

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver *Chris*
Executive Director
DATE: February 3, 2010
SUBJECT: Staff Tasking

ESTIMATED TIME 4 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

Review tasking and committees and provide direction

BACKGROUND

Committees and Tasking

The list of Council committees is attached as Item D-4(a). An updated workplan for implementing the programmatic groundfish management policy is attached as Item D-4(b). Item D-4(c) is the three meeting outlook and Item D-4(d) provides a summary of current projects and tasking. The Council may wish to discuss priorities for completing ongoing projects, as well as any new tasks assigned during the course of this meeting.

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups
(Revised February 2, 2010)

AGENDA D-4(a)
FEBRUARY 2010

Council/Board of Fisheries Joint Protocol Committee

Updated: 8/10/07	<u>Council:</u> Dave Benson Ed Dersham Eric Olson	<u>Board:</u> Larry Edfelt John Jensen Mel Morris
Staff: Jane DiCosimo		

Council Coordination Committee

[Designated and renamed by Magnuson Act reauthorization April 2007]

Appointed: 4/05 Updated: 7/23/09 Staff: Chris Oliver	<u>CFMC:</u> C: Eugenio Pinerio ED: Miguel Rolon	<u>NPFMC:</u> C: Eric Olson ED: Chris Oliver
	<u>GMFMC:</u> C: Robert Shipp ED: Steve Bortone	<u>PFMC:</u> C: Dave Ortmann ED: Don McIsaac
	<u>MAFMC:</u> C: Richard Robins ED: Dan Furlong	<u>SAFMC:</u> C: Duane Harris ED: Bob Mahood
	<u>NEFMC:</u> C: John Pappalardo ED: Paul Howard	<u>WPFMC:</u> C: Stephen Haleck ED: Kitty Simonds

Council Executive/Finance Committee

Updated: 8/10/07	Eric Olson (Chair) Doug Mecum (NMFS) Alt. Sue Salvesson Dave Hanson (PSMFC) Denby Lloyd (ADFG) Alt. Dave Bedford Roy Hyder (ODFW) Bill Tweit (WDFW)
<u>Status:</u> Meet as necessary	
Staff: Chris Oliver/Dave Witherell/Gail Bendixen	

Bering Sea Crab Advisory Committee

Appointed 4/25/07	Sam Cotten (Chair)	Lenny Herzog
Revised 11/15/07	Jerry Bongen	Kevin Kaldestad
	Steve Branson	Frank Kely
	Florence Colburn	John Moller
	Linda Freed	Rob Rogers
	Dave Hambleton	Simeon Swetozof
	Phil Hanson	Ernest Weiss
Staff: Mark Fina	Tim Henkel	

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups
(Revised February 2, 2010)

BS/AI Pacific Cod Split Committee

Pending appointment
Staff: Nicole Kimball

Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch Workgroup

Appointed: 3/07 Staff: Diana Stram	Stephanie Madsen (Co-chair) Eric Olson (Co-chair) Becca Robbins Gisclair John Gruver Karl Haflinger	Jennifer Hooper Paul Peyton Mike Smith Vincent Webster (BOF)
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Comprehensive Economic Data Collection Committee

Appointed: 12/07 Updated: 2/9/09 Staff: Jeannie Heltzel	John Henderschedt (Chair) Bruce Berg Michael Catsi Dave Colpo Paula Cullenberg	Brett Reasor Glenn Reed Ed Richardson Mike Szymanski Gale Vick
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Crab Interim Action Committee

[Required under BSAI Crab FMP]

Doug Mecum, NMFS Denby Lloyd, ADF&G Phil Anderson, WDF
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Ecosystem Committee

Updated: 10/22/07 <u>Status</u> : Active Staff: Diana Evans	Stephanie Madsen (Chair) Jim Ayers Dave Benton Doug DeMaster/Bill Karp Dave Fluharty John Iani Jon Kurland Caleb Pungowiyi
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NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(Revised February 2, 2010)

Enforcement Committee

<p>Updated: 7/03</p> <p><u>Status</u>: Active</p> <p>Staff: Jon McCracken</p>	<p>Roy Hyder (Chair) CAPT Mike Cerne, USCG Jon Streigel, AK F&W Protection Martin Loefflad, NMFS Stefanie Moreland, ADF&G Lisa Lindeman/Garland Walker, NOAA-GC Sherrie Meyers/Ken Hansen, NMFS-Enforcement Sue Salvesson, NMFS</p>
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Fur Seal Committee

<p>Updated: 8/10/07</p> <p><u>Status</u>: Active</p> <p>Staff: Jeannie Heltzel</p>	<p>David Benson (Chair) Larry Cotter Aquilina Lestenkof Paul MacGregor Heather McCarty Anthony Mercurief</p>
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GOA Groundfish Rationalization Community Committee

<p>Appointed: 11/04</p> <p>Staff: Nicole Kimball</p>	<p>Hazel Nelson (Chair) Julie Bonney Duncan Fields Chuck McCallum</p>	<p>Patrick Norman Joe Sullivan Chuck Totemoff Ernie Weiss</p>
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Halibut Charter Stakeholder Committee

<p>Appointed: 1/06 Revised: 11/5/07 <u>Status</u>: Idle, pending direction</p> <p>Staff: Jane DiCosimo</p>	<p>Dave Hanson (Chair) Seth Bone Robert Candopoulos Ricky Gease John Goodhand Kathy Hansen Dan Hull</p>	<p>Chuck McCallum Larry McQuarrie Rex Murphy Peggy Parker Charles "Chaco" Pearman Greg Sutter</p>
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IFQ Implementation Committee

<p>Reconstituted: 7/31/03 Updated: 11/09</p> <p>Staff: Jane DiCosimo</p>	<p>Dan Hull (Chair) Bob Alverson Rick Berns Julianne Curry Tim Henkel Don Iverson</p>	<p>Jeff Kauffman Don Lane Kris Norosz Paul Peyton Jeff Stephans Phil Wyman</p>
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NPFMC Committees & Workgroups
(Revised February 2, 2010)

Non-Target Species Committee

Appointed: 7/03 Updated: 8/10/07 Staff: Jane DiCosimo, NPFMC/ Olav Ormseth, AFSC	Dave Benson (Chair) Julie Bonney John Gauvin Ken Goldman Karl Haflinger Simon Kinneen	Michelle Ridgway Janet Smoker Paul Spencer Lori Swanson Jon Warrenchuk
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Observer Advisory Committee

Reconstituted: 6/09 Updated: 7/09 <u>Status</u> : Active Staff: Chris Oliver/ Nicole Kimball	Denby Lloyd (co-Chair) Bill Tweit (co-Chair) Bob Alverson Christian Asay Jerry Bongen Julie Bonney Kenny Down Matt Hegge	Michael Lake Todd Loomis Paul MacGregor Tracey Mayhew Brent Paine Theresa Peterson Kathy Robinson Ann Vanderhoeven Richie Davis
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Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee

Appointed: 2/07 Staff: Diana Stram	Steve Minor (Chair) Keith Colburn Lance Farr Phil Hanson Kevin Kaldestad Garry Loncon Gary Painter	Rob Rogers Vic Sheibert Gary Stewart Tom Suryan Arni Thomson, Secretary (non-voting)
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Rural Outreach Committee

Appointed: 6/09 Staff: Nicole Kimball	Eric Olson (Chair) Paula Cullenberg Duncan Fields Jennifer Hooper Tom Okleasik Ole Olsen Pete Probasco
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NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(Revised February 2, 2010)

Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee

Appointed: 2/01 Updated: 11/09 [formerly SSL RPA Committee; renamed February 2002] Staff: Jeannie Heltzel Advisor: Dan Hennen	Larry Cotter (Chair) Jerry Bongen Julie Bonney Kenny Down John Gauvin Pat Hardina Sue Hills Frank Kelty	Steve MacLean Stephanie Madsen Max Malavansky, Jr Gerry Merrigan Mel Morris Art Nelson Glenn Reed Beth Stewart
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VMS Committee

Appointed: 6/02 <u>Status</u> : Idle, pending direction Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Roy Hyder (Chair) Al Burch Guy Holt Ed Page LCDR Lisa Ragone Lori Swanson
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Groundfish Workplan

Priority actions revised in February 2007, status updated to current

General Priority (in no particular order)	Specific priority actions	Related to management objective:	Status (updated 2-1-10)	2010					2011					
				Feb	Apr	Jun	Oct	Dec	Feb	Apr	Jun	Oct	Dec	
Prevent Overfishing	a. continue to develop management strategies that ensure sustainable yields of target species and minimize impacts on populations of incidentally-caught species	5	Aggregate ABC/OFL for GOA 'other species' in Apr 08 BSAI skates TAC breakout in Oct 2009 remaining other species mgmt addressed under ACLs; initial review in Feb 10	█										
	b. evaluate effectiveness of setting ABC levels using Tier 5 and 6 approaches, for rockfish and other species	4	AFSC responding to CIE reviews as part of harvest specifications process											
	c. continue to develop a systematic approach to lumping and splitting that takes into account both biological and management considerations	5	BSAI Pcod split discussion in Apr 10 report from non-target species committee in Dec 09	█										
Preserve Food Web	a. encourage and participate in development of key ecosystem indicators	10	ecosystem SAFE presented annually; AI FEP identified/refined indicators for the Aleutians					█						█
	b. Reconcile procedures to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in establishing harvest limits, for rockfish and other species	11	report from non-target species committee in Dec 09											
	c. develop pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the AI	13	FEP brochure published Dec 07 FEP team meeting in Jan 2010, updates planned	█	█	█	█	█						
Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	a. explore incentive-based bycatch reduction programs in GOA and BSAI fisheries	15	partially addressed in BSAI salmon bycatch EIS											
	b. explore mortality rate-based approaches to setting PSC limits in GOA and BSAI fisheries	20	partially addressed in BSAI salmon bycatch EIS											
	c. consider new management strategies to reduce incidental rockfish bycatch and discards	17												
	d. develop statistically rigorous approaches to estimating bycatch in line with national initiatives	14, 19	National Bycatch Report update in Dec 07											
	e. encourage research programs to evaluate population estimates for non-target species	16	Part of research priorities, adopted in June 2007											
	f. develop incentive-based and appropriate biomass-based trigger limits and area closures for BSAI salmon bycatch reduction, as information becomes available	14, 15, 20	bycatch limit for Chinook adopted Apr 09; review methodology for chum analysis in Feb 10	█	█	█	█	█						
	g. assess impact of management measures on regulatory discards and consider measures to reduce where practicable	17	partially addressed by GOA arrowtooth MRA analysis (Council action Oct 07)											

February 8, 2010 Portland, OR Benson Hotel	April 6, 2010 Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel	June 7, 2010 Sitka, AK
IPHC Report AFA Coop Reports Catch Shares Task Force: Comment NS2 proposed rule: SSC Review/Comment Marine Spatial Planning: Comment BSFRF/NOAA Crab Survey: Report Crab ACL: Progress Report (SSC only) Am 80 Lost Vessel Replacement: Initial Review Am 80 Cooperative Formation: Final Action CGOA Rockfish Program: Preliminary Review Obs Program Implementation Plan: Progress/ OAC Report BSAI Crab ROFR: Initial Review BSAI WAG: Initial Review Economic Data Collection: Disc paper Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Proposals: Review & action as necessary CQE Program: Review/Disc paper BS Chum Salmon Bycatch: Review proposed area closures; and analytical methods Groundfish ACL Requirements: Initial Review Bering Sea P.cod TAC stranding: Discussion paper Halibut PSC Limits: Discussion paper H&L Catch Accounting: Discussion paper AI FEP addendum: Report and action as necessary EFH report: SSC review HAPC Criteria and Schedule: Review/Adopt SSC Workshop	SSL Biological Opinion: Review and action as necessary BS&AI P.cod Split: Discuss plan/action as necessary GOA P.cod sideboards for crab vessels: Initial Review Am 80 Lost Vessel Replacement: Final Action CGOA Rockfish Program: Initial Review BSAI Crab ROFR: Final Action (T) BSAI WAG: Final Action (T) Northern BS Research Plan: Review Progress Groundfish ACL Requirements: Final Action (T) GOA Tanner Crab Bycatch: Initial Review (T) GOA Chinook Salmon Bycatch: Discussion paper (T) Crab ACLs: Preliminary Review Snow/Tanner Rebuilding Plans: PT report; Preliminary Review Pribilof BKC Rebuilding Plan: Preliminary Review Scallop SAFE: Plan Team Report Scallop ACLs: Preliminary Review EFH 5-Year Evaluation/HAPC Priorities: Final Review and action as necessary	MPA Discussion Paper: Review (T) GOA P.cod sideboards for crab vessels: Final Action (T) CGOA Rockfish Program: Final Action Observer Program Restructuring: Initial Review (T) Hagermeister Island: Initial Review (T) BSAI Chum Salmon Bycatch: Finalize alternatives Arrowtooth Flounder MRA: Initial Review GOA Tanner Crab Bycatch: Final Action (T) Crab ACLs: Initial Review Snow/Tanner Rebuilding Plans: Initial Review Pribilof BKC Rebuilding Plan: Initial Review Scallop ACLs: Initial Review

AI - Aleutian Islands
 GOA - Gulf of Alaska
 SSL - Steller Sea Lion
 BOF - Board of Fisheries
 FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan
 CDQ - Community Development Quota
 VMS - Vessel Monitoring System
 EFP - Exempted Fishing Permit
 BiOp - Biological Opinion
 (T) Tentatively scheduled

TAC - Total Allowable Catch
 BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
 IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
 GHV - Guideline Harvest Level
 EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
 LLP - License Limitation Program
 SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation
 MPA - Marine Protected Area
 ACL - Annual Catch Limit
 HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern

Future Meeting Dates and Locations

February 8, 2010 in Portland OR
 April 6-, 2010 in Anchorage (start on Tuesday)
 June 7 - , 2010 in Sitka
 Oct 4, 2010 in Anchorage (Captain Cook)
 Dec 6- 2010 in Anchorage Hilton
 January 31-February 8, 2011-Seattle
 March 28-April 5, 2011-Anchorage
 June (TBA)
 September 26-, 2011 in Unalaska

NPFMC/NMFS Action - updated 2/3/10

Timeline

Action	Status	Staffing	2010														
			February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec				
Blue = Post Council Action, Rulemaking																	
BSAI Chinook Salmon Bycatch	Preparation of ROD	NMFS 100%															
Halibut Catch sharing plan	Preparation of final analytical documents and rulemaking package	NMFS 80% Council 20%															
LLP recency actions	Preparation of final analytical documents and rulemaking package	NMFS 80% Council 20%															
Recent Crab Rationalization program changes	Preparation of analytical documents and rulemaking package	NMFS 80% Council 20%															
Litigation workload	Ongoing	NMFS 90% Council 10%															
BSAI fixed gear parallel waters	Final action in June 2009, rulemaking to follow	NMFS 70% Council 30%															
Permit fees in all fisheries	Preparation of final analytical documents and rulemaking package	NMFS 100% Council 0%															
BSAI skate amendment	Proposed and Final Rule	NMFS 100% Council 0%															
Bottom trawl sweeps	Preparation of final analytical documents and rulemaking package	NMFS 90% Council 10%															
GOA P cod sector splits	Preparation of analytical documents and rulemaking package	NMFS 10% Council 90%															
Observer Reg. Package	Preparation of Final Rule	NMFS 90% Council 10%															
Remove inactive Halibut/Sablefish QS	Proposed and Final Rule	NMFS 100% Council 0%															

2010

Action

Status

Staffing

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

Sept

Oct

Nov

Dec

Yellow = Project initiated but not yet fully underway			
Grenadiers, EC category	Committee meeting in April	NMFS 30% Council 70%	
Salmon FMP ACL or Repeal	To follow after groundfish, crab, and scallop ACLs	NMFS 50% Council 50%	
MPA nomination process	Discuss in June 2010	NMFS 40% Council 60%	
NBS Research Plan	Progress report in April	NMFS 80% Council 20%	
Economic Data Collection Program	Ongoing considerations	NMFS 20% Council 80%	
Crab rationalization 5-year review	Review in 2010	NMFS 20% Council 80%, limited potential for contract assistance	

PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP SHEET

Agenda Item: D-4 Staff Tasking

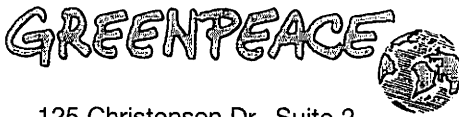
	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF:
1	George Pletnikoff	Greenpeace/AITC
2	Joe Sullivan and Edward Poulsen	ICE PAC
3	DAVE BENTON	MCA
4	Joe Plesha, Heather McCarty, Mateo Paz Soldan	Trident/CBSFA/City of St. Paul
5	Jake Jacobsen	ICE
6	Steve Minor	NPCA
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NOTE 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.

Protect Bering Sea Canyons



GREENPEACE



125 Christensen Dr., Suite 2
Anchorage, AK 99501
Tel.: 907-277-8234
Fax: 907-272-6519

February 10, 2010

Mr. Eric Olsen, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West Fourth Ave., Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

RE: CULTURAL HERITAGE ZONES

Dear Mr. Olsen:


As a part of your Review and Adoption of Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) for the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, agenda item D-3 (d), I would like to submit the following request for your immediate attention.

Representing the wishes of over 102,000 Alaska Native peoples, resolutions adopted by the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), the Alaska Inter Tribal Council (AITC), and several Tribal Governments, request that the Council establish Marine Cultural Heritage Zones (CHZ) in the State and Federal waters in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. This effectively constitutes the support of the entire Alaska Native peoples; 12 Regional Corporations, over 200 Village Corporations and over 200 Federally recognized Tribes. We sincerely hope the Council will not ignore the wishes of the First Nations of Alaska, the State most impacted by your oversight responsibilities of our off shore fishery.

We ask that you request staff to work closely with Greenpeace's staff and our village Tribal staff to protect the marine resources Alaska Natives depend upon, as well as the habitats that sustain these species. Food security is quickly becoming a serious issue, and the survival of many communities is at stake. We feel it will become even more severe until and unless we begin to protect our needs.

Thank you very much for your attention. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


George Plehnikoff
Alaska Oceans Campaigner

CC Encls.

Our Land and our Waters: Our Future

As Unangan (Aleut) people who have lived and survived on the Islands of the Aleutian Chain for almost 10,000 years, our survival and our foods have always come from the waters surrounding our Island villages.

The Pribilof Islands were discovered in 1786 by Russian navigator Gavriil Pribilof, ending a three-year search by Siberian merchants for the breeding site of the valuable fur seals. The roaring of seals drew Pribilofs boat through the summer fog to St. George Island. Thus the Pribilof Islands. These islands were not inhabited when discovered. Following this discovery, small bands of Unangan were enslaved to these islands from the Aleutian Chain to protect and harvest the millions of fur seals found there. Thus began a 200 year history of a people misplaced by governments eager to make money off of the vast resources found then and now in the form of fish and crab. The legacy of slavery seems to continue into twenty-first century America.

Today the descendents of the enslaved Unangan, done first by Russia and later by America, are struggling to survive on the islands in which our ancestors made a living and in which many are buried. The once abundant northern fur seal populations, once ranging in number into the millions, are now numbered around 550,000 and steadily declining. The millions of pounds of king and tanner crab fishery are either a fraction of what they once were or are now closed due to overfishing. Today only a small percentage of fish once so abundant are now being taken by a hand full of large industrialized factory trawlers, long liners and crabbers, many coming to the Bering Sea from far away ports in the lower 48 states.

Traditional foods are moving away, or in many cases becoming so stressed due to the lack of their own foods, that the Unangan are finding it very difficult to fill their needs. With "store bought" foods so expensive and non-nutritious, the Unangan are once again facing an uncertain future. Again a group of people taken from their homes to protect and harvest fur seal may be forced to move from their homes because of poorly managed fisheries by the United States of America.

These distressing activities are not only happening to the Unangan of the Bering Sea, but to all coastal tribal communities who depend upon the waters for survival. For every village, it's the water that provides and not the land.

As a result, the Alaska Federation of Natives recently passed a resolution at their 2009 convention in Anchorage to establish cultural heritage zones to help protect our foods and the habitat they depend upon in our waters. This is a major first step. Now our tribal governments must take the lead and begin to identify and designate these sites.

One such community is the Pribilof Island village of St. George. Their tribal leaders have

been in discussions, workshops and research to find a solution to how the bottom trawlers can be stopped before critical benthic habitat is destroyed!

Recently both the Village Corporation and the tribal government of St. George have joined forces to seek cultural heritage zone protections for the waters immediately around their island as well as within the critical habitats of both the Pribilof and Zhemchug Canyons. What they are demanding our governments do is establish no trawl zones within twenty miles around St. George Island and no trawls deeper than 100 fathoms in both Canyons.

The leadership of our Tribes are also requesting that the State and Federal Governments responsible for the management of these resources formulate co- management agreements to ensure local input in any future decisions regarding the use of these fishery resources. This is about the survival of a people. This is about food security. This is about finally recognizing local tribal communities as valuable partners in the understanding of our nation's ocean resources and seeking their valuable input in its management.

George Pletnikoff is Unangan from St. George Island. He is Alaska Oceans Campaigner for Greenpeace living in Palmer.

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-27

TITLE: THE CLIMATE CHANGES IN THE OCEANIC SYSTEMS REQUIRE PROTECTIONS FOR OUR VILLAGES

WHEREAS: The climate changes affecting the Arctic Ocean is having a dramatic impact on the overall health of the Bering Sea and other oceanic systems adjacent to Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The impacts on our Tribal villages brought about by climate change are compounded by large factory trawler fishing boats, especially affecting our subsistence salmon needs through their by-catch problems North of the Alaska Peninsula; and

WHEREAS: The foods upon which we depend for survival are either declining in numbers or moving further away from our homes, thus making it more expensive and difficult to provide food for our families; and,

WHEREAS: We must work to establish protections and stop habitat destruction by bottom trawlers to ensure our foods have enough food to survive to provide for our needs;

WHEREAS: The AFN 2009 Convention has already passed Resolution 09-09 protecting 50 mile zones; and this resolution offers a possible mechanism to fulfill that resolution; and.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN supports the need to establish cultural heritage zones in and around our villages and the canyons of the Bering Sea, the Arctic and other Oceanic systems to help protect the habitat used for food, nurturing and caring for their young for the animals we depend upon for our survival; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our Tribal Governments, village and regional ANCSA Corporations and the regional non-profit organizations to work towards establishing these cultural heritage zones by working together through the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, National Marine Fisheries Service, the Alaska Board of Fish and our Congressional Delegation to ensure that these habitats of particular concern are protected for our survival.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG, INC
BOARD ACTION: TO FLOOR
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL

Resolution #2006-05

ENTITLED: Ecosystem Base Management of the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea.

WHEREAS, The Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and the Bering Sea are currently being exploited by commercial bottom trawl and pelagic trawl fishers at a rate that is degrading the overall health of these waters; and

WHEREAS, Localized depletion in the vicinity of Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska islands is contributing to the decline of fur seals, sea lions, and sea birds and forcing fishing dependent communities to travel far offshore in search of fish that were once readily available on our coasts; and

WHEREAS, The Pew Oceans Commission in a report to the President of the United States and to Congress (2003) stated: *"Our activities...are altering and threatening the structure and functioning of marine ecosystems from which all marine life springs and upon which all living things, including humans, depend"*; and

WHEREAS, The Pew Oceans Commission further states: *"We have reached a crossroads where the cumulative effect of what we take from, and put into, the ocean substantially reduces the ability of marine ecosystems to produce the economic and ecological goods and services that we desire and need. What we once considered inexhaustible and resilient is, in fact, finite and fragile"*; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, in its Final Report to the President and Congress (2004) stated: *"U.S. ocean and coastal resources should be managed to reflect the relationships among all ecosystem components, including humans and nonhuman species and the environments in which they live"*; and

WHEREAS, The industrialization of fishing has been responsible for sweeping changes in ocean ecosystems, causing the collapse of many fish populations and the fishing communities that depend on them; and

WHEREAS, The impacts of overfishing are compounded by many other serious threats to our oceans, including climate change, toxic pollution and the destruction of coastal habitats; and

WHEREAS, The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, in its U.S. Ocean Policy Report Card of February 2006, issued our nation's administration, governors and legislature a 'D+' for ocean policy; and

WHEREAS, The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative highlighted the urgent need for a shift to ecosystem-based management (EBM) and the establishment of a network of fully protected marine reserves; and

- WHEREAS,** Congress, in 1996, adopted amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) which, among other things, tasked National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) with convening a panel to develop recommendations “to expand the application of ecosystem principles in fishery conservation and management activities”; and
- WHEREAS,** The report to Congress of the Ecosystem Principals Advisory Panel recommended an ecosystem-based management approach for fisheries and identified a broad fishery conservation and management goal of maintaining the health and sustainability of exploited ecosystems; and
- WHEREAS,** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council has yet to fully implement these measures; and
- WHEREAS,** The United States Congress is preparing, for the first time in 10 years, to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries and Conservation Act (MSA), the law that governs federal fisheries, and consider what changes in the national law are needed for the future; and
- WHEREAS,** This reauthorization follows many clarion calls for major reforms of fisheries management, national ocean policy, and governance in recent national panel reports, all of which have called a more holistic, ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management; and
- WHEREAS,** The U.S. territorial seas and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off Alaska’s 33,000-mile coastline encompasses an area twice the size of the combined East and West Coast EEZs and include some of the most productive marine ecosystems in the world; and
- WHEREAS,** These ecosystems have historically supported some of the largest assemblages of marine mammals and sea birds on Earth, and – since the 1960’s – an enormous fishery for bottom-tending “groundfish,” dominated by Alaska Pollock; and
- WHEREAS,** The biggest source of this bounty is the extensive continental shelf in the eastern Bering Sea, accounting for roughly half the marine fish and shell fish caught in the entire United States annually; and
- WHEREAS,** There are over 64 villages on the Bering Sea Coast alone, and many more on the coast of the Gulf of Alaska, that are totally dependent on the health of these waters for subsistence and commercial small boat fisheries, marine birds and mammals for foods, and local economic, spiritual and cultural needs; and
- WHEREAS,** Many of our coastal villages are suffering great hardships due to over-fishing in near shore waters near our homes, further compounding the devastating effects of global climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that AI-TC does hereby...by the delegates to the December, 2006 meeting of the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council that we call upon the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to take the following actions:

1. Protect the rights and livelihoods of fishing-dependent communities and fish-eating predators by prioritizing efforts to reverse localized depletion; and
2. Utilize time and area closures and more precautionary catch limits to ensure that fishery removals do not jeopardize fishing-dependent communities or recovery of marine populations; and
3. Immediately adopt NMFS recommendations to establish experimental closures to improve our understanding of the changes taking place in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska; and
4. Expand protections to sensitive habitats and communities by establishing Alaska Native Marine Cultural Heritage Zones, which would prevent trawling within twenty miles of Alaskan islands and coasts; and
5. Commit to implementing the draft fishery ecosystem plan for the Aleutian Islands and being development of a similar plan to be implemented for the Bering Sea ecosystem.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this resolution shall be the policy of AI-TC until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, held at the Millennium Alaskan Hotel, in Anchorage, Alaska on December 19, 2006 with a quorum present.

ATTEST:

Olga M. Malutin

Sponsored by: Curyung Tribe



Ian Erlich, Chair



RESOLUTION 07-10

A Resolution of the Qawalangin Tribal Council establishing a Cultural and Traditional Use Zone to protect our subsistence resources and the subsistence food web in the shoreline and near shore areas along the Bering Sea coast of the Island of Unalaska for the cultural and traditional right to survival for the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska now and for future generations.

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and the Bering Sea are currently being exploited by commercial bottom trawl and pelagic trawl fishers at a rate that is degrading the overall health of these waters; **AND**

WHEREAS, localized depletion in the vicinity of the Bering Sea and Unalaska Island is contributing to the decline of all subsistence foods and forcing fishing dependent communities to travel far offshore in search of fish that were once readily available on our coasts; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Oceans upon which we depend, and their abundant resources are being given out to private enterprises, such as crab rationalization, and pollock, cod fish and halibut quotas, without any regard to the needs of our Tribal organization; **AND**

WHEREAS, as the stresses upon these resources continue to grow, competition for them increases, the needs of the Tribe, notwithstanding our traditional use needs, will grow as will the pressures on the health of their habitats; **AND**

WHEREAS, the devastating effect that vessel groundings have had and will continue to have on our Island have continued the loss of traditional and cultural use of uplands and Bering Sea resources and whereas the Qawalangin Tribe is the Cultural and Traditional Council of the Island of Unalaska; **AND**

WHEREAS, our Tribal Government is charged with the protections of our culture, heritage, environment and our foods upon which we have depended upon for centuries, and recognizes the need to establish protections from which these resources originate and breed; **AND**


WHEREAS, the silent but ever growing dangers of climate change will bring many as yet unforeseen challenges to our way of life, including changes to our historical traditional and cultural use of certain subsistence foods and resources.

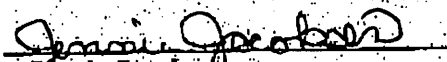


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Qawalangin Tribal Council establishes a Cultural and Traditional Use Zone to ensure protection of critical habitat for the foods and resources we depend upon and to further the establishment of this designation, request the following action:

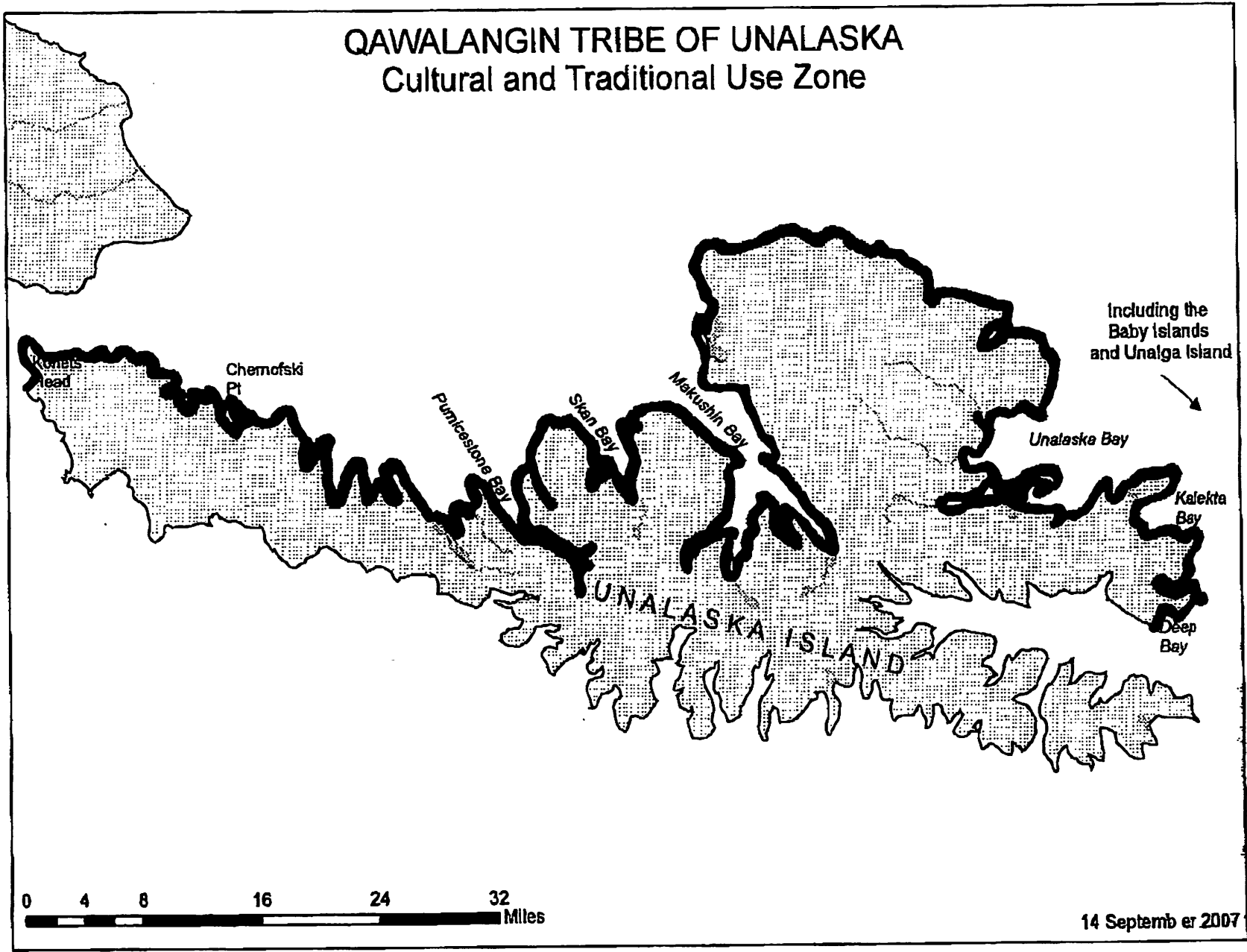
1. Development of criteria upon which the Cultural and Traditional Use Zone will be identified and supported before State and Federal regulatory agencies; and
2. Notify State and Federal agencies, our Congressional and State Representatives, our Governor, and regional and local organizations that such a program is being developed; and
3. Work with our Congressional Representatives to establish protection for this Cultural and Traditional Use Zone; and
4. A map designating the Cultural and Traditional Use Zone in the shoreline and near shore areas along the Bering Sea coast of the Island of Unalaska is attached.

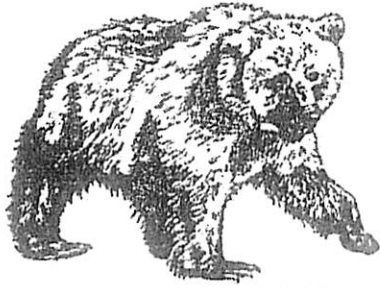
We do certify that the above Resolution was passed and approved at a special meeting of the Qawalangin Tribal Council therefore called and held the 13th day of September, 2007. At which a quorum was present and resulted in a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstaining.


Margaret Lekanoff
President


Jennie Jacobsen
Secretary/Treasurer

QAWALANGIN TRIBE OF UNALASKA Cultural and Traditional Use Zone





Old Harbor Tribal Council

P.O. Box 62, Old Harbor, Alaska 99643
Phone: (907) 286-2215 Fax: (907) 286-2277

Resolution No. 2007-002

ENTITLED: The Need to Establish Heritage Zones to protect our subsistence resources and the subsistence food web as our Heritage right to survival in our villages.

WHEREAS: The Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and the Bering Sea are currently being exploited by commercial bottom trawl and pelagic trawl fishers at a rate that is degrading the overall health of these waters; AND

WHEREAS: Localized depletion in the vicinity of Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska Communities is contributing to the decline of all subsistence foods and forcing fishing dependent communities to travel far offshore in search of fish that were once readily available on our coasts; AND

WHEREAS: The Oceans upon which we depend, and their abundant resources are being given out to private enterprises: i.e. crab rationalization, pollock, cod fish, and halibut quotas, without any regard to the needs of our communities; AND

WHEREAS: As the stresses upon these resources continue to grow; competition for them increases, the needs of the communities, notwithstanding our subsistence needs will grow as will the pressures on the health of their habitats; AND

WHEREAS: Our Tribal Government is charged with the protections of our culture, heritage, environment and our foods upon which we have depended upon for centuries, and recognize the need to establish protections from which these resources originate and breed; AND

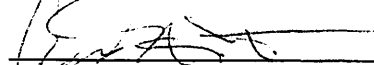
WHEREAS: The silent but ever growing dangers of climate change will bring many as yet unforeseen challenges to our way of life, including changes to our historical and cultural use of certain subsistence foods;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Tribal Government of Old Harbor supports the need to establish Heritage Zones which will ensure habitat protections of critical habitat for the foods we depend and to further the establishment of this designation, request the following actions:

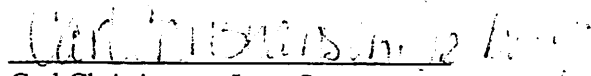
1. Continued research and development of Heritage Zones and how they will be established to help our people; and
2. Development of criteria upon which these Heritage Zones will be identified and supported before State and Federal Regulatory Agencies; and
3. Notify our State and Federal Agencies, our Congressional Representatives, State Representatives, Our Governor, Regional and Local Organizations that such a program is being developed; and
4. Work with our Congressional Representatives to establish protections for these Heritage Zones.

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Old Harbor Tribal Council urges establishing Heritage Zones to protect our subsistence resources and the subsistence food web as our Heritage right to survival in our villages.

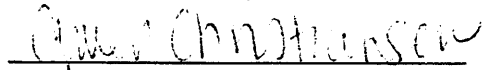
Accepted this 20 day of March, 2007



Conrad Peterson, President



Carl Christiansen, Jr., Secretary



Attested

NATIVE VILLAGE OF MEKORYUK

INDIAN REORGANIZATION ACT COUNCIL

P.O. Box 66

Mekoryuk, Alaska 99630

(907) 827-8828

Fax (907) 827-8133

Resolution No. 2007-12

ENTITLED: The Need to Establish Heritage Zones to protect our subsistence resources and the subsistence food web as our Heritage right to survival in our Villages.

WHEREAS: The Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and the Bering Sea are currently being exploited by commercial bottom trawl and pelagic trawl fishers at a rate that is degrading the overall health of these waters; AND

WHEREAS: Localized depletion in the vicinity of Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska Communities is contributing to the decline of all subsistence foods and forcing fishing dependent communities to travel far offshore in search of fish that were once readily available on our coasts; AND

WHEREAS: The Oceans upon which we depend and their abundant resources are being given out to private enterprises: i.e. crab rationalization, pollock, cod fish, and halibut quotas, without any regard to the needs of our communities; AND

WHEREAS: As the stress upon these resources continue to grow: competition for them increases, the needs of the communities, notwithstanding our subsistence needs will grow as will the pressures on the health of their habitats; AND

WHEREAS: Our Tribal Government is charged with the protections of our culture, heritage, environment and our foods upon which we have depended upon for centuries, and recognize the need to establish protections from which these resources originate and breed. AND

WHEREAS: The silent but ever growing danger of climate change will bring many as yet unforeseen challenges to our way of life: including changes to our historical and cultural use of certain subsistence foods;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Native Village of Mekoryuk supports the needs to establish Heritage Zones which will ensure habitat protections of

PAST PRESIDENTS

Moses Nayiruk • Peter Smith, Sr. • Tom Dotomain • Jesse Moses • Walter Amos • George K. Whitman, Sr.
Edward J. Shavings, Sr. • George King, Sr. • Henry J. Shavings • Joseph David, Sr. • Jerry David, Sr.
Fred Don • Howard T. Amos • Samson Weston • Hultman Kiokum
Tom Amos • Solomon Williams • Daniel Olrun, Sr.

critical habitat for the foods we depend and to further the establishment of this designation, request the following actions:

1. Continued research and development of Heritage Zones and how they will be established to help our people; and
2. Development of criteria upon which these Heritage Zones will be identified and supported before State and Federal Regulatory Agencies, and
3. Notify our State and Federal Agencies, our Congressional Representatives, State Representatives, Our Governor, Regional and Local Organizations that such a program is being developed; and
4. Work with our Congressional Representatives to establish protections for these Heritage Zones.

Certification

This resolution is signed and dated 16th day of August 2007 in the Native Village of Mekoryuk at a duly called and convened Tribal Council meeting at which a quorum has been established.

Signed:



President, Daniel T. Orlun Sr



Secretary, Albert R. Williams

**February 2010 NPFMC Meeting
Agenda Item D-4 Staff Tasking**

Good afternoon.

I am here to respond to the ICE groups request that the Council put Emergency Relief back on the Agenda for the April meeting, and several assertions made during that testimony.

Since last April, the North Pacific Crab Association has hosted three days of significant work sessions that included several communities and the ICE group, as well as representatives of the Arbitration associations. These meetings ran several hours each, and in the case of the community representatives the meetings cost them several thousand dollars in travel costs.

We have also had one major meeting that included only harvester and processor representatives; and as Executive Director of NPCA I have also had many individual meetings with ICE representatives.

During those meetings, all parties present went line by line and clause by clause through a proposal put forward by ICE. Bearing in mind that we are in the fifth year of this program, and that virtually all of the opilio and bristol bay red king crab has been harvested to date in spite of the Steller Sea fire and some significant icing events; and bearing in mind that the crab harvest sector has now significantly consolidated into a single cooperative that currently holds 74% of the opilio and bristol bay red king crab IFQ; and finally, bearing in mind that the industry has previously committed to this Council that we would work to develop a civil-contract based solution to this issue except in the case of catastrophic events; some of the communities and the processors association concluded that the ICE proposal was overly broad in scope and unnecessary to provide the additional flexibility the fleet and processors (whose labor also gets stranded) sought. Instead, we offered a specific proposal based on several proven, successful cooperative agreements already in place in other Alaska fisheries. But more on that in a minute.

Let me be specific. The ICE proposal would require changing regional tags for both IFQ and IPQ and therefore regulatory changes for even the smallest, single vessel events; it would burden the Agency in a manner that was unnecessary, it would require compensatory payment agreements between multiple communities and the industry be negotiated in advance of the season or the event, it contemplated the need for a broad in-season coordinating committee, and it even proposed a second arbitration system be developed.

Throughout this period, ICE told us that the new SuperCoop had developed an internal quota management system including reserve pool type mechanisms so that there would be no abuses of the system by individual vessels or small groups of vessels. **We have asked for a copy of the agreement, or a written explanation of the process at every single meeting and never received anything.**

Progress was further stymied when, in early August, ICE notified us in writing that under their new SuperCoop structure, that ICE had arbitrarily changed **"... all the names of the voting districts (Individual groups within ICE) were changed to Inter-Cooperative Exchange (and) at this time Sharematch will not identify to IPQ holders which ICE voting district is proposing a match."** In other words, ICE was threatening the long-standing relationships that most processors have with specific harvesters.

The same letter from ICE goes on to state that **"... each (ICE) voting district is responsible for scheduling and delivering its allocation of ICE IFQ, just as they did as independent cooperatives in previous years."**

This last statement - that small groups within ICE would handle delivery arrangements independent of all other members - completely contradicts their previous assurances that delivery issues would be handled on a collective and cooperative basis.

So what is the answer? The Gulf Rockfish program established reserve pools before the first fish was ever landed. The AFA fleet has long used reserve pool type mechanisms and those have been strengthened to manage Chinook by-catch. The Amendment 80 fleet has already adopted cooperative exchanges similar to reserve pools to collectively manage their fishing efforts and allocations.

By comparison, the crab fleet prosecutes a single-species, relatively clean fishery. The program is in it's fifth year... and there are still no reserve pools in place to collectively manage the occasional delivery issues that arise. The only complicating factor for the ICE group fleet is the IPQ matching required under this program, and we have said throughout this process that we would participate in any reasonable manner necessary.

In December I delivered to ICE a first draft reserve pool agreement, along with copies of the Rockfish inter-cooperative agreement and a previous AFA pollock agreement. A true civil contract based collective approach to this issue would eliminate the need for regulatory changes and Agency supervision for all but catastrophic events. It also eliminates the need for in-season coordinating committees and complicated compensatory agreements between multiple parties. It is based quite simply on the successful programs already in place in other Catch Share fisheries. Early this week, I also notified ICE and the communities present that I would write a less complicated summary for their members immediately following this meeting.

In closing I would note that more than three years ago, as the Council worked through the post-delivery transfer regulations for crab and rockfish, serious consideration was

given to mandatory participation in an intercoop/reserve pool association for those crab fishers who wanted additional privileges under this program. The Council dropped this provision only after the United Crab Harvesters, whose members included some of the same people who sat before you on Saturday, promised the Council that they would undertake the development of an inter-cooperative/reserve pool mechanism on their own. We, along with the communities, are still waiting.

For my part, I will complete the simplified framework this week and send it to all parties.

Thank you

Steve Minor

SSL Clarifications

The Council recommends additional clarifications that will better inform the Council and the public during review of the draft BiOp. The Council suggests that NMFS prepare a short, concise white paper that could be made available concurrent with the draft BiOp. The paper should:

1. Clearly describe the methodology NMFS is applying to determine the status (counts) of WDPS SSLs relative to the downlisting criteria, including:
 - The specific methodology used in the SSL Recovery Plan to determine the 42,500 animal baseline in downlisting criteria 1. SSLRP page xiii.
 - The specific methodology used to establish the 53,100 animal target set for 2015, as set out in downlisting criteria 1.
 - A clear determination of the current status of the WDPS as gauged against these criteria by applying the specific methodology used to calculate the 42,500 animal baseline.

CIE Statement of Work (SOW) and Terms of Reference (TOR).

The Council wishes to express its appreciation for the opportunity to comment on the CIE Statement of Work (SOW) and Terms of Reference (TOR). The Council's SSC also provided comments (attached) on the SOW and TOR for consideration by the Council. Their comments are incorporated as appropriate in the Council's comments provided here. The Council offers the following comments to improve the CIE process by focusing the review more on the science and its interpretation, and by enhancing the transparency of the review. The Council's specific comments follow:

1. The Council reiterates its request of December 23, 2009 paragraph 2 to modify the review schedule to allow for the public, SSLMC, SSC, and Council the opportunity to review and comment on the draft BiOp prior to CIE review. The TOR and SOW should be modified to task the reviewers to consider any such comments in their review of the draft BiOp.
2. The Council recommends that the TOR and SOW be modified to request the CIE to review and consider all of the science relevant to the analysis of factors affecting the status and recovery of the WDPS, not just the science provided in the draft BiOp to support its conclusions. The CIE reviewers should be tasked to assess, among other things, the information provided to the SSLMC at its January 2010 meeting. This information, including the minutes from the recent SSLMC meeting, should be made available to the reviewers prior to the review.
3. The Council recommends that the TOR and SOW be modified to specifically task the CIE to review the relevant genetic papers, brand re-sight data, survey counts, and other relevant data on EDPS animals that may be in WDPS and WDPS animals that may be in EDPS and to make a recommendation on how these animals be counted when the agency calculates the WDPS population.
4. The Council recommends that the TOR and SOW be modified to task the CIE to assess the relationship between population trends and downlisting criteria, and whether there are other factors (other than fishing) affecting their recovery: predation, ecosystem/carrying capacity, emigration, etc. that should be taken into account.
5. The Council concurs with the recommendation of the SSC regarding Pre-review documents and further recommends that the background materials provided to the CIE reviewers include the studies and reports provided to the SSLMC at its January 2010 meeting, along with the genetic, brand re-sight data, and other scientific information or studies identified above. The basic analyses and data should also be provided to the reviewers for studies such as the FIT analysis presented to the SSLMC, not just the power point. These materials should be provided to the CIE reviewers well before the CIE begins its work in order to provide time for a thorough review.

6. The Council concurs with the comments by the SSC regarding the requirements for CIE reviewers, pre-review documents, and terms of reference 3 bullet 2.

7. The Council also concurs with the recommendations by the SSC regarding schedule of milestones and deliverables (although specific dates may need to be adjusted to conform to the schedule), and further recommends that the CIE schedule be modified to provide the CIE reviewers adequate time to perform their reviews. Currently the SOW has the duties as a maximum of 10 days of work.

For its March, 2010 meeting, the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee shall be tasked with reviewing the draft Biological Opinion and providing comments that can inform the council's development of comments on the draft BiOp to the National Marine Fisheries Service at its April, 2010 meeting.

Further, the SSLMC is tasked with commenting on the feasibility of the council developing appropriate SSL mitigation measures given the content and findings of the draft Biological Opinion. It is the council's intent, upon consideration of the SSLMC comments and recommendations, to decide whether or not to further engage the committee and initiate the development of SSL mitigation measures in response to the draft BiOp.