



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Meeting Summary

262nd Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
December 8-14, 2022
Hybrid – Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel and Zoom Webinar

CONTENTS

A1	Call Meeting to Order/Oath of Office/Election of Officers.....	4
B	Reports.....	4
C1	Red King Crab Savings Area Emergency Rule Request - Review (Council Only).....	4
C2	Snow Crab Rebuilding Analysis - Initial Review	6
C3	Cook Inlet Salmon FMP Amendment - Initial Review	7
C4	BSAI Groundfish - Final harvest specifications, BS and AI Ecosystem Status Reports, SAFE report, adopt ABC/OFLs; Plan Team Report	9
C5	GOA Groundfish - Final harvest specifications, GOA Ecosystem Status Report, SAFE Report, adopt ABC/OFLs; Plan Team Report.....	9
C6	2023 Charter Halibut Management Measures - Final Action	10
D1	Salmon Bycatch.....	11
D2	Crab conservation workplan - Review (Council Only).....	12
E1	Staff Tasking.....	13

Attachments

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) BSAI Specification Tables | 4) Newsletter |
| 2) GOA Specification Tables | 5) List of appointees for 2023 |
| 3) Time Log | |

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met December 8-14, 2022 at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. The following Council members, Council staff, SSC, and AP members attended the meetings either in person or virtually.

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>

Council Members

Rachel Baker/Karla Bush (for Doug Vincent-Lang) <i>Alaska Department Fish and Game</i>	Simon Kinneen, Chair <i>Appointed</i>
Kenny Down <i>Appointed</i>	Jon Kurland <i>National Marine Fisheries Service</i>
Angel Drobnica <i>Appointed</i>	Andy Mezirow <i>Appointed</i>
Peter Fasbender (for Sara Boario) <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>	RADM Nathan Moore <i>United States Coast Guard</i>
Dave Hanson <i>Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission</i>	Bill Tweit (for Kelly Susewind), Vice Chair <i>Washington Department Fish & Wildlife</i>
John Jensen <i>Appointed</i>	Anne Vanderhoeven <i>Appointed</i>
Nicole Kimball <i>Appointed</i>	Steve Williams (for Curt Melcher) <i>Oregon Department Fish & Wildlife</i>

Council Staff

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

Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC met December 5-7, at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings.

Sherri Dressel, Co-Chair <i>Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game</i>	Franz Mueter, Co-Chair <i>University of Alaska Fairbanks</i>	Alison Whitman, Vice Chair <i>Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>
Chris Anderson <i>University of Washington</i>	Amy Bishop <i>University of Alaska Fairbanks</i>	Curry Cunningham <i>University of Alaska Fairbanks</i>
Mike Downs <i>Wislow Research</i>	Robert Foy <i>NOAA Fisheries—AFSC</i>	Jason Gasper <i>NOAA Fisheries—Alaska Regional Office</i>
Dana Hanselman <i>NOAA Fisheries—AFSC</i>	Brad Harris <i>Alaska Pacific University</i>	George Hunt <i>University of Washington</i>
Kailin Kroetz <i>Arizona State University</i>	Kathryn Meyer <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	Andrew Munro <i>Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game</i>
Chris Siddon <i>Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game</i>	Ian Stewart <i>Intl. Pacific Halibut Commission</i>	Patrick Sullivan <i>Cornell University</i>

Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel met December 6-9, at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings (absent members are ~~stricken~~):

Briggie, Tamara	Kauffman, Jeff	Ritchie, Brian (Chair)
Christiansen, Ruth (Co-VC)	Kavanaugh, Julie	Upton, Matt
Gudmundsson, Gretar	Mann, Heather	Wilkins, Paul
Heuker, Tim	Mitchell, Lauren (Co-VC)	Wilt, Sinclair
Johnson, Jim	O'Donnell, Paddy	Zagorski, Suzie
Johnson, Mellisa	O'Neil, Megan	

A1 Call Meeting to Order

The Council approved the agenda without objection.

B Reports

The following reports were provided in writing and discussed.

B1 Executive Director's Report – David Witherell

- NPRB Report and video presentation – Lynn Palensky, Brendan Smith, NPRB

B2 NMFS Management Report

- B2 NMFS ESA Report – Josh Keaton, Anne Marie Eich
- B2 In-season Management Report – Mary Furuness, Steve Whitney

B3 NOAA GC Report – Josh Fortenbery

B4 NOAA Enforcement Report – Nathan Lagerwey, Alex Perry

B5 ADFG Report – Kendall Henry

B6 USCG Report – Written Report only

B7 USFWS Report – Peter Fasbender

B9 SSC Report – Dr. Sherri Dressel (SSC Co-Chair)

B10 AP Report – Ruth Christiansen and Lauren Mitchell (AP Co-Vice Chairs)

Public comment was taken, Ms. Kimball requested the Council draft a letter to NMFS requesting the agency secure adequate funding to support continued operation of the trawl EM program, including expanding participation to new vessels, during this unexpected additional year before regulatory implementation

C1 Red King Crab Savings Area Emergency Rule Request - Review (Council Only)

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan

Other Presenters: Kelly Cates, NMFS

Action Required:

1. Review Emergency Rule Analysis
2. Provide recommendations as desired to the Secretary of Commerce

Summary: *The Council considered a document looking at closing an area of the Bering Sea to all commercial fishing for the first half of 2023 in order to protect Bristol Bay red king crab and their habitat.*

MOTION 1: After staff presentations and public comment, Ms. Baker made the following motion, which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:

The information in the analysis reviewed by the Council indicates the proposed action does not meet the requirements for emergency rulemaking established under NMFS' Policy Guidelines for the Use of Emergency Rules. Thus, the Council does not recommend implementation of emergency rulemaking to close the Red King Crab Savings Area and Red King Crab Savings Subarea to all fishing gears from January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023.

The proposal submitted to the Secretary of Commerce identified low Bristol Bay Red King crab abundance as the situation creating an emergency in the fishery. The Council evaluated this situation

with respect to the emergency rule criteria established in the guidelines and determined that an emergency does not exist because the current situation does not meet criterion 1 and criterion 3 in the guidelines.

For criterion 1, the Council determined the situation did not result from recent, unforeseen events or recently discovered circumstances. While BBRKC abundance is low, the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, and the stock is regularly assessed so this the decline in abundance is not unforeseen or recently discovered.

For criterion 3, available information does not support a finding that the immediate benefits of emergency rulemaking outweigh the value of advance notice, public comment, and deliberative consideration of the impacts on participants under the normal rulemaking process. Although the analysis indicates the proposed action could provide habitat benefits through reduced bottom contact by trawl gear and potentially reduced Bristol Bay red king crab mortality, these impacts are identified as uncertain and highly dependent on assumptions that the closure will move trawl and fixed gear fleets into areas with lower crab impacts. The analysis also indicates potentially negative impacts to other prohibited species like salmon, halibut and herring and fleet operations.

VOTE ON MOTION 1: The motion passed 10-0-1, with Mr. Kurland abstaining on December 9, 2022 at 10:46 am.

MOTION 2: Ms. Baker made a second motion which was seconded by Mr. Down:

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

The Bristol Bay red king crab (BBRKC) stock has declined and is currently at low levels, resulting in a closure to the directed fishery in 2021/22 and 2022/23. Estimated recruitment has been extremely low during the last 12 years and the projected mature biomass is expected to decline during the next few years. The best available science indicates the cause of the decline is a combination of factors related to continued warming and variability in ocean conditions.

Given the poor recruitment and low stock status of BBRKC, the Council intends to consider management measures focused on reducing BBRKC mortality from groundfish fishing in areas that may be important to BBRKC and where BBRKC may be found year-round, which may help increase stock abundance and promote achievement of optimum yield from the directed BBRKC fishery while minimizing negative impacts to affected groundfish fleet operations as well as target and PSC species.

Alternative 1. Status quo

Alternative 2. Implement an annual closure of the Red King Crab Savings Area and Red King Crab Savings Subarea to all commercial groundfish fishing gears. The existing closure for non-pelagic trawl gear is not changed.

The closure would be in effect:

Option 1: if ADF&G does not establish a Total Allowable Catch the previous year for Bristol Bay red king crab fishery.

Option 2: if the total area-swept biomass for BBRKC is less than 50,000 t.

These suboptions apply to either option:

Suboption 1: exempt hook-and-line gear from the closure

Suboption 2: exempt pot gear from the closure

Alternative 3. Implement a closure of Area 512 to fishing for Pacific cod with pot gear.

The closure would be in effect:

Option 1: if ADF&G does not establish a Total Allowable Catch the previous year for Bristol Bay red king crab fishery.

Option 2: if the total area-swept biomass for BBRKC is less than 50,000 t.

The analysis should provide an expanded discussion of the performance standard applicable to vessels in the directed pollock fishery and the regulatory definition of pelagic trawl gear. The expanded discussion should include background on the rationale for and information used to establish the performance standard and gear definition to help evaluate whether the performance standard and gear definition are meeting Council objectives.

AMENDMENT: Ms. Vanderhoeven made an amendment, which was seconded by Mr. Tweit, which stated: The analysis should evaluate the potential tradeoffs and challenges of establishing dynamic closure areas to promote the Bristol Bay red king crab stocks.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: The amendment passed without objection December 9, 2022 at 11:56 am.

AMENDMENT 2: Mr. Down moved, which was seconded by Ms. Kimball, to strikeout “the closure would be in effect” in both alternative 2, and alternative 3.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT 2: The vote on the amendment failed 4-7, December 9, 2022 at 12:25 with Baker, Down, Kimball, and Kurland voting in favor.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION 2: The amended motion passed unanimously on December 9, 12:33 pm.

C2 Snow Crab Rebuilding Analysis - Initial Review

Council Staff: Jon McCracken, Sarah Rheinsmith

Action Required:

1. Initial Review of EA
2. Consider selection of a preliminary preferred alternative

Summary: *The Council reviewed a draft plan to rebuild the Eastern Bering Sea Snow Crab stock and make recommendations to be reviewed in February 2023.*

MOTION: After staff presentations and public comment, **Ms. Kimball moved, and Mr. Jensen seconded the following motion:**

The Council recommends scheduling the analysis for final action with the following preliminary preferred alternative (in bold):

Alternative 1: No Action: State harvest strategy with no rebuilding plan.

Alternative 2: Set target rebuilding time frame for the number of years necessary to rebuild the stock to the B_{MSY} level at a probability $\geq 50\%$. The stock will be considered “rebuilt” once it reaches B_{MSY} .

Option 1: No directed fishing until the stock is rebuilt.

Option 2: Allow the directed fishery to open based on the state harvest strategy while the stock is rebuilding.

Per the SSC recommendations, if possible, the analysts should add: 1) the projected catch during the rebuilding period to inform the evaluation of the potential economic effects; and 2) information on the status of fishing dependent communities through the 2021/22 season and CDQ ownership/participation. The analysis should also address Alternative 1 in the section on expected effects of the alternatives.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed without objection, December 12, 2022 at 8:53 am.

C3 Cook Inlet Salmon FMP Amendment - Initial Review

Council Staff: Nicole Watson

Other Presenters: Doug Duncan (NMFS) – project lead, Marcus Hartley (Northern Economics), Dr. Mike Downs (Wislow Research)

Action Required:

1. Review the Initial Review Draft of the EA/RIR.
2. Affirm the suite of provided alternatives are appropriate.

***Summary:** The Council reviewed choices that are available for required federal management of Cook Inlet Salmon. This would require a change to the Salmon FMP. The document analyzes the impacts of each choice.*

Staff presentations were given and public comment was taken.

MOTION: Mr. Kurland moved and Mr. Tweit seconded the following motion:

The Council recommends releasing the analysis for a new amendment to the Salmon FMP for public review and anticipated final action at the April 2023 Council meeting. This action is necessary so NMFS can implement an FMP amendment by the May 1, 2024 court-ordered deadline. The Council is not selecting a preliminary preferred alternative at this time.

Purpose and Need (unchanged from the Council’s October 2022 motion)

The Council intends to amend the Salmon FMP to manage salmon fishing in the Federal waters of upper Cook Inlet. Federal management must be consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, including the required provisions for an FMP specified in section 303(a). This proposed action is necessary to bring the Salmon FMP into compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act consistent with the 2016 Ninth Circuit decision and the recent summary judgment opinion of the Alaska District Court in UCIDA et al. v. NMFS.

Alternatives (unchanged from the Council’s October 2022 motion except for adding the options summarized below)

Alternative 1: No Action.

Alternative 2: Federal management of the fishery in the EEZ with specific management measures delegated to the State.

Option 1: Delegate recreational salmon fishery management measures to the State (as described at Section 2.4.3, pg. 81) and include monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting measures (as described at Section 2.4.8.2, pg. 97) as well as standardized bycatch reporting methodology for the recreational fishery (as described at Section 2.4.9, pg. 98).

Option 2: Establish a peer review process that works in conjunction with the SSC as an option for an Annual Process for Determining the Status of the Stocks (as described in Section 2.4.7, pg. 91).

Option 3: Streamline the process to determine the status of stocks and set harvest specifications as a sub-option for an Annual Process for Determining the Status of the Stocks (as described in Section 2.4.7, pg. 94).

Alternative 3: Federal management of the fishery in the EEZ.

Option 1: Define optimum yield in terms of a range of annual catch limits (as described at Section 2.5.5, pg. 109).

Option 2: Streamline the process to determine the status of stocks and set harvest specifications as a sub-option for an Annual Process for Determining the Status of the Stocks (as described in Section 2.5.6, pg. 111).

Option 3: Adopt recreational salmon fishery management measures (as described at Section 2.5.9, pg. 113) and include monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting measures (as described at Section 2.5.7.2, pg. 113) as well as standardized bycatch reporting methodology for the recreational fishery (as described at Section 2.5.8, pg. 113).

Option 4: Fix a commercial salmon fishery closure date for the Cook Inlet EEZ as an option for establishing commercial fishing periods (as described in Section 2.5.11, pg. 94). Evaluate July 15 as a potential closure date, as well as a range of other potential closure dates in July.

Alternative 4: Federal management of the commercial fishery in the EEZ with the EEZ closed to commercial fishing.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously at 4:40pm on December 12, 2022.

C4 BSAI Groundfish - Final harvest specifications, BS and AI Ecosystem Status Reports, SAFE report, adopt ABC/OFLs; Plan Team Report

- Council Staff:** Dr. Diana Stram
- Other Presenters:** Dr. Elizabeth Siddon (AFSC – BS ESR), Dr. Ivonne Ortiz (U. Wash – AI ESR), Dr. Steve Barbeaux (AFSC, BSAI Plan Team Co-Chair)
- Action Required:**
1. Review 2022 Ecosystem Status Reports for the Eastern Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands, Joint Plan Team and BSAI Plan Team reports
 2. Approve the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report
 3. Recommend Final 2023 and 2024 BSAI groundfish harvest specifications

Summary: *The Council received 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 2023 and 2024 BSAI groundfish fisheries.*

Staff presentations were given and public comment was taken.

MOTION: Ms. Vanderhoeven moved, which was seconded by Mr. Jensen, the following:

- Approve the 2022 BSAI Groundfish SAFE report
- Adopt the 2023/2024 OFLs, ABCs and TACs for groundfish in the BSAI as shown in Table 1.
- Set flatfish flexibility reserves as shown in Table 13 to maximize the ABC reserves for 2023/2024.
- Approve the PSC amounts and distributions as shown in Tables 14, 15, 16 and 17.
Approve Pacific halibut DMRs for 2023/2024 as shown in Table 18.

(Tables referenced above are included at the end of this document)

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed without objection, 11-0, at 4:41 pm on December 11, 2022.

C5 GOA Groundfish - Final harvest specifications, GOA Ecosystem Status Report, SAFE Report, adopt ABC/OFLs; Plan Team Report

- Council Staff:** Sara Cleaver (GOA),
- Other Presenters:** Dr. James Ianelli (NMFS AFSC, GOA Plan Team co-chair), Dr. Bridget Ferriss (NMFS AFSC - GOA ESR)
- Action Required:**
1. Review the 2022 Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Ecosystem Status Report (ESR) and GOA Groundfish Plan Team reports.
 2. Approve the GOA Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report.
 3. Recommend final GOA Groundfish harvest specifications for 2023 and 2024

Summary: *The Council received 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 2023 and 2024 GOA groundfish fisheries.*

MOTION: Ms. Kimball moved, and Ms. Vanderhoeven seconded, to:

- Approve the 2022 Gulf of Alaska SAFE report.
Approve the final 2023 and 2024 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC, and the TACs as shown in the attached Table 1.
- Approve the TACs for both GOA Pacific cod and pollock which 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.
- Approve the 2023 and 2024 Pacific halibut PSC limits, allowances, and apportionments in the GOA which are attached in Tables 14, 15, and 16.
- Approve the halibut discard mortality rates for 2023 and 2024 as shown in attached Table 17.

(Tables referenced above are included at the end of this document)

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously, 11-0, at 11:30 am on December 12, 2022.

C6 2023 Charter Halibut Management Measures - Final Action

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan

Other Presenters: Brianna Bowman King (ADF&G; **lead**); Sarah Webster (ADF&G)

Action Required:

1. Review ADF&G analysis of proposed measures
2. Review Charter Halibut Management Committee minutes
3. Recommend preferred management measures for 2023

Summary: *The Council recommended charter halibut regulations (e.g., number of fish able to beharvested per angler per day) for the 2023 fishing season to ensure the amount of halibut caught does not exceed the set limits.*

The Council received staff presentations and comments from committee Chair Mr. Mezirow, and took public comment.

MOTION: Mr. Mezirow moved and Ms. Kimball seconded, the following:

For the 2023 charter fishing season in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A, the Council recommends:

For IPHC Area 2C:

1. A daily bag limit of 1 halibut, with a reverse slot size limit, where the upper limit is fixed at O80 (halibut equal to 80 inches or more may be retained), and a decreasing lower size limit that is applied until the allocation is reached, but no lower than U40 (halibut equal to 40 inches or less may be retained). These measures cover projected charter removals that range from 0.867 up to 1.121 million pounds (Mlb), as provided by **Table 2C.5 (page 21)** of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) analysis.
2. If the allocation cannot be reached with a lower size limit of U40 and upper size limit of O80, then also prohibit halibut retention on Mondays, beginning with September 18 and all other Mondays through the end of the season; then, if necessary, add consecutive Monday closures from September 18 working toward the beginning of the season until the allocation is reached. These additional measures

cover projected charter removals that range from 0.734 to 0.867 Mlb, as indicated in **Table 2C.8.b (page 25)** of the ADF&G analysis.

3. If the allocation cannot be reached with a lower limit of U40 and all Mondays closed, then add an annual limit of 3 fish per charter angler. If possible, increase the lower size limit to U41 or U42 to reach the allocation. These additional measures cover projected charter removals that range from 0.686 to 0.723 Mlb, as indicated in **Table 2C.10.b (page 30)** of the ADF&G analysis.

4. If the allocation is not reached by closing all Mondays and applying a 3-fish annual limit, then allow the lower size limit to decrease from U40 until the allocation is reached. This covers projected charter removals that range from 0.564 up to 0.686 Mlb, as indicated in **Table 2C.10.b (page 30)** of the ADF&G analysis.

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

For IPHC Area 3A:

All allocations shown below include, unless otherwise specified: a daily bag limit of 2 halibut; one fish of any size and one fish with a maximum size limit; 1 trip per charter vessel per day with retention of halibut; and, 1 trip per charter halibut permit per day.

- 1) If the allocation is less than 2.37 Mlb, but greater than or equal to 2.075 Mlb, apply:
 - One fish of any size and one fish less than or equal to 28 inches; and
 - Adjust the number of Wednesdays closed to the retention of halibut, so that projected charter removals are within the Area 3A allocation, as indicated in **Table 3A.13 (page 74)** of the ADF&G analysis.
- 2) If the allocation is less than 2.075 Mlb, but greater than 1.75 Mlb: in addition to all closed Wednesdays and a second halibut 28 inches or less, close as many Tuesdays as needed to keep the charter harvest removals within the Area 3A allocation, as indicated in **Table 3A.5 (page 65)** of the ADF&G analysis.
- 3) Should the allocation be below 1.75 Mlb, in addition to closing all Tuesdays and Wednesdays, lower the size of the second fish to as low as 26 inches, until the projected charter harvest removals meet the allocation. This covers allocations as low as 1.69 Mlb as indicated in **Table 3A.6 (page 65)** of the ADF&G analysis

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed without objection at 3:40 December 12, 2022.

D1 Salmon Bycatch

Council Staff: Dr. Diana Stram

Other presenters: Karla Bush (ADFG), Dr. Wes Larson (AFSC), John Gruver, Austin Estabrooks, Stephanie Madsen

Action Required: 1. Receive range of reports, action as necessary
2. Adopt terms of reference for Salmon Bycatch Committee; provide Committee direction

Summary: *The Council heard reports from various groups on salmon bycatch. The Council will also provide direction to its new Salmon Bycatch Committee.*

The Council received staff presentations and comments from Committee Chairs Mr. Mezirow and Ms. Baker, and took public comment.

MOTION: Ms. Baker moved, which was seconded by Mr. Mezirow, to initiate action to modify chum salmon bycatch management measures in the Bering Sea pollock fishery.

The Council directs the Salmon Bycatch Committee to develop recommendations for potential regulatory and non-regulatory chum salmon bycatch management measures, including a cap. The committee should develop alternative management measures with focus on avoidance of Western Alaska chum salmon. The committee could recommend concepts or specific components of alternatives for metrics to evaluate bycatch performance, including management measures linked to abundance indices or other triggers and metrics to evaluate bycatch performance. The Council will review committee recommendations following two additional committee meetings.

The Council approves the terms of reference as modified by the committee. The Council supports staff providing the committee with information in response the itemized list of requests for the next committee meeting, to the extent possible. At its next meeting, the committee should review the information provided by staff and the State of Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force recommendations for Western Alaska salmon to inform its development of recommendations for management measures.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: Ms. Vanderhoeven moved, which was seconded by Ms. Kimball, to exclude item 9 – Information of fishing effects on habitat related to pelagic gear - from the list of information requests the Salmon Bycatch Committee provided.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Passed without objection, 8: 53am December 14, 2022

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: Passed without objection, 9:33 am December 14, 2022

D2 Crab conservation workplan - Review (Council Only)

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan

Other Presenters: Kendall Henry (ADF&G; lead)

Action Required: 1. Review draft workplan
2. Revisions to draft
3. Consider requesting review from SSC/ CPT or other action

Summary: *The Council will review and possibly add to a draft plan prepared by Alaska Department of Fish and Game on ways to rebuild the Bristol Bay red king crab and Bering Sea snow crab stocks.*

Staff presentations were given and public comment was taken.

MOTION: Mr. Down moved, which was seconded by Mr. Jensen, to request the Crab Plan Team add discussion of the following items to their 2023 CPT schedule and provide feedback on the relative prioritization of these issues and their ability to improve stock condition.

- Consider the efficacy and ability to identify areas (static and/or dynamic) for groundfish fishery closures to protect snow crab, and suggested areas that could bring meaningful savings.
- Align crab PSC limit boundaries with the crab stock management area for snow crab
- Remove or revise trawl crab PSC limit floors for Bristol Bay red king crab and Eastern Bering Sea snow crab
- Update trawl crab PSC limits based on status of crab stocks
- Establish non-trawl crab PSC limits

Additionally, approve the SSC recommendation to form a working group to develop a framework for how to estimate the magnitude of unobserved mortality for crab stocks and how these estimations may be utilized in BSAI crab stock assessments.

There was brief discussion about adding an amendment to change “working group” to workshop, but the potential amendment was withdrawn at 11:20 am.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed without objection, December 10, 11:25am.

E1 Staff Tasking

Council Staff: David Witherell

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 and identify agendas for any upcoming committee meetings.*

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

MOTION: Mr. Down moved, which was seconded by Ms. Kimball to support the statistical and economic analyses identified on page 18 of the SSC report by AFSC that could be relevant to TAC but not ABC or OFL considerations, (i.e., maximum sustainable yield vs maximum economic yield reference points, the relative value of stable vs variable catch levels, the economic impact of spatial apportionments, and economically optimal fish size/age considerations).

AMENDMENT: Ms. Kimball amended the motion to add “for sablefish” after the word ‘analysis.’

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed without objection, December 14, 12:05pm

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: Motion passed without objection, December 14, 12:06 pm

Other Staff tasking actions to note:

Mr. Witherell read off the list of appointees to the Advisory Panel, SSC, PNCIAC, and Scallop PT for 2023. The list is attached to these minutes.

The Council adjourned Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 12:30 P.M.

Council Motion
C4 BSAI Groundfish Specifications
December 11, 2022

Motion 1:

The Council moves to approve to 2022 BSAI Groundfish SAFE report.

The Council moves to adopt the 2023/2024 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 13 to maximize the ABC reserves for 2023/2024.

The Council moves to approve the PSC amounts and distributions as shown in Tables 14, 15, 16 and 17.

The Council moves to approve Pacific halibut DMRs for 2023/2024 as shown in Table 18.

Table 1. Council recommended TACs with SSC specified OFL, ABC for Groundfish in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (metric tons) for 2023-2024

12/8/2022

Species	Area	2021				2022				2023			2024		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 12/31/2021	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 11/5/2022	OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	EBS	2,594,000	1,626,000	1,375,000	1,376,258	1,469,000	1,111,000	1,111,000	1,103,996	3,381,000	1,910,000	1,300,000	4,639,000	2,275,000	1,302,000
	AI	61,856	51,241	19,000	1,840	61,264	50,752	19,000	2,895	52,383	43,413	19,000	52,043	43,092	19,000
	Bogoslof	113,479	85,109	250	8	113,479	85,109	250	256	115,146	86,360	300	115,146	86,360	300
Pacific cod	BS	147,949	123,805	111,380	109,202	183,012	153,383	136,466	127,885	172,495	144,834	127,409	166,814	140,159	123,295
	AI	27,400	20,600	13,796	7,298	27,400	20,600	13,796	6,178	18,416	13,812	8,425	18,416	13,812	8,425
Sablefish	BSAI/GOA	60,426	29,558	n/a		40,432	34,521	n/a		47,390	40,502		48,561	41,539	
	BS	n/a	3,396	3,396	4,169	n/a	5,264	5,264	5,205	n/a	8,417	7,996	n/a	10,185	9,676
	AI	n/a	4,717	4,717	1,578	n/a	6,463	6,463	2,193	n/a	8,884	8,440	n/a	10,308	9,793
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	341,571	313,477	200,000	108,788	377,071	354,014	250,000	149,869	404,882	378,499	230,000	495,155	462,890	230,656
	BSAI	8,568	7,326	6,025	1,597	7,687	6,572	6,572	1,477	4,645	3,960	3,960	3,947	3,364	3,364
Greenland turbot	BS	n/a	6,176	5,125	1,130	n/a	5,540	5,540	1,038	n/a	3,338	3,338	n/a	2,836	2,836
	AI	n/a	1,150	900	467	n/a	1,032	1,032	439	n/a	622	622	n/a	528	528
	BSAI	90,873	77,349	15,000	9,014	94,445	80,389	20,000	7,626	98,787	83,852	15,000	103,070	87,511	15,000
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	10,630	8,982	8,982	6,667	10,903	9,214	9,214	8,349	8,946	7,579	7,579	8,776	7,435	7,435
Northern rock sole	BSAI	145,180	140,306	54,500	14,393	214,084	206,896	66,000	18,242	166,034	121,719	66,000	196,011	119,969	66,000
Flathead sole	BSAI	75,863	62,567	25,000	10,259	77,967	64,288	35,500	14,559	79,256	65,344	35,500	81,167	66,927	35,500
Alaska plaice	BSAI	37,924	31,657	24,500	15,862	39,305	32,697	29,221	11,006	40,823	33,946	17,500	43,328	36,021	18,000
Other flatfish	BSAI	22,919	17,189	6,500	2,638	22,919	17,189	10,000	2,550	22,919	17,189	4,500	22,919	17,189	4,500
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	44,376	37,173	35,899	35,479	42,605	35,688	35,385	22,629	50,133	42,038	37,703	49,279	41,322	38,264
	BS	n/a	10,782	10,782	10,693	n/a	10,352	10,352	9,665	n/a	11,903	11,903	n/a	11,700	11,700
	EAI	n/a	8,419	8,419	8,288	n/a	8,083	8,083	5,924	n/a	8,152	8,152	n/a	8,013	8,013
	CAI	n/a	6,198	6,198	5,993	n/a	5,950	5,950	5,823	n/a	5,648	5,648	n/a	5,551	5,551
	WAI	n/a	11,774	10,500	10,505	n/a	11,303	11,000	10,882	n/a	16,335	12,000	n/a	16,058	13,000
Northern rockfish	BSAI	18,917	15,557	13,000	6,212	23,420	19,217	17,000	7,801	22,776	18,687	11,000	22,105	18,135	11,000
Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish	BSAI	576	482	482	515	598	503	503	386	703	525	525	763	570	570
	EBS/EAI	n/a	313	313	196	n/a	326	326	137		359	359		388	388
	CAI/WAI	n/a	169	169	319	n/a	177	177	249		166	166		182	182
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	722	541	500	496	722	541	541	284	706	530	530	706	530	530
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,751	1,313	916	1,002	1,751	1,313	1,144	1,224	1,680	1,260	1,260	1,680	1,260	1,260
	BS	n/a	919	522	392	n/a	919	750	647		880	880		880	880
	AI	n/a	394	394	610	n/a	394	394	577		380	380		380	380
Atka mackerel	BSAI	85,580	73,590	62,257	61,354	91,870	78,510	66,481	54,311	118,787	98,588	69,282	101,188	86,464	66,855
	EAI/BS	n/a	25,760	25,760	25,183	n/a	27,260	27,260	15,504	n/a	43,281	27,260	n/a	37,958	30,000
	CAI	n/a	15,450	15,450	15,308	n/a	16,880	16,880	16,599	n/a	17,351	17,351	n/a	15,218	15,218
	WAI	n/a	32,380	21,047	20,863	n/a	34,370	22,341	22,208	n/a	37,956	24,671	n/a	33,288	21,637
Skates	BSAI	49,297	41,257	18,000	20,029	47,790	39,958	30,000	27,799	46,220	38,605	27,441	44,168	36,837	27,927
Sharks	BSAI	689	517	200	221	689	517	500	125	689	450	250	689	450	250
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	700	170	4,769	3,576	700	254	4,769	3,576	400	4,769	3,576	400
Total	BSAI	3,945,315	2,747,727	2,000,000	1,795,049	2,953,182	2,383,653	1,871,000	1,586,764	4,859,585	3,155,268	2,000,000	6,219,700	3,590,412	2,000,000

Sources: 2021 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2022 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2020 and December 2021 respectively; 2021 catches through December 31, and 2022 catches through November 5, 2022 from AKR Catch Accounting.

Table 13—Final 2023 and 2024 ABC Surplus, ABC Reserves, Community Development Quota (CDQ) ABC Reserves, and Amendment 80 ABC Reserves
[Amounts are in metric tons]

Sector	2023 Flathead sole	2023 Rock sole	2023 Yellowfin sole	2024 ¹ Flathead sole	2024 ¹ Rock sole	2024 ¹ Yellowfin sole
ABC	65,344	121,719	378,499	66,927	119,969	462,890
TAC	35,500	66,000	230,000	35,500	66,000	230,656
ABC surplus	29,844	55,719	148,499	31,427	53,969	232,234
ABC reserve	29,844	55,719	148,499	31,427	53,969	232,234
CDQ ABC reserve	3,193	5,962	15,889	3,363	5,775	24,849
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	26,651	49,757	132,610	28,064	48,194	207,385

¹ The 2024 allocations for Amendment 80 species between Amendment 80 cooperatives and the Amendment 80 limited access sector will not be known until eligible participants apply for participation in the program by November 1, 2023.

Table 14—Final 2023 And 2024 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 and zone 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 ³
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,515	710	315	n/a	1,745	745	-
Herring (mt) BSAI	3,444	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 areas and 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 15—Final 2023 And 2024 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	200	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish ¹	99	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	10	n/a
Rockfish	10	n/a
Pacific cod	18	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	3,066	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2,3}	41	n/a
2023 Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴	n/a	-
2024 Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁵	n/a	8,000
Total trawl PSC	3,444	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.

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

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

⁴ Section 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 2022 NMFS trawl survey data for the Bristol Bay red king crab stock, the State of Alaska closed the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery for the 2022/2023 crab season. NMFS and the Council will not specify the red king crab bycatch limit for the RKCSS in 2023, and pursuant to § 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(1) directed fishing for groundfish is prohibited for vessels using non-pelagic trawl gear in the RKCSS for 2022.

⁵ If the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery remains closed in the 2023/2024 crab season, the RKCSS specification will be zero. If the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery is open in the 2023/2024 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 allowances may not total precisely due to rounding.

Table 16–Final 2023 And 2024 Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances for the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sector

BSAI trawl limited access fisheries	Prohibited species and area and zone				
	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/Alaska plaice/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 PSC	745	8,739	1,248,494	348,285	1,053,394

Note: Seasonal or sector allowances may not total precisely due to rounding.

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.

Table 17–Final 2023 And 2024 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	Total 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	

Note: Seasonal or sector allowances may not total precisely due to rounding.

Table 18–2023 and 2024 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	85
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	62
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	9
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	9
Pot	All	26

C-5 Council Motion
2023 and 2024 Gulf of Alaska groundfish harvest specifications
December 12, 2022

The Council approves the 2022 Gulf of Alaska SAFE report.

The Council approves the final 2023 and 2024 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 2023 and 2024 Pacific halibut PSC limits, allowances, and apportionments in the GOA are attached in Tables 14, 15, and 16.

The Council approves the halibut discard mortality rates for 2023 and 2024 as shown in attached Table 17.

Table 1. SSC recommended OFL and ABC and Council recommended TAC for Final Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Harvest Specifications (metric tons) for 2023 and 2024

12/12/2022

Species	Area	2022				Catch as of 11/5/2022	2023			2024		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL		ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC	
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	3,327	n/a		n/a	3,723	n/a	n/a	4,027	n/a	
	W (610)	n/a	23,714	23,714	23,595	n/a	26,958	26,958	n/a	29,156	29,156	
	C (620)	n/a	69,250	69,250	69,341	n/a	77,005	77,005	n/a	83,283	83,283	
	C (630)	n/a	30,068	30,068	30,499	n/a	33,729	33,729	n/a	36,478	36,478	
	WYAK	n/a	6,722	6,722	6,441	n/a	7,523	7,523	n/a	8,136	8,136	
	Subtotal		154,983	133,081	129,754	129,876	173,470	148,938	145,215	186,101	161,080	157,053
	EYAK/SEO	15,150	11,363	11,363	-	15,150	11,363	11,363	15,150	11,363	11,363	
	Total	170,133	144,444	141,117	129,876	188,620	160,301	156,578	201,251	172,443	168,416	
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	9,942	6,959	4,926	n/a	7,464	5,225	n/a	6,873	4,811	
	C	n/a	19,752	14,814	13,070	n/a	14,830	11,123	n/a	13,655	10,241	
	E	n/a	3,117	2,338	279	n/a	2,340	1,755	n/a	2,155	1,616	
	Total		39,555	32,811	24,111	18,275	29,737	24,634	18,103	27,507	22,683	16,668
Sablefish	W	n/a	3,727	3,727	2,799	n/a	4,473	4,473	n/a	4,626	4,626	
	C	n/a	9,965	9,965	7,342	n/a	9,921	9,921	n/a	8,819	8,819	
	WYAK	n/a	3,437	3,437	2,643	n/a	3,205	3,205	n/a	2,669	2,669	
	SEO	n/a	5,665	5,665	4,747	n/a	5,602	5,602	n/a	4,981	4,981	
	GOA Total	n/a	22,794	22,794	17,531	n/a	n/a	23,201	n/a	n/a	21,095	
	AK Total		40,432	34,521	n/a	n/a	47,390	40,502	n/a	48,561	41,539	n/a
Alaska-wide OFL and ABC	W	n/a	21,256	13,250	33	n/a	22,485	13,250	n/a	23,299	13,250	
	C	n/a	25,305	25,305	1,251	n/a	26,769	26,769	n/a	27,737	27,737	
	WYAK	n/a	2,531	2,531	8	n/a	2,677	2,677	n/a	2,774	2,774	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,518	1,518	2	n/a	1,606	1,606	n/a	1,664	1,664	
	Total		62,273	50,610	42,604	1,294	65,736	53,537	44,302	68,015	55,474	45,425
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	256	256	2	n/a	256	256	n/a	255	255	
	C	n/a	2,139	2,139	117	n/a	2,105	2,105	n/a	2,068	2,068	
	WYAK	n/a	1,431	1,431	3	n/a	1,407	1,407	n/a	1,383	1,383	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,082	2,082	-	n/a	2,048	2,048	n/a	2,013	2,013	
	Total		7,026	5,908	5,908	122	6,918	5,816	5,816	6,802	5,719	5,719
Rex Sole	W	n/a	2,981	2,981	40	n/a	3,236	3,236	n/a	3,314	3,314	
	C	n/a	12,076	12,076	654	n/a	13,110	13,110	n/a	13,425	13,425	
	WYAK	n/a	1,361	1,361	-	n/a	1,439	1,439	n/a	1,453	1,453	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,723	2,723	-	n/a	2,879	2,879	n/a	2,905	2,905	
	Total		23,302	19,141	19,141	694	25,135	20,664	20,664	25,652	21,097	21,097
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	33,658	14,500	438	n/a	30,469	14,500	n/a	30,093	14,500	
	C	n/a	68,394	68,394	10,926	n/a	65,000	65,000	n/a	64,200	64,200	
	WYAK	n/a	6,707	6,707	36	n/a	7,886	7,886	n/a	7,789	7,789	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	11,020	6,900	56	n/a	16,130	6,900	n/a	15,932	6,900	
	Total		143,100	119,779	96,501	11,456	142,749	119,485	94,286	141,008	118,014	93,389
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	14,755	8,650	42	n/a	12,793	8,650	n/a	13,033	8,650	
	C	n/a	22,033	15,400	521	n/a	21,487	21,487	n/a	21,892	21,892	
	WYAK	n/a	1,511	1,511	-	n/a	2,320	2,320	n/a	2,363	2,363	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,876	1,876	-	n/a	2,880	2,880	n/a	2,934	2,934	
	Total		48,928	40,175	27,437	563	48,161	39,480	35,337	49,073	40,222	35,839
Pacific ocean perch	W	n/a	2,602	2,602	2,506	n/a	2,529	2,529	n/a	2,461	2,461	
	C	n/a	30,806	30,806	25,039	n/a	29,940	29,940	n/a	29,138	29,138	
	WYAK	n/a	1,409	1,409	1,398	n/a	1,370	1,370	n/a	1,333	1,333	
	W/C/WYAK	41,470	34,817	34,817	28,943	40,308	33,839	33,839	39,229	32,932	32,932	
	SEO	4,110	3,451	3,451	-	3,994	3,354	3,354	3,888	3,264	3,264	
	Total		45,580	38,268	38,268	28,943	44,302	37,193	37,193	43,117	36,196	36,196
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	1,944	1,944	474	n/a	2,614	2,614	n/a	2,497	2,497	
	C	n/a	3,202	3,202	1,405	n/a	2,350	2,350	n/a	2,244	2,244	
	E	n/a	-	-	-	n/a	-	-	n/a	-	-	
	Total		6,143	5,146	5,146	1,879	5,927	4,964	4,964	5,661	4,741	4,741
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	51	51	7	n/a	51	51	n/a	51	51	
	C	n/a	280	280	287	n/a	280	280	n/a	280	280	
	E	n/a	374	374	149	n/a	374	374	n/a	374	374	
	Total		940	705	705	443	940	705	705	940	705	705
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	269	269	106	n/a	149	149	n/a	141	141	
	C	n/a	4,534	4,534	2,455	n/a	7,647	7,647	n/a	7,264	7,264	
	WYAK	n/a	427	427	6	n/a	90	90	n/a	85	85	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	142	142	1	n/a	31	31	n/a	30	30	
	Total		8,614	5,372	5,372	2,568	9,638	7,917	7,917	9,154	7,520	7,520
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	184	184	95	n/a	180	180	n/a	180	180	
	C	n/a	235	235	183	n/a	232	232	n/a	231	231	
	E	n/a	369	369	160	n/a	363	363	n/a	361	361	
	Total		947	788	788	438	930	775	775	927	772	772
Demersal shelf rockfish	Total	579	365	365	163	376	283	283	376	283	283	
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	352	352	108	n/a	314	314	n/a	314	314	
	C	n/a	910	910	173	n/a	693	693	n/a	693	693	
	E	n/a	691	691	74	n/a	621	621	n/a	621	621	
	Total		2,604	1,953	1,953	355	2,170	1,628	1,628	2,170	1,628	1,628
Other Rockfish	W/C	n/a	940	940	1,134	n/a	940	940	n/a	940	940	
	WYAK	n/a	370	370	76	n/a	370	370	n/a	370	370	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,744	300	56	n/a	2,744	300	n/a	2,744	300	
	Total		5,320	4,054	1,610	1,266	5,320	4,054	1,610	5,320	4,054	1,610
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	3,000	880	6,200	4,700	3,000	6,200	4,700	3,000	
Big Skate	W	n/a	591	591	163	n/a	591	591	n/a	591	591	
	C	n/a	1,482	1,482	668	n/a	1,482	1,482	n/a	1,482	1,482	
	E	n/a	794	794	113	n/a	794	794	n/a	794	794	
	Total		3,822	2,867	2,867	944	3,822	2,867	2,867	3,822	2,867	2,867
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	151	151	58	n/a	151	151	n/a	151	151	
	C	n/a	2,044	2,044	482	n/a	2,044	2,044	n/a	2,044	2,044	
	E	n/a	517	517	400	n/a	517	517	n/a	517	517	
	Total		3,616	2,712	2,712	940	3,616	2,712	2,712	3,616	2,712	2,712
Other Skates	GOA-wide	1,311	984	984	822	1,311	984	984	1,311	984	984	
Sharks	GOA-wide	5,006	3,755	3,755	2,112	6,521	4,891	4,891	6,521	4,891	4,891	
Octopuses	GOA-wide	1,307	980	980	111	1,307	980	980	1,307	980	980	
TOTAL		626,738	520,038	448,118	221,675	646,826	539,072	468,796	658,311	550,224	476,537	

Sources: 2022 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2021, 2022 catches through Nov 5, 2022, from AKR Catch Accounting. Note: The sablefish ABC total for the GOA is not included in the grand total. The Alaska-wide sablefish OFL and ABC are included in the grand total.

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

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

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	7,464	14,830	2,340	24,634
State GHL	2,239	3,708	585	6,532
(%)	30%	25%	25%	25-30
Federal TAC	5,225	11,123	1,755	18,103

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

Final 2024 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod ABCs, TACs and State Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) in metric tons.

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	6,873	13,655	2,155	22,683
State GHL	2,062	3,414	539	6,014
(%)	30%	25%	25%	25-30
Federal TAC	4,811	10,241	1,616	16,669

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

Table 14--Final 2023 and 2024 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	30.4	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		1,705			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. Since 1995, the Council has recommended and NMFS proposed that the hook-and-line sablefish fishery, and the pot and jig gear groundfish fisheries, be exempt from halibut PSC limits.

Table 15--Final 2023 and 2024 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			1,705

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 2023 and 2024 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 2023 and 2024 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	55
	Catcher vessel	All others	74
	Mothership and catcher/processor	All	83
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	All	13
	Catcher vessel	All	9
Pot	Catcher vessel and catcher/processor	All	27

TIME LOG
NPFMC December Council Meeting – 263rd Plenary Session
Meeting held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel and virtually via Zoom Webinar
December 8-14, 2022

Thursday, December 8, 2022

12/8/2022 8:04 AM Call to order

B REPORTS

12/8/2022 8:06 AM **B1 Executive Director Report** – NPFMC ED, David Witherell
12/8/2022 8:14 AM B1 NPRB Report (with video presentation) - Brendan Smith, Lynn Palensky
12/8/2022 8:46 AM **B2 NMFS Management Report** – Josh Keaton
12/8/2022 9:16 AM **B2 NMFS ESA Report** – Josh Keaton, Anne-Marie Eich
12/8/2022 9:42 AM Break
12/8/2022 10:14 AM **B2 NMFS BSAI In season Management report** – Mary Furness, Steve Whitney
12/8/2022 10:51 AM **B2 NMFS GOA In Season Management Report** – Mary Furness, Steve Whitney
12/8/2022 11:27 AM **B3 NMFS GC Report** – Josh Fortenbery
12/8/2022 11:30 AM **B4 NOAA Enforcement Report** – Nathan Lagerwey, Alex Perry
12/8/2022 12:00 PM Lunch Break
12/8/2022 1:10 PM **B5 ADFG Report** – Kendall Henry
12/8/2022 1:20 PM **B6 USCG Report** – written only, no presentation
12/8/2022 1:21 PM **B7 USFWS Report** – Peter Fasbender
12/8/2022 1:29 PM **B Public Testimony**
12/8/2022 1:29 PM Lauren Divine
12/8/2022 1:34 PM Jamie Goen
12/8/2022 1:42 PM Julie Bonney, Ruth Christiansen
12/8/2022 1:48 PM Shannon Carroll

C1 Red King Crab Savings Area Emergency Rule Request

12/8/2022 2:03 PM **C1 RKCSA Emergency Rule Request Presentation** – Kelly Cates (NMFS), Sarah Marrinan (NPFMC)
12/8/2022 3:00 PM Break
12/8/2022 3:18 PM C1 RKCSA Presentation continued – Kelly Cates, Sarah Marrinan
12/8/2022 4:17 PM **C1 Public Testimony**
12/8/2022 4:17 PM Stephanie Madsen
12/8/2022 4:26 PM Jamie Goen and Cory Lescher
12/8/2022 4:45 PM Simeon Swetzof Jr.
12/8/2022 4:51 PM Chad See
12/8/2022 5:02 PM Donna Aderhold
12/8/2022 5:08 PM Recess for the day

Friday, December 9, 2022

C1 Red King Crab Savings Area Emergency Rule Request - Public Testimony Continued

12/9/2022 8:07 AM Call to Order
12/9/2022 8:07 AM **C1 Public Testimony Continued**
12/9/2022 8:07 AM John Gauvin
12/9/2022 8:17 AM Brent Paine
12/9/2022 8:29 AM Jon Warrenchuk
12/9/2022 8:45 AM Chris Tran, Lauren Divine
12/9/2022 8:55 AM Mateo Paz-Soldan
12/9/2022 9:00 AM Shannon Carroll
12/9/2022 9:17 AM Marissa Wilson
12/9/2022 9:24 AM Heather Mann
12/9/2022 9:34 AM Megan Williams
12/9/2022 9:43 AM Malcolm Milne, Hannah Heimbuch
12/9/2022 9:49 AM Heather McCarty
12/9/2022 10:00 AM Break
12/9/2022 10:20 AM **C1 Discussion and questions**
12/9/2022 10:45 AM **C1 Motion – Rachel Baker**
12/9/2022 11:20 AM **C1 Motion #2 BBRKC – Rachel Baker**
12/9/2022 11:56 AM C1 Motion#2 Amendment – Anne Vanderhoeven
12/9/2022 12:15 PM C1 Motion#2 Amendment – Kenny Down
12/9/2022 12:25 PM C1 Motion #2 Vote – fails 4-7
12/9/2022 12:33 PM Motion passes unanimously
12/9/2022 12:33 PM Lunch Break
12/9/2022 1:38 PM **C2 Snow Crab Presentation – Jon McCracken, Sarah Rheinsmith (NPFMC)**
12/9/2022 3:10 PM **C2 SSC Report – Sherri Dressel**
12/9/2022 3:28 PM **C2 AP Report – Lauren Mitchell**
12/9/2022 3:30 PM **C2 Public Testimony – John Iani**
12/9/2022 3:36 PM Gretar Gudmundsson
12/9/2022 3:39 PM Frank Kelty
12/9/2022 3:42 PM Recess for the day

Saturday, December 10, 2022

C2 Public Testimony Continued

12/10/2022 8:01 AM Call to order
12/10/2022 8:01 AM **C2 Public Testimony Continued – Mateo Paz-Soldan**
12/10/2022 8:15 AM Heather McCarty
12/10/2022 8:24 AM Chris Tran
12/10/2022 8:27 AM Jamie Goen, Cory Lescher
12/10/2022 8:36 AM Break
12/10/2022 8:50 AM **C2 Motion - Nicole Kimball**

D2 Crab Conservation Workplan

12/10/2022 9:12 AM **D2 Crab Workplan Presentation – Kendall Henry (ADF&G)**
12/10/2022 9:27 AM **D2 Public Testimony – Jamie Goen, Cory Lescher**
12/10/2022 9:33 AM Heather McCarty

December 2022 Time Log

12/10/2022 9:44 AM John Gauvin, Chris Woodley
12/10/2022 9:58 AM Mateo Paz-Soldan
12/10/2022 10:04 AM Scott Goodman
12/10/2022 10:20 AM Break
12/10/2022 10:55 AM **D2 Motion** – Kenny Down

C3 Cook Inlet Salmon FMP

12/10/2022 11:30 AM **C3 Salmon FMP Presentation** – Nicole Watson (NPFMC), Doug Duncan (NMFS), Marcus Hartley (Northern Economics), Mike Downs (Wislow Research)
12/10/2022 12:10 PM Lunch Break
12/10/2022 1:19 PM **C3 Salmon FMP Presentation continued**
12/10/2022 3:13 PM Break
12/10/2022 3:35 PM **C3 Public Testimony** – Donna Aderhold
12/10/2022 3:45 PM Revelle Russell
12/10/2022 3:48 PM Erik Huebsch
12/10/2022 3:53 PM Paul Ostrander
12/10/2022 3:59 PM Robert Ruffner
12/10/2022 4:07 PM Jon Ross
12/10/2022 4:11 PM Break
12/10/2022 4:20 PM **C3 Motion** - John Kurland
12/10/2022 4:45 PM Recess for the day

Sunday, December 11, 2022

C4 BSAI Groundfish Specifications

12/11/2022 9:05 AM Call to Order
12/11/2022 9:05 AM **C4 Presentation – Joint Plan Team Report** - Dr. Jim Ianelli (AFSC)
12/11/2022 9:45 AM **C4 Presentation – Aleutian Islands Ecosystem Status Report (ESR)** – Dr. Ivonne Ortiz (AFSC)
12/11/2022 10:37 AM Break
12/11/2022 10:55 AM **C4 Presentation – Eastern Bering Sea ESR** – Dr. Elizabeth Siddon AFSC)
12/11/2022 11:45 AM **C4 Presentation – BSAI Plan Team Report** – Dr. Steve Barbeaux (AFSC)
12/11/2022 12:05 PM Lunch Break
12/11/2022 1:05 PM C4 BSAI Plan Team Report Continued
12/11/2022 2:02 PM **C4 SSC Report** – Dr. Sherri Dressel (SSC Co-Chair)
12/11/2022 3:00 PM Break
12/11/2022 3:19 PM SSC Report Continued
12/11/2022 3:50 PM **C4 Public Testimony**
12/11/2022 3:50 PM Paul Clampitt
12/11/2022 3:55 PM Linda Behnken
12/11/2022 4:01 PM Alexander Stubbs
12/11/2022 4:06 PM Brett Roth
12/11/2022 4:07 PM Brent Paine, Chris Woodley, Austin Estabrooks, Chad See
12/11/2022 4:20 PM Todd Loomis
12/11/2022 4:24 PM Jim Armstrong
12/11/2022 4:28 PM Becca Robbins Gisclair
12/11/2022 4:41 PM **C4 Motion** - Anne Vanderhoeven
12/11/2022 4:52 PM Recess for the day

December 2022 Time Log

Monday, December 12, 2022

C5 GOA Groundfish Specs

12/12/2022 9:10 AM	Call to Order
12/12/2022 9:10 AM	C5 Presentation – ESR Bridgit Ferriss (AFSC) & Stephani Zador (AFSC)
12/12/2022 10:15 AM	C5 Presentation – Groundfish Plan Team Report – Jim Ianelli (AFSC)
12/12/2022 10:40 AM	Break
12/12/2022 11:00 AM	C5 SSC Report – Sherri Dressil (SSC Co-Chair)
12/12/2022 11:15 AM	C5 AP Report – Ruth Christiansen (AP Vice Chair)
12/12/2022 11:27 AM	C5 Motion – Nicole Kimball
12/12/2022 11:35 AM	Lunch Break

C6 2023 Charter Halibut Management Measures

12/12/2022 1:17 PM	C6 Presentation – Analysis of Management Measures for 2023 – Brianna Bowman (ADF&G), Sara Webster (ADF&G), Sarah Marrinan (NPFMC Staff)
12/12/2022 2:22 PM	C6 Presentation – Charter Halibut Committee – Sarah Marrinan (NPFMC Staff)
12/12/2022 2:52 PM	AP Report – Ruth Christiansen (AP Vice Chair)
12/12/2022 2:58 PM	Break
12/12/2022 3:20 PM	Public Testimony – James Kearns
12/12/2022 3:28 PM	Forrest Braden
12/12/2022 3:35 PM	Motion – Andy Mezirow

D1 Salmon Bycatch

12/12/2022 3:51 PM	D1 Presentation – Chum Salmon Discussion Paper - Dr. Diana Stram (NPFMC Staff)
12/12/2022 4:57 PM	Recess for the day

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

12/13/2022 8:03 AM	Call to order
12/13/2022 8:04 AM	Staff presentation – How to download – Maria Davis (NPFMC Staff)
12/13/2022 8:06 AM	Cont D1 Presentation – Chum Salmon Discussion Paper - Dr. Diana Stram (NPFMC Staff)
12/13/2022 9:04 AM	D1 Presentation – Salmon Bycatch Committee Report – Dr. Diana Stram (NPFMC Staff)
12/13/2022 9:34 AM	D1 Presentation – Salmon bycatch incentive plan – Stephanie Madsen (Pacific Seafood Processors Association) Austin Estabrooks (At Sea Processors Association)
12/13/2022 10:03 AM	Break
12/13/2022 10:26 AM	D1 Presentation – Industry Report – John Gruver (United Catcher Boats), James Mize (Premier Pacific Seafoods)
12/13/2022 11:00AM	AP Report – Ruth Christiansen (AP Vice Chair)
12/13/2022 11:06 AM	D1 Public Testimony – Jimmy R. Hurley Sr.
12/13/2022 11:06 AM	Rob Sanderson Jr.
12/13/2022 11:23 AM	Serena Fitka
12/13/2022 11:29 AM	Vivian Korthuis

December 2022 Time Log

12/13/2022 11:37 AM	Heather Mann
12/13/2022 11:49 AM	Carrie Stevens
12/13/2022 11:52 AM	Loretta Brown
12/13/2022 11:55 AM	Lunch Break
12/13/2022 1:07 PM	D1 Public Testimony Continued – Michael Kamprnich
12/13/2022 1:11 PM	Josh Wisniewski
12/13/2022 1:14 PM	Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian
12/13/2022 1:32 PM	Theresa Peterson
12/13/2022 1:38 PM	Joel Jackson
12/13/2022 1:45 PM	Jaylene Wheeler
12/13/2022 1:52 PM	Chief Michael Williams Sr., PhD
12/13/2022 1:56 PM	Kevin Whitworth
12/13/2022 2:12 PM	Sharon Hilderbrand
12/13/2022 2:16 PM	Mellisa Maktuayaq Johnson
12/13/2022 2:37 PM	Robert Walker
12/13/2022 2:43 PM	Brian Ridley
12/13/2022 2:56 PM	Break
12/13/2022 3:19 PM	Robert (Charlie) Wright Sr.
12/13/2022 3:26 PM	Orville Huntington
12/13/2022 3:33 PM	Brooke Woods
12/13/2022 3:40 PM	Linda Behnken
12/13/2022 3:52 PM	Dr. Jessica Block
12/13/2022 3:56 PM	Heather Bauscher
12/13/2022 4:02 PM	Rochelle Adams
12/13/2022 4:05 PM	Keenan Sanderson
12/13/2022 4:11 PM	Ernie Weiss
12/13/2022 4:16 PM	Shawaan Jackson-Gamble
12/13/2022 4:24 PM	Vernon John
12/13/2022 4:28 PM	Karl Haflinger
12/13/2022 4:36 PM	Dr. Courtney Carothers
12/13/2022 4:43 PM	Steve Ricci
12/13/2022 4:49 PM	Lauren Divine
12/13/2022 4:52 PM	Hannah Heimbuch
12/13/2022 5:00 PM	Stanislaus Sheppard
12/13/2022 5:09 PM	Becca Robbins Gisclair
12/13/2022 5:19 PM	Jacquelyn Boyer
12/13/2022 5:22 PM	Shannon Erhart
12/13/2022 5:29 PM	Recess for the day

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

12/14/2022 8:08 AM	Call to Order
12/14/2022 8:09 AM	Public Testimony – Frank Kelty
12/14/2022 8:15 AM	Motion – Rachel Baker
12/14/2022 8:43 AM	Amendment 1 – Anne Vanderhoeven
12/14/2022 8:53 AM	Amendment passed
12/14/2022 9:33 AM	Motion passed unanimously
12/14/2022 9:39 AM	Break

December 2022 Time Log

E Staff Tasking

12/14/2022 10:00 AM	Oral Presentation E Staff Tasking – David Witherell (NPFMC ED)
12/14/2022 10:25 AM	AP Report – Lauren Mitchell (AP Vice Chair)
12/14/2022 10:30 AM	E Public Testimony – Paul Clampitt
12/14/2022 10:42 AM	Craig Lowenberg
12/14/2022 10:45 AM	Ilia Kuzmin
12/14/2022 10:55 AM	Linda Behnken
12/14/2022 11:04 AM	Cory Lescher
12/14/2022 11:13 AM	Alexus Kwachka
12/14/2022 11:19 AM	Robert Alverson
12/14/2022 11:29 AM	Bernie Burkholder
12/14/2022 11:34 AM	Heather Bauscher
12/14/2022 11:47 AM	Heather McCarty
12/14/2022 11:51 AM	Kurt Whitehead
12/14/2022 11:54 AM	Comments – Rachel Baker
12/14/2022 12:00 PM	E Staff Tasking Motion – Kenny Downs
12/14/2022 12:04 PM	Amendment – Nicole Kimball
12/14/2022 12:05 PM	Amendment passed
12/14/2022 12:06 PM	Motion passed unanimously
12/14/2022 12:04 PM	Comments – Bill Tweit
12/14/2022 12:28 PM	Appointments – Simon Kinneen
12/14/2022 12:30 PM	Meeting Adjourned



DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



[Appointments](#) | [Call For Nominations](#) | [RKC Savings Area](#) | [Snow Crab Rebuilding](#) | [Cook Inlet Salmon FMP](#) | [BSAI and GOA Groundfish Specifications](#) | [Charter Halibut](#) | [Salmon Bycatch](#) | [Crab Conservation Workplan](#) | [Staff Tasking](#) | [Upcoming Meetings](#)

Appointments

The Council made the following [appointments](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=a4b72994-6857-420c-95cf-cf1fbc133df.pdf&fileName=E%20December%202022%20Appointments.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=a4b72994-6857-420c-95cf-cf1fbc133df.pdf&fileName=E%20December%202022%20Appointments.pdf>) during the December 2022 Council meeting:

The Council revised its Advisory Panel appointment policy to allow appointment of new members to a one-year orientation term, that if subsequently extended by 2 years, would constitute a full three-year term for purposes of term limits.

For 2023, the following members of the Advisory Panel were reappointed: Julie Kavanaugh, Heather Mann, and Patrick O'Donnell for three-year terms; and Tamara Briggie, Gretar Gudmundsson, Tim Heuker, Lauren Mitchell, Brian Ritchie, Paul Wilkins, and Susie Zagorski for two-year terms to extend their initial one-year appointment. Additionally, Jessie Edson, Rick Laitinen, Landry Price, and Chelsae Radell, were newly appointed for a one-year orientation term.

Scientific and Statistical Committee

All current members of the SSC were reappointed for 2023, with the exception of Dr. George Hunt, who is stepping down. Additionally, Dr. Martin Dorn, Dr. Michael Jepson, and Dr. Robert Suryan were newly appointed for 2023.

Other Advisory Groups

Dr. Skylar Bayer has been appointed to the **Scallop Plan Team**.

All current members of the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (**PNCIAC**) have been reappointed for 2023 and 2024.

Call for Nominations

The Council is soliciting a nomination for the Charter Halibut Management Committee, The Council is looking for an additional Area 2C member who would represent participants from south of Sitka. The [Committee \(The%20Council%20is%20soliciting%20nominations%20for%20an active%20observer%20representative for%20the%20Fishery%20Monitoring%20Advisory%20Committee \(FMAC\).\)](#) provides recommendations to the Council on any issue affecting charter halibut management off Alaska. Membership of the Committee represents a diversity of charter halibut fishing communities in Areas 2C and 3A, and the Committee generally meets twice a year, in October and December. Please submit a letter of interest to Sarah Marrinan (sarah.marrinan@noaa.gov (<mailto:sarah.marrinan@noaa.gov>)) by February 3, 2023.

RKCSA Closure Emergency Action

At this meeting, the Council considered and recommend against emergency rulemaking for a proposed action that would have closed the Red King Crab Savings Area and Savings Subarea to fishing with all gear types for January 1 – June 30, 2023. The Council did initiate a separate action to consider crab abundance-triggered area closures through normal rulemaking.

After reviewing the emergency rule analysis, the Council determined the proposed action did not meet the requirements established under NMFS' Policy Guidelines for the Use of Emergency Rules, specifically criterion 1 and 3. For criterion 1, the Council determined the situation did not result from recent, unforeseen events or recently discovered circumstances. While Bristol Bay red king crab abundance is low, the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, and the stock is regularly assessed so this the decline in abundance is not unforeseen or recently discovered. For criterion 3, Council members believe that available information does not support a finding that the immediate benefits of emergency rulemaking outweigh the value of advance notice, public comment, and deliberative consideration of the impacts on participants under the normal rulemaking process. Although the analysis indicates the proposed action could provide habitat benefits through reduced bottom contact by trawl gear and potentially reduced Bristol Bay red king crab mortality, these impacts are identified as uncertain and highly dependent on assumptions that the closure will move trawl and fixed gear fleets into areas with lower crab impacts. The analysis also indicates potentially negative impacts to other prohibited species like salmon, halibut and herring and fleet operations.

In response to discussion, testimony and analysis on this topic, the Council initiated a separate action to consider crab abundance-triggered area closures through normal rulemaking. The Council adopted a purpose and need statement and provided two alternatives (which are not mutually exclusive) for an initial review analysis.

The first alternative considers implementing an annual closure of the Red King Crab Savings Area and Red King Crab Savings Subarea to all commercial groundfish fishing gears. The existing closure for non-pelagic trawl gear is not changed. The closure would be triggered either by the closure of the BBRKC fishery (Option 1) or by a threshold for the area-swept biomass of BBRKC (50,000t; Option 2). This alternative also considers exempting hook-and-line gear (Sub-option 1) and/or pot gear (Sub-option 2).

The second alternative considers implementing a closure of Area 512 for fishing for Pacific cod with pot gear. The closures would again be triggered by either the closure of the BBRKC fishery (Option 1) or by a threshold for the area-swept biomass of BBRKC (50,000t; Option 2).

The analysis will also evaluate the potential trade-offs and challenges of establishing dynamic closure areas to promote BBRKC. In addition, the analysis will provide an expanded discussion of the performance standard applicable to vessels in the directed pollock fishery and the regulatory definition of pelagic trawl gear. The

expanded discussion will include background on the rationale for and information used to establish the performance standard and gear definition to help evaluate whether the performance standard and gear definition are meeting Council objectives.

Staff contact is Sam Cunningham

Snow Crab Rebuilding

At this meeting, the Council made an initial review analysis of a draft environmental assessment to rebuild the Eastern Bering Sea snow crab stock in compliance with section 304(e)(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The impacts of the alternatives considered on EBS snow crab stock, fishery participants, habitat, and other components of the human environment are described in the analysis.

After reviewing the draft, the Council recommended scheduling the analysis for final action and selected the following as their preliminary preferred alternative:

Alternative 2: Set a target rebuilding time frame for the number of years necessary to rebuild the stock to the BMSY level at a probability $\geq 50\%$. The stock will be considered “rebuilt” once it reaches BMSY.

Option 2: Allow the directed fishery to open based on the state harvest strategy while the stock is rebuilding.

In speaking to the motion, the Council noted that the preliminary preferred alternative is consistent with the mandate under the Magnuson Stevens Act to rebuild stocks and is also consistent with National Standard 1 in that it would establish a plan estimated to rebuild the stock in less than 10 years but allows directed fishing to occur under the state harvest strategy while the stock rebuilds to a level that achieves optimum yield.

Maintaining the economic opportunity for a directed commercial fishery under the state harvest strategy is essential for harvesters, processors, and communities. Selecting this option as the preliminary preferred alternative does not extend the proposed rebuilding timeline.

The Council also requested, based on the SSC recommendations, if possible, the analysts should add:

1. the projected catch during the rebuilding period to inform the evaluation of the potential economic effects;
and
2. information on the status of fishing-dependent communities through the 2021/22 season and CDQ ownership/participation.

The analysis will also evaluate Alternative 1 in the expected effects section of the alternatives.

Cook Inlet Salmon FMP

The Council conducted its initial review of the Cook Inlet Salmon FMP Amendment analysis, which evaluates alternatives to manage salmon fishing in the Federal waters of upper Cook Inlet. The Council elected not to select a preliminary preferred alternative at this time, and anticipates taking final action on this amendment at the April 2023 Council meeting.

The purpose of this action is to amend the Salmon FMP to bring the FMP into compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, consistent with the 2016 Ninth Circuit decision and the recent summary judgment opinion of the Alaska District Court in UCIDA et al. v. NMFS. Federal management must be consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, including the required provisions for an FMP specified in section 303(a). The analysis describes and evaluates the impacts of the four management alternatives under consideration by the Council, noting that two of these are not viable based on court decisions. For the next version of the analysis, staff will provide additional details on Federal oversight and other operational details that would result from implementing Alternative 2 or 3.

Staff contact is Nicole Watson

GROUND FISH FINAL HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

The Council recommended final groundfish harvest specification amounts, prohibited species catch (PSC) limits, and halibut Discard Mortality Rates (DMRs) to manage the 2023 and 2024 BSAI groundfish fisheries, and approved the BSAI Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report. Harvest and PSC specifications for 2023 and 2024 fishing years are available in the [Council motion](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=49a0d7ce-dee1-4cad-abe2-fec5f61dea1a.pdf&fileName=C4%20Council%20Motion%20BSAI%20Specs.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=49a0d7ce-dee1-4cad-abe2-fec5f61dea1a.pdf&fileName=C4%20Council%20Motion%20BSAI%20Specs.pdf>).

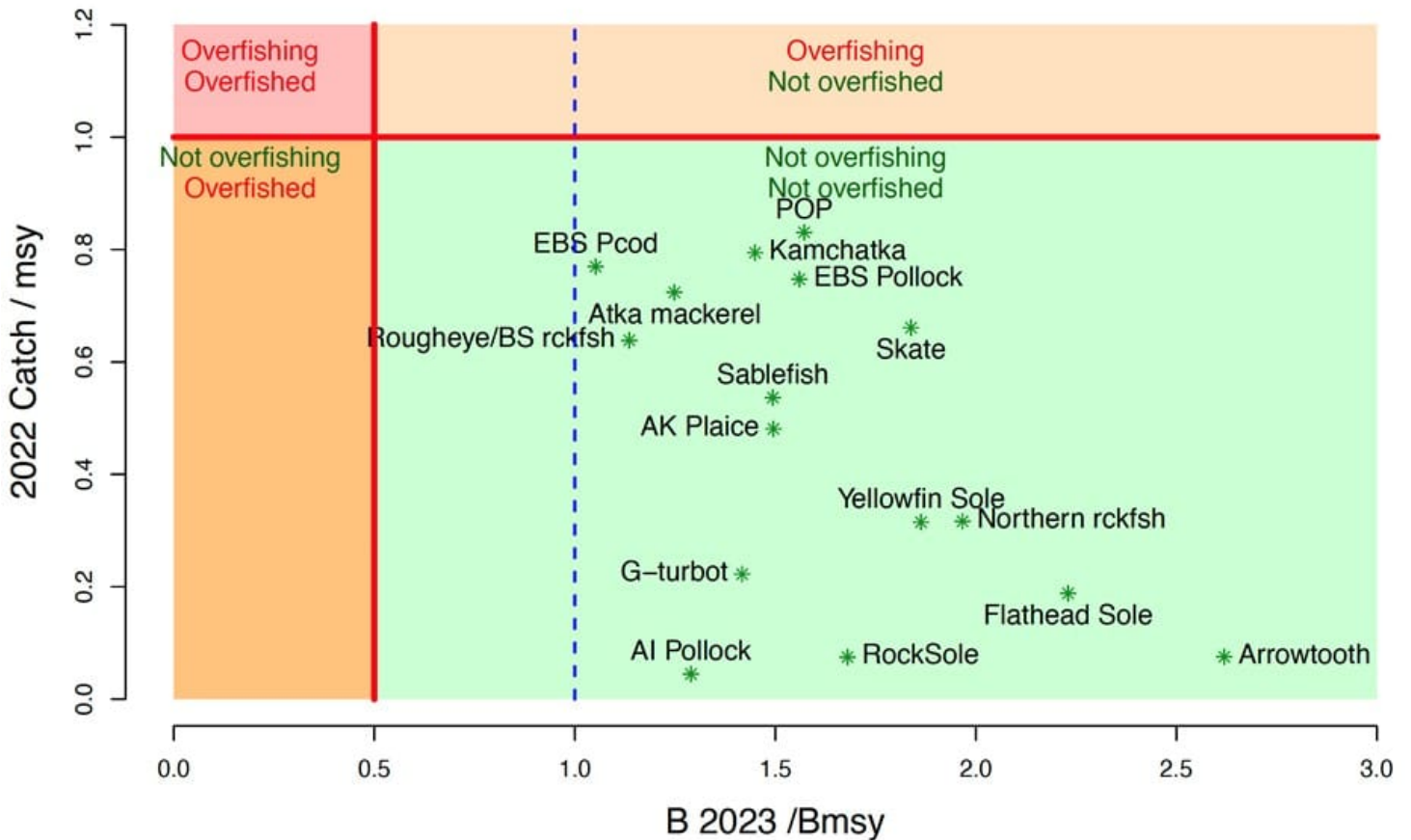
Prior to recommending specifications, the Council reviewed Ecosystem Status Reports including 4-page summary briefs for the [Aleutian Islands](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=9c5dabeb-b085-405f-a734-6b78ef460cdf.pdf&fileName=C4%20AI%20ESR%20in%20Brief.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=9c5dabeb-b085-405f-a734-6b78ef460cdf.pdf&fileName=C4%20AI%20ESR%20in%20Brief.pdf>) (AI) and the [Bering Sea](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=e4c1114b-629c-4c2a-be8d-578c658c00dd.pdf&fileName=C4%20EBS%20ESR%20In%20Brief.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=e4c1114b-629c-4c2a-be8d-578c658c00dd.pdf&fileName=C4%20EBS%20ESR%20In%20Brief.pdf>) (BS), which summarize ecosystem

conditions. Although sea ice formation was delayed and melt was early, overall, the Eastern Bering Sea in 2022 has returned to average conditions with the cold pool most similar to 2017. While some biological indicators suggest continued lagged effects of previous warm years in the Bering Sea, such as large declines in some salmon and crab stocks, the indicators suggest that productivity and conditions are favorable for juvenile survival and adult growth of most groundfish species. In the Aleutian Islands (AI), persistent anomalous warm conditions continue to differentially impact species and productivity, especially in the western AI. Near-average temperatures are predicted for Alaskan waters through December 2022 with the exception of the western Aleutian Islands, where positive anomalies are predicted.

The [BSAI SAFE report \(https://apps-afsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/Plan_Team/2022/assessments.htm\)](https://apps-afsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/Plan_Team/2022/assessments.htm) 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, including assessment methods and data availability. Full assessments were performed in 2022 for 17 stocks including EBS and AI pollock, EBS and AI cod, Sablefish, Yellowfin sole, Greenland turbot, Arrowtooth flounder, northern rock sole, Pacific ocean perch, Blackspotted and rougheyeye rockfish, shortraker rockfish, sharks 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 2023 and 2024 are shown on [Table 1 \(https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=49a0d7ce-dee1-4cad-abe2-fec5f61dea1a.pdf&fileName=C4%20Council%20Motion%20BSAI%20Specs.pdf\)](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=49a0d7ce-dee1-4cad-abe2-fec5f61dea1a.pdf&fileName=C4%20Council%20Motion%20BSAI%20Specs.pdf) in the Council motion.

Overall, the status of stocks in the BSAI continue to appear favorable. No stocks are experiencing overfishing or are overfished. All stocks are above B_{MSY} or the B_{MSY} proxy of $B_{35\%}$ where estimates are available. The SSC recommended setting ABCs below the maximum permissible for the following stocks: EBS pollock, northern rocksole, blackspotted and rougheyeye rockfish, and BSAI sharks. Further discussion of the harvest control rules for all stocks and their application under a range of recruitment estimation is planned in conjunction with the SSC's workshop in February 2023.

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands



In setting TACs for 2023 and 2024, the Council accounts for Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) for groundfish fisheries in State waters. 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 12% 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 is closed to nonpelagic trawl gear if 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 is not set for the 2022/2023 Bristol Bay red king crab season; thus the area will be closed to nonpelagic trawl gear in 2023.

Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Gulf of Alaska

The Council recommended final harvest specifications for the 2023 and 2024 GOA groundfish fisheries and approved the 2022 Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report. For final rulemaking for the 2023 and 2024 fishing years, the Council recommended Overfishing Limits (OFLs) and Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) levels consistent with SSC recommendations, and Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for GOA groundfish species. The Council also recommended halibut Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limit apportionments and adopted updated halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for 2023. In setting the TACs for 2023 and 2024, the Council accounts for guideline harvest levels (GHLs) for groundfish fisheries in state waters; full details are included in the [Council Motion. \(https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=d5602b31-4494-403b-8b72-497c579b0a32.pdf&fileName=C5%20Council%20Motion%20Gulf%20Specs.pdf\)](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=d5602b31-4494-403b-8b72-497c579b0a32.pdf&fileName=C5%20Council%20Motion%20Gulf%20Specs.pdf).

The Council also reviewed the [Ecosystem Status Report for the GOA \(https://apps-afsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/Plan_Team/2022/GOAecosys.pdf\)](https://apps-afsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/Plan_Team/2022/GOAecosys.pdf), including a 4-page [GOA ecosystem brief \(https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=1a614da1-09ea-4079-ad4b-81ec83ad2ea0.pdf&fileName=C5%20GOA%20ESR%20in%20Brief.pdf\)](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=1a614da1-09ea-4079-ad4b-81ec83ad2ea0.pdf&fileName=C5%20GOA%20ESR%20in%20Brief.pdf). 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 2022, 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, eulachon, Steller sea lions, Prince William Sound humpback whales, and Pacific cod. Another year of predicted similar ocean conditions in 2023 may shed light on how persistent the impacts of previous heatwaves will continue to be.

The [2022 GOA Groundfish SAFE report \(https://apps-afsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/Plan_Team/2022/assessments.htm\)](https://apps-afsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/Plan_Team/2022/assessments.htm) includes stock status updates for all 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 2022 with the following exceptions: partial assessments were produced for Pacific ocean perch, shallow water flatfish including northern and southern rock sole, deep water flatfish, rex sole, blackspotted/roughey rockfish, and arrowtooth flounder. No assessments were produced for shortraker rockfish, the other rockfish complex, Atka mackerel, skates, nor octopus. For these exceptions, specifications were rolled over from the previous assessment for each stock.

The GOA Groundfish Plan Team report (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=39d6577b-136c-49e4-b17e-03dd78659c41.pdf&fileName=C5%20GOA%20Groundfish%20Plan%20Team%20Minutes%20November%202022>)

[022.pdf](#)), summarized the issues discussed and recommendations made by the Plan Team at its November meeting. Highlights of the GOA Plan Team report included stock assessment presentations from individual assessment authors and authors of the Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profile (ESP) report cards for GOA pollock and Pacific cod. Some of the issues that pertain to both BSAI and GOA Groundfish, such as sablefish, are covered in the [Joint Plan Team Report \(https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=4fd334cd-9ac8-4648-94a5-f8522feb47da.pdf&fileName=C4-C5%20Joint%20GFPT%20Minutes%20Nov%202022.pdf\)](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=4fd334cd-9ac8-4648-94a5-f8522feb47da.pdf&fileName=C4-C5%20Joint%20GFPT%20Minutes%20Nov%202022.pdf).

The SSC recommended 2023 and 2024 OFLs and ABCs and provided guidance on many of the assessments in its [draft SSC report \(https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=d94f4b3e-7e21-4e4f-92fd-e39141acfc4a.pdf&fileName=SSC%20Report%20Dec%202022_DRAFT%20to%20COUNCIL.pdf\)](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=d94f4b3e-7e21-4e4f-92fd-e39141acfc4a.pdf&fileName=SSC%20Report%20Dec%202022_DRAFT%20to%20COUNCIL.pdf). Maximum permissible ABCs were set for all stocks in the GOA for 2023. 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. The 2023 spawning biomass is projected to be at $B_{25.5\%}$ and the 2023 ABC is a 25% decrease from the 2022 ABC. The 2023 Federal GOA Pacific cod Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is 18,103 mt. An additional 6,532 mt are reserved for the state waters fishery.

Gulf of Alaska

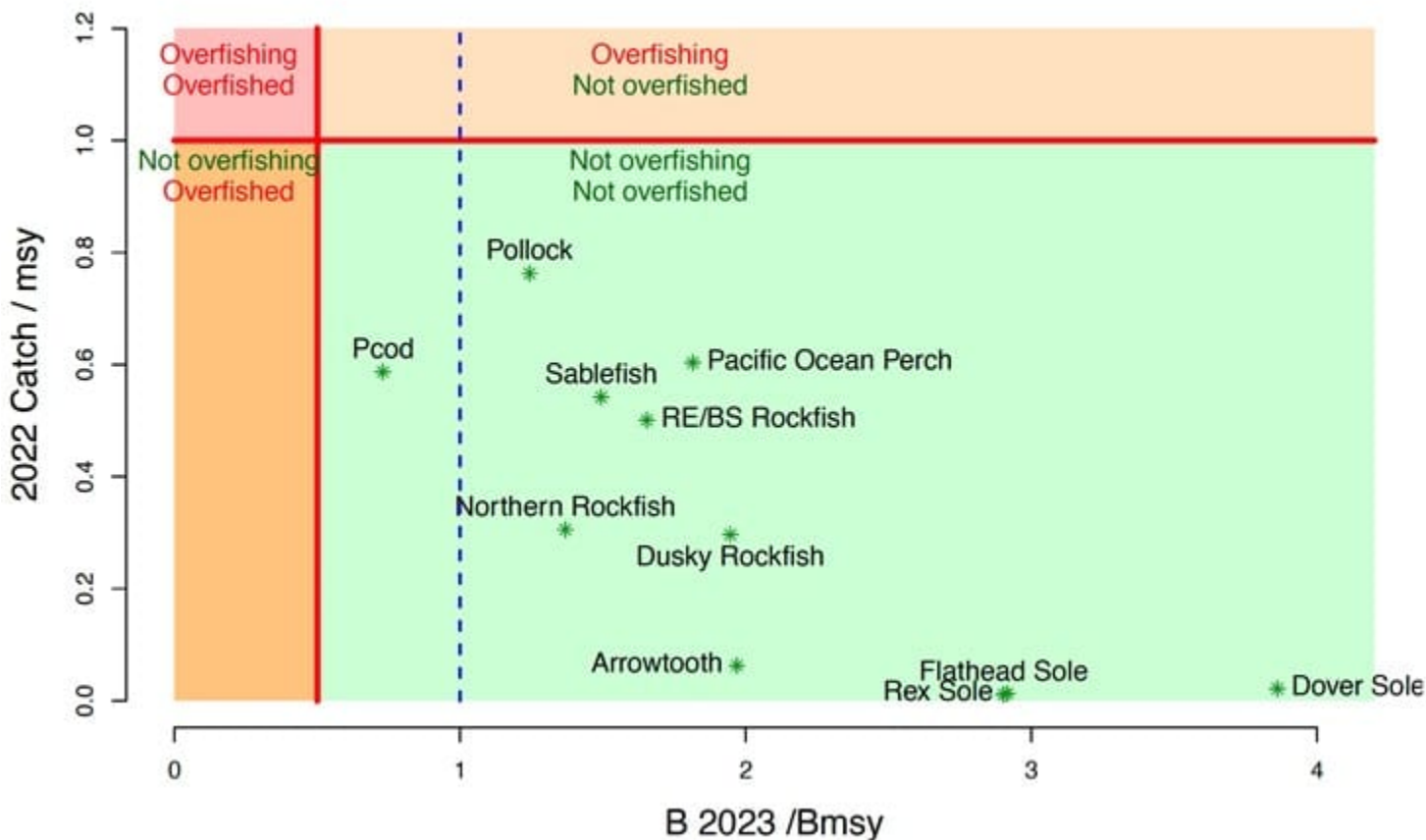


Fig: Summary of Gulf of Alaska stock status next year (spawning biomass relative to B_{MSY} ; horizontal axis) and current year catch relative to fishing at F_{MSY} (vertical axis). Note that sablefish is for Alaska-wide values including the BSAI catches.

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 the Western GOA, other rockfish in the Eastern GOA, and Atka mackerel.

Staff contact is Sara Cleaver.

Charter Halibut Management Measure for 2023

The Council identified a suite of charter halibut fishing management measures (e.g., bag limits, size restrictions) for halibut fishing in Areas 2C and 3A to recommend to the IPHC for 2023. The measures approved by the Council were developed by the Charter Halibut Management Committee based on analyses provided by ADF&G demonstrating projected removals, catch limits adopted by the IPHC for 2022 for reference, and in considering the interests of the fishery.

Given that the charter mortality catch limits for 2023 are still unknown until the Area-wide mortality limits are set by the IPHC at its annual meeting in January 2023, the Council's recommendations provide direction for how the measures should become more or less restrictive in response to different limits that could be 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. The measures adopted are expected to constrain overall charter removals to the final 2023 area-specific charter mortality limits, based on projected removals by ADF&G.

The Council recommended a provision of measures

(<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=3bde99cd-7c80-47c7-b458-92ba03f4cf62.pdf&fileName=C6%20Council%20Motion%20Charter%20Halibut%20Annual%20Management%20Measures.pdf>), as needed, dependent on the IPHC's selection of the total constant exploitation yield for 2023 and the resulting charter halibut catch limits. Measures would remain consistent throughout the 2023 season. Tables are referenced from the ADF&G analysis of projected removals, which is available on the eAgenda (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=070760ee-1845-4fe2-9445-442fc05e87f5.pdf&fileName=C6%20Management%20Options%20for%20the%20Area%202C%20and%203A.pdf>):

For IPHC Area 2C:

1. A daily bag limit of 1 halibut, with a reverse slot size limit, where the upper limit is fixed at O80 (halibut equal to 80 inches or more may be retained), and a decreasing lower size limit that is applied until the allocation is reached, but no lower than U40 (halibut equal to 40 inches or less may be retained). These

measures cover projected charter removals that range from 0.867 up to 1.121 million pounds (Mlb), as provided by **Table 2C.5 (page 21)** of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) analysis.

2. If the allocation cannot be reached with a lower size limit of U40 and upper size limit of O80, then also prohibit halibut retention on Mondays, beginning with September 18 and all other Mondays through the end of the season; then, if necessary, add consecutive Monday closures from September 18 working toward the beginning of the season until the allocation is reached. These additional measures cover projected charter removals that range from 0.734 to 0.867 Mlb, as indicated in **Table 2C.8.b (page 25)** of the ADF&G analysis.
3. If the allocation cannot be reached with a lower limit of U40 and all Mondays closed, then add an annual limit of 3 fish per charter angler. If possible, increase the lower size limit to U41 or U42 to reach the allocation. These additional measures cover projected charter removals that range from 0.686 to 0.723 Mlb, as indicated in **Table 2C.10.b (page 30)** of the ADF&G analysis.
4. If the allocation is not reached by closing all Mondays and applying a 3-fish annual limit, then allow the lower size limit to decrease from U40 until the allocation is reached. This covers projected charter removals that range from 0.564 up to 0.686 Mlb, as indicated in **Table 2C.10.b (page 30)** of the ADF&G analysis.

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

For IPHC Area 3A:

All allocations shown below include, unless otherwise specified: a daily bag limit of 2 halibut; one fish of any size and one fish with a maximum size limit; 1 trip per charter vessel per day with retention of halibut; and, 1 trip per charter halibut permit per day.

1. If the allocation is less than 2.37 Mlb, but greater than or equal to 2.075 Mlb, apply:
2. One fish of any size and one fish less than or equal to 28 inches; and,
3. Adjust the number of Wednesdays closed to the retention of halibut, so that projected charter removals are within the Area 3A allocation, as indicated in **Table 3A.13 (page 74)** of the ADF&G analysis.
4. If the allocation is less than 2.075 Mlb, but greater than 1.75 Mlb: in addition to all closed Wednesdays and a second halibut 28 inches or less, close as many Tuesdays as needed to keep the charter harvest removals within the Area 3A allocation, as indicated in **Table 3A.5 (page 65)** of the ADF&G analysis.
5. Should the allocation be below 1.75 Mlb, in addition to closing all Tuesdays and Wednesdays, lower the size of the second fish to as low as 26 inches, until the projected charter harvest removals meet the allocation. This covers allocations as low as 1.69 Mlb as indicated in **Table 3A.6 (page 65)** of the ADF&G analysis

In addition, the Council is soliciting nominations for a new Charter Halibut Committee Member from Area 2C. In particular, they requested nominations for a new member from south of Sitka. The Committee typically meets twice a year (October and December) to provide guidance on charter halibut management measures, but also provides advice to the Council on other ad hoc issues relevant to charter halibut management. If interested, please submit a letter of interest to Sarah Marrinan (sarah.marrinan@noaa.gov) (<mailto:sarah.marrinan@noaa.gov>) by February 3, 2023.

Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

Salmon Bycatch

The Council reviewed a staff [discussion paper](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=a06bdc4c-02cd-4fcc-83ac-c775a1f3283d.pdf&fileName=D1b%20Chum%20Salmon%20Bycatch%20Discussion%20Paper.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=a06bdc4c-02cd-4fcc-83ac-c775a1f3283d.pdf&fileName=D1b%20Chum%20Salmon%20Bycatch%20Discussion%20Paper.pdf>) on chum salmon bycatch in the Eastern Bering Sea (EBS) pollock fishery, stemming from a request at the June 2022 Council meeting. The Council also received a [report](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=a70e8eb5-fbe0-44c0-b9eb-a4ade99f2f2e.pdf&fileName=D1c%20Salmon%20Bycatch%20Cmte%20Report.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=a70e8eb5-fbe0-44c0-b9eb-a4ade99f2f2e.pdf&fileName=D1c%20Salmon%20Bycatch%20Cmte%20Report.pdf>) from the newly formed Salmon Bycatch Committee which had its first [meeting](https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2965) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2965>) in late November. Following extensive public testimony from in-river salmon users, Tribal representatives, concerned community members across western Alaska as well as information provided from the pollock Incentive Plan Agreement (IPA) sector representatives on their 2022 B season bycatch performance, the Council initiated action to modify chum salmon bycatch management measures in the EBS pollock fishery.

The Council [directed](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=3f466f72-7d09-4dda-a442-50d53b5206ec.pdf&fileName=D1%20Council%20Motion%20Salmon%20Bycatch%20FINAL.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=3f466f72-7d09-4dda-a442-50d53b5206ec.pdf&fileName=D1%20Council%20Motion%20Salmon%20Bycatch%20FINAL.pdf>) the Salmon Bycatch Committee to develop recommendations for potential regulatory and non-regulatory chum salmon bycatch management measures, including but not limited to a Prohibited Species Catch limit (PSC cap). The committee has been asked to specifically consider alternative management measures that focus on avoidance of Western Alaska chum salmon. The committee could recommend concepts or specific components of alternatives including management measures linked to abundance indices or other triggers and metrics to evaluate bycatch performance.

The committee will meet twice before the April 2023 Council meeting and their report and recommendations will be considered at the April Council meeting in conjunction with the Chinook and chum salmon genetic reports, pollock sector IPA reports, and potential management measures for evaluation in a forthcoming analysis. The next meeting of the Salmon Bycatch Committee will be on January 25th at the Council office in Anchorage,

Alaska with hybrid options for remote participation. Among the items to be reviewed by the committee, and as noted in the approved terms of reference for the committee, will be the final recommendations of the State of Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force for management of chum salmon bycatch.

Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Crab Conservation Workplan

At this December 2022 meeting, the Council considered a draft workplan on potential crab conservation and management actions prepared by Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff. This draft workplan outlines potential conservation and management action that may be considered to improve crab bycatch management and further reduce fishing impacts on Bristol Bay red king crab and Eastern Bering Sea snow crab, which are stocks of priority conservation concern.

The draft workplan includes non-regulatory measures, potential area closures, potential changes to management boundaries, and potential changes to bycatch management. ADF&G staff prepared this suite of potential management measures based on [October 2022 Advisory Panel recommendations](https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=49be6eee-c763-4e15-be84-53761401f98a.pdf&fileName=D2%20AP%20Motion.pdf) (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=49be6eee-c763-4e15-be84-53761401f98a.pdf&fileName=D2%20AP%20Motion.pdf>) for comprehensive management action. The draft workplan also provides relevant information and research that could inform revisions to current management measures or development of new management measures. Sources of the information and research suggestions in the draft workplan include recent Council documents, Scientific and Statistical Committee recommendations, information provided to the Council by fishery participants, and suggestions developed by ADF&G crab research and management staff.

In response to the draft workplan, the Council requests the Crab Plan Team add discussion of the following items to their 2023 CPT schedule and provide feedback on the relative prioritization of these issues and their ability to improve stock condition. Measures for consideration include:

- Consider the efficacy and ability to identify areas (static and/or dynamic) for groundfish fishery closures to protect snow crab, and suggested areas that could bring meaningful savings.
- Align crab PSC limit boundaries with the crab stock management area for snow crab
- Remove or revise trawl crab PSC limit floors for Bristol Bay red king crab and Eastern Bering Sea snow crab
- Update trawl crab PSC limits based on status of crab stocks
- Establish non-trawl crab PSC limits

Council staff will prepare a briefing for the Crab Plan Team on the information that has previously been presented in consideration of these topics in the past. The Crab Plan Team will consider these topics at their meeting January 17- 20, 2023.

In addition, at this December 2022 meeting, the Council approved the SSC recommendation to form a working group to develop a framework for how to estimate the magnitude of unobserved mortality for crab stocks and how these estimations may be utilized in BSAI crab stock assessments.

Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan

Staff Tasking

The Council discussed the relative priority and scheduling of previously-tasked projects, and identified new tasking. The revised [3 meeting outlook \(mailto:https://www.npfmc.org/3meeting/\)](mailto:https://www.npfmc.org/3meeting/) reflects this guidance.

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

- Call for nominations for representative on Charter Halibut Committee (see also call for nominations/appointments newsletter).
- Appointed Dr. Skylar Bayer to the **Scallop Plan Team**.
- Reappointed all current members of the **Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee**.
- Reappointed all current members of the **SSC**, except Dr. George Hunt who has stepped down, as well as three new members: Dr. Martin Dorn, Dr. Michael Jepson, and Dr. Robert Suryan.
- Reappointed all eligible members of the **Advisory Panel** with expiring appointments, as well as four new members: Jessie Edson, Rick Laitinen, Landry Price, and Chelsae Radell.
- Established an orientation year for new AP member appointments, with the possibility to extend that initial appointment an additional two years in order to constitute a full three-year term for the purpose of AP term limits.

The Council provided the following **direction and guidance**:

- Write a **letter** to NOAA Fisheries with a request for bridge funding to support an additional year of the trawl EM program, due to an unforeseen delay in the issuance of the proposed rule.
- Support for the SSC recommendation for AFSC to conduct statistical and economic analyses for sablefish that could be relevant to TAC considerations.
- Request for the agency to report back at a future meeting on penalties for sexual assault and sexual harassment against observers.

- Request for further interagency staff exploration on the effect of hatchery releases in the North Pacific and avenues to discuss at the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Upcoming Meetings

The following Committee and Plan Team meetings are currently anticipated:

- **BS FEP Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence Taskforce (LKTKS)** – January 5, 2023
[eAgenda \(https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2969\)](https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2969)
- **BSAI Crab Plan Team meeting and modeling workshop** – January 17-20, 2023, hybrid/Anchorage, AK
[eAgenda \(https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2968\)](https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2968)
- **Ecosystem Committee** – January 18-19, 2023, hybrid/Anchorage, AK [eAgenda \(https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2971\)](https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2971)
- **Trawl Electronic Monitoring Committee** – January 20, 2023, hybrid/Anchorage, AK [eAgenda \(https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2970\)](https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2970)
- **Salmon Bycatch Committee** – January 25, 2023, hybrid/Anchorage, AK [eAgenda \(https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2972\)](https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2972)
- **Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC)** – January 31, 2023 (T), hybrid/Seattle, WA
- **Joint Groundfish Plan Teams stock prioritization meeting** – February 2, 2023, virtual

Proposers of the **Alaġum Kanuuġ National Marine Sanctuary nomination** in the Pribilof Islands are hosting a virtual roundtable on **January 30, 2023**, from 10a-noon, about their perspectives with respect to the nomination. More information will be available on the Council website once it becomes available.

The SSC is hosting an **SSC workshop**, (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=42cf1ca5-8764-4482-aecd-31c611d07387.pdf&fileName=B1%20SSC%20Feb%202023%20Workshop%20flyer.pdf>).

“Rapid change in the northern Bering and southern Chukchi Seas: Identifying ecosystem responses and effects on the management of Federal fisheries,” on **February 7-8, 2022**, as part of the Council meeting in Seattle, WA.

Written public comments will be accepted in advance of the meeting to help guide SSC discussion.

We respectfully acknowledge that the Council regularly meets, and its staff office resides, in Anchorage on Dena’ina homelands. The Council wants to honor the Dena’ina, the Indigenous Peoples who have stewarded this land across generations and continue to do so. We are glad to be part of this community, and to honor the culture,

NPFMC

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E Staff Tasking - Appointments

12/14/2022

Advisory Panel

The Council has revised its Advisory Panel appointment policy to allow appointment of new members to a one-year orientation term, that if subsequently extended by 2 years, would constitute a full three-year term for purposes of term limits.

The following members of the Advisory Panel have been reappointed for three-year terms: Julie Kavanaugh, Heather Mann, Patrick O'Donnell.

The following members of the Advisory Panel have been reappointed for two-year terms, which in combination with last year's one-year appointment will constitute a full three-year term with respect to term limits: Tamara Briggie, Gretar Gudmundsson, Tim Heuker, Lauren Mitchell, Brian Ritchie, Paul Wilkins, and Susie Zagorski.

Additionally, Jessie Edson, Rick Laitinen, Landry Price, and Chelsae Radell, have been newly appointed for a one-year orientation term.

AP members for 2023 will be:

Tamara Briggie	Julie Kavanaugh	Landry Price
Jessie Edson	Rick Laitinen	Chelsae Radell
Gretar Gudmundsson	Heather Mann	Brian Ritchie
Tim Heuker	Lauren Mitchell	Matt Upton
James Johnson	Patrick O'Donnell	Paul Wilkins
Mellisa Johnson	Megan O'Neill	Susie Zagorski

SSC

All current members of the SSC have been reappointed for next year, with the exception of Dr. George Hunt, who is stepping down. Additionally, Dr. Martin Dorn, Dr. Michael Jepson, and Dr. Robert Suryan have been newly appointed for 2023.

SSC members for 2023 will be:

Chris Anderson	Jason Gasper	Andrew Munro
Amy Bishop	Dana Hanselman	Chris Siddon
Curry Cunningham	Brad Harris	Ian Stewart
Martin Dorn	Michael Jepson	Patrick Sullivan
Mike Downs	Kailin Kroetz	Robert Suryan
Sherri Dressel	Kathryn Meyer (<i>alt Theresa Tsou</i>)	Alison Whitman
Robert Foy	Franz Mueter	

Committees and Plan Teams

Dr. Skylar Bayer has been appointed to the **Scallop Plan Team**.

All current members of the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (**PNCIAC**) have been reappointed for 2023 and 2024:

Steve Minor (Chair)	Dean Fasnacht	Gary Painter
Mark Casto	Jake Jacobsen	Edward Poulsen
Sean Dwyer	Brett Reasor	Mike Simpson
Lance Farr	Elizabeth Reed	Jamie Goen (Secretary, non-voting)