



Agenda Topics

Virtual Council meeting, April 5-17, 2021

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Council Chair will then welcome everyone to the meeting and Council members will approve the agenda.

B. REPORTS— *David Witherell*

In this section of the meeting, each agency represented on the Council provides a written management report. After all the reports, the public has a chance to provide comment, and the Council will discuss action they need to take, either at this point or at the end of the meeting.

C. MAJOR ISSUES/FINAL ACTION ITEMS

C1 Scallops - *Jim Armstrong*

The Scallop Plan Team met virtually in February to discuss the status and appropriate harvest level for weathervane scallops off Alaska. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Council will review the Plan Team's report and set appropriate harvest limits for the 2021/2022 scallop season.

C2 BSAI Halibut Abundance Based Management – *Dr. Diana Stram, Anna Henry, Sam Cunningham*

The Council will review an analysis to modify halibut bycatch limits that apply to most trawl vessels that fish in the BSAI and process their catch onboard. The major change being considered is to switch from a fixed bycatch limit to one that fluctuates up and down every year, based on BSAI halibut abundance.

D. OTHER ISSUES

D1 GOA Sablefish Pots 3-year Review – *Sara Cleaver, Sam Cunningham*

The Council will review a report on the first 3-4 years of the sablefish pot fishery in the Gulf of Alaska. Pot gear was only allowed for fishing sablefish in the GOA beginning in 2017. The report includes fishery data as well as information gathered from fishery participants, managers, and stock assessment scientists. Based on the report, the Council may choose to evaluate changes to the fishery's regulations.

D2 IFQ Access Opportunities – *Anna Henry*

The Council is discussing the idea of creating a separate pool of IFQ quota share to facilitate access opportunities to the IFQ fishery for entry level crew and owner-operators.

D3 RQE Funding Mechanism – *Sarah Marrinan, Angela Forristall*

The Council will consider the mechanics of a charter halibut stamp, which would be required to be purchased by charter operators for every angler that fishes for halibut with them. The point of this stamp would be to generate funds for a charter halibut Recreational Quota Entity which could buy halibut quota on behalf of charter anglers.

D4 IFQ Committee report – Sam Cunningham

The IFQ Committee met in late March to review items on the Council’s agenda and provide recommendations. They also reviewed a list of new and pending IFQ proposals, and discussed recommendations on prioritization.

D5 Salmon bycatch reports – Diana Stram

The Council will receive informational reports about where salmon that were caught as bycatch in Alaska trawl fisheries were originally from. Also, fishing industry representatives will update on their efforts to make sure that salmon bycatch remains low, and there will be an update on the salmon donation program.

D6 Economic Data Reports – Sarah Marrinan

Revisions are being considered to the Council’s current Economic Data Reporting programs, which require vessel owners in some fisheries to report information of interest to the Council (for example, the number of crew employed on a vessel). At this meeting, the Council will hear feedback from public workshops and recommendations from the Council’s Social Science Planning team and decide whether to change what information is collected.

D7 Research Priorities – Jim Armstrong

The SSC will review a large list of ongoing and future research projects that could generate useful information for managing fisheries off Alaska. Based on the SSC’s review, the Council will designate a small number of these projects as their research priorities for the next three years, which should help attract funding for the projects.

D8 Alaska Fisheries Science Center Community Report (ACEPO) – Kate Haapala

At this meeting, the SSC will review and provide feedback on the Annual Community Engagement and Participation Overview (ACEPO) report. ACEPO is an annual report focusing on sustained participation of fishing communities substantially dependent on, or engaged in, the North Pacific Groundfish and Crab fisheries.

E. Staff Tasking – Diana Evans, David Witherell

The Council will listen to public testimony about existing and new management measures that the public may be interested in and will provide feedback to staff and the Council Chair about how to prioritize staff work on existing and new projects. The Council will specifically discuss the different aspects of returning to in-person meetings.

The Council will also review its committee membership, identify agendas for any upcoming committee meetings, and discuss plans for returning to in-person meetings.