

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(Revised May 22, 2009)

Council/Board of Fisheries Joint Protocol Committee

<p>Updated: 8/10/07</p> <p>Staff: Jane DiCosimo</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"><u>Council:</u></td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"><u>Board:</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Dave Benson</td> <td style="border: none;">Larry Edfelt</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Ed Dersham</td> <td style="border: none;">John Jensen</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Eric Olson</td> <td style="border: none;">Mel Morris</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Council:</u>	<u>Board:</u>	Dave Benson	Larry Edfelt	Ed Dersham	John Jensen	Eric Olson	Mel Morris
<u>Council:</u>	<u>Board:</u>								
Dave Benson	Larry Edfelt								
Ed Dersham	John Jensen								
Eric Olson	Mel Morris								

Council Coordination Committee

[Designated and renamed by Magnuson Act reauthorization April 2007]

<p>Appointed: 4/05 Updated: 8/10/07</p> <p>Staff: Chris Oliver</p>	<p><u>CFMC:</u> C: Eugenio Pinerio ED: Miguel Rolon</p> <p><u>GMFMC:</u> C: Tom McIlwain ED: Rick Leard (acting)</p> <p><u>MAFMC:</u> C: Richard Robins ED: Dan Furlong</p> <p><u>NEFMC:</u> C: John Pappalardo ED: Paul Howard</p>	<p><u>NPFMC:</u> C: Eric Olson ED: Chris Oliver</p> <p><u>PFMC:</u> C: Donald Hansen ED: Don McIsaac</p> <p><u>SAFMC:</u> C: Duane Harris ED: Bob Mahood</p> <p><u>WPFMC:</u> C: Sean Martin ED: Kitty Simonds</p>
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Council Executive/Finance Committee

<p>Updated: 8/10/07</p> <p><u>Status:</u> Meet as necessary</p> <p>Staff: Chris Oliver/Dave Witherell/Gail Bendixen</p>	<p>Eric Olson (Chair)</p> <p>Doug Mecum (NMFS) Alt. Sue Salvesson</p> <p>Dave Hanson</p> <p>Denby Lloyd (ADFG) Alt. Dave Bedford</p> <p>Roy Hyder</p> <p>Bill Tweit (WDF)</p>
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Bering Sea Crab Advisory Committee

<p>Appointed 4/25/07</p> <p>Revised 11/15/07</p> <p>Staff: Mark Fina</p>	<p>Sam Cotten (Chair)</p> <p>Jerry Bongen</p> <p>Steve Branson</p> <p>Florence Colburn</p> <p>Linda Freed</p> <p>Dave Hambleton</p> <p>Phil Hanson</p> <p>Tim Henkel</p>	<p>Lenny Herzog</p> <p>Kevin Kaldestad</p> <p>Frank Kelty</p> <p>John Moller</p> <p>Rob Rogers</p> <p>Simeon Swetozof</p> <p>Ernest Weiss</p>
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NPFMC Committees & Workgroups
(Revised May 22, 2009)

Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch Workgroup

Appointed: 3/07 Staff: Diana Stram	Stephanie Madsen (Co-chair) Eric Olson (Co-chair) John Gruver Karl Haflinger Jennifer Hooper	Paul Peyton Becca Robbins Gisclair Mike Smith Vincent Webster (BOF)
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Comprehensive Economic Data Collection Committee

Appointed: 12/07 Updated: 2/9/09 Staff: Jeannie Heltzel	Glenn Reed (Chair) Bruce Berg Michael Catsi Dave Colpo Paula Cullenberg	Brett Reasor Ed Richardson Mike Szymanski Gale Vick
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Crab Interim Action Committee
[Required under BSAI Crab FMP]

Doug Mecum, NMFS Denby Lloyd, ADF&G Jeff Koenings, WDF
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Ecosystem Committee

Updated: 8/10/07 <u>Status</u> : Active Staff: Diana Evans	Stephanie Madsen (Chair) Jim Ayers Jon Kurland Dave Benton Doug DeMaster/Bill Karp Dave Fluharty John Iani
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Enforcement Committee

Updated: 7/03 <u>Status</u> : Active Staff: Jon McCracken	Roy Hyder (Chair) LCDR Lisa Ragone, USCG Major Steve Bear, AK F&W Protection Martin Loefflad, NMFS Herman Savikko, ADF&G Lisa Lindeman/Garland Walker, NOAA-GC Matt Brown/Ken Hansen, NMFS-Enforcement Sue Salveson, NMFS
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NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(Revised May 22, 2009)

Fur Seal Committee

Updated: 8/10/07	David Benson (Chair)
<u>Status</u> : Active	Larry Cotter
Staff: Bill Wilson	Aquilina Lestenkof
	Paul MacGregor
	Heather McCarty
	Anthony Merculief

GOA Groundfish Rationalization Community Committee

Appointed: 11/04	Hazel Nelson (Chair)	Patrick Norman
Staff: Nicole Kimball	Julie Bonney	Joe Sullivan
	Duncan Fields	Chuck Totemoff
	Chuck McCallum	Ernie Weiss

Halibut Charter Stakeholder Committee

Appointed: 1/06	Dave Hanson (Chair)	Chuck McCallum
Revised: 11/5/07	Seth Bone	Larry McQuarrie
<u>Status</u> : Idle, pending direction	Robert Candopoulos	Rex Murphy
Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Ricky Gease	Peggy Parker
	John Goodhand	Charles "Chaco" Pearman
	Kathy Hansen	Greg Sutter
	Dan Hull	

IFQ Implementation Committee

Reconstituted: 7/31/03	Jeff Stephan (Chair)	Jeff Kauffman
Updated: 2/9/09	Bob Alverson	Don Lane
Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Julianne Curry	Kris Norosz
	Tim Henkel	Paul Peyton
	Dennis Hicks	
	Don Iverson	

Non-Target Species Committee

Appointed: 7/03	Dave Benson (Chair)	Michelle Ridgway
Updated: 8/10/07	Julie Bonney	Janet Smoker
Staff: Jane DiCosimo, NPFMC/ Olav Ormseth, AFSC	John Gauvin	Paul Spencer
	Ken Goldman	Lori Swanson
	Karl Haflinger	Jon Warrenchuk
	Simon Kinneen	

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(Revised May 22, 2009)

Observer Advisory Committee (pending reconstitution)

Reconstituted: 1/06 Updated: 12/07 Status: Active Staff: Chris Oliver/ Nicole Kimball	Joe Kyle (Chair) Bob Alverson ✓ Christian Asay ✓ Jerry Bongen ✓ Julie Bonney ✓ Kenny Down ✓ Todd Loomis ✓	Paul MacGregor Tracey Mayhew ✓ Brent Paine ✓ Peter Risse Kathy Robinson ✓ <i>Vacancy (1)</i>
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Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee

Appointed: 2/07 Staff: Diana Stram	Steve Minor (Chair) Keith Colburn Lance Farr Phil Hanson Kevin Kaldestad Garry Loncon Garry Painter	Rob Rogers Vic Sheibert Gary Stewart Tom Suryan Arni Thomson, Secretary (non-voting)
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Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee

Appointed: 2/01 Updated: 2/13/09 [formerly SSL RPA Committee; renamed February 2002] Staff: Bill Wilson	Larry Cotter (Chair) Jerry Bongen Julie Bonney Kenny Down John Gauvin John Henderschedt Daniel Hennen Sue Hills	Frank Kely Terry Leitzell Steve MacLean Stephanie Madsen Max Malavansky, Jr Mel Morris Art Nelson Beth Stewart
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VMS Committee

Appointed: 6/02 Status: Idle, pending direction Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Roy Hyder (Chair) Al Burch Guy Holt Ed Page LCDR Lisa Ragone Lori Swanson
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Rural Outreach Committee

Pending appointment
Staff: Nicole Kimball

BS/AI P. Cod Split Committee

Pending appointment
Staff: Nicole Kimball

June 1, 2009 Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel	October 1, 2009 Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel	December 7, 2009 Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel
<p>Status Quo SSL BiOp: Discuss Schedule</p> <p>SOPPs proposed rule: Review/comment</p> <p>GOA P. cod sector split: Refine Alts for parallel waters GOA Vessel Capacity: Discussion paper (T)</p> <p>Permit Fees: Initial Review</p> <p>CGOA Rockfish Program: Review Alternatives</p> <p>BSAI Crab Regional Delivery Relief: Initial Review BSAI Crab Amendments: Discussion Papers</p> <p>MPA Nomination Process: Discuss & action as nec. (T)</p> <p>BSAI Fixed Gear Parallel Fisheries: Final Action</p> <p>BS Chum Salmon Bycatch: Refine Alternatives</p> <p>ACL Requirements: Discuss workplan; action as nec.</p> <p>BS Bottom Trawl Sweeps: Initial Review Salmon Bycatch Data Collection: Cttee Rpt, Disc Paper</p> <p>BSAI Crab: SAFE report/crab rebuilding plan alternatives</p> <p>BSAI Skates Complex: Initial Review</p> <p>Rural Outreach Committee: Direction (T) HAPC Process: Action as necessary Northern BS Research Plan: Review Outline Groundfish PSEIS: Discuss/Review objectives & workplan</p>	<p>Status Quo SSL BiOp: Review (T) BS&AI P.cod Split: Discuss plan/action as necessary</p> <p>GOA P.cod sideboards for crab vessels: Initial Review (T) GOA P. cod sector split: Initial Review AI Processing Sideboards: Initial Review (T)</p> <p>Permit Fees: Final Action</p> <p>CGOA Rockfish Program: Action as necessary Observer Program Implementation Analysis: Review; OAC Report; and action as necessary (T) BSAI Crab Regional Delivery Relief: Final Action (T) BSAI Crab Amendments: Discussion papers</p> <p>Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Proposals: Review & action as nec.</p> <p>CQE Program: Review Bristol Bay Trawl Closure & Walrus: Discussion Papers (T) Heigermeister Is. Walrus protection: Discussion Paper (T) ACL Requirements: Action as necessary</p> <p>BS Bottom Trawl Sweeps: Final Action</p> <p>GOA Tanner & Chinook Bycatch: Discussion Paper St Matthew+Pribilof BKC& opilio rebuilding: Prelim. Review (T) BSAI Crab: Approve SAFE and OFLs BSAI Skates Complex: Final Action BSAI/GOA Squid Complex: Initial Review Groundfish Proposed Catch Specifications: Approve AI FEP addendum: Review/Discuss (T) 5-Year Research Priorities: Approve</p>	<p>GOA P.cod sideboards for crab vessels: Final Action (T) GOA P. cod sector split: Final Action AI Processing Sideboards: Final Action (T) Am 80 Lost Vessel Replacement: Initial Review Am 80 Cooperative Formation: Final Action</p> <p>CGOA Rockfish Program: Action as necessary</p> <p>BS Chum Salmon Bycatch: Action as necessary</p> <p>Groundfish ACL Requirements: Initial Review</p> <p>St Matthew+Pribilof BKC& opilio rebuilding: Initial Review (T)</p> <p>BSAI/GOA Squid Complex: Final Action Groundfish Final Catch Specifications: Approve</p> <p>EFH 5-Year Evaluation: Review (T)</p>

AI - Aleutian Islands
GOA - Gulf of Alaska
SSL - Steller Sea Lion
BOF - Board of Fisheries
FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan
CDQ - Community Development Quota
VMS - Vessel Monitoring System
EFP - Exempted Fishing Permit
BiOp - Biological Opinion
(T) Tentatively scheduled

TAC - Total Allowable Catch
BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
GHL - Guideline Harvest Level
EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
LLP - License Limitation Program
SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation
MPA - Marine Protected Area
ACL - Annual Catch Limit
HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern

Future Meeting Dates and Locations

June 1-, 2009 in Anchorage
October 1-, 2009 in Anchorage (AP, SSC start on THURSDAY)
(Council on Saturday)

December 7-, 2009 in Anchorage
February 8-, 2010 in Portland OR
April 6-, 2010 in Anchorage (start on Tuesday)
June 7 -, 2010 in Sitka

Council Tasking: June 2009

Updated 5/4/09

Groundfish Fishery Issues	Lead Agency	Project Magnitude	Council Analysts	Council Meeting				
				June	Oct	Dec	Feb	Future
GOA P. cod Sector Splits	Council	Large	Jeannie	discuss	Initial Review	Final Action		
GOA vessel capacity	Council	Medium	Jeannie	discuss				
GOA P.cod sideboards BSAI crab vessels	Council	Small	Jon		Initial Review			
Break out BSAI Skate complex	Council	Small	Jane/Jon	Initial Review	Final Action			
Break out BSAI/GOA Squid	Council	Small	Jane/Jon		Initial Review	Final Action		
Break out BSAI/GOA Octopus	Council	Small	Jane/Jon				Initial Review	
Break out BSAI/GOA Sharks&sculpins	Council	Small	Jane/Jon					October-10
Observer Program Implementation	Council	Medium	Nicole		Discuss			
Pacific cod BS and AI split	Council	Large	Nicole		Discuss			
Comprehensive economic data collection	Council	Small	Jeannie/Mark	report				ongoing
Am 80 cooperative formation	Council	Small	Jon			Final Action		
Am 80 Vessel Replacement	NMFS	Small	Jon			Initial Review		
BSAI Fixed Gear Parallel fisheries	Council	Medium	Jeannie	Final Action				
AI cod processor sideboards	Council	Medium	Nicole		Initial Review			
CGOA Rockfish pilot program changes	Council	Large	Jon	Review Alts				
Permit Fees	NMFS	Small	na	Initial Review	Final Action			
Groundfish ACL compliance	Council	Medium	Jane	work plan		Initial Review		

Halibut Fishery Issues

Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Proposals	Council	Medium	Jane		Review			
CQE Program	Council	Small	Nicole		Review			

Scallop Fishery Issues

Scallop ACL compliance	Council	Medium	Diana S	work plan		Initial Review		
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Crab Fishery Issues

Crab ACL compliance	Council	Medium	Diana S	work plan		Initial Review		
Pribilof&St Matthew BKC, opilio rebuilding plans	Council	Medium	Diana S.	Discuss		Initial Review		
BSAI Crab Regional Delivery Relief	Council	Small	Mark	Initial Review	Final Action			
BSAI Crab right of first refusal issues	Council	Small	Mark	Discuss				
BSAI Crab WAG regionalization/PQ issues	Council	Small	Mark	Discuss				
BSAI Crab Extinguishing Processing Quota	Council	Medium	Mark	Discuss				
BSAI Crab Leasing Restrictions	Council	Small	Mark	Discuss				
BSAI Crab Program Changes	Council	Large	Mark			Discuss		

CDQ Issues

CDQ Cost-Recovery	NMFS	Medium	Nicole					discuss
CDQ Amendment 71/22 (MSA provisions)	Council	Medium	Nicole					discuss

Bycatch Issues

GOA Salmon and Crab Bycatch Controls	Council	Medium	Diana E.		Discuss			
BSAI Chum salmon bycatch	Council	Large	Diana S.	Review Alts				

Ecosystem Issues

BS bottom trawl sweep modifications	Council	Small	Diana E.	Initial Review	Final Action			
Bristol Bay Trawl Closure and walrus	Council	Small	Bill/Diana E.		Discuss			
Walrus - Hagemester Island closure	Council	Small	Bill		Discuss			
EFH 5 Yr review	NMFS	Medium	Diana E.			Discuss		finalize 2010
HAPC nomination process	Council	Medium	Diana E.	Discuss				
Northern Bering Sea Research Plan	NMFS	Small	Diana E.	Discuss				October-10
Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan	Council	Small	Diana E.		Discuss			
Outreach	Council	Medium	Nicole	Report	ongoing			ongoing
SSL BiOp	NMFS	Large	Bill		Review			

Note: The tasking list does not include work necessary to prepare analyses for SOC review, ongoing committee work, research priorities, Programmatic SEIS priorities, plan team meetings, SAFE reports and catch specifications, EFPs, database development and data analysis, or other routine actions.

2.2 Management Approach for the BSAI [GOA] Groundfish Fisheries

The Council's policy is to apply judicious and responsible fisheries management practices, based on sound scientific research and analysis, proactively rather than reactively, to ensure the sustainability of fishery resources and associated ecosystems for the benefit of future, as well as current generations. The productivity of the North Pacific ecosystem is acknowledged to be among the highest in the world. For the past 25 years, the Council management approach has incorporated forward looking conservation measures that address differing levels of uncertainty. This management approach has in recent years been labeled the precautionary approach. Recognizing that potential changes in productivity may be caused by fluctuations in natural oceanographic conditions, fisheries, and other, non-fishing activities, the Council intends to continue to take appropriate measures to insure the continued sustainability of the managed species. It will carry out this objective by considering reasonable, adaptive management measures, as described in the Magnuson-Stevens Act and in conformance with the National Standards, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Environmental Policy Act, and other applicable law. This management approach takes into account the National Academy of Science's recommendations on Sustainable Fisheries Policy.

As part of its policy, the Council intends to consider and adopt, as appropriate, measures that accelerate the Council's precautionary, adaptive management approach through community-based or rights-based management, ecosystem-based management principles that protect managed species from overfishing, and where appropriate and practicable, increase habitat protection and bycatch constraints. All management measures will be based on the best scientific information available. Given this intent, the fishery management goal is to provide sound conservation of the living marine resources; provide socially and economically viable fisheries for the well-being of fishing communities; minimize human-caused threats to protected species; maintain a healthy marine resource habitat; and incorporate ecosystem-based considerations into management decisions.

This management approach recognizes the need to balance many competing uses of marine resources and different social and economic goals for sustainable fishery management, including protection of the long-term health of the resource and the optimization of yield. This policy will use and improve upon the Council's existing open and transparent process of public involvement in decision-making.

2.2.1 Management Objectives

Adaptive management requires regular and periodic review. Objectives identified in this policy statement will be reviewed annually by the Council. The Council will also review, modify, eliminate, or consider new issues, as appropriate, to best carry out the goals and objectives of this management policy.

To meet the goals of this overall management approach, the Council and NMFS will use the Alaska Groundfish Fisheries Programmatic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (PSEIS) (NMFS 2004) as a planning document. To help focus consideration of potential management measures, the Council and NMFS will use the following objectives as guideposts, to be re-evaluated, as amendments to the FMP are considered over the life of the PSEIS.

Prevent Overfishing:

1. Adopt conservative harvest levels for multi-species and single species fisheries and specify optimum yield.
2. Continue to use the 2 million mt optimum yield cap for the BSAI groundfish fisheries. [Continue to use the existing optimum yield cap for the GOA groundfish fisheries.]
3. Provide for adaptive management by continuing to specify optimum yield as a range.
4. Provide for periodic reviews of the adequacy of F_{40} and adopt improvements, as appropriate.
5. Continue to improve the management of species through species categories.

Promote Sustainable Fisheries and Communities:

6. Promote conservation while providing for optimum yield in terms of the greatest overall benefit to the nation with particular reference to food production, and sustainable opportunities for recreational, subsistence, and commercial fishing participants and fishing communities.
7. Promote management measures that, while meeting conservation objectives, are also designed to avoid significant disruption of existing social and economic structures.
8. Promote fair and equitable allocation of identified available resources in a manner such that no particular sector, group or entity acquires an excessive share of the privileges.
9. Promote increased safety at sea.

Preserve Food Web:

10. Develop indices of ecosystem health as targets for management.
11. Improve the procedure to adjust acceptable biological catch levels as necessary to account for uncertainty and ecosystem factors.
12. Continue to protect the integrity of the food web through limits on harvest of forage species.
13. Incorporate ecosystem-based considerations into fishery management decisions, as appropriate.

Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste:

14. Continue and improve current incidental catch and bycatch management program.
15. Develop incentive programs for bycatch reduction including the development of mechanisms to facilitate the formation of bycatch pools, vessel bycatch allowances, or other bycatch incentive systems.
16. Encourage research programs to evaluate current population estimates for non-target species with a view to setting appropriate bycatch limits, as information becomes available.
17. Continue program to reduce discards by developing management measures that encourage the use of gear and fishing techniques that reduce bycatch which includes economic discards.
18. Continue to manage incidental catch and bycatch through seasonal distribution of total allowable catch and geographical gear restrictions.

19. Continue to account for bycatch mortality in total allowable catch accounting and improve the accuracy of mortality assessments for target, prohibited species catch, and non-commercial species.
20. Control the bycatch of prohibited species through prohibited species catch limits or other appropriate measures.
21. Reduce waste to biologically and socially acceptable levels.

Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals:

22. Continue to cooperate with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to protect ESA-listed species, and if appropriate and practicable, other seabird species.
23. Maintain or adjust current protection measures as appropriate to avoid jeopardy of extinction or adverse modification to critical habitat for ESA-listed Steller sea lions.
24. Encourage programs to review status of endangered or threatened marine mammal stocks and fishing interactions and develop fishery management measures as appropriate.
25. Continue to cooperate with NMFS and USFWS to protect ESA-listed marine mammal species, and if appropriate and practicable, other marine mammal species.

Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat:

26. Review and evaluate efficacy of existing habitat protection measures for managed species.
27. Identify and designate essential fish habitat and habitat areas of particular concern pursuant to Magnuson-Stevens Act rules, and mitigate fishery impacts as necessary and practicable to continue the sustainability of managed species.
28. Develop a Marine Protected Area policy in coordination with national and state policies.
29. Encourage development of a research program to identify regional baseline habitat information and mapping, subject to funding and staff availability.
30. Develop goals, objectives and criteria to evaluate the efficacy and suitable design of marine protected areas and no-take marine reserves as tools to maintain abundance, diversity, and productivity. Implement marine protected areas if and where appropriate.

Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources:

31. Provide economic and community stability to harvesting and processing sectors through fair allocation of fishery resources.
32. Maintain the license limitation program, modified as necessary, and further decrease excess fishing capacity and overcapitalization by eliminating latent licences and extending programs such as community or rights-based management to some or all groundfish fisheries.
33. Provide for adaptive management by periodically evaluating the effectiveness of rationalization programs and the allocation of access rights based on performance.
34. Develop management measures that, when practicable, consider the efficient use of fishery resources taking into account the interest of harvesters, processors, and communities.

Increase Alaska Native Consultation:

35. Continue to incorporate local and traditional knowledge in fishery management.
36. Consider ways to enhance collection of local and traditional knowledge from communities, and incorporate such knowledge in fishery management where appropriate.
37. Increase Alaska Native participation and consultation in fishery management.

Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement:

38. Increase the utility of groundfish fishery observer data for the conservation and management of living marine resources.
39. Develop funding mechanisms that achieve equitable costs to the industry for implementation of the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program.
40. Improve community and regional economic impact costs and benefits through increased data reporting requirements.
41. Increase the quality of monitoring and enforcement data through improved technology.
42. Encourage a coordinated, long-term ecosystem monitoring program to collect baseline information and compile existing information from a variety of ongoing research initiatives, subject to funding and staff availability.
43. Cooperate with research institutions such as the North Pacific Research Board in identifying research needs to address pressing fishery issues.
44. Promote enhanced enforceability.
45. Continue to cooperate and coordinate management and enforcement programs with the Alaska Board of Fish, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Alaska Fish and Wildlife Protection, the U.S. Coast Guard, NMFS Enforcement, International Pacific Halibut Commission, Federal agencies, and other organizations to meet conservation requirements; promote economically healthy and sustainable fisheries and fishing communities; and maximize efficiencies in management and enforcement programs through continued consultation, coordination, and cooperation.

Groundfish Policy Workplan *(revised February, 2008)*

1. Prevent Overfishing

- a. continue to develop management strategies that ensure sustainable yields of target species and minimize impacts on populations of incidentally-caught species
- b. evaluate effectiveness of setting ABC levels using Tier 5 and 6 approaches, for rockfish and other species as appropriate
- c. continue to develop a systematic approach to 'lumping' and 'splitting' that takes into account both biologic and management considerations

2. Preserve Food Web

- a. encourage and participate in development of key ecosystem indicators
- b. reconcile procedures to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in establishing harvest limits, for rockfish and other species as appropriate
- c. develop pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan in the Aleutian Islands

3. Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste

- a. explore incentive-based bycatch reduction programs in GOA and BSAI fisheries
- b. explore mortality rate-based approaches to setting PSC limits in GOA and BSAI fisheries
- c. consider new management strategies to reduce incidental rockfish bycatch and discards
- d. develop statistically rigorous approaches to estimating bycatch in line with national initiatives
- e. encourage research programs to evaluate population estimates for non-target species
- f. develop incentive-based and appropriate biomass-based trigger limits and area closures for BSAI salmon bycatch reduction, as information becomes available
- g. assess impact of management measures on regulatory discards and consider measures to reduce where practicable

4. Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals

- a. continue to participate in development of mitigation measures to protect SSLs through the MSA process, including participation in the FMP-level consultation under the ESA
- b. recommend to NOAA Fisheries and participate in reconsideration of SSL critical habitat
- c. monitor fur seal status and management issues, and convene committee as appropriate
- d. adaptively manage seabird avoidance measures program

5. Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat

- a. evaluate effectiveness of existing closures
- b. consider Bering Sea EFH mitigation measures
- c. consider call for HAPC proposals on 3-year cycle
- d. request NMFS to develop and implement a research design on the effects of trawling in previously untrawled areas

6. Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources

- a. explore eliminating latent licenses in BSAI and GOA
- b. consider sector allocations in GOA fisheries

7. Increase Alaska Native and Community Consultation

- a. Develop a protocol or strategy for improving the Alaska Native and community consultation process
- b. Develop a method for systematic documentation of Alaska Native and community participation in the development of management actions

8. Improve Data Quality, Monitoring, and Enforcement

- a. expand or modify observer coverage and sampling methods based on scientific data and compliance needs
- b. explore development programs for economic data collection that aggregate data
- c. modify VMS to incorporate new technology and system providers

Groundfish Workplan

Priority actions revised in February 2007, status updated to current

General Priority (In no particular order)	Specific priority actions	Related to management objective:	Status (updated 5-21-09)	2009			2010					
				Jun	Oct	Dec	Feb	Apr	Jun	Oct	Dec	
Prevent Overfishing	a. continue to develop management strategies that ensure sustainable yields of target species and minimize impacts on populations of incidentally-caught species	5	Aggregate ABC/OFL for GOA 'other species' in Apr 08 BSAI skates TAC breakout init review Jun 2009 BSAI/GOA squids breakout init review in Oct 2009, then BSAI/GOA sharks	█	█	█						
	b. evaluate effectiveness of setting ABC levels using Tier 5 and 6 approaches, for rockfish and other species	4	AFSC responding to CIE reviews as part of harvest specifications process									
	c. continue to develop a systematic approach to lumping and splitting that takes into account both biological and management considerations	5	BSAI Pcod split discussion in Oct 09 report from non-target species committee in Oct 09	█								
Preserve Food Web	a. encourage and participate in development of key ecosystem indicators	10	ecosystem SAFE presented annually; AI FEP identified/refined indicators for the Aleutians			█						█
	b. Reconcile procedures to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in establishing harvest limits, for rockfish and other species	11	report from non-target species committee in Oct 09	█								
	c. develop pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the AI	13	FEP brochure published Dec 07 FEP revisions in 2009, further implementation discussed by FEP team and Ecosystem Committee	█								
Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	a. explore incentive-based bycatch reduction programs in GOA and BSAI fisheries	15	partially addressed in BSAI salmon bycatch EIS									
	b. explore mortality rate-based approaches to setting PSC limits in GOA and BSAI fisheries	20	partially addressed in BSAI salmon bycatch EIS									
	c. consider new management strategies to reduce incidental rockfish bycatch and discards	17										
	d. develop statistically rigorous approaches to estimating bycatch in line with national initiatives	14, 19	National Bycatch Report update in Dec 07									
	e. encourage research programs to evaluate population estimates for non-target species	16	Part of research priorities, adopted in June 2007									
	f. develop incentive-based and appropriate biomass-based trigger limits and area closures for BSAI salmon bycatch reduction, as information becomes available	14, 15, 20	bycatch limit for Chinook adopted Apr 09: discussion paper on chum measures for Jun 09	█								
	g. assess impact of management measures on regulatory discards and consider measures to reduce where practicable	17	partially addressed by GOA arrowtooth MPA analysis (Council action Oct 07)									

ITEM D-4(c)(3)
JUNE 2009

Groundfish Workplan

Priority actions revised in February 2007, status updated to current

General Priority (in no particular order)	Specific priority actions	Related to management objective:	Status (updated 5-21-09)	2009			2010			
				Jun	Oct	Dec	Feb	Apr	Jun	Oct
Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals	a. continue to participate in development of mitigation measures to protect SSL through the MSA process including participation in the FMP-level consultation under the ESA	23	NMFS is preparing a Biological Opinion (late 2009); SSL committee may make recommendations on proposals for revised mitigation measures							
	b. recommend to NOAA Fisheries and participate in reconsideration of SSL critical habitat	23								
	c. monitor fur seal status and management issues, and convene committee as appropriate	24, 25								
	d. adaptively manage seabird avoidance measures program	22	Council action, seabird avoidance measures in 4E in Jun 08							
Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat	a. evaluate effectiveness of existing closures	26	NMFS researching GOA closed areas (Sanak & Albatross), Council review in 2011							
	b. consider Bering Sea EFH mitigation measures	27	Council action on measures in June 07 BS flatfish trawl sweep mods, init review Jun 09 EFH 5-year review, Dec 09 develop Northern BS Research Plan in 2009-10							
	c. consider call for HAPC proposals on 3-year cycle	27	Council to discuss next HAPC process Jun 2009							
	d. request NMFS to develop and implement a research design on the effects of trawling in previously untrawled areas	27	Part of research priorities, adopted in June 2007							
Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources	a. explore eliminating latent licenses in BSAI and GOA	32	Council action on trawl LLP recency in Apr 08 GOA fixed gear latent licenses in Apr 09							
	b. consider sector allocations in GOA fisheries	32, 34	Initial review GOA Pcod sector allocations Jun 09							
Increase Alaska Native and Community Consultation	a. Develop a protocol or strategy for improving the Alaska Native and community consultation process	37	protocol presented in Jun 08, to be reviewed at least annually; committee to be appointed Jun 09							
	b. Develop a method for systematic documentation of Alaska Native and community participation in the development of management actions	37	protocol presented in Jun 08, to be reviewed at least annually; committee to be appointed Jun 09							
Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement	a. expand or modify observer coverage and sampling methods based on scientific data and compliance needs	38, 39	Council action in Apr 08 improving existing program report avail on Jul 08 electronic monitoring workshop implementation analysis, Oct 09							
	b. explore development programs for economic data collection that aggregate data	40	data committee report on salmon bycatch in Jun 09 partially addressed in BSAI Amd 80							
	c. modify VMS to incorporate new technology and system providers	41	Council action, VMS exemption for dinglebar gear. Jun 08							

ITEM D-4(c)(3)
JUNE 2009

2009 Review of Groundfish Management Policy

1 Introduction

The Council developed a comprehensive groundfish management policy in 2004, following a programmatic review of the BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries (NMFS 2004). The Council adopted a management approach statement, and 9 policy goal statements, with accompanying objectives.

In order to track the implementation of the various management objectives over time, the Council developed a workplan to prioritize issues for consideration. The first draft of the workplan was developed in June 2004, and it has been revised once, in February 2007. The Council is updated on the status of this workplan at each meeting. The management policy and the workplan are appended separately from this discussion paper.

Once a year, the Council conducts a review of the management policy objectives and the implementing workplan, and if appropriate, makes any changes. While changes to the workplan can be made at any time, changes to the policy objectives require an FMP amendment. It has been five years since completion of the programmatic supplemental environmental impact statement for the Alaska groundfish fisheries (PSEIS), which contained the analysis supporting the Council's adoption of the current groundfish management policy. At some point, the current programmatic approach to groundfish fishery management, including the Council's stated objectives and accompanying analysis, will likely need to be supplemented or revised. The factors that influence whether and when to supplement or revise the policy objectives and accompanying analysis include, but are not limited to:

1. consideration of how fisheries management has changed since the objectives and analysis were originally prepared,
2. how environmental conditions affecting the fisheries have changed,
3. the status of the fish stocks and other marine life, and
4. whether new information has become available which may indicate the necessity for revised analyses.

During the development of the PSEIS, it was expected that the useful lifespan for the analysis of the programmatic objectives was likely five to ten years. In considering what would be the appropriate timing for supplementing or revising the management objectives and the PSEIS, the Council may also want to consider its upcoming agendas, as there may be changes planned to groundfish management that the Council may wish to resolve before initiating a programmatic review.

This discussion paper briefly reviews the management and environmental changes affecting the groundfish fisheries in the five years since the adoption of the management policy. These changes are then mapped to the Council's management objectives, to provide a basis for the Council to review its management policy and decide whether changes are required to the objectives or to the workplan. The paper also provides a short background on the development of the 2004 PSEIS, and some considerations that may be relevant for deciding when and how to supplement this review in the future.

2 Changes in groundfish management since 2004

Since the adoption of the groundfish management policy in 2004, the Council has continued to make changes to its groundfish management program. The changes that have occurred to date can be witnessed

in the FMP and regulatory amendments that have been implemented over this time period. There have also been national changes affecting the groundfish management program over the last five years. The Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) was reauthorized in 2006, and contained several provisions that require changes to the groundfish management program. While the requirement for annual catch limits sets out a system that is very similar to the current groundfish specifications process, there are nonetheless suggestions for improving the incorporation of uncertainty, and designating an ecosystem category, that will likely result in amendments to the groundfish FMPs. Staff held a workshop in May 2009, which will be reported at the June Council meeting, to discuss proposed amendments resulting from the annual catch limit provisions. The MSA also provided new guidelines on limited access privilege programs, which are being incorporated into the Council's discussion of revisions to the central GOA rockfish pilot program.

Another national initiative that is currently being discussed by the Council is the marine protected area registry and nomination process. While it does not appear that this will directly affect the management of the groundfish fisheries, the question has been raised as to whether the fishery closure areas that are currently in place for the groundfish fisheries should be nominated to appear on the registry. The Council is also scheduled to discuss this issue at its June meeting.

Table 1 lists the groundfish FMP amendments that have been implemented from 2004 to the present time, as well as those that the Council is currently deliberating. There have been 15 amendments adopted to the BSAI FMP since the adoption of the groundfish management policy in April 2004, and 13 amendments to the GOA FMP. Additionally, five BSAI and GOA amendments had been adopted prior to April 2004, but had not yet been implemented at the time of the writing of the PSEIS. Table 2 provides a synthesis of the major regulatory amendments that have been implemented during the same time period. Between the two lists, the major changes in groundfish management are captured.

Table 1 BSAI and GOA Groundfish FMP amendments since 2004

BSAI amd	GOA amd	Action	Date of Council action	Effective date of amd
48	48	Revisions to the annual harvest specification process for groundfish	2003	2004
62	62	Single geographic location	2002	--
	63	Move skates to the target species category	2003	2004
65	65	Identify habitat areas of particular concern, and harvest control measures	2005	2006
	66	Allow eligible communities to form non-profit entities (CQEs) to purchase GOA halibut and sablefish quota share	2002	2004
	67	IFQ -- allow category B quota share to be fished on a vessel of any length, in any area	2005	2007
	68	Central GOA rockfish pilot program	2005	2006
	69	Change total allowable catch specification for the 'other species' category	2005	2006
71		CDQ -- allow limited non-fishing investments, CDQ oversight, and 3-year allocation cycle	2002	--
73	77	Remove dark rockfish from the FMP	2007	2009
	72	Rescind retention requirements in shallow water flatfish fishery	2003	2008
78	73	Revise essential fish habitat descriptions, harvest control measures	2005	2006
79		Groundfish retention standard	2003	2008
80		BSAI sector allocation and cooperative structure for head and gut groundfish catcher processors	2007	2007
81	74	Revised management policy	2004	2004

BSAI amd	GOA amd	Action	Date of Council action	Effective date of amd
82		Allocation of Aleutian Islands pollock total allowable catch to the Aleut Corporation	2004	2005
83	75	Housekeeping updates to the FMP	2004	2005
84		Exempt certain vessels from salmon bycatch savings area closures	2005	2007
85		Pacific cod sector allocations	2006	2008
86	76	Observer program restructuring (tabled)	--	--
87		CDQ eligibility (superseded by provisions of the revised Magnuson-Stevens Act)	2006	--
88		Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area boundary adjustment	2007	2008
89		Bering Sea habitat conservation measures	2007	2008
90	78	Allow post delivery transfers for Amendment 80 cooperatives (BSAI 90) and rockfish program (GOA 78)	2007	--
91		Revise PSC limit for salmon bycatch, rescind savings areas	2009	--
	79 ^a	Set allowable biological catch and overfishing level specifications for the 'other species' category	2008	--
	81	Rescind latent fixed gear licenses	2009	--
92	82	Rescind latent trawl gear licenses	--	--
93		Modify rules for Amendment 80 cooperative formation	--	--
94		Require gear modification to trawl sweeps for nonpelagic trawl vessels targeting flatfish	--	--
	83	Pacific cod sector allocations	--	--
	85	Remove BSAI stand down provision for catcher processors participating in rockfish pilot program	2008	--

Note: '--' = action has not yet taken place

Table 2 Major regulatory amendments for the BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries since 2004

Note: does not include regulatory amendments that implement FMP amendments, or are temporary, interim, corrections, or clarifications

Subject	Action	Effective date of amendment
Harvest specifications	2004 BSAI and GOA harvest specifications	2004
	2005-2006 BSAI and GOA harvest specifications	2005
	2006-2007 BSAI and GOA harvest specifications	2006
	2007-2008 BSAI and GOA harvest specifications	2007
	2008-2009 BSAI and GOA harvest specifications	2008
	2009-2010 BSAI and GOA harvest specifications	2009
Catch restrictions	remove harvest restriction on the HLA Atka mackerel fishery in the Aleutian Islands	2004
	full retention of demersal shelf rockfish and donation rules	2004
	allow processors to use the offal from halibut and salmon intended for the prohibited species donation program for commercial products (fish meal)	2004
	adjust the maximum retainable allowance (MRA) enforcement period for BSAI pollock from enforcement at anytime during a fishing trip, to enforcement at the time of offload	2004
	revise the MRAs for groundfish in the GOA arrowtooth flounder fishery	2009

^a The amendment number 80 has been retired from usage in the GOA FMP, to avoid confusion with the Amendment 80 sector created in the BSAI FMP.

Subject	Action	Effective date of amendment
	repeal groundfish vessel incentive program	2008
	GOA pollock trip limits	2009
Bering Sea AFA pollock fishery	remove the expiration date of regulations implementing the AFA	2004
CDQ	simplify the process for making quota transfers, for authorizing vessels as eligible to participate in the CDQ fisheries, and for obtaining approval of alternative fishing plans	2005
BSAI and GOA IFQ sablefish fishery	allow quota share holders in 4C to fish in either 4C or 4D	2005
	IFQ cost recovery fee reform	2006
	exclude tagged halibut and sablefish catches from IFQ account deduction	2006
	allow transfers of quota share for medical reasons; require VMS for vessels harvesting sablefish in the BSAI; allow category B catcher vessel quota share for Southeast Outside District sablefish to be fished on catcher vessels of any length	2007
	allow processing of non-IFQ species on a vessel with B, C, or D shares onboard	2008
	allow longline pot gear in Bering Sea during June, allow mobilized military personnel to make temporary IFQ transfers	2008
	IFQ online access to IFQ account information	2008
GOA rockfish pilot program	revise central GOA rockfish fisheries program monitoring and enforcement provisions	2007
	extension of central GOA rockfish program under MSA	2008
seabirds	revise seabird avoidance measures in the hook-and-line fisheries off Alaska to reduce incidental catch of the short-tailed albatross and other seabird species	2004
	revise seabird avoidance measures to strengthen gear standards for small vessels and eliminate certain unnecessary requirements	2008
	eliminate seabird avoidance requirements for vessels less than or equal to 55 ft LOA in 4E	2009
SSL	revise SSL protection measures for the GOA pollock and Pacific cod fishing closure areas near four SSL haulouts and modify the seasonal management of pollock harvest in the GOA	2005
Research areas	reopen the Cape Sarichef Research Restriction Area in the BSAI to directed fishing for groundfish	2006
	close Chiniak Gully Research Area to all commercial trawl fishing from August 1 to September 20, 2006-2010	2006
Observer program	provide flexibility in the deployment of observers	2004
	electronic reporting for vessels – ATLAS (at-sea observer communication system requirements)	2004
	technical amendment extending the North Pacific observer program beyond 2002	2004
	revise requirements facilitating observer data transmission and improve support for observers (ATLAS 2)	2006
	observer program sunset date removal	2007
reporting requirements	make effective the collection of information under the AFA amendments	2004
	exempt groundfish catcher processors and motherships with operational VMS from check-in check-out requirements	2008
	implement new electronic groundfish catch reporting system, the Interagency Electronic Reporting System (IERS), and its data entry component, eLandings	2009
	exempt vessels using dinglebar gear from the requirement to use VMS	2009

3 Mapping changes in management to Council objectives

This section examines the Council's groundfish policy goals and management objectives with respect to the FMP and regulatory amendment changes that have occurred over the last five years, as well as other management steps that the Council has taken with respect to these goals. The discussion in this section is not necessarily comprehensive, as each amendment may be fitted to many of the Council's goals and objectives. Rather, it is intended to provide the Council with an overview of the major management changes of the last five years, and how they compare to the management objectives that the Council set for itself in 2004.

Each of the sections below identifies one of the Council's policy goals. The specific objectives linking to that policy goal are listed in a box at the beginning of the section. If the objectives are also linked to a specific item on the Council's workplan, that is also noted.

3.1 Prevent Overfishing

1. Adopt conservative harvest levels
2. Use existing OY caps
3. Specify OY as a range
4. Periodic reviews of F40 and adopt improvements
5. Improve management through species categories (*on workplan*)

FMP amendments

- revisions to the harvest specifications process (B48/G48)
- moved skates to target category (G63)
- biologically-based specifications for GOA 'other species' category (G69, G79)

Regulatory amendments

- Annual specifications for setting harvest levels

Other

- Regular CIE reviews for stock assessments and harvest strategies
- Upcoming amendments to move other species into target category
- SSC recommendation to split out BSAI Pacific cod ABCs and TACs by subarea

3.2 Promote Sustainable Fisheries and Communities

6. Promote conservation while providing for OY
7. Promote management measures that avoid social and economic disruption
8. Promote fair and equitable allocation
9. Promote safety

These considerations are applied to all management actions.

3.3 Preserve Food Web

10. Develop indices of ecosystem health (*on workplan*)
11. Improve ABC calculations to account for uncertainty and ecosystem
12. Limit harvest on forage species
13. Incorporate ecosystem considerations in fishery management

Other

- Uncertainty and ecosystem considerations taken into account during stock assessment and harvest specifications
- Upcoming amendment to account for uncertainty in annual catch limit specifications for all stocks
- Ecosystem indices reported and assessed in annual ecosystem SAFE report

3.4 Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste

14. Continue and improve current incidental catch and bycatch program (*on workplan*)
15. Develop incentive programs for bycatch reduction (*on workplan*)
16. Encourage research for non-target species population estimates (*on workplan*)
17. Develop management measures that encourage techniques to reduce bycatch (*on workplan*)
18. Continue to manage incidental catch and bycatch through seasons and areas
19. Account for bycatch mortality in TAC accounting (*on workplan*)
20. Control prohibited species bycatch through PSC limits (*on workplan*)
21. Reduce waste to biologically and socially acceptable levels

FMP amendments

- Groundfish retention standard (B79)
- Chinook salmon bycatch (B84, B91)

Regulatory amendments

- Annual specifications for setting prohibited species limits
- Revisions to MRAs
- Revision to regulations for prohibited species donation program and fishmeal

Other

- Upcoming amendment for chum (non-Chinook) salmon bycatch
- Upcoming discussion paper on GOA Chinook and bairdi crab bycatch
- Council encourages research through annual research priorities
- NMFS staff and observer program working on improving statistical methods for bycatch accounting as part of National Bycatch Report

3.5 Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals

22. Continue to protect ESA-listed and other seabirds
23. Maintain or adjust SSL protection measures (*on workplan*)
24. Encourage review of marine mammal and fishery interactions
25. Continue to protect ESA-listed and other marine mammals (*on workplan*)

Regulatory amendments

- Revisions to seabird avoidance measures, including in Area 4E
- Revisions to Steller sea lion closures for pollock and cod fisheries in the GOA

Other

- Upcoming discussions of Steller sea lion protection measures following issuance of revised biological opinion
- Council receives protected species report at each meeting, monitoring issues with seabirds and marine mammals

3.6 Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat

26. Review and evaluate efficacy of habitat protection measures for managed species (*on workplan*)
27. Identify EFH and HAPC, and mitigate fishery impacts as necessary (*on workplan*)
28. Develop MPA policy
29. Encourage research on baseline habitat mapping (*on workplan*)
30. Develop goals and criteria for MPAs; implement as appropriate (*on workplan*)

FMP amendments

- HAPC (B65/G65) and EFH (B78/G73) amendments, and associated fishery area closures in the GOA and AI
- Bering Sea Habitat Conservation (B89) with area closures for non-pelagic trawling

Regulatory amendments

- Annual specifications for setting harvest levels

Other

- Upcoming amendment for trawl sweep elevation in the Bering Sea flatfish fisheries (B94)
- Council considering MPAs in light of national MPA center register
- Council encourages research through annual research priorities

3.7 Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources

31. Provide economic and community stability through fair allocation
32. Maintain LLP and initiate rights-based management programs (*on workplan*)
33. Periodically evaluate effectiveness of rights-based management programs
34. Consider efficiency when adopting management measures (*on workplan*)

FMP amendments

- Sector allocations for cod and other species, head and gut cooperative (B85, B80)
- Latent licenses rescinded (B92/82, G81)
- Cooperative program for rockfish in central GOA (G68)
- IRJU rescinded in GOA for shallow water flatfish
- Single geographic location amended for pollock motherships
- IFQ B quota share holders can fish on any size vessel

Regulatory amendments

- Other IFQ amendments revisions
- GOA pollock trip limits

Other

- Upcoming amendments to Amendment 80 (B90, B93) and rockfish (G78, G85, other) programs
- GOA cod sector allocations upcoming (G83)

3.8 Increase Alaska Native Consultation

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">35. Incorporate local and traditional knowledge into fishery management36. Consider ways to enhance local and traditional knowledge collection37. Increase Alaska Native participation in fishery management (<i>on workplan</i>) |
|---|

FMP amendments

- CDQ revisions (B71)
- AI pollock to the Aleut Corporation (B82)

Other

- Community outreach and consultation policy developed by Council starting in 2008
- Detailed outreach plans developed for specific projects (e.g., Arctic FMP, Chinook bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery); others in development
- Rural community outreach committee approved to prioritize outreach

3.9 Improve Data Quality, Monitoring, and Enforcement

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">38. Increase utility of observer data (<i>on workplan</i>)39. Develop equitable funding mechanisms for the NPGOP (<i>on workplan</i>)40. Increase economic data reporting requirements (<i>on workplan</i>)41. Improve technology for monitoring and enforcement (<i>on workplan</i>)42. Encourage development of an ecosystem monitoring program43. Cooperate with NPRB to identify needed research44. Promote enforceability45. Coordinate management and enforcement programs with Federal, State, international, and local partners |
|--|

FMP amendments

- Observer program restructuring re-initiated (B86/G76)
- Remove dark rockfish from FMP, allow management by State of Alaska (B73/G77)

Regulatory amendments

- Electronic reporting, online accounting
- Changes to VMS requirements (required for sablefish in BS, no longer required for dinglebar lingcod in GOA)
- Repeal of vessel incentive program
- Groundfish observer program sunset date removed
- Revisions to groundfish observer program to improve data quality (e.g., change definition of a 'fishing day', etc)

Other

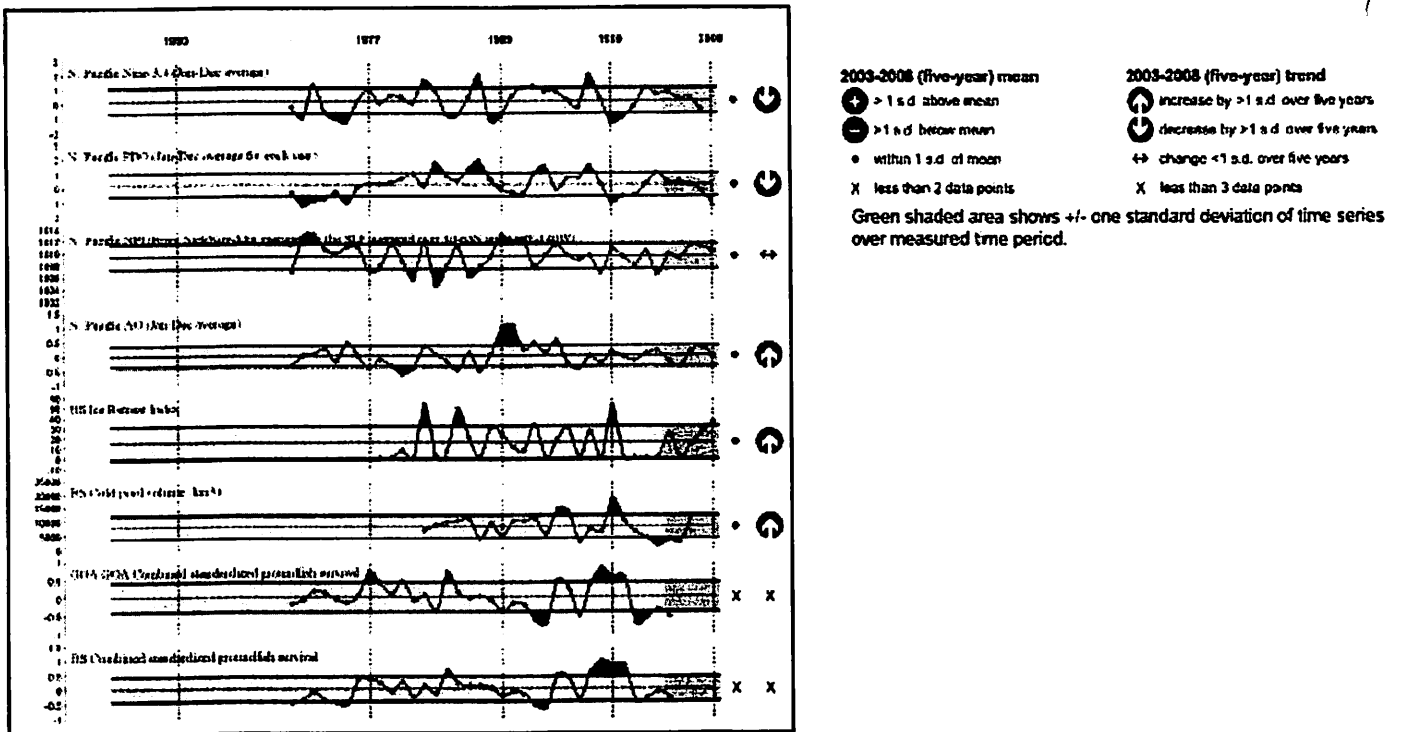
- Council's economic data collection committee
- Video monitoring is being explored as a tool for monitoring and enforcement; NMFS/Council/NPRB joint workshop convened
- Council encourages research through annual research priorities, cooperates with NPRB
- Council initiated and participates in Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum, as well as maintaining other relationships with partner entities

4 Changes in groundfish and environmental conditions since 2004

The Council's annual Ecosystem Considerations chapter of the SAFE report (Boldt et al 2008) provides a comprehensive overview of environmental conditions in the BSAI and GOA on an annual basis. No groundfish species is currently overfished or subject to overfishing, nor has one been over the last five years. Recently, AFSC staff have developed a format for reporting various indices over time, and comparing the most recent five years against the historical record for each indicator. With respect to climate variability, Figure 1 evaluates climate indices for the North Pacific. The Bering Sea cold pool has increased over the summers of 2006 – 2008, compared to the low values observed in 2000 – 2005, but is within the range of variability considered in the PSEIS analysis. The cold pool size and location may affect the distribution of some fish species, and may also affect stratification, production, and community dynamics in the Bering Sea.

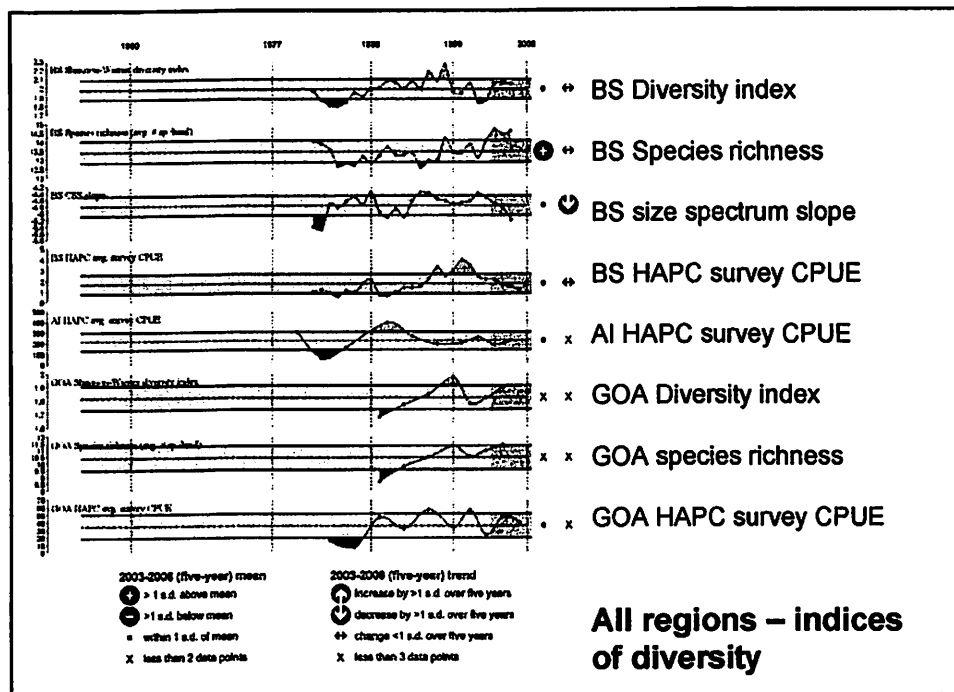
Figure 2 shows indices of diversity for the groundfish fishery regions. For almost all of the indices shown, the five-year mean is within one standard deviation of the historical mean for the data set. This would tend to indicate that environmental conditions have not changed significantly in the last five years. The figure also shows the five-year trend for the Bering Sea indicators, which are all also within one standard deviation, except for the Bering Sea size spectrum slope index. Figure 3, Figure 4, and Figure 5 illustrate catch, effort, and discard data sets for the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska, respectively. Once again, the five-year mean is within one standard deviation of the historic mean. The five-year trend indicates that bottom trawl and longline effort in the Bering Sea have decreased over the time period, as has catch of HAPC biota (seapens/whips, sponges, anemones, corals, and tunicates).

Figure 1 Comparison of 2003 - 2008 versus historical record of North Pacific climate indices



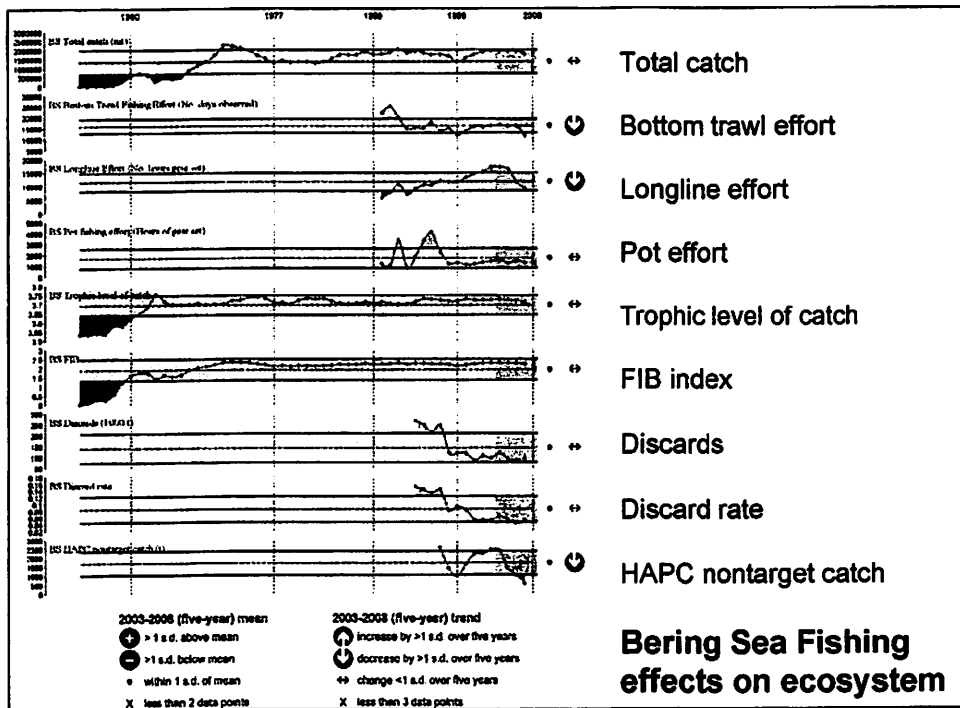
Source: Boldt et al 2008

Figure 2 Comparison of 2003-2008 versus historical record of Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska ecosystem diversity indices



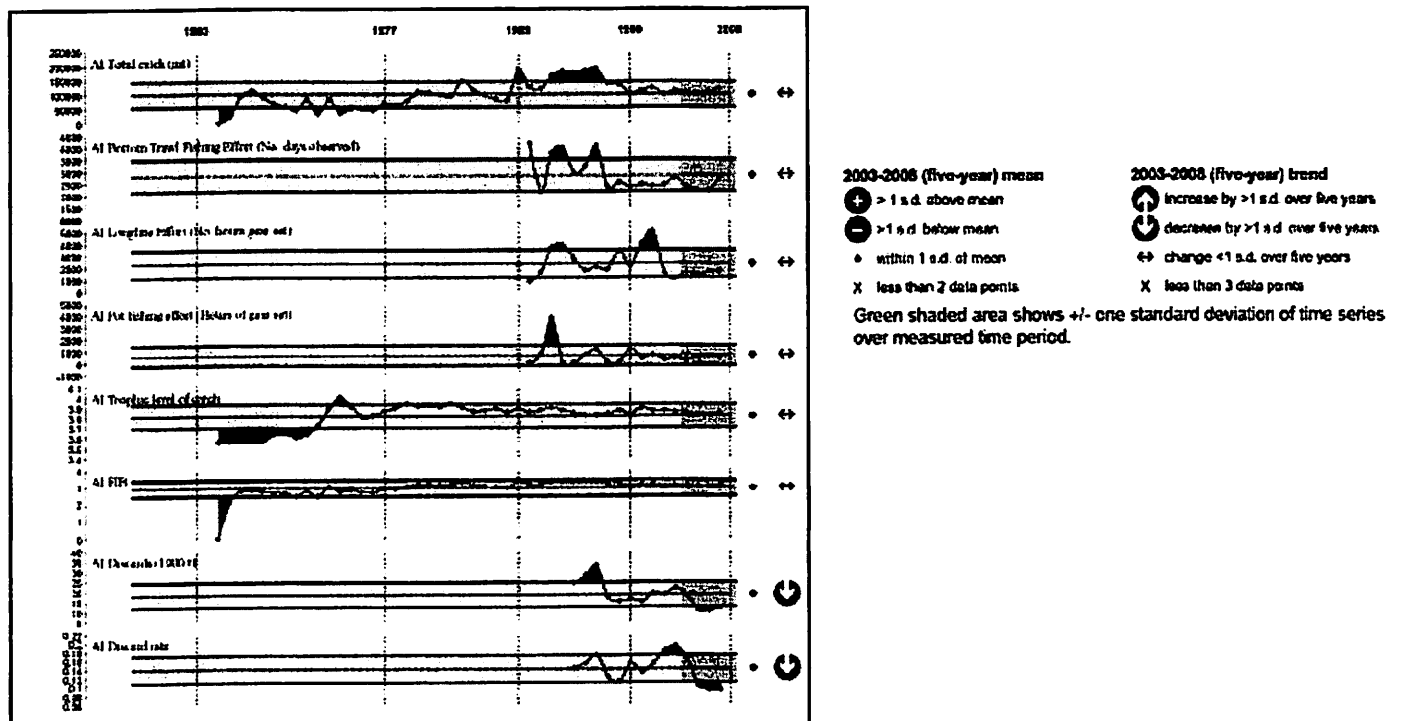
Source: Boldt et al 2008

Figure 3 Comparison of 2003-2008 versus historical record of catch, effort, and discard indicators in the Bering Sea



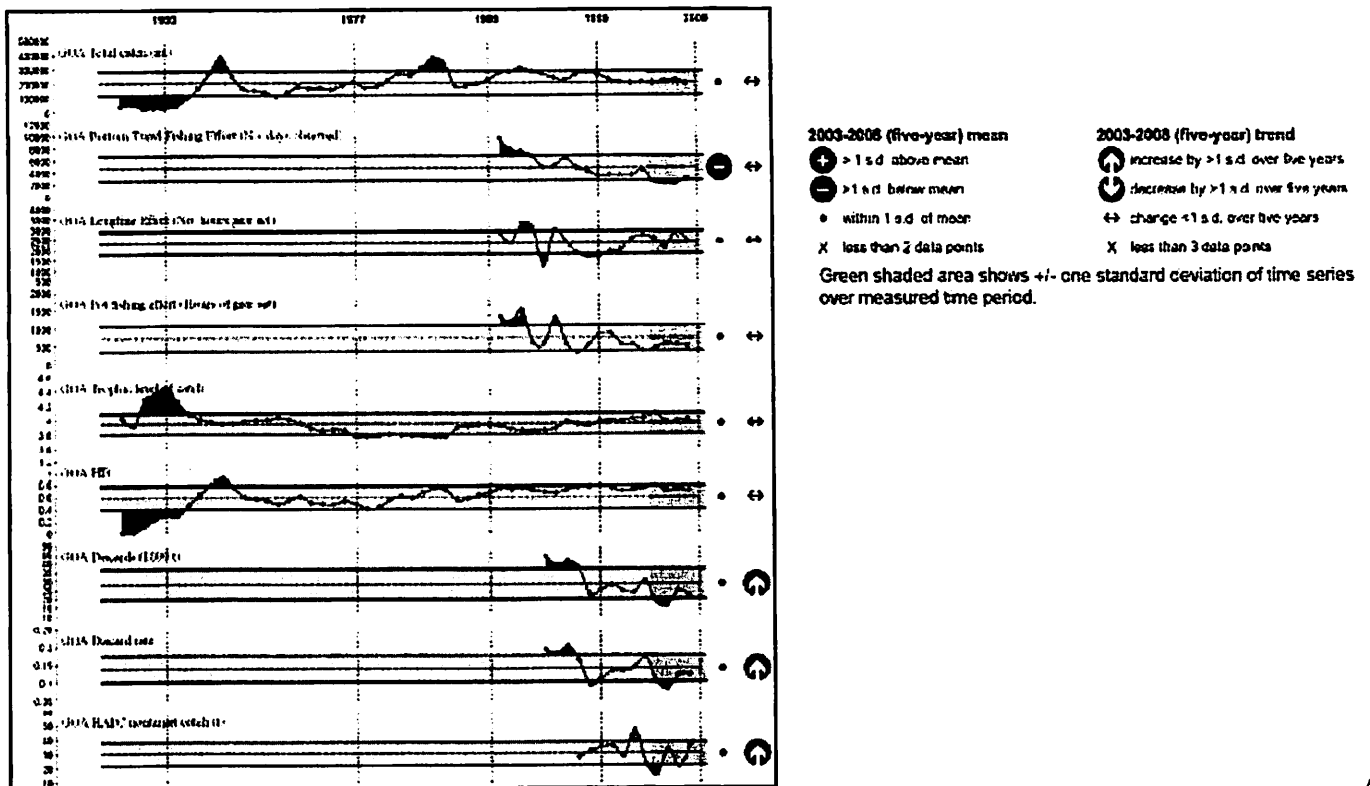
Source: Boldt et al 2008

Figure 4 Comparison of 2003-2008 versus historical record of catch, effort, and discard indicators in the Aleutian Islands



Source: Boldt et al 2008

Figure 5 Comparison of 2003-2008 versus historical record of catch, effort, and discard indicators in the Gulf of Alaska



Source: Boldt et al 2008

5 History of the 2004 PSEIS

In late 1990s, NMFS and the Council realized that they needed to take a broader view of the cumulative effects of their management decisions. Typically, the Council addresses a management problem by developing specific solutions. Staff analyzes the alternatives to determine the direct effects of the alternatives in a variety of contexts, and the Council provides that analysis to the public prior to making a decision and forwarding that recommendation to the agency and the Secretary of Commerce for final review and approval.

Beginning in 2000, the Council and NMFS conducted a comprehensive, programmatic environmental review of the BSAI and GOA groundfish fishery management plans. The analysis evaluated the management of Alaska's groundfish fisheries from a policy-level perspective, as well as at a detailed level of specific programs and management measures. Published as a final programmatic supplemental environmental impact statement (PSEIS) in June 2004, this document serves the Council and NMFS as the overarching EIS in support of federal authorization of the groundfish fisheries off Alaska. It also provides a description of the physical, biological and human environment, a description of every fishery and gear type, and identifies scientific data gaps and research needs.

In April 2004, the Council used this PSEIS as the basis for amending its FMPs to incorporate a new policy statement that communicates its intent to take a more precautionary approach to fishery management decision-making when faced with scientific uncertainty. The Council now routinely reviews its policy goals and objectives when making decisions and developing its annual workplan.

One aspect of the 2004 PSEIS that made its preparation particularly challenging was that approximately 25 years of management decisions had to be evaluated as a cumulative whole. Both FMPs had over 80 plan amendments that had to be reviewed and analyzed, and the management program had changed substantially during the time period, from a fishery with large foreign participation, to an exclusively domestic one. The next time it is appropriate to revisit the Council's management policy, and update the Alaska groundfish PSEIS, it should be more straightforward, as an environmental baseline has been established for 2004. The new analysis will focus on the actions taken by the Council and NMFS since then.

6 Considerations for updating/supplementing the 2004 PSEIS

As discussed in the introduction, there are several factors that influence whether and when to supplement or revise the groundfish policy objectives and accompanying analysis. These factors include, but are not limited to: 1) consideration of how fisheries management has changed since the objectives and analysis were originally prepared, 2) how environmental conditions affecting the fisheries have changed, 3) the status of the fish stocks and other marine life, and 4) whether new information has become available which may indicate the necessity for revised analyses.

The Council has some potentially major agenda items planned for the next several meetings. Once the Steller sea lion biological opinion is released, the Council may be discussing changes to the Steller sea lion protection measures, which could have far-reaching effects on the fishery management program. Additionally, the EFH 5-year review will be presented to the Council later this year, and may result in changes to the groundfish EFH descriptions. The Council is likely going to hear suggestions for improving the groundfish harvest specifications process in response to the National Standard 1 guideline revisions. The Council also has to decide whether and how to continue the central GOA rockfish pilot program. It may be useful for the Council to resolve some of these large, outstanding issues beforehand, so that the programmatic review of the groundfish fisheries could incorporate any changes that are implemented as a result of these issues.

There is no hard and fast rule about when the time is right for revisiting the management policy. As mentioned, during the development of the PSEIS, a useful lifespan for the analysis of five to ten years was discussed. Neither the Council of Environmental Quality nor NOAA's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations (NAO 216-6) answer this question directly. There are no mandatory deadlines. Since its establishment, both the Council and NMFS have produced numerous environmental assessments and environmental impact statements in accordance with NEPA. These documents themselves do not have sunset or expiration dates. They are routinely prepared in support of a Council or NMFS action that triggers NEPA compliance procedures (often in conjunction with Magnuson Stevens Act procedures). When management measures of the groundfish FMPs become dated, the Council will develop new measures or plan amendments to update its FMPs. Typically, each of these types of action trigger the NEPA process and the preparation of a new EA or EIS.

It has now been five years since the adoption of the policy; thus, the Council has entered the suggested timeframe for considering whether the policy adopted in 2004, and the analysis that supports it, is still useful. One approach for the Council could be for Council and NMFS staff to begin some initial planning for updating the PSEIS (or portions thereof). Internal staff meetings could be scheduled to develop options for updating the document, and these options could potentially be brought back to the Council for consideration next year. It may also be useful, should the Council determine to proceed with an update to the PSEIS, to schedule a seminar aimed at updating the Council family on NEPA requirements, in conjunction with a future Council meeting.

References

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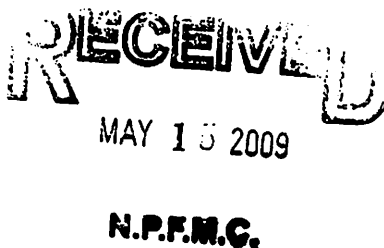
NMFS. 2004. Alaska Groundfish Fisheries Final Programmatic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. June 2004. DOC, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, AK Region, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668. <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/seis/default.htm>



CENTRAL COUNCIL
tlingit and haida indian TRIBES of alaska
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320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300
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April 30, 2009

Mr. Chris Oliver
North Pacific Fisheries Mgmt. Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501



Subject: 74th Annual Tribal Assembly Resolutions

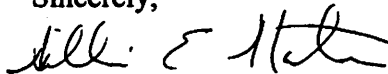
Dear Mr. Oliver:

Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, a federally recognized Tribe, recently held its 74th Annual Tribal Assembly in Juneau to conduct its business. The Assembly was attended by 117 delegates who reside in communities throughout Southeast Alaska, Anchorage, Seattle and San Francisco and represent over 26,000 tribal citizens.

During the Tribal Assembly, there were 49 resolutions introduced addressing issues such as government-to-government relations, child welfare, energy solutions, and subsistence rights. Enclosed are the resolutions which pertain to your organization. Central Council requests your review and consideration of these resolutions.

If you have any questions or would like to follow-up on the resolutions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,



William E. Martin
President

Enclosures



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320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1726

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Seventy-Fourth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 15-18, 2009
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA/ 09-32

Title: Protection of Sitka Sound Subsistence Herring Egg Harvest

By: Sitka/Ketchikan/Hydaburg Tlingit and Haida Community Councils

WHEREAS, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe of more than 26,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit and Haida Indians throughout Southeast Alaska have depended on the subsistence harvest of herring eggs in Sitka Sound for many centuries.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seventy-Fourth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 15-18, 2009, recommends to the State of Alaska Board of Fish to protect the subsistence herring egg harvest of Sitka Sound and to increase the amount of herring eggs necessary for subsistence to 265,000 to 325,000 pounds from the previous range of 105,000 to 158,000 pounds;

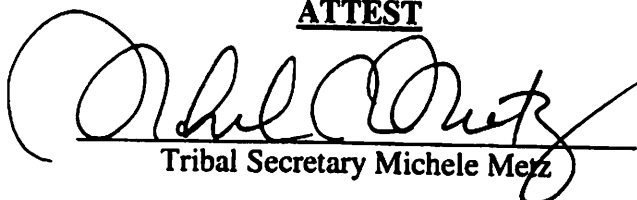
ADOPTED this 18th day of April 2009, by the Seventy-Fourth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President William E. Martin

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Michele Merz



CENTRAL COUNCIL
tlingit and haida indian tribes of alaska
ANDREW P. HOPE BUILDING
320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1726

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Seventy-Fourth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 15-18, 2009
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA/ 09-18

Title: **Resolution Protecting The Halibut Fisheries For The Alaska Halibut IFQ Holders**

By: Angoon Tlingit and Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe of more than 26,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service has created the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program for halibut fishermen in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Service determined the halibut poundage from a specified five year period; and

WHEREAS, those fisherman that fished within those five years were the only ones eligible for halibut poundage; and

WHEREAS, no one without a "Halibut Permit" is able to fish the halibut; and

WHEREAS, the original meaning and promise to the IFQ poundage holder was that the poundage would increase and not decrease; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service has allowed other user groups to obtain poundage; and

WHEREAS, the other groups were not fishing during the five year selection period; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service has, without permission of the Halibut IFQ holder, taken poundage away from them; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service has a restricted access management system for the commercial halibut fishermen.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seventy-Fourth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 15-18, 2009, the National Marine Fisheries Service immediately cease further action on the "giving away halibut IFQ's" to other fishermen with earning the halibut poundage, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the National Marine Fisheries Service implement a monitoring system of catch of halibut poundage for the outfitter guides, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the National Marine Fisheries Service return the halibut poundage to the active "Halibut IFQ holder", and/or

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the National Marine Fisheries Services give to the active "Halibut IFQ holders", proper monetary value of lost commercial poundage of "Halibut IFQ's" to the rightful owners.

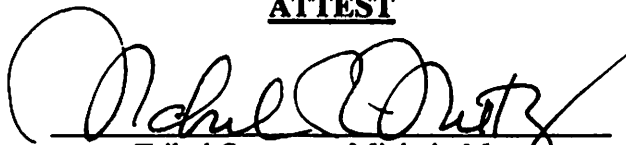
ADOPTED this 18th day of April 2009, by the Seventy-Fourth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President William E. Martin

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Michele Metz



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
ANDREW P. HOPE BUILDING
320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1726

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Seventy-Fourth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 15-18, 2009
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA/ 09-17

Title: **Protecting the Natural Resources in the Chatham Straits Area**

By: Angoon Tlingit and Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe of more than 26,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the "Traditional and Cultural" way of life for the Tlingit people, who are an Indigenous People, has been recorded since time immemorial, and

WHEREAS, as an Indigenous People, have depended on the natural resources in the Chatham Straits area since time immemorial, and

WHEREAS, the community members of Angoon, native and non-native depend on the natural resources around the Chatham Straits area, and

WHEREAS, although we support the cruise ships and the tourists that they bring to Alaska, and

WHEREAS, those cruise ships have been dumping their gray and waste water in the Chatham Strait area, and

WHEREAS, there is a possibility that the gray and waste water could be having a negative effect on the natural resources and environment in the Chatham Straights area.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seventy-Fourth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 15-18, 2009, and we request that the State of Alaska fund and conduct a research of the impact on the natural resources and the environment in the Chatham Straits area, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of Alaska report their findings to the community of Angoon, Alaska Department of Environmental Protection Agency, and Alaska Division of Environmental Conservation.

ADOPTED this 18th day of April 2009, by the Seventy-Fourth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President William E. Martin

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Michele Metz



CENTRAL COUNCIL
TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
ANDREW P. HOPE BUILDING
320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1726

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Seventy-Fourth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 15-18, 2009
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA/ 09-38

Title: **King Salmon Quota**

By: Yakutat Tlingit and Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe of more than 26,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America and the Canadian Governments have entered into a unilateral agreement to share and to protect the fish species known as the king salmon in order to insure the king salmon survive and reproduce itself forever; and the agreement between the two countries will be known here, for short, as the king salmon quota; which sets a number of allowable amount of king salmon that can be safely caught each and every year; and

WHEREAS, within the two countries, each state receives a number of king salmon that they are allowed to be caught by all user groups within that state, such as Alaska and it is the duty of that state to make sure they do not surpass that number of king salmon caught by all user groups, which includes hand and power trollers. Among the states involved is the State of Alaska and they are bound to ensure they live up to the agreement through the Department of Fish (Fisheries) and Game, that develops the regulations and enforces those regulations; and

WHEREAS, these king salmon are caught by the regulations set forth by the Alaska Department of Fisheries and must abide to the laws of the United States and the State of Alaska Constitutions and we, as citizens must also abide by those regulations; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska sets openings with regulations that allow king salmon from the quota to be caught and one such opening is known as the "Hatchery Opening". That opening is for catching king salmon near hatcheries and closes all other areas to catching king salmon. Only thirty-five percent (35%) caught are hatchery king salmon the other sixty-five percent (65%) are quota king salmon; and

WHEREAS, the other areas that are closed, fishermen and other user groups are denied their rightful share of the International King Salmon Quota that is, by right and permit, to be

shared by everyone in the state that is presently being denied them not for renewable resource problems, but simply because Yakutat is not located near a hatchery; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, within their constitution, forbids the State of Alaska to make regulations that deny their citizens from making a living and the closing of some areas such as Yakutat. It would be like having all the grocery stores in Juneau shut down by the state and having the residents of Juneau shop in Yakutat. The sea supplies a great part of our grocery stores, among the most revered are the king salmon; and

WHEREAS, Yakutat has quota kings swimming through their area and hand/power trollers have been unable to fish quota king salmon during the hatchery openings, thereby having a detrimental effect on the fishing elements of Yakutat (fishermen, cannery workers, grocery stores, oil companies, hardware stores and all other business' that depend upon fishermen); and

WHEREAS, out of eighty-seven (87) trollers in the Yakutat fishing district, fifty-four (54) of those trollers are Alaska Native families.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seventy-Fourth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 15-18, 2009, hereby supports (by all means necessary) Yakutat Tlingit and Haida Tribal members and other Yakutat citizens to re-open the spring troll fishery for all trollers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska send copies of this resolution to Alaska Congressional Delegation, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska Tribal Judges, State of Alaska Fish and Game Departments, Alaska Senator Albert Kookesh and Alaska Representative Bill Thomas.

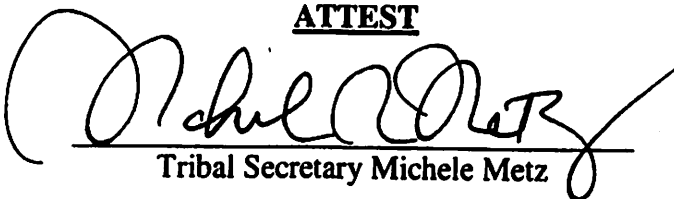
ADOPTED this 18th day of April 2009, by the Seventy-Fourth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President William E. Martin

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Michele Metz

June 8, 2009

Mr. Eric Olson, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W. Fourth Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Mr. Doug Mecum, Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Region
709 West Ninth Street
Juneau, AK 99802-1668

RE: Agenda item D-4(a) Committees and Staff Tasking

Dear Chairman Olson, Mr. Mecum, and Council members:

We urge you to utilize your Ecosystem Committee to review and provide feedback on several current and upcoming issues facing the Council.

-The expansion of bottom trawling into previously lightly exploited habitat in the Northern Bering Sea Research Area warrants discussion by the Ecosystem Committee.

-Marine Protected Area (MPA) National System and nomination process for areas

-Northern Bering Sea Research Plan

-Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan

-Marine Spatial Planning

The Ecosystem Committee meeting could be convened either in conjunction with the October Council meeting or prior to the meeting to provide feedback to the Council on these issues. Thank you for your continued support of the Ecosystem Committee.

Sincerely,



Jim Ayers,
Vice President, Oceana

Public Testimony Sign-Up Sheet

Agenda Item D-4 STAFF TASKING

6/9
Tues
AM

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	AFFILIATION
1	Jon Warenduk (letter)	Oceana
2	Linda Kozak	Kozak + Assoc.
3	Sky Tasking	AUCP
4	Heather McCarty	CBSEA CBSFA
5	Dave Wood	US Seafoods
6	Julia Penn	AGDD
7	Everette Anderson	APIEDA parred
8	Dorothy Chalkin	Amice
9	Art Wankoff	SNSAC
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NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

Action	Status	Staffing
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Yellow = Project initiated but not yet fully underway

Annual Catch Limit plan amendments	Report in June on actions necessary - deadline looming - major project	NMFS 50% Council 50% Possible contract help	
Salmon FMP ACL or Repeal	To follow after groundfish, crab, and scallop ACLs	NMFS 50% Council 50%	
Salmon bycatch Data collection program	Discussion paper and Committee report in June 2009	NMFS 50% Council 50% Potential Contract	
Outreach activities	Issue dependent; committee report in October	NMFS 10% Council 90%	
MPA nomination process	Discussion in June or October	NMFS 40% Council 60%	
CQE Review	Report in October 2009	NMFS 10% Council 90%	
5-year EFH Review	begin in December 2009	NMFS 80% Council 20%	
NBS Research Plan	Outline in June, resolve timeline	NMFS 90% Council 10%	

Purple=Potential new project

GOA Rockfish Pilot Program	Review in June and provide direction - major analysis needs to be complete by June 2010	NMFS 20% Council 80%, potential for contract assistance	
BSAICHum Salmon Bycatch Management Measures	Review alternatives in June, provide direction (major analysis)	NMFS 30% Council 70%, limited potential for contract assistance	
Salmon and crab bycatch in the GOA	Review discussion paper in October, provide direction	NMFS 20% Council 80%, potential for contract assistance	

