



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
1007 W. 3rd Avenue, Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone 907-271-2809 | www.npfmc.org

Meeting Summary

257th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
December 8-10 and December 13-15, 2021
Webconference – Adobe Connect

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Attachments

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1) BSAI specification tables | 3) Time Log |
| 2) GOA specification tables | 4) 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/2713>

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met December 8-10, and on December 13-15, 2021 via adobe connect in a virtual conference. The following Council members, Council staff, SSC, and AP members attended the meetings.

Council Members

Doug Mecum/Glenn Merrill
National Marine Fisheries Service

Rachel Baker/Karla Bush (for Doug Vincent-Lang)
Alaska Department Fish and Game

Cora Campbell
Appointed

Kenny Down
Appointed

Peter Fasbender (for Greg Siekaniec)
US Fish & Wildlife Service

Dave Hanson
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

John Jensen
Appointed

Nicole Kimball
Appointed

Simon Kinneen, **Chair**
Appointed

Steve Marx (for Curt Melcher)
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

David Moore
U.S. Department of State

RADM Nathan Moore/CAPT Brennell
United States Coast Guard

Andy Mezirow
Appointed

Bill Tweit (for Kelly Susewind), **Vice Chair**
Washington Department Fish & Wildlife

Anne Vanderhoeven
Appointed

Council Staff

Cleaver, Sara
Cunningham, Sam
Davis, Maria
Evans, Diana (DD)
Fey, Mike (PSMFC)

Gleason, Shannon
Haapala, Kate
Henry, Anna
Hillary, Kaylah
La Belle, Sarah

Marrinan, Sarah
McCracken, Jon
Schmidt, Nicole
Stram, Diana
Witherell, Dave (ED)

Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC met from December 2-3 and on December 6-7, 2021, via adobe connect in a virtual conference. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings.

Anne Hollowed, Co-Chair
NOAA Fisheries—AFSC

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

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

Ian Stewart
Intl. Pacific Halibut Commission

Mike Downs
Wislow Research

Brad Harris
Alaska Pacific University

Matt Reimer
University of California, Davis

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

Franz Mueter
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Members Absent were:

Chris Anderson
University of Washington

Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel met from December 2-3 and on December 6-8, 2021, via adobe connect in a virtual conference. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings:

Christiansen, Ruth (Co-Vice Chair)
Drobnica, Angel (Chair)
Gruver, John
Gudmundsson, Gretar
Johnson, Jim
Johnson, Mellisa
Kauffman, Jeff

Kavanaugh, Julie
Lowenberg, Craig
Mann, Heather
O'Donnell, Paddy
O'Neil, Megan
Peterson, Joel
Ritchie, Brian

Scoblic, John
Upton, Matt (Co-Vice Chair)
Velsko, Erik
Wilson, Marissa
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. In addition, Dr. Mark Fina gave an update on the Amendment 80 Sector Halibut Report. Under the NMFS Management Report, Mary Furuness and Steve Whitney gave presentations on the Groundfish, BSAI, and GOA Inseason Management Reports.

B1 Executive Director's Report – David Witherell

- Amendment 80 Sector Halibut Report – Mark Fina

B2 NMFS Management Report – Doug Mecum

- B2 BSAI Inseason Management Report – Mary Furuness and Steve Whitney
- B2 GOA Inseason Management Report – Mary Furuness and Steve Whitney

B3 NOAA GC Report – Lauren Smoker

B4 NOAA Enforcement Report – Nathan Lagerwey

B5 ADFG Report – Karla Bush and Kendall Henry

B6 USCG Report – CAPT Jason Brennell and LCDR Jedediah Raskie

B7 USFWS Report – Peter Fasbender

B9 SSC Report – Dr. Anne Hollowed (SSC Co-Chair)

B10 AP Report – Matt Upton and Ruth Christiansen (AP Co-Vice Chairs)

C1 Charter Halibut – 2022 Annual Management Measures

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan

Other Presenters: Sarah Webster (ADFG)

Action Required:

1. Review ADF&G analysis of proposed measures
2. Review Charter Halibut Management Committee minutes
3. Recommend preferred management measures for 2022

Summary: The Council will use information from an ADF&G report and the Charter Halibut Management Committee to determine the management measures (e.g., bag limits, size limits, day of the week closures, etc.) to recommend to the IPHC for the 2022 charter halibut season.

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

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

The Council recommends the following management measures for the 2022 charter halibut fishery in Area 2C and Area 3A, based on initial IPHC reference level allocations, resulting from the 2021 IPHC interim meeting.

Area 3A recommendations:

- Two-fish daily bag limit.
- One halibut of any size and a maximum size for one of the two fish is 28 inches.
- One charter vessel fishing trip per CHP per day (use of each charter halibut permit is limited to one charter halibut fishing trip per boat in one calendar day).
- Prohibition on halibut charter fishing on Wednesdays, all year.
- Adjust Tuesday closures according to Table 17 on page 53 in ADF&G analysis of proposed harvest regulations for 2022 to bring the projected harvest within the Area 3A allocation.
 - For example, in combination with the other proposed measures:
 - 4 closed Tuesdays closed would result in a harvest of 2.034 MIb
 - 8 Tuesdays closed would result in a harvest of 1.928 MIb

In 2022, it is unnecessary to include a requirement to record retained halibut on the back of the license or harvest record card as an enforcement mechanism for the annual limit for 2022.

Area 2C recommendations:

A progression of management measures in the following order as needed:

1. A reverse slot with an upper limit fixed at O80, and a lower limit decreased until the allocation is reached, but no lower than U40; Harvest of 0.814 MIb (rounds to status quo 0.81 MIb (Table 6, Page 26)
2. If the allocation is insufficient to maintain at least a U40 on the lower limit, add Monday closures starting September 19th and work consecutively toward the beginning of the season until a lower limit of U40 is reached; Yield 0.689 MIb. (table 9 Page 31)
3. If a lower limit of U40 can't be reached after closing all Mondays, add an annual limit of 4-fish (Yield 0.679 MIb), progressing to an annual limit of 3-fish, as necessary to meet the allocation (Yield 0.648 MIb); if possible, use any unused allocation to increase the lower limit above U40 until the allocation is reached (Table 13, Page 44) .
4. If the allocation is not reached by closing all Mondays and a 3-fish annual limit, allow the lower limit to drop until the allocation is reached; Yield 0.583 MIb at U37/O80.(table 13, Page 44)

If an annual limit is adopted in Area 2C, implement a requirement for charter anglers to record, immediately upon retaining a halibut, the date, location (IPHC area), and species (halibut) on their harvest record, consistent with the past reporting requirement in Area 3A.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed 10/0 (Mr. Jensen absent) on December 8, 2021, at 11:31 a.m.

C2 BSAI Halibut ABM – Final Action

Council Staff: Dr. Diana Stram, Anna Henry

Other Presenters: Dr. Mike Downs (Wislow Research Associates); Dr. Anne Marie Eich, Bridget Mansfield (NMFS); Dr. Allan Hicks (IPHC); Darrell Brannan (Brannan and Associates)

Action Required:

1. Review the Draft EIS analysis and NMFS comment summary
2. Select a preferred alternative

Summary: *The Council will review an analysis to modify halibut bycatch limits for some trawl vessels that fish for groundfish in the BSAI and process their catch onboard. The major change being considered is to switch from a fixed bycatch limit to one that fluctuates up and down every year, based on BSAI halibut abundance.*

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

Ms. Baker made the following motion which was seconded by Ms. Campbell:

The Council recommends the following preferred alternative. PSC limit is determined annually based on the most recent survey values. In the case of mid-year implementation, the PSC limit should be set using the most recent survey index values and applied to the lookup table in the preferred alternative.

		EBS shelf trawl survey index (t)	
		Low < 150,000	High ≥ 150,000
IPHC setline survey index in Area 4ABCDE (WPUE)	High ≥ 11,000	1,745 mt (current limit)	1,745 mt (current limit)
	Medium 8,000 – 10,999	1,396 mt (20% below current)	1,571 mt (10% below current)
	Low 6,000-7,999	1,309 mt (25% below current)	1,396 mt (20% below current)
	Very Low < 6,000	1,134 mt (35% below current)	1,134 mt (35% below current)

Mr. Tweit made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Mezirow:

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 December 13, 2021, at 10:25 a.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION: Motion passed 8/3 (Mr. Marx, Mr. Tweit, Ms. Vanderhoeven voting in opposition) on December 13, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

C3 BSAI Groundfish – Final Specs, Joint & BSAI PT Reports, ESR reports

- Council Staff:** Dr. Diana Stram
- Other Presenters:** Dr. Elizabeth Siddon (AFSC – presenting BS ESR), Dr. Ivonne Ortiz (U. Wash – presenting AI ESR), Dr. Jim Ianelli and Dr. Steve Barbeaux (AFSC, BSAI Plan Team Report), Dr. Jim Ianelli (AFSC, Joint Plan Team Report)
- Action Required:**
1. Review 2021 Ecosystem Status Reports for the Eastern Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands
 2. Approve the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report
 3. Recommend Final 2022 and 2023 BSAI groundfish harvest specifications, including:
 - Overfishing Level (OFL) and Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for all stocks
 - Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for all stocks, taking into account the State waters Pacific cod fishery
 - Annual ABC reserve for three flatfish species
 - Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits and season apportionments of Pacific halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, *C. opilio* crab, and herring to target fishery categories
 - Halibut Discard Mortality Rates (DMRs)

Summary: *The Council will receive a report from a team of technical experts (the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team) with the final assessments of groundfish stocks and recommend final catch limits for the 2022 and 2023 BSAI groundfish fisheries.*

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

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

The Council moves to approve to 2021 BSAI Groundfish SAFE report.

The Council moves to adopt the 2022/2023 OFLs, ABCs and TACs for groundfish in the BSAI as shown in Table 1.

The Council also moves to set flatfish flexibility reserves as shown in Table 7 to maximize the ABC reserves for 2022/2023.

The Council moves to approve the PSC amounts and distributions as shown in Tables 8, 9, 10 and 11.

The Council moves to approve Pacific halibut DMRs for 2022/2023 as shown in Table 12.

**All tables show in attachment 1*

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection on December 14, 2021, at 10:40 a.m.

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

The Council initiates a discussion paper to consider whether and how the Spatial Management Policy can be used to address conservation and management concerns for BSAI Blackspotted/Rougheye rockfish.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection on December 14, 2021, at 10:47 a.m.

C4 GOA Groundfish – Final Specs, GOA PT Report, ESR Report

- Council Staff:** Sara Cleaver
- Other Presenters:** Dr. James Ianelli (NMFS AFSC, GOA Plan Team co-chair)
Dr. Bridget Ferriss (NMFS AFSC REFM, GOA ESR)
- Action Required:**
1. Review the 2021 Ecosystem Status Report for the Gulf of Alaska
 2. Approve the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report.
 3. Recommend final GOA Groundfish harvest specifications for 2022 and 2023, including:
 - Overfishing level (OFL) and Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for all stocks. [SSC]
 - Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for all stocks, taking into account the State waters Pacific cod and pollock fisheries.
 - Pacific halibut Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits and seasonal apportionments.
 - Pacific halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs)

Summary: *The Council will receive a report from a team of technical experts (the GOA Groundfish Plan Team) with the final assessments of groundfish stocks and recommend final catch limits for the 2022 and 2023 GOA groundfish fisheries.*

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

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

The Council approves the 2021 Gulf of Alaska SAFE report.

The Council approves the final 2022 and 2023 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC, and the TACs as shown in the attached Table 1.

The TACs for both GOA Pacific cod and pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water Guideline Harvest Level fisheries. The GOA Pacific cod adjustments are shown in the attached Table 2.

The Council sets the final 2022 and 2023 Pacific halibut PSC limits, allowances, and apportionments in the GOA in Tables 14, 15, and 16 (attached).

The Council approves the halibut discard mortality rates for 2022 and 2023 as shown in attached Table 17.

**All tables show in attachment 2*

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection on December 14, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.

D1 Red King Crab Savings Area Extension

Council Staff: Jon McCracken

Other Presenters: Dr. Kelly Cates, Josh Keaton, and Krista Milani (NMFS ADRO SF)

Action Required:

1. Review analysis of Red King Crab Savings Area extension considerations
2. Consider whether to expand Red King Crab Saving Area through emergency rule.

Summary: *The Council will review a paper discussing whether an emergency rule to expand an existing no-trawl fishing area would help with conservation of red king crab stocks.*

No action was taken on this agenda item.

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 discuss plans for returning to in-person meetings.

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

E1 BBRKC

Mr. Down made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:

Add (**in bold**) to the council motion (provided below) from E1 Staff Tasking – Crab of October 15, 2021 a fourth item to be included.

4. Provide the best available information on Bristol Bay red king crab molting/mating annual cycle and how the seasonality of this overlaps with fisheries and the effects these interactions may have.

The Council initiates a discussion paper to:

1. Provide the best available information on bottom contact by pelagic trawl gear and the impact it may have on BBRKC stocks.
2. Evaluate boundaries used for the BBRKC survey, stock assessment, PSC limits, and directed fishery.
3. Summarize mechanisms used in other council managed fisheries to create flexible, responsive spatial management measures for all gear types and how they might be applied to protect BBRKC.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection on December 15, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

E1 Indicators

Mr. Tweit made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Down.

The Council requests the Ecosystem Committee review the Ecosystem Matrix concept presented by stakeholders and make recommendations regarding next steps for the identification and use of indicators, taking into account the need for that process to rely on consistent approaches, be open and transparent, conducive to public engagement, based on best available science, and integrated with our

assessment and management process. The Council also recommends engaging with Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team for their assessment of the concept and how it relates to their current efforts. The Committee and Plan Team should keep each other informed on their assessments and recommendations.

Ms. Kimball made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Down.

(Remove the last two sentences —~~in strikethrough~~)

The Council requests the Ecosystem Committee review the Ecosystem Matrix concept presented by stakeholders and make recommendations regarding next steps for the identification and use of indicators, taking into account the need for that process to rely on consistent approaches, be open and transparent, conducive to public engagement, based on best available science, and integrated with our assessment and management process. ~~The Council also recommends engaging with Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team for their assessment of the concept and how it relates to their current efforts. The Committee and Plan Team should keep each other informed on their assessments and recommendations.~~

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection on December 15, 2021, at 1:37 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION: Motion failed 4/6 (Mr. Merrill, Ms. Baker, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Marx, Ms. Vanderhoeven, Mr. Kinneen voting in opposition – Ms. Campbell absent from vote) on December 15, 2021, at 1:50 p.m.

E1 Council Appointments

Advisory Panel

The following members of the Advisory Panel have been reappointed for one-year terms: Angel Drobica, Gretar Gudmundsson, Brian Ritchie, and Susie Zagorski.

Additionally, Tamara Briggie, Tim Heuker, Lauren Mitchell, and Paul Wilkins have been newly appointed for one-year terms.

SSC

All current members of the SSC have been reappointed for next year, with the exception of Dr. Anne Hollowed and Dr. Matt Reimer, who are stepping down. Dr. Robert Foy and Dr. Kailin Kroetz have been newly appointed for 2022.

The Council adjourned on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 2:00 P.M.

Table 1. Council recommended TAC with SSC specified OFL, ABC for Groundfish in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (metric tons) for 2022-2023

Species	Area	2021				Catch as of 11/6/2021	2022			2023		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL		ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC	
Pollock	EBS	2,594,000	1,626,000	1,375,000	1,373,712	1,469,000	1,111,000	1,111,000	1,704,000	1,289,000	1,289,000	
	AI	61,856	51,241	19,000	1,635	61,264	50,752	19,000	61,379	50,825	19,000	
	Bogoslof	113,479	85,109	250	50	113,479	85,109	250	113,479	85,109	250	
Pacific cod	BS	147,949	123,805	111,380	105,537	183,012	153,383	136,466	180,909	151,709	133,459	
	AI	27,400	20,600	13,796	7,023	27,400	20,600	13,796	27,400	20,600	13,796	
Sablefish	BSAI/GOA	60,426	29,558			40,432	34,521	n/a	42,520	36,318	n/a	
	BS	n/a	3,396	3,396	3,961		5,264	5,264		6,529	6,529	
	AI	n/a	4,717	4,717	1,425		6,463	6,463		7,786	7,786	
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	341,571	313,477	200,000	104,669	377,071	354,014	250,000	382,035	358,675	230,000	
Greenland turbot	BSAI	8,568	7,326	6,025	1,586	7,687	6,572	6,572	6,698	5,724	5,724	
	BS	n/a	6,176	5,125	1,129		5,540	5,540		4,825	4,825	
	AI	n/a	1,150	900	457		1,032	1,032		899	899	
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	90,873	77,349	15,000	8,286	94,445	80,389	20,000	97,944	83,389	20,000	
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	10,630	8,982	8,982	6,561	10,903	9,214	9,214	11,115	9,393	9,393	
Northern rock sole	BSAI	145,180	140,306	54,500	13,898	214,084	206,896	66,000	280,621	271,199	55,000	
Flathead sole	BSAI	75,863	62,567	25,000	9,898	77,967	64,288	35,500	80,034	65,988	25,500	
Alaska plaice	BSAI	37,924	31,657	24,500	15,653	39,305	32,697	29,221	39,685	32,998	29,082	
Other flatfish	BSAI	22,919	17,189	6,500	2,510	22,919	17,189	10,000	22,919	17,189	10,000	
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	44,376	37,173	35,899	32,112	42,605	35,688	35,385	40,977	34,322	33,952	
	BS	n/a	10,782	10,782	8,679		10,352	10,352		9,956	9,956	
	EAI	n/a	8,419	8,419	7,442		8,083	8,083		7,774	7,774	
	CAI	n/a	6,198	6,198	5,885		5,950	5,950		5,722	5,722	
	WAI	n/a	11,774	10,500	10,107		11,303	11,000		10,870	10,500	
Northern rockfish	BSAI	18,917	15,557	13,000	6,045	23,420	19,217	17,000	22,594	18,538	17,000	
Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish	BSAI	576	482	482	513	598	503	503	615	517	517	
	EBS/EAI	n/a	313	313	211		326	326		334	334	
	CAI/WAI	n/a	169	169	302		177	177		183	183	
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	722	541	500	521	722	541	541	722	541	541	
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,751	1,313	916	900	1,751	1,313	1,144	1,751	1,313	1,313	
	BS	n/a	919	522	332		n/a	919	750	n/a	919	
	AI	n/a	394	394	568		n/a	394	394	n/a	394	
Atka mackerel	BSAI	85,580	73,590	62,257	58,571	91,870	78,510	66,481	84,440	71,990	60,958	
	EAI/BS	n/a	25,760	25,760	22,598		27,260	27,260		25,000	25,000	
	CAI	n/a	15,450	15,450	15,272		16,880	16,880		15,470	15,470	
	WAI	n/a	32,380	21,047	20,701		34,370	22,341		31,520	20,488	
Skates	BSAI	49,297	41,257	18,000	18,729	47,790	39,958	30,000	46,475	38,824	30,000	
Sharks	BSAI	689	517	200	354	689	517	500	689	517	500	
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	700	161	4,769	3,576	700	4,769	3,576	700	
Total	BSAI	3,945,315	2,747,727	2,000,000	1,774,309	2,953,182	2,406,447	1,871,000	3,253,770	2,648,254	2,000,000	
Sources: 2020 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2021 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2019 and December 2020, respectively; 2020 catches through December 31, and 2021 catches through November 6, 2021 from AKR Catch Accounting.												

TABLE 7A—PROPOSED 2022 ABC SURPLUS, ABC RESERVES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA (CDQ) ABC RESERVES, AND AMENDMENT 80 ABC RESERVES IN THE BSAI FOR FLATHEAD SOLE, ROCK SOLE, AND YELLOWFIN SOLE

[Amounts are in metric tons]			
Sector	Flathead sole	Rock sole	Yellowfin sole
ABC	64,288	206,896	354,014
TAC	35,500	66,000	250,000
ABC surplus	28,788	140,896	104,014
ABC reserve	28,788	140,896	104,014
CDQ ABC reserve	3,080	15,076	11,129
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	25,708	125,820	92,885

TABLE 7B—PROPOSED 2023 ABC SURPLUS, ABC RESERVES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA (CDQ) ABC RESERVES, AND AMENDMENT 80 ABC RESERVES IN THE BSAI FOR FLATHEAD SOLE, ROCK SOLE, AND YELLOWFIN SOLE

[Amounts are in metric tons]			
Sector	Flathead sole	Rock sole	Yellowfin sole
ABC	65,988	271,199	326,235
TAC	25,500	55,000	230,000
ABC surplus	40,488	216,199	96,235
ABC reserve	40,488	216,199	96,235
CDQ ABC reserve	4,332	23,133	10,297
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	36,156	193,066	85,938

TABLE 8—PROPOSED 2022 AND 2023 APPORTIONMENT OF PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES TO NON-TRAWL GEAR, THE CDQ PROGRAM, AMENDMENT 80, AND THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTORS

PSC species and area ¹	Total PSC	Non-trawl PSC	CDQ PSQ reserve ²	Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ	Amendment 80 sector ³	BSAI trawl limited access sector	BSAI PSC limits not allocated ²
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,515	710	315	n/a	1,745	745	n/a
Herring (mt) BSAI	3,819	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	32,000	n/a	3,424	28,576	14,282	8,739	5,555
<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	4,350,000	n/a	465,450	3,884,550	1,909,256	1,248,494	726,799
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 1	830,000	n/a	88,810	741,190	312,115	348,285	80,790
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 2	2,520,000	n/a	269,640	2,250,360	532,660	1,053,394	664,306

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of zones.

² The PSQ reserve for crab species is 10.7 percent of each crab PSC limit.

³ The Amendment 80 program reduced apportionment of the trawl PSC limits for crab below the total PSC limit. These reductions are not apportioned to other gear types or sectors.

TABLE 9-PROPOSED 2022 AND 2023 HERRING AND RED KING CRAB SAVINGS SUBAREA PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES FOR ALL TRAWL SECTORS

Fishery categories	Herring (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1
Yellowfin sole	222	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish ¹	110	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	11	n/a
Rockfish	11	n/a
Pacific cod	20	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	3,400	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2,3}	45	n/a
2022 Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴	n/a	-
2023 Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁵	n/a	8,000
Total trawl PSC	3,819	32,000

¹“Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), Alaska plaice, arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

²Pollock other than midwater trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and “other species” fishery category.

³“Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

⁴Section 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B) establishes criteria under which an annual red king crab bycatch limit must be specified for the Red King Crab Savings Subarea (RKCSS) if the State has established a GHL fishery for red king crab in the Bristol Bay area in the previous year. Based on the final 2021 NMFS trawl survey data for the Bristol Bay red king

⁵If the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery remains closed in the 2022/2023 crab season, the RKcSS specification will be zero. . If the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery is open in the 2022/2023 crab season, NMFS, after consultation with the Council, will specify an annual red king crab bycatch limit for the RKCSS, which is limited by regulation to up to 25 percent of the red king crab PSC allowance (§ 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(2)).

Note: Species apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

TABLE 10—PROPOSED 2022 AND 2023 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

BSAI trawl limited access sector fisheries	Prohibited species and area ¹				
	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	<i>C. bairdi</i> (animals)	
				Zone 1	Zone 2
Yellowfin sole	265	7,700	1,192,179	293,234	1,005,879
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ²	-	-	-	-	-
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	-	-	-
Rockfish April 15-December 31	5	-	1,006	-	849
Pacific cod	300	975	50,281	50,816	42,424
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ³	175	65	5,028	4,235	4,243
Total BSAI trawl limited access sector PSC	745	8,739	1,248,494	348,285	1,053,394

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

² “Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), Alaska plaice, arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

³ “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

Note: Species apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

TABLE 11—PROPOSED 2022 AND 2023 HALIBUT PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR NON-TRAWL FISHERIES

Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI				
Non-trawl fisheries	Seasons	Catcher/processor	Catcher vessel	All Non-Trawl
Pacific cod	Annual Pacific cod	648	13	661
	January 1-June 10	388	9	n/a
	June 10-August 15	162	2	n/a
	August 15-December 31	98	2	n/a
Non-Pacific cod non-trawl-Total	May 1-December 31	n/a	n/a	49
Groundfish pot and jig	n/a	n/a	n/a	Exempt
Sablefish hook-and-line	n/a	n/a	n/a	Exempt
Total for all non-trawl PSC	n/a	n/a	n/a	710

TABLE 12—PROPOSED 2022 AND 2023 PACIFIC HALIBUT DISCARD MORTALITY RATES (DMR) FOR THE BSAI

Gear	Sector	Halibut discard mortality rate (percent)
Pelagic trawl	All	100
Non-pelagic trawl	Mothership and catcher/processor	84
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	62
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	10
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	10
Pot	All	33

Table 1. SSC recommended OFLs and ABCs and Council recommended TACs for Groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska (metric tons) for 2022 and 2023.

Species	Area	2021			Catch 11/6/2021	2022			2023			
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC	
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	2,643	n/a		n/a	3,327	n/a	n/a	3,298	n/a	
	W (610)	n/a	18,477	18,477	18,112	n/a	23,714	23,714	n/a	23,506	23,506	
	C (620)	n/a	54,870	54,870	52,432	n/a	69,250	69,250	n/a	68,642	68,642	
	C (630)	n/a	24,320	24,320	23,079	n/a	30,068	30,068	n/a	29,803	29,803	
	WYAK	n/a	5,412	5,412	5,145	n/a	6,722	6,722	n/a	6,663	6,663	
	Subtotal		123,455	105,722	103,079	98,768	154,983	133,081	129,754	153,097	131,912	128,614
	EYAK/SEO		13,531	10,148	10,148	1	15,150	11,363	11,363	15,150	11,363	11,363
Total		136,986	115,870	113,227	98,769	170,133	144,444	141,117	168,247	143,275	139,977	
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	7,986	5,590	3,792	n/a	9,942	6,959	n/a	8,699	6,089	
	C	n/a	13,656	10,242	8,258	n/a	19,752	14,814	n/a	17,282	12,962	
	E	n/a	1,985	1,489	222	n/a	3,117	2,338	n/a	2,727	2,045	
	Total		28,977	23,627	17,321	12,272	39,555	32,811	24,111	34,673	28,708	21,096
Sablefish	W	n/a	3,224	2,428	1,763	n/a	3,727	3,727	n/a	3,951	3,951	
	C	n/a	9,527	8,056	6,551	n/a	9,965	9,965	n/a	9,495	9,495	
	WYAK	n/a	3,451	2,929	2,188	n/a	3,437	3,437	n/a	3,159	3,159	
	SEO	n/a	5,273	4,579	3,613	n/a	5,665	5,665	n/a	5,398	5,398	
	GOA Total ¹	n/a	21,475	17,992	14,115	n/a	22,794	22,794	n/a	22,003	22,003	
	AK Total		60,426	29,588	n/a	n/a	40,432	34,521	n/a	42,520	36,318	n/a
Shallow-water Flatfish	W	n/a	24,151	13,250	26	n/a	21,256	13,250	n/a	22,464	13,250	
	C	n/a	28,082	28,082	1,654	n/a	25,305	25,305	n/a	26,743	26,743	
	WYAK	n/a	2,808	2,808	1	n/a	2,531	2,531	n/a	2,674	2,674	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,123	1,123	1	n/a	1,518	1,518	n/a	1,605	1,605	
	Total		68,841	56,164	45,263	1,682	62,273	50,610	42,604	65,676	53,486	44,272
Deep-water Flatfish	W	n/a	225	225	1	n/a	256	256	n/a	256	256	
	C	n/a	1,914	1,914	79	n/a	2,139	2,139	n/a	2,105	2,105	
	WYAK	n/a	2,068	2,068	5	n/a	1,431	1,431	n/a	1,408	1,408	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,719	1,719	4	n/a	2,082	2,082	n/a	2,049	2,049	
	Total		7,040	5,926	5,926	89	7,026	5,908	5,908	6,920	5,818	5,818
Rex Sole	W	n/a	3,013	3,013	14	n/a	2,981	2,981	n/a	3,222	3,222	
	C	n/a	8,912	8,912	269	n/a	12,076	12,076	n/a	13,054	13,054	
	WYAK	n/a	1,206	1,206	2	n/a	1,361	1,361	n/a	1,439	1,439	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,285	2,285	-	n/a	2,723	2,723	n/a	2,879	2,879	
	Total		18,779	15,416	15,416	285	23,302	19,141	19,141	25,049	20,594	20,594
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	32,377	14,500	332	n/a	33,658	14,500	n/a	33,214	14,500	
	C	n/a	69,072	69,072	9,114	n/a	68,394	68,394	n/a	67,493	67,493	
	WYAK	n/a	8,380	6,900	47	n/a	6,707	6,707	n/a	6,619	6,619	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	17,141	6,900	24	n/a	11,020	6,900	n/a	10,875	6,900	
	Total		151,723	126,970	97,372	9,517	143,100	119,779	96,501	141,231	118,201	95,512
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	14,209	8,650	106	n/a	14,755	8,650	n/a	14,708	8,650	
	C	n/a	20,826	15,400	555	n/a	22,033	15,400	n/a	21,962	15,400	
	WYAK	n/a	2,427	2,427	-	n/a	1,511	1,511	n/a	1,506	1,506	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,915	1,915	-	n/a	1,876	1,876	n/a	1,870	1,870	
	Total		47,982	39,377	28,392	661	48,928	40,175	27,437	48,757	40,046	27,426
Pacific ocean perch	W	n/a	1,643	1,643	1,654	n/a	2,602	2,602	n/a	2,523	2,523	
	C	n/a	27,429	27,429	24,809	n/a	30,806	30,806	n/a	29,869	29,869	
	WYAK	n/a	1,705	1,705	1,663	n/a	1,409	1,409	n/a	1,366	1,366	
	W/C/WYAK	36,563	30,777	30,777	28,126	41,470	34,817	34,817	40,211	33,758	33,758	
	SEO	6,414	5,400	5,400	-	4,110	3,451	3,451	3,985	3,346	3,346	
	Total		42,977	36,177	36,177	28,126	45,580	38,268	38,268	44,196	37,104	37,104
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	2,023	2,023	708	n/a	1,944	1,944	n/a	1,859	1,859	
	C	n/a	3,334	3,334	1,670	n/a	3,202	3,202	n/a	3,061	3,061	
	E	n/a	1	-	-	n/a	-	-	n/a	-	-	
	Total		6,396	5,358	5,357	2,378	6,143	5,146	5,146	5,874	4,920	4,920
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	52	52	5	n/a	51	51	n/a	51	51	
	C	n/a	284	284	197	n/a	280	280	n/a	280	280	
	E	n/a	372	372	273	n/a	374	374	n/a	374	374	
	Total		944	708	708	475	940	705	705	940	705	705
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	270	270	146	n/a	269	269	n/a	259	259	
	C	n/a	4,548	4,548	2,748	n/a	4,534	4,534	n/a	4,373	4,373	
	WYAK	n/a	468	468	30	n/a	427	427	n/a	412	412	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	103	103	-	n/a	142	142	n/a	137	137	
Total		8,655	5,389	5,389	2,924	8,614	5,372	5,372	8,146	5,181	5,181	
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	168	168	21	n/a	184	184	n/a	182	182	
	C	n/a	456	456	175	n/a	235	235	n/a	234	234	
	E	n/a	588	588	185	n/a	369	369	n/a	365	365	
	Total		1,456	1,212	1,212	381	947	788	788	937	781	781
Demersal shelf rockfish	Total		405	257	105	579	365	365	579	365	365	
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	352	352	42	n/a	352	352	n/a	352	352	
	C	n/a	910	910	99	n/a	910	910	n/a	910	910	
	E	n/a	691	691	133	n/a	691	691	n/a	691	691	
	Total		2,604	1,953	1,953	274	2,604	1,953	1,953	2,604	1,953	1,953
Other Rockfish	W/C	n/a	940	940	1,060	n/a	940	940	n/a	940	940	
	WYAK	n/a	369	369	119	n/a	370	370	n/a	370	370	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,744	300	40	n/a	2,744	300	n/a	2,744	300	
	Total		5,320	4,053	1,609	1,219	5,320	4,054	1,610	5,320	4,054	1,610
Atka mackerel	Total		6,200	4,700	3,000	940	6,200	4,700	3,000	6,200	4,700	3,000
Big Skate	W	n/a	758	758	142	n/a	591	591	n/a	591	591	
	C	n/a	1,560	1,560	752	n/a	1,482	1,482	n/a	1,482	1,482	
	E	n/a	890	890	193	n/a	794	794	n/a	794	794	
	Total		4,278	3,208	3,208	1,087	3,822	2,867	2,867	3,822	2,867	2,867
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	158	158	26	n/a	151	151	n/a	151	151	
	C	n/a	1,875	1,875	447	n/a	2,044	2,044	n/a	2,044	2,044	
	E	n/a	554	554	417	n/a	517	517	n/a	517	517	
	Total		3,449	2,587	2,587	890	3,616	2,712	2,712	3,616	2,712	2,712
Other Skates	GOA-wide	1,166	875	875	632	1,311	984	984	1,311	984	984	
Sharks	GOA-wide	5,006	3,755	3,755	1,639	5,006	3,755	3,755	5,006	3,755	3,755	
Octopuses	GOA-wide	1,307	980	980	51	1,307	980	980	1,307	980	980	
TOTAL			610,917	484,150	407,976	178,511	626,738	520,038	448,118	622,931	517,507	443,615

Sources: 2021 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs, as well as 2022 OFLs and ABCs, are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2020. 2021 catches through November 6, 2021 from AKR Catch Accounting.

¹ The sablefish ABC total for the GOA is not included in the grand total.

² The Alaska-wide sablefish OFL and ABC are included in the grand total.

Note: Due to an error in apportionments, pollock area ABCs for 2022 and 2023 were adjusted after the SSC meeting. The numbers in this table are the corrected numbers, and this issue is being addressed in the SSC minutes.

Table 2. Final GOA TAC and GHL Considerations for State Waters Pacific Cod

Final 2022 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod ABCs, TACs and State Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) in metric tons.

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	9,942	19,752	3,117	32,811
State GHL	2,983	4,938	779	8,700
(%)	30%	25%	25%	25-30
Federal TAC	6,959	14,814	2,338	24,111

Note: The Federal TAC is only for Federal fisheries. It does not include the State GHL within it.

Final 2023 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod ABCs, TACs and State Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) in metric tons.

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	8,699	17,282	2,727	28,708
State GHL	2,610	4,321	682	7,612
(%)	30%	25%	25%	25-30
Federal TAC	6,089	12,962	2,045	21,096

Note: The Federal TAC is only for Federal fisheries. It does not include the State GHL within it.

**Table 14--Final 2022 and 2023 Pacific Halibut PSC Limits, Allowances, and Apportionments
(Values are in metric tons)**

Trawl gear			Hook-and-line gear ¹				
			Other than DSR			DSR	
Season	Percent	Amount	Season	Percent	Amount	Season	Amount
January 20 - April 1	30.5	519	January 1 - June 10	86	221	January 1 - December 31	9
April 1 - July 1	20	341	June 10 - September 1	2	5		
July 1 - August 1	27	462	September 1 - December 31	12	31		
August 1 - October 1	7.5	128					
October 1 - December 31	15	256					
Total		1,706			257		9

¹ The Pacific halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limit for hook-and-line gear is allocated to the demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) fishery and fisheries other than DSR. The Council recommended and NMFS proposes that the hook-and-line sablefish fishery, and the pot and jig gear groundfish fisheries, be exempt from halibut PSC limits.

Table 15--Final 2022 and 2023 Seasonal Apportionments of the Pacific Halibut PSC Limit Apportioned Between the Trawl Gear Shallow-Water and Deep-Water Species Fisheries (Values are in metric tons)

Season	Shallow-water	Deep-water ¹	Total
January 20 - April 1	384	135	519
April 1 - July 1	85	256	341
July 1 - August 1	121	341	462
August 1 - October 1	53	75	128
Subtotal, January 20 - October 1	643	807	1,450
October 1 - December 31 ²			256
Total			1,706

¹ Vessels participating in cooperatives in the Rockfish Program will receive 191 mt of the third season (July 1 through August 1) deep-water species fishery halibut PSC apportionment.

² There is no apportionment between trawl shallow-water and deep-water species fisheries during the fifth season (October 1 through December 31).

Table 16--Final 2022 and 2023 Apportionments of the “Other hook-and-line fisheries” Halibut PSC Allowance Between the Hook-and-Line Gear Catcher Vessel and Catcher/Processor Sectors (Values are in metric tons)

“Other than DSR” allowance	Hook-and-line sector	Sector annual amount	Season	Seasonal percentage	Sector seasonal amount
257	Catcher Vessel	150	January 1 - June 10	86	129
			June 10 - September 1	2	3
			September 1 - December 31	12	18
	Catcher/Processor	107	January 1 - June 10	86	92
			June 10 - September 1	2	2
			September 1 - December 31	12	13

**Table 17--Final 2022 and 2023 Discard Mortality Rates for Vessels Fishing in the Gulf of Alaska
(Values are percent of halibut assumed to be dead)**

Gear	Sector	Groundfish fishery	Halibut discard mortality rate (percent)
Pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	All	100
	Catcher/processor	All	100
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	Rockfish Program	66
	Catcher vessel	All others	69
	Mothership and catcher/processor	All	83
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	All	15
	Catcher vessel	All	12
Pot	Catcher vessel and catcher/processor	All	29



TIME LOG NPFMC December Council Meeting – 257th Plenary Meeting held via web conference Adobe Connect December 8-10, 2021, and December 13-15, 2021

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

B REPORTS

12/08/2021 8:00 AM	Call to Order
12/08/2021 8:03 AM	Farewell to Lauren Smoker
12/08/2021 8:30 AM	Amendment 80 update
12/08/2021 9:00 AM	B2 Groundfish Management Report – Mary Furuness
12/08/2021 9:51 AM	B2 BSAI Inseason Management Report – Mary Furuness and Steve Whitney
12/08/2021 10:30 AM	B2 GOA Inseason Management Report – Mary Furuness and Steve Whitney
12/08/2021 11:22 AM	B Public Testimony
12/08/2021 11:22 AM	John Gauvin and Scott Goodman
12/08/2021 11:40 AM	Dayna Nash
12/08/2021 11:43 AM	Chad See
12/08/2021 11:59 AM	Stephanie Madsen and Austin Estabrooks
12/08/2021 12:10 PM	Lunch Break
12/08/2021 1:00 PM	B7 USFWS address – Peter Fasbender

C1 Charter Halibut – 2022 Annual Management Measures

12/08/2021 1:00 PM	C1 Charter Halibut Recommendations – NPFMC staff, Sarah Marrinan and ADFG, Sarah Webster
12/08/2021 1:45 PM	C1 AP Report – Ruth Christiansen
12/08/2021 2:00 PM	C1 Public Testimony
12/08/2021 2:00 PM	James Kearns
12/08/2021 2:10 PM	Forrest Braden
12/08/2021 2:20 PM	C1 Mr. Mezirow Motion
12/08/2021 2:37 PM	Recess

Thursday, December 9, 2021

C2 BSAI Halibut Abundance-Based Management (ABM) – Final Action

12/09/2021 8:00 AM	Call to order
12/09/2021 8:00 AM	C2 Presentation ABM DEIS – NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram, Anna Henry, Mike Downs (Winslow Research)
12/09/2021 11:49 AM	Lunch Break
12/09/2021 12:50 PM	C2 Presentation Continued
12/09/2021 1:30 AM	C2 Presentation ABM NMFS – Anne Marie Eich and Bridget Mansfield
12/09/2021 2:28 PM	Break
12/09/2021 2:40 PM	AP Report – Ruth Christiansen and Matt Upton
12/09/2021 3:00 PM	C2 Public Testimony
12/09/2021 3:00 PM	Robert Alverson
12/09/2021 3:15 PM	Marc Carrel
12/09/2021 3:18 PM	Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
12/09/2021 3:24 PM	Eric Jordan
12/09/2021 3:27 PM	Chandler O’Connell
12/09/2021 3:30 PM	Mark Fina
12/09/2021 3:40 PM	Victoria Curran
12/09/2021 3:43 PM	John Gauvin
12/09/2021 4:00 PM	Recess

Friday, December 10, 2021

C2 BSAI Halibut ABM – Continued

12/10/2021 8:00 AM	Call to order
12/10/2021 8:00 AM	C2 Public Testimony Continued
12/10/2021 8:03 AM	Jon Warrenchuk
12/10/2021 8:13 AM	Jeff Kaufmann and Heather McCarty
12/10/2021 8:48 AM	Karen Pletnikoff
12/10/2021 8:55 AM	Josh Wisniewski
12/10/2021 9:02 AM	Marissa Wilson
12/10/2021 9:10 AM	Lauren Divine and Marissa Mercurieff
12/10/2021 9:30 AM	Theresa Peterson
12/10/2021 9:47 AM	Break
12/10/2021 10:00 AM	Chris Woodle
12/10/2021 10:45 AM	Mateo Paz-Soldan
12/10/2021 10:53 AM	Max Malavansky
12/10/2021 10:56 AM	Heather Bauscher
12/10/2021 11:04 AM	Cale LaDuke
12/10/2021 11:06 AM	Todd Loomis
12/10/2021 11:20 AM	Simeon Swetzof Jr.
12/10/2021 11:31 AM	Heather Mann
12/10/2021 11:40 AM	Sara Sutherland
12/10/2021 11:55 AM	Lunch Break

12/10/2021 12:55 PM	C2 Public Testimony Continued
12/10/2021 12:57 PM	Todd Loomis – continued (due to tech issues)
12/10/2021 1:00 PM	John Fortuna
12/10/2021 1:15 PM	Paul Wilkins and Janet Erik
12/10/2021 1:20 PM	Terry Perensovich
12/10/2021 1:21 PM	Myron Melovidov, Sr. and Ray Melovidov
12/10/2021 1:41 PM	TJ Durnan
12/10/2021 1:54 PM	Arne Fuglvog
12/10/2021 2:12 PM	Erik Velsko
12/10/2021 2:15 PM	Rebecca Skinner
12/10/2021 2:21 PM	Luke Fanning and Angel Drobnica
12/10/2021 2:31 PM	Annika Saltman
12/10/2021 2:56 PM	Linda Behnken
12/10/2021 3:08 PM	Bob Hezel
12/10/2021 3:12 PM	Forrest Braden
12/10/2021 3:26 PM	Peggy Parker
12/10/2021 3:32 PM	Matt Upton
12/10/2021 3:35 PM	Malcolm Milne
12/10/2021 3:39 PM	Hannah Heimbuch
12/10/2021 3:47 PM	Paul Olson
12/10/2021 3:50 PM	Rep. Sarah Vance
12/10/2021 3:54 PM	Ryan Nichols
12/10/2021 3:56 PM	Woody Cyr
12/10/2021 3:59 PM	Recess

Monday, December 13, 2021

C2 BSAI Halibut ABM – Continued

12/13/2021 8:02 AM	Call to Order
12/13/2021 8:09 AM	Questions from Council to staff
12/13/2021 8:27 AM	C2 Ms. Baker Motion

C3 BSAI Groundfish Specifications

12/13/2021 10:43 AM	C3 AI ESR Presentation – Ivonne Ortiz, U. Washington
12/13/2021 11:15 AM	C3 EBS ESR Presentation – Elizabeth Siddon, AFSC
12/13/2021 11:50 PM	Lunch Break
12/13/2021 1:00 PM	C3 & C4 AP report – Ruth Christiansen
12/13/2021 1:09 PM	Joint Plan Team Report – Dr. Jim Ianelli, AFSC
12/13/2021 1:25 PM	C3 BSAI Plan Team Report – Dr. Jim Ianelli and Dr. Steve Barbeaux (AFSC)
12/13/2021 2:40 PM	Break
12/13/2021 2:50 P	C3 BSAI Plan Team Report Continued
12/13/2021 3:14 PM	C3 SSC Report – Dr. Anne Hollowed (Co-Chair) and Dr. Sherri Dressel
12/13/2021 3:53 PM	Recess

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

12/14/2021 8:02 AM Call to order
12/14/2021 8:02 AM JPT and BSAI SSC Report Continued – Dr. Anne Hollowed
12/14/2021 9:10 AM **C3 Public Testimony**
12/14/2021 9:11 AM Stephanie Madsen and Austin Estabrooks
12/14/2021 9:19 AM Megan Williams
12/14/2021 9:59 AM Todd Loomis
12/14/2021 10:06 AM Linda Behnken
12/14/2021 10:14 AM Brent Paine
12/14/2021 10:21 AM Mike Hyde
12/14/2021 10:25 AM Heather Mann
12/14/2021 10:40 AM **C3 Ms. Vanderhoeven Motion**
12/14/2021 10:50 AM **C3 Ms. Vanderhoeven Motion** – Discussion Paper

C4 GOA Groundfish Specifications

12/14/2021 11:06 AM C4 GOA ESR Presentation – Dr. Bridget Ferriss, NMFS
12/14/2021 11:33 PM **Lunch Break**
12/14/2021 12:33 PM C4 GOA Plan Team Report – Dr. Jim Ianelli
12/14/2021 1:35 PM C4 SSC Report – Dr. Anne Hollowed (Co-Chair), AFSC
12/14/2021 2:44 PM **C4 Public Testimony**
12/14/2021 2:41 PM Paul Clampitt
12/14/2021 2:44 PM Julie Bonney
12/14/2021 2:49 PM Linda Behnken
12/14/2021 2:51 PM Heather Mann
12/14/2021 2:53 PM Victoria Curran

D1 Red King Crab Savings Area Extension

12/14/2021 3:06 PM D1 Presentation – NPFMC staff, Jon McCracken and Kelly Cates, NMFS
12/14/2021 4:00 PM Recess

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

D1 Red King Crab Savings Area Extension – Continued

12/15/2021 8:00 AM Call to order
12/15/2021 8:01 AM **D1 Public Testimony**
12/15/2021 8:01 AM Maria Painter
12/15/2021 8:04 AM Dennis McKibbin
12/15/2021 8:09 AM Craig Lowenberg
12/15/2021 8:18 AM Lance Farr
12/15/2021 8:22 AM Cory Lescher
12/15/2021 8:36 AM Hannah Heimbuch
12/15/2021 8:40 AM Gretar Gudmundsson
1/6/2022 12:15 PM John Gauvin

12/15/2021 9:00 AM Mateo Paz-Soldan
12/15/2021 9:08 AM Heather Mann
12/15/2021 9:15 AM Ephraim Froehlich
12/15/2021 9:18 AM Leonard Herzog
12/15/2021 9:45 AM Comments on Red King Crab Savings Area

E Staff Tasking

12/15/2021 10:08 AM E Staff Tasking Presentations – NPFMC ED, David Witherell
12/15/2021 10:39 AM **E Public Testimony**
12/15/2021 10:39 AM George Pollock
12/15/2021 10:42 AM John Moller
12/15/2021 10:44 AM Bernie Burkholder
12/15/2021 10:46 AM John Gauvin
12/15/2021 10:53 AM Stephanie Madsen
12/15/2021 11:13 AM Heather Mann
12/15/2021 11:19 AM Megan Williams, Linda Behnken, Theresa Peterson, Heather McCarty, Lauren Divine, Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian

12/15/2021 11:35 AM Chris Woodley
12/15/2021 11:40 AM Dave Fraser
12/15/2021 11:44 PM Lunch Break
12/15/2021 12:51 PM **Mr. Down Motion – BBRKC**
12/15/2021 1:56 PM Meeting Adjourned

December 2021 Newsletter

December Departures

At this meeting the Council bid farewell to longtime SSC member and recent co-Chair, Dr. Anne Hollowed. Dr. Hollowed has played a significant role in the Council's science-based fishery management over the past 19 years she has been with the SSC, and has contributed to the development of many of the management programs the NPFMC has in place today. Thank you, Anne, and best wishes in retirement.

Also departing the SSC is Dr. Matt Reimer, who has served the SSC for 8 years with an emphasis on economic analysis. Thank you Matt for your contributions to sustainable fishery management in the North Pacific.

This December meeting was the last meeting for Mrs. Lauren Smoker, who will be retiring from NOAA's General Counsel office after 30+ years. Ms. Smoker has advised the Council, developed Alaska legal procedures and defended Council and Agency actions. We will miss you, Lauren, and wish you the best in your new chapter.

This meeting was also the last for the following members of the AP: John Gruver, Craig Lowenberg, Joel Peterson, John Scoblic, Marissa Wilson, and Erik Veslko. Thank you all for your service and your involvement in decisions that affect the Nation's fisheries.

Appointments

The Council made the following appointments during the December 2021 Council meeting.

Advisory Panel

The following members of the Advisory Panel have been reappointed for one-year terms: Angel Drobnica, Gretar Gudmundsson, Brian Ritchie, and Susie Zagorski.

Additionally, Tamara Briggie, Tim Heuker, Lauren Mitchell, and Paul Wilkins have been newly appointed for one-year terms.

The Council noted that the appointments were made for a one-year term in order to accommodate the potential for upcoming changes as the Council comprehensively considers its Advisory Panel membership and nomination process over the next year.

In addition to the AP appointments, John Scoblic has resigned from the AP with one year remaining on his term; consistent with the Council's policy, the Chair may choose to replace him with an interim appointment.

AP members for 2022 will be:

Tamara Briggie
Ruth Christiansen

Angel Drobnica
Gretar Gudmundsson
Tim Heuker
James Johnson
Mellisa Johnson
Jeff Kauffman
Julie Kavanaugh
Heather Mann
Lauren Mitchell
Patrick O'Donnell
Megan O'Neill
Brian Ritchie
Matt Upton
Paul Wilkins
Sinclair Wilt
Susie Zagorski

Scientific and Statistical Committee

All current members of the SSC have been reappointed for next year, with the exception of Dr. Anne Hollowed and Dr. Matt Reimer, who are stepping down. Dr. Robert Foy and Dr. Kailin Kroetz have been newly appointed for 2022.

SSC members for 2022 will be:

Chris Anderson
Amy Bishop
Curry Cunningham
Mike Downs
Sherri Dressel
Robert Foy
Jason Gasper
Dana Hanselman
Brad Harris
George Hunt
Kailin Kroetz
Franz Mueter
Andrew Munro
Chris Siddon
Ian Stewart
Patrick Sullivan
Kathryn Meyer (*alt Theresa Tsou*)
Alison Whitman

Charter Halibut Management Committee

Brian Ritchie has been appointed to the Charter Halibut Management Committee.

Charter Halibut Management Measures for 2022

The Council approved management measures for charter halibut fishing in Areas 2C and 3A to be recommended for adoption by the IPHC at its annual meeting in January 2022. The measures approved by the Council were developed by the Charter Halibut Management Committee based on analyses provided by ADF&G demonstrating projected removals, reference catch limits identified at the Interim IPHC meeting, and considering the interests of the fishery. These measures are expected to constrain overall charter removals to the final 2022 Area-specific charter mortality limits, which will be identified by the IPHC at its meeting in January.

Given that the charter mortality limits are still unknown until the Area-wide mortality limits are set by the IPHC, the Council's recommendations provide direction for how the measures should become more or less restrictive in response to different limits adopted at the IPHC. Staff will use the following direction to identify the measures that can be adopted given the Area-wide mortality limits set.

Area 3A recommendations:

- Two-fish daily bag limit.
- One halibut of any size and a maximum size for one of the two fish is 28 inches.
- One charter vessel fishing trip per CHP per day (use of each charter halibut permit is limited to one charter halibut fishing trip per boat in one calendar day).
- Prohibition on halibut charter fishing on Wednesdays, all year.
- Adjust Tuesday closures according to Table 17 on page 53 in ADF&G analysis of proposed harvest regulations for 2022 to bring the projected harvest within the Area 3A allocation.
 - For example, in combination with the other proposed measures:
 - 4 closed Tuesdays closed would result in a harvest of 2.034 Mlb
 - 8 Tuesdays closed would result in a harvest of 1.928 Mlb

In 2022, it is unnecessary to include a requirement to record retained halibut on the back of the license or harvest record card as an enforcement mechanism for the annual limit for 2022.

Area 2C recommendations:

A progression of management measures in the following order as needed:

1. A reverse slot with an upper limit fixed at O80, and a lower limit decreased until the allocation is reached, but no lower than U40; Harvest of 0.814 Mlb (rounds to status quo 0.81 Mlb (Table 6, Page 26 in ADF&G analysis of proposed harvest regulations for 2022)
2. If the allocation is insufficient to maintain at least a U40 on the lower limit, add Monday closures starting September 19th and work consecutively toward the beginning of the season until a lower limit of U40 is reached; Yield 0.689 Mlb. (Table 9 Page 31)
3. If a lower limit of U40 can't be reached after closing all Mondays, add an annual limit of 4-fish (Yield 0.679 Mlb), progressing to an annual limit of 3-fish, as necessary to meet the allocation (Yield 0.648

Mlb); if possible, use any unused allocation to increase the lower limit above U40 until the allocation is reached (Table 13, Page 44).

4. If the allocation is not reached by closing all Mondays and a 3-fish annual limit, allow the lower limit to drop until the allocation is reached; Yield 0.583 Mlb at U37/O80. (Table 13, Page 44)

If an annual limit is adopted in Area 2C, implement a requirement for charter anglers to record, immediately upon retaining a halibut, the date, location (IPHC area), and species (halibut) on their harvest record, consistent with the past reporting requirement in Area 3A.

Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

Halibut Abundance-Based Management

The Council took final action on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the abundance-based management (ABM) of the Amendment 80 (A80) halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limit. The Council has been considering this action iteratively for 6 years. The core concept of the action is linking PSC limits in the A80 commercial groundfish trawl fleet in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) to estimated halibut abundance. The current PSC limit is set as a fixed amount at 1,745 mt, which becomes an increasingly larger proportion of total halibut removals in the BSAI when halibut abundance declines. The Council and its advisory bodies, fishery stakeholders, and the public have considered several approaches for an ABM program consistent with Council fishery management objectives and the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Council heard extensive public testimony during this and previous meetings over both the importance of providing flexibility to the A80 fleet to prosecute their quotas as well as concerns from the directed halibut users that their directed fishery catch has declined as a result of a decline in halibut abundance while fixed PSC limits have further reduced the proportion of halibut available for harvest in the directed halibut fisheries.

The Council recognizes that its authority under the Magnuson Stevens Act is limited to setting PSC limits to the directly regulated entity (A80) and establishing directed fishery catch limits is under the authority of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). Therefore while this action may result in changes to PSC usage by the A80 fleet, there is no guarantee that this will translate to increased opportunities for halibut in the directed fishery. In its purpose and need statement for this action the Council acknowledges this directly by stating:

The Council is considering a program that links the Amendment 80 sector PSC limit to halibut abundance and provides incentives for the fleet to minimize halibut mortality at all times. This action could also promote conservation of the halibut stock and may provide additional opportunities for the directed halibut fishery.

The SSC has reviewed multiple iterations of this analysis and provided extensive review comments over multiple years on a range of survey indices before recommending the two most applicable for informing halibut abundance in the Bering Sea; the IPHC Setline survey and the NMFS Eastern Bering Sea trawl survey. In April 2021, the SSC noted that the current analysis represents the best available science for informing the decision by the Council at this meeting.

The preferred alternative (PA) selected determines the A80 PSC limit annually based on the most recent survey values and the associated PSC limit value from the following table:

At current halibut abundance index levels, a 1,309 mt PSC limit would be established for the A80 sector as specified in the Low/Low states of the setline and EBS trawl survey indices. This is a 25% reduction from the 1,745 mt limit currently in place and establishes the PSC limit 37 mt under the sector's average halibut PSC use from 2016 through 2019. The Council recognizes that the PA will impact all A80 companies differently and significant changes will need to be made to fishing plans and operations to adjust to the reduction in halibut PSC limits and that impacts on operating costs and on groundfish harvests and revenue will differ across companies. Although the Council received a large amount of written comment and testimony supporting even larger reductions in halibut PSC limits than the lowest (35%) included in the PA, the DEIS along with written comment and testimony from A80 sector participants indicated that the largest PSC limit reductions under consideration (in Alternative 4) at current levels of halibut abundance would result in significant increases in halibut avoidance costs and operating inefficiencies and would not be practicable to achieve in most years.

The Council recognizes the complex and challenging nature of this action. However it has been a priority to establish abundance-based management of halibut PSC for the A80 groundfish fisheries and to promote continued participation of other fishery participants and communities dependent on the halibut stock in the BSAI. Under this ABM program, the A80 halibut PSC limit will move both up and down according to the indices of abundance and be responsive to changing halibut stock conditions that affect all halibut users, while never exceeding the current PSC limit. The A80 sector has expressed concern about a lack of positive correlation between the survey indices and their halibut encounter rates and the potential impacts that may have on their ability to avoid halibut and reduce halibut mortality. While these are valid concerns, the primary objective of this action is to link halibut PSC limits to the abundance of halibut, recognizing that halibut is fully allocated. In addition to supporting prosecution of groundfish fisheries, it is a highly valued fish species that supports directed subsistence, recreational and commercial halibut fisheries coastwide.

The PA strikes an appropriate balance between the Magnuson-Stevens Act requirements to establish conservation and management measures that minimize bycatch to the extent practicable under MSA National Standard 9 while achieving optimum yield on a continuing basis under MSA National Standard 1. The PA balances the interests of the two largest halibut user groups in the BSAI, the directed commercial halibut fishery and the A80 sector, by establishing abundance-based halibut PSC limits for the A80 sector. The Council clearly would rather not impose additional costs that could result in reduced groundfish harvests and revenues, but noted that halibut is fully utilized in the BSAI and at low and very low index states, mortality from PSC should decline in response to reduced amounts of halibut available for harvest for all users and this is likely to prevent halibut PSC from becoming a larger proportion of total removals in the BSAI, consistent with the Council's purpose and need statement.

Implementation of this action will occur in either 2023 (mid-year) or for the beginning of the 2024 fishing year.

Staff contact is Diana Stram.

BSAI Specifications for 2022 and 2023

The Council made final recommendations on groundfish harvest specifications, prohibited species catch (PSC) limits, and halibut Discard Mortality Rates (DMRs) to manage the 2022 and 2023 BSAI groundfish fisheries

following review of the Ecosystem Status Reports for the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea, and the BSAI Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report. Harvest and PSC specifications for 2022 and 2023 fishing years are available in the [Council motions](#).

The Council reviewed Ecosystem Status Reports including 4-page summary briefs for the [Aleutian Islands](#) (AI) and the [Bering Sea](#) (BS). Ecosystem conditions are summarized in report card summaries at the beginning of each ESR. In the AI, 2021 sea surface temperatures in August and September were the highest on record since 2003 in the western and central Aleutians. In the eastern, they were mostly cooler relative to last year and closer to the long-term average. Overall, sea surface temperatures are expected to decrease to average levels through winter 2021 and early spring 2022. Ecosystem-wide, several trends and conditions have persisted since 2013 including continued negative North Pacific Gyre Oscillation (NPGO), warmer than average sea surface temperatures (SST) across the Aleutians, with mid-depth waters also warming since 2013, low eddy kinetic energy in the eastern AI and below average abundance of large diatoms and biomass of meso-zooplankton. Cumulatively, these conditions suggest a lower productivity level across the system with increased bioenergetic needs for fish and faster growth rates for zooplankton. Overall, sea surface temperature is expected to decrease to average levels through winter 2021 and early spring 2022.

The Eastern Bering Sea (both northern (NEBS) and southern (SEBS)) remains in an anomalously warm phase that began in 2014. Ongoing and lagged ecosystem-wide impacts of climate shocks were observed in 2021, especially in the NEBS (i.e., following record high temperatures, and record low sea ice and cold pool extent in 2018 and 2019). In the NEBS, concerns about ecosystem carrying capacity persist, highlighted by the gray whale Unusual Mortality Event and short-tailed shearwater mass mortality event following poor feeding conditions experienced during 2018 and 2019. Multiple synchronous declines in observed in 2021 in the NEBS represent ecosystem “red flags” including crab population declines, salmon run failures in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region, seabird die-offs combined with low colony attendance and poor reproductive success and declines in the CPUE of all fish and major invertebrate taxa sampled during the 2021 NOAA bottom trawl survey in both the NEBS and SEBS survey areas, with notable declines in the NESB between 2019 and 2021 (and absent of concurrent increases in the SEBS in 2021).

The [BSAI SAFE report](#) forms the basis for BSAI groundfish harvest specifications for the next two fishing years. Some groundfish stocks in the BSAI are assessed annually while others are assessed less frequently due to stock prioritization based on assessment methods and data availability. Full assessments were performed in 2021 for EBS and AI pollock, EBS and AI cod, sablefish, yellowfin sole, flathead sole, Alaska plaice, northern rockfish and Atka mackerel. A report on the status of forage fish in the BSAI was provided. For stocks with partial assessments, specifications are rolled over from the previous assessment. The statewide sablefish assessment was provided during the Joint Plan Team report. Final BSAI specifications for 2022 and 2023 are shown in [Table 1](#) in the Council motion.

Overall, the status of stocks in the BSAI continue to appear favorable. No stocks are experiencing overfishing or are overfished. Most stocks are above B_{MSY} or the B_{MSY} proxy of $B_{35\%}$. However there was a decline in the abundance of EBS pollock and it is estimated below the B_{MSY} in 2022.



In setting TACs for 2022 and 2023, the Council accounts for Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) for groundfish fisheries in State waters. The Alaska Board of Fisheries took action in 2018 which modified how GHLs in the

Bering Sea (BS) and Aleutian Islands (AI) are set for Pacific cod. The GHL in the AI will be set at 39% of the AI ABC, or a maximum of 15 million pounds (6,804 t). The BS GHL will be set at 11% of the EBS Pacific cod. An additional reduction of 45 t is taken from the remaining EBS Pacific cod maxTAC for the Area O jig fishery. The Council's OFLs, ABC, and TACs take the GHLS into account.

The Council specified an ABC reserve for flathead sole, rock sole, and yellowfin sole, which was specified as the ABC surplus for the species (i.e., the difference between the ABC and TAC); specified Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits for halibut, crab, and herring; and specified halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for the BSAI. Crab PSC limits have all declined from 2021 levels due to the decline in the estimated abundances of red king crab, snow crab and Tanner crab. Additionally, Federal regulations state that the Red King Crab Savings Subarea be closed to nonpelagic trawl gear if the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) does not set a TAC for red king crab in the Bristol Bay area in the previous year. A TAC has not been set for the 2021/2022 Bristol Bay red king crab season, thus the area will be closed to nonpelagic trawl gear in 2022.

The Council also moved to initiate a discussion paper to consider whether and how the Spatial Management Policy can be used to address conservation and management concerns for BSAI blackspotted/rougheye rockfish. This represents the second time the Council has initiated step 2 of the policy to address concerns for this stock.

Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Specifications

The Council approved the 2021 Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report and recommended final harvest specifications for the 2022 and 2023 GOA groundfish fisheries. For final rulemaking for the 2022 and 2023 fishing years, the Council recommended Overfishing Limits (OFLs) and Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) levels consistent with SSC recommendations, and final Total Allowable Catch (TAC). The Council also recommended halibut Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limit apportionments and adopted updated halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for 2022. In setting the TACs for 2022 and 2023, the Council accounts for guideline harvest levels (GHLs) for groundfish fisheries in state waters; full details are included in the [Council Motion](#).

The Council also reviewed the [Ecosystem Status Report for the GOA](#), including a 4-page [GOA ecosystem brief](#). The report provided information on ocean conditions, phytoplankton and zooplankton densities, forage fish abundance, and seabird and marine mammal trends. The report highlighted average temperatures for 2021, however, the GOA biological community is still in transition from the marine heatwaves in 2014-2016 and 2019. Examples of species populations that remain reduced include capelin, common murre, Prince William Sound humpback whales, and Pacific cod. A predicted cool phase in 2022 may shed light on how persistent the impacts of previous heatwaves will continue to be. NOAA Fisheries also released [a video](#) that captures some of the high points of the ecosystem conditions from the previous year, in efforts to communicate the updated summary of ecosystem information to the broader community.

The [2021 GOA Groundfish SAFE report](#) includes stock status updates for all 20 stocks or stock complexes managed through the GOA Groundfish FMP. The GOA SAFE report forms the basis for GOA groundfish harvest specifications for the next two fishing years. Based on consideration of stock prioritization including

assessment methods and data availability, some stocks are assessed on an annual basis while others are assessed less frequently. Full assessments were produced for all stocks in the GOA in 2021 with the following exceptions: partial assessments were produced for flathead sole, deepwater flatfish, northern rockfish, and dusky rockfish, and no assessments were produced for thornyhead rockfish nor sharks. For these exceptions, specifications were rolled over from the previous assessment for that stock.

The [GOA Groundfish Plan Team report](#) summarized the issues discussed and actions taken by the Plan Team at its virtual November meeting. Highlights of the GOA Plan Team report included stock assessment presentations from individual assessment authors and authors of the Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profiles (ESPs) for GOA pollock and Pacific cod. Some of the issues that pertain to GOA Groundfish, such as sablefish and the draft Economic SAFE, are covered in the [Joint Plan Team Report](#).

The SSC recommended 2022 and 2023 OFLs and ABCs and provided guidance on many of the assessments in its [draft SSC report](#). Maximum permissible ABCs were set for all stocks in the GOA in 2020, except for sablefish, dusky rockfish, and demersal shelf rockfish (DSR). ABC less than the maximum permissible is recommended when there are additional conservation considerations that are not accounted for in the stock assessment, tier system, or harvest control rules. Overall, the status of stocks in the GOA continue to appear favorable. No stocks are experiencing overfishing or are overfished. Most stocks are above B_{MSY} or the B_{MSY} proxy of $B_{35\%}$ with the exception of Pacific cod.

The GOA Pacific cod stock remains at low levels, but recent trends show modest improvement from 2019 and 2020. The spawning biomass is projected to have increased in 2021 and continue to increase in 2022. The 2022 Federal GOA Pacific cod Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is 24,111 mt. An additional 8,700 mt are reserved for the State fishery.



Summary of Gulf of Alaska stock status next year (spawning biomass relative to B_{MSY} ; horizontal axis) and current year catch relative to fishing at F_{MSY} (vertical axis). Note that sablefish is for Alaska-wide values including the BSAI catches.

For most stocks, the Council established TACs equal to ABCs. Exceptions where the TAC is set below ABC include pollock, Pacific cod, shallow water flatfish in the Western GOA, arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole in Western and Central GOA, other rockfish in the Eastern GOA, and Atka mackerel.

Staff contact is Sara Cleaver.

Red King Crab Savings Area Expansion

At this meeting, the Council reviewed but took no further action on an analysis to expand the Red King Crab Savings Area boundary from 57° 00.0' N to 57° 30.0' N through an emergency rule. After reviewing the analysis, the Council did not recommend an emergency rule because the expansion of the Red King Crab Savings Area boundary does not meet all three criteria defining an emergency. Specifically, the Council noted that the uncertain benefits for Bristol Bay red king crab savings from expanding the savings area boundary do

not outweigh the value of advance notice, public comment, and the deliberative consideration of the impacts on participants.

The Council noted in the Bristol Bay red king crab discussion paper that was tasked in October 2021 will provide a comprehensive evaluation of current boundaries used for PSC limits in addition to boundaries relevant to assessment and management of the directed Bristol Bay red king crab fishery. This discussion paper will also evaluate the best available information on bottom contact by pelagic trawl gear and the impact it may have on Bristol Bay red king crab stocks, and summarize mechanisms used in other Council-managed fisheries to create flexible, responsive spatial management measures for all gear types, and how they might be applied to protect Bristol Bay red king crab.

During staff tasking at this meeting, the Council asked staff to also include in the Bristol Bay red king crab discussion paper the best available information on Bristol Bay red king crab molting/mating annual cycle, and how the seasonality of this overlaps with fisheries, and the effects these interactions may have. The Council prioritized this discussion paper for the April or June meeting, depending on the availability of staff resources. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

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.

The Council directed staff to write a letter to NOAA providing input on ways NOAA can advance the goals and recommendations in the report on “Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful.” The Council’s comment letter will highlight the conservation areas that the Council has already instituted as part of its fishery management program, and will emphasize the importance of the annual surveys as well as new initiatives to survey in the winter months. The Council considered the opportunity to provide additional new or additional information to NOAA on the St. George Unangan Heritage National Marine Sanctuary nomination review, but determined that there was no need to supplement the Council’s 2016 letter.

The Council requested staff to add additional information to its [previously-tasked discussion paper on Bristol Bay red king crab boundaries](#), and asked that the paper be brought back for Council review as soon as possible. More information is included here.

Finally, the Council Chair announced [2022 appointments](#) for the SSC and Advisory Panel, and for a new member for the Charter Halibut Management Committee.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Upcoming Meetings: Committees, Plan Teams, Taskforces

January

- BSAI Crab Plan Team – January 10-14, 2022 (Anchorage/online)
- Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Taskforce on Climate Change – January 18-20, 2022 (online)
- Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Local Knowledge/Traditional Knowledge/Subsistence Taskforce – January 20-21, 2022 (Anchorage/online)
- Ecosystem Committee – January 25-26, 2022 (online)
- Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC) – January 2022 (TBD)

February

- Scallop Plan Team – February 16, 2022 (online)

March and beyond

- Ecosystem Committee – March 2022 (TBD)
- BSAI Crab Plan Team – May 2022 (TBD)
- EM Trawl Committee – May 2022 (TBD)
- Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee – May 2022 (TBD)

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