Dr. Marcus Horning

D1 EFP FOR ADAK POLLOCK, A80 CRAB MONITORING

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Sara Cleaver and Alaska Pacific University staff, Corey Lescher. The following action was taken:

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

The Council supports approval of both EFPs.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 5, 2018, at 3:59 p.m.

C1 2019 CHARTER HALIBUT MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Steve MacLean. The following action was taken:

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

(Text in **bold** are changes from the status quo measures.)

The Council recommends the following management measures for the 2019 charter halibut fishery in Area 2C and Area 3A, based on initial IPHC reference level allocations, resulting from the 2018 IPHC interim meeting.

Area 3A recommendations:

Two-fish daily bag limit

- One Halibut on any size and a maximum size of one of the two fish is 28"
- One charter vessel fishing trip per CHP per day (use of each charter halibut permit is limited to one charter halibut fishing trip per boat in one calendar day)

- 4-fish annual limit
- Prohibition on the retention of halibut on Wednesdays, all year
- **Adjust Tuesday retention closures according to Table 15 in ADF&G analysis of proposed harvest regulations for 2019 to bring the projected harvest within the Area 3A allocation.**
- **If the allocation is above 2.023 million pounds, adjust the size of the second fish, up to a maximum of 30 inches, to keep the charter harvest within their allocation.**

Continue to include a requirement to record retained halibut on the back of the license or harvest record card as an enforcement mechanism for the annual limit.

Area 2C recommendations:

- One-fish daily bag limit
- Reverse slot limit of U38" – O80" (must be ≤38" or ≥80")

If the allocation is above or below 0.81 M lb. adjust the lower limit of the reverse slot limit up or down to keep the projected harvest within the allocation.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 6, 2018, at 8:19 a.m.

C2 GOA GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

The Council heard the BSAI and GOA Ecosystem Status Reports from AFSC staff, Dr. Stephani Zador and Dr. Elizabeth Siddon, as well as the ABC below max ABC presentation from AFSC staff, Dr. Martin Dorn and Dr. Stephani Zador. AFSC staff, Dr. Jim Ianelli gave the GOA SAFE Report and Plan Team Report. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council approves the 2018 GOA SAFE report.

The Council approves the final 2019 and 2020 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC, and the TACs as recommended by the AP, as shown in **attachment 1**.

The TACs for both GOA Pacific cod and pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water Guideline Harvest Level fisheries. The GOA Pacific cod adjustments are show in attachment **C2c (attachment 1)**.

The Council sets the final 2019 and 2020 Pacific halibut PSC limits, allowances, and apportionments in the GOA in **Tables 14,15, and 16 (attachment 1)**.

Finally, the Council approves the updated halibut DMRs for 2019 and 2020 as shown in **Table 17 (attachment 1)**.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 6, 2018, at 4:02 p.m.

C3 BSAI GROUND FISH SPECIFICATIONS

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

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

The Council adopts the 2019/2020 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs for Groundfish in the BSAI as shown in Table 1 (**attachment 2**).

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 7, 2018, at 10:56 a.m.

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

The Council approves the DMRs for 2019 as show in Table 18 (**attachment 2**).

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 7, 2018, at 10:57 a.m.

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

The Council approves the BSAI SAFE Report as well as the PSC amounts and distributions shown in Tables 14, 15, 16, and 17 (**attachment 2**).

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 7, 2018, at 10:58 a.m.

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

The Council moves to set the flatfish flexibility reserves in Table 13 (**attachment 2**) to maximize the ABC reserves.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 7, 2018, at 10:59 a.m.

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

The Council requests that staff develop a discussion paper that evaluates the appropriate level of conservation and management required for sculpins in the BSAI and GOA consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and National Standard guidelines. The discussion paper should assess whether the best available scientific information indicates that sculpins could be managed as non-target species, specifically whether sculpins could be identified as “non-target ecosystem component species not in need of conservation and management”. The discussion paper should assess regulations to prohibit directed fishing for sculpins, establish maximum retainable amounts for sculpins, and require recordkeeping and reporting to monitor catch and discards if sculpins were reclassified as a non-target species.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 7, 2018, at 11:06 a.m.

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

The Council requests the Plan Teams continue to develop and critique stock assessment models and recommend ABC/OFL specifications consistent with Amendment 56 and the established Tier approach. Additional environmental, ecosystem or other species specific biological concerns that the Plan Team identifies that are not addressed in the stock assessment model should be clearly documented and provided to the SSC for consideration. The Plan Team's role should be to ensure the SSC has sufficient information to evaluate whether ABC should be reduced from maximum permissible ABC. The Council requests that the SSC consider these concerns when establishing ABC.

As part of this process, when a stock assessment author completes the risk matrix, the Council requests that the rationale for assigning each level of concern should be provided to the Plan Team and SSC, and document how any concerns are not already addressed in the model. Completion of the risk matrix does not necessitate a reduction from maximum permissible ABC.

The Council supports the SSCs recommendation of adding a fishery performance column to the risk matrix.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 7, 2018, at 11:22 a.m.

C4 BERING SEA FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Diana Evans and heard the Ecosystem Committee Report from NPFMC staff, Steve MacLean. The following action was taken:

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

The Council adopts the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (BS FEP), including all five action modules.

The Council tasks the BS FEP Team to prioritize work plans for the following action modules:

1. Evaluate short- and long-term effects of climate change on fish and fisheries, and develop management considerations, and
2. Develop protocols for using Local Knowledge (LK) and Traditional Knowledge (TK) in management and understanding impacts of Council decisions on subsistence use.

The Council tasks the BS FEP Team to develop work plans for the other three action modules identified in the Core FEP, to come back for Council review at a later date.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 7, 2018, at 2:16 p.m.

C5 ALEUTIAN ISLAND PACIFIC COD SET ASIDE ADJUSTMENT

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Jon McCracken. The following action was taken:

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

The Council recommends the following purpose and need statement and alternatives and options to modify the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod set-aside established under Amednment 113 to the BSAI groundfish FMP. The preferred alternative is Alternative 4, Option 2.

Purpose and Need

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

Alternative 4.

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

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

- 2) Prior to March 15 AI directed Pacific cod non CDQ harvests of any sector other than the CV sector delivering shoreside west of 170° longitude in the AI as defined in 1) are limited to the amount of the AI directed Pacific cod non CDQ DFA above minus the amount set aside from the trawl CV BSAI allocation under 1). Catches of those other sectors under this provision are not subject to the regional delivery requirement.
- 3) If less than 1,000 mt of the AI Pacific cod non CDQ TAC has been landed shoreside west of 170 longitude in the AI by February 28 the restrictions under 1) and 2) shall be suspended for the remainder of the year.
- 4) If prior to November 1, neither the City of Adak nor the City of Atka have notified NMFS of the intent to process non CDQ directed AI Pacific cod in the upcoming year, the Aleutian Islands shoreside delivery requirement and restriction on the trawl CV sector allocation is suspended for the upcoming year. Cities can voluntarily provide notice prior to the selected date.

Option 2: Keep the dates the same but allow Pacific cod harvested in the AI to be delivered either shoreside or at sea after March 15, the BS limitation would not apply after March 21 or sooner if the AI Pacific cod TAC is achieved.

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

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

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection on December 7, 2018, at 3:56 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 7, 2018, at 3:57 p.m.

C6 BERING SEA SNOW CRAB PSC LIMITS

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Steve MacLean. The following action was taken:

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

The Council requests that Council and NMFS staff provide additional data on *C. opilio* bycatch in the directed crab and groundfish fisheries that describes the spatial distribution of bycatch throughout the BSAI by gear and fishery. The Council requests staff provide information on possible gaps in bycatch data, identify regulatory provisions that could hinder the ability to minimize bycatch to the extent practicable, and provide a qualitative description of potential impacts of avoiding *C. opilio* bycatch on fishery participants.

The Council encourages the crab and groundfish industry coordinate to find non-regulatory measures to minimize *C. opilio* bycatch.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 8, 2018, at 11:24 a.m.

C7 GOA POLLOCK, COD SEASONS/ALLOCATIONS

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Sam Cunningham and Jim Armstrong, and NMFS staff, Bridget Mansfield. The following action was taken:

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

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and suite of alternative(s) options and sub-options for public review. Staff should consider and address comments from the AP and SSC to the extent practicable. The preliminary preferred alternatives are shown in **bold**; (new language is underlined, removed text is in strikethrough):

Purpose and Need

Evaluation of the pollock and Pacific cod trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska indicates the seasonal distribution of pollock and cod may create inefficiencies for participants and there may be opportunities to improve management of the fisheries. Modifying the seasons or seasonal allocations of pollock and cod could increase fishery yield, particularly for roe quality and quantity of pollock, management flexibility and potentially decrease prohibited species catch. The Council intends to improve prosecution of these fisheries while not redistributing allocations of pollock or cod between management areas or participants. The Council understands that this action may have implications for Steller sea lion management measures and would be reviewed consistent with the Endangered Species Act.

Alternatives

Alternative 1. No action (Status quo)

Alternative 2. Combine the A and B season into a single season (January 20 through May 31), and combine the C and D season into a single season (August 25 through November 1) and allocate pollock among a combined A/B and C/D seasons 50% to the A/B season and 50% to the C/D season. This change is applicable to areas 610, 620, and 630.

Option: Increase the amount of unharvested pollock that may be reallocated from one season to the following season, or among areas, from 20% to:

Sub-option 1: 25%

Sub-option 2: 30%

Alternative 3. Modify the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod allocation for trawl catcher vessels among the existing A and B seasons as follows:

Option 1: ~~A Season: 65%; B Season: 35%~~
CGOA A season 23.21444%; B season 18.36967%
WGOA A season 29.62%; B season 8.78%

Option 2: ~~A Season: 70%; B Season: 30%~~
CGOA A season 25.29364%; B season 16.29047%
WGOA A season 31.54%; B season 6.86%

Option 3: ~~A Season: 75%; B Season: 25%~~
CGOA A season 27.37285%; B season 14.21126%
WGOA A season 33.46%; B season 4.94%

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 8, 2018, at 3:10 p.m.

D7 COOK INLET SALMON FMP AMENDMENT

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

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

The Council appreciates the work of the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee (Committee) at its first meeting. The Committee should meet again before the April 2019 Council meeting. The Council requests that the Committee focus its efforts on identifying appropriate recordkeeping and reporting requirements, standardized bycatch reporting methodologies, and to further develop its recommendations on status determination criteria at its next meeting.

At the April 2019 Council meeting, the SSC should review the proposed status determination criteria options and related analysis of overcompensation. The Council requests that the SSC review the use of escapement-based data for the status determination criteria for consistency with National Standard 1 and the use of best scientific information available under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

The Committee meeting schedule will be determined by the Committee Chair in collaboration with Committee members, Council staff, and NMFS staff.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 9, 2018, at 11:03 a.m.

D2 WESTERN GOA POLLOCK VESSEL LIMITATIONS

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Steve MacLean. The following action was taken:

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

The Council takes no further action at this time. The Council requests that staff update this discussion paper with annual catch data when those data become available.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 9, 2018, at 2:22 p.m.

D3 OBSERVER COVERAGE ON VESSELS DELIVERING TO TENDERS

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Dr. Elizabeth Figus and NMFS staff, Alicia Miller. The following action was taken:

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

The Council takes no further action as this time.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 9, 2018, at 3:17 p.m.

D4 TRAWL EM 2019 COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PLAN

The Council heard the EM Committee Report and the 2019 Cooperative Research Plan from NPFMC staff, Dr. Elizabeth Figus and NMFS staff, Alicia Miller. The following action was taken:

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

The Council approves the Trawl EM Cooperative Research Plan as presented.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 9, 2018, at 4:21 p.m.

D5 CENTRAL GOA ROCKFISH REAUTHORIZATION

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

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

The Council initiates an analysis to reauthorize the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program and adopts the following purpose and need statement and suite of alternatives:

Purpose and Need Statement:

The Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program (Rockfish Program) will sunset on December 31, 2021 and the Council must act if it intends to reauthorize the Rockfish Program. The purpose of this action is to reauthorize the Rockfish Program to retain the management, economic, safety, and conservation gains realized under the Rockfish Program to the extent practicable, consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

For both the onshore and offshore sectors, the Rockfish Program has improved safety at sea, controlled fleet capacity, enhanced NMFS' ability to conserve and manage species allocated under the Rockfish Program, increased vessel accountability, reduced sea floor contact, allowed full retention of allocated species, and reduced halibut and Chinook salmon bycatch. In addition, the rockfish fishery dependent communities in the Central Gulf of Alaska and the onshore processing sector have benefited from a more stable workforce, more onshore deliveries of rockfish, improved rockfish quality, and increased diversity of rockfish products. Central Gulf of Alaska fishermen, and the onshore processing sector have benefited from reduced conflicts with salmon processing. The offshore sector has benefited from greater spatial and temporal flexibility in prosecuting the fishery, resulting in lower bycatch, a more rational distribution of effort, and more stable markets.

The Council must act to continue the management, economic, safety, and conservation gains realized under the Rockfish Program. Otherwise, fisheries managed under the Rockfish Program will revert to effort-control management under the License Limitation Program (LLP).

Alternatives:

Alternative 1: No action (Revert management back to the LLP)

Alternative 2: Reauthorize the Rockfish Program with the existing management framework unless modified under this alternative. Include the NMFS recommended regulatory clarifications as described in the discussion paper (Items 1 through 5 on page 6 of the discussion paper).

Element 1: Modify regulations at 679.80(a)(2) to specify the duration of the program.

Option 1: Remove sunset date

Option 2: Replace with new sunset date (10-20 years)

Element 2: Consider options to reallocate unharvested Rockfish Program Pacific cod from onshore cooperatives to fixed gear open access fisheries after the Rockfish Program fisheries close on November 15. (Item 6 on page 7).

Element 3: Exempt crab program sideboard limits for vessels when fishing in the Rockfish Program. (Item 7 on page 7).

Element 4: Require annual NMFS cost recovery reports in regulations. (Item 8 on page 7).

The Council directs staff to include a review of the performance of the entry-level longline fishery and step-up mechanism. (Item 9 on page 8).

The Council also directs staff to provide information about how the current three-day stand down requirement applies to vessels when transiting from the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands to the Gulf of Alaska to participate in the Rockfish Program.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 10, 2018, at 8:47 a.m.

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

The Council requests a discussion paper on current mechanisms for entry level into the rockfish program and challenges with harvesting small amounts of rockfish.

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

The Council requests that the analysts describe harvesting patterns in the rockfish program as part of this analysis.

VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 10, 2018, at 9:11 a.m.

D6 BSAI PACIFIC COD ALLOCATION REVIEW

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Jon McCracken. The following action was taken:

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

The Council adopts the work plan as outlined by Council staff. Staff should incorporate the comments and recommendations from the SSC and AP to the extent practicable. The analyst should incorporate a description of recent changes in the Pacific cod fishery and cod stock including the changes in the State water allocations and areas, the additional survey of the Northern Bering Sea Research Area, Amendment 113 and the recent modifications to that amendment, and other changes in the Pacific cod fishery that the staff may identify.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 10, 2018, at 9:49 a.m.

D8 SOCIAL SCIENCE PLANNING TEAM (SSPT)

The Council heard a SSPT report from NPFMC staff, Sarah Marrinan. The following action was taken:

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

The Council approves the SSPT terms of reference for the Social Science Planning Team with the inclusion of additional language on membership, which clarifies that Tribally-affiliated individuals may be eligible for consideration on the SSPT:

1. **Membership.** SSPT members will be appointed from public organizations and academic institutions having expertise in diverse social science fields such as anthropology, sociology, economics, and human geography. Normally, the SSPT will include at least one member from the Council staff, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Alaska Regional Office (AKRO), NMFS' Alaska Fishery Science Center (AFSC), the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee

(SSC), Alaska Fisheries Information Network (AKFIN), and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G). The Council may also consider members who are Tribally-affiliated (defined as being nominated by a Tribe or Alaska Native organization), as well as from North Pacific Research Board (NPRB), and other agencies or institutions as appropriate. With the consent of the sponsoring agency or institution, nominations may be made by the Council, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Advisory Panel (AP), the SSPT, or the public. All nominations will be subject to approval by the SSC, with the Council retaining final appointment authority. Appointments should reflect the SSPT's responsibility to provide advice and expertise from a range of social sciences and study areas.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 10, 2018, at 10:53 a.m.

E1 STAFF TASKING

Executive Director, David Witherell, presented a list of items for discussion at staff tasking taken from the B reports and the Council took the following action:

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

The Council requests staff prepare a discussion paper to evaluate participation and effort in the Bering Sea Pacific cod pot catcher processor vessel fishery in response to a potential need to limit entry and participation in the cod pot catcher processor vessel sector.

The Council establishes a control date of December 31, 2018 that may be used as a reference date for a future management action to limit Bering sea pot catcher processor vessels from participation in the Bering sea pot catch processor vessel Pacific cod fishery.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion failed 5/6 (Mr. Balsiger, Ms. Bush, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Laukitis, Ms. Peterson and Mr. Kinneen voted in opposition) on December 10, 2018, at 1:39 p.m.

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

The Council requests staff prepare a discussion paper to evaluate participation and effort in the Bering Sea Pacific cod pot catcher processor vessel fishery in response to a potential need to limit entry and participation in the cod pot catcher processor vessel sector.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously December 10, 2018, at 1:45 p.m.

In addition, the Council discussed the relative priority and scheduling of previously tasked projects, as well as the following issues:

- The Council also received a presentation on proposed regulations governing Council member recusal, and directed staff to develop a comment letter for Council consideration at the February Council meeting.
- The Council agreed to send a letter to the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and USCG regarding using AIS identification on fishing gear. If appropriate, the Council requested that the Council letter be coordinated with the Pacific and Western Pacific Councils.

Appointments

SSC

All current members of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee, except for Robert Clark of ADF&G, were reappointed. SSC members serve one-year terms. Robert Clark is retiring from ADF&G, and the Council appointed Dr. Andrew Munro to replace him. Dr. Munro is a Fisheries Scientist with the Division of Commercial Fisheries and in this capacity has contributed to discussions before the Council for the past seven years.

The Council approved the following reappointments for a one-year term to the SSC: Dr. Chris Anderson, Dr. Mike Downs, Dr. Sherri Dressel, Dr. Jason Gasper, Dr. Dana Hanselman, Dr. Brad Harris, Dr. Anne Hollowed, Dr. George Hunt, Jr., Dr. Gordon Kruse, Dr. Dayv Lowry, Dr. Franz Mueter, Dr. Terry Quinn, Dr. Katherine Reedy, Heather Renner, Dr. Ian Stewart, and Allison Whitman. Additionally, Dr. Jennifer Burns will return to the SSC in October 2019, Dr. Amanda Bishop will serve on the SSC until Jennifer returns; Dr. Matt Reimer will return to the SSC in June 2019, and Dr. Ron Felthoven will serve on the SSC until Matt returns.

AP

The Council reappointed Angel Drobnica, Dan Donich, Craig Lowenberg, and Joel Peterson to three-year terms. Ben Stevens was appointed to fill out the remaining two years of Shannon Carroll's term, and John Gruver was appointed for a one-year term. Newly appointed to the AP for three-year terms are, Gretar Gudmundsson, Jamie O'Connor and Erik Velsko.

Plan Teams

The Council appointed Dr. Anne Marie Eich to serve on the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team, replacing Ms. Brandee Gerke. Dr. Eich is the head of the Ecosystem Branch of the Sustainable Fisheries Division at the Alaska Regional Office, and has previously served as the Alaska Region lead for seabird/fisheries interactions.

The Council appointed Dr. Jim Fall to serve on the Social Science Planning Team, to fill an ADF&G seat reserved by the Council in October 2018. Dr. Fall is the Statewide Program Manager for the Division of Subsistence, where he plans, organizes, and monitors ADF&G's social science research relative to subsistence hunting and fishing in Alaska communities. He holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin.

The Council appointed Mr. Andrew Kingham to serve on the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team, as a permanent replacement for the interim appointment of Ms. Jennifer Cahalan. Mr. Kingham is a Research Fishery Analyst in the AFSC Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division, bringing in-depth experience with the North Pacific Observer Program and emerging Electronic Monitoring programs.

Committees

The Council appointed Gretchen Harrington to replace Jon Kurland on the Council's Ecosystem Committee.

The Council reappointed all members of the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) to two-year terms, with the exception of Dale Schwarzmiller and Gary Stewart, who have stepped down. To replace them, the Council appointed Edward Poulsen and Mike Simpson. Jamie Goen has also been appointed to take over for Tyson Fick as non-voting Secretary.

Full membership is as follows: Lance Farr, Jamie Goen (non-voting, Secretary), Dean Fasnacht, Erling Jacobsen, Kevin Kaldestad, Steve Minor, Stefanie Moreland, Gary Painter, Edward Poulsen, Brett Reasor, Mike Simpson, Tom Suryan, Elizabeth Wiley.

THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ON MONDAY DECEMBER 10, 2018 AT 2:04 P.M.

Species	Area	2018			Catch 11/8/2018	2019			2020		
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	State GHIL	n/a	4,037	-		n/a	3,396	-	n/a	2,722	-
	W (610)	n/a	30,188	30,188	30,676	n/a	24,875	24,875	n/a	19,939	19,939
	C (620)	n/a	79,495	79,495	79,974	n/a	71,459	71,459	n/a	57,279	57,279
	C (630)	n/a	40,939	40,939	39,511	n/a	30,372	30,372	n/a	24,345	24,345
	WYAK	n/a	6,833	6,833	4,125	n/a	5,748	5,748	n/a	4,607	4,607
	Subtotal	187,059	161,492	157,455	154,286	194,230	135,850	132,454	148,968	108,892	106,170
	EYAK/SEO	11,697	8,773	8,773	-	11,697	8,773	8,773	11,697	8,773	8,773
	Total	198,756	170,265	166,228	154,286	205,927	144,623	141,227	160,665	117,665	114,943
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	8,082	5,657	4,374	n/a	7,633	5,343	n/a	9,695	6,786
	C	n/a	8,118	6,089	5,120	n/a	7,667	5,750	n/a	9,738	7,303
	E	n/a	1,800	1,350	101	n/a	1,700	1,275	n/a	2,159	1,619
	Total	23,565	18,000	13,096	9,595	23,669	17,000	12,368	26,078	21,592	15,708
Sablefish	W	n/a	1,544	1,544	1,351	n/a	1,581	1,581	n/a	2,105	2,105
	C	n/a	5,158	5,158	5,617	n/a	5,178	5,178	n/a	6,931	6,931
	WYAK	n/a	1,829	1,829	1,804	n/a	1,828	1,828	n/a	2,433	2,433
	SEO	n/a	2,974	2,974	2,944	n/a	2,984	2,984	n/a	3,993	3,993
	Total	22,703	11,505	11,505	11,716	25,227	11,571	11,571	34,782	15,462	15,462
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	25,206	13,250	56	n/a	25,620	13,250	n/a	25,952	13,250
	C	n/a	25,315	25,315	2,664	n/a	25,731	25,731	n/a	26,065	26,065
	WYAK	n/a	2,242	2,242	1	n/a	2,279	2,279	n/a	2,308	2,308
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,925	1,925	1	n/a	1,957	1,957	n/a	1,983	1,983
	Total	67,240	54,688	42,732	2,722	68,309	55,587	43,217	69,167	56,308	43,606
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	413	413	3	n/a	416	416	n/a	420	420
	C	n/a	3,400	3,400	181	n/a	3,443	3,443	n/a	3,488	3,488
	WYAK	n/a	3,239	3,239	6	n/a	3,280	3,280	n/a	3,323	3,323
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,332	2,332	5	n/a	2,362	2,362	n/a	2,393	2,393
	Total	11,294	9,385	9,385	195	11,434	9,501	9,501	11,581	9,624	9,624
Rex Sole	W	n/a	3,086	3,086	83	n/a	2,951	2,951	n/a	2,956	2,956
	C	n/a	8,739	8,739	1,553	n/a	8,357	8,357	n/a	8,371	8,371
	WYAK	n/a	1,737	1,737	2	n/a	1,657	1,657	n/a	1,664	1,664
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,811	1,811	-	n/a	1,727	1,727	n/a	1,734	1,734
	Total	18,706	15,373	15,373	1,638	17,889	14,692	14,692	17,942	14,725	14,725
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	37,253	14,500	1,043	n/a	35,994	14,500	n/a	34,765	14,500
	C	n/a	73,480	48,000	16,391	n/a	70,995	70,995	n/a	68,575	68,575
	WYAK	n/a	16,468	6,900	39	n/a	15,911	6,900	n/a	15,368	6,900
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	23,744	6,900	25	n/a	22,941	6,900	n/a	22,157	6,900
	Total	180,697	150,945	76,300	17,498	174,598	145,841	99,295	168,634	140,865	96,875
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	12,690	8,650	151	n/a	13,234	8,650	n/a	13,771	8,650
	C	n/a	20,238	15,400	1,894	n/a	21,109	15,400	n/a	21,965	15,400
	WYAK	n/a	1,932	1,932	-	n/a	2,016	2,016	n/a	2,097	2,097
	S	n/a	406	406	-	n/a	423	423	n/a	440	440
	Total	43,011	35,266	26,388	2,045	44,865	36,782	26,489	46,666	38,273	26,587

2018 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from the harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2017; 2018 catches through November 8, 2018 from AKR Catch Accounting.

Species	Area	2018				2019			2020		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 11/8/18	OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pacific ocean perch	W	n/a	3,312	3,312	3,225	n/a	3,227	3,227	n/a	3,125	3,125
	C	n/a	20,112	20,112	17,644	n/a	19,646	19,646	n/a	19,024	19,024
	WYAK	n/a	3,371	3,371	3,352	n/a	3,296	3,296	n/a	3,192	3,192
	W/C/WYAK	31,860	26,795	26,795	24,221	31,113	26,169	26,169	30,128	25,341	25,341
	SEO	2,902	2,441	2,441	0	2,838	2,386	2,386	2,748	2,311	2,311
	Total	34,762	29,236	29,236	24,221	33,951	28,555	28,555	32,876	27,652	27,652
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	420	420	297	n/a	1,190	1,190	n/a	1,122	1,122
	C	n/a	3,261	3,261	2,047	n/a	3,338	3,338	n/a	3,147	3,147
	E	n/a	4	0	0	n/a	1	0	n/a	1	0
	Total	4,380	3,685	3,681	2,344	5,402	4,529	4,528	5,093	4,270	4,269
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	44	44	38	n/a	44	44	n/a	44	44
	C	n/a	305	305	315	n/a	305	305	n/a	305	305
	E	n/a	514	514	402	n/a	514	514	n/a	514	514
	Total	1,151	863	863	755	1,151	863	863	1,151	863	863
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	146	146	50	n/a	781	781	n/a	774	774
	C	n/a	3,502	3,502	2,831	n/a	2,764	2,764	n/a	2,742	2,742
	WYAK	n/a	232	232	11	n/a	95	95	n/a	94	94
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	77	77	7	n/a	60	60	n/a	60	60
	Total	4,841	3,957	3,957	2,899	4,521	3,700	3,700	4,484	3,670	3,670
Rougeye Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	176	176	79	n/a	174	174	n/a	172	172
	C	n/a	556	556	434	n/a	550	550	n/a	545	545
	E	n/a	712	712	203	n/a	704	704	n/a	697	697
	Total	1,735	1,444	1,444	716	1,715	1,428	1,428	1,699	1,414	1,414
Demersal sheff rockfish	Total	394	250	250	133	411	261	261	411	261	261
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	344	344	160	n/a	326	326	n/a	326	326
	C	n/a	921	921	665	n/a	911	911	n/a	911	911
	E	n/a	773	773	325	n/a	779	779	n/a	779	779
	Total	2,717	2,038	2,038	1,150	2,688	2,016	2,016	2,688	2,016	2,016
Other Rockfish	W/C	n/a	1,737	1,737	1,030	n/a	1,737	1,737	n/a	1,737	1,737
	WYAK	n/a	368	368	126	n/a	368	368	n/a	368	368
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	3,489	200	51	n/a	3,489	3,489	n/a	3,489	3,489
	Total	7,356	5,594	2,305	1,207	7,356	5,594	5,594	7,356	5,594	5,594
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	3,000	1,431	6,200	4,700	3,000	6,200	4,700	3,000
Big Skate	W	n/a	504	504	312	n/a	504	504	n/a	504	504
	C	n/a	1,774	1,774	880	n/a	1,774	1,774	n/a	1,774	1,774
	E	n/a	570	570	70	n/a	570	570	n/a	570	570
	Total	3,797	2,848	2,848	1,262	3,797	2,848	2,848	3,797	2,848	2,848
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	149	149	58	n/a	149	149	n/a	149	149
	C	n/a	2,804	2,804	553	n/a	2,804	2,804	n/a	2,804	2,804
	E	n/a	619	619	232	n/a	619	619	n/a	619	619
	Total	4,763	3,572	3,572	843	4,763	3,572	3,572	4,763	3,572	3,572
Other Skates	GOA-wide	1,845	1,384	1,384	681	1,845	1,384	1,384	1,845	1,384	1,384
Sculpins	GOA-wide	6,958	5,301	5,301	550	6,958	5,301	5,301	6,958	5,301	5,301
Sharks	GOA-wide	6,020	4,514	4,514	2,886	10,913	8,184	8,184	10,913	8,184	8,184
Squids	GOA-wide	1,516	1,137	1,137	41	0	0	0	0	0	
Octopuses	GOA-wide	1,300	975	975	139	1,300	975	975	1,300	975	975
	TOTAL	655,707	536,925	427,512	240,953	664,889	509,507	430,569	627,049	487,218	408,533

2018 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from the harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2017; 2018 catches through November 8, 2018 from AKR Catch Accounting

GOA TAC Considerations for State Water Pacific Cod

Final 2019 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod ABCs, TACs and State Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) in metric tons.

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	7,633	7,667	1,700	17,000
State GHL	2,290	1,917	425	4,632
(%)	30%	25%	25%	25-30
Federal TAC	5,343	5,750	1,275	12,368

Final 2020 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod ABCs, TACs and State Guideline

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	9,695	9,738	2,159	21,592
State GHL	2,908	2,434	540	5,883
(%)	30%	25%	25%	25-30
Federal TAC	6,786	7,303	1,619	15,709

Table 14. Final 2019 and 2020 Pacific Halibut PSC Limits, Allowances, and Apportionments (Values are in metric tons).

Trawl gear			Hook-and-line gear ¹				
			Other than DSR			DSR	
Season	Percent	Amount	Season	Percent	Amount	Season	Amount
January 20 - April 1	30.42%	519	January 1 - June 10	86	221	January 1 - December 31	9
April 1 - July 1	19.99%	341	June 10 - September 1	2	5		
July 1 - August 1	27.08%	462	September 1 - December 31	12	31		
August 1 - October 1	7.50%	128					
October 1 - December 31	15.01%	256					
Total		1,706			257		9

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

Table 15. Final 2019 and 2020 Seasonal Apportionment of the Pacific Halibut PSC Limit Apportioned Between the Trawl Gear Shallow-Water and Deep-Water Species Fisheries (Values are in metric tons.)

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

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

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

Table 16. Final 2019 and 2020 Apportionments of the “Other hook-and-line fisheries” Halibut PSC Allowance Between the Hook-and-Line Gear Catcher Vessel and Catcher/Processor Sectors. (Values are in metric tons.)

“Other than DSR” allowance	Hook-and-line sector	Sector annual amount	Season	Seasonal percentage	Sector seasonal amount
257	Catcher Vessel	120	January 1 - June 10	86	103
			June 10 - September 1	2	2
			September 1 - December 31	12	14
	Catcher/Processor	137	January 1 - June 10	86	118
			June 10 - September 1	2	3
			September 1 - December 31	12	16

Table 17. Final 2019 and 2020 Halibut Discard Mortality Rates for Vessels Fishing in the Gulf of Alaska. (Values are percent of halibut assumed to be dead.)

Gear	Sector	Groundfish fishery	Halibut discard
Pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	All	100
	Catcher/processor	All	100
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	Rockfish Program	49
	Catcher vessel	All others	67
	Mothership and catcher/processor	All	79
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	All	11
	Catcher vessel	All	21
Pot	Catcher vessel and catcher/processor	All	4

Table 1. Council TAC Sheet, with SSC OFL and ABC recommendations for Groundfish in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (metric tons) for 2019-2020.

Attachment 2

Species	Area	2018				Catch as of 11/24/2018	2019			2020		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL		ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC	
Pollock	EBS	4,797,000	2,592,000	1,364,341	1,378,411	3,914,000	2,163,000	1,397,000	3,082,000	1,792,000	1,420,000	
	AI	49,289	40,788	19,000	1,861	64,240	52,887	19,000	66,981	55,125	19,000	
	Bogoslof	130,428	60,800	450	14	183,080	137,310	75	183,080	137,310	75	
Pacific cod	BS	238,000	201,000	188,136	174,311	216,000	181,000	166,475	183,000	137,000	124,625	
	AI	28,700	21,500	15,695	14,718	27,400	20,600	14,214	27,400	20,600	14,214	
Sablefish	BS	2,887	1,464	1,464	1,580	3,221	1,489	1,489	4,441	1,994	1,994	
	AI	3,917	1,988	1,988	660	4,350	2,008	2,008	5,997	2,688	2,688	
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	306,700	277,500	154,000	130,502	290,000	263,200	154,000	284,000	257,800	166,425	
Greenland turbot	BSAI	13,148	11,132	5,294	1,829	11,362	9,658	5,294	10,476	8,908	5,294	
	BS	n/a	9,718	5,125	1,666	n/a	8,431	5,125	n/a	7,777	5,125	
	AI	n/a	1,414	169	163	n/a	1,227	169	n/a	1,131	169	
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	76,757	65,932	13,621	6,888	82,939	70,673	8,000	83,814	71,411	8,000	
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	11,347	9,737	5,000	3,102	10,965	9,260	5,000	11,260	9,509	5,000	
Northern rock sole	BSAI	147,300	143,100	47,100	28,261	122,000	118,900	47,100	147,500	143,700	57,100	
Flathead sole	BSAI	79,862	66,773	14,500	10,957	80,918	66,625	14,500	83,190	68,448	14,500	
Alaska plaice	BSAI	41,170	34,590	16,100	23,281	39,880	33,600	18,000	37,860	31,900	18,000	
Other flatfish	BSAI	17,591	13,193	4,000	5,980	21,824	16,368	6,500	21,824	16,368	6,500	
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	51,675	42,509	37,361	34,748	61,067	50,594	44,069	59,396	49,211	43,625	
	BS	n/a	11,861	11,861	9,633		14,675	14,675		14,274	14,274	
	EAI	n/a	10,021	9,000	8,947		11,459	11,009		11,146	11,146	
	CAI	n/a	7,787	7,500	7,312		8,435	8,385		8,205	8,205	
	WAI	n/a	12,840	9,000	8,856		16,025	10,000		15,586	10,000	
Northern rockfish	BSAI	15,888	12,975	6,100	5,765	15,507	12,664	6,500	15,180	12,396	6,500	
Blackspotted/Rough eye Rockfish	BSAI	749	613	225	239	676	555	279	868	715	279	
	EBS/EAI	n/a	374	75	66	n/a	351	75	n/a	448	75	
	CAI/WAI	n/a	239	150	173	n/a	204	204	n/a	267	204	
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	666	499	150	250	722	541	358	722	541	358	
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,816	1,362	845	986	1,793	1,344	663	1,793	1,344	663	
	BS	n/a	791	275	211		956	275		956	275	
	AI	n/a	571	570	775		388	388		388	388	
Atka mackerel	BSAI	108,600	92,000	71,000	70,393	79,200	68,500	57,951	73,400	63,400	53,635	
	EAI/BS	n/a	36,820	36,500	36,085		23,970	23,970		22,190	22,190	
	CAI	n/a	32,000	21,000	20,915		14,390	14,390		13,310	13,310	
	WAI	n/a	23,180	13,500	13,393		30,140	19,591		27,900	18,135	
Skates	BSAI	46,668	39,082	27,000	29,445	51,152	42,714	26,000	48,944	40,813	26,000	
Sculpins	BSAI	53,201	39,995	5,000	4,997	53,201	39,995	5,000	53,201	39,995	5,000	
Sharks	BSAI	689	517	180	100	689	517	125	689	517	125	
Squids	BSAI	6,912	5,184	1,200	1,735	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	250	279	4,769	3,576	400	4,769	3,576	400	
Total	BSAI	6,235,729	3,779,809	2,000,000	1,931,292	5,340,955	3,367,578	2,000,000	4,491,785	2,967,269	2,000,000	

Table 13–FINAL 2019 AND 2020 ABC SURPLUS, ABC RESERVES,
[Amounts are in metric tons]

Sector	2019 Flathead sole	2019 Rock sole	2019 Yellowfin sole	2020 ¹ Flathead sole	2020 ¹ Rock sole	2020 ¹ Yellowfin sole
ABC	66,625	118,900	263,200	68,448	143,700	257,800
TAC	14,500	47,100	154,000	14,500	57,100	166,425
ABC surplus	52,125	71,800	109,200	53,948	86,600	91,375
ABC reserve	52,125	71,800	109,200	53,948	86,600	91,375
CDQ ABC res	5,577	7,683	11,684	5,772	9,266	9,777
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	46,548	64,117	97,516	48,176	77,334	81,598

¹ The 2020 allocations for Amendment 80 species between Amendment 80 cooperatives and the Amendment 80 limited access sector will not be known until eligible participants apply for participation in the program by November 1, 2019.

Table 14—FINAL 2019 AND 2020 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	2,547	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	11,916,450	n/a	1,275,060	10,641,390	5,230,243	3,420,143
<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 15–FINAL 2019 AND 2020 HERRING AND RED KING CRAB SAVINGS SUBAREA PROHIBITED

Fishery Categories	Herring (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1
Yellowfin sole	111	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ¹	54	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	7	n/a
Rockfish	7	n/a
Pacific cod	13	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	2,313	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2,3}	42	n/a
Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴	n/a	24,250
Total trawl PSC	2,547	97,000

¹“Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), arrowtooth

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

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

⁴In December 2018, the Council recommended that the red king crab bycatch limit for non-pelagic trawl fisheries

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

Table 16–FINAL 2019 AND 2020 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL

BSAI trawl limited access fisheries	Prohibited species and area ¹				
	mortality (mt) BSAI	crab (animals)	(animals) COBLZ	<i>C. bairdi</i> (animals)	
				Zone 1	Zone 2
Yellowfin sole	150	23,338	3,224,126	346,228	1,185,500
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ²	0	0	-	-	-
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	0	0	-	-	-
Rockfish April 15 - December 31	4	0	5,326	-	1,000
Pacific cod	391	2,954	137,426	60,000	49,999
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ³	200	197	53,265	5,000	5,000
Total BSAI trawl limited access PSC	745	26,489	3,420,143	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), flathead

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

Note: Seasonal or sector apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

Table 17–FINAL 2019 AND 2020 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	Total Pacific cod	648	13	661
	January 1-June 10	388	9	n/a
	June 10-August 15	162	2	n/a
	August 15-December 31	98	2	n/a
Non-Pacific cod non-trawl-Total	May 1-December 31	n/a	n/a	49
Groundfish pot and jig	n/a	n/a	n/a	Exempt
Sablefish hook-and-line	n/a	n/a	n/a	Exempt
Total for all non-trawl PSC	n/a	n/a	n/a	710

Note: Seasonal or sector apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

Table 18—2019 AND 2020 PACIFIC HALIBUT DISCARD MORTALITY RATES FOR THE BSAI

Gear	Sector	Halibut discard mortality rate (percent)
Pelagic trawl	All	100
Non-pelagic trawl	Mothership and catcher/processor	78
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	59
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	4
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	8
Pot	All	19



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
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TIME LOG Meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska Hilton Hotel December 3 – 10, 2018

Wednesday December 5, 2018

12/5/2018 8:14 AM Call to Order
12/5/2018 8:16 AM Approval of Minutes and Agenda

B1 REPORTS

12/5/2018 8:17 AM **B1 Executive Director's Report** – David Witherell
12/5/2018 8:33 AM AM 80 Halibut Report - Beth Concepcion, Mark Fina, and John Gauvin
12/5/2018 9:08 AM **B2 NMFS Management Report** – Glenn Merrill
12/5/2018 9:22 AM GOA Inseason Management Report – Mary Furuness
12/5/2018 10:00 AM Morning Break
12/5/2018 10:22 AM BSAI Inseason Management Report – Mary Furuness
12/5/2018 10:59 AM **B3 NOAA GC Report** – Molly Watson
12/5/2018 11:07 AM **B4 NOAA Enforcement Report** - Will Ellis & Nathan Lagerwey
Observer Program Report - Jaclyn Smith
12/5/2018 12:00 PM Lunch Break
12/5/2018 1:10 PM **B5 ADF&G Report** - Jocelyn Runnebaum
12/5/2018 1:24 PM **B6 USCG Report** – – LCDR Yvonne Yang
12/5/2018 1:32 PM **B8 IPHC Report** – Dave Wilson & Ian Stewart
B9 Protected Species Report – Steve MacLean & AK Sea Life Center Director, Dr. Marcus Horning
12/5/2018 2:25 PM **B Public Testimony**
12/5/2018 2:26 PM George Hutchings
12/5/2018 2:32 PM Mike Shelford
12/5/2018 2:38 PM Mary Boggs
12/5/2018 2:43 PM Julie Raymond-Yakobian
12/5/2018 2:47 PM Break

D1 EFP FOR ADAK POLLOCK, A80 CRAB MONITORING

12/5/2018 3:06 PM **D1 Presentation** – Council staff, Sara Cleaver and Corey Lescher
12/5/2018 3:38 PM SSC Report – Dr. Anne Hollowed
12/5/2018 3:46 PM AP Report – Angel Drobnic
12/5/2018 3:48 PM **D1 Public Testimony**
12/5/2018 3:48 PM Clem Tillion
12/5/2018 3:51 PM John Gauvin

12/5/2018 3:55 PM Stephanie Madsen and Jim Johnsen
12/5/2018 4:04 PM **D1 Mr. Laukitis Motion**

C1 2019 CHARTER HALIBUT MANAGMENT

12/5/2018 4:14 PM **C1 Introduction** – Council staff, Steve MacLean
Management Measure Presentation for 2C and 3A – ADF&G staff,
Sarah Webster and Bob Powers
12/5/2018 4:56 PM Charter Halibut Management Committee Report – Steve MacLean
12/5/2018 5:02 PM Recess

Thursday December 6, 2018

12/6/2018 8:12 AM Call to Order
12/6/2018 8:12 AM **AP Report** – Angel Drobnica
12/6/2018 8:19 AM **C1 Mr. Mezirow Motion**

C2 GOA GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

12/6/2018 8:33 AM GOA Specs Introduction – Council staff, Jim Armstrong
12/6/2018 8:35 AM Ecosystem Status Report – AFSC staff, Dr. Stephanie Zador and
Dr. Elizabeth Siddon
12/6/2018 10:06 AM Break
12/6/2018 10:37 AM ABC Below MaxABC Presentation – AFSC staff, Dr. Martin Dorn
and Dr. Stephanie Zador
12/6/2018 11:39 AM GOA SAFE Report & PT Meeting – AFSC staff, Dr. Jim Ianelli
12/6/2018 12:02 PM Break for Lunch
12/6/2018 1:14 PM GOA SAFE Report Continued – Dr. Jim Ianelli
12/6/2018 2:06 PM SSC Report – Anne Hollowed
12/6/2018 2:43 PM AP Report – Angel Drobnica
12/6/2018 2:47 PM **C2 Public Comment**
12/6/2018 2:48 PM Paul Gronholdt
12/6/2018 2:50 PM Ruth Christiansen and Chad See
12/6/2018 2:57 PM Stephen Rhoads
12/6/2018 3:02 PM Malcolm Milne and Erik Velsko
12/6/2018 3:09 PM Break
12/6/2018 3:29 PM Julie Bonney
12/6/2018 3:37 PM Rebecca Skinner
12/6/2018 3:42 PM Bernie Burkholder
12/6/2018 3:45 PM Tom Manos
12/6/2018 3:55 PM **C2 Mr. Laukitis Motion**

C3 BSAI GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

12/6/2018 4:06 PM	BSAI PT Report – Council staff, Dr. Diana Stram
12/6/2018 4:20 PM	Pollock Chapter – AFSC staff, Dr. Jim Ianelli
12/6/2018 5:00 PM	Recess

Friday December 7, 2018

C3 BSAI GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

12/7/2018 8:04 AM	C3 Presentation – Council staff, Dr. Diana Stram
12/7/2018 9:22 AM	SSC Report – Dr. Anne Hollowed
12/7/2018 10:05:04 AM	Break
12/7/2018 10:29:11 AM	AP Report – Matt Upton
12/7/2018 10:31:22 AM	C3 Public Comment –
12/7/2018 10:31:22 AM	Brent Paine, Stephanie Madsen, Chad See, Chris Woodley, and Nicole Kimball
12/7/2018 10:44:41 AM	Break
12/7/2018 10:51:50 AM	C3 Mr. Cross Motion

C4 BERING SEA FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN

12/7/2018 11:24:16 AM	C4 Presentation – Council staff, Diana Evans
12/7/2018 12:04:47 PM	Ecosystem Committee Report – Council staff, Steve MacLean
12/7/2018 12:06:24 PM	Lunch
12/7/2018 1:21:58 PM	SSC Report – Dr. Anne Hollowed
12/7/2018 1:36:15 PM	AP Report – Matt Upton
12/7/2018 1:37:01 PM	C4 Public Testimony
12/7/2018 1:37:44 PM	Dr. Lauren Divine
12/7/2018 1:47:15 PM	Mellisa Heflin
12/7/2018 1:50:18 PM	Becca Robbins Gisclair
12/7/2018 1:53:44 PM	Rose Fosdick
12/7/2018 1:57:36 PM	C4 Mr. Tweit Motion

C5 ALEUTIAN ISLAND PACIFIC COD SET ASIDE ADJUSTMENT

12/7/2018 2:17:55 PM	C5 Presentation – Council Staff, Jon McCracken
12/7/2018 2:46:58 PM	AP Report – Angel Drobica
12/7/2018 2:53:21 PM	C5 Public Testimony
12/7/2018 2:53:21 PM	Hannah Heimbuch
12/7/2018 2:56:42 PM	Dave Fraser
12/7/2018 3:02:01 PM	Steve Minor
12/7/2018 3:04:46 PM	Kay Larson Blair
12/7/2018 3:07:16 PM	Brent Paine

12/7/2018 3:15:48 PM	Break
12/7/2018 3:35:19 PM	C5 Ms. Bush Motion
12/7/2018 3:57:59 PM	Recess

Saturday December 8, 2018

C6 BERING SEA SNOW CRAB PSC LIMITS

12/8/2018 9:07 AM	Call to Order
12/8/2018 9:08 AM	C6 Presentation – Council staff, Steve MacLean
12/8/2018 10:05 AM	AP Report – Matt Upton
12/8/2018 10:10 AM	C6 Public Comment
12/8/2018 10:12 AM	Christopher Oliver
12/8/2018 10:23 AM	Lance Farr and Gretar Gunderson
12/8/2018 10:37 AM	Simeon Swetozof and Mateo Paz-Soldan
12/8/2018 10:48 AM	Break
12/8/2018 11:09 AM	C6 Mr. Merrill Motion

C7 GOA POLLOCK, COD SEASONS/ALLOCATIONS

12/8/2018 11:25 AM	C7 Presentation – Council Staff, Sam Cunningham and NMFS staff, Bridget Mansfield
12/8/2018 11:57 AM	Lunch Break
12/8/2018 1:07 PM	Council Staff Presentation Continued
12/8/2018 2:11 PM	AP Report – Matt Upton
12/8/2018 2:18 PM	C7 Public Testimony
12/8/2018 2:18 PM	Beth Stewart
12/8/2018 2:22 PM	Julie Bonney
12/8/2018 2:33 PM	Rebecca Skinner and Patrick O'Donnell
12/8/2018 2:40 PM	D2 Public Testimony Out of Order – Patrick O'Donnell
12/8/2018 2:48 PM	Break
12/8/2018 3:05 PM	C7 Mr. Merrill Motion
12/8/2018 3:10 PM	Recess

Sunday December 9, 2018

D7 COOK INLET SALMON FMP AMENDMENT

12/9/2018 9:04 AM	Call to Order
12/9/2018 9:05 AM	D7 Presentation – Council staff, Jim Armstrong and NMFS staff, Gretchen Harrington
12/9/2018 10:25 AM	AP Report – Matt Upton
12/9/2018 10:27 AM	D7 Public Testimony
12/9/2018 10:28 AM	Erik Huebsch
12/9/2018 10:31 AM	Hannah Heimbuch
12/9/2018 10:37 AM	Break

Monday December 10, 2018

12/10/2018 8:06 AM Call to Order
12/10/2018 8:07 AM **D5 Public Testimony**
12/10/2018 8:07 AM Darius Lasprzat
12/10/2018 8:14 AM Julie Bonney
12/10/2018 8:16 AM Rebecca Skinner
12/10/2018 8:17 AM Luke Lester
12/10/2018 8:20 AM Break
12/10/2018 8:30 AM **D5 Mr. Merrill Motion**
12/10/2018 8:49 AM **D5 Ms. Peterson Motion**
12/10/2018 9:00 AM **D5 Mr. Merrill Substitute Motion**

D6 BSAI PACIFIC COD ALLOCATION REVIEW

12/10/2018 9:11 AM **D6 Presentation** – Council staff, Jon McCracken
12/10/2018 9:36 AM AP Report – Angel Drobnica
12/10/2018 9:39 AM **D6 Public Testimony**
12/10/2018 9:39 AM John Gruver
12/10/2018 9:44 AM **D6 Mr. Cross Motion**
12/10/2018 9:50 AM Break

D8 SOCIAL SCIENCE PLANNING TEAM

12/10/2018 10:07 AM **D8 Report** – Council staff, Sarah Marrinan
12/10/2018 10:35AM **D8 Public Testimony**
12/10/2018 10:36 AM Lauren Divine
12/10/2018 10:42 AM Lauren Divine on behalf of Mellisa Heflin
12/10/2018 10:46 AM **D8 Ms. Peterson Motion**

E1 STAFF TASKING

10/8/2018 1:58 PM **Update on 3 Meeting Outlook** – David Witherell
12/10/2018 11:02 AM Enforcement Committee Report – Council staff, Jon McCracken
12/10/2018 11:06 AM NOAA GC Recusal Regulation Presentation– Lauren Smoker
12/10/2018 11:50 AM Lunch Break
12/10/2018 1:05 PM **E Public Testimony**
12/10/2018 1:06 PM Kiley Thompson
12/10/2018 1:10 PM Bob Alverson
12/10/2018 1:12 PM Duncan Fields
12/10/2018 1:22 PM **E Mr. Down Motion**
12/10/2018 2:04 PM Meeting adjourned

December 2018 Newsletter

Appointments and changes

Advisory Panel

The Council reappointed Angel Drobica, Dan Donich, Craig Lowenberg, and Joel Peterson to three-year terms. Ben Stevens was appointed to fill out the remaining two years of Shannon Carroll's term, and John Gruver was appointed for a one-year term. Newly appointed to the AP for three-year terms are, **Gretar Gudmundsson, Jamie O'Connor** and **Erik Velsko**.

Mr. Gudmundsson of Bainbridge Island, WA, has been active in the Bering Sea commercial fisheries and most recently in the crab fisheries. He serves as the Executive Director of the Alternative Crab Exchange. Ms. O'Connor, of Homer, AK is a commercial fisherwoman in the Bristol Bay area and is a Program Coordinator for the Alaska Marine Conservation Council. Mr. Velsko, also of Homer, AK, has participated in many commercial fisheries throughout the state, and is currently owner of Dangerous Cape Fisheries, LLC. We welcome them to the process and look forward to working together on issues in the coming year.

Scientific and Statistical Committee

All current members of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee, except for Robert Clark of ADF&G, were reappointed. SSC members serve one-year terms. Robert Clark is retiring from ADF&G, and the Council appointed Dr. Andrew Munro to replace him. Dr. Munro is a Fisheries Scientist with the Division of Commercial Fisheries and in this capacity has contributed to discussions before the Council for the past seven years.

The Council approved the following reappointments for a one-year term to the SSC: Dr. Chris Anderson, Dr. Mike Downs, Dr. Sherri Dressel, Dr. Jason Gasper, Dr. Dana Hanselman, Dr. Brad Harris, Dr. Anne Hollowed, Dr. George Hunt, Jr., Dr. Gordon Kruse, Dr. Dayv Lowry, Dr. Franz Mueter, Dr. Terry Quinn, Dr. Katherine Reedy, Heather Renner, Dr. Ian Stewart, and Allison Whitman. Additionally, Dr. Jennifer Burns will return to the SSC in October 2019, Dr. Amanda Bishop will serve on the SSC until Jennifer returns; Dr. Matt Reimer will return to the SSC in June 2019, and Dr. Ron Felthoven will serve on the SSC until Matt returns.

Clark Retires

Long-time SSC member, Robert Clark, was recognized by the Council for serving 11 years on the SSC representing the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Council's Executive Director, David Witherell, presented him with a plaque thanking him for his service and dedication to the conservation and management of fisheries in the North Pacific. His expertise in Alaska fisheries and participation in the scientific peer-review process will be missed, and we wish him well in retirement.

Plan Teams

The Council appointed **Dr. Anne Marie Eich** to serve on the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team, replacing Ms. Brandee Gerke. Dr. Eich is the head of the Ecosystem Branch of the Sustainable Fisheries Division at the Alaska Regional Office, and has previously served as the Alaska Region lead for seabird/fisheries interactions.

The Council appointed **Dr. Jim Fall** to serve on the Social Science Planning Team, to fill an ADF&G seat reserved by the Council in October 2018. Dr. Fall is the Statewide Program Manager for the Division of Subsistence, where he plans, organizes, and monitors ADF&G's social science research relative to subsistence hunting and fishing in Alaska communities. He holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin.

The Council appointed **Mr. Andrew Kingham** to serve on the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team, as a permanent replacement for the interim appointment of Ms. Jennifer Cahalan. Mr. Kingham is a Research Fishery Analyst in the AFSC Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division, bringing in-depth experience with the North Pacific Observer Program and emerging Electronic Monitoring programs.



Bob Clark receiving a plaque from NPFMC Executive Director David Witherell

Committees

The Council appointed **Gretchen Harrington** to replace Jon Kurland on the Council's **Ecosystem Committee**.

The Council reappointed all members of the **Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee** (PNCIAC) to two-year terms, with the exception of Dale Schwarzmilller and Gary Stewart, who have stepped down. To replace them, the Council appointed Edward Poulsen and Mike Simpson. Jamie Goen has also been appointed to take over for Tyson Fick as non-voting Secretary.

Full membership is as follows: Lance Farr, Jamie Goen (non-voting, Secretary), Dean Fasnacht, Erling Jacobsen, Kevin Kaldestad, Steve Minor, Stefanie Moreland, Gary Painter, Edward Poulsen, Brett Reasor, Mike Simpson, Tom Suryan, Elizabeth Wiley.

Call for Nominations

The Council is calling for nominations for special expertise on two of its Committees.

The **Cook Inlet Salmon Committee** does not currently include representation by the salmon processing sector, and the Council is announcing a call for nominations for a processor representative to the Committee. The Cook Inlet Salmon Committee was established to assist in the development of measures necessary to amend the Salmon FMP to include traditional net-fishing areas in the Federal waters of Cook Inlet into the FMP. The Council has tasked the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee primarily with review of issues related to management of the commercial drift gillnet salmon fishery, and so representatives from that sector currently comprise the

Committee membership. **If you are interested in joining the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee as a representative from the processing sector, please send a letter of interest to [Jim Armstrong](#) at the Council office by January 09, 2019, to allow appointments prior to a late January/early February Committee meeting.**

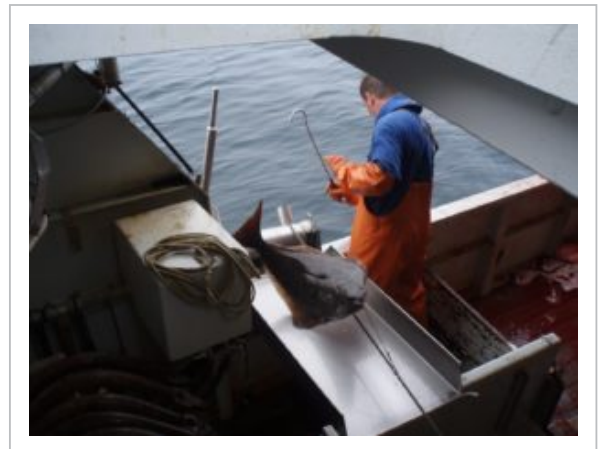
The Council is seeking an additional representative from Area 2C to join the [Charter Halibut Management Committee](#). The Council's Charter Halibut Management Committee was established to develop recommended management alternatives for the charter halibut fishery in Areas 2C and 3A. Requested changes to management measures are suggested by the Committee in October of each year, then evaluated by ADF&G staff to estimate their impact on charter halibut catch. The Committee recommends management measures to the Council in December of each year. More information is available on the Council [website](#). **If you are interested in joining the Charter Halibut Management Committee, please send a letter of interest to [Steve MacLean](#) at the Council office by noon on February 1, 2019.**

Observer Annual Deployment Plan

The Council received a report on the Final Observer Program 2019 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP), which highlighted changes to the document since the Council's review of the Draft ADP in [October](#).

The Final ADP uses the Council's recommended deployment strata and a coverage allocation scheme of 15% plus optimized allocation based on discarded groundfish and halibut PSC and Chinook PSC, which results in the following deployment rates by strata:

- No selection – 0%
- EM – 30%
- Trawl – 24%
- Hook-and-line – 18%
- Pot – 15%
- Tender trawl – 27%
- Tender pot – 16%



The Final 2019 ADP noted NMFS has approved all 168 vessels that requested to participate in the EM trip selection pool for 2019, consistent with the Council's October recommendation to expand the EM pool. Of the total 168 vessels requesting to be in the EM selection pool, 27 requested to participate for the first time. An additional 4 vessels will participate in EM innovation and research, a separate category. NMFS also included Sitka on the list of 'primary ports' for EM deployment in 2019.

Appendix E of the Final 2019 ADP provides additional information about the cost structure under the observer contract and how costs may be expected to fluctuate at different funding levels, which was also

requested by the Council in October.

Staff contact for observer issues is Elizabeth Figus.

2019 Charter Halibut Management Measures

The Council recommended the following management measures for charter halibut fisheries in Areas 2C and 3A for application in 2019, in order to achieve the charter halibut allocation under the Council's Halibut Catch Sharing Plan:

Area 2C

- If the allocation is 0.81 million pounds: one fish per day with a reverse slot limit that allows retention of halibut less than or equal to 38 inches, or greater than or equal to 80 inches (U38:O80). No annual limit.
- If the allocation is above or below 081 million pounds, adjust the lower limit of the reverse slot limit up or down to keep the projected harvest within the allocation.



Area 3A

- Two fish daily bag limit.
- Retention of one fish of any size and a maximum size limit of 28 inches on the second fish
- One charter vessel fishing trip for CHP per day (use of each charter halibut permit is limited to one charter halibut fishing trip per boat in one calendar day)
- 4-fish annual limit, requirement to record retained halibut on the ADF&G fishing license or harvest record card.
- Prohibition on the retention of halibut on Wednesdays, all year.
- Adjust Tuesday retention closure according to Table 15 in the ADF&G analysis of proposed harvest regulations for 2019 to bring the projected harvest within the Area 3A allocation.
- If the allocation is above 2.023 million pounds, adjust the size of the second fish, up to a maximum of 30 inches, to keep the harvest within their allocation.

The Council selected these management measures following review of the ADF&G analysis of proposed management measures for 2019, and after receiving input from the Charter Halibut Management Committee which includes stakeholder representatives from both Areas 2C and 3A. Area 2C representatives noted that the Status Quo regulations project a harvest that is above their projected allocation, but feel that the projected overage is due to an optimistic estimate of angler effort. Area 2C representatives feel that the smaller lower limit of the reverse slot imposed in 2018 will result in lower bookings for 2019, and report that bookings to date for 2019 are below bookings for 2018 at the same point last year. Area 2C representatives feel that Status Quo measures will keep the area 2C charter sector within 0.81 million pounds.

Area 3A representatives feel that a 28% increase in area 3A distributed mortality may not be a realistic outcome of the January IPHC meeting. Continued large fluctuations in distributed mortality and management measures that attempt to address these fluctuations, either up or down, are not good for business planning. Area 3A representatives feel that although restricting the upper limit of the maximum size of the second fish may result in some halibut “left in the water”, management measures requested for analysis did not include a second fish larger than 30 inches and recognize that the charter halibut fishery in area 3A has been over their allocation in recent years. Therefore, representatives felt that it is reasonable to limit the area 3A charter catch to 2.088 million pounds, the maximum projected catch with no closed Tuesdays and a 30-inch limit on the second fish.

The Council noted the recommendation from the Charter Halibut Management Committee to reduce halibut harvest limits for unguided anglers in times of low halibut abundance, but did not take action at this time. This would require an amendment to the Council’s Halibut Catch Sharing Plan. The Council may consider revisiting the issue if the new State of Alaska administration determines interest in pursuing this option.

Staff contact is Steve MacLean

GOA Groundfish Specifications

The Council approved the 2018 Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report and recommended final harvest specifications for the 2019 and 2020 GOA groundfish fisheries. Harvest and prohibited species catch (PSC) specifications for the 2019 and 2020 fishing years are available [here](#).

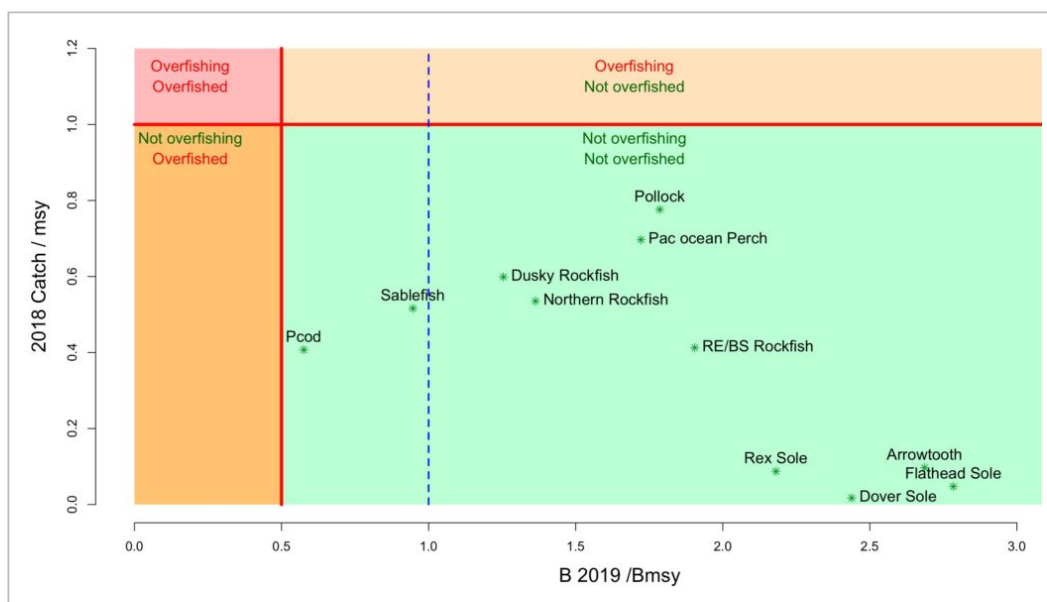
The 2018 GOA Groundfish SAFE report includes stock status updates for all 23 stocks or stock complexes managed through the GOA Groundfish FMP. No harvest specifications were set for squid for the upcoming years since that stock complex has been moved to the ecosystem component category. The Council also reviewed the Ecosystem Status Report for the GOA, which differentiates between the Eastern and Western GOA. The report highlighted closer to average conditions in 2018 following the marine heatwave of 2014-2016 and provided information of zooplankton densities as well as forage fish, seabird and marine mammal trends.

The GOA Pacific cod stock continues to be at a low biomass level since the large decrease in the abundance that was described in the 2017 SAFE report. According to the 2018 update of the Pacific cod stock assessment, environmental conditions in early 2018 were improved for survival of age 0 Pacific cod; however, fall 2018 surface temperatures suggest the advent of a further heatwave, albeit not as intense as that which occurred in 2014-2016. Climate models predict a 70% probability of an El Niño in the 2018-2019 winter season, which corresponds to poor conditions for age-0 survival. Precautionary management of Pacific cod by the Council continued for 2019 and 2020 with TACs set at levels that are consistent with maintaining spawning biomass above the $B_{20\%}$ threshold.

The sum of the ABCs for all Gulf groundfish stocks in 2019 is 509,507 mt, which is a reduction of 5% compared to the 2018 (536,921 mt) aggregate ABC. The Council approved maximum permissible ABCs for all stocks in the Gulf in 2018, except for pollock, Pacific cod, sablefish, and demersal shelf rockfish. ABC less than the maximum permissible is recommended when a stock needs additional conservation considerations. A risk table associated with reductions from maxABC was applied by assessment authors for pollock, Pacific cod, and sablefish in the 2018 SAFE and the GOA Groundfish Plan Team and the Council's SSC will continue to explore appropriate reductions from maxABC in future harvest specification exercises. Differences in the 2019 ABCs compared to 2018 vary among GOA stocks with reductions for eight stocks, increases for seven stocks, and no change for eight stocks.

For most stocks, the Council established TACs equal to ABCs. Exceptions, where the TAC is set below ABC, include fisheries where bycatch may be a concern, specifically, shallow water flatfish and flathead sole in Western and Central GOA, arrowtooth flounder (GOA wide), and other rockfish (East Yakutat and Southeast Outside). For Pacific cod, ABC is reduced by 25% in Eastern and Central GOA and by 30% in Western GOA to accommodate State-managed fisheries; and for pollock, ABC is reduced by 2.5% for the State's Prince William Sound fishery.

Stock Status Summary from the 2018 GOA SAFE report



None of the GOA groundfish stocks are overfished or experiencing overfishing (see stock status figure). Other than Pacific cod and sablefish, all stocks are projected to be above their biomass targets (B_{MSY} or the B_{MSY} proxy, $B_{35\%}$) in 2019. Estimated female spawning stock biomass (SSB) of Pacific cod (34,701 mt) is 50% below target stock size (68,896 mt) while sablefish SSB (96,687 mt) is 17% below target stock size (116,738 mt). The summed biomass estimates for GOA groundfish in 2019 (5,005,262 mt) represent a 1% decrease from the 2018 aggregate biomass (5,053,276 mt).

Prohibited Species Catch Limits:

The Council approved halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limits, by season and gear sector, for 2019 and 2020 and specified apportionments of the hook and line (HAL) halibut PSC allowance between the HAL catcher vessel and HAL catcher/processor sectors according to the Pacific cod sector split allocation. For 2019, the Council is moving 50 mt of trawl sector halibut PSC from the shallow to the deep water species complex and is changing the 4th halibut PSC season start date from September 1 to August 1. This is intended to provide flexibility for the trawl fleet and for processing plants by providing access to alternative target species given the low availability of Pacific cod and salmon in the GOA. The Council will evaluate the efficacy of the adjustment when GOA groundfish harvest specifications are addressed again in 2019. The Council also approved halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for use by in-season management in 2019 and 2020.

Harvest and PSC specifications for the 2019 and 2020 fishing years are posted on the [Council's website](#).

Staff contact is Jim Armstrong.

BSAI Groundfish

Status of stocks and specification of OFL, ABC and TAC

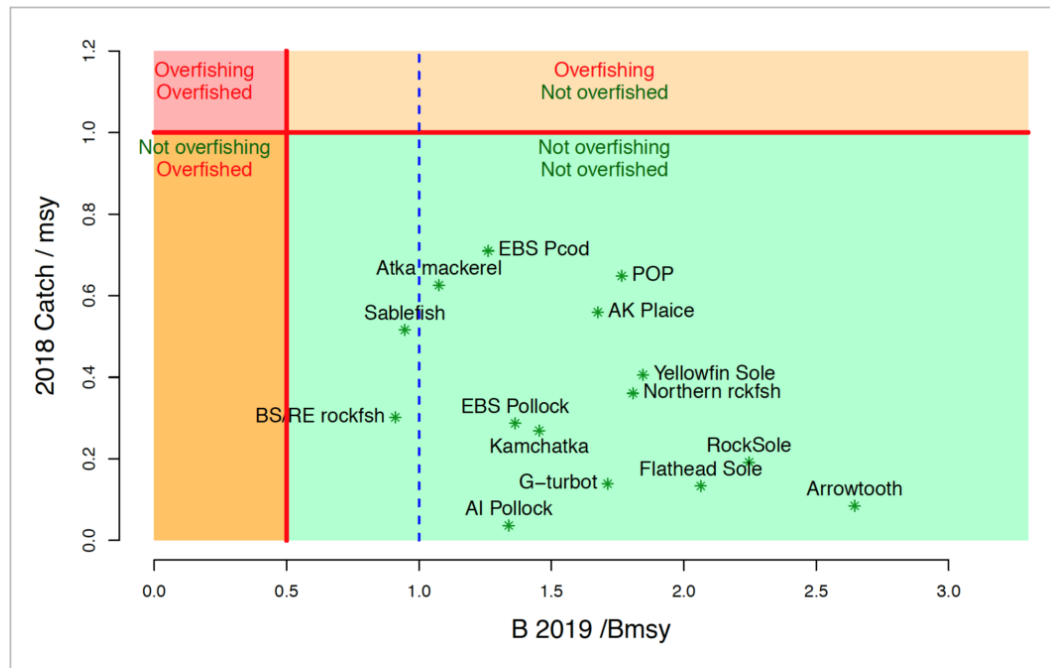
The Council reviewed the Ecosystem Status Report for the Eastern Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report; and made final recommendations on groundfish harvest specifications, PSC limits and halibut DMRs, to manage the 2019 and 2020 BSAI groundfish fisheries. Harvest and prohibited species catch (PSC) specifications for the 2019 and 2020 fishing years are available [here](#).

The BSAI SAFE report forms the basis for BSAI groundfish harvest specifications for the next two fishing years. Based on consideration of stock prioritization, including assessment methods and data availability, some stocks are assessed on an annual basis while others are assessed less frequently. Full assessments were produced for all stocks in the BSAI in 2018 with the following exceptions: partial assessments were produced for Alaska plaice, other flatfish and northern rockfish, and no assessment was produced for sculpins. For these exceptions, specifications were rolled over from the previous assessment for that stock. No reports were produced for grenadiers and forage species in 2018. Both of these are Ecosystem Component species, which is a category of non-target species that are not in need of conservation and management.

Squids have been reclassified (BSAI Groundfish FMP Amendment 117) in the FMP as an Ecosystem Component species. Therefore, starting in 2019, harvest specifications (OFL, ABC, and TAC) for squids in the BSAI are no longer necessary. Amendment 117 prohibits directed fishing for squids, while maintaining recordkeeping and reporting requirements for squid. A report on their status and catch was produced as an appendix to the SAFE report this year.

Overall, the status of the stocks continues to appear favorable. Nearly all stocks are above B_{MSY} or the B_{MSY} proxy of $B_{35\%}$. The abundances of EBS pollock, EBS Pacific cod, all rockfishes managed under Tier 3, and all flatfishes managed under Tiers 1 or 3, are projected to be above B_{MSY} or the B_{MSY} proxy of $B_{35\%}$ in 2019 while Sablefish and Blackspotted/Rougheye rockfish remain below this target level.

Summary of Bering Sea stock status next year (spawning biomass relative to Bmsy; horizontal axis) and current year catch relative to fishing at Fmsy (vertical axis) where FOFL is taken to equal Fmsy.



In setting TACs for 2019 and 2020, the Council accounts for guideline harvest levels (GHLs) for groundfish fisheries in state waters. The Alaska Board of Fisheries took action in 2018 that modified how GHLs in the Bering Sea (BS) and Aleutian Islands (AI) are set for Pacific cod. The GHL in the AI will be set at 31% of the AI ABC. The BS GHL will be set at 8% of the EBS Pacific cod ABC. An additional reduction of 45 t is taken from the remaining EBS available maxTAC for the Area O jig fishery. The Council had considerable discussion regarding declining trends in Pacific cod that are expected to continue for the next several years. The Council’s OFLs, ABCs and TACs for the 2019-2020 fishing years are posted on the Council’s website.

Additional actions by the Council under specifications included specification of an ABC reserve for flathead sole, rock sole, and yellowfin sole, which was specified as the ABC surplus for the species (i.e., the difference between the ABC and TAC). Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits were also established for halibut, crab, and herring as well as discard mortality rates (DMRs) for halibut.

Guidance for recommending an ABC below maximum permissible ABC

The Council was provided a report by a workgroup of the Plan Teams regarding recommending ABCs below the maximum permissible specified by the control rule within the groundfish Tier system. This report proposed the use of a risk assessment table to list concerns related to assessments, population dynamics and environmental and ecosystem considerations. This risk table was used in several assessments in this cycle to provide rationale for recommendations below maxABC including for GOA pollock, GOA Pacific cod, sablefish and Bering Sea pollock. The table was also included in the BSAI Atka mackerel assessment to provide rationale for why no ABC reduction was recommended. For Bering Sea Pacific cod, the author neither included the table nor recommended a reduction, but the Plan Team completed the table and included it in their minutes with a rationale for a recommended reduction. Although, ultimately the SSC and Council recommended an ABC for BSAI Pacific cod at the maximum permissible. The Council discussed the utility of

this risk table and concurred with the SSC to recommend the inclusion of this in every assessment, as time allows, in order to provide transparency on some concerns that cannot be addressed within the assessments themselves at this time. The Council motion regarding this is posted [here](#).

Sculpins discussion paper

The Council also tasked staff with preparing a discussion paper to evaluate the appropriate level of conservation and management required for sculpins in the BSAI and GOA, consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and National Standard guidelines. The paper should assess whether the best available scientific information indicates that sculpins could be managed as non-target species, specifically whether sculpins could be identified as “non-target ecosystem component species not in need of conservation and management”. The discussion paper will assess regulations to prohibit directed fishing for sculpins, establish maximum retainable amounts for sculpins, and require recordkeeping and reporting to monitor catch and discards if sculpins were reclassified as a non-target species.

Harvest and PSC specifications for the 2019 and 2020 fishing years are posted on the [Council's website](#).

Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan

The Council adopted the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP). The Bering Sea FEP establishes a framework for the Council's continued progress towards ecosystem-based fishery management (EBFM) of the Bering Sea fisheries, and relies and builds on the Council's existing processes, advisory groups, and management practice. The Council noted that adoption of the FEP represents a major milestone in what has been a multi-year process to develop this FEP. The FEP builds from the Council's Ecosystem Vision Statement, adopted in 2014, and is a continued commitment by this Council to use the best science to sustainably manage fisheries using a precautionary, transparent and inclusive process.

The core FEP document that has been adopted identifies management goals and objectives for the FEP and for monitoring of the Bering Sea ecosystem, and describes how the FEP framework will support research projects (Action Modules) to address Council priorities. The FEP offers a framework for strengthening trust, transparency, and a sense of shared investment among managers, scientists and stakeholders. It is intended to be a living document and process.

The Council also adopted the five action modules included in the draft, and initiated action on two of them. Staff will work with the BS FEP Team to bring back workplans for how to manage the workload associated with the initiated modules. The two action modules for the Council to work on are:

- Develop protocols for using Local Knowledge and Traditional Knowledge in management and understanding impacts of Council decisions on subsistence use.
- Evaluate the short- and long-term effects of climate change on fish and fisheries.

In the future, and the Team will prepare workplans to bring back to the Council on the other three approved modules, which are: Assessment/gap analysis of Bering Sea management with EBFM best practices; create a series of interdisciplinary conceptual models for the Bering Sea ecosystem; and align Council priorities with research funding opportunities and track relevant research.

The FEP is a living document and lays out a flexible process that allows the Council to better explain to stakeholders what they are already doing with respect to ecosystem-based fishery management, identifies areas to improve, and provides a reasonable action path to address those areas while still taking into account the practical realities of staff time and other Council priorities. The Council appreciated the productive dialogue and engagement with Bering Sea stakeholders that has occurred during the development of the FEP, especially at the Ecosystem Committee and at the Council's Ecosystem Workshop in February 2018.

The FEP will be revised to address requested clarifications in response to Council, Ecosystem Committee, and SSC review in December 2018. Moving forward, staff will update and post the document, and convene the FEP Team.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod Set-Aside Adjustment

The Council took final action to adjust Amendment 113 such that the prosecution of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Pacific cod fishery aligns with the Council's original objective of providing stability to Aleutian Islands (AI) shoreplant operations, AI harvesters, and AI fishing communities dependent on AI Pacific cod harvesting and shoreside processing activity. The Council selected Alternative 4 and Option 2 as its preferred alternative.

Alternative 4 changes how the unrestricted fishery harvested in the AI is deducted from the trawl catcher vessel (CV) BSAI allocation in order to provide the full AI set-aside for shoreside deliveries. Option 2 maintains the March 21 end date for the Bering Sea (BS) trawl CV limitation, but changes the restriction on the limitation after March 15 so that during the March 15 to March 21 period, AI Pacific cod deliveries by the trawl CV sector can be delivered to any processor.

The final motion is available [here](#). Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

Snow Crab PSC Limits in Groundfish Fisheries

The Council reviewed an analysis of alternatives to modify methods to calculate and apportion snow crab PSC limits in groundfish trawl fisheries operating in the *C. opilio* Bycatch Limitation Zone (COBLZ). The Council paused development of the analysis and requested staff provide a data report on *C. opilio* bycatch in the directed crab and groundfish fisheries that describes the spatial distribution of bycatch throughout the BSAI by gear and fishery.

The COBLZ was created in 1997 by Amendment 40 to the BSAI Groundfish FMP and limited snow crab PSC for groundfish trawl fisheries within the area. The analysis was requested by the Council in February 2016 after a series of discussion papers from 2010 through 2016. Those discussion papers initially considered crab bycatch issues for all 10 crab species addressed in the BSAI Crab FMP, and over the course of several years, narrowed the scope to consider only modifications to calculating snow crab PSC limits for groundfish trawl fisheries within the COBLZ. Those previous discussion papers addressed snow crab bycatch that occurs in fisheries other than the groundfish trawl fishery, inside and outside the COBLZ, and presented information that indicated that the Council could consider managing snow crab bycatch by weight rather than by numbers. However, the Council chose not to take any action on those issues and instead limited the action to trawl PSC limits within the COBLZ.



To date, the COBLZ has been closed only to the 2010 BSAI Trawl Limited Access (TLA) yellowfin sole fishery when approximately 1.38 million snow crab were encountered early in the year. The COBLZ closed to that fishery in February 2010.

In February 2016, the Council provided a purpose and need statement that stated that a review of snow crab PSC limits was necessary because no review had been conducted since limits were put into place in 1997. The Council also included two alternatives that modify the methods for calculating PSC limits for the Community Development Quota (CDQ), Amendment 80 (A80) and BSAI TLA fisheries. The action alternatives would modify the abundance estimate from which PSC calculations are made to the modeled estimate of total abundance rather than the estimate of predicted survey abundance, as in status quo management. Staff note the disconnect between the very broad purpose and need statement and the very specific alternatives for analysis.

The analysis compared actual snow crab PSC usage from 2008–2017 in the CDQ, A80, and BSAI TLA fisheries to new limits that would have been imposed under the action alternatives. Staff noted that past performance may not be a predictor of future performance, but because of the limited data available, an effort reprojection was not possible. The analysis concluded that although some of the new PSC limits could have resulted in PSC limits that were lower than PSC usage for some fisheries in some years, it would remain a rare occurrence for fisheries to exceed their snow crab PSC limits under any alternative, either status quo or either of the action alternatives because of the way that the A80 and BSAI TLA fisheries are currently managed by cooperatives. Analysis also concluded that in the rare event that one or more fisheries were excluded from the COBLZ, there is little likelihood that any catch would be foregone, although there are likely to be some costs to the fisheries for fisheries to avoid areas of higher than acceptable snow crab PSC rates, or for redeployment should the fisheries exceed the COBLZ limit and be excluded from the area. The analysis also concluded that no alternative was likely to result in significant impacts to the human environment.

Both the SSC and the AP recommended that the analysis should be expanded. The SSC recommended additional discussion of the size distribution of snow crab in the estimate of survey abundance or total

abundance and in PSC usage, and the treatment of undersize crab included in the modeled biomass estimates vs. those that show up in survey estimates currently used to establish PSC limits. The SSC also requested an additional section in the RIR addressing differential distribution of risk of foregone catch or increased operational costs among fishing communities participating in or dependent upon the fishery. The AP recommended that the Council clarify the purpose and need statement, increase the range of alternatives to better reflect the purpose and need, and include descriptions of: trade-offs of using the predicted survey abundance vs. total abundance as the index of abundance for setting PSC limits; data on size and sex composition of bycatch and amount of bycatch in weight and numbers of crab; description of the impacts of the alternatives on the *C. opilio* directed fishery; description of impacts on communities and small entities; report total bycatch in directed and groundfish fisheries in number of crabs to be consistent with the way that bycatch is measured; include research on gear modification/mortality reduction that was included in the February 2016 discussion paper; include information on temporal movement of trawl fishery relative to marine mammal interactions; consider the chances of displacing trawl vessels into areas of higher PSC (red king crab, halibut, etc.) and to what extent it could increase that PSC; include examples of how all bycatch removals in all fisheries, beyond on-pelagic trawl, are impacting the crab biomass and the amount available in directed fishery.

After review and public testimony, the Council paused development of the analysis and requested a data report on *C. opilio* bycatch in the directed crab and groundfish fisheries that describes the spatial distribution of bycatch throughout the BSAI by gear and fishery. The Council requested that staff provide information on possible gaps in bycatch data, identify regulatory provisions that could hinder the ability to minimize bycatch to the extent practicable and provide a qualitative description of potential impacts of avoiding *C. opilio* bycatch on fishery participants.

The Council also encouraged the crab and groundfish industry to coordinate to find non-regulatory measures to minimize *C. opilio* bycatch. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

GOA Pollock and Cod Seasonal Allocation Adjustments

The Council adopted for public review an analysis of alternatives intended to relieve operational inefficiencies for the trawl catcher vessel (CV) pollock and Pacific cod fisheries in the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska. For pollock, additional flexibility would be achieved by moving from the existing equal (25%) four-season TAC allocation to equal (50%) two-season allocations. Under the seasonal modification, the pollock A and B seasons would be combined into a season that runs from January 20 through May 31 and the C and D seasons would be combined into a season that runs from August 25 through November 1. The Council will continue to consider whether increasing the 20% cap on in-year seasonal rollovers of unharvested pollock TAC provides flexibility to better utilize the available harvest; the Council's preliminary preferred alternative would increase the cap to 25%.



For Pacific cod, the Council aims to reduce the underharvest of B season TAC in the trawl CV sector by moving some of the seasonally allocated TAC to the A season. The Council re-specified the options for the amount of the seasonal reallocation, to clarify that sectors other than the trawl CVs would not be impacted. The preliminary preferred alternative would result in an A/B seasonal TAC ratio – across all sectors – of 64%:36%, compared to the status quo of 60%:40%.

The Council's stated purpose and need for this action remains unchanged as the Council proceeds to public review. The analytical document prepared for this action qualitatively describes circumstances in which fishery effort could result in impacts to Steller sea lions. Throughout the development of this action, the Council has maintained that its intent is to provide benefits to fishery participants while not adversely impacting ESA-protected Steller sea lions. The alternatives do not pose any additional risk to the GOA pollock or Pacific cod stocks since harvest specifications would continue to control overall harvest of these target species. Likewise, the efficacy in PSC limits constraining bycatch of Chinook salmon and halibut are not affected by the alternatives. Staff contacts are Jim Armstrong and Sam Cunningham.

Exempted Fishing Permits

The Council reviewed two exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications that were presented at the meeting and recommended that both be approved.

The first EFP was proposed by the Aleut Corporation, to develop an economically viable AI pollock fishery. By allowing vessels under this EFP to fish in a mixed-target pollock fishery with its own Pacific Ocean perch (POP) allocation of 500mt, rather than being restricted to the 5% aggregated rockfish MRA limit, this EFP proposal will test an alternative management framework for limiting POP bycatch in the AI pollock fishery. The Council is in support of the EFP's goals to reduce POP bycatch mortality, prove the viability of fishing for pollock in the AI under the current POP abundance, provide an important economic opportunity for Adak, and improve safety at sea.

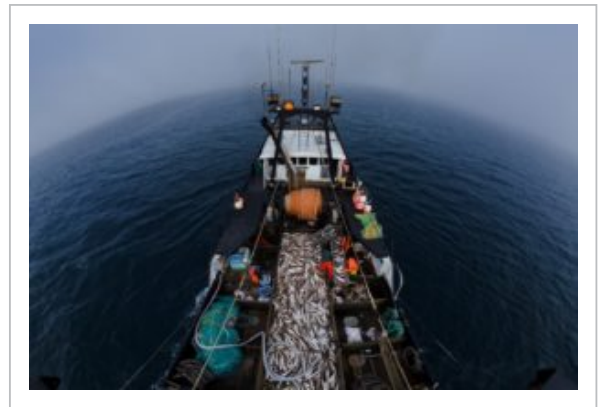


The second EFP application was submitted by Mr. Cory Lescher and Dr. Bradley Harris from the Alaska Pacific University Fisheries, Aquatic Science, and Technology (FAST) Laboratory. Two concurrent studies would be conducted under this EFP. The first would compare red king crab prohibited species catch (PSC) rates generated using Observer Program sub-sampling protocols to whole-haul censuses in the Amendment 80 Bering Sea yellowfin sole and role sole fisheries. The second is an at-sea crab vitality pilot study to examine factors which influence red king crab discard mortality. Assessing the accuracy of PSC estimation and the potential to improve the viability of crab PSC may help inform future fisheries management. Testimony and Council discussion highlighted support for the project. Staff contact is Sara Cleaver.

Observer Coverage on Vessels Delivering to Tenders

The Council received an update on staff progress with resolving challenges related to observer coverage on vessels delivering to tenders, and reaffirmed current tasking priorities. The Council recognizes the longstanding use and importance of tenders in Alaska fisheries, especially in the western Gulf of Alaska, where the location of pollock and Pacific cod fishing grounds are further from port, and the fleet is largely comprised of smaller trawl vessels (57 to 60 ft LOA).

Challenges with deploying observers on vessels delivering to tenders have led to different sampling protocols for monitoring salmon bycatch for those vessels and the potential for biased data resulting from observed tender trips. The Council has initiated multiple actions to resolve these challenges. Since 2017, the Council and NMFS have established separate strata for random deployment of observers on vessels delivering to tenders, to ensure that a minimum amount of observer coverage is obtained. In October 2017, the Council also **initiated an analysis** to change the definition of a tender trip, including an evaluation of deploying observers directly from tender vessels. In February 2018, the Council **formed a trawl catcher vessel Electronic Monitoring (EM) Committee** to develop EM including for use on vessels delivering to tenders. The trawl EM Committee has made swift progress developing a **cooperative research plan** to develop an EM program for compliance purposes on pelagic pollock trawl catcher vessels and tenders both delivering to shoreside processors with a defined retention requirement.



In 2017, the Council **approved** the recommendation from the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (formerly the OAC) to prioritize the observer fee analysis ahead of the tender analysis with respect to staff tasking. After the fee analysis is completed (anticipated during the Spring of 2019), more staff capacity may become available to continue progress on an analysis relating to the definition of a tender trip. After revisiting this issue at the December 2018 meeting, the Council decided that no change was needed to existing prioritization. Staff contact for observer issues is Elizabeth Figus.

Trawl Electronic Monitoring Research Plan

The Council approved a 2019 Trawl EM Cooperative Research Plan, developed by the Trawl Electronic Monitoring (EM) Committee. The 2019 cooperative research plan begins development of an EM program for compliance purposes, in accordance with Council direction from June 2018, and focuses on pelagic pollock trawl catcher vessels and tenders both delivering to shoreside processors, with a defined retention requirement. The Council also requested the EM Committee and NMFS begin working on regulatory implementation issues.

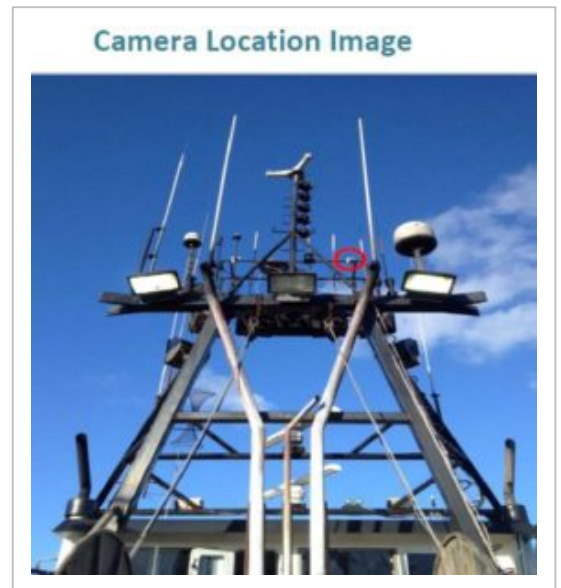
The trawl EM Committee expects EM to move more quickly for trawl vessels targeting mid-water pollock than it did for fixed gear vessels in the North Pacific. Rapid progress is expected because:

- much is already known about the EM technology;
- the Council's (now disbanded) Fixed Gear EM Workgroup laid the groundwork for current work of the trawl EM Committee; and,
- a similar style trawl fishery in an adjacent region (West Coast Pacific whiting) is already using EM for compliance monitoring.

In June of 2018 the Council approved three objectives for the trawl EM Committee. With approval of the 2019 cooperative research plan, they also approved a fourth objective:

1. Improve salmon accounting
2. Reduce monitoring costs
3. Improve monitoring data
4. Examine retention/discard requirements (*new*)

The document further describes key research questions, pilot studies conducted in 2018, and project plans targeted for 2019 and 2020. All research projects are aimed at collecting information to inform the development of a pre-implementation plan as well as the development of alternatives for operationalizing EM as a compliance monitoring tool for pelagic pollock trawl catcher vessels. The EM Committee recognizes that there are further questions and potential interest in using EM on vessels conducting non-pelagic fishing and targeting multiple species, which will be addressed in the future. Staff contact for EM issues is Elizabeth Figs.



BSAI Pacific Cod Allocation Review

At this meeting, the Council reviewed the workplan for an allocation review of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Pacific cod allocation, which is scheduled for 2019. The workplan provides background on national requirements the allocation review, program objectives for Amendment 85 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the BSAI Area, applicable management policy objectives from FMP, and the proposed approach for the allocation review.

The Council **adopted the** workplan as outlined, and requested staff include, to the extent practicable, SSC recommendations that primarily address document organization and AP recommendations to review prohibited species catch by season and include options for trawl CV sector to achieve their cod allocation. The Council also requested staff include in the allocation review a description of recent changes in the Pacific cod fishery and Pacific cod stocks, including the changes in the State water allocations, the additional survey of the Northern Bering Sea Research Area, recent Council-recommended modifications to Amendment 113 that

created a CV trawl set aside for Aleutian Islands Pacific cod, and other changes in the Pacific cod fishery that the staff may identify.

During staff tasking, the Council also requested staff prepare a discussion paper to evaluate participation and effort in the Bering Sea Pacific cod pot catcher processor fishery in response to a potential need to limit entry and participation in the fishery. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program Reauthorization

The Central Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Rockfish Program will sunset on December 31, 2021. If the Council does not take action to recommend the continuation of the current CGOA Rockfish Program management structure or a modified management program for the CGOA rockfish fisheries, these fisheries will revert back to the License Limitation Program (LLP) management structure, and harvesters, processors and communities may lose the benefits that have been realized through the Rockfish Program. If the current program or a modified version of the program is to continue, the Council must develop an amendment to the GOA groundfish Fishery Management Plan. In order for a final rule to be implemented by October 2021 and avoid confusion in the management of these fisheries, staff recommend the Council aim to take final action by April 2020.



Therefore, at this meeting the Council established a purpose and need statement and adopted two alternatives for considerations: 1) no action (meaning the management would revert back to the LLP) and 2) reauthorize the Rockfish Program with the existing management framework. Alternative 2 also includes consideration of minor changes recommended by NMFS (Items 1 through 5 on page 6 of the discussion paper) and includes the following amendments for consideration:

- Modify or remove the sunset date
- Consider options to reallocate unharvested Rockfish Program Pacific cod to the fixed gear fishery after the Rockfish season is over
- Exempt crab program sideboard limits for vessels when fishing in the Rockfish Program
- Require annual NMFS cost recovery report

In addition, the paper will include harvesting trends in the entry-level fixed gear fishery, information about how the current three-day stand down requirement applies to vessels when transiting from the BSAI to the GOA to participate in the Rockfish Program, and information about the rockfish harvesting patterns related to different levels of quota holdings.

Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

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The Council **adopted the** workplan as outlined, and requested staff include, to the extent practicable, SSC recommendations that primarily address document organization and AP recommendations to include season in the review of prohibited species catch and include options for trawl CV sector to achieve their cod allocation. The Council also requested staff include in the allocation review a description of recent changes in the Pacific cod fishery and Pacific cod stocks, including the changes in the State water allocations, the additional survey of the Northern Bering Sea Research Area, recent Council-recommended modifications to Amendment 113 that created a CV trawl set aside for Aleutian Islands Pacific cod, and other changes in the Pacific cod fishery that the staff may identify.

During staff tasking, the Council also requested staff prepare a discussion paper to evaluate participation and effort in the Bering Sea Pacific cod pot catcher processor fishery in response to a potential need to limit entry and participation in the fishery.

Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

Cook Inlet Salmon Committee

The Council reviewed the recommendations of the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee regarding an updated staff discussion paper on candidate measures that are being proposed to evaluate alternative management for salmon fisheries in Federal waters of Cook Inlet. The Council directed the Committee to continue developing measures necessary to establish status determination criteria for Cook Inlet salmon stocks. The Council also indicated its intent to have the SSC review the use of escapement-based analyses for status determination criteria and as best scientific information available under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Committee's **report** is available on the Council website, as is the Council **motion**.



The Cook Inlet Salmon Committee held its first meeting on December 4, which was attended by approximately 50 people. The meeting agenda was structured around developing recommendations to the

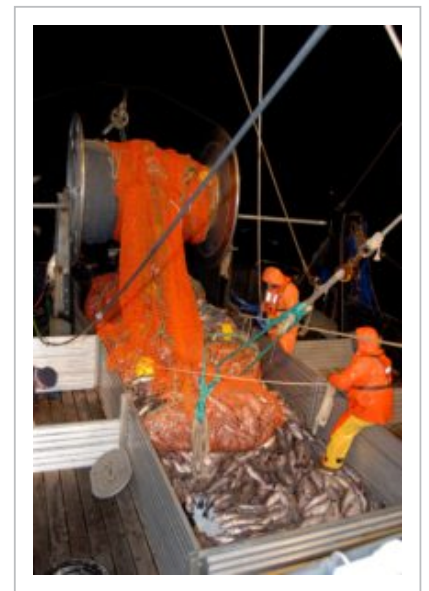
Council for specific Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions under the two alternative management approaches currently being considered by the Council: Alternative 2 – cooperative management with the State of Alaska, and Alternative 3 – fully Federal management. NMFS, ADFG, and Council staff presented an overview of the discussion paper and discussed opportunities for enhancing the evaluation of in-river salmon essential fish habitat (EFH) in the next 5-year EFH update, and challenges associated with joint management of salmon fisheries with the State of Alaska.

- Status determination criteria: The Committee received a staff presentation with an analysis of spawner-recruit relationships for Kenai and Kasilof River sockeye salmon, but was unable to agree on specific management measures. The Committee recommended that further Committee meetings be held to make progress on that issue.
- Bycatch and harvest reporting: Options considered by the Committee were discussed in terms of their relationship to groundfish bycatch retention and associated permitting requirements. The Committee recommended non-retention of groundfish and supported use of eLandings as a reporting mechanism.
- Fishery Impact Statement: Committee members recommended that the Fishery Impact Statement be expanded to reflect concerns about community hardships and concern about uncertainty in the future of the salmon driftnet fisheries in Cook Inlet.

Finally, in recognition that the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee does not currently include representation by the salmon processing sector, the Council is announcing a call for nominations for a processor representative to the Committee. Staff contact is Jim Armstrong.

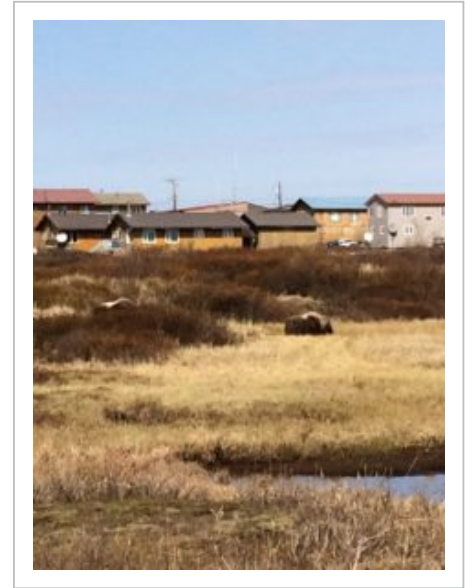
Western Gulf of Alaska Pollock Vessel Limitations

The Council took no action on a proposal to limit vessels greater than 58 feet length overall from the Western Gulf of Alaska (GOA) pollock trawl fishery. The action proposed would have either prohibited vessels greater than 58 ft from participating in the Western GOA (Area 610) pollock fishery or created a sideboard limit that would constrain vessels greater than this length to a specific percentage of the Western GOA pollock total allowable catch. Among other reasons, Council members stated they did not wish to exclude a category of vessels that have historically and recently participated in this fishery. Some members were concerned this action had the potential to create spillover impacts in other areas and suggested that the community protections sought in this action would be better addressed through a more holistic consideration of the GOA. Council members felt it important to continue to track the harvesting dynamic between the larger and smaller vessels and requested staff update the discussion paper with current annual catch data when those data become available. Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.



Social Science Planning Team

The Council received a report on the minutes from the Social Science Planning Team's (SSPT) interim teleconference (which occurred November 9th, 2018), including draft [Terms of Reference \(TOR\)](#) for Council consideration, and approved the Team's TOR with modifications. The SSPT minutes detail the status of the data gap analysis and discussion of the logistics and agenda for its next May in-person meeting. When the date and location of that meeting is determined, it will be posted on the SSPT webpage. Information was also provided on social science guidance in other Council regions, as previously requested.



At the October 2018 Council meeting, there was a request for staff to aid the Council in identifying a process to determine an individual to broadly represent Tribal organizations on the SSPT. Tracking with the SSPT discussion (as detailed in the minutes), staff recommended the Council clarify its policy on affiliations eligible to be considered for the SSPT and clarify the role it is seeking to fill on the SSPT (i.e. public representation or scientific knowledge). As a result, the Council changed language in the SSPT Terms of Reference (TOR) to clarify that individuals with Tribal-affiliations (defined as being nominated by a Tribe or Alaska Native organization) are considered eligible for membership to this plan team. In the event of a future call for nominations, the Council will seek to more clearly communicate how it intends to weigh affiliation and professional qualifications. In addition, Council intends to consider more broadly its policy for membership on plan teams and committees in a separate policy document in the future.

Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

Staff Tasking

The Council discussed the relative priority and scheduling of previously tasked projects (see [revised 3 meeting outlook](#)), as well as the following issues.

- The Council also received a presentation on proposed regulations governing Council member recusal, and directed staff to develop a comment letter for Council consideration at the February Council meeting.
- The Council agreed to send a letter to the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and USCG regarding using AIS identification on fishing gear. If appropriate, the Council requested that the Council letter be coordinated with the Pacific and Western Pacific Councils.
- The Council also tasked staff with developing a discussion paper to evaluate participation and effort in the Bering Sea Pacific cod pot catcher processor fishery in response to a potential need to limit entry

and participation in the fishery.

Committees and advisory groups:

- During staff tasking, the Council received the **report** of its Enforcement Committee, who met on December 4th. The committee received a **presentation** from Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) on results from an anonymous survey of all observers who deployed in the North Pacific Observer Program in 2016 and 2017. The committee also reviewed its terms of reference, and the Council's enforcement precepts which were previously developed by the Committee.
- The Council approved the following upcoming committee agendas:
 - Ecosystem Committee will meet in February to receive and discuss the annual update from the Marine Mammal Lab on conservation status of Alaskan marine mammals, an update on Ocean Acidification Science in Alaska, and develop a list of areas of focus for the next two years for Council review.
 - Community Engagement Committee: staff is developing a draft Terms of Reference to review with the Committee in the spring.
 - Enforcement Committee will meet in April to review: 1) sablefish discards discussion paper, 2) non-guided halibut rental boat registration initial review document, and 3) review the Trawl Electronic Monitoring Committee's cooperative research plan for 2019.
- The Council issued **solicitations for a processor representative** on the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee, and an Area 2C representative on the Charter Halibut Management Committee.
- The Council **appointed new members** to three Plan Teams (BSAI Groundfish Plan Team, BS FEP Team, and Social Science Planning Team), the Ecosystem Committee, and announced SSC and Advisory Panel appointments for 2019.

Upcoming Meetings

- FMAC Partial Coverage Subgroup, January 17, teleconference
- BSAI Crab Plan Team meeting, January 22-25, Nome, AK
- Halibut Stakeholder Committee meeting, February 4, 8am-12pm, Portland, OR
- Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee, February 4, 1-5pm, Portland, OR
- Ecosystem Committee meeting, February 5, 1-5pm, Portland, OR
- Scallop Plan Team, February 20, Kodiak, AK
- Salmon bycatch genetics workshop, February 28-March 1, AFSC, Seattle, WA
- Trawl EM Committee meeting, March 4-5, Seattle, WA
- Community Engagement Committee, March 2019, dates and location TBD

