
SYNTHESIS OF WRITTEN B REPORTS

JUNE 2021



B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- **New USCG Commander**
 - Rear Admiral Nathan Moore took over command of the 17th District on April 23.
 - CAPT Jason Brennell and LCDR Jedediah Raskie will continue to serve as designees.
- **Staci MacCorkle's last meeting**
 - Ms. MacCorkle departing for next Foreign Service assignment in Pakistan.
 - New State Dept. representative in October – Foreign Service Officer David Moore.
 - Thank you, Staci, for your consistent attendance and participation!



B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Craig Cross's last meeting

- Mr. Cross is terming out after 9 years as a Council member. He also served 16 years as an AP member.
- Craig was a well of wisdom and advice to all newbies. The lessons he learned the hard way (his words):
 1. Nothing in this process is by accident.
 2. It seems you always have to pick a side, even if you don't want to.
 3. Not everyone thinks a large catcher processor is cool.
 4. It does matter where you live and where your company is based.
 5. Fishermen and captains are wise and know a lot, but not everything.
 6. Captains and fishermen are right about young fishery biologists.
 7. What is a valueless fish today, may be a treasure tomorrow, so treat them as such.
 8. It takes 6 votes at the Council.
 9. Don't try to show up staff or catch them in a mistake, you will need their help next time.
 10. Being earnest, sincere and respectful, will take you a long way in this process.
- Good luck on your 70-mile Ironman Triathlon!



B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

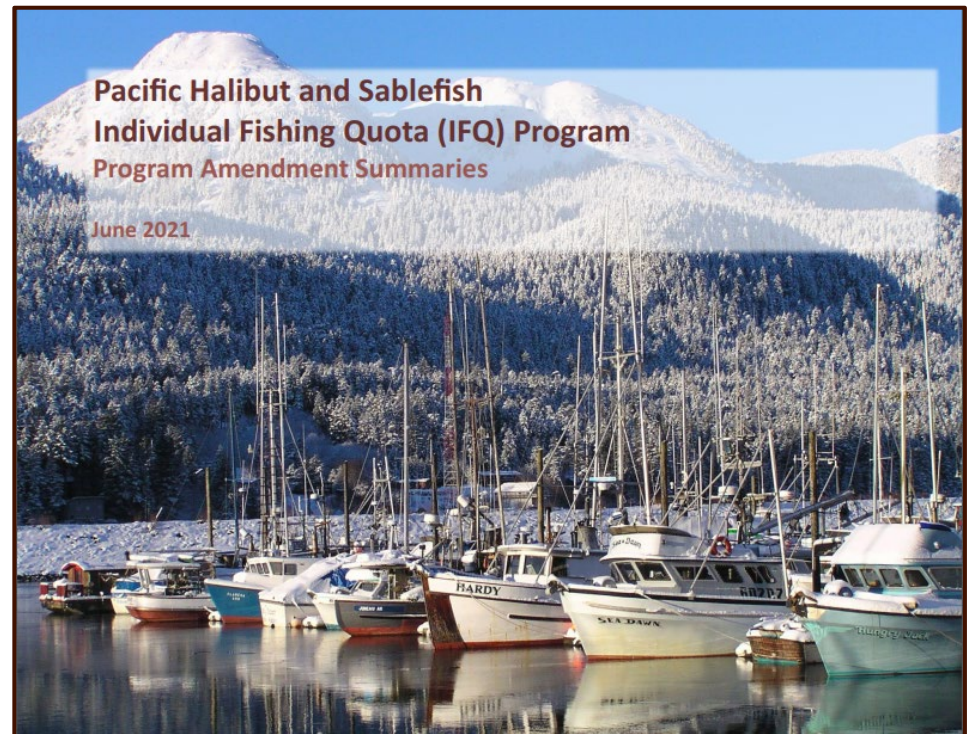
- **Written Comment Policy**
 - A total of 69 comments; 0 comments violated the policy.
 - The comment period was open for 15 days, closing on COB May 26. Only 4 comments were received by noon of 10th day.
- **E.O 14008 Update**
- **CCC Meeting Results**
 - Established a new subcommittee on Area-based Management.
 - Overview of Tech Memo on ACLs for data-limited stocks, Procedural Directive on EM data confidentiality, and Policy/Procedural Directives on financial disclosures and recusals. Comments to NMFS.
 - NPFMC hosted Scientific Subcommittee in-person meeting postponed until 2022.
 - Council Member Ongoing Development workshop to be held in November with 3 council members and 1 staff from each Council.



B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

IFQ Amendment Summaries

- NPFMC Sea Grant fellow **Angela Forristall** has prepared and published a summary document for the IFQ amendments
- Companion volume to the BSAI Groundfish and GOA Groundfish Amendment Summaries published previously
 - *On Council website under Publications/ Summary Reports*



B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Incidental Take of Seabirds:

- **Almost all seabirds in Alaska are covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).**
- **January 7 Final Rule**
 - The Rule codified an opinion that incidental take of seabirds was not prohibited by MBTA. Without this ruling the MBTA does not have a way to authorize incidental take, as the ESA does.
- **May 7 Proposed Rule**
 - Proposes reversing the Final Rule, to state that the MBTA does prohibit incidental take, and leave no identifiable way to authorize incidental take of migratory birds (which are encountered by most fisheries off Alaska).
 - Some concern that fisheries which encounter and take seabirds could be at risk of violation without a way for USFWS to authorize incidental take.
 - Council comment letter submitted by June 7 deadline.



B2 NMFS MANAGEMENT REPORT

TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Progress on rulemaking and implementations
- Inseason management updates
- Pot gear biodegradable panel clarification
- Marine Mammal Authorization Certificates through 2021
- EFH Consultations
- Red King Crab EFP 2019-01 Final Report



IFQ Temporary Transfers - Emergency Rule

- Expires September 27, 2021
- Could be extended for up to 186 days if the Council is actively working on a long-term solution.

Staff Changes



B2 NMFS MANAGEMENT REPORT: POT TAGS

RIR to Remove GOA Sablefish Pot tags and Notary Requirements

- Responsive to the April 14, 2021 Council Motion
- Draft includes a description of the Alternatives:

Alternative 1: No action.

Alternative 2: Remove the following recordkeeping and reporting requirements:

Element 1: GOA Sablefish pot tags.

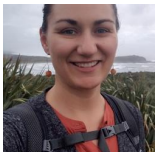
This element would affect vessels using pot gear to harvest sablefish IFQ in the GOA.

Element 2: Requirement to obtain a notary certification and submit an original signature on application forms.

This element would impact 15 forms for 5 different programs. (See Table 1, page 4)

Element 3: Requirement to submit a social security number to NMFS on application forms.

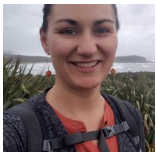
This element would impact 5 forms for two programs. (See Table 2, page 5)



B2 NMFS MANAGEMENT REPORT: POT TAGS

RIR to Remove GOA Sablefish Pot tags and Notary Requirements

- Next steps:
 - **June 2021** - Update provided to the Council on scope of regulatory changes.
 - **Fall 2021**
 - NMFS completes the Analysis and prepare a proposed rule for publication in the *Federal Register*.
 - Solicit public comments on proposed rule.
 - **Spring 2022** - If approved, NMFS would publish a final rule in the *Federal Register*.



B3 NOAA GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Designated officials and notice of recusals posted
- Litigation update on Wild Fish Conservancy case



B4 NOAA OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Enforcement operational highlights
- Outreach and education
- Case updates
- Incident and Summary Settlement information
- Fixed-gear EM Program
- Response to Council re IFQ Committee report and gear tending requirements
- Observer program



B5 AFSC REPORT

ORAL REPORT from AFSC Director,
Dr. Robert Foy



B6 ADF&G REPORT

TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Status of State fisheries for
 - Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab
 - Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab
 - Bering Sea Snow Crab
 - State-water Pacific cod fisheries



B7 USCG REPORT – APR-MAY 2021

TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Summary of enforcement activities at U.S. EEZ boundaries, on the high seas, and for critical habitat areas
- Vessel boardings, list of fisheries violations
- Vessel safety / search and rescue cases
- USCG resource summary



**New 17th District Commander:
Rear Admiral Nathan Moore**



B8 USFWS REPORT

- No significant updates at this time

