

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

News and Notes



David Benton, Chairman
Clarence Pautzke, Executive Director

605 West 4th Avenue, Ste 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252
Phone (907) 271-2809
Fax (907) 271-2817

Volume 6-01

Visit our webpage at www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc

December 2001

BSAI Crab Rationalization

At the December 2001 Council meeting, staff updated the Council on the status of the analysis of the crab rationalization program. The Council provided staff with clarification of several issues. In addition, the Council substantially revised the cooperative alternatives, the options for skipper and crew quota shares, and the regionalization program alternatives. The Council also stressed the need for adequate biological information in the February initial review draft of the document.

Two new cooperative alternatives were accepted by the Council for analysis. A proposal offered by ADF&G includes allocations to both the harvesting and processing sectors based on historical participation in the fisheries. Vessels would be permitted to join voluntary cooperatives with any other vessels. Each cooperative would receive the allocation of each of its member vessels for all fisheries. These multi-species vessel cooperatives would be permitted to deliver harvests to processors with unused processing allocations. Trading would be permitted by both sectors. Vessels would be permitted to move freely between cooperatives.

Under the second cooperative option, a vessel would be eligible to join a single cooperative associated with the processor that it delivered the most pounds of crab from a single fishery during the qualifying period. A cooperative would receive the allocation of each member vessel from all fisheries. Several different alternatives are included in this program that would constrain movement of vessels between cooperatives and the delivery of crab to the associated processor to varying degrees.

The alternatives for skipper or crew allocations were modified substantially. The alternatives include an initial allocation of skipper/crew class quota shares that require the owner of the quota shares to be onboard the vessel harvesting the shares. Under the alternatives allocations would be based either on landings or on a point system under which crew are awarded points based on their participation in the fisheries. The point system would be based on the point system used for limited entry in the dungeness, king and tanner crab fisheries in Southeast Alaska.

The alternatives for regionalization were modified to include an option that would link allocations of processor shares to

communities where the underlying processing history occurred. The option would require community consent prior to relocating processing activity to another community. The option contemplates a payment from the processor to the community intended, in part, to compensate for lost tax revenues from the loss of processing activity in the community.

This issue is still scheduled for initial review in February. At the April meeting the Council will select its preferred program. A rationalization program, which requires Congressional authorization, would then become the preferred alternative in the crab FMP EIS being developed for Council approval in the fall of 2002. A copy of the full, revised Council motion on crab rationalization (showing changes from the June 2001 Council motion) can be found at the Council website. Council staff contact is Mark Fina.

Executive Director Heads to Research Board

After 21 years with the Council staff, 14 of those as Executive Director, Clarence Pautzke will be leaving at the end of December to take over as Executive Director of the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB), starting January 1st. The NPRB will be based in Anchorage and will administer substantial research funds in the North Pacific as well as coordinate with other funding sources to ensure an integrated marine research program that will help resource managers maintain the North Pacific as one of the most productive ecosystems in existence. A news release announcing Clarence's appointment is under **ATTACHMENT 1**. Please join us at the February meeting at a gathering to recognize his many years of service to the Council.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2	DPGSEIS, AFA, Halibut Subsistence, Ecosystem Committee
3	CDQ Program, IFQ Program, Steller Sea Lions
4	BSAI Groundfish Specs, GOA Groundfish Specs
5	Advisory Committee Appts., Seabird Avoidance, EFH Committee, 3 Meeting Outlook
6	Three Meeting Outlook, Meetings through 2005
ATTACHMENTS: 1. North Pacific Research Board Press Release 2. Council Motion on Subsistence 3. BSAI Catch Specifications 4. GOA Catch Specifications 5. Survival Craft Installation 6. Three Meeting Outlook	

Draft Programmatic Groundfish SEIS

The NMFS recently published a Notice of Intent to revise the Draft Programmatic Groundfish SEIS in 2002 and 2003. It will be restructured from "...single-focus alternatives to more comprehensive, multiple-component alternatives." NMFS will work with the Council and stakeholders in restructuring the document and defining the alternatives. NMFS will hold public meetings in January to discuss preliminary alternatives for analysis which are being developed by NMFS Council and staff. The January 22, 2002 Programmatic SEIS meeting will be held in Building 9, Room A/B, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way, N.E., Seattle, Washington. The January 24, 2002 Programmatic SEIS meeting will be held in Room #154, in the Federal Courthouse located at 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska. Additionally, there will be a third meeting in Bethel, Alaska on the 25th. All three meetings will begin at 9am. Details and agendas for the meetings will be posted on the website. At its February Council meeting, the Council will discuss and approve alternatives for analysis. Selection of a preferred alternative would occur as early as June, but possibly in October. Staff contact is Dave Witherell.

American Fisheries Act

The Council had several items on the December agenda but did not address them due to the press of other, priority agenda items. The draft EIS and Proposed Rule to implement provisions of the AFA (Congressional provisions as well as those developed by the Council over the past three years) were provided to the Council and are available from NMFS or the Council. The Proposed Rule will be under Secretarial review as soon as it is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER (expected by December 17), and the public comment period to NMFS on the Proposed rule will run through January. A report on potential extension of the AFA beyond 2004 was scheduled for the Council, but recent Congressional actions have removed the sunset date for the AFA such that it will be in place unless and until amended by Congress. Council adjustments to certain aspects of the AFA, including sideboard measures and co-op structure, are still allowed.

Initial end-of-year co-op reports, as well as adjustments to co-op agreements, were made available to the Council and can be obtained through the Council offices. Final end-of-year co-op reports will be reviewed by the Council at the February meeting. The AFA Report to Congress will be finalized between now and February to include information obtained on catcher vessel ownership structure, will be distributed to the Council, and it is anticipated that the Council will approve its submission to Congress at the February meeting. Contact for AFA issues is Chris Oliver.

Halibut Subsistence

In October 2000, the Council took final action to define halibut subsistence fishing in Alaska. Those regulations are being drafted for implementation in 2002, if approved by the Secretary. As part of that previous action, the Council requested that the Alaska Board of Fisheries consult with the public and forward its recommendations for changes affecting: 1) legal gear; 2) daily limits; 3) reporting requirements; 4) customary and traditional use areas of tribes and rural communities; and 5) non-rural area definitions for halibut fishing areas in Areas 2C, Area 3, and Area 4. In June 2001, the Board presented its recommendations and the Council initiated an analysis for potential changes affecting: 1) gear limits, 2) stacking of gear limits, 3) harvest (daily) limits, 4) proxy fishing, and 5) changing the Cook Inlet non-subsistence fishing area southern boundary.

At this meeting, the Council revised Alternative 2 to clarify the Board's recommendations, adopted a third alternative to examine modifications to the Board's recommendations, and added a fourth alternative to allow legal-sized halibut to be retained for subsistence purposes and not counted against a CDQ account in Areas 4B, 4C, and 4E (in addition to Area 4D, where it has previously been recommended). The revised suite of alternatives is attached as **ATTACHMENT 2**.

The Council is requesting written and oral public comment on the specific elements of the alternatives when it takes final action at the April Council meeting. It will reconvene its previous Halibut Subsistence Committee to develop a range of options for developing a *community harvest permit system* and alternative *proxy* options to the State and Federal proxy systems, which reflect customary and traditional harvests and distribution patterns of halibut in Alaska Native villages and other communities. The meeting is tentatively scheduled in Anchorage for February 19, 2002, and is open to the public. The draft analysis is on the Council's website. The public review draft will be available in early March. Final action is scheduled for April 2002. Contact Jane DiCosimo for more information.

<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/Committees/Halibut%20Issues/SubsistenceII.pdf>

Ecosystem Committee

The Council's newly reconstituted Ecosystems Committee, chaired by Dr. Fluharty, will play a major role in advising the Council on how to move toward ecosystems-based management. Members of the Committee include: Dave Fluharty, Stosh Anderson, Dorothy Childers, Tony DeGange, Dan Falvey, George Hunt, Patricia Livingston, and Donna Parker. The Committee held a brief organizational meeting to discuss the programmatic groundfish SEIS, development of an ecosystem framework to evaluate management actions, and other charges for the Committee. A summary of the meeting is available on the Council's website. Staff contact is Dave Witherell.

Community Development Quota Program

4D/4E Halibut CDQ Fishery

The Council took final action on a regulatory amendment to make two revisions to regulations governing the Area 4 halibut CDQ fishery. First, the Council increased the Area 4E trip limit from 6,000 to 10,000 pounds, with a provision to lift the trip limit annually after September 1. The purpose of the trip limit is to maintain a small boat halibut fishery in western Alaska and encourage the development of regional halibut processing facilities. Relaxing the trip limit after September 1 is intended to allow the use of larger vessels that are better suited for operating in adverse fall weather conditions but that are economically constrained from participating in the Area 4 halibut CDQ fishery by the trip limit. Second, the Council recommended allowing the harvest of Area 4D halibut CDQ in Area 4E and allowing amounts of Area 4D halibut CDQ that had been transferred to Area 4E to be transferred back to Area 4D. This change is intended to allow additional harvesting opportunities for the small boat halibut CDQ fishery in western Alaska, while maintaining the CDQ groups' flexibility regarding their harvest of Area 4D halibut.

CDQ Policy amendment

The Council also reviewed a draft analysis of nine issues related to proposed revisions to the BSAI FMP (Amendment 71) and NMFS regulations governing the CDQ Program allocation process and government oversight of the economic development aspects of the program. The Council recommended that several alternatives and options be added to the analysis, including (1) a NMFS administrative process that would include the evaluation criteria in NMFS regulations, but would not include an administrative appeals process; (2) a 10-year CDQ allocation cycle (in addition to the 2-year, 3-year, and 5-year cycles included in the analysis); (3) pollock CDQ allocations based 50 percent on the population of the communities represented by the group and 50 percent on the application of the evaluation criteria; (4) a three-stage intervention process if the State of Alaska believes that a CDQ group is not meeting performance standards; and (5) additional alternatives for how much the groups may spend on non-fisheries related projects. In addition, the Council requested that staff expand the discussion in several sections of the draft analysis. The Council also agreed to make changes suggested by staff, which primarily improved the organization of the document, clarified intent, and removed redundant alternatives. Analysts will continue to work on the draft analysis and provide the Council with a status report at its February meeting. The draft analysis will be sent out for public review prior to the April 2002 meeting. The Council intends to schedule final action at the April 2002 meeting. The issues and alternatives approved for analysis and the initial draft analysis are on the Council website. Staff contact is Nicole Kimball.

GOA Community IFQ Purchase Program

The Council and the SSC reviewed the draft analysis of proposed revisions to the Gulf FMP (Amendment 66) and NMFS regulations governing the commercial halibut and sablefish IFQ Program. The proposed action would allow eligible Gulf of Alaska communities to purchase commercial halibut and sablefish catcher vessel QS in Areas 2C, 3A, and 3B for lease to community residents, with restrictions as developed by the Council and approved by the Secretary of Commerce. Currently, only persons who were originally issued catcher vessel QS or who qualify as IFQ crew members by working 150 days on the harvesting crew in any U.S. commercial fishery are eligible to purchase catcher vessel (B, C, and D category) quota share. The AP was unable to address this agenda item for lack of time.

The Council directed staff to address the SSC's concerns, for incorporation in the next draft of the analysis. The SSC recommended that staff expand the discussion in several sections of the draft analysis, primarily to clarify the intent of the action, address impacts to other users of the resource, and further develop the discussion of net benefits. In addition, the Council requested that staff work with the State and NMFS to resolve issues pertaining to a potential role for the State in administering the program. The Council also determined that an AP review was necessary before releasing the document for public review. Staff will continue work on the draft analysis, with initial review rescheduled for February and final action scheduled for April or June. The alternatives and options approved for analysis and the initial draft analysis are on the Council website. Staff contact is Nicole Kimball.

Steller Sea Lions

The Council received a report on the Board of Fisheries response to the Council's October action on fishery management changes designed to protect Steller sea lions. Essentially, the Board delegated authority to ADF&G to mirror federal regulations adopted for pollock, cod, and mackerel fisheries. In addition, haulouts of Cape Barnabas and Caton Island would be open to fishing with pot gear within 0-3 nm, and the season for Pacific cod in the Chignik area would begin on March 1. These regulations in sunset on December 31, 2002. The Board's motion also requested the Council to include these options in the trailing amendment package to be considered by the Council for possible implementation in 2003. The Council requested that these issues be discussed at the joint Board-Council meeting scheduled for February 5, 2002. Staff contact is Dave Witherell.

BSAI Groundfish Specifications

The Council adopted final groundfish specifications for the 2002 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish fisheries, including Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), Total Allowable Catch (TAC), and Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits and apportionments. The Council recommendations for ABCs, TACs, and apportionments are listed in **ATTACHMENT 3**. Abundance of Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish is high overall, but flatfish stocks are projected to decline in the future due to poor recruitment. None of the groundfish stocks is overfished or approaching an overfished condition.

The Council recommended that TAC levels for many species be set well below allowable ABC levels. Lower TACs were set for pollock, Pacific cod, yellowfin sole, Greenland turbot, arrowtooth flounder, rock sole, flathead sole, Alaska plaice, other flatfish, and other species.

The pollock stock in the Eastern Bering Sea is at near record high levels. Projected 2002 biomass of age 3+ pollock in the Eastern Bering Sea stock was estimated at nearly 10 million mt. Biomass has remained strong with recruitment of a strong 1996 year-class. The maximum allowable ABC, based on an MSY fishing rate, is 2.11 million mt. The Council recommended a more conservative 1.485 million mt TAC for Eastern Bering Sea pollock. The pollock TAC for the Aleutian Islands area was set at bycatch amounts only (1,000 mt), and 100 mt for the Bogoslof district.

The other red rockfish complex was split into separate species to reduce the potential for overfishing. Again this year, the Council recommended separate ABCs for northern rockfish, shorttraker rockfish, and roughey rockfish. The Council also recommended that sharpchin rockfish, which were previously included in the other red rockfish complex, be moved into the other rockfish complex.

Alaska plaice was also split out from the other flatfish category and assigned a separate ABC and TAC. The Council recommended a 12,000 mt TAC for plaice, and a 3,000 mt TAC for the remaining other flatfish complex.

Recommended apportionments of prohibited species catch (PSC) limits for 2002 for trawl fisheries and non-trawl fisheries also are listed in **ATTACHMENT 3**. PSC limits for herring, red king crab, bairdi crab, and opilio crab are based on biomass. For 2002 trawl fisheries, crab PSC limits will be 97,000 red king crab, 980,000 bairdi crab in Zone 1, 2,970,000 bairdi crab in Zone 2, 4,350,000 opilio crab, and 3,675 mt of halibut mortality. The Council again recommended that pot gear, jig gear, and sablefish hook-and-line fisheries be exempt from the non-trawl PSC program for 2002. Rollovers of unused PSC would be allowed. The Council further recommended that the amount for arrowtooth flounder non-specified reserve for CDQ be increased from 15% to 50%. Staff contact is David Witherell.

GOA Groundfish Specifications

The Council approved the 2001 Gulf of Alaska Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report and recommended final catch specifications for the 2002 groundfish fisheries as listed in **ATTACHMENT 4**. Overall, the status of the stocks is declining. The sum of the recommended ABCs is 394,780 mt, a decrease of 12 percent from the 2001 ABC of 447,710 mt, principally due to a decline in pollock (-45%) and Pacific cod (-15%) stocks. The sum of the 2002 TACs is 237,890 mt, a decrease of 17 percent from 285,994 mt in 2001. The Pacific cod quota was reduced nearly 24 percent to account for the State waters fishery. The Council also adopted a harvest policy that uses the average of the last three trawl surveys instead of just the last survey in making the area apportionments for the cod ABC and TAC. Neither the Plan Team nor the SSC objected to the reapportionment and will reexamine this issue next year. The Council adopted the following prohibited species catch limits for 2002.

2002 Trawl

1 st Period	Jan 20-April 1	550 mt (27.5%)
2 nd Period	April 1-July 1	400 mt (20 %)
3 rd Period	July 1 – Sept 1	600 mt (30 %)
4 th Period	Sept 1- Oct 1	150 mt (7.5%)
5 th Period	Oct 1 – Dec 31	300 mt (15%)
TOTAL		2000 mt

2002 Hook and Line

1 st Trimester	Jan 1-June 10	250 mt (83%)
2 nd Trimester	Jun 10-Sep 1	5 mt (1.7%)
3 rd Trimester	Sep 1 – Dec 31	35 mt (3.3%)
DSR	Jan 1- Dec 31	10 mt (3.3%)
TOTAL		300 mt

2002 Trawl Fishery Categories

Season	Shallow Water	Deep Water	Total
Jan 20 -April 1	450 mt	100 mt	550 mt
Apr 1-Jul 1	100 mt	300 mt	400 mt
Jul 1-Sept 1	200 mt	400 mt	600 mt
Sept 1-Oct 1	150 mt	any rollover	150 mt
Oct 1-Dec 31	no apportionment		300 mt
TOTAL			2000 mt

The Council took no action to change the assumed halibut discard mortality rates for the 2001-2003 BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries which were approved in 2000. Those rates were based on a 10-year average as recommended by IPHC staff. The Council continued to set annual rates for the BSAI CDQ groundfish fisheries. The CDQ rates for 2002 are included in **ATTACHMENT 4**. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

Advisory Committee Appointments

The Council made two changes in the membership of the **Advisory Panel**. **Bill Jacobson** of Oregon was appointed to replace Spike Jones who did not seek reappointment. Mr. Jones served on the AP for ten years and will be greatly missed. The Council also appointed **Jim Preston** of Juneau as the charter representative on the Panel. The following members were reappointed for 2002: Ragnar Asltrom, Dave Benson, Dave Boisseau, John Bruce, Al Burch, Craig Cross, Ben Ellis, Tom Enlow, Dan Falvey, Lance Farr, Duncan Fields, Dave Fraser, Arne Fuglvog, Teressa Kandianis, Tracey Mayhew, Hazel Nelson, Kris Norosz, Michelle Ridgway, Jeff Steele, Jeff Stephan, and Lyle Yeck.

Keith Colburn of Redmond, Washington, was appointed to the **Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC)**. The following current members were reappointed to two-year terms: Dave Benson, Lance Farr, Phil Hanson, Larry Hendricks, Kevin Kaldestad, Garry Loncon, Gary Painter, Rob Rogers, Clyde Sterling, Gary Stewart, Arni Thomson [non-voting].

After serving eight years, **Dr. Al Tyler** of the University of Alaska School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences has retired from the **Scientific and Statistical Committee**. A replacement has not yet been named. The following SSC members were reappointed for 2002: Dr. Steve Berkeley, Dr. Keith Criddle, Dr. Douglas Eggers, Dr. Steven Hare, Jeff Hartman, Dr. Mark Herrmann, Dr. Susan Hills, Dr. George Hunt, Jr., Dan Kimura, Dr. Seth Macinko, Dr. Richard Marasco, Kenneth Pitcher, Dr. Terrance Quinn II, Dr. Jack Tagart.

Improperly Installed Liferrafts Top Safety Violations

The U.S. Coast Guard reported on safety violations they encountered in the fishing fleet operating out of Dutch Harbor and Unalaska. Marine Safety Office personnel boarded and inspected 83 fishing vessels. The most noticeable discrepancy again this year (more than 14% of the vessels checked) was improperly installed liferafts. Other notable violations included expired EPIRB hydrostatic release (7 vessels or 8% of those checked), expired EPIRB batteries (7%), questionable stability instructions (6%), and expired liferaft hydrostatic release (5%). There were 23 lives lost this year, the most since 1996 when 24 lives were lost. It is imperative that all safety equipment be maintain in top working condition. **ATTACHMENT 5** describes the use and maintenance of liferaft equipment.

Essential Fish Habitat

At the December meeting, the Council adopted preliminary alternatives for the designation of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC), and significance criteria for analysis. These alternatives were developed and recommended by the Council's EFH Committee.

A two day meeting of the EFH committee will be held between January 29-30, 2002 in Juneau to review these alternatives and to initiate discussion of the alternatives to minimize the effects of fishing on EFH. The final dates, time, and location will be posted on the web. Staff contact is Cathy Coon.

Seabird Avoidance

The Council took final action on revisions to seabird avoidance measures in groundfish and halibut hook and line fisheries. Changes were based, in part, on research results from a two-year study conducted by the Washington Sea Grant Program (WSGP) on the effectiveness of seabird avoidance measures in the longline fisheries off Alaska. The Council's preferred alternative (Alternative 4), includes revisions based on WSGP recommendations and considerations for smaller vessels. The WSGP study recommended the following regulatory measures for all Alaska longline vessels: 1) paired streamer lines deployed during the setting of gear, and 2) eliminate the direct discharge of residual bait and offal from the stern of the vessel while setting gear. Material standards and performance standards for streamer lines are specified. Other recommendations are made for gear, methods, and operations which should not be allowed as seabird avoidance measures. The Council's preferred revisions to this alternative focused on required measures with performance and materials standards, and additional modifications made for small vessels. A report is available on NMFS' website at www.fakr.naoaa.gov/protectedresources/seabirds/newsitems.

The Council also recommended that the NMFS Observer Program continue a training emphasis on seabird bycatch avoidance, and that observers be encourages to notify the captain quickly of any problems with avoidance measures or performance standards. The Council, recognizing that variations from objective performance standards are likely to occur under normal fishing conditions, further recommended that enforcement personnel and observers work cooperatively with vessel operators to ensure compliance by using education and warnings (to the extent practicable) prior to issuing citations for non-compliance. Specifically, they recommended that minor variations be weighed against blatant, intentional, or egregious violations in the enforcement policy (with regard to the 90 second rule, wind/sea state conditions, airborne streamer distance, and distance off the groundline). Staff contact is Cathy Coon or Kim Rivera (NMFS).

Three-Meeting Outlook

ATTACHMENT 6 summarizes the issues to be addressed over the next three Council meetings. The February meeting will have several issues, a few of which could take considerable time for the Council, including initial review of the crab rationalization program and identification of alternatives for analysis for the revised draft programmatic groundfish SEIS (described in a separate newsletter article). Initial review is tentatively (T) scheduled in February for the AFA related issue of changing the single geographic location restrictions for pollock processing by floating processors-this may be available for initial review in February pending staff and/or contract help to complete that regulatory amendment analysis.

The April meeting agenda has several major issues which will take considerable time, including: selection of a preferred alternative for crab rationalization; final action on the halibut subsistence amendments; final action on the CDQ Policy amendment package; final action on the community QS purchase amendment; and, initial review of proposed revisions to the IR/IU program and associated bycatch reduction

measures. Because of the press of agenda items in February and April, final action on the BSAI Pacific cod pot gear split (proposed Amendment 68) is now scheduled for the June meeting. This will also allow staff time to incorporate the approval of Amendment 67, and other recommended additions to the analysis from the SSC. That document is expected to be available for review in April or early May. Other items on the April agenda are identified as tentative (T), pending staff and/or contract help to complete the analyses, and available time on the April meeting agenda.

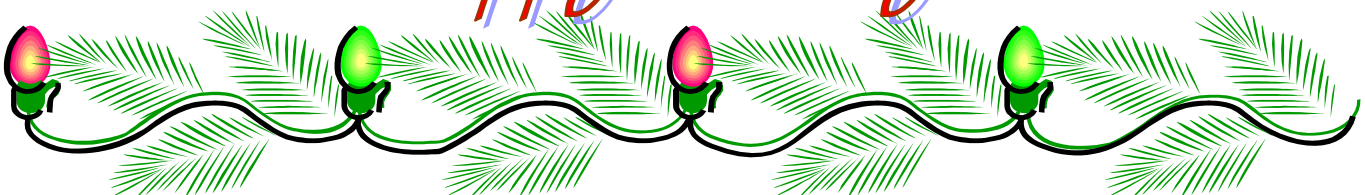
In order to have a realistic chance of completing our agendas, and to try and avoid having an extra meeting this spring, we are attempting to schedule an extra day of meeting time for the February meeting (we already have one extra day to meet with the Board of Fish), and two extra days of meeting time for the April meeting. We recognize what a rugged schedule this will be, but we must endure at least a couple of longer meetings to catch up on our agenda items. It is also likely that public comment will be restricted to three minutes for individuals and six minutes for associations, as opposed to the existing five/ten minute rule.

NPFMC Tentative Meeting Dates for 2001-2005*

	February Week of/ Location	April Week of/ Location	June Week of/ Location	October Week of/ Location	December Week of/ Location
2002	4/Anchorage	8/Anchorage	3/Dutch Harbor	9/30/Seattle	2/Anchorage
2003	Jan 27/Seattle	3/31/Anchorage	9/Kodiak	6/Anchorage	8/Anchorage
2004	2/Anchorage	3/29/Anchorage	7/Portland	4/Sitka	6/Anchorage
2005	7/Seattle	4/Anchorage	6/Dutch Harbor	3/Anchorage	5/Anchorage

*Meeting dates subject to change depending on availability of meeting space. Any changes will be published in the Council's newsletter.

Happy Holidays



North Pacific Research Board

Contact: Bill Hines
(907) 586-7221

December 14, 2001

PRESS RELEASE

NORTH PACIFIC RESEARCH BOARD HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Today, the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) announces the appointment of Clarence G. Pautzke, Ph.D., as its new executive director. Dr. Pautzke has served the past 21 years on the staff of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, one of eight in the nation that work with the National Marine Fisheries Service in managing federal fisheries in the 3-200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone. He was the Council's deputy director from 1980 to 1988, and has been the executive director since 1988. He took a brief tour at the National Marine Fisheries Service headquarters office in Silver Spring, Maryland, serving as Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries in the fall of 2000, and then as Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs during the first half of 2001, before returning to the Council staff.

Dr. Pautzke earned a doctorate in biological oceanography from the University of Washington in 1979. His research focused on Arctic Ocean marine ecosystems and he was project leader during three field seasons in the Beaufort Sea, on Ice Island T-3 in 1968 and 1973, and then with the Arctic Ice Dynamics Joint Experiment in 1975.

He served as an officer in the U.S. Navy on active duty from 1969 through 1971, serving aboard the guided missile destroyer, USS Waddell, off Vietnam and in the Philippine Sea, and then as an analyst with the Fleet Intelligence Center in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He subsequently held various leadership positions in the Naval Reserves, retiring with the rank of Captain in 1992.

Dr. Pautzke's many years with the Council, working on diverse fishery management issues, and his scientific background, provide him with a unique combination of skills to ensure the coordination, collaboration, and leadership necessary to develop a successful, responsive, long-term, scientific marine research program for the North Pacific, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean. The program will be designed to enhance our understanding of the highly productive marine ecosystems off Alaska and reduce the uncertainty of resource management decisions.

"The new millennium will pose great challenges for Alaska's living marine resources, as well as the people dependent upon them. The NPRB, under the leadership of Dr. Pautzke stands prepared to meet those challenges" said Dave Benton, Interim Chairman for the NPRB and Chairman of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. "Dr. Pautzke's transition from the Council to the NPRB will be seamless and complementary to both organizations. The Council has greatly benefitted from Clarence's work these past twenty years and I feel Clarence is the person to move the NPRB process forward."

"Dr. Pautzke's broad experience in working with the various constituents of Alaska, Oregon and Washington State will be highly effective in implementing the NPRB to foster research collaboration with other organizations in all waters off Alaska" said Jim Balsiger, Regional Administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service. "Clarence maintains a forward looking view toward research coordination and this will enable the NPRB to adapt its mission to the vicissitudes of environmental changes and other issues which our constituents feel are important."

Dr. Pautzke temporarily may be reached at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council office at (907) 271-2809, in Anchorage, Alaska, through late January 2002.

###

COUNCIL FINAL MOTION ON HALIBUT SUBSISTENCE TRAILING AMENDMENT
December 8, 2001

Motion: Adopt the following **PROBLEM STATEMENT** for the overall analysis (the previously adopted problem statement for the Sitka LAMP area would follow this):

In October 2000, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopted a regulatory framework that recognized customary and traditional use of halibut for subsistence purposes. This framework was intended to accommodate customary and traditional practices while at the same time meeting conservation, social and economic objectives.

In adopting the statewide halibut subsistence program the Council recognized that the regulatory framework, while comprehensive in nature, might not meet Council objectives regarding the needs of subsistence harvesters or other users of the halibut resource in local areas.

Consistent with the Council's working relationship with the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board), the Council requested that the Board investigate whether or not the halibut subsistence regulatory framework was appropriate to address local conditions and to report back to the Council with recommended modifications to the program to better reflect local issues and concerns. Specifically, the Board, through their public input process, was requested to address any concerns and make recommended changes to the Council's regulatory framework regarding gear, daily limits, reporting requirements, customary and traditional designations for Tribes or rural communities, and non-rural area definitions for halibut subsistence fishing areas.

Motion: (Revised) Alternative 2. Modify the previous action on halibut subsistence:

Part 1: in Areas 4C, 4D, and 4E: eliminate gear restrictions

Part 2: in Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B: allow stacking up to three times the number of hooks on a single unit of gear per trip provided the subsistence user(s) are on board the vessel.

Part 3: in Area 3A:

- | | |
|---|--|
| A) Kodiak Road Zone and
Chiniak Bay: | 1) decrease the gear limit to 5 hooks
2) create a 20 fish annual limit
3) allow proxy fishing; |
| B) Prince William Sound | 1) decrease the gear limit to 5 hooks; |
| C) Cook Inlet; | 1) decrease the gear limit to 5 hooks
2) increase the size of the Cook Inlet non-subsistence fishing area by adjusting its southern boundary. |

Part 4: in Area 2C,
Sitka LAMP Area:

- 1) decrease the gear limit to 2 hooks
- 2) create a 20 fish annual limit
- 3) allow proxy fishing
- 4) decrease the daily harvest limit to 2 fish (Council option).

Part 5: A permit and reporting system must be in place when the program is implemented

Part 6: The Council will conduct a program review 3 years after the program implementation date.

Motion: (New) Alternative 3. Modify the previous action on halibut subsistence:

Part 1: Areas 4C, 4D, and E: 1) Eliminate gear restrictions

Part 2: All Areas except 4C, 4D, 4E 1) Allow stacking of a maximum up to 2 to 3 times the number of hooks on a single unit of gear per trip provided that the subsistence user(s) are on board the vessel, or when subsistence users are represented by proxy.
 Suboption: Allow stacking of up to 2 to 3 times the number of hooks on a single unit of gear per trip provided that the subsistence user(s) are on board the vessel, with no maximum limit on units of gear.

- Part 3(A): In Area 3A, Kodiak Road Zone and Chiniak Bay: 2)
- 1) 5 to 30 hooks
 - 2) 20-fish annual limit
 - 3) Develop proxy system
 - 4) Allow stacking of a maximum up to 3 times the number of hooks on a single unit of gear provided that the subsistence user(s) are on board the vessel, or when subsistence users are represented by proxy.
Suboption: Allow stacking of up to 2 to 3 times the number of hooks on a single unit of gear per trip provided that the subsistence user(s) are on board the vessel, with no maximum limit on units of gear.
- Part 3(B): In Area 3A, Prince William Sound:
- 1) 5 to 30 hooks
 - 2) 30 -fish annual limit
 - 3) Develop proxy system
 - 4) Allow stacking of a maximum up to 3 times the number of hooks on a single unit of gear provided that the subsistence user(s) are on board the vessel, or when subsistence users are represented by proxy.
Suboption: Allow stacking of up to 2 to 3 times the number of hooks on a single unit of gear per trip provided that the subsistence user(s) are on board the vessel, with no maximum limit on units of gear.
- Part 3(C). In Area 3A, Cook Inlet:
- 1) 5 to 30 hooks
 - 2) 30-fish annual limit
 - 3) Develop proxy system
 - 4) Allow stacking of a maximum up to 3 times the number of hooks on a single unit of gear provided that the subsistence user(s) are on board the vessel, or when subsistence users are represented by proxy.
Suboption: Allow stacking of up to 2 to 3 times the number of hooks on a single unit of gear per trip provided that the subsistence user(s) are on board the vessel, with no maximum limit on units of gear.
 - 5) Cook Inlet Boundary - No action
- Part 4: In Area 2C, Sitka Sound Lamp Area:
- 1) 2 to 15 hooks
 - 2) 5 fish per day
 - 3) 20 fish annual limit
 - 4) Develop proxy system
 - 5) Allow stacking of a maximum up to 2 times the number of hooks on a single unit of gear provided that the subsistence user(s) are on board the vessel, or when subsistence users are represented by proxy.
Suboption: Allow stacking of up to 2 to 3 times the number of hooks on a single unit of gear per trip provided that the subsistence user(s) are on board the vessel, with no maximum limit on units of gear.
- Suboption: Apply the above provisions to all of Area 2C.
- Part 5. All areas. Analysis of Federal and State proxy systems and other proxy options that reflect customary and traditional harvests and distribution patterns of native villages and other communities. This should be done in consultation with State, Federal, Tribes, and rural communities.
- Part 6. All areas. Community Harvest Permits: The Council Halibut Subsistence Committee shall work with the NMFS to construct a community harvest permit system in consultation with the affected user groups and other relevant agencies.
- Motion:** (New) Alternative 4. Modify the previous action on halibut subsistence:
- Areas 4B, 4C, 4D, and 4E. Legal-sized halibut could be retained for subsistence purposes while CDQ fishing and not counted against a CDQ account.

Motion: Final action is scheduled for April 2002.

**Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
Council Recommended 2002 Catch Specifications (mt)**

Species	Area	2002 Biomass	2002 OFL	2002 ABC	2002 TAC
Pollock	EBS	9,800,000	3,530,000	2,110,000	1,485,000
	AI	106,000	31,700	23,800	1,000
	Bogoslof	232,000	46,400	4,310	100
Pacific cod	BSAI	1,540,000	294,000	223,000	200,000
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	1,597,000	136,000	115,000	86,000
Greenland turbot	BSAI	208,000	36,500	8,100	8,000
	BS			67%	67%
	AI			33%	33%
Arrowtooth	BSAI	671,000	137,000	113,000	16,000
Rock sole	BSAI	1,850,000	268,000	225,000	54,000
Flathead sole	BSAI	695,000	101,000	82,600	25,000
Alaska plaice	BSAI	1,110,000	172,000	143,000	12,000
Other flatfish	BSAI	78,300	21,800	18,100	3,000
Sablefish	EBS	28,000	2,900	1,930	1,930
	AI	39,000	3,850	2,550	2,550
Pacific Ocean Perch	BSAI	377,000	17,500	14,800	14,800
	<i>Bering Sea</i>			2,620	2,620
	<i>Eastern</i>			3,460	3,460
	<i>Central</i>			3,060	3,060
	<i>Western</i>			5,660	5,660
Northern rockfish	BSAI	150,000	9,020	6,760	6,760
Rougeye rockfish	BSAI	14,000	349	262	262
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	34,000	1,020	766	766
Other rockfish (incl. sharpchin)	EBS	6,880	482	361	361
	AI	12,900	901	676	676
Atka mackerel	AI	439,700	82,300	49,000	49,000
	<i>Eastern</i>			5,500	5,500
	<i>Central</i>			23,800	23,800
	<i>Western</i>			19,700	19,700
Squid	BSAI	n/a	2,620	1,970	1,970
Other Species	BSAI	667,000	78,900	39,100	30,825
BS/AI TOTAL		19,655,780	4,974,242	3,184,085	2,000,000

2001 ABC	2001 TAC	2001 Catch
1,842,000	1,400,000	1,381,598
23,800	2,000	819
8,470	1,000	29
188,000	188,000	154,991
176,000	113,000	54,340
8,400	8,400	4,210
0.67	0.67	
0.33	0.33	
117,000	22,015	13,464
228,000	75,000	28,882
84,000	40,000	17,087
combined	combined	combined
122,000	28,000	9,577
1,560	1,560	842
2,500	2,500	1,033
11,930	11,930	8,708
6,760	6,760	6,132
262	262	749
766	766	(combined)
361	361	293
676	676	605
69,300	69,300	56,521
1,970	1,970	1,763
33,600	26,500	22,978
2,927,355	2,000,000	1,764,621

EBS = eastern Bering Sea
 BSAI = Bering Sea & Aleutians
 BS = Bering Sea
 AI = Aleutian Islands
 OFL = overfishing level
 ABC = acceptable biological catch
 TAC = total allowable catch

2001 catch as of 10/27

**2002 BSAI Trawl Fisheries PSC
Council Recommended Apportionments and Seasonal Allowances**

Fishery Group	Halibut Mortality Cap (mt)	Herring (mt)	Red King Crab (animals) Zone1	C. bairdi Zone1	C. bairdi Zone2	C. opilio COBLZ
Yellowfin sole	886	139	16,664	340,844	1,788,459	2,776,981
January 20 - March 31	262					
April 1 - May 20*	195					
May 21 - July 3	49					
July 4 - Dec 31	380					
Rocksole/other flatfish	779	20	59,782	365,320	596,154	969,130
January 20 - March 31	448					
April 1 - July 3	164					
July 4 - Dec 31	167					
Sablefish/arrowtooth		9				40,238
Rockfish	69	7			10,988	40,237
Pacific cod	1,434	20	11,664	183,112	324,176	124,736
Pollock/mackerel/o.species	232	1,330	1,615	17,224	27,473	72,428
CDQ Fisheries	275		7,275	73,500	222,750	326,250
TOTAL	3,675	1,526	97,000	980,000	2,970,000	4,350,000

- 1) Unused PSC allowances may be rolled into the following seasonal apportionment.
- 2) 35% of the red king crab PSC for the rock sole fishery is apportioned to the 56 - 56.10' RKCSA strip.

**2002 BSAI Non-Trawl Fisheries PSC Bycatch Allowances
and fixed gear Pacific cod seasonal apportionments**

Fishery Group	Halibut Mortality (mt)
Pacific Cod	775
Jan 1 - June 10	320
Aug 15 - Dec. 31	455
Other Non-Trawl*	58
May 1 - December 31	58
CDQ Fisheries	67
TOTAL	900 mt

- * Includes hook & line fisheries for rockfish and Greenland turbot.
Sablefish hook & line fisheries will be exempted from the halibut mortality cap.
Jig and pot gear will also be exempted from the halibut mortality cap.
Unused PSC from the first season will be rolled over to the second season.

North Pacific Council Recommendations for Gulf of Alaska Specifications for 2002

ATTACHMENT 4

Gulf of Alaska groundfish 2001 and 2002 ABCs, 2001 TACs, and 2001 catches reported through November 15, 2001.

SPECIES		ABC (mt)	TAC	ABC (mt)	OFL	TAC	CATCH
		2002	2002	2001	2001	2001	2001
Pollock	W (61)	17,730	17,730	35,240		31,724	30,423
	C (62)	23,045	23,045	14,260		12,841	1,733
	C (63)	9,850	9,850	26,650		23,996	17,014
	Shelikof			20,680		18,619	18,895
	WYAK	1,165	1,165	2,520	117,750	2,235	2,351
	EYAK/SEO	6,460	6,460	6,460	8,610	6,460	0
	TOTAL	58,250	58,250	105,810	126,360	95,875	70,416
Pacific Cod	W	22,465	16,849	24,400		18,300	13,767
	C	31,680	24,790	38,650		30,250	27,186
	E	3,455	2,591	4,750		3,560	132
	TOTAL	57,600	44,230	67,800	91,200	52,110	41,085
Deep water flatfish ¹	W	180	180	280		280	18
	C	2,220	2,220	2,710		2,710	668
	WYAK	1,330	1,330	1,240		1,240	116
	EYAK/SEO	1,150	1,150	1,070		1,070	3
	TOTAL	4,880	4,880	5,300	6,980	5,300	805
Rex sole	W	1,280	1,280	1,230		1,230	434
	C	5,540	5,540	5,660		5,660	2,505
	WYAK	1,600	1,600	1,540		1,540	0
	EYAK/SEO	1,050	1,050	1,010		1,010	0
	TOTAL	9,470	9,470	9,440	12,300	9,440	2,939
Shallow water flatfish ²	W	23,550	4,500	19,510		4,500	207
	C	23,080	13,000	16,400		12,950	5,966
	WYAK	1,180	1,180	790		790	0
	EYAK/SEO	1,740	1,740	1,160		1,160	0
	TOTAL	49,550	20,420	37,860	45,330	19,400	6,173
Flathead sole	W	9,000	2,000	8,490		2,000	599
	C	11,410	5,000	15,720		5,000	1,311
	WYAK	1,590	1,590	1,440		1,440	0
	EYAK/SEO	690	690	620		620	0
	TOTAL	22,690	9,280	26,270	34,210	9,060	1,910
Arrowtooth flounder	W	16,960	8,000	16,480		8,000	6,147
	C	106,580	25,000	99,590		25,000	13,369
	WYAK	17,150	2,500	24,220		2,500	193
	EYAK/SEO	5,570	2,500	7,860		2,500	200
	TOTAL	146,260	38,000	148,150	173,550	38,000	19,909
Sablefish	W	2,240	2,240	2,010		2,010	1,591
	C	5,430	5,430	5,410		5,410	5,506
	WYAK	1,940	1,940	2,060		2,060	1,730
	SEO	3,210	3,210	3,360		3,360	3,220
	TOTAL	12,820	12,820	12,840	15,720	12,840	12,047
Other Slope rockfish	W	90	90	20		20	25
	C	550	550	740		740	332
	WYAK	260	150	250		150	81
	EYAK/SEO	4,140	200	3,890		100	132
	TOTAL	5,040	990	4,900	6,390	1,010	570

SPECIES		ABC (mt)	TAC	ABC (mt)	OFL	TAC	CATCH
		2002	2002	2001	2001	2001	2001
Northern rockfish	W	810	810	600		600	539
	C	4,170	4,170	4,280		4,280	2,587
	E	0	0 ³				
	TOTAL	4,980	4,980	4,880	5,780	4,880	3,126
Pacific ocean perch	W	2,610	2,610	1,280	1,520	1,280	947
	C	8,220	8,220	9,610	11,350	9,610	9,457
	WYAK	780	780	870		870	623
	SEO	1,580	1,580	1,750	3,090	1,750	1
	TOTAL	13,190	13,190	13,510	15,960	13,510	11,028
Shortraker/rougheye	W	220	220	210		210	124
	C	840	840	930		930	963
	E	560	560	590		590	838
	TOTAL	1,620	1,620	1,730	2,510	1,730	1,925
Pelagic shelf rockfish	W	510	510	550		550	121
	C	3,480	3,480	4,080		4,080	2,436
	WYAK	640	640	580		580	439
	EYAK/SEO	860	860	770		770	12
	TOTAL	5,490	5,490	5,980	9,040	5,980	3,008
Demersal Shelf Rockfish		350	350	330	410	330	279
Atka Mackerel	GW	600	600	600	6,200	600	77
Thornyhead rockfish		360	360	420		420	274
		840	840	970		970	513
		790	790	920		920	536
	TOTAL	1,990	1,990	2,310	2,770	2,310	1,323
Other Species	GW	NA	11,330	NA	NA	13,619	4,780
TOTAL		394,780	237,890	447,710	554,710	285,994	181,400

1/ Deep water flatfish includes dover sole, Greenland turbot and deepsea sole.

2/ "Shallow water flatfish" includes rock sole, yellowfin sole, butter sole, starry flounder, English sole, Alaska plaice, and sand sole.

3/ The EGOA ABC for northern rockfish has been included in the WYAK ABC for other slope rockfish.

NOTE:

GW means Gulfwide.

Catch data source: NMFS Blend Reports.

Annual rates for the BSAI CDQ Trawl fishery

CDQ Trawl	
Atka mackerel	89
Bottom pollock	90
Flathead sole	83
Pelagic pollock	88
Rockfish	89
Yellowfin sole	77
CDQ Longline	
Pacific cod	13
Turbot	14
CDQ Pot	
Pacific cod	7
Sablefish	38

Safety Alert :

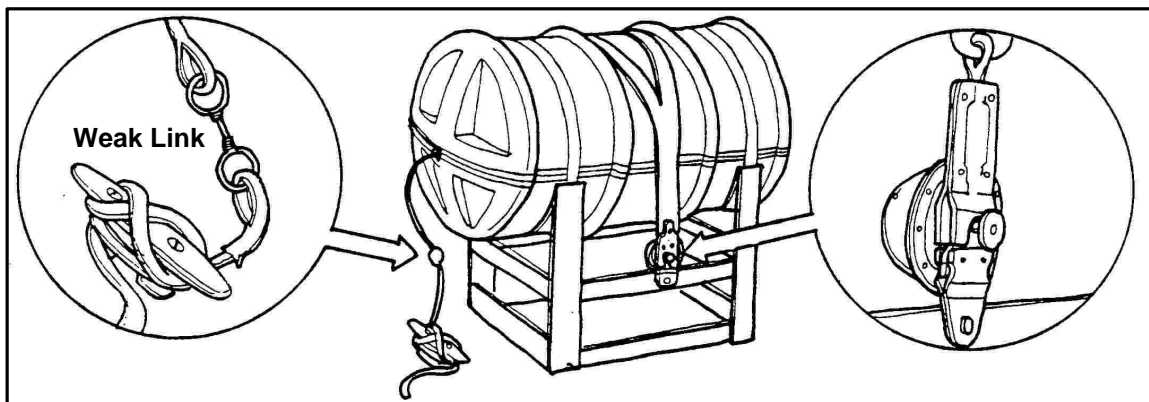
Is your Survival craft properly installed?

The Coast Guard recently conducted dockside safety inspections in Unalaska and Dutch Harbor prior to the start of the 2001 Bristol Bay Red King Crab Fishery. Eighty-three vessels were inspected, of which over 90% had current CFVS exam decals. This is excellent testimony to the fleet's attention to overall safety issues. However, a disturbing trend discovered was that 12 of these vessels (14%) had improperly installed life rafts.

The **most common errors** were:

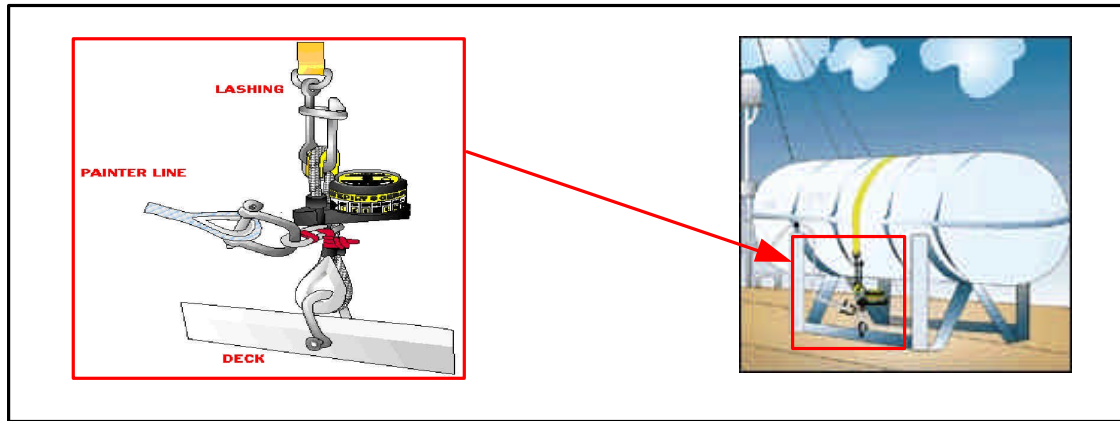
1. Securing the sea painter to the directly to the vessel without including the **weak link**.
2. Attaching the weak link to the pelican hook above the hydrostatic release.
3. Adding additional tie-downs that would prevent the raft from floating free after the hydrostatic release activated.

The Coast Guard is encouraging all vessel masters and crews to double check the installation of their rafts. The diagrams below and on the reverse side show the correct installations for two commonly used release mechanisms.



Installation A

Is your Survival craft properly installed?



Installation B

Further Questions?

Please call one of the offices below to talk with your local fishing vessel safety examiner.

Anchorage	(907) 271-6725
Unalaska	(907) 581-3466
Juneau	(907) 463-2448
Ketchikan	(907) 225-4496
Kodiak	(907) 486-5918
Sitka	(907) 966-5454
Valdez	(907) 835-7215
Kenai	(907) 283-3292



DRAFT NPFMC Three Meeting Outlook

February 4, 2002 Anchorage	April 8, 2002 Anchorage	June 3, 2002 Anchorage
Joint Council/BOF meeting		
Crab SEIS: Report and Discuss Alternatives		
PGSEIS: Select alternatives for analysis	Crab SEIS: Finalize Alternatives	
Ecosystem Committee: Provide direction		BSAI pot cod split (Amendment 68): Final Action
	Processor s/b IR/IU/HMAP/Bycatch Measures: Initial Review	Processor s/b IR/IU/HMAP/Bycatch Measures: Final Action
Community QS purchase: Initial review	Community QS Purchase: Final Action (T)	
GOA Rationalization: Review white paper	P.cod s/b proposal: Initial Review (T)	P.cod s/b proposal: Final Action (T)
Review IFQ Committee Report		
LLP Recency: Review Discussion Paper and data		
AFA SGL change: Initial Review (T)	AFA SGL change: Final Action (T)	
AFA: Final review coop agreements/reports	AFA S/B caps to quotas: Progress Report/Discussion	
CDQ Policy Amendments: Status Report	CDQ Policy Amendments: Final Action	PGSEIS: Identify Preferred Alternative (T)
Observer Program: Initial Review on reg amendments	Observer Program: Final Action on Reg Amendments	
F ₄₀ Review: Discussion/Direction	SR/RE Retention: Initial Review (T)	SR/RE Retention: Final Action (T)
Differential gear impact analysis: Provide direction		SSL Trailing Amendments: Initial Review
SSL Trailing Amendments: Discuss		TAC-setting process: Initial Review (T)
Crab Rationalization amendment: Initial Review	Crab Rationalization amendment: Final Action	
Catch and bycatch disclosure: Review status (T)	Halibut Subsistence: Final Action	Charter/IFQ Community Set-Aside: Discuss
Salmon Bycatch: Review discussion paper	Rockfish/Other species breakout: Report	
EFH: Discuss alternatives for mitigating fisheries impacts	EFH: Review Progress	EFH: Report and Direction

*NOTE: This tentative timeline will be updated periodically, particularly after each Council meeting, as the Council works through its decision process.

TAC - Total Allowable Catch
 IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
 AFA - American Fisheries Act
 HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
 LLP - License Limitation Program
 PSC - Prohibited Species Catch
 QS - Quota Share

MSA - Magnuson Stevens Act
 SGL - Single Geographic Location
 SSL - Steller Sea Lion
 GHF - Guideline Harvest Level
 SEIS - Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
 CDQ - Community Development Quota
 GCCC- Gulf Coastal Communities Coalition

SAFE - Stock assessment and fishery evaluation
 CV - Catcher Vessel CP- Catcher Processor
 SR/RE - Shortraker/Rougheye
 MSST - Minimum Stock Size Threshold
 FMP - Fishery Management Plan
(T) Tentatively scheduled