

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members  
FROM: Chris Oliver *Chris*  
Executive Director  
DATE: September 21, 2006  
SUBJECT: Staff Tasking

ESTIMATED TIME  
3 HOURS

**ACTION REQUIRED**

- (a) Review tasking and committees and provide direction.
- (b) Review PGSEIS Workplan and determine priority issues.

**BACKGROUND**

The list of Council committees is attached as Item D-6(a). Item D-6(b) is the three meeting outlook, and Item D-6(c) and Item D-6(d) are the summary of current projects, timelines, and tasking. In June, the Council added two new projects (revisions to seabird avoidance measures, socioeconomic data collection) to the tasking list. The Council also requested that the pelagic trawl definition and performance issue be separated from the BSAI EFH analysis and put on separate track, but has not yet provided direction on tasking priority. Additionally, as discussed under Agenda Item D-2, there are several new CDQ related projects stemming from the recent Coast Guard Act. The Council may wish to discuss tasking priorities to address these projects, as well as potential additions discussed at this meeting, given resources necessary to complete existing priority projects.

In 2004, the Council developed a workplan to bring groundfish management in line with its revised management policy (adopted as part of the Groundfish PSEIS). This workplan is reviewed by the Council at each meeting as part of the staff tasking agenda item, and is posted on the Council's website. The workplan, updated to reflect the current status of each item, and its relationship to the management objectives, is attached as Item D-6(e).

In June, the Council stated their intent to discuss the management objectives and review priority actions in detail during the October meeting. A progress report detailing the Council's progress on implementing the workplan is attached as Item D-6(f). The report includes the full list of management objectives from the FMPs, and staff notes on revising the workplan. At this meeting, the Council may wish to develop a new workplan to achieve the management objectives.

**NPFMC Committees & Workgroups**  
(revised August 8, 2006)

AGENDA D-6(a)  
OCTOBER 2006

**Council/Board of Fisheries Joint Protocol Committee**

Updated: 7/28/03	<u>Council:</u> Dave Benson Doug Hoedel Eric Olson	<u>Board:</u> Mel Morris Art Nelson (Vacant)
Staff: Jane DiCosimo		

**Council Chairman and Executive Director Committee**

Appointed April 2005	<u>CFMC:</u> C: Eugenio Pinerio ED: Miguel Rolon	<u>NPFMC:</u> C: Stephanie Madsen ED: Chris Oliver
Staff: Chris Oliver	<u>GMFMC:</u> C: Robin Riechers ED: Wayne Swingle	<u>PFMC:</u> C: Donald Hansen ED: Don McIsaac
	<u>MAFMC:</u> C: Ron Smith ED: Dan Furlong	<u>SAFMC:</u> C: Louis Daniel ED: Robert Mahood
	<u>NEFMC:</u> C: Francis Blount ED: Paul Howard	<u>WPFMC:</u> C: Frank McCoy ED: Kitty Simonds

**Council Executive Committee**

Updated: as needed	Chair: Stephanie Madsen Jim Balsiger/Sue Salvesson McKie Campbell Roy Hyder Jeff Koenings
Staff: Chris Oliver	

**Crab Interim Action Committee**

[Required under BSAI Crab FMP]

Jim Balsiger, NMFS McKie Campbell, ADF&G Jeff Koenings, WDF
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# NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(revised August 8, 2006)

## Ecosystem Committee

Updated: January 2005	Chair: Stephanie Madsen Jim Ayers Jim Balsiger/Sue Salveson Dave Benton Doug DeMaster Dave Fluharty John Iani
<u>Status:</u> Active	
Staff: Chris Oliver/David Witherell/Diana Evans	

## Enforcement Committee

Updated: July 2003	Chair: Roy Hyder Capt. Mike Cerne, USCG James Cockrell, F&W Protection Bill Karp, NMFS Earl Krygier, ADF&G Lisa Lindeman, NOAA - GC Jeff Passer, NMFS-Enforcement Sue Salveson, NMFS-Inseason Mgt
<u>Status:</u> Active	
Staff: Cathy Coon/Chris Oliver	

## Finance Committee

Updated: 9/28/05	Chair: Stephanie Madsen Jim Balsiger/Sue Salveson McKie Campbell (ADF&G) Dave Hanson Roy Hyder Jeff Koenings (WDF) Gordon Kruse
<u>Status:</u> Meet as necessary	
Staff: Gail Bendixen/Chris Oliver	

## Fur Seal Committee

Updated: 7/25/03	Chair: David Benson Larry Cotter Aquilina Lestenkof Paul MacGregor Anthony Mercurief Steve Minor
<u>Status:</u> Active	
Staff: Bill Wilson	

# NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(revised August 8, 2006)

## GOA Groundfish Rationalization Community Committee

<p>Appointed: November 2004</p>      <p>Staff: Nicole Kimball</p>	<p>Chair: Hazel Nelson          Julie Bonney          Duncan Fields          Chuck McCallum          Patrick Norman          Joe Sullivan          Chuck Totemoff          Ernie Weiss</p>
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## Halibut Charter Stakeholder Committee

<p>Appointed: January 2006</p>      <p>Staff: Jane DiCosimo</p>	<p>Chair: Dave Hanson          Seth Bone          Robert Candopoulos          Ricky Gease          John Goodhand          Kathy Hansen          Kelly Hepler</p>	<p>Dan Hull          Joe Kyle          Larry McQuarrie          Rex Murphy          Charles "Chaco" Pearman          Greg Sutter</p>
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## IFQ Implementation Committee

<p><u>Status:</u> Reconstituted as shown          (July 2003)</p>      <p>Staff: Jane DiCosimo</p>	<p>Chair: Jeff Stephan          Bob Alverson          Arne Fuglvog/Cora Crome          Tim Henkel          Dennis Hicks</p>	<p>Don Iverson          Don Lane          Gerry Merrigan          Kris Norosz          Paul Peyton</p>
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## Non-Target Species Committee

<p>Updated: 7/31/06          Appointed: 7/26/03</p>   <p>Staff: Jane DiCosimo, NPFMC/          Sarah Gaichas, NMFS</p>	<p>Chair: Dave Benson          Julie Bonney          Ken Goldman          Karl Haflinger          Simon Kinneen          Peggy Murphy</p>	<p>Michelle Ridgway          Janet Smoker          Paul Spencer          Lori Swanson          Dave Wood</p>
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## Observer Advisory Committee

<p>Reconstituted: 1/31/06</p>  <p><u>Status:</u> Active</p>  <p>Staff: Chris Oliver/          Nicole Kimball</p>	<p>Chair: Joe Kyle          Bob Alverson          Jerry Bongen          Julie Bonney          Rocky Caldero          Paul MacGregor</p>	<p>Tracey Mayhew          Brent Paine          Peter Risse          Kathy Robinson          Susan Robinson          Thorn Smith</p>
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**NPFMC Committees & Workgroups**  
(revised August 8, 2006)

**Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee**

Updated: 6/2/04  Staff: Diana Stram	Chair: Steve Minor Keith Colburn Lance Farr Phil Hanson Kevin Kaldestad Garry Loncon Garry Painter	Rob Rogers Vic Sheibert Clyde Sterling Gary Stewart Tom Suryan Arni Thomson, Secretary (non-voting)
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**Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee**

Appointed: 2/10/01 Updated: Jan 2006  [formerly SSL RPA Committee; renamed at Feb 02 meeting]  Staff: Bill Wilson	Chair: Larry Cotter Jerry Bongen Julie Bonney Sam Cotten Ed Dersham Kevin Duffy John Gauvin John Henderschedt	Daniel Hennen Sue Hills Frank Kelty Terry Leitzell Dave Little Steve MacLean Max Malavansky, Jr Art Nelson
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**VMS Committee**

Appointed: 06/02  <u>Status</u> : Idle, pending direction  Staff: Cathy Coon	Chair: Earl Krygier Al Burch Capt. Mike Cerne Guy Holt Bob Mikol	Ed Page Lori Swanson
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**DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 9/26/06**

October 2, 2006 Dutch Harbor, Alaska	December 4, 2006 Anchorage, Alaska	February 5, 2007 Portland, Oregon
<p>ESA Consultation on FMPs: <b>Action as necessary</b> <b>Review SSLMC proposals and tradeoff tool</b></p> <p>BSAI sector allocation split for Pacific cod: <b>Discussion paper</b></p> <p>Trawl LLP Recency: <b>Discussion paper</b></p> <p>VMS Requirements: <b>Initial Review</b> CDQ: <b>Report on Legislation</b></p> <p>Socioeconomic data collection: <b>Discussion paper</b></p> <p>Crab Vessel Use Caps: <b>Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>BS Habitat Conservation: <b>Open Area boundaries and crab data/plan team report</b> EFH AI Open Area Adjustment: <b>Initial Review</b></p> <p>Other Species Breakout: <b>Review analytical outline (SSC)</b></p> <p>PGSEIS Workplan: <b>Review</b></p> <p>AI FEP: <b>Action as necessary</b> EIS for TACs: <b>Comment on draft EIS</b> Groundfish Specifications: <b>Adopt proposed specs for 07/08</b> BSAI Crab SAFE Report: <b>Review and Approve</b> BSAI Crab Overfishing Definition: <b>SSC review</b> VIP Repeal: <b>Initial Review</b> Salmon Bycatch (B package): <b>Update and Direction</b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>30th Anniversary Celebration</u></b></p> <p>BOF actions: <b>Report and action as necessary</b> ESA Consultation on FMPs: <b>Action as necessary</b> AI pollock fishery EFP: <b>Receive report</b> Seabird Interactions: <b>Initial Review (T)</b> Sea Otter BiOp: <b>Review and Comment (T)</b></p> <p>BSAI sector split for Pacific cod: <b>Preliminary Review (T)</b></p> <p>Charter Halibut Mgmt: <b>moratorium discussion paper</b> <b>Permanent solution discussion paper</b> <b>5 fish limit/ State mgmt discussion papers</b> Halibut Separate Accountability: <b>Discuss/action as necessary</b> Halibut Subsistence Survey Report: <b>Review</b></p> <p>MRA adjustments: <b>Final Action</b> Cost Recovery: <b>Discussion Paper (T)</b></p> <p>Trawl LLP Recency: <b>Action as necessary</b></p> <p>VMS Requirements: <b>Final Action (T)</b> CDQ Am. 71/22: <b>Discussion paper (T)</b></p> <p>GOA Rationalization: <b>Review analysis and refine alternatives</b></p> <p>Crab Vessel Use Caps: <b>Preliminary Review (T)</b></p> <p>BS Habitat Conservation: <b>Gear modification alternatives</b> EFH AI Open Area Adjustment: <b>Final Action (T)</b></p> <p>Non-Target Species: <b>Committee Report</b> GOA Dark rockfish: <b>Report/Update</b> Rockfish Management: <b>Action as necessary (T)</b></p> <p>AI FEP: <b>Action as necessary</b> EIS for TACs: <b>Summary of Comments</b> Groundfish Specifications: <b>Adopt final specs for 07/08</b> Ecosystem SAFE Report: <b>Review</b> BSAI Crab Overfishing Definition: <b>Initial review (T)</b> VIP Repeal: <b>Final Action (T)</b> Salmon Bycatch: <b>Report</b></p>	<p>Draft BiOp and SSLMC Comments: <b>Review/Action</b> SSLMC proposals: <b>Review/Action as necessary</b> Seabird Interactions: <b>Final Action (T)</b></p> <p>BSAI sector split for Pacific cod: <b>Initial Review (T)</b></p> <p>Charter Halibut Mgmt: <b>Initial review of moratorium (T)</b> <b>Permanent solution: action as necessary</b></p> <p>Observer Program: <b>Action as necessary</b></p> <p>Trawl LLP Recency: <b>Initial review (T)</b></p> <p>CDQ regulation of harvest: <b>Initial Review (T)</b> CDQ Am. 71/22: <b>Action as necessary</b></p> <p>GOA Rationalization: <b>Action as necessary</b></p> <p>Crab Vessel Use Caps: <b>Initial Review (T)</b></p> <p>BS Habitat Conservation: <b>Initial Review (T)</b></p> <p>GOA Dark rockfish: <b>Initial Review (T)</b> Rockfish Management: <b>Action as necessary (T)</b></p> <p>AI FEP: <b>Action as necessary</b></p> <p>BSAI Crab Overfishing Definition: <b>Final Action (T)</b></p>

TAC - Total Allowable Catch  
BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands  
IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota  
GHL - Guideline Harvest Level  
HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern  
LLP - License Limitation Program  
VIP - Vessel Incentive Program  
PSC - Prohibited Species Catch

AI - Aleutian Islands  
GOA - Gulf of Alaska  
SSL - Steller Sea Lion  
BOF - Board of Fisheries  
FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan  
CDQ - Community Development Quota  
ESA - Endangered Species Act  
(T) Tentatively scheduled

Future Meeting Dates and Locations  
February 5 - 13, 2007 in Portland  
April 2 - 10, 2007 in Anchorage  
June 4 - 12, 2007 in Sitka  
October 1 - 9, 2007 in Anchorage  
December 3 - 11, 2007 in Anchorage

AGENDA D-6(b)  
OCTOBER 2006

**Council Project Summary** Updated September 26, 2006

<b>Council Projects</b>	<b>Projected Weeks</b>	<b>Council/ NMFS %</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Groundfish Fishery Issues</b>			
GOA Rationalization	?	70/30	Review Alts in Dec. (Mark,DianaE,DianaS,Nicole,Elaine,contractors,NMFS)
IR/IU flatfish adjustments (Am 79)	0	20/80	Approved. GRS set at 65% in 2008
IR/IU flatfish trailing amendments (Am 80)	1	80/20	Being prepared for Secretarial Review (Jon/Marck/contract)
Break out other species category into TAC groups	10	60/40	Preliminary Review in February (T) (Jane/NMFS)
Rockfish management	?	60/40	Discuss in December (Jane/NMFS).
Observer Program (fee and deployment mechanism)	0	80/20	Being prepared for Secretarial review (Nicole/Chris)
BSAI Pacific cod Allocations (Am 85)	2	90/10	Being Prepared for Secretarial Review (Nicole/NMFS)
VMS Requirements	2	10/90	Initial Review in October (NMFS/Cathy)
GOA Dark Rockfish	4	90/10	Discuss in October and December (Diana S./NMFS)
GOA Rockfish Demonstration Program	1	10/90	Awaiting publication of final rule (Mark/NMFS)
Groundfish overfishing definitions	?	10/90	On hold pending EIS for NS 1 (NMFS HQ)
MRA enforcement for non-AFA trawl sector	?	10/90	Final action in December (NMFS)
BSAI Trawl CV Eligibility	8	90/10	Discussion paper in October (Jim/Mark/Elaine/NMFS)
Pacific cod BS and AI split	8	90/10	Discussion paper in October (Jon/Nicole/NMFS)

<b>Halibut Fishery Issues</b>			
Halibut Charter Moratorium	?	90/10	Discussion paper in December (Jane/Nicole/NMFS/contractor)
Halibut Charter Permanent Solutions	?	90/10	Discussion paper in December (Jane/Nicole/NMFS/contractor)
Halibut Charter GHL Measures	0	50/50	Being prepared for Secretarial review (Jane/contractor/NMFS)
IFQ Omnibus 4 Package	0	90/10	Being prepared for Secretarial Review (Jane/Jim/NMFS)
IFQ Omnibus 5 Package	0	90/10	Being prepared for Secretarial Review (Jane/Jim/NMFS)
Halibut subsistence III amendment	0	90/10	Being prepared for Secretarial Review (Jane/Jim/NMFS)

### Crab Fishery Issues

Crab Overfishing definition revision	?	20/80	Initial review in December (T) (NMFS/ADF&G/Diana S/Jon)
BSAI Crab Vessel Use Caps	6	90/10	Initial Review in October (Mark/NMFS)
Crab 18 month review (C shares; arbitration)	6	80/20	Paper in April 2007 (Mark/NMFS)

### CDQ Issues

CDQ eligible communities	0	20/80	Secretarial draft being reviewed for Coast Guard Act consistency (Nicole)
CDQ: Management of CDQ Reserves	1	10/90	Secretarial draft being reviewed for Coast Guard Act consistency (Nicole)
CDQ Cost-Recovery	?	10/90	(NMFS/Nicole)
CDQ Amendment 7/1/22	?	50/50	Review alternatives in December (Nicole/NMFS)
CDQ amendments addressing MSA provisions	?	50/50	Report in October (Nicole/NMFS)

### Bycatch Issues

Repeal of VIP	2	0/100	Initial Review in October (T) (NMFS)
Opilio VIP	2	50/50	Not started - Pending action on existing VIP
GOA Salmon and Crab Bycatch Controls	12	80/20	Review data at future meeting (Diana S./Cathy/Elaine/ADF&G)
Catch/bycatch disclosure (vessel level)	2	70/30	Discussion paper - Postponed
BSAI Salmon Bycatch (Package A)	0	80/20	Being prepared for Secretarial Review (DianaS/NMFS)
BSAI Salmon Bycatch (Package B)	10	70/30	Discuss in October (Diana S./other)
Non-target (other rockfish, o. species) development	?	60/40	Ongoing committee discussions (Jane/NMFS).

### Ecosystem Issues

Bering Sea habitat conservation	8	50/50	Refine alternatives in October/December (NMFS/Cathy/DianaS)
Ecosystem-based Management	?	90/10	Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum established (Diana E)
Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan	10	90/10	Writing team appointed (Diana E.)
ESA-listed Salmon Consultation on FMPs	2	20/80	In progress (NMFS/Bill/DianaS)
ESA Consultation on FMPs	12	90/10	SSL Mitigation Committee developing changes (NMFS/Bill)
Seabird interactions	8	50/50	Initial Review in December (NMFS/Bill)
SSL Recovery Plan	2	10/90	Draft recovery plan being revised (NMFS/Bill)



Project timeline and major tasking for council staff. Updated 9/26/06							
Analytical Staff	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
<b>Mark Fina, Sr. Economist</b> GOA Rationalization BSAI crab: vessel use caps Miscellaneous Oversight	18 mo Rev.	Discussion paper Data collection paper		Initial Review (T)		Final Action (T)	
<b>Jon McCracken, Economist</b> Crab Overfishing (assist) P.cod BS and AI split (lead) Misc. economic assistance		Discussion paper		Initial Review (T)		Final Action (T)	
<b>Jim Richardson, Economist</b> GOA Rationalization (assist) Misc. economic assistance BSAI Trawl CV eligibility	?	Discussion		Initial Review (T)		Final Action (T)	
<b>Elaine Dinneford, Fishery Analyst</b> Data Support (all projects) EcoSAFE, GOA bycatch AKFIN Liaison							
<b>Jane DiCosimo, Sr. Plan Coord</b> Rockfish Management Other species/non-target Halibut Charter Issues	BSAI PT 9/19-22	Discuss	BSAI PT 11/13-17	Discuss		Initial Review (T)	
<b>Diana Stram, Plan Coordinator</b> GOA Salmon/Crab Bycatch (Lead) BSAI Salmon bycatch (Lead) Crab Management GOA dark rockfish	Crab PT 9/13-15 GOA PT 9/19-22	Discuss	Crab PT 11/18 GOA PT 11/13-17	Initial Review (T) Discuss		Final Action (T) Initial Review (T)	
<b>Bill Wilson, Protect Species</b> Marine Mammal issues Seabird Bycatch FMP Consultation	SSLMC	Discuss	SSLMC				
<b>Diana Evans, NEPA Specialist</b> GOA Rationalization NEPA Lead EAM and AI FEP NEPA assistance		Discuss					
<b>Cathy Coon, Fishery Analyst</b> GOA Salmon/Crab Bycatch (assist) BSAI Salmon bycatch (assist) Being Sea EFH (lead)		AI areas EA				Initial Review (T)	
<b>Nicole Kimball, Fishery Analyst</b> CDQ Projects (lead) Observer Program (lead) GOA Rationalization (community)		Discuss		Discussion paper		Initial Review (T)	Discussion paper

\* Remove?

General Priority (in no particular order of importance)	Specific priority actions	Related to management objective:	Status (updated 9-25-06)	2006		2007				
				Oct	Dec	Feb	Apr	Jun	Oct	Dec
Protection of Habitat	a. complete EFH action as scheduled	27	Amendment approved by Council							
	b. recommend to NOAA Fisheries increased mapping of benthic environment	29	part of Council's research priorities, approved in April 06							
	c. develop and adopt definitions of MPAs, marine reserves, etc.	30	Marine Fisheries Review paper in press							
	d. review all existing closures to see if these areas qualify for MPAs under established criteria	30	Marine Fisheries Review paper in press							
	e. evaluate effectiveness of existing closures	26	Marine Fisheries Review paper in press; discussion paper on crab closures for Oct 06	█						
Bycatch Reduction <i>Birds = Marine Mammals Interest pt.</i>	a. complete rationalization of GOA fisheries	17 (32)	rockfish demonstration program approved; analysis ongoing for broader rationalization	█	█					
	b. complete rationalization of BSAI non-pollock fisheries	17 (32)	partially addressed through IRIU Amd 80 and Pacific cod sector allocations (approved)							
	c. explore incentive-based bycatch reduction programs	15	partially addressed through GOA rationalization and BSAI salmon vessel bycatch accountability analyses							
	d. explore mortality rate-based approach to setting PSC limits	20								
	e. consider new management strategies to reduce incidental rockfish bycatch and discards	17	revised ranking system for species of concern	█						
Protection of Steller Sea Lions	a. continue to participate in development of mitigation measures to protect SSL including development of an EIS and participation in the ESA jeopardy consultation process	23	SSL committee call for proposals on revised mitigation measures	█	█					
	b. recommend to NOAA Fisheries and participate in reconsideration of SSL critical habitat	23	Council to submit comments on Draft Recovery Plan	█						
Prevent Overfishing	a. continue to participate in the development of "lumping and splitting" criteria	5	GOA 'other species' amd approved; 'other species' breakout analysis initiated	█	█					
	b. consider new harvest strategies for rockfish	4	CIE review of rockfish harvest strategy	█						
	* c. set TAC at or < ABC	1	Amendment approved by Council							
Ecosystem Management	* a. revisit calculation of OY caps	11, 4	research paper presented to SSC in Feb 05							
	b. recommend to NOAA Fisheries and participate in the development and implementation of ecosystem indicators as part of stock assessment process	10	ecosystem SAFE presented annually; AI FEP to identify ecosystem indicators for the Aleutians	█	█					
Improve Data Quality and Management	a. expand or modify observer coverage and sampling methods based on scientific data and compliance needs	38, 39	discussion in Dec 06	█						
	b. develop programs for economic data collection that aggregate data	40	discussion paper for Oct 06; partially addressed in BSAI Amd 80 and GOA rationalization	█						
	c. modify VMS to incorporate new technology and system providers	41	global VMS analysis initial review in Oct 06	█						

## Progress on Implementing the Groundfish Programmatic Workplan and Staff Notes for Revisions to the Workplan

June 2004-October 2006

The current Groundfish Workplan is attachment D-6(e) in this packet. The full list of management objectives in the FMPs are excerpted on pages 5-8 of this document.

### **Protection of Habitat**

*- relates to FMP policy objectives 26-30, Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat*

#### 2004 workplan priority actions

- Achieved:
- EFH action is completed
  - Increased benthic habitat mapping is a Council's research priority
  - Review of existing closures and MPA definitions, paper in press
- Ongoing:
- Effectiveness of existing crab and salmon closures continues to be reviewed
  - Bering Sea analysis of mitigation measures to protect habitat ongoing

#### FMP policy objectives

The 2004 workplan largely captured the action items in the FMP policy objectives.

#### Staff notes on revisions to workplan

- As many of the priority actions have been achieved, the Council may wish to remove this category from the workplan until such time as the next proposal cycle for habitat areas of concern comes due.

### **Bycatch Reduction**

*- relates to FMP policy objectives 14-21, Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste*

#### 2004 workplan priority actions

- Achieved:
- Fishery rationalization programs in the BSAI and GOA: BSAI multispecies trawl flatfish fishery, BSAI Pacific cod sector allocations, GOA rockfish demonstration program
- Ongoing:
- Council is working on rationalization of the GOA fisheries
  - Incentive-based bycatch reduction programs being explored through GOA rationalization and salmon bycatch analyses, also mortality-based approaches to setting bycatch limits
  - new management strategies to reduce rockfish bycatch

#### FMP policy objectives

The workplan priority actions draw on FMP policy objectives 15, 17, and 20. The FMP policy objectives also address other issues.

- The FMP policy objectives (14, 18, 20) include a number of objectives to continue and improve bycatch management through spatial, seasonal, and gear restrictions, and PSC limits. In the PSEIS, the Council identified the GOA as a target area for new PSC controls, and the Council is addressing this action as part of the GOA rationalization analysis.

- Objectives 16 and 19 address improving bycatch mortality accounting for all species, and improving population estimates for non-target species.

#### Staff notes on revisions to workplan

- The Council may wish to continue to identify GOA rationalization as a priority action for bycatch reduction, also incentive-based bycatch reduction programs.
- The Council may wish to remove BSAI rationalization (as much of action has been achieved), management strategies to reduce incidental rockfish discards (implementation of groundfish retention standard and rationalization should reduce discards), mortality-rate based PSC limits (adapted below).
- Ideas for new priority actions:
  - Explore need for biomass-based PSC limits in GOA fisheries as part of GOA rationalization (objective 20)
  - Continue and improve rigorous statistical approach to determining bycatch of all species (objective 19)
  - Encourage research programs to evaluate population estimates for non-target species (objective 16)

#### **Protection of Steller Sea Lions**

*- relates to FMP policy objectives 22-25, Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals*

##### 2004 workplan priority actions

- Achieved:       • NMFS is reconsidering SSL critical habitat
- Ongoing:       • Council is re-evaluating mitigation measures to protect SSL and participating in the ESA jeopardy consultation process

##### FMP policy objectives

The workplan priority actions draw on FMP policy objectives 23-25 with specific reference to SSLs. Other FMP policy objectives call for cooperation with NMFS and USFWS to protect ESA-listed species, and review of fishery interactions with marine mammals as appropriate.

#### Staff notes on revisions to workplan

- The Council may wish to remove recommendation to reconsider SSL critical habitat
- The Council may wish to continue priority action to participate in development of mitigation measures

#### **Prevent Overfishing**

*- relates to FMP policy objectives 1-5, Prevent Overfishing*

##### 2004 workplan priority actions

- Achieved:       • Set TAC at or < ABC
- Ongoing:       • continue to develop "lumping and splitting" criteria
- consider new harvest strategies for rockfish

##### FMP policy objectives

The 2004 workplan largely captured the action items in the FMP policy objectives.

### Staff notes on revisions to workplan

- The Council may wish to remove action to set upper limit for TAC (achieved).
- The Council may wish to continue priority action to develop new management strategies to manage target species and protect incidental catch species (“lumping and splitting”).
- The Council may wish to revise rockfish priority action based on recent CIE review of rockfish harvest strategies: address treatment of survey inputs in Tier 5 and 6 species.

### **Ecosystem Management**

*- relates to FMP policy objectives 10-13, Preserve Food Web*

#### 2004 workplan priority actions

- Achieved:
- Annual presentation of ecosystem indicators as part of stock assessment process
  - Research paper on calculation of OY caps
- Ongoing:
- Development of a subset of key indicators for each ecosystem area

#### FMP policy objectives

The FMP policy objectives also address other issues.

- FMP policy objective 11 seeks to improve the procedure to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in estimating ABC. Amendments 56/56 to the BSAI/GOA FMPs addressed uncertainty in establishing the overfishing definitions for groundfish species; the PSEIS proposed a different procedure, and the expected revisions to National Standard 1 guidelines may differ from either of these.
- Objective 13 seeks generally to incorporate ecosystem-based considerations into fishery management decisions. A recently initiated Council action to develop a FEP for the AI aims to provide an interface between ecosystem science and Council decision-making.

### Staff notes on revisions to workplan

- The Council may wish to remove action to review calculation of OY caps (achieved).
- The Council may wish to revise ecosystem indicator action to: encourage and participate in development of key ecosystem indicators for Council ecosystem areas.
- Ideas for new priority actions:
  - Explicitly document procedures to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in establishing harvest limits.
  - Develop Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the Aleutian Islands.

### **Improve Data Quality and Management**

*- relates to FMP policy objectives 38-45, Improve Data Quality, Monitoring, and Enforcement*

#### 2004 workplan priority actions

- Ongoing:
- Modify observer program
  - Develop programs for economic data collection
  - Modify VMS program

### FMP policy objectives

A number of FMP policy objectives promote cooperation with partner agencies, coordinated research programs, and improvements in monitoring and enforceability that are taken into account with each Council action.

### Staff notes on revisions to workplan

- The Council may wish to continue progress on all priority actions in this category.

### ***FMP policy categories not included in the workplan***

#### **Promote Sustainable Fisheries and Communities**

### FMP policy objectives

FMP policy objectives in this category promote considerations such as safety, stability, and fairness, which are taken into account by the Council during each management action.

### Staff notes on revisions to workplan

- No priority actions are required.

#### **Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources**

### FMP policy objectives

In addition to echoing principles of fairness and efficiency, the FMP policy objectives in this category promote the elimination of latent licenses, and extending community- or rights-based management programs. Also, objective 33 calls for periodic review of rationalization programs.

### Staff notes on revisions to workplan

- Idea for new priority action:
  - Continue rationalization of GOA fisheries, while accounting for community provisions and review requirements.

#### **Increase Alaska Native Consultation**

### FMP policy objectives

FMP policy objectives address local and traditional knowledge in fishery management, and Alaska Native participation and consultation. The Council supports community research for many of its analyses, and has co-sponsored two community conferences.

### Staff notes on revisions to workplan

- Idea for new priority action:
  - Continue to support participation by fishing communities.

## Excerpt from chapter 2 of the BSAI [GOA] Groundfish FMPs

### 2.2 Management Approach for the BSAI [GOA] Groundfish Fisheries

The Council's policy is to apply judicious and responsible fisheries management practices, based on sound scientific research and analysis, proactively rather than reactively, to ensure the sustainability of fishery resources and associated ecosystems for the benefit of future, as well as current generations. The productivity of the North Pacific ecosystem is acknowledged to be among the highest in the world. For the past 25 years, the Council management approach has incorporated forward looking conservation measures that address differing levels of uncertainty. This management approach has in recent years been labeled the precautionary approach. Recognizing that potential changes in productivity may be caused by fluctuations in natural oceanographic conditions, fisheries, and other, non-fishing activities, the Council intends to continue to take appropriate measures to insure the continued sustainability of the managed species. It will carry out this objective by considering reasonable, adaptive management measures, as described in the Magnuson-Stevens Act and in conformance with the National Standards, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Environmental Policy Act, and other applicable law. This management approach takes into account the National Academy of Science's recommendations on Sustainable Fisheries Policy.

As part of its policy, the Council intends to consider and adopt, as appropriate, measures that accelerate the Council's precautionary, adaptive management approach through community-based or rights-based management, ecosystem-based management principles that protect managed species from overfishing, and where appropriate and practicable, increase habitat protection and bycatch constraints. All management measures will be based on the best scientific information available. Given this intent, the fishery management goal is to provide sound conservation of the living marine resources; provide socially and economically viable fisheries for the well-being of fishing communities; minimize human-caused threats to protected species; maintain a healthy marine resource habitat; and incorporate ecosystem-based considerations into management decisions.

This management approach recognizes the need to balance many competing uses of marine resources and different social and economic goals for sustainable fishery management, including protection of the long-term health of the resource and the optimization of yield. This policy will use and improve upon the Council's existing open and transparent process of public involvement in decision-making.

#### 2.2.1 Management Objectives

Adaptive management requires regular and periodic review. Objectives identified in this policy statement will be reviewed annually by the Council. The Council will also review, modify, eliminate, or consider new issues, as appropriate, to best carry out the goals and objectives of this management policy.

To meet the goals of this overall management approach, the Council and NMFS will use the Alaska Groundfish Fisheries Programmatic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (PSEIS) (NMFS 2004) as a planning document. To help focus consideration of potential management measures, the Council and NMFS will use the following objectives as guideposts, to be re-evaluated, as amendments to the FMP are considered over the life of the PSEIS.

***Prevent Overfishing:***

1. Adopt conservative harvest levels for multi-species and single species fisheries and specify optimum yield.
2. Continue to use the 2 million mt optimum yield cap for the BSAI groundfish fisheries. [Continue to use the existing optimum yield cap for the GOA groundfish fisheries.]
3. Provide for adaptive management by continuing to specify optimum yield as a range.
4. Provide for periodic reviews of the adequacy of  $F_{40}$  and adopt improvements, as appropriate.
5. Continue to improve the management of species through species categories.

***Promote Sustainable Fisheries and Communities:***

6. Promote conservation while providing for optimum yield in terms of the greatest overall benefit to the nation with particular reference to food production, and sustainable opportunities for recreational, subsistence, and commercial fishing participants and fishing communities.
7. Promote management measures that, while meeting conservation objectives, are also designed to avoid significant disruption of existing social and economic structures.
8. Promote fair and equitable allocation of identified available resources in a manner such that no particular sector, group or entity acquires an excessive share of the privileges.
9. Promote increased safety at sea.

***Preserve Food Web:***

10. Develop indices of ecosystem health as targets for management.
11. Improve the procedure to adjust acceptable biological catch levels as necessary to account for uncertainty and ecosystem factors.
12. Continue to protect the integrity of the food web through limits on harvest of forage species.
13. Incorporate ecosystem-based considerations into fishery management decisions, as appropriate.

***Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste:***

14. Continue and improve current incidental catch and bycatch management program.
15. Develop incentive programs for bycatch reduction including the development of mechanisms to facilitate the formation of bycatch pools, vessel bycatch allowances, or other bycatch incentive systems.
16. Encourage research programs to evaluate current population estimates for non-target species with a view to setting appropriate bycatch limits, as information becomes available.
17. Continue program to reduce discards by developing management measures that encourage the use of gear and fishing techniques that reduce bycatch which includes economic discards.
18. Continue to manage incidental catch and bycatch through seasonal distribution of total allowable catch and geographical gear restrictions.
19. Continue to account for bycatch mortality in total allowable catch accounting and improve the accuracy of mortality assessments for target, prohibited species catch, and non-commercial species.



20. Control the bycatch of prohibited species through prohibited species catch limits or other appropriate measures.
21. Reduce waste to biologically and socially acceptable levels.

***Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals:***

22. Continue to cooperate with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to protect ESA-listed species, and if appropriate and practicable, other seabird species.
23. Maintain or adjust current protection measures as appropriate to avoid jeopardy of extinction or adverse modification to critical habitat for ESA-listed Steller sea lions.
24. Encourage programs to review status of endangered or threatened marine mammal stocks and fishing interactions and develop fishery management measures as appropriate.
25. Continue to cooperate with NMFS and USFWS to protect ESA-listed marine mammal species, and if appropriate and practicable, other marine mammal species.

***Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat:***

26. Review and evaluate efficacy of existing habitat protection measures for managed species.
27. Identify and designate essential fish habitat and habitat areas of particular concern pursuant to Magnuson-Stevens Act rules, and mitigate fishery impacts as necessary and practicable to continue the sustainability of managed species.
28. Develop a Marine Protected Area policy in coordination with national and state policies.
29. Encourage development of a research program to identify regional baseline habitat information and mapping, subject to funding and staff availability.
30. Develop goals, objectives and criteria to evaluate the efficacy and suitable design of marine protected areas and no-take marine reserves as tools to maintain abundance, diversity, and productivity. Implement marine protected areas if and where appropriate.

***Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources:***

31. Provide economic and community stability to harvesting and processing sectors through fair allocation of fishery resources.
32. Maintain the license limitation program, modified as necessary, and further decrease excess fishing capacity and overcapitalization by eliminating latent licenses and extending programs such as community or rights-based management to some or all groundfish fisheries.
33. Provide for adaptive management by periodically evaluating the effectiveness of rationalization programs and the allocation of access rights based on performance.
34. Develop management measures that, when practicable, consider the efficient use of fishery resources taking into account the interest of harvesters, processors, and communities.

***Increase Alaska Native Consultation:***

35. Continue to incorporate local and traditional knowledge in fishery management.
36. Consider ways to enhance collection of local and traditional knowledge from communities, and incorporate such knowledge in fishery management where appropriate.
37. Increase Alaska Native participation and consultation in fishery management.

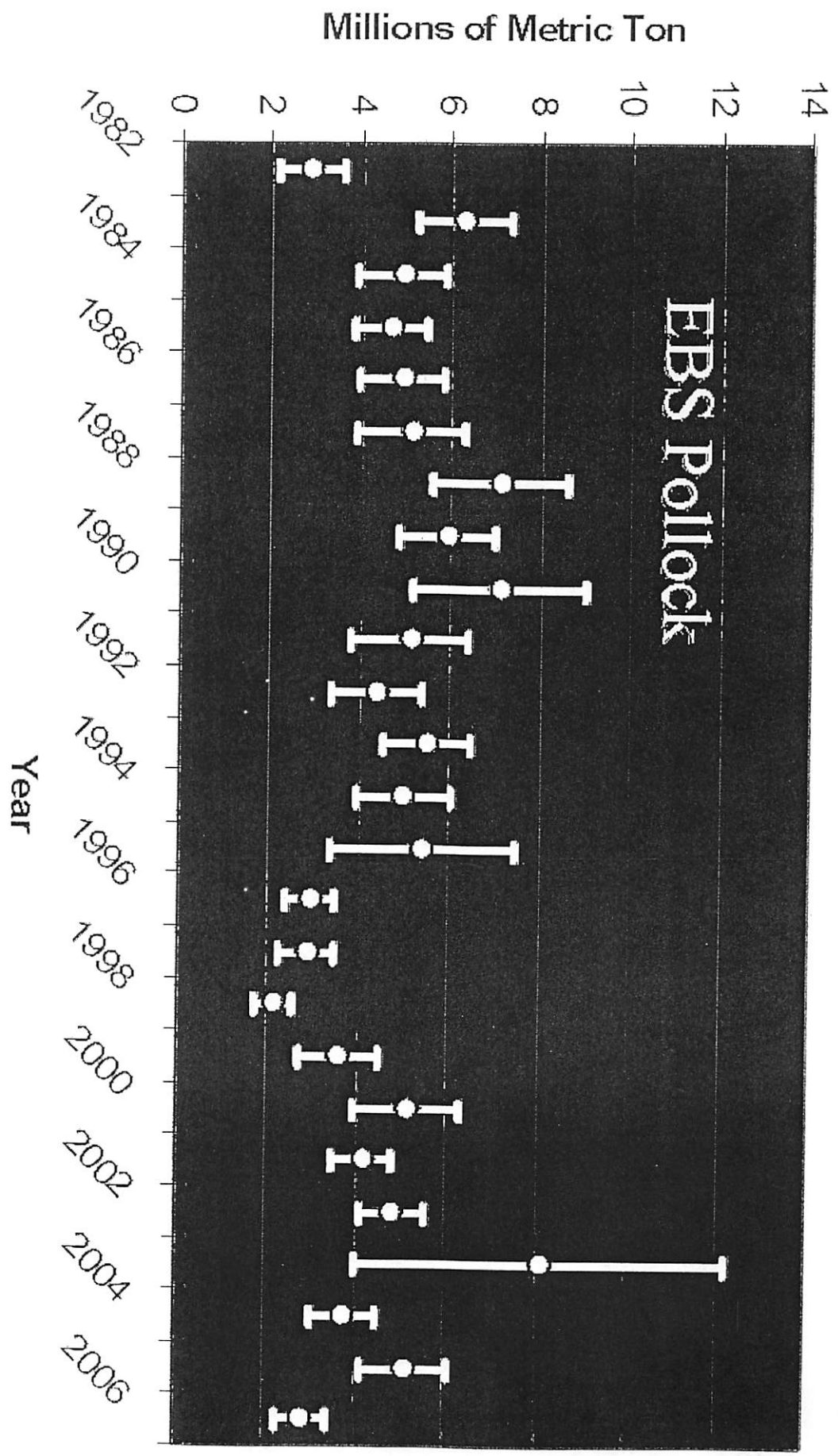
***Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement:***

38. Increase the utility of groundfish fishery observer data for the conservation and management of living marine resources.
39. Develop funding mechanisms that achieve equitable costs to the industry for implementation of the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program.
40. Improve community and regional economic impact costs and benefits through increased data reporting requirements.
41. Increase the quality of monitoring and enforcement data through improved technology.
42. Encourage a coordinated, long-term ecosystem monitoring program to collect baseline information and compile existing information from a variety of ongoing research initiatives, subject to funding and staff availability.
43. Cooperate with research institutions such as the North Pacific Research Board in identifying research needs to address pressing fishery issues.
44. Promote enhanced enforceability.
45. Continue to cooperate and coordinate management and enforcement programs with the Alaska Board of Fish, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Alaska Fish and Wildlife Protection, the U.S. Coast Guard, NMFS Enforcement, International Pacific Halibut Commission, Federal agencies, and other organizations to meet conservation requirements; promote economically healthy and sustainable fisheries and fishing communities; and maximize efficiencies in management and enforcement programs through continued consultation, coordination, and cooperation.

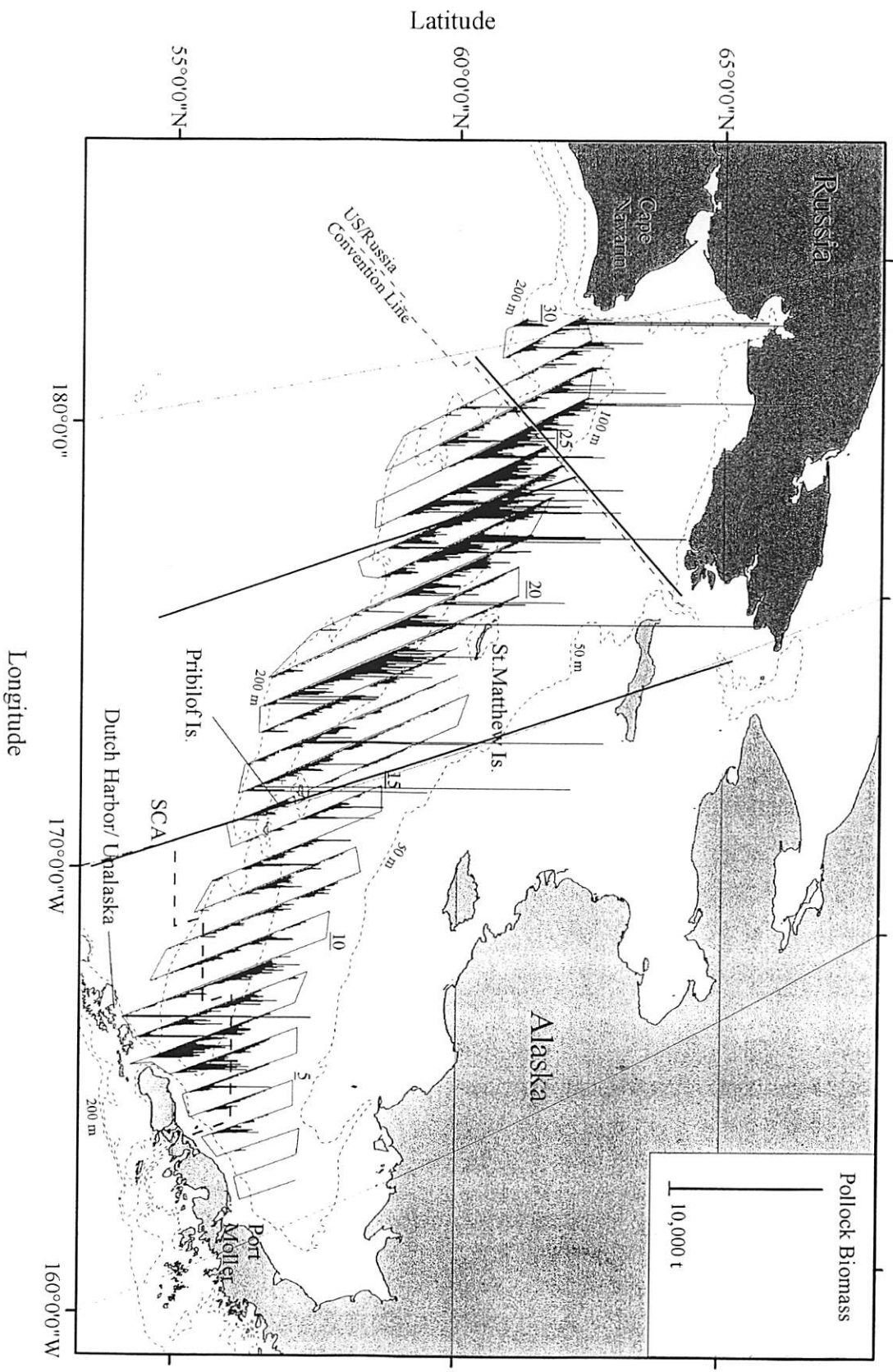
7/1/06

### Bottom trawl survey biomass estimates

5.1 million in 2005  
2.8 million in 2006



Trident



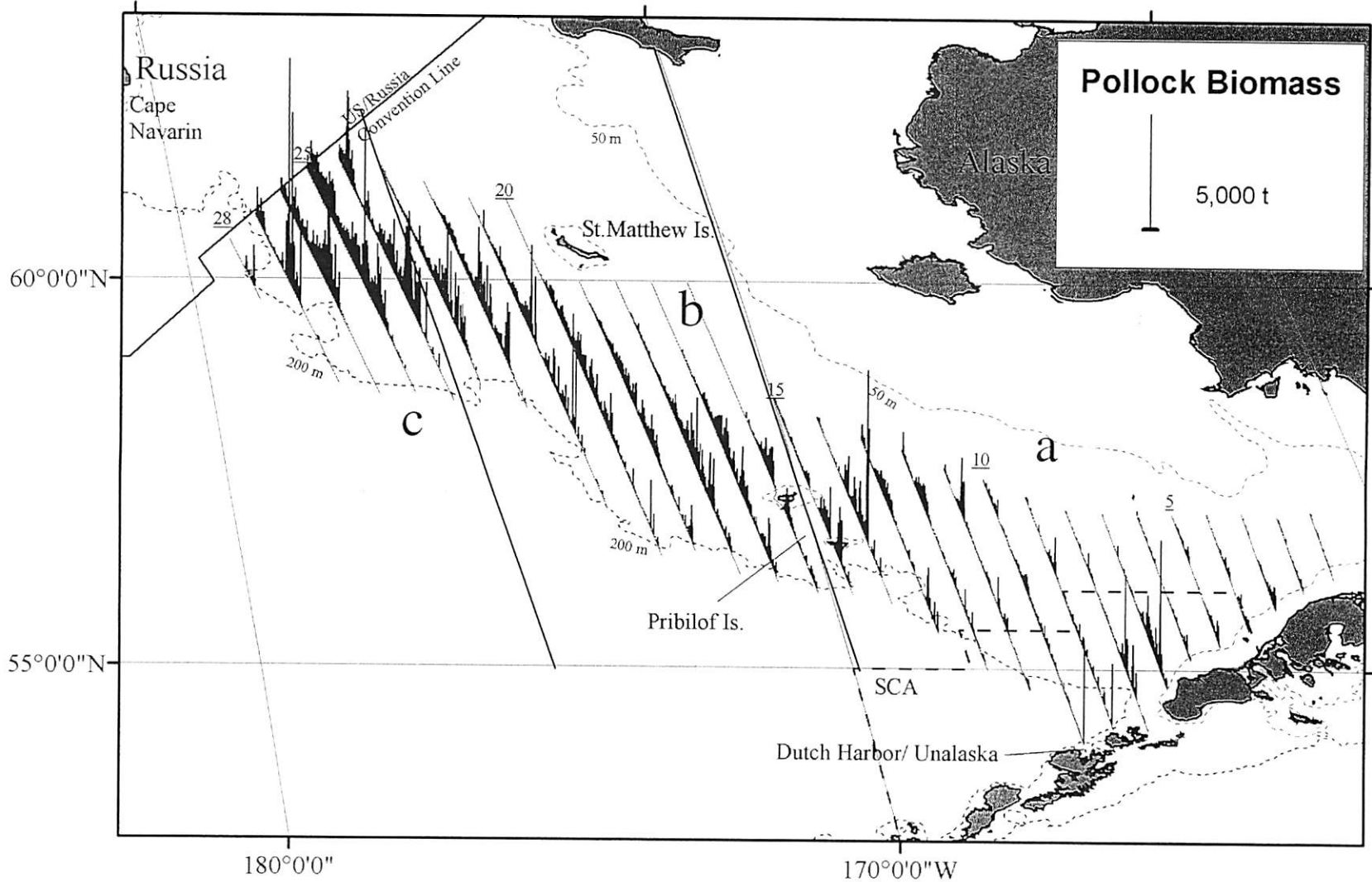
2004 pollock biomass distribution 12 m – 3 m off bottom

Final US EEZ biomass was 3.31 million t

Trident

# Pollock biomass distribution 12 m to 3 m off bottom

- fewer pollock N of Unimak Is or south of St. Matthew than in 2004



2006 Preliminary biomass estimate 1.49 million t