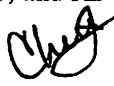


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC, and AP
FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director
DATE: January 22, 2003
SUBJECT: Staff Tasking

ESTIMATED TIME
2 HOURS

- (a) Review tasking and provide direction to staff.

Attached is a summary of the status of Council projects (Item D-3(a)) and a three-meeting outlook (Item D-3(b)). Two new items (GOA Rockfish Demonstration Project and AI Pollock Allocation) have been added to the 'Mandatory Actions' portion of project list, as a result of the Consolidated Appropriations Act. You will have discussed many of the complexities regarding these issues under Agenda C-6. However, the Council may need to adjust workload or revise scheduling of other items to analyze and implement the actions recently legislated by Congress, including writing the regulations to implement the crab rationalization program.

BSAI Salmon Bycatch

In October, the Council voted to add a discussion paper on BSAI salmon bycatch management to the staff tasking list. The stated intent of this discussion paper was to examine the effectiveness of the existing area closures, and examine other possible means of controlling chinook and chum salmon bycatch (through cooperatives actions for example).

In December, the Council discussed a motion regarding the possibility of foregoing the discussion paper, and instead, initiating an analysis to modify the existing chum and chinook bycatch management regulations. The Council also reviewed a possible problem statement and possible alternatives for analysis. Rather than try to work through the details in the last few moments of the meeting, the Council moved to postpone action on these items until February at which time these issues would be discussed during staff tasking. A copy of the original motion is attached as Item D-3(c).

Committees

A list of committees is attached as Item D-3(d). In December, the Council reviewed the list of committees and made the following determinations:

- The Community QS Purchase and Implementation Committee was no longer needed.
- A GOA community protection committee may be needed in the future, but not at this time.
- Appointments to the Charter IFQ Committee are not needed at this time.

- The IRIU Technical Committee will stay on the list of committees, but the makeup may be revised sometime in the future.
- A new committee, the Advisory Panel Review Committee, was formed to review ways to improve the structure of the AP by examining staggered terms, term limits, size, and temporary appointments. The AP Review Committee will be chaired by Roy Hyder.

At this meeting, the Council will decide on appointments to the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee during executive session.

Council Project Summary Updated January 22, 2004

Mandated Actions	Projected Weeks	Council/ NMFS %	Comments
1 Programmatic Groundfish SEIS (revision)	4	20/80	Review comments and revise DEIS (Diana E)
2 FMP Updates (groundfish and scallop)	4	90/10	Concurrent with DPSEIS (Diana S./Diana E.)
3 EFH EIS	?	20/80	Comments on Draft Due April 15, 2004 (David)
4 HAPC Process	10	50/50	Preliminary review of proposals in February (Cathy)
5 Crab FMP EIS	?	50/50	Initial review in February (Mark, Chris)
6 Aleutian Islands Pollock Allocation	?	?	Discuss schedule and tasking in February
7 GOA Rockfish Demonstration Program	?	?	Discuss schedule and tasking in February

Council Priorities *Bold =Highest priority

8 GOA Rationalization*	?	90/10	Major project (Jane,Mark,Nicole, Bill, Elaine, Diana S, Diana E,contractors)
9 IR/IU flatfish adjustments (Am 79)	1	80/20	Amendment 79 being prepared for Secretarial review
10 IR/IU flatfish trailing amendments* (Am 80)	16	80/20	Initial Review of Am 80 in April (Contract/Jon)
11 AI Pollock	8	40/60	Review draft EA/RIR in June 04 (Bill)
12 SR/RE retention*	3	20/80	Not started. (Jane/NMFS)
13 Halibut Charter IFQ/GHL	1	100/0	Revise analysis for SOC submission. (Jane/Darrell)
14 Other Species (non-target, CDQ aspects, sharks/skates)	8	60/40	Further analysis required (Jane/NMFS). Advisory committee established.
15 Observer Program (long-term)	10	60/40	Initial review in April (Jane/Nicole/Chris)

Other Projects Previously Tasked

16	BSAI Salmon Bycatch Discussion paper	?	?	Discuss action and tasking in February
17	IFQ Administrative Changes (medical, hired skipper, check-in..)	1	10/90	Initial review in April (NMFS/Jane)
18	IFQ Allocative Issues (blocks, QS categories, 4C&4D)	8	80/20	Initial review in June/October (Jane/Contractor)
19	Repeal of VIP	2	10/90	Initial review in April (NMFS/Jane)
20	GOA Salmon Bycatch Caps	8	80/20	Discussion paper for February (Diana S./Cathy)
21	Opilio VIP	2	50/50	Not started - on hold
22	Catch/bycatch disclosure (vessel level)	2	70/30	Discussion paper - Postponed
23	Scoping paper on fee/loan program for IFQ Charter (NMFS?)	1	10/90	Pending SOC review of program (NMFS)
24	Groundfish overfishing definitions	3	10/90	FR notice on NS 1 forthcoming: review in February
25	SSL Trailing Amendment (Committee proposal)	6	40/60	Undergoing informal consultation; Initial Review in April (Bill)
26	Subsistence amendment packages for halibut	8	50/50	Review in June/October (NMFS/Jane)

Potential New Projects or Lower Priority Projects

27	AFA s/b caps to quotas and trawl LLP recency	10	80/20	Pending further Council direction and staff availability
28	Charter IFQ Community Set-Aside analysis	6	90/10	Awaiting Secretarial Approval (Nicole)
29	Industry proposal for pollock bycatch	?	90/10	Pending proposal and Council Direction
30	CDQ eligible communities	4	80/20	Initial Review in April (Nicole) (T)
31	Community QS Purchase and Implementation	?	80/20	Committee review of proposed rule in December (Nicole)
32	CDQ appeals process	?	50/50	Council took action to revise Am 71 in October (Nicole)

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 12/19

February 2, 2004 Anchorage Hilton	March 29, 2004 Anchorage Hilton	June 7, 2004 Portland, Oregon
	Joint Council/Board meeting (T)	
AFA: <i>Review 2003 Co-op Reports & 2004 Coop Agmts</i>	Repeal VIP: <i>Initial Review</i>	CDQ Eligibility Amendments: <i>Report</i>
SSC- Review Overfishing Definitions, multi species models, and receive progress report from crab workgroup	IFQ Administrative Changes: <i>Initial Review (T)</i>	Repeal VIP: <i>Final Action</i>
GOA Rationalization: <i>Review Alternatives & Options (including GOA salmon/crab bycatch information)</i>	GOA Rationalization: <i>Action as necessary</i>	IFQ Allocational changes: <i>Initial Review (T)</i> IFQ Administrative Changes: <i>Final Action (T)</i>
HAPC: <i>Report on proposals received</i>	HAPC: <i>Develop Alternatives for Analysis</i>	GOA Rationalization: <i>Action as necessary</i>
DPSEIS: <i>Review comments on Draft; FMP Revisions initial review</i>	DPSEIS and FMP Revisions: <i>Final Action</i>	HAPC: <i>Report and action as necessary</i>
SSL adjustments in GOA: <i>Informal consultation review</i>	SSL adjustments in GOA: <i>Initial Review (T)</i>	Subsistence III: <i>Initial Review (T)</i>
Crab EIS: <i>Initial Review</i>		SSL adjustments in GOA: <i>Final Action (T)</i>
Flatfish IRIU Trailing Amendment 80A & 80B: <i>Review Progress</i>	Flatfish IRIU Trailing Amendment 80A & 80B: <i>Initial Review (T)</i>	Crab EIS: <i>Final Action</i>
Observer Program: <i>Report/Direction</i>	Observer Program: <i>Initial Review (T)</i>	Flatfish IRIU Trailing Amendment 80A & 80B: <i>Final Action (T)</i>
Pending Congressional Action: <i>Discussion and action as necessary</i>		Observer Program: <i>Final Action (T)</i>
Scallop SAFE: <i>Review</i>		Non -Target Species: <i>Discuss/action as necessary</i>
Scallop FMP: <i>Discuss Update</i>	Scallop FMP: <i>Review Draft Update (T)</i>	AI Pollock Fishery: <i>Initial Review</i>
		Scallop FMP: <i>Final Review (T)</i>

TAC - Total Allowable Catch
BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
AFA - American Fisheries Act
HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
LLP - License Limitation Program
PSC - Prohibited Species Catch

MSA - Magnuson Stevens Act
GOA - Gulf of Alaska
SSL - Steller Sea Lion
VIP - Vessel Incentive Program
SEIS - Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
CDQ - Community Development Quota
IRIU - Improved Retention/Improved Utilization

SAFE - Stock assessment and fishery evaluation
VMS - Vessel Monitoring System
CV - Catcher Vessel CP- Catcher Processor
SSC - Scientific & Statistical Committee
FMP - Fishery Management Plan
DPSEIS - Draft Programmatic Groundfish SEIS
(T) Tentatively scheduled

Motion for Alternative Options to the Existing Bering Sea Chum and Chinook Bycatch Management Regulations

Madam Chairman,

I move that the Council initiate an analysis that considers the following alternatives for modification to the existing Chum and Chinook Bycatch management regulations:

Proposed Alternatives for Chum Salmon Bycatch Management

1. Status Quo.
2. Suspend the existing chum salmon bycatch closure regulations on a year-by-year basis when an acceptable AFA Intercoop chum salmon bycatch management agreement is in place.

Proposed Alternatives for Chinook Salmon Bycatch Management:

1. Status Quo.
2. Suspend the existing chinook salmon bycatch closure regulations on a year-by-year basis when an acceptable AFA Intercoop chinook salmon bycatch management agreement is in place.

**Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Salmon Bycatch Management
Alternative Options for Council Consideration
Presented by the AFA Intercooperative
December 15, 2003**

Due in large part to the establishment of cooperative management of the Bering Sea Pollock trawl fishery, new tools are available through industry bycatch avoidance programs that help reduce salmon bycatch without the use of closure zones. At times, current closure zone regulations force the pollock fleet to fish in areas with higher bycatch rates than may be available inside the closure zones. In addition, the current closure zone regulations can result in higher operation costs to the pollock fleet, without commensurate salmon savings.

Proposed Alternatives for Chum Salmon Bycatch Management

1. Status Quo.
2. Suspend the existing chum salmon bycatch closure regulations on a year-by-year basis when an acceptable AFA Intercoop chum salmon bycatch management agreement is in place.

Proposed Alternatives for Chinook Salmon Bycatch Management:

1. Status Quo.
2. Suspend the existing chinook salmon bycatch closure regulations on a year-by-year basis when an acceptable AFA Intercoop chinook salmon bycatch management agreement is in place.

NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

Last Updated: January 26, 2004

AP COMMITTEE

<u>Pending</u> Staff: Chris Oliver	Roy Hyder, Chair Other appointments - pending
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Conference Committee (Washington DC, November 2003)

<u>Appointed June 2003</u> Staff: Chris Oliver	Stephanie Madsen, Chair Dennis Austin David Benton John Bundy Jim Balsiger
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Council/Board of Fisheries Joint Protocol Committee

Last update: 7/28/03 Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Dennis Austin Hazel Nelson Art Nelson	Mel Morris Stosh Anderson Ed Dersham
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Council Executive Committee

Updated: 7/28/03 Staff: Chris Oliver	Chair: Stephanie Madsen Dennis Austin Jim Balsiger Kevin Duffy Roy Hyder
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Crab Interim Action Committee

[Required under BSAI Crab FMP]

Dennis Austin, WDF Jim Balsiger, NMFS Kevin Duffy, ADF&G
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NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

DPSEIS Steering Committee

<u>Appointed 2001</u>	Stephanie Madsen, Chair Dennis Austin Jim Balsiger Kevin Duffy Chris Oliver
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Ecosystem Committee

Last update: 10/25/01	Chair: David Fluharty Stosh Anderson Dorothy Childers Tony DeGange Dan Falvey George Hunt, Jr. Patricia Livingston Donna Parker	<u>Other Staff Support</u> Steve Davis Doug Eggers
<u>Status:</u> Meet as necessary		
Staff: Diana Evans/ David Witherell		

Enforcement Committee

Last update: July 2003	Chair: Roy Hyder Earl Krygier, ADF&G James Cockrell, F&W Protection Jeff Passer, NMFS-Enforcement Rich Preston, USCG Sue Salveson, NMFS-Mgmt. Lisa Lindeman, NOAA - GC	<u>Other Staff Support</u> As Necessary
<u>Status:</u> Active		
Staff: Chris Oliver		

Essential Fish Habitat Committee

Appointed: 5/15/01 Last Update: July 2003	Chair: Linda Behnken Vice Chair: Stosh Anderson Gordon Blue Ben Enticknap Jon Kurland John Gauvin Earl Krygier Heather McCarty Glenn Reed Michelle Ridgway Scott Smiley
<u>Status:</u> Idle, pending direction	
Staff: Cathy Coon	

NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

Finance Committee

Last Update: 10/25/01	Chair: Stephanie Madsen Dennis Austin Jim Balsiger Kevin Duffy Dave Hanson Roy Hyder Richard Marasco
<u>Status:</u> Meet as necessary	
Staff: Gail Bendixen/Chris Oliver	

Fur Seal Committee

Last Update: 7/25/03	Chair: David Benson Evie Whitten Anthony Merculief Larry Cotter Paul MacGregor Aquilina Lestinkof Steve Minor
<u>Status:</u> Active	
Staff: Bill Wilson	

Halibut Charter IFQ Implementation

<u>Status:</u> Pending SOC submittal

IFQ Implementation Committee

<u>Status:</u> Reconstituted as shown (July 2003).	Chair: Jeff Stephan Bob Alverson Arne Fuglvog/Cora Crome Dennis Hicks Don Iverson Don Lane	Gerry Merrigan Kris Norosz Paul Peyton David Soma
Staff: Jane DiCosimo		

NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

IRIU Technical Committee

<p>Appointed: 07/12/02</p> <p><u>Status</u>: Pending reconstitution</p> <p>Staff: Jon McCracken Marcus Hartley, Northern Econ. Lauren Smoker, NOAA GC</p>	<p>Chair, Dave Hanson Michelle Ridgway Susan Robinson John Henderschedt Donna Parker Eric Olson Greg Baker Gerry Merrigan</p>	<p>Teressa Kandianis Matt Doherty Bill Orr Ed Richardson Dave Wood</p>
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Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Committee

<p><u>Status</u>: Pending appointment of additional members.</p> <p>Staff: Chris Oliver</p>	<p>Chair: Stephanie Madsen Dennis Austin David Benton Kevin Duffy Roy Hyder John Bundy</p>
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Non-Target/Other Species Committee

<p>Appointed: 7/26/03</p> <p>Staff: Jane DiCosimo, Sarah Gaichas, NMFS</p>	<p>Chair: Arne Fuglvog, Chair Karl Haflinger Whit Sheard Michelle Ridgway Eric Olson Lori Swanson Dave Wood Thorn Smith Paul Spencer</p>
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Observer Advisory Committee

<p>Last update: August 2002</p> <p><u>Status</u>: Active</p> <p>Staff: Chris Oliver/ Nicole Kimball</p>	<p>Chair: Joe Kyle Julie Bonney Pete Risse Kim Dietrich [Alt: Gillian Stoker] John Gauvin LeeAnne Beres Rocky Caldero</p>	<p>Trevor McCabe Bob Mikol Kathy Robinson Susan Robinson Arni Thomson Jerry Bongen Tracey Mayhew</p>
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NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee

Last Update: 3/28/03 3/5/02-Election of Officers Staff: Diana Stram	Chair: Gary Painter David Benson Keith Colburn Lance Farr Phil Hanson Larry Hendricks Kevin Kaldestad	Garry Loncon Rob Rogers Clyde Sterling Gary Stewart Arni Thomson, Secretary [non -voting]
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Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee

Appointed: 2/10/01 Updated: Jan 2004 Pending membership adjustment [formerly SSL RPA Committee; renamed at Feb 02 meeting) Staff: Bill Wilson	Chair: Larry Cotter David Benson Jerry Bongen Julie Bonney Shane Capron Tony DeGange Doug DeMaster Steve Drage John Gauvin Sue Hills	John Iani Terry Leitzell Denby Lloyd Chuck McCallum Matt Moir Bob Small Beth Stewart Farron Wallace John Winther
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U.S.-Russia International Committee

<u>Status:</u> Pending reconstitution. Staff: Chris Oliver	Chair: Stephanie Madsen Dennis Austin John Bundy Kevin Duffy Rich Preston
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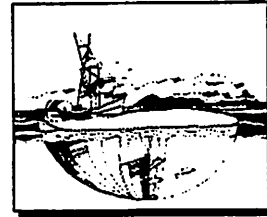
VMS Committee

Appointed: 06/02 <u>Status:</u> Idle, pending direction Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Chair, Earl Krygier Al Burch Guy Holt	Bob Mikol Ed Page Capt. Rich Preston Lori Swanson
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Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian
Tribes of Alaska
Business and Economic Development
3200 Hospital Drive, Suite 101
Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: (907) 463-7147 or (800) 344-1432
Fax: (907) 463-7316



SOUTHEAST ALASKA
INTER-TRIBAL
FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION

AGENDA D-3
Supplemental
FEBRUARY 2004

RECEIVED Jan 20, 2004

JAN 23 2004

N.P.F.M.C.

Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

RE: Petition to Include the Southeast Alaska villages of Klukwan; Haines; and Saxman in the Community Purchase of Halibut and Sable fish IFQ program

Dear Ms. Madsen;

The Southeast Alaska Inter-Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission met in Juneau regarding the community purchase of commercial halibut and sable fish IFQ program. The communities of Klukwan, Haines, and Saxman were not included in the program and were in attendance at our meeting.

By request of the community delegates the Southeast Inter-Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission voted to appeal these three communities being left out of the program. Please consider this letter our Notice to your office and we ask that you forward our letter to the appropriate North Pacific Fishery Council authority which handles appeals under this new program.

There are two grounds upon which these three communities should be included;

1. The three communities of Klukwan; Haines; and Saxman have experienced similar declines in their participation in the halibut and sablefish IFQ fisheries.
2. The three communities claim that the standards used to exclude them is flawed and not in compliance with other Federal and State programs which include these three villages in their programs due to their current population; location; and definition of being rural communities.

We look forward to working on this appeal with you and representatives of the three villages. Please contact me at 907-723-0260 for any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Matt Kookesh, Chair
Southeast Alaska Inter-tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission

2/9/04 D-3 Discussion Document (DRAFT)

PROJECT	SF involvement	RAM involvement	ENF involvement	GCAK involvement	Council involvement	Other NMFS	Likely impact
GOA Rationalization	Project co-lead	Minimal	Moderate- input and review	Moderate- input and review	Project co-lead	Minimal	NMFS contributions potentially delayed
Scallop FMP	moderate	none	Minimal	minimal	large	none	Minimal
PSEIS	moderate	none	minimal	moderate	moderate	Large (NEPA)	No impact – must do
EFH/HAPC	minimal	none	minimal	moderate	large	Large (Habitat)	No impact - must do
AI pollock allocation	Large	minimal	minimal	moderate	large	minimal	No impact – must do
GOA rockfish pilot program	Large	Large	Moderate	Minimal	Large	Minimal	Delayed unless Council staff or contract
Crab overfishing	moderate	Minimal	Minimal	moderate	Minimal	Minimal	No impact
VIP repeal	Project lead	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Delayed
SLL changes in GOA	moderate	Minimal	minimal	Moderate	large	Moderate (PR)	Potentially delayed
Halibut Charter IFQ	Large	Large	Large	Large	Minimal	Minimal	NMFS priority, but will be delayed unless additional resources provided
Amendment 79/72	Large	None	moderate	Large	Moderate	Minimal	Delayed
Amendment 80	Moderate	moderate	moderate	Moderate	Project lead	Minimal	Delayed (monitoring/design aspects)
IFQ Admin amendments	Project lead	moderate	Minimal	Minimal	minimal	minimal	Delayed unless Council or contract
IFQ allocation amendments	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Review	Project lead	None	Minimal through Council approval stage – possible contract help
Halibut subsistence II	large	minimal	Minimal	moderate	Minimal	Minimal	No delay expected
Halibut Subsistence III	Project lead	Moderate	Minimal	minimal	moderate	minimal	Delayed unless Council or contract
Observer program	Moderate	none	minimal	moderate	moderate	Large (OPO)	NMFS priority, but delay possible
CDQ admin (Am 71)	Project lead	minimal	minimal	large	moderate	minimal	Moderate impact - must do
Am 48/48 (specs process)	Large	minimal	minimal	Moderate	none	Moderate (PR)	Potential delay
EFPs (4 submitted)	Large	none	Minimal	moderate	none	minimal	delay

2/9/04 D-3 Discussion Document (DRAFT)

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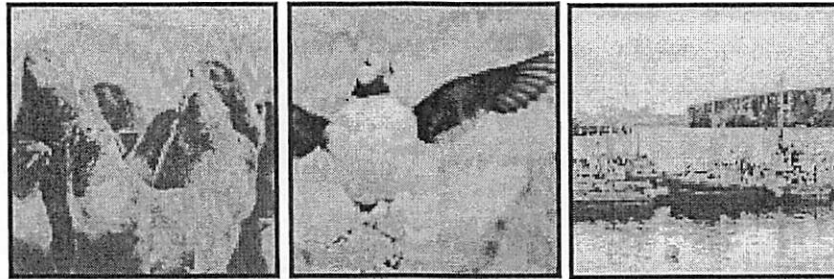
PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP SHEET FOR

AGENDA ITEM D-3 Staff Tasking

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	AFFILIATION
1	Heather McLarty, Eme Wilton	Prisbit Island Collaborative
2	Phillip Westcott	
3		
4	Julia Bonny / AIBurch	AGDB / ADA
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NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

PRIBILOF ISLANDS COLLABORATIVE



Executive Summary of the Information Exchange and Collaborative Design Meeting

JANUARY 15-16, 2004

HILTON ANCHORAGE HOTEL • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

*Materials for the Information Exchange and Collaborative Design
and this Executive Summary
designed/provided by Resource Solutions, University of Alaska Anchorage*

*Thank you
to the following organizations for providing funding support:*

Alaska Conservation Foundation
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association
Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association
Marine Conservation Alliance
NOAA Fisheries—Protected Resources Division
St. Paul Tribal Government
TDX Corporation
The Nature Conservancy
World Wildlife Fund



Background

On January 15–16, over 70 people met to learn and talk about issues, which were identified at a previous meeting held on September 22–23. At that time, over 60 people met to discuss about the concerns and the future of the Pribilof Islands' economy and ecosystem. At both meetings, participants explored how they might be able to work together to address these issues of common concern in a collaborative manner. Those participating were from St. Paul and St. George Islands, fishing industry and conservation groups, and federal government agencies. All individuals spoke on behalf of themselves, not their organizations.

Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of the January meeting was to provide an opportunity for individuals who have legitimate concerns about the Pribilof Islands and surrounding marine ecosystem:

- To learn and discuss the potential issues the Pribilof Islands Collaborative might work on together, which were identified during the September meeting:
Halibut, Crab, Fur Seals, and Seabirds; and
- To continue to develop the framework for how a stakeholder driven and designed process will enable those who want to work together in a constructive and productive manner to do so effectively.

Purpose of the Proposed Collaborative

The intent of the proposed collaborative effort is for participating stakeholders to identify agreement on policies, strategies, and actions that promote a strong economy and a healthy ecosystem in and around the Pribilof Islands while maintaining viable commercial fisheries and subsistence harvests in the central Bering Sea.

The process envisioned would provide participating stakeholders with the opportunity to be proactive, rather than reactive, to a variety of marine resource concerns including fluctuations and declines in fur seal and crab populations, various sea bird populations, and reductions in halibut catch per unit effort (CPUE) around the Pribilof Islands.

Meeting Overview

The first day and the next morning included a series of presentations to better understand the historical and cultural background of the Islands; and concerns regarding the natural resource and related economic issues from traditional, community, western science, and industry perspectives.

During the afternoon of the second day, participants worked together to refine the proposed collaborative structure, which was originally developed during the September meeting.

This summary includes:

- Refining the Proposed Collaborative Design
- Revised Formal Stakeholder Participation Proposal
- Next Steps
- Proposed Agenda Items for April (the next meeting)
- Research and Funding Needs Identified by Presenters and Through Discussions
- Brief Summary of Presentations
- List of Participants

Refining the Proposed Collaborative Design

Background

The facilitator provided a brief review of the outcomes from the September Pribilof Islands Collaborative meeting. (See September, *Executive Summary of the Preliminary Design Meeting.*)

Proposed Primary Issues

After a day and half of learning and discussing the primary issues initially identified at the September Pribilof Islands Collaborative, the group was comfortable with the following list as the proposed issues the Collaborative should focus on:

- Declines in halibut CPUE
- Fur seals population fluctuations and declines
- Crab population fluctuations and declines, and
- Possibly seabirds, but the presenters at the January 2004 meeting indicated that their work did not indicate fluctuations and declines on any significance. However, the group did not have time to more fully discuss this proposed issue.

Proposed Collaborative Structure

Evie Witten, a Steering Committee member, reviewed the proposed structure that was outlined in the September meeting Executive Summary, and the participants then discussed these elements.

Discussion: Formal Participants in the Pribilof Islands Collaborative

The various stakeholder groups—Islands, Conservation, Fishing Industry, and CDQ's—engaged in discussions about how many “voting” participants they need to fully represent their interests.

The discussion was useful as it revealed criteria for participants to more critically consider how many and who should formally represent the stakeholders' interests. *What makes sense?* seemed to be the underpinning for helping guide the discussion. Through this, participants identified characteristics of a formal participant and how many should formally represent their stakeholder group. Those underpinnings were identified as:

- They have adequate decision-making authority.
- They have the capacity to participate.
- They are knowledgeable about their stakeholder's interests.
- They have funding to support their travel and time to be involved.
- They have the time to be involved.
- They are willing to participate.

Proposed Definition of Consensus

Another part of this discussion centered on the proposed definition of consensus. Some suggested that each stakeholder group define for itself what their definition of consensus is. Another participant

remarked that the number of participants from any one group doesn't really matter if consensus is the decision making rule.

Several participants at the meeting, as well as the facilitator, emphasized several times that the intent of the Pribilof Islands Collaborative is to be open and inclusive. The purpose of stakeholder groups designating formal participants is a means to ensure there is appropriate/sufficient representation for each group, that there is consistent participation in the Collaborative, and that if needed the decision-making rule(s) are clearly defined.

The participants then broke into stakeholder groups and deliberated for about a half-hour.

Revised Formal Stakeholder Participation Proposal

CDQ's

- Two formal participants: CBSFA and APICDA
- P. Lestenkof and L. Cotter will each present the proposal to their respective boards for appointment/approval within a month.

Industry

- Three formal participants: Paelagic Trawlers, Bottom Trawlers, and Fixed Gear
- Caveats:
 - All three must participate, or it may not make sense for Industry to participate in the Collaborative.
 - Must have 100% agreement within industry stakeholder group.
 - These three proposed participants assume that Crab is not the frontline issue, as Crab will likely require other/additional industry participants.

Worth Noting: There were several times during the afternoon that the discussion touched on the possibility that an issue may drive stakeholder participation, e.g. different people may need to participate at different times depending on what issue is being addressed. This possibility needs further discussion/clarification.

Conservation (after discussion the following emerged)

- Five formal participants: The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, Alaska Marine Conservation Council, The Ocean Conservancy, and one not yet identified.
- Participants appointed within six weeks.

Islands

- 10 formal participants; five from each Island:
 - Municipality, Tribal Government, Village Corporation, plus two at-large.
 - Proposals will be made to the respective Councils and Boards.
 - At-large participants will be identified through a community process.
 - At-large participants will likely need assistance from the Collaborative to pay for travel.

Other

- 3 non-voting participants, who are observers offering support to the major Island stakeholders:
 - The Aleut Corporation
 - Aleutian Pribilof Island Association
 - Aleut Marine Mammal Commission (along with Aleut International Association)

Discussion: Definition of Consensus

- During the stakeholder report outs, the Conservation group's initial report reflected on the process and proposed a balanced number of formal participants from each stakeholder group.
- Part of this proposal was that each Island should be recognized as a stakeholder group, which the proposal hoped would make their voice stronger than if they acted as one group only. Those from the Islands responded to the suggestion that they needed to be one stakeholder group, as they had discussed being two, but determined the need to have a joint voice in this Collaborative process.

Worth Noting: This needs to be revisited for clarification.

- Based on this discussion, those present recognized the need to define *consensus* for this effort.
- Due to the divergent interests each of the three proposed Industry participants would represent, those who knew the Industry perspective best were certain that consensus within their stakeholder group would be absolutely necessary.
- Based on further discussion, those present determined that the definition of consensus must be *full consensus*, meaning that any of the formal stakeholder participants will have the ability to veto a recommendation if they are unable to live with it.

ACTION: Those present agreed that either a letter or resolution from an interest group or organization should be used to designate the formal representatives to the Pribilof Islands Collaborative.

Other Collaborative Process Elements

- *Proposed Process Timeline* (page 4 of the September *Executive Summary*). Those present suggested that a joint meeting with the NPFMC Fur Seal Committee would not be needed.
- *Proposed Interaction with NPFMC*, there was insufficient time to discuss this process element.
- *Budget and Funding Strategies* were briefly discussed—see Next Steps.
- *Definitions*, there was insufficient time to discuss this process element.
- *Information Needs*, many needs were identified during the day-and-a-half of presentations, but the group did not have time to discuss, refine or prioritize those identified.

Additional Recommendations

- Broaden the Awareness of the Pribilof Islands Collaborative
This will ensure that those who can help implement are involved early in the process. Those mentioned were:
 - Funding agencies
 - Economic Development organizations
 - Denali Commission
 - State and Federal agencies
 - Representatives from Congressional Delegation
- Ensure the issues the Pribilof Islands Collaborative addresses are not duplicative; this will help make the effort more fundable.

Next Steps

Actions useful to take before the next meeting:

- Formalize participation from each stakeholder group.
- Seek funding from Rasmusen Foundation and Congressional Delegation. (It was suggested that participation needed to be formalized first before any letters are sent.)
- Current Steering Committee continues to function as it has, including revising budget based on the discussions at this meeting.
- Determine date of next meeting: Either March 2-4 or April 7-9. The date will largely be dependent on when the Pribilof Islands RAB (Restoration Advisory Board) meeting will be held, as the Collaborative wants to avoid any scheduling conflict with those meetings.

Next Meeting Date: April 6 and 7 in Anchorage. Discussions after the January meeting revealed that April 6—7 would ensure the greatest level of participation, and have the least scheduling conflict with other important meetings.

Proposed Agenda Items for April

Purpose of the next meeting is to formalize the Pribilof Islands Collaborative by having the formal designees from stakeholder groups participating. The following agenda items were also identified:

- Administrative Issues
 - Items from January meeting not addressed:
 - Timeline
 - Interaction with NPFMC
 - Budget & Funding Strategy
 - Definitions
 - Organizational structure
 - Name
 - Logo
 - Usefulness of MOU's with other organizations
 - Locations of Meetings
- Proposed Issues to Address
 - Strawman Problem Statements
 - Linkages of issues, e.g., ecosystem approach and concerns with single species management
 - Identified Research Areas – Now What?
- **FUN!** Create time for socializing.

St. Paul Island Beach Clean-up

To conclude the meeting, Ron Clarke of Marine Conservation Alliance and Phil Zavadil of the Tribal Government of St. Paul Ecosystem Conservation Office provided a short presentation of *Beach Clean Up* on St. Paul in previous years.

They invited anyone who wanted to help, to please join them April 28—May 4. Volunteers are needed to help remove the massive amounts of fishing gear, nets and debris left on the beaches during the winter in preparation for the coming northern fur seal breeding season.

Note: Possible Pribilof Islands Collaborative meeting on May 5—6: There are serious discussions of having a meeting on St. Paul, associated with the *Beach Clean Up*.

Research and Funding Needs Identified by Presenters and Through Discussions

Halibut

- Changes in food habits of mammals and birds
- Changes in distribution and abundance of forage fish
- Temperature effects on halibut distribution
- Spatial recruitment patterns
- Better genetic stock studies
- More tagging sites along the Aleutians
- Distribution and abundance of forage fish
- Analysis of spatial data and age of bycatch

- Investigate changes in the food habits of seabirds and fur seals. Are these changes a result of depletion of preferred forage fish?
- Investigate apparent slow growth rates of halibut. Lots of small fish are caught—hard to find large males. Both sexes and across the range, growth rates seem slow.

Crab Around the Pribilof Islands

- Better stock assessment methods.
- ADF&G pot surveys/ habitat associations: Try to locate areas (none known) where Red King Crab (RKC) can be caught without bycatch of Blue King Crab (BKC).
- BKC rearing study.

Seabirds

- More at-sea projects (what's happening out there drives what happens at the colonies).
- More telemetry studies to determine what at-sea areas are critical.
- Study of auklet productivity.

Ecosystem Dynamics

- There are many needs to understand ecosystem dynamics. For example:
 - What the various species of concern eat.
 - How that affects their reproduction.
 - Why they die.
 - Where they winter.
 - What are the unseen and unpredictable consequences of big removals of biomass (such as most of the great whales)?
- Funding Support
 - Pribilovians can help scientists get the money they need for research (since they are the stewards of the Islands).

Community-Based Monitoring

- Pribilof Islands Stewardship Program has money to establish community-based monitoring projects on the Pribilofs and in other Alaskan and Russian Bering Sea coastal communities.
- The Stewardship Program needs input from communities about what to monitor.

Note: World Wildlife Fund has also recently received funding from the National Science Foundation to establish a community-based monitoring program on the Pribilof Islands and some Bering Sea coastal communities.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

- Better documentation of ecosystem, species, and changes over time.

Whales

- Large whales: Right whale critical habitat petition is being advanced, but no designation yet. Need research to see what that critical habitat is (need to define “essential elements”).

Northern Fur Seal Conservation Plan Update with Revisions

- A new plan has been drafted but not yet finalized under the co-management agreement between the tribes and NMFS.

Fur Seals

- Focus on juvenile seals
 - Health of pups when they leave the Islands
 - Where they go
 - Where they return to
 - Has there been a change in average length of foraging bouts in recent years? Is the length of a foraging trip correlated with food density? Do individuals have to go farther/ longer to catch food today?
- Bogoslof Island: Origin and composition of this population requires further study
- Changes in survival, condition, and reproductive rates
- Explore how fur seal research can be better coordinated with other fur seal and research being conducted with other species, e.g., seabirds
- How do we separate the effects on these species of suspected overfishing/resource extraction and climate change?
- Is there really competition between fisheries and these species? Just because they consume the same items doesn't mean they are competing to the detriment of the marine mammals.
- There are plans to continue the study on causes of mortality, but funding is appallingly low.
- Need to repair/rebuild catwalks to allow access of researchers to breeding sites.
- Develop comprehensive research strategy and funding requirements by initially determining:
 - Where research funds currently are, what and who they fund
 - What research is needed
 - Prioritize research needs
 - Develop awareness to ensure necessary funding
 - Fur seal research funding desperately needed
 - Summary of types of research done/ being done on fur seals would be helpful
 - This Collaborative could help identify novel sources of funding

Brief Summary of Presentations

The following is only a brief summary of the informative presentations that were given during the January meeting. For more detailed notes, please go to www.worldwildlife.org/beringsea_erbc/ or contact Denise Woods at wwfberingsea@alaska.net.

Anthony B. Mercuilief of St. George Island spoke about the rich cultural history of the Pribilof Islands and the role that traditional culture plays today in binding the people together and keeping the communities strong. In particular Anthony noted the importance of the Islanders' native language; subsistence food sources and a subsistence diet; traditional knowledge of hunts and food gathering spots; spirituality and the Russian Orthodox church; and community gatherings and dances. Anthony also spoke about the past government occupation of the Islands and described the changes he has observed around the Islands over the years. He also shared personal memories of his family's ill treatment and humiliation at the hands of the federal agents.

Henry Huntington of Huntington Consulting spoke on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), drawing from his experience documenting and utilizing TEK. For the purposes of the discussion, TEK was loosely defined as the collective, shared knowledge of the residents and resource users of a particular area. Henry spoke about the characteristics of TEK, why we need to use it, and how to more effectively integrate its use into Western Science and management decision-making. He also discussed some of the practical difficulties of using TEK, including the lack of written data/ documentation to accompany observations and lack of recognized peer review of such data. Better documentation of TEK is needed but there is a lack of funding to promote such work.

Lowell Fritz of the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Alaska Fisheries Science Center provided a general overview on fisheries research and surveys being conducted in the Bering Sea, including locations of the various fisheries and the documented trends in biomass and recruitment of the fished species. Among the trends, Lowell noted that pollock, after increasing throughout the 1980's and declining during the early 1990's, have begun to increase again in numbers; perch/ rockfish biomass is also rebuilding from an earlier low. Cod, conversely, have continued to decline and are currently at half of their 1980's biomass. Flatfish species have declined or remained stable and mackerel biomass has continued to fluctuate.

Tim Loher of the International Pacific Halibut Commission reported on the well-documented decline in halibut CPUE around the Pribilof Islands and about efforts to understand what is causing this. He explained some of the possible causes, including climate change, and warned that the problem might not be limited to the Pribilof Islands but could reflect a decline throughout the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. Tim expressed a need for better understanding the genetic stock structure of the various halibut populations, more data on the distribution and abundance of forage fish, and an analysis of halibut bycatch by catch location and age.

Gordon Kruse of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) spoke about the population trends of crabs fished for in the Bering Sea (St. Mathew blue king crab, Pribilof Islands red and blue king crab, Bristol Bay and Pribilof Islands tanner crab, and eastern Bering Sea snow crab); all species have declined in recent decades. Gordon also discussed mechanisms that affect population numbers and presented several theories to explain the declines, including over-fishing, bycatch and handling mortality, and recruitment changes. He also mentioned some of the work being done to rebuild the stocks and expressed a need for better data on stock assessment methods to set better quotas or establish closures.

Chris Mercurief of St. George Island provided a TEK perspective on fisheries, which included observations that catch numbers are low and don't seem to be improving, that halibut have switched their diets, that local fishermen now catch few sculpin (which used to be plentiful), there are now many octopus and cod (which used to be rare), and that whales and porpoises have left the area. Fishermen now must travel much further to find good fishing. Recommended research needs included a study of food habits of seabirds and marine mammals (are their diets changing due to loss of prey species?) and an investigation of the apparent slow growth of halibut/ lack of large males.

Rolf Ream of NMFS National Marine Mammal Lab provided a general overview of fur seal research, including who studies fur seals, where they occur/ are studied, the foci of research, and the use of research results. He reported that fur seal numbers on the Pribilof Islands have declined drastically (to 32% of their 1950's numbers) and that pup production has fallen 5% during each of the past 4 years. In contrast, fur seals have become much more numerous at Bogsloff Island (up 59% each year since the 1980's). Suggested research needs include, better determining the origin and composition of the Bogsloff Island population and conducting foraging studies to determine the role of prey availability/ density on fur seal foraging bout time. Rolf pointed out that the annual funding of northern fur seal research is only about \$125,000/year and will, so far, be zero this year.

Andrew Trites of the University of British Columbia, Research Director of the North Pacific Universities Marine Mammal Research Consortium, provided an overview of population trends of various species of marine mammals. He reported that in the Bering Sea, there have been dramatic declines in northern fur seals, harbor seals, Steller sea lions, and sea otters, all beginning in the 1980's. Conversely, south of the Alaska/Canada border, these and other species seem to be increasing in numbers. Andrew discussed different explanations for the declines, including: killer whale predation, food web effects from commercial whaling, toxins, climate change, over-fishing, and poor nutrition.

Field and laboratory studies are needed to determine the combined effects of these factors as well as how the factors affect each other.

Richard Zaharof of St. Paul Island spoke briefly about the current northern fur seal subsistence harvest. He provided a historical perspective of the commercial harvest that ended in 1984 and described how the harvest today supplies meat for residents on the Island. He expressed concern that in recent years, the number of active fur seal rookeries on St. Paul has dropped from 7 to 4, and how this year for subsistence, they took only 1/3 of the number of seals as in past years.

Terry Spraker, a professor of veterinary medicine at Colorado State University, spoke about his research on the causes of mortality in northern fur seals recovered from rookeries during 1986-2003. He reported that pup mortality resulted primarily from emaciation (52% of recovered carcasses) and trauma (19%), mostly bites from other seals. There was low incidence of mortality from disease or infection but there has been an overall increase in pup mortality due to starvation in recent years. Subadult mortality resulted primarily from the subsistence harvest and adult males and females mostly died as a result of trauma (bites). Research needs include determining if pup mortality is increasing due to poor female nutritional health, but funding is non-existent. There is an urgent need to rebuild the catwalks used by researchers for observation at the rookeries.

Kent Sundseth with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service provided the group with an overview of seabird ecology, the value of seabirds to the local area, and current and recommended research. Most of the Pribilof's seabirds breed on St. George (12 species), including the largest seabird colony in Alaska (thick-billed murres) and 85% of the world's red-legged kittiwakes. Seabirds are valued as research tools (they are visible and highly concentrated and feed at all water and trophic levels), as subsistence food, and for ecotourism. Current research includes: diet analysis, identification of important foraging areas, tissue sampling for contaminants, and survivorship. Research needs include more at-sea projects, telemetry studies, and a study of auklet productivity.

Andy Kashevarof of St. George Island provided his observations of seabirds on the Island and noted changes he has seen in recent years. These include vegetation growth and subsequent degradation of nesting sites where ground nesting birds use to be, and that there are fewer birds observed today since the commercial fur seal harvest ended (the harvest may have attracted and fed many birds). It was noted that some residents have observed fewer winter birds, too. Andy reported that, overall, things are good for seabirds on the Pribilof Islands.

Alan Springer, a researcher from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, provided an overview of seabird population fluctuations over the past several decades. He reported that many species, such as red-legged kittiwakes, declined in number from the mid-1970's until the late 1990's, but that numbers for most species are now on the rise. Numbers today do not indicate great cause for concern, but rather they show great variability in numbers across years and in different locations. For example, coincident with declines on the Pribilofs have been increases on Buldir and Bogslof Islands. Research is needed to understand if this is due to better prey availability at these sites. Alan also provided an overview of Bering Sea ecosystem dynamics – the big picture, and how major changes such as time, climate, and humans play a role in changes we are observing today. He also provided recommendations on what research is needed to better understand ecosystem dynamics (basically, we need to know more about every component of the ecosystem).

Larry Mercuileff of the Alaska Native Science Commission and originally from St. Paul Island, provided a TEK perspective on ecosystem dynamics, which included observations of changes that Aleuts noticed and reported decades ago that seem to indicate food stress (seabirds in poor health, sea

lions eating their pups, thin pelts). He also shared current observations and concerns, including that Western science alone is not effective in stopping the degradation of the ecosystem and that there is a need for greater humility among scientists. He identified a need for greater cooperation/coordination between U.S., Russian, and native scientists. Larry concluded by talking about the importance of Pribilovians helping to develop funding to conduct the research they think is necessary.

Kaja Brix, the Assistant Regional Administrator of NOAA-NMFS-Protected Resources for the Alaska Region, spoke about the agency's responsibilities regarding Alaska marine mammal management. She spoke of the specific statutes they abide by to protect northern fur seals, Steller sea lions, harbor seals, and whales. Specifics of the co-management agreement between NMFS and the tribal governments were discussed and the benefits of working in such a collaborative effort were highlighted. Suggested research needs included a better understanding of right whale critical habitat characteristics (the "essential elements") and a summary of past and present research efforts on northern fur seals. A lack of funding for northern fur seal research was again noted.

Todd Loomis, manager of the Anchorage Field Office for the NOAA-North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program, provided an overview of that program, including its history, the number of current observers, the type of data that are collected, and requirements for becoming an observer. This resulted in a discussion about a need to change the educational requirements of observers to an experiential equivalent of a Bachelor's Degree (many local residents would participate in the program if a B.S. was not required).

Bill Wilso, who is the Protected Resources Coordinator of the NPFMC, provided an overview of the Council's responsibilities, its structure, and public participation process. Bill also provided an update of the work being done by the NPRMC northern fur seal committee.

Mike Williams, a wildlife biologist at LGL Alaska Research Associates, Inc., provided an update of the Northern Fur Seal Conservation Plan, stating that a revised version of the 1993 plan was nearing completion, but funds were not available for implementation. Revisions primarily involved new information on population trends and abundances, behavior and ecology, entanglement, foraging ecology, and contamination. There has been a concerted effort to bring local TEK into the revised edition.

Karl Haflinger of SeaState provided an overview of the Bering Sea fishery, with some historical perspectives over the last several decades. He reported that the commercial industry has noted a decline in flatfish and cod from a high in the 1990's. Karl also provided a break down of halibut bycatch by fishery and species fished: trawl fisheries report approximately 3400 metric tons/year (especially from cod and yellowfin sole fishing) while longline fisheries report approximately 641 metric tons/year (especially from cod, sablefish, and turbot fishing). The Pollock fishery does not appear to produce a large amount of halibut bycatch in the area of the Pribilof Islands.

Philip Lestenkof from Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association on St. Paul, provided the community's and TEK perspective on local fisheries. Philip noted the dramatic decline in halibut CPUE observed in the past decade: there are fewer landings made, fewer boats landing with fish, and less total catch in pounds. He made a strong connection between the level of effort now needed for halibut catch and the increased costs, both in terms of increased time required to search for fish and the direct costs for fuel for fishing boats making longer excursions. He expressed concern that local commercial fishing is becoming less and less profitable and that subsistence fishing is also more difficult. The local fishing industry is an important source of employment on the Islands but many local fishermen have left the business due to poor catches. Philip reports that CBSFA has proposed a fisheries boundary change to NPFMC in an effort to keep large commercial trawl fleets away from the islands.

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