


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director
DATE: September 23, 2009
SUBJECT: Staff Tasking

ESTIMATED TIME
2 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

- a) Review tasking and committees and provide direction
- b) Review Rural Community Outreach Committee report
- c) Consider additional alternative for Amendment 93 per NMFS request

BACKGROUND

(a) Committees and Tasking

The list of Council committees is attached as Item D-4(a)(1). Item D-4(a)(2) is the three meeting outlook, and Item D-4(a)(supplemental) provides a summary of current projects and tasking. In addition, an updated workplan for implementing the programmatic groundfish management policy is attached as Item D-4(a)(3). The Council may wish to discuss priorities for completing ongoing projects, as well as any new tasks assigned during the course of this meeting.

In June, the Council tasked the Ecosystem Committee with reviewing various upcoming Council actions on habitat and marine protected area issues. The Council requested an opportunity to review the Ecosystem Committee's December agenda, to see whether the membership of the Committee remains appropriate for the allotted tasks. The draft agenda is attached as Item D-4(a)(4).

(b) Rural Community Outreach Committee

The Rural Community Outreach Committee was initiated by the Council in February 2009 and members were appointed in June. The Council requested that the committee meet over the summer and report back at this October Council meeting. The three primary purposes of the committee, based on Council direction, are: 1) to advise the Council on how to provide opportunities for better understanding and participation from AK Native and rural communities; 2) to provide feedback on community impacts sections of specific analyses; and 3) to provide recommendations regarding which proposed Council actions need a specific outreach plan and prioritize multiple actions when necessary. At its first meeting, the committee addressed organizational, budget, and logistical issues, and discussed ideas on general ways to improve outreach (e.g., how do we communicate who the Council is, what it does, and how to participate). The committee also discussed ways to improve project-specific outreach, and reviewed several ongoing Council projects that may warrant a targeted outreach effort. The committee made several recommendations on these issues, as outlined in the August 12 committee report, attached as Item D-4(b)(1).

The committee also recommended that it convene again in November 2009, by teleconference. Members suggested meeting in person every other meeting, and holding meetings in rural locations when possible. Potential agenda topics for the next meeting are listed on page 7 of the committee report.

(c) Amendment 93 Alternatives

On August 13, 2009, the Council received a letter from NMFS recommending that the Council consider adding an additional alternative to the analysis for Amendment 80 cooperative formation (Amendment 93). The NMFS letter is attached as Item D-4(c)(1).

The existing amendment package, if approved, would modify the requirements that Amendment 80 quota share holders would need to meet to form a harvesting cooperative and receive an exclusive allocation of Amendment 80 species and associated PSC that are incidentally taken during the prosecution of BSAI groundfish fisheries. Currently, there are five alternatives under consideration:

- **Alternative 1:** (Status quo) – A minimum of three unique quota share holders holding at least nine quota share permits are required to form a cooperative.
- **Alternative 2:** Reduce the number of unique quota share holders required to form a cooperative from three to two or one unique quota share holder.
- **Alternative 3:** Reduce the number of quota share permits required to form a cooperative from the existing 9 permits to some lower range. (e.g., three permits to the existing 9 permits)
- **Alternative 4:** Reduce both the number of unique quota share holders and the number of quota share permits required to form a cooperative (combination of Alternatives 2 and 3).
- **Alternative 5:** Allow a cooperative to form with a minimum of three unique QS holders holding at least nine QS permits (status quo), or a single or collective group of entities that represent 20%, 25%, or 30% of the sector quota share.
 - GRS Suboption (Applicable to all Alternatives): The GRS shall be applied in aggregate to all cooperatives if this calculation meets or exceeds the GRS requirement.

The additional alternative recommended by NMFS would require a cooperative to accept any person otherwise eligible to participate in a cooperative, subject to the same terms and conditions that apply to all other members of the cooperative.

The Council conducted an initial review of the amendment package at February 2009, and has scheduled final action for February 2010.

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups
(Revised September 28, 2009)

AGENDA D-4(a)(1)
OCTOBER 2009

Council/Board of Fisheries Joint Protocol Committee

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

Council Coordination Committee

[Designated and renamed by Magnuson Act reauthorization April 2007]

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

Council Executive/Finance Committee

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

Bering Sea Crab Advisory Committee

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

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(Revised September 28, 2009)

BS/AI Pacific Cod Split Committee

Pending appointment
Staff: Nicole Kimball

Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch Workgroup

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

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

[Required under BSAI Crab FMP]

Doug Mecum, NMFS Denby Lloyd, ADF&G Jeff Koenings, WDF
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Ecosystem Committee

Updated: 8/10/07 <u>Status</u> : Active Staff: Diana Evans	Stephanie Madsen (Chair) Jim Ayers Jon Kurland Dave Benton Doug DeMaster/Bill Karp Dave Fluharty John Iani
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NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(Revised September 28, 2009)

Enforcement Committee

<p>Updated: 7/03</p> <p><u>Status</u>: Active</p> <p>Staff: Jon McCracken</p>	<p>Roy Hyder (Chair) LCDR Lisa Ragone, USCG Major Steve Bear, AK F&W Protection Martin Loefflad, NMFS Herman Savikko, ADF&G Lisa Lindeman/Garland Walker, NOAA-GC Sherrie Meyers/Ken Hansen, NMFS-Enforcement Sue Salveson, NMFS</p>
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Fur Seal Committee

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

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

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

<p>Reconstituted: 7/31/03 Updated: 2/9/09</p> <p>Staff: Jane DiCosimo</p>	<p>Jeff Stephan (Chair) Bob Alverson Julianne Curry Tim Henkel Dennis Hicks Don Iverson</p>	<p>Jeff Kauffman Don Lane Kris Norosz Paul Peyton</p>
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NPFMC Committees & Workgroups
(Revised September 28, 2009)

Non-Target Species Committee

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

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

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

Appointed: 6/09 Staff: Nicole Kimball	Eric Olson (Chair) Paula Cullenberg Duncan Fields Jennifer Hooper Tom Okleasik Ole Olsen Pete Probasco
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NPFMC Committees & Workgroups
(Revised September 28, 2009)

Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee

Appointed: 2/01 Updated: 2/13/09 [formerly SSL RPA Committee; renamed February 2002] Staff: Bill Wilson	Larry Cotter (Chair) Jerry Bongen Julie Bonney Kenny Down John Gauvin John Henderschedt Daniel Hennen Sue Hills	Frank Kelty Terry Leitzell Steve MacLean Stephanie Madsen Max Malavansky, Jr Mel Morris Art Nelson Beth Stewart
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VMS Committee

Appointed: 6/02 <u>Status</u> : Idle, pending direction Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Roy Hyder (Chair) Al Burch Guy Holt Ed Page LCDR Lisa Ragone Lori Swanson
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October 1, 2009 Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel	December 7, 2009 Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel	February 8, 2010 Portland, OR Benson Hotel
<p>GOA P. cod sector split: <i>Initial Review</i></p> <p>Permit Fees: <i>Final Action</i></p> <p>CGOA Rockfish Program: <i>Discussion Paper</i> Electronic Monitoring EFP Phase 2: <i>Report</i> Observer Program Implementation Plan: <i>Review; OAC Report; and action as necessary (T)</i></p> <p>BSAI Crab Regional Delivery Relief: <i>Identify PPA</i> BSAI Crab ROFR: <i>Initial Review</i> BSAI Crab WAG: <i>Review Proposals</i> BSAI Crab 5yr Review: <i>Review Outline</i></p> <p>Salmon Bycatch Data Collection: <i>Initial Review (T)</i> Salmon Bycatch Sampling: <i>Report</i></p> <p>ACL Requirements: <i>Action as necessary</i></p> <p>BS Bottom Trawl Sweeps: <i>Final Action</i></p> <p>GOA Tanner & Chinook Bycatch: <i>Discussion Paper</i> St Matthew+Pribilof BKC& opilio rebuilding: <i>Action as nec.</i> BSAI Crab: <i>Approve SAFE and OFLs; PSC discussion paper</i></p> <p>BSAI Skates Complex: <i>Final Action</i></p> <p>Groundfish Proposed Catch Specifications: <i>Approve</i></p> <p>5-Year Research Priorities: <i>Approve</i></p> <p>Rural Community Outreach Cttee: <i>Report</i></p>	<p>MPA Nomination Process: <i>Discuss & action as nec. (T)</i></p> <p>GOA P. cod sector split: <i>Final Action</i> AI Processing Sideboards: <i>Initial Review (T)</i> Am 80 Lost Vessel Replacement: <i>Initial Review</i></p> <p>CGOA Rockfish Program: <i>Action as necessary</i></p> <p>BSAI Crab Amendment package: <i>Review Progress</i> BSAI Crab Regional Delivery Relief: <i>Final Action (T)</i> BSAI Crab ROFR: <i>Final Action (T)</i></p> <p>Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Proposals: <i>Review & action as nec.</i> CQE Program: <i>Review</i> Salmon Bycatch Data Collection: <i>Final Action (T)</i> BS Chum Salmon Bycatch: <i>Committee Report/ Discussion paper</i></p> <p>Groundfish ACL Requirements: <i>Action as necessary</i></p> <p>Bristol Bay Trawl Closure & Walrus: <i>Discussion Papers (T)</i> Heigermeister Is. Walrus protection: <i>Discussion Paper</i></p> <p>Groundfish Final Catch Specifications: <i>Approve</i></p> <p>EFH 5-Year Evaluation/HAPC Criteria: <i>Review (T)</i></p> <p>Rural Community Outreach Cttee: <i>Report (T)</i></p>	<p>BS&AI P.cod Split: <i>Discuss plan/action as necessary (April)</i></p> <p>GOA P.cod sideboards for crab vessels: <i>Initial Review (T)</i></p> <p>AI Processing Sideboards: <i>Final Action (T)</i> Am 80 Lost Vessel Replacement: <i>Final Action</i> Am 80 Cooperative Formation: <i>Final Action</i></p> <p>CGOA Rockfish Program: <i>Action as necessary</i></p> <p>Observer Program Implementation Plan: <i>Progress Report</i></p> <p>BSAI Crab activities: <i>Action as necessary</i></p> <p>BS Chum Salmon Bycatch: <i>Action as necessary</i></p> <p>Groundfish ACL Requirements: <i>Initial Review</i></p> <p>Crab and Scallop ACLs: <i>Action as necessary (T)</i></p> <p>AI FEP addendum: <i>Review/Discuss (T)</i> Northern BS Research Plan: <i>Review Progress</i></p>

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

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

Future Meeting Dates and Locations

October 1-, 2009 in Anchorage (AP, SSC start on THURSDAY)
(Council on Saturday)

December 7-, 2009 in Anchorage

February 8-, 2010 in Portland OR

April 6-, 2010 in Anchorage (start on Tuesday)

June 7 - , 2010 in Sitka

Oct 4-, 2010 in Anchorage (Captain Cook)

Dec 6- 2010 in Anchorage Hilton

Groundfish Workplan

Priority actions revised in February 2007, status updated to current

General Priority (in no particular order)	Specific priority actions	Related to management objective:	Status (updated 9-17-09)	2009		2010				2011				
				Oct	Dec	Feb	Apr	Jun	Oct	Dec	Feb	Apr	Jun	Oct
Prevent Overfishing	a. continue to develop management strategies that ensure sustainable yields of target species and minimize impacts on populations of incidentally-caught species	5	Aggregate ABC/OFL for GOA 'other species' in Apr 08 BSAI skates TAC breakout final action Oct 2009 BSAI/GOA squids breakout init review in Oct 2009, then BSAI/GOA octopus											
	b. evaluate effectiveness of setting ABC levels using Tier 5 and 6 approaches, for rockfish and other species	4	AFSC responding to CIE reviews as part of harvest specifications process											
	c. continue to develop a systematic approach to lumping and splitting that takes into account both biological and management considerations	5	BSAI Pcod split discussion in Apr 10 report from non-target species committee in Oct 09											
Preserve Food Web	a. encourage and participate in development of key ecosystem indicators	10	ecosystem SAFE presented annually; AI FEP identified/refined indicators for the Aleutians											
	b. Reconcile procedures to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in establishing harvest limits, for rockfish and other species	11	report from non-target species committee in Oct 09											
	c. develop pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the AI	13	FEP brochure published Dec 07 FEP revisions in 2009, further implementation discussed by FEP team and Ecosystem Committee											
Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	a. explore incentive-based bycatch reduction programs in GOA and BSAI fisheries	15	partially addressed in BSAI salmon bycatch EIS											
	b. explore mortality rate-based approaches to setting PSC limits in GOA and BSAI fisheries	20	partially addressed in BSAI salmon bycatch EIS											
	c. consider new management strategies to reduce incidental rockfish bycatch and discards	17												
	d. develop statistically rigorous approaches to estimating bycatch in line with national initiatives	14, 19	National Bycatch Report update in Dec 07											
	e. encourage research programs to evaluate population estimates for non-target species	16	Part of research priorities, adopted in June 2007											
	f. develop incentive-based and appropriate biomass-based trigger limits and area closures for BSAI salmon bycatch reduction, as information becomes available	14, 15, 20	bycatch limit for Chinook adopted Apr 09; discussion paper on chum measures for Dec 09											
	g. assess impact of management measures on regulatory discards and consider measures to reduce where practicable	17	partially addressed by GOA arrowtooth MRA analysis (Council action Oct 07)											

Ecosystem Committee DRAFT Agenda

1. EFH 5-year review

- Purpose and scope of 5-year review
- Components of review: EFH descriptions for each FMP-managed species, fishing and non-fishing threats to EFH, conservation and enhancement recommendations, research and information needs
- Proposed timeline for completion (public review and input on report, Plan team recommendations for crab and scallop FMP species)
- Recommendations from groundfish Plan Teams
- Discussion of salmon FMP, and whether to update salmon EFH at this time
- Discuss whether there are any recommendations for the Council on amendments to follow on from the 5-year review

2. HAPC process

- Review of HAPC process: Council intends to consider whether to set HAPC priorities and initiate a HAPC proposal cycle once the EFH 5-year review is complete
- Are there any recommendations for HAPC priorities that fall out from the EFH review or from other issues

3. MPA framework

- Review discussion paper on NMFS proposed MPA nomination sites
- Discuss how (if at all) MPA nominations mesh with the EFH/HAPC closures
- Are there any recommendations to Council as to how to proceed with the MPA nomination process

4. Ocean Policy Framework and Marine Spatial Planning

- Review Ocean Policy Framework
 - Role of Councils
 - Relationship to Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum
- Ocean Policy Taskforce Marine Spatial Planning process
 - Role of Councils
 - Relationship to EFH and MPAs

5. Tentative agenda topic: Northern Bering Sea Research Area Research Plan

- Review timeline and outline for planning the research plan
- Discuss and provide guidance/ recommendations on stakeholder process and proposed Community and Subsistence Workshop

Rural Community Outreach Committee Meeting Report

August 12, 2009

9 am – 5 pm

Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

1016 West Sixth Avenue, Suite 304, Anchorage

Committee: Eric Olson (Chair), Paula Cullenberg, Gale Vick (for Ole Olsen), Pete Probasco, Jennifer Hooper, Tom Okleasik. Not present: Duncan Fields. **NPFMC staff:** Chris Oliver, Nicole Kimball.

Other Participants: AJ Salkoski (RurAL CAP), Steve Garcia (USCG), Paul Albertson (USCG), Jon Kammler (USCG), Sally Bibb NMFS AKR, Brent Paine (United Catcher Boats), Art Ivanoff, Dorothy Lowman (consultant), Jason Anderson (Best Use Cooperative), Henry Mitchell, Angelique Anderson (Coastal Villages Region Fund), Bubba Cook (World Wildlife Fund), Stephanie Madsen (At-sea Processor's Association), Stephanie Moreland (ADF&G), Muriel Morse (Alaska Marine Conservation Council), Desa Jacobson, Jeff Stephan (United Fishermen's Marketing Association), Ole Lake, Glenn Reed (Pacific Seafood Processor's Association), Valli Peterson (Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Energy Services), Sarah Scanlan (RurAL CAP).

I. Organizational issues

- Introductions and additions to the agenda

The committee and the public introduced themselves. Sally Bibb (NMFS) offered to provide an update on NMFS' efforts to improve the tribal consultation process at the end of the organizational issues. Note that a list of all handouts provided to the committee and public is attached to this report as **Attachment 1**.

- Review purpose of the committee per Council direction

The committee reviewed the three primary purposes of the committee, based on Council direction:

- 1) to advise the Council on how to provide opportunities for better understanding and participation from AK Native and rural communities;
- 2) to provide feedback on community impacts sections of specific analyses; and
- 3) to provide recommendations regarding which proposed Council actions need a specific outreach plan and prioritize multiple actions when necessary.

The Chair noted that the driving factor for committee membership was not geographic representation; it was experience with and expertise in outreach in rural Alaska. In addition, the Chair noted that the committee was not initiated in response to any individual Council action. It was established in response to the Council's identified priority and recognition that it is necessary to improve communication with and participation from rural communities. The committee itself is not intended to conduct outreach, it is charged with making recommendations to the Council on how to improve its overall outreach efforts, as well as recommend which actions may need a more targeted effort in rural Alaska.

Committee members stated that this was a step in the right direction, as many regions of Alaska are concerned about management decisions being made without sufficient input from those closest to the resource. In addition, navigating the Council process can be daunting to a rural resident, thus, efforts should be made to both educate people on the process and provide creative opportunities for people in rural communities to participate in person and through technology. One member provided a worksheet to the group with estimates of the potential expense to attend all five annual Council meetings, each for the entire 9 days, based on whether you lived near or outside of Anchorage.¹

¹Estimates were developed by the Gulf Coastal Communities Coalition, July 2009. They ranged from about \$13k to \$31k per person, for five Council meetings (9 days each), including airline transportation, ground transportation, meals, and hotel.

Some committee members were concerned about the group determining which particular issues may be important to rural Alaska, and instead wanted to focus primarily on institutionalizing ways to have rural AK participate in the process. Chris Oliver (NPFMC) noted that while the broad effort is important and part of the purpose of the committee, we still likely need to make some effort to identify projects or issues that need a higher profile outreach effort. These multiple purposes are consistent with the Council's direction. Members agreed that using technology to reach rural AK on an ongoing basis will be critical, and with better ongoing outreach, we lessen the need for the committee to determine which individual actions are important to communities.

Some committee members offered overall goals that may guide the committee's efforts. One member noted that equity in public engagement in the public process should be a primary goal. Another member noted that two-way participation is key, and that we should strive for an ongoing system for the Council to receive the input it needs from rural Alaska, and vice versa. The committee agreed that a review of the public processes that various agencies provide would be useful, in order to gain insight and ideas from other entities (e.g., ADF&G, Federal Subsistence Board, etc.), and that at some point, inviting members of these entities to a committee meeting would be helpful.

- Discuss how the meetings will be conducted (e.g., consensus vs. vote; no-host, etc.)

The Chair noted that the committee, like all Council committees, is no-host; travel and accommodations are not paid for general committee members. The Chair also noted that working by consensus is preferable, but a vote would be taken if determined necessary in order to address a specific recommendation to the Council. One member provided a cautionary note that consensus can sometimes be used to mask dissent in a group setting, and an open vote is more transparent and provides a history of where committee members stand on specific issues. Staff noted that regardless of whether there is consensus on a particular issue, differing opinions will be outlined in the committee report. The Chair also noted that public participation is encouraged in the committee process, and frequent opportunities will be available for the public to provide feedback as the meeting progresses.

- Discuss frequency and location of meetings

While it is less expensive and easier for most committee members to meet in Anchorage, the group agreed that committee meetings should be held on a case by case basis in other regions of Alaska. One member noted that many regions have regional organization meetings and there may be a time when we consider scheduling the outreach committee to meet on dates close to those meetings, in order to generate public participation in a Council committee. **Members agreed that they prefer meetings be held in rural Alaska, but that care should be taken such that the public does not confuse the committee meeting with the outreach mechanism itself (i.e., the committee is intended to recommend ways to improve outreach, but is not itself the conduit for feedback from rural Alaska).** As the committee chooses rural locations, it needs to consider the resources and capacity of the community (e.g., technology, hotel accommodations, meeting space, how to advertise effectively), and document that for potential Council use in the future.

Other members noted that it may be appropriate to have teleconference committee meetings, and/or use a shared worksite program, such that powerpoint presentations could be shared remotely on each individual's computer. It was generally agreed that the committee should hold every other meeting in person.

The Chair noted that while it is the Council's purview to task the committee, the expectation is likely that the committee will meet 1 to 2 times per year, which is similar to or more frequent than other Council committees. Some committee members noted that it may make sense to meet more frequently (quarterly) in the first year in order to establish general outreach mechanisms, and that eventually, if the committee is effective, the committee itself will no longer be necessary.

The committee also addressed the question of timing the in-person committee meetings. For example, the committee was tasked by the Council to meet over the summer, prior to the Council's meeting the first week of October. After setting a date and providing Federal Register notice, the committee found that its meeting was the same day that several President Obama administration officials were meeting in Bethel. Changing the meeting date would have been difficult due to members' schedules, as well as providing new Federal Register notice (the requirement is 23 days notice in advance of the meeting). One member noted that the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils have found that typically Sept/Oct and Feb/March cause the least scheduling problems for subsistence users.

One member of the public noted that in 2005 and 2006, NMFS convened a stakeholder participation committee, the findings of which may be useful to the committee. It was requested that staff research and distribute those findings to the committee for reference.²

- **Budget information/considerations**

Chris Oliver reported that based on the expected Council budget for 2010, the outreach budget is likely in the range of \$75k to \$100k for 2010. This overlaps with some other budget categories (e.g., information technology), and would need to cover both outreach committee meetings as well as outreach efforts. Committee meetings outside of Anchorage would cost an estimated \$2k to \$4k, depending on location. As the Council's recent outreach efforts for the Arctic FMP and Chinook salmon bycatch projects averaged about \$22k each, a budget this size could fund 2 to 3 intense, project-specific outreach efforts, and a few outreach committee meetings. As the Council has limited staff (14 person staff in Anchorage), one committee member noted that we should leverage our resources from committee members' agencies and other organizations represented at the meeting, in order to maximize our potential resources.

One committee member asked whether there was any follow-up on one of the Council's outreach workgroup recommendations from November 2008, to ask whether NMFS has staff available to help fulfill a logistics coordinator role for the outreach efforts. Sally Bibb (NMFS) stated that it was unlikely that NMFS would have staff available, but if the outreach committee or the Council could develop a specific list of logistics or administrative tasks that need to be done, NMFS could consider whether any of these tasks would overlap with tasks necessary to support NMFS's tribal consultation process or could be appropriate for contracting.

- **NMFS update on improvements to tribal consultation process**

Sally Bibb (NMFS) provided an overview of the tribal consultation process required by E.O. 13175 to which all executive agencies (e.g., NMFS) are subject. This requires regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Indian tribes (i.e., Alaska Native villages/tribes) in the development of Federal policies that have substantial direct effects on one or more Indian tribes. In 2004, Congress added the requirement for Federal agencies to consult with Alaska Native corporations on the same basis as Indian tribes under E.O. 13175. While the Council is not an executive agency and is not subject to E.O. 13175, it is clear that, based on the Council's role in making Federal fisheries management recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce (NMFS), there is interest and overlap in coordinating Council outreach efforts with NMFS tribal consultation responsibilities.

²In response, staff distributed several links to the committee (and public) via email on 8/14/09. The first is the 2006 GAO report on stakeholder participation in the development of quota-based programs that was mentioned: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06289.pdf>. The second is the NMFS policy directive, effective in 2007, resulting from the GAO report: <https://reefshark.nmfs.noaa.gov/tpds/publicsite/documents/policies/30-129.pdf>. Note that the policy directive asks the Councils to develop plans specific to each Council to help ensure effective stakeholder communication and involvement. According to the GAO, a set of core principles, a general communications policy, and a Council commitment to outreach will allow for increased communication and stakeholder involvement in the development of quota-based programs. It also says that NMFS will work with the Councils to implement this policy. As a result, the North Pacific Council adopted the set of core principles, for use broader than quota-based programs, into its Statement of Organization, Practices and Procedures (SOPPs). The SOPPs are posted (see Section 3.10 for the list of principles): http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfinc/misc_pub/sopp608.pdf.

The Department of Commerce policy on tribal consultations is very broad, encompassing several guiding principles, but no concrete direction to NMFS on how to implement a tribal consultation process. Sally reported that when there is a fisheries management issue that may impact Alaska tribes, NMFS sends a letter to all tribes, ANCSA corporations, and local governments, explaining the proposed action, the analytical and decisionmaking process, and that tribes and ANCSA corporations have a right to a consultation with NMFS. A few consultations have occurred regarding halibut subsistence actions and the recent Chinook salmon bycatch action, and involvement started to increase with the salmon bycatch issue. NMFS received feedback that sending a letter as the initial step is not sufficient, and that there should be an emphasis on early education, information, and outreach. One dilemma is that conducting outreach or soliciting input on analyses adds time to the process for a particular action, and in many cases the public is requesting immediate or emergency action. NMFS and the Council need input on how to balance those desires.

In response, NMFS is attempting to make improvements to the tribal consultation process. NMFS is developing a contract with RurAL CAP, who has helped with the halibut subsistence working group in the past. RurAL CAP would organize a meeting/consultation with NMFS and representatives of tribes on a regional basis, to help determine how to improve the tribal consultation process. This meeting would likely occur in winter 2009/2010. NMFS will continue to update the outreach committee on its progress, and work with the committee to make the most efficient use of its resources.

II. Solicit ideas on general ways to improve outreach (e.g., how do we communicate who the Council is, what it does, and how to participate)

As a precursor to this discussion, staff provided a brief review of the May 2008 discussion paper on potential and past outreach approaches, the current Council process, and the November 2008 workgroup report that recommended initiating the outreach committee (see Attachment 1). The committee also received a brief overview of the recent outreach plans and reports on the Arctic FMP and Chinook salmon bycatch actions. One member noted that the Council established an expectation with its outreach efforts on these recent actions, noting that the high level of public testimony at the April 2009 Council meeting on salmon bycatch was in part due to the outreach to rural Alaska.

Several suggestions to improve general outreach to rural communities resulted from this discussion. Members noted that if the Council wants to conduct an outreach meeting on a particular issue in rural Alaska, it is more effective to piggy-back on another regional meeting, in order to garner better participation and interest. This was proven effective for both the Arctic FMP and Chinook bycatch projects. When determining an appropriate partner to host a meeting, it is important to consider whether they can provide sufficient time on their agenda to discuss the issue, and whether the meeting is broadly publicized and attended by the target stakeholders. Primary suggestions are listed below.

Website & email alerts. Members suggested that a primary way to improve the current process is to maximize our technological resources to reach rural Alaska. The Council could include an interactive component to its existing website that is specific to rural outreach, which would highlight issues on upcoming Council agendas in which rural communities may be most interested. The interactive module might include a place for people to comment, or respond to surveys periodically. Further exploration of this idea is necessary, in order to discuss the purpose for which that information would be used (e.g., would it be distributed to Council members, etc). The Council could also send a series of 'email alerts' to rural community and tribal contacts, so that people know what issues to look for, and where to find detailed information. The concept is to institutionalize improvements so that rural residents know how to participate on an ongoing basis, and are tuned in enough to know when a specific issue could affect them. Chris Oliver noted that the Council is already working on a new website design, and that this concept could potentially be folded into the redevelopment. The North Pacific Research Board's website was mentioned as a good template for outreach. Staff can provide an update at a future meeting.

Advertising meetings. Another member had suggestions for advertising either regional outreach meetings or Council meetings in a rural community. He noted that it should be standing protocol to talk to the local radio station in rural communities prior to a Council meeting, in order to advertise that the Council is going to be meeting (even if in Anchorage), and outline the dates, location details, and issues on the agenda, etc. Advertising for local meetings is typically free of charge, and some local meetings are broadcast on the radio. Statewide scanner ads (GCI) are also effective, and community ads are often free. Follow-up after the meeting is also crucial, so stakeholders understand next steps, where to find further information (email links to documents), and understand the Council's final action.

Educational workshop. Another member suggested that there should be an educational component on how the Council process works. For example, some communities have a workshop before the Alaska Board of Fisheries meets in the community, so that residents know how to best participate. The Council could develop a workshop that could be used opportunistically, whenever necessary in rural communities. Part of that workshop could entail an overview of the Council process, and differentiate between how the Board of Fisheries and Council processes work.

Audio broadcast of Council meetings. Several members supported an audio broadcast or web streaming of Council meetings. Some members suggested an email link such that people listening remotely could email questions during a Council meeting. Concern was noted on the level of resources necessary to respond to questions in near real-time, as the Council meeting progresses. The email link during a Council meeting did not appear feasible, as staff time is already fully consumed during the meetings. Staff noted that the Council is already working on streaming the Council meetings, and that this may be available as soon as early 2010.

Chat tool. An internet chat tool was also suggested for community meetings. It is a quick way of asking a question without emailing, and provides fast responses. Part of the impetus for this suggestion is trying to determine how the Council can facilitate communication between the commercial fishing industry and the subsistence community. Members of the public noted that this concept would not necessarily require Council members or staff to be involved, as people can chat on current issues already, but that the rural outreach committee may be an appropriate group to bridge the gap, and bring attention to issues that industry and rural communities can implement on their own.

Regional partnerships. One member suggested identifying several entities or groups within each region that are familiar with the Council process and can help disseminate information on how to participate, as well as be a contact if rural residents have questions on particular actions. These groups could help generate the input the Council needs prior to decisionmaking. There are several ways to divide Alaska by region – and it might differ for particular projects. It could be by regional nonprofit region, CDQ region, ANCSA corporation region, etc. This mentorship concept would likely entail approaching different entities and asking whether they want to work with the Council for this purpose, and then evaluating the response. The first groups to approach as potential mentors may be planning commissions, CDQ groups, regional corporations, regional nonprofits, etc. A region could potentially organize its own fisheries mentor group, if encouraged. One member noted that the partnership/mentor idea might fold in with the educational workshop mentioned above – rural groups could attend the workshop to learn the Council process and become mentors in their region. Hosting a workshop would help determine the level of interest for such a partnership/mentor program.

III. Solicit ideas on need for project-specific outreach in near-term

Staff reviewed several brief summaries (handouts) of upcoming Council projects, as examples of projects that may warrant targeted outreach efforts. The project summaries note whether some level of outreach has occurred or is scheduled, and the general timeline for analysis and potential decisionmaking. The purpose was to review these projects and the Council's '3-meeting outlook', such that the committee could recommend project-specific outreach plans if desired. Staff reviewed the following projects:

- Chum salmon bycatch in Bering Sea pollock fishery
- Northern Bering Sea Research Plan (NBSRA)
- Nearshore Bristol Bay Trawl Area (NBBTA)
- Bering Sea habitat conservation (Am. 89): Nunivak Island-Etolin Strait-Kuskokwim Bay habitat conservation area
- Arctic management (long-term)

One member noted that in regard to the NBSRA, the Marine Advisory Program agent in Nome has developed a collaborative fisheries research plan with ADF&G, NSEDC, and various Federal agencies. It may be helpful to provide this reference to the project lead at NMFS. One member commented on staff's mention of the Bering Sea Elder's Advisory Group plan to conduct some rural meetings or workshops in order to bring information to the subsistence workshop planned by NMFS for February 2010. These outside subsistence workshops should be noted on the NBSRA schedule for context, when the meeting schedules are made available.

Staff noted that once the schedule is established for a particular proposed action, it is often too late to solicit additional feedback outside of the Council meetings or regular Council process, without significantly delaying the project. Others noted that project-specific outreach may become less necessary in the long-term, if we have overall statewide efforts that are effective. However, one member noted that project-specific outreach may be the most important, as it is typically the uniqueness of each region and its relationship to a particular issue that generates interest in participating in the public process. Many communities will only have interest in one or two issues over a several year period.

The committee generally saw three levels of potential outreach efforts:

- Statewide level (primarily educational & website tools)
- Regional level (MOUs, partnerships/mentoring in each region)
- Project level (engage a particular community or set of communities on a specific action)

One member related that project-specific level approaches can be extremely effective. The Arctic FMP was used as an example of providing information between the Council and communities, such that the community input could inform the suite of alternatives and the analysis of those alternatives. Staff documented multiple meetings in Arctic communities, as well as time spent providing updates and communicating via phone and email. Members noted that it is a matter of available resources (staff and budget). One member of the public noted that we must recognize the tradeoff of putting staff resources toward outreach, as it means staff are pulled away from impact assessment.

In review of the three-meeting outlook, staff noted that none of the projects that were used as examples of those that may necessitate a specific outreach plan are near-term projects, with the exception of chum salmon bycatch (i.e., Council review of alternatives in December 2009). Chum salmon is also the most immediate project in terms of outreach, if the Council is to conduct outreach meetings in rural communities that are timely and meaningful, prior to the completion of the analysis. The committee agreed that chum salmon would likely warrant a specific outreach plan, similar to the Chinook salmon bycatch outreach effort that occurred in 2008 – 2009. One member also noted that it would be helpful to send out a brief summary of the chum project and tentative schedule as soon as this fall.

IV. Discuss committee role in providing feedback on community impacts sections of specific analyses

While recognizing that this is one of the purposes of the committee per the Council motion, the committee agreed that it is not feasible or realistic to review every Council analysis and critique the community impacts sections. The committee generally wanted to focus on identifying the types of community

information that are most informative and necessary to develop sufficient analyses. The committee agreed to discuss this role in more detail at a future meeting.

V. Recommendations

1. The committee reiterated its approach to outreach improvements on three levels: statewide (education and website tools, etc.), regional (educational partnership approach), and project-specific (case by case basis), and it recommends considering development of short, written guidelines to support this approach.
2. The committee also recommends moving forward with the Council's efforts to redesign its website, and to consider a module that would highlight rural community issues separately, possibly with an interactive component. The committee requests an update on the status of the web design at the next meeting.
3. The committee agreed that the proposed chum salmon bycatch action likely necessitates a targeted outreach plan, and that the outreach plan for the Chinook salmon bycatch action should be used as a starting point. The committee recommends reviewing the Chinook salmon bycatch outreach plan and final report in detail at the next meeting, in order to recommend possible modifications for chum. The committee also recommends sending a status summary of the chum project out to the public, notably western Alaska communities, this fall, so that that public, the ADF&G advisory committees, and the Federal subsistence regional advisory councils understand that this project is on the horizon.
4. The committee recommends that it spend time working on the regional partnership approach, by determining how to define regions of Alaska and identifying key contacts in each region. Staff should circulate a master list of contacts to the committee on which to add. SeaGrant has a list of regional contacts from which to start.
5. The committee recommends that staff develop a calendar of regional meetings, to be posted on the Council website.
6. The committee recommends reviewing the findings from the 2006 stakeholder participation committee on quota-based programs, for discussion at the next meeting.
7. The committee recommends that staff conduct research and/or invite speakers to a future meeting, in order to inform the committee as to what processes other organizations and agencies use for rural participation (e.g., ADF&G, Federal Subsistence Board, Native Tribal Consortium, etc.).
8. The committee agreed to teleconference the next committee meeting, and recommends that it be held in November 2009.

Finally, the committee discussed its idea of how to judge whether an outreach effort is successful. The committee agreed that measuring success should be based on whether significant participation resulted from the stakeholders you were trying to target. If people feel like they are sufficiently heard, and their information is conveyed to decisionmakers, then the outreach is successful. The committee also agreed that the success of an outreach effort cannot be linked to whether the final management or policy decision was deemed acceptable to stakeholders.

VI. Timing & need for next meeting (wrap-up)

The committee agreed to teleconference the next committee meeting, and recommends that it be held in November 2009. A subsequent meeting could be held in a rural location, and one committee member suggested Kotzebue. Potential agenda items for the next committee meeting include: reviewing the stakeholder participation findings (mentioned on p. 3 of this report); developing short, written guidelines for the statewide/regional/project-specific approach; reviewing the previous outreach plan for Chinook salmon bycatch and consider constructing a similar plan for the upcoming chum salmon bycatch action; receiving an update from staff on development of a master list of meetings and rural contacts; receiving an update from staff on Council website changes; receiving an update from NMFS on the tribal consultation meeting planned for November 2009; and discussing and further refining the concept of regional rural partnerships, for potential recommendation to the Council.

Attachment 1

Rural Community Outreach Committee meeting North Pacific Fishery Management Council August 12, 2009

List of materials (and web links) provided for reference:

1. Agenda
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/Agendas/RCOCagenda809.pdf>
2. Committee member contact list
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/membership/committees/NPFMCcommittees.pdf>
3. Council discussion paper: "A potential approach to implementing the Council's Groundfish Policy Workplan priority: Increase Alaska Native and Community Consultation" (May 16, 2008)
http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/Tasking/community_stakeholder.pdf
4. Council Outreach Workgroup Meeting Report (November 24, 2008)
http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/misc_pub/OutreachReport1108.pdf
5. Summary and Results of Outreach Plan for DEIS on Chinook Salmon Bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery (April 2009)
http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/bycatch/BycatchOutreach409.pdf
6. Community Outreach Plan for Arctic FMP (2007)
www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/Arctic/Arctic%20FMP%20Outreach%20Plan%20Dec%202007.pdf
7. Council three-meeting outlook
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/threemeetingoutlook.pdf>
8. Project summaries:
 - Chum salmon bycatch in Bering Sea pollock fishery
 - Northern Bering Sea Research Plan (NBSRA)
 - Nearshore Bristol Bay Trawl Area (NBBTA)
 - Bering Sea habitat conservation (Am. 89): Nunivak Island-Etolin Strait-Kuskokwim Bay habitat conservation area
 - Arctic management (long-term)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

AGENDA D-4(c)(1)
OCTOBER 2009

August 13, 2009

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

Dear Chairman Olson:

At this time, we recommend that the Council consider adding an additional alternative to the analysis for Amendment 93 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area. We request that the Council schedule discussion of Amendment 93 at its October meeting to consider recommending this additional alternative. We believe that the current range of alternatives the Council is considering to modify cooperative formation standards for the Amendment 80 Program should be expanded to include an option that would require a cooperative to accept any person otherwise eligible to participate in a cooperative subject to the same terms and conditions that apply to all other members of the cooperative.

Amendment 93 includes alternatives that would modify the minimum number of persons and the minimum vessels/quota share permits required to form a cooperative. Current regulations require a minimum of three unique persons and nine vessels/quota share permits to form a cooperative. In its purpose and need statement, the Council noted that members of the Amendment 80 Program "will find it difficult to receive the benefits of cooperative management if they cannot reach agreement on negotiated terms and the limited access fishery is an unattractive outside option, or a cooperative is able to derive some benefit from forcing an entity into the limited access fishery...." The suite of alternatives currently under consideration in Amendment 93 may provide additional opportunities for members of the Amendment 80 sector to benefit from cooperative formation by relaxing these minimum person and vessel/quota share standards. However, an additional alternative that does not modify the cooperative formation standards but provides access to all members of the Amendment 80 sector to a cooperative may avoid some of the uncertainty involved with modifying cooperative formation standards and the potential effects on negotiating leverage among members of the Amendment 80 sector that the existing alternatives may create. At a minimum, this additional alternative would provide greater contrast for the Council to consider as it weighs the potential effects of modifying the cooperative formation procedures for the Amendment 80 Program. At this time, we believe that this additional proposed alternative is broadly consistent with the Council's adopted purpose and need statement for Amendment 93 to encourage fishing under a cooperative structure.



If the Council recommends adding this alternative to the Amendment 93 analysis during its October meeting, it could review the revised initial draft of the Amendment 93 analysis in December 2009 and maintain its current schedule for final action in February 2010. The modifications to the Amendment 93 analysis necessary to incorporate this additional alternative are expected to be relatively minor. The potential impact on the Council's December 2009 schedule should be limited, particularly if the Council focuses its initial review primarily on the proposed additional alternative. NMFS staff will provide additional information describing the additional proposed alternative and the rationale for its addition prior to the October meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Mecum", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert D. Mecum
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

NPFMC/NMFS Action - updated 9/23/09

AGENDA D-4(a) Supplemental
Timeline

Action	Status	Staffing	2009		2010							
			September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Blue = Post Council Action, Rulemaking												
Chinook Salmon Bycatch	Preparation of Final EIS and regulations	NMFS 70% Council 30%										
Halibut Charter catch sharing plan	Preparation of final analytical documents and rulemaking package	NMFS 80% Council 20%										
LLP recency actions	Preparation of final analytical documents and rulemaking package	NMFS 80% Council 20%										
Recent Crab Rationalization program changes	Preparation of final analytical documents and rulemaking package	NMFS 80% Council 20%										
Arctic FMP	Preparation of final analytical documents and rulemaking package	NMFS 90% Council 10%										
Litigation workload	Ongoing	NMFS 90% Council 10%										
BSAI fixed gear parallel waters	Final action in June 2009, rulemaking to follow	NMFS 70% Council 30%										
Halibut Charter Moratorium	Final Rule	NMFS 100% Council 0%										
Subsistence Halibut (Rural Area Residents)	Final Rule	NMFS 100% Council 0%										
Remove inactive Halibut/Sablefish QS	Proposed and Final Rule	NMFS 100% Council 0%										
Rockfish Program sideboard exemption	Final Rule	NMFS 100%										

Action	Status	Staffing	2009				2010					
			September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Green=project underway												
Observer Program restructuring	Implementation plan section in progress for October review	NMFS 60% Council 40% for Implementation plan phase										
GOA P cod sector splits	Initial review in October	NMFS 10% Council 90%										
Permit fees in all fisheries	Final Action in Oct	NMFS 100% Council 0%										
BSAI skate amendment	Final Action in Oct	NMFS 30% Council 70%										
Misc crab rationalization changes/major plan amendment	Ongoing considerations	NMFS 20% Council 80%										
AI processing sideboards	Initial review in Dec?	NMFS 10% Council 90%										
Walrus related discussion papers	Review in December 2009	NMFS 10% Council 90%										
GOA P cod sideboards for crab	Initial review in October 2009	NMFS 10% Council 90%										
Prib BKC rebuilding	Initial review in Feb (T)	NMFS 50% Council 50%										
Am 80 coop formation	Final action in February	NMFS 90% Council 10%										
Am 80 lost vessel replacement	Initial Review October, Final action December	NMFS 90% Council 10%										
Bottom trawl sweeps	Final Action in Oct	NMFS 20% Council 80%										
Chinook salmon data collection	Initial Review October, Final action December	NMFS 20% Council 80%										
GOA Rockfish Pilot Program	Discuss in Oct - major analysis needs to be complete by June 2010	NMFS 20% Council 80%, potential for contract assistance										

PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP SHEET

Agenda Item: D-4 Staff Tasking

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF:
1	Kenny Down	Freezer Longline Coalition
2	Stephen Taufen	Groundswell Fisheries Movement
3	Stevea Minor	PNC IAC
4	Bill McGee	FEA
5	Janna Anderson / Joe Sullivan	BUC
6	Mike Szymanski	FCIT
7	Lori Swanson	Groundfish Forum
8	Julie Bonny / Heather McCarthy	AGDB / Island Seafoods
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NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

Staff tasking

Data collection – Concerns of PNCIAC

The Council requests a staff discussion paper reviewing the potential objectives for economic data collection and the structuring of data collection initiatives to achieve those objectives. The paper should address:

- (1) the potential for the data collection initiatives to directly inform relatively immediate, specific, and routine management questions and
- (2) less defined research initiatives that may have more indirect relevance to specific Council analyses and decisions.

The paper should draw information from the agency's data quality review of the Crab Economic Data Reports and PNCIAC's recent review of those data, as well as any information that may be derived from the Amendment 80 EDR process and the Chinook salmon bycatch data collection analysis. The paper should discuss the effectiveness of data collection in serving the various analytical and research needs before the Council, with a goal of assisting the Council in developing future data collection programs, setting collection and analytical priorities and making revisions to the crab Economic Data Reports.

Henderschedt/Cohen
passed unanimously



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Office Phone 206-284-2522
Fax 206-284-2902

NPFMC meeting
October 2009

October 9, 2009

*Public Testimony on Agenda item:
Staff Tasking*

**Catch Accounting in the BSAI and GOA Pacific Cod
Catcher Processor Hook and Line Fishery**

Chairman Olson,

Council members, thank you very much for your time here today and for your consideration of the various issues on the agenda.

My Name is Kenny Down and I am here today representing the Freezer Longline Coalition (FLC). The FLC represents a Washington and Alaska based and owned fleet with operations in the Bering Sea / Aleutian Islands as well as the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska. This is primarily a single species directed fishery fleet with a single prohibited species.

I am here today requesting the creation of a discussion paper to outline restructuring the current methods for catch accounting aboard the CP hook and line fleet while operating in the BSAI and GOA.

Going back to last year I have met with staff at NMFS in informal meetings and conversations to begin flushing out some of the details that would need to be considered to put forth a proposal to NMFS for a new catch accounting system in the CP hook-and-line fishery. These informal conversations led to two official meetings at the NMFS Alaska region offices in Juneau AK.

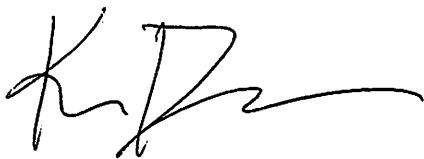
(over)

The first of these two meetings in July of this year focused on the need for, and the details of, a proposal brought forth by the members of the FLC. The meeting could best be described as "CP hook-and-line catch accounting workshop". The meeting lasted the majority of the day. Present at that meeting for NMFS were staff from inseason management, sustainable fisheries, catch accounting, observer program, enforcement, and general counsel. Many of the elements not included in the original proposal but necessary to move forward were identified. Both NMFS and the FLC committed to continue working on the issue in order to flush out remaining concerns.

The most recent meeting took place on September 24th of this year, again in Juneau. The same basic make up of personnel were again involved. At this meeting the FLC brought forth a more detailed catch accounting proposal including all of the elements that were identified in our first meeting and subsequent conversations. The end result of this meeting was that all present agreed that we had completed the process as far as we could at this stage. What was now needed was an overall proposal including all options and elements necessary for complete management and enforcement measures identified by both the FLC and NMFS. This complete package would need to be brought to the attention of the Council for possible further action. This request for a discussion paper is the first step in that direction.

Although several items remain to be flushed out, efforts are underway to get the answer to those details. Wherever possible, it is our vision that agreements will be reached between the FLC and NMFS to keep the process simplified and overall analysis limited. We have already gone a long way towards agreements to many of the needed details. The majority of options and elements have already been identified and hopefully the process of creating the discussion paper will not be overly labor intensive.

Thank you for your time, and consideration towards moving forward with this request and other tools that will allow and encourage continued sustainable fishing practices.



Kenny Down
Executive Director
Freezer Longline Coalition



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