AGENDA B-1
OCTOBER 2009

Executive Director's Report

New USCG Admiral and new NMFS Enforcement SAC

I wanted to make sure the Council was aware of a couple of important changes – Rear Admiral Christopher Colvin has taken over for the 17th District USCG and he will be introduced at this meeting. Ms. Sherrie' Meyers has been named Special Agent in Charge (SAC) for the NOAA Fisheries Office of Enforcement, and while many of you already know her, I wanted to formally introduce her to the Council in her new position, and allow her a moment to address the Council.

Ocean Policy Task Force – Interim Report

I have enclosed a copy here (Item B-1(a)) of the interim report dated September 10, 2009. The NOAA press release notes a 30-day public comment period ending September 17. The interim report does not contain many specific recommendations, but does contain a number of high-level recommendations (such as stressing the critical need for an ecosystem-based management approach, better science information, adaptive management capabilities, better coordination among existing agencies, etc). It puts the onus on the National Ocean Council (NOC) to further develop specific plans and strategies to implement these overarching objectives. It would seem that development of these plans is where the real rubber will meet the road. I do not have any suggested written comments at this time, beyond the general sentiments I expressed during the field hearings. If the Council wishes to comment on this interim report we have until October 17 to do so, apparently.

Northern Bering Sea Research Area

As the Council aware, the Alaska Fisheries Science Center is developing a scientific research plan for the Northern Bering Sea Research Area (NBSRA) to study the effects of bottom trawling on the benthic community. The primary goals of the plan would be to use the research area to investigate the effects of bottom trawling on bottom habitat, and provide information to help with developing future protection measures in the NBSRA for crab, marine mammals, endangered species, and the subsistence needs of western Alaska communities. To that end, the AFSC and Council are holding a public meeting on February 24 - 25, 2010, at the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 1016 West Sixth Avenue, Suite 304, in Anchorage. The purpose is to hear from subsistence fishing communities adjacent to the NBSRA, to help delineate areas of subsistence harvest or critical habitat of marine species in the NBSRA, understand the nature of subsistence activities, register concerns about the impact of commercial bottom trawling, and collect ecological knowledge of the NBSRA. Flyers with more information are available on the table outside of the Council meeting room, and attached here as Item B-1(b).

Journal publication by Council staff

Among recent journal publications developed by Council staff, I have enclosed for your information a copy of 'Fishery management responses to climate change in the North Pacific' (Item B-1(c)), recently published in the ICES Journal of Marine Science (published by Oxford Journals), and co-authored by Diana Stram and Diana Evans. It is a great professional boost for staff, and a great reflection on this Council's management success, to have these kinds of articles published in prestigious journals!

Seafood.com article

Item B-1(d) is a letter from the Alaska Crab Coalition (ACC) citing an article from seafood.com news regarding assessment of management fees for catch share programs. The article notes that the fee for this year's crab fishery was set at 0%, because sufficient funds remained from last year's assessment.

Crab industry meeting this week

Members of crab harvesting, processing, and community interests are convening a meeting on Friday, October 2 to invite the industry and public to meet and discuss options for crab emergency delivery relief issue which the Council has been grappling with over the past year. They will meet in the AP room at approximately 5:30 pm. The Council will be addressing this issue later in the week.

AMEF meeting

The Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum met in June, and the agenda and meeting summary are included for your reference under Item B-1(e).

Letter regarding loan program request

Item B-1(f) is a letter from NOAA in response to our letter requesting information on a potential loan program for communities to purchase crab PQS. In summary, the letter confirms that current MSA authorities do not allow for such a loan program, and that Congressional action would be required to authorize such a program.

Joint meeting with Board of Fish

We are scheduling a joint meeting with the Council and the Board of Fish for Tuesday, December 8, one day prior to the start of our Council meeting in December. At this time I anticipate a half-day meeting, but I am still working out the details on that with the Board of Fish Director (they meet in Anchorage December 1-8). At that meeting we can discuss a number of issues of mutual concern, and we may identify issues for further consideration by the Joint Protocol Committee.

Arctic Conference reminder

It's only a couple week away! "Managing Resources for a Changing Arctic", the International Arctic Fisheries Symposium, will be October 19-21 here in Anchorage. Item B-1(g) contains the basic information, and you can get the details and registration information by visiting www.nprb.org.

Stock Assessment 101

Dr. Loh-Lee Low has graciously agreed to conduct a basic stock assessment workshop Saturday evening, October 3, at 6:00 pm in the AP meeting room (Dillingham/Katmai). This open workshop is designed to provide a simpler understanding of the often complex stock assessment process and associated analyses. Item B-1(h) is a flyer describing the workshop – all interested are encouraged to attend.

PNCIAC report

Item B-1(i) is a letter (and associated materials) from the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC), providing information to the Council regarding the economic data reporting (EDR) system, and requesting the Council to consider initiating a process to refine and revise the data collection forms. The PNCIAC Chair and Secretary are on hand to address the Council on these issues.

AGENDA B-1(a)
OCTOBER 2009

NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 17, 2009

Obama Administration Officials Release Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Interim Report

WASHINGTON, DC – Obama Administration officials today released the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Interim Report for a 30-day public review and comment period. The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, led by White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley, consists of 24 senior-level officials from Administration agencies, departments, and offices. The report provides proposals for a comprehensive national approach to uphold our stewardship responsibilities and ensure accountability for our actions.

"This Interim Report represents a wide spectrum of views and considerations, not just from within the federal government, but from members of the public, local officials, stakeholders and experts from coast to coast," said Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. "It delivers on President Obama's request for recommendations that will move this country towards a more robust national policy for our oceans, coasts and the Great Lakes and recognizes that we have a responsibility to protect the oceans and coasts for the benefit of current and future generations."

"America's oceans are vital to our prosperity, health, security and quality of life," said Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "This is a historic day -- for the first time, we as a nation say loudly and clearly that healthy oceans matter."

"America's enduring maritime interests -- our reliance on the oceans and Great Lakes for commerce, sustenance, and security -- have not changed since our nation's founding. What has changed is the complexity of the pressures on these critical ecosystems and the demand for an effective and integrated national strategy to manage their use, protection, and sustainability," said Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Thad Allen. "The recommendations of this Interim Report chart a clear course to address the needs for an integrated national policy and governance structure that will better provide for the safety, security, and stewardship of the maritime environment, now and into the future."

"President Obama's vision for a sustainable and comprehensive strategy for our oceans is vital to the wise management of these critical resources," said Associate Deputy Secretary of the Interior Laura Davis. "With 1.7 billion acres in the Outer Continental Shelf -- including management responsibilities for offshore renewable and conventional energy resources, 35,000 miles of coastline, and millions of acres of marine-based parks, refuges and national monuments – the Department of Interior and its agencies are front and center in the effort to build the coordinated national ocean policy that our country needs."

"The Interim Report provides a clear road map for America's stewardship of the oceans, coasts and Great Lakes," said EPA's Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water Peter Silva. "EPA is proud to have played a key role in the development of this crucial report, which is inextricably linked with EPA's mission to protect and safeguard human health and the environment."

The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force was created by Presidential Memorandum on June 12, 2009, to develop a national policy for the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. The Memorandum charged the Task Force with developing recommendations that include a national policy for our oceans, coasts and the Great Lakes, a framework for improved Federal policy coordination, and an implementation strategy to meet the objectives of a national ocean policy within 90 days. Within 180 days, the Task Force is charged with developing a recommended framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning.

The Interim Report provides proposals for a comprehensive national approach to uphold our stewardship responsibilities and ensure accountability for our actions. Additionally, the Interim Report outlines a more balanced, productive and sustainable approach to our ocean resources. Specifically, it highlights three key areas:

A National Policy: The Interim Report proposes a new National Policy that recognizes that America's stewardship of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes is intrinsically and intimately linked to environmental sustainability, human health and well-being, national prosperity, adaptation to climate and other environmental change, social justice, foreign policy, and national and homeland security.

A Robust Governance Structure: The Interim Report proposes modifications to the existing governance structure, including a stronger mandate and direction, and renewed and sustained high-level engagement. Under the proposal, the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Office of Science and Technology Policy would lead an interagency National Ocean Council to coordinate ocean-related issues across the Federal Government and the implementation of the National Ocean Policy. Such a governance structure, combined with sustained high-level staff involvement, would ensure that these areas are a priority throughout the Federal Government.

Categories for Action: The Interim Report prioritizes nine categories for action, including ecosystem-based management, regional ecosystem protection and restoration, and strengthened and integrated observing systems, that seek to address some of the most pressing challenges facing the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. These strategies and objectives provide a bridge between the National Policy and action on the ground.

The Task Force is now focusing its efforts on developing a recommended framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning as charged within 180 days. In addition, the Task Force continues its public engagement activities, including holding at least five more regional public meetings scheduled to take place in the following cities: San Francisco, California; Providence, Rhode Island; Cleveland, Ohio; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Honolulu, Hawaii. The initial meeting was held in Anchorage, Alaska on August 21, 2009. Expert briefings will continue while the Interim Report is available for review and public comment. The Interim Report may be found at http://www.whitehouse.gov/oceans. The Task Force will provide a final report with all of its recommendations later this year.

THE WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Interim Report Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force

September 10, 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. Introduction

On June 12, 2009, you issued a Memorandum to the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies in which you stated: *"In order to better meet our Nation's stewardship responsibilities for the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, there is established an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, to be led by the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality."* That Presidential memo charged the Task Force as follows:

1. Within 90 days from the date of this memorandum, the Task Force shall develop recommendations that include:

    a. A national policy that ensures the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources, enhances the sustainability of ocean and coastal economies, preserves our maritime heritage, provides for adaptive management to enhance our understanding of and capacity to respond to climate change, and is coordinated with our national security and foreign policy interests. The recommendation should prioritize upholding our stewardship responsibilities and ensuring accountability for all of our actions affecting ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources, and be consistent with international law, including customary international law as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

    b. A United States framework for policy coordination of efforts to improve stewardship of the oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. The Task Force should review the Federal Government's existing policy coordination framework to ensure integration and collaboration across jurisdictional lines in meeting the objectives of a national policy for the oceans, our coasts and the Great Lakes. This will include coordination with the work of the National Security Council and Homeland Security Council as they formulate and coordinate policy involving national and homeland security, including maritime security. The framework should also address specific recommendations to improve coordination and collaboration among Federal, State, tribal and local authorities, including regional governance structures.

    c. An implementation strategy that identifies and prioritizes a set of objectives the United States should pursue to meet the objectives of a national policy for the oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

2. Within 180 days from the date of this memorandum, the Task Force shall develop, with appropriate public input, a recommended framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning. This framework should be a comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based approach that addresses conservation, economic activity, user conflict, and sustainable use of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources consistent with international law, including customary international law as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

II. Structure and Operation of the Task Force

The Task Force is comprised of 24 senior policy-level officials from executive departments, agencies, and offices across the Federal Government, and is chaired by the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). (Task Force membership list attached.) The Task Force established a Working Committee comprised of senior officials from these executive departments and agencies. The Working Committee's role was to develop initial suggestions based on the guidance and direction it received from the Task Force. To focus its work, the Committee established four subgroups: Policy, Coordination Framework, Implementation Strategy, and Public Engagement.[1]

The Task Force first met on June 22, 2009, and has convened an additional four times through September 10. Task Force meetings were devoted to learning more about the relevant issues, discussing outstanding matters and options, and providing additional guidance and direction to the Working Committee. In preparing this interim report, the Task Force, Working Committee, and subgroups discussed key issues with a variety of knowledgeable sources, including Federal, State, tribal, and regional representatives, scientists, legal and policy experts, and the public. The Task Force also reviewed reports from two ocean prominent bodies, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (2004) and the Pew Oceans Commission (2003). In doing so, however, it recognized the significant environmental changes and scientific and legislative advances that have taken place since those Commissions completed their reports.

The interim report has been coordinated with our national security and foreign policy interests and reflects a careful balancing of stewardship with these long-standing and well-established interests.

III. Public Engagement

The Task Force initiated a public engagement process throughout the first 90-day period to receive input for consideration as it developed this interim report. This builds on the comprehensive reports of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission, which were based on significant scientific, public, and stakeholder input. CEQ, on behalf of the Task Force, organized and hosted twenty-four expert roundtables to hear from a broad range of stakeholders and interest groups. The roundtables included representatives from sectors including energy, conservation, fishing, transportation, agriculture, human health, State, tribal, and local governments, ports, recreational boating, business, and national and homeland security. Several Task Force or Working Committee members attended each roundtable.

[1] A fifth subgroup on Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning has also been established for the development of the recommended framework for coastal and marine spatial planning.

There was robust participation, and the Task Force received many valuable comments and perspectives for its consideration during each session. The Task Force will host additional roundtables during the next 90 days as it develops a possible framework for coastal and marine spatial planning.

On behalf of the Task Force, CEQ also set up a website to accept public comments. To date, the Task Force has received over five-hundred comments from a range of affected parties, including academia, citizens, commercial interests, non-governmental organizations, and States, tribes, and regional governance structures. Many of the groups commenting represent constituencies of hundreds or thousands of members.

Additionally, the Task Force will host six regional public meetings. These meetings are scheduled to take place in the following cities: Anchorage, Alaska (held on August 21, 2009); San Francisco, California; Providence, Rhode Island; Cleveland, Ohio; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Honolulu, Hawaii. All but the first of these public meetings will be held during the second 90 days of the Task Force's work, which is focused on coastal and marine spatial planning. Consequently, the Task Force expects most of the input at these meetings to be focused on that topic, although comments on the report will be welcome.

The public meetings, roundtables, and website showcased a strong desire and enthusiasm among participants for a National Policy that provides clarity and direction regarding how the Nation will better care for the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. A valuable and wide diversity of interests were represented, and several key themes emerged. While not exhaustive, these include:

- Support for adopting ecosystem-based management as a guiding principle, acknowledging regional differences, and practicing adaptive management;
- Support for embracing science-based decision-making and investing in ecosystem-based science, research, and ocean observations, including comprehensive research on the linkages among ecosystem health, human health, economic opportunity, national and homeland security, social justice, and environmental change, including climate change;
- Desire for improved coordination and collaboration across Federal, State, tribal, and local governments, and regional governance structures, and for improved transparency and public participation, while avoiding new layers of bureaucracy and unnecessary costs;
- Support for improving both formal and informal education about the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes;
- Support for ensuring that policies are adequately funded; and

- Support for joining the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Law of the Sea Convention).

The Task Force's deliberations benefitted from this input as it developed its report. To complement these efforts, and to be responsive to numerous requests, the Task Force strongly endorses issuing this interim report for 30 days of public comment. This would allow for additional public engagement to help you and your Administration make a more informed decision on what actions to take in response to these suggestions.

IV. Interim Report of the Task Force

In developing its interim report, the Task Force reviewed a number of Federal, State, and foreign policies and models, past and pending legislation, the recommendations contained in the two earlier Ocean Commissions' reports, and public comments. The following brief synopsis provides an overview of the suggested National Policy, Policy Coordination Framework, and Implementation Strategy.

Suggested National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes

The Task Force believes that the policy should contain the following elements:

1. A vision of what a National Policy should achieve for the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes;
2. A brief context section describing the value of these important areas, the various issues confronting them, and the urgency to take effective action;
3. The statement of our National Policy; and
4. A set of overarching guiding principles for United States management decisions and actions affecting the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

The suggested *National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes* would provide a comprehensive national approach to uphold our stewardship responsibilities; ensure accountability for our actions; and serve as a model of balanced, productive, efficient, sustainable, and informed ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes use, management, and conservation within the global community. The National Policy recognizes that America's stewardship of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes is intrinsically and intimately linked to environmental sustainability, human health and well-being, national prosperity, adaptation to climate and other environmental change, social justice, foreign policy, and national and homeland security.

Policy Coordination Framework to Improve the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes

The Task Force reviewed the existing coordination framework, with a particular focus on the existing Committee on Ocean Policy (COP), established by Executive Order 13366 in 2004. The COP has been moderately effective in establishing forums for bringing Federal agencies together to coordinate on ocean-related matters. However, numerous parties from both within and outside the structure have strongly suggested to the Task Force that the design could be improved. Key themes for improvement included:

- The need for a strong, clear, overarching policy mandate and the setting of national ocean priorities;
- The need for high-level direction and policy guidance from a clearly designated and identifiable authority;
- The need for more consistent and sustained senior-level participation and attention on ocean-related issues from all member agencies and departments;
- The advantages of stronger linkages between management and science;
- The need for an improved, clear structure for ongoing and active engagement with State, tribal, and local authorities, and regional governance structures to address relevant issues; and
- The need for improved coordination with other Executive branch policy committees.

The Task Force recognized that various options could be pursued. After careful and deliberate consideration of various models, the Task Force suggests a combination of modifications to the structure of the existing COP, a stronger mandate and direction, and renewed and sustained high-level engagement. The Task Force is confident that this combination of improvements provides a framework for more successful policy coordination to improve the stewardship of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Subject to later refinements, the Task Force suggests the following:

- Consolidating and strengthening the Principal- and Deputies-level components within a single National Ocean Council (NOC) structure;
- Strengthening the decision-making and dispute-resolution processes by defining clear roles for the NOC, and the NOC leadership;
- Creating a Governance Advisory Committee to formally engage with State, tribal and local authorities, and regional governance structures;
- Strengthening the link between science and management by creating an integrated Steering Committee of the NOC; and

- Strengthening coordination between the NOC, the National Security Council, the National Economic Council, the Office of Energy and Climate Change, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Office of Management and Budget, and other White House entities.

Implementation Strategy

The Task Force considered a number of options for outlining initial strategies to implement the National Policy. There was an array of views on this strategy among Task Force members, stakeholders, and the public, ranging from developing a very detailed action plan to providing for more general categories from which detailed plans would develop over time. The Task Force recognized that within a 90-day timeframe there were limits to what could or should be accomplished and noted that it was directed to suggest a strategy as opposed to a plan. However, the Task Force felt strongly that regardless of the level of specificity of these priority objectives, actions to implement them must, at a minimum, have clear direction, measurable goals and outcomes, and timeframes for completion. The interim report seeks to also ensure coordination and collaboration with State, tribal and local authorities, and regional government structures, as appropriate.

The Task Force's suggested implementation strategy identifies the following nine priority objectives that our Nation should pursue to implement the National Policy.

- **Ecosystem-Based Management:** Adopt ecosystem-based management as a foundational principle for the comprehensive management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

- **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning:** Implement comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning and management in the United States.

- **Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding:** Increase knowledge to continually inform and improve management and policy decisions and the capacity to respond to change and challenges. Better educate through formal and informal programs the public about the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

- **Coordinate and Support:** Better coordinate and support Federal, State, tribal, local, and regional management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Improve coordination and integration across the Federal Government, and as appropriate, engage with the international community.

- **Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification:** Strengthen resiliency of coastal communities and marine and Great Lakes environments and their abilities to adapt to climate change impacts and ocean acidification.

- **Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration:** Establish and implement an integrated ecosystem protection and restoration strategy that is science-based and aligns conservation and restoration goals at the Federal, State, tribal, local, and regional levels.

- **Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land:** Enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by promoting and implementing sustainable practices on land.

- **Changing Conditions in the Arctic:** Address environmental stewardship needs in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent coastal areas in the face of climate-induced and other environmental changes.

- **Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations and Infrastructure:** Strengthen and integrate Federal and non-Federal ocean observing systems, sensors, and data collection platforms into a national system and integrate that system into international observation efforts.

These priority objectives provide a bridge between policy and specific actions, but do not prescribe in detail how individual entities will undertake their responsibilities. Instead, the NOC would develop strategic action plans for each of the priority objectives, focusing on key areas identified by the Task Force. This would allow adequate time to fully consider the necessary details for implementation, and, as appropriate, to coordinate with States, tribal, and local authorities, regional governance structures, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and private enterprise.

Conclusion

The Task Force is pleased to submit this interim report and fulfill the first part of its charge. Having considered a broad range of public comments, this report reflects the requests and concerns of all interested parties. Though the main focus of the Task Force now turns to developing a framework for coastal and marine spatial planning, due to the President by December 9, 2009, the Task Force anticipates that this interim report will continue to be refined as the Task Force receives further thoughtful input from stakeholders. With this continued public participation, the Task Force will be able to provide the President with the best possible final set of recommendations.

PROPOSED NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE OCEAN, OUR COASTS, AND THE GREAT LAKES

I. Vision

An America whose stewardship ensures that the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are healthy and resilient, safe and productive, and understood and treasured so as to promote the well-being, prosperity, and security of present and future generations.

II. National Policy Context

The Value of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes

America is intricately connected to and directly reliant on the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Each of us – whether living and working in the country's heartland or along its coasts – affects and is affected by these places. Their beauty inspires us, and their bounty contributes to our national well-being and security. Nearly half of our population is located in coastal counties. Our rich and productive coastal regions and waters account for the great majority of the national economy, totaling trillions of dollars each year, and support distant communities that may not even be aware of the connection between the land and sea. Millions of visitors enjoy our Nation's seashores each year, contributing not only to the economy, but also to personal and communal satisfaction and fulfillment. The sea is both a refuge for spiritual reflection and a powerhouse of excitement for educating students of all ages and interests.

With over 95,000 miles of coastline and the largest exclusive economic zone in the world, our Nation benefits from a wealth of goods and services derived from the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. They provide food, fresh water, minerals, energy, and other natural resources and ecological benefits. They support tens of millions of jobs, and are a source of recreation. They also play a critical role in our Nation's transportation, economy, and trade, as well as in the global mobility and readiness of our Armed Forces and the maintenance of international peace and security.

The ocean supports human health and well-being in myriad ways, including as a source of healthy foods, pharmaceuticals, and other beneficial compounds. The ocean is a source of existing energy and offers numerous opportunities for renewable energy, which can help to secure our energy independence and mitigate climate change.

The ocean and Great Lakes exert significant influence over how our planet functions. Covering over 70 percent of the Earth, the ocean plays a primary role in our planet's environment and natural operations, including weather and climate. The ocean's ability to absorb and store heat from the atmosphere and transport it to other parts of the globe keeps daily temperatures within a livable range. The Great Lakes are the largest freshwater system on Earth, with 10,000 miles of shoreline and some 95 percent of the Nation's fresh surface water. While we commonly refer to different oceans (Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic, etc.), it is important to recognize that all of these bodies of water are connected and influenced by each other. These linkages require our Nation to recognize that we benefit from and affect one global ocean.

The ocean shapes and sustains all life on Earth. We are dependent on the ocean for the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink. Though we may not think about it, processes on land and in the water, including biological processes, are intricately linked so that changes in one can have profound effects on the other. The ocean is both the beginning and the end of the Earth's water cycle. Water that evaporates from the surface of the ocean becomes rain that falls on our fields and fills our aquifers. Much of this precipitation eventually finds rivers which flow back to the sea, starting the cycle once more. Half of the oxygen we breathe comes from microscopic plants living in the ocean. Coastal barrier islands, coral reefs, mangroves, and wetlands serve as buffers between coastal communities and damaging floods and storms. Coastal wetlands are a nursery for many recreational and commercial fish species, provide essential habitat for many migratory birds and mammals, and serve as a natural filter helping to keep our waters clean. Ocean and coastal ecosystems absorb and detoxify many pollutants, recycle nutrients, and help control pests and pathogens. Marine ecosystems house biological diversity exceeding that found in the world's rain forests.

Challenges Facing the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes

The importance of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems cannot be overstated; simply put, we need them to survive. It is clear that these invaluable and life-sustaining assets are vulnerable to human activities and, at the same time, human communities are rendered more vulnerable when these resources are degraded. Yet, ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems are experiencing an unprecedented rate of change due to human activities. We are only now beginning to understand the full extent of the direct and indirect consequences of our actions on these systems.

Climate change is impacting the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Increasing water temperatures are altering habitats, migratory patterns, and ecosystem structure and function. Coastal communities are

facing sea-level rise, inundation, increased threats from storms, erosion, and significant loss of coastal wetlands. The ocean's ability to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere buffers the impacts of climate change, but also causes the ocean to become more acidic, threatening not only the survival of individual species of marine life, but also entire marine ecosystems. The ocean buffers increased global temperatures by absorbing heat, but increasing temperatures are causing sea levels to rise by expanding seawater volume and melting land-based ice. Increased temperatures may eventually reduce the ocean's ability to absorb carbon dioxide. Conversely, climate change is predicted to lower the water levels of the Great Lakes, thereby altering water cycles, habitats, and economic uses of the lakes.

Along many areas of our coasts and within the Great Lakes, biological diversity is in decline due to overfishing, introduction of invasive species, and loss and degradation of essential habitats from coastal development and associated human activities. The introduction of non-native species can carry significant ecological and economic costs. Human and marine ecosystem health are threatened by a range of challenges, including increased levels of exposure to toxins from harmful algal blooms and other sources, and greater contact with infectious agents. Areas in numerous bays, estuaries, gulfs, and the Great Lakes are now consistently low in or lacking oxygen, creating dead zones along our bays and coasts. Unsustainable fishing (e.g., overfishing) remains a serious concern with consequences for marine ecosystems and human communities. In the Arctic, environmental changes are revealing the vulnerability of its ecosystems. These changes are increasing stressors and impacts on the ecosystems, people, and communities in the region, and are presenting new domestic and international management challenges.

Many of these concerns are attributable not only to activities within marine and Great Lakes ecosystems, but also to actions that take place in our Nation's interior. For example, our industries, agricultural and transportation operations, cities, and suburbs generate various forms of pollution. Industrial operations emit pollutants, such as nitrogen and mercury, into the atmosphere that often find their way into the ocean and Great Lakes. Rain washes residues, chemicals, and oily runoff from our roadways into our estuaries and coastal waters. Heavy rainfall events can wash sediment, pesticides, and nutrients from our fields, lawns, and agricultural operations into our waters. Urban and suburban development, including the construction of roads, highways, and other infrastructure, as well as modification to rivers and streams, can adversely affect the habitats of aquatic and terrestrial species.

Demands on the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are intensifying, spurred by population growth, migration to coastal areas, and economic activities. Energy development, shipping, aquaculture, and emerging security requirements are examples of new or expanding uses expected to place increasing

demands on our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems. As these demands increase, we must also preserve the abundant and sustainable marine resources and healthy ecosystems that are critical to the well-being and continued prosperity of our Nation.

The State of the National Framework for Policy Coordination

The challenges we face in stewardship of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes lie not only within the ecosystems themselves, but also in the laws, authorities, and governance structures intended to manage our use and conservation of them. United States governance and management of these areas span hundreds of domestic policies, laws, and regulations covering international, Federal, State, tribal, and local interests. These issues range from stewardship and resource use, to maritime safety and commerce, national security, water quality, ports and other transportation infrastructure, and energy. Challenges and gaps arise from the complexity and structure of this regime.

These challenges are not limited to our domestic governance and management regimes. Our Nation, as a major maritime power and coastal State, has a large stake in the development and interpretation of international law and policy applicable to the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Our national security interests are tightly linked to navigational rights and freedoms, as well as to operational flexibility. Our national security and economic interests are also linked to our ability to secure U.S. sovereign rights over resources in extensive marine areas off our coasts, to promote and protect U.S. interests in the marine environment, and to ensure that our maritime interests are respected and considered internationally. The Administration's support for accession to the Law of the Sea Convention reflects several important objectives, including strengthening our Nation's ability to participate in and influence international law and policy related to the ocean.

Time to Act

The time has come for a national policy to uphold our stewardship responsibilities, ensure accountability for our actions, and serve as a model of balanced, productive, efficient, sustainable, and informed ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes use, management, and conservation within the global community. Today, as never before, we better comprehend the linkages among land, air, fresh water, ocean, ice, and human activities. We recognize that change is occurring rapidly and must be addressed. Advances in science and technology provide better and timelier information and understanding to guide decision-making. By applying the principles of ecosystem-based management (in which we integrate ecological, social, economic, commerce, health, and security goals, and recognize humans as key components of the ecosystem and healthy ecosystems as essential to human well-being) and adaptive management (whereby

we routinely assess management actions to allow for better informed and improved future decisions) in a coordinated and collaborative approach, the Nation can improve its response to environmental, social, economic, and security challenges. With a clear national policy and a revitalized, empowered, unifying, and comprehensive framework to coordinate efforts among Federal, State, tribal, and local authorities, including regional governance structures, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and the public, we can work together toward the changes needed to secure the health and prosperity of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

III. Policy

America's stewardship of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes is intrinsically and intimately linked to environmental sustainability, human health and well-being, national prosperity, adaptation to climate and other environmental changes, social justice, international diplomacy, and national and homeland security. Therefore, it is the policy of the United States to:

1. Healthy and Resilient Ocean, Coasts, and Great Lakes
    - Protect, maintain, and restore the health and biological diversity of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources;
    - Improve the resiliency of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems, communities, and economies;
    - Bolster the conservation and sustainable uses of land in ways that will improve the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems; and
    - Use the best available science and knowledge to inform decisions affecting the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes, and enhance humanity's capacity to understand, respond, and adapt to a changing global environment.

2. Safe and Productive Ocean, Coasts, and Great Lakes
    - Support sustainable, safe, secure, and productive uses of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes;
    - Respect and preserve our Nation's maritime heritage, including our social, cultural, and historical values; and
    - Exercise rights and jurisdiction and perform duties in accordance with applicable international law, including respect for and preservation of navigational rights and freedoms, which are essential for the global economy and international peace and security.

3. Understood and Treasured Ocean, Coasts, and Great Lakes
    - Increase scientific understanding of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems as part of the global interconnected systems of air, land, ice, and water, including their relationships to humans and their activities;
    - Improve our understanding and awareness of changing environmental conditions, trends, and their causes, and of human activities taking place in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters; and
    - Foster a public understanding of the value of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes to build a foundation for improved stewardship.

The United States will promote the objectives of this policy by:

- Ensuring a comprehensive and collaborative framework for the stewardship of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes that facilitates cohesive actions across the Federal Government, as well as participation of State, tribal, and local authorities, regional governance structures, non-governmental organizations, the public, and the private sector;
- Cooperating and exercising leadership at the international level, including by joining the Law of the Sea Convention; and
- Supporting ocean stewardship in a fiscally responsible manner.

IV. Principles

1. United States management decisions and actions affecting the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes will be guided by the following stewardship principles to further this policy.
    a. As responsible environmental stewards we will protect, maintain, and restore the health, productivity, and resiliency of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems (including their waters and resources). Policies, programs, and activities of the United States should be managed and conducted in a manner that seeks to prevent or minimize adverse environmental impacts to the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes ecosystems and resources, including cumulative impacts, and to ensure and improve their integrity. They should be managed and conducted in a manner that does not undermine efforts to protect, maintain, and restore healthy and biologically diverse ecosystems and the full range of services they provide;
    b. Decisions affecting the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes should be informed by and consistent with the best available science. Decision-making will also be guided by a precautionary approach as reflected in the Rio Declaration of 1992 which states in pertinent part, "[w]here there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall

not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation"; and

c. Actions taken to protect the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes should endeavor to promote the principles that environmental damage should be avoided wherever practicable and that environmental costs should be internalized, taking into account the approach that those who cause environmental damage should generally bear the cost of that damage.

2. Human activities that may affect ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems should be managed using ecosystem-based management and adaptive management, through an integrated framework that accounts for the interdependence of the land, air, water, ice, and the interconnectedness between human populations and these environments. Management should include monitoring and have the flexibility to adapt to evolving knowledge and understanding, changes in the global environment, and emerging uses.

3. Current and future uses of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources should be managed and effectively balanced in a way that:
   a. maintains and enhances the environmental sustainability of multiple uses, including those that contribute to the economy, commerce, security, and human health;
   b. harmonizes competing and complementary uses effectively;
   c. integrates efforts to protect, maintain, and restore the health, productivity, and resiliency of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and the services they provide; and
   d. recognizes environmental changes and impacts, including those associated with an increasingly ice-diminished Arctic, sea-level rise, and ocean acidification.

4. The United States should support disciplinary and interdisciplinary science, research, monitoring, modeling, forecasting, exploration, and assessment to continually improve understanding of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems. These efforts should include improving understanding of physical, biological, ecological, and chemical processes and changes, their interconnectedness with other parts of the Earth system, and with human populations, and the potential social and economic consequences of management decisions on the long-term health and well-being of the population, including human health and safety. This knowledge should be applied through ecosystem-based management and adaptive management. Information resulting from these efforts should be easily accessible to the public.

5. The United States should develop an improved awareness of changing environmental conditions and trends, and their causes, and of human activities that take place in the ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes environments.

6. United States policies, programs, and activities should enhance formal and informal education about the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes and their uses to build a foundation for greater understanding and improved stewardship, and build capacity to produce future scientists, managers, and members of a dynamic and innovative workforce.

7. The United States should cooperate and provide leadership internationally in the protection, management, and sustainable use of the world's ocean, coastal regions, and the Great Lakes in keeping with applicable conventions and agreements, and with customary international law, as reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention.

8. United States programs, policies, and activities that may impact ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes ecosystems, or engage the use of their resources, should be designed to meet measurable benchmarks in support of clear goals and objectives related to stewardship of these ecosystems.
   a. These goals and objectives of programs and activities should be periodically reevaluated and their effectiveness assessed. This information should be used to adjust management priorities and guide future management and resource decisions; and
   b. The United States should develop appropriate standards and methods for measurement and assessment of parameters associated with the health of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

9. United States policies, programs, and activities that may impact ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes ecosystems, or engage the use of their resources, should be assessed and conducted within an integrated and comprehensive interagency planning framework that:
   a. considers and addresses the full suite of impacts on resources, biological diversity, and ecosystems;
   b. is based on the best available scientific knowledge;
   c. considers and addresses potential use conflicts;

d. ensures and advances coordination and collaboration across Federal, State, tribal, and local jurisdictional lines, and with regional governance structures, the private sector, foreign governments, and international organizations, as appropriate;
e. is coordinated and promotes consistency with our homeland and national security and foreign policy interests;
f. is coordinated and promotes consistency with other national strategies that include environmental stewardship components relevant to the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes;
g. considers and respects our Nation's maritime heritage, including our social, cultural, historical, and aesthetic values;
h. aims to maximize long-term net benefits to society by considering a range of reasonable alternatives that balance potential economic, environmental, public health and safety, and other advantages; distributive impacts; social justice and equity;
i. operates through an open and transparent approach that encourages broad public participation;
j. ensures consistency with management and budgetary goals and compliance with relevant legal requirements;
k. seeks to eliminate redundancy and encourage efficiencies and synergies; and
l. includes a reporting and accountability mechanism.

Implementing a number of the policy elements and principles directed above will require appropriate resources and assets. Departments and agencies shall work to identify future budgetary, administrative, regulatory, or legislative proposal requirements to implement these elements within the budgetary and management guidelines of the President's budget.

PROPOSED POLICY COORDINATION FRAMEWORK

The proposed policy coordination framework suggests a combination of modifications to the structure of the existing Committee on Ocean Policy, a stronger mandate and direction, and renewed and sustained high-level engagement. This combination of improvements provides a framework for more successful policy coordination to improve the stewardship of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. The proposed policy coordination framework would provide a reinvigorated structure that would strengthen ocean governance and coordination by providing clear and visible leadership and sustained high-level engagement within the Federal Government. Additionally, the structure would provide for greater participation by, and coordination of, State, tribal, and local authorities, and regional governance structures. The linkage between management and science would be strengthened, as would coordination with other senior level entities on relevant economic, climate, and security matters. The Task Force is confident that this combination of improvements would enhance the stewardship of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

I. National Ocean Council

Structure

The National Ocean Council (NOC) would be a dual Principal - and Deputy- level committee. Membership of the NOC would include: the Secretaries of State, Defense, the Interior, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Commerce, Labor, Transportation, Energy, and Homeland Security; the Attorney General; the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ); the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB); the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; the Director of National Intelligence; the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP); the Director of the National Science Foundation; the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Assistants to the President for National Security Affairs, Homeland Security, Domestic Policy, and Economic Policy; an employee of the United States designated by the Vice President; and such other officers or employees of the United States as the Co-Chairs may from time to time designate.

Co-Chairs

The NOC would be Co-Chaired by the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. This construct would provide the NOC with balance of equities at the most senior level of its leadership and better facilitate interagency cooperation and collaboration.

There would be a NOC Steering Committee (described below) comprised of CEQ, OSTP, and the Chairs of the proposed Ocean Resource Management Interagency Policy Committee (ORM-IPC) and the proposed Ocean Science and Technology Interagency Policy Committee (OST-IPC).

Function

Subject to the direction of the President and unless as otherwise provided for by law, the NOC would perform the following functions:

1. **Tier-one functions of the NOC (Principal level).** The National Ocean Council has overall responsibility for implementation of the National Policy. Functions would include: (1) periodically update and set national priority objectives; (2) review and provide annual direction on National Policy implementation objectives based on Administration priorities and recommendations from the Deputies' level; and (3) be a forum for dispute resolution and decision-making of issues that could not be resolved at the Deputies' Level. The NOC would be required to meet a minimum of twice per year, but the Co-Chairs could call additional meetings as necessary for dispute resolution or other purposes.

2. **Tier Two (Deputy level)** functions would include: (1) ensure execution of National Policy implementation objectives; (2) transmit Administration priorities to the ORM-IPC and OST-IPC; (3) ensure activities of and products from the ORM-IPC and OST-IPC are consistent with Administration policy; (4) coordinate with the OSTP, the National Security Council (NSC), National Economic Council (NEC),[2] Office of Energy and Climate Change (OECC), and other offices as appropriate; (5) provide direction and feedback to, and receive external input and advice from, its advisory bodies; and (6) dispute resolution and decision-making, and if unable to do so, to forward the issues to the Principal level. This

[2] Coordination with the existing Committee on the Marine Transportation System would be done through the National Economic Council, at both the Principal- and Deputy- level. Coordination with the ORM-IPC and OST-IPC would also be developed, as appropriate.

group would also assume the duties of the statutorily mandated National Ocean Research Leadership Council (NORLC) under 10 U.S.C. § 7902.

The Deputies would be required to meet a minimum of quarterly.

II. Authorities and Responsibilities of the National Ocean Council Co-Chairs

1. Advise the President on the National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes

The Co-Chairs would advise the President on matters regarding implementation of the *National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes* (National Policy), consistent with the consensus views of the NOC. If consensus cannot be achieved, the Co-Chairs would provide their own views equally with the views of each member of the NOC.

2. Implementation of the National Policy

On behalf of the NOC, the Co-Chairs would have overall responsibility for coordinating and facilitating the implementation of the National Policy, subject to the direction of the NOC and the President, including the following:

- **Development of Implementation Plans** – The Co-Chairs would facilitate development by the NOC of implementation plans to further the National Policy and identify progress toward meeting defined goals and objectives.
- **Reporting and Accountability** – The Co-Chairs would be responsible for: (1) coordinating interagency reporting on implementation and progress; (2) monitoring and ensuring effective implementation of policy decisions; (3) providing oversight and accountability for document preparation; and (4) coordinating and expediting interagency review and clearance of documents and reports within the NOC purview.
- **Budget** – The Co-Chairs would coordinate the development of an annual budget guidance memorandum on ocean priorities consistent with the goals and objectives of the National Policy. While it is understood that the Co-Chairs' authority would not be construed to impair or otherwise affect the function of the Director of OMB, they would work with OMB to issue interagency budget guidance consistent with annual priorities, develop crosscuts to inform the annual priorities on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes stewardship, and consult with OMB, OSTP, and the NOC to identify programs that contribute significantly to the National Policy. The Co-

Chairs also would work with OMB to coordinate preparation of the biennial Federal Ocean and Coastal Activities Report mandated by Section 5 of the Ocean Act of 2000.

- **Emerging Issues** – The Co-Chairs would bring any Presidential ocean actions or priorities to the NOC, as appropriate, for action and implementation and would coordinate proper management of and response to emerging issues of relevance to the National Policy.
- **International** – In implementing this policy, the Co-Chairs would coordinate with the Secretary of State and the heads of other relevant agencies on matters related to the policy that arise within the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, International Whaling Commission, Arctic Council, International Maritime Organization, regional fishery management organizations, and other similar international organizations.

3. Co-Chairs of the NOC
   - The Co-Chairs shall have authority to call NOC meetings, draft the agenda, prioritize issues, and call deputies meetings.

4. Coordination and Integration
   - The Co-Chairs would be the point of contact to coordinate with the National Security Advisor (NSA), National Economic Council (NEC) Director, and Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change (APECC), and other senior White House officials as appropriate. The Co-Chairs would have authority to request meetings with these entities for the purposes of coordination and resolution of issues of overlapping responsibility.

5. Decision-Making and Dispute Resolution
   - The Co-Chairs would seek to encourage decisions and recommendations based on consensus of the NOC.
   - Disputes that could not be resolved at the Deputy- level would be referred to the Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs would facilitate resolution among the Principals.
   - With respect to those matters in which resolutions or consensus could not be reached, the Co-Chairs would coordinate with the APECC, NEC Director, and NSA, as appropriate, to frame the disputed issue or issues for decision by the President.
   - The establishment of the NOC would not be construed to impair or otherwise affect: (1) authority granted by law to an executive department or agency or the head thereof; or (2) functions assigned by the President to the National Security Council (or subordinate bodies) relating to matters affecting foreign affairs, national security, homeland security, or intelligence – any of

these matters that are not resolved by consensus within the NOC will be forwarded to the NSC for resolution.

III. Steering Committee

Structure

The Steering Committee would be a high-level, streamlined body of four members from OSTP, CEQ, and one Chair each of the ORM-IPC and OST-IPC. The Steering Committee would meet at least every other month, but more often as issues require, and work in consultation with NSC and OMB to ensure their respective input on relevant matters, as appropriate.

Function

The Steering Committee would be the key forum for ensuring integration and coordination on priority areas within the NOC. In particular, it would ensure that there is coordination of management and science issues and that the activities of the ORM-IPC and OST-IPC are aligned to fully support implementation of the National Policy, and priorities agreed upon by the NOC. The Steering Committee would identify key issues and assist in developing the agenda for the NOC. In addition, the Extended Continental Shelf Task Force would report to the Steering Committee.

IV. Ocean Resource Management Interagency Policy Committee

Structure

The Ocean Resource Management Interagency Policy Committee (ORM-IPC) is the successor to the current Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources. Chairs of the ORM-IPC are designated by the NOC. The members would consist of Deputy Assistant Secretaries or appropriate representatives from the Executive branch agencies and departments of the NOC. The ORM-IPC reports to the NOC. The ORM-IPC may establish sub-IPCs as necessary, as approved by the NOC.

Function

The ORM-IPC would function as the ocean resource management body of the NOC, with an emphasis on ensuring the interagency implementation of the National Policy, national priority objectives, and other priorities defined or approved by the NOC. This would include the development of strategic plans, in coordination with the OST-IPC, for the implementation of priority management objectives, with clear outcomes, milestones, deadlines, designated agencies, and performance measures with an adaptive review process. The ORM-IPC Chairs would develop a charter for the operation of the body, to be approved by the NOC, including, but not limited to, membership, meetings (e.g., requiring that it meet at least every

two months); development of a new or updated work plan based on direction from the NOC, and a process for external input (e.g., State, tribal, local, regional, and the public).

VII. Ocean Science and Technology Interagency Policy Committee

Structure

The National Science and Technology Council's (NSTC) Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST) would serve as the Ocean Science and Technology Interagency Policy Committee (OST-IPC). Chairs of the OST-IPC would be appointed through NSTC procedures in consultation with the NOC. The group would consist of Deputy Assistant Secretaries or appropriate representatives from the Executive branch agencies and departments of the NOC. The NSTC would direct the OST-IPC to advise and assist the NOC in consonance with this National Policy and to work with associated bodies (e.g., the ORM-IPC) accordingly.

Function

The OST-IPC would function as the ocean science and technology body of the NOC, with an emphasis on ensuring the interagency implementation of the National Policy, national priority objectives, and other priorities for science and technology objectives. This would include the development of strategic plans (e.g., the Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy), in coordination with the ORM-IPC, for interagency implementation of priority science and technology objectives, with clear outcomes, milestones, deadlines, designated agencies, and performance measures with an adaptive review process. The OST-IPC Chairs, in close coordination with the NOC, would develop a charter for the operation of the body, to be approved by the NSTC, and would include, but not be limited to, membership, meetings (e.g., requiring that it meet at least every two months), development of a new or updated work plan based on input from the NOC, and a process for external input (e.g., State, tribal, regional, and public). The OST-IPC would also retain the legislatively mandated functions of JSOST, report to the NSTC's Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, and maintain an intimate operational relationship with the NOC. It would continue to adhere to the rules and regulations of the NSTC. The ORM-IPC may establish sub-IPCs as necessary, and will do so under NSTC procedures and in close coordination with the NOC.

VIII. Governance Advisory Committee[3]

Structure

The NOC would establish the Governance Advisory Committee (the Advisory Committee) that would consist of thirteen members from States, tribes, and regional governance structures. The membership would be comprised of: (1) one representative from each of the six regions, chosen by the NOC, in consultation with regional ocean councils (Great Lakes Commission, Governors' South Atlantic Alliance, Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean, Northeast Regional Ocean Council, and the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health); (2) two at-large representatives from inland States, chosen by the NOC, in consultation with the National Governors Association; (3) one representative from Alaska, one representative from the Pacific Islands, and one representative from the Caribbean, chosen by the NOC, in consultation with regional groups; and (4) two at-large tribal representatives, chosen by the NOC, in consultation with the National Congress of American Indians, tribal councils, and regional tribal organizations. Representatives would serve for staggered two-year terms.

Function

The role of the Committee would be to provide input to the NOC on issues of inter-jurisdictional collaboration and cooperation on the National Policy and related matters, including providing advice on long-term strategic management and research priorities. The Committee would also provide, at the request of the Steering Committee, input to the IPCs.

IX. Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel

Structure

The Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel (ORRAP) is a legislatively established body that advises the NORLC under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

Function

The ORRAP would provide independent advice and guidance to the NOC. Current membership is comprised of individuals from the National Academies, State governments, academia, and ocean industries, representing marine science, marine policy, and other related fields. However, ORRAP

[3] This may be a FACA committee based on representation. If it is, then the Committee would be first be established with State, tribal, and regional representation (consisting of State officials), and then expanded via the FACA process to allow for additional membership.

membership would be reviewed to determine whether to include additional representatives to broaden the level of expertise in support of the goals of the National Policy. The NOC would routinely provide guidance and direction on the areas for which it seeks advice and recommendations from the ORRAP.

X. Review and Evaluation

After 12 months of operation, the National Ocean Council will conduct a review of the governance structure to evaluate its effectiveness and make any necessary changes or improvements.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

PROPOSED NATIONAL PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

HOW WE DO BUSINESS

1. **Ecosystem-Based Management:** Adopt ecosystem-based management as a foundational principle for the comprehensive management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

2. **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning:** Implement comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning and management in the United States.

3. **Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding:** Increase knowledge to continually inform and improve management and policy decisions and the capacity to respond to change and challenges. Better educate the public through formal and informal programs about the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

4. **Coordinate and Support:** Better coordinate and support Federal, State, tribal, local, and regional management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Improve coordination and integration across the Federal Government, and as appropriate, engage with the international community.

AREAS OF SPECIAL EMPHASIS

1. **Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification:** Strengthen resiliency of coastal communities and marine and Great Lakes environments and their abilities to adapt to climate change impacts and ocean acidification.

2. **Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration:** Establish and implement an integrated ecosystem protection and restoration strategy that is science-based and aligns conservation and restoration goals at the Federal, State, tribal, local, and regional levels.

3. **Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land:** Enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by promoting and implementing sustainable practices on land.

4. **Changing Conditions in the Arctic:** Address environmental stewardship needs in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent coastal areas in the face of climate-induced and other environmental changes.

5. **Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations and Infrastructure:** Strengthen and integrate Federal and non-Federal ocean observing systems, sensors, and data collection platforms into a national system and integrate that system into international observation efforts.

I. Introduction

The proposed *National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes* would provide our Nation with a comprehensive approach, solidly based on science and technology, to uphold our stewardship responsibilities, and ensure accountability for our actions to present and future generations. Furthermore, the United States intends, through the National Policy, to serve as a model of balanced, productive, efficient, sustainable, and informed ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes use, management, and conservation within the global community. This strategy suggests a clear set of priority objectives that our Nation should pursue to further the National Policy.

Overview of National Priority Objectives

This implementation strategy proposes nine priority objectives. The first four, which together frame *How We Do Business*, represent overarching ways in which the Federal Government must operate differently or better to improve stewardship of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. The implementation of ecosystem-based management embodies a fundamental shift in how the United States manages these resources, and provides a foundation for how the remaining objectives would be implemented. Within that construct, the implementation of coastal and marine spatial planning and management would mark the beginning of a new era of comprehensive, integrated techniques to address conservation, economic activity, user conflict, and sustainable use of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The other overarching objectives – to better inform decisions and improve understanding by the public through a strengthened ability to obtain and use science and information, and to better coordinate and support science-based management across various authorities and governance structures are, in and of themselves, not new concepts. However, these efforts have suffered from the lack of a clear National Policy and a comprehensive framework within which to achieve desired outcomes.

The implementation strategy also identifies five *Areas of Special Emphasis*, each of which represents a substantive area of particular importance to achieving the National Policy. These priority areas of work seek to address some of the most pressing challenges facing the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. For many years, scientists, resource managers, private industry, and others have been wrestling with these issues, with a variety of existing Federal Government programs in place to address them. While those efforts have delivered their share of results, in each of these critical areas more can – and must – be done. In many cases, we have lacked the capability and understanding – both scientific and technical – to affect the type of change required. In the last several years, however, science has significantly evolved and advanced, and our capacity to respond to environmental and technological changes in these five areas has

improved substantially. With this strategy, these specific areas of work should be viewed as National priorities, with a renewed and coordinated effort at finding and implementing solutions.

Planning

Together, these nine priority objectives provide a bridge between the National Policy and action on the ground and in the water, but do not prescribe in detail how individual entities would undertake these responsibilities. For each priority objective, the NOC would be responsible for, and oversee development of, a strategic action plan within six to twelve months from its establishment. The NOC's Ocean Resource Management and Ocean Science and Technology Interagency Policy Committees would be charged with developing these plans. ***The plans would address the obstacles and opportunities identified for each objective, and would focus on, but not be limited to, the key areas identified under each objective. In addition, each plan would:***

- Identify specific and measurable near-term, mid-term, and long-term actions, with appropriate milestones, performance measures, and outcomes to fulfill each objective;
- Consider smaller-scale, incremental, and opportunistic efforts that build upon existing activities, as well as more complex, larger-scale actions that have the potential to be truly transformative;
- Explicitly identify key lead and participating agencies;
- Identify gaps and needs in science and technology; and
- Identify potential resource requirements and efficiencies; and steps for integrating or coordinating current and out-year budgets.

The plans would be adaptive to allow for modification and addition of new actions based on new information or changing conditions. Their effective implementation would also require clear and easily understood requirements and regulations, where appropriate, that include enforcement as a critical component. Implementation of the National Policy for the stewardship of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes will recognize that different legal regimes, with their associated freedoms, rights, and duties, apply in different maritime zones. The plans would be implemented in a manner consistent with applicable international conventions and agreements and with customary international law as reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention. The plans and their implementation would be assessed and reviewed annually by the NOC and modified as needed based on the success or failure of the agreed upon actions. Upon identification and finalization of plans, the NOC Co-Chairs, in collaboration with the Office of Management and Budget, would develop an annual interagency ocean budget guidance memorandum.

While these plans are under development, any agency that is conducting an activity that supports or furthers one of the objectives would bring them to the attention of the NOC. The NOC – working with the agency – would review the activity to determine how it might best contribute to overall implementation of the priority objectives, including being incorporated into the relevant strategic plan.

Collaboration

The effective implementation of this far-reaching and comprehensive National Policy would require active collaboration of the Federal Government with State, tribal, and local authorities, regional governance structures, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and private enterprise. In developing and revising the plans, the NOC would reach out to these interested parties, as appropriate, through the NOC's Governance Advisory Committee, the Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel, workshops, and by other means.

Furthermore, international collaboration on a broad range of ocean issues is an important component of these objectives. The Nation plays a leadership role in various international forums that deal with these issues, including the Arctic Council, International Maritime Organization, regional fisheries management organizations, and the International Whaling Commission. By joining the Law of the Sea Convention now, we can reaffirm and enhance U.S. leadership in the development and interpretation of international law applicable to the ocean.

II. National Priority Objectives

How We Do Business

1. **Ecosystem-Based Management: Adopt ecosystem-based management as a foundational principle for the comprehensive management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.**

Obstacles and Opportunities

Traditional management of resource use and other activities in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes has focused on individual species, resources, areas, or actions with limited consideration for how the management practices of one might impact the sustainability of another. This has often led to disjointed management approaches resulting in loss of resources, economic hardship, and environments at risk. To ensure healthier, more resilient and productive marine and Great Lakes environments, comprehensive management systems are needed that fully integrate ecological, social, economic, and security goals into decisions. Embedding ecosystem-based management, grounded in science, as an

overarching principle would be a fundamental shift in the traditional way the Federal Government approaches management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. It would provide the opportunity to ensure proactive and holistic approaches to balance the use and conservation of these valuable resources. This broad-based application of ecosystem-based management would provide a framework for the management of our resources, and allow for such benefits as helping to restore fish populations, control invasive species, support healthy coastal communities and ecosystems, restore sensitive species and habitats, protect human health, and rationally allow for emerging uses of the ocean, including new energy production.

The Plan Should Address:

- "Best practices" for developing and implementing effective ecosystem-based management systems;
- Identification and prioritization of geographic areas of special sensitivity or in greatest need for ecosystem-based management;
- Establishment of a process for working with States, tribal, and local authorities and regional governance structures to apply the most successful approaches in these areas of the greatest need; and
- Measures to ensure that decisions about ocean activities, uses, and goals are made based on the best available science and incorporate principles of ecosystem-based management.

2. Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning: Implement comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning and management in the United States.

Obstacles and Opportunities

The ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are host to countless commercial, recreational, scientific, energy, and security activities, which often occur in or near areas set aside and managed for conservation and resource protection goals. Overlapping uses and differing views about what activities should occur and where can generate conflicts and misunderstandings. Coastal and marine spatial planning that fully incorporates the principles of ecosystem-based management will provide a means to objectively and transparently guide and balance allocation decisions for use of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters and resources. It will allow for the reduction of cumulative impacts from human uses on marine ecosystems, provide greater certainty for the public and private sector in planning new investments, and reduce conflicts among uses and, between using and preserving the environment to sustain critical ecological, economic, and cultural services for this and future generations.

The Plan Should Address:

- Expansion of the national framework for coastal and marine spatial planning developed by the Task Force;
- Specific time frames for implementation;
- Geographic limits, use of the best available science, protection of ecosystem integrity (e.g., biological diversity, fish and fish habitat), the management of trade-offs, with recognition of uncertainties in decision-making, and provisions for adaptive management; and
- An approach that balances competing uses, including traditional, new, and expanding uses (e.g., energy, aquaculture), minimizes impacts on coastal and ocean ecosystems, ensures sustainable uses under reasonable changes in environmental conditions, and minimizes costs.

3. **Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding: Increase knowledge to continually inform and improve management and policy decisions and the capacity to respond to change and challenges. Better educate the public through formal and informal programs about the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.**

Obstacles and Opportunities

A broad program of basic and applied disciplinary and interdisciplinary scientific research, mapping, monitoring, observation, and assessment, coupled with development of forecasts, models, and other decision-support tools, is required to build knowledge of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and processes and ensure that management and policies are based on sound science. Increased understanding of watershed processes and the linkages with our coasts will be necessary to develop better decision-support tools to adequately manage human uses, human impacts, and watershed conservation activities that affect our ocean and coasts. In addition, increased scientific knowledge and a more comprehensive awareness and a detailed understanding of current and emerging human activities taking place in and around our waters, are essential to sound ocean planning and management. However, there are significant gaps in our understanding of ocean ecosystem dynamics, ocean conditions and trends, and the complex links between these conditions and human health, economic opportunities, national and homeland security and social justice. There is significant opportunity to improve how and what information we gather to better understand change and respond to challenges, better integrate current scientific knowledge and real-time data into decision-making, improve the management and integration of data supporting science and decision-making, and identify and close knowledge gaps necessary to adequately understand the impacts of human activities on the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. A diverse, interdisciplinary, ocean-literate workforce that has the appropriate skills and training to capitalize on these opportunities is

needed. In addition, formal and informal education programs developed and implemented to target grades K-12 and beyond would create opportunities for enhanced appreciation of coastal and ocean issues, and better prepare the workforce of the future. Success in building our knowledge and applying it to improve management also relies on an engaged and informed public. Many Americans do not realize the importance of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes to their daily lives, the benefits they provide, or the possibilities they present for further discovery. There is great opportunity to raise awareness and identify ways we can help protect our waters and their resources.

Inform and Improve

The Plan Should Address:

- Identification of priority issues in addressing emerging topics and change in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and processes;

- Specific scientific requirements and research needs, including the need for reconciling inconsistent standards, physical infrastructure, research platforms, organizations, and data management, to identify critical gaps, ensure high quality data, and provide information necessary to inform management, including mechanisms to transition research results into information products and tools for management;

- The development of a more comprehensive awareness of environmental conditions and trends and human activities that take place in the ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes environments; and

- Requirements for routine integrated ecosystem assessments and forecasts, including impacts related to climate change, to address vulnerability, risks, and resiliency, and inform tradeoffs and priority-setting.

Educate

The Plan Should Address:

- Challenges, gaps, opportunities, and effective strategies for training and recruiting the current and next generation of disciplinary and interdisciplinary scientists, technicians, operators, managers, and policy makers, with a particular focus on the needs of disadvantaged or under-served communities; and

- Identification of successful formal and informal education and public outreach approaches, including their application toward a focused nation-wide campaign to build public awareness, engagement, understanding, and informed decision-making, with specific emphasis on the state of ecosystems.

4. **Coordinate and Support: Better coordinate and support Federal, State, tribal, local, and regional management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Improve coordination and integration across the Federal Government, and as appropriate, engage with the international community.**

Obstacles and Opportunities

One of the significant obstacles to effective management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes is the complex set of Federal, State, tribal, and local laws, authorities, mandates, and governance structures intended to manage their use and conservation. Consistent approaches to the management of resources, including ecosystem-based and adaptive management, are difficult to achieve given this shared, piece-meal, and overlapping jurisdictional model. Furthermore, the United States is party to numerous international agreements and subject to customary international law regarding use and protection of the ocean. Through increased communication, coordination, and integration across all levels of government, we can streamline processes, reduce duplicative efforts, leverage resources, resolve disparities, and enhance synergy. A set of shared principles and objectives coordinated among all levels of government would translate into effective outcomes consistent with the National Policy.

Coordinate

The Plan Should Address:

- Identification of gaps, inconsistencies, and duplications in statutory authorities, policies, and regulations, and taking necessary and appropriate actions to address them;
- Procedures to identify and align mutual and consistent management objectives and actions across jurisdictions;
- Tangible tools and procedures to prevent and resolve conflicts across jurisdictions and disagreements concerning jointly managed ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources; and
- Opportunities for engaging the international community to further the objectives of the policy, as appropriate.

Support

The Plan Should Address:

- Actions to assist the States in advancing the network of regional alliances to protect ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes health;

- Evaluation of existing or new funding sources and options to protect, maintain, and restore ocean resources; and

- Legislative or regulatory changes necessary to simplify the sharing and transfer of resources among Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies.

Areas of Special Emphasis

1. **Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification: Strengthen resiliency of coastal communities and marine and Great Lakes environments and their abilities to adapt to climate change impacts and ocean acidification.**

Obstacles and Opportunities

The ocean plays a central role in shaping the Earth's climate and influencing climate variability. Because of this important relationship and the ecosystem services that the ocean, our coasts, and Great Lakes provide, global climate change and its associated impacts as well as ocean acidification pose some of the most serious threats to these ecosystems and coastal communities. Warming ocean temperatures have a profound impact on the distribution of rainfall over land, the melting of ice sheets, and the distribution and productivity of species. Sea-level rise, increased severe storm events, rapid erosion, and salt water intrusion threaten low-lying coastal communities with the destruction of infrastructure, flood inundation, the potential displacement of millions of people, and the loss of key species and habitats. At the same time, climate change is predicted to lower the water levels of the Great Lakes, thereby altering water cycles and supply, habitat, and economic uses of the Lakes. In addition, ocean acidification is expected to have significant and largely negative impacts on the marine food web, ocean ecosystems as a whole and biological diversity in general. Since climate change and ocean acidification may have widespread impacts, increased coordination of monitoring efforts and improved understanding of the changes in the ocean are vital to minimizing these impacts on our marine and Great Lakes ecosystems and coastal communities. We have an opportunity and a responsibility to develop strategies for reducing the vulnerability, increasing the resilience, and improving adaptation of human and natural systems to climate change impacts.

The Plan Should Address:

- Research, observations and modeling needed to forecast regional and local scale climate change impacts and related vulnerabilities for natural resources, health, infrastructure, and livelihoods, including social and economic impacts;

- Better integration of ocean and coastal science into the broader climate dialogue and measures to improve understanding of the connections among land, water, air, ice, and human activities;

- Evaluation of potential social and economic costs related to sea-level rise, such as accelerating erosion, increased saltwater intrusion, and more severe coastal and inland flooding;

- Adaptive actions to identified climate change impacts, and related vulnerabilities such as ocean acidification, and the development of ecological and economic resilience strategies and priorities for research and monitoring to address these strategies;

- Changes to local and regional ocean and lake management systems that incorporate changing climate risks and elements of resilient systems; and

- A comprehensive approach to understanding human health implications of policies for the ocean, our coasts, and Great Lakes, and for identifying opportunities for the protection and enhancement of human health.

2. **Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration: Establish and implement an integrated ecosystem protection and restoration strategy that is science-based and aligns conservation and restoration goals at the Federal, State, tribal, local, and regional levels.**

Obstacles and Opportunities

Along our coasts and the Great Lakes, essential habitats continue to suffer significant losses and degradation due to coastal development, sea-level rise, and associated human activities. Impacts on these ecosystems and the people and communities in these areas are presenting new management challenges. Additionally, external stressors, including invasive species, are impacting native species. While progress has been made in addressing some of these challenges through ecosystem-based management, the threat of critical habitat loss and degradation of ecosystem services is still apparent in the Gulf Coast, the Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound, South Florida, San Francisco Bay, and the Great Lakes. Because climate change is impacting our coastlines, it has become even more important to assess and place priorities on ecosystem restoration projects. These experiences provide valuable lessons for other coastal ecosystems.

The Plan Should Address:

- Prioritization of the locations and geographic scope of coastal and Great Lakes ecosystem restoration projects, including implementation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative;

- Interim and longer term goals and mechanisms to facilitate collaboration among stakeholders to implement projects;

- Best practices for collaborative science-based planning to achieve ecosystem restoration goals building on the lessons learned in ongoing ecosystem restoration efforts;

- Impacts of invasive species on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems, and a range of methodologies for control and prevention of these species; and

- Protection, maintenance, and restoration of populations and essential habitats supporting fisheries, protected species, ecosystems, and biological diversity.

3. **Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land: Enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by promoting and implementing sustainable practices on land.**

Obstacles and Opportunities

Nonpoint source pollution (pollution that comes from diffuse sources instead of one specific point), caused by poor land management practices, is the leading cause of water quality problems in the United States and a major cause of rapidly declining ocean and coastal ecosystem health. Runoff from suburban streets and lawns, agricultural and industrial uses, transportation activities, and urban development – even hundreds of miles away – negatively impacts water quality, resulting in deleterious effects on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes systems as evidenced by harmful algal blooms, expansive dead zones, and increased incidents of human illness. Areas with particularly poor water quality are known to experience frequent beach closures, massive fish kills, and areas of toxic sediments. Since this pollution comes from many diffuse sources throughout the country, addressing it requires a strong commitment to coordination and cooperation between multiple sectors and among Federal, State, tribal, local authorities, and regional governance structures. Fortunately, a number of point and non-point source prevention programs are available to State, tribal, local, regional, and private entities to reduce the amount of pollutants that are transported from our Nation's watersheds and into our coastal waters There are opportunities to achieve significant reductions in these inputs to our coasts and ocean through concrete mechanisms that integrate and coordinate land-based pollution reduction programs.

The Plan Should Address:

- The major impacts of urban and suburban development and agriculture, including forestry and animal feedlots, on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters;

- The relative contributions of significant land-based source of pollutants, sediments, and nutrients to receiving coastal waters and ways to address them, including recommendations of how to integrate and improve existing land-based conservation and pollution programs;

- Best management practices, use of conservation programs, and other approaches for controlling the most significant land-based sources of nutrients, sediments, pathogens, toxic chemicals, solid waste and marine debris, and invasive species; and

- The establishment of a comprehensive monitoring framework and integration with State monitoring programs.

4. **Changing Conditions in the Arctic: Address environmental stewardship needs in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent coastal areas in the face of climate-induced and other environmental changes.**

Obstacles and Opportunities

Climate change is having a disproportionally greater impact on polar regions than elsewhere, and the Arctic region is faced with serious problems. Permafrost is thawing at an accelerated rate, which leads to the release of large amounts of methane. Multi-seasonal sea ice is rapidly deteriorating. Much of the Alaskan Arctic seashore is threatened by coastal erosion and other environmental challenges. Increased human activity in the area is bringing additional stressors to the Arctic environment, with serious implications for Arctic communities and ecosystems. At the same time, the diminishing ice presents opportunities and pressures for increased development of living and non-living resources and for increased commerce and transportation. Working with all of the stakeholders, including the indigenous communities, we have the opportunity to develop proactive plans, informed by the best science available, to manage and encourage use while protecting the fragile Arctic environment.

The Plan Should Address:

- Better ways to conserve, protect, and sustainably manage Arctic coastal and ocean resources, effectively respond to the risk of increased pollution and other environmental degradation on humans and marine species, and adequately safeguard living marine resources;

- New collaborations and partnerships to better monitor and assess environmental conditions and devise early warning and emergency response systems and procedures to be prepared for and respond to emerging events in the Arctic region, such as environmental disasters;

- Consistency and coordination with the implementation of U.S. Arctic Region Policy as promulgated in National Security Presidential Directive 66/Homeland Security Presidential Directive 25 (2009); and

- Improvement of the scientific understanding of the Arctic system and how it is changing in response to climate-induced and other changes.

5. Ocean Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations and Infrastructure: Strengthen and integrate Federal and non-Federal ocean observing systems, sensors, and data collection platforms into a national system and integrate that system into international observation efforts.

Obstacles and Opportunities

Our ability to understand weather, climate, and ocean conditions, to forecast key environmental processes, and to strengthen ocean management decision-making at all levels is informed by a sound knowledge base. Efficient and effective coordination of the many available tools, continued development of new tools and infrastructure, and integration of them into a cohesive, unified, robust system is becoming increasingly difficult as an ever increasing number of data collection and processing systems come on line. New ground-breaking observation technologies give us the ability to observe and study global processes at all scales. These new tools, if fully integrated, will significantly advance our knowledge and understanding of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Furthermore, successful integration of new tools and data will improve our ability to engage in science-based decision-making and ecosystem-based management by ensuring that biological, ecological, and social data and processes are included in the calculus.

The Plan Should Address:

- A nationally integrated system of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems, comprised of Federal and non-Federal components, and cooperation with international partners and organizations, as appropriate;

- Regional and national needs for ocean information, to gather specific data on key ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes variables that are required to support the areas of special emphasis and other national needs;

- The use of unmanned vehicles and remote sensing platforms and satellites to gather data on the health and productivity of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes;

- The capabilities and gaps of the National Oceanographic Fleet of ships and related facilities; and

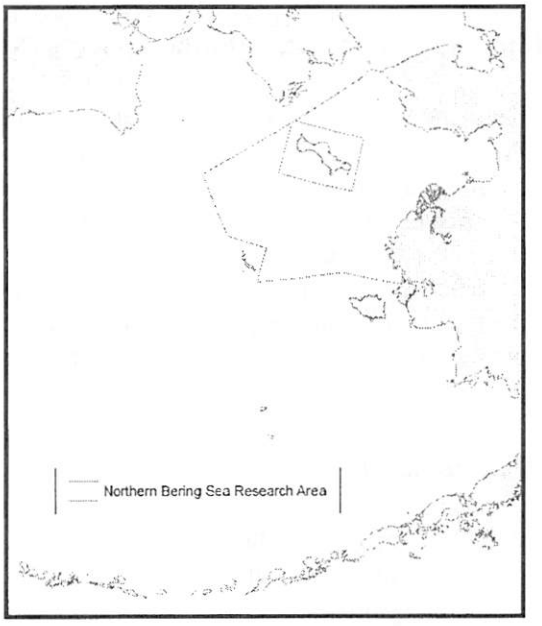
- Data management, communication, access, and modeling systems for the timely integration and dissemination of data and information products.

Alaska Fisheries Science Center
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE – NOAA FISHERIES

Northern Bering Sea Research Area Research Plan Community and Subsistence Workshop

February 24 - 25, 2010
Anchorage, AK

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), at the request of the Council, is developing a scientific research plan for the Northern Bering Sea Research Area (NBSRA) to study the effects of bottom trawling on the benthic community. The NBSRA was established by the Council, became effective in 2008, and is currently closed to bottom trawl fishing. The primary goals of the plan would be to use the research area to investigate the effects of bottom trawling on bottom habitat, and provide information to help with developing future protection measures in the NBSRA for crab, marine mammals, endangered species, and the subsistence needs of western Alaska communities.



Purpose of workshop

Communication with local communities is necessary to ensure their interests are represented in enacting policies and managing resources in the NBSRA. The purpose of this meeting is to gather input from subsistence fishing communities for the development of the NBSRA research plan. The purpose is to delineate areas of subsistence harvest or critical habitat of marine species in the NBSRA, understand the nature of subsistence activities, register concerns about the impact of commercial bottom trawling, and collect ecological knowledge of the NBSRA. The workshop is open to the public.

For more information on the research plan outline and schedule, visit our website:
http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/ecosystem/NBSRA.htm

Or contact:

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(See the back of this flyer for a draft agenda of the Community and Subsistence Workshop.)

DRAFT AGENDA

Northern Bering Sea Research Area Research Plan
Community and Subsistence Workshop

February 24: 9 am – 3 pm
February 25: 9 am – 12 pm
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Conference Room
1016 West Sixth Avenue, Suite 304
(corner of 6th Ave & K Street in downtown Anchorage)

I. Overview of NBSRA concept and planning (AFSC)

- Background of NBSRA, status of plan development and timeline, Council recommendations.
- Review of current knowledge regarding ecology and fisheries in NBSRA.
    - subsistence use, fishery interaction, distribution and population of marine mammals (NOAA, FWS, AK Marine Mammal Stock Assessments), fish, shellfish

II. Information on subsistence species, habitat, and activities (subsistence communities)

- Descriptions of communities (locations, subsistence populations, subsistence activities, etc.)
- Presentation of community-based information and records useful for research planning, e.g.:
    - maps and geographic positions of harvesting areas and species habitats
    - species harvested (marine mammals, seabirds, fish, shellfish) and seasons
    - methods of harvest (vessels, gear)
    - catch and effort (space-time patterns, length/weight/sex of catch)
    - traditional knowledge and observations of animal/human ecology
    - methods of subsistence data collection and recording within communities (electronic surveys, interviews, etc.)

III. Discussion (All)

- Potential impact of bottom trawling
- Management considerations
- Research priorities
- Ecosystem monitoring
- Partnership and cooperation in research and management
- Timing for future comment/feedback
- NBSRA Research Plan Schedule

Fishery management responses to climate change in the North Pacific

Diana L. Stram and Diana C. K. Evans

Stram, D. L., and Evans, D. C. K. 2009. Fishery management responses to climate change in the North Pacific. – ICES Journal of Marine Science, 66: 1633–1639.

In the North Pacific, warming trends, coupled with declining sea ice, raise concerns about the effects of climate change on fish populations and ecosystem dynamics. Scientists are only beginning to understand the potential feedback mechanisms that will affect everything from plankton populations to major commercial fish species distributions, yet fishery managers have a responsibility to prepare for and respond to changing fishing patterns and potential ecosystem effects. There are ways for fishery managers to be proactive, while waiting for better information to unfold. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and the National Marine Fisheries Service have jurisdiction over offshore fisheries in Alaska, USA. Recently, the Council has undertaken risk-averse management actions, in light of uncertainty about the effects of warming trends (and loss of sea ice) and resulting changes to fishing activities in the North Pacific. The Council has assessed whether opportunities for unregulated fishing could result from changes in fish distribution, has closed the Arctic Ocean to all commercial fishing pending further research, and has established extensive area closures where fishing with bottom-trawl gear is prohibited to protect vulnerable crab habitat and to control the northern expansion of the trawl fleet into newly ice-free waters. In cases where linkages between climate variables and fish distributions can be identified, the Council is developing adaptive management measures to respond to varying distributions of fish and shellfish. Finally, the Council has also tried to re-examine existing information to gain a better understanding of climate and ecosystem effects on fishery management. The pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the Aleutian Islands maps interactions among climate factors and ecosystem components and suggests indicators for the Council to monitor.

Keywords: Alaska, Arctic fishery management, climate change, Fishery Ecosystem Plan, North Pacific, salmon bycatch, trawl closures.

Received 15 August 2008; accepted 28 March 2009; advance access publication 14 May 2009.

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Introduction

The effects of climate change on commercial fisheries are only beginning to be understood, yet fishery managers have a responsibility to prepare for and respond to changing conditions. At a national level, managers are trying to develop a strategy to incorporate climate change into management of ocean and coastal areas (Griffis *et al.*, 2008). Although knowledge of potential changes to fishing patterns and effects on ecosystem dynamics may be imperfect, there remains scope for managers to be proactive. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has recently undertaken several risk-averse management actions, in light of uncertainty about the ecosystem effects of warming trends (and loss of sea ice) and resulting changes to fishing activities in the North Pacific. This paper discusses three ways how fishery managers can prepare for changing conditions: (i) assess whether opportunities exist for unregulated fishing; (ii) where linkages between climate variables and fish distributions can be identified, explore the use of adaptive management measures; and (iii) evaluate existing information to gain a better understanding of climate and ecosystem effects on fishery management.

The Council is one of the eight regional councils in the United States established under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (which has been renamed the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; MSA) to oversee management of the nation's fisheries in collaboration with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The Council has 11 voting members, six from Alaska, three from Washington, one from Oregon, and a Federal representative, the Alaska Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service. The non-federal voting members represent state fisheries agencies, commercial and recreational fisheries, fishing communities, and the public. The Council also has four non-voting members representing the US Coast Guard, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the US Department of State. With jurisdiction over the 900 000 mile^2 exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off Alaska (3–200 nautical miles offshore; Figure 1), the Council's responsibilities include developing, and amending as necessary, fishery management plans (FMPs) for all fisheries under its authority. The FMP defines how a federal fishery may be prosecuted, including the assessment of harvest quotas, allocation programmes, permit requirements, authorized gear types, time and area restrictions, discard and retention requirements, and recordkeeping, reporting, and monitoring requirements. The Secretary of

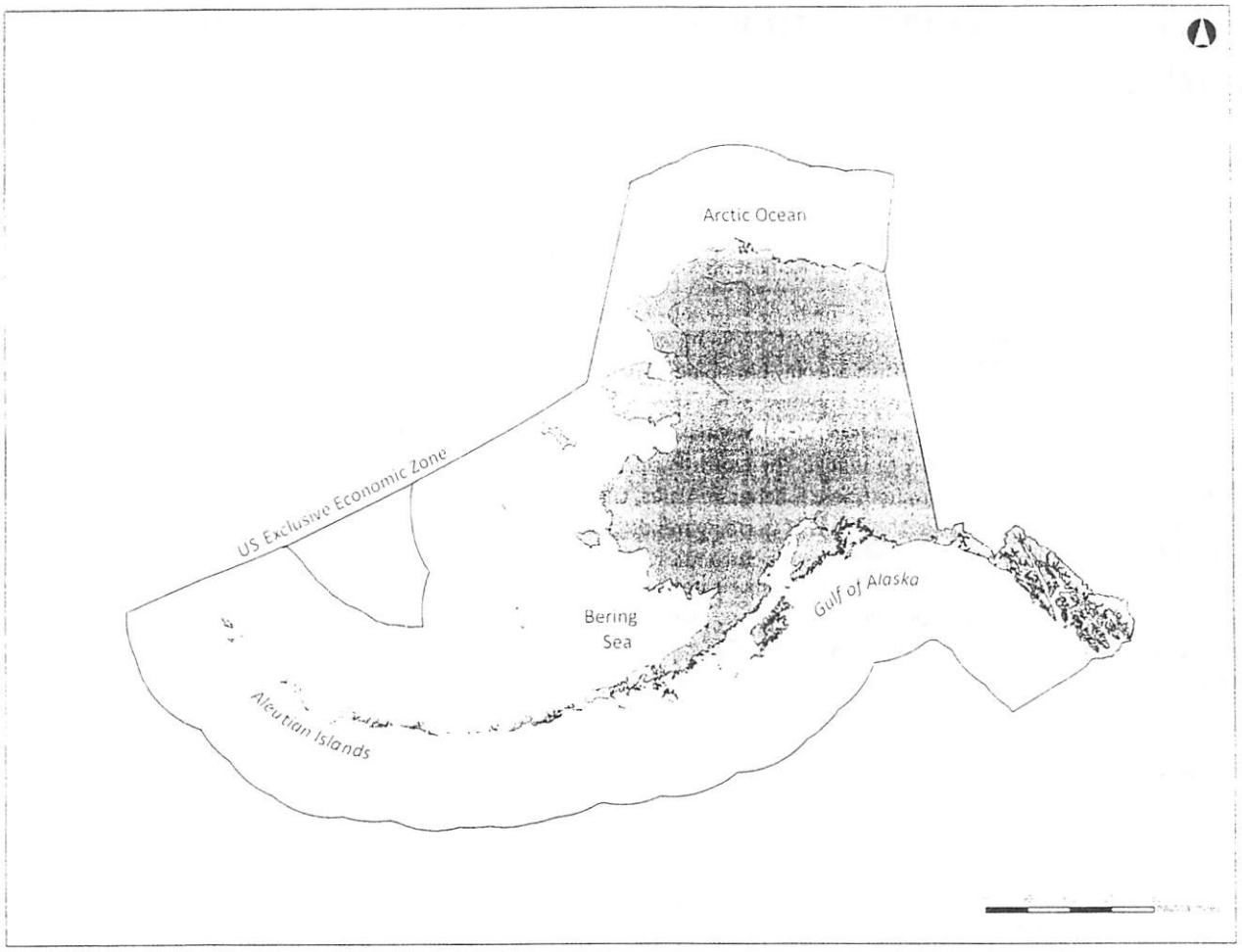

Figure 1. The US EEZ off Alaska, which extends 3–200 nautical miles offshore from the coastline of Alaska, or to international maritime boundaries with Canada and Russia. The four main management areas within the Alaska EEZ are noted.

Commerce reviews the Council's recommended FMP, and once approved, implements the management measures in federal regulations. The Council conducts public hearings regarding the FMPs and their implementation. It also reviews annual stock assessments and recommends harvest specifications for its FMP species. The Council has five established FMPs. Gulf of Alaska groundfish (NPFMC, 2009a, established in 1978) and Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish (NPFMC, 2009b, established in 1979) are its primary management responsibilities. Under the other FMPs [Alaska Scallops, established in 1995 (NPFMC, 2006); BSAI king and Tanner crab, established in 1989 (NPFMC, 2008); and Salmon, established 1990 (NPFMC, 1990)], management is essentially deferred to the State of Alaska, with federal oversight. The Council also makes allocation and limited entry decisions for Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*).

In recommending management changes to the FMPs under its jurisdiction, the Council must balance the competing requirements of federal law, especially of the MSA. The requirements of the MSA call for a conservation and management programme that *inter alia* optimizes fishery yield, while ensuring conservation of fish stocks and long-term protection of essential fish habitats (EFH).

This paper looks at specific ways that the Council has recently taken action to be proactive in preparing for and responding to climate change. The Council recently adopted an FMP to close the Arctic Ocean to all commercial fishing until additional research into its unique characteristics can be evaluated. Extensive trawl area closures have been established to protect vulnerable crab habitat and to slow the northern expansion of the trawl fleet into newly ice-free waters. Management measures are being developed to respond adaptively to varying distributions of target and bycatch fish species, because of changing climate in the North Pacific, and a pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) has been developed for the Aleutian Islands, which maps interactions among climate factors and ecosystem components and suggests indicators for the Council to monitor.

Close selected areas to unregulated fishing

Arctic fishery management

To date, not much commercial fishing has been done in the Arctic Ocean. The Arctic Ocean is a reasonably pristine ecological environment that is experiencing substantial change. Compelling evidence from studies of changes in Arctic climate, ocean conditions, sea ice cover, permafrost, and vegetation indicate that the Arctic is experiencing warming trends in ocean temperatures and major and rapid declines in seasonal sea ice (IPCC, 2001; ACIA, 2005; Richter-Menge *et al.*, 2006). Greater ice-free

seasons, coupled with warming waters and fish range expansion, could create conditions that will certainly result in commercial fishery development. Species of finfish and shellfish are found in these waters, and they could conceivably support commercial fisheries, if exploitable biomass levels were sufficiently high. Until now, there have been no commercial fisheries in the Alaska EEZ in the Arctic Ocean, nor have there been any routine fish surveys in the region. Historically, fishing in the Arctic required prior authorization from the State of Alaska for state-registered vessels, but unregistered vessels faced no prohibitions or restrictions.

In February 2009, the Council adopted an Arctic FMP to establish federal fishery management in the Alaskan Arctic. The FMP will probably be approved by the Secretary of Commerce and be implemented in 2009. The FMP is necessary to prevent unregulated commercial fisheries from developing in the Arctic, a region currently lacking a fishery management framework and adequate scientific information on fish stocks. The Council's intent is that the FMP would initially close the Arctic waters to commercial fishing until adequate information and data are acquired upon which to make sound decisions about future fishery development, and the effects of fishing on fish stocks and related components of the ecosystem are understood. Initially, no commercial fishing will be allowed under the authority of the new Arctic FMP.

The Arctic Management Area includes all US federal marine waters of the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, 3–200 nautical miles offshore of the coast of Alaska, from north of Bering Strait, westwards to the US–Russia Convention Line of 1867, and eastwards to the US–Canada maritime boundary (Figure 2).

Trawl closures to slow northward fleet expansion

Given the apparent trend towards warming ocean temperatures, especially in Polar Waters, the Council became concerned that some non-pelagic trawl fisheries may shift northwards into previously unfished habitats of the eastern Bering Sea. Flatfish catch per unit effort from the NMFS summer trawl survey is correlated with near-bottom temperature over 1982–2004 (Spencer, 2006). Flathead sole (*Hippoglossoides elassodon*) and rock sole (*Lepidopsetta polyxystra*) were distributed farther to the north and northwest during warm periods. As ocean temperatures increase, in the absence of management actions, it is likely that flathead sole and rock sole would be harvested farther north, but the extent of movement of the fisheries cannot be predicted (Spencer, 2006).

Warming temperatures not only affect species range extensions, but also may determine ecological interactions among species. For instance, productivity of some species, such as crabs, may be determined, in part, by changes in their geographic distributions relative to those of their predators, prey, and competitors (Zheng and Kruse, 2006). In the past few decades, the distributions of mature female red king crab (*Paralithodes camtschaticus*) shifted to the northeast, those of snow crab (*Chionoecetes opilio*) shifted to the northwest, and those of Tanner crab (*Chionoecetes bairdi*) displayed no such systematic changes. With regard to groundfish predators and competitors of crabs, Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*), flathead sole, and arrowtooth flounder (*Atheresthes stomias*) populations shifted to the northwest, and rock sole, skates (*Bathyraja* spp.), and Alaska plaice (*Pleuronectes quadrituberculatus*) shifted to the northeast, whereas the yellowfin sole (*Limanda aspera*) population displayed no change in the distribution (Zheng and Kruse, 2006). These distribution changes appeared to be directly related to mean ocean bottom temperature.

Groundfish species distributions have also altered with changing temperatures (Mueter and Litzow, 2008). The area formerly covered by sea ice (and associated cold pool) has become favourable habitat for many Subarctic species, and consequently, increases in biomass for most fish stocks have been observed in the area. Although there has been a linear response to bottom temperatures, there is an additional non-linear accelerating shift in biomass and a shift in distribution that cannot be accounted for by temperature alone. Hence, predictions into the future under a warming scenario are extremely uncertain (Mueter and Litzow, 2008).

Given these indications of warming trends and associated northward expansion of commercial fish and shellfish distributions, the Council adopted in June 2007 precautionary measures to conserve benthic fish habitat in the Bering Sea by "freezing the footprint" of bottom trawling and limiting non-pelagic trawl effort only to those areas more recently trawled (Figure 2). These new measures prohibited bottom trawling in a deep slope and basin area (47 000 nautical mile^2) and in the Northern Bering Sea Research Area, which includes the shelf waters to the north of St Matthew Island (85 000 nautical mile^2). A research plan for the Northern Bering Sea Research Area is scheduled for completion by 2010. It may include an adaptive management design, which could allow bottom trawling in designated areas to evaluate trawling effects, or research using other experimental fishing approaches. Specific areas within the Northern Bering Sea Research Area, however, will remain closed to bottom trawling. At the same time, marine protected areas were also established to conserve blue king crab habitat and other EFH where subsistence fishing and small-scale local fisheries already take place, and include the nearshore areas of Nunivak Island and Kuskokwim Bay, and around St Lawrence and St Matthew Islands. The research plan may also identify additional protection measures for blue king and snow crab, marine mammals, endangered species, and subsistence needs for western Alaska communities in nearshore areas (NMFS, 2008).

Explore opportunities to link climate variables and fish distributions

Salmon bycatch in the pollock trawl fishery

Salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.) and pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*) both support important fisheries for Alaska. Salmon support large and critically important commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries throughout Alaskan waters and are the basis of a cultural tradition in many parts of the state. Average annual value of the 2000–2004 commercial harvest was more than \$230 × 10^6 (Woodby *et al.*, 2005). Subsistence fisheries are vitally important in Alaska, with communities depending heavily on subsistence-caught salmon for food and cultural purposes. Chinook salmon runs in western Alaska have declined in recent years relative to run strengths observed over the past 20 years, with the 2008 runs in some areas the poorest on record (NMFS and NPFMC, 2008).

The commercial pollock fishery is the largest US fishery by volume, with annual catches ranging from 1.49 × 10^6 t in 2003 to 1.35 × 10^6 t in 2007 (Ianelli *et al.*, 2008). Pollock represents more than 40% of the global whitefish production, with annual

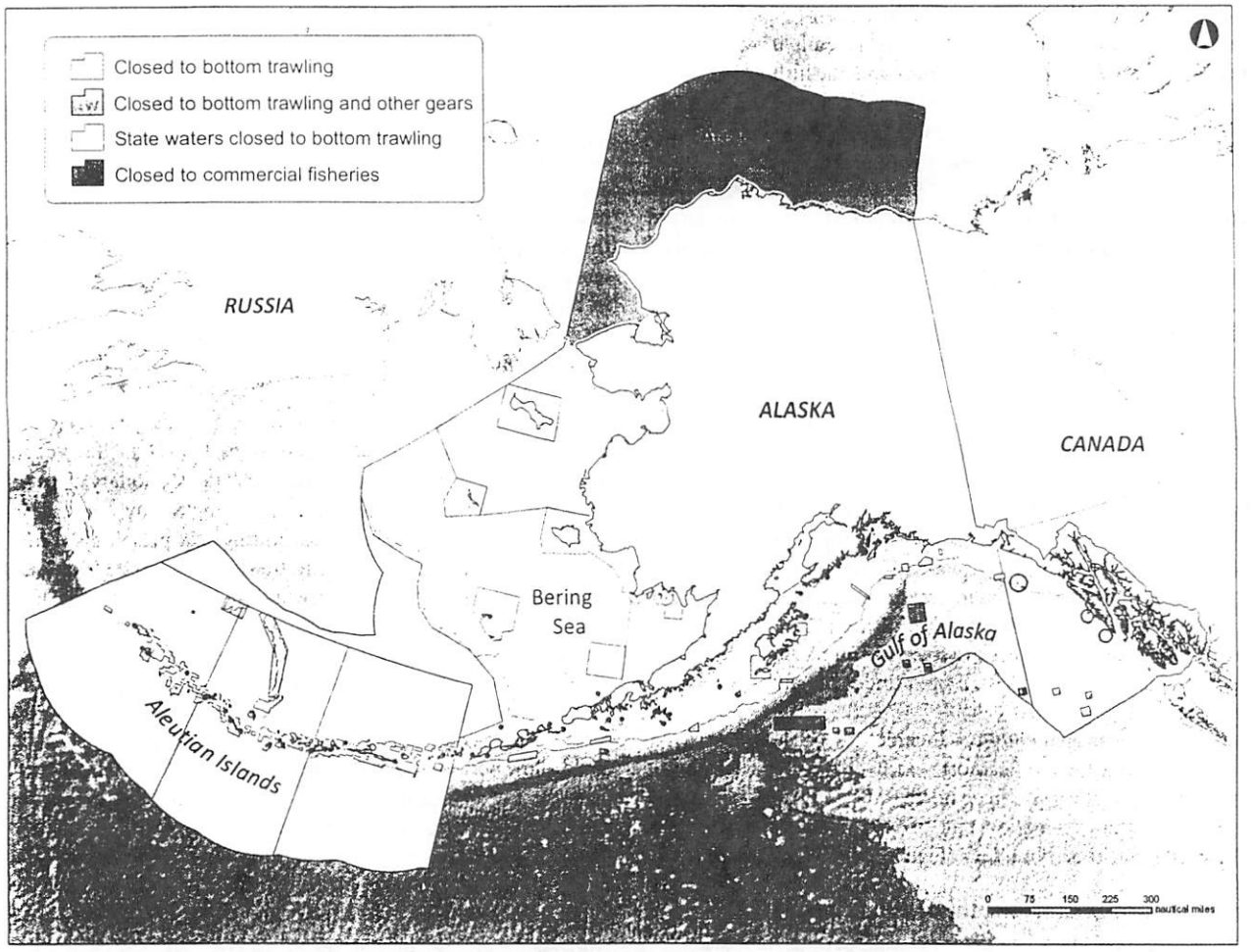

Figure 2. Various year-round fishing gear closure areas around Alaska. Source: J. Olson, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region (pers. comm.).

revenues from the fishery estimated in 2007 at $1.25 billion (NMFS and NPFMC, 2008). Participation in the fishery (through royalties and employment) is important for many of the same western Alaska communities that also participate in salmon fisheries, because some receive a percentage of the pollock quota for community development.

Because of the importance of salmon for coastal and inland fisheries, it is unlawful to retain salmon caught incidentally in offshore fisheries, such as those for groundfish. However, salmon are caught unintentionally in the offshore eastern Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery and to a lesser degree in the offshore Gulf of Alaska pollock fishery. Despite bycatch control measures implemented in the pollock fishery since the mid-1990s, Chinook salmon bycatch has increased over time, and reached a historic high in 2007 (Figure 3). The Council is required to balance minimizing salmon bycatch to the extent practicable, with achieving optimal yield from the pollock fisheries.

It is unclear whether the observed increase in salmon bycatch was the result of an increase in salmon abundance, or whether there has been a greater degree of co-occurrence between salmon and pollock stocks, because of changing oceanographic conditions (NMFS and NPFMC, 2008). The distribution of the pollock fishery could also have changed in recent years, resulting in greater bycatch, but evidence of this is lacking (Stram and

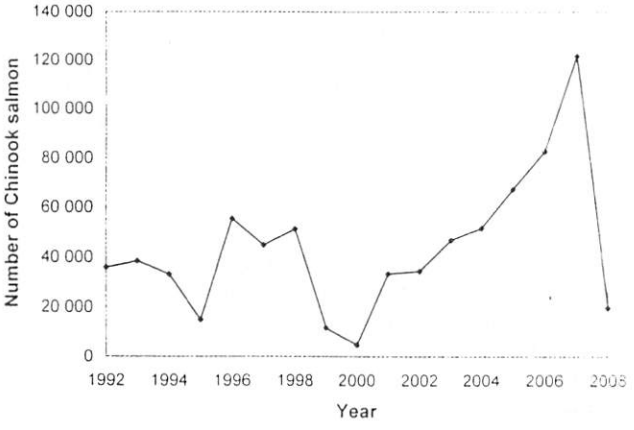

Figure 3. Annual Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery, 1992–2008, extrapolated totals from observed estimates. Source: National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region, Catch Accounting Database.

Ianelli, in press). Pollock biomass has declined since 2003 and it is projected to continue to decline through 2009 to approximately half of the 2003 level, owing to a period of recent below-average recruitment levels (Ianelli *et al.*, 2008). Pollock distribution is

known to be affected by bottom temperatures, with highest densities found in areas where the bottom temperatures are >0 °C (Ianelli *et al.*, 2008). Specific ocean temperature preferences for salmon species are poorly understood, although some evidence exists for a contraction of ocean habitats for salmon species under global warming scenarios (Welch *et al.*, 1998).

Archival tags affixed to Asian chum salmon indicate that behaviour and migration in juvenile, immature, and maturing fish are linked to temperature gradients (Friedland *et al.*, 2001) and that immature chum exhibit a tendency to remain above the thermocline along the continental shelf (Azumaya *et al.*, 2006). Anecdotal information suggests that Chinook and chum salmon prefer different (warmer) ocean water temperatures than adult pollock. Currently, a study linking temperature and bycatch rates is underway and preliminary evidence indicates that bycatch rates appear to be positively correlated with warmer temperatures, even when factoring for month and area (Ianelli *et al.*, 2009).

As the pollock population shifts spatially, the commercial fishery moves to target the available biomass. The winter fishery commences on 20 January and extends until late March or early April, depending on allowable catch levels and fishing conditions. This fishery is normally focused on the southeast Bering Sea and targets prespawning fish to market pollock roe, whereas the flesh is used primarily for fillets or surimi. The summer/autumn fishery starts in June and continues generally until mid-October for the remaining quota. This fishery is typically spread over the outer shelf edge of the Bering Sea, extending to the international boundary. Salmon bycatch in the pollock fishery happens during both fishing seasons. As the fishery moves to target shifting pollock stocks, the array of salmon stocks taken as bycatch changes, because of the spatial variability of the stock of origin of salmon in the ocean (Myers and Rogers, 1988; Myers *et al.*, 2004). Many efforts are underway to assess the relationship between oceanographic conditions, ocean mortality of salmon, and their maturation timing to their respective rivers of origin for spawning (e.g. Bering Aleutian Salmon International Survey; Ocean Carrying Capacity Programme; Alaska Department of Fish and Game Management and Research).

In the absence of definitive information on the cause of the bycatch increase, but given indications that warming trends may exacerbate recent bycatch levels, the Council is currently evaluating measures to limit the overall number of Chinook salmon that may be taken annually by the pollock fishery, by season and sector of the fishery, whereafter pollock fishing would cease for some or all participants. The Council is expected to take final action on these new measures in 2009. As evidence unfolds for a better prediction of the correlation between salmon and pollock distributions in the Bering Sea, the Council could revisit appropriate bycatch control measures.

Re-evaluate existing information to focus on climate and ecosystem interactions

Aleutian Islands FEP

The Council began the Aleutian Islands FEP as a pilot project in 2005, both to better conserve important Aleutian Islands resources (fish stocks, Steller sea lions, seabirds, and benthic habitats that support corals and sponges) and to evaluate whether FEPs are a useful tool for Alaska (NPFMC, 2005). The purpose of the FEP was to integrate information on the Aleutian Islands ecosystem dynamics, across all fisheries and FMPs in the area (groundfish, crab, halibut, and scallop), and to include information from other agencies actively researching aspects of the Aleutian Islands marine environment. The Council created an interagency Aleutian Islands Ecosystem Team, comprising expertise from a variety of specialties, to develop the FEP. The team first focused on characterizing what is known of the main physical, biological, and socio-economic relationships that comprise the Aleutian Islands ecosystem (NPFMC, 2007a), and the natural and anthropogenic influences on the system.

Once available information on ecosystem interactions is synthesized, the FEP identifies a number of key ecosystem interactions of importance to fishery managers (Figure 4). An important subset of these interactions focuses on the effects of climate change, and how resulting changes in the physical environment might affect ecosystem processes. These interactions were used to identify critical indicators for the Aleutian Islands, to be used to monitor and evaluate the status of the ecosystem over time. Such an indicator system is intended to provide an "early warning system" for the Council to alert for signs of ecosystem change. The FEP also includes a qualitative risk assessment of the interactions, providing general guidance to the Council about which issues represent a priority for management attention and further research and analysis (NPFMC, 2007a).

The Aleutian Islands ecosystem provides an ideal pilot area for an FEP. Far less is understood about the ecological interactions in the Aleutians than in the eastern Bering Sea, so the risk of management actions resulting in unforeseen consequences, especially when combined with the uncertain effects of climate change, is of special concern in this region. The Aleutian Islands are ecologically and historically unique, comprising hundreds of small, volcanic islands, separated by oceanic passes that connect the waters of the North Pacific with the Bering Sea. The ecological boundary at Samalga Pass, 169°W, represents a transition from a shelf- (Bering Sea) to a slope-based (Aleutian Islands) ecosystem (Hunt and Stabeno, 2005; Figure 5). This results in an ecosystem where bathymetry and habitat types change drastically within a very short distance, and the degree of interaction between onshore, nearshore, and offshore systems is much higher than in the neighbouring Bering Sea (NPFMC, 2007a). A key management priority that emerged from the FEP was for the Council to recognize the Aleutian Islands ecosystem as a distinct entity, with different processes and properties (NPFMC, 2007a).

The FEP differs from an FMP in that it does not contain any specific management measures that govern fishing activity in the Aleutian Islands. It is an overarching document, which provides an ecological context for fishery management decisions affecting the Aleutian Islands area. The FEP is designed as a policy and planning document and an educational resource (NPFMC, 2007a). The first iteration of the FEP, along with an overview brochure, was published in December 2007 (NPFMC, 2007a, b), but the FEP is a living document. The ecosystem interactions, indicator status, research priorities, and data gaps will be updated periodically. Appropriate changes to management practices that might result from the considerations and priorities suggested in the FEP will be acted upon through BSAI FMP amendments.

Summary

The Council strives to take proactive and precautionary management actions in light of uncertainty about the ecosystem effects of warming trends (and loss of sea ice), and potential expansion

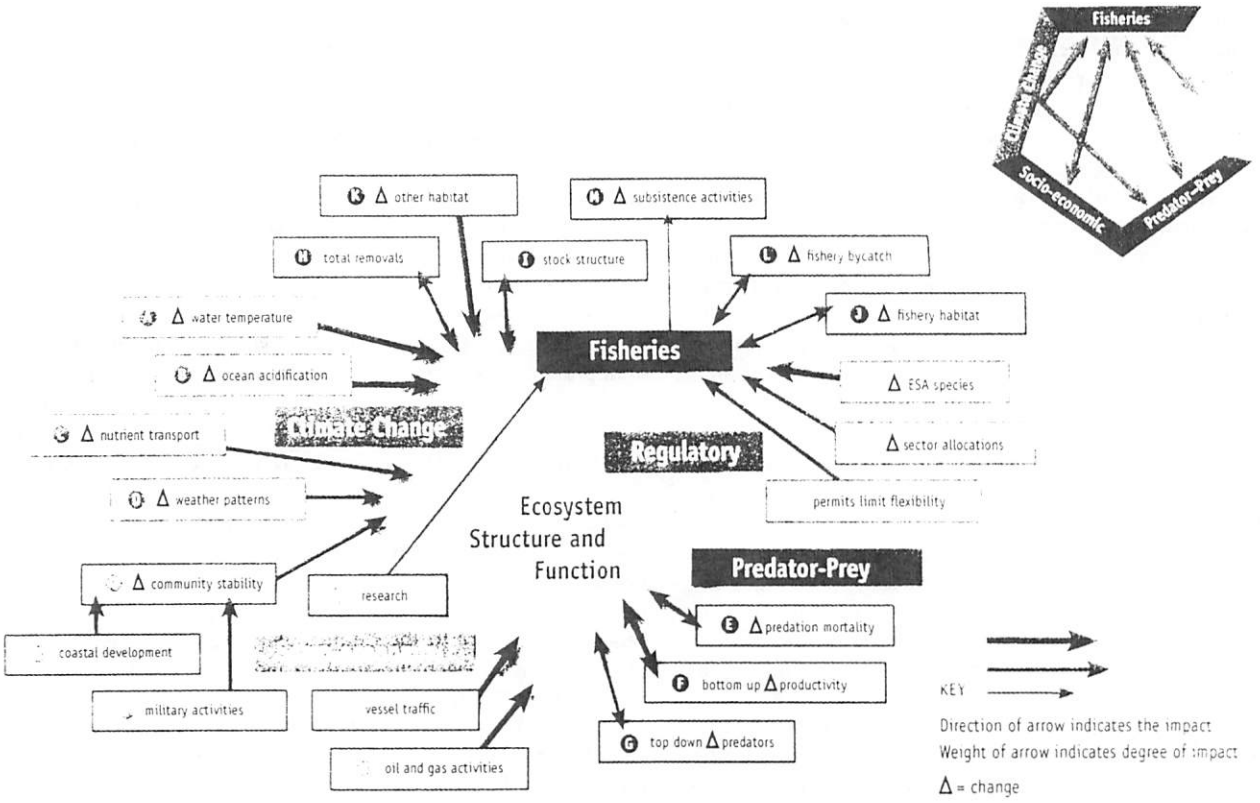

Figure 4. Ecosystem interactions in the Aleutian Islands FEP. Source: NPFMC (2007b).

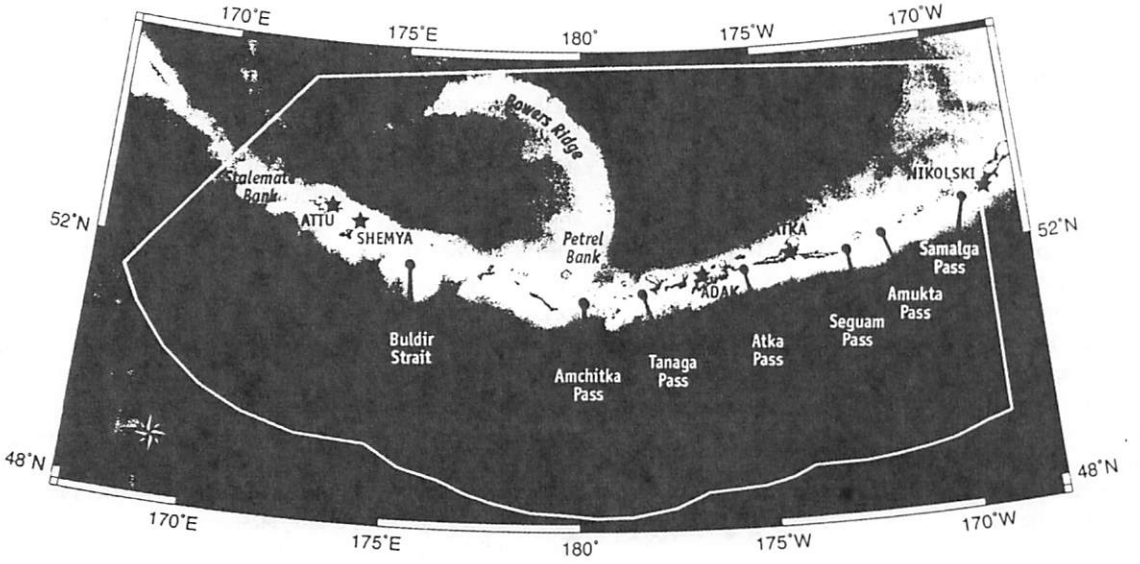

Figure 5. Map of the Aleutian Islands FEP area, indicating key oceanographic features and communities. Source: NPFMC (2007b).

of fishing activities in the North Pacific, to best utilize, conserve, and protect the fisheries resources in this region. The measures described here represent some examples of the fishery management actions underway in the North Pacific as fishery managers and policy-makers operate under a shifting climate and seek to balance various management objectives. These types of action should be of relevance to fishery managers in other regions, as examples of steps that can be taken to be risk averse in preparation for climate change and resulting shifts in fishing patterns.

Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge the contributions of Bill Wilson, Nicole Kimball, David Witherell, and Jim Ianelli, and the comments of the three anonymous reviewers.

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doi:10.1093/icesjms/fsp138

AGENDA B-1(d)
OCTOBER 2009

Alaska Crab Coalition
3901 Leary Way N.W. Suite #6
Seattle, Washington 98107
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Fax 206.547.0130
acccrabak@earthlink.net

September 23, 2009

Mr. Eric A. Olson, Chairman
NPFMC
605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Re: B-2 NMFS Management Report

Dear Eric:

I am submitting a Seafood.com Editorial by John Sackton, dated September 22, 2009 noting that "Some fees in Alaska drop to zero this year as result of surplus, contrast to New England," to bring attention to some of the management benefits of the crab cooperative program. (Attachment).

Sackton notes that in a previous article on September 21, 2009, he reported about a "fiasco in New England where a 1% set aside to pay for scallop observer coverage has been exhausted months before the end of the season, forcing vessels to pay for observers directly with no reimbursement. Scallopers are angry that the NMFS Northeast Regional office failed to manage the program properly."

"Almost on cue, NMFS published a notice in the Federal Register that program fees (cost recovery) for the Alaska crab management program would be assessed at 0% this year. The agency can set a fee level, which covers all management and enforcement costs, of up to 3% landed value of crab, paid equally by harvesters and processors."

Sackton concludes the article with some insightful comments about catch shares:
"The idea that somehow rights to fish are a free ride – and that the ones who harvest and process the fish should not also pay some of the cost for fishery management, is discredited. This is a renewable resource extraction industry, and just as companies pay royalties when they mine or harvest timber on federal land, so should fisheries pay for the management and enforcement costs for extracting the commercial value from the public resource.

Catch shares are a way to reduce the burden of these costs, by simplifying management and enforcement, and the juxtaposition of the reduction of crab assessments to zero this year with the howls of complaint from the scallop industry, provide a very clear illustration of the principle."

Arni Thomson
Alaska Crab Coalition

Posted: Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Some NMFS fees in Alaska drop to zero this year as result of surplus, contrast to New England

SEAFOOD.COM NEWS by John Sackton - Sept. 22, 2009 - Yesterday we wrote about a fiasco in New England where a 1% set aside to pay for scallop observer coverage has been exhausted months before the end of the season, forcing vessels to pay for observers directly with no reimbursement.

Scallopers are angry that the NMFS Northeast Regional office failed to manage the program properly.

Almost on cue, NMFS published a notice in the federal register that program fees (cost recovery) for the Alaska crab management program would be assessed at 0% this year.

The agency can set a fee level, which covers all management and enforcement costs, of up to 3% of the landed value of crab, paid equally by harvesters and processors.

In 2008, the levy was set at 3%. In 2009 it was set at 1.05%. However, due to increases in value and decreased costs for staff and management, for this coming year (2010) NMFS set the fee to zero. There was enough money left from the previous year to cover costs.

One of the differences between the scallop fishery and the crab fishery is that the scallop fishery is not allocated by shares, and as a result, it is more difficult to reach agreement about how to pay the costs of the fishery. The current system is an arcane compromise which compensates vessels for observers by allowing them to catch more scallops or extend their days at sea. The nominal limit for these activities is 1% of the allowable scallop harvest.

A far more straightforward and fair way would be a simple assessment of a management fee on the harvesters and buyers of scallops. That would meet the demands of the scallop vessel owners that the payments for the additional observer coverage in a given year were allocated across all vessels. And if an allocation was too small, it would be the government's budget that would take the hit, to be recouped in the following year. That is what would happen in Alaska.

Many opponents of catch shares scoff at the idea that fishery management is easier and more straightforward under catch share programs, dismissing this as something of little value. Yet one of the main irritants in New England is exactly the cumbersome and complex rules that are necessary to accommodate a patchwork system of controls, whether that be from enforcement of yellowtail permits by area, or failure to plan for enough scallop observer coverage.

The idea that somehow rights to fish are a free ride - and that the ones who harvest and process the fish should not also pay some of the cost for fishery management, is discredited. This is a renewable resource extraction industry, and just as companies pay royalties when they mine or harvest timber on federal land, so should fisheries pay for the management and enforcement costs for extracting the commercial value from the public

resource.

Catch shares are a way to reduce the burden of these costs, by simplifying management and enforcement, and the juxtaposition of the reduction of crab assessments to zero this year with the howls of complaint from the scallop industry, provide a very clear illustration of the principle.

John Sackton, Editor And Publisher
Seafood.com News 1-781-861-1441

Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum Meeting

Department of Environmental Conservation
555 Cordova St., ground floor conference room, Anchorage, AK
June 10, 2009 1-4pm

DRAFT Agenda 5/28/09

Introductions

Agency briefings

- opportunity for each agency to address AMEF (max. 10 minutes)
    - What are the principal marine ecosystem issues each agency is facing? Are there any new opportunities for coordination or collaboration? Please highlight any new activities or updates since our last meeting in August 2008.
    - You may wish to include any transition news, including any new policy directions for your agency, and any ARRA (economic stimulus) projects that you have planned.

Other issues

- Update on Aleutian Islands Research Plan
- Nomination of Alaska sites to the national system of marine protected areas
- Status of Aleutian Island Risk Assessment and Alaska Oil and Gas Risk Assessment (Cook Inlet portion)
- Status of planning for 2010 Trans-boundary Contaminants Conference

Next steps

- Election of officers

Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum

MEETING SUMMARY

June 10, 2009, 1-4 pm
Conference room, Department of Environmental Conservation, Anchorage, AK

The following member agencies attended the meeting. Underlined participants represented their agency.

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Larry Hartig, Commissioner
Betty Schorr, Kristin Ryan, Ira Rosen

Department of Fish and Game (DFG)
Stefanie Moreland, Extended Jurisdiction Program Manager

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Samantha Carroll, Special Assistant

North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)
Eric Olson, Chair
Chris Oliver, Diana Evans

National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)
Jon Kurland, Acting Deputy Regional Administrator
John Olson

Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
Greg Balogh

National Park Service (NPS)
Deb Cooper

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
James Moore, NEPA Coordinator, Anchorage Field Office

Minerals Management Service (MMS)
Cathy Coon, Marine Biologist, Environmental Studies Program

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Marcia Combes, Director, Alaska Operations Officer

17th Coast Guard District (CG)
CPT James Robertson, Anchorage

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE)
Brent Walters

Other participants:

US Geological Survey	Mark Shasby
University of Alaska, Fairbanks	Keith Criddle
Alaska Sea Grant	Paula Cullenberg

Introductions

Larry Hartig, as Chair of the AMEF, opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves. At the request of the group, Mr Hartig rearranged the agenda to begin with the discussion of marine protected areas.

Nomination of Alaska sites to the national system of marine protected areas (MPAs)

Mr Oliver prefaced the discussion by explaining that the national MPA framework was initiated by executive order (EO), signed by President Clinton in 2000. The directive was for NOAA to establish a national network of MPAs. Provisions in the EO require agencies to "avoid harm to natural and cultural resources that are protected by an MPA" that is identified on the national network. Mr Kurland noted that a MPA center has been set up within NOAA to accomplish this task. A rolling nomination process is in place for adding MPAs to the national registry, and sites can be nominated by the managing entity.

An initial listing process has occurred for Alaska, and four areas are now included on the national network: Glacier Bay, the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. The NPFMC has been contacted by NMFS with a draft list of MPAs where fishery management closures have been put in place, to be nominated for the national registry, formally initiating a consultation process between the agencies. The Council intends to evaluate the draft list relative to the MPA criteria, and discuss further action at the December 2009 Council meeting. The Council's handout shows a map of some of the fishery closures in place in Alaska. The Council has concerns about nominating fishery closures to the national network, partly because of the proviso in the EO requiring that agencies must avoid harm to the MPAs, which seems to be an ill-defined standard. Additionally, the time, area, and gear-specific fishery closures that are managed by the Council are not necessarily permanent closures, and the Council is concerned that registering the closures on the national MPA network may limit the Council's flexibility in the future should they wish to remove or alter the closure provisions.

With respect to the initial four MPA sites, Ms Moreland noted that ADFG and DNR wrote letters to NMFS opposing the nominations (attached). Three of the nominated areas include lands owned and managed by the State of Alaska, and the State objected to the fact that the nomination of these areas to a national registry did not include a public process in Alaska. Ms Moreland asked what the process is for providing appropriate feedback to the State. Mr Kurland responded that his understanding was that the proposed nominations were published in the Federal Register, providing an opportunity for public comment, but that if the proposed sites meet the MPA criteria, and are nominated by the managing entity, it was likely that the sites would in fact be accepted.

The group discussed what it means for an area to be listed as an MPA on the national registry. Once it is listed, is it still at the discretion of the managing entity to remove the site from the list, or to change management measures associated with the area? MPA center representatives have made various presentations to Federal agencies in Alaska, and stated that the intent of the registry is not to impose management measures. Mr Kurland suggested that the purpose of the national registry was to provide more collaboration on management strategies, education, and outreach for the nationally registered MPAs, rather than to define management policy or restrictions associated with the nationally registered areas. However, the process for removing or changing an MPA site once it is listed in the registry did not seem to be clear.

The group discussed whether any other agencies are planning to nominate sites to the national network. Mr Balogh noted that the USFWS had not had internal discussion about nominating areas, but some candidate areas might be the northwestern portion of the area designated as Steller's eider critical habitat, and an area in eastern Norton Sound, west of Besboro Island, which is also a subset of critical habitat. Ms

Cooper also noted that the NPS had not had specific discussions about nominating areas, but Katmai National Park would be the most likely candidate, of the Alaska parks.

The group decided to continue discussion of this agenda item at a future meeting, and in the meantime to pursue answers to the following questions, raised with respect to the MPA nomination process:

- What is the process for listing and delisting MPAs from the national registry. Does this occur at the discretion of the managing entity?
- How does public comment on proposed nomination sites influence the nomination process?
- If proposed MPA sites include State waters or land, is there a public process for consulting with State managing entities?
- Further clarification is needed on the EO provision to "avoid harm to natural and cultural resources that are protected by an MPA". MPAs may be set up to offer protection to some but not all of the resources within a geographical area. Does the provision relate the harm avoidance provision to the managing entity's objectives for the MPA? What is threshold at which a resource is harmed?
- How are agencies planning to use the national MPA network? What are the implications of an MPA being listed on the national network?

Agency briefings

Each agency present at the meeting gave a brief update on activities of interest with respect to the Aleutian Islands or other Alaska marine ecosystems. Some agencies provided handouts, which are attached to this summary.

Cathy Coon, MMS (handout attached)

Ms Coon reported on the MMS environmental studies program, and provided a handout of 2009 research projects. The budget for this year is $12 million for marine research, and MMS works with the State, other Federal agencies, and the university to accomplish the research. Funded studies include polar bear research, the Beaufort Sea fish survey, and oil spill impact studies. An annual study plan comes out each November, and nominations are accepted for all different types of research. The agency is looking toward funding broader studies that address ecosystem management, for example combining species-specific research with the tracking of phyiscal oceanographic parameters in one field study.

Another source of research funding is the SEAPP program. Alaska has been awarded $75million in funding over the next two years. MMS is working in partnership with DNR. Five projects have been funded already, and 39 have been nominated.

Ms Carroll noted that there is an open process for nominations for projects. Open solicitation for nominations from the public is currently on hold, but will hopefully be revived in the fall. It was noted that ADFG currently has projects on the nomination list.

Greg Balogh, USFWS

The USFWS is looking at the potential for fisheries expansion northwards in the Bering Sea, and the likely impacts on spectacled eider habitat. The agency is also evaluating the effect of loss of sea ice on walrus. This winter, USFWS worked with animals which had been displaced by sea ice from Fesborough Island area, and they were emaciated. Another concern with the retreat of sea ice is the effect on distribution of ice seals, on which polar bears depend, and the availability of breeding platforms for raising walrus young.

With respect to populations at risk, Mr Balogh noted that loons, scooters, and longtailed ducks are in decline, but the agency does not know why. Sea otter critical habitat has been proposed, and is currently in its second open comment period. A petition to list walrus has been received, and a 90-day finding is due on Sep 10. Short-tailed albatross work is being done in Japan, to establish a colony on a non-volcano island.

Wind turbine projects are becoming increasingly common, and these represent strike threats for birds, especially along ground transmission lines. There is currently insufficient information on ways to make these lines visible to birds, so strikes become less likely. The USFWS has a short list of ARRA projects, but the only one of relevance to this group is the planned removal of animals from islands where they don't belong.

Jon Kurland, NMFS (handout attached)

Mr Kurland identified that NOAA has received $167 million nationwide for habitat restoration under the ARRA. A number of Alaska proposals have been submitted, but no final decision has been made yet. The proposals are under technical review within NOAA. There is much interest and scrutiny with how the ARRA funding is used, and on which projects. An announcement is expected in late June.

The Arctic Fishery Management Plan, adopted by the Council in February, has been submitted to NOAA for Secretarial Review. The public comment period is open until July. The plan closes the Arctic to fishing until there is sufficient information to make sure that fisheries will be sustainably managed. There has been a lot of good press for this action. Additionally, in conjunction with the Council, NMFS is conducting a five-year review of essential fish habitat information in each of the Council fishery management plans, the results of which will be available in 2010.

Mr Kurland noted that the Center for Biological Diversity has filed an intent to sue the agency for the listing of ice, ringed, spotted, and bearded seals under the ESA. Cook Inlet beluga whales have been listed as endangered, and the agency will be holding public hearings on a critical habitat designation this fall.

NOAA has created a regional team in Alaska to coordinate NOAA programs within the state, and to provide more integrated services. The new lead of that team is Doug Demaster, director of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center.

Marcia Combes, EPA

EPA is in conversations with MMS and the Aleutians East Borough to explore the potential for requiring zero discharge for any oil and gas exploration and production activities in the North Aleutian Basin. This would be a more stringent guideline than the effluent limit guidelines that are currently in place, although zero discharge is standard in other parts of the country. Cook Inlet has an exemption from zero discharge (because of economic viability), and zero discharge is not a requirement for exploration. It is a very difficult issue, but there is pressure to require this standard before any further development goes forward. A lot of public process is required, and Mr Hartig noted that the State was interested in this issue as well. In the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, EPA is looking at permitting for Shell's exploration activities in 2010 and 2011. It is expected that Conoco will also be bringing forward permit applications shortly as well. EPA is reviewing both air and water permits, but there is little data available for evaluating air data.

With respect to the national transition, a new administrator for Region 10 is expected this summer or early fall, but in the meantime the deputy is acting as regional administrator. ARRA funding for EPA programs is primarily for existing water and waste water programs and processes.

Samantha Carroll, DNR

Ms Carroll noted that an integrated ocean observing system workshop will be taking place in October, a joint effort with AOOS and the Division of Ocean and Coastal Management in DNR. It will be a 2-3 day workshop in Anchorage. As noted by Ms Coon, DNR is partnering with MMS for the SEAPP projects.

Deb Cooper, National Park Service

Ms Cooper noted that as previously mentioned, Glacier Bay has been listed as a marine protected area on the national network. NPS Alaska received $20 million from the ARRA funds, but they were not specific to ocean or coastal programs. They will be used for getting youth outdoors, and dealing with noxious weeds.

NPS Alaska region has partnered with other west coast regions on an ocean coastal strategy. There is also some support nationally. Hopefully there will be funding for three ocean administrator posts: for the Alaska regional office, and one in Kenai Fjords, and on in the western Alaska parks or in southeast Alaska. These will allow the NPS to focus more on ocean and coastal issues.

There are four inventory and monitoring networks that are fairly well funded in NPS, looking at a suite of indicators of environmental health. Some of the data address ocean and coastal related issues, such as shoreline erosion and benthic habitat information. The agency is grappling with how to better assess information pertaining to the water column. The agency is becoming more data rich statewide, as this program is well funded.

Stefanie Moreland, ADFG

ADFG is supporting a joint proposal under SEAPP, with YAF and NMFS, for a bottom trawl survey in the Chukchi. This would establish a baseline for monitoring effects, and would start in 2011 if funded.

Ms Moreland also noted that the Council recently took action to put in place salmon bycatch restrictions in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fleet. ADFG has been really active in developing a systematic sampling protocol for salmon in Bering Sea trawl bycatch, by stock of origin. There is interest by the agency and from industry to better understand the distribution of salmon in the ocean, and the co-occurrence of salmon and pollock species, and to develop projects that look at these issues.

Eric Olson, NPFMC (handout attached)

Many of the Council's issues have already been addressed. The Council is focusing more on outreach, and identifying issues and ways to improve outreach and get input back from communities. A committee has recently been appointed to help the Council focus on key projects.

The Council is also developing a Northern Bering Sea Research Area research plan, similar in idea to the Arctic FMP (don't allow bottom trawling until we have a better idea of the potential effects). The research plan will be focusing on crab, ESA-listed species (such as the spectacled eider), marine mammals, and subsistence species, and will then identify how fishing might occur without impacting those species. Additionally, NMFS will be revising their Biological Opinion for Steller sea lions in March 2010, and the Council may then examine alternatives to the current Steller sea lion protection measures in the groundfish fisheries.

Mark Shasby, USGS

USGS has been well funded for loss of sea ice, polar bear, walrus, and implications of climate change studies. Additionally, the agency is looking at coastal erosion on the North Slope, with extensive studies this summer of the coastal and nearshore benthic environment, looking at rates of change of coastal erosion, and taking into account sea level rise. The USGS report on oil and gas resources on circumpolar regions of the globe indicates that most of the undiscovered oil is on the eastern North Slope. USGS is working with Canada to get a better idea of the geology of the area. The agency has also done work on seabirds, and sea otters.

Jim Robertson, USCG

CPT Robertson noted that the USCG is kicking off the Arctic risk ecological assessment this year, which will encompass from the Cape of Prince of Wales, north to the Canadian border. The intent is to evaluate if there is an oil spill, what is the best mitigation to use in an Arctic environment. The results of this study will also be able to be exported to Kotzebue, Norton Sound, and Bristol Bay during the ice seasons. The agency is planning several public hearings in Barrow, Fairbanks, and Anchorage, and perhaps also in Kotzebue.

The marine safety division did an oil exercise with Conoco Phillips, which went well. They are also planning to do a joint exercise at Dixon entrance, with the State of Alaska, DOI, and the Canadian Coast Guard and DOI. The CG is going to Nome this summer, rather than Barrow, as part of their Arctic exercises. There will be one ice breaker and two cutters stationed there. Some vessels will be going around to Barrow, as part of the ports and waterways study. There will also be overflights, leaving both from Nome and from Kodiak, although the aircraft aren't outfitted with fuel warming tanks, so they can't fly below 40 degrees C. The CG will probably try to use small boats again, and hopefully this will prove more successful in Nome than in did in Barrow. There will also be joint exercises with helicopters, probably the national guard or the air force, and they will bring medical and dental teams to the villages.

Larry Hartig, DEC

DEC is proposing to use some of the SEAPP funding to continue EMAP work. Mr Hartig chairs the governor's subcabinet on climate change. They have just finished a stakeholder, public process. Some of the technical workgroups have recommendations, which will be processed into reports by the end of July. The subcabinet will look at the various recommendations, and other strategies, and will bring them together for a draft State strategy. It is hoped that there will be a consistent strategy on climate change among the State, Federal agencies, and the tribes. The draft strategy will be released for public comment by the end of the year, after which the Governor, and then the legislature, will have time to address it. As part of this initiative, a compendium of research needs is also being pulled together, a report of which is out in draft form on the State climate change website, www.climatechangealaska.gov. The intent is to integrate research needs with funds to address them, as part of overall State strategy.

DEC is the Governor's representative on climate change issues, and has been involved in several western coast initiatives, such as the Coastal Impact Assessment Program, and the Western Climate Initiative. One initiative called the Pacific Coast Collaborative, which is being driven by British Columbia. It is looking at ways to collaborate on environmental and social issues, and a MOU is being negotiated among jurisdictions. The component dealing with ocean and climate change is probably the furthest along. Progress has stalled because of the economic crisis in California, Washington, and Idaho, and elections in British Columbia. It will be interesting to see what comes of these.

Paula Cullenberg, Alaska Sea Grant

SeaGrant is a partnership between the university and NOAA. The extension program in Alaska is the Marine Advisory Program, and there are representatives of the program in many of the coastal towns in Alaska. Ms Cullenberg is in the process of trying to develop an initiative to do community-based climate change outreach, using the MAP extension agents. SeaGrant is willing to partner with agencies to do community outreach efforts. SeaGrant has also developed a curriculum for grades K-8 on seas and rivers that is Alaska-based, in collaboration with the Anchorage School District and the Sea Life Center. They have hired someone to focus on ways to link ocean scientists with educators. The organization is also looking a king crab rehabilitation and enhancement, collectively with NOAA, communities, and fishing groups.

Brent Walters, COE

COE received some funding through ARRA, but they also lost their authority to fund small coastal erosion projects and village relocations, so all work on these projects has stopped since March. Mr Hartig noted that this has been a severe blow to coastal communities, as these relocations are only really viable with Federal money. The State is trying to help to get the funding restored.

James Moore, BLM

BLM is about to convey some of the land around the Sitka airstrip to the State of Alaska. They are also working on a land use plan for a broad area from Denali to the Yukon delta, including the Kuskokwim drainage. They will be looking for help from DEC for climate change information, as these impacts will need to be addressed in the plan.

Update on the Aleutian Islands Risk Assessment (Betty Schorr and Jim Robertson; handout)

There are four groups involved in the multiphase AI risk assessment: a management team, an advisory panel, a risk analysis team, and a peer review panel. The management team includes the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in Alaska (they are providing the funds). The Advisory Panel is a diverse group, which includes lots of varied experience, both from the Bering Sea, but also from a global interest as well. There are 2 phases for the risk assessment: the first is a preliminary risk assessment, with semi-quantitative studies for data gathering. The second phase is for analysis of the data, and a focused risk assessment. The RFP for Phase 1 is currently out, and a contract will be issued in August. Phase 1 is scheduled for completion by August 2010, and phase 2 should be completed and a report of findings and recommendations should be available by August 2011. More information is available at the project website: http://www.aleutiansriskassessment.com. Mr Hartig noted that he is hopeful that the AI risk assessment methodology will be able to be a template for other areas, particularly the Arctic.

Status of Alaska Oil and Gas Risk Assessment (Cook Inlet portion) (Ira Rosen)

The risk assessment began 2 years ago, and was intended to be a oil and gas infrastructure study to determine what are the risks of operating existing infrastructure for another generation. The goal of the study is provide oversight agencies with a snapshot of the system that could then be used as the basis for a risk management study, the results of which would be useful for industry and the State. The project is currently three-quarters of the way through the first phase of developing the methodology for the study. DEC has contracted with the National Academy of Sciences for an independent peer review of the methodology.

Cook Inlet has the oldest infrastructure in the state. The study will look at all aspects of production (well, subsea pipelines, piping, terminals, waste, storage, loading, support), but not marine transportation, the refineries, or future development. The study will consider the original design, where such information is available, the intended operating life, aging process, operating and maintenance procedures, oversight, changes in composition of fluids (sediment, water, oil), and natural hazards (e.g., volcanoes). More information is available at the project website: http://www.dec.state.ak.us/SPAR/ipp/ara/index.htm.

Status of planning for 2010 Trans-boundary Contaminants Conference (Kristin Ryan)

Kristin Ryan is spearheading a State of Alaska effort to develop a State strategy for contaminants. The strategy would include all persistent contaminants, marine or interior, and affecting all species. A vision statement and goals have been identified. The object is to coordinate all the State researchers, for example, to have information to guide fish monitoring efforts in the State, and to develop a systematic sampling program. A steering committee has been identified, with members representing DEC, EPA, UAF, and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and a framework outlined. There will be an emphasis on gaining information from traditional knowledge and local sources. Stakeholder meetings are planned in Anchorage and Fairbanks in July, and the stakeholder process will also continue throughout the year. These will culminate in a summit in 2010, which will bring all the various agencies, and at which there will hopefully be buy-in on a joint strategy.

Update on Aleutian Islands Research Plan (Keith Criddle; handout)

Keith Criddle updated the group on progress with developing the AI Research Plan, a project which is funded by Alaska SeaGrant. The research plan is one of ten regional research plans that are being developed nationally, although each has taken a different approach. The methodology identified for Alaska was to use a bottom-up approach to identify management-critical information needs for the AI. Initial scoping has been completed, and they are in the process of processing stakeholder input, and through the use of an expert panel, of prioritizing research needs within a structured hierarchy of research topics. It is intended that this process will be completed over the summer. A draft report is expected to be released to stakeholders and the expert panel in fall 2009, for public comment and revision. The report will then be disseminated in spring 2010 at the Alaska Forum for the Environment, and the Alaska Marine Symposium.

Election of Officers and Next meeting

The Memorandum of Understanding is structured so that the current Vice-Chair, Marcia Combes, will be the next Chair of the AMEF, during the upcoming year. The group agreed that Stefanie Moreland should be the next Vice-Chair. Autumn 2009 was identified as the timeframe for the next meeting.

AGENDA B-1(f)
OCTOBER 2009

AUG 19 2009

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

THE DIRECTOR

N.P.F.M.C.

Mr. Chris Oliver
Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery
Management Council
605 W. 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Gary Locke regarding authority under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to implement a loan program that would provide financing to aid communities in Alaska in purchasing processor quota shares (PQS) in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) crab fisheries.

BSAI crab fisheries are managed under a limited access privilege program (LAPP) and subject to specific statutory requirements under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. As noted in your letter, the Act does not provide explicit direct authority to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to implement a loan program for specific communities under the BSAI crab fishery LAPP. Nor does the Act provide implicit authority to establish a loan program to finance community purchase of PQS. Specifically, sections 303A(i), 304(d)(2), and 313(j) provide authority for NMFS to establish a loan program for the BSAI crab fisheries. The Act was amended in 2006 to implement specific provisions applicable to the BSAI crab fishery LAPP. Most importantly, section 303A(i)(1) states that "the requirements of section 303(d) of [the Act] in effect on the day before the date of enactment of [the reauthorized Act] shall apply to [the BSAI crab fishery LAPP]." Section 303(d) of the Act prior to amendment authorizes the Secretary to establish a loan program to aid the financing of individual fishing quotas "by fishermen who fish from small vessels" and "first time purchase of individual fishing quotas ... by entry level fishermen." Although not defined by the Act, a "community" does not fit these descriptions. In addition, the Act defines an individual fishing quota as a harvest privilege, not a processing privilege such as that conferred by PQS.

Because the loan program authority in the Magnuson-Stevens Act does not extend to communities seeking to purchase PQS, additional action by Congress would be necessary to provide this authority to NMFS. Congress could provide this authority by amending the Act or through other legislation.

If you have any further questions, please contact the NMFS Alaska Regional Office at (907) 586-7228.

Sincerely,

James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.
Acting Assistant Administrator
for Fisheries

THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FOR FISHERIES

Managing Resources for a Changing Arctic

19-21 October 2009
Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage, Alaska

The International Arctic Fisheries Symposium is designed to initiate international discussions for conserving and managing future fisheries in the Arctic Ocean, including managing migratory, transboundary and straddling fish stocks.

The symposium will identify current management regimes in the Arctic region and how relevant scientific and fisheries data can be used to inform future management decisions.

The symposium will identify gaps in existing management regimes and potential steps to address those gaps, as well as the need for improved scientific programs to support conservation and management of future Arctic fisheries.

The symposium is being organized by the Institute of the North in coordination with the U.S. Department of State, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the North Pacific Research Board, and other fisheries agencies, non-profit organizations and stakeholders.

We anticipate 200 participants from throughout the Arctic, as well as fisheries managers and scientists from Japan, China and South Korea.

Register online

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- English (PDF)
- Russian (PDF)

For more information

- Nancy Hemsath, Institute of the North
  tel 907-771-2443
- Russian Contact: Kristina Baiborodova,
  Institute of the North
  907-771-2467

Only 21 days until the International Arctic Fisheries Symposium ...

ARCTIC FISHERIES IN FOCUS

"The Arctic region is warming, faster on average than the rest of the planet," noted Ambassador David Balton, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries, U.S. Department of State, in a March 2009 interview with FAO Radio of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization.

- Hear Ambassador Balton's speech
- Full FAO article

Agenda

Download Detailed Agenda (English) (PDF)

Download Detailed Agenda (Russian) (PDF)

General Agenda

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

0730-0900	REGISTRATION
0900-0945	Welcome, purpose and scope of conference Opening remarks
0945-1015	Sponsored health break
	Overviews of climate impacts, resources, and uses
1015-1230	o Impacts of climate change on the Arctic Ocean o Living resources: What lives there now or may live there? o Who uses it? - Panel to include industry and subsistence users
1230-1400	**LUNCH with keynote speaker**
1400-1530	**Concurrent sessions: policy and science**
Track 1	International laws, commissions and management policies o Overviews of current situation and future trends in policy and management
Track 2	Scientific perspectives on climate change and Arctic fisheries o Overview of science topics with representation from Arctic nations
1530-1600	Sponsored health break
1600-1730	**Concurrent sessions continue:**
Track 1	International laws, commissions, and management policies
Track 2	Scientific perspectives on climate change and Arctic fisheries
1730-1745	Closing remarks and preview of Day 2

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

0845-0900	Call to Session
0900-1130	Gap analysis of national/international laws and management structures
1130-1300	**LUNCH**
1300-1500	Gap analysis of research, science and data availability
1500-1530	Sponsored health break
	Future directions
1530-1730	o Conservation and management of future Arctic fisheries o Possible steps to address issues such as transboundary stocks o Actions to ensure healthy fish stocks in central Arctic Ocean
1730-1745	Closing remarks and preview of Day 3
1900-2100	Sponsored reception

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

0845-0900	Call to Session
0900-1100	Finding common ground: small group breakouts to discuss ways forward
1100-1130	Sponsored health break
1130-1230	Report of small group discussions
1230-1400	LUNCH
1400-1500	Facilitated discussion of recommendations and next steps
1500-1530	Closing remarks

Registration fee for the Symposium is US $200. When you click "Register Now" you will leave this site.

Register Now

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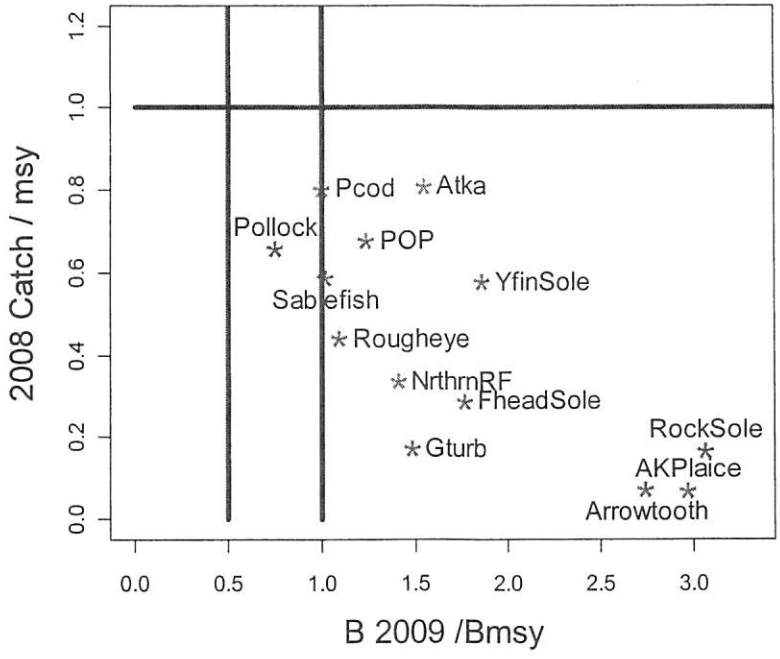
International Arctic Fisheries Symposium Working Draft Program as of September 15, 2009

10/19/2009 MONDAY	
0730-0900	**REGISTRATION**
0900-0945	**Welcome, purpose and scope of conference (co-chairs)**
	Opening remarks
	U.S. Ambassador David Balton (confirmed)
	US. Senator Lisa Murkowski (tentatively confirmed)
	US. Senator Mark Begich (tentatively confirmed)
	Alaska Governor Sean Parnell (invited)
0945-1015	**BREAK – Sponsored health break**
1015-1230	**Overviews of climate impacts, resources, and uses**
	Impacts of climate change on the Arctic Ocean and adjacent seas
	Harald Loeng, Institute of Marine Research, Norway (confirmed)
	Living resources: What lives there now or may live there?
	Libby Logerwell - Biological resources in the Arctic (confirmed)
	Alexander Glubokov - VNIRO, Russian Federation (invited)
	William Cheung, University of East Anglia, UK (confirmed)
	Who uses it? – Panel to include industry and subsistence users
	Moderator: Paul MacGregor, Mundt MacGregor LLP (confirmed)
	Lene Kielsen Holm, ICC Greenland (confirmed)
	Willie Goodwin, Jr., ICC-Alaska Elders Representative (confirmed)
	Russian Federation representing commercial fishing
	Norway representing commercial fishing
1230-1400	**LUNCH at the Hotel Captain Cook**
1400-1530	**Concurrent sessions: policy and science**
Track 1	**International laws, commissions and management policies**
	Overviews of current situation and future trends in policy and management
	Moderator: Erik Molenaar, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands (confirmed)
	Kjartan Hoydal, Ex. Dir. Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (confirmed)
	David Benton, Marine Conservation Alliance, USA (confirmed)
	Canadian representative
	Russian Federation representative
Track 2	**Scientific perspectives on climate change and Arctic fisheries**
	Overview of science topics with representation from Arctic nations, to include
	Indigenous perspectives: Caleb Pungowiyi, Oceana (confirmed)
	Physical oceanography: Tom Weingartner, UAF (invited)
	Sea ice ecosystems: Tara Connelly, NRDC (confirmed)
	Siberian/Barents/Kara ecosystems: Andrey Pedchenko, State Research Institute on Lake And River Fisheries [GOSNIORKH] (confirmed)
1530-1600	**BREAK**
1600-1730	**Concurrent sessions continue:**
Track 1	**International laws, commissions, and management policies**
	Panel of 4-5 people present case histories
	Leif Fontane, Organization of Fishermen and Hunters, Greenland (confirmed)
	Reidar Toresen, Institute of Marine Research, Norway (confirmed)
	Bill Wilson, NOAA (confirmed)
Track 2	**Scientific perspectives on climate change and Arctic fisheries**
	Science topics, continued
	Beaufort/Canadian Archipelago/Chukchi ecosystems: Stephen Macko, Univ. of Virginia (confirmed)
	Ocean acidification
	Physical, physiological and ecological constraints: Jeff Short, Oceana (confirmed)
	Panel discussion
1730-1745	**CLOSING – preview of Day 2**

10/20/2009 TUESDAY	
0845-0900	CALL TO SESSION
0900-1130	**Gap analysis of national/international laws and management structures** Facilitated panel of speakers from previous day presenting their views about gaps in national and international management based on experience and previous day's presentations
1130-1300	LUNCH at the Hotel Captain Cook
1300-1500	**Gap analysis of research, science and data availability** Facilitated panel of speakers from previous day presenting a consensus summary of scientific perspectives on climate change and Arctic fisheries.
1500-1530	BREAK
1530-1730	**Future Directions** Moderator summarizes previous discussions and then leads panel representing individual nations to discuss following topics: Potential solutions to promote conservation and management of future Arctic fisheries Possible steps by Arctic neighboring states to address issues such as transboundary stocks Actions by international community to ensure healthy fish stocks in high seas portion of central Arctic Ocean where there are no current agreements Moderator: U.S. Ambassador David Balton Terje Løbach, Legal Advisor, Directorate of Fisheries, Norway (confirmed) Tomas Heidar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iceland (confirmed) Kjartan Hoydal, Exec. Director, Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (confirmed) Erik Molenaar, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands (confirmed) Duane Smith, President, ICC Canada (confirmed) Canadian representative Russian Federation representative
1730-1745	CLOSING - preview of Day 3
1900-2100	SPONSORED RECEPTON

10/21/2009 WEDNESDAY	
0845-0900	CALL TO SESSION
0900-1100	**Finding common ground** Small group breakouts to discuss ways forward
1100-1130	BREAK
1130-1230	**Report of small group discussions**
1230-1400	LUNCH at the Hotel Captain Cook
1400-1500	**Facilitated discussion of recommendations and next steps**
1500-1530	**Closing remarks**
1530-1600	BREAK
1600-1700	**Organizing Committee meets to plan publication and next steps, if any**

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS GRAPH MEANS?



NO?

THEN YOU SHOULD ATTEND A SPECIAL SESSION ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 AT 6 PM IN THE AP MEETING ROOM (DILLINGHAM/KATMAI)

How to Interpret Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Reports

PRESENTED BY

DR LOH-LEE LOW
NMFS-ALASKA FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER
SEATTLE, WA

HOSTED BY THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

EVERYONE WELCOME

COFFEE WILL BE PROVIDED!!!

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CRAB INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PNCIAC)
c/o 4209 21st Ave. West, Ste. 403
Seattle, Washington 98199
360 440 4737
steve@wafro.com

September 22, 2009

Mr. Eric A. Olson, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W. 4th Avenue Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

RE: Agenda Item B-1, Executive Director's Report
PNCIAC Report on Request for Revision of BSAI Crab Program Economic Data (EDRs) reporting system

Dear Eric:

The PNCIAC respectfully requests the NPFMC initiate a process to revise the BSAI Crab Program (EDRs) reporting forms and to develop an appropriate regulatory amendment that will also be needed to implement revisions to the EDR forms.

PNCIAC recommendations were finalized at a recent PNCIAC meeting on September 18, 2009 in Seattle. The attached packet of reports and industry surveys identify the numerous revisions that need to be made to the EDRs.

See the following PNCIAC attachments that validate the industry recommendations:

- PNCIAC meeting announcement and agenda, September 18, 2009 with attendance list.
- PNCIAC EDR motion, September 18, 2009
- PNCIAC motion to support recommendations of the Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation, September 18, 2009
- PNCIAC Report from EDR sector work-groups, September 2009
- NPCA Notes from the Processing Sector EDR Work Session, August 20, 2009
- Catcher Vessel EDR Evaluation Workpaper, September 3, 2009
- Shoreside-Floating Processor EDR Evaluation, September, 2009
- Catcher Processor EDR Evaluation, September, 2009
- PNCIAC notes on an EDR workshop, July 17, 2009 with attendance list.

Sincerely,
Arni Thomson, Secretary
Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CRAB INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PNCIAC)
c/o 4209 21st Ave. West, Ste. 403
Seattle, Washington 98199
360 440 4737
steve@wafro.com

August 31, 2009

To: PNCIAC Members and interested BSAI crab industry representatives and members of the public

From: Steve Minor, Chair, PNCIAC

Re: NOTICE OF PNCIAC MEETING, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2009
TIME: 9 AM TO 1 PM
LOCATION: LEIF ERIKSON HALL
2245 NW 57TH, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
(Please note that parking in Ballard has become very restricted, and it is virtually pay as you park across the board. The Viking Bank lot is a commercial parking lot now. There is also a pay parking lot across the street on the South side of the Hall.)

Agenda, as noted in the Federal Register by the NPFMC:

1. A presentation by NMFS/RAM Division, on the soon to be implemented online QS transfer system. Online transfers of crab IFQ and IPQ will be implemented for intercoop transfers and for IPQ leases for the 2009-10 fishing year. This is a significant new tool for industry.

2. Continuation of the NPFMC Crab Economic Data Reporting (EDR) revision process, and a report and discussion of the work session with the NMFS/AFSC staff, including reports from industry sector work groups on revisions to the EDRs.

3. Other business.

Both agenda items are significant. Please plan on attending, and pass this notice along to others you think will be interested.

For additional information, contact Steve Minor, Chair of PNCIAC at 360 440 4737 and email, steve@wafro.com; or Arni Thomson, Secretary of PNCIAC, at 206 769 3474.

Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee

Leif Erikson Hall, Ballard, WA
Friday, September 18, 2009
9:00 am –1:00 pm

NAME	VESSEL/COMPANY
Edward Poulsen	ACC
Garry Loncon	Royal Aleutian Sfds
Keith Nelson	[illegible] Seafoods
Phil Hanson	UniSea
Chris Pugmire	Icicle Seafoods
Jan Forsythe	Kari Marie / Royal Pacif. Kirsten Marie
Arni Thomson	ACC
Gordon Kristjanson	MCHC
Al Mendoza	UniSea
Bart Noman	Trident
Gretar Gudmundsson	Fishing Associates
Ron Felthoven	NMFS
Lance Farr	Keulen K
Jeff Hiatt	Alaska Boat
Vic Scheibert	Trident Seafoods
Chris Arnim	Trident
Kaitlyn Knight	Trident
Dyer Proriejus	Puget Sound Accts.
Dan Mattsen	Scandies Rose
Ken Tippett	AK. Boat Co.

NAME	VESSEL/COMPANY
Brian Garber-Yonts	AFSC
Dale Schwarzmiller	Peter Pan
ELIZABETH WILEY	WS (Westward Sfds
Tom Suryan	Bristol Mariner
Jim Stone	Arctic Hunter
DOUG WELLS	BARANOF COURAGEOUS
NIKOLAI SIVERSTON	JENNALE'S ROSE FISH. Co.
TAMARA BLEDSOE	NMFS
GLYDINA BAILEY	NMFS
KEITH COLEBURN	WIZARD
ERIK OLSON	NORTHWEST FARM CREDIT
NANCY HARRIS	HARRIS ACCOUNTING
Kevin Kaldestad	Kaldestad Fisheries

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CRAB INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PNCIAC)
c/o 1900 W. Emerson Pl., #205
Seattle, Washington 98199
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September 18, 2009 FINAL

PNCIAC motion regarding revisions to the BSAI Crab Rationalization Economic Data Reporting ("EDR") forms.

Whereas, the BSAI Crab Rationalization Program EDR process was designed prior to implementation of the Program and that several assumptions about how the Program would function were not accurate; and

Whereas, the comprehensive review of the Metadata documented that the C data (1/3) collected was unusable and should no longer be collected. In addition, the B data (1/3) had quality issues that require it to be well understood by analysts to be properly utilized; and

Whereas recent PNCIAC/AFSC meetings and PNCIAC work groups have documented continuing data quality and data collection problems; and

Whereas a survey of all sectors (Catcher Vessels, Catcher Processors and Shore-based and Floating Processors) documents that the time being spent to complete the EDR process far exceeds the requirements of the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act and specific program regulations; and

Whereas, very little data has been utilized to date by analysts because of the continuing data collection and data quality problems;

Now therefore be it resolved that the PNCIAC recommends to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that:

A. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council should review and redefine the issues that merit examination on a regular basis;

B. Then, working collaboratively, Council staff and industry should identify the private sector variables that impact the management decisions related to those issues identified by the Council;

C. Council staff and industry should also collectively review the standard accounting practices utilized by industry and reporting already required of industry to determine which data can be efficiently and accurately collected through the EDR process, and which data is already being collected through other established processes (COAR, Fish Tickets, Municipal Tax Records, etc);

D. Finally, the results of the very constructive Metadata Review that took place over the preceding 12 to 18 months should be incorporated into revised EDR forms, and a comprehensive regulatory amendment to revise the regulations to make them consistent with EDR revisions and consistent with the Council's stated intent.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUS.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CRAB INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PNCIAC)
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September 18, 2009 FINAL

PNCIAC Motion to support the recommendations of the Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation ("BSFRF").

1. The PNCIAC supports the BSFRF request that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and the Crab Plan Team consider the 2009 NMFS/BSFRF Snow Crab Net Efficiency Study as the best scientific information on net efficiency as you deliberate the Opilio harvest strategy.

2. The PNCIAC is supportive of delaying the Opilio TAC announcement to no later than November 6, 2009 so long as ADFG deems it beneficial to the TAC setting process. If that approach is chosen, we ask that there be as much transparency and industry input as possible.

Motion adopted unanimous.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CRAB INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PNCIAC)
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Report from the EDR Sub-Committee and Sector Work Groups
September 2009

The BSAI Crab Rationalization Program is entering its fifth year of operations, yet there is very little usable EDR data available to analysts (Council Staff has so far only been able to use some crew data) and the paperwork burden on industry is growing well beyond the OMB requirements and regulatory objectives of the Program. Processors and harvesters are now required to spend three to five times the amount of time filling out EDR forms as was originally expected and set into regulation. Well over $2 million dollars has been spent by the Agency and private sector in the last four years with no significant results, and according to the Council's Three Year Review the Agency's annual budget for the EDR process now exceeds program management costs.

PNCIAC believes a lot of these problems are the result of an EDR process that was designed before implementation of this unique Program, and therefore it is now time to redesign the EDR process from the bottom up.

In 2008, PNCIAC and the industry worked with the AFSC to assess data quality issues and improve the metadata. Now, we are turning our collective efforts towards revisions to the EDR forms.

Throughout the Summer of 2009, the members of the PNCIAC EDR sub-committee held meetings with the AFSC staff and various sector work groups to try to establish a framework for the crab industry EDR process that would:

1. Improve overall data accuracy.
2. Improve data collection efficiency so that the process conforms with the OMB Paperwork Reduction Act and the implementing regulations for this program.
3. Identify and recommend new data collection processes that will close data gaps and address other problems that are the result of an EDR process that was designed prior to implementation of the BSAI Crab Rationalization program.
4. Identify any regulatory changes that may improve the EDR process.

At the start of the summer, the EDR sub-committee met jointly with AFSC staff and several industry representatives. Out of that meeting, a framework for our evaluation efforts was established, which PNCIAC recommends to the Council for this and every other EDR process under it's jurisdiction:

A. First, that the Council should identify the program issues that it wants analyzed, or is likely to want analyzed, in the next five to seven years. Further, we recommend that the Council revise program regulations and establish a periodic (five to seven years) EDR review process to stay abreast of evolutionary (and often unanticipated) changes in management practices and environmental conditions.
B. Second, based on the Councils identified analytical needs, AFSC and Council staff should consult with program participants to identify the variables that effect management decisions related to those issues;
C. Third, the industry (and other participants) should then identify the standard accounting practices that already capture those variables, and a process for efficient collection/submission of the data;
D. And fourth, that a process for collecting the remaining variables either directly through the EDR process or by data-mining other data sources (COAR, Fish Ticket, Municipal Tax Revenue, the new SOA Crew Data Program etc) be developed.

With that framework in mind the various sectors (CP, CV and SB/F Processor) held individual work sessions throughout August and September. Each sector was assigned three tasks:

1. To review current EDR data collection requirements for their sector and rank both the ease of gathering the information and the accuracy of the submitted information. A "Red Light/Yellow Light/Green Light" process was used to rank each data component.

2. To identify any other related issues based on their first-hand experience with the EDR process. A large number of issues were identified by each group.

3. To survey members of each sector and provide an estimate of the private sector resources associated with the EDR process; to compliment the agency cost estimates in the Three Year Review.

The results of this months-long process are included in this report.

Submitted by the EDR Work Group:

Brett Reasor, UniSea
Ed Poulsen, ACC
Arni Thomson, ACC
Steve Minor, NPCA
Doug Wells, Baranof and Courageous
Kevin Kaldestad, Kaldestad Fisheries

Work Group Summaries:

Average Annual Hours Spent Preparing EDRs
Not Including Audits

	OMB Says	Industry Actual
Catcher Vessels	**7.5 hours**	**37 hours**
Catcher Processors	**12.5 hours**	**37 hours**
Shore Based Processors	**10 hours**	**48 hours**

Estimated Public and Private Sector Costs,
Not Including Private Sector Audit Costs
Agency Estimate from Three Year Review, Produced Below

Public Sector through 2007/8	Private Sector through 2008/9
Approximately $1,350,000	**Approximately $1,062,000**

Table 11-1 Management costs and cost recovery fees (2005-2006 through 2007-2008.

Office	Restricted Access Management	Sustainable Fisheries	Operations Management and Information	General Counsel	Appeals	Office of Law Enforcement	Office of Law Enforcement and Joint Enforcement Agreement	ADF&G (State)	Alaska Fisheries Science Center	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	Total
Primary source of expenditures	Quota management	Regulations	Cost accounting	Legal guidance	Appeals	General Enforcement	Joint enforcement with State of Alaska	Extended Jurisdiction/Community/CDQ	Economic Data Reporting	Economic Data Reporting/Joint Electronic Reporting	
2005/2006	$ 545,889	$ 932,613	$ 8,889	$ 89,077	$ 6,800	$ 388,502	$ 518,519	$ 864,518	$ 53,703	$ 444,380	$ 4,278,081
Percent of total costs	13.10%	21.37%	0.20%	2.09%	0.16%	9.13%	12.09%	20.20%	1.26%	10.49%	100.00%
Fees for cost recovery (3% fee)											$ 3,124,029
% of costs recovered											73%
2006/2007	$ 541,179	$ 189,510	$ 35,848	$ 34,636	$ 122,567	$ 1,932,023	$ 162,808	$ 974,008	$ 105,397	$ 321,348	$ 3,939,841
% of total costs	13.74%	4.81%	0.91%	0.88%	3.11%	49.06%	4.13%	24.91%	2.70%	8.13%	100.00%
Fees for cost recovery (3% fee)											$ 3,065,344
% of costs recovered											77%
2007/2008	$ 233,146	$ 94,310	$ 24,117	$ 30,842	$ 47,405	$ 569,097	$ -	$ 725,455	$ 111,725	$ 288,300	$ 2,133,759
% of total costs	10.93%	4.42%	1.13%	1.44%	2.22%	26.69%	0.00%	34.00%	5.24%	13.51%	100.00%
Fees for cost recovery (3% fee)											$ 6,517,224
% of costs recovered											325%

2005/2005 - Fee Percentage set at 1.03 % of ex vessel value

Source: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Three-year review of Crab Rationalization Program for BSAI crab fisheries - October 2008. Page 110.

EDR costs = "Alaska Fisheries Science Center / Economic Data Reporting" plus "Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission / Economic Data Reporting / Joint Electronic Reporting". Total $1,355,773. 2007/8 total is $400,025. No detail available concerning split between PSMFC tasks.

Program Management costs = "Restricted Access Management" plus "Sustainable Fisheries". 2007/8 total is $327,456: *less than the EDR process.*

Industry Red/Yellow/Green Light Summaries are provided under separate cover.

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August 20, 2009

Notes from the Processing Sector EDR Work Session

Recommendations

The working group noted that the original EDR forms were developed prior to implementation of the Program, and that a lot of things that were assumed at that time have turned out to be inaccurate; as a result, some of the data being collected is either redundant, irrelevant or of very poor quality. Therefore, the working group recommends (a) a complete review of the Council's data needs and the supporting federal regulations (50 CFR Part 680.6) to ensure the EDR process is providing the Council with accurate data without unnecessarily burdening industry; (b) a complete revision of EDR forms to better conform to industry accounting practices and to eliminate duplicative reporting; and (c) a collaborative effort to develop a Best Practices Guide to accompany the new EDR forms.

We developed a very specific framework for improving the existing data collection process that should satisfy the Council's need for accurate data, as well as industry's interest in having an efficient collection process. We recommend that the Council adopt the following framework to advance a better data collection process:

A. Now that we have four years of experience in this Program, the Council should review and redefine the issues that merit examination on a regular basis;

B. Then, working collaboratively, Council staff and industry should identify the private sector variables that impact the management decisions related to those issues identified by the Council;

C. Council staff and industry should also collectively review the standard accounting practices utilized by industry and reporting already required of industry to determine which data can be efficiently and accurately collected through the EDR process, and which data is already being collected through other established processes (COAR, Fish Tickets, Municipal Tax Records, etc); andThe results of the very constructive Metadata Review that took place over the preceding 12 to 18 months should be incorporated into revised EDR forms.

The working group is confident that implementation of these recommendations will yield an EDR process that is much more accurate, efficient and responsive to the questions that should be answered than the overtly burdensome and inherently inaccurate data collection process currently in place.

Major Findings

1. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) the Public Burden estimate for the processing sector EDRs is 10 hours per response. Industry estimates indicate that the actual time involved is approximately 48 hours per response and growing.

2. The level of detail requested and the obscure type of information required to complete the EDRs often does not reflect the variables that are relevant for business decision or policy management purposes. For example, the processing sector is asked to provide data concerning the amount of finished pounds of crab for a fishery (which makes sense); but the EDR also requires that those finished pounds be identified by multiple crab sizes, grade, and pack size, and that this information be tracked from production through sales. The EDR also requests this data be segregated by quota type (A,B,C or CDQ). Crab is generally sold as a bulk product. It is not tracked by box size; it is tracked by pounds. Processors pack based on customer requirements, not by the size of the crab delivered or the type of quota used by harvesters to catch the crab. Additionally, crab packed and shipped in one form from the plant may be reprocessed in different locations into different forms before it is sold. Much of the information currently requested imposes significant accounting burdens without a clear applied management purpose and, since industry is not set up to track information in the manner requested, results in the provision of highly subjective and inherently inaccurate data.

3. One of the most significant Processing Sector issues that should be analyzed – the impact of fleet consolidation and elongated seasons on processing capacity utilization and efficiency - cannot be analyzed using current EDR data. This is a significant issue that should be addressed.

4. The EDR forms require processing entities to track crab purchases, processing and sales activity according to fishery codes that were established for harvest sector management purposes, but which have nothing to do with processors' purchases, processing or sales activity. This requires a significant amount of retroactive and often subjective accounting analysis that does not contribute any insight into the EDR data. This applies specifically to Eastern and Western Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab and Eastern and Western Bering Sea Tanner crab, both of which are purchased and processed as a single type of crab.

5. The EDRs fail to recognize that crab processing plants are almost all part of larger, multi-species production facilities. The EDRs ask for information such as, "How much do you spend for food for crab production workers?" This is impossible to accurately report because processing facilities provide food cafeteria style, production workers from all lines eat together along with administrative personnel, and production workers move between processing lines depending on work loads, etc. What analytical purpose does collection of this "guesstimated" data serve?

6. The same types of detailed information are requested for items like annual fuel consumption, insurance, water, sewer and waste disposal, etc. In addition to the difficulty of assigning fuel costs across a broad range of seafood products that are often processed simultaneously, some plants use new technologies to reduce fuel costs by blending diesel fuel with fish oil. What is the policy objective this data is necessary to support?

7. Further, the crab sales data requested does not necessarily correspond to the catch and processing data collected because the sales for crab harvested in one year often occur over a period of two years.

8. In some cases, the EDR forms actually fail to capture data that is essential to analysts. For example, data from processors who engage in custom processing agreements, which represent as much as 20% of the annual processing activity in the crab fisheries, is not collected at all except through voluntary submission by those businesses, and even then it is not clear that the voluntary data can be legally incorporated.

9. In many cases, the data requested are already provided on COAR Reports or on Fish Tickets. Shouldn't analysts be able to mine existing data sets rather than be allowed to create redundant (though often disparate) reporting requirements for industry?

10. Another example of the EDRs not collecting data that the Council needs for some important policy analysis is the failure to collect information on processing capacity. While the wide-spread fleet consolidation and development of elongated fishing seasons has certainly benefitted fleets and crewmen, it has had some negative economic impacts on the processing sector and crab dependent communities. Shore-based plants and public utilities designed for high pulse fisheries have been forced to operate for long periods of time with less daily throughput. Analysis of excess processing capacity would be relatively simple if the correct data were collected. The Price Formation/Binding Arbitration process has become a dominant feature of this Program. As a result, the entire industry has oriented itself to consider and discuss issues on an FOB Alaska basis. The EDR forms attempt to capture both FOB Alaska and FOB/Seattle data. To what avail? Since industry is already required to convert all sales to an FOB/Alaska basis for the COAR, the EDR forms should be revised to conform. This would also eliminate the need to request freight information.

11. The Processing Labor data collected by the current EDRs is inaccurate to the point of being unusable. Today's large multi-species plants require adaptable labor that moves from line to line and species to species throughout a single shift. Similar reporting problems exist for facilities that process crab only, because the information is requested by crab fishery, and some crab seasons are prosecuted within the same timeframe. Residency is almost impossible to confirm, as employees' stated addresses often represent nothing more than where their parents live or where they get their mail. For Dutch Harbor plants, the reality is that most of their employees reside in Dutch Harbor for most of the year. We would suggest that there are far better measures such as municipal tax receipts, utilitiy consumption, and statistics on housing, rent, and airport traffic by which to analyze community impacts.

12. A large component of the current EDRs attempts to trace processing plant consumables back to their source, e.g. which location in the United States or beyond benefitted from the purchase. This includes everything from food and provisions to processing and packaging materials to equipment and supplies. This is a data request that is impossible to accurately answer. Instead, the source is often identified as the location of the vendor's accounting office to which the payment was mailed, even if the materials were pulled out of a warehouse in Alaska. This entire section of the EDRs should be reviewed and reshaped within the context of the Council's analytical goals.

Catcher Vessel EDR
Evaluation Workpaper
Work Group Compilation
September 3, 2009

1	Easy	Good
2	Average	Average
3	Difficult	Poor

Table Number	EDR Section	Data Reported By	Data Requested	Data Gathering	Accuracy	ID	Source Data	Comments	Recommended Corrective Action
1.a	Crab Activity	Crab Fishery	days traveling and offloading	3	2	DP	vessel log book	requires skipper to meet with EDR preparer, attempt to dicipher daily entries in his log book	question necessity
1.a	Crab Activity	Crab Fishery	days traveling and offloading	2	2	JH	info from captain, fish tickets, work paper summary	can be confusing if vessel moving in Alaska as its difficult to get details sometimes.	
1.a	Crab Activity	Crab Fishery	days traveling and offloading	2	2	JC	Owners provided assume used log book		Eliminate this depth of detail
1.a	Crab Activity	Crab Fishery	days traveling and offloading	3	2	NH	Log book; skipper; FT	EDR only; use 1/2 days?	Eliminate this element
1.b	Crab Activity	Crab Fishery	crab fishing days	2	2	JH	fish tickets, work paper summary	seems like duplicate effort, requires audit quality work paper	NMFS should use fish ticket
1.b	Crab Activity	Crab Fishery	crab fishing days	1	1	JC	Fish tickets provided by owner or he provided a sheet with number of days	I thought fish tickets were the best source and pretty accurate, but as indicated in the meeting maybe not	Simplify and be consistent use fish ticket days
1.b	Crab Activity	Crab Fishery	crab harvesting days	3	2	NH/DP	Log book; skipper; FT	EDR only; use 1/2 days?	Eliminate this element
1.c	Crab Activity	Crab Fishery	CFEC fish ticket numbers	2	1	DP	fish tickets	seems like duplicate effort, requires audit quality work paper	this info is already provided to NMFS;CoOp managers
	Crab Activity	Crab Fishery	CFEC fish ticket numbers	1	1	JC	Owners provide us with fish tickets	They should access another agency's data base	Eliminate this element
1.c	Crab Activity	Crab Fishery	CFEC fish ticket numbers	2	2	JH	fish tickets	seems like duplicate effort, requires audit quality work paper	NMFS should use fish ticket
1.c	Crab Activity	Crab Fishery	CFEC fish ticket numbers	1	1	NH	CFEC fish tickets	Needed? ADFG has.	Eliminate this element
2.a	Crab Sales	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	pounds sold	2	1	DP	fish tickets, work paper summaries, general ledger	Quota share type may not be on fish ticket and some plants use fish grade rather than quota type on ticket	require ADG to include this data on each fish ticket by quota type/No /so as well as values
	Crab Sales	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	pounds sold	2	1	JC	lbs off fish tickets, reconcile tickets to g/l revenue.	I tie out my quota type with co-op info spread sheets if I have them but all the swapping makes it difficult	Strive for consistent standards in filling out fish tickets so there is good base line data they can access
2.a	Crab Sales	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	pounds sold	2	1	JH	fish tickets, work paper summaries, general ledger	Quota share type may not be on fish ticket and some plants use fish grade rather than quota type on ticket	establish species code for each quota share type A, B, and C... and North and South for opilio and bairdi.
2.a	Crab Sales	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	pounds sold	2	1	NH	Fish tickets, wksheet	List shares per FT, not as coop does	How to report shares caught for coop?
2.b	Crab Sales	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	dead loss pounds	2	1	DP	fish tickets, work paper summaries, general ledger	Quota share type may not be on fish ticket and some plants use fish grade rather than quota type on ticket	same as above
2.b	Crab Sales	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	dead loss pounds	2	1	JC	fish ticket info entered in worksheets to summarize	I did not occur to me that that could be a "grade" I thought is was quota share type always, attend mtg's and learn!	Strive for consistent standards amount person filling out fish tickets so there is a good base line data base they can access
2.b	Crab Sales	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	dead loss pounds	2	1	JH	fish tickets, work paper summaries, general ledger	Quota share type may not be on fish ticket and some plants use fish grade rather than quota type on ticket	establish species code for each quota share type A, B, and C... and North and South for opilio and bairdi.
2.b	Crab Sales	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	deadloss pounds	2	1	NH	Fish tickets, wksheet	List shares per FT, not as coop does	How to report shares caught for coop?
2.c	Crab Sales	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	gross revenue from ex-vessel sale	2	2	NH	Settlement, processor, coop	Share type, average price, PA's	Coop payment vs. processor paid

Catcher Vessel EDR
Evaluation Workpaper
Work Group Compilation
September 3, 2009

1	Easy	Good
2	Average	Average
3	Difficult	Poor

Table Number	EDR Section	Data Reported By	Data Requested	Data Gathering	Accuracy	ID	Source Data	Comments	Recommended Corrective Action
2.c	Crab Sales	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	gross revenue from ex-vessel sale	2	2	JC	Fish tickets matched to general ledger revenue. Plus identify related bonus's & adjustments		
2.c.	Crab Sales	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	gross revenue from ex-vessel sale	3	1	JH	processor settlements, fish tickets, work paper summaries, general ledger	often there are several settlements and the requirement requires cumulative summaries that have to be prepared just to meet this requirement	Not sure of solution if all is done in one calendar year. . usually red crab has advance in year 1, and settlement in year 2. .
3.1.a	Owner Annual Quota Allocation	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	vessel owner's quota harvested on vessel, pounds	3	1	JH	NMFS data summaries, co-op work papers, internal work paper, fish tickets	starts getting tricky with averaging dead loss, beginning of season transfers, end of season transfers, and in season swaps (i.e. north for south, etc.)	recording quota share type on fish tickets would provide better starting point.
3.1.a	Owner Annual Quota Allocation	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	vessel owner's quota harvested on vessel, pounds	3	2	DP	NMFS data summaries, fish tickets, co-op work papers, internal work paper.	Section 3.1 is the most time consuming, due to the fact that it does not take into consideration how the crab rat management has evolved.	It is very common for a harvester to fish only portaions of its's own quota type . Possibly this section would be vest answered by the Co-ops.
3.1.a	Owner Annual Quota Allocation	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	vessel owner's quota harvested on vessel, pounds	3	1	JC	Co op worksheets recapped,	Very time consuming, seems not one source captures all the info	Go directly to co-op's for info
3.1.a	Owner Annual Quota Allocation	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	vessel owner's quota harvested on vessel, pounds	2	2	NH	Coop vs. leased	IFQ vs. actual catch vs. coop allocation. Sections 3.1 and 3.2 require so much work to derive numbers, just for EDR. All the detail for share type really adds to spreadsheet time. To pay leaseholders, we use average prices. BBR being paid in 2 years complicates pulling #'s from GL.	This section takes so much time!
3.1.b	Owner Annual Quota Allocation	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	vessel owner's quota leased/transferred to another vessel, pounds	3	2	DP	NMFS data summaries, co-op work papers, internal work paper, fish tickets	transfers to another vessel in the same co-op? This is Crab rat management	terminolgy is confusing and I believe interpreted differendy by individual EDR preparers.
	Owner Annual Quota Allocation	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	vessel owner's quota leased/transferred to another vessel, pounds	3	3	JC	Coop worksheets, track funds going back and forth to reconcile if possible to see if your close	Leased - swaps - true ups difficult trail to follow but the co-op know best	Get from co-op level
3.1.b	Owner Annual Quota Allocation	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	vessel owner's quota leased/transferred to another vessel, pounds	3	1	JH	NMFS data summaries, co-op work papers, internal work paper, fish tickets	Need to differentiate between transfers for quota leased not part of the settlement and transfers called "swaps" treated as income and split with crew.	Allow northern shares to be delivered to other processors when plants are not accessible due to ice.
3.1.b	Owner Annual Quota Allocation	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	vessel owner's quota leased/transferred to another vessel, pounds	2	2	NH	Coop vs. leased , settlement, allocation	IFQ vs. actual catch vs. allocation, PA's. Sections 3.1 and 3.2 require so much work to derive numbers, just for EDR. All the detail for share type really adds to spreadsheet time. To pay leaseholders, we use average prices. BBR being paid in 2 years complicates pulling #'s from GL.	Use coop #'s or calculate for EDR
3.2.a	Quota Lease Costs	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	quota leased for use on vessel, pounds	3	2	DP	fish tickets, transfer docs, work paper summary	royally schedules /issues related to over/underage due to CoOp management during fishery (ie fish all A shares,but leased A/B/C)	Need more emphasis on fish tickets with quota share type
3.2.a	Quota Lease Costs	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	quota leased for use on vessel, pounds	3	1	JH	fish tickets, transfer docs, work paper summary	fairly straightforward process	Need more emphasis on fish tickets with quota share type

Catcher Vessel EDR
Evaluation Workpaper
Work Group Compilation
September 3, 2009

1	Easy	Good
2	Average	Average
3	Difficult	Poor

Table Number	EDR Section	Data Reported By	Data Requested	Data Gathering	Accuracy	ID	Source Data	Comments	Recommended Corrective Action
3.2.a	Quota Lease Costs	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	quota leased for use on vessel, pounds	3	2	NH	Coop vs. leased	IFQ vs. actual catch vs. allocation, PA's. Sections 3.1 and 3.2 require so much work to derive numbers, just for EDR. All the detail for share type really adds to spreadsheet time. To pay leaseholders, we use average prices. BBR being paid in 2 years complicates pulling #'s from GL.	Worksheet for share type - EDR only
3.2.b	Quota Lease Costs	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	quota leased for use on vessel, total cost	3	1	JH	plant settlements, fish tickets, workpape summary	More complex as payments come in layers sometimes 3 or 4 adjustments. This section takes a lot time to complete.	
3.2.b	Quota Lease Costs	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	quota leased for use on vessel, total cost	3	2	NH/DP	settlement, allocation	IFQ vs. actual catch vs. allocation, PA's. Sections 3.1 and 3.2 require so much work to derive numbers, just for EDR. All the detail for share type really adds to spreadsheet time. To pay	Worksheet for share type - EDR only
3.2.c	Quota Lease Costs	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	number of crew (including captain) contributing IFQ C class shares	1	1	JH/DP	NMFS data summaries, co-op work sheets, crew contracts, and settlements.	fairly straightforward process	
3.2.c	Quota Lease Costs	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	number of crew (including captain) contributing IFQ C class shares	1	1	NH	NMFS data summaries, co-op work sheets, crew contracts, and settlements.		
4.1.a	Harvest Labor Costs	Crab fishery	no. of paid harvest crew	1	1	JH	crew contracts		
4.1.a	Harvest Labor Costs	Crab fishery	no. of paid harvest crew	1	1	JC	fish ticket		Include in fish ticket data base info and pull from there
4.1.a	Harvest Labor Costs	Crab fishery	no. of paid harvest crew	1	1	NH	settlement		
4.1.b	Harvest Labor Costs	Crab fishery	total crew labor payment	1	1	DP	crew settlements	may involve two calendar years due to price adjmts	
4.1.b	Harvest Labor Costs	Crab fishery	total crew labor payment	1	2	JC	crew settlements - general ledger	not always clear if tendering or crab or shipyard	Focus in settlement sheet info
4.1.b	Harvest Labor Costs	Crab fishery	total crew labor payment	1	1	JH	crew settlements		
4.1.b	Harvest Labor Costs	Crab fishery	total crew labor payment	2	1	NH	settlement + price adj.	PA's often paid in next year -tally just for EDR's	
4.1.c	Harvest Labor Costs	Crab fishery	captain's labor payment	1	1	DP	crew settlements	may involve two calendar years due to price adjmts	
	Harvest Labor Costs	Crab fishery	captain's labor payment	1	2	JC	crew settlements - general ledger	not always clear if tendering or crab or shipyard or quota share pymt	Focus in settlement sheet info
4.1.c	Harvest Labor Costs	Crab fishery	captain's labor payment	1	1	JH	crew settlements		
4.1.c	Harvest Labor Costs	Crab fishery	captain's labor payment	2	1	NH	settlement + price adj.	PA's often paid in next year -tally just for EDR's	
4.2	Labor Payment Details	Annual; by cost element	deducted/directly charged/not charged	1	1	JH	settlement		
4.2	Labor Payment Details	Annual; by cost element	deducted/directly charged/not charged	1	1	JC	G/L		
4.2	Labor Payment Details	Annual; by cost element	deducted/directly charged/not charged	1	1	NH	settlement		
4.3.a	Revenue shares	Crab fishery	vessel owner's percentage of net share	1	1	JH			

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1	Easy	Good
2	Average	Average
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Table Number	EDR Section	Data Reported By	Data Requested	Data Gathering	Accuracy	ID	Source Data	Comments	Recommended Corrective Action
4.3.a	Revenue shares	Crab fishery	vessel owner's percentage of net share	1	1	NH/DP	settlement		
4.3.b	Revenue shares	Crab fishery	harvest crew percentage of net share	1	1	JH	crew contracts		
4.3.b	Revenue shares	Crab fishery	harvest crew percentage of net share	1	1	NH/DP	crew contracts, settlement		
4.3.c	Revenue shares	Crab fishery	captain's percentage of net share	1	1	JH	crew contracts		
4.3.c	Revenue shares	Crab fishery	captain's percentage of net share	1	1	NH/DP	settlement		
4.4.a	Crew Licenses and Permits	Annual	harvest crew license numbers	2	2	DP	Alaska DOA/DFG licensehelp	object to having to gather this info for EDR,not sure what the purpose is, as this takes unnecesary preparation time.	Crew purchases license for the Year, may have fished for another vessel/fishery.This is info available to everyone
4.4.a	Crew Licenses and Permits	Annual	harvest crew license numbers	3	1	JC	Contact Owners who contacts captain who contacts crewmember as needed	EDR online kicks out as error if incorrect data entered	Do they feel they have crew that have not paid license fees that they hope to catch here
4.4.a	Crew Licenses and Permits	Annual	harvest crew license numbers	2	2	JH	Alaska DOA/DFG licensehelp	getting smoother	
4.4.a	Crew Licenses and Permits	Annual	harvest crew license numbers	2	2	NH	Ask on contract, AK-DOA/ADFG license	EDR use only, permanent address so how valuable for crew location.	
4.4.b	Crew Licenses and Permits	Annual	CFEC gear operator permit numbers	1	1	JC	Owners provide license # and fish tickets		
4.4.b	Crew Licenses and Permits	Annual	CFEC gear operator permit numbers	1	1	DP	Fish tickets	Information is available via ADF&G	
4.4.b	Crew Licenses and Permits	Annual	CFEC gear operator permit numbers	1	1	JH	Fish tickets		
4.4.b	Crew Licenses and Permits	Annual	CFEC gear operator permit numbers	1	1	NH	fish ticket	EDR use only	
5.1.a	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	insurance premiums	3	3	DP	Not possible to prorate vessel's annual premiums to Crab only	vessels participating in Pot Cod fishery would share in the premium costs	
5.1.a	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	insurance premiums	1	1	JH	certificate of insurance, summary of days at sea by season, costs apportioned by element	Section 5.1 and 5.2: Is all this detail needed? Crab vs. non-crab can be arbitrary and then allocated by Section 6 denominator anyway which skewers the cost allocation.	
5.1.a	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	insurance premiums	2	3	JC	General Ledger	Allocated out by number of days spent in each activity, cod-crab-tendering etc.	
5.1.a	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	insurance premiums	3	3	NH	data not given by carrier	Not available by fishing season	Ask in 5.2 only; eliminate from 5.1
5.1.b	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	insurance deductible fees	2	2	DP	Review P&I detail, sort data by fishery	deductible may not be reached during the fiscal year the injury occurred	
5.1.b	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	insurance deductible fees	2	1	JH	Review P&I detail, sort data by fishery	costs for P&I deductible can stretchout over several accounting periods.	
5.1.b	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	insurance deductible fees	2	2	NH	data not given by carrier	deductible may not be reached during the fiscal year the injury occurred	Ask in 5.2 only; eliminate from 5.1

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Table Number	EDR Section	Data Reported By	Data Requested	Data Gathering	Accuracy	ID	Source Data	Comments	Recommended Corrective Action
5.1.c1	Crab-Only Costs	Purchase Location	quantity of pots purchased	1	2	JH	Review invoices for capital additions	Sometimes the count is an issue when purchasing large pile of used gear and some pots tossed, some saved for parts, all counted by gear storage provider.	
5.1.c1	Crab-Only Costs	Purchase Location	quantity of pots purchased	1	1	NH	GL, invoice		
5.1.c2	Crab-Only Costs	Purchase Location	cost of pots purchased	2	2	JH	Review invoices for capital additions	Sometimes cost per item is conditional on sorting good and bad pots in pile of used gear.	
5.1.c2	Crab-Only Costs	Purchase Location	cost of pots purchased	1	1	JC	Contact Owners who contacts bookkeeper to pull invoices or GL detail	Takes time to track down	
5.1.c2	Crab-Only Costs	Purchase Location	cost of pots purchased	1	1	NH	GL, calculate	Pots & line often bought separately.	
5.1.d	Crab-Only Costs	Purchase Location	other crab harvest gear cost	3	1	JH	Extract data, sort into work paper, review invoices, etc.	Suppliers have stores in Washington and Alaska, good purchased from both locations... all payments to Washington	drop purchase location reporting
5.1.d	Crab-Only Costs	Purchase Location	other crab harvest gear cost	1	1	JC	Contact Owners who contacts bookkeeper to pull invoices or GL detail	Takes tiime to track down	
5.1.d	Crab-Only Costs	Purchase Location	other crab harvest gear cost	2	2	NH	GL, invoice	Gathered for EDR only	
5.1.e1	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery, Purchase Location, and Bait Species	bait pounds	2	1	JH	Prepared work paper, review invoices.	Some bait stored between accounting periods carried as inventory on vessel books.	more focus on actual bait used during crab fishing
5.1.e1	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery, Purchase Location, and Bait Species	bait pounds	2	2	NH/DP	Prepare workpaper, review invoices/add'l time needed for EDR use only by bait species, break down by purshase source, input from skipper.	EDR use only by bait species	Purchased vs. used, which year used
5.1.e1	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery, Purchase Location, and Bait Species	bait pounds	2	2	JC	Pulled off settlement sheets, invoices	Pounds not always noted/specie not noted always	Use crewsheets shared cost/avg cost
5.1.e2	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery, Purchase Location, and Bait Species	total bait cost	2	1	DP	Prepared work paper, review invoices./add'l time needed to break down by bait species	Some bait stored between accounting periods carried as inventory on vessel books.	more focus on actual bait used during crab fishing, should be tied to bait charges shared with crew.
5.1.e2	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery, Purchase Location, and Bait Species	total bait cost	2	1	JH	Prepared work paper, review invoices.	Some bait stored between accounting periods carried as inventory on vessel books.	more focus on actual bait used during crab fishing, should be tied to bait charges shared with crew.
5.1.e2	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery, Purchase Location, and Bait Species	total bait cost	2	2	NH	Prepared work paper, review invoices./add'l time needed to break down by bait species	EDR use only by bait species	Purchased vs. used, which year used
5.1.f1	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery and Purchase Location	gallons of fuel used	2	2	DP	Extract data, sort into work paper, review invoices, etc.	Some fuel stored between accounting periods carried as inventory on vessel books. Splitting out Alaska travel, such as Kodiak to King Cove for crab is difficult as the crew shares in this cost.	drop location reporting. Include all fuel shared with crew as allowable crab fishing expense.

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[redacted]

	1	Easy	Good
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Table Number	EDR Section	Data Reported By	Data Requested	Data Gathering	Accuracy	ID	Source Data	Comments	Recommended Corrective Action
	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery and Purchase Location	gallons of fuel used	2	2	JC	Used owners estimates, called vendors to get avg prices prior year	Without tracking beginning and ending inventory may be off. Prices really vary and actual fuel used varies with activity and speed	Use crew settlement fuel/avg cost
5.1.f1	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery and Purchase Location	gallons of fuel used	2	1	JH	Extract data, sort into work paper, review invoices, etc.	Some fuel stored between accounting periods carried as inventory on vessel books. Splitting out Alaska travel, such as Kodiak to King Cove for crab is difficult as the crew shares in this cost.	drop location reporting. Include all fuel shared with crew as allowable crab fishing expense.
5.1.f1	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery and Purchase Location	gallons of fuel used	1	2	NH	skipper, settlement	Purchases - multi-year; location?	Purchases can be from prior year
5.1.f2	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery and Purchase Location	cost of fuel used (indicate if lube/fluids cost included)	2	2	DP	Extract data, sort into work paper, review invoices, etc.	Some fuel stored between accounting periods carried as inventory on vessel books. Splitting out Alaska travel, such as Kodiak to King Cove for crab is difficult as the crew shares in this cost.	drop location reporting. Include all fuel shared with crew as allowable crab fishing expense.
5.1.f2	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery and Purchase Location	cost of fuel used (indicate if lube/fluids cost included)	2	2	JC	Used owners estimates	Without tracking beginning and ending inventory may be off. Prices really vary and actual fuel used can be hard to identify where purchased	Use crewsheets as with other shared expenses. Owner has already allocated these costs to the season and why pay us to do it again
5.1.f2	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery and Purchase Location	cost of fuel used (indicate if lube/fluids cost included)	2	1	JH	Extract data, sort into work paper, review invoices, etc.	Some fuel stored between accounting periods carried as inventory on vessel books. Splitting out Alaska travel, such as Kodiak to King Cove for crab is difficult as the crew shares in this cost.	drop location reporting. Include all fuel shared with crew as allowable crab fishing expense.
5.1.f2	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery and Purchase Location	cost of fuel used (indicate if lube/fluids cost included)	2	2	NH	skipper, settlement	EDR use only by location	Purchases can be from prior year
5.1.g	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	food and provisions for crew	2	2	DP	based on assumptions, if vessel fished P.cod which occurs during same quarter.		Use crew settlement workpapers ; industry standard is a per day grocery rate deducted from share/not actual grocery cost.
			food and provisions for crew	2	2	JC	Settlement sheets	Actual cost could be more or less on G/L, sometime you have food inventory also at end of season	Use crewsheets as with other shared expenses. Owner has already allocated these costs to the season and why pay us to do it again
5.1.g	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	food and provisions for crew	2	1	JH	invoices		
5.1.g	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	food and provisions for crew	N/A	N/A	NH	charged to crew -	Not applicable as crew is charged	Eliminate this element
5.1.h	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	cost of other crew-related expense (open ended description)	2	2	JH	Pull data off settlements and GL	Sometimes the amount changes from the preliminary settlement to the final settlement.	
5.1.h	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	cost of other crew-related expense (open ended description)	2	2	JC	Pull selected items off G/L		
5.1.h	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	cost of other crew-related expense (open ended description)	2	2	NH	GL, calculate	EDR use only	Eliminate this element
5.1.i	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	freight and handling costs for crab and crab products	n/a		JH			
5.1.i	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	freight and handling costs for crab and crab products	N/A	N/A	NH/DP	none incurred	EDR use only	Eliminate this element
5.1.j	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	storage, wharfage, and delivery costs for crab harvest gear	2	3	DP	Extract data, sort into work paper, review invoices, etc.	apportion costs based on number of pots for crab and cod.	

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Table Number	EDR Section	Data Reported By	Data Requested	Data Gathering	Accuracy	ID	Source Data	Comments	Recommended Corrective Action
5.1.j	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	storage, wharfage, and delivery costs for crab harvest gear	2	1	JH	Extract data, sort into work paper, review invoices, etc.	apportion costs based on number of pots for crab and cod.	
5.1.j	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	storage, wharfage, and delivery costs for crab harvest gear	2	1	NH	GL, calculate	EDR use only	Eliminate this element
5.1.k	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery	observer costs	n/a		JH			
5.1.k	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery	observer costs	N/A	N/A	NH/DP		If required, NOAA pays, not boat, except bairdi	
5.1.l	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	total of fisheries taxes and fees	2	2	DP	settlements from processors	there are adjustments in taxes shared and withheld between the end of season advance and the final settlement.	
5.1.l	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	total of fisheries taxes and fees	2	2	JC	settlements from processors	Had to do spread sheet to break out, not broken out on GL	
5.1.l	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	total of fisheries taxes and fees	2	2	JH	settlements from processors	there are adjustments in taxes shared and withheld between the end of season advance and the final settlement.	
5.1.l	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	total of fisheries taxes and fees	2	1	NH	settlement, calculate	PA's often paid in next year -tally just for EDR's	
5.1.m	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	harvest cooperative membership and Inter Coop Exchange fees	1	1	JH			
5.1.m	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	harvest cooperative membership and Inter Coop Exchange fees	1	1	NH	GL		
5.1.n	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	cost of other crab related expense (open ended description)	1	1	JH			
5.1.n	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	cost of other crab related expense (open ended description)	2	2	NH	GL	discretionary what to include	Eliminate this element
5.2.a	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	capital investment cost (crab only cost indicated)	3	3	DP	capital projects summary, gl data extracted and sorted, review each transaction	Capital items are custom made for vessel often sourcing parts from several sources and locations	purchase location by port is most difficult part of analysis, vendors with same names in different locations, etc.
5.2.a	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	capital investment cost (crab only cost indicated)	3	1	JH	capital projects summary, gl data extracted and sorted, review each transactinn	Capital items are custom made for vessel often sourcing parts from several sources and locations	purchase location by port is most difficult part of analysis, vendors with same names in different locations, etc.
5.2.a	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	capital investment cost (crab only cost indicated)	2	1	JC	G/L, then request invoices to determine location of purchase, not always obvious by vendor name	Getting location for everything adds time & $ to preparation getting other parties to pull invoices from storage	Rely more on community vendor info
5.2.a	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	capital investment cost (crab only cost indicated)	3	1	NH	GL, calculate	Hard to separate crab only $'s; location? Section 5.1 and 5.2: Is all this detail needed? Crab vs. non-crab can be arbitrary and then allocated by Section 6 denominator anyway which skewers the cost allocation.	
5.2.b	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	repair and maintenance cost (crab only cost indicated)	3	3	DP	gl data extracted and sorted, review each transaction	All r&m has to be performed with crab fishing in mind and be a certain crab boat quality	purchase location by port is most difficult part of analysis, vendors with same names in different locations, etc
5.2.b	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	repair and maintenance cost (crab only cost indicated)	3	1	JH	gl data extracted and sorted, review each transaction	All r&m has to be performed with crab fishing in mind and be a certain crab boat quality	purchase location by port is most difficult part of analysis, vendors with same names in different locations, etc.
	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	repair and maintenance cost (crab only cost indicated)	3	2	JC	G/L, then request invoices to determine location of purchase, not always obvious by vendor name	R&M account usually has most entries, takes more time to get locations and hard to allocate to just one activity	Get community data from vendors
5.2.b	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	repair and maintenance cost (crab only cost indicated)	3	2	NH	gl data extracted and sorted, review each transaction	hard to separate crab only $'s; location?	

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Table Number	EDR Section	Data Reported By	Data Requested	Data Gathering	Accuracy	ID	Source Data	Comments	Recommended Corrective Action
5.2.c	Annual Costs	Annual	hull, P&I, and pollution insurance premium costs (crab only cost indicated)	2	1	DP	certificate of insurance, summary of days at sea by season, costs apportioned by element	Only accurate and easy to gather IF vessel is only involved In Crab fishery; Note should include cost of Cargo Insurance for Leased Quota	
5.2.c	Annual Costs	Annual	hull, P&I, and pollution insurance premium costs (crab only cost indicated)	2	1	JH	certificate of insurance, summary of days at sea by season, costs apportioned by element	Vessels are crab boats and all insurance costs are predicated on this type of use.	Vessel is primarily a crab boat and all other activities are extras...
5.2.c	Annual Costs	Annual	hull, P&I, and pollution insurance premium costs (crab only cost indicated)	2	2	NH	GL, prepaid Fall for year	Why is crab only asked herea and in 5.1 also?	Insur. - put in 5.2 only; crab only N/A
5.2.d	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	fuel, electricity, lubrication and fluids, cost (not incurred while fishing for crab)	2	1	JH/DP	Extract data, sort into work paper, review invoices, etc.	appears to understate crab fishing costs by excluding in state travel and other direct crab fishing costs	purchase location by port is most difficult part of analysis
5.2.d	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	fuel, electricity, lubrication and fluids, cost (not incurred while fishing for crab)	2	2	JC	General ladger-	Fuel & Lube often not broken out. Getting location for everything adds time & $ to preparation getting other parties to pull invoices from storage	
5.2.d	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	fuel, electricity, lubrication and fluids, cost (crab only cost and lube/fluids costs included indicated)	2	2	NH	GL, calculate	Bought one year; partially used in next	
5.2.e	Annual Costs	Annual	other crab related cost (open-ended description)	2	1	JH	extract gl data, prepare work paper		
5.2.e	Annual Costs	Annual	other crab related cost (open-ended description)	2	2	NH	GL, calculate	discretionary what to include	Eliminate this element
6.a	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, days at sea	1	1	JH/DP	operations records	This appears to assemble all the days into an inflated denominator to divide into the apportioned costs using the minimized numeration in table 1. This appears to be a method for putting non crab related expenses on a highter level than crab and distorts the the true time and cost of crab fishing and using the vessel for crab. This also ignores the risk levels of moving to and from the crab grounds and general costs of preparing the gear and the vessel...this number could be misused to load the equation by falsly minimizing crab expenses and maximizing crab income.	vessels are primarily crab boats and all the other activities are provided using a crab boat. Needs to be clear that this is not an ordinary tender, as there is not need to maintain salmon boats in this manner or provide the equipment and gear. These are crab vessels, managed by professional fishermen, and maintained to exacting standards.
6.a	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, days at sea	2	2	JC	Ask owner for days at sea in other states including WA, OR etc and tendering or non crab activities		
6.a	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, days at sea	2	2	NH	FT, skipper, processor	At sea days EDR use only	
6.b	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, round pounds caught and retained (excludes discards)	2	1	DP		GL does not record pounds, must alter bookkeeping records , to include this cumbersome information	
6.b	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, round pounds caught and retained (excludes discards)	1	1	JH			
6.b	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, round pounds caught and retained (excludes discards)	2	1	NH	FT, processor	Why non-crab pounds, pre-2005 no salmon	
6.c	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	gross landings revenue	1	1	JH			

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Table Number	EDR Section	Data Reported By	Data Requested	Data Gathering	Accuracy	ID	Source Data	Comments	Recommended Corrective Action
6.c	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	gross landings revenue	2	1	NH/DP	FT, processor, GL	PA's often paid in next year -tally just for EDR's	
6.d	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, labor costs	1	1	JH			
6.d	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, labor costs	2	1	NH/DP		PA's often paid in next year -tally just for EDR's	
	Notes	DP	General Comments						
		DP	I TOOK THE STAND WHEN MEASURING THE DEGREE OF ACCURACY; IF THE DATA GATHERING WAS "EXTRACTED" OR APPORTIONED MAKING THE LEVEL "2" THEN ACCURACY WOULD BE NO BETTER THAN A "2" AS WELL.						
		DP	THERE IS AN ADDED DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY DUE TO PRICE ADJUSTMENTS IN ANOTHER CALENDAR YEAR AS NUMEROUS COSTS ARE AFFECTED AND INVOLVES THE NEED TO PREPARE SEPARATE REPORTS TO ACCURATELY REPORT THE INFORMATION ON EDR.						
		DP	EDR'S ARE PREPARED ON CALENDAR BASED ACCOUNTING QUESTIONS, BUT ACTUALLY REQUIRE US TO PULL AND ELIMINATE INFORMATION FOR MORE THAN ONE CALENDAR YEAR.						
		DP	AS THE COOPS ARE MANAGED TO EFFICIENTLY CATCH QUOTA, THIS MEANS AT VARIOUS TIMES A HARVESTER MAY BE FISHING QUOTA FOR ANOTHER MEMBER. THE HARVESTER MAY NOT CATCH ALL OF IT'S OWN QUOTA (BY A/B/C). THIS CREATES ISSUES RELATED TO QUOTA THE HARVESTER MAY HAVE LEASED, WHEN IT COMES TO FIGURING ROYALTIES AND CREW SHARES.						
		DP	ALSO, THIS CREATES ANOTHER PROBLEM AS THIS ADDS A LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY WHEN ATTEMPTING TO ANSWER EDR QUESTIONS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT A HARVESTER CATCHES ITS OWN QUOTA AND ASSUMED IT ALSO CATCHES ALL IT'S LEASED QUOTA.						
	Notes	NH	General Comments						
		NH	Please standardize type size on the pdf form. Some lines have larger type than others.						
		NH	Clarify an at sea day. A day could include offload, travel to grounds, and resume fishing. Do you allocate or code day to activity taking largest %.						
		NH	Sections 3.1 & 3.2 are very difficult. With coop directed harvesting of B & C shares, swaps, average prices, seasons paid in 2 years, etc.						
		NH	Sections 3.1 and 3.2 require so much work to derive numbers, just for EDR. All the detail for share type really adds to spreadsheet time. To pay leaseholders, we use average prices. BBR being paid in 2 years complicates pulling #'s from GL.						
		NH	Section 5.1 and 5.2: Is all this detail needed? Crab vs. non-crab can be arbitrary and then allocated by Section 6 denominator anyway which skewers the cost allocation.						
		NH	Section 6 - including tender and groundfish sales so distorts the cost allocation %. And these non-crab sales were not included in historical EDR's, so total sales are not comparative anyway.						
	Notes	JH	General Comments						

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Table Number	EDR Section	Data Reported By	Data Requested	Data Gathering	Accuracy	ID	Source Data	Comments	Recommended Corrective Action
		JH	Please make it possible to enter additional lines in the the online report where data is requested by location purchased.						
	Notes	JC	General Comments						
		JC	Fish tickets should be revised to included more detail for their data base and less required to be reported on EDR						
		JC	Settlement sheets seem to be another repeated source from information that's more tuned to the crab fishery rather than general ledger amounts that need to be allocated and done differently by preparer most likely						
		JC	Gary indicated Co-op could maybe play a bigger role in providing EDR info, and I do recall thinking that myself while preparing EDR, but not sure if they have the staff to do that.						

Shoreside - Floating Processor

1	Easy
2	Average
3	Difficult

Good
Average
Poor

Annual Shoreside Processor/Floating Processor Form

Table Number	EDR Section	Data Reported By	Data Requested	Data Gathering	Accuracy	Source Data	Comments	Recommended Corrective Action
1 a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	dates covered	1	1	Production by Species report/Fish Tickets		
1.a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	crab processing days	2	1	Production by Species report		
1.a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	pounds of raw crab processed	1	1	Fish purchase by fish ticket owner report		
1.a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	product code	1	1	ADF&G		
1.a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	process code	2	2	Manually assign ADF&G Codes		
1.a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	crab size code	1	2			
1.a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	crab grade code	1	1	Production Report - Item Description		
1.a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	box size and units (kg/lb)	2	1	Item Master		
1.a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	custom processed indicator	1	1	FT by Owner report		
1.a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	finished pounds	1	1	Production Report		
2.1a-b	Annual Crab Sales	Crab species and Affiliated/Unaffiliated sales	product code	1	1	Sales Report by Customer		
2.1a-b	Annual Crab Sales	Crab species and Affiliated/Unaffiliated sales	process code	2	2	Sales Report - Item Description.		
2.1a-b	Annual Crab Sales	Crab species and Affiliated/Unaffiliated sales	crab size code	1	2	Sales Report - Item Description.		
2.1a-b	Annual Crab Sales	Crab species and Affiliated/Unaffiliated sales	crab grade code	1	1	Sales Report - Item Description.		
2.1a-b	Annual Crab Sales	Crab species and Affiliated/Unaffiliated sales	box size and units (kg/lb)	2	1	Sales Report - Item Description.		
2.1a-b	Annual Crab Sales	Crab species and Affiliated/Unaffiliated sales	finished pounds sold	2	1	Sales Report by Customer		
2.1a-b	Annual Crab Sales	Crab species and Affiliated/Unaffiliated sales	total revenues	2	1	Sales Report by Customer		
2.1a-b	Annual Crab Sales	Crab species and Affiliated/Unaffiliated sales	port of lading for FOB value; Seattle or Alaska	1	1	Sales Report by Customer		
2.2	Custom Processing Provided	Crab Fishery	CR Fishery Code	1	1	Production Report - Item Description		
2 2	Custom Processing Provided	Crab Fishery	product code	1	1	Production Report - Item Description		

2.2	Custom Processing Provided	Crab Fishery	process code	2	2	Production Report - Item Description		
2.2	Custom Processing Provided	Crab Fishery	revenue received for custom processing	1	1	G/L comparison to A/R		
3.1	Processing Labor Costs	Crab fishery	average no. of crab processing positions	2	2	Estimate from production		
3.1	Processing Labor Costs	Crab fishery	total man-hours	2	2	Payroll records		
3.1	Processing Labor Costs	Crab fishery	total processing labor payment	2	2	Payroll records		
3.2	Processing Employee Residence	By location of residence	count of processing workers by city, state, or country of residence	3	3	HR Records		
4.a-e	Custom Processing Done For You	Crab Fishery	pounds of raw crab sent for custom processing	1	1	Fish Tickets		
4.a-e	Custom Processing Done For You	Crab Fishery	product code	1	1			
4.a-e	Custom Processing Done For You	Crab Fishery	process code	2	2	Other company records, and finished goods report		
4.a-e	Custom Processing Done For You	Crab Fishery	crab size code	1	2	Not distinquished		
4.a-e	Custom Processing Done For You	Crab Fishery	crab grade code	1	1	Production Report - Item Description		
4.a-e	Custom Processing Done For You	Crab Fishery	box size and units (kg/lb)	2	1	Production Report - Item Description		
4.a-e	Custom Processing Done For You	Crab Fishery	finished pounds	1	1	Production Report - Item Description		
4.a-e	Custom Processing Done For You	Crab Fishery	total cost paid	1	1	G/L comparison to A/P and contracts		
5.a-e	Crab Purchases	Crab Fishery and IFQ Type	IFQ Type	1	1	Fish purchase by fish ticket owner report		
5.a-e	Crab Purchases	Crab Fishery and IFQ Type	crab size code	1	2			
5.a-e	Crab Purchases	Crab Fishery and IFQ Type	crab grade code	1	2	Production Report - Item Description		
5.a-e	Crab Purchases	Crab Fishery and IFQ Type	total pounds of raw crab purchased	1	1	Fish purchase by fish ticket owner report		
5.a-e	Crab Purchases	Crab Fishery and IFQ Type	total gross cost of raw crab purchased	2	1	Fish purchase by fish ticket owner report		

6.1a	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	Fisheries Taxes	2	1	Tax Returns/compare to G/L		
6.1b	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	Processing and packaging materials, equipment & supplies	2	3	You would need to start at the G/L and then go to individual invoices to do this with any degree of accuracy.		
6.1c	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	food and provisions	2	3	G/L and subjective proration		
6.1d	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	Other Direct Costs for crab labor	2	3	G/L and some subjective proration process		
6.1e	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	Insurance Deductibles	2	2			
6.1f	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	Re-packing Costs	2	2			
6.1g	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	Brokerage and promotions costs for crab sales, by fishery	2	2	G/L		
6.1h	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	Processor Quota (IPQ) Lease Costs	NA	NA	G/L compare to A/P		
6.1i	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	Observer costs, by fishery	2	3	N/A		
6.1j	Crab-Only Costs	Purchase location	Freight Costs for supplies to plant	2	2	G/L		
6.1k	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	freight and handling costs for processed crab products from the plant	2	2	G/L		
6.1l	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	product storage	2	3	G/L		
6.1m	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	water, sewer, and waste disposal	2	3	N/A or G/L		
6.1n	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	Other Crab specific costs (describe below)	2	2	G/L and vendor A/P		
6.2	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	Fuel, electricity, lubrication and hydraulic fluids	2	2	G/L and vendor A/P		
6.2	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	Investments in plant and equipment (by location)	2	2	G/L and vendor A/P		
6.2	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	repair and maintenance for plant and equipment (by location)	2	2	G/L and vendor A/P		
6.2	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	Number of Employees and Salaries for Foremen, Managers, and other Employees	2	2	G/L and vendor A/P		
6.2	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	Other Plant specific costs (describe below)	2	1	G/L and vendor A/P		
7	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, processing days	2	1	Production Report DH		
7	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, gross FOB revenue	1	1	Financial Statements		
7	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, finished pounds processed	1	1	Financial Statements		
7	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, processing labor costs	1	1	Financial Statements		

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CRAB INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PNCIAC)

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July 17, 2009

Notes: Joint PNCIAC/AFSC workshop concerning the Crab Rationalization program EDR forms.

1. Steve Minor opened the meeting with an overview of industry concerns that have been raised in recent weeks. He outlined several issues:
   a. The Paperwork Reduction Act specifies that the public Reporting Burden for the harvest sector is supposed to be 7.5 hours per EDR, but many industry participants have stated that it now exceeds 35 hours per EDR, and in the case of an EDR respondent that also leases IFQ it is even greater.
   b. The Paperwork Reduction Act also specifies that the Public Reporting Burden for the processing sector is supposed to be 10 hours per EDR, but many industry participants have stated that it now exceeds 40 hours per EDR.
   c. That the latest proposed EDR revisions will actually increase the burden on the private sector rather than decrease it as anticipated after the data quality review found that 1/3 of the data currently collected is not usable.
   d. That the cost of the EDR process for the agency exceeds $1,000,000 in the first three years of the program and the system is still not yielding quality data for analysts.

Steve then went on to propose that the meeting be a "Listening Session" between AFSC and the industry, and that everyone try to address their comments and recommendations within this framework goal for the EDR process:

i. What are the crab program issues that the NPFMC wants examined?
ii. What are the industry variables that effect management decisions related to those issues?
iii. What standard accounting practices already capture those industry variables, and how can they be accessed efficiently?
iv. What remaining variables need to be collected through the EDR process, and how can they be efficiently collected?

2. The meeting was then opened up for a lengthy exchange between AFSC staff and both harvesting and processing sector representatives.

3. During that discussion, Mike Galan of Trident handed out a "red light, yellow light, green light" document he had prepared to demonstrate how specific data requests have various "ease of access" and "quality" characteristics.

4. Several participants spoke of the additional costs of the EDR process (eg - staff time, audit expenses); others spoke of the unnecessary detail required (eg - separating EAG and WAG at the processing levels when it is all purchased and processed as a single species); many participants spoke of the underlying problems caused because the EDR process was designed before the crab program was implemented and the industry now operates in many ways that were not anticipated.

5. Agreed upon actions:

   a. AFSC staff will prepare templates for the processing and harvesting sector to each (individually or on a collaborative basis) recreate the "red, yellow, green light" process to see if we can arrive at a consensus about efficient data collection methods and likely data quality results.
   b. The next collaborative workshop will take place in mid-September, during the same week as the Crab Plan Team meetings, at a date and time to be determined.
   c. Out of this effort a process to develop the revised EDRs is expected to emerge and be presented to the Council at the October meeting.

Catcher Processor

CP Aggregate Responses

1	Easy	Good
2	Average	Average
3	Difficult	Poor

Table Number	EDR Section	Data Reported By	Data Requested	Data Gathering	Accuracy	Source Data	Comments	Recommended Corrective Action
1 1	Crab Activity	Crab Fishery	dates covered	1	1	production logs/activity logs		
1 1	Crab Activity	Crab Fishery	days fishing	1	1	ship's log		
1 1	Crab Activity	Crab Fishery	days traveling and offloading	1	1	production logs/activity logs		
1 1	Crab Activity	Crab Fishery	crab processing days	1	1	production logs/activity logs		
1 2a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	pounds of raw crab processed	1	1	production logs/invoicing program		
1 2a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	product code	1	1	ditto		
1 2a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	process code	1	1	ditto		
1 2a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	crab size code	1	1	ditto		
1 2a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	crab grade code	1	1	ditto		
1 2a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	box size and units (kg/lb)	1	1	ditto		
1 2a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	custom processed indicator	1	1	ditto		
1 2a-e	Crab Production	Crab Fishery	finished pounds	1	1	ditto		
2 1a-b	Annual Crab Sales	Crab species and Alt1/Alt2/Alt3 sales	product code	1	1	invoicing program		
2 1a-b	Annual Crab Sales	Crab species and Alt1/Alt2/Alt3 sales	process code	1	1	invoicing program		
2 1a-b	Annual Crab Sales	Crab species and Alt1/Alt2/Alt3 sales	crab size code	1	1	invoicing program		
2 1a-b	Annual Crab Sales	Crab species and Alt1/Alt2/Alt3 sales	crab grade code	1	1	invoicing program		
2 1a-b	Annual Crab Sales	Crab species and Alt1/Alt2/Alt3 sales	box size and units (kg/lb)	1	1	invoicing program		
2 1a-b	Annual Crab Sales	Crab species and Alt1/Alt2/Alt3 sales	finished pounds sold	1	1	invoicing program		
2 1a-b	Annual Crab Sales	Crab species and Alt1/Alt2/Alt3 sales	total revenues	1	1	invoicing program		
2 1a-b	Annual Crab Sales	Crab species and Alt1/Alt2/Alt3 sales	port of lading for FOB value, Oregon or Alaska	2	1	invoicing program	Unlike SG plants most sales are FOB Seattle	
2 2	Custom Processing Provided	Crab Fishery	product code	n/a	n/a			
2 2	Custom Processing Provided	Crab Fishery	process code	n/a	n/a			
2 2	Custom Processing Provided	Crab Fishery	revenue received for custom processing	n/a	n/a			
3 1	Owner Annual Quota Allocation	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	vessel owner's quota harvested on vessel, pounds	1	1	accounting/settlement data		
3 1	Owner Annual Quota Allocation	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	vessel owner's quota leased/transferred to another vessel, pounds	1	1	accounting/settlement data		
3 1	Owner Annual Quota Allocation	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	vessel owner's quota leased/transferred to another vessel, revenue	1	1	accounting/crew settlement data		
3 2	Quota Lease Costs	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	quota leased for use on vessel, pounds	1	1	accounting/crew settlement data		
3 2	Quota Lease Costs	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	quota leased for use on vessel, total cost	1	1	accounting/crew settlement data		

32	Quota Lease Costs	Crab Fishery and Quota Share Type	number of crew (including captain) contributing IFQ C class shares	1	1	accounting/crew settlement data
41	Harvest Labor Costs	Crab fishery	no of paid harvest crew	2	2	accounting/crew settlement data
41	Harvest Labor Costs	Crab fishery	total crew labor payment	2	2	accounting/crew settlement data
41	Harvest Labor Costs	Crab fishery	captain's labor payment	1	1	accounting/crew settlement data
42	Processing Labor Costs	Crab fishery	no. of crew with pay determined by processing work	2	2	accounting/crew settlement data
42	Processing Labor Costs	Crab fishery	average no of crab processing positions	2	2	accounting/crew settlement data
42	Processing Labor Costs	Crab fishery	total processing labor payment	2	2	accounting/crew settlement data
43	Labor Payment Details	Annual, by cost element	deducted/directly charged/not charged	1	1	accounting/crew settlement data
44	Crew Licenses and Permits	Annual	harvest crew license numbers	1	1	license codes
44	Crew Licenses and Permits	Annual	CFEC gear operator permit numbers	1	1	license codes
45	Processing Employee Residence	By location of residence	count of processing workers by city, state, or country of residence	1	1	personal files

many problems here: 1. crew who do not fit in categories 2. crew work both deck and process 3. engineers do not fit in as harvest crew or process crew. 4. deck crew work in process room when fishing is really good, not when fishing is bad.	

5 a-e	Custom Processing Done For You	Crab Fishery	pounds of raw crab sent for custom processing	n/a	n/a				
5 a-e	Custom Processing Done For You	Crab Fishery	product code	n/a	n/a				
5 a-e	Custom Processing Done For You	Crab Fishery	process code	n/a	n/a				
5 a-e	Custom Processing Done For You	Crab Fishery	crab size code	n/a	n/a				
5 a-e	Custom Processing Done For You	Crab Fishery	crab grade code	n/a	n/a				
5 a-e	Custom Processing Done For You	Crab Fishery	box size and units (kg/lb)	n/a	n/a				
5 a-e	Custom Processing Done For You	Crab Fishery	finished pounds	n/a	n/a				
5 a-e	Custom Processing Done For You	Crab Fishery	total cost paid	n/a	n/a				
6 a-e	Crab Purchases	Crab Fishery	crab size code	n/a	n/a				
6 a-e	Crab Purchases	Crab Fishery	crab grade code	n/a	n/a				
6 a-e	Crab Purchases	Crab Fishery	total pounds of raw crab purchased	n/a	n/a				
6 a-e	Crab Purchases	Crab Fishery	total gross cost of raw crab purchased	n/a	n/a				
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	insurance premiums	n/a	n/a			No crab only policies.	
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	insurance deductible fees						
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	food and provisions for crew	2	2	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger	Do not track specifically because we use a variety of crew configurations.		
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	cost of other crew-related expense (open ended description)	2	2	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger			
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	freight and handling costs for crab and crab products	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger			
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	storage, wharfage, and delivery costs for crab harvest gear	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger			
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	product storage	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger			
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	total of fishhouse taxes and fees	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger			
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	harvest cooperative membership and Inter Coop Exchange fees	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger			
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	crab product re-packing costs	NA	NA	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger			
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	brokerage and promotions costs for crab sales for all fisheries	NA	NA	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger			
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Annual	cost of other crab related expense (open ended description)			financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger			
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery	observer costs	2	2	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger	Complicated because of switching back and forth between groundfish and crab.		
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Purchase Location	quantity of pots purchased	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger	Requirements differ: ie. CDQ groundfish requires 2 observers.		
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Purchase Location	cost of pots purchased	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger			
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Purchase Location	other crab harvest gear cost	2	3	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger	Difficult to separate crab specific gear from groundfish gear lots of overlap.		
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Purchase Location	packaging, materials, equipment and supply costs for crab processing	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger			
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery, Purchase Location, and Bait Species	bait pounds	2	2	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger	Does not tell you anything, answers are guesstimates.		
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery Purchase Location, and Bait Species	total bait cost	2	2	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger	Variety of different baits, some caught some purchased		
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery and Purchase Location	gallons of fuel used	2	2	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger	Use is highly variable depending on fishery. calculate by prorating days at sea and fishery.		
7 1	Crab-Only Costs	Crab Fishery and Purchase Location	cost of fuel used (indicate if lube/fluids cost included)	2	2	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger			
7 2	Annual Costs	Annual	hull, P&I, and pollution insurance premium costs (crab only cost indicated)	1	2	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger	do not breackout crab vs groundfish		

7.2	Annual Costs	Annual	wages and salaries of employees not engaged in harvest or processing including foremen and managers	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger		
7.2	Annual Costs	Annual	number of salaried employees not engaged in harvest or processing, including foremen and managers (crab only cost indicated)	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger		
7.2	Annual Costs	Annual	other crab related cost (open-ended description)	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger		
7.2	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	fuel, electricity, lubrication and fluids, cost (crab only cost and lube/fluids costs included indicated)			financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger		
7.2	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	capital investment cost (crab only cost indicated)	1	1	general ledger		
7.2	Annual Costs	Purchase Location	repair and maintenance cost (crab only cost indicated)	2	2	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger	very complicated by activities in multiple fisheries	
8	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, processing days	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger		
8	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, days at sea	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger	never sure whether this should include transit days Seattle Dut.?	
8	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, round pounds caught and retained (excludes discards)	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger		
8	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, product sales, FOB revenue	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger		
8	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, product sales, FOB port location code	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger		
8	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, finished pounds processed	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger		
8	Annual Totals, All Fisheries	Annual	annual totals for all fisheries, labor costs	1	1	financial statements/accounts payable records/G. Ledger		

B

Sign Up Sheet.

Name	organization
Ken Tippett	Alaska Boat Company
Sandra Toomey	KDS, Inc
Jeff Hiatt	Alaska Boat Company
Writ Williams	Westward Seafoods, Inc
Elizabeth Wiley	Westward Seafoods, Inc
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Neal Zoydos	Alyeska Sfds (NealZ@alyeskaseafoods.com
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Jim Stone	F/V Arctic Hunter
Everette Anderson	APICDA
Mike Galan	Trident Seafoods
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MSRA Reauthorization Tracking: by Status update of tasks (30 items)
As of September 4, 2009

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
Annual Catch Limits (1 item)			
1. Establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits in the plan (including a multiyear plan), implementing regulations, or annual specifications, at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability. The amendment made by subsection (a)(10)—(1) shall, unless otherwise provided for under an international agreement in which the United States participates, take effect— (A) in fishing year 2010 for fisheries determined by the Secretary to be subject to over fishing; and (B) in fishing year 2011 for all other fisheries; and (2) shall not apply to a fishery for species that have a life cycle of approximately 1 year unless the Secretary has determined the fishery is subject to overfishing of that species; and (3) shall not limit or otherwise affect the requirements of section 301(a)(1) or 304(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(1) or 1854(e), respectively). 2. Requires that rebuilding plans be submitted 2 years after stock declared and overfishing is ended immediately.	01/01/10	Completed	* Annual Catch Limits must be in place for overfished stocks by 1/01/10. However, the task tracked here is GUIDELINES to be provided to NMFS/Councils to establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits. * A Notice of Intent published on 2/14/07 (72 FR 7016). The public comment period is closed. * The proposed revisions to the guidelines for National Standard 1(NS1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act published on June 9, 2008 (73 FR 32526). Public comments will be accepted through September 22, 2008. * A notice of public meetings for the ACL proposed rule was published on June 26, 2008 (73 FR 36300) * A summary of comments received at scoping meetings, the proposed rule, and the RIR/IRFA may be found here: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/catchlimits.htm A final rule implementing ACL guidance was published January 16, 2009 (74 FR 3178) and will be effective February 17, 2009. The final rule, and additional information, may be found here: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/catchlimits.htm
Bycatch (1 item)			
1. Program: The Secretary, in cooperation with the Councils and other affected interests, and based upon the best scientific information available, shall establish a bycatch reduction program, including grants, to develop technological devices and other conservation engineering changes designed to minimize bycatch, seabird interactions, bycatch mortality, and post-release mortality in Federally managed fisheries. The section specifies program requirements. 2. Incentives: Authorizes councils to establish a system of incentives for bycatch reduction, including establishment of individual bycatch quotas. 3. Seabird Bycatch: Authorizes Sec., in coordination with the Sec. of Interior, to undertake projects in cooperation with industry to improve information and technology to reduce seabird bycatch.	01/12/08	Completed	The incentives and seabird bycatch tasks (items 2 and 3) do not have associated statutory deadlines but are being tracked with the overall bycatch program task because these components are part of the overall bycatch reduction program in section 316 of the revised Magnuson-Stevens Act. A Policy Directive establishing this program was signed by NMFS on January 11, 2008. The Directive may be found at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/directives
Conflict of interest (1 item)			

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
On January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources on action taken by the Secretary and the Councils to implement the disclosure of financial interest and recusal requirements of this subsection, including identification of any conflict of interest problems with respect to the Councils and scientific and statistical committees and recommendations for addressing any such problems.	01/01/08	Completed	NMFS prepared guidance for the Councils on what information to collect for the annual report to Congress. This report has been provided to Congress on March 3, 2008, and is available at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/
Council Liaison (1 item)			
The MA Council, in consultation with the NE Council, shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation - (1) describing the role of council liaisons between the MA and NE Councils, including an explanation of council policies regarding the liaison's role in Council decision-making since 1996; (2) describing how management actions are taken regarding the operational aspects of current joint FMPs, and how such joint plans may undergo changes through amendment or framework processes; (3) evaluating the role of the NE and the MA Council liaisons in the development and approval of management plans for fisheries in which the liaisons or members of the non-controlling Council have a demonstrated interest and significant current and historical landings of species managed by either; (4) evaluating the effectiveness of the various approaches developed by the Councils to improve representation for affected members of the non-controlling Council in decision-making, such as use of liaisons, joint management plans, and other policies, taking into account both the procedural and conservation requirements of the MSA; and (5) analyzing characteristics of NC and FL that supported their inclusion as voting members of more than one Council and the extent to which those characteristics support RI's inclusion on a second Council (the MA Council).	10/12/07	Completed	The MA Council prepared this report in consultation with the NE Council. NMFS provided assistance as requested. The report can be viewed at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/
Deep Sea Coral Report to Congress (1 item)			
The Secretary, in consultation with the Councils, shall submit biennial reports to Congress and the public on steps taken by the Secretary to identify, monitor, and protect deep sea coral areas, including summaries of the results of mapping, research, and data collection performed under the program.	01/12/08	Completed	The Report to Congress will draw heavily from "The State of Deep Coral Ecosystems of the United States", which was called for in the President's Ocean Action Plan. The status report was released on December 10, 2007 and can be found at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/dce.html
Ecosystem Research (1 item)			
Requires Sec., in consultation with the Councils, to undertake and complete a study on the state of science for integration of ecosystem considerations in regional fisheries	07/12/07	Completed	On March 25, 2009 NMFS released "Report to Congress: The State of Science to Support an Ecosystem Approach to Regional Fishery Management."

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
management. The study should build upon the recommendations of the advisory panel (established under Section 406 of MSA). Stipulates what must be included in study.			
Environmental Review Process - NEPA (1 item)			
The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Councils and the Council on Environmental Quality, revise and update agency procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4231 et seq.). Specifies requirements of the procedures. First part of schedule specifies when revised procedures are to be proposed. Proposed rule shall provide 90 days for public comment. Requires that the Secretary promulgate final procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4231 et seq.) no later than 12 months after the date of enactment.	01/12/08	Delayed	The National Marine Fisheries Service solicited public comment through April 20, 2007, on the environmental review provisions required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (MSRA). For more information, see: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/notice_to_public_5.pdf A summary of the public comments received has been posted on the website. See: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/publiccomments.htm On August 12, 2008, the comment period closed on the proposed rule to revise and update NMFS procedures for complying with NEPA in the context of fishery management actions. Numerous public comments were received, and NMFS is in the process of sorting, counting, and analyzing the comments. To review or download a copy of the proposed rule, see: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/nepa_proposed_rule.pdf NMFS was not able to complete the interagency discussion on the final NEPA rule, and it was apparent that the agency would be unable to complete the work in the final weeks of the current administration. OMB wanted to have a clean slate for the next administration, so on December 19, 2008, NMFS withdrew the rule from OMB review. NMFS plans to engage the new administration on this important issue as we continue to consider revised procedures for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act in the context of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
Experimental Fishing Permits (1 item)			
Requires Sec., in consultation with the Councils, to promulgate regulations that establish an expedited, uniform, and regionally-based process for issuance of experimental fishing permits.	07/12/07	Completed	A proposed rule was published on 12-21-2007 (72 FR 72657). See: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/Proposed_Rule.pdf Extension published March 18, 2008 (73 FR 14428). See: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/otherprovisions.html Comment period ended on April 4, 2008. A final rule was published on 08-25-2009 (74 FR 42786). See: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/otherprovisions.html
Fishery Science (1 item)			
Secretaries of Commerce and Education shall collaborate to study if there is a shortage of individuals with post - baccalaureate degrees in fisheries science and shall submit a report to congress detailing the findings and recommendations of the study.	07/12/07	Completed	The report on "The Shortage in the Number of Individuals with Post-Baccalaureate Degrees in Subjects Related to Fishery Science" is completed. This Report to Congress was issued to the Hill on Sept. 26th. A formal press release, web page, and media advisory to the general public were issued on Sept. 29th. For additional details and conclusions of the Report, please go to the following web address: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/scientistshortage/
Framework 42 (1 item)			

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
The Secretary of Commerce shall conduct a unique, thorough examination of the potential impact on all affected and interested parties of Framework 42 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP and report the Secretary's findings. The report shall include a detailed discussion of the provisions specified in the section.	02/12/07	Completed	See: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/Framework42ReporttoCongressFinalFinal.pdf
Hurricane (2 items)			
The Secretary of Commerce shall transmit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources on the impact of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, and Hurricane Wilma on— (1) commercial and recreational fisheries in the States of Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas; (2) shrimp fishing vessels in those States; and (3) the oyster industry in those States.	07/12/07	Completed	This report has been submitted to Congress and may be viewed at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/Fisheries_Report_Final.pdf
The Secretary of Commerce shall transmit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources on the impact of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, and Hurricane Wilma on habitat, including the habitat of shrimp and oysters in those States.	07/12/07	Completed	This report has been submitted to Congress and may be viewed at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/HurricaneImpactsHabitat_080707_1200.pdf with errata: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/errata_080707.pdf
IFQ Referenda Guidelines (LAPP) (1 item)			
Within 1 year after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary shall publish guidelines and procedures to determine procedures and voting eligibility requirements for referenda and to conduct such referenda in a fair and equitable manner.	01/12/08	Completed	This project was discussed at the Gulf Council meeting on June 4, 2007: http://www.gulfcouncil.org/Beta/GMFMCWeb/downloads/committee%20schedule-607.pdf and at the New England Council on June 19, 2007: http://www.nefmc.org/calendar/index.html A proposed rule published on April 23, 2008 (see 73 FR 21893). The comment period is closed. A final rule published on December 15, 2008 (see 73 FR 75986) and is effective January 14, 2009. See: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/otherprovisions.html
International fisheries (3 items)			
Amends the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to require the Secretary, in consultation with the Sec of State, to provide to Congress, a biennial report that includes— (1) the state of knowledge on the status of international living marine resources shared by the U.S. or subject to treaties or agreements to which the U.S. is a party, including a list of all such fish stocks classified as overfished, overexploited, depleted, endangered, or threatened with extinction by any international or other	01/12/09	On Track	An advance notice of proposed rulemaking and request for public comments was published June 11, 2007 (72 FR 32052) to solicit public comments on proposed procedures for the identification and certification of nations whose vessels have been engaged in IUU fishing or bycatch of protected living marine resources. A proposed rule published Jan. 14, 2009, (74 FR 2019) comments will be accepted through May 14, 2009. See: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/iuu_bycatch_rule011409.pdf Six public hearings were held during March - May, 2009. The FR notice of the public hearings published March 3, 2009 (74 FR 9207). See:

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
authority charged with management or conservation of living marine resources; (2) a list of nations whose vessels have been identified under section 609(a) or 610(a), including the specific offending activities and any subsequent actions taken pursuant to section 609 or 610; (3) a description of efforts taken by nations on those lists to comply take appropriate corrective action consistent with sections 609 and 610, and an evaluation of the progress of those efforts, including steps taken by the U.S. to implement those sections and to improve international compliance; (4) progress at the international level, consistent with section 608, to strengthen the efforts of international fishery management organizations to end IUU fishing; and (5) steps taken by the Secretary at the international level to adopt international measures comparable to those of the U.S. to reduce impacts of fishing and other practices on protected living marine resources, if no international agreement to achieve such goal exists, or if the relevant international fishery or conservation organization has failed to implement effective measures to end or reduce the adverse impacts of fishing practices on such species. The Secretary shall establish a procedure for determining if a nation identified under subsection 609(a) and listed in the report under section 607 has taken appropriate corrective action with respect to the offending activities of its fishing vessels identified in the report under section 607, providing for notice and an opportunity for comment by any such nation. The Secretary shall determine, on the basis of the procedure, and certify to the Congress no later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary promulgates a final rule containing the procedure, and biennially thereafter in the report under section 607— (A) whether the government of each nation identified under subsection (a) has provided documentary evidence that it has taken corrective action with respect to the offending activities of its fishing vessels identified in the report; or (B) whether the relevant international fishery management organization has implemented measures that are effective in ending the illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing activity by vessels of that nation.			http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/public_meetings.pdf. On May 14, 2009, the public comment period ended. On January 13, 2009, NOAA submitted the first ever report to Congress identifying nations whose fishing vessels were engaged in illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in 2007 or 2008. This report opens the way for consultations between the U.S. government and officials of each of the six nations to encourage them to take corrective action to stop IUU fishing by their vessels. See: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/biennial_report011309.pdf
The Secretary shall publish a definition of the term 'illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing' for purposes of this Act, including in the definition, at a minimum—(A) fishing activities that violate conservation and management measures required under an international fishery management agreement to which the United States is a party, including catch limits or quotas, capacity restrictions, and bycatch reduction requirements; (B) overfishing of fish stocks shared by the United States, for which there are no applicable international conservation or management	04/12/07	Completed	Definition published in the Federal Register on April 12, 2007, at 72 FR 18404-5. See: http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/07-1830.pdf

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
measures or in areas with no applicable international fishery management organization or agreement, that has adverse impacts on such stocks; and (C) fishing activity that has an adverse impact on seamounts, hydrothermal vents, and cold water corals located beyond national jurisdiction, for which there are no applicable conservation or management measures or in areas with no applicable international fishery management organization or agreement.			
The Secretary, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall designate a Senate-confirmed, senior official within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to perform the duties of the Secretary with respect to international agreements involving fisheries and other living marine resources, including policy development and representation as a U.S. Commissioner, under any such international agreements.	01/12/09	Targets/Miles tones Being Established	
Joint Enforcement Agreements (2 items)			
The National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States Coast Guard shall transmit a joint report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources containing— (1) a cost-to-benefit analysis of the feasibility, value, and cost of using vessel monitoring systems, satellite-based maritime distress and safety systems, or similar systems for fishery management, conservation, enforcement, and safety purposes with the Federal government bearing the capital costs of any such system; (2) an examination of the cumulative impact of existing requirements for commercial vessels; (3) an examination of whether satellite-based maritime distress and safety systems, or similar requirements would overlap existing requirements or render them redundant; (4) an examination of how data integration from such systems could be addressed; (5) an examination of how to maximize the data-sharing opportunities between relevant State and Federal agencies and provide specific information on how to develop these opportunities, including the provision of direct access to satellite-based maritime distress and safety system or similar system data to State enforcement officers, while considering the need to maintain or provide an appropriate level of individual vessel confidentiality where practicable; and (6) an assessment of how the satellite-based maritime distress and safety system or similar systems could be developed, purchased, and distributed to regulated vessels.	04/12/08	Completed	This report was completed and submitted to Congress on September 28, 2008. A copy of this report can be found here: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/otherprovisions.html

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
The Secretary shall implement data-sharing measures to make any data required to be provided by this Act from satellite-based maritime distress and safety systems, vessel monitoring systems, or similar systems— (A) Directly accessible by State enforcement officers authorized under subsection (a) of this section; and (B) Available to a State management agency involved in, or affected by, management of a fishery if the State has entered into an agreement with the Secretary under section 402(b)(1)(B) of this Act.	10/12/09	Completed	Web-based access to the data warehouse was provided to NMFS joint enforcement agreement partners on 04/03/2009.
King/Tanner Crab (1 item)			
Sec. Comm shall amend the FMP for the BSAI King and Tanner Crabs for the Northern Region (as that term is used in the plan) to authorize—(A) an eligible entity holding processor quota shares to elect on an annual basis to work together with other entities holding processor quota shares and affiliated with such eligible entity through common ownership to combine any catcher vessel quota shares for the Northern Region with their processor quota shares and to exchange them for newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares for the Northern Region; and (B) an eligible entity holding catcher vessel quota shares to elect on an annual basis to work together with other entities holding catcher vessel quota shares and affiliated with such eligible entity through common ownership to combine any processor quota shares for the Northern Region with their catcher vessel quota shares and to exchange them for newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares for the Northern Region.	04/12/07	Completed	AMENDMENT APPROVED. • NOA published 2/5/07 - 72 FR 5255 • Comment period ended: 4/6/07 • Amendment was approved by NMFS on 4/12/07
Marine Recreational Fisheries Information (1 item)			
1. Sec. Comm, in consultation with reps of the rec fishing industry and experts in statistics, technology, and other appropriate fields, shall establish a program to improve the quality and accuracy of information generated by MRFSS. The program must take into account the 2006 NRC report "Review of Recreational Fisheries Survey Methods." Identifies the goal of the program and what it shall include. The Sec. must complete the program and implement the improved MRFSS by January 1, 2009. Within 24 months of establishment of the revised MRFSS program, requires Sec. to submit a report to Congress describing progress toward achieving the program goals and objectives. 2. Creation of National Registry Program for Marine Recreational Fishing. The "Sec. Comm shall establish and implement regionally based registry program for recreational fishermen in each of the 8 fishery management regions. Program shall not require a fee before January 1,	01/12/09	Completed	To develop an improved recreational fishing data collection program, an Executive Steering Committee was established and met for the first time in March, 2007. Members include fisheries managers and scientists from NOAA Fisheries, the interstate marine fisheries commissions, and the regional fishery management councils. Executive Steering Committee has established the Operations Team. OT has begun to set milestones and timelines for issue-specific work groups. The OT posted the MIRP Implementation Plan for public comment on October 10, 2008. See: http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/mrip/ The Implementation Plan provides the blueprint for phased implementation of an improved data collection program starting in January 2009. The recreational registry task does not have an associated statutory deadline but it is being tracked with data collection task because the registry information is needed to support data collections improvements required in the new MRIP. A proposed rule to implement the national registry of recreational fishers was published on June 12, 2008 (73 FR 33381). Public comments were invited through August 11, 2008. The final rule was published on December 30, 2008. The final rule may be found at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/mrip.htm

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
2011 and shall provide for (a) registration (including identification and contact information) of individuals who engage in recreational fishing in EEZ, for anadromous species, or for Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond EEZ and (b) if appropriate, the registration (including the ownership, operator, and identification of the vessel) of vessels used in such fishing. Secretary shall exempt from registration under the program recreational fishermen and charter fishing vessels licensed, permitted, or registered under laws of a State if Secretary determines information from State program is suitable for the Secretary's use or is used to assist in completing marine recreational fisheries statistical surveys, or evaluating the effects of proposed conservation and management measures for marine recreational fisheries."			The final rule is effective January 29, 2009, except for the amendments to § 600.1405 (angler registration), which are effective January 1, 2010.
Overcapacity (1 item)			
Subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary shall, within 12 months after the date of the enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 submit to the Congress a report— (i) identifying and describing the 20 fisheries in United States waters with the most severe examples of excess harvesting capacity in the fisheries, based on value of each fishery and the amount of excess harvesting capacity as determined by the Secretary; (ii) recommending measures for reducing such excess harvesting capacity, including the retirement of any latent fishing permits that could contribute to further excess harvesting capacity in those fisheries; and (iii) potential sources of funding for such measures.	01/12/08	Completed	NMFS conducted capacity assessments for fisheries in each of the 8 regions. The comprehensive report consistent with the required provisions has been submitted to Congress on May 21, 2008. A copy of the report is available at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/
Pacific Groundfish (1 item)			
Requires the Pacific Fishery Management Council to develop a proposal for an appropriate rationalization program for the Pacific trawl groundfish and whiting fisheries, including the shore-based sector of the Pacific whiting fishery. In developing the rationalization proposal, the Pacific Council must fully analyze alternative program designs, assess the proposal's impact on conservation and economies of the communities, fishermen, and processors participating in the groundfish trawl fisheries, including the shore-based sector of the Pacific whiting fishery. Requires the Pacific Council to submit the proposal and related analysis to Congress within 24 months of enactment.	01/12/09	Completed	The PFMC met from June 10 -15, 2007 and voted to approve a list of alternatives for preliminary analysis. A detailed list of the alternatives may be found here: <http://www.pcouncil.org/bb/2007/0607/E9a_ATT2.pdf> The Groundfish Advisory Committee provided its recommendations to the PFMC at its November 2007 meeting. Briefing Book documents on the TIQ alternatives can be found under Agenda item D.7 here: <http://www.pcouncil.org/bb/2007/bb1107.html#groundfish> In November, 2008, Council voted to recommend a system of IFQs for the shoreside trawl fishery, and a system of structured harvest cooperatives for the at-sea Pacific whiting trawl fishery, in order to rationalize the West Coast trawl fishery. Detailed press release can be found here: <http://www.pcouncil.org/newsreleases/pr_trawl_rationalization.pdf> The Pacific Council letter to Congress, providing information on the Council's progress in the rationalization of the West Coast Groundfish and Whiting Trawl Fisheries (Section

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
			302(f)) can be found here: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/otherprovisions.html. See also: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/trat_cong_letter0109.pdf
Salmon Recovery Plan (1 item)			
The Secretary of Commerce shall complete a recovery plan for Klamath River Coho salmon and make it available to the public. Within 2 years of enactment, and annually thereafter, the Sec. is required to submit a report to Congress on the actions taken under the recovery plan and other law relating to the recovery of Klamath River Coho salmon and how these actions are contributing to its recovery; progress on restoration of salmon spawning habitat, including water conditions that relate to salmon health and recovery (with emphasis on the Klamath River and its tributaries below Iron Gate Dam); the status of other Klamath River anadromous fish populations, and actions taken by the Sec. to address the 2003 National Research Council's recommendations regarding monitoring and research on Klamath River salmon stocks.	01/12/09	Completed	A presentation was made at the PFMC the week of April 2nd, 2007. A notice of availability of the recovery plan was published in the Federal Register on July 10, 2007 (72 FR 37512). The recovery plan is available at: http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/salmon/MSRA_RecoveryPlan_FINAL.pdf
Secretarial Action on State-waters fishing (1 item)			
The Secretary of Commerce shall determine whether fishing in State waters— (A) without a New England Multispecies groundfish fishery permit on regulated species within the multispecies complex is not consistent with the applicable Federal fishery management plan; or (B) without a Federal bottomfish and seamount groundfish permit in the Hawaiian archipelago on regulated species within the complex is not consistent with the applicable Federal fishery management plan or State data are not sufficient to make such a determination. If the Secretary makes a determination that such actions are not consistent with the plan, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the Council, and after notifying the affected State, develop and implement measures to cure the inconsistency pursuant to section 306(b).	03/12/07	Completed	Analyses completed and are available at: NERO: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/NER_section_110_20070226.pdf PIRO: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/section_110_analysis_PIRO_20070321.pdf
Training (2 items)			
Requires the Sec., in consultation with the Councils and the National Sea Grant College Program, develop a training course for new Council members. Training course shall be made available to new and existing Council members and staff from the RO's and RSC's of NMFS, and may be made available to committee or advisory panel members as resources permit.	07/12/07	Completed	New member Council training is scheduled for the week of October 15, 2007. A syllabus of the training program is available at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/council_training_syllabus_200707_v2.pdf Training presentations can be seen here: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/reg_svcs/Council%20stuff/council%20orientation/2007/2007TrainingAgenda_web.htm
Council members appointed after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and	01/12/09	Completed	New member training was conducted the week of October 23, 2007.

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 shall complete a training course that meets the requirements of this section not later than 1 year after the date on which they were appointed. Any Council member who has completed a training course within 24 months before the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 shall be considered to have met the training requirement of this paragraph.			
Tsunami (4 items)			
The National Weather Service, in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall transmit to Congress a report on how the tsunami forecast system under this section will be integrated with other United States and global ocean and coastal observation systems, the global earth observing system of systems, global seismic networks, and the Advanced National Seismic System.	01/12/08	Completed	View NWS charter here: http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/weather_water/TsunamiPage.html View Indian ocean tsunami warning system program here: http://www.iotws.org/ev_en.php?ID=1267_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC This final Report may be viewed at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/
The National Weather Service, in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall transmit a report to Congress on how technology developed under section 806 is being transferred into the program under this section.	01/12/10	On Track	View NWS charter here: http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/weather_water/TsunamiPage.html View Indian ocean tsunami warning system program here: http://www.iotws.org/ev_en.php?ID=1267_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC
The Administrator shall establish a process for monitoring and certifying contractor performance in carrying out the requirements of any contract to construct or deploy tsunami detection equipment, including procedures and penalties to be imposed in cases of significant contractor failure or negligence.	04/12/07	Completed	View NWS charter here: http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/weather_water/TsunamiPage.html View Indian ocean tsunami warning system program here: http://www.iotws.org/ev_en.php?ID=1267_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC
Comptroller General of the U.S. shall transmit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives that (1) evaluates the current status of the tsunami detection, forecasting, and warning system and the tsunami hazard mitigation program established under this title, including progress toward tsunami inundation mapping of all coastal areas vulnerable to tsunami and whether there has been any degradation of services as a result of the expansion of the program; (2) evaluates the NWS's ability to achieve continued improvements in the delivery of tsunami detection, forecasting, and warning services by assessing policies and plans for the evolution of modernization systems, models, and computational abilities (including the adoption of new technologies); and (3) lists the contributions of funding or other resources to the program by other Federal agencies, particularly agencies participating in the program.	01/31/10	On Track	View NWS charter here: http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/weather_water/TsunamiPage.html View Indian ocean tsunami warning system program here: http://www.iotws.org/ev_en.php?ID=1267_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
Public Meeting of September 30, 2009
(Information subject to editing)

Sinking of U.S. Fish Processing Vessel *Alaska Ranger*
Bering Sea, Alaska, March 23, 2008
(NTSB/MAR-09/05)

This is a synopsis from the Safety Board's report and does not include the Board's rationale for the conclusions, probable cause, and safety recommendations. Safety Board staff is currently making final revisions to the report from which the attached conclusions and safety recommendations have been extracted. The final report and pertinent safety recommendation letters will be distributed to recommendation recipients as soon as possible. The attached information is subject to further review and editing.

SUMMARY

On March 23, 2008, the U.S. fish processing vessel *Alaska Ranger* sank in the Bering Sea 120 nautical miles west of Dutch Harbor, Alaska. The vessel was owned by Fishing Company of Alaska, Inc., headquartered in Seattle, Washington. Five of the 47 people on board died in the accident.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The flooding of the *Alaska Ranger* appears to have begun in the rudder room, likely as the result of the loss of a rudder.

2. A lack of internal watertight integrity allowed the progressive flooding that eventually sank the *Alaska Ranger*.

3. A loss of electrical power caused the pumps that controlled the pitch of the vessel's propellers to lose hydraulic pressure, which allowed the propeller blades to move to an astern pitch (contrary to the ordered position) and, because the main engines were running, propelled the *Alaska Ranger* backward.

4. The *Alaska Ranger* would not have traveled astern if the vessel's controllable-pitch propeller system had been equipped (as it originally was) with hydraulic pumps driven off the main propulsion shafts.

5. The astern movement of the *Alaska Ranger* before the sinking caused the vessel to move away from the liferafts and prevented crewmembers from entering the liferafts from the vessel as intended.

6. Slowing or stopping the main engines would have arrested the vessel's astern motion, which might have slowed the flooding as well as prevented the liferafts from deploying out of reach.

7. There is no evidence that the fishmaster compromised the *Alaska Ranger* master's ability to exercise his command authority.

8. Fishing Company of Alaska personnel were under the mistaken impression that the *Alaska Ranger* had been strengthened for operation in ice.

9. Fishing Company of Alaska failed to ensure that its engineering officers met Coast Guard requirements for licensing and manning, but there is no evidence that the qualifications of the engineering crewmembers played a role in the accident.

10. During the *Alaska Ranger*'s January 2008 dockside examination, the Coast Guard failed to identify that the vessel's engineers were not properly certificated.

11. Fishing Company of Alaska's drug and alcohol policy was not effectively implemented or enforced.

12. Under the circumstances of being occupied with rescuing survivors and treating them for hypothermia, it was reasonable that personnel on board the rescue vessels did not conduct postaccident testing for alcohol.

13. Postaccident drug-testing requirements could have been met on board the *Alaska Warrior* or in Dutch Harbor, but they were not.

14. Although toxicology testing of specimens from the ship's master, mate, and chief engineer showed no evidence of alcohol or drug use, no conclusions can be reached regarding alcohol or drug use by surviving crewmembers because postaccident testing was not conducted.

15. Despite a communication error that delayed the discovery that the fishmaster was missing, the Coast Guard's search and rescue effort, carried out under adverse weather and sea conditions, was timely and effective and minimized the loss of life in the accident.

16. The Coast Guard's seasonal basing of a rescue helicopter near the fishing grounds aided the rescue effort.

17. The drydock examination of the *Alaska Ranger* performed as part of the Alternate Compliance and Safety Agreement program was inadequate because not all hull areas specified in the program guidance were gauged.

18. Although the Coast Guard's implementation of the Alternate Compliance and Safety Agreement program was flawed, the program has provided a higher level of safety for the enrolled commercial fishing industry vessels than existed previously.

19. The Coast Guard's ability to address safety deficiencies in commercial fishing industry vessels is limited by its lack of statutory inspection authority.

20. By imposing a regulatory bar against replacing Amendment 80 vessels, the regulations that implement the fishery management plan for groundfish of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island management area negatively affect safety by preventing vessel owners from replacing aging vessels that pose increased operating risks.

PROBABLE CAUSE

The National Transportation Safety Board determines that the probable cause of the sinking of the *Alaska Ranger* was uncontrolled, progressive flooding due to a lack of internal watertight integrity and to a breach of the hull's watertight envelope, likely caused by a physical rudder loss. Contributing to the loss of life was the vessel's movement astern, which likely accelerated the flooding and caused the liferafts to swing out of reach of many crewmembers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of its investigation of the *Alaska Ranger* sinking, the National Transportation Safety Board makes the following recommendations.

To the U.S. Coast Guard:

1. Conduct refresher training for your marine inspectors and commercial fishing vessel examiners on the licensing and manning regulations that apply to commercial fishing industry vessels.

2. Seek legislative authority to require that all commercial fishing vessels be inspected and certificated by the Coast Guard to ensure that the vessels provide an appropriate level of safety to those on board.

To the National Marine Fisheries Service:

3. Amend the regulations at 50 *Code of Federal Regulations* part 679, subpart H, to allow for replacement of an Amendment 80 vessel in situations other than vessel loss.

To the North Pacific Fishery Management Council:

4. Amend the fishery management plan for groundfish of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island management area to allow for replacement of an Amendment 80 vessel in situations other than vessel loss.

To Fishing Company of Alaska:

5. Review and modify as necessary the procedures for enforcing your drug and alcohol policy to ensure full crew compliance.

Subject: Tileston Award Reception on Thursday, October 1, 5-7 pm
From: Jason Brune <jbrune@akrdc.org>
Date: Wed, 30 Sep 2009 14:44:57 -0800
To: David.Witherell@noaa.gov
CC: chris.oliver@noaa.gov

Chris and David:

Following is a press release that was just jointly issued by RDC and ACA for this year's two Tileston Award winners: Unalaska's seafood processors: Alyeska Seafoods, Westward Seafoods, and Unisea Inc.; and the Fort Knox Gold Mine and ADF&G. A reception will be held on Thursday from 5-7 pm at the Hilton in Anchorage. I would like to personally invite all members of the NPFMC and staff, AP, and SSC to attend. I hope many of you can make it.

Jason Brune
Executive Director
Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.
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(907) 382-4353 (cell)

Fort Knox gold mine near Fairbanks, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and three seafood processors in Unalaska have been selected to receive the Second Annual Tileston Award, named after long-time Alaskan conservationist Peg Tileston and her long-time husband and former state mining director Jules Tileston. The award celebrates resource developers whose success is measured both in their positive effect on our jobs and economy as well as our environment. Developers who, as Peg says, do it right.

When Fort Knox and ADF&G restored fish habitat and Arctic grayling to Fish Creek and when Unalaska's seafood processors made oil out of fish waste to generate heat and electricity, they captured the spirit of the Resource Development Council (RDC) and Alaska Conservation Alliance (ACA) annual Tileston Award, "if it is in Alaska, it must be done right!"

The Alaska Conservation Alliance and the Resource Development Council (RDC) both agree that economic development and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive goals. The Tileston Award is not viewed as a 'green' award for the resource development industry or as 'economic' recognition for a conservation organization. "It is a uniquely Alaskan award established to honor organizations, individuals, and/or businesses that create solutions and innovations advancing the goals of economic development and environmental protection," said ACA Executive Director Caitlin Higgins.

The city of Unalaska and RDC member Frank Kelty nominated Alyeska Seafoods, Westward Seafoods, and Unisea Inc. for their processing and use of high quality fish oil in their plant operation; used as a 50 percent blend in the city's diesel generators and steam boilers and export for other uses. Kelty said he wanted to nominate the seafood processors to bring awareness to their efforts.

"It was a pleasure for us to nominate them," Kelty said, "few people know that they have been using fish oil out here for years and years."

Fort Knox and ADF&G are being awarded for taking it upon themselves to repair damage done to fish habitat from past activities of other mining operations in Fish Creek near Fairbanks. Their efforts established a viable Arctic Grayling population in Fish Creek and reversed Fish Creek's listing as an Impaired Water Body. Though the mine has brought and estimated $250 million economic boost to Fairbanks and Alaska, the mine's restoration work can be considered priceless.

"It is impossible to place a dollar value on the results of [the] reclamation efforts, but the intrinsic value of clean water and a productive fishery cannot be

overstated. In addition to the current benefits realized downstream, the economic benefits will carry their strengthening influence far into the future," said Lorna Shaw, Community outreach director for Fort Knox.

The first Tileston Award went to the Alaska Board of Forestry in 2008 was recognized at a reception in its honor as part of the Alaska Municipal League's conference on climate change.

An award ceremony is scheduled for this year's Tileston Award recipients Thursday, October 1 at the Hilton's Top of the World Lounge, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information please contact Alaska Conservation Alliance at 258-6171 or the Resource Development Council at 276-0700.

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The Resource Development Council is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization made up of businesses and individuals from all resource sectors, as well as Native corporations, support sectors, labor unions, and local governments. Through the Council these interests work together to promote and support responsible development of Alaska's resources.

The Alaska Conservation Alliance is the statewide umbrella group for approximately 40 member organizations with a combined membership of over 38,000 Alaskans. The Alliance unites Alaska's conservation community to speak with one strong voice in the State Capitol.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP SHEET

Agenda Item: B-1 Ed Report

	NAME *(PLEASE PRINT)*	TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF:
1	~~Steve Minor~~	~~ANCLAC~~
2	Dyann Provenzano	Puget Sound Accounting
3		Harris Accounting
4	Stephen Taufen	Groundswell Fisheries Movement
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NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person " to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

Chandont
B-1

Puget Sound Accounting+, Inc.

September 28, 2009

Mr. Eric Olson, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

RE: Agenda Item, B-1 Executive Director's Report
Request for Revision of BSAI Crab Program Economic Data Reporting (EDRs) System and Harvester Endorsement of Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) Recommendations

Dear Mr. Olson,

We are writing today on behalf of our crab harvesting clients to request the NPFMC consider initiating a process to revise the BSAI Crab Program EDRs and an appropriate regulatory amendment that will also be required to implement the revisions to the reporting system.

We have a total of 50 years experience as professional bookkeepers for independent vessel owners that include crabbers, trawlers, and longliners. We have accounting systems in place to record and report necessary and valuable financial information for our clients. We, as well as our clients, depend on our systems for tax reporting both state and federal.

The EDR process, we believe, was created assuming our accounting systems would enable a speedy and an accurate response. It was also assumed that this would not change with the Crab Rationalization program. We believe both of these assumptions have proven inaccurate. The result has been an incredible amount of time spent attempting to respond to the process (four to five times the requirements of the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act and the program regulations.) Some of the requested data is nearly impossible to gather and a portion of the data is most certainly inaccurate. Our experiences with the EDR process has proved to be shared by others participating in the PNCIAC sponsored workgroup. (See PNCIAC report from the EDR Sub-Committee and Sector Groups, September 2009).

We can point to several sections of the EDR that we found were too complex and resulted in inaccurate or useless data. The Tables 3.1 and 3.2 involved answering Leasing arrangements and transfers. This section, the most time consuming to collect, assumes that a Harvester catches all of its own quota shares as well as all of the quota shares it may have leased. This is not the reality of crab rationalized fishery. It is also nearly impossible to attribute income from their harvesting by share type if in fact the Harvester is working as part of a Crab Cooperative. The Cooperative's goal is to efficiently manage the harvested quota shares and calculates income based on averages by season, not by

101 Nickerson, Suite 340, Seattle, WA 98109 • Office (206) 282-6996 Fax (206) 285-8296

share type. We spend the majority of our preparation time attempting to create spreadsheets to help us provide this data. This has to be repeated when the price adjustments arrive, often coming from several processors, and often in the next calendar year, which we are required to include. This also affects other sections for data collection such as crew labor costs

Sections requesting operating expenses identified by port of sale and relationship to crab harvesting (Sections 5.1, 5.2) are not readily available or identifiable as to its eventual use or consumption. Vendor information is based on billing addresses, not point of sale. Harvesters also utilize the purchase order system of Processors, further complicating the issue. In order for us to even attempt to answer this section with any degree of usefulness it would take countless additional accounting hours and creates a mammoth set of records for our clients.

In closing we concur with PNCIAC's recommendations for revisions of the EDRs and for an appropriate regulatory amendment that will be required to implement the revisions to the reporting system.

Sincerely,

Dyann Provenzano
President, Puget Sound Accounting+, Inc.

Nancy Harris
Owner, Harris Accounting Services

Handout B-1

HARRIS ACCOUNTING SERVICES

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September 28, 2009

Mr. Eric Olson, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

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In closing we concur with PNCIAC's recommendations for revisions of the EDRs and for an appropriate regulatory amendment that will be required to implement the revisions to the reporting system.

Sincerely,

Dyann Provenzano
President, Puget Sound Accounting+, Inc.

Nancy K Harris

Nancy K. Harris
Owner, Harris Accounting Services

EDR
B1 Report
Arni
Thompson
Handout

September 25, 2009

Mr. Eric A. Olson, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

RE: Agenda Item, B-1 Executive Director's Report
Request for Revision of BSAI Crab Program Economic Data Reporting (EDRs) System and Harvester Endorsement of Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNAIC) Recommendations

Dear Eric:

We are writing today on behalf of the Alaska Crab Coalition, the Inter-Cooperative Exchange Policy Advocacy Committee ("ICEPAC") and the Crab Group of Independent Harvesters to respectfully request the NPFMC consider initiating a process to revise the BSAI Crab Program EDR reporting forms and to develop an appropriate regulatory amendment that will also be needed to implement the revisions to the EDR forms.

Several of our members have been engaged in the lengthy PNCIAC-AFSC workshop process that has been ongoing since last fall. Here we reference the PNCIAC submission to the NPFMC for this meeting (Report and recommendations from the September 18, 2009 meeting, Seattle, WA) under this same agenda item.

On behalf of BSAI crab harvesters we hereby concur with the undue complexity of the reporting problems identified by the PNCIAC, harvesters, processors, catcher processors and their professional bookkeepers and accountants who work with the system on a regular basis. We also note that the PNCIAC has formed an industry workgroup that has developed a survey of all the sectors reporting documents and they have validated that the time being spent to complete the annual EDRs far exceeds the requirements of the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act and specific program regulations. (See PNCIAC Report from the EDR Sub-Committee and Sector Work Groups, September 2009)

In closing we concur with PNCIAC's recommendations for revision of the EDRs and the need for an appropriate regulatory amendment that will be required to implement the revisions to the EDRs.

Arni Thomson, Executive Director
Alaska Crab Coalition

Edward Poulsen, Executive Director
Inter-Cooperative Exchange Policy Advocacy Committee (ICEPAC)

Kale Garcia, President
Crab Group of Independent Harvesters

Enforcement Committee Minutes
October 2, 2009
Hilton Hotel
Anchorage Alaska

Committee present: Roy Hyder (Chair), Sue Salveson, CAPT Mike Cerne, Garland Walker, Herman Savikko, Matt Brown, Martin Loefflad, Ken Hanson, and Jon McCracken (staff)

Other present: Jon Streifel, Alan Kinsolving, Jennifer Mondragon, Ralph Johnston, and Ray Reichl

I. Update on the approach for monitoring salmon bycatch for the proposed salmon bycatch program

Jennifer Mondragon presented an explanation of Chinook salmon monitoring requirements for the catcher vessels, inshore processors, catcher processors, and motherships. The Committee noted that the report was very informative and would like to thank Jennifer for her presentation.

II. Review of the 3 meeting Council agenda for determining future Enforcement Committee agenda item

The Enforcement Committee briefly reviewed the 3 meeting Council agenda for potential enforcement agenda items. Based on that review, the Committee noted that two potential agenda items would be Heigermeister Island walrus protection and review of the GOA Pacific cod sector split for the December 2009 Enforcement Committee meeting.