

Executive Director's Report

CCC meeting

The Council Coordination Committee (Council Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Executive Directors) met May 1-3, hosted by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council. Item B-1(a) is a copy of the agenda from that meeting, and Item B-1(b) is a compilation of outcome statements and recommendations agreed to by all eight Councils. These outcome statements cover a range of issues including:

- (1) ESA Jeopardy determinations and the need for transparency and coordination with the Council(s) in the development of consultations, biological opinions, and potential settlement negotiations. This includes establishment of a RFMC/NMFS/MAFAC Working Group which would make recommendations to the CCC in these regards.
- (2) CMSP, and further CCC comments to the National Ocean Council regarding membership on the regional planning bodies, and once again urging no diversions of funds from existing core NMFS programs and no diminishment of the Councils' authorities over fisheries management.
- (3) Stock assessments and the need for continued or improved stock assessments. Also establishes parameters for the establishment of a National SSC Working Group.
- (4) 5-year research priorities, and establishing a more explicit feedback loop to the Councils regarding how the agency incorporates Council research priorities in their science and budget plans.
- (5) International fisheries, and process for certification of Nations with respect to IUU fishing activities.
- (6) Budget – and the CCC position that Councils remain level-funded (at 2012 levels) in the 2013 budget, and the development of a CCC position paper supporting this recommendation. Recall that the 2013 President's budget included a 14% reduction in Council funding (following a 4% reduction in 2012), the Senate mark has us back up to 2012 levels, and the House mark reflects a 25% reduction for the Councils!
- (7) Outreach and Communications, and the use of common best practices, and potential enhancement of both regional and national level communication initiatives.
- (8) Electronic monitoring, and establishment of a CCC subcommittee to consider cross-cutting national aspects of EM (recognizing that NMFS is developing a series of white papers on EM due this fall).
- (9) Potential move of NOAA/NMFS to Dept. of Interior, and recommending that the GAO consult with the CCC in the development of its ongoing study of the proposed move.
- (10) NS 1, and potential development of an 'all-Council' comment on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking (see further info below).

I will keep you apprised of the follow-up actions regarding these outcome statements, as they are being coordinated by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council.

ANPR for NS 1

Item B-1(c) is a May 3, 2012 Federal Register notice requesting comments on an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) to consider revisions to the National Standard 1 guidelines. NMFS, at least partly in response to numerous proposed Bills in Congress over the past year, is considering whether and to what extent revisions to the NS 1 guidelines might be warranted. The ANPR is very broad in scope and is soliciting comments on all aspects of the NS 1 guidelines, including overfishing determinations, relationship of ACLs to OY, incorporation of scientific and management uncertainty, ABC control rules, catch accounting (EFP and research catch for example), accountability measures, ACL exceptions, and rebuilding plans.

As mentioned above, the eight Council Executive Directors are coordinating a potential all-Council comment letter – in the meantime I suspect that comments specifically from the North Pacific Council are warranted (comments are due August 1). I have asked our SSC to discuss this ANPR and provide the Council with their thoughts. Myself and other Council staff will also have some thoughts on this issue. I propose that we review the SSC comments, discuss any immediate areas of comment that Council members have, and then allow Council staff to draft comments which would be circulated for your review sometime this summer, prior to the August 1 deadline. Alternately, the Council could establish a more formal workgroup to develop draft comments.

While the NS 1 guidelines technically do not have the force and effect of law, they have clearly been treated by NMFS as if they do. One specific aspect of the ANPR is whether potential changes should be codified (as they currently are) or addressed through 'technical guidance' or policy directives. In either case, the issue of whether such guidelines indeed have 'force and effect of law' might be an important topic area for comment on the ANPR.

Fisheries Forum

On May 8-10 I attended the Fisheries Leadership and Sustainability Forum in Beaufort, North Carolina along with several members of our Council (Ed Dersham, Bill Tweit, Duncan Fields, Roy Hyder, and of course John Hendershed). The spring 2012 East Coast Forum topic was integration of socio-economic information in the Council decision process. It was a very informative workshop and when the proceedings are available I will distribute them to the Council family.

Update on Canyons Research Request

Item B-1(d) is a letter from Dr. DeMaster responding to the Council's request for AFSC review of existing and new information on the canyons (Pribilof and Zemchug), their habitat, and fish associations in those areas. They have formed a working group led by Dr. Mike Sigler and they intend to incorporate the results of the planned 2012 Bering Sea slope survey and any other information published since the 2006 review. They are targeting May 2013 for a report to the Council.

Chum salmon EA vs EIS update

You requested an update on development of the Bering Sea chum salmon bycatch amendment package, specifically regarding the question of whether an EIS (vs an EA) would be necessary or prudent. Council staff, in coordination with NMFS staff, have been working on the 16 specific 'context and intensity' questions that form the basis of a significance determination (FONSI), and linking those to specific sections of the analysis in order to more explicitly support a FONSI determination. We are not providing that draft at this time, because it is still a work in progress and because the underlying analyses are not fully completed; however, nothing at this time indicates that we will have any problem in completing the EA and associated FONSI determination. We are scheduled for initial review of this amendment package in October.

IG interview

Just FYI, on May 24 I participated in a two hour interview with the Office of the Inspector General, as part of their investigation into the fisheries rulemaking and regulatory process. They are looking into both the Councils and NMFS role in this process, and have visited or interviewed all of the NMFS Regional Offices and, I believe, all of the regional Councils (through their Executive Directors).

PNCIAC Committee report

For your information, Item B-1(e) is a report from the Council's Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC), which met on April 12. Lance Farr was elected as new Chair of the PNCIAC, with Rob Rogers elected vice-Chair. The main topic was possible extension of the opilio season, but they also discussed PNCIAC bylaws and the potential addition of a new member (recognizing that the Council has purview over PNCIAC appointments on a two year cycle, which were just completed in December 2011).

Distinguished Career Award

Item B-1(f) is a copy of the 2011 NOAA Fisheries Service Employee and Team Member of the Year Awards. I want to draw your attention to the first name on the list, who received the 2011 Distinguished Career Award – that would be Sue Salvesson. Congratulations Sue, no one in the Service could possibly be more deserving of this award!

NPRB seeking SSC nominations

Item B-1(g) is an announcement from the North Pacific Research Board seeking nominations to fill a vacancy on its Science Panel. The NPRB is specifically seeking expertise in stock assessment, statistical sampling, and experimental design. Nominations are due July 13. On the subject of the NPRB, congratulations are in order for Dave Benson who has been nominated to fill the fishing industry seat on the NPRB Executive Committee, to replace Heather McCarty whose term expires this year. And, if you have not heard, our own Eric Olson was recently elected as Chair of the NPRB. Congratulations Eric!

New Council Staff

I am excited to announce we have hired a new Fishery Economist position. Mr. Sam Cunningham will be joining the staff in mid-July. Sam is a recent graduate of Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment, where his Master's degree project was "*A Policy Impact Analysis of New England Groundfish Sectors and Effort Redirection into Mid-Atlantic Fisheries*". Sam has a unique work history, which includes working as a policy analyst (intern) with the Fisheries Leadership and Sustainability Forum, and as a professional baseball player in the U.S. Northern and Frontier Leagues and the Australia Baseball League. We are looking forward to his addition to the Council staff.

Events this week

On Tuesday, June 5, at around 5:30 pm at the Elk's Lodge, Council, NOAA, and ADFG staff will participate in an informal workshop with the Alaska Jig Association; to discuss state and federal regulatory aspects of the cod jig fisheries, and the proposed 'other gear on board' prohibition while jigging. Item B-1(h) is a flyer for this event.

On Wednesday, June 6, the City and Borough of Kodiak are hosting a reception at the Kodiak Fisheries Research Center (across the bridge) starting at 6 pm. Please join us in enjoying the community's hospitality and also taking the opportunity to recognize Dave Benson who is enjoying his last Council meeting here in Kodiak.

On Thursday, June 7 there will be an Observer Deployment presentation beginning around 5:30 pm here in the Council meeting room. This presentation is geared towards the technical aspects of deployment, and NMFS staff will provide an overview of the system that the industry in the trip selection category will use under the re-structured program to log trips and be notified if the trip has been selected for observer coverage. It will be tailored to the individuals who will be using it in practice in 2013.

On Monday, June 11, the Ouzinkie Native Corporation is hosting a public community dinner and reception on Spruce Island. Transportation will be provided to Council members and Council and agency staff. If you are attending you should have RSVP'd by now! Item B-1(i) is a flyer for the event.

COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

MAY 1-3, 2012

DRAFT

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68-1400 Mauna Lani Drive
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AGENDA

(5/3/12)

Tuesday, May 1

<u>Time</u>	<u>Discussion Item</u>	<u>Presenter(s)</u>
1:30	Welcome/Introductions	Manuel Duenas, Chairman WPRFMC Samuel Rauch, Acting Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries
1:45 - 2:05	Opening Remarks	Senator Daniel K. Inouye (Statement) Coleen Hanabusa (Video)
2:05 - 2:25	Report from the USCG	Robert J. Hendrickson, CDR
2:25- 3:45	CCC Group Photograph	
2:45- 3:00	Break	
3:00 - 5:30	Council Reports on Status of Implementing Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions and Other Current Activities of Interest	Chairmen/EDs
5:30	Adjourn for the Day	

COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, May 2

<u>Time</u>	<u>Discussion Item</u>	<u>Presenter(s)</u>
8:00 - 9:00	Panel Presentation and Discussion (TelCon) - "Endangered Species Act Jeopardy Determination in Fisheries Management: Past, Present and Future" 1) Overview and Introduction (Moderator) 2) Panel Presentations	Kitty Simonds Sam Pooley
9:00 - 10:00	Panel Discussion	Sam Pooley
10:00 - 10:15	Break	
10:15 - 11:00	Administration's activities on CMSP/NOC 1) CCC Position on CMSP implementation (Funding/Statutory Authority)	Sam Rauch/Paul Howard
11:00 - 12:00	Stock Assessments 1) National SSC IV (i) Recommendations (ii) Formation of Working Group 2) Next Generation Stock Assessments and Priorities (i) EATE (getting environmental info into assess) (ii) AST (using AST to get better assessment data) 3) Prioritizing Assessments (i) Using Best Available Science: right sizing the approach (ii) Allocating Resources to support Assessments	MAC Chris Moore/Rick Methot Rick Methot Rick Methot Rick Methot Rick Methot Rick Methot
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch	
1:30 - 2:15	Bycatch, Cooperative Research, Habitat, 5-year Council Research Plan 1) Funding Opportunities and Processes for these Programs	Sam Rauch/Alan Risenhover
2:15 - 3:00	Report on the effective of MPAs for fisheries management	Bob Mahood
3:00 - 4:00	President Obama's EO on Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review; (E.O. 13563)	Kitty Simonds/Alan Risenhover
4:00	Adjourn for the Day	

COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 3

<u>Time</u>	<u>Discussion Item</u>	<u>Presenter(s)</u>
8:00 – 8:45	Report on Legislation	Congressional
8:45 - 9:30	Litigation 1) RFMC General Counsel representation (Move to 2) Update on Lawsuits	Kathryn Kempton
9:30 - 10:15	Marginalization of fisheries management through competing Acts/Authorities (MMPA, ESA, Sanctuaries, Monuments)	Paul Dalzell
10:15 - 10:30	Break	
10:30 -11:00	Communities and Indigenous Issues	Charles Kaaiai
11:00 - 12:00	International Fisheries Management (TelCon) 1) Leveling the playing field for domestic fisheries 2) Increasing domestic production of underutilized fisheries to support coastal economies food security	Russell Smith
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch Break	
1:30--2:30	Budgets 1) FY2012: Status of Council funding 2) FY2013: Update (i) CCC Position on President's Budget	Gary Reisner/Lindsay Fullenkamp
2:30—3:30	Communications 1) NOAA Fisheries Activities (TelCon) 2) RFMC-Council Coordination Recommendations 3) National Conference 3 (MONF3)	Laurel Bryant Sylvia Spalding Don McIsaac
3:30-3:45	Break	
3:45-4:20	Program Review 1) DOC IG review of NOAA Fisheries and FMC fishery rule making process and transparency of process under MSA. 2) Electronic Monitoring	Carrie Selberg Don McIsaac
4:20-4:45	MAFMC Visioning Project	Rick Robins
4:45- 6:00	Administrative Matters 1) Freedom of Information Act Requests 2) Technology – Virtual PH/Scoping vs. Travel 3) Professional Liability 4) Other Business and next annual CCC Meeting (i) Consultation with GAO on Moving NOAA to DOI (ii) CCC Position on National Standard 1 Guidelines Revisions (iii) Other Meeting Follow-ups	Stephen Bortone/Adam Issenberg Manuel Duenas
6:00	Adjourn Meeting	

Outcome Statements and Recommendations

Council Coordination Committee May 1-3, 2012

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ESA Jeopardy Determination in Fisheries Management

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) agrees that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) measures affecting fisheries (including listing, critical habitat designation, Section 7 consultation and development of biological opinions) should be accomplished through a process that includes a much higher level of transparency and public involvement than is typical at present. The CCC believes an enhanced National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Regional Fishery Management Council (RFMC) partnership should be established to ensure consistent involvement by the Councils in ESA determinations and consultations well before rules and biological opinions are published.

1. The CCC recommends that a RFMC/NMFS/Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) Working Group be established to make recommendations to the CCC on a policy and best practices designed to effectively and consistently integrate the Councils in the ESA consultation process in order to achieve a high level of transparency and improve stakeholder confidence in the ESA consultation process related to U.S. marine fisheries.

The Working Group should identify options that would integrate the Councils and their attendant committees and advisory bodies, as appropriate, into the ESA consultation process consistently and to the maximum extent practicable under relevant federal laws. The Working Group should also identify mechanisms to consistently include Council consultation in negotiated settlements resulting from litigation under the ESA.

2. The CCC recommends sending a letter to NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco containing the following:

- The CCC agrees with the NOAA Scientific Integrity Policy that calls for achieving a greater level of public confidence and trust in the science used in federal decision making and, especially, ESA implementation.
- The recent Biological Opinion on Lower Columbia River Tule Fall Chinook Salmon, authorizing an abundance-based approach to determine incidental take allowances as recommended subsequent to a public process at the Pacific Council, has been widely viewed as a great public policy success and represents a model to be used to achieve the



objectives of the new Science Policy. The process followed in this case substantially improved understanding of the risk assessment science, the trust that a complete analysis had occurred, and the perception of fair treatment of healthy fishery policy issues, which were all key in the broad support of the biological opinion. Such a transparent process, however, is currently an exception more than a norm across all Councils, as seen in the case of recent consultation processes for the Hawaii longline fishery and Gulf of Mexico reef fish fishery.

- With respect to jeopardy determinations, the ultimate goal should be to use an abundance-based metric. NMFS should continue to strive for greater clarity in biological opinions, by developing models to evaluate fishery impact against absolute population abundance, providing better explanations of the level of scientific certainty in the jeopardy determinations, and improving protected species stock assessments.
- CCC recommendation for establishing a RFMC/NMFS/MAFAC Working Group

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Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) recommends that a letter be sent to the National Ocean Council (NOC) acknowledging the NOC's determination that the Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMC) shall be members of the Regional Planning Bodies (RPBs). The letter shall also recognize the NOC's determination that RFMCs have unique and important roles in management of the nation's fisheries and that the RFMCs will provide valuable expertise and knowledge about the wide array of marine resources that are vital to coastal communities and local economies. In addition to the above, the letter shall include the following points:

1. That the limitation of RFMC representatives to the RPB be restricted to only Federal, State, Tribal, or local government members of the RFMCs may result in conflicts between Council positions and the positions of these other jurisdictions, which could put RFMC representatives in potentially difficult and ineffective positions. For example, a state Director of Fisheries representing a Council could find him/herself in opposition to the view of their Governor. Therefore, the CCC requests NOC reevaluate this restriction in the light of the RFMCs' standing as executive agencies of the Department of Commerce, which could resolve the apparent FACA concerns.
2. That further implementation of Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) shall not reduce the funding for core NMFS programs and functions, nor in any way diminish the regulatory authorities of the RFMCs over fisheries in each region.
3. That the CCC supports that members of Science and Statistical Committees (SSC) of the RFMCs may be included in the standing technical committees of the RPBs, but the CCC does not support SSCs being the sole scientific advisory committee of the RPBs due to funding constraints, existing SSC workloads, and meeting schedules.



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Stock Assessment

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) believes that the current state of stock assessments in its respective regions is inadequate to cope with the Councils' management needs. In consideration of the diverse information needs between the different Council regions, the CCC recommends a letter be sent to Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requesting a description of the decision process on whether advanced technology is warranted to attain information needed for stock assessments. The letter should include a recommendation that NMFS consider the basic data collection programs. The CCC requests NMFS that the funds intended for the Science Centers' Stock Assessment Programs be appropriately allocated for the Centers to carry out regular stock assessments so that the Councils adequately meet their management mandates.

National SSC Working Group

Recognizing the importance and benefits in the creation of the National Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Working Group (WG):

1. The CCC recommends the creation of a National SSC whose membership would be comprised of the eight SSC Chairs (or their designees) and a senior NMFS staff as an ex-officio member. Technical support for this committee would be provided by personnel from the NMFS Office of Science and Technology and Council staff.
2. The CCC recommends the development of Standard Operating Practices and Procedures which would govern the operations of the National SSC and terms of reference to direct its activities.
3. The National SSC would be tasked with the development of a prospectus for proposed Working Groups and topics for future National SSC Workshops in consultation with the CCC. These proposals would be reviewed and approved by the CCC as part of the specification of Terms of Reference (TOR) and could be sponsored by one of the Councils or brought to NMFS for consideration for sponsorship.
4. The membership of national WGs approved by the CCC would be populated based on nominations from each Council's SSC (maximum of one SSC member per Council) and one member from NMFS. The Chair of the WG would be appointed by the National SSC (selected from the WG roster). The WG would submit a final report to the CCC that



would include recommendations to address the TOR. The final report may be subject to external peer review, the level of which would be determined on a case—by—case basis based on agreement between the CCC and NMFS. Following peer review of the WG report, the report would be published as a NMFS Technical Memorandum, or other appropriate mechanism, such that it meets the requirements for formal national technical guidance to the Councils.



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Five--Year Research Priorities

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) requests National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) clarify and provide the Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMC) with information regarding the process in which the Five--Year Research Priorities developed by the Councils are considered by their respective NMFS Science Center when developing its research priorities and budgets. The respective Science Center should report back to the RFMC on what research had been addressed. The CCC also requests that the Councils be collaboratively involved in the development of the Science Plan of their respective Science Center to ensure that the priorities of the respective Council are adequately incorporated in the plan.



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International Fisheries Management

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) acknowledges that National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is working on its second report to Congress in regards to certification (positive or negative) of nations with respect to equivalent measures to the United States in relation to preventing illegal, undocumented and unreported (IUU) fishing, bycatch of protected living marine resources, or shark catches on the high seas.

In its first report to Congress on this issue, NMFS did not negatively certify any nation, which does not align with generally accepted understanding that many nations importing seafood into the US market are not on the same playing field as US fisheries with respect to data collection and monitoring, safety—at--sea requirements, protected species mitigation, and other management measures.

Therefore, the CCC recommends that NMFS enhance its activities to identify nations that do not implement equivalent measures, which may result in the leveling of playing fields between US and foreign fisheries.

The CCC further recommends that NMFS work with the US fishing industry to develop underutilized fisheries, and notes that such a program is identified in Section 2(a)(7) and Section (2)(b)(6) of the MSA. Promoting US fisheries development for underutilized fisheries may benefit target and non-target stocks and protected species through transferred effects as well as promote employment in coastal communities and enhance local food security.

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Budget

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) recommends the 2013 budget remain the same as in 2012 at \$28.4 million. The CCC further recommends that the budget be consolidated in a single line item. The Councils will be developing a position paper to outline the reasoning behind the CCC recommendation. The rationale includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. The proposed reduction in the Councils' budget is not justified with the completion of the amendments incorporating Annual Catch Limits;
2. The proposed 2013 budget proposes to bring additional stock assessment, monitoring, and ecosystem assessment information to the regional Councils for decision making;
3. At a time when the National Marine Fisheries Service total budget is proposed to be stable, the Councils total budget should also be stable.



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Communications

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) recommends that the Councils communications committee hold face-to-face meeting annually to discuss shared best practices and ways to improve regional and national communication. Items that could be developed at the next meeting include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Improve effectiveness of the RFMC website (fisherycouncils.org) as resources allow, e.g., adding videos, content management and social media.
2. In a significant and timely manner, improve regional and national communications coordination between the Councils and NOAA, to ensure accuracy of information as well as recognition of the Councils in the management process.

The CCC also recommends the Councils support the following efforts:

1. Coordinate a solid communication plan/strategy for the NC3 conference, including media news releases after the conference, the lead being the Pacific Council. Plan for a joint Council booth in addition to regional Councils booths and a National Marine Fisheries Service booth at the conference; Develop a twitter hashtag for the conference.
2. Facilitate the use of social media tools (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) at the individual RFMC level.
3. Ensure the Council websites are linked to the RFMC website (fisherycouncils.org) and encourage NOAA Fisheries to do the same.
4. Cultivate relationships to promote Council communications regionally and nationally with other government and non-governmental organization offices.



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Managing Our Nation's Fisheries Conference III (NC3)

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) agrees on the top three theme areas and nine focus topics for NC3 to occur first week of May 2013. The three theme areas for NC3 will include Improving Fishery Management Essentials, Advancing Ecosystem-Based Decision Making, and Providing for Fishing Community Sustainability. Implementation processes will proceed as soon as possible. The themes, topics and conference structure will be posted on the NC3 website in the near future.



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Electronic Monitoring

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) acknowledges that several Council/National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regions have conducted studies and programs related to video monitoring and electronic reporting. The CCC also recognizes that NMFS is developing white papers in 2012 to address the following topics:

1. Analysis of Existing Electronic Monitoring Technologies/Programs
2. Enforcement Issues/Impediments
3. Legal/Confidentiality Concerns
4. Research & Development Requirements
5. Re-alignment of Management and Monitoring
6. Funding Options

The CCC establishes a CCC subcommittee soon after the 2012 annual meeting to consider cross-cutting issues between regions in relation to the implementation of video monitoring and other forms of electronic monitoring, and make recommendations to the CCC at the interim meeting in January 2013.



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Consultation with GAO on Moving National Marine Fisheries Service into the US Fish and Wildlife Service

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) recommends sending a request to the GAO to consult with the CCC in the development of its study on moving National Marine Fisheries Service into the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



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National Standard 1 Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making

The Council Coordinating Committee recommends that the Council Executive Directors coordinate a response letter from the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils on the recent National Standard 1 advanced notice of proposed rulemaking.



time the list is submitted. The list shall also contain anniversary dates of employment of each service employee under this contract and its predecessor contracts with either the current or predecessor contractors or their subcontractors. Where changes to the workforce are made after the submission of the certified list described in this paragraph, the Contractor shall, in accordance with paragraph (d) of this clause, not less than 10 days before completion of the services on a contract, furnish the Contracting Officer with an updated certified list of the names of all service employees employed within the last month of contract performance. The updated list shall also contain anniversary dates of employment, and, where applicable, dates of separation of each service employee under the contract and its predecessor contracts with either the current or predecessor Contractors or their subcontractors. Only Contractors experiencing a change in their workforce between the 30- and 10-day periods will have to submit a list in accordance with paragraph (d) of this clause.

(2) The Contracting Officer will provide the list to the successor Contractor, and the list shall be provided on request to employees or their representatives.

(3) The Contracting Officer will direct the predecessor Contractor to provide written notice (Appendix B to 29 CFR chapter 9) to service employees of their possible right to an offer of employment with the successor Contractor. Where a significant portion of the predecessor Contractor's workforce is not fluent in English, the notice shall be provided in English and language(s) with which employees are more familiar. The written notice shall be—

(i) Posted in a conspicuous place at the worksite; or

(ii) Delivered to the employees individually. If such delivery is via email, the notification must result in an electronic delivery receipt or some other reliable confirmation that the intended recipient received the notice.

(d)(1) If required in accordance with 52.222-41(n), the Contractor shall, not less than 10 days before completion of this contract, furnish the Contracting Officer a certified list of the names of all service employees working under this contract and its subcontracts during the last month of contract performance. The list shall also contain anniversary dates of employment of each service employee under this contract and its predecessor contracts either with the current or predecessor Contractors or their subcontractors. If there are no changes to the workforce before the predecessor contract is completed, then the predecessor Contractor is not required to submit a revised list 10 days prior to completion of performance and the requirements of 52.222-41(n) are met. When there are changes to the workforce after submission of the 30-day list, the predecessor Contractor shall submit a revised certified list not less than 10 days prior to performance completion.

(2) The Contracting Officer will provide the list to the successor Contractor, and the list shall be provided on request to employees or their authorized representatives.

(e) The Contractor and subcontractor shall maintain the following records (regardless of

format, e.g., paper or electronic) of its compliance with this clause for not less than a period of three years from the date the records were created.

(1) Copies of any written offers of employment or a contemporaneous written record of any oral offers of employment, including the date, location, and attendance roster of any employee meeting(s) at which the offers were extended, a summary of each meeting, a copy of any written notice that may have been distributed, and the names of the employees from the predecessor contract to whom an offer was made.

(2) A copy of any record that forms the basis for any exemption claimed under this part.

(3) A copy of the employee list provided to or received from the contracting agency.

(4) An entry on the pay records of the amount of any retroactive payment of wages or compensation under the supervision of the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division to each employee, the period covered by such payment, and the date of payment, and a copy of any receipt form provided by or authorized by the Wage and Hour Division. The Contractor shall also deliver a copy of the receipt to the employee and file the original, as evidence of payment by the Contractor and receipt by the employee, with the Administrator or an authorized representative within 10 days after payment is made.

(f) Disputes concerning the requirements of this clause shall not be subject to the general disputes clause (52.233-1) of this contract. Such disputes shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures of the Department of Labor set forth in 29 CFR part 9. Disputes within the meaning of this clause include disputes between or among any of the following: The Contractor, the contracting agency, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the employees under the contract or its predecessor contract. The Contracting Officer will refer any employee who wishes to file a complaint, or ask questions concerning this contract clause, to the Branch of Government Contracts Enforcement, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210. Contact email: displaced@dol.gov.

(g) The Contractor shall cooperate in any review or investigation by the Department of Labor into possible violations of the provisions of this clause and shall make such records requested by such official(s) available for inspection, copying, or transcription upon request.

(h) If it is determined, pursuant to regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor (Secretary), that the Contractor or its subcontractors are not in compliance with the requirements of this clause or any regulation or order of the Secretary, appropriate sanctions may be imposed and remedies invoked against the Contractor or its subcontractors, as provided in Executive Order 13495, the regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary, or as otherwise provided by law.

(i) The Contractor shall take such action with respect to any such subcontract as may be directed by the Secretary as a means of enforcing such provisions, including the

imposition of sanctions for noncompliance. However, if the Contractor, as a result of such direction, becomes involved in litigation with a subcontractor, or is threatened with such involvement, the Contractor may request that the United States, through the Secretary of Labor, enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

(j) The Contracting Officer will withhold, or cause to be withheld, from the prime Contractor under this or any other Government contract with the same prime Contractor, such sums as an authorized official of the Department of Labor requests, upon a determination by the Administrator, the Administrative Law Judge, or the Administrative Review Board, that there has been a failure to comply with the terms of this clause and that wages lost as a result of the violations are due to employees or that other monetary relief is appropriate. If the Contracting Officer or the Administrator, upon final order of the Secretary, finds that the Contractor has failed to provide a list of the names of employees working under the contract, the Contracting Officer may, in his or her discretion, or upon request by the Administrator, take such action as may be necessary to cause the suspension of the payment of contract funds until such time as the list is provided to the Contracting Officer.

(k) *Subcontracts.* In every subcontract over the simplified acquisition threshold entered into in order to perform services under this contract, the Contractor shall include a provision that ensures—

(1) That each subcontractor will honor the requirements of paragraphs (a) through (b) of this clause with respect to the employees of a predecessor subcontractor or subcontractors working under this contract, as well as of a predecessor Contractor and its subcontractors;

(2) That the subcontractor will provide the Contractor with the information about the employees of the subcontractor needed by the Contractor to comply with paragraphs (c) and (d) of this clause; and

(3) The recordkeeping requirements of paragraph (e) of this clause.

(End of clause)

[FR Doc. 2012-10708 Filed 5-2-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9320-EP-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 600

[Docket No. 120425420-2420-01]

RIN 0648-BB92

Fisheries of the United States; National Standard 1 Guidelines

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking; request for comments;

consideration of revision to National Standard 1 Guidelines.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) to provide background information and request public comment on potential adjustments to the National Standard 1 Guidelines, one of 10 national standards for fishery conservation and management contained in Section 301 of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Since the guidelines were last updated in 2009, a number of issues regarding the application of the guidelines were identified by stakeholders and managers that may warrant their revision. This action provides the public with a formal opportunity to comment on the specific ideas mentioned in this ANPR, as well as any additional ideas and solutions that could improve provisions of the National Standard 1 Guidelines.

DATES: Written comments regarding the issues in this ANPR must be received by 5 p.m., local time, on August 1, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this document, identified by "NOAA-NMFS-2012-0059", by any one of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal: www.regulations.gov. To submit comments via the e-Rulemaking Portal, first click the "submit a comment" icon, then enter "NOAA-NMFS-2012-0059" in the keyword search. Locate the document you wish to comment on from the resulting list and click on the "Submit a Comment" icon on the right of that line.

- **Fax:** 301-713-1193, Attn: Wesley Patrick.

- **Mail:** Wesley Patrick; National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA; 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13436; Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Instructions: Comments must be submitted by one of the above methods to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NMFS. Comments sent by any other method, to another address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in

the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wesley Patrick, Fisheries Policy Analyst, National Marine Fisheries Service, 301-427-8566.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 301(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) contains 10 national standards for fishery conservation and management. Any fishery management plans (FMP) prepared under the MSA, and any regulation promulgated pursuant to the MSA to implement any such plan, must be consistent with these national standards. National Standard 1 (NS1) of the MSA states that conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield (OY) from each fishery for the U.S. fishing industry.

Section 301(b) of the MSA requires that the Secretary establish advisory guidelines (which shall not have the force and effect of law), based on the national standards to assist in the development of fishery management plans. Guidelines for NS1 are codified in 50 CFR 600.310. NMFS revised the NS1 Guidelines on January 16, 2009 (74 FR 3178) to reflect the requirements enacted by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 for annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) to end and prevent overfishing.

From 2007 to 2012, the 46 Federal FMPs have been amended to implement ACLs and AMs to end and prevent overfishing. In the course of this work, a number of issues regarding the application of the NS1 Guidelines were identified that may warrant their revision. NMFS seeks public comments on these and any other issues related to NS1:

1. **Stocks in a fishery.** The MSA requires that Councils develop FMPs for fisheries that require "conservation and management" (MSA 302(h)(1)). The MSA provides the Councils with wide latitude in defining the scope of an FMP. Some FMPs include a relatively small number of species, focusing on the primary target species of the fishery. In other FMPs, a much broader range of species are included. The NS1 Guidelines establish and define Ecosystem Component (EC) species and

provide that EC species may be included in the FMP but are not considered stocks in the fishery and thus are not required to have biological reference points or ACLs. There has been considerable discussion about the criteria for classifying EC species and the utility of the EC species concept. Thus, revision of the guidance may be warranted to further describe criteria for classifying stocks in a fishery and EC species.

2. **Overfishing and multi-year impacts.** The current NS1 Guidelines provide that overfishing must be determined either by comparing catch to the overfishing limit (OFL) or by comparing fishing mortality to the maximum fishing mortality threshold (§ 600.310 (e)(2)(ii)(A)). Overfishing determinations are made for the most recent year for which there is information. Stakeholders have expressed interest in exploring alternative definitions of overfishing that would take a longer, multi-year view of the impact of fishing on the stock's ability to produce maximum sustainable yield (MSY).

3. **Annual catch limits and optimum yield.** In some fisheries, implementation of the guidance on acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rules, ACLs, and AMs has resulted in real or perceived reductions in catch. Questions have been raised about the relationship between ACLs and the objective of achieving the OY for a fishery. The MSA defines OY as being reduced from MSY to account for relevant economic, social, or ecological factors, and states that OY in an overfished fishery must provide for rebuilding the fishery (MSA 3(33)). There is interest from stakeholders in improving guidance to better address economic, social, and ecological considerations in the establishment of OY and to more clearly describe the relationship between ACL and OY.

4. **Mixed-stock fisheries and optimum yield.** Management of mixed-stock fisheries is challenging, because some stocks are relatively more abundant or are more or less susceptible to overfishing than others. The MSA requires that overfishing be prevented, and that the OY for a fishery provide for rebuilding overfished stocks. Nonetheless, some stakeholders believe that ACL and rebuilding requirements prevent them from achieving OY of healthy stocks. Further guidance on how OY should be specified to balance the multiple considerations in mixed-stock fisheries may be warranted.

5. **Scientific uncertainty and management uncertainty.** The NS1 Guidelines identify two types of uncertainty that should be addressed

when setting catch limits and accountability measures: Scientific uncertainty and management uncertainty (§ 600.310 (f)). Scientific uncertainty is related to the uncertainty of calculating the true OFL, and is addressed by a Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) by setting ABC below the OFL. Management uncertainty is the uncertainty of controlling catch so that it does not exceed the ACL, and is addressed when setting AMs and in setting an annual catch target below the ACL. Some stakeholders believe that consideration of both scientific and management uncertainty causes ACLs to be overly precautionary. Further clarification on the consideration of scientific and management uncertainty may be warranted.

6. *Data poor stocks.* Stocks without sufficient data to conduct a formal scientific stock assessment are considered to be data poor stocks. Establishing appropriate ACLs for data poor stocks can be challenging. The experience of the Councils and their SSCs in implementing ABCs and ACLs for data poor stocks may provide valuable information on which to base improvements in the NS1 Guidelines for data poor stocks.

7. *Acceptable biological catch control rules.* The NS1 Guidelines require a Council to establish an ABC control rule for each stock and stock complex, based on scientific advice from its SSC (§ 600.310 (f)). ABC control rules are a specified approach to setting the ABC that addresses scientific uncertainty, and incorporate a policy decision on the acceptable level of risk that overfishing might occur. A variety of ABC control rules have been implemented and a review of those control rules could lead to improvements in the NS1 Guidelines. In addition, for some fisheries there is interest in implementing provisions that carry over unharvested allocations from one year to the next. Guidance may be needed on how to consider carry-over within ABC control rules.

8. *Catch accounting.* Questions have been raised by managers about the types

of "catch" that must be considered within the ABC and ACL, particularly in regard to catch resulting from exempted fishing permits and scientific research activities. The definition of catch in the NS1 Guidelines includes fish taken in commercial, recreational, subsistence, tribal, and other fisheries. Catch includes fish that are retained for any purpose, as well as mortality of fish that are discarded. In the final rule response to comment number 35 (74 FR 3718; January 16, 2009), NMFS stated that this definition would include allocations for scientific research and mortality from any other fishing activity. Additional guidance may be needed to clarify how to account for all sources of mortality (e.g., bycatch, scientific research catch, etc.) when establishing ABCs and ACLs.

9. *Accountability measures.* AMs are management controls to prevent ACLs from being exceeded, and to correct or mitigate overages of the ACL if they occur. AMs must be tailored to the specific needs of a fishery, and are key to the success of ACL systems in ending and preventing overfishing. NMFS invites comments on the guidance for AMs.

10. *ACL exceptions.* Under the MSA, stocks that have a life cycle of approximately 1 year and stocks subject to international agreements are not required to have ACLs. The NS1 Guidelines describe that the life cycle exception applies to "a stock for which the average length of time it takes for an individual to produce a reproductively active offspring is approximately 1 year and that the individual has only one breeding season in its lifetime" (§ 600.310 (h)(2)(i)). The NS1 Guidelines also describe that the international agreement exception applies to stocks that are subject to "any bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention, or agreement which relates to fishing and to which the United States is party" (§ 600.310 (h)(2)(ii)). NMFS invites comments on the guidance pertaining to these exceptions from the ACL requirements.

11. *Rebuilding progress and revising rebuilding plans.* The current NS1

Guidelines address how NMFS should respond if a stock reaches the end of its rebuilding plan and is not fully rebuilt, or its rebuilding status is unknown. However, the guidelines do not address the situation that occurs during the course of a rebuilding plan when rebuilding progress is determined to be inadequate. Inadequate progress can result from a number of factors, including:

a. Management measures that do not adequately control the fishery.

b. Environmental factors that limit stock growth.

c. Significant changes in the rebuilding target (Bmsy) resulting from a new stock assessment. NMFS intends to improve guidance on evaluating the progress of stocks in rebuilding plans and on revising the rebuilding plans in these situations.

Public Comments

To help determine the scope of issues to be addressed and to identify significant issues related to this action, NMFS is soliciting written comments on this ANPR. The public is encouraged to submit comments related to the specific ideas mentioned in this ANPR, as well as any additional ideas and solutions that could improve provisions of the NS1 Guidelines. In addition to considering revisions to the NS1 Guidelines, NMFS will consider whether it may be more appropriate to address some topics in technical guidance reports or policy directives than to change the guidelines codified at 50 CFR 600.310. NMFS welcomes comment on the appropriateness and utility of additional technical guidance reports and policy directives.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: April 27, 2012.

Alan D. Risenhoover,
Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Regulatory Programs, National Marine
Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2012-10883 Filed 4-30-12; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Alaska Fisheries Science Center
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.
Bldg. 4, F/AKC
Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

May 15, 2012

Chris Oliver, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Dear Chris:

In an April 13, 2013 letter, the Council requested that the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) review existing and new scientific information on the canyons, their habitat, and fish associations in those areas. The AFSC will provide the Council with the review by May 2013. The review will include results of the planned 2012 Bering Sea slope survey and other new information published since the review that the AFSC provided to the Council in 2006.

The AFSC has convened a working group to complete this review. The working group met for the first time in early May. The working group consists of Jerry Hoff, Bob MacConnaughey, Bob Stone and Tom Wilderbuer and is led by Mike Sigler. Please contact Mike Sigler (907-789-6037) if you have any questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,


Doug DeMaster,
Science & Research Director

cc: James Balsiger – F/AKR
 Brianna Smith – F



**PACIFIC NORTHWEST CRAB INDUSTRY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (PNCIAC)**

c/o 1900 W. Emerson Pl. #205

Seattle, Washington 98199

360 440 4737

steve@wafro.com

Minutes of the PNCIAC for the Meeting of April 12, 2012

The PNCIAC meeting notice and agenda were sent out to the industry and agencies on March 27th and it was also posted on the NPFMC web site.

The PNCIAC meeting was called to order at 11:15 PDT from the PSPA office in Seattle by the Chairman Steve Minor. The meeting was conducted in person at PSPA as well as via teleconference with ADFG, NPMC and industry representatives at numerous sites in Alaska, Washington and Oregon.

PNCIAC attendance: Steve Minor, Kevin Kaldestad, Garry Loncon, Kirk Peterson, Rob Rogers, Vic Schibert, Dale Schwarzmiller, Elizabeth Wiley and Arni Thomson.

Additional members not present: Lance Farr, proxy to Kaldestad, family medical; Keith Colbern, fishing; Gary Painter, called in at close of meeting, we erroneously referred to the time as PST, but in actuality it was PDT; Gary Stewart, travelling, unable to participate. Tom Suryan, proxy to Kaldestad, fishing.

ADFG present by teleconference: Wayne Donaldson, Nicole Kimball, Karla Bush, Heather Fitch, Mary Schwenzfier; NPFMC: Mark Fina and Diana Stram.

Industry present: Neil Rodriguez, Jeff Steele, Heather McCarty, Louie Lowenberg, Craig Lowenberg, Jim Stone, Edward Poulsen, Ken Tippett, Mark Gleason, Ernie Weiss, Margaret Hall, and Joe Plesha.

Agenda:

1. Election of officers: Following the roll call, the chairman called for nominations for the chair. Rob Rogers nominated Lance Farr. Elizabeth Wiley seconded the motion, there were no additional nominations. There were no objections to the nomination and Lance Farr, (FV Kevleen K) was elected as chair. Kevin Kaldestad nominated Rob Rogers for Vice Chair, seconded by Vic Schibert, there were no objections, and Rob Rogers was reelected as vice chair. The chair deferred to the vice chair to run the meeting, but Rogers did not feel adequately prepared to deal with the agenda and asked Steve Minor, who was familiar with the issues to preside over the meeting for the day.
2. Discussion of the possible extension of the opilio season:
Heather Fitch (ADFG Unalaska): Overview summary of catch; 68 percent of Northern shares and 49 percent of the Southern shares have been delivered. 30

million pounds of the TAC remain to be caught; 10 percent of the TAC has been taken in the Western Subdistrict; an average of 4 million pounds a week has been taken this year. There are currently 40-45 vessels active on the fishing grounds. Donaldson recommended that industry, within reason and with regards to safety, maintain fishing capacity in hopes of achieving catch of the TAC without extension of the season.

Following the summary by Heather Fitch, Wayne Donaldson fielded industry questions regarding factors that would be considered if an extension of the season is needed.

- If the season is extended, it will be in a restricted area, due to concerns about molting. An extension will not likely go beyond mid-June, in part due to 7-10 weeks data processing time required for analysis of fleet catch and biological data needed for 2013 TAC setting process.
- Delivery deadlines, 24 hours following closure in the Eastern subdistrict and 72 hours in the Western subdistrict. Wayne noted that ADFG will work with the industry as much as possible and may waive delivery requirements, including the 24 hour delivery requirement in the Eastern subdistrict. Also, boats who must interrupt a trip to leave the Eastern subdistrict at closure time will not be required to offload before starting to fish in the Western subdistrict.
- An extension of the season, if needed, can include an extension of both the Eastern and Western subdistricts. However, if the Eastern subdistrict is extended, it will likely only be in the western portion of the Eastern subdistrict, to protect tanner crab and prevent handling mortality to molting opilio crab.
- Louie Lowenberg, representing the Inter-Cooperative Exchange (ICE), noted that he and Jake Jacobsen are in contact with individual processors, tracking landings, delivery schedules and otherwise tracking the fleet to maintain fishing capacity. This included looking for possibilities of utilizing coop vessels where possible, after they having caught their shares, to continue fishing shares by transfer, if on open grounds.
- Vic Schibert (Trident) noted that given the extent of ice cover at this time, the fleet is a long way from getting to the Western subdistrict crab grounds which are northwest of the Pribilof Islands.
- Observer coverage issues: An estimated 72 percent of the cost recovery observer funds have been expended at a rate of \$20-30 thousand dollars per week. Funds will be exhausted by May 31st. ADFG has set it up with the State such that industry can donate to the cost recovery fund and ADFG will need assurances of industry making provisions for observers before an extension of the season is granted. Donaldson also noted that it would take about one week to conduct the preparations for accepting funds for the observers and they are looking for an industry point of contact for provision of the funds.

- In closing this discussion, Donaldson noted that ADFG would wait until the end of April or early May to make a hard analysis about the need for an extension of the season. In the meantime, no action would be taken.
3. Status of pending NMFS regulations to implement Emergency Relief from Regional Delivery Requirements: The chair reported that NMFS contact, SeanBob Kelly reported to him recently that the pending regulations have been delayed and they will not be in effect in time for the 2012-13 opilio crab season. This was a surprise to industry. Apparently there is need for more discussion between industry sectors about the framework agreement. Louie Lowenberg, speaking for ICE noted that after the season is over, ICE will begin to review the framework again.
 4. F.O.I.A. Request regarding the CIE Review of EDRs: On behalf of a request from some industry members, the chair submitted a F.O.I.A. Request to the NMFS for memos and phone logs regarding EDRs, dated February 20, 2012. A response from NMFS dated March 14, 2012. The fees for providing the information will cost \$336.95. The chair requested assurance from industry for payment of the fees. Edward Poulsen, on behalf of the Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers (ABSC) pledged to cover the costs and the chair stated he would follow through with the return correspondence and a check to the NMFS.
 5. An addition to the agenda was approved at the request of ABSC, Edward Poulsen: On behalf of ABSC, Poulsen asked for out of cycle consideration of the addition of new members to PNCIAC, in particular the addition of Mark Gleason, the Executive Director of ABSC. The chair noted that this would be inappropriate at this time, without modification of the committee bylaws. The chair noted a two-year appointment cycle of the PNCIAC members and the members had just been reappointed at the December 2011 meeting. The chair also noted that he had sought approval for replacement of Phil Hanson on the committee a few years ago and he had been denied the request. He viewed this as a precedent for the PNCIAC, and he had confirmed this protocol with David Witherell, Deputy Director of the NPFMC. He concurred with the chair, that a modification to the bylaws would be in order to make additions at this time. The chair, in further addressing the issue, clarified that he recommends that the incoming chair, Lance Farr, with the assistance of the vice-chair, take appropriate action to set up a small subcommittee to review the bylaws to make necessary changes in the guidelines for out of cycle membership changes and additions.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PDT.
Respectfully submitted,

Steve Minor, Chair
Arni Thomson, Secretary
Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee

cc: PNCIAC members, ADFG and NPFMC staff

2011 NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

Susan J. Salveson, Alaska Regional Office
For outstanding contributions to conserve and manage living marine resources and to extend resulting benefits through mentoring staff.

Douglas S. Vaughan, Southeast Fisheries Science Center
For twenty-eight years of leadership and excellence in fisheries stock assessment science at the NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center Beaufort Lab.

Thomas Eagle, Headquarters Office of Protected Resources
For outstanding contributions to marine mammal science and conservation via implementation and execution of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE BEST SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS, 2011

2011 BEST PUBLICATION IN *Fishery Bulletin*
**Ralston, Stephen [SWFCS],
André E. Punt, Owen S. Hamel [NWFSC],
John D. DeVore and Ramon J. Conser [SWFSC]**
A meta-analytic approach to quantifying scientific uncertainty in stock assessments.
Fishery Bulletin 109 (2):217-231.

2009 BEST PUBLICATION IN *Marine Fisheries Review*
**Ivashchenko, Yulia V. [AKFSC],
Phillip J. Clapham [AKFSC] and
Robert L. Brownell, Jr. [SWFSC]**
Soviet illegal whaling: the Devil and the details.
Marine Fisheries Review 73(3): 1-19.

2011 NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE TEAM MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Rachelle Barron, SWFSC
Lindsey Bergman, NER
Danielle Cholewiak, NEFSC
Kathryn Dennis, PIFSC
Jane Dolliver, AKFSC
Amy Drohan, NEFSC
Peggy Foreman, NWR
Albert Harting, PIFSC
Megan Hilgart, HQ
Shannah Jaburek, NEFSC
Michael Lisitza, NWR
Daniel Luers, PIR
Laura McCue, PIR
Timothy McCune, HQ

Barbara Muhling, SEFSC
Kerrie Pipal, SWFSC
Bonnie Rogers, SWR
Olivia Rugo, NER
Shelley Sotir, SER
Elizabeth Stratton, SEFSC
Meagan Sundberg, PIFSC
Kathleen Szeleper, HQ
Christopher Taylor, NEFSC
Sara Villafuerte, HQ
Katie Watson, NWFSC
Greg Williams, NWFSC
Arless Winship, SWFSC
Alex Zerbini, AKFSC

Megan Morlock, NWR

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

2011

EMPLOYEE AND TEAM MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

NOAA Auditorium
Silver Spring, Maryland

Tuesday,
May 15, 2012
2:00 p.m.



**NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE
EMPLOYEE AND TEAM MEMBER
OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

"For contributions to the Nation towards the stewardship of living marine resources as recognized by your peers at the NOAA Fisheries Service."

WELCOME

Paul N. Doremus, Ph.D.
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations

REMARKS

Samuel D. Rauch III
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

CLOSING

Today's ceremony marks the eleventh year honoring NOAA Fisheries Service employees and the fifth year honoring Team Members for their important role in advancing the NOAA Fisheries mission. Our employees and contractors consistently demonstrate professional expertise, a strong personal commitment, leadership, and the teamwork needed to reach our sustainable natural resource goals.

The NOAA Fisheries Employee and Team Member of the Year Awards provide me with an important opportunity to recognize your contributions. Being nominated by your peers and selected for this award is a great honor, particularly from within an organization with so many outstanding individuals.

I would also like to acknowledge the exceptional service and commitment reflected in the many nominations we received. I extend my sincerest congratulations and my thanks for your dedication, hard work, and achievements.



Samuel D. Rauch, III
Acting Assistant Administrator
for Fisheries

2011 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Administrative/Support Staff, GS 1-10 or Pay Band Equivalent

Vincie (Susanno) Burgess, NER	Nancy Johnson, NWR
Dianna Carter, AKR	Camille Jones, HQ
Mary Clayton, NWFSC	Barbara Newell, NEFSC
Craig D'Angelo, SWR	Tanya Ochoa, PIFSC
Velda Harris, SEFSC	Verna-Kay Smith, SER
Florence Johnson, AKFSC	Betty Steinmetz, SWFSC
Naomi Yamamoto, PIR	

Administrative/Support Staff, GS 11-15 or Pay Band Equivalent

Richard Bulick, SER	Nicole MacDonald, NER
David Chevrier, NEFSC	R. Troy Martin, AKFSC
Robert Dollar, PIFSC	Cheryl Morisaki, NWFSC
Wende Goo, PIR	Diana Norgaard, AKR
William Jacobson, SWR	Sarah Towne, NWR
Maryann LaRosh, SWFSC	G. Rob Vivian, SEFSC
Fangming (Ming) Warren, HQ	

Program Management/Scientific/Technical GS 1-10 or Pay Band Equivalent

Lindsey Feldman, NER	Janine Iles, SWR
Siri Hakala, SWFSC	Sean Lucey, NEFSC
Joel Holcomb, NWFSC	Anthony Martinez, SEFSC
Zachary Hughes, NWR	Paul McCluskey, AKFSC
Eric Teeters, HQ	

Program Management/Scientific/Technical GS 11-15 or Pay Band Equivalent

R. Christopher Chambers, NEFSC	R. Joshua Keaton, AKR
Jason Cope, NWFSC	Dera Look, PIR
Edward Dick, SWFSC	M. Kimberly Lowe, PIFSC
Matthew Eagleton, AKR	Michael Ruccio, NER
Nicholas Farmer, SER	Amy Schueller, SEFSC
Lowell Fritz, AKFSC	Eric Shott, SWR
Rini Ghosh, PIR	Jerry Sutton, NWR
Jacqueline Wilson Farber, HQ	

Supervisor

Corinne Brown, AKR	Ben Meyer, NWR
Rick Brown, NWFSC	Beth Phelan-Hill, NEFSC
David Detlor, HQ	Jeremy Rusin, SWFSC
David Gouveia, NER	Russell (Rusty) Swafford, SER
Amy Jake, AKFSC	Alecia (Lisa) Van Atta, PIR
Charles Littnan, PIFSC	Erik Williams, SEFSC
Christopher Yates, SWR	

Subject: NPRB Seeks Nominations for Science Panel

From: "NPRB" <nprb@rill.nprb.org>

Date: 5/24/2012 4:35 PM

To: chris.oliver@noaa.gov

The North Pacific Research Board is seeking nominations to fill a vacancy on its Science Panel. Desired qualifications include expertise in stock assessment methods in marine fisheries, an understanding of principles and practices in statistical sampling and experimental design, as well as experience with proposal review and formulating research priorities. Strong candidates will also demonstrate knowledge of pressing fisheries issues, needs, and priorities of state and/or federal managers.

The overall mission of the North Pacific Research Board is to develop a comprehensive science program of the highest caliber that will provide better understanding of the North Pacific, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean ecosystems and their fisheries, and help to sustain and enhance the living marine resources. The Board has integrated ecosystem research programs in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska and is developing its strategy for Arctic research. In addition, specific research needs are identified annually in requests for proposals released each October.

The Science Panel helps the Board shape its entire scientific program. The Panel's membership is drawn from experts in fields of science most relevant to the Board's interests, such as oceanography, ecosystems dynamics, plankton and fish ecology, marine mammal and seabird biology, fisheries management, and socioeconomics. The Science Panel advises the Board on science planning and identification of research priorities; identification, development, collection, and evaluation of statistical, biological, oceanographic, ecological, economic, social and other scientific information relevant to the Board's mission; and review of proposals and technical evaluations received by the Board.

The Panel meets 2-3 times a year (spring and fall), usually in Anchorage or Seattle. Panel members serve four-year terms with a maximum of two consecutive terms. While there is no pay involved with serving on the Panel, the Board covers travel, food and lodging for panel members. The Panel will meet next on August 14-16, 2012, and then April 17-19, 2013.

Nominations and self-nominations may be submitted to the Board by email to cynthia.suchman@nprb.org, or by regular mail to:

Cynthia Suchman, Executive Director
North Pacific Research Board
1007 West 3rd Avenue, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

The Board and all its panels follow strict conflict of interest procedures during the proposal selection process. Implications of these should be considered when making nominations. Any

questions can be directed to the Executive Director (cynthia.suchman@nprb.org)

Deadline for receipt of all nomination materials is July 13, 2012. These include a 1-2 page resume, three letters of reference from people who have worked with the nominee on a range of relevant research activities, and contact information (including email address). More information about the Board and its activities is available online: www.nprb.org.

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Calling All Gulf of Alaska Jig Fishermen: Informational Meeting

Gulf of Alaska Pacific Cod Management Update & Discussion

This meeting will provide information to the jig fleet (and anyone else who may be interested) on the state and federal regulatory management systems—including new regulations—for Pacific cod jig fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska. It is also an opportunity to ask staff questions about the discussion paper from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that evaluates the need to limit other gear types on board vessels jigging for Pacific cod in the Gulf.

When:

Tuesday, June 5, 2012
5:30 – 7:00 PM

Where:

Elks Lodge
102 Marine Way
Kodiak

Presenters:

- ◆ Council Staff - Sarah Melton
- ◆ NMFS Enforcement - Ken Hansen
- ◆ ADFG - To be determined

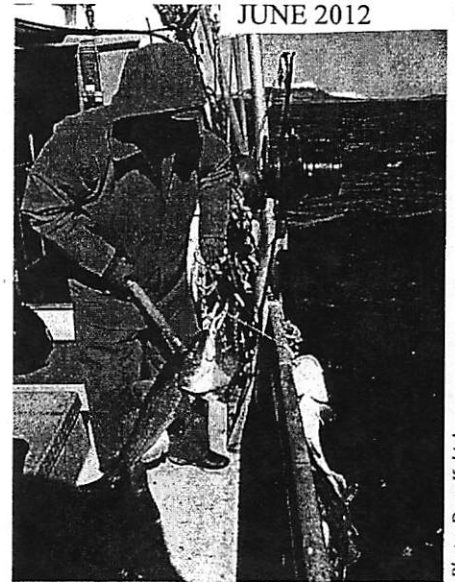


Photo: Dave Kubiak

For more information, contact:
Sarah Melton, NPFMC
(907) 271-2809 main -or-
(907) 271-1503 desk

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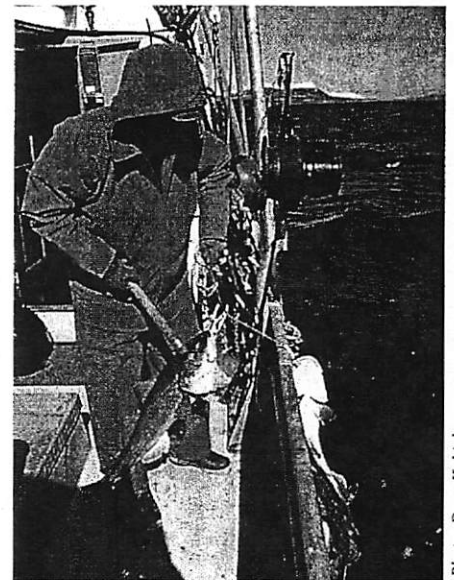


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Invitation

Ouzinkie Community Reception

June 11, 2012

The Ouzinkie Native Corporation invites the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council family to visit the community of Ouzinkie on Spruce Island and attend a public community dinner and reception in Ouzinkie at the Ouzinkie Tribal Community Hall on June 11, 2012 following the Council meeting and travel to Ouzinkie (about 7:30 p.m.). Transportation via bush plane will be provided to Council members, Council staff, State of Alaska staff and NMFS staff. Please RSVP Jackie Muller, ONC President at dfields@ptialaska.net to help plan transportation needs. You should be back to your hotel by about 9:30 p.m. Other interested persons are welcome to attend but will need to plan their own transportation.