

	SSC (Shishaldin Room)	AP (meeting at the Unisea Central Bldg)	Council (Makushin Room)
Monday, June 8	8:00am C-1 Inshore-Offshore 3 C-2 EFH C-6 Observer Program	8:00am C-1 Inshore-Offshore 3	
	1:00pm D-1(a) Btm Trawl ban/ BSAI plk D-1(b) Atka mack. apport.	1:00pm C-1, continued	
Tuesday, June 9	8:00am C-4 LLP D-1(c) Grfsh O/F def.	8:00am C-1, continued	
	1:00pm D-1(d) Halibut DMRs D-1(e) Experimental Permit D-2 VBA/HMAP/IVCP*	1:00pm C-2 EFH C-3 Moratorium	
Wednesday, June 10	8:00am D-3 Scallop FMP O/F def. D-4 Crab FMP O/F def. D-5 Salmon O/F def.	8:00am C-4 LLP C-5 CDQs	8:00am Call to order Agenda Approval B Reports C-1 Inshore-Offshore 3
	7-10PM Reception: City of Unalaska	1:00pm Continue as necessary	12:00 Lunch 1:00pm C-1, continued
Thursday, June 11		8:00am D-1, continued	8:00am C-1, continued 12:00 Lunch
	6PM Women's Fisheries Network: Fisheries Issues in Ancient Native Cultures - Speaker** & Auction	1:00pm D-2 VBA/HMAP/IVCP* D-3 Scallop O/F def.	1:00pm C-1, continued
Friday, June 12		8:00am D-4 BSAI Crab O/F def. D-5 Salmon O/F def.	8:00am C-1, continued C-4 LLP - Atka Mack.
	6-8PM Reception: Aleutian Seafood Processors Assn		12:00 Lunch 1:00pm C-4, continued
Saturday, June 13			8:00am C-2 EFH C-3 Moratorium 12:00 Lunch
			1:00pm C-5 CDQs C-6 Observer Program D-1 Groundfish Amendments
Sunday, June 14			8:00am D-1, continued 12:00 Lunch
			1:00pm D-1, continued D-2 VBA/HMAP/IVCP* ?
Monday, June 15			8:00am D-3 Scallop O/F def. D-4 BSAI Crab O/F def. D-5 Salmon O/F def. C-7 Sustainable Fisheries
			12:00 Lunch 1:00pm continue as necessary

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NOTE: The above agenda items may not be taken in the order in which they appear and are subject to change as necessary.
All meetings are open to the public with the exception of Council Executive Sessions.

*VBA: Vessel Bycatch Allowance
HMAP: Halibut Mortality Avoidance Program
IVCP: Individual Vessel Checklist Program

**WFN Speaker: Dr. Rick Knecht, Museum of the Aleutians

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke
Executive Director 

DATE: June 1, 1998

SUBJECT: Salmon FMP

ESTIMATED TIME
1 HOUR

ACTION REQUIRED

Final review of an amendment to revise the definitions of overfishing, MSY, and OY for the Salmon FMP.

BACKGROUND

The Magnuson-Stevens Act changed the definition of optimum yield and overfishing. The NMFS issued guidelines (Final Rule published in the Federal Register on May 1) for the Councils to amend their plans to meet these provisions for National Standard 1. National Standard 1 states that conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery for the United States fishing industry.

An analysis was prepared to examine alternative definitions of overfishing, maximum sustainable yield (MSY), and optimum yield (OY), in accordance with the proposed rule. Several alternatives were considered including establishment of minimum spawning escapement goals, optimum spawning escapement goals, a maximum exploitation rate, and updated management policies. Of these alternatives, only the policy change was deemed to be a reasonable alternative for mixed stock salmon fisheries. Hence, the alternatives examined were as follows:

Alternative 1: Status Quo. Do not revise the FMP with new definitions for overfishing, MSY, and OY.

Alternative 2: Update FMP with new Magnuson-Stevens Act language and State management policies regarding overfishing, optimum yield, and maximum sustainable yield. Since the last time the FMP was amended to define overfishing, the Alaska Board of Fisheries has further refined their policy on sustained yield and rebuilding of depressed salmon stocks.

An Executive Summary of the analysis is attached as Item D-5(a).

Executive Summary

This Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review (EA/RIR) addresses alternatives for meeting the NMFS proposed guidelines drafted to in response to the Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions for National Standard 1. National Standard 1 states that conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery for the United States fishing industry. The Act did not change the standard, but did change the definition of optimum yield and overfishing.

The Magnuson-Stevens act also requires the Secretary of Commerce to establish advisory guidelines (which shall not have the force and effect of law), based on the national standards, to assist in the development of fishery management plans. Proposed guidelines were published in the Federal Register on August 4. This document examines alternative definitions of overfishing, maximum sustainable yield (MSY), and optimum yield (OY), in accordance with the proposed rule.

Several alternatives were considered including establishment of minimum spawning escapement goals, optimum spawning escapement goals, a maximum exploitation rate, and updated management policies. Of these alternatives, only the policy change was deemed to be a reasonable alternative for mixed stock salmon fisheries. Hence, the alternative examined were as follows:

Alternative 1: Status Quo. Do not revise the FMP with new definitions for overfishing, MSY, and OY.

Alternative 2: Update FMP with new Magnuson-Stevens Act language and State management policies regarding overfishing, optimum yield, and maximum sustainable yield. Since the last time the FMP was amended to define overfishing, the Alaska Board of Fisheries has further refined their policy on sustained yield and rebuilding of depressed salmon stocks.

The revised policies proposed as the new overfishing definition, under Alternative 2, appear to be more conservative than the previous definition, and appear to satisfy the NMFS guidelines. The salmon escapement goal policy adopted by ADF&G ensures that annual spawning escapement requirements are met. Additionally, the Alaska Board of Fisheries policy for management of mixed stock salmon fisheries is consistent with sustained yield of wild fish stocks.

The revised definition of OY is more conservative than the old definition. This is because OY must be less than MSY, to account for economic, social, and other factors. Prior to this Magnuson-Stevens Act revision, OY could exceed MSY.

None of the alternatives is expected to result in a "significant regulatory action" as defined in E.O. 12866.

None of the alternatives are likely to significantly affect the quality of the human environment, and the preparation of an environmental impact statement for the proposed action is not required by Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act or its implementing regulations.

Language from the Magnuson-Stevens Act 1996.

Optimum Yield: The term 'optimum', with respect to the yield from a fishery, means the amount of fish which –

- (a) will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to food production and recreational opportunities, and taking into account the protection of marine ecosystems;
- (b) is prescribed as such on the basis of maximum sustainable yield from the fishery, as reduced by any relevant economic, social, or ecological factor; and
- (c) in the case of an overfished fishery, provides for rebuilding to a level consistent with producing the maximum sustainable yield in such fishery.

Overfishing: The terms "overfishing" and "overfished" mean a rate or level of fishing mortality that jeopardizes the capacity of a fishery to produce the maximum sustainable yield on a continuing basis.