

Meeting Summary

224th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Sitka Centennial Hall, Sitka, AK

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ATTACHEMENTS: D1 Motion - SSC Prioritization Research Priorities

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in June at the Centennial Hall in Sitka, Alaska. The following Council, NPFMC staff, and SSC and AP members attended the meetings.

Council Members

Dan Hull, Chair	Kenny Downs	Simon Kinneen
Jim Balsiger	Duncan Fields	David Long
Sam Cotten/Nicole Kimball	Dave Hanson	Bill Tweit
Craig Cross	Roy Hyder	CAPT Phillip Thorne
John Lepore (NOAA General Council)	Ed Dersham	Mike Clark
Lauren Smoker (NOAA General Council)		

NPFMC Staff

Jim Armstrong	Peggy Kircher	Chris Oliver
Shannon Gleason	Maria Shawback	Sam Cunningham
Sarah Marrinan	Diana Evans	Mike Fey (AKFIN)
David Witherell	Gail Bendixen	

Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC met from June 1st through 3rd at Centennial Hall, Sitka, Alaska. Members present were:

Farron Wallace, Chair <i>NOAA Fisheries – AFSC</i>	Robert Clark, Vice Chair <i>ADF&G</i>	Chris Anderson <i>UAF (Fairbanks)</i>
Jennifer Burns <i>UAA (Anchorage)</i>	Sherri Dressel <i>ADF&G</i>	Brad Harris <i>APU (Anchorage)</i>
Anne Hollowed <i>NOAA – AFSC</i>	George Hunt <i>UW (Seattle)</i>	Seth Macinko <i>URI (Rhode Island)</i>
Steve Martell <i>IPHC</i>	Low Queirolo <i>NOAA – AK Region</i>	Terry Quinn <i>UAF (Fairbanks)</i>
Kate Reedy <i>ISU (Pocatello)</i>	Matt Reimer <i>UAA (Anchorage)</i>	

Advisory Panel

The AP met June 2nd through June 6th at Centennial Hall, Sitka, Alaska. Members present were:

Ruth Christiansen	Jeff Kauffman	Joel Peterson
Kurt Cochran	Mitch Kilborn	Theresa Peterson
John Crowley	Alexus Kwachka	Wilt Sinclair
Jerry Downing	Craig Lowenberg	Jeff Stephan
Jeff Farvour	Chuck McCallum	Matt Upton
Becca Robbins Gisliar (Chair)	Andy Mezirow	Anne Vanderhoeven
John Gruver	Paddy O’Donnell	Ernie Weiss

B REPORTS

The following reports were given and heavily discussed. Public Comment was taken on item B1 and B2 items. No action was taken.

- B1 Executive Director's Report – Chris Oliver
- B2 NMFS Management Report – Glenn Merrill
- B3 ADF&G Report – Karla Bush
- B4 NOAA Enforcement Report
- B5 USCG Report – CAPT Phillip Thorne, LCDR Corrie Sargent
- B6 USCG - No Report (Steve MacLean)
- B7 Protected Species Report - Steve MacLean

C1 BSAI CRAB MANAGEMENT

The Council heard Presentations on the Crab Plan Team Report. The following actions were taken:

Commissioner Cotten made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Tweit:

The Council accept the Crab SAFE reports and adopt the OFL/ABC as recommended by the SSC for the WAIRKC and for GKC in the Aleutians and Pribilof Islands.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passes unanimously June 3, 2015 at 5:13 p.m.

Mr. Fields made the following motion and was seconded by Commissioner Cotten:

The Council initiates a discussion paper on removing Red King Crab in the Adak District of Area O east of 179 West from the BSAI King and Tanner Crab FMP.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passes unanimously June 3, 2015 at 5:15 p.m.

(Note: NPFMC will collaborate with Alaska Department Fish and Game, and National Marine Fisheries Service to determine what to include in the discussion paper)

C2 BSAI HALIBUT PSC LIMITS – FINAL ACTION

The Council heard presentations from NPFMC staff Diana Evans; Marcus Hartley and Mike Downs; and NMFS Alaska Region staff Josh Keaton. **Note that Mr. Kinneen and Mr. Long were recused to vote on this item.** The following actions were taken:

Commissioner Cotten made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Kinneen:

The Council selects the following as its preferred alternative to reduce BSAI halibut PSC limits.

Alternative 2 Amend the BSAI Groundfish FMP and federal regulations to revise halibut PSC limits as follows:

- Option 1** Reduce halibut PSC limit for the Amendment 80 Sector by:
 - Suboption 1** Reducing the halibut PSC limit to Amendment 80 cooperatives by 33%
 - Suboption 2** Reducing the halibut PSC limit to Amendment 80 limited access fishery by 40%

- Option 2** Reduce halibut PSC limit for the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sector by 25%

- Option 3** Reduce halibut PSC limit for Pacific cod hook and line catcher processor sector, other non-trawl (i.e., hook and line catcher vessels and catcher processors targeting anything except Pacific cod or sablefish), and Pacific cod hook-and-line sectors by 25%

- Option 6** Reduce the CDQ halibut PSQ limit by 25%

To implement the non-trawl PSC limit reductions, the Council recommends maintaining the current approach to apportioning halibut PSC among sectors by specifying in regulation only the total non-CDQ, non-trawl PSC limit. Under this approach, the separate halibut PSC limits for the hook-and-line Pacific cod CV, hook-and-line Pacific cod CP, and hook-and-line other target fisheries CV and CP sectors would not be specified in regulations.

The new CDQ halibut PSQ limit would be a combined limit to be used for trawl and/or non-trawl CDQ fisheries.

AMENDMENT: Mr. Tweit moved the following under Alternative 2 Option 1 (suboption 1), 2, 3, and 6; motion seconded by Mr. Dersham.

- Option 1** Reduce halibut PSC limit for the Amendment 80 Sector by:
 - Suboption 1** Reducing the halibut PSC limit to Amendment 80 cooperatives by 25% (1,745 mt)

- Option 2** Reduce halibut PSC limit for the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sector by 15% (745 mt)

- Option 3** Reduce halibut PSC limit for Pacific cod hook and line catcher processor sector, other non-trawl (i.e., hook and line catcher vessels and catcher processors targeting anything except Pacific cod or sablefish), and Pacific cod hook-and-line sectors by 15% (710 mt)

Option 6 Reduce the CDQ halibut PSQ limit by 20% (315 mt)
(Mr. Tweit added a directive that when those percentages are converted to metric tons they should be rounded to the nearest 5 metric tons)

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT: Mr. Merrill moved the following under Alternative 2, option 2 and was seconded by Commissioner Cotten:

Option 2 Reduce halibut PSC limit for the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sector by 20% (700 mt)

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT: Amendment Fails 3/6 with Mr. Tweit, Mr. Cross, Mr. Dersham, Mr. Down, Mr. Fields, and Mr. Hyder voting in opposition; June 7, 2015 2:25 p.m.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Mr. Fields moved the following substitute motion and was seconded by Mr. Long (this would set aside the main motion, the amendment and the amendment to the amendment).

Move to postpone consideration of this issue to another meeting. In addition I move to amend the current analysis and bring it back for final action at a subsequent meeting. Move that the analysis be expanded to include analysis of an option for a performance standard for the Am 80 sector as follows:

Suboption: Reduce halibut PSC limit for the Amendment 80 Sector by 25 percent (PSC limit of 1,745 mt), and set a performance standard of 30 percent (1,630 mt). If the sector exceeds its performance standard in 3 years during a 5-year rolling period, then the PSC limit for the Amendment 80 sector will be reduced by 35 percent (PSC limit of 1,510 mt).

In addition, the analysis would include discussion of the impacts of apportioning halibut PSC to the fishery categories of the Trawl Limited Access Sector (Option 2) in regulation, such that the Council could determine whether to select that approach at final action.

VOTE ON SUBSTITUE MOTION: Amendment Fails 5/6 with Mr. Tweit, Mr. Merrill, Mr. Cross, Mr. Dersham, Mr. Down, Mr. Hyder voting in opposition; June 7, 2015 2:30 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO MAIN MOTION: Amendment Passes 5/4 with Mr. Merrill, Mr. Cotten, Mr. Fields, and Mr. Hull voting in opposition; June 7, 2015 2:54 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION: Amendment Passes 6/3 with Mr. Cotten, Mr. Fields and Mr. Hull voting in opposition; June 7, 2015 3:46 p.m.

C3 OBSERVER PROGRAM – SUPPLEMENTAL EA

Ms. Kimball made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Kinneen:

After reviewing the agenda and being behind schedule, the Council moves to remove agenda item C3, in addition the Supplemental EA should be removed from the agenda due to lengthy public testimony. Ms. Kimball notes that there is some overlap with C4 and C3 and all we lack by removing C3 from the agenda item is the presentation itself.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passes unanimously June 7, 2015 4:18 p.m.

D2 ADAK CRAB OFFLOAD – INITIAL REVIEW

Ms. Kimball made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Tweit:

The Council releases the draft analysis for Public Review after incorporation of SSC comments and approves the purpose and needs statement in the analysis. The Council also selects Alternative 2 as its Preliminary Preferred Alternative.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passes unanimously June 7, 2015 5:10 p.m.

C4/C5 OBSERVER PROGRAM – Annual Report, Observer Advisory Committee Report

The Council heard presentations on the Annual Report from NMFS AFSC Observer Program staff Dr. Craig Faunce and Chris Rilling, and Alaska Region staff Jennifer Mondragon. NPFMC staff Diana Evans presented the Observer Advisory Committee report. The following actions were taken.

Ms. Kimball made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Tweit:

The Council approves the following recommendations in the development of the draft 2016 Annual Deployment Plan and future annual reports, including consideration of SSC comments:

- Provide additional information on observer rates and percent coverage by gear type, in addition to numbers of trips and deployment. Report the percentage and metric tons of total catch observed (Table 4-2 and subsequent). Track these key metrics over time in each annual report. (OAC)
- Identify the best approach to a trip identifier tied to landings data to provide a linkage between ODDS and eLandings and improve data analysis, including those trips delivered to a tender. (OAC/SSC)
- Evaluate and suggest modifications to ODDS to reduce temporal bias associated with the policy of allowing trip cancelation and logging multiple trips prior to departure. (OAC and SSC)
- The Council appreciates the development of performance metrics and encourages NMFS to continue to develop tools to evaluate both the reliability of the data and deployment performance.
 - Include information on observer sampling such as percent of hauls observed vs total hauls/trip, and number of hauls with complete observer data vs partial data by vessel size and gear. (OAC)

- Continue to develop ways to evaluate observer effects, including possible examination of potential associations of PSC with trip attributes on observed vessels. If associations are found, PSC rates in shoreside offloads from unobserved vessels could be compared for evidence of bias. (SSC)
 - Continue evaluation of and improvements in catch and bycatch estimation, including the necessary procedures for calculating the variances associated with point estimates. Consider SSC suggestions on a starting point for assessing variance. (OAC and SSC)
- Assess inefficiencies in the program and evaluate ways to achieve cost efficiencies in the partial coverage category within the existing 5-year contract. (OAC)
 - Include information about the availability of fixed gear lead level 2 observers. (OAC)
 - Incorporate some additional quantitative measures in the enforcement section of the report, especially in relation to trends by incident type. (OAC)
 - The 2016 ADP should explore defining strata to deploy observers by gear (longline, pot, and trawl gear) and FMP area and, if necessary, consider operational sector (CV vs CP).

In addition, the Council supports continued outreach by enforcement personnel regarding observer issues, especially to vessels where captains are under increasing pressure to monitor PSC. (OAC)

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: Mr. Fields moves to amend the following language and was seconded by Mr. Hyder.

The 2016 ADP **will provide** strata to deploy observers by gear (longline, pot, and trawl gear) and FMP area and, if necessary, consider operational sector (CV vs CP).

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO MOTION: Amendment passes unanimously June 8, 2015 1:42 p.m.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passes unanimously June 8, 2015 1:47 p.m.

Mr. Tweit made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Cross:

Regarding Response Letter Under Insurance: The Council initiate a discussion paper for a regulatory amendment to revise observer provider insurance coverage requirements.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passes unanimously June 8, 2015 1:52 p.m.

Mr. Tweit made the following suggestion and was unanimously agreed upon:

Council suggests writing a letter to NMFS/Treasury/OMB expressing concern about overall funding and sequestration. The letter should describe the impacts of the increased uncertainty of funding and request some continuing supplemental federal funding to help mitigate the uncertainty caused by the unpredictable availability of the observer fees.

C6 ELECTRONIC MONITORING WORKGROUP REPORT

The Council heard a presentation on the EM Workgroup Report from NPFMC staff Diana Evans. The Council took no action.

C8 OBSERVER COVERAGE ON SMALL CPs – FINAL ACTION

The Council heard a presentation from NMFS Alaska Region staff Mary Alice McKeen.

Ms. Kimball made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Fields:

The Council recommends Alternative 2 with the following elements and options as its preferred alternative.

Alternative 2 Revise the allowances for NMFS to place small catcher/processors into partial coverage. The criterion for placing a catcher/processor in partial coverage is the vessel's production in the basis year as determined under Element 2.

Under this alternative, when a catcher/processor is required to have $\geq 100\%$ observer coverage because of the vessel's participation in a catch share program, the vessel would be ineligible for partial observer coverage under this action.

Element 1: Production threshold for placing a catcher/processor in partial coverage.

Option 2B: average weekly production of 79,000 lbs (35.8mt)

Element 2: The basis year for placing a catcher/processor in partial coverage is the vessel's production in a standard basis year or alternate basis year. The standard basis year is the fishing year minus two years. If the vessel has no production in the standard basis year, the alternate basis year will be the most recent year that the vessel has any production before the standard basis year going back to 2009.

Element 3: If a catcher/processor has no production in the basis year as determined under Element 2.

Option 2: Place the catcher/processor in partial coverage.

Element 4: For a catcher/processor to be in partial coverage.

Option 1: Vessel owner must choose partial coverage for the upcoming fishing year by an annual deadline (otherwise in full coverage).

Element 5: Trawl catcher/processors are ineligible for partial observer coverage (i.e. always in full observer coverage).

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: Mr. Tweit moved the following language and was seconded by Mr. Cross:

The Council deems proposed regulations that clearly and directly flow from the provisions of this motion to be necessary and appropriate in accordance with Section 303c and therefore the council authorizes the Executive Director and the Chairman to review the draft proposed regulations when provided by NMFS to ensure that the proposed regulations to be submitted to the Secretary under Section 303c are consistent with these instructions.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passes unanimously June 8, 2015 3:49 p.m.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passes unanimously June 8, 2015 3:50 p.m.

C7 OBSERVER COVERAGE ON BSAI TRAWL CV's

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff Sam Cunningham.

Ms. Kimball made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Cross:

The Council initiates an analysis with the following purpose and need statement and alternatives.

Purpose and Need Statement:

Since 2013, NMFS has allowed the owners of BSAI trawl catcher vessels in the partial observer coverage category to volunteer on an annual basis for full observer coverage during all times that they participate in BSAI fisheries. Individuals who have made this choice thus far are owners of AFA catcher vessels that participate in the BSAI limited access Pacific cod trawl fishery. They choose full coverage to better manage Pacific halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limits within their cooperatives. Current regulations do not authorize voluntary selection of full coverage. Vessel owners who choose full coverage must pay both the ex-vessel based partial coverage observer fee and a daily full coverage observer rate. The Council recognizes that this is an additional financial burden to vessel owners who voluntarily choose full coverage. An amendment to the regulations implementing the North Pacific Groundfish and Halibut Observer Program may be warranted. The Council seeks to balance the observer costs for BSAI trawl catcher vessel owners with NMFS's ability to monitor and enforce compliance with observer coverage requirements and the essential functioning of the Observer Program's partial coverage category.

Alternatives:

Under all alternatives, vessels delivering unsorted cod ends to motherships are not required to have observer coverage (maintains status quo).

Alternative 1. Status quo

Alternative 2. Require 100% observer coverage for AFA trawl CVs for all fishing in the BSAI (i.e., move these vessels into the full coverage category in regulation).

Alternative 3. Allow trawl CVs currently assigned to partial observer coverage to voluntarily choose 100% observer coverage for all fishing in the BSAI.

Option 1. Allow AFA trawl CVs currently assigned to partial observer coverage to voluntarily choose 100% observer coverage for all fishing in the BSAI.

Suboptions apply to Alt 3, or Alt 3, Option 1:

Suboption 1. Vessels must opt-in to full (100%) observer coverage by July 1 of the previous year.

Suboption 2. One-time selection by vessels (applies in all future years).

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passes unanimously June 8, 2015 4:15 p.m.

D1 RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Mr. Tweit made the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Cross:

The Council moved to adopt the research priorities in the 16 page table attached to the SSC minutes with the following changes listed below:

(See Attachment)

- 1) ID 148 – Combine with ID 391 and add description from deleted ID 391 “investigate”
- 2) ID 163 – Change from critical to urgent
- 3) ID 165 – Change from critical to urgent
- 4) ID 168 – Combine research priority with ID 192
- 5) ID 178 – Change from critical to urgent
- 6) ID 192 – Change from critical to important
- 7) ID 203 – Change from critical to urgent
- 8) ID 207 – Change from critical to urgent
- 9) ID 209 – Change from critical to important
- 10) ID 211–Change from important to urgent
- 11) ID 219A – Change research status to BSAI complete (*important for GOA only)
- 12) ID 219B –Change from critical to important
- 13) ID 226 – Change from urgent to critical ongoing monitoring
- 14) ID 228 – Change from critical to important
- 15) ID 249 – Change the wording from “Assess the movement of Steller sea lions, northern fur seals, tanner crab, snow crab, and Pacific cod” to “Assess the movement of Steller sea lions, northern fur seals” and change from critical to urgent
- 16) ID 364 – Change from critical to urgent
- 17) ID 390 – Change from critical to strategic – (*uncertain about why this is an NPFMC priority)
- 18) ID 451 to 455 – Strike the word “pending” in each ID title

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passes unanimously June 9, 2015 8:50 a.m.

E1 STAFF TASKING

Draft Letter on Proposed Revisions to National Standard Guidelines

Mr. Fields moved to approve the following and was seconded by Mr. Cross:

Provide comment on draft letter regarding Comments on NMFS' Proposed Revisions to the National Standard Guidelines, specifically NS 1, 3, & 7

(Note: Ms. Kimball asks to strengthen letter by using stronger language and amplify key points)

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passes unanimously June 9, 2015 2:06 p.m.

Emergency Rule on Chinook Salmon PSC Limit

Mr. Fields moved to approve the following and was seconded by Mr. Dersham:

The Council requests the Secretary promulgate emergency regulations under the authority of Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to allocate an additional 1,600 Chinook salmon to the prohibited species catch (PSC) limit established for the non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector for the remainder of 2015.

Finally, it is not possible to address this issue without emergency regulation. And the benefits of doing so clearly outweigh our normal notice-and-comment rule making.

I have selected 1,600 salmon based on an analysis of the average Chinook salmon PSC by the non-pollock/non-Rockfish Program sector.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: Ms. Kimball moves to include the following language and was seconded by Mr. Kinneen.

The Council requests the Secretary promulgate emergency regulations under the authority of Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to allocate an additional 1,600 Chinook salmon to the prohibited species catch (PSC) limit established for the **non-pollock**/non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector for the remainder of 2015.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passes unanimously June 9, 2015 2:25 p.m.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passes 10/1 with Mr. Down voting in opposition June 9, 2015 2:30 p.m.

GOA Salmon PSC Limits

Mr. Fields moved to approve the following and was seconded by Mr. Hyder:

Initiate an analysis with the following purpose and need and suite of alternatives.

Purpose and Need

Regulations establish a Chinook salmon prohibited species catch (PSC) limit of 32,500 Chinook in the Central and Western Gulf of Alaska (GOA) trawl fisheries. Chinook salmon PSC limits are managed under two separate programs; one that allocates 25,000 Chinook to the catcher vessels in the pollock trawl fishery (Amendment 93 to the GOA FMP), and another that allocates 7,500 Chinook to three sectors in the non-pollock trawl fisheries; the catcher/processor (3,600), Rockfish Program catcher vessel (1,200), and the non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel (2,700) sectors (Amendment 97 to the GOA FMP). Closures could occur under the existing Chinook salmon PSC limits.

The 2,700 Chinook salmon PSC limit on the non-pollock/non-rockfish catcher vessel sector has resulted in a closure in that fishery. Currently, there is no ability for managers to reallocate unused Chinook salmon PSC between the pollock or non-pollock fisheries. Fishery closures could be avoided, or limited, by providing NMFS the authority to use inseason management to reallocate unused Chinook salmon PSC between the GOA pollock and non-pollock fisheries. Inseason reallocation of Chinook salmon PSC between the pollock and non-pollock fisheries would provide increased management flexibility without exceeding the overall 32,500 Chinook salmon PSC limit, increase the likelihood that groundfish resources are more fully harvested, and minimize the adverse socioeconomic impacts of fishery closures on harvesters, processors, and communities.

Alternative 1: No action alternative (status quo)

Alternative 2: Allow NMFS to reallocate unused Chinook salmon PSC between the GOA pollock and non-pollock sectors based on criteria established for inseason reallocations (examples in regulations at § 679.20). Existing reallocation procedures from the Rockfish Program catcher vessel to the non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector would not be modified.

Option 1: Only allow reallocations between the GOA pollock and the non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sectors (no reallocation to Rockfish Program catcher vessels).

Option 2: Only allow reallocations that do not exceed (suboptions: 10%, 20%, or 30%) of any initial allocation of a Chinook salmon PSC limit during a calendar year.

Option 3: Prohibit the reallocation of Chinook salmon PSC from catcher vessel sectors to the non-pollock catcher/processor sector.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passes unanimously June 9, 2015 2:50 p.m.

Halibut Bycatch Management

Mr. Tweit moved the following and was seconded by Mr. Fields:

The Council requests both Amendment 80 cooperatives provide their 2016 halibut bycatch management plans to the Council in December. Those plans should include:

1. Halibut avoidance practices on the grounds
2. Increased communication between participating harvesters
3. Sharing data for performance tracking
4. Use and development of excluders
5. Deck sorting
6. Performance measurement and assessment at the boat and company level
7. Incentives for continuous efforts to minimize bycatch
8. Consequences for substandard performance

The plans should be designed not just to accommodate the revised hard caps, but to bring savings to levels below the hard cap.

VOTE ON MOTION: Mr. Tweit's Motion passes unanimously June 9, 2015 3:50 p.m.

Mr. Long moved the following motion and was seconded by Mr. Fields:

Request staff to provide a discussion paper concerning additional, incentive-based halibut PSC management measures for the BSAI Am80 fisheries.

In light of recent reductions in the BSAI halibut PSC caps, the Council believes there is a need to develop formal incentives for halibut avoidance within that sector. The Council requests a discussion paper which explores incentive-based alternatives, and which identifies alternatives to equitably distribute the burden of the PSC reduction among Am 80 participants based on past halibut PSC performance. The discussion paper would, at a minimum, discuss the economic and conservation benefits of an incentive program to reduce halibut PSC in the A80 sector, which would assign the recently approved 25% Am80- sector halibut PSC reduction, or some portion of that reduction, to individual Am80 vessels in inverse proportion to the average bycatch performance (amount of groundfish catch per ton of halibut PSC) of the individual vessels during the years 2011-2014 (recent Am80 coop years).

The discussion paper should evaluate options for species to be included in the performance calculation (i.e., flatfish vs all groundfish), and timelines for re-calculation of bycatch performance and assignment of PSC reductions in future years. The paper should provide the Council with the overall effect of the concept on the Am80 sector and halibut PSC mortalities.

VOTE ON MOTION: Mr. Long's Motion Fails 4/6 with Mr. Tweit, Mr. Merrill, Mr. Cross, Mr. Down, Mr. Hyder, and Mr. Hull voting in opposition (Mr. Dersham absent); June 9, 2015 4:00 p.m.

Halibut Leasing

Mr. Kinneen moved the following and was seconded by Mr. Tweit:

Moved the council initiate a discussion paper to examine options for leasing IFQ Halibut in years with low directed harvest totals in areas 4C, D, & E allowing CDQ entities to lease quota in 4B, C, D and E for harvest by CDQ residents without the IFQ owner on board the vessel.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passes unanimously June 9, 2015 4:41 p.m.

THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ON TUESDAY JUNE 9, 2015 AT 4:45 P.M.

Res. ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	SSC Priority	SSC Comments	Research Status
144	District-wide survey for demersal shelf rockfish in Southeast Alaska	Conduct a district-wide survey for demersal shelf rockfish in Southeast Alaska on a biennial or triennial basis. Survey information is becoming extremely dated.		Critical Ongoing Monitoring		No action
145	Continuation of State and Federal annual and biennial surveys	Continuation of State and Federal annual and biennial surveys in the GOA, AI, and EBS, including crab pot surveys, is a critical aspect of fishery management off Alaska. It is important to give priority to these surveys, in light of recent federal budgets in which funding may not be sufficient to conduct these surveys. Loss of funding for days at sea for NOAA ships jeopardizes these programs. Budgetary concerns have resulted in cuts to not only days at sea, which increases uncertainty, but also sampling the deepest strata, which threatens the value of trawl surveys as a synoptic ecological survey. These surveys provide baseline distribution, abundance, and life history data that form the foundation for stock assessments and the development of ecosystem approaches to management. Although an ongoing need, these surveys are considered the highest priority research activity, contributing to assessment of commercial groundfish and crab fisheries off Alaska.		Critical Ongoing Monitoring		Underway
150	Maintain the core biological and oceanographic data (e.g., biophysical moorings, stomach data, zooplankton, age 0 surveys) necessary to support integrated ecosystem assessment	Maintain the core data and process studies needed to support integrated ecosystem assessments. Core data include inputs for single- or multi-species management strategy evaluations, food web, and coupled biophysical end-to-end ecosystem models (e.g. biophysical moorings, stomach data, zooplankton, age 0 surveys (i.e. BASIS surveys)). Develop and maintain indices of sea ice formation, sea ice retreat, and timing/extent of the spring bloom for the EBS. For this, maintenance of moorings, especially M-2, is essential. If recent changes in ice cover and temperatures in the Bering Sea persist, these may have profound effects on marine communities.		Critical Ongoing Monitoring		Underway
163	Conduct routine fish, crab, and oceanographic surveys in the northern Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean	Dynamic ecosystem and environmental changes in the northern Bering Sea and Arctic are occurring. Assessment of the current baseline conditions and trophic interactions is important. This effort should not supplant the regular surveys in the BSAI and GOA, which are of critical importance to science and management.		Critical Ongoing Monitoring		Partially underway
165	Conduct routine surveys of subsistence in the northern Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean	Conduct routine surveys of subsistence use of marine resources in the northern Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean. These surveys will become increasingly important under ongoing warming ocean temperatures because range expansions of harvested fishery resources may occur. If range expansions or shifts occur, data will be needed to adjust standard survey time series for availability.		Critical Ongoing Monitoring		Partially underway

Res. ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	SSC Priority	SSC Comments	Research Status
178	Develop a framework for collection of economic information	Develop a framework for collection of economic information on commercial, recreational, and charter fishing, as well as fish processing, to meet the requirements of the MSFCMA sections 303(a)(5, 9, 13), 303(b)(6), and 303A.		Critical Ongoing Monitoring	The description for this research topic is rather vague given that economic information is currently collected. Perhaps what is needed here is a description of how the current framework for economic data collection is not consistent with the requirements of the MSFCMA.	Partially underway
186	Collect and maintain zooplankton and meroplankton biomass and community composition time series	Collect and maintain zooplankton and meroplankton biomass and community composition time series in the eastern Bering Sea. Develop, collect and maintain time series of zooplankton biomass and community composition for the GOA, AI, Arctic.		Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Differs from other plankton surveys that focus on primary producers	Partially underway
190	Collect and maintain time series of ocean pH	Collect and maintain time series of ocean pH in the major water masses off Alaska to improve understanding of ocean acidification and its effects on managed species, upper level predators and lower trophic levels		Critical Ongoing Monitoring		Partially underway
192	Collect, analyze, and monitor diet information	Collect, analyze, and monitor diet information (species, biomass, energetics), from seasons in addition to summer, to assess spatial and temporal changes in predator-prey interactions, including marine mammals and seabirds. The diet information should be collected on the appropriate spatial scales for key predators and prey to determine how food webs may be changing in response to shifts in the range of crab and groundfish.		Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Being done	Underway
203	Improve discard mortality rate estimates for scallops	Field and laboratory studies are needed to estimate Alaskan scallop discard mortality by evaluating relationship between capture, release condition and deck time, and subsequent survival.		Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Check on progress	Partially underway
207	Analyses of fishery effort and observer data for scallops	As fishery independent surveys are conducted on only a few beds in Central Region, it is important to confirm the validity of fishery-dependent CPUE as an index of local abundance. Concerns about the utility of CPUE as an abundance index for fishery management are compounded by the limited number of vessels in the current fishery. Emerging methods from other data-limited stock assessments should be explored as alternatives to CPUE as indices of stock status.		Critical Ongoing Monitoring		No action
209	Investigate factors affecting the guided angler sector of the halibut fishery	Continue to investigate factors that affect angler demand and trip supply in the guided angler sector of the halibut fishery.		Critical Ongoing Monitoring		Underway

Res. ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	SSC Priority	SSC Comments	Research Status
218	Survey capability for forage fish	Develop a long-term survey capability for forage fish (partially underway). The NPRB funded GOA and Bering Sea projects are currently describing the spatial and temporal variability in the structure of forage fish communities and the effect of this variability on predators. This work should be continued and methods for long-term monitoring should be developed.		Critical Ongoing Monitoring		Partially underway
219b	Monitor skate egg case concentrations every 2 to 3 years using non-invasive research design, such as in situ observation	The HAPC action for skate egg case concentration sites included two recommendations that the Council suggested should be addressed during the annual research priority discussion: (a) skate egg case concentrations should be monitored every 2 to 3 years using non-invasive research design, such as in situ observation; and (b) skate conservation and skate egg concentration areas remain a priority for EFH and HAPC management and within Council and NMFS research plans.		Critical Ongoing Monitoring	split into two (a) Critical, (b) Important	No action
228	Conduct studies documenting the subsistence harvest (patterns, norms, quantities) in communities affected by Council actions.	Conduct studies documenting the subsistence harvest patterns, norms and quantities in communities that depend upon resources that may be affected by Council action.		Critical Ongoing Monitoring		Partially underway
249	Assess the movement of Steller sea lions, northern fur seals, Tanner crab, snow crab, and Pacific cod	Assess the movement of Steller sea lions, northern fur seals, Tanner crab, snow crab, and Pacific cod in response to environmental variability to understand the spatial changes of predator-prey interactions.		Critical Ongoing Monitoring		Partially underway
364	Updated sperm whale stock assessment	Updated sperm whale abundance estimates are needed. Sperm whale depredation interactions with longline fisheries have increased, but little is known about sperm whale populations. Updated population estimates and defined PBR's are needed to effectively respond if a take occurs in the longline fishery.		Critical Ongoing Monitoring		No action
390	Assess the population status of harbor seals in the Aleutian Islands and determine factors affecting their population trajectories	Assess the population status of harbor seals in the Aleutian Islands and determine factors affecting their population trajectories		Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Should split assessment from process	No action
146	Improve surveys in untrawlable habitat, particularly for rockfish, Atka mackerel, and sculpins	For groundfish in general, and rockfish and Atka mackerel in particular, continue and expand research on trawlable and untrawlable habitat to improve resource assessment surveys. For example, improved surveys, such as hydro-acoustic surveys, are needed to better assess pelagic rockfish species that are found in untrawlable habitat or are semi-pelagic species such as northern and dusky rockfish. A number of publications specific to untrawlable grounds and rockfish sampling have been published recently, but have not been incorporated directly into routine stock assessment routine survey designs.		Urgent		Partially underway
154	Pacific cod stock assessment for the Aleutian Islands	Develop an age-structured Pacific cod stock assessment for the Aleutian Islands region. In 2014 the Aleutian Islands and eastern Bering Sea regions were split and have separate ABCs and OFLs. There is need to develop an assessment model for cod in the Aleutians.		Urgent		Underway

Res. ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	SSC Priority	SSC Comments	Research Status
155	Evaluation of salmon PSC mitigation measures	Develop a research program that will facilitate evaluation of salmon (both Chinook and non-Chinook) PSC mitigation measures in the BSAI and GOA. This includes updated estimates of the amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence, timing of runs and openings relative to subsistence requirements, and access to cost data for the commercial pollock and salmon industries so that impacts on profits (not gross revenues) can be calculated.		Urgent	likely can't be done in one or two years, could be listed as ongoing monitoring but not a survey	Underway
156	Improve knowledge for salmon PSC impact assessment	Improve the resolution of Chinook and chum salmon genetic stock identification methods (e.g., baseline development, marker development), improve precision of salmon run size estimates in western Alaska, and initiate investigations of biotic and abiotic factors influencing natural mortality rate during ocean migration in the GOA and BSAI. Baseline development is nearing completion, but more work on Cook Inlet chum is needed.		Urgent	consistent with examples	Underway
157	Improve methods of monitoring fishery interactions	Develop improved catch monitoring methods of fishery interactions including direct and alternative options (e.g., electronic logbooks, video monitoring), particularly on smaller groundfish, halibut, and commercially guided recreational fishing vessels, including an assessment of feasibility for small vessels.		Urgent	consistent with examples	Underway
159	Evaluate interactions between fisheries and pinnipeds	Studies of the interactions between fisheries and protected species, such as Steller sea lions in the Central and Western Aleutian Islands (areas 541, 542, 543), and northern fur seals on the eastern Bering Sea shelf are needed. These studies should be conducted at appropriate spatial and temporal scales with an emphasis on seasonal prey fields, diet, and movement of fisheries and pinnipeds.		Urgent	consistent with examples, but unlikely to be done in 1-2 yrs	Underway
160	Assess vital rates of Steller sea lions	Assess vital rates (i.e., reproduction and survival) of Steller sea lions in the western DPS (including Russia) at sufficient frequency to track population dynamics.		Urgent	consistent with examples, but unlikely to be done in 1-2 yrs. Could be crit ongoing monitoring, but not a major survey.	Underway
161	Assess the health of Stellar sea lions	Assess possible indirect effects of fisheries removals via periodic health assessments, indices of body condition, survival of pups and juveniles, and natality of Steller sea lions in the western DPS.		Urgent	consistent with examples, but unlikely to be done in 1-2 yrs. Could be crit ongoing monitoring, but not a major survey.	Underway
162	Quantify killer whale predation of Steller sea lions (M)	Quantify killer whale predation of Steller sea lions, particularly in the western and central Aleutian Islands.		Urgent		Underway
166	Estimate scallop stock abundance	Estimate scallop stock abundance in unsurveyed areas using fishery independent methods including analysis of current camera sled data.		Urgent		Partially underway

Res. ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	SSC Priority	SSC Comments	Research Status
167	Alternative approaches to acquire fishery-independent abundance data for unsurveyed crab stocks	Explore alternative approaches to the triennial ADF&G Aleutian Islands golden king crab pot survey to acquire fishery-independent abundance data on stock distribution and recruitment of Aleutian Islands golden king crab, including the potential for future cooperative research efforts with Industry.		Urgent	Focus on data-limited	No action
170	Quantitative reproductive index for the surveyed BSAI crab stocks	Advance research towards developing a quantitative reproductive index for BSAI crab stocks. Research on mating, fecundity, fertilization rates, and, for snow and Tanner crab, sperm reserves and biennial spawning, is needed to develop annual indices of fertilized egg production that can be incorporated into the stock assessment process and to model the effects of sex ratios, stock distribution, and environmental change on stock productivity. Priority stocks for study are eastern Bering Sea snow and Tanner crab and Bristol Bay red king crab.		Urgent		Underway
171	Acquire basic life history information (e.g., natural mortality, growth, size at maturity) for data-poor stocks	Basic life history information is needed for stock assessment and management of data-poor stocks, such as scallops, sharks, skates, sculpins, octopus, grenadiers, squid, and blue king crab (Bering Sea), golden king crabs (Aleutian Islands), and red king crab (Norton Sound). Specifically, information is needed on natural mortality, growth rates, size at maturity, and other basic indicators of stock production/productivity.		Urgent		Partially underway
172	Develop and validate aging methods for crabs.	Develop and validate aging methods for crabs to improve estimates of M for stock assessments.		Urgent		No action
173	Expand studies to identify stock and management boundaries	To identify and refine stock boundaries and understand source/sink dynamics (e.g., scallop metapopulations). Conduct studies to evaluate all crab stock boundaries relative to management boundaries (e.g. Bristol Bay red king crab, Adak red king crab, Pribilof blue king crab). Expanded studies are needed in the areas of genetics, mark-recapture, reproductive biology, larval distribution, and advection. Such boundaries are to be evaluated so that the risks and consequences of management actions are clear.		Urgent		Underway
174	Develop spatially explicit stock assessment models	Develop spatially explicit stock assessment models. High priority species for spatially explicit models include: walleye pollock, snow and Tanner crab, Pacific cod, sablefish, yellowfin sole, rock sole, arrowtooth flounder, Pacific ocean perch, black spotted rockfish, rougheye rockfish, and Atka mackerel.		Urgent	This is underway.	Underway
176	Refine methods to incorporate uncertainty into harvest strategies for groundfish	Refine P* and decision theoretic methods to incorporate uncertainty into harvest strategies for groundfish for ACL estimation. Continue existing management strategy evaluations at the stock level.		Urgent		Underway

Res. ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	SSC Priority	SSC Comments	Research Status
179	Conduct pre- and post-implementation studies of the benefits and costs, and their distribution, associated with dedicated access privileges	Conduct pre- and post-implementation studies of the benefits and costs, and their distribution, associated with changes in management regimes (e.g., changes in product markets, characteristics of quota share markets, changes in distribution of ownership, changes in crew compensation) as a consequence of the introduction of dedicated access privileges in the halibut/sablefish, AFA pollock, and crab fisheries. Benefits and costs include both economic and social dimensions.		Urgent	Important and relevant for the impending design of GOA trawl bycatch management measures.	Partially underway
197	Develop methodologies to monitor for new/emerging diseases and/or parasites among exploited species and higher trophic levels	Develop methodologies to monitor for new/emerging diseases and/or parasites among exploited species and higher trophic levels.		Urgent	Develop methodology (Urgent) then monitor (Critical Ongoing Monitoring)	No action
202	Methods for reliable estimation of total removals	Develop methods for reliable estimation of total removals (e.g., surveys, poorly observed fisheries) to meet requirements of total removals under ACLs. Catch Accounting System now provides total removals annually. Improved reporting on some data such as subsistence catches and Pacific cod bait in crab fisheries is needed. Improvements are needed for catch accounting by sex and size for crab in non-directed fisheries with high bycatch or PSC rates, particularly for blue king crab in the Pacific cod pot fishery in the Pribilof Islands.		Urgent	Improve description, Split methodology from monitor	Underway
208	Research on stock- recruit relationships	New information and data are needed that would inform our understanding of the stock- recruit relationship for groundfish, Pacific halibut, and crab to project year-class strength.		Urgent	We are getting close on predicting pollock year-class strength in the EBS; We have not really started on the other species or regions	Underway
213	Assess the impact of the displacement of the groundfish fleet on Northern fur seals	Assess the impact of the displacement of the groundfish fleet due to Steller sea lion protection measures on the prey availability, foraging ecology, diet, movements, and vital rates for Northern fur seals.		Urgent	This may take a while, but N Fur Seals are a time bomb. Need to assess what is pushing them down before they go critical	Partially underway
217	Impact of fisheries on benthic habitat and trophic interactions	Conduct studies to assess the impact of bottom trawl fisheries on invertebrate abundance and species composition in benthic habitats. This is especially relevant to the foraging ecology of walrus (candidate species for listing under ESA), but also bearded seals, and gray whales.		Urgent		Underway
226	Continue to evaluate the economic effects from fishery policy changes on coastal communities.	Continue to evaluate the economic effects from fishery policy changes on coastal communities. This includes understanding economic impacts (both direct and indirect) and how the impacts are distributed among communities and economic sectors.		Urgent		Underway
227	Improve estimation of fishery interactions with non-target groundfish, and prohibited species.	Improve estimation of fishery interactions (including catch) and non-target groundfish (e.g., sharks, skates), and prohibited species.		Urgent		Underway
229	Evaluate the effectiveness of setting ABC and OFL levels for data-poor crab stocks	Evaluate the effectiveness (e.g., potential for overharvest or unnecessarily limiting other fisheries) of setting ABC and OFL levels for data-poor stocks (Tiers 4 and 5 for crab).		Urgent		Partially underway

Res. ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	SSC Priority	SSC Comments	Research Status
232	Develop management strategy evaluations that incorporate changing climate and market economic conditions.	Develop management strategy evaluations under differing assumptions regarding climate and economic conditions. Promote the standardization of "future scenarios" from different models to promote comparability of model outputs.		Urgent	Change examples in definition	Partially underway
235	Investigate gear modifications and changes in fishing practices to reduce bycatch and PSC	Gear modifications and changes in fishing practices to reduce bycatch and PSC are needed.		Urgent	This type of research can be conducted through focused studies	Partially underway
239	Assess the extent of the distribution of corals	Assess the extent of the spatial distribution of corals and conduct routine monitoring of these areas.		Urgent	If corals were treated as a species complex within the FMP rather than as habitat, this would be Critical	Partially underway
365	Retrospective analysis of the impact of Chinook PSC avoidance measures on communities of western Alaska	Conduct retrospective analysis using qualitative and quantitative methods on salmon dependent communities of western Alaska that may be affected by Chinook salmon PSC avoidance measures in the BSAI. Analysis should evaluate long-term changes in local Chinook abundance and uses, and provide detailed ethnographic work exploring the meaning of salmon to these communities in the context of industrialized offshore fisheries.		Urgent		No action
366	Continue to investigate time variation and the shape of fishery and survey selectivity models	There is considerable controversy about (1) whether selectivity should be dome-shaped or asymptotic, and (2) whether selectivity should be time-varying by default. Using a dome-shaped curve can create a large increase in biomass which may not be real. Treating selectivity as time-varying increases the number of model parameters greatly, which may lead to confounding among parameters. Better scientific guidance through research studies is needed to address these two problems.		Urgent		Underway
367	Continue to improve stock assessment methodology with respect to uncertainty	Recent studies have made advances in determining effective sample size, effective number of parameters, Bayesian parameterizations, and how to weight datasets in assessments with multiple datasets. However, results appear to vary from paper to paper, and no general rules have emerged. Thus, our ability to characterize uncertainty remains elusive.		Urgent		Underway
368	Develop a simulation model of Steller sea lion fishery interactions	Management strategy evaluation tools based on coupled bio-physical models with fishing and top trophic level foragers (e.g., Steller sea lions) should be developed to evaluate the performance of different harvest strategies, to inform future management decisions, and to prioritize field studies.		Urgent		No action
381	Effects of changes to the observer program	Evaluate the effects on biological parameter estimates and on estimated catch, bycatch, and PSC from changes to data collection protocols that occur because of the observer restructuring. Ensure that data can be compared easily to the previous data collection methods so that time series remain intact. Improve biological data collection including representative length and age samples from all sectors of the fleet. Attempt to separate temporal changes from sampling design effects.		Urgent		No action

Res. ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	SSC Priority	SSC Comments	Research Status
385	Study Pacific halibut PSC, bycatch, and discard behavior in fisheries	Continue to explore management actions that reduce the incentives for PSC, bycatch- and discard-related mortality of Pacific halibut. Evaluation of observer coverage, accuracy, and representativeness of PSC and bycatch estimates should be included.		Urgent		Underway
388	Study temporal and spatial patterns in size-at-age of Pacific halibut	Reanalyze historical records of Pacific halibut size-at-age. Requires identifying samples from consistent spatial areas as well as re-ageing of older samples that utilized differing methods for age determination. Relate observed patterns to somatic growth via otolith increment analysis and development of bioenergetics model relating long-term environmental and ecological drivers to halibut size-at-age. Continue to explore the potential role of fishing in observed size-at-age trends via direct or evolutionary pathways and the interaction with size-selective fishing, include these analyses in harvest policy analyses.		Urgent		Underway
NNN	Assess dependence and impacts of halibut management actions on communities	Quantitatively and qualitatively examine the suite of engagements, dependencies, and vulnerabilities of halibut dependent communities and impacts of halibut management actions.		Urgent		Pending
NNN	Investigate factors underlying fishery responses to halibut PSC caps	There is need to understand the underlying factors through which industry can adjust its behavior and its corresponding halibut encounter rates, in response to potential changes in halibut PSC caps. Investigations under this category could be conducted in combination with evaluations of alternative management actions for halibut PSC under Research Priority 385.		Urgent		Pending
NNN	Examine the relative importance of historical closed areas in the vicinity of the Pribilof Islands as juvenile halibut nursery habitat relative to other regions coast-wide.	Evaluate the biological effects of establishing spatial protections of juvenile halibut from fishing gear on BSAI halibut stock health.		Urgent		Pending
164	Effects of trawling on female red king crab and subsequent recruitment	Research is needed on the effects of trawling on the distribution of breeding and ovigerous female red king crab and subsequent recruitment. Relevant studies include effects of potential habitat modifications on the distribution of females, particularly in nearshore areas of southwest Bristol Bay (partially underway), and environmental effects (e.g., trawling overlap in warm vs. cold years). Retrospective studies, the use of pop-up tags to identify larval release locations, and larval advection using Regional Ocean Modeling System would help address this need.		Important		Partially underway
147	Life history research on data-poor or non-recovering stocks	Why certain stocks have declined and failed to recover as anticipated is a pressing issue (e.g., Pribilof Island blue king crab, Adak red king crab). Research into all life history components, including predation by groundfish on juvenile crab in nearshore areas, is needed to identify population bottlenecks, an aspect that is critically needed to develop and implement rebuilding plans.		Important (Near Term)		No action
148	Spatial distribution and movement of crabs relative to life history events and fishing	There is a need to characterize the spatial distribution of male snow crab at time of mating relative to reproductive output of females in the middle domain of the EBS shelf.		Important (Near Term)	Consolidated with 391, 391 deleted	Partially underway

Res. ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	SSC Priority	SSC Comments	Research Status
149	Improve handling mortality rate estimates for crab	Improve estimate of discarded crab handling mortality rate. These studies should include an assessment of the long-term mortality due to injury. This will require improving understanding of the post-release mortality rate of discarded crab from directed and non-directed crab pot fisheries and principal groundfish (trawl, pot, and hook and line) fisheries. The magnitude of post-release mortality is an essential parameter in the determination of the overfishing level used to evaluate overfishing in stock assessment and projection modeling. Empirical data exist for snow crab so new handling mortality data are needed for Tanner and king crab by size, sex, and fishery type with consideration of temperature. Methodology needed for king crab.		Important (Near Term)		Partially underway
151	Apply a spatially-explicit model for BSAI pollock	Conduct studies to determine stock structure and potential spatial management for BSAI pollock (e.g., movement). Evaluate interactions of BSAI pollock with those in Russian waters. These studies should lead to a detailed spatial age-structured stock assessment model with at least 3 regions (Russia, NW EBS, SE EBS).		Important (Near Term)	mark status as completed - change "develop" to "apply"	Completed
153	Study vertical distribution of Pacific cod to better understand catchability	Research is needed on the vertical distribution of Pacific cod relative to the EBS bottom trawl and comparisons of gear between the EBS and GOA trawl gear. This is because there is controversy about fishery and survey catchability.		Important (Near Term)		Underway
158	Research ecosystem indicators and their thresholds for inclusion in ecosystem-level management strategy evaluation.	Initiate/continue research on the synthesis of ecosystem indicators, developing and evaluating thresholds for ecosystem indicators, and ecosystem-level management strategy evaluation.		Important (Near Term)	consistent with examples	Underway
168	Assess seasonal diets and species interactions of fish and shellfish	Collect seasonal or species-specific information for use in improved assessment and management (e.g., expand or continue cooperative research). The data would be useful in studies of species interactions in spatially explicit stock assessments.		Important (Near Term)		No action
169	Studies on factors that affect catchability particularly for King and Tanner crab	For groundfish and crabs, studies are needed on factors that affect catchability, as they directly bear on estimates of the stock assessment. Research to refine the estimates of survey catchability, q , used to infer absolute, rather than relative, abundance would substantially improve the quality of management advice. Particular emphasis should be placed on Tanner crab and Red King Crab because of recent trends in stock status, and on fishery and for Aleutian Island golden king crab to improve the stock assessment model.		Important (Near Term)		Partially underway
180	Economic, social, and cultural valuation research on protected species	Economic, social, and cultural valuation research on protected species is needed (i.e., non-market consumptive use, passive use, non-consumptive use).		Important (Near Term)	Important but does not seem to meet the criteria for urgent.	Underway
182	Evaluate current and alternative Council PSC/bycatch reduction initiatives for non-halibut, non-salmon species	Analyze the effects of recent Council actions on PSC and bycatch, including the interaction among PSC and bycatch reduction initiatives (e.g., halibut, salmon, crab). Attention should be given to different incentives that have the potential to cost-effectively reduce PSC.		Important (Near Term)	Add "for non-halibut, non-salmon species"	Partially underway

Res. ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	SSC Priority	SSC Comments	Research Status
183	Research the role of habitat in population dynamics and ecosystem processes	Research is needed on the role of habitat in population dynamics and ecosystem processes. Specifically, studies are needed to evaluate how habitat-forming species (e.g., corals) influence life history parameters (e.g., mortality, growth, movement) of FMP species and their preferred prey. Such research will identify key habitats (including essential fish habitat and habitat areas of particular concern), improve the design and management of marine protected areas, and ultimately improve stock assessments and restoration efforts.		Important (Near Term)		Partially underway
184	Evaluate efficacy of habitat closure areas and habitat recovery	Establish a scientific research and monitoring program to understand the degree to which impacts on habitat, benthic infauna, etc., have been reduced within habitat closure areas, and to understand how benthic habitat recovery of key species is occurring. (This is an objective of EFH research approach for the Council FMPs).		Important (Near Term)		Partially underway
187	Maintain indicator-based ecosystem assessment for EBS.	Maintain indicator-based ecosystem assessment for EBS.		Important (Near Term)	Being done	Underway
188	Develop indicator-based ecosystem assessments for AI (in progress), GOA, Arctic.	Develop indicator-based ecosystem assessments for AI (in progress), GOA, and the Arctic.		Important (Near Term)	Being done	Partially underway
189	Develop stock-specific ecosystem indicators and incorporate into stock assessments	Develop stock-specific ecosystem indicators and incorporate into stock assessments. (in progress)		Important (Near Term)		Partially underway
204	Tagging studies of Aleutian Islands Pacific cod and Atka mackerel	Tagging studies of Aleutian Islands Pacific cod, Atka mackerel, Alaska skate, and walleye pollock are needed to create models of short-term movement of fish relative to critical habitat (tagging for Atka mackerel and skates are partly underway).		Important (Near Term)		Partially underway
205	Age determination methods for Pacific cod, Pacific sleeper sharks, and spiny dogfish	Studies are needed to validate and improve age determination methods for Pacific cod, Pacific sleeper sharks, and spiny dogfish. Conventional tagging studies of young of the year and/or one-year old Pacific cod would be useful in this regard (partially underway for cod and dogfish).		Important (Near Term)		Partially underway
206	Biomass indices and alternate methodologies for lowest tier groundfish species	Develop biomass indices for lowest tier species (Tier 6 for groundfish), such as sharks and octopus. Explore alternative methodologies for Tier 6 stocks such as length-based methods, catchability experiments (e.g., net selectivity), or biomass dynamics models.		Important (Near Term)		Partially underway
210	Develop bioeconomic models	Develop bioeconomic models with explicit age- or size-structured population dynamics for BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries to estimate maximum economic yield and other bioeconomic reference points under uncertainty.		Important (Near Term)	This is distinct from 251. Appears to meet the criteria for Important.	Partially underway
211	Benefits and costs of directed halibut catch and halibut PSC utilization	Research the benefits and costs of directed halibut catch and halibut PSC utilization in different fishing sectors. For halibut and other PSC and bycatch species, conduct research to better identify where regulations restrict the utilization of fish from its most beneficial use and evaluate how changes in existing regulations would affect different sectors and fisheries		Important (Near Term)	This is distinct from 210. Clearly important for impending halibut PSC measures, but probably not urgent.	Underway

Res. ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	SSC Priority	SSC Comments	Research Status
212	Develop methods to estimate sea lion abundance	Develop new methods to estimate sea lion abundance, such as the use of unmanned aerial vehicles, which could increase the probability of acquiring abundance estimates in remote areas.		Important (Near Term)		Underway
214	Evaluate the impact of seabird bycatch in fisheries on bird populations, and methods to reduce	Assess the extent and impact of seabird bycatch in fisheries on bird populations, and develop methods to reduce seabird bycatch, particularly protected species, such as short-tailed albatross.		Important (Near Term)		Underway
216	Assess whether Bering Sea canyons are habitats of particular concern	Assess whether Bering Sea canyons are habitats of particular concern by assessing the distribution and prevalence of coral and sponge habitat, and comparing marine communities within and above the canyon areas, including a comparison of mid-level and apex predators to neighboring shelf/slope ecosystems.		Important (Near Term)		Partially underway
219a	Investigate skate egg concentration areas as EFH and HAPC	The HAPC action for skate egg case concentration sites included two recommendations that the Council suggested should be addressed during the annual research priority discussion: (a) skate egg case concentrations should be monitored every 2 to 3 years using non-invasive research design, such as in situ observation; and (b) skate conservation and skate egg concentration areas remain a priority for EFH and HAPC management and within Council and NMFS research plans.		Important (Near Term)	split into two (a) Critical, (b) Important	No action
220	Research on survey analysis techniques for species that exhibit patchy distributions	Continue research on the design and implementation of appropriate survey analysis techniques, to aid the Council in assessing species (e.g., Pribilof Island king crabs and rockfish) that exhibit patchy distributions and, thus, may not be adequately represented (either over- or under-estimated) in the annual or biennial groundfish surveys.		Important (Near Term)		No action
222	Improve estimates of natural mortality (M) for Pacific cod.	Improve estimates of natural mortality (M) for several stocks, including Pacific cod.		Important (Near Term)		Partially underway
230	Examine social and economic interactions between coastal communities and commercial and recreational fisheries	Examine social and economic interactions between coastal communities and commercial and recreational fisheries (e.g. subsistence-commercial linkages, adaptations to changes in resource use, economic opportunities for coastal communities).		Important (Near Term)		Underway
231	Retrospective analysis of the impact of Chinook salmon PSC avoidance measures on the BSAI pollock fishery	Conduct retrospective analyses to assess the impact of Chinook salmon PSC avoidance measures on the BSAI pollock fishery. Analyses should include an evaluation of the magnitude and distribution of economic effects of salmon avoidance measures for the Bering Sea pollock fishery. In this case, it is important to understand how pollock harvesters have adapted their behavior to avoid bycatch of Chinook and "other" salmon, under various economic and environmental conditions and incentive mechanisms.		Important (Near Term)		Partially underway
236	Conduct studies of sperm whale and killer whale depredation of catch in long-line fisheries and surveys	Studies of sperm and killer whale depredation of catch in long-line fisheries and surveys are needed to improve the quality of long-line abundance estimates.		Important (Near Term)		Underway
237	Improved habitat maps	Improved habitat maps (especially benthic habitats) are required to identify essential fish habitat and distributions of various substrates and habitat types, including habitat-forming biota, infauna, and epifauna in the GOA, BS, and Aleutian Islands.		Important (Near Term)		Partially underway

Res. ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	SSC Priority	SSC Comments	Research Status
240	Develop a multivariate index of the climate forcing of the Bering Sea shelf	Develop a multivariate index of the climate forcing of the Bering Sea shelf. Three biologically significant avenues for climate index predictions include advection, setup for primary production, and partitioning of habitat with oceanographic fronts and temperature preferences.		Important (Near Term)		Partially underway
241	Develop bottom and water column temperature database and indices	Develop bottom and water column temperature database and indices for use in EBS, GOA, and AI stock assessments.		Important (Near Term)		Partially underway
245	Assess the impact of increases in recovering whale populations on lower trophic level energy pathways	Assess the impact of increases in recovering whale populations (e.g., gray, humpback and fin) on lower trophic level energy pathways.		Important (Near Term)		No action
246	Cooperative research efforts to supplement existing at-sea surveys that provide seasonal, species-specific information on upper trophic levels	Continue and expand cooperative research efforts to supplement existing at-sea surveys that provide seasonal, species-specific information on upper trophic levels (seabirds and marine mammals). Updated surveys to monitor distribution and abundance of seabirds and marine mammals are needed to assess impacts of fisheries on apex predators, improve the usefulness of apex predators as ecosystem indicators, and to improve ecosystem management.		Important (Near Term)	Given the Council's new categorization, we need to split this into two projects. One for development of an ecosystem indicator and one to assess the severity of impacts	Partially underway
247	Assess the relative importance of non-commercially exploited species to human communities	Assess the relative importance of non-commercially exploited species (invertebrates, fish, marine mammals, and seabirds) to human communities, particularly in Arctic.		Important (Near Term)	A lot of overlap with 180. Consider combining with some rewording.	Partially underway
250	Conduct ecosystem structure studies	Studies are needed to evaluate the effects of global warming, ocean acidification, and selective fishing on food webs. For instance, studies are needed to evaluate differential exploitation of some components of the ecosystem (e.g., Pacific cod, pollock, and crab) relative to others (e.g., arrowtooth flounder).		Important (Near Term)		Underway
251	Modeling studies of ecosystem productivity	Modeling studies of ecosystem productivity in different regions (EBS, GOA, and AI). For example, studies could evaluate the appropriateness of the 2 million t OY cap.		Important (Near Term)	Important with respect to 2 million t cap. Should be merged with MSE lines	Underway
362	Monitoring potential water quality impacts	Seasonal water quality monitoring in known scallop areas are needed to determine whether conditions are detrimental to scallop growth and survival.		Important (Near Term)		No action
363	Area-specific variability in scallop population processes	Investigate area-specific variability in vital population processes including growth, recruitment, natural mortality and movement including mark-recapture tagging studies.		Important (Near Term)	Note: Project description should be re-named Area-specific variability in population processes	No action

Res. ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	SSC Priority	SSC Comments	Research Status
382	Investigate in situ methods of tagging species that experience barotrauma	Species with swim bladders experience barotrauma, so that tagging studies result in high mortality and little information. Icelandic and Norwegian scientists have developed in situ methods for tagging, so that these fish never change depth. This could provide precise estimates of movement rates from tagging studies needed for spatial stock assessments. Such a recommendation for walleye pollock is found in a 2011 Report of a Workshop on Spatial Structure and Dynamics of Walleye pollock (AFSC Processed Report 2011-04).		Important (Near Term)		No action
383	Determine quantitative indicators of spatial structure, particular for walleye pollock and Pacific cod	The next generation of stock assessment models will be spatial age- and length-structured assessment models, in line with the goal of ecosystem-based fishery management. Current distributions of spatial location have been empirically summarized, but methods should be explored to convert these to movement patterns for biological and/or management regions.		Important (Near Term)		No action
387	Determine effects of migration on the Pacific halibut population and management	Extend existing analyses of tagging studies to include age-specific components. Continue to evaluate the role of migration in contributing to population dynamics and trends associated with area-specific catch, PSC levels, and downstream effects.		Important (Near Term)	Change to strategic if long term	Underway
389	Investigate ecosystem effects and inter-species interactions of halibut	Investigate potential ecosystem effects and inter-species interactions on Pacific halibut recruitment and size-at-age. Includes integration of existing IPHC and NOAA trawl survey observations of size-at-age, diet, and population distribution and trends for multiple species in the GOA and BS.		Important (Near Term)		Underway
431	Develop tools for analyzing coastal community vulnerability to fisheries management changes	Develop tools for for assessing and predicting coastal community vulnerability to fisheries management changes. Assess changes in community vulnerability over time by FMP and individual catch share fishery.		Important (Near Term)		Underway
451	Pending - Arrowtooth flounder stock structure and movement	Arrowtooth flounder studies to support information related to stock structure and movement for Alaskan flatfish species		Important (Near Term)		Pending
452	Pending - Dusky Rockfish and Shortspine Thornyhead genetics research for improved population structure	Genetic research to better study dusky rockfish and shortspine thornyhead population structure.		Important (Near Term)		Pending
453	Pending - Cod density in untrawlable areas in the AI	Evaluation of survey data (including IPHC long line, AFSC long line and NMFS trawl) in comparison with fishery data to better understand the proportion of cod biomass in untrawlable areas of the NMFS trawl survey.		Important (Near Term)		Pending
454	Pending - Sculpin natural mortality, seasonal food habits	Research to determine natural mortality for sculpin species in the GOA. Data gaps exist in sculpin species life history characteristics, spatial distribution, and abundance. GOA-specific mortality estimates would be beneficial, rather than using the M derived from BSAI sculpin species. Additionally, the collection of seasonal food habits data would help clarify the role of both large and small sculpin species within the GOA ecosystem		Important (Near Term)		Pending
455	Pending - Shark aging, size at maturity, natural mortality	For sharks - data needed on size at maturity, natural mortality, better aging methodology. May be possible to collect age data from large" sleeper sharks that are caught in IPHC surveys. Access to those animals could enhance size and maturity data."		Important (Near Term)		Pending

Res. ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	SSC Priority	SSC Comments	Research Status
472	Evaluate causes of variable meat size, undersize meats in scallops	Exploratory tows in the Bering Sea (District Q) and some areas open to harvest around Yakutat (District D) have shown scallops with disproportionately small meats relative to shell height. The cause of this condition as well as potential for recovery is unknown to industry.		Important (Near Term)	Relates to biomass and abundance	Pending
175	Develop age-structured models for scallop assessment	Age structured models for scallops are needed to increase understanding of population dynamics and harvestable surpluses.		Strategic (Future Needs)		Partially underway
177	Conduct prospective and retrospective analyses of changes in the spatial and temporal distribution of fishing effort in response to management change	Conduct prospective and retrospective analyses of changes in the spatial and temporal distribution of fishing effort, in response to management actions (e.g., time/area closures, marine reserves, PSC and other bycatch restrictions, co-ops, IFQs).		Strategic (Future Needs)		Underway
191	Assess whether changes in pH and temperature would affect managed species, upper level predators, and lower trophic levels.	Assess whether changes in pH and temperature would affect managed species, upper level predators, and lower trophic levels. Laboratory studies are needed to assess the synergistic effects of ocean acidification and changes in temperature on productivity of marine species.		Strategic (Future Needs)		Partially underway
193	Improve species identification	Improve species identification, by both processors and observers, for priority species within species complexes in catches, to meet requirements of total removals under ACLs. Methods that quantify and correct for misidentifications are desired.		Strategic (Future Needs)	Seems like a minor issue at present	Partially underway
194	Identification and integration of archived data	Identification and recovery of archived data (e.g., historical agency groundfish and shellfish surveys) should be pursued. Investigate integrating these data into stock and ecosystem assessments. Some archival acoustic data have been cataloged, and most trawl surveys have been included in databases. Some one-time research surveys remain neglected.		Strategic (Future Needs)		Partially underway
196	Evaluate hybridization of snow and Tanner crabs.	Evaluate the assessment and management implications of hybridization of snow and Tanner crabs.		Strategic (Future Needs)		No action
198	Initiate and expand non-market valuation research of habitat, ecosystem services, and passive use considerations	Initiate and expand non-market valuation research of habitat, ecosystem services, and passive use considerations.		Strategic (Future Needs)		No action
200	Monitor contaminant flux and loads in lower and higher trophic levels, and assess potential for impact on vital rates.	Monitor contaminant flux and loads in lower and higher trophic levels, and assess potential for impact on vital rates. Laboratory studies are needed to assess the effects of oil dispersants on the productivity of marine species.		Strategic (Future Needs)		No action
215	Determine potential impacts of fishing activities on cetaceans	Determine potential impacts of fishing activities on marine mammals (e.g., state managed gillnet fisheries), and in particular on North Pacific right whales and the Eastern North Pacific blue whales, particularly in identified critical (NPRW) or essential (NPBW) habitat.		Strategic (Future Needs)		No action

Res. ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	SSC Priority	SSC Comments	Research Status
221	Collect maturity scans during fisheries that target spawning fish	Expand existing efforts to collect maturity scans during fisheries that target spawning fish (e.g., pollock). Time series of maturity at age should be collected to facilitate the assessment of the effects of density-dependence and environmental conditions on maturity. Maturity information for pollock and Pacific cod is collected by observers and should be analyzed. Maturity information for rockfish species near Kodiak has been collected recently, both during the fishery and dedicated scientific cruises, and should be analyzed. A dedicated survey to examine spawning sablefish has also been conducted. Efforts to collect maturity data, and then analyze for rockfish and other species should continue. In particular, retrospective studies to identify factors (e.g., fishing, climate, prey quality and quantity) influencing the maturity schedule should be conducted.		Strategic (Future Needs)		Underway
223	Develop and evaluate global climate change models (GCM) or downscaled climate variability scenarios to assess impacts to recruitment, growth, and spatial distributions.	Quantify the effects of historical climate variability and climate change on recruitment, growth, and spatial distribution. Develop standard environmental scenarios (e.g., from GCMs) for present and future variability based on observed patterns.		Strategic (Future Needs)		Underway
224	Climate and oceanographic information covering a wider range of seasons	There is a need for climate and oceanographic information that covers a wider range of seasons than is presently available.		Strategic (Future Needs)		Partially underway
225	Development of projection models to evaluate the robustness and resilience of different management strategies under varying environmental and ecological conditions	There is a need for the development of projection models to evaluate the robustness and resilience of different management strategies under varying environmental and ecological conditions. Projection models are also needed to forecast seasonal and climate related shifts in the spatial distribution and abundance of commercial fish and shellfish.		Strategic (Future Needs)		Partially underway
233	Develop an ongoing database of product inventories	Development of an ongoing database of product inventories (and trade volume and prices) for principal shellfish, groundfish, Pacific halibut, and salmon harvested by U.S. fisheries in the North Pacific and eastern Bering Sea.		Strategic (Future Needs)		No action
234	Analyze current determinants of demand for principal seafood products	Analyze current determinants of ex vessel, wholesale, international, and retail demand for principal seafood products from the GOA and BSAI.		Strategic (Future Needs)		Partially underway
238	Develop a GIS relational database for habitat, to include a historical time series of the spatial intensity of interactions between commercial fisheries and habitat.	Develop a GIS relational database for habitat, including development of a historical time series of the spatial intensity of interactions between commercial fisheries and habitat. Such time series are needed to evaluate the impacts of changes in fishing effort and type on EFH.		Strategic (Future Needs)	This research is already underway	Partially underway
242	Collect and maintain primary production time series	Collect and maintain primary production time series in the EBS, AI, GOA, and Arctic; particularly in relationship to key climate and oceanographic variables.		Strategic (Future Needs)	If threshold for Council action were associated with this project then this could be moved to critical	No action

Res. ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	SSC Priority	SSC Comments	Research Status
244	Collect and maintain time-series data on the community composition, production and biomass of benthic invertebrate and vertebrate fauna	Collect and maintain time-series data on the community composition, production and biomass of benthic invertebrate and vertebrate fauna.		Strategic (Future Needs)	The value of this exercise lies in the time series, and thus is not consistent with the important categorization	Partially underway
248	Conduct focused studies to map and understand assemblage distribution and the spatial importance of predator-prey interactions in response to environmental variability	Measure and monitor large scale fish composition: evaluate existing data sets (bottom trawl surveys, acoustic trawl surveys, and BASIS surveys) to quantify changes in relative species composition of commercial and non-commercial species, identify and map assemblages, monitor changes in the distribution of assemblages, and understand the spatial importance of predator-prey interactions in response to environmental variability. Additional monitoring may be necessary in the Aleutian Islands, northern Bering Sea, and areas of the Gulf of Alaska.		Strategic (Future Needs)	Possibly split into two	Partially underway
361	Effects of Ocean Acidification on Scallops	Laboratory studies are needed to understand the mineralization of scallop shells through their life cycle and under current spatial variability and future scenarios of ocean acidification.		Strategic (Future Needs)		No action
386	Investigate long term effects of fishing on Pacific halibut	Collect genetic samples for future comparison.		Strategic (Future Needs)		Underway
181	Foraging ecology studies of Steller sea lions	Foraging ecology studies of Steller sea lions in the Gulf of Alaska, Aleutian Islands, and Russia are needed, including at sea tracking of older animals, and diet composition of sea lions throughout the region.		Important (Near-Term)	Overlaps with 159 - Delete	Underway
195	Conduct multivariate analysis of bycatch data from the scallop observer program	Analyze benthic communities associated with scallop beds by conducting multivariate analysis of bycatch data from the scallop observer program (haul composition data) and camera sled data.		Strategic (Future Needs)	Delete	Completed
243	Collect and maintain data on forage fish community composition and abundance	Collect and maintain data on forage fish community composition and abundance in the Bering Sea, GOA, AI, Arctic.		Critical Ongoing-Monitoring	Even though forage fish are in the ecosystem component, these populations should be monitored. DELETE	Partially-underway
384	Effects of changes to the observer program	Evaluate the effects on biological parameter estimates and on estimated catch, bycatch, and PSC from changes to data collection protocols that occur because of the observer restructuring. Ensure that data can be compared easily to the previous data collection methods so that time series remain intact. Improve biological data collection including representative length and age samples from all sectors of the fleet. Attempt to separate temporal changes from sampling design effects.		Delete and put description into 381	Delete	Partially-underway
391	Investigate spatial stock dynamics and population connectivity for Tanner Crab (2 stocks)	Investigate spatial stock dynamics and population connectivity for Tanner Crab (2 stocks)		Important (Near-Term)	Delete	Pending
471	Develop assessment methods for data-poor and data-moderate stocks			Strategic (Future Needs)	Too general to be useful	

TIME LOG
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Meeting held in Sitka, Alaska
June 3-9, 2015

Wednesday 6-3-15

Call to Order	08:01
B1 Executive Director's Report - Chris Oliver	08:03
Legislative Update	08:03
Katie Latanich - Fisheries Leadership Forum Network	09:07
B2 NMFS Mgt. Report - Glenn Merrill	09:17
Chris Oliver - Navy Training	10:18
B3 ADF&G Report - Karla Bush	10:47
B4 NOAA Enforcement Report - Will Ellis	10:58
Public Comment all B items	11:22
Bob Krueger	11:27
Jody Cook	11:36
Jason Chandler	11:41
Kori Allen	11:53
Don Ashley	11:53
Vince O'Shea	11:58
Paddy O'Donnell	12:18
Mitch Kilborn	12:24
Cynthia Storman	12:29
Heather Mann	12:35
John Whidden, Heather McCarty	12:43
Julie Bonney	12:56
Jon Warrenchuk	01:17
B1 action	01:40
AK Lt. Governor Lt. Malliot	02:15
C1 BSAI Crab Management - Bob Foy	02:32
SSC Report on C1, Farron Wallace	03:20
AP Report on C1, Ernie Weiss	03:24
Public Comment C1	03:32
Clem Tillion	03:32
Dave Fraser	03:32
Linda Kozak	03:40
Adjourn for the day	05:05

Thursday 6-4-15

Call to Order	08:07
C2 BSAI Halibut PSC Limits	08:08
Diana Evans, staff	08:08
Marcus Hartley, Northern Economics	10:04
Josh Keaton, Appendix B	12:33
Marcus Hartley	01:46
Mike Downs, Community Impacts Analysis, Appendix C	02:03
Adjourn for the day	05:00

Friday 6-5-15

Call to Order	08:21
Thanks to Ed Dersham	08:22
C2 staff reports (continued)	08:35
Mike Downs (continued)	08:35
SSC report in full – Farron Wallace	09:36
AP Report sometime - get time from Shannon	10:20
Bruce Leaman - IPHC	10:43
Public Testimony out of order	11:49
Eric Beasley, Brian Lang, Siu sulusi	11:52
Karen Pletnikoff	12:00
Heather Brandon	12:06
Terry Fisher	12:09
Patrick Hailey	12:21
Steve Doreums	12:26
Larry Cotter	12:36
Constane Staorfold	01:00
Frank O'Hara	01:02
Mary Beth Tooley	01:02
Shawn McManus	01:19
Joeph D Arienzo	01:29
Evening Star Grutter	01:30
Fabian Grutter	01:33
Jacqueline Sidor	01:36
Carter Hughes	01:40
Phil Wyman	02:02
Megan Pasternak	02:05
Mary Smith	02:07

David Whitmire	02:11
Bert Bergman	02:17
Rick Johnson	02:19
Eric Jordan	02:24
Steve Fish	02:28
Mary Todd Anderson	02:28
John Skeele	02:30
Marsh Skeele	02:33
Gerry Merrigan	02:36
Charlie Wilbur	02:51
Carolyn Nichols	02:54
Andrew Thoms	02:58
Sherri Mayo	03:00
Mike Reif	03:03
Jon Warechuk	03:08
Terry Perensovich	03:13
Bob Alverson	03:15
Peggy Parker	03:29
Jan Standardt	03:37
Adjourn for the day	04:58

Saturday 6-6-15

Call to Order	08:03
C2 Public Comment (continued)	08:05
out of order Marisa Mercurief	08:05
Rob Sanderson	08:07
David Bill Sr.	08:10
Mike Banes	08:14
Mike Fitzgerald	08:20
Donna Parker	08:32
Don Ashley	08:42
Jackie Dragon	08:46
Kirk van Doren	08:59
Jason Anderson	09:03
John Nelson	09:05
Jason Anderson, Mark Fina	09:26
Bill Orr	10:26
Frank Balovich	10:41
Heather Mann	10:44

Ocean Mayo	10:58
Bill Hayes	11:02
Jay Skordahl	11:11
Lucas Skordahl	11:17
Mark Cooper	11:17
Tyrus Moffitt	11:29
Wendy Anderson	11:31
Scott Hansen	11:35
Rob Wurm	11:39
Corrina Nichols	11:46
John Gauvin	11:48
Dan Dunn	12:03
Brent Paine	12:06
Mike Mayo	12:13
Todd Loomis	12:17
Arne Fuglvog	12:24
Chad See	12:35
Lynn Salvo	12:46
Jim Johnson	12:49
Jeff Lackey	01:01
Lauren Wilde	01:06
Nora Skeelee	01:07
Peter Williams	01:11
Teal West	01:14
Mike West	01:16
James Swift	01:18
Bob Hezel	01:22
Kitty Sopow	01:26
Don Lane	01:27
Mike Hyde	01:44
Joel Hanson	02:19
Karl Haflinger	02:22
Heather McCarty, Cynthia Stroman, Evanta Nakayama	02:27
Simeon Swetsoff, Mateo Paz Soldon	02:55
Alexus Kwatchka	03:13
Ryan Makinster	03:16
Randy Nichols	03:18
Shannon Carol	03:20
Linda Behnken	03:26
Adjourn for the day	04:55

Sunday 6-7-15

Call to Order	08:08
Public Testimony (continued)	08:09
Hannah Heimbach	08:09
Chris Woodly	08:13
Libby Sturtz	08:34
Tyler Rhodes	08:34
Mike Fitzgerald	08:49
Phil Lestenkoff, Jeff Kauffman, Ray Melovondov, Myron Melendov	08:50
Dan Martin	09:12
Paul Olson	09:22
John Murray	09:26
Lori Swanson	09:30
Adam Hackett	09:32
Bob Stein	09:36
Gary Mulligan	09:39
Bob Kruger	09:42
Marty Raymond	09:48
Kari Johnson	09:52
Lori Mastrella	09:55
Molly Pedia	09:58
John Lepore review recusal	10:52
C2 Council Motion – Sam Cotten	11:03
Speaks to motion	11:03
Tweit amendment, speaks to motion	11:31
Merrill amendment	12:05
Chris Oliver updating agenda	02:06
Nathan Lagerwey - Compliance section 4 of Observer annual report	02:10
D2 Adak Crab Offload	02:29
Sarah Marrinan, staff	
AP Report on D2	02:52
Public Comment: Linda Kozak, Clem Tillion	02:54
Adjourn for the day	05:15

Monday 6-8-15

Call to Order	08:18
C4 Observer Program – Annual Report	08:20
Chris Rilling	08:38
Dr. Craig Fauntz	09:06
C5 OAC Report - Diana Evans	10:38
AP report on C5 - Ernie Weiss	11:02
Public Testimony on C4 and C5	11:04
Bob Alverson	11:04
Linda Behnken	11:12
Brent Paine, Dan Martin	11:22
Bob Kruger	11:28
Chad See	11:37
Beth Stewart	11:40
Steven Rhodes	11:50
Julie Bonney	11:57
Mike Alferi	12:05
Paul Olsen	12:12
Tom Evich	12:13
Kimball Motion on C4	12:23
C6 EM Workgroup Report	01:02
Diana Evans, staff	01:02
AP report on C6 - Ernie Weiss	01:33
Public comment on C6	01:35
Linda Behnken	01:35
C8 Observer Coverage on Small CPs	02:13
Mary Alice McKeen, staff	02:36
AP Report - Ernie Weiss	02:36
Public Testimony C8	02:38
Andrew Richards	02:38
Council Motion C8 – Nicole Kimball	02:42
C7 Observer Coverage on BSAI Trawl Trawl CVs	02:53
Sam Cunningham, staff	02:53
AP Report on C7 - Ernie Weiss	03:04
D1 Research Priorities	03:18
Staff, Jim Armstrong	03:19
Adjourn for the day	03:37

Tuesday 6-9-15

Call to Order	09:00
E1 Staff Tasking	09:04
AP Report on E1 - Ernie Weiss	09:58
Public Testimony on E1	10:02
Clem Tillion	10:02
Ernie Weiss	10:10
Vince O'Shea	10:15
Mark Fina	10:42
Mike Szymanski	11:00
Jim Johnson	11:11
Beth Stewart	11:19
Chris Woodley, Keith Bruton	11:28
Bob Kruger	11:33
Julie Bonney	11:45
Heather McCarty	12:01
Simeon Swetsoff, Mateo Paz Soldon	12:20
Linda Behnken	12:33
Tom Evich	12:39
Shannon Carroll	12:43
Robert Savage	12:48
Council Motion – Dave Long	02:59
Meeting Adjourned	04:43

Dan Hull
Chairman
Chris Oliver
Executive Director

605 W 4th, Ste 306
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 271-2809
(907) 271-2817

www.npfmc.org



News & Notes

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

June 2015



Dersham Retires

The Council acknowledged Council member Ed Dersham's 8 years on the Council, and his service on various committees and commitment to sustainably managing the resources. Good luck in your future endeavors, Ed.



Alaska Lt. Governor Mallott Addresses Council

The Lt. Governor of Alaska, Byron Mallott, spoke to the Council the first day of its meeting. He spoke of the rich resources in the North Pacific ocean, as well as the cultural heritage that has evolved around those resources. He urged the Council members to find common ground and work together to solve the difficult issues.

Halibut Bycatch

The Council took final action to reduce halibut PSC mortality limits in the BSAI groundfish fisheries overall from 4,426 mt to 3,515 mt, a 21% reduction. PSC limits in the BSAI groundfish fisheries are apportioned among sectors and gear types (currently to all trawl fisheries and longline fisheries for all targets except IFQ sablefish), and a different reduction was applied to each.

The PSC reduction for the Amendment 80 sector will result in the greatest impact, both in terms of halibut PSC savings and costs to the sector. The Amendment 80 sector is responsible for about 60% of halibut PSC mortality in the BSAI groundfish fisheries, based on average PSC usage from 2008 through 2014. Vessels fishing as part of an Amendment 80 cooperative (all Amendment 80 vessels since 2011) will have their halibut PSC limit reduced by 25%. As the sector has consistently used less than the halibut PSC apportioned to it since 2008, the new limit represents a 15% reduction from average PSC usage in 2008 through 2014. In order to encourage Amendment 80 vessels to stay in cooperatives, where they have more tools available to control their PSC, the Council chose a steeper PSC limit reduction of 40% from current levels to be applied to the Amendment 80 limited access sector.

For the Bering Sea trawl limited access fisheries and the longline fisheries, the Council chose PSC reduction levels of 15% each. For trawl limited access fisheries, this places the PSC limit at approximately the level of average PSC usage from 2008 through 2014. With the exception of the pollock fishery, which is not constrained inseason by the PSC limit, the trawl limited access fisheries are not rationalized, and have fewer tools available to institute behavioral changes to meet lower PSC

limits. For the longline fisheries, their halibut mortality rate is currently the lowest of any of the groundfish fisheries, and they have contributed only 12-15% to average PSC usage from 2008 through 2014. Finally, the Council also reduced the CDQ PSC limit by 20%. This limit is used by the CDQ groups to harvest their groundfish quotas in all their trawl and longline fisheries. The CDQ sector is the only one where PSC usage has been steadily increasing in recent years, because the CDQ sector is trying to harvest more of their allocated groundfish. Even with the 20% PSC limit reduction, there will still be some room for growth in the sector.

The Council's decision was contentious, with some members considering that steeper reductions were warranted. In support of the recommended PSC limit reductions, the Council spoke to the need to institute reductions that are practicable in the groundfish sectors, their expectation that the reduced PSC limits will result in mortality savings in excess of the limits, and the importance of taking action at this meeting in order to effect PSC mortality reductions in 2016. There was general agreement about the continuing importance of maintaining a directed halibut fishery in the Bering Sea, and it was reiterated that this action represents only a first step in addressing BSAI halibut needs among the different user groups.

	Current PSC limit	PSC limit reduction	New PSC limit
Amendment 80 cooperatives	2,325 mt	-25%	1,745 mt
BSAI trawl limited access fisheries	875 mt	-15%	745 mt
Longline fisheries	833 mt	-15%	710 mt
CDQ fisheries	393 mt	-20%	315 mt
TOTAL	4,426 mt	-21%	3,515 mt

Upcoming meetings:

CIE review of General Model for Alaskan Crabs Stocks (GMACs) and its implementation for Bristol Bay Red King Assessment (BBRKC): June 29 – July 1, 2015, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. AFSC

EM Workgroup: July 30-31, 2015; Coast International Hotel, Anchorage, AK

Ecosystem Committee: August 6-7, 2015; TSMRI, Auke Bay, Juneau, AK

Legislative Committee: First week in August, TBA

EM Workgroup: September 8, 2015; TBD

Observer Advisory Committee: September 17-18, 2015; Seattle, AK

Observer Program Small CPs

The Council took final action to revise the exceptions allowing small catcher processors to be in the partial observer coverage category rather than automatically being placed in the full coverage category. Under the Council's preferred alternative, the exceptions would be revised such that a fixed gear catcher processor vessel that is not participating in a catch share program would be eligible for partial coverage if their production is below an average weekly level of 79,000 pounds (35.8 metric tons). As described in the analysis, the three vessels that qualify for the current exceptions could continue in partial coverage if their fishing patterns remain unchanged, and potentially five to seven more vessels may qualify in future. The motion is available online, and staff contact is Diana Evans.

Next steps for BSAI Halibut

During staff tasking, the Council outlined next steps for addressing BSAI halibut. The Council has already tasked a discussion paper exploring ways to index BSAI halibut PSC limits to a metric of halibut biomass, which is scheduled for October. In addition, the Council also initiated three new actions:

- The Chair and the Executive Director will evaluate ways to integrate the variety of halibut management and research activities currently underway, and develop a framework for improving coordination between the Council and IPHC. Council and agency staff, including the IPHC, and State agency representatives on the Council, will be consulted. Both Council members and the public highlighted a need for better alignment of the two management bodies when dealing with halibut needs among the various directed fishery and bycatch user groups. The intention is to outline a process to ensure progress continues on issues both that were raised at this meeting, and were outcomes of the joint Council-IPHC meeting in February. These include, among others, a discussion of the Council's management objectives with respect to the tension between the needs of the directed halibut fishery and halibut bycatch needs in the groundfish fishery; the role of stakeholder working groups to develop a more surgical resolution to halibut use conflicts; and a common understanding of available data and the science of various halibut stock and life history issues, such as growth and migration. The Chair and Executive Director will bring back recommendations for the Council in October, which may be followed by a public scoping session, and the consideration of specific actions by the Council in December.
- The Council requested both Amendment 80 cooperatives to provide halibut bycatch management plans for 2016 to the Council in December. The plans should be designed not just to accommodate the revised PSC mortality limit, but to bring savings to levels below the hard cap. These are to include: halibut avoidance practices on the grounds, increased communication between participating harvesters, sharing data for performance tracking, use and development of excluders, deck sorting, performance measurement and assessment at the boat and company level, incentives for continuous efforts to minimize bycatch, and consequences for substandard performance.
- In order to assess mechanisms to increase halibut harvest opportunities for Bering Sea community residents, the Council also initiated a discussion paper to examine options to allow

CDQ entities to lease IFQ halibut without the IFQ owner on board in 4B and 4CDE, in years with low directed halibut harvest.

Observer Program

2014 Annual Report and Supplemental EA

The Council received the 2014 Observer Annual Report, and made recommendations for improving the program in 2016, and the report in future years. Most significantly, the Council requested that the 2016 Annual Deployment Plan define additional strata to deploy observers by gear and FMP area, and provide sufficient information for the Council to combine strata as appropriate in October. The Council also recommended the agency pursue improvements to ODDS, addressing the potential for temporal bias, and the ability to link deployed trips with e-Landings. The agency, perhaps with the help of the OAC or some subgroup, was also requested to assess ways to achieve cost efficiencies in partial coverage within the existing 5-year contract.

The Council appreciated the development of performance metrics, and encouraged NMFS to continue to develop tools to evaluate both the reliability of the data, and deployment performance. Future reports should also incorporate quantitative measures of program compliance, and the Council supports continued outreach by enforcement personnel regarding observer issues, especially to vessels where captains are under increasing pressure to monitor PSC.

The Council authorized sending a letter to NMFS expressing concern about the lack of predictability in the timing of observer fee funds released from Treasury to the Office of Management and Budget to NMFS for use in funding the partial coverage category observer program.

While the Council did not hear a staff presentation on the Supplemental EA, they received various Committee reports on the document, and noted its conclusion that data is improved under the new program, despite lower than anticipated coverage rates. The Council encouraged NMFS to consider SSC, AP, OAC, and public comments when finalizing the analysis. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

BSAI Trawl CV Observers

The Council adopted a Purpose & Need Statement and developed alternatives for an action that could change observer coverage requirements for catcher vessels using trawl gear in the BSAI. Since 2013, NMFS has accommodated AFA trawl CVs in the partial coverage category to carry full coverage on a voluntary basis. Those vessel owners have been responsible for both the 1.25% ex-vessel partial coverage fee, and the daily cost of full coverage. Volunteers accepted that additional cost because doing so allowed their AFA cooperatives to better manage halibut PSC at the vessel level, and because their vessels would no longer be affected by the extrapolation of fleet wide PSC rates from observed vessels.

The Council defined the scope of the potential action. In consideration of recommendations by the Observer Advisory Committee and the Advisory Panel, the Council selected a narrowly focused range of alternatives. The action alternatives pertain only to AFA trawl CVs. Any full coverage requirement would apply only during BSAI fishing. The movement of AFA CVs from partial to full coverage could be either mandatory (Alternative 2) or voluntary (Alternative 3). If the Council selects a voluntary structure, the choice could be framed as either a one-time permanent decision, or an annual choice. If vessel owners are permitted to select full or partial coverage on an annual basis, that choice would need to be made by July 1 of the preceding calendar year. Neither of the action alternatives would require full coverage for trawl CVs delivering unsorted codends to motherships, which is consistent with status quo management. The next step for this action is an initial review analysis. Staff contact is Sam Cunningham.

Tendering

The Council heard testimony citing the importance both of addressing perceived bias issues with respect to vessels delivering to tenders, and also providing more opportunities for observer data to be collected within the western GOA trawl fleet delivering to tenders. In response, the Council raised the priority of its existing amendment package to revise Observer Program regulations to change the definition of a trip to end with at the offload or transfer of all fish from the vessel, rather than ending at the return to port. As part of this amendment package, the analysis will consider the

changes required to deploy observers directly from tender vessels. The problem statement and alternative for this proposed amendment, which was last revisited by the Council in June 2014, is posted online. Staff contact is Jon McCracken

The Council also initiated a discussion paper on a regulatory amendment to revise observer provider insurance requirements. NMFS wrote a letter responding to the Council's request for guidance on this matter, and recommended that several types of currently required insurance coverage are unnecessary and could be removed from regulation, and other elements merit further analysis. The discussion paper will examine the scope of the proposed regulatory changes, and will also get input from the national discussion on changes to observer provider insurance requirements. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Electronic Monitoring

The Council received a report from the fixed gear EM Workgroup about progress towards developing an EM pre-implementation plan for 2016, which will be presented to the Council in October. The Workgroup discussed a process for fixed gear vessels under 58 ft to opt in to the 2016 EM program, with preference given to vessels meeting specified criteria and that express their interest to NMFS by July 27, 2015. The Workgroup are still finalizing a recommendation on criteria, which will also depend on the size of the EM pool and deployment options for 2016. The current working draft is posted on the Council's website. Two more workgroup meetings are scheduled over the summer. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Call for Nominations

The Council is soliciting nominations for an Amendment 80 representative for the Observer Advisory Committee. Additionally, nominations are being taken for a Ecosystem Committee seat that has subsistence and rural Alaska interests. Nominations for both these seats **are due June 25**. Additionally, Duncan Fields was appointed Chair of the IFQ committee, which will meet prior to the February 2016 Council meeting. Simon Kinneen will chair the Rural Outreach Committee which will meet following Council discussion this fall of the role and scope of the committee.

National Standard Revisions

On January 20, 2015 NMFS published a proposed rule for the revisions to the guidelines for National Standards 1, 3, and 7 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposed rule has a June 30, 2015 comment deadline. The revisions are described by NMFS as a product of lessons learned since the implementation of annual catch limits and accountability measures. Shortly after the proposed rule was published, the Council formed a special working group to develop comments on the proposed revisions. The working group worked with the Council's SSC to develop detailed comments that will accompany the Council's comments on the proposed changes. The Council's major concerns with the proposed revisions center on whether the changes will be interpreted as requiring amendments to all of the Council's FMPs. Although the revisions are characterized by NMFS as improving flexibility for the Councils, and some needed improvements are made, the new language could set the stage for very different expectations from NMFS about which species to include in FMPs, how OY is calculated and characterized, and how often formal review and revision of FMP objectives is done. These concerns are reflected in the comment letter drafted by the Council. Staff contact is Jim Armstrong.

Research Priorities

At the June meeting, the Council adopted its research priorities for 2016-2020. This is the first year in which the Council identified research priorities under revised priority categories: "critical on-going monitoring", "urgent", "important (near term)", and "strategic (future needs)". These categories place less emphasis on the relative value of research topics and more emphasis on the correspondence of research to the Council's time horizon of management concerns. The Council clarified that the critical on-going monitoring and urgent categories reflect research that is needed to address immediate needs and could significantly hinder the Council's ability to fulfill its management obligations. These categories differ in that urgent research needs include projects that would have a limited duration while critical on-going monitoring applies to projects that generate time-series of data and for which interruption of the time series would significantly diminish the value of the data. The important and strategic categories include research topics that represent less pressing management issues and also differ from each other in the timeframe for which the data generated will likely meet management needs. The Council continues to highlight the importance of research addressing integrated ecosystem-based management, salmon bycatch issues and stellar sea lion interactions. A web-based interface for organizing and cataloguing research priorities is publically accessible and is linked to from the Council's website. The Council's revised research plan for is posted on the website. Staff contact is Jim Armstrong.

Crab Management

The Council reviewed final stock assessments and set specifications for three crab stocks in the BSAI: Pribilof Islands golden king crab (PIGKC), Western Aleutian Islands (Adak) red king crab (WAIRKC), and Aleutian Islands golden king crab (AIGKC). OFL and ABC were established based on a Tier 5 formulation (average catch); biomass estimates are not available at this time to determine stock status for these stocks. For all three stocks, the Council adopted a buffer for the ABC consistent with the SSC recommendations, and consistent with the previous fishing season for that stock.

The SSC also commented on presentations for EBS snow and Tanner crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, Pribilof Island red king crab, and St. Matthew Island blue king crab, and made recommendations on a variety of other crab relevant issues identified by the Crab Plan Team. The SSC was glad to see a workshop on data poor stocks is planned for fall 2015.

Additionally, due to public testimony, the Council tasked staff with a discussion paper to consider removing the WAIRKC in Area O, east of 179° W from the BSAI king and Tanner crab FMP, and allowing the State of Alaska to take full management responsibility. Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

At the end of this month, there will be a CIE review of General Model for Alaskan Crabs Stocks (GMACs) and its implementation for Bristol Bay Red King Assessment (BBRKC): June 29 – July 1, 2015, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. AFSC

Staff Tasking

In addition to discussing the timing and relative priority of previously tasked projects, and tasking for various workgroups and committees, the Council provided clarifications on several important issues. Additionally, the Council tasked the following be prepared by staff:

- Letter to NMFS commenting on the proposed changes to National Standard 1 guidelines.
- Request for emergency action to allocate an additional 1,600 Chinook salmon to the GOA non-pollock, non-rockfish program catcher vessels for the remainder of 2015.
- Regulatory Amendment to allow reapportionment of GOA Chinook PSC cap among sectors.
- Prepare a discussion paper that examines options for leasing halibut in Area 4BCDE in years with low quota for harvest by CDQ residents.

WAG Crab Exemption

The Council moved an analysis forward for Public Review that considers a regulatory exemption that would allow vessels participating in the Western Aleutian golden king crab (WAG) fishery to continue fishing after offloading a portion of their retained catch. Under current Federal regulations, a vessel participating in a crab rationalization fishery is not permitted to deliver a portion of their retained harvest to a processor and resume fishing for additional crab, prior to delivering the remainder of the catch. The Council established the action alternative of creating an exemption from this regulation for the WAG fishery as a preliminary preferred alternative.

The issue was first raised in February of 2015, when stakeholders of the WAG fishery provided public testimony to the Council. Stakeholders indicated that the processing company operating in Adak has taken advantage of the live market for WAG, but the amount of crab they can receive is constrained by the capacity of the commercial airliner that lands twice weekly in Adak. Therefore this live crab market opportunity is possible for small deliveries at a time. Relaxing the full offload regulation for this specific fishery could allow vessels harvesting in the WAG fishery to make partial deliveries and continue harvesting crab before fully offloading at a processor that could accommodate the full volume of crab onboard these catcher vessels.

The Council is considering this action due to 1) the remote and economically challenging characteristics of the fishery, 2) the possibility of mutual benefits to harvesters, the local processor, and the community, and 3) consistency with previous Council action that intended to encourage entrepreneurial activity related to fisheries in the Western Aleutian Islands. Final action is scheduled for October. Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 6/15/2015

October 5-13, 2015 Anchorage, AK	December 7-15, 2015 Anchorage, AK	February 1-9, 2016 Portland, OR
North Pacific Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Review (T) Halibut Management Framework: Report GOA Trawl Bycatch Management: Review Paper	Enforcement Precepts: Review Paper Halibut Management Framework: Next Steps GOA Trawl Bycatch Management: Action as necessary (T)	GOA Trawl Bycatch Management: Action as necessary (T)
Charter Halibut RQE Program: Preliminary Review (T)	Charter Halibut RQE Program: Initial Review (T) Charter Halibut Measures for 2016	Charter Halibut RQE Program: Final Action (T)
AI Pcod A/B Seasonal Apportionment: Discussion paper AI Pcod Allocation: Final Action AFA program review: Review Workplan	Halibut/Sablefish IFQ program review: Review outline (T)	Halibut/Sablefish IFQ program review: Cttee Rep/Workplan (T)
Observer Program 2016 Annual Deployment Plan: Review EM Workgroup recommendation for 2016 Pre-implementation		
Observer coverage on BSAI trawl CVs: Initial Review 100% Observer coverage for GOA Trawl: Discussion paper	Observer coverage on BSAI trawl CVs: Final Action (T)	Observer Tendering: Initial Review (T)
Biomass based BSAI Halibut PSC Limits: Discussion paper Halibut Deck Sorting Scales 2016 EFP: Review GOA Salmon PSC Reapportionment: Preliminary Review BS FEP: Discussion paper, Ecosystem Cttee Report (T) Groundfish Policy and Workplan: Review (T) Proposed groundfish harvest specs: Approve; PT report WAI GKC Partial Offloads: Final Action	Am 80 Coop Reports on 2016 Halibut PSC Management Plans Area 4 Halibut Leasing Options for CDQ Vessels: Disc paper GOA Salmon PSC Reapportionment: Initial/Final Review (T)	BSAI Crab 10-year Review: Review Report (T)
BSAI Crab SAFE/ specs for 6 stocks: Approve; PT report	AI RKC Stocks in FMP: Discussion paper (T)	
Pribilof Canyon Corals: Receive Report/Next Steps		
Enforcement Precepts: Enforcement Cttee Review		
		ITEMS BELOW NOT YET SCHEDULED
		Salmon genetics spatial/temporal refinement: Disc Paper EM Integration: Initial Review (October 2016) EFH 5-year Review: Review Draft Report (April 2016) BSAI Crab bycatch limits/area closure evaluation: Disc paper Observer Lead Level 2: Discussion paper for Reg Am Observer Insurance Requirements: Disc paper for Reg Am

AI - Aleutian Islands
AFA - American Fisheries Act
BiOp - Biological Opinion
BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
BKC - Blue King Crab
BOF - Board of Fisheries
CQE - Community Quota Entity
CDQ - Community Development Quota
EM - Electronic monitoring
EFH - Essential Fish Habitat
EFP - Exempted Fishing Permit
EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan
FLL - Freezer longliners
GOA - Gulf of Alaska
GKC - Golden King Crab
GHL - Guideline Harvest Level

HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
ICA - Inter-cooperative Agreements
IPA - Incentive Program Agreements
LLP - Limited License Plan
MPA - Marine Protected Area
MRA - Maximum Retainable Allowance
PSC - Prohibited Species Catch
RKC - Red King Crab
ROFR - Right of First Refusal
RQE - Recreational Quota Entity
SIR - Supplemental Information Report
SSC - Scientific and Statistical Committee
SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation
SSL - Steller Sea Lion
TAC - Total Allowable Catch
VMS - Vessel Monitoring System

Future Meeting Dates and Locations

October 5-13, 2015 Anchorage
December 7-15, 2015, Anchorage
February 1-9, 2016, Portland
April 4 - 12, 2016, Anchorage
June 6-14, 2016, Kodiak
October 3 -11, 2016 Anchorage
December 5-13, 2016, Anchorage

(T) = Tentative