
E STAFF TASKING

DAVID WITHERELL, JUNE 2021



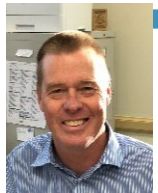
COMMITTEES / UPCOMING MEETINGS

- No meetings currently anticipated before September 2021:
 - **BSAI Crab Plan Team** – September 13-17, 2021
 - **BSAI and GOA Groundfish Plan Teams** – September 20-24, 2021
 - **Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC)** – TBD (Sep 2021)
 - **Ecosystem Committee** – TBD (September 2021)

Vacant seats on PCFMAC and Trawl EM committees

- Partial coverage observer representative PCFMAC
- Additional observer provider representative on Trawl EM Committee

■ Balance of Ecosystem Committee report



ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS (1/2)

■ Northern fur seals

- The committee recommends that staff finalize plans for ongoing briefings with northern fur seal co-managers and researchers and schedule them on an ecosystem committee calendar.
- The committee requests an update in October 2021 from the Alaska Regional Office Protected Species Division on the status of the Conservation Plan for the Eastern Pacific Stock of Northern Fur Seal. The committee recommends that the update include information from the co-managers on the Pribilof Islands, if possible.

■ Marine debris

- The committee recommends that staff reach out to organizations addressing marine debris in Alaska to develop an overview of activities for committee review and consider whether a Regional Action Plan for Alaska would be useful.

■ Area-based management

- The committee recommended that the discussion paper requested by the Council in December 2020 to summarize whether Council regulatory actions meet the OECM definitions could be delayed until other projects to address OECMs are understood (Spring 2022).
- The committee recommends that the committee continue to track how important ecological areas³ identified by tribes and NGOs can contribute to the EO 14008 discussion, and whether additional management measures can strengthen their resilience to climate change.



ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS (2/2)

- GOA EBFM
 - The committee recommends that the Council task staff with developing a scoping paper on the status of research initiatives taking place in the GOA and the timelines associated with those projects. The scoping paper should identify gaps in understanding, and list actions that the Council could take to address them (GOA FEP, etc.). The paper should identify possible decision points such as structure of FEP Team, if BSFEP structure fits the GOA.
- Forage fish
 - The committee recommends that the Council task staff with developing a scoping paper on the state of scientific understanding of forage fish ecology, coastwide, the status of research initiatives on forage fish ecology, and the timelines associated with those projects. The scoping paper should identify gaps in understanding, any major issues regarding forage species status and trends, and list potential actions that the Council could take to address them.
- Ecosystem Workshop Planning
 - The committee recommends that the Ecosystem Workshop steering group meet again soon to continue planning.



TASKING AND SCHEDULING

- Normal tasking documents posted
 - 3 meeting-outlook
 - Council staff - who does what
 - Groundfish workplan update
 - Status of Observer Program and IFQ projects
- Timing expectations for BSAI Halibut ABM
- October 2021 in-person planning



OCTOBER 2021 DRAFT AGENDA

Preliminary October 2021 agenda posted for your review

- **Standard October issues:** BSAI Crab specs*, BSAI/GOA Groundfish Proposed specs, Observer Annual Deployment Plan
- **Final Action:** BSAI Pcod Trawl CV LAPP analysis
- **Initial Review:** IFQ omnibus amendments, RQE fee collection
- **Other agenda items:** Halibut CSP review workplan, OECM discussion paper, EFP applications (if any received), Crab FMP housekeeping amendment, climate reports



*The Council may need to hold an early special session to approve BSAI crab ABC/OFLs as soon as possible, in order for the season to start on time. 6

REVISED 3-MEETING OUTLOOK

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK – 6/15/2021

Topics	October 4-16, 2021 (T) <i>Hilton Hotel, Anchorage or online</i>	Council staff contact	December 6-14, 2021 (T) <i>Hilton Hotel, Anchorage or online</i>	Council staff contact	January 31 - February 7, 2022 (T) <i>Renaissance Hotel, Seattle (T)</i>	Council staff contact
EVENTS/ REPORTS*	Election of officers	DW	NMFS report: Final ADP	DW	AP, SSC: Elect officers	DE
	Plan Teams handbook	SCiv	ADFG report: Subsistence halibut	DE	NMFS report: Annual cost recovery report	DW
	AFSC climate Regional Action Plan updates (T)		NOAA Enforcement report	DE		
	EFP applications (T)		US Navy report on Northern Edge 2021 (T)	JMC	Protected resources report	SML
			IPHC report (T)	DW	IPHC report (T)	DW
			Council Executive Session	DW	EFP applications (T)	
BSAI CRAB SPECS	BSAI Crab (4 stocks): <i>ABC/OFL specifications</i>	JA			NSRKC: <i>ABC/OFL specifications</i>	JA
	Crab Plan Team: <i>Report</i>	JA			Crab Plan Team: <i>Report</i>	JA
GFISH SPECS	BSAI/GOA Groundfish: <i>Proposed specs, PT report</i>	SML	BSAI Groundfish: <i>PT report, Final Specifications</i>	SML		
	Risk tables: <i>Provide advice for Nov</i>	SCiv	GOA Groundfish: <i>PT report, Final Specifications</i>	SCiv		
			Ecosystem Status Reports: <i>Review</i>	SCiv	Economic SAFE report: <i>Review (SSC only)</i>	JMC
REPORTING/ MONITORING	Observer Annual Deployment Plan: <i>Review, PCFMAC</i>	KH			Trawl EM analysis: <i>Preliminary review</i>	AH
GOA GFISH MGMT						
BSAI GFISH MGMT	BSAI Pacific cod Trawl CV LAPP: <i>Final Action</i>	JMC				
CRAB MGMT	Crab FMP housekeeping amndmt: <i>Initial/Final Action</i>	JA				
BYCATCH			BSAI Halibut ABM: <i>Final Action</i>	DS		
HALIBUT: IFQ/CHARTER	RQE fee collection program: <i>Initial Review (T)</i>	SM	2022 Charter Halibut mgmt measures: <i>Final Action</i>	JA	RQE fee collection program: <i>Final Action (T)</i>	SM
	IFQ/CQE omnibus analysis: <i>Initial Review</i>	SCiv	IFQ/CQE omnibus analysis: <i>Final Action (T)</i>	SCiv		
	Halibut Catch Sharing Plan: <i>Allocation revw. workpla</i>	SM			Halibut Catch Sharing Plan: <i>Allocation Review (T)</i>	SM
OTHER	ACLIM Phase 2 report: <i>Review (T)</i>	DE	SSPT report: <i>Review (T)</i>	SM	Economic Data Report amd: <i>Final Action</i>	SM
	EFH habitat description models: <i>Review (SSC only)</i>	SML			EFH fishing effects model: <i>Review (SSC only)</i>	SML
	OECM discussion paper: <i>Review</i>	SML			Marine mam. conservation status: <i>Review (SSC only)</i>	SML
	CCTF State of climate readiness: <i>Review (T)</i>	DLS			Groundfish management policy: <i>3-year review</i>	JA
					MRSAM model: <i>Review (SSC only)</i>	AH

ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED:

Small sablefish release: *Initial Review*
 BSAI Greenland Turbot with longline pots: *Disc. paper*
 BSAI Pacific cod small boat access: *Initial Review*
 EFH 5-year review: *Review, Action as nec (June 2022)*

GOA Pacific cod sector allocation: *Review (2022)*
 CDQ allocations: *Review (2022)*
 Amendment 80 allocation: *Review (2022)*

BSAI HALIBUT ABM TIMELINE

Action	Approximate Timing
Council staff revise DEIS	4/19-7/16
NMFS and GCAK review and revisions	7/19-9/2
NMFS submit DEIS to EPA	9/3
DEIS publishes	9/10
45-day public comment period	9/13-10/27
NMFS and Council staff prepare Comment Analysis Report	10/28-11/19
Comment Analysis Report posted	11/22
Council Final Action	12/6-12/14, 2021
Final EIS prepared	TBD depending on Council PA
Final Rule published	October/November 2022
Implementation	January 2023



OCTOBER 2021 PLANNING: SEEKING INPUT

- Planning assumptions based on staff understanding of Council priorities
 - Members all in-person or all remote
 - Broadcast all in-person Council/AP/SSC meetings (audio, no webcams)
 - Remote testimony option at Council, AP/SSC if possible
 - Encourage presenters to attend in-person but accommodate remote presentations
 - Minimize overall meeting footprint and overlap of meetings
- Plan for public health considerations as appropriate - social distancing and capacity considerations



OCTOBER 2021 PLANNING: SEEKING INPUT

- Staff recommendations
 - Don't hold all three meetings in-person in October
 - Staff preference is to hold Council in-person and AP/SSC virtually
 - Oct 4-8 = AP/SSC virtual meetings
 - Oct 11-16 = Council in-person at Hilton Hotel, Anchorage
 - Alternatively, hold both AP and Council in-person
 - SSC: virtual Mon-Fri, Oct 4-8
 - AP: Thurs-Mon, Oct 7-11
 - Council: Sat-Thurs, Oct 9-14



PUBLIC COMMENT

- Written comments submitted
- Several letters from stakeholders associated with the Eastern Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (EAG) fishery, to remove a facility use cap and provide a live crab market opportunity through custom processing arrangements



QUESTIONS?

Feedback always appreciated on how virtual meetings are working, ideas for improvement, etc.

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