

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

## News and Notes



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December 2002

## F40 Review

In October 2001, in conjunction with the actions taken to address Steller sea lion issues, the Council also approved a motion to conduct an independent review of our basic F<sub>40</sub> harvest policy relative to National Standards. The intent of this review was to determine whether changes need to be made to account for individual species needs or ecosystem needs. The review panel included Dr. Terry Quinn (UAF), Dr. Marc Mangel (University of California Santa Cruz), Dr. Tony Smith (CSIRO, Australia), Dr. Dan Goodman (Montana State University), Dr. Graeme Parks (Marine Resource Assessment Group, Florida), Dr. Victor Restrepo (ICCAT, Spain), and Dr. Kevin Stokes (New Zealand), with assistance from Dr. Grant Thompson (AFSC). The Chair of the panel, Dr. Dan Goodman, provided a final report to the Council at this meeting. The report is available on the Council's web site. While the review panel found that the current harvest strategies were sufficiently conservative for most stocks, the panel recommended that alternative harvest strategies be explored for some species, notably rockfish. The panel also recommended well designed monitoring programs be implemented as an approach to ecosystem-based management. The Council requested that NMFS scientists review the panel's report, and provide recommendations to the Council in April on how to incorporate the findings into the annual specifications process. Staff contact is David Witherell.

## Steller Sea Lion Report

In December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed a law that directed the Council to contract with the National Academy of Sciences to undertake an independent scientific review of available science related to the causes of Steller sea lion decline/recovery. At the December meeting, the Academy presented their report to the Council. The primary finding of the report was that the greatest threat to Steller sea lions does not appear to be competition for prey by fisheries, but instead, "top down" factors such as predation by killer whales, disease, intentional shooting and other factors. The report also recommended that investigations of top-down sources of Steller sea lion mortality be further investigated, and that adaptive management be used to uncover the effect of fisheries on sea lion survival. A full written report will be available soon from the National Academy Press at <http://www.nap.edu>. Staff contact is David Witherell.

## 2003 Appointments Announced

**Ben Ellis** of Soldotna was appointed by the Secretary of Commerce to fill Alaska's seat on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Public relations consultant Ellis is former director of the Kenai River Sportfishing Association, and former development director of the Alaska SeaLife center in Seward. He has been a plant manager for a sport-caught seafood processing business and served on the Council's Advisory Panel. Mr. Ellis will begin his term January 20<sup>th</sup> and will be in attendance at the January Council meeting in Seattle.

At its December meeting the Council announced the following appointments:

**Advisory Panel:** The Council made three changes in the membership of the Advisory Panel. **Kent Leslie** of Oregon was appointed to replace Lyle Yeck who did not seek reappointment. Mr. Yeck served on the AP for 15 years and will be greatly missed. Ragnar Alstrom also did not seek reappointment to the Council, and will be replaced by **Sandra Moller** of the Aleut Enterprise Corporation. The Council also appointed **Mitch Kilborn**, from Western Alaska Fisheries in Kodiak.

**Scientific and Statistical Committee:** Mr. Steven Berkeley of Long Marine Laboratory has retired from the SSC and will be replaced by **Dr. David Sampson**, of Oregon State University. **Dr. Doug Woodby** of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game was also appointed to the SSC.

**Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan team:** Dave Jackson is retiring from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and will be vacating his seat on the GOA plan team. He will be replaced by **Michael Ruccio**, also from ADF&G.

# Happy Holidays



# Crab Rationalization

At its December 2002 meeting the Council addressed several items concerning the rationalization program for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands crab fisheries. The Council adopted several trailing amendments including a comprehensive package defining the captains share (or C share) program and sideboards limiting crab fishers harvests from Gulf of Alaska fisheries.

**C Shares.** The Council amendment on the captains share program will create a separate class of shares (C shares) that will be allocated to eligible captains. This three percent allocation will require the shareholder to be onboard the vessel fishing the shares and can be transferred only to active participants in the crab fisheries. Leasing of the shares will be permitted during the first three years of the program to allow adjustment during the transition to the new management program. During those three years, the shares will not be subject to processor share or regional landing requirements. At the end of the three years those requirements will become effective, unless the Council decides the restrictions are unnecessary to protect processors or the regional distribution of landings. Ownership caps enacted in the program are intended to ensure that a reasonable number of participants benefit from C share ownership. At the request of a captains committee, the Council also included a waiver of certain eligibility requirements for captains who died in fishing related incidents.

**Sideboards.** Sideboard protections adopted by the Council will apply to all vessels that receive an allocation in the *C. opilio* fishery. The sideboards will restrict these vessels to their historic harvests in all Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries (except the sablefish fishery, which is subject to the IFQ program harvest limitations). Vessels with less than 100,000 pounds of total *opilio* harvests and more than 500 metric tons of total cod harvests during the qualifying years would be exempt from the sideboard caps. In addition, vessels with less than 50 metric tons of total groundfish landings in the qualifying period would be prohibited from harvesting cod from the Gulf of Alaska. Sideboards will be applied to vessels but will also restrict harvests using the accompanying license, if that license is used on another vessel. The Council also directed staff to examine the possibility of applying the sideboards in state water and parallel fisheries.

**Binding arbitration.** The Council expressed its intention to select a preferred binding arbitration program at its January/February meeting.

**Community protection.** The Council adopted a 2 year cooling off period during which processor share transfers out of the community of origin would be limited to protect communities. The Council also directed the community protection committee to continue to develop options for the protection of communities. The committee was directed to consider options consistent with preferred alternative in the June 2002 Council motion. That committee will meet in January and provide a

report for the Council for possible actions at the January/February meeting in Seattle.

**Data collection.** The Council requested the data collection committee to provide recommendations concerning data aggregation and the importance of aggregation to protection of proprietary information at the January/February meeting. The Council also directed both the data collection committee and binding arbitration committee to identify data needs of the arbitration program and examine the potential use of the data collection program to satisfy those needs.

The Council also adopted an additional sunken vessel provision that extends the existing provision to additional vessels. The provision will grant replacement vessels additional history for seasons missed as a result of a vessel sinking. The Council also clarified several aspects of the allocation of a share of the WAI brown king crab fishery to the community of Adak. The allocation will be made to a non-profit entity with a board of directors elected by the community. The motion allows for the allocation to be made to the Aleut Enterprise Corporation (AEC) prior to the organization of the community non-profit entity. AEC could manage the allocation for a maximum of 2 years, during which the proceeds would be held in a separate trust. If a non-profit entity is not organized by the end of that period, the Council will reassess the need to take further action. The allocation proceeds would be used for fisheries related development and will be subject to management and oversight similar to that of the CDQ program.

The Council also considered alternatives for analysis in the crab rationalization EIS. The Council removed the mitigating "no fishing" alternative from the analysis because that alternative is not reasonable under the problem statement. In addition, the Council elected to include a one-pie IFQ and an AFA style cooperative in the EIS. These alternatives will be evaluated in addition to the Council's preferred alternative, the "three pie voluntary cooperative" identified by the Council at its June 2002 meeting.

The Council also made a statement that it does not intend to consider catch history in the 2003 *opilio* fishery in any future rationalization program. The full motion on crab rationalization issues is available on our website. Staff contact is Mark Fina.

## Ecosystem Forum

A one day ecosystem forum was held to get the latest information on the status and trends of the marine ecosystems off Alaska, and to discuss how this information might be used in the fishery management process. An audience of over 100 people listened to talks from a prestigious panel of speakers including Nathan Mantua (UW), George Hunt (UCI), Ward Testa (NMML), Doug DeMaster (AFSC), David Irons (USFWS), and Pat Livingston (NMFS). A report of the meeting will be posted on the Council's website. Staff contact is David Witherell.

# Pacific cod Split

BSAI Amendment 64, which apportions the fixed gear share of the BSAI Pacific cod TAC among the fixed gear sectors (hook-and-line catcher processors, hook-and-line catcher vessels, hook-and-line and pot vessels <60' LOA, and pot vessels), will sunset on December 31, 2003. In October, the Council initiated a new plan amendment to retain or alter these allocations. In December, the Council reviewed a discussion paper on the reauthorization of Amendment 64 and approved two problem statements for an analysis which combines two major potential actions: **1)** extend and/or modify the BSAI Pacific cod fixed gear allocations currently in place under BSAI Amendment 64, and **2)** split the pot share of the BSAI Pacific cod fixed gear TAC between pot catcher processors and pot catcher vessels according to recent catch histories as previously considered under BSAI Amendment 68. A new FMP amendment is required to make the proposed changes; **BSAI Amendment 77** is the new amendment number which encompasses both proposed actions. The Council also approved a suite of alternatives and options for analysis. The Council motion, including the problem statements and the list of alternatives, is available on the Council website. Initial review is scheduled for April 2003, with final action in June. Staff contact is Nicole Kimball.

## Additional Pacific Cod Sideboards

The Council at its December 2002 meeting selected as their preferred alternative a joint proposal by AFA and non-AFA trawl catcher vessel participants. The chosen alternative would limit access to the directed trawl catcher vessel fishery for Pacific cod for the period of January 20 through February 25<sup>th</sup> in area 655430 to the following participants:

- (1) catcher vessels which have a history of economic dependence upon the winter Bering Sea Pacific cod fisheries, as demonstrated by average January and February deliveries of at least 250,000 lbs for 4 out of the 5 previous years of 1995-1999;
- (2) the cod exempt AFA catcher vessels;
- (3) AFA non-exempt Bering Sea catcher vessels not to exceed a daily average of 10 vessels for the period of January 20 to February 25<sup>th</sup> (except for vessels qualifying under item (1) above).

Exceeding this 10-vessel limit in 2003 or any later year by the AFA non-exempt catcher vessels will trigger an area closure to Pacific cod fishing the following year. The closure area, if triggered, is defined as the same area closed for the NMFS Cod Fishery Interaction Study (Cape Sarichef Test Area). The triggered closure would be in effect from January 20 through February 25<sup>th</sup> and would apply to all AFA cod non-exempt catcher vessels participating in the BSAI directed cod fishery (except for vessels qualifying under item (1) above).

The 10-vessel limit for AFA non-exempt catcher vessels and trigger mechanism shall not apply for any period from February 1 of any given year until at least 2 non-AFA vessels that meet the threshold standard of at least 250,000 lbs in 4 out of 5 years from 1995-1999 are fishing for Pacific cod in Area 655430. This regulatory action will terminate upon rationalization of the BSAI Pacific cod fishery.

Final action is scheduled for the February 2003 meeting. During that time, the Council requested framework language for implementing their preferred alternative be included in the analysis. However, the Council clarified they will not be entertaining subsequent changes for the preferred alternative other than those recommended from NMFS and Council staff concerning the regulatory framework for the alternative. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

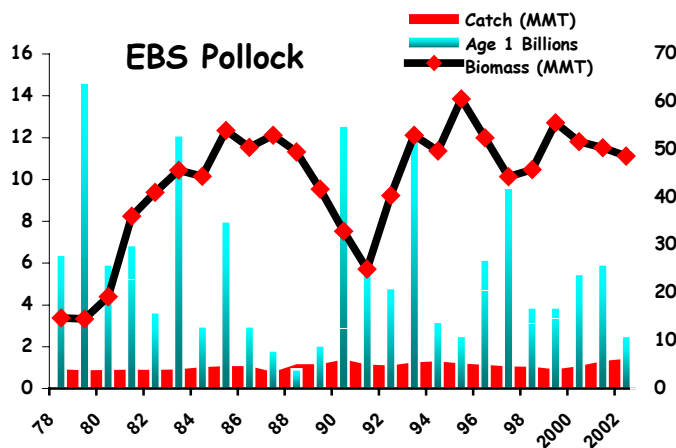
## Improved Retention and Utilization (IR/IU)

At the December 2002 meeting, the Council received a report from the IR/IU Technical Committee on the progress of IR/IU trailing amendments. Since the October Council meeting, the Committee has met by teleconference twice. The focus of the meetings has been primarily on Amendment C (minimum groundfish retention standards) which is scheduled for initial review, along with Amendment D (5% bycatch exemption), in February 2003. During the October 25 teleconference, the Committee requested from staff tables showing discards and retention rates by target species from 1995 to 2001 to assist in determining the minimum groundfish retention standards. These tables were presented to the Committee during the November 26 teleconference. The Committee also requested an opinion from NOAA GC and NMFS Enforcement concerning data used to enforce the minimum groundfish retention standard. A letter outlining these concerns and requesting guidance was sent to November 13, 2002 to NOAA GC and Enforcement. Specifically, the letter addressed whether NOAA GC and NMFS Enforcement would be satisfied with using estimates based solely on data reported by the vessel operator and whether the minimum retention standard could be enforced across a group of vessels rather than on a vessel by vessel basis. An initial response from NOAA GC and NMFS Enforcement stated they are not satisfied with self-reporting of catch data and enforcing retention standards across vessel pools. The Committee requested further consideration of these issues by NOAA GC, Enforcement, and Fisheries Management staff, particularly in the context of existing IR/IU enforcement standards (for pollock and cod), as well as what would be in place under a flatfish full retention regulation. This will be incorporated in the analysis for review by the Council in February. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

# 2003 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish quotas

The Council adopted final specifications for the 2003 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish fisheries, including Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), Total Allowable Catch (TAC), bycatch allowances, and seasonal apportionments of Pacific halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, opilio crab, and herring to target fishery (PSC) categories based on recommendations from its Scientific and Statistical Committee and Advisory Panel. The Council also adopted the halibut discard mortality rates for the 2003 CDQ groundfish fisheries recommended by the International Pacific Halibut Commission staff.

Overall, the status of the stocks continues to appear relatively favorable, although in some cases biomass has declined due to below average recruitment or changes in modeling techniques. Pollock biomass increased by 1.3 million mt compared with last year's estimate. Biomass estimates declined by nearly half for Greenland turbot (age 1+) due to new fishery and survey data and for rock sole (age 2+) due to significant changes to the model as well as new fishery and survey data. None of the BSAI groundfish stocks are overfished or approaching an overfished condition. The BSAI stock assessments can be viewed at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/safes/safe.htm>. An overview of the status of Bering Sea stocks is at <http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/stocks/Presentations/BSAIPlanTeamDec2002.ppt>



The sum of recommended ABCs for 2003 is 3,298,792 mt, an increase of 114,000 mt from 2002 (ATTACHMENT 1). This mirrors a groundfish biomass increase of roughly the same amount. TACs were set at 1.49 million mt (75% of the overall cap) for pollock, 207,500 mt (10%) for Pacific cod, 176,750 mt (9%) for flatfishes, 22,660 (1%) for rockfishes, and 6,000 and 60,000 mt (less than 1%) for sablefish and Atka mackerel, respectively.

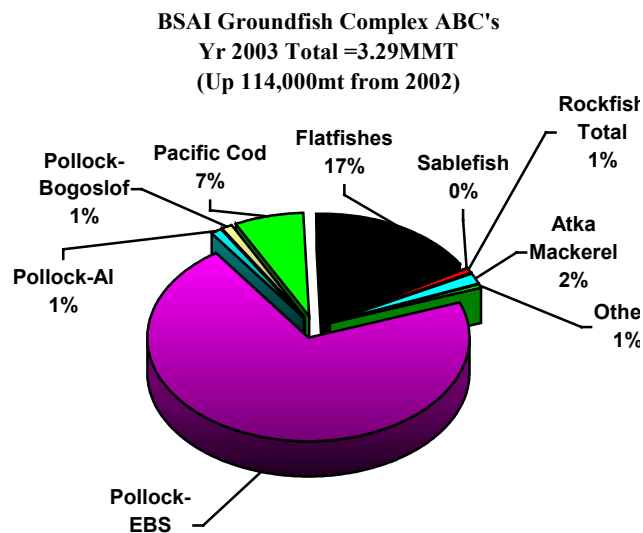
The Council's recommendations for bycatch allowance apportionments, and seasonal apportionments of Pacific

halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, opilio crab, and herring to target fishery (PSC) categories are attached as ATTACHMENT 2. These are essentially unchanged from 2002, except for a reallocation of 1,415 red king crab in zone 1 from the non-pelagic trawl pollock/Atka mackerel/other species category to the Pacific cod category. The Council's recommendations for 2003 halibut discard mortality rates for the CDQ fisheries are listed below. The 2003 rates for the non-CDQ fisheries are the same as those used in 2002.

CDQ Trawls		CDQ Longlines	
Atka Mackerel	0.80	Pacific cod	0.11
Bottom pollock	0.90	Turbot	0.04
Flathead sole	0.90		
Pelagic pollock	0.89		
Rockfish	0.90		
Yellowfin sole	0.83		

### Rockfish Management

The Council also received a NMFS report on its plans for managing the BSAI rockfish fisheries in 2003. The report outlines the implications of creating three separate subarea quotas for the shorttraker/rougeye rockfish category for CDQ and non-CDQ fisheries. A second discussion paper is planned to address long range plans for rockfish research and management and address issues identified by the Scientific and Statistical Committee. This may be available in February, or may follow information provided in a report by the Rockfish Working Group, which will report on recent progress on life history, stock structure, abundance estimates of rockfish by AFSC scientists. A third report on revising the management structure for BSAI and GOA rockfishes as a case study for managing all non-target species will also be presented. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.



# 2003 Gulf of Alaska groundfish quotas

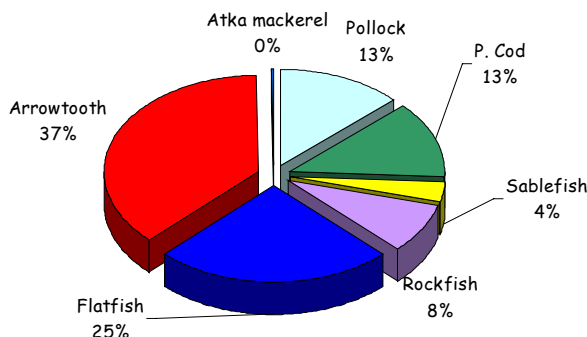
The Council approved the 2002 Gulf of Alaska Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report and recommended final catch specifications for the 2003 groundfish fisheries, including Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), Total Allowable Catch (TAC), and Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits and apportionments. The Council recommendations for ABCs, TACs, PSCs, and apportionments are listed in **ATTACHMENT 3**.

The sum of the recommended ABCs for 2003 is 416,600 mt, an increase of 5.5 % from the 2002 ABC of 394,780 mt. This is principally due to an increase in flathead sole (+82%) and Arrowtooth flounder (+6%). Other GOA groundfish, including pollock and Pacific cod, continue to decline due to poor recruitment. None of the Gulf of Alaska stocks are overfished or approaching an overfished condition..

For flathead sole, this is the first year that a separate assessment was utilized for this species, resulting in a higher ABC than in previous years when it was included in the flatfish complex. Pollock in the Gulf continues to decline (-7%). The Council recommended conservative management measures for this stock, consistent with the recommendations of the SSC and the Plan Team. The 2003 pollock ABC is 19% below the maximum permissible ABC for this stock. For Pacific cod, the quota was reduced approximately 23% to account for the State waters fishery. The SAFE report for the GOA groundfish is available on the Council's website. Additional information on the summary of GOA groundfish stocks may be seen at <http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/stocks/Presentations/GOAPlanTeamDec2002.ppt>

For most stocks the Council established TACs equal to ABCs with the exception of Pacific cod where the state waters fishery accounts for 23% of the TAC, and those fisheries where bycatch of other target species is a concern, specifically for Shallow water flatfish, Flathead sole, Arrowtooth flounder, and Other slope rockfish. For those fisheries, the TAC was set below the ABC. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Projected ABC's by species  
416,600 tons total



# GOA Groundfish Rationalization

The Council received the final scoping report on GOA groundfish rationalization and the final GOA Work Group report. The committee report contained recommendations for draft alternatives, elements, and options to rationalize the GOA groundfish fisheries. The Council deferred action on initiating formal analysis until February and requested that staff prepare a discussion paper on the draft list of elements and options to provide a more detailed review of the analytical, legal, administrative, and enforcement aspects associated with them. The discussion will be qualitative in nature and provide a broad overview of the proposals. Specific issues to be addressed include data limitations, duplicative proposals, administrative issues, legal issues, enforcement issues related to regionalization elements, ill-defined elements, possible missing elements of catcher/processor proposals, and identification of GOA communities that may be eligible for regionalization measures. Specific recommendations are included in the Council's motion which is posted on our website. Once these issues have been addressed, the Council may then adopt a suite of alternatives, elements, and options for analysis and set a timeline for final action on this issue.

The Council requested a second discussion paper to describe processes currently underway to address bycatch of salmon, crab and herring and other forage fish species (including FMP amendments and PSEIS options for crab bycatch). The paper will provide timelines for those studies and how they relate to the GOA rationalization analytical timeline, and will describe fishery, survey, and habitat data sources that will be used. The Council then would determine if sufficient work is under way to address bycatch issues or if bycatch measures need to be addressed in a separate amendment. A timeline for this paper was not set by the Council.

The Council also requested a legal opinion from NOAA General Counsel on Community Territorial Use Rights In Fisheries (TURFs), Community Incentive Fisheries Trusts (CIFTs), and Community Fisheries Quotas (CFQs), and potential legal problems that could affect the ability to adopt a regionalization program in the GOA.

An ADF&G report on state water fisheries, and how they would affect rationalization of federal fisheries, is also scheduled for the January meeting. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

## EFH

The Council received a progress report on essential fish habitat (EFH), and finalized the geographic boundaries for the mitigation alternatives of the EIS. The Council adopted the recommendations of the EFH Committee and added an additional alternative. A copy of the final motion and draft maps are available on the Council's web site. The EIS is currently scheduled for preliminary review in April 2003, and ready for final Council action in December 2003. EFH and HAPC designation alternatives are the same as previously adopted under the Council's final motion from October 2002.

The mitigation alternatives are briefly summarized below. The full text of each alternative is available from our website:

**Alternative 1:** Status quo.

**Alternative 2:** Gulf Slope Bottom Trawl Closures: Prohibit the use of bottom trawl gear for rockfish in 13 designated areas of the GOA slope (200m-1000m), but allow vessels endorsed for trawl gear to fish for rockfish in these areas with fixed gear or pelagic trawl gear.

**Alternative 3:** Bottom Trawl Gear Prohibition for GOA Slope Rockfish on upper slope area (200-1,000m). Prohibit the use of bottom trawl gear for targeting GOA slope rockfish species on upper slope area (200-1000m), but allow vessels endorsed for trawl gear to fish for slope rockfish with fixed gear or pelagic trawl gear.

**Alternative 4:** Bottom Trawl Closures in All Management Areas: Prohibit the use of bottom trawl gear in designated areas of the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska. Bottom trawl gear used in the remaining open areas would be required to have disks/bobbins on trawl sweeps and footropes.

**Alternative 5:** Expanded Bottom Trawl Closures in All Management Areas: Prohibit the use of bottom trawl gear in designated areas of the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands with a Aleutian Seafloor Habitat Protection suboption, and Gulf of Alaska. Bottom trawl gear used in the remaining open areas would be required to have disks/bobbins on trawl sweeps and footropes.

**Alternative 6:** Closures to All Bottom Tending Gear

Prohibit the use of all bottom tending gear (dredges, bottom trawls, pelagic trawls that contact the bottom, longlines, and pots) within approximately 20% of the fishable waters (i.e., 20% of the waters shallower than 1,000m). The closed areas would be identified based on the presence of habitat such as high relief coral, sponges, and *Boltenia*, with emphasis on areas with notable benthic structure and / or high concentrations of benthic invertebrates that provide shelter for managed species. The closed areas would include a mix of relatively undisturbed habitats and habitats that currently are fished. Within a given region, existing area closures could comprise all or a portion of the closed areas for this alternative. Staff contacts are Cathy Coon and David Witherell.

## Pribilof Blue King Crab Rebuilding Plan

The Pribilof Islands blue king crab (*Paralithodes platypus*) stock has been declared overfished according to the criteria in the BSAI King and Tanner Crab FMP. The recent stock assessment showed that the stock was below minimum stock size threshold (MSST) and there were no signs of recovery in the trawl survey data. This fishery has been closed since 1999. The stock has also been protected from trawling effects since 1994 by the Pribilof Islands habitat conservation area.

An analytical working group (consisting of NMFS, ADF&G and Council staff) formed to discuss alternatives for a Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock rebuilding plan, recommended that the Council consider the following alternatives for analysis:

Alternative 1: Status Quo

Alternative 2: A rebuilding plan which allows some directed harvest of crabs prior to the stock being rebuilt

Alternative 3: A rebuilding plan which allows no directed fishing until the stock is rebuilt

Components of these alternatives may include bycatch considerations, habitat considerations, and implications relative to Crab Rationalization. Each component may also have several options within it.

In addition to preparing a rebuilding plan according to the schedule outlined above, the Plan Team is concurrently examining the adequacy of the existing MSST for this stock. Under the National Standard guidelines, an alternative available to the Council for remedial action is to respecify the MSST if the stock is shown to be declining due to changes in environmental conditions that affect its long-term productivity. If this examination indicates that the stock is in fact declining due to environmental changes, the Council may be presented with a draft FMP amendment to respecify MSST, rather than a rebuilding plan.

The Council approved of the direction taken by the analytical working group in defining alternatives for analysis as well as the concurrent work planned to examine MSSTs for this stock. The Council also requested that the analysis include information on blue king crab predators and any changes which may have occurred in the predator-prey relationships for this stock.

Under the revised schedule, the rebuilding plan will be presented to the Council for initial review in June 2003, with final action taken at the October 2003 meeting. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

**NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands**

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**2002 Specifications and Recommendations for Final 2003 Specifications (mt)**

Species	Area	2002 Biomass	2002 OFL	2002 ABC	2002 TAC	2002 Catch*	2003 Biomass	2003 OFL	2003 ABC	2003 TAC
Pollock	EBS	9,800,000	3,530,000	2,110,000	1,485,000	1,484,927	11,100,000	3,530,000	2,330,000	1,491,760
	AI	106,000	31,700	23,800	1,000	1,041	175,000	52,600	39,400	1,000
	Bogoslof	232,000	46,400	4,310	100	38	227,000	45,300	4,070	50
Pacific cod	BSAI	1,540,000	294,000	223,000	200,000	184,937	1,680,000	324,000	223,000	207,500
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	1,597,000	136,000	115,000	86,000	74,861	1,550,000	136,000	114,000	83,750
Greenland turbot	BSAI	208,000	36,500	8,100	8,000	2,753	112,000	17,800	5,880	4,000
	BS			5,427	5,360	2,287				2,680
	AI			2,673	2,640	466				1,320
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	671,000	137,000	113,000	16,000	11,443	597,000	139,000	112,000	12,000
Rock sole	BSAI	1,850,000	268,000	225,000	54,000	41,621	877,000	132,000	110,000	44,000
Flathead sole	BSAI	695,000	101,000	82,600	25,000	15,419	550,000	81,000	66,000	20,000
Alaska plaice	BSAI	1,110,000	172,000	143,000	12,000	12,291	1,080,000	165,000	137,000	10,000
Other flatfish	BSAI	78,300	21,800	18,100	3,000	2,628	107,000	21,400	16,000	3,000
Sablefish	EBS	28,000	2,900	1,930	1,930	893	31,000	4,290	2,900	2,900
	AI	39,000	3,850	2,550	2,550	994	39,000	4,590	3,100	3,100
Pacific Ocean Perch	BSAI	377,000	17,500	14,800	14,800	11,221	375,000	18,000	15,100	14,100
	<i>Bering Sea</i>			2,620	2,620	642			2,410	1,410
	<i>Eastern</i>			3,460	3,460	2,758			3,500	3,500
	<i>Central</i>			3,060	3,060	2,971			3,340	3,340
	<i>Western</i>			5,660	5,660	4,850			5,850	5,850
Northern rockfish	BSAI	150,000	9,020	6,760			156,000			
	BS				19	109		161	121	121
	AI				6,741	3,951		9,332	6,980	5,879
Shortraker/rougheye	BSAI	48,000	1,369	1,028			32,000	1,290	967	
	BS				116	99				137
	AI				912	474				830
Other rockfish (incl. sharpchin)	EBS	6,880	482	361	361	399	18,000	1,280	960	960
	AI	12,900	901	676	676	547	15,000	846	634	634
Atka mackerel	AI	439,700	82,300	49,000	49,000	43,993	358,300	99,700	63,000	60,000
	<i>Eastern</i>			5,500	5,500	5,002			10,650	10,650
	<i>Central</i>			23,800	23,800	20,947			29,360	29,360
	<i>Western</i>			19,700	19,700	18,044			22,990	19,990
Squid	BSAI	n/a	2,620	1,970	1,970	784	n/a	2,620	1,970	1,970
Other Species	BSAI	667,000	78,900	39,100	30,825	26,467	695,000	81,100	43,300	32,309
<b>BS/AI TOTAL</b>		<b>19,655,780</b>	<b>4,974,242</b>	<b>3,184,085</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>1,922,532</b>	<b>19,774,300</b>	<b>4,867,309</b>	<b>3,298,792</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>

EBS = eastern Bering Sea

BSAI = Bering Sea & Aleutians

BS = Bering Sea

AI = Aleutian Islands

OFL = overfishing level

ABC = acceptable biological catch

TAC = total allowable catch

\*through 11/02/02 including CDQ harvest

PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES  
FOR THE BSAI TRAWL AND NON-TRAWL FISHERIES<sup>1</sup>  
[All amounts are in metric tons]

TRAWL FISHERIES	Prohibited Species and Zone					
	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI <sup>7</sup>	Herring (mt) BSAI	Red King Crab (animals) Zone 1	C. opilio (animals) COBLZ <sup>2</sup>	C. bairdi (animals)	
					Zone 1	Zone 2
Yellowfin sole	886	139	16,664	2,776,981	340,844	1,788,459
January 20 - April 1	262	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
April 1 - May 21	195	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
May 21 - June 29	49	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
June 29 - December 31	380	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rock sole/flat. sole/other flatfish <sup>3</sup>	779	20	59,782	969,130	365,320	596,154
January 20 - April 1	448	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
April 1 - June 29	164	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
June 29 - December 31	167	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
RKC savings subarea <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	20,924	.....	.....	.....
Turbot/sablefish/arrowtooth <sup>4</sup>	.....	9	.....	40,238	.....	.....
Rockfish (June 29 - Dec. 31) <sup>5</sup>	69	7	.....	40,237	.....	10,988
Pacific cod	1,434	20	13,079	124,736	183,112	324,176
Pollock/Atka/other <sup>6</sup>	232	146	200	72,428	17,224	27,473
Midwater trawl pollock	.....	1,184	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL TRAWL PSC	3,400	1,526	89,725	4,023,750	906,500	2,747,250
NON-TRAWL FISHERIES						
Pacific cod - Total	775					
January 1 - June 10	320					
June 10 - August 15	0					
August 15 - December 31	455					
Other non-trawl - Total	58					
May 1 - December 31	58					
Groundfish pot & jig	Exempt					
Sablefish hook-&-line	Exempt					
TOTAL NON-TRAWL	833					
PSQ RESERVE <sup>8</sup>	342	.....	7,275	326,250	73,500	222,750
GRAND TOTAL	4,575	1,526	97,000	4,350,000	980,000	2,970,000

<sup>1</sup> Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas.

<sup>2</sup> *C. opilio* Bycatch Limitation Zone. Boundaries are defined at 50 CFR part 679, fig. 13.

<sup>3</sup> The Council at its December 2001 meeting limited red king crab for trawl fisheries within the RKCSS to 35 percent of the total allocation to the rock sole/flathead sole/ "other flatfish" fishery category (§ 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)). "Other flatfish" for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for Pacific halibut (a prohibited species), Greenland turbot, rock sole, yellowfin sole, arrowtooth flounder.

<sup>4</sup> Greenland turbot, arrowtooth flounder, and sablefish fishery category.

<sup>5</sup> The Council at its December 2001 meeting apportioned the rockfish PSC amounts from June 30 - December 31.

<sup>6</sup> Pollock other than pelagic trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and "other species" fishery category.

<sup>7</sup> With the exception of the nontrawl Pacific cod directed fishery, any unused halibut PSC apportionment may be added to the following season's apportionment. Any unused halibut PSC apportioned to the nontrawl Pacific cod directed fishery during the January 1 through June 10 time period will not be available until after August 15.

<sup>8</sup> With the exception of herring, 7.5 percent of each PSC limit is allocated to the multi-species CDQ program as PSQ reserve. The PSQ reserve is not allocated by fishery, gear or season.



Gulf of Alaska  
2002 Specifications and Council's Final 2003 Specifications (mt)

SPECIES	Area	2002					2003			
		Biomass	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch*	Biomass	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock <sup>1</sup>	W (61)			17,730	17,730	17,381			16,788	16,788
	C (62)			23,045	23,045	20,380			19,685	19,685
	C (63)			9,850	9,850	10,809			10,339	10,339
	WYAK	726,600	75,480	1,165	1,165	1,818	670,410	69,410	1,078	1,078
	EYAK/SEO	28,710	8,610	6,460	6,460	2	28,710	8,610	6,460	6,460
	TOTAL	755,310	84,090	58,250	58,250	50,390	699,120	78,020	54,350	54,350
Pacific Cod	W			22,465	16,849	15,327			20,600	15,450
	C			31,680	24,790	25,094			29,000	22,690
	E			3,455	2,591	103			3,200	2,400
	TOTAL	428,000	72,100	57,600	44,230	40,524	452,000	70,100	52,800	40,540
Deep water flatfish <sup>2</sup>	W			180	180	19			180	180
	C			2,220	2,220	530			2,220	2,220
	WYAK			1,330	1,330	2			1,330	1,330
	EYAK/SEO			1,150	1,150	7			1,150	1,150
	TOTAL	68,263	6,430	4,880	4,880	558	68,260	6,430	4,880	4,880
Rex sole	W			1,280	1,280	398			1,280	1,280
	C			5,540	5,540	2,611			5,540	5,540
	WYAK			1,600	1,600	0			1,600	1,600
	EYAK/SEO			1,050	1,050	0			1,050	1,050
	TOTAL	71,326	12,320	9,470	9,470	3,009	71,330	12,320	9,470	9,470
Shallow water flatfish <sup>3</sup>	W			23,550	4,500	241			23,480	4,500
	C			23,080	13,000	6,599			21,740	13,000
	WYAK			1,180	1,180	2			1,160	1,160
	EYAK/SEO			1,740	1,740	0			2,960	2,960
	TOTAL	349,992	61,810	49,550	20,420	6,842	349,990	61,810	49,340	21,620
Flathead sole	W			9,000	2,000	419			16,420	2,000
	C			11,410	5,000	1,689			20,820	5,000
	WYAK			1,590	1,590	0			2,900	2,900
	EYAK/SEO			690	690	0			1,250	1,250
	TOTAL	170,915	29,530	22,690	9,280	2,108	132,260	51,560	41,390	11,150
Arrowtooth flounder	W			16,960	8,000	6,100			17,990	8,000
	C			106,580	25,000	14,674			113,050	25,000
	WYAK			17,150	2,500	56			18,190	2,500
	EYAK/SEO			5,570	2,500	111			5,910	2,500
	TOTAL	1,760,000	171,060	146,260	38,000	20,941	1,302,000	181,390	155,140	38,000
Sablefish	W			2,240	2,240	1,780			2,570	2,570
	C			5,430	5,430	6,120			6,440	6,440
	WYAK			1,940	1,940	1,548			2,320	2,320
	SEO			3,210	3,210	2,798			3,560	3,560
	TOTAL	188,000	19,350	12,820	12,820	12,246	182,000	20,020	14,890	14,890
Other Slope rockfish	W			90	90	222			90	90
	C			550	550	481			550	550
	WYAK			260	150	37			270	150
	EYAK/SEO			4,140	200	31			4,140	200
	TOTAL	107,960	6,610	5,040	990	771	107,960	6,610	5,050	990

SPECIES	Area	2002					2003			
		Biomass	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch	Biomass	OFL	ABC	TAC
Northern rockfish	W			810	810	337			890	890
	C			4,170	4,170	2,998			4,640	4,640
	E			0 <sup>4</sup>	0 <sup>4</sup>	NA			0 <sup>4</sup>	0 <sup>4</sup>
	TOTAL	94,350	5,910	4,980	4,980	3,335	108,830	6,560	5,530	5,530
Pacific ocean perch	W		3,110	2,610	2,610	2,723		3,220	2,700	2,700
	C		9,760	8,220	8,220	8,263		10,120	8,510	8,510
	WYAK			780	780	748			810	810
	SEO		2,800	1,580	1,580	1		2,900	1,640	1,640
	TOTAL	293,240	15,670	13,190	13,190	11,735	298,820	16,240	13,660	13,660
Shortraker/rougheye	W			220	220	260			220	220
	C			840	840	628			840	840
	E			560	560	403			560	560
	TOTAL	70,890	2,340	1,620	1,620	1,291	66,830	2,340	1,620	1,620
Pelagic shelf rockfish	W			510	510	183			510	510
	C			3,480	3,480	2,680			3,480	3,480
	WYAK			640	640	448			640	640
	EYAK/SEO			860	860	7			860	860
	TOTAL	62,489	8,220	5,490	5,490	3,318	62,500	8,220	5,490	5,490
Demersal Shelf Rockfish		15,615	480	350	350	182	17,510	540	390	390
Atka Mackerel	GW	unknown	6,200	600	600	84	unknown	6,200	600	600
Thornyhead rockfish	W			360	360	368			360	360
	C			840	840	504			840	840
	E			790	790	253			800	800
	TOTAL	77,840	2,330	1,990	1,990	1,125	85,760	3,050	2,000	2,000
Other Species	GW		NA	NA	11,330	3,748	NA	NA	NA	11,260
GOA TOTAL		4,514,190	504,450	394,780	237,890	162,207	4,005,170	531,410	416,600	236,440

\* Catch through 11/02/02

1/ The pollock ABC has been reduced by 1,700 mt to accommodate the expected Prince William Sound State harvest.

2/ Deep water flatfish includes dover sole, Greenland turbot and deepsea sole.

3/ "Shallow water flatfish" includes rock sole, yellowfin sole, butter sole, starry flounder, English sole, Alaska plaice, and sand sole.

4/ The EGOA ABC for northern rockfish has been included in the WYAK ABC for other slope rockfish.

NOTE:

W = Western Gulf C = Central Gulf E = Eastern Gulf WYAK = West Yakutat EYAK/SEO = East Yakutat/Southeast  
 GW means Gulfwide.

**Prohibited Species Catch Limits**

2002 Trawl		2002 Hook and Line	
Jan 1 - Apr 1	550 mt	1st trimester	Jan 1 - Jun 10 250 mt
Apr 1 - Jun 29	400 mt	2nd trimester	Jun 10 - Sep 1 5 mt
Jun 29 - Sep 1	600 mt	3rd trimester	Sept 1 - Dec 31 35 mt
Sept 1 - Oct 1	150 mt		
Oct 1 - Dec 31	300 mt	DSR	Jan 1 - Dec 31 10 mt
TOTAL	2,000 mt		300 mt

**Trawl fishery categories**

Season	Shallow Water	Deep Water	Total
Jan 1 - Apr1	450 mt	100 mt	550 mt
Apr 1 - Jun 29	100 mt	300 mt	400 mt
Jun 29 - Sep 1	200 mt	400 mt	600 mt
Sep 1 - Oct 1	150 mt	any rollover	150 mt
Oct 1 - Dec 31	no apportionment		300 mt
TOTAL	900 mt	800 mt	2,000 mt

## DRAFT NPFMC Three Meeting Outlook

January 27th, 2003 Seattle	March 31, 2003 Anchorage	June 9, 2003 Kodiak
Crab Rationalization: <b>Committee reports and identification of preferred alternatives for trailing amendments</b>		
Crab EIS: <b>Discussion/Direction</b>	Crab EIS: <b>Initial Review (T)</b>	Crab EIS: <b>Action as necessary</b>
		Pribilof Blue King Crab Rebuilding: <b>Initial Review</b>
GOA Rationalization: <b>Finalize alternatives for EIS</b>	GOA Rationalization: <b>Action as necessary</b>	GOA Rationalization: <b>Action as necessary</b>
EFH: <b>Progress Report</b>	EFH: <b>Preliminary review (T)</b>	EFH: <b>Progress report</b>
AFA Coop Reports: <b>Review</b>		
P. cod Sideboards: <b>Final Action</b>	Halibut Subsistence Program: <b>Review Proposed Rule</b>	
	AI Pollock Closure: <b>Initial Review</b>	AI Pollock closure: <b>Final Action (T)</b>
DPSEIS: <b>Progress Report (T)</b>	DPSEIS: <b>Action as necessary</b>	DPSEIS: <b>Preliminary Review (T)</b>
Flatfish IRIU Trailing Amendments (C&D): <b>Initial Review</b>	Flatfish IRIU Trailing Amendments (C&D): <b>Final Action</b>	
	Flatfish IRIU Trailing Amendments (A&B): <b>Initial Review (T)</b>	Flatfish IRIU Trailing Amendments (A&B): <b>Final Action (T)</b>
Observer Program: <b>Discussion/Direction</b>	Observer Program: <b>Action as necessary</b>	Observer Program: <b>Action as necessary</b>
Non-Target Species Management: <b>Progress report</b>	NAS SSL Report: <b>Discuss future actions</b>	Non-Target Species Management: <b>Initial Review (T)</b>
BSAI Rockfish: <b>Discussion Paper</b>	F40 Report: <b>Discuss future actions</b>	
TAC-setting Process: <b>Discussion of Alternatives (T)</b>	TAC-setting Process: <b>Initial Review (T)</b>	TAC-setting Process: <b>Final Action (T)</b>
Research Priorities: <b>Review</b>		

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

MSA - Magnuson Stevens Act  
 GOA - Gulf of Alaska  
 SSL - Steller Sea Lion  
 GHL - Guideline Harvest Level  
 SEIS - Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement  
 CDQ - Community Development Quota  
 IRIU - Improved Retention/Improved Utilization

SAFE - Stock assessment and fishery evaluation  
 VMS - Vessel Monitoring System  
 CV - Catcher Vessel CP- Catcher Processor  
 MSST - Minimum Stock Size Threshold  
 FMP - Fishery Management Plan  
 PGSEIS - Programmatic Groundfish SEIS  
**(T) Tentatively scheduled**



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## Upcoming Committee Meetings

**BSAI Crab Community Protection Committee:** January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, Anchorage Hilton, Fireweed Room, 8:00 a.m.

**Observer Advisory Committee:** January 23-24, 2003 Seattle WA, Room 2039, 8:30 - 5:00, Building 4, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way, Seattle. Agenda available on our website at a later date.

**EFH Committee:** January 26th in Seattle from 9am-5pm. Renaissance Madison, South Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

**IRIU Technical Committee:** Meet in January, Time/Location TBA

## Electronic Newsletter

If you would like to receive our newsletter in your *e-mail* in box, just send your e-mail address to [maria.shawback@noaa.gov](mailto:maria.shawback@noaa.gov). We will take you off our paper mailing list, and you will be sent the next newsletter and agenda immediately instead of having to wait for it to arrive in the regular mail or watching for it to show up on our website. If you have questions about this process, feel free to call our office.

## NPFMC Tentative Meeting Dates for 2003-2005\*

	<b>February</b> Week of/ Location	<b>April</b> Week of/ Location	<b>June</b> Week of/ Location	<b>October</b> Week of/ Location	<b>December</b> Week of/ Location
2003	1/27 Seattle Renaissance Madison, Downtown 800-278-4159	3/31 Anchorage Hilton 1-907-272-7411	9/Kodiak Best Western Kodiak Inn 1-888-KODIAK-4	6/Anchorage Sheraton 1-800-478-8700	8/Anchorage Hilton 1-907-272-7411
2004	2/Anchorage	3/29 Anchorage	7/Portland	4/Sitka	6/Anchorage
2005	7/Seattle	4/Anchorage	6/Dutch Harbor	3/Anchorage	5/Anchorage

\*Meeting dates subject to change depending on availability of meeting space. Any changes will be published in the Council's newsletter.