

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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## SPECIAL NOTICE

Please note the *NEW* Council office mailing address above. We will *NOT* be renewing our Post Office box after December 31, 1995, so please adjust your records accordingly.

#4-95

## NEWSLETTER

10/12/95

### 119th Plenary Session Completed in Seattle

During the recent 6-day meeting in Seattle, the Council set initial quotas for the 1996 groundfish fisheries, made clarifications to the groundfish and crab license limitation program which was passed in June, discussed several adjustments to the sablefish and halibut IFQ program, and continued discussions of the Observer Program and the associated North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan. These and other issues are detailed inside. The Council next meets in Anchorage during the week of December 4th. The Council will most likely begin on Wednesday, December 6 and continue through Sunday or Monday. The SSC and AP will begin Monday, December 4.

### Council Holds Elections

By unanimous consent, Council members re-elected *Rick Lauber* and *Wally Pereyra* to serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, for another one-year term. First elected chairman in 1991, Mr. Lauber has been a member of the Council "family" since its inception in 1976, serving as an Advisory Panel member until his appointment to the Council in 1991. Mr. Lauber lives in Juneau and represents the Pacific Seafood Processors Association. This is the second term for Dr. Pereyra of ProFish International in Seattle. He has been a Council member since 1990 and serves on Council committees for Advisory Panel Nominations, Discards and Habitat.

### New and Reappointed Council Members Take Oath of Office

In August, the Secretary of Commerce announced the reappointment of Linda Behnken to her second three-year Council term and the appointment of Kevin O'Leary to his first three-year term. Both members were given the oath of office by NMFS

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Regional Director, Steve Pennoyer. Ms. Behnken resides in Sitka, Alaska, is the executive director of Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (ALFA) and currently fishes in longline fisheries and salmon troll fisheries. Mr. O'Leary is a resident of Kodiak, Alaska, and also participates in longline fisheries off Alaska, as well as crab fisheries in the Bering Sea.

### **Nominations Due for Advisory Panel, Scientific and Statistical Committee and Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee**

One-year terms of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Advisory Panel (AP) members expire in December. The SSC advises the Council on scientific and other technical matters relating to Council functions and the AP is composed of representatives of the major segments of the fishing industry. Members of these panels are expected to attend up to six meetings, three to four days in length, per year.

The Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) was formed in 1989 to provide the Bering Sea crab industry from the Pacific Northwest access to the Alaska regulatory process, similar to that of Alaskan residents. Appointments to this committee are for two years. The committee typically meets a few times a year to review proposed changes in crab fishery regulations.

Resumes for persons who wish to be considered for these committees should be sent to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501, to arrive no later than 5:00 p.m., November 17, 1995. Appointments will be announced at the Council's December meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska, and will become effective in January 1996. For more information contact the Council office.

### **Sablefish and Halibut IFQ Program**

At this meeting, the Council reviewed the status of various regulatory and fishery management plan (FMP) amendment proposals for the sablefish and halibut individual fishing quota (IFQ) program. The NMFS made recommendations on program changes that could be implemented through frameworking, a process that, once established, allows management decisions to be made and implemented without further FMP or regulatory changes. The Council made the following recommendations: (1) eliminate the requirement for the QS holder to remain onboard when waiting to unload; and (2) allow immediate transfer of IFQ to a surviving spouse, with leasing provisions for a period of three years (similar to CFEC guidelines on emergency transfers). These items would be added to the omnibus amendment package for implementation for the 1996 IFQ season. Other omnibus changes include eliminating certified mail requirements and enforcement modifications to transshipment and shipping reports.

The Council also initiated analysis on increasing the sweep-up provision from 1,000 lbs of halibut to 3,000 or 5,000 lbs and from 3,000 lbs of sablefish to 5,000 or 7,000 lbs, including the potential for different sweep-up levels among regulatory areas and allowing QS to be used on vessels of the same size class or smaller. These potential changes will be reviewed by the Council in early 1996. The Council indicated its preference to allow IFQ deliveries to tenders and provide flexibility in the 12-hour unloading period on a regional basis.

The Council approved a regulatory amendment to extend the IFQ sablefish fishery in the Aleutian Islands year-round for sablefish QS holders who also possess sufficient halibut IFQ to cover their halibut bycatch. The Aleutian Islands fishery would begin with the regular sablefish IFQ opening and close the day prior to the next season's regular sablefish IFQ opening. Participants will be required to carry an observer after the regular sablefish fishery closes. This program will likely be in place for an extension (November 1996 - March 1997) of the regular 1996 sablefish season. The Council will request that the International Pacific Halibut Commission

(IPHC) consider an exemption to their halibut closure for the few participants in this fishery at their annual meeting in January 1996.

The Council also approved initiating a catch sharing plan that would framework halibut subarea allocations within Regulatory Area 4. Under this regulatory action, the Council would establish the subarea percentages once and the subarea allocations would automatically be generated from the formula each January when the IPHC determines the Area 4 catch limit. The Council could change these proportions as necessary through regulatory action. The analysis includes alternatives to: (1) continue setting Area 4 suballocations by the IPHC, with recommendations by the Council (status quo); and (2) institute a Council catch sharing plan using the current (1995) allocation scheme to apportion Area 4 catch limits by subarea (see table at right). An option under Alternative 2 would designate the first 80,000 lb of quota above the 1995 Area 4 quota (5.92 million lb) to Area 4E, with the remainder allocated across all areas according to current percentage allocations.

Current allocation of halibut in Area 4.	
Area	Current Allocation
4A	33
4B	39
4C	13
4D	13
4E	<u>2</u>
	100%

The Council's IFQ Industry Implementation Team will meet in Anchorage on November 1 and 2 to review proposed changes to the IFQ program, IFQ enforcement, and other related issues. Items for the Team's consideration should be sent to Chairman Jeff Stephan, in care of the Council office. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

### IFQ Amendment Update

Amendments 32 & 36 to the BSAI and GOA Plans. The exemption for CDQ compensation quota shares from the block plan and vessel categories was submitted to the Secretary of Commerce on September 18, 1995.

Amendments 33 & 37 to the BSAI and GOA Plans. This amendment would prohibit the use of halibut catcher vessel QS on freezer/longline vessels and allow the freezing of non-IFQ species, such as Pacific cod and rockfish, while harvesting sablefish catcher vessel QS on a freezer vessel. This amendment is under preparation and will be submitted to the Secretary before the end of this year, and could be effective sometime in 1996.

Amendment ~~40~~ <sup>WRONG #</sup> to the BSAI Plan. The extended IFQ sablefish season in the Aleutian Islands was approved by the Council in September 1995. It will be submitted in time to become effective for the latter half of the 1996 season.

IFQ Fishing in Multiple Areas. An interim final rule became effective August 25, 1995. It allows vessels to fish IFQs in multiple areas without offloading, so long as there is an observer on board.

Omnibus II Regulatory Amendment. This amendment will address changes described above to owner on board requirements, emergency IFQ transfers, certified mail requirements, and transshipment and shipping reports. It will be submitted in time for implementation at the start of the 1996 IFQ season.

Area 4 Catch Sharing Plan. This regulatory action would implement a formula for making Area 4 halibut suballocations described above. The analysis will be released for public review on November 8. The Council will take final action at the December 1995 Council meeting.

Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

### Halibut Charter Management

Due to the press of Council business already in progress, the Council will delay consideration of halibut charter management until the January or April 1996 meeting. Council staff have initiated a separate mailing list to notify members of the public interested in Council activity on this subject. Contact Linda Roberts at the Council office to be placed on the mailing list.

### Bristol Bay Red King Crab Closure Area

The Council took final action on the Bristol Bay trawl closure area designed to protect red king crabs. Based on input from its advisory bodies and the public, the Council adopted Alternative 3 (same area as emergency rule) with some modifications. The trawl closure area, from 162° to 164° W longitude, 56° to 57° N latitude, will be closed from January 1 to March 31 each year to all non-pelagic trawling. The area bounded by 56°00' to 56°10' N latitude will be opened during the years in which a guideline harvest level for Bristol Bay red king crab is established. If approved by the Secretary of Commerce, regulations implementing this closure will be in effect for 1996. Staff contact is David Witherell.

### Improved Retention and Improved Utilization

The Council agreed to move forward with examination of alternatives to reduce discarding and increase utilization of groundfish resources. An analytical outline will be prepared for December which examines a species-by-species approach to increased utilization. The analysis will focus on reducing discard of the following species in three BSAI and GOA trawl fisheries:

1. Pollock and Pacific cod in the pelagic pollock fishery,
2. Pollock, Pacific cod, and rock sole in the rock sole fishery, and
3. Pollock, Pacific cod, and rock sole in the Pacific cod fishery.

Other bycatch-related proposals including seasonal apportionment of the rock sole fishery and the harvest priority concept have been put on hold for now so that analysts can focus energies on the improved retention/utilization initiative. Staff contact is David Witherell.

### Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish Specifications

The Council adopted for public review, the preliminary Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) for the 1996 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish fisheries. This document contains information on the current status of stocks for each groundfish species. Based on this information, and input from its advisory bodies and public, the Council recommended preliminary levels of Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) and Total Allowable Catch (TAC). These recommendations are presented in Table 1. Because current stock assessments do not include information from this past summer's trawl survey, biomass estimates and subsequent catch specifications are subject to revision when the 1995 survey data are incorporated. These assessments will be finalized by the groundfish plan team in November. Twenty-five percent of the initial specifications will go forward as interim specifications for management of the 1996 groundfish fisheries until superseded by publication of final specifications. On the basis of comments and new information, the Council will adopt final recommendations for the 1996 fishing year at its December meeting. The Council may also consider apportioning the pollock TAC among the pelagic and bottom trawl fisheries.

Specifications for Bogoslof pollock drew considerable attention. The 1995 echo integration survey in the Bogoslof region indicated a biomass of 1.02 million tons, which was about double the 1994 estimate. Biomass is projected to continue to increase with recruitment of the 1988 and 1989 year-classes. For the Bogoslof region,

the Council recommended a conservative pollock ABC level of 102,000 mt. A preliminary TAC of 1,000 mt was recommended to allow for pollock bycatch in other fisheries. In December, the Council may make recommendations on allocating pollock TAC between mid-water trawl (MWT) and bottom trawl (BT) for the directed pollock fishery. As additional information becomes available, the Council may consider a directed fishery in the Bogoslof region when final specifications are set in December.

The Council also adopted preliminary bycatch allowances for Pacific halibut, herring, red king crab, and Tanner crab (Table 2). Note that these apportionments will only be in place until the final recommendations of the Council in December are adopted by the Secretary of Commerce. Staff contact is David Witherell.

### Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Specifications

The Council approved interim 1996 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for public review, including Acceptable Biological Catches (ABCs), Total Allowable Catches (TACs), and Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits. Twenty-five percent of the preliminary TACs (set in September) will go forward as interim harvest limits for the first of the fishing year until superseded by the final specifications published in late January. The Council's interim recommendations for ABCs, TACs, and apportionments are listed in Table 3. The specifications are based on the current stock assessments contained in the preliminary Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) that was released for public review, as well as recommendations by the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan Team, Advisory Panel, and Scientific and Statistical Committee.

New stock assessments were available for walleye pollock, Pacific cod, thornyheads, Pacific ocean perch, and Atka mackerel. The Council approved rolling over 1995 ABCs and TACs for flatfish, sablefish, slope rockfish, pelagic shelf rockfish, and demersal rockfish as preliminary specifications.

The preliminary pollock ABC was reduced from 65,360 mt in 1995 to 52,700 mt for 1996. The approved TAC was set at the ABC level of 52,700 mt. The Plan Team evaluated the tradeoffs between increased yield and the risk of falling below the threshold to estimate an optimal fishing mortality rate. The optimal fishing mortality rate that simultaneously maximized yield and minimized risk was determined to be 0.3 (full selection value). This fishing mortality rate was associated with a yield of 50,000 mt for the Western and Central areas. The Team recommended that the stock assessment authors also examine an ABC based on the fishing mortality rate that produced a minimal (5%) probability of falling below the threshold spawner biomass level in the long term ( $F=0.2$ ). This exploitation strategy was chosen because of recent trends of poor recruitment of Gulf of Alaska pollock and ecosystem considerations and would result in an ABC of 34,000 mt for the Western and Central areas.

Increased pollock recruitment in the 1995 Shelikof Strait hydroacoustic survey (712,000 mt compared with 467,300 mt in 1994) and length frequency data from 1990-95 surveys show the progression of the strong 1988 year class through the population. The 1995 survey also observed the largest class of 1-year old fish (14% of the biomass) since the survey began. The average contribution of year-old fish had been less than 1%.

The 1996 Pacific cod ABC was set at 65,000 mt, down from 69,200 mt in 1995. The Plan Team had recommended a range of 65,000 - 110,000 mt, to be refined by the December Council meeting. The Council chose the more conservative estimate due to the continuing decline of the stock. The 1996 preliminary TAC was set at 65,000 mt.

The 1996 Pacific ocean perch ABC was set through the rebuilding plan. The Plan Team took an additional conservative measure, as outlined in their policy statement, to provide a buffer between ABC and the stock's overfishing level. The Council endorsed this methodology which reduced the preliminary ABC from 10,165 mt to 8,060 mt. The TAC, however, is calculated independent of the ABC level, and was determined through the

rebuilding plan to be 6,959 mt, up from 5,977 mt in 1995. The preliminary 1996 thornyhead ABC was reduced to 1,560 mt from 1,900 mt in 1995. The primary reason for the reduced ABC was the incorporation of an increase in size at 50% maturity in the assessment model. The 1996 preliminary TAC was set at 1,560 mt.

The Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits for halibut in the Gulf of Alaska are set by gear type and may be apportioned seasonally over the fishing year. For 1996, the Council recommended initial PSC apportionments based on 1995 rates shown below for the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries. A regulatory amendment to exempt the IFQ sablefish fishery from the halibut PSC requirement was approved earlier this year. The lowered PSC cap for hook and line gear includes 10 mt for demersal shelf rockfish fisheries in the Southeast Outside District, to be taken in the third trimester. Pot gear will be exempt from the halibut PSC limits. Halibut discard mortality rates recommended by IPHC staff were also released for public review (Table 4). Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

	<u>Trawl</u>		<u>Hook and Line</u>
1st quarter	600 mt (30%)	1st trimester	80 mt (26.7%)
2nd quarter	400 mt (20%)	2nd trimester	200 mt (66.7%)
3rd quarter	600 mt (30%)	3rd trimester	20 mt (6.7%)
4th quarter	400 mt (20%)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,000 mt</b>		<b>300 mt</b>

<u>Season</u>	<u>Shallow Water</u>	<u>Deep Water</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jan 20 - Mar 31	500 mt	100 mt	600 mt
Mar 31 - Jun 30	100 mt	300 mt	400 mt
Jun 30 - Sep 30	200 mt	400 mt	600 mt
Sep 30 - Dec 31		no apportionment	400 mt
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>800 mt</b>	<b>800 mt</b>	<b>2,000 mt</b>

### Groundfish Amendment Update

Halibut grid-sorting. A regulatory amendment for grid-sorting of Pacific halibut in non-pelagic trawl gear was approved for public review at the September Council meeting. The release of the draft will be delayed to incorporate analysis of an additional alternative that all halibut returned over the side within 20 minutes would not count toward the PCS limit. Contact Jane DiCosimo for the release date for the regulatory amendment.

Pacific ocean perch rebuilding plan. A plan amendment to revise the rebuilding plan for POP was released for public review by the Council. The draft plan amendment will be available November 8 from the Council office to incorporate revisions recommended by the SSC. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

Gulf of Alaska pollock trimester allocations. The Council will initially review an analysis at the December meeting. The amendment would combine the third and fourth quarter allocations and release 50% of the Gulf pollock quota on September 1. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.



## Comprehensive Rationalization Program

### License Limitation

The Council was asked to clarify their intent on a few components of the Groundfish and Crab License Limitation Program approved in June. Clarification of these issues was required so that the final analysis of the Council's program can proceed and NMFS can write the proposed regulations for submittal to the Secretary of Commerce. Results of those clarifications are listed in the sections that follow.

Definition of Current Vessel Owners: The Council confirmed their intent to issue licenses to the current owner of a vessel as of June 17, 1995. The owner as of June 17, 1995, would have to be eligible to document a fishing vessel in the U.S. Further, the Council advised NMFS to recognize written transfers or reservations of catch history when issuing licenses, to the extent practicable.

The Council also clarified their intent regarding vessel transfers which did not specify the disposition of catch history and fishing rights: if the vessel was sold on or before June 17, 1995, the catch history and license qualification would be transferred along with the vessel. If the sale occurred after June 17, 1995, the catch history and license qualification would be retained by the seller of the vessel. Again, these are the standards which will be applied in the absence of written agreements which specify disposition of fishing rights.

In any case in which there is a dispute concerning the disposition of fishing history or license qualification, NMFS will not issue a license until the dispute is resolved by the parties involved.

Lost Vessels: The Council reconfirmed their June decisions regarding lost vessels. Specifically, the Council intended that vessels qualify for groundfish endorsements between January 1, 1992 and June 17, 1995 and crab endorsements between January 1, 1992 and December 31, 1994. Several letters had been received asking the Council to reconsider these dates because the moratorium allows vessel owners two years after the date of implementation to qualify for moratorium permits. It was the Council's feeling that enough time had elapsed since the final decision on the moratorium that vessel owners had ample time to re-enter the fishery and earn endorsements under the Groundfish and Crab License Limitation Program.

The Council also clarified its action in June regarding hardship provisions in the License Program for vessels which were lost, sunk or otherwise out of the fishery following qualifying landings in the Base Qualifying Period. These vessels, or their replacements, may qualify for an area endorsement with one landing in the Endorsement Qualifying Period, but only if the vessel could not have otherwise qualified.

Crab Crossover Vessels and the Relationship Between Base and Endorsement Qualifying Periods: The Council clarified its intent regarding "crab crossover" vessels; BSAI crab landings in the base qualifying period would be treated in the same manner as BSAI groundfish landings. For example, endorsements for GOA groundfish can only be earned if the vessel also had base period landings of GOA groundfish. A summary of the relationship between landings in the base and endorsement qualifying periods and eligibility of vessels to receive area endorsements is shown in the table below.

**Relationship Between Base and Endorsement Qualifying Periods and Endorsement Eligibility**

Participation in the Base Qualifying Period	Participation in the Endorsement Qualifying Period	Endorsement Eligibility
BSAI Groundfish or Crab	BSAI Groundfish	BSAI
BSAI Groundfish or Crab	BSAI and GOA Groundfish	BSAI
BSAI Groundfish or Crab	GOA Groundfish	GOA
GOA Groundfish	GOA Groundfish	GOA
GOA Groundfish	BSAI and GOA Groundfish	GOA
GOA Groundfish	BSAI Groundfish	BSAI
BSAI Groundfish or Crab and GOA Groundfish	BSAI Groundfish	BSAI
BSAI Groundfish or Crab and GOA Groundfish	GOA Groundfish	GOA
BSAI Groundfish or Crab and GOA Groundfish	BSAI and GOA Groundfish	BSAI & GOA
Vessel is < 60 ' and no base period landings	BSAI and/or GOA Groundfish with pot and/or jig gear.	One FMP Subarea Only
Vessel is < 60 ' with BSAI crab landings	BSAI and/or GOA Groundfish with pot and/or jig gear.	Choice -- See below.
These vessels may choose to qualify under the rules for "crab crossover" vessels or as "pot/jig" vessels. Choosing to qualify as "crab crossover" vessels will mean they qualify for only BSAI or GOA, but not both. Choosing to qualify as "pot/jig" vessels will mean selecting a single subarea endorsement.		

**Landings in State Waters:** The Council reaffirmed their intent to allow landings which were made in State waters to count towards qualification in the license program. NMFS had asked the Council to clarify this issue because a federal license will not be required to continue fishing in state waters.

**Western Gulf Minimum Landings Requirements:** The Council corrected an error in the June Newsletter regarding Western Gulf landings requirements in the Endorsement Qualifying Period (EQP). The one landing requirement during the EQP was actually meant to only apply to catcher vessels; catcher/processors from 60-125' would still be subject to landings in two of four EQP years or 4 landings in 1995. The EQP is the period between 1/1/92 through 6/17/95. The corrected landings requirements are shown in the table below.

**Minimum Landings Requirements in the Endorsement Qualifying Period for the Western Gulf**

Vessel Type	0 - 59' LOA	60' - 124' LOA	125' + LOA
Catcher Vessel	1 landing	1 landing	1 landing in 2 of 4 EQP years.
Catcher Processor	1 landing	1 landing in 2 of 4 EQP years, or 4 landings in 1995.	1 landing in 2 of 4 EQP years.



### BSAI Pollock IFQ Program

The Council heard a report from staff on preliminary work being conducted relative to the BSAI pollock IFQ proposal initiated in June. This proposal also included an option for individual bycatch quotas (IBQs) for all other BSAI directed fisheries. No specific action was taken by the Council at this meeting. Analyses, primarily qualitative at this time, will continue this fall with this issue likely scheduled for further discussion and direction at the January 1996 meeting. IBQs will be discussed separately at the December 1995 meeting. Staff contacts: Marcus Hartley or Darrell Brannan.

### Research Plan/Observer Program

In April, the North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan (user fee program to fund observer coverage) was put on hold by the Council pending resolution of several areas of concern. At this meeting, the Council received reports from NMFS staff and the Observer Oversight Committee (OOC) relative to these issues, along with substantial public testimony which included an alternative to the Research Plan utilizing a third party, umbrella organization. The Council felt that this alternative needed further development and consideration before a commitment was made to the existing Research Plan. This alternative will be examined under both the fee concept and the pay-as-you-go concept. The Council's OOC will help flesh out this alternative system, likely meeting in late October, with the Council scheduled to take action on this issue at the December meeting.

In the interim, it is expected that fees will continue to be collected through 1995 and held in the Observer Fund, pending the Council's final action in December. Existing, pay-as-you-go coverage requirements will be in place for 1996, with no fee assessment occurring in 1996. Full implementation of the Research Plan is still possible for 1997, if the Council chooses this direction in December. Staff contact is Chris Oliver.

### Council Approves Pollock CDQ Apportionments for 1996-1998

Six organizations applied for pollock community development quotas (CDQs) in the Bering Sea and Aleutians for 1996-1998. These same applicants were thoroughly reviewed by the State of Alaska, which recommended percentages for the coming three years. These are shown below compared to the percentages for 1992-1993 and 1994-1995:

	1992-1993	1994-1995	1996-1998
Coastal Villages Fishing Cooperative	27%	27%	25%
Norton Sound Economic Development Corp.	20%	20%	22%
Bristol Bay Economic Development Corp.	20%	20%	20%
Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Dev. Assn.	18%	18%	16%
Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn.	10%	8%	4%
Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Assn.	5%	7%	13%

The Council approved these new percentages and will forward that recommendation to the Secretary of Commerce for final approval. The pollock CDQ program is tied to the inshore-offshore allocation three-year extension which is now under Secretarial review. A final decision by the Secretary is scheduled for December 1, 1995.

## Tentative Agenda Items for December 1995 and January 1996 Meetings

Over the next couple of meetings, the Council will likely be addressing many issues which were not addressed at this past meeting as well as continue discussions of other items. In an effort to facilitate planning by the industry and public, we have divided the major issues up between the December 1995 and January 1996 meetings. The tentative agenda, subject to Council approval, are as follows:

### December 1995 meeting

- \* Halibut catch sharing plan for Area 4 - final action.
  - \* Individual Bycatch Quotas (IBQs): report on analytical outline; further direction from Council.
  - \* Observer Program: final Council decision on Research Plan (fee program).
  - \* Improved Retention/Utilization: analytical outline and further Council direction.
  - \* Final groundfish specifications (TACs and PSC apportionments).
  - \* Groundfish amendments:
    - initial review of pollock trimester allocations in the GOA.
    - final review of amendment to POP rebuilding plan.
    - discuss BSAI Pacific cod gear allocations.
- 

### January 1996 meeting

- \* Sablefish and halibut IFQ program.
- \* Comprehensive Rationalization Program:
  - report on license limitation program.
  - discussion and Council direction on BSAI pollock IFQ program.
  - report on skipper license program.
- \* Halibut Charter Boat issue: initial review of analyses, if available.
- \* Council operations.
- \* Crab management: consultation with Board of Fish and discussion of rebuilding issues.
- \* Scallop management: review Magnuson Act changes and status of Amendment 1.
- \* Groundfish Amendments:
  - discussion of Tanner crab PSCs and inseason adjustments.
  - review of pollock scale weight measurements (review proposed rule-making).
  - initial review of forage fish amendment (prohibit directed fisheries).
  - initial review of overfishing definition amendments.
  - final review of grid sorting amendment.
  - final review of pollock trimester allocations in GOA.
- \* Pacific Pelagics: review management alternatives.

### Upcoming Meetings

1. *Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee* (PNCIAC) meeting will be held at the Leif Erickson Lodge Hall, 2245 NW 57th (Ballard) in Seattle, October 16-17, 1995. First day, research, surveys and management presentations and discussions with industry; second day, review of Board of Fisheries proposals in preparation for March 1996 BOF Shellfish meeting.
2. *IFQ Industry Implementation Team* meeting at the North Pacific Observer Training Center, 211 W. 7th Street, Anchorage, November 1-2, 1995.
3. *Groundfish Plan Team* meetings at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, November 13-18, 1995.
4. *IFQ Workshop* at Pacific Fishing '95 in Seattle, November 16-18, 1995.
5. *Observer Oversight Committee* will meet October 26-27 in Seattle.

### TENTATIVE Council Meeting Schedule through 1997

	January (week of)	April (week of)	June (week of)	September (week of)	December (week of)
<b>1995</b>					4th/Anchorage
<b>1996</b>	8th/Anchorage	15th/Anchorage	<b>10th/Portland*</b>	16th/Sitka	9th/Anchorage
<b>1997</b>	6th/Anchorage	14th/Anchorage	16th/Kodiak	22nd/Seattle	8th/Anchorage

\* Changed from earlier published date - switched Portland meeting date from week of 17th to week of the 10th.

Table 1

**DRAFT**

**Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish  
Initial 1996 Council Recommendations and Apportionments (mt)**

Species	Area	Biomass	OFL	ABC	TAC	ITAC
Pollock	EBS	8,080,000	1,500,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,062,500
	"A" season				45%	478,125
	"B" season				55%	584,375
	AI	189,000	60,400	56,600	56,600	48,110
	Bogoslof	1,020,000	102,000	102,000	1,000	850
Pacific cod	BS/AI	1,620,000	390,000	328,000	250,000	212,500
Yellowfin sole	BS/AI	2,770,000	319,000	277,000	190,000	161,500
Greenland turbot	BS/AI	150,000	27,200	7,000	7,000	5,950
	BS				67%	3,987
	AI				33%	1,963
Arrowtooth	BS/AI	625,000	138,000	113,000	10,227	8,693
Rock sole	BS/AI	2,330,000	388,000	347,000	60,000	51,000
Flathead sole	BS/AI	725,000	167,000	138,000	30,000	25,500
Other flatfish	BS/AI	677,000	137,000	117,000	19,540	16,609
Sablefish	EBS	16,500		1,600	1,600	1,360
	AI	13,900		2,200	2,200	1,870
	BS/AI		4,900			
POP complex						
True POP	EBS	47,100	2,910	1,850	1,850	1,573
Other POP	EBS	29,700	1,400	1,400	1,260	1,071
True POP	AI	252,000	15,900	10,500	10,500	8,925
Sharp/Northern	AI	94,500	5,670	5,670	5,103	4,338
Short/Rougheye	AI	45,000	1,220	1,220	1,098	933
Other rockfish	EBS	7,300	365	365	329	280
	AI	15,500	770	770	693	589
Atka mackerel	AI	578,000	164,000	138,000	80,000	68,000
	Western			71,600	41,520	35,292
	Central			19,300	11,200	9,520
	Eastern			47,100	27,280	23,188
Squid	BS/AI	n/a	3,110	3,110	1,000	850
Other species	BS/AI	682,000	136,000	27,600	20,000	17,000
<b>BS/AI TOTAL</b>		<b>19,967,500</b>	<b>3,564,845</b>	<b>2,929,885</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>1,700,000</b>

EBS = eastern Bering Sea  
 BS/AI = Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands  
 BS = Bering Sea  
 AI = Aleutian Islands

OFL = overfishing level  
 ABC = acceptable biological catch  
 TAC = total allowable catch  
 ITAC = recommended TAC less the 15% reserve.

Table 2

**Initial 1996 BSAI Trawl Fisheries PSC  
Apportionments and Seasonal Allowances**

Fishery Group	Halibut	Herring	Red King Crab	C. bairdi	C. bairdi
	Mortality Cap (mt)	(mt)	(animals) Zone 1	Zone 1	Zone 2
<b>Yellowfin sole</b>	790	315	50,000	225,000	1,525,000
January 20 - August 2	295				
August 3 - December 31	495				
<b>Rocksole/other flatfish</b>	730		110,000	475,000	510,000
January 20 - March 29	453				
March 30 - June 28	190				
June 29 - December 31	87				
<b>Turbot/sablefish/ Arrowtooth</b>	0				5,000
<b>Rockfish</b>	110	8			10,000
Jan. 1 - Mar. 29	30				
Mar. 30 - June 28	60				
June 29 - Dec. 31	20				
<b>Pacific cod</b>	1,590	24	10,000	225,000	260,000
January 20 - June 28	1,487				
June 29 - December 31	103				
<b>Pollockmackerel/o.species</b>	555	169	30,000	75,000	690,000
January 20 - April 15	455				
April 16 - December 31	100				
<b>Pelagic Trawl Pollock</b>		1,345			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,375</b>	<b>1,861</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>

**Initial 1996 Recommendations for Non-Trawl PSC Bycatch Allowances**

Fishery Group	Halibut Mortality (mt)	Seasonal Apportion (mt)
<b>Pacific Cod</b>	725	
Jan 1 - April 30		475
May 1 - August 31		40
Sept. 1 - Dec. 31		210
<b>Other Non-Trawl*</b>	175	
<b>Groundfish Pot</b>	Exempt	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>900</b>	

\* Includes Hook & Line sablefish, rockfish, and Greenland turbot, respectively.

**TABLE 3. GULF OF ALASKA GROUNDFISH ABCs and TACs**  
**'Initial 1996 North Pacific Fishery Management Council Specifications (mt)**

**DRAFT**

Species	Area	1995			COUNCIL	COUNCIL
		ABC	TAC	Catch*	1996 ABC	1996 TAC
Pollock	W (61)	30,380	30,380	22,239	24,500	24,500
	C (62)	15,310	15,310	11,928	12,500	12,500
	C (63)	16,310	16,310	12,265	13,000	13,000
	E	3,360	3,360	3,353	2,700	2,700
	Total	65,360	65,360	49,785	52,700	52,700
Pacific Cod	W	20,100	20,100	22,204	18,850	18,850
	C	45,650	45,650	40,683	42,900	42,900
	E	3,450	3,450	1,121	3,250	3,250
	Total	69,200	69,200	64,008	65,000	65,000
Flatfish, Deep Water	W	670	460	48	670	460
	C	8,150	7,500	1,713	8,150	7,500
	E	5,770	3,120	190	5,770	3,120
	Total	14,590	11,080	1,951	14,590	11,080
Rex Sole	W	1,350	800	217	1,350	800
	C	7,050	7,050	3,311	7,050	7,050
	E	2,810	1,840	121	2,810	1,840
	Total	11,210	9,690	3,649	11,210	9,690
Flathead Sole	W	26,280	2000	569	26,280	2000
	C	23,140	5000	1,267	23,140	5000
	E	2,850	2740	13	2,850	2740
	Total	52,270	9,740	1,849	52,270	9,740
Flatfish, Shallow Water	W	8,880	4,500	336	8,880	4,500
	C	17,170	12,950	3,377	17,170	12,950
	E	2,740	1,180	3	2,740	1,180
	Total	28,790	18,630	3,716	28,790	18,630
Arrowtooth	W	28,400	5,000	1,344	28,400	5,000
	C	141,290	25,000	12,526	141,290	25,000
	E	28,440	5,000	670	28,440	5,000
	Total	198,130	35,000	14,540	198,130	35,000
Sablefish	W	2,600	2,600	1,309	2,600	2,600
	C	8,600	8,600	6,124	8,600	8,600
	W. Yakutat	4,100	4,100	3,148	4,100	4,100
	E. Yak./SEO	6,200	6,200		6,200	6,200
	Total	21,500	21,500	10,581	21,500	21,500
Pacific Ocean Perch	W	1,180	1,014	1,420	1,460	1,260
	C	3,130	2,702	2,433	3,860	3,333
	E	2,220	1,914	966	2,740	2,366
	Total	6,530	5,630	4,819	8,060	rebuilding6,959
Shortraker/Rougheye	W	170	170	196	170	170
	C	1,210	1,210	1,162	1,210	1,210
	E	530	530	508	530	530
	Total	1,910	1,910	1,866	1,910	1,910
Rockfish, Other Slope	W	180	57	28	180	180
	C	1,170	368	564	1,170	1,170
	E	5,760	1,810	368	5,760	5,760
	Total	7,110	2,235	960	7,110	7,110
Rockfish, Northern	W	640	640	111	640	640
	C	4,610	4,610	3,746	4,610	4,610
	E	20	20	32	20	20
	Total	5,270	5,270	3,889	5,270	5,270
Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf	W	910	910	65	910	910
	C	3,200	3,200	1,573	3,200	3,200
	E	1,080	1,080	355	1,080	1,080
	Total	5,190	5,190	1,993	5,190	5,190
Rockfish, Demersal Shelf	SEO	580	580	168	580	580
Thornyhead Atka Mackerel	Gulfwide	1,900	1,900	905	1,560	1,560
	W		2,310	320	2,310	2,310
	C		925	85	925	925
	E		5	0	5	5
	Total	3,240	3,240	405	3,240	3,240
Other Species	Gulfwide	NA	13,308	3,240	NA	NA
<b>GULF OF ALASKA</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>492,780</b>	<b>279,463</b>	<b>168,324</b>	<b>477,110</b>	<b>248,200</b>

\* Catch through August 25, 1995



**Table 4. Trend in halibut discard mortality rates during 1990 through 1994, and preliminary recommendations for discard mortality rates to use in monitoring halibut bycatch mortality in 1996.**

Region/Target	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1993-94 Average	Used in 1995	Recommendation for 1996
<b>BSAI TRAWL</b>									
MWT Pollock	81	81	87	90	82	n.a.	86	89	86
Atka mackerel	69	73	62	56	66	n.a.	61	59	61
Rock sole/Oflats <sup>1</sup>	58	68	78	72	75	n.a.	74	75	74
Pacific cod	68	60	67	62	64	n.a.	63	65	63
BT Pollock	65	59	76	78	76	n.a.	77	77	77
Rockfish	62	54	59	78	75	n.a.	77	69	77
Yellowfin sole <sup>1</sup>	73	74	77	75	73	n.a.	74	76	74
Arrowtooth	57	41	-	-	-	n.a.	49	49 <sup>2</sup>	49
Grnld. turbot	58	38	-	-	63	n.a.	51	48 <sup>2</sup>	51
<b>GOA TRAWL</b>									
MWT Pollock	63	74	69	63	72	n.a.	68	66	68
Rockfish	61	65	69	62	53	n.a.	58	66	58
BT Poll. at-sea	65	56	67	81	(57) <sup>3</sup>	n.a.	-	74	-
BT Poll. shoreside	65	56	72	54	(57) <sup>3</sup>	n.a.	-	63	-
Shallwtr. flatfish	62	61	62	66	62	n.a.	64	64	64
Pacific cod	61	55	59	56	58	n.a.	57	58	57
Deepwtr. flatfish	57	52	59	59	52	n.a.	56	59	56
<b>BSAI H&amp;L</b>									
Pacific cod	17	21	18	18	15	11.5 <sup>4</sup>	13	11.5	13
Sablefish	13	18	19	14	39	n.a.	27	17	27
Rockfish	18	29	-	-	-	n.a.	24	24 <sup>2</sup>	24
Grnld. turbot	-	-	17	21	14	n.a.	18	19	18
<b>GOA H&amp;L</b>									
Pacific cod	13	17	30	9	16	n.a.	13	20	13
Sablefish	11	28	23	26	21	n.a.	24	25	24
Rockfish	15	20	-	-	17	n.a.	19	18 <sup>2</sup>	19
<b>BSAI POT</b>									
Pacific cod	7	3	12	4	9	n.a.	7	8	7
<b>GOA POT</b>									
Pacific cod	10	5	16	20	15	n.a.	18	18	18

<sup>1</sup>During 1990 and 1991, "Other flatfish" was grouped with yellowfin sole. Since 1992, the target has been grouped with rock sole.

<sup>2</sup>Average of 1990 and 1991, the two most recent years.

<sup>3</sup>The DMR of 57% shown for GOA BT pollock represents the entire fishery. Additional analyses will develop the split between at-sea and shoreside deliveries and will be distributed in November.

<sup>4</sup>From Williams and Sadorus (1995).