



B1 Executive Director's Report

December 2018

Action Memo

Staff News

I am pleased to announce that Ms. Anna Henry has been hired on as a Fishery Analyst. Ms. Henry has Master of Science degrees in Marine Biology and Marine Policy from the University of Maine. She brings to this position an interdisciplinary background in quantitative research and analysis, and has experience conducting economic and social science research to assess impacts of fishery management regulations. She has worked as an economist and social scientist for the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, worked as the manager for the International Pacific Halibut Commission longline survey, and also worked as a fishery observer on the West Coast. Welcome to the staff Anna!

I am also very pleased to announce that Dr. Diana Stram has been promoted to a Senior Scientist position. In this position, she will serve in a leadership role, providing scientific guidance and coordination, as well as taking on other substantial new duties. With this change, I have re-assigned some of Diana's current duties, and have made other tasking changes. Beginning in 2019, Jim Armstrong will take over as BSAI Crab Plan Team coordinator, Steve MacLean will take over as BSAI Groundfish Plan Team coordinator, and Sara Cleaver will take on GOA Groundfish Plan Team coordinator responsibilities.

Plan Team Nominations

NMFS Alaska Region has nominated Dr. Anne Marie Eich to serve on the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team, replacing Ms. Brandee Gerke. Dr. Eich is the head of the Ecosystem Branch of the Sustainable Fisheries Division at the Alaska Regional Office, and has previously served as the Alaska Region lead for seabird/fisheries interactions. The nomination letter with her resume is **attached**.

ADF&G has nominated Dr. Jim Fall to serve on the Social Science Planning Team, to fill an ADF&G seat reserved by the Council in October 2018. Dr. Fall is the Statewide Program Manager for the Division of Subsistence, where he plans, organizes, and monitors ADF&G's social science research relative to subsistence hunting and fishing in Alaska communities. He holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin. His resume is **attached**. SSPT membership is also discussed under Agenda Item D-8.

NMFS AFSC has nominated Mr. Andrew Kingham to serve on the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team, as a permanent replacement for the interim appointment of Ms. Jennifer Cahalan. Mr. Kingham is a Research Fishery Analyst in the AFSC Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division, bringing in-depth experience with the North Pacific Observer Program and emerging Electronic Monitoring programs. The nomination letter and resume are **attached**.

The SSC will review and provide recommendations on these candidates and the Council will review the nominations in Executive Session on Saturday.

AP, SSC, and PNCIAC Nominations

The Council issued a call for nominations for membership on the Advisory Panel (AP), Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), and the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC). The deadline for all nominations was noon on November 30. The Council will discuss these nominations in Executive Session on Saturday, and membership will be announced by Chairman Kinneen just prior to when the Council meeting adjourns.

SSC members serve 1-year terms, and all current members except Bob Clark (who is retiring from ADF&G) requested reappointment. AP members serve 3-year terms, with about 1/3 of the AP seats up for appointment each year. I will post a **list of nominees** when I provide the B-1 report during the meeting.

A nominations letter covering all PNCIAC nominations received is **attached**. Dale Schwarzmiller and Gary Stewart have stepped down, and new members nominated are Edward Paulsen and Mike Simpson. Jamie Goen has been nominated to take over for Tyson Fick as non-voting Secretary.

NMFS seeking nominations for the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC)

NMFS is seeking nominations to fill vacancies on the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC). MAFAC advises the Secretary of Commerce on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce, and MAFAC members represent a wide spectrum of fishery-related interests. A MAFAC member cannot be a Federal employee, a member of a Regional Fishery Management Council, a registered Federal lobbyist, or a State employee. Membership is voluntary, and except for reimbursable travel and related expenses, service is without pay. Full nomination instructions and guidelines are detailed in the [Federal Register notice](#) and on this [MAFAC webpage](#).

Recent Staff/Council activities

On October 15-16, Diana Evans and a few council members (Mr. Tweit, Ms. Peterson, Mr. Cross) attended the final Fishery Leadership and Sustainability Forum in Monterey, CA. There has been interest in maintaining some type of council coordination and education in the future, and proposals are being developed for CCC consideration. I have **attached** Diana's notes on how we might build upon the success of the Fisheries Forum and how we can implement some of the ideas that were discussed at the last forum. Any feedback that you wish to provide me on these ideas is appreciated.

On October 30, I attended a meeting of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute seafood certification working group, which is seeking to improve seafood certification evaluations and outcomes for Alaska fisheries.

Mr. Cross participated as a member of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB) meeting in Seattle on October 22-25. The MSAB process is a stakeholder informed, scientifically driven process to assist the IPHC with defining clear measurable objectives and performance measures for the fishery, defining candidate management strategies, and advising IPHC staff on plausible scenarios for investigation.

On November 7-8, Diana Evans participated in the Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee annual meeting. The Advisory Committee met to review the work and operations of Alaska Sea Grant, discuss upcoming initiatives, and seek input on ongoing and emerging issues, Alaska Sea Grant's role in coastal resilience and climate change, and communication strategies. Sara Cleaver gave a presentation to the Committee on her experience as an Alaska Sea Grant fellow.

On November 12, Andy Mezirow represented the Council at the North Pacific Research Board's Executive Committee meeting.

On November 27-28, Sarah Marrinan and I attended the IPHC interim meeting in Seattle, and provided an update on Council management actions. My written report is available [here](#).¹

On November 29-30, I attended a meeting of the eight Regional Fishery Management Council Executive Directors in San Diego, CA, where we discussed CCC meeting planning and discussed strategies to address administrative issues (budgets, insurance, 508 compliance, job classifications, performance evaluations, strategic planning, and other issues).

Committee Meetings

Joint Protocol Committee - The Council/Alaska Board of Fisheries Joint Protocol Committee met in the Egan Center on October 17 to discuss issues of joint concern regarding salmon and Bering Sea cod management. Presentations were made by ADF&G and Council staff (Diana Stram, Jon McCracken, and Jim Armstrong), and committee members asked questions and highlighted important issues. While much of the discussion involved Pacific cod allocation issues, Board members and ADF&G staff also conveyed the following information to the Council:

- The BOF will begin its formal review of the Upper Cook Inlet finfish regulations starting this winter and culminating in a meeting February 2020.
- Stock status is poor for many of the 34 known Chinook stocks in SE Alaska, with four Chinook stocks of concern (Chilkat, Stikine, Unuk, and King Salmon rivers). Action plans developed by the BOF in February 2018 substantially curtailed harvest on these stocks, with significant restrictions to harvest by all users.
- Members found the Joint Protocol Committee meeting useful and informative.

A meeting summary can be found [here](#).²

Halibut Charter Management Committee - On October 30, the Halibut Charter Management Committee met by teleconference to review the projected 2018 total charter harvest and identify potential management measures for analysis. They will meet again on December 3rd, and the Committee's reports will be provided under Agenda Item C1.

Electronic Monitoring Committee – The EM Committee met on November 19-20 in Seattle to receive staff updates and reports and review a cooperative research plan for EM on trawl vessels. The Committee's report will be provided under Agenda Item D4.

FMAC Partial Coverage Subgroup – The Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC) partial coverage subgroup met November 19 in Seattle to address the Council's request, from October 2018, to develop additional recommendations for how to potentially lower costs and increase observer coverage rates in the partial coverage category while maintaining: the data sufficient for managing the fisheries; randomized deployment; and cost equity considerations among participants. The FMAC subgroup will provide a formal report to the FMAC and the Council at the February 2019 meeting.

Ecosystem Committee - On November 27, the Ecosystem Committee met by teleconference to review and provide recommendations on the final draft Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan. The Committee report will be provided under Agenda Item C4.

¹ <https://iphc.int/uploads/pdf/im/2018im/iphc-2018-im094-ar03.pdf><https://iphc.int/uploads/pdf/im/2018im/iphc-2018-im094-ar03.pdf>

² <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2018-2019/jp/soa.pdf>

Halibut ABM Stakeholder Committee - In October, the Council moved to form a stakeholder committee that will provide recommendations for the ABM scenarios to be analyzed in the draft EIS/RIR analysis. The Committee will also provide recommendations on measurable objectives and associated performance metrics to be considered by analysts in evaluating trade-offs amongst alternatives. The Committee is chaired by Mr. Mezirow, and the composition of the committee includes a range of interested stakeholders from both the directed BSAI groundfish and directed Area 4 halibut fisheries. Members include: Simeon Swetzof, Heather McCarty, Angel Drobnica, Bob Alverson, Chad See, Ruth Christiansen, Chris Woodley, and Arne Fuglvog.

The Council directed the committee to provide recommendations prior to the February 2019 Council meeting. An initial meeting of the Committee was held on Thursday, November 29 by teleconference, to review the terms of reference and schedule for the committee meetings. The Committee Chairman (Mr. Mezirow) will provide the Council with a progress report on the meeting.

Events this week

On Monday, from 1-5 pm, the Charter Halibut Management Committee will meet to make recommendations on management measures for the 2019 fisheries in areas 2C and 3A.

On Tuesday, the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee will meet from 8 am - 5 pm to review the salmon discussion paper and provide recommendations on development of measures to be evaluated in the Salmon FMP analysis.

Also on Tuesday, the Enforcement Committee will be meeting from 1-4 pm to review their Enforcement Precepts paper and the Terms of Reference for the Committee.

On Thursday evening, from 6-8:30 pm, the Pacific Seafood Processors Association is hosting a seafood dinner event at the Anchorage museum to raise money to fight hunger. The event, "Toast to the Coast- An Event to End Hunger," is presented by PSPA for Bean's Cafe and The Children's Lunchbox. Additional information and tickets can be found [here](#).³

On Saturday at 3 pm, we have an Executive Session to review appointments to the Plan Teams, AP, SSC, and PNCIAC, and address administrative issues.

Amendment 80 report on halibut avoidance

In 2015, the Council requested that Amendment 80 cooperatives report on halibut PSC avoidance plans and their performance under those plans. The cooperatives provided a follow-up report in 2016 and 2017, and have volunteered to provide another report this year. Because all sector members have worked closely in halibut avoidance efforts in recent years, a single consolidated report for the sector is posted to the agenda. Representatives from the cooperatives (Dr. Mark Fina, Ms. Beth Concepcion, and Mr. John Gauvin) will be here to provide a summary of their halibut avoidance plans and performance, and be available to answer questions.

³ <https://myalaskatix.com/events/toast-to-the-coast--beans-cafe-and-the-childrens-lunchbox>