



# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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## Meeting Summary

260th Plenary Session  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
June 9-13, 2022  
Hybrid – Sitka, AK Harrigan Centennial Hall and Zoom Webinar

## CONTENTS

A1	Call Meeting to Order .....	4
B	Reports.....	4
C1	Central GOA Rockfish Adjustments – Final Action.....	5
C2	BSAI Pacific Cod Small Boat Access.....	6
C3	BSAI Crab (a) Aleutian Islands golden king crab ABC/OFL, SAFE report, Crab Plan Team report; (b) adopt alternatives for snow crab rebuilding plan analysis .....	7
C4	Trawl EM Analysis .....	8
C5	Observer Program (a) Annual Report for 2021 – Review, FMAC report, Enforcement Committee report; (b) PCFMAC report on partial coverage cost efficiencies.....	9
D1	Salmon Reports - review (a) Salmon research (AFSC, ADFG), Chinook and chum stock status; (b) Chinook/chum genetics reports for BS, GOA; (c) Chinook AEQ update and chum impact recommendations; (d) industry reports including pollock IPA reports (Council only), Sea Share, and salmon excluder EFP final report.....	11
D2	IFQ Committee Report .....	12
E1	Staff Tasking.....	13
	E1 Plan Team Nominations.....	14
	E1 Reflections on Council Process .....	14
	E1 Crab C Shares Recent Participation.....	15

### Attachments

- 1) Time Log
- 2) Newsletter

The time log is included as a reference attachment for names, dates and times of each agenda item, and the newsletter is included to provide details of the agenda items and the meeting as a whole. All documents and information related to the meeting are accessible online at:

<https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2934>

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met June 9-13, 2022 at the Harrigan Centennial Hall, Sitka, Alaska. The following Council members, Council staff, SSC, and AP members attended the meetings either in person or virtually.

### Council Members

Jon Kurland <i>National Marine Fisheries Service</i>	Steve Marx (for Curt Melcher) <i>Oregon Department of Fish &amp; Wildlife</i>
Rachel Baker/Karla Bush (for Doug Vincent-Lang) <i>Alaska Department Fish and Game</i>	David Moore <i>U.S. Department of State</i>
Cora Campbell <i>Appointed</i>	RADM Nathan Moore/LCDR Raskie <i>United States Coast Guard</i>
Dave Hanson <i>Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission</i>	Andy Mezirow <i>Appointed</i>
John Jensen <i>Appointed</i>	Bill Tweit (for Kelly Susewind), <b>Vice Chair</b> <i>Washington Department Fish &amp; Wildlife</i>
Nicole Kimball <i>Appointed</i>	Anne Vanderhoeven <i>Appointed</i>
Simon Kinneen, <b>Chair</b> <i>Appointed</i>	

### Council Staff

Cleaver, Sara	Gleason, Shannon	McCracken, Jon
Cunningham, Sam	Haapala, Kate	Rheinsmith, Sarah
Davis, Maria	Henry, Anna	Schmidt, Nicole
Evans, Diana (DD)	Hillary, Kaylah (contractor)	Stram, Diana
Fey, Mike (PSMFC)	La Belle, Sarah	Witherell, Dave (ED)

## Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC met June 6-8, 2022, at the Harrigan Centennial Hall, Sitka, Alaska. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings either in person or virtually.

Sherri Dressel, Co-Chair  
*Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game*

Kathryn Meyer  
*Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*

Curry Cunningham  
*University of Alaska Fairbanks*

Dana Hanselman  
*NOAA Fisheries—AFSC*

Andrew Munro  
*Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game*

Kailin Kroetz  
*Arizona State University*

Franz Mueter, Co-Chair  
*University of Alaska Fairbanks*

Ian Stewart  
*Intl. Pacific Halibut Commission*

Mike Downs  
*Wislow Research*

Brad Harris  
*Alaska Pacific University*

Chris Anderson  
*University of Washington*

Patrick Sullivan  
*Cornell University*

Alison Whitman, Vice Chair  
*Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*

Amy Bishop  
*Alaska Sea Life Center*

Jason Gasper  
*NOAA Fisheries – Alaska Region*

George Hunt  
*University of Washington*

Chris Siddon  
*ADF&G*

Robert Foy  
*Alaska Fishery Science Center*

## Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel met June 7-10, 2022, at the Harrigan Centennial Hall, Sitka, Alaska. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings either in person or virtually (absent members are ~~stricken~~):

Briggie, Tamara  
Christiansen, Ruth (Co-Vice Chair)  
Drobnica, Angel (Chair)  
Gudmundsson, Gretar  
Heuker, Tim  
Johnson, Jim

Johnson, Mellisa  
Kauffman, Jeff  
Kavanaugh, Julie  
Mann, Heather  
Mitchell, Lauren  
O'Donnell, Paddy

O'Neil, Megan  
~~Ritchie, Brian~~  
Upton, Matt (Co-Vice Chair)  
Wilkins, Paul  
Wilt, Sinclair  
Zagorski, Suzie

## A1 Call Meeting to Order

The Council approved the agenda without objection.

## B Reports

The following reports were provided in writing and discussed. Janet Coit, the Assistant Administrator of NOAA fisheries joined the meeting to speak to the Council on several issues including the importance of science and surveys, climate change, and the inclusion of local and traditional knowledge as a part of fishery management decision-making. In addition, NOAA ONMS Pacific Island Region gave a presentation on the nomination process for the Alagûm Kanuuû as a National Marine Sanctuary.

**B1 Executive Director’s Report** – David Witherell

- NMFS Assistant Administrator address – Janet Coit
- Update on Ideas for change presentation – Diana Evans
- Update on Marine Resource Education Program – Lauren O’ Brien

**B2 NMFS Management Report** – Josh Keaton and Doug Duncan

- B2 Medical Transfer Limits Presentation – Mason Smith

**B3 NOAA GC Report** – written only

**B4 NOAA Enforcement Report** – Nathan Lagerwey and Alex Perry

**B5 ADFG Report** – Doug Vincent-Lang

**B6 USCG Report** – LCDR Jedediah Raskie

**B7 USFWS Report** – written only

- USFWS Sea Duck Presentation – Kate Martin

**B8 NPRB Report** – Lynn Palensky and Dr. Matt Baker

**B10 National Marine Sanctuary Program update on St. Paul** – Kristina Kekuewa, Hoku Ka’aekuahiwi Pousima, Kalani Quiocho, Edward Lindelof (NOAA ONMS Pacific Islands Region)

**B11 SSC Report** – Dr. Sherri Dressel (SSC Co-Chair)

**B12 AP Report** – Ruth Christiansen and Matt Upton (AP Co-Vice Chairs)

After staff presentations and public comment, the following actions were taken:

**Mr. Tweit made the following motion which was seconded by Ms. Kimball:**

The Council recommends providing letters of support for these four proposals for NFWF funding, to sustain the final year of the pelagic trawl electronic monitoring EFP as it moves towards a regulated program and to advance new efforts in electronic technologies and monitoring.

Final Year of Pre-Implementation of a Regulated EM Program for Compliance Monitoring in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska Pelagic Trawl Pollock Catcher Vessel Fisheries.

Improving Data Quality through ET Implementation in the Western Gulf of Alaska.

Testing Electronic Monitoring on Trawl Catcher Vessels Participating in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) Rockfish Program.

Real time electronic logbook data collection and reporting in Alaska's groundfish and halibut fisheries.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed 10/0 (Mr. Down absent from vote) on June 9, 2022, at 1:50 p.m.

## **C1 Central GOA Rockfish Adjustments – Final Action**

**Council Staff:** Jon McCracken and Sarah Rheinsmith

**Action Required:** 1. Review analysis  
2. If appropriate, designate a preferred alternative

**Summary:** *The Council will review a document that examines changes to the existing rockfish program in the GOA so rockfish can be fully harvested. They will make final recommendations based on analysis and public comment.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following actions were taken:

**Ms. Kimball made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:**

The Council recommends Alternative 2, Options 1 – 4, as the preferred alternative for final action as indicated below. The Council also recommends the Secretarial review draft analysis include the SSC recommendations as practicable.

Alternative 2: Change the season start date and modify the harvesting, processing, and cooperative holding caps.

Option 1: Change the Rockfish Program season start date from May 1 to April 1.

Option 2: Eliminate the CV cooperative holding cap (30% CQ assigned to CV sector).

Option 3: Increase the processing cap to 40% of the CV quota share pool for sablefish, Pacific cod, and primary rockfish.

Option 4: Revise the vessel aggregated rockfish (POP, northern rockfish, and dusky rockfish) harvesting cap by capping only POP harvests at 8% of the CV POP quota share pool.

**Mr. Tweit made the following deeming amendment which was seconded by Ms. Vanderhoeven:**

The Council deems proposed regulations that clearly and directly flow from the provisions of this motion to be necessary and appropriate in accordance with section 303(c).

The Council authorizes the Executive Director and the Chairman to review the draft proposed regulations when provided by NMFS to ensure that the proposed regulations to be submitted to the Secretary under section 303(c) are consistent with these instructions.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed with no objection on June 9, 2022, at 3:35 p.m.

**VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION:** Motion passed 9/0 (Ms. Campbell recused and Mr. Down absent from vote) on June 9, 2022, at 3:36 p.m.

## C2 BSAI Pacific Cod Small Boat Access

**Council Staff:** Dr. Kate Haapala (NPFMC)  
**Other Presenters:** Abby Jahn (NMFS)  
**Action Required:** 1. Review the Initial Review draft RIR and determine whether to release for final action  
2. Consider whether to select a preliminary preferred alternative

**Summary:** *The Council will consider options that allow smaller hook and line and pot vessels to fish for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands off the jig sector's allocation*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following action was taken:

**Ms. Bush made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Mezirow:**

The Council adopts the following alternatives for public review and selects a preliminary preferred alternative as shown in **bold**. Deletions to the purpose and need are shown in ~~striketrough~~ and additions are underlined.

*Increased participation in the <60 ft hook-and-line and pot catcher vessel Pacific cod sector, reduced Pacific cod TACs, and fewer reallocations from other Pacific cod sectors, have resulted in ~~by higher-capacity vessels over 57 ft LOA has negatively impacted smaller vessels in the sector through~~ shortened seasons for the <60 ft hook-and-line and pot catcher vessel Pacific cod sector. Due to their size, smaller vessels in this sector are particularly affected by these shortened seasons because vessel operators have less flexibility to fish when the weather is poor and typically fish waters closer to port which may be less productive limit smaller vessels' ability to compete within the sector as they are limited to fish in less productive waters near port due to their size. The jig sector allocation has not historically been fully utilized, particularly in the A and C seasons. Allowing these smaller catcher vessels using hook-and-line and pot gear to harvest Pacific cod from the jig sector allocation may increase stability provide additional opportunities for current fishery participants and potential new entrants with smaller catcher vessels without negatively impacting catcher vessels using jig gear.*

Alternative 1: Status quo

**Alternative 2: Redefine the current BSAI Pacific cod jig sector to include H&L/pot CVs less than or equal to:**

**Option 1: 55' LOA**

Option 2: 56'LOA

**Suboption: B-season fishery would remain jig gear only fishery.**

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed 10/0 (Mr. Down absent from vote) on June 10, 2022, at 8:47 a.m.

### **C3 BSAI Crab (a) Aleutian Islands golden king crab ABC/OFL, SAFE report, Crab Plan Team report; (b) adopt alternatives for snow crab rebuilding plan analysis**

**Council Staff:** Sarah Rheinsmith and Jon McCracken  
**Other Presenters:** Katie Palof, (ADF&G, Crab Plan Team Co-Chair), Dr. Mike Litzow (NMFS, Crab Plan Team Co-Chair)  
**Action Required:**  
1. Specify Aleutian Islands golden king crab OFL/ABC for 2022/23  
2. Review Crab Plan Team Report for the May 2022 meeting  
3. Select alternatives for Snow Crab Rebuilding Plan Analysis

***Summary:** The Crab Plan Team met to discuss the Snow crab plan for rebuilding its stock from overfished, and the size and status of the Aleutian Island Golden King Crab and to make recommendations on harvest limits. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee will review their recommendations and the Council will set appropriate harvest limits for this stock for the upcoming crab seasons.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following actions were taken:

**Ms. Baker made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Mezirow:**

The Council accepts the crab SAFE report for Aleutian Islands golden king crab and adopts the 2022/2023 OFL of 3,761 metric tons and ABC of 2,821 metric tons, as recommended by the SSC.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed 10/0 (Mr. Down absent from vote) on June 10, 2022, at 3 p.m.

**Ms. Baker made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:**

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and alternatives for analysis.

#### **Purpose and Need**

*The Eastern Bering Sea snow crab stock was determined to be overfished on October 19, 2021, because the estimated mature male biomass is below the minimum stock size threshold specified in the crab FMP. To comply with provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), a rebuilding plan must be implemented prior to the start of the 2023/2024 fishing season.*

*This action is necessary to facilitate compliance with MSA requirements to rebuild overfished stocks and achieve optimum yield.*

Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 2: Adopt a rebuilding plan and specify a target rebuilding time not to exceed  $T_{MAX}$ , as recommended by the SSC. The stock will be considered “rebuilt” once it reaches  $B_{MSY}$ .

Option 1: No directed fishing until the stock is rebuilt, allow bycatch removals only

Option 2: Allow bycatch removals and a directed snow crab fishery under the current State of Alaska harvest strategy

The Council requests additional information to help determine whether the following bycatch management measures would affect the rebuilding timeline:

- Remove the snow crab PSC floor
- Count all trawl PSC throughout the full range of the stock toward the PSC limit
- Limit on fixed gear PSC

The Council requests public comment at the October 2022 meeting on ways to reduce fishing related mortality of Eastern Bering Sea (EBS) snow crab. Information from fishery participants is critical to that effort and, therefore, the Council is seeking public input in the following areas:

1. Voluntary measures for implementation in 2023 and beyond to avoid EBS snow crab and reduce crab mortality in the non-directed fisheries.
2. Measures in the directed crab fishery to reduce discard mortality of EBS snow crab.
3. Description of research that would inform development of more flexible and effective spatial management measures, gear modifications to reduce impacts on the EBS snow crab stock, or to evaluate unobserved mortality in the trawl sector.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed 10/0 (Mr. Down absent from vote) on June 10, 2022, at 3:32 p.m.

## C4 Trawl EM Analysis

**Council Staff:** Anna Henry

**Other Presenters:** Maggie Chan (NMFS), Melanie Rickett (NMFS), Darrell Brannan (Brannan and Associates)

**Action Required:**

1. Review the Initial Review Draft of the EA/RIR and determine whether to release for final action
2. Consider whether to select a Preliminary Preferred Alternative
3. Review Trawl EM Committee, Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee, and Enforcement Committee reports



**Summary:** *The Council will review an analysis and make recommendations on allowing electronic monitoring to be used on pollock catcher vessels and tender vessels that deliver pollock in addition to human observers in processing plants.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following action was taken:

**Mr. Tweit made the following motion which was seconded by Ms. Vanderhoeven:**

The Council recommends releasing the analysis for final action and identifies Alternative 2: Electronic Monitoring is implemented on pelagic trawl pollock catcher vessels and tenders delivering to shoreside processors in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, as the preliminary preferred alternative. The Council supports the recommendations from the Trawl EM Committee and, in particular, recommends that the analysis provide additional information on the following elements to help guide final policy decisions for the program:

- Use of the partial coverage 1.65% fee to pay for EM equipment, service, and maintenance costs for vessels that do not participate in other trawl catch share programs with an EM option.
- Use of the partial coverage 1.65% fee to pay for housing and food for shoreside observers during deployments at processors to monitor partial coverage directed pelagic pollock deliveries from vessels using EM.
- A threshold approach where vessels that opt into the EM program would be required to participate in the EM program for the range of 25% to 100% of all pollock fishing trips in the GOA during a calendar year. All other trips would be in the observer trip selection pool.
- The structure for incentive plans that provide incentives to meet specific goals to avoid exceeding maximum retainable amounts and GOA pollock trip limits.

Staff should consider and address comments from the SSC to the extent practicable. The Council supports maintaining the current timeline for final action in October 2022.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed 10/0 (Mr. Down absent from vote) on June 11, 2022, at 12:04 p.m.

## **C5            Observer Program (a) Annual Report for 2021 – Review, FMAC report, Enforcement Committee report; (b) PCFMAC report on partial coverage cost efficiencies**

**Council Staff:** Sara Cleaver  
**Other Presenters:** Jennifer Ferdinand (NMFS AFSC), Dennis Jaszka (NMFS OLE)  
**Action Required:** 1. Review the abbreviated 2021 Observer Annual Report  
 2. Review the March PCFMAC Report  
 3. Review the June FMAC Report

**Summary:** *The Council will review a report on observer coverage in the groundfish fisheries in 2021, and provide feedback to the agency as needed.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following action was taken:

**Ms. Kimball made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:**

Observer Program 2021 Annual Report

The Council appreciates the 2021 Annual Report on the observer program and recommends NMFS update the total 2021 fixed gear electronic monitoring (EM) seadays reviewed by PSMFC and costs for the final report.

2023 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP)

The Council supports maintaining the stratification and allocation strategy from the 2022 ADP in 2023. The Council also supports 1) additional fixed gear EM vessels (30% coverage) in the EM pool in 2023 (up to 200 total vessels) provided they opt-in prior to November 1, 2022, additional funding for EM equipment is secured, and they meet the criteria in the ADP; and 2) continuation of the pelagic trawl EM project with 100% at-sea monitoring in addition to shoreside observer coverage.

Cost Efficiencies Analysis

The Council continues to strongly support NMFS' work on the comprehensive partial coverage cost efficiencies analysis to support cost savings and higher coverage rates under a schedule which allows:

- Implementation in the 2024 ADP
- Results to inform the next federal observer contract
- The PCFMAC to convene to review the draft sampling elements (likely early fall)
- The PCFMAC to convene prior to the analytical team incorporating elements into a sampling design (likely early 2023)

The Council does not support evaluation of port-based deployment that requires vessels to travel to select ports to pick up an observer in the cost efficiencies analysis.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed 10/0 (Mr. Down absent from vote) on June 11, 2022, at 3:15 p.m.

## **D1 Salmon Reports - review (a) Salmon research (AFSC, ADFG), Chinook and chum stock status; (b) Chinook/chum genetics reports for BS, GOA; (c) Chinook AEQ update and chum impact recommendations; (d) industry reports including pollock IPA reports (Council only), Sea Share, and salmon excluder EFP final report**

- Council Staff:** Dr. Diana Stram
- Other Presenters:** D1a: Dr. Katie Howard, Sabrina Garcia, Dr. Robert Foy, Dr. Ed Farley  
 D1b: Dr. Wes Larson, Chuck Guthrie, Dr. Pat Barry  
 D1c: Dr. Jim Ianelli  
 D1d: John Gauvin, John Gruver, James Mize, Stephanie Madsen, Austin Estabrooks, Jim Harmon
- Action Required:** 1. Receive range of reports on salmon bycatch and research  
 2. Action as necessary

**Summary:** *A wide range of salmon bycatch information will be presented to the Council including scientific assessments related to bycatch, research and impacts, salmon genetic reports from the BSAI and GOA and industry reports on their salmon avoidance measures.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following action was taken:

### **Ms. Baker made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Mezirow:**

The Council acknowledges the western Alaska salmon crisis and the impact it is having on culture and food security throughout western Alaska. Science indicates climate as the primary driver of poor salmon returns in western Alaska. The Council commits to continued improvements in bycatch management with a goal of minimizing bycatch at all levels of salmon and pollock abundance. Towards this end,

- **The Council requests the pollock industry implement additional chum salmon bycatch avoidance measures beginning immediately.** The Council recognizes that these new chum salmon avoidance measures may have limited ability to target the proportion of chum salmon (9%) destined to return to western Alaska but can reduce overall salmon bycatch.
- **The Council requests a discussion paper updating the 2012 analysis of chum salmon bycatch.** The paper should include:
  - updated chum salmon bycatch and genetic stock composition data, including a discussion of how the genetic composition data vary across space and time;
  - a description of the Council's rationale for establishing the current Bering Sea chum salmon bycatch management program;
  - a discussion of tradeoffs in the Bering Sea pollock fishery associated with avoiding different PSC species (e.g., chum salmon, Chinook salmon, herring); and

- a summary of conditions that have changed since the 2012 analysis (e.g., increased Asian hatchery releases and western Alaska chum salmon stock status).
- **The Council intends to consider the findings and recommendations of the State of Alaska’s Bycatch Task Force as it considers how to improve salmon bycatch management.**
- **The Council intends to collaborate with western Alaska salmon users by forming a working group of Tribal members, scientists, industry representatives, and other experts.** The working group will review and provide recommendations on: 1) the discussion paper on chum salmon bycatch referenced above; 2) the findings and recommendations from the State of Alaska’s Bycatch Task Force and the work of the Western Alaska salmon subcommittee; and 3) current information, including Local, Traditional, and Subsistence knowledge, and needed research to determine what is driving western Alaska salmon declines.
- **The Council prioritizes research on Bering Sea salmon.**
  - The Council supports NOAA and ADF&G prioritizing development of models to predict where and when specific salmon stocks will be located in the Bering Sea. This work will inform development of management measures focused on avoiding western Alaska salmon bycatch in the pollock fishery.
  - The Council supports and prioritizes work to reduce the time for analysis of genetic data, increased survey work in the nearshore environment in the Bering Sea as proposed by ADF&G, and continued industry innovation on gear modifications that may reduce bycatch.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed 10/0 (Mr. Down absent from vote) on June 13, 2022, at 11:35 a.m.

## D2 IFQ Committee Report

**Council Staff:** Sam Cunningham (NPFMC)  
**Other Presenters:** Alicia M. Miller (NMFS)  
**Action Required:** Review report; Action as necessary

***Summary:** The Council will hear a report from the Committee that discusses halibut and sablefish Individual Fishing Quotas. The committee’s recommendations on halibut vessel caps, small sablefish release, and medical transfers will be considered by the Council.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following action was taken:

**Ms. Campbell made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:**

The council adopts the following purpose and need statement and alternatives for analysis.

Purpose and Need:

In recent years, utilization of halibut quota in Area 4 has declined and conditions including lack of processing capacity, COVID-19 concerns in communities with limited medical infrastructure, increased killer whale predation, increases in operating costs, and reductions from historical TACs have all contributed to fewer vessels participating in the Area 4 fisheries.

The council is considering adjusting the vessel cap for Area 4 halibut to recognize these conditions and increase utilization of quota in the region.

Alternative 1: Status Quo

Alternative 2: Create a halibut vessel cap for Area 4 of:

Option 1: 4, 5, or 6% of the Area 4 halibut TAC

Option 2: 150% of the coastwide halibut vessel cap

Sub-options: (Can apply to either option)

1. Specify that halibut IFQ held by an Area 4B CQE does not accrue towards the Area 4 vessel cap.
2. This action will be reviewed (a. three or b. five) years after implementation or this action will be included in the next halibut/sablefish IFQ Program Review

The council requests NMFS evaluate options for extending the temporary rule to waive vessel use caps in Area 4 while the Council considers permanent changes to this provision.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed 10/0 (Mr. Down absent from vote) on June 13, 2022, at 3:55 p.m.

## **E1 Staff Tasking**

**Council Staff:** David Witherell and Diana Evans

**Action Required:**

1. Review Committees and Plan Teams
2. Provide direction on tasking priorities and scheduling

**Summary:** *The Council will listen to public testimony about existing and new management measures that the public may be interested in and will provide feedback to staff and the Council Chair about how to prioritize staff work on existing and new projects.*

*The Council will also review its committee membership, identify agendas for any upcoming committee meetings, and assess the first hybrid Council meeting in preparation for the June Council meeting in Sitka.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the Council provided direction to staff on tasking and letters, and the following actions were taken:

## E1 Plan Team Nominations

**Mr. Tweit made the following motion which was seconded by Ms. Vanderhoeven:**

The Council approves the following Plan Team nominations for appointment:

**BSAI Plan Team** - Caitlin Allen Akselrud, Beth Matta, Dr. Andrew Seitz, Dr. Michael Smith, and Jane Sullivan

**GOA Plan Team** – Kristan Blackhart

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed 10/0 (Mr. Down absent from vote) on June 13, 2022, at 4:58 p.m.

## E1 Reflections on Council Process

**Mr. Marx made the following motion which was seconded by Ms. Kimball:**

The Council adopts the following changes to the Council process, as outlined in the discussion paper:

### AP/SSC nomination and reappointment process

- Open the call for AP and SSC nominations at the June Council meeting and extend the open period through October 31.
- Augment language in the AP Handbook Section 3.3 to include the following: *AP members are expected to work collaboratively and professionally in a public, high-pressure environment requiring problem solving skills and ability to compromise*
- Provide additional support to new AP members (e.g., 1 - 2 opportunities per year for a Council staff led 'AP 101' training to review the AP Handbook, relevant Federal laws, etc; other training)
- Request input from the SSC on expertise needed for new membership, and identify specific expertise in the SSC call for nominations.
- Request SSC members to help with recruitment.

### Agency B Reports

The Council requests written and oral briefings from agencies and partners however, standalone written reports are sufficient when reporting on non-time sensitive or routine administrative information.

### Remote Testimony

- It is the Council's intent to provide for remote public testimony at Council meetings.
- On a case-by-case basis, evaluate the tradeoffs of meeting in remote and rural communities that do not have the internet bandwidth to support remote testimony, remote presenters, and remote participation by members. This means there could be in-person Council meetings in smaller communities where remote participation is not possible.

### Harvest Specifications and Council Meetings

The Council proposes to convene a meeting with Council members and AP/SSC leadership ahead of October meeting to:

- Discuss timing of crab and groundfish harvest specifications in light of fishery needs and stock prioritization.
- Evaluate potential changes to the annual meeting schedule for the Council, including reducing the number of annual Council meetings from 5 to 4, and dropping the February meeting, as well as consider circumstances where virtual meetings are appropriate. Workload and need for Council priority setting are important considerations in this discussion.

#### **Mr. Mezirow made the following amendment which was seconded by Ms. Kimball:**

(Delete the following language in ~~strikeout~~, and add the following in **bold**)

### AP/SSC nomination and reappointment process

- Open the call for AP and SSC nominations at the June Council meeting and extend the open period through ~~October 31~~ **November 15**.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed 10/0 (Mr. Down absent from vote) on June 13, 2022, at 5:19 p.m.

#### **Ms. Kimball made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Mezirow:**

(Delete the following language in ~~strikeout~~, and add the following in **bold**)

### Agency B Reports

The Council ~~requests~~ **allows** written and oral briefings from agencies and partners however, standalone written reports are sufficient when reporting on non-time sensitive or routine administrative information.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed 10/0 (Mr. Down absent from vote) on June 13, 2022, at 5:22 p.m.

**VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION:** Motion passed 10/0 (Mr. Down absent from vote) on June 13, 2022, at 5:25 p.m.

## E1 Crab C Shares Recent Participation Emergency Rule

#### **Ms. Campbell made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:**

The AP ~~recommends that the~~ Council requests the Secretary promulgate emergency regulations under the authority of Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to suspend the recent participation requirements for Catcher Vessel Crew (CVC) QS and Catcher Processor Crew (CPC) QS and suspend any revocation of and issue all IFQ for the CVC QS and CPC QS for this upcoming 2022/23 fishing season. The urgency to do this now is the application deadline for the upcoming 2022/23 is June 15th of 2022. This action would not modify other aspects of the CR Program.

The AP ~~also recommends that the~~ Council initiates analysis to modify the CVC QS and CPC QS recent participation requirements with the following purpose and need and alternatives for analysis.

Purpose and Need:

The CVC and CPC shares have a participation requirement of one delivery during the previous 4 consecutive years. With the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, now in its third year, ~~many~~ some crew members have not been able to comply with the participation requirement. With the unforeseen circumstance of the decline of the BSS stock and potential fishery closures, there will be less opportunity for crew to participate in crab fisheries.

- Alternative 1 - No action
- Alternative 2 - Modify the CVC QS and CPC QS recency requirement
  - Option 1: Restart the recent participation requirement beginning in 2023/24 fishing year. Do not count 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, toward the recent participation requirement.
  - Option 2: Give the Regional Administrator the authority to suspend the CVC QS and CPC QS recent participation requirement.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed 8/1 (Mr. Kurland voted in opposition; Mr. Down and Mr. Mezirow absent from vote) on June 13, 2022, at 6 p.m.

**The Council adjourned on Monday, June 13, 2022, at 6:05 P.M.**





**TIME LOG**  
**NPFMC June Council Meeting – 260th Plenary Session Meeting**  
**held at the Harrigan Hall, Sitka, Alaska**  
**and virtually via Zoom Webinar**  
**June 9-13, 2022**

## **Thursday, June 9, 2022**

6/9/2022 8:01 AM Call to order  
6/9/2022 8:03 AM Approval of Minutes

### **B REPORTS**

6/9/2022 8:04 AM **B1 Executive Director Report** – NPFMC ED, David Witherell  
6/9/2022 8:07 AM Janet Coit addresses the Council  
6/9/2022 8:36 AM B1 Continued – Ideas for change presentation – NPFMC staff, Diana Evans  
6/9/2022 9:05 AM Lauren O’Brien – Marine Resource Education Program  
6/9/2022 9:07 AM B1 Continued  
6/9/2022 9:16 AM **B2 NMFS Management Report** – Josh Keaton and Doug Duncan (update on crab rebuilding process)  
6/9/2022 9:28 AM **B2 Medical Transfer Limits Presentation** – Mason Smith  
6/9/2022 9:56 AM Break  
6/9/2022 10:20 AM **B4 NOAA Enforcement Report** – Nathan Lagerwey and Alex Perry  
6/9/2022 10:55 AM **B5 ADFG Report** – Doug Vincent Lang  
6/9/2022 11:04 AM **B6 USCG Report** – LCDR Jed Raskie  
6/9/2022 11:13 AM **B7 USFWS Report** – Kate Martin  
6/9/2022 11:25 AM **B8 NPRB Report** – Lynn Palensky and Dr. Matt Baker  
6/9/2022 12:12 PM Lunch Break  
6/9/2022 1:20 PM **B Public Testimony**  
6/9/2022 1:21 PM Rebecca Skinner  
6/9/2022 1:37 PM Julie Bonney  
6/9/2022 1:43 PM Lenny Herzog  
6/9/2022 1:49 PM **B Mr. Tweit Motion**

### **C1 Central GOA Rockfish Adjustments– Final Action**

6/9/2022 1:58 PM **C1 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Jon McCracken and Sarah Rheinsmith  
6/9/2022 2:27 PM SSC Report – Dr. Sherri Dressel  
6/9/2022 2:35 PM AP Report – Matt Upton  
6/9/2022 2:35 PM **C1 Public Testimony**  
6/9/2022 2:35 PM Marissa Wilson  
6/9/2022 2:42 PM Rebecca Skinner  
6/9/2022 2:49 PM Darius Kasprzak

## June 2022 Time Log

6/9/2022 2:52 PM Jon Warrenchuk  
6/9/2022 3:00 PM Break  
6/9/2022 3:17 PM **C1 Ms. Kimball Motion**

### **C2 BSAI Pacific Cod Small Boat Access**

6/9/2022 3:38 PM **C2 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Kate Haapala and NMFS, Abby Jahn  
6/9/2022 4:10 PM Recess

## **Friday, June 10, 2022**

### **C2 BSAI Pacific Cod Small Boat Access**

6/10/2022 8:00 AM Call to Order  
6/10/2022 8:01 AM AP Report – Matt Upton  
6/10/2022 8:05 AM SSC Report – Dr. Sherri Dressel  
6/10/2022 8:13 AM **C2 Public Testimony**  
6/10/2022 8:13 AM Frank Kelty  
6/10/2022 8:16 AM Dustan Dickerson  
6/10/2022 8:33 AM Vinnie James  
6/10/2022 8:40 AM **Ms. Bush Motion**

### **C3 BSAI Crab**

6/10/2022 8:48 AM **C3 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Sarah Rheinsmith, ADFG, Katie Palof, NMFS  
Dr. Mike Litzow  
6/10/2022 09:52 AM Break  
6/10/2022 10:14 AM **C3 EBS Snow Crab Rebuilding Plan** – NPMFC staff, Jon McCracken  
6/10/2022 10:27 AM PNCIAC report – Steve Minor and Jamie Goen  
6/10/2022 10:31 AM SSC Report – Dr. Sherri Dressel and Dr. Franz Mueter  
6/10/2022 11:35 AM AP Report – Ruth Christiansen  
6/10/2022 11:48 AM **C3 Public Testimony**  
6/10/2022 11:48 AM Jamie Goen and Cory Lescher  
6/10/2022 12:02 PM Break  
6/10/2022 1:00 PM **C3 Public Testimony Continued**  
6/10/2022 1:06 PM Dick Miller  
6/10/2022 1:10 PM Frank Kelty  
6/10/2022 1:16 PM Craig Rose  
6/10/2022 1:22 PM Edward Poulsen  
6/10/2022 1:35 PM Mateo Paz-Soldan  
6/10/2022 1:39 PM Heather McCarty  
6/10/2022 1:45 PM John Gauvin  
6/10/2022 1:54 PM Scott Goodman  
6/10/2022 2:07 PM Craig Lowenberg  
6/10/2022 2:10 PM Lenny Herzog  
6/10/2022 2:13 PM Gretar Gudmundsson  
6/10/2022 2:15 PM Lance Farr

## June 2022 Time Log

6/10/2022 2:18 PM Break  
6/10/2022 2:44 PM Abby Turner-Franke (C5 Testimony - out of order)  
6/10/2022 2:47 PM Staff clarifications on C3  
6/10/2022 3:01 PM **Ms. Baker Motion #1** – BSAI Crab specifications  
6/10/2022 3:06 PM **Ms. Baker Motion #2** – EBS Snow Crab Rebuilding  
6/10/2022 3:36 PM Recess

## Saturday, June 11, 2022

### **C4 Trawl Electronic Monitoring**

6/11/2022 9:37 AM Call to Order  
6/11/2022 9:37 AM **C4 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Anna Henry, Maggie Chan, Melanie Rickett (NMFS) and Darrell Brannan (Brannan & Associates)  
6/11/2022 10:00 AM Break  
6/11/2022 10:19 AM **Trawl EM Committee Report** – Anna Henry  
6/11/2022 10:49 AM **FMAC report** – NPFMC staff, Sara Cleaver  
6/11/2022 10:53 AM **Enforcement Committee Report** – Nathan Lagerwey  
6/11/2022 10:57 AM SSC Report – Dr. Sherri Dressel  
6/11/2022 11:11 AM AP Report – Ruth Christiansen  
6/11/2022 11:14 AM **C4 Public Testimony**  
6/11/2022 11:14 AM Julie Bonney  
6/11/2022 11:30 AM Ruth Christiansen  
6/11/2022 11:31 AM Patrick O'Donnell and Rebecca Skinner  
6/11/2022 11:39 AM Charlotte Levy  
6/11/2022 11:46 AM **Mr. Tweit Motion**  
6/11/2022 12:05 PM Break  
6/11/2022 1:10 PM Balance of the SSC report

### **C5 Observer Program**

6/11/2022 1:32 PM **C5 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Sara Cleaver, Jennifer Ferdinand (NMFS AFSC), Dennis Jaszka (NMFS OLE)  
6/11/2022 2:17 PM C5 PCFMAC & FMAC reports – NPFMC staff, Sara Cleaver  
6/11/2022 2:45 PM Break  
6/11/2022 2:58 PM AP Report – Ruth Christiansen  
6/11/2022 3:00 PM **C5 Public Testimony**  
6/11/2022 3:00 PM Paul Clampitt  
6/11/2022 3:05 PM Dan Falvey  
6/11/2022 3:11 PM **Ms. Kimball Motion**

**D1 Salmon reports – review (a) Salmon research (AFSC, ADFG), Chinook and chum stock status; (b) Chinook/chum genetics reports for BS, GOA; (c) Chinook AEQ update and chum impact recommendations; (d) industry reports including pollock IPA reports (Council only), Sea Share (Council only), and salmon excluder EFP final report**

6/11/2022 3:23 PM D1 Industry Report, EFP Presentation – John Gauvin  
6/11/2022 3:52 PM Recess

**Sunday, June 12, 2022**

**D1 Salmon Reports Continued**

6/12/2022 8:33 AM Call to Order  
6/12/2022 8:34 AM **D1 Public Testimony – Out of Order**  
6/12/2022 8:38 AM LaMont Albertson  
6/12/2022 8:39 AM Gisela Chapa  
6/12/2022 8:45 AM **D1 Introduction** – NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram  
6/12/2022 9:05 AM D1a ADFG WAK Stock Salmon Research – Dr. Katie Howard  
6/12/2022 9:21 AM D1a AFSC Salmon Research Presentation – Dr. Robert Foy and Dr. Ed Farley  
6/12/2022 10:36 AM D1a ADFG WAK Chinook and Chum Salmon Marine Research – Dr. Katie Howard  
6/12/2022 11:17 AM D1b Chum Bycatch report – Dr. Pat Barry  
6/12/2022 11:58 AM D1b Chinook Bycatch report - Chuck Guthrie  
6/12/2022 12:45 AM D1b Genetics Overview – Dr. Wes Larson  
6/12/2022 1:01 PM D1c AEQ update – Dr. Jim Ianelli  
6/12/2022 1:57 PM D1d CP IPA – Stephanie Madsen and Austin Estabrooks  
6/12/2022 2:33 PM D1d CV IPA – Inshore SSIP – John Gruver  
6/12/2022 3:24 PM D1d MSSIP – James Mize  
6/12/2022 3:38 PM D1d SeaShare – Jim Harmon  
6/12/2022 3:52 PM **Balance of the AP report** – Ruth Christiansen  
6/12/2022 4:17 PM **D1 Public Testimony**  
6/12/2022 4:17 PM **Gisela Chapa**  
6/12/2022 4:17 PM Vivian Korthuis  
6/12/2022 4:26 PM Chief Karma Ulvi  
6/12/2022 4:30 PM Mike Williams Sr.  
6/12/2022 4:37 PM Elena Aluskak  
6/12/2022 4:44 PM Jimmy Hurley Sr.  
6/12/2022 4:49 PM Stephanie Madsen  
6/12/2022 5:02 PM Adolph Lupie  
6/12/2022 5:07 PM Gerry Davis  
6/12/2022 5:12 PM Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian  
6/12/2022 5:23 PM Andrew Thoms  
6/12/2022 5:28 PM Recess

**Monday, June 13, 2022**

**D1 Salmon Reports Public Testimony Continued**

6/13/2022 8:01 AM	Call to Order
6/13/2022 8:02 AM	<b>D1 Public Testimony</b>
6/13/2022 8:02 AM	Paul Wilkins
6/13/2022 8:06 AM	Brent Paine
6/13/2022 8:23 AM	Linda Behnken
6/13/2022 8:39 AM	Heather Bauscher
6/13/2022 8:48 AM	Caitlin Yeager
6/13/2022 8:52 AM	Douglas Dabrowski
6/13/2022 8:54 AM	Jeff Farvour
6/13/2022 8:57 AM	Tom Huntington
6/13/2022 9:05 AM	Lexi Hackett
6/13/2022 9:06 AM	Serena Fitka and Becca Robbins Gisclair
6/13/2022 9:26 AM	Jaylene Wheeler
6/13/2022 9:31 AM	Walter Morgan
6/13/2022 9:36 AM	Amy Daugherty
6/13/2022 9:41 AM	Verner Wilson III
6/13/2022 9:47 AM	Terese Schomogyi
6/13/2022 10:25 AM	<b>Ms. Baker Motion</b>
6/13/2022 11:37 AM	Lunch Break

**B10 National Marine Sanctuary Report**

6/13/2022 1:05 PM	<b>B10 Presentation</b> – Kristina Kekuewa, Hoku Ka’aekuahiwi Pousima, Kalani Quiocho, Edward Lindelof (NOAA ONMS Pacific Islands Region)
6/13/2022 2:12 PM	<b>B10 Public Testimony</b> – Noah Oppenheim
6/13/2022 2:13 PM	Noah Oppenheim

**D2 IFQ Committee Report**

6/13/2022 2:26 PM	D2 Presentation – NPFMC staff, Sam Cunningham and Alicia Miller
6/13/2022 3:08 PM	<b>D2 Public Testimony</b>
6/13/2022 3:08 PM	Paul Clampitt
6/13/2022 3:12 PM	John Moller
6/13/2022 3:15 PM	Bernie Burkholder
6/13/2022 3:18 PM	Bob Alverson
6/13/2022 3:21 PM	Linda Behnken
6/13/2022 3:35 PM	Jeff Farvour
6/13/2022 3:38 PM	Ian Knuckey
6/13/2022 3:49 PM	<b>Ms. Campbell Motion</b>

**E STAFF TASKING**

6/13/2022 3:56 PM	E Staff Tasking Ticker List – NPFMC ED, David Witherell
6/13/2022 4:13 PM	<b>E Public Testimony</b>
6/13/2022 4:13 PM	Gretar Gudmundson
6/13/2022 4:20 PM	Steve Minor
6/13/2022 4:24 PM	Jim Armstrong
6/13/2022 4:29 PM	John Iani
6/13/2022 4:31 PM	Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian
6/13/2022 4:36 PM	Jamie Goen
6/13/2022 4:57 PM	<b>Mr. Tweit Motion</b> - Plan Team Nominations
6/13/2022 5:00 PM	<b>Mr. Marx Motion</b> – Council Process
6/13/2022 5:42 PM	<b>Ms. Campbell Motion</b> – Crab C Shares
6/13/2022 6:05 PM	Adjourned

# June 2022 Newsletter

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## Call for Nominations

### SSC and Advisory Panel

As described here, the Council has moved up the timing for its AP/SSC nomination process, and will be accepting nominations for the SSC and AP from now through November 15, 2022. Details about how to apply will be distributed and posted on the Council website by the end of June. The Council also discussed including a Tribal representative seat on the Advisory Panel beginning this nomination cycle; the Council will finalize more specific language in October, so that interested persons may apply before the November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.



The Advisory Panel Meeting June 2022

### Community Engagement Committee

The **Community Engagement Committee** (CEC) was formed by the Council in June 2018 to identify and recommend strategies for the Council to provide effective community engagement with rural and Alaska Native communities. All members of the existing committee have chosen to remain on the committee, with one exception. **The Council would like to continue to fill that seat with someone from the Norton Sound/Bering Strait region if possible. The Council is also interested in adding two other members from communities engaged in federal fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula or Aleutian Islands regions, for a total of three new members.** The nomination period to fill this vacancy will be open until July 30, 2022. New members are not expected to begin attending CEC meetings no sooner than Fall 2022. Please submit a letter of interest describing your experience, background, and where you live and fish to Kate Haapala (Council staff) by close of business on July 30 ([kate.haapala@noaa.gov](mailto:kate.haapala@noaa.gov); 907-271-2809).

### Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee

The Council is soliciting nominations for an **active observer representative** for the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC). The FMAC convenes industry members, agency representatives, and observer providers to advise the Council on issues related to monitoring in the North Pacific halibut and groundfish fisheries. Please submit a letter of interest to Sara Cleaver ([sara.cleaver@noaa.gov](mailto:sara.cleaver@noaa.gov)) by July 30.

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## Campbell Farewell

The Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association and other industry partners held a seafood reception for members and attendees at the North Pacific Council meetings, and to honor Cora Campbell at her last meeting. Campbell has been involved with the Council for many years, first serving on the Advisory Panel in 2004, then participating as a Council member as Commissioner of ADF&G in 2010. Most recently, she has served as an appointed Council member since 2019. Thank you, Cora, for your commitment to managing and sustaining fishery resources in the North Pacific.



Cora Campbell explained her next steps.

The Council would like to thank all the **businesses and organizations** that donated seafood and resources for the reception and thanks to the city and people of Sitka for hosting our meetings.

## CGOA Rockfish Program

The Council at this meeting selected a preferred alternative to revise the Central Gulf Alaska Rockfish Program after reviewing the public review draft, recommendations from the SSC and AP, and considering public testimony. The Council also requested staff address comments from the SSC in the Secretary of Commerce version to the extent practicable. The preferred alternative includes the following Alternative 2 options:

- 1) change the season start date from May 1 to April 1
- 2) eliminate the catcher vessel (CV) cooperative holding cap of 30 percent
- 3) increase the processing cap to 40 percent of the CV quota share pool for sablefish, Pacific cod, and primary rockfish, and
- 4) revise the vessel aggregated rockfish harvesting cap by capping only Pacific ocean perch (POP) at 8 percent of the CV quota share pool for this species.



The purpose of this action is to address changes in the fishery which would increase flexibility and efficiency, improve functionality, and better ensure the total allowable catch for the primary rockfish species is fully harvested and landed in Kodiak as intended. Unforeseen changes in the Central GOA rockfish fishery in recent years that include the continuing Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic conditions, impacts to the GOA flatfish market due to the continuing foreign trade tariffs, and the loss of several shorebased processing facilities in Kodiak have resulted in difficulties processing all the trawl CV rockfish quota, especially later in the season as processors approach their current processing caps or close for seasonal maintenance. In addition, dusky rockfish and northern rockfish CV quota are not fully harvested, so modifying the aggregate harvest cap for the primary rockfish species to apply only to POP could facilitate a greater percentage of dusky rockfish and northern rockfish quota being harvested.

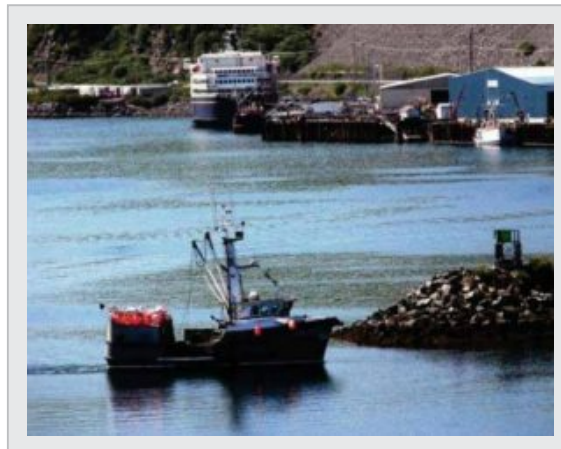


Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

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## BSAI Small Vessel Access

The Council evaluated the initial review draft of the Bering Sea Aleutian Island (BSAI) small vessel access analysis and selected a preliminary preferred alternative. After receiving the presentation on the analysis, public comment, and recommendations from the Science and Statistical Committee and the Advisory Panel, the Council **revised the purpose and need statement** to align the action more closely with the identified problem. Increased participation in the less than 60' hook-and-line (H&L) or pot catcher vessel (CV) sector and decreasing BSAI Pacific cod TACs resulting in lesser reallocations from other sectors have resulted in shortened seasons for the sector.



Under 60' small vessel

At this meeting, the Council also selected a preliminary preferred alternative to redefine the BSAI Pacific cod jig sector to include H&L or pot CVs less than or equal to 55' length overall and to keep the jig sector's B-season as a jig-only fishery. The proposed action could provide stability and additional opportunities for fishery participants with smaller H&L or pot CVs operating in the BSAI Pacific cod less than 60' H&L or pot CV sector by redefining the jig sector to include them.

Staff contact is Kate Haapala.

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## BSAI Crab Specifications – Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The Council specified OFLs and ABCs for Aleutian Islands golden king crab (AIGKC) and accepted the updated BSAI Crab SAFE chapter. For AIGKC, the Council adopted an OFL of 3,761 mt and ABC of 2,821 mt for the 2022/23 fishing year. Based on the updated stock assessment, AIGKC is not overfished. The AIGKC 2022 catch data are still preliminary, thus a determination of stock status with respect to overfishing will not be provided until the final 2022 BSAI Crab SAFE is approved by the SSC at the October 2022 Council meeting.

The Council also reviewed model scenarios for Pribilof Islands blue king crab, Eastern Bering Sea snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, and Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab and several other issues from the May 2022 Crab Plan Team Report.

Staff contact for the BSAI Crab Plan Team is Sarah Rheinsmith.



Golden king crab (*Lithodes aequispinus*)

## Snow Crab Rebuilding Plan

At this meeting, the Council adopted draft alternatives for an analysis to establish a rebuilding plan for Eastern Bering Sea (EBS) snow crab, and requested public comment on ways to reduce fishing-related mortality of snow crab. On October 19, 2021, NMFS notified the Council that the Eastern Bering Sea (EBS) snow crab status has been changed to overfished. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) requires that a rebuilding plan be developed and implemented within two years of the stock being declared overfished. The Council recognized that developing alternatives for rebuilding proves difficult without an SSC recommendation for the projected minimum time to rebuild the EBS snow crab stock without an established fishing mortality, as required per the rebuilding plan guidelines. In October 2022, the SSC will review several recommended model scenarios to aid in establishing model parameters and the selection of  $T_{\min}$  and  $T_{\max}$ , which establish the minimum and maximum time limits for rebuilding the snow crab stock under the rebuilding plan. The Council **motion** included the following draft alternatives:



Bering Sea snow crab. Photo: NOAA Fisheries

Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 2: Adopt a rebuilding plan and specify a target rebuilding time not to exceed  $T_{\max}$ , as recommended by the SSC. The stock will be considered “rebuilt” once it reaches  $B_{\text{MSY}}$ .

Option 1: No directed fishing until the stock is rebuilt, allow bycatch removals only

Option 2: Allow bycatch removals and a directed snow crab fishery under the current State of Alaska harvest strategy

The motion also included a request to staff to provide additional information about the extent to which specific bycatch management measures might affect the rebuilding timeline. This information will be included in the initial review analysis, currently scheduled for December 2022.

Additionally, the Council requests public comment at the October 2022 meeting on ways to reduce fishing-related mortality of snow crab. Comments from fishery participants and the public on the following issues would be particularly useful:

1. Voluntary measures for implementation in 2023 and beyond to avoid EBS snow crab and reduce crab mortality in the non-directed fisheries.
2. Measures in the directed crab fishery to reduce discard mortality of EBS snow crab.
3. Description of research that would inform the development of more flexible and effective spatial management measures, gear modifications to reduce impacts on the EBS snow crab stock, or to

evaluate unobserved mortality in the trawl sector.

Staff contact for snow crab rebuilding is Jon McCracken and Sarah Rheinsmith.

## Trawl Electronic Monitoring

The Council conducted an initial review of a draft analysis to integrate Electronic Monitoring (EM) on Pollock Catcher Vessels using Pelagic Trawl Gear and Tender Vessels in the North Pacific Observer Program and recommended releasing the analysis for final action. The Council selected Alternative 2 as the preliminary preferred alternative which would implement EM on pelagic trawl pollock catcher vessels and tenders delivering to shoreside processors in the Bering Sea (BS) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA). After receiving the Trawl EM Committee report from its review of the analysis in May, the Council supported the Committee recommendations and specifically recommended additional information on four issues be included in the analysis to help guide final policy decisions for the program. This information is in addition to, not in place of the existing information in the document and does not signal specific policy direction.



**Trawl catcher vessels will deploy electronic monitoring.**

- Using the partial coverage 1.65% fee to pay for EM equipment, service, and maintenance costs for vessels that do not participate in other trawl catch share programs with an EM option. This would apply to vessels that only participate in the GOA fishery and would be consistent with the funding mechanism of the fixed gear EM program.
- Use of the partial coverage 1.65% fee to pay for housing and food for shoreside observers during deployments at processors to monitor partial coverage directed pelagic pollock deliveries from vessels using EM. The analysis currently describes these costs as the responsibility of the plants because that is how it has been structured under the exempted fishing permit (EFP), but that may change under a regulated program.
- A threshold approach where vessels that opt into the EM program would be required to participate in the EM program for the range of 25% to 100% of all pollock fishing trips in the GOA during a calendar year. All other trips would be in the observer trip selection pool. This represents a compromise that would allow vessels more flexibility than an annual opt-in requirement and more predictability for the agency than a trip-by-trip opt-in structure.
- The structure for incentive plans that provide incentives to meet specific goals to avoid exceeding maximum retainable amounts and GOA pollock trip limits. These industry-run plans would function similarly to the vessel performance standards that have been utilized in the EFP. Under this model, the Council could set up goals for the incentive plan, receive an annual report and reevaluate every three years.

The Council directed staff to consider and address comments from the SSC to the extent practicable and supported maintaining the current timeline for final action in October 2022.

The Council also passed a motion under the B items to draft a letter of support for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) EM funding proposals to sustain the final year of the pelagic trawl electronic monitoring EFP as it moves towards a regulated program and to advance new efforts in electronic technologies and monitoring, including:

- A proposal from United Catcher Boats for the Final Year of Pre-Implementation of a Regulated EM Program for Compliance Monitoring in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska Pelagic Trawl Pollock Catcher Vessel Fisheries
- A proposal from Aleutians East Borough for Improving Data Quality through ET Implementation in the Western Gulf of Alaska
- A proposal from Alaska Groundfish Databank for Testing Electronic Monitoring on Trawl Catcher Vessels Participating in the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program
- A proposal from Real Time Data for real time electronic logbook data collection and reporting in Alaska's groundfish and halibut fisheries

Staff contact is Anna Henry.

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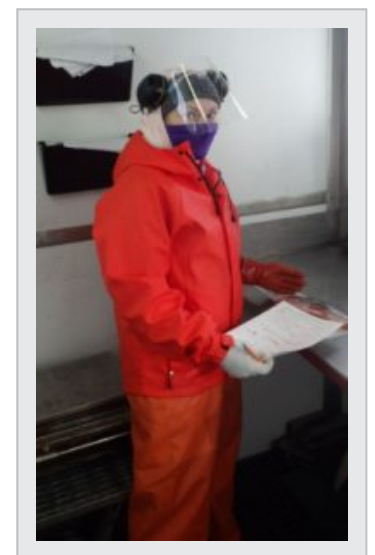
## Observer Issues

The Council received a presentation from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the Draft 2021 Observer Program Annual Report and provided recommendations for the development of the 2023 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP). The Annual Report provides a scientific evaluation of the deployment of observers in 2021 to evaluate if deployment expectations were met that year. The report also includes information describing the program, enforcement trends, outreach efforts, and agency recommendations for the 2023 Draft ADP. This year's report is abbreviated in response to previous Council direction due to the complications in deployment plans because of COVID-19, and the Council has also recognized that an abbreviated report conserves staff time for work on the Partial Observer Coverage Cost Efficiencies Integrated Analysis (Cost Efficiencies Analysis) for the Draft 2024 Annual Deployment Plan.

The Council also received a report from the Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC) on ongoing analytical work for cost efficiencies in the partial coverage observer program, and a report from the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC) on the Annual Report and the Trawl Electronic Monitoring (EM) Analysis, as well as several other topics.

The Council appreciates the 2021 Observer Program Annual Report and recommends NMFS update the total 2021 fixed gear EM seadays reviewed by PSMFC and costs for the final report. The Council also supported NMFS' recommendations for the 2023 Draft ADP (from Section 5.1 of the Annual Report):

- Maintaining the three gear-based deployment strata (hook-and-line, pot, and trawl) and maintaining the allocation strategy from the 2022 ADP in 2023.



**Observer taking samples onboard a vessel.**

- Adding fixed gear EM vessels (30% coverage) in the EM pool in 2023 (up to 200 total vessels) provided they opt-in prior to November 1, 2022, additional funding for EM equipment is secured, and they meet the criteria in the ADP.
- Continuation of the pelagic trawl EM project with 100% at-sea monitoring in addition to shoreside observer coverage

The Council continues to strongly support NMFS' work on the comprehensive partial coverage cost efficiencies analysis to support cost savings and higher coverage rates under a schedule which allows:

- Implementation in the 2024 ADP
- Results to inform the next federal observer contract
- The PCFMAC to convene to review the draft sampling elements (likely early fall)
- The PCFMAC to convene prior to the analytical team incorporating elements into a sampling design (likely early 2023)

Additionally, the Council does not support evaluation of port-based deployment that requires vessels to travel to select ports to pick up an observer in the cost efficiencies analysis.

Lastly, the Council expressed its support for the four EM-focused NFWF proposals highlighted in the Council's B reports.

Staff contact is Sara Cleaver.

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## Salmon Reports

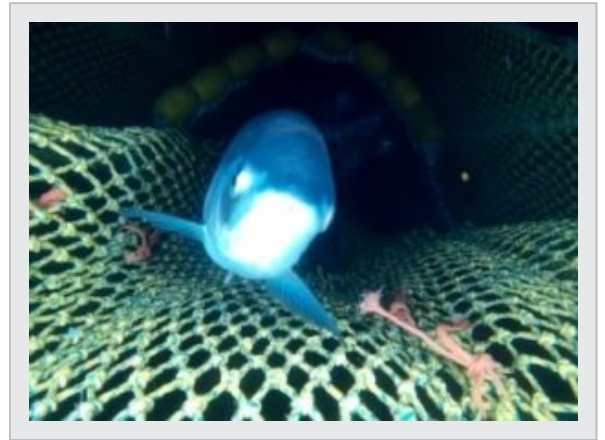
The Council received a range of reports related to western Alaskan salmon and salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, and took several actions. A series of scientific reports were presented on state and federal efforts on Western Alaska Chinook and chum stock status; salmon research; salmon bycatch genetics for both chum and Chinook; and updated information on the impacts of bycatch on Chinook and chum salmon returns to western Alaska rivers, including a Bering Sea Chinook Adult Equivalency (AEQ) and impact rate report and staff suggestions on assessing the impacts of chum bycatch on western Alaska chum salmon returns. The Council also received industry reports on the efforts to reduce both chum and Chinook salmon bycatch under the sector-level incentives plans, a final report on the multi-year salmon excluder project and an overview of SeaShare's hunger relief efforts to distribute donated salmon (and halibut) to food banks.

The Council received considerable public testimony from stakeholders in western Alaska noting the dire state of salmon stocks and the impacts on their health, livelihood and culture as well as feedback from the pollock industry on their efforts to reduce their bycatch of both chum and Chinook salmon. The Council acknowledges the western Alaska salmon crisis and the impact it is having on culture and food security throughout western Alaska. Science indicates climate as the primary driver of poor salmon returns in western Alaska. Nevertheless, the Council is committed to continued improvements in bycatch management with a goal of minimizing bycatch at all levels of salmon and pollock abundance.

With that, the Council took several actions related to bycatch and research. The Council requested the pollock industry to institute immediate measures to reduce chum bycatch during the summer fishery and report back

to the Council on those efforts following the end of the B season.

The Council requested a discussion paper on chum salmon bycatch building upon the previous analysis in 2012. Additional items to be included are an updated chum salmon bycatch and genetic stock composition data, a description of the Council's rationale for establishing the current Bering Sea chum salmon bycatch management program; a discussion of tradeoffs in the Bering Sea pollock fishery associated with avoiding different PSC species (e.g., chum salmon, Chinook salmon, herring); and a summary of conditions that have changed since the 2012 analysis (e.g., increased Asian hatchery releases and western Alaska chum salmon stock status). The Council also indicated strong support towards prioritizing further research on Bering Sea salmon.



The Council initiated a Salmon Bycatch Committee comprised of Tribal members, scientists, industry representatives, and other experts, which will provide recommendations on: 1) the discussion paper on chum salmon bycatch; 2) the findings and recommendations from the State of Alaska's Bycatch Task Force and the work of the Western Alaska salmon subcommittee; and 3) current information, including Local, Traditional, and Subsistence knowledge, and needed research to determine what is driving western Alaska salmon declines. A nomination process for the committee will be posted to the Council's website at the beginning of August with appointments to be made at the October Council meeting. The State of Alaska's Bycatch Task Force recommendations will be available in November. The Committee will meet prior to the December Council meeting and provide its recommendations to the Council in conjunction with the review of the discussion paper and Task Force recommendations.

Staff contact is Diana Stram.

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## IFQ Committee Report

The Council received a report on the IFQ Committee's May 2022 meeting. The IFQ Committee made three recommendations to the Council, which were supported: (1) initiate an analysis of modified halibut vessel use caps in IPHC Area 4; (2) schedule the next review of alternatives to allow the voluntary, careful release of small sablefish in the IFQ fishery; and (3) endorse the NMFS analysis of a rule to waive medical transfers that occurred during years impacted by COVID-19 (2020-2022).

The Council tasked an analysis with defined alternatives for modifying the Area 4 halibut vessel use cap. The status quo alternative would maintain the vessel use cap definition that no vessel may harvest IFQ in an amount greater than 0.5% of the "coastwide" catch limit (sum of Areas 2C, 3AB, and 4ABCD) over the course of a year, regardless of where fishing occurs. The action alternative would either create (Option 1) an Area 4 vessel use cap equal to 4%, 5%, or 6% of the sum of the Area 4ABCD combined catch limit, or (Option 2) an Area 4 vessel use cap equal to 150% of the vessel use cap as determined by the "coastwide" catch limit. The Council clarified that an Area 4 cap and the coastwide cap that would continue to exist in other areas are not

additive. In other words, catch that a vessel makes outside of Area 4 accrues to higher Area 4 cap. The effect would be that vessels fishing in Area 4 are allowed to harvest additional pounds *in that area*.

The Council included suboptions that could be applied under either Option. The first suboption would specify that catch of halibut IFQ that is held by an Area 4B community quota entity (CQE) does not accrue to the Area 4 vessel use cap (note that the Area 4B CQE can only own Area 4B quota share). This would be analogous to community development quota (CDQ) halibut, which does not accrue to vessel use caps, and in contrast to an existing 50,000 lbs. limit on the amount of CQE-derived IFQ than a vessel can harvest annually. The purpose of this suboption is to allow the Area 4B CQE community some relief in harvesting their IFQ while working to rebuild local fleet and processing capacity. The second suboption specifies that any action taken should be reviewed either three years after implementation, five years after implementation, or as part of the next IFQ Program Review to occur after implementation.

Finally, given that an action taken on these alternatives would not be in effect in time for the 2023 IFQ season, the Council requested that NMFS evaluate options for extending the temporary rule that waives halibut vessel use caps in Area 4. Such a rule is in place for the 2022 season.

The Council also supported the IFQ Committee's recommendation to schedule the next initial review of action to allow small sablefish release, although without setting a specific date. The Council Chairman and Executive Director will schedule that review as Council agenda time and NPFMC/NMFS/AFSC staff resources allow.

Staff contact is Sam Cunningham.

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## Staff Tasking

The Council discussed the relative priority and scheduling of previously-tasked projects, and identified new tasking. The revised [3 meeting outlook](#) reflects this guidance.

Following review of the **Council advisory groups**, the Council took the following actions:

- Call for nominations for 2023 Advisory Panel and SSC members.
- Appointed 5 persons (Caitlin Allen Akselrud, Beth Matta, Andrew Seitz, Michael Smith, and Jane Sullivan) to the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team, and one person (Kristan Blackhart) to the GOA Groundfish Plan Team.
- Directed staff to solicit nominations for an active observer vacancy on the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC), and additional members for the Community Engagement Committee (CEC). The Chair intends to reconvene the CEC later this year.
- Under the salmon reports agenda item, established a call for nominations for a salmon committee to include Tribal members, scientists, industry representatives, and other experts, and to be chaired by a Council member (see discussion in the salmon newsletter article).

The Council directed staff to **write the following letters**:

- under the B reports agenda item, to NFWF in support of several monitoring [projects](#) that have been submitted for funding (see discussion in [trawl EM newsletter article](#)).

- to NOAA Fisheries with [comments](#) on the three Draft Climate Science Regional Action Plans developed for the North Pacific.
- to NOAA Fisheries with comments on the [Draft Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy](#).
- to NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program requesting more information on the process for moving a proposed area from the inventory to its designation as a sanctuary, and indicating the Council's interest in providing input on that decision before it is noticed for general public comment.
- to MREP indicating the Council's support for establishing an education program in the North Pacific.
- to NOAA Office of Law Enforcement and the US Coast Guard in support of their efforts with Operation North Pacific Guard, but also highlighting the Council's interest that these efforts not come at the cost of Federal fishery management enforcement in the Council's management areas.

The Council provided the following **additional tasking and guidance**:

- Tasking of an [analysis](#) to modify the Catcher Vessel Crew (CVC) QS and Catcher Processor Crew (CPC) QS recent participation requirements, as some crew members have not been able to comply with the participation requirement due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and unforeseen declines in the crab fisheries.
- Request for an emergency rule to suspend the recent participation requirements for CVC QS and CPC QS and suspend any revocation of and issue all IFQ for the CVC QS and CPC QS for this upcoming 2022/23 fishing season. The urgency for this action is the application deadline for 2022/23 which is June 15, 2022.
- Adoption of changes to the Council AP/SSC nomination and B reports process, guidance on remote testimony, and preparation for an October decision on harvest specifications timing and the Council's annual meeting cycle ([see separate newsletter](#)).
- Under the B reports agenda item, support for NOAA Fisheries' regulatory amendment to waive medical transfers that were approved during the 2020-2022 IFQ fishing years as applying towards the medical transfer limit, as well as the proposed amendment to adjust BSAI pot catcher processor monitoring requirements.
- Interest in scheduling the small sablefish initial review in the first part of next year, and for the updated analysis to include recent data on recruitment, growth rates, and market conditions and revisit the discussion on assessment uncertainty. In keeping with the IFQ Committee recommendation, the Council noted that the discussion in the previous analysis about a minimum size limit for sablefish retention (which was not part of the alternative set) should not be considered in the revised analysis.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

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## Council Considers Changes to Process and Meetings

The Council adopted or provided guidance on several Council process changes, including the Council AP/SSC nomination and B reports process, tradeoffs of meeting in remote communities, and consideration of harvest specifications timing and the Council's annual meeting cycle. Staff had provided a discussion paper from February with reflections on the Council process and potential ideas for change, which the Council prioritized in April. At this meeting, staff provided a progress report on the April priorities.

### Nomination process for AP and SSC members



The Council adopted a change to the nomination process for AP and SSC members to move the nomination period earlier in the year, to both provide an extended period to submit applications, and also to provide additional time for Council members to review applications, evaluate qualifications, and talk or meet with potential candidates. Allowing more time for these conversations should provide more opportunity for established shared expectations about realistic workload obligations as well as the role and responsibility of potential members. The Council also affirmed its intent that AP appointments would primarily be for 3-year terms, but that staff should clarify the call for nominations to note that the Council could appoint members for 1- or 2- year terms as necessary. The Council expressed its intent to include a Tribal representative seat on the AP, and will discuss specific language to that effect in October, in time to receive nominations for the 2023 appointments. The Council **motion** requested staff add language to the AP Handbook on AP member expectations, and provide additional support to new AP members through staff-led training opportunities. For the SSC, the Council will formalize dialogue between the SSC and Council about expertise needed and potential SSC member recruiting.

## Agency B reports

The Council discussed its practice of receiving reports from agencies and partners, and determined for the future to ask for written reports from agencies, and allow oral briefings. Oral briefings are preferred when the Council or the agency identify an important issue for dialogue or engagement; written reports are sufficient when reporting on non-time sensitive or routine administration information.

## Tradeoffs with remote access while in coastal communities

In April, the Council requested public input on how to assess tradeoffs with allowing the same level of remote accessibility, in terms of offering a meeting broadcast and opportunities for remote testimony, for the AP and SSC as well as the Council, when meeting in some of the coastal communities with limited internet bandwidth. At this meeting, the Council clarified its intent to provide an ongoing opportunity for remote public testimony to the extent possible during all regularly-scheduled meetings of the Council. The Council noted the importance and equity of providing an opportunity for persons to testify without having to incur the additional time and travel costs of attending in-person. At the current moment, the staff report notes that the communities of Sitka, Kodiak, and Juneau should be able to support Council meetings with this high level of remote participation. Staff recognizes that broadband initiatives underway may allow this list to expand in future. Additionally, the Council preserves the opportunity on a case-by-case basis to consider special circumstances and tradeoffs that may support meeting in a community where the same level of remote participation is not possible.

## Harvest specifications and annual meeting cycle

Staff will report back to the Council in October with an exploration of the timing of the harvest specifications process and impacts of reducing the Council's 5 meeting per year schedule down to 4. To facilitate Council discussion in October, the Council will convene a meeting of its Executive Committee and AP/SSC leadership prior to the October meeting to provide recommendations as appropriate.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## Upcoming Meetings

The following Committee and Plan Team meetings are currently anticipated.

- **BS FEP Climate Change Taskforce** – August 2022
- **Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC)** – Aug/Sep 2022
- **Ecosystem Committee** – September 2022
- **BSAI Crab Plan Team** – week of September 12-16, 2022
- **Joint Groundfish Plan Teams** – week of September 19-23, 2022; November 2022
- **Trawl EM Committee** – Sep/Oct 2022
- **Charter Halibut Management Committee** – October 2022 and December 2022
- **Joint Protocol Committee** – October 2022 (T)
- **BS FEP Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence Taskforce (LKTKS)** – Oct/Nov 2022

The Council will also host the national SSC workshop in Sitka, AK, August 15-17, 2022.

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