

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Richard B. Lauber, Chairman
Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director



605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Telephone: (907) 271-2809

Fax: (907) 271-2817

Volume #4-98

NEWSLETTER

10/19/98

Visit our web site on the Internet! <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/npfmc.htm>

Council Completes October Meeting and Schedules Special November Meeting

The Council met October 7-12 at the DoubleTree Sea-Tac Hotel in Seattle and took final action on several amendments to the license limitation program (LLP), scheduled for implementation in January 2000. Details of these actions and other agenda items are inside. Two overarching issues flavored the October meeting and will be the primary subject of a special meeting to be held in November: (1) status of Steller sea lions, and potential implications to our fisheries, and (2) status of Senate Bill 1221 and its implications to our fishery management plans. We will also discuss total weight measurement issues related to SB 1221 and how the bill's provisions may impact the State of Alaska's management of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fisheries, as well as the Council's license limitation program. The Council will meet November 10-12, with the Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee meeting November 8-9. Please see attached agenda for details.

NMFS will be holding scoping sessions relative to Steller sea lion measures on October 23 at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle (7600 Sand Point Way NE, Bldg 4, Room 2039), and on October 26 in Anchorage at the Federal Building, 222 West 7th Ave., Room 154.

Council Leadership Continues

Once again Council members showed their appreciation of the leadership of Rick Lauber and Wally Pereyra as they re-elected them Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council for another year. Lauber, Vice President of Pacific Seafood Processors Association, appointed to the Council in early 1990, has served as Chairman since March 1991. This will be the fifth term as Vice-Chairman for Pereyra of ProFish International who was first appointed to the Council in August 1990.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

<i>Oct Meeting Highlights/Special Nov Mtg</i>	1
<i>Council Re-elects Lauber and Pereyra</i>	1
<i>AP/SSC Nominations Due</i>	2
<i>Observer Program</i>	2
<i>License Limitation Amendments</i>	3
<i>Crab Buyback Program</i>	4
<i>Community Development Quotas</i>	5
<i>Halibut and Sablefish IFQs</i>	5
<i>Initial 1999 GOA Groundfish Specs and SAFE</i>	6
<i>Initial 1999 BSAI Groundfish Specs and SAFE</i>	7
<i>Scallop License Limitation</i>	7
<i>Bycatch Management Committee</i>	7
<i>Chinook Salmon Bycatch</i>	8
<i>Status of BSAI Crab Stocks</i>	8
<i>Groundfish Amendments</i>	8
<i>Staff Tasking</i>	9
<i>Documents Available</i>	10
<i>Future Meeting Schedule</i>	10
<i>Specification Tables</i>	11
<i>Attachment 1 - November Meeting Agenda</i>	
<i>Attachment 2 - FMP Amendment Proposals</i>	
<i>Attachment 3 - 3-Meeting Outlook</i>	

Nominations Due for Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee

One-year terms of the Council's Advisory Panel (AP) and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) members expire in December. The SSC advises the Council on scientific and other technical matters relating to Council functions and the AP is composed of representatives of the major segments of the fishing industry and other interested parties, including recreational fisheries and the environmental community.

Resumes for persons who wish to be considered for these committees should be sent to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, to arrive no later than 5:00 p.m., November 20, 1998. Appointments will be announced at the conclusion of the Council's December meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska, and will become effective in January 1999. For more information, contact the Council office.

Observer Program

The Council was scheduled to discuss the future direction of the groundfish observer program at this meeting, but that discussion was postponed due to the length of the License Limitation Program discussions in October. Additionally, NMFS has recommended that these discussions be postponed until they complete a broad program review currently being planned. A public Observer Program Workshop was scheduled for November 12-13 as part of that review process, but has now been canceled due to the November Council meeting. We will alert the public and fishing industry when that Workshop is rescheduled.

The Council did however take action on a package of regulatory amendments to the existing pay-as-you-go program, as recommended by the Observer Advisory Committee (OAC). These will be developed for Council review in December, final action in February 1999, and implementation sometime in 1999. Included in this package are the following:

- *Establish regulations prohibiting contractors from distributing personal information (resumés, for example) on observers.
- *Establish minimum housing standards for observers at shore plants.
- *Limit an observer from having to cover more than one 100% plant, or more than two 30% plants, when pollock fisheries are being conducted.
- *Allow NMFS observer program staff to be employed at NMFS' discretion either in lieu of or in addition to the vessel's regular observer.
- *Revise shoreside coverage requirement to be based on weekly, as opposed to monthly, reporting period.
- *Clarify definition of a fishing day for pot vessels.

In addition, the OAC recommended that NMFS continue to work with the U.S. Coast Guard in developing an observer safety policy (particularly with regard to an observer's possible refusal to board a vessel for safety concerns). Council staff contact is Chris Oliver.

License Limitation Amendments

The Council took final action on several amendments to the crab and groundfish license limitation programs. If approved by the Secretary of Commerce, these amendments are expected to be in place for the 2000 fishing seasons, along with the other provisions of the license limitation programs (LLP) outlined in the Final Rule published October 1, 1998.

Adding Vessel Name to the License. The Council voted to develop a regulatory amendment which would add the name of the vessel to all groundfish and crab licenses. In addition, the Council restricted the number of times a license can be transferred during a calendar year to once. These actions were taken to strengthen the Council's previous actions that restrict the leasing of crab or groundfish licenses.

Restrict Transfers of Licenses Earned on Non-Federally Permitted Vessels. Licenses earned on vessels that did not hold a Federal Fisheries Permit prior to October 9, 1998 may be transferred only if the vessel originally assigned the license is transferred along with the license. If a vessel in this category is lost, the vessel may be replaced (subject to the upgrade provisions in the LLP program). However, the permit may be transferred only with the replacement vessel.

The Council also clarified that transfers of fishing histories and the subsequent licenses which would be issued as a result of those transfers that occurred after February 7, 1998 would be prohibited.

Add Gear Designations to the Groundfish LLP. Trawl, fixed, or all gear designations will be added to groundfish licenses based on the vessel's LLP landings history through June 17, 1995. Gear endorsements will apply to the overall license, and not each area endorsement. For example, a person applies an "all gear" license to a vessel. The license has area endorsements that were earned by using only pots in the Central Gulf and trawls in the Bering Sea. The "all gear" endorsement applies to the overall license, and allows the license holder to fish with any legal gear type in both the Central Gulf and the Bering Sea.

There are two ways to change the license gear designation based on landings which occurred after June 17, 1995. First, if a vessel made a landing with the new gear type (fixed/trawl) between June 18, 1995 and February 7, 1998 then the license recipient can choose either the fixed or trawl gear designation, but not both. The second way to change the license's gear designation is for the vessel owner to have made a "significant" financial investment toward the conversion of a vessel or the deployment of fishing gear on or before February 7, 1998 and making a landing on that vessel with the new gear type by December 31, 1998. This will allow the license recipient to choose which of the two gear endorsements (trawl or fixed, but not all) they will receive. A significant financial commitment is defined as a minimum purchase of \$100,000 worth of equipment specific to trawling or having acquired groundline, hooks or pots, and hauling equipment for the purpose of prosecuting the fixed gear fisheries on or by February 7, 1998.

Rescind the CDQ Vessel Exemption. The Council voted to rescind the CDQ vessel exemption, with grandfather rights to any vessel currently being built or operating in an existing CDP.

Add a Recent Participation Requirement to the Crab LLP. In order to reduce latent capacity in the BSAI crab fisheries, the Council voted to require that crab vessels must have made a landing during 1996, 1997, or on or before February 7, 1998 (one landing in any of the three years) in addition to the landing requirements under the original LLP, to qualify for the general license and species/area endorsements earned under the original LLP. This action reduces the overall number of eligible vessels in the fleet from 365 to 272, a 25% reduction in the fleet compared to the original LLP.

The following exemptions were also included under this provision:

1. Vessels with only a Norton Sound red and blue summer king crab endorsement.
2. All vessels that are less than 60' LOA and are qualified under the original LLP.
3. Vessels that made landings in the BSAI crab fishery in 1998, on or before February 7, 1998, and for which the owner acquires license limitation rights from a vessel that meets the general qualification period (GQP) and endorsement qualification period (EQP) landing requirements. The owner must have acquired the rights or entered into a contract to acquire the rights by 8:36 a.m. Pacific time on October 10, 1998.
4. A vessel that was lost or destroyed and which made a landing in the BSAI crab fishery at any time from the time when the vessel left the fishery through January 1, 2000. A vessel would be deemed to have met the recent participation criteria and would be granted a general license and all the species/area endorsements to which it was entitled under the original crab LLP.

The Council urged NMFS to implement the changes in the crab LLP as soon as possible (NMFS currently plans to implement the changes by the start of the 2000 fishing season). However, if it is not possible to have these amendments in place by 2000 and interim use permits are necessary, the Council recommended that NMFS have them mirror the permanent license as closely as possible for simplicity and consistency.

A discussion of Senate Bill 1221's impact on the number of vessels qualified to fish crab under LLP will be placed on the agenda at the special November Council meeting. The Council will determine if any further action is required and may schedule such action for a subsequent meeting.

Allow Limited Processing Upgrades for Catcher Vessels. The Council also voted to allow vessels less than 60' LOA, operating under a groundfish catcher vessel license in the Gulf of Alaska or Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, to process up to one metric ton of round fish per day. A provision to allow vessels 60' LOA or greater to process limited amounts of products was not included in this amendment. Staff contact is Darrell Brannan.

Crab Buyback Program

Following action on the crab LLP eligibility criteria, the Council once again reviewed and discussed the proposed crab permit buyback program. The Crab Reduction and Buyback (CRAB) Group has drafted a preliminary buyback business plan (BBP), pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Finalization of the specifics of that plan has been awaiting two things: (1) Council action on the eligibility requirements, which prescribes the number of LLP qualified vessels, and in turn affects the overall projected costs of the buyback plan to be supported by an industry fee (assuming 2/3 approval of an industry referendum to be conducted by the Secretary of Commerce), and (2) publication by NMFS of generic guidelines for all buyback plans nationwide.

The Council has now taken its action on LLP, as described above, and the guidelines are expected to be published by NMFS very soon. This fall, Council staff will work with the drafters of the BBP to address those guidelines and confirm the BBP's consistency with them and the FMP. Based on the Council's recent action, the BBP will no longer need to differentiate between two classes of crab licenses (an 'A' and 'B' license), so no FMP adjustment is required for that aspect. At this meeting, the Council took action to allow for the severability of a crab license from a groundfish license, solely for the purposes of accommodating buyback of the crab permit. No further FMP amendments appear to be necessary, and the BBP can now be finalized for Council review at the February 1999 meeting, and then submitted to the Secretary of Commerce.

Between now and February, staff will also be putting together an analysis of the BBP, to confirm that it addresses all of the provisions outlined in the guidelines. The Council will review this in February, after which time the buyback program can be forwarded to the Secretary. Submission will initiate the agency's role in the buyback

program, which will include an industry referendum and, if approved, implementation of the buyback. Council staff contact is Chris Oliver.

Community Development Quotas

The Council approved the State of Alaska's recommendations for 1999 allocations of pollock CDQs and five bycatch species (squid, arrowtooth flounder, other species, chinook salmon, and other salmon). Pollock CDQ allocations are listed in Table 1.

In addition, the Council approved analysis of three changes to the multispecies CDQ program for 2000. First, the program would be amended to: (1) establish CDQ and PSQ overage/underage provisions; (2) modify the squid specifications to allow a higher level of squid bycatch; (3) develop a framework for removing and adding species to the CDQ program; and (4) allow some species to be fished in common (pooled) by CDQ groups. This analysis is scheduled for initial review in February 1999. The second proposal would examine starting all CDQ trawl fisheries, except for pollock, on January 1 instead of January 20. This analysis would be available later in 1999. The third change would revise observer coverage requirements for CDQ deliveries to shoreside processing plants. The Council advised NMFS to revise the current regulations which require one observer to monitor each delivery of groundfish CDQ so that observer coverage requirements for deliveries of groundfish CDQs would be based on the amount of groundfish production in a month, as is required in the open access fisheries.

The Council also stated its intent that NMFS should move forward with a technical amendment to correct a reference in regulatory language at §679.31(d) that specified crab CDQ reserves by 'calendar' year, to allow the State of Alaska to more effectively manage the crab CDQ fisheries. As provided in the crab fishery management plan, the actual decision on whether to allow an early opening to the CDQ opilio fishery will be up to the Board of Fisheries.

Regarding a technical correction to remove the Area 4E halibut trip limit, the Council confirmed its intent to retain the 6,000 lb trip limit through September 1 each year. The Council recommended a waiver process, whereby any CDQ group unable to harvest its halibut CDQs in Area 4E with smaller vessels under the trip limit would be required to notify the other CDQ groups in the area, of its inability to catch its halibut allocation by August 15, and offer the unused quota to them. If there were no takers, then a waiver would be granted and the CDQ group would then be allowed to use larger vessels and exceed the trip limit after September 1.

The Council has also requested that NMFS staff work with the industry and other agency staff to address: (1) the availability of observers for the 1998 CDQ fishery and (2) the conflict in the IFQ and CDQ regulations between harvesting CDQ and IFQs together. Staff contact for CDQ issues is Jane DiCosimo.

Halibut and Sablefish IFOs

The Council took final action on four IFO amendments that will be implemented in time for the 1999 IFQ season.

- Action 1. FMP language will be revised to allow QS holders wishing to hire skippers to establish indirect vessel ownership through corporate ties.
- Action 2: FMP language will be revised to add language to the definition of "a change in the corporation or partnership" specific to estates.
- Action 3: Usage caps for fixed gear sablefish will be changed from percent to QS units based on 1996 QS units.

Action 4: QS holders will be allowed to provide NMFS/RAM with the name of an immediate family member as a beneficiary to whom the existing survivorship transfer privileges will be granted in the absence of a surviving spouse.

In a separate motion, the Council clarified that its intent with regard to partnerships was that, for freezer vessel QS, a partnership does not dissolve if an existing partner(s) buys out another partner.

The Council reviewed a proposal from NMFS Enforcement on a weighmaster program for IFQ fisheries. The Council adopted a recommendation from the Advisory Panel to refer enforcement issues identified in the weighmaster proposal to a joint meeting of a Enforcement Committee and IFQ Implementation Team subcommittee. The joint committee would be tasked with evaluating the following: (1) adequate compliance monitoring levels; (2) the potential for involving personnel from ADF&G, USCG, NMFS and the IPHC in achieving the compliance monitoring program; and (3) proposals to address the remaining enforcement needs at adequate compliance monitoring levels. Staff contact for IFQ amendments and the weighmaster program is Jane DiCosimo.

The Council received a report from NMFS staff on the IFQ cost recovery fee program, initiated under a mandate of the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996. NMFS requested that NMFS staff work cooperatively with ADF&G, processors and fishermen to develop a standardized fee collecting mechanism which will provide consistency between current fee collection programs, the IFQ fee, CDQ program, and potential future fee programs. The Council also requested that NMFS incorporate a mechanism to reflect actual (as opposed to standardized) prices, and an appeals process which allows fishermen to submit evidence regarding discrepancies between the standardized price and actual prices received. Staff contact for the fee recovery program is Chris Oliver.

Initial 1999 GOA Groundfish Specifications and SAFE

The Council has recommended rolling over all 1998 final specifications as initial specifications for 1999. These include overfishing levels, allowable biological catches, total allowable catches, prohibited species catches, and halibut discard mortality rates. The Council will recommend final specifications based on recommendations provided by the GOA Groundfish Plan Team in the final SAFE report. Initial 1999 specifications ABCs and TACs are listed in Table 2. Initial PSC limits for halibut are listed below.

Trawl gear			Hook and Line		
1st quarter	600 mt	(30%)	1st trimester	250 mt	(86%)
2nd quarter	400 mt	(20%)	2nd trimester	15 mt	(5%)
3rd quarter	600 mt	(30%)	3rd trimester	25 mt	(9%)
4th quarter	400 mt	(20%)	DSR	10 mt	
	2,000 mt			300 mt	

Trawl apportionments			
<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Shallow water</u>	<u>Deep water</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Complex</u>	<u>Complex</u>	
1	500 mt	100 mt	600 mt
2	100 mt	300 mt	400 mt
3	200 mt	400 mt	600 mt
4	No apportionment		400 mt

Initial 1999 BSAI Groundfish Specifications and SAFE

The Council reviewed the preliminary Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) document for the 1999 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) fisheries. This document contains revised assessments for groundfish stocks where new information was available. Based on this information, and input from its advisory bodies and the public, the Council recommended preliminary levels of ABC and Total Allowable Catch (TAC). These recommendations are presented in Table 3. With the exception of Bering Sea pollock, the interim catch specifications are the same as last year's specifications. The ABC and TAC for Bering Sea pollock were reduced to 1,035,000 mt to reflect new information about the status of this stock. Twenty-five percent of the initial specifications will go forward as interim specifications for management of the 1999 groundfish fisheries until superseded by publication of final specifications. Assessments for all stocks will be finalized by the groundfish plan team in November. On the basis of comments and new information, the Council will adopt final recommendations for the 1999 fishing year at its December meeting.

The Council also recommended preliminary bycatch allowances for Pacific halibut, herring, red king crab, and Tanner crab for 1999 (Table 4). These allowances will only be in place until the final recommendations of the Council in December are adopted by the Secretary of Commerce. Note that the preliminary PSC limit for C. opilio snow crab was apportioned among fisheries. Lastly, the Council recommended that standards for the Vessel Incentive Program (VIP) for the first two quarters of the 1999 Gulf and BSAI trawl fisheries be the same as last year's standards. Staff contact is David Witherell.

Scallop License Limitation

Amendment 4 has been proposed to establish a license limitation system for the scallop fishery to replace the Federal vessel moratorium, which is scheduled to expire in the year 2000. At the October meeting, the Council reviewed the analysis and released it for public review with minor modifications. Two additional alternatives were added to the four presented in the document. The first additional alternative would issue licenses to moratorium permit holders that made landings in 1996, 1997, or 1998 (through 10/9/98). Another alternative would issue licenses to moratorium permit holders that make legal landings in two of three years 1996-1998. The Council also clarified that licenses would be issued to current moratorium permit holders for those permits that were fished in the recent qualifying period. The problem statement was revised to reflect that additional participation or increased harvesting capacity may impose significant economic hardship to current participants. Given the small number of participants in the scallop fishery, the analysis will also explore options relative to confidentiality of information. Final action on this amendment is scheduled for February 1999. Staff contact is David Witherell.

Bycatch Management Committees

The Council is considering programs to control bycatch at the individual vessel level. Committee meetings have been held during the past year to evaluate three different proposals to reduce bycatch and equitably distribute the costs of controlling bycatch. The three proposals were to develop a Vessel Bycatch Accountability (VBA) Program, a Halibut Mortality Avoidance Program (HMAP) and an Individual Vessel Checklist Program (IVCP). The committees reported to the Council in October and provided several recommendations. Based on this input, the Council requested the committees to meet again and develop a pilot program for both VBA and HMAP for possible implementation next year. Elements of IVCP should be incorporated into these programs where applicable to improve monitoring and reduce bycatch. Staff contact is David Witherell.

Chinook Salmon Bycatch

The Magnuson-Stevens Act amendments emphasized the importance of bycatch effects on achieving sustainable fisheries. National Standard 9 mandates that conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable: (1) minimize bycatch; and (2) to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch. To comply with these provisions of the Act, the Council highlighted the need for additional bycatch management measures during the 1997 call for proposals, and initiated development of several of the proposals received.

One of the proposals approved for analysis was a proposal to lower the chinook salmon bycatch limits that trigger a closure of the Chinook Salmon Savings Areas in the Bering Sea. This proposal, submitted by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, identified that the current bycatch trigger of 48,000 chinook salmon is inadequate and does not reduce chinook salmon bycatch. Additionally, bycatch of chinook salmon after April 15 does not apply towards the PSC limit that triggers a closure.

In October, the Council reviewed a draft analysis that included alternatives to lower the trigger, and alternatives for hotspot area closures at the start of the fishing year. The Council released the document for public review with several analytical revisions suggested by the Scientific and Statistical Committee. A suboption of subdividing the trigger among pollock fisheries (shoreside, mothership, and offshore) and non-pollock fisheries was added for analysis. Final decision on this amendment is scheduled for February 1999. Staff contact is David Witherell.

Status of BSAI Crab Stocks

The big news for the crab fishery this year was Bristol Bay red king crab. A number of conservation measures implemented over the past few years, together with favorable environmental conditions, have resulted in improved survival of juvenile crabs. A large 1990 year-class has grown to spawning size and will recruit to the fishery over the next two years. The spawning stock has increased to a level above the rebuilding threshold, allowing the exploitation rate to be increased to 15%. The fishery will open on November 1 with a pre-season GHLL of 16.4 million pounds, which is about double last year's catch. The Council also requested that the crab Plan Team review the assessment model for red king crab at a future meeting.

The outlook for Tanner crab stocks is not so good. Although large male opilio crabs are currently in high abundance and this year's GHLL will be 196 million pounds, very few juvenile crabs were detected by the survey. As a result, catches of opilio are expected to decline dramatically over the next two years. The survey also indicated that adult bairdi crabs remain in very low abundance. Under the minimum stock size thresholds adopted under Amendment 7, the Bering Sea bairdi stock will be deemed overfished. To address this situation, the Council approved analysis of an aggressive rebuilding plan for this stock. The rebuilding plan will address all sources of crab mortality, as well as habitat protection. The Council will review the draft rebuilding plan when they meet jointly with the Alaska Board of Fisheries in February 1999. Staff contact is David Witherell.

Groundfish Amendments

Sablefish rolling closures. Because of the elimination of trawl fishery interactions and reduction in longline interactions due to the reordered survey sequence, and the uncertain effects of these interactions on the sablefish stock assessment, NMFS sablefish survey and assessment scientists recommended that rolling closures in the GOA and BSAI sablefish fisheries were not necessary.

GOA demersal shelf rockfish retention. The Council released for public review an analysis of retention of DSR in fixed gear fisheries. The Council added an option to Alternative 2 to require IFQ registered buyers to accept deliveries of rockfish and Pacific cod as a condition of their permit, and requested additional analytical work on prices and markets for DSR species. The analysis will be available by November 5.

GOA fair start amendment. The Council did not take up this action, as both the GOA Western/Central Gulf Committee and Advisory Panel tabled action on this issue.

Improved Retention/Improved Utilization. The Council released for public review an analysis of regulatory changes to the IR/IU program to: (1) allow discards of adulterated fish; (2) increase the maximum allowable roe percentage in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, (3) add additional product forms against which pollock roe may be retained (and add an option to delete meal as a primary product form against which to measure roe retention); and (4) clarify retention and utilization requirements for IR/IU species used as bait or consumed on board a vessel. This analysis will be available from the Council by November 5. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

Shark management. At the request of the joint Board of Fisheries/North Pacific Council committee, the Council initiated an analysis for shark management with the following alternatives:

- Alternative 1. Maintain the status quo and continue management under different commercial fishing regulations in state and federal waters.
- Alternative 2. Amendment of the Council's groundfish FMPs to separate sharks, skates, and rays from the "other groundfish" species category and enact specific federal regulations.
- Alternative 3. Amend the Council's FMPs to separate sharks, skates, and rays from the "other groundfish" species category and make explicit management deferrals to the state (as with demersal shelf rockfish).
- Alternative 4. Delete sharks from the Council's FMPs and allow management to defer to the state in federal waters (as with lingcod).

Staff contact for the above groundfish amendments is Jane DiCosimo.

Other Council Actions Related to Staff Tasking

In addition to the actions described above, the Council (under 'Staff Tasking') reviewed some 40 new proposals for regulatory or plan amendments which were received in this year's annual proposal cycle. The Council grouped these proposals into three categories: (1) those proposals which would be developed for Council consideration; (2) those which would definitely not be further developed at this time; and, (3) those which are on hold for the time being, pending resolution of SB 1221. Most of the proposals fall into this latter category. An abbreviated list of the proposals, numbered and grouped by various categories, is included as Attachment 2 to this newsletter. In summary, the Council specifically identified the following proposals for development by staff: # 17, 37, and 3 (these are primarily agency proposals related to management considerations, and will likely include #27 as well) and # 11, 12, 13, and 16 (these are related to further identification and protection of essential fish habitat).

The following proposals were specifically identified for no further development at this time: # 28, 29, and 34. The Council recommended that four proposals related to marine mammals concerns (15, 22, 23, and 24) be incorporated into NMFS' analysis of potential management measures needed to address concerns related to the status of Steller sea lions (the Council also recommended incorporation of relevant aspects of the inshore/offshore 3 analysis in that review). The remaining proposals are on hold and may or may not be approved by the Council for further development, pending discussions at the November meeting.

Council Documents Available for Public Review and Comment

- Preliminary 1999 GOA and BSAI Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Documents
- GOA Demersal Shelf Rockfish Retention - Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review (EA/RIR). Available by November 5.
- Improved Retention/Improved Utilization Amendments. EA/RIR available by November 5.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Tentative Meeting Schedules - 1998-99*

NOTE THAT THE COUNCIL HAS SCHEDULED A SPECIAL MEETING FOR NOVEMBER 8-12, 1998, IN ANCHORAGE. SEE DRAFT AGENDA ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER.

	February Week of/ Location	April Week of/ Location	June Week of/ Location	October Week of/ Location	December Week of/ Location
1998					7/Anchorage
1999	1/Anchorage	19/Anchorage	7/Kodiak	4/Seattle*	6/Anchorage

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

Tentative Meeting Dates for 2000-2002*

	February Week of/ Location	April Week of/ Location	June Week of/ Location	October Week of/ Location	December Week of/ Location
2000	7/Anchorage	10/Anchorage	5/Portland	2/Sitka	4/Anchorage
2001	5/Anchorage	9/Anchorage	4/Kodiak	1/Seattle	3/Anchorage
2002	4/Anchorage	8/Anchorage	3/Dutch Harbor	Sep 30/Seattle	2/Anchorage

Table 1

CDQ DATA BY GROUP

1999 Pollock CDQ Allocation Recommendations

Applicant Group	APICDA	BBEDC	CBSFA	CVRF	NSEDC	YDFDA
State of Alaska 1999 Recommendations	16%	21%	5%	22%	22%	14%
Allocation Requested	18%	22%	15%	27%	33%	17%
1996-98 Allocation	16%	20%	4%	25%	22%	13%
1994-95 Allocation	18%	20%	8%	27%	20%	7%
1992-93 Allocation	18%	20%	10%	27%	20%	5%
Number of Communities	6	14	1	17	15	4
# Community Residents	546	5,339	739	6,693	8,974	2,104
Business Partner	Trident/Starbound	Arctic Storm	American Seafoods	Tyson Seafoods/ Westward Seafoods	Glacier Fish Company	Golden Alaska Fisheries
Managing Organization	Board	Board	Board	Board	Board	Board
Projects for 1998-2000	Akutan Boat harbor Akutan Cod processing plant Akutan shoreside flatfish operation Atka storage operations Atka fisheries related projects Atka Fishing APS value added for halibut, sablefish & P.Cod False Pass processing plant False Pass small boat harbor Nelson Lagoon processing plant St. George - find Tract I tenants St. George - use SVAP to buy vessels St. George processing center St. George gear and vessel upgrade program St. George fishing Vessel Acquisition Program Real Time Data Acquisition School grants Purchase quota shares Quota Share Loan Guarantee program Product Diversification Program Scholarships	Outreach to region & public Regional Business Development Fund Research investment options Crab vessel #3 Pollock Catcher vessel Factory trawl Cold Storage / reprocessors Small longliner H&G Trawl C/P IFQs: Sablefish/Halibut Fish Broker Food Distribution HRS scholarship Project Regional Fisheries Development Project Investigate value added and under utilized species Resource surveys in Bristol Bay Regional Technical Assistance Infrastructure Development Regional Infrastructure Development Project Regional Business Development Project Regional Business Development Project Employment & Training Manage 4E halibut fishery Permit Brokerage service	Investments options Market opilio Crabber Freezer/longliner Factory Trawl Investigate sea urchins Utilize local fleet to catch cod Local boats to catch hair crab Local vessels in halibut fishery Real time/data tracking Increase Alaskan employment Outreach program Job fair Internships Employment Maintain local fleet facilities Develop local vessel repair facility Administer loan funds Fishermen's skill workshop on St. Paul Facilitate Jr. Achievement program on St. Paul Construct small boat harbor Substance abuse program	4-SITE Media outreach Quarterly newsletters Develop a regional talent/skill bank database Continuation of Employment, training programs with new companies Investigate investments Kuskokwim River salmon buying & processing plant Technical assistance to herring fishermen & halibut buying stations Joint ventures with region's herring fisheries Quinhagak salmon plant IFQ Assistance Seafood related business loans Tax & Permit Assistance Program Manage boats CVRF Development Plan	Funding for Equity Interest Vessel purchases Freezer longliner H&G Trawl Crabber Employment & Training Scholarships Outreach activities Internships Education Endowment IFQ purchases Fisheries Development Program Salmon Rehabilitation & Enhancement Project Shoreside Infrastructure Improvements CDQ Fees NSSP Small Business Development and Assistance Cooperative Seafood Marketing Norton Sound Vessel Management GFC	Vocational, Educational & Rehabilitative Training Program Internships Scholarships Employment Salmon, Herring Permit Buy-Back & ITQ Purchase Program Training Subsidy Continued Development of Shoreside Processing Operations Kotlik Buying Station, Sheldon Point Saltery Exploratory Fisheries Joint Ventures in Offshore Vessels Mothership Longliner H&G vessel Cold Storage Facility in Unalaska Support Development of Small Business Fisheries Infrastructure Establish a Reserve

Table 2

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH ABCs and TACs

Preliminary 1999 North Pacific Fishery Management Council Specifications (mt)

Species	Area	1998			1999			
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch*	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	W (61)		29,790	29,790	21,767		29,790	29,790
	C (62)	170,500	50,045	50,045	23,709	170,500	50,045	50,045
	C (63)		39,315	39,315	23,190		39,315	39,315
	E	15,600	10,850	5,580	6,363	15,600	10,850	5,580
	Total	186,100	130,000	124,730	75,029	186,100	130,000	124,730
Pacific Cod**	W		27,260	23,170	19,670		27,260	23,170
	C		49,080	41,720	38,429		49,080	41,720
	E		1,560	1,170	780		1,560	1,170
	Total	141,000	77,900	66,060	58,879	141,000	77,900	66,060
Flatfish, Deep Water	W		340	340	15		340	340
	C		3,690	3,690	2,272		3,690	3,690
	E		3,140	3,140	101		3,140	3,140
	Total	9,440	7,170	7,170	2,388	9,440	7,170	7,170
Rex Sole	W		1,190	1,190	435		1,190	1,190
	C		5,490	5,490	2,073		5,490	5,490
	E		2,470	2,470	34		2,470	2,470
	Total	11,920	9,150	9,150	2,542	11,920	9,150	9,150
Flatfish, Shallow Water	W		22,570	4,500	255		22,570	4,500
	C		19,260	12,950	2,621		19,260	12,950
	E		1,320	1,180	63		1,320	1,180
	Total	59,540	43,150	18,630	2,939	59,540	43,150	18,630
Flathead Sole	W		8,440	2,000	531		8,440	2,000
	C		15,630	5,000	1,048		15,630	5,000
	E		2,040	2,040	7		2,040	2,040
	Total	34,010	26,110	9,040	1,586	34,010	26,110	9,040
Arrowtooth	W		33,010	5,000	2,768		33,010	5,000
	C		149,640	25,000	8,373		149,640	25,000
	E		25,690	5,000	296		25,690	5,000
	Total	295,970	208,340	35,000	11,437	295,970	208,340	35,000
Sablefish	W		1,840	1,840	1,147		1,840	1,840
	C		6,320	6,320	4,854		6,320	6,320
	W. Yakutat		5,960	2,473	1,602		5,960	2,473
	E. Yak./SEO			3,487	2,369			3,487
	Total	23,450	14,120	14,120	9,972	23,450	14,120	14,120
Rockfish, Other Slope	W		20	20	44		20	20
	C		650	650	687		650	650
	E		4,590	1,500	104		4,590	1,500
	Total	7,560	5,260	2,170	835	7,560	5,260	2,170
Rockfish, Northern	W		840	840	65		840	840
	C		4,150	4,150	2,958		4,150	4,150
	E		10	10	10		10	10
	Total	9,420	5,000	5,000	3,033	9,420	5,000	5,000
Pacific Ocean Perch	W		1,810	1,810	815		1,810	1,810
	C		6,600	6,600	7,322		6,600	6,600
	E		4,410	2,366	606		4,410	2,366
	Total	18,090	12,820	10,776	8,743	18,090	12,820	10,776
Shortraker/Rougheye	W		160	160	109		160	160
	C		970	970	821		970	970
	E		460	460	526		460	460
	Total	2,740	1,590	1,590	1,456	2,740	1,590	1,590
Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf	W		620	620	59		620	620
	C		3,260	3,260	2,459		3,260	3,260
	E		1,000	1,000	553		1,000	1,000
	Total	8,040	4,880	4,880	4,880	8,040	4,880	4,880
Rockfish, Demersal Shelf	SEO	950	560	560	274	950	560	560
Atka Mackerel	Gulfwide	6,200	600	600	291	6,200	600	600
Thornyhead	W		250	250			250	250
	C		710	710			710	710
	E		1,040	1,040			1,040	1,040
	Total	2,840	2,000	2,000	189	2,840	2,000	2,000
Other Species	Gulfwide		NA	15,570	3,285		NA	15,570
GULF OF ALASKA	TOTAL	817,270	548,650	327,046	187,758	817,270	548,650	327,046

*catch through September 5, 1998.

**TAC reduced by 15% GHL for W/C state fishery apportionment; 25%, for EGOA

Table 3

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
Preliminary 1999 Catch Specifications (mt)

Species	Area	1999 OFL	1999 ABC	1999 TAC	1998 TAC
Pollock	EBS	2,060,000	1,035,000	1,035,000*	1,110,000
	"A" season			45%	45%
	"B" season			55%	55%
	AI	31,700	23,800	23,800	23,800
	Bogoslof	8,750	6,410	1,000	1,000
Pacific cod	BS/AI	336,000	210,000	210,000	210,000
Yellowfin sole	BS/AI	314,000	220,000	220,000	220,000
Greenland turbot	BS/AI	22,300	15,000	15,000	15,000
	BS			67%	67%
	AI			33%	33%
Arrowtooth	BS/AI	230,000	147,000	16,000	16,000
Rock sole	BS/AI	449,000	312,000	100,000	100,000
Flathead sole	BS/AI	190,000	132,000	100,000	100,000
Other flatfish	BS/AI	253,000	164,000	89,434	89,434
Sablefish	EBS	2,160	1,300	1,300	1,300
	AI	2,230	1,380	1,380	1,380
POP complex					
True POP	EBS	3,300	1,400	1,400	1,400
Other POP	EBS	356	267	267	267
True POP	AI	20,700	12,100	12,100	12,100
	Eastern		3,070	3,070	3,070
	Central		3,450	3,450	3,450
	Western		5,580	5,580	5,580
Sharp/Northern	AI	5,640	4,230	4,230	4,230
Short/Rougheye	AI	1,290	965	965	965
Other rockfish	EBS	492	369	369	369
	AI	913	685	685	685
Atka mackerel	AI	134,000	64,300	64,300	64,300
	Eastern		14,900	14,900	14,900
	Central		22,400	22,400	22,400
	Western		27,000	27,000	27,000
Squid	BS/AI	2,620	1,970	1,970	1,970
Other species	BS/AI	134,000	25,800	25,800	25,800
BS/AI TOTAL		4,202,451	2,379,976	1,925,000	2,000,000

EBS - eastern Bering Sea

OFL - overfishing level

BS/AI - Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands

ABC - acceptable biological catch

BS - Bering Sea

TAC - total allowable catch

AI - Aleutian Islands

* Note that the pollock ABC and TAC is based on initial stock assessment information, and this assessment will be revised. The final specification will likely be different.

Table 4

Preliminary 1999 BSAI Trawl Fisheries PSC

DRAFT

Apportionments and Seasonal Allowances -- Council Recommendations

Fishery Group	Halibut Mortality Cap (mt)	Herring (mt)	Red King Crab (animals) Zone 1	C. bairdi Zone 1	C. bairdi Zone 2	C. opilio COBLZ
Yellowfin sole	1,005	268	10,000	276,316	1,071,000	3,397,420
Rocksole/other flatfish	795	22	75,000*	296,052	357,000	837,720
Turbot/sablefish/ Arrowtooth	0				0	46,540
Rockfish	75	8			7,000	46,540
Pacific cod	1,550	22	7,500	148,224	195,000	139,620
Pollock/mackerel/o.species Pelagic Trawl Pollock	350	155 1,239	7,500	29,408	470,000	186,160
TOTAL	3,775	1,714	100,000	750,000	2,100,000	4,654,000

Note: unused PSC allowances may be rolled into the following seasonal apportionment.

* Red king crab PSC for the rock sole fishery is apportioned 10,000 inside 56 - 56o10' , and the rest outside.

Table 5

Preliminary 1999 BSAI Non-Trawl Fisheries PSC Bycatch Allowances and fixed gear Pacific cod seasonal apportionments

Fishery Group	Halibut Mortality (mt)	Seasonal Apportion of cod TAC (mt)
Pacific Cod	810	
Other Non-Trawl*	90	
Groundfish Pot	Exempt	
TOTAL	900 mt	99,068

Note: unused PSC halibut from first trimester will be rolled into the third trimester.

Any halibut PSC removed from the CDQ fisheries will be replaced from PSC apportioned from the third trimester.

* Includes hook & line fisheries for rockfish and Greenland turbot.

Sablefish hook & line fisheries will be exempted from the halibut mortality cap.

Jig gear will also be exempted from the halibut mortality cap.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Richard B. Lauber, Chairman
Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director

Telephone: (907) 271-2809



605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Fax: (907) 271-2817

October 19, 1998

DRAFT AGENDA

**135th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
November 10-12, 1998
Anchorage Hilton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska**

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will meet November 10-12, at the Downtown Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska to consider two agenda items:

- C-1 Senate Bill 1221: The Council will review the bill's provisions and their potential impacts on management of the groundfish and crab fisheries, the license limitation system, marine mammals, and NMFS enforcement and monitoring capabilities. The Council will consider tasking and the actions necessary to implement the bill's provisions.
- C-2 Steller Sea Lions: NMFS will report on the status of Steller sea lions and potential fisheries management implications. The Council may take emergency actions affecting the 1999 groundfish fisheries to mitigate potential fisheries impacts on sea lions.

The Advisory Panel will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 8, the Scientific and Statistical Committee at 1:00 p.m. on the 8th, and the Council will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 10.

All meetings will be held at the hotel, and all meetings except Council executive sessions are open to the public.

INFORMATION FOR PERSONS WISHING TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sign-up sheets are available at the registration table for those wishing to provide public comments on a specific agenda item. Sign-up must be completed before public comment begins on that agenda item. Additional names are generally not accepted after public comment has begun.

Submission of Written Comments. Any written comments and materials to be included in Council meeting materials must be received at the Council office **by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4**. Written and oral comments should include a statement of the source and date of information provided as well as a brief description of the background and interests of the person(s) submitting the statement. **Material received after the deadline will be placed in a special notebook for late materials, but will not be copied or included in meeting notebooks for this meeting. It is the submitter's responsibility to provide an adequate number of copies of comments after the deadline.** Materials provided during the meeting for distribution to Council members should be provided to the Council secretary. A minimum of 18 copies is needed to ensure that Council members, the executive director, NOAA General Counsel and the official meeting record each receive a copy. If you also wish copies to be made available for the Advisory Panel (23), Scientific and Statistical Committee (12), staff (10) or the public (50) after the pre-meeting deadline, they must also be provided by the submitter.

FOR THOSE WISHING TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE ADVISORY PANEL

The Advisory Panel has revised its operating guidelines to incorporate a strict time management approach to its meetings. Rules for testimony before the Advisory Panel have been developed which are similar to those used by the Council. Members of the public wishing to testify before the AP **must** sign up on the list for each topic listed on the agenda. Sign-up sheets are provided in a special notebook located at the back of the room. The deadline for registering to testify is when the agenda topic comes before the AP. The time available for individual and group testimony will be based on the number registered and determined by the AP Chairman. The AP may not take public testimony on items for which they will not be making recommendations to the Council.

FOR THOSE WISHING TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

The usual practice is for the SSC to call for public comment immediately following the staff presentation on each agenda item. In addition, the SSC will designate a time, normally at the beginning of the afternoon session on the first day of the SSC meeting, when members of the public will have the opportunity to present testimony on any agenda item. The Committee will discourage testimony that does not directly address the technical issues of concern to the SSC, and presentations lasting more than ten minutes will require prior approval from the Chair.

COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

ABC	Acceptable Biological Catch	MSFCMA	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
AP	Advisory Panel	MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
ADF&G	Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game	MRB	Maximum Retainable Bycatch
BSAI	Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands	MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
CDQ	Community Development Quota	mt	Metric tons
CRP	Comprehensive Rationalization Program	NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
CVOA	Catcher Vessel Operational Area	NOAA	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Adm.
EA/RIR	Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review	NPFMC	North Pacific Fishery Management Council
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	OY	Optimum Yield
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat	POP	Pacific ocean perch
FMP	Fishery Management Plan	PSC	Prohibited Species Catch
GOA	Gulf of Alaska	SAFE	Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Document
HAPC	Habitat Areas of Particular Concern	SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee
IBQ	Individual Bycatch Quota	TAC	Total Allowable Catch
IFQ	Individual Fishing Quota	VBA	Vessel Bycatch Accounting
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission	VIP	Vessel Incentive Program
IRFA	Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis		
IRIU	Improved Retention/Improved Utilization		
ITAC	Initial Total Allowable Catch		

	SSC	AP	Council
Sunday, November 8		8:00am C-1 SB 1221 Provisions	
	1:00pm C-2 Marine Mammal Measures	1:00pm C-1, continued	
Monday, November 9	8:00am C-2, continued	8:00am C-2 Marine Mammal Measures	
	1:00pm Continue as necessary	1:00 pm C-2, continued	
Tuesday, November 10			8:00am Call to order C-1 SB 1221 Provisions
			12:00 Lunch
			1:00pm C-1, continued
Wednesday, November 11			8:00am C-1, continued
			12:00 Lunch
			1:00pm C-2 Marine Mammal Measures
Thursday, November 12			8:00am C-2, continued
			12:00 Lunch
			1:00pm C-2, continued
Friday, November 13			8:00 am Continue if necessary

Groundfish Plan Team review of 1998 amendment proposals received through September 11							
No.	Proposal	Proposer	Area	Amendment	Effect*	Rank	Time
Groundfish Bycatch Management							
6	prohibit the use of IR/TU species as fishmeal as a primary product	Groundfish F	both	plan	B	M	L
14	decrease PSCs by 5, 7.5, or 10% annually over 5 years	AMCC	both	regulatory	B	M/L	
17	require retention of shorttraker/rougheye rockfish bycatch in IFQ fisheries	ALFA	GOA	regulatory	C	H	L
26	donate proceeds of trawl halibut for research; prohibit non-pelagic trawling	GOA CCC	GOA	regulatory	A	L	L
27	ensure prohibited species bycatch mortality is assigned to correct target	NMFS/AKRO	both	regulatory	E	H	L
37	reduce MRB for SR/RE and thornyhead rockfish to 7%	NMFS/AKRO	GOA	regulatory	B	H	M/H
39	avoid closure of CDQ pollock fishery from bycatch of squid, 'other species'	CDQ Comte.	BSAI	plan	E	H	L
Crab Bycatch Management							
3	extend State water ban on non-pelagic trawling in Cook Inlet to EEZ	ADF&G	GOA	regulatory	C	H	
7	create additional trawl closure areas due to high opilio bycatch rates	Hillstrand (2)	BSAI	plan	B	L	M
8	create additional trawl closure areas due to high bairdi bycatch rates	Hillstrand (2)	BSAI	plan	B	L	M
9	subdivide crab zones 1 & 2 and red king, tanner and snow crab PSCs	Hillstrand (2)	BSAI	plan	B	L	M
10	create Bristol Bay closed area to tanner & bairdi trawls & scallop dredge	D. Hillstrand	BSAI	plan	B	L	M
28	count PSC crab by weight instead of numbers	fraser	BSAI	plan	B	M/H	
LLP amendments/Capacity Reduction							
4	amend LLP to create species endorsements for target fisheries	Groundfish F	BSAI	plan	A	L	M
29	amend LLP/allow use of mid-water trawls E of 140 W in rockfish&pollock	fraser	GOA	plan	A	M/H	
30	develop comprehensive IFQ program for groundfish and crab	fraser	both	plan	E	H	
34	amend the LLP to create species endorsements for the pollock fishery	fraser	both	plan	A	L	M
35	develop options for a permit buyback program for BSAI crab fisheries	Blue	Crab	plan	E	P	
Observer Program changes							
1	adjust observer requirements for vessels > 60 ft in IFQ program	FVOA	both	regulatory	E	L	L
2	adjust observer requirements in trawl fisheries	AGDB	both	regulatory	E	L	L
GOA pollock and Pacific cod management							
20	adjust CGOA pollock trimester allocation to: 37.5 (min.)/25 (max.)/37.5 %	AGDB	GOA	regulatory	E	P	
21	limit delivery&processing of trawl-caught groundfish within Areas 620-640	AGDB	GOA	regulatory	A, E	L	
32	limit catcher vessels in CGOA pollock fisheries to <125 ft	ADA	GOA	plan?	A	L	
33	synchronize Central GOA (620-630) pollock openings with BSAI openings	ADA	both	regulatory	A	P	
Other Fishery Management							
5	start third quarter trawl fisheries on first Sunday after July 4	Groundfish F	both	regulatory	E	H	L
18	allocate sablefish: 95% to fixed gear, 5% to trawl gear	Clipper Sfd.	BSAI	plan	A	L	
25	framework season starts in fixed gear Pacific cod fishery	NPLA	BSAI	plan	E	L	
38	start CDQ trawl fisheries on January 1	CDQ Comte.	BSAI	plan	E	L	
Habitat Areas of Particular Concern							
11	identify locations of living substrate in shallow and deep water	AMCC	both	plan	H	H	M
12	analyze seamounts/pinnacles, ice edge, shelf breaks, etc. for HAPC desig.	AMCC	both	plan	H	H	H
13	establish framework procedure to assess impacts on specific HAPC sites	AMCC	both	plan	H	H	M/H
16	designate three specific places as HAPC	AMCC	both	plan	H	H	M/H
19	establish a no fishing zone to protect bairdi crab critical habitat	J. Steele	BSAI	plan	H	L	
31	establish process to identify HAPC for red king crab and c. bairdi in Kodiak	UFMA	GOA	plan	H	M/H	
Marine Mammal Concerns							
15	limit percent allocation, temporal closures, etc. in pollock 'A' season	AMCC	BSAI	regulatory	B	P	
22	extend application of trawl exclusion zones and reduce pollock TAC	Gpeace/AOC	GOA	plan	B	P	
23	seasonal/area closures, yr-round CVOA, close AI, reduce pollock TAC	Gpeace/AOC	BSAI	plan	B	P	
24	extend application of trawl exclusion zones to protect Steller sea lions	Gpeace/AOC	BSAI	plan	B	P	
Essential Fish Habitat							
36	spread bycatch discards over wide area to eliminate bottom putrification	N. Hillstrand	both	regulatory	B	L	

A=allocation, B=bycatch reduction, C=conservation, E=efficiency, H=Habitat Area of Particular Concern, P=in progress, NA=not applicable

NPFMC: Three Meeting Outlook*

November '98 8/Anchorage	December '98 7/Anchorage	February '99 1/Anchorage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 1221: Report and staff tasking • Steller Sea Lions: Report from NMFS and action as necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP/SSC Memberships • IFQ/CDQ Fee Program: Status Report • SB 1221: Action as necessary • Halibut Charter GHL: Staff Report • Steller Sea Lions: Action as necessary • Groundfish SEIS: Report • BSAI/GOA Groundfish Specifications: <i>Final Action</i> • Pollock/Yellowfin Sole Scales & Bins: Report • Total Weight Measurement: Report • Observer Regulatory Amendments: <i>Initial Review</i> • IRTU Amendment: <i>Final Action</i> • IRTU Performance Report • GOA DSR Rockfish Retention: <i>Final Action</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halibut Subsistence: Discussion • IFQ/CDQ Fee Program: Status Report • IFQ Weighmaster Program: Status Report • Research Priorities • SB 1221: Action as necessary • Halibut Charter GHL Measures: <i>Initial Review</i> • Chinook Salmon Bycatch: <i>Final Action</i> • VBA/HMAP Pilot Programs: Action as necessary • Observer Program: Discuss overall direction • Observer Regulatory Amendments: <i>Final Action</i> • IRTU Report to Secretary • Social Economic Data: Status Report • Crab Vessel Buyback: <i>Final Action</i> • SR/RE retention in IFQ fisheries: <i>Initial Review</i> • SR/RE/Thornyhead MRB Reduction: <i>Initial Review</i> • Assigning PSC to Correct Target Species: <i>Initial Review</i> • Cook Inlet Non-Pelagic Trawl Ban: <i>Initial Review</i> • MS CDQ Amendments: <i>Initial Review</i> • Scallop Limited Entry: <i>Final Action</i> • Bairdi Rebuilding Plan: <i>Initial Review</i> • Ecosystems Management: NRC Report • Habitat Amendments: Status Report
		Joint Council/Alaska Board of Fisheries Meeting

* Note: This tentative timeline will be updated periodically, particularly after each Council meeting, as the Council works through its decision process.
 MRB = maximum retainable bycatch; ATF = arrowtooth flounder; SRRE = shortraker/rougheye rockfish; GHL = guideline harvest level
 DSR = demersal shelf rockfish; HMAP = Halibut Mortality Avoidance Program; IVCP = Individual Vessel Checklist Program
 MS CDQ = Multi-species Community Development Quota