

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Adak Fisheries Report

As directed in the Council's motion approving the Adak pollock fishery, the Aleut Enterprise, LLC has submitted a report on the 2005 and 2006 fisheries (Item B-1(a)). A representative from Aleut Enterprise, LLC is on hand to provide the Council with an overview of this fisheries report.

MMS 5-year lease plan

Item B-1(b) contains the FEDERAL REGISTER notice for comment on the 5-year lease plan from the Minerals Management Service (MMS), including that proposed for the Northern Aleutian Basin. We have received reports on this previously, but now the formal comment period is open on the leasing program and the attendant EIS. That comment period closes November 22 (for the EIS) and November 24 for the plan itself. Also attached is a recent powerpoint presentation from Mr. Paul Stang, which was provided to the Alaska Marine Ecosystems Forum. I did not anticipate that the Council would have specific comment on this plan, but wanted to make sure interested persons were aware of the comment period and had some of the basic information.

State Department Representative

Mr. Kevin Riddle is here representing the U.S. State Department, and he will have a report for the Council at this meeting. Mr. Stetson Tinkham, long-time Council representative from the State Department, is retiring this year. (Item B-1(c)) is a letter I wrote at the request of the State Department, to be read at his retirement party later this month, along with other letters from many of his colleagues. I wanted to recognize Stetson's many years of service in the arena of national and international fisheries issues.

MSA reauthorization

Since June I, along with various other regional Council representatives, NOAA personnel, and other organizations, have continued to interact with various Congressional staff on some of the key issues with regard to possible reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). These include the LAP provisions, the provisions for setting annual catch limits, the observer funding provisions, and last but not least, the NEPA provisions. Much of the discussions have been on how the various existing provisions, in both the Senate and House bills, would be interpreted and what the impacts would be to our processes. Unfortunately I cannot report that we have obtained crystalline clarity with regard to some of these provisions, nor can I tell you whether and when a bill might actually come to pass. Stay tuned. The Council Chairs/Vice-Chairs and Executive Directors (CCED) will be meeting the last week of October in Washington, D.C., along with NOAA leadership, in conjunction with new Council member orientation and training being hosted by NOAA Fisheries (draft agendas attached as Item B-1(d)). At that time we will once again wrestle with some of these issues, as well as discuss some of the new provisions in HB 5018 which came out over the summer.

Council Reference Manual

We are working on an updated reference manual for Council, SSC, and AP members which will contain contact information, policies, SOPPs, forms, conduct guidelines, and various other administrative tidbits. We hope to have that completed and out to you shortly after this meeting.

UAF IGERT Program

Just because we all need a new acronym...actually, I really wanted to update you on recent efforts going on within the University of Alaska to elevate its fisheries programs, including the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program (IGERT). I submitted a letter (Item B-1(e)) expressing continued support for this program, which includes direct participation of students in Council processes, and includes the possibility of hosting graduate interns in the Council offices. NOAA Fisheries and other State and Federal agencies are also collaborating in this program.

Staff news

Dr. Diana Stram is back at work after taking some maternity leave – her and husband Sparky Anderson gave birth to a 6 lb. 9 oz. lb baby girl (Kea Elizabeth) on June 15. Congratulations Diana and glad to have you back!

Our database guru Elaine Dinneford has decided to retire next spring after a long career in North Pacific fisheries. She worked for twenty years at the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission before coming to the Council in 1999. She has been an incredible behind-the-scenes asset to the Council staff and her departure will leave a huge gap not only in our staff, but in the whole Alaska fisheries management arena. We are recruiting for a replacement, who will continue to work with AKFIN, NMFS, ADF&G, and other State and Federal agencies to provide us with the best information available to underpin management decisions. The Data Manager/Analyst position announcement has been distributed widely, and closes on October 20 (Item B-1(f)).

Alaska Business Monthly

We have been invited to submit an article on fisheries management, both national and Alaska perspectives, to the December issue of Alaska Business Monthly. I am collaborating with Ms. Madsen to put together such an article, so look for it in the December issue.

Other events this week

ADF&G is hosting their annual meeting with the crab industry tonight at 6pm in the Shishaldin Room. There is also a seafood buffet tonight from 6:30 to 8:30 pm here at the Grand Aleutian, and tomorrow night is the City of Unalaska welcoming reception from 6 to 8 pm, also here in the hotel. Saturday night at the Unalaska High School there is a free swim and sauna from 6 to 8 pm, and shuttles will be available to and from the hotel.

30th Anniversary Celebration

Planning on the 30th Anniversary celebration of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, indeed the entire Council process and the Magnuson-Stevens Act, is progressing nicely. Recall that is planned for Saturday evening, December 9th, in conjunction with our December Council meeting. Item B-1(g) is a draft program, along with a requisite registration form. Council, AP, and SSC members who will be attending do not have to register (you will be assumed unless you tell us otherwise), but any guests must be registered and paid per the instructions on the form!



September 19, 2006

RECEIVED

SEP 21 2006

N.P.F.M.C.

Stephanie Madsen, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Re: 2006 Report to the NPFMC on AI Pollock Allocation

Dear Ms. Madsen:

I am writing on behalf of Aleut Enterprise, LLC and as the manager of the AI pollock allocation to The Aleut Corporation. As you know, in 2004 Congress awarded the Aleutian Island pollock allocation to The Aleut Corporation. The intent of the allocation is for the economic development of Adak, which is greatly needed.

The Council requested an annual report to include the following:

- Harvest success
- Development of a small vessel fleet
- Progress toward completion of pollock processing capacity

I. Harvest Success

The first AI directed fishery occurred in March 2005 with a total of 94 MT harvested.
(see attached tables of harvest by vessel)

The only pollock harvest to date during the 2006 season was conducted under an Exempted Fishing Permit. That harvest totaled just under 1000 MT.
(see attached report)

To date, just over 1000MT tons of the possible 30,000 MT have been harvested during the 2005 and 2006 seasons.

I believe this dismal catch effort is due to two major factors:

- 1) The closure to pollock fishing inside the SSL CH in the AI.
 - The AI is the only area where 100% of CH is closed to pollock fishing.

- In the BS roughly 50% of the pollock harvest occurs in 30% of CH that remains open to pollock fishing.
- In the GOA roughly 75% of the harvest occurs in the 36% of CH that remains open to pollock fishing.
- In contrast to the BS or GOA, the vast majority of the depth strata where pollock aggregate are inside CH in the AI.

2) The fact that the potential AFA participants “need not apply.”

- The rollover provision assures that all AI pollock that is not harvested goes to the AFA vessels in BS.

AEC has sent repeated invitations to all of the AFA cooperatives asking vessels to participate in the harvest of AI pollock to no avail. It is clear that future harvest success is dependent on modification of the SSL mitigation measures.

The Steller Sea Lion measures closed all critical habitat (CH) in the Aleutians to pollock fishing. The NPFMC in June 2004 set a harvest level of 19,000 MT for 2005 and 2006 and directed us to work with the SSL Mitigation Committee to find areas to fish within CH as long as it did not require a Section 7 formal consultation.

We put a proposal together for the meeting in July 2004 and received NMFS initial determination that the proposal would require a formal Section 7 consultation. The agency did not determine that the proposal would cause jeopardy. We provided a revised proposal that included mitigating measures to alleviate the agencies concerns. The proposal would have opened two CH areas representing less than 5% of total CH in AI and incorporated potential mitigating measures (effort level, coop research, etc.)

The development of our proposal was to satisfy three criteria:

- 1) Fish within a reasonable running time of Adak
- 2) Fish areas that are safe using the islands for shelter and,
- 3) Fish areas with a history of viable pollock CPUE

After further consideration by the SSLMC during 2004, it was concluded that any opening of CH in the AI would still require a Section 7 formal consultation, even with modifications to the proposal. The Council instructed the SSLMC not to pursue further consideration of any proposal that would require formal consultation, and delayed further consideration until the proposal could be folded into new Biological Opinion.

We have continued to work with the SSLMC and have submitted a set of alternative proposals for their consideration in the ongoing re-consultation process.

II. Development of a Small Vessel Fleet

There are two aspects to developing a small vessel fleet. One is providing the supporting infrastructure; the other is providing a range of fishing opportunities throughout the year.

A big part of our plans is to increase the small boat activity to encourage more people to live in Adak. We have been working with the City of Adak, which has completed phase I of the small boat harbor expansion. The city has invested 3.5 million dollars in the first phase. They are planning to start phase II

of the small boat harbor project when funding becomes available this fall with an additional 5 million dollars.

There are currently just a few resident small boat commercial fixed gear fishermen who make Adak their home though they do not presently fish for pollock.

Several <60' trawl vessels have fished for cod in the parallel A season trawl fishery. They have expressed interest in participating in the pollock fishery, but only when there is reasonable access to portions of SSL CH. An effort is underway to bring <60' vessels to Adak for future cod and pollock fishing.

III. Pollock Processing Capacity

The Adak Fisheries shoreside plant has undergone several improvements since the Council took action on Amendment 82 in 2004. New capital investment in the plant during that period has been in excess of \$6,000,000. These capital investments include:

- New cold storage facility
- New freezing capacity
- New Bader 220 pollock machines

Current pollock processing capacity is approximately 1 million pounds per day. This factory layout is such that "plugging in" additional processing machines can easily increase this.

Again, because of the restrictions on harvest in the areas where pollock aggregate, the plant has been constrained on making further investments until there are revenues from actual harvests. However, additional new capital investments in the processing plant of several million dollars are being planned at this time.

IV. Future Plans:

The purpose of the EFP fishery in 2006 was to test the feasibility of using commercial vessels to conduct surveys of pollock in the Aleutian Islands. As the attached report indicates, this project was a success. While the amount of pollock harvested was small compared to our allocation under Amendment 82, this fishery provided an opportunity for the processing plant to test out its equipment and assess the products that it can produce from AI pollock.

AEC has submitted an application to NMFS for an EFP in 2007 for additional work to assess pollock abundance and temporal stability in the Central Aleutian Islands and secondarily to evaluate the feasibility of managing an Aleutian Islands pollock fishery at a finer temporal and spatial resolution using near real-time acoustic surveying. As in the 2006 EFP, AEC would fund the harvest from its own pollock allocation. AEC hopes that it will be possible to harvest as much as 3000 tons under this proposal in 2007, which is still only 20% of the our AI pollock allocation.

By 2008 we would hope that the SSLMC and Council would have completed the process of modifying SSL mitigation measures. At that point there should be an opportunity to realize the intent of Congress to use this allocation to further the economic development of Adak.

Stephanie Madsen
September 19, 2006
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AEC anticipates that any access to SSLCH will require spatial dispersion of effort into areas beyond the range of catcher vessels delivering to Adak for at least 50% of the quota. To the extent possible, we would like to see this portion of the quota harvested and processed by vessels and motherships that use the port of Adak and contribute to its economic development by using Adak for offloads and provisioning. Some vessels within the H&G fleet that fish in the AI for mackerel have expressed interest in participating as motherships. This could require the Council to make adjustments to the regulations to allow these vessels to act as motherships in areas beyond the range of vessels delivering to Adak.

There are many needs for additional improvements, including repairs to the docks, completion of the boat harbor, investment in the processing plant and ancillary fishing support industries.

The Aleut Enterprise, LLC is interested in working with all the industry groups to find a viable solution to our need to fish our pollock.

Thank you for the opportunity to give you an update.

Sincerely,

Aleut Enterprise, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Moller', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sandra Moller
President and CEO

cc: Senator Stevens
Senator Murkowski
Representative Young

2006 Aleutian Islands Cooperative Acoustic Survey Study

Steve Barbeaux
AFSC NMFS/NOAA
Seattle WA 98115

In March-April 2006 the Aleutian Islands Cooperative Acoustic Survey Study (AICASS) was conducted to assess the feasibility of using a small (< 35 m) commercial fishing vessel to estimate the abundance of walleye pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*) in waters off the central Aleutian Islands. NMFS currently has limited resources to conduct acoustic surveys of pollock in the Aleutian Islands subarea. The acoustic and biological information from the study is being used to assess: 1) if it is feasible to conduct acoustic surveys in the Aleutian Islands using commercial fishing vessels, 2) if the data collected are of sufficient quality for management purposes, and 3) the extent that fine scale spatial and temporal management measures may be biologically reasonable. The project was envisioned as a first step in the development of a co-management/co-monitoring system that would involve the Aleut Corporation (the local Alaskan native corporation that has been allocated the pollock quota for this area), local fishermen, and NMFS. This could potentially lead to limited pollock harvests that explicitly accounts for the needs of Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) within critical habitat.

The project was conducted aboard the F/V Muir Milach, a 32 m stern trawler (Fig. 1), in three activity phases: (1) evaluating the commercial fishing vessel's appropriateness as an acoustic sampling platform; (2) opportunistically collecting acoustic data of pollock distribution around two sites, Kanaga Sound and Atka Island (Fig. 2) and (3) direct acoustic and biological data sampling at one of the study sites. To verify the acoustic data and to support the study, 1000 mt of walleye pollock was allocated to be harvested within an area that included waters within 20 nautical miles (nm) to 3 nm of Steller sea lion haulouts.

A SONAR-self noise test was conducted on 15 February 2006 to assess the noise characteristics of the vessel and determine the optimum vessel speed for conducting the survey. An engine speed of 1200 rpm was determined to be optimal for acoustic surveying resulting in a survey speed between 6 and 8 knots and a signal to noise ratio of at least 10:1 (Fig. 3). The acoustic system calibration followed standard sphere calibration protocols (Foote et al. 1987) and were conducted prior to and post study to ensure system reliability. Sphere calibration showed that the system was stable during the duration of the survey. These tests therefore allowed us to conclude that the acoustic data from the F/V Muir Milach were of sufficient quality for abundance estimation.

Opportunistic acoustic data were collected by the F/V Muir Milach within two proposed study sites during the Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*) fishing season in February 2006. In consultation with the fishing vessel captain and upon review of the opportunistic acoustic data, a survey area inside the Atka Island study site, east of North Cape, Atka Island and west of Kasatochi Island, was selected because the area had the highest observed densities of pollock and had less area closed to fishing due to proximity to Steller sea lion haulouts.

The primary factor thought to affect the ability to survey from small vessels in the Aleutian Islands in the winter months is the weather. Between 13 March and 6 April 2006 the winds were primarily



southerly, between 90° and 270°, and hourly average wind speed ranged from 0.5 kts to 20.9 kts with median and mean of 5.9 kts and 6.9 kts respectively (Fig. 4). Between 13 March and 6 April the maximum daily wind gusts exceeded 30 kts for 19 of the 25 days and exceeded 50 kts for 9 of the 25 days. Surveying and commercial fishing were suspended from 16 March through 17 March due to high southeasterly winds with gusts exceeding 50 kts. Although other strong wind events occurred during the survey period, they did not affect the ability of the vessel to fish or conduct surveys.

Six acoustic surveys were successfully conducted between 14 March and 4 April 2006. The area from North Cape of Atka Island to Koniuji Island (~ 1 degree longitude) was surveyed three times while a smaller subset of this area was surveyed on three other occasions. The three larger surveys (180 nm² with transect spacing at 1.5 nm) were conducted in the beginning (Survey 2), middle (Survey 4), and end (Survey 8) of the study period. Survey 5 was conducted parallel to the shelf break and covered only 9 nm² (with transects spaced at 0.5 nm). This survey provided data useful for geostatistical analyses. Surveys 6 and 7 covered 72 nm² with 1.5 nm transect and occurred in the middle of the large survey area coincident with the highest density of pollock. All survey transects were designed to sample 5 nm offshore after the shelf break (181 m isobath) and 1 nm inshore from the shelf break. To reduce survey time, an adaptive strategy was implemented and transects were ended when it was determined that pollock sign was no longer encountered along a transect. Small trawl tows (< 10 mt) were conducted during the surveys to identify acoustic sign. Between survey periods the vessel was allowed to commercial fish until it reached capacity (~165 t). The catch was then delivered to the Adak Fisheries fish processing plant on Adak Island. Biological samples including length, weight, maturity, otoliths, and fin clips were collected from both the verification and commercial tows. Physical oceanographic data were also collected throughout the survey using a Sea-bird conductivity-temperature-depth (CTD) system.

Between 14 March and 4 April 2006 six successful surveys were completed resulting in relatively precise estimates of biomass for the survey area over time. Survey 2, conducted 14-15 March, provided a biomass estimate for pollock of 8,910 t. The biomass estimate for subsequent surveys were lower (although not statistically significantly lower for Survey 4) and dropped significantly after Survey 4 to a low of 2,845 t for the final survey (Table 2, Fig. 5, Fig. 6, and Fig. 7)

The size of pollock captured in the verification and commercial trawls varied between 35 cm and 75 cm (Fig. 8) with a mean length of males at 56.9 cm and females at 58.5 cm. For all of the verification and commercial trawl hauls 55% of the pollock were female. Male pollock averaged 1.58 kg while females were somewhat larger, averaging 1.80 kg. The age data revealed that the age 6 and age 5 pollock (2000 and 1999 year classes) were the most abundant (Fig. 9).

In total, 965 t of fish were harvested during this study the majority of which (97% or 935 t) were harvested from the smaller area covered in Survey 6 and 7 (Fig. 10). Most (77%) of the harvest (745 t) occurred after Survey 4 (Day 9). The pollock biomass apparently declined by 68% in the large survey area during the three weeks of the study. In the smaller “fished” area, the decline was estimated at 90% (Fig 3). The “unfished” region showed no significant difference in biomass estimates between Surveys 2 and 8. Further analyses are needed to evaluate the cause the decline in the fished area. A conservative estimate on the change in biomass over the study period is about 4,000 t—much greater than the amount of pollock caught. A trend in the maturity data (Fig. 11) shows that the pollock began to show signs of active spawning only at the end of the study period. This could



indicate that fish were moving out of the area to spawn. This may account for some of the observed declines.

In short the 2006 AICASS was successful. In addition to achieving its scientific objectives, this project fostered an excellent working relationship between NMFS, the Aleut Enterprise Corporation, and the fishing industry. Local participation and stakeholder involvement enhances NMFS ability to provide responsible stewardship of this important marine resource. Future work should consider the expansion of this technique to survey more areas within the Aleutian Islands to determine the health and behavioral dynamics of this stock within Steller sea lion critical habitat.

References

Foote, K.G., Knudsen, H.P., Vestnes, G., MacLennan, D.N., and Simmonds, E.J. 1987. Calibration of acoustic instruments for fish density estimation: a practical guide. ICES Cooperative Research Reports, Int. Counc. Explor. Sea Coop. Res. Rep. No. 144, 69p.

Table 1: Summary of 2006 AICASS surveys.

Survey	Dates	Survey Day	Spacing (nm)	Number of Transects	Survey Area (nm ²)
2	14-15 Mar.	1	1.5	18	180
4	23-24 Mar.	9	1.5	18	180
5	24 Mar.	10	0.5	7	9
6	28-29 Mar.	14	1.0	12	72
7	1 Apr.	19	1.0	12	72
8	3-4 Apr.	21	1.5	18	180

Table 2: Abundance estimation for 2006 AICASS surveys.

Survey	Area (nm ²)	Deadzone (Y/N)	Biomass (t)	Relative Precision (E _i)	High Biom. (t)	Low Biom. (t)	Density (t / nm ²)
2	180	N	8233.8	8.67%	9632.5	6835.1	45.7
2	180	Y	8809.9	8.04%	10198.4	7421.4	48.9
2	72	N	6484.5	12.29%	8046.1	4922.9	90.1
2	72	Y	6706.6	14.32%	8589.2	4824.0	93.1
4	180	N	6600.4	7.96%	7630.1	5570.7	36.7
4	180	Y	7980.2	7.87%	9210.6	6749.8	44.3
4	72	N	5246.4	12.31%	6512.6	3980.2	72.9
4	72	Y	6149.8	11.89%	7582.5	4717.1	85.4
5	9	N	890.8	5.29%	983.2	798.4	99.0
5	9	Y	1036.6	4.75%	1133.1	940.1	115.2
6	72	N	3015.0	6.64%	3407.4	2622.6	41.9
6	72	Y	3458.5	6.44%	3894.9	3022.1	48.0
7	72	N	1159.0	6.83%	1314.2	1003.8	16.1
7	72	Y	2179.7	5.05%	2395.4	1964.0	30.3
8	180	N	2313.6	14.51%	2971.6	1655.6	12.9
8	180	Y	2845.2	14.24%	3639.0	2051.4	15.8
8	72	N	559.2	14.32%	716.1	402.3	7.8
8	72	Y	677.0	12.96%	848.9	505.1	9.4



Figures

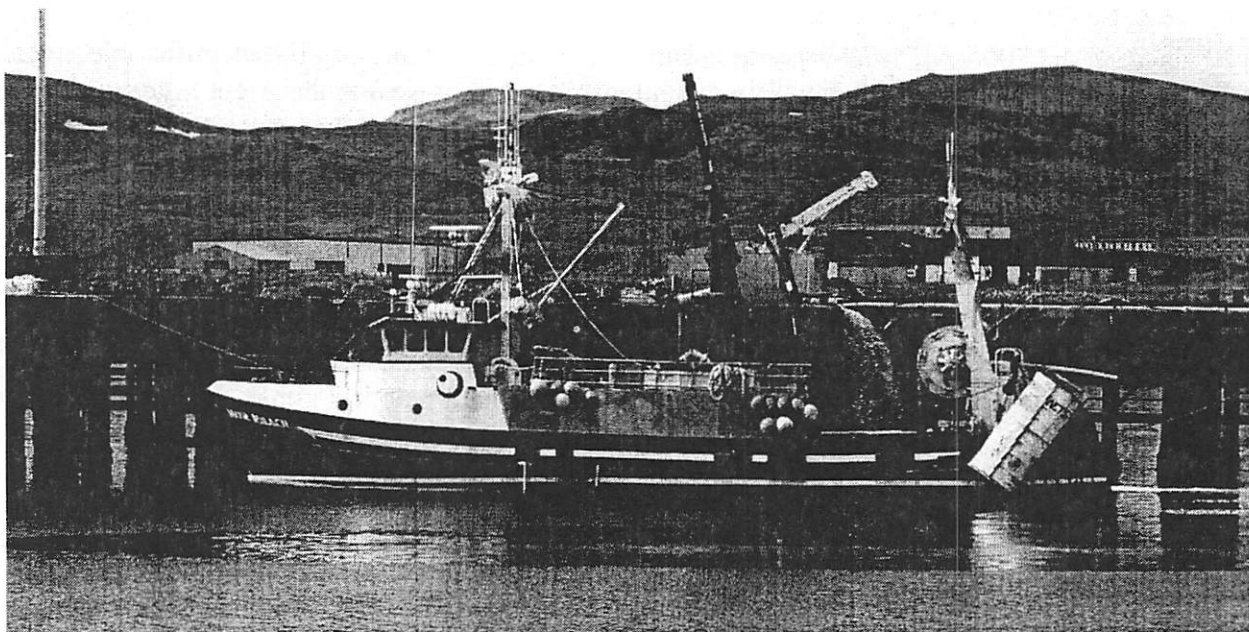


Figure 1: At port in Adak, Alaska, the F/V Muir Milach, a 32 m stern trawler was used to conduct the 2006 Aleutian Islands cooperative acoustic survey study.

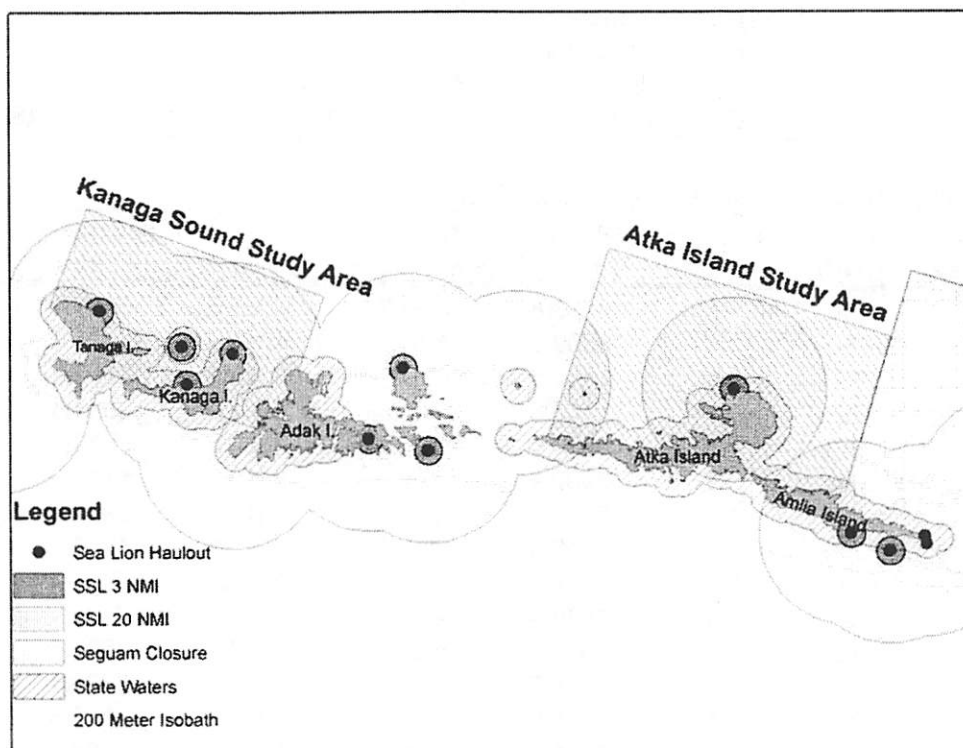


Figure 2: Proposed 2006 AICASS sites within the Central Aleutian Islands



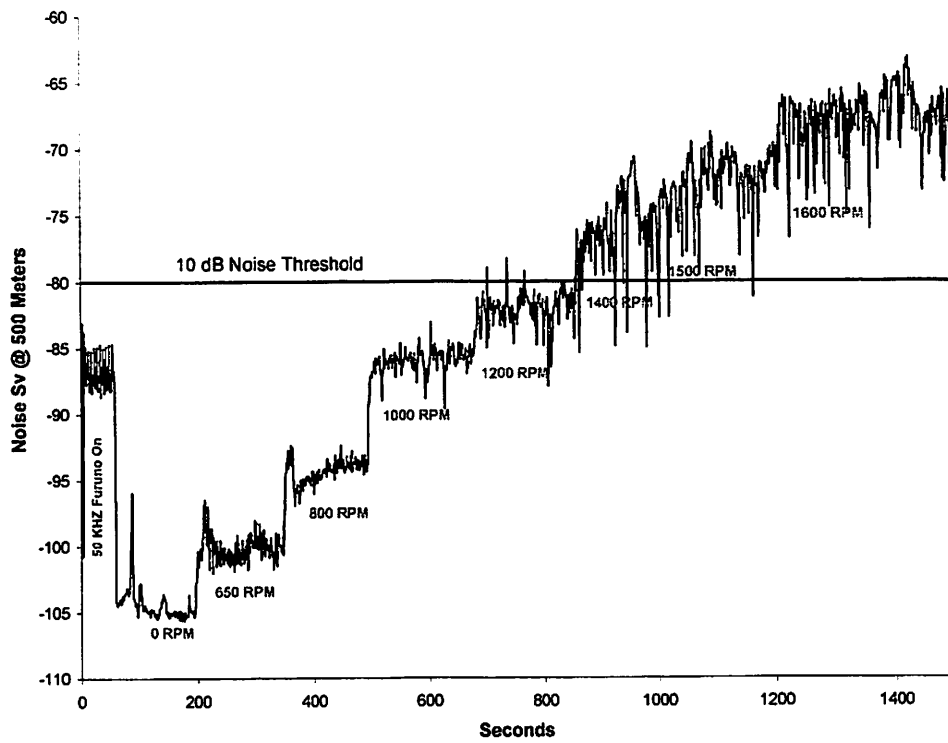


Figure 3: F/V Muir Milach 15 February 2006 Sonar-self noise test with -80dB threshold at different levels of engine RPM.

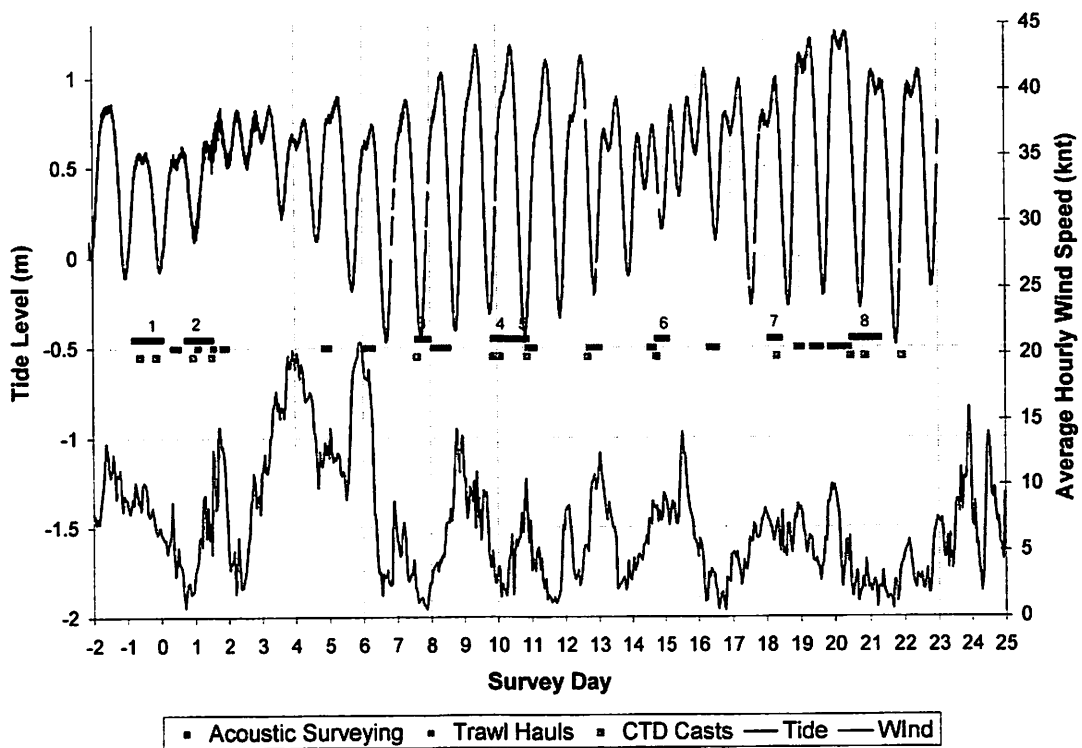
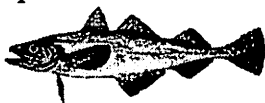


Figure 4: Weather and tide fluctuations relative to survey activities. Survey number is in pink. Wind speed and tide data from Adak, Alaska station ADKA2 – 9461380 (NOAA 2006).



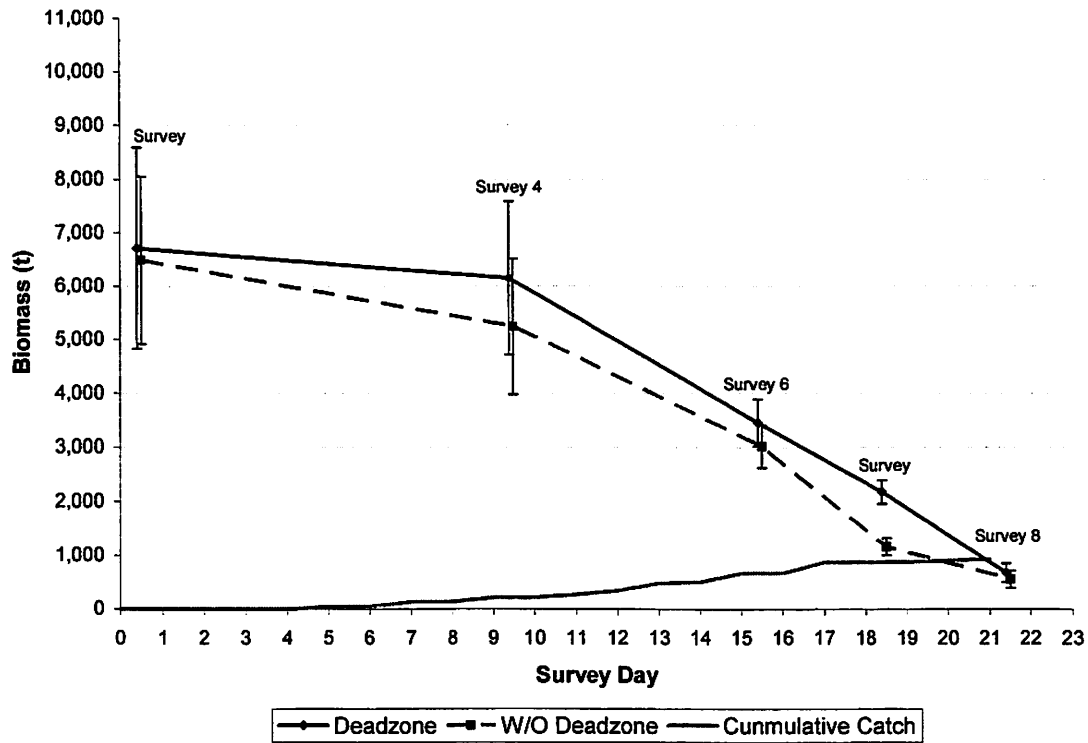
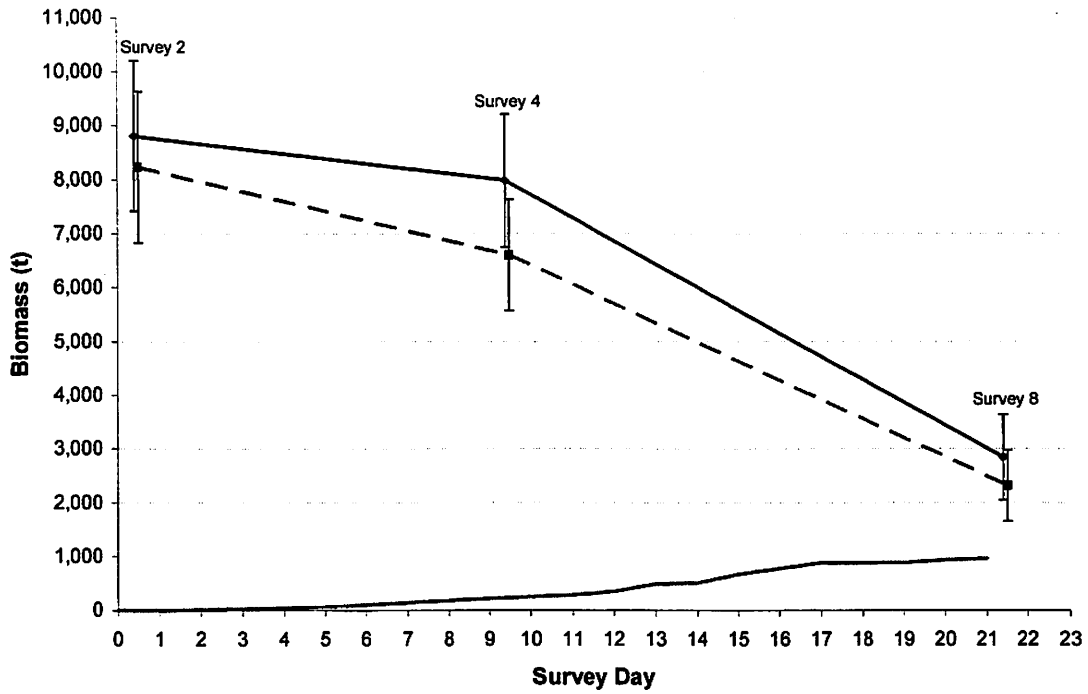
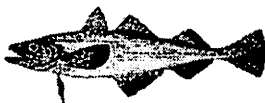


Figure 5: Pollock abundance estimation and cumulative catch for large (top) and small (bottom) survey areas. Note error bars are $\pm 1.96 \times E_i \times B_i$.



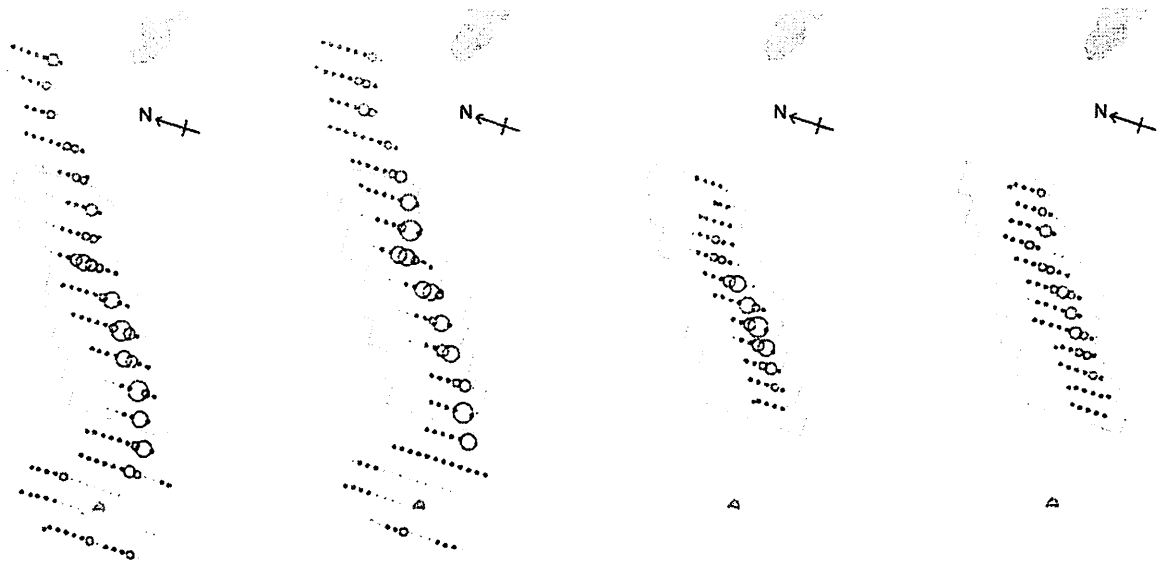


Figure 6: 2006 AICASS distributions of pollock. Figures from left to right correspond to Surveys 2, 4, 6, 7,

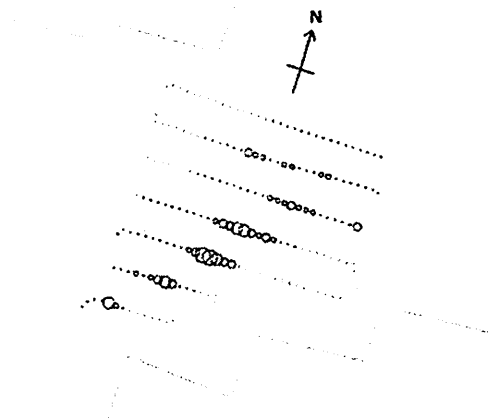


Figure 7: 2006 AICASS Survey 5 distribution of pollock. Please note that the axes of the map are different



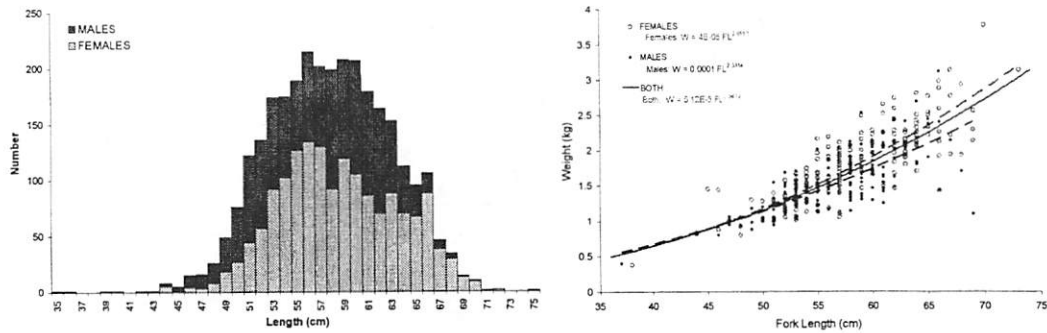


Figure 8: Pollock length frequency and weight at length from the 2006 AICASS.

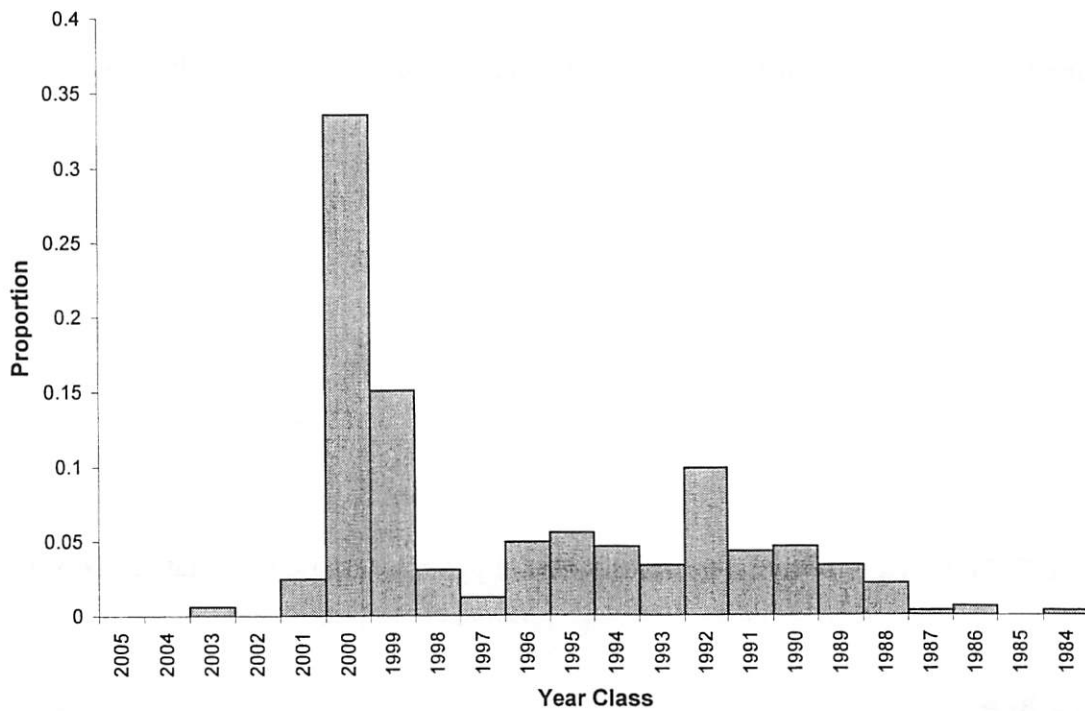
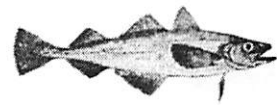
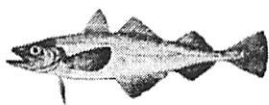


Figure 9: Age composition from the otolith data collected during the 2006 AICASS.



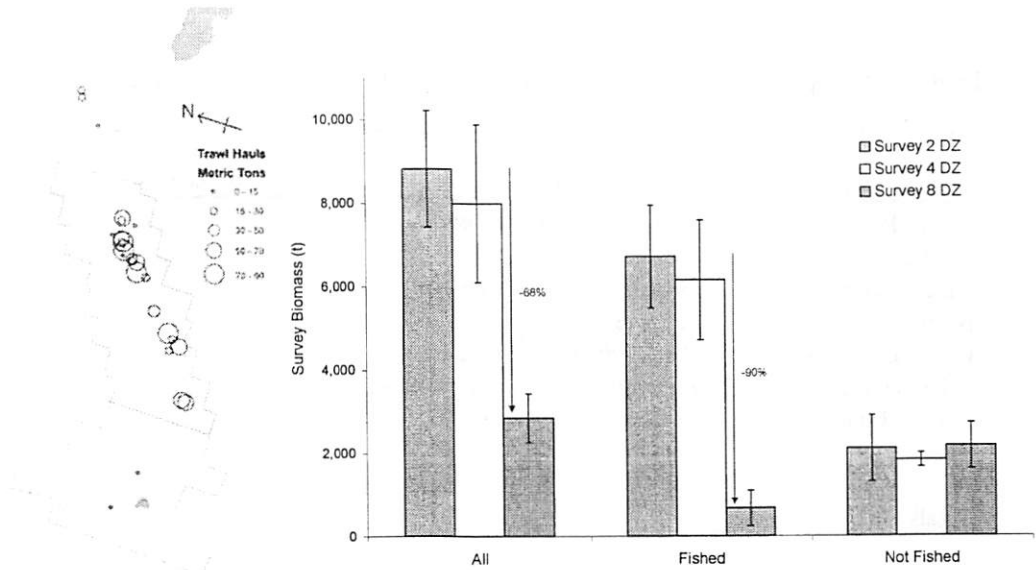


Figure 10: Trawl haul start locations (left) and pollock biomass estimates (right). The area encircled is the large survey area (“All”) and the red lines are the small survey area (“Fished”) and the orange lines are the “Not Fished region”. The blue shaded regions are Steller sea lion critical habitat.

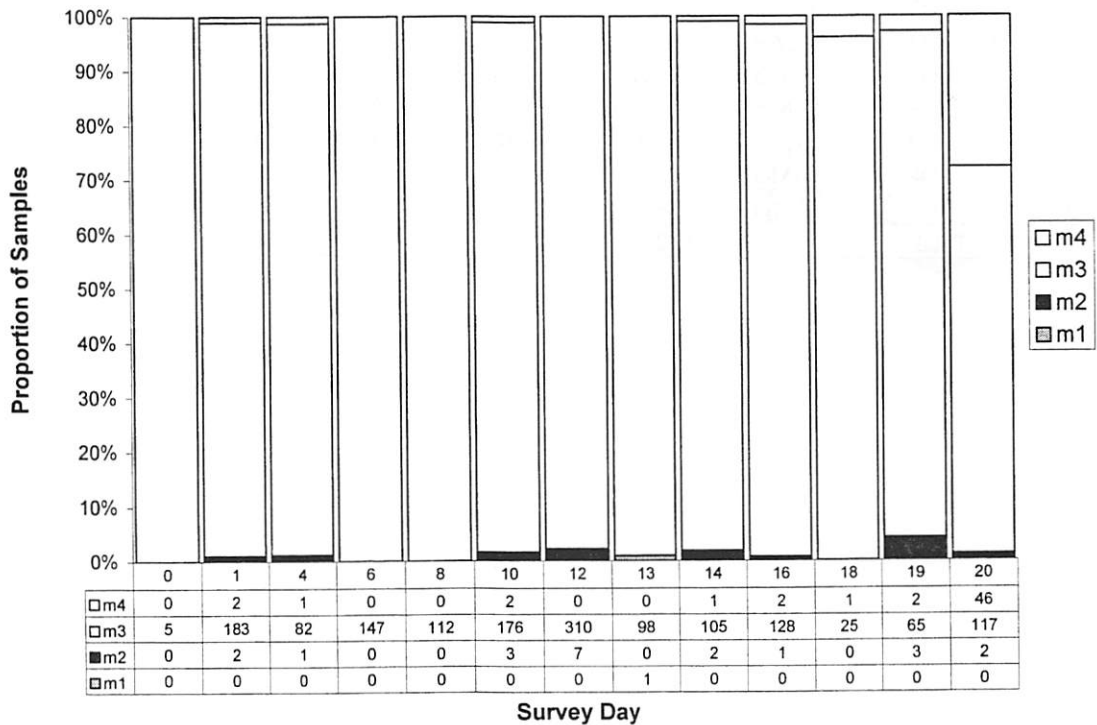


Figure 11: Female pollock maturity over the duration of the 2006 AICASS. Gonad stages are: M4-actively spawning, M3-prespawning, M2-developing, M1-immature. Note: no M5-spent fish were observed.



Table 5: Sampled and extrapolated catch by species from verification and commercial trawl hauls sampled for species composition.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sampled		Extrapolated		(%)
		(kg)	number	(kg)	number	
Alaska Pollock	<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>	10672.19	6181	747385.9	425554	89.4
Pacific Ocean Perch	<i>Sebastes alutus</i>	775.94	1301	87817.8	168496	10.5
King Salmon	<i>Onchorynchus tshawytscha</i>	14.31	3	851.4	242	0.1
Northern Rockfish	<i>Sebastes polyspinis</i>	0.74	2	253.0	617	<0.1
Greenland Turbot	<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	9.5	1	9.5	1	<0.1
Atka Mackerel	<i>Pleurogrammus monoptyerygius</i>	3.39	6	5.5	10	<0.1
Smooth Lump sucker	<i>Aptocyclus ventricosus</i>	2.5	1	2.5	1	<0.1
Squid	Teuthoidea	1.19	5	1.5	7	<0.1
Totals		11479.8	7500	836327.1	594928	

Table 6: Species composition and weight from Alaska Department of Fish and Game fish tickets.

Delivery	Date	Pollock (kg)	POP (kg)	P.cod (kg)	Salmon (kg)	Flatfish (kg)	Other (kg)	Total (kg)
D1	17-Mar	2,437	6	0	0	0	0	2,443
D2	19-Mar	54,435	25	20	3	0	0	54,483
D3	20-Mar	87,852	10	0	7	1	1	87,871
D4	22-Mar	69,380	6,317	0	8	0	0	75,705
D5	25-Mar	128,257	868	12	11	1	0	129,150
D6	27-Mar	159,239	1,328	0	15	1	0	160,582
D7	29-Mar	161,430	488	0	0	0	0	161,918
D8	31-Mar	195,189	13,215	3	0	5	0	208,411
D9	4-Apr	74,189	10,018	0	0	0	0	84,206
Total		932,407	32,274	35	44	9	1	964,769

Classification Comments: Interested parties may submit comments regarding the suitability of the land for inclusion into the Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs.

Application Comments: Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific use proposed in the application and plan of development, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any factor not directly related to the suitability of the lands for inclusion in the Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area.

Comments, including names, street addresses and other contact information of respondents, will be available for public review. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to request that the BLM consider withholding your name, street address and other contact information (such as: FAX or phone number) from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. The BLM will honor requests for confidentiality on a case-by-case basis to the extent allowed by law. The BLM will make available for public inspection all submissions in their entirety from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses. Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director who may sustain, vacate, or modify this realty action. In the absence of any adverse comments, classification will become effective on October 24, 2006. The lands will not be offered for conveyance until after the classification becomes effective.

Authority: 43 CFR 2741.5

Dated: July 6, 2006.

Larry Frazier,

Associate District Manager, Vale District.

[FR Doc. E6-14093 Filed 8-24-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program: 2007-2012.

DATES: Comments will be accepted until November 22, 2006.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may comment electronically using MMS's Public Connect online commenting system at <http://occonnect.mms.gov>. This is the preferred method for commenting. From the Public Connect "Welcome" screen, search for "5-Year Programmatic EIS 2007-2012" or select it from the "Projects Open for Comment" menu. You may also mail comments to: 5-Yr DEIS, Attention: Mr. James F. Bennett, Chief, Branch of Environmental Assessment, 381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4042, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to the Department of the Interior, Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW., Room 4227, Washington, DC 20240. Envelopes or packages must be marked "2007-2012 Oil and Gas Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement". Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, but if you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure "would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy." Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will not consider anonymous comments. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. James F. Bennett, Minerals Management

Service, Chief, Branch of Environmental Assessment, at (703) 787-1660.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Draft Environmental Impact Statement may be found on the Internet at <http://www.mms.gov/5-year/>. A limited number of individual copies of the Draft EIS may be obtained from the above contact. Please specify if you wish CD or paper copy. If neither is specified, a CD containing the Draft EIS will be forwarded.

In accordance with 30 CFR 256.2(b), public hearings related to the draft EIS will be held in the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic and Alaska Regions. The exact dates, times, and locations of the hearings will be announced by Federal Register notice in the near future.

Library Availability: To learn which libraries in Alaska have copies of the draft EIS, contact the Alaska OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 949 East 36th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4363, telephone 1-800-764-2627 or (907) 271-6438. On the Pacific coast contact the Pacific OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 770 Paseo Camarillo, Camarillo, California 93010-6064, telephone (805) 389-7520. For availability of the draft EIS along the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coasts contact the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, telephone (504) 736-2595. Information on the availability of the Draft EIS can also be obtained from the Minerals Management Service. Contact Mr. James F. Bennett.

The list of libraries and their locations is also available on the MMS Home page on the Internet at <http://www.mms.gov/library/>.

After the public hearing testimony and written comments on the Draft EIS have been reviewed and analyzed, a Final EIS will be prepared.

Dated: August 15, 2006.

Willie R. Taylor,

Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.

[FR Doc. E6-14073 Filed 8-24-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Request for Comments on the Proposed 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007-2012

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Request for Comments on the Proposed 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007–2012

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service requests comments on the Proposed 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007–2012. This is the second draft of a new program to succeed the current program that expires on June 30, 2007. The first proposal—the draft proposed program—was issued in February for a 60-day comment period that closed on April 11, 2006.

Section 18 of the OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) specifies a multi-step process of consultation and analysis that must be completed before the Secretary of the Interior may approve a new 5-year program. The required steps following this notice include the development of a proposed final program and Secretarial approval. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the MMS also will publish a Final EIS for the new 5-year program.

DATES: Please submit comments and information to the MMS no later than November 24, 2006.

Public Comment Procedure

The MMS will accept comments in one of two formats: by mail or our Internet commenting system. Please submit your comments using only one of these formats, and include full names and addresses. Comments submitted by other means may not be considered. We will not consider anonymous comments, and we will make available for inspection in their entirety all comments submitted by organizations and businesses or by individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations and businesses.

Our practice is to make comments, including the names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. An individual commenter may ask that we withhold his or her name, home address, or both from the public record, and we will honor such a request to the extent allowable by law. If you submit comments and wish us to withhold such information, you must so state prominently at the beginning of your submission.

ADDRESSES: Mail comments and information to: Renee Orr, 5-Year Program Manager, Minerals Management Service (MS-4010), Room 3120, 381 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 20170. Please label your comments and the packaging in which they are submitted according to the

subject matter. Mark those pertaining to program preparation, "Comments on Draft Proposed 5-Year Program for 2007–2012," and mark those pertaining to EIS preparation, "Comments on the Draft EIS for the 5-Year Program for 2007–2012." If you submit any privileged or proprietary information to be treated as confidential, please mark the envelope, "Contains Confidential Information."

Internet: The MMS will accept comments submitted to our electronic commenting system. This system can be accessed at <http://www.mms.gov/5-year/2007-2012main.htm>. We also will provide access to information concerning the 5-year program and EIS, including copies of comments we receive in response to this notice, at the MMS Internet Web site (<http://www.mms.gov>).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Renee Orr, 5-Year Program Manager, at (703) 787-1215.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 18 of the OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) specifies a multi-step process of consultation and analysis that must be completed before the Secretary of the Interior may approve a new 5-year program. The required steps following this notice include the development of a proposed final program to be submitted to the Congress and the President, with Secretarial approval of a new program no sooner than 60 days afterward. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the MMS also is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the new 5-year program. The draft EIS is being issued with this proposed program and a final EIS will be issued with the proposed final program.

The MMS requests comments from states, local governments, native groups, tribes, the oil and gas industry, Federal agencies, environmental and other interest organizations, and all other interested parties, including the public to assist in the preparation of a 5-Year OCS oil and gas leasing program for 2007–2012 and applicable EIS.

The proposed program document may be downloaded off the MMS Web site at <http://www.mms.gov>. The document also is available as part of our electronic commenting system noted above. Hard copies will be made available by contacting the 5-Year Program Office at 703-787-1215.

Background

Section 18 of the OCS Lands Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to prepare and maintain a schedule of proposed OCS oil and gas lease sales

determined to "best meet national energy needs for the 5-year period following its approval or reapproval."

Summary of the Proposed Program

In developing the proposed program for 2007–2012, the MMS carries forward the same proposed schedule of lease sales as contained in the draft proposed program published in February 2006, with modifications in four areas as detailed below. Some of these areas are currently withdrawn from disposition by leasing through June 30, 2012, under section 12 of the OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1341) and have been subject to annual congressional moratoria.

There will be no leasing of such areas unless the Presidential withdrawal is modified and Congress discontinues the annual statutory moratoria. The comments received and the analyses conducted for this proposed program may provide the information necessary for a potential modification of the withdrawal areas. The areas identified as proposed program areas in this notice are ones that warrant further study and analysis based on oil and gas resource estimates and comments received in response to the draft proposed program published in February of this year. Continued inclusion of areas in the proposed lease sale schedule provides a basis for gathering information and conducting analyses to inform policy makers whether to include these areas for leasing consideration in the new 5-year program. The program proposes sales in offshore areas that have the highest oil and gas resource values and highest industry interest, or areas that are currently under leasing restrictions and are off the coasts of states that have expressed interest in learning more about the energy potential offshore their coasts. The proposed schedule is responsive to the recommendations of affected state and local governments.

The proposed program schedules a total of 21 OCS lease sales in 7 areas (4 areas off Alaska, 2 areas in the Gulf of Mexico, and 1 area in the Atlantic). Maps A and B show the areas proposed for leasing. Table A lists the location and timing of the proposed lease sales in areas that are available for leasing consideration, i.e., not withdrawn or subject to congressional moratoria. Table B lists the location and timing of the proposed lease sales in areas that are withdrawn and/or subject to moratoria.

Alaska Region

In the Alaska Region, the program proposes multiple lease sales in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas and North Aleutian Basin Planning Areas, which are three areas of interest to Alaska, the

MMS, and the oil and gas industry. Multiple sales are consistent with the Governor of Alaska's recommendations. The North Aleutian Basin Planning Area is currently withdrawn by presidential order under section 12 of the OCS Lands Act.

Two of these areas are modified from the draft proposed program. In the Chukchi Sea, the proposed program removes from leasing consideration, a 25-mile buffer area along the coast, as there is no existing oil and gas activity in the area and the State has made no request to include leasing closer to shore. For the North Aleutian Basin, in response to comments from the Governor and the vast majority of the local governments and tribal organizations, this program proposes sales only in the area offered in Sale 92 held in 1985. With that limitation of the area to be offered, the Governor of Alaska requested "that the President lift the withdrawal of the North Aleutian Basin planning area from the leasing program, and allow the scheduling of lease sales in the Sale 92 area in the 2007-2012 program." Therefore, the North Aleutian Basin is included.

The Cook Inlet Planning Area is included on the schedule as a special interest sale. The sales are proposed for 2009 and 2011, but before the MMS proceeds, it will issue a request for nominations and comments and will move forward only if environmentally acceptable blocks are nominated by industry. If this does not occur, the sale will likely be postponed and a request for nominations and comments may be issued again the following year and so on through the 5-year schedule until the sale is held or the schedule expires.

Gulf of Mexico Region

In the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas, which remain the two areas of highest resource potential and interest, the proposed program is the same as that of the draft proposed program with the exception of the exclusion of a small area in the Central Gulf that is east of the military line (86° W 41' N). The program continues to schedule annual areawide lease sales, as has been the customary practice, and proposes a sale in 2007 of a portion of the area that was identified for Sale 181 in the 5-year program for 1997-2002. As a result of the reconfiguration of some planning areas to follow new administrative lines, some of the areas formerly included in the Eastern and Western Gulf Planning Area are now part of the Central Gulf Planning Area. There are no lease sales scheduled in the Eastern Gulf Planning Area. The original Sale 181 area is not

under presidential withdrawal and has not been subject to congressional moratoria. In addition, the area being considered for leasing will not include the area within 100 miles of the Florida coast that used to be part of the Eastern Gulf Planning Area. This will respect the commitment made earlier by the Secretary. In the August 2005 Request for Information, then Secretary Norton stated that she "had no intention of offering for leasing areas in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area within 100 miles of the coast of the State of Florida." Subsequent annual Central Gulf sales may include the area to the south of the Sale 181 area that is currently under presidential withdrawal and has been subject to annual congressional moratoria. In addition, pursuant to Section 19 of the OCS Lands Act, no sale will be proposed until all affected states have the opportunity to comment.

Atlantic OCS

There are four planning areas in the Atlantic OCS—North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Straits of Florida. As in the draft proposed program, the proposed program proposes a special interest sale in the Mid-Atlantic in late 2011, which may proceed based on comments received in response to the call for information and depends on whether the presidential withdrawal is lifted and the congressional moratorium is discontinued.

The area proposed for consideration is in the Mid-Atlantic Planning Area off the coastline of Virginia. Inclusion of this area in the proposed program will allow the gathering of additional information needed to decide whether to include this area in the proposed final program. As in the Chukchi Sea, the proposed program area includes a 25-mile buffer from leasing consideration as there is no existing oil and gas activity in the area and the State has made no request to include leasing closer to shore. In addition, there is no leasing proposed in a wedge-shaped No-Obstruction Zone, to protect navigation activities in and out of the Chesapeake Bay. In addition, pursuant to section 19 of the OCS Lands Act, no sale will be proposed until all affected states have the opportunity to comment. This area is also under presidential withdrawal under section 12 and has been subject to congressional moratoria.

TABLE A: DRAFT PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR 2007-2012—LEASE SALE SCHEDULE FOR AVAILABLE AREAS

Sale No.	Area	Year
204	Western Gulf of Mexico.	2007
205	Central Gulf of Mexico.	2007
193	Chukchi Sea	2007
206	Central Gulf of Mexico.	2008
207	Western Gulf of Mexico.	2008
208	Central Gulf of Mexico.	2009
209	Beaufort Sea	2009
210	Western Gulf of Mexico.	2009
211	Cook Inlet	2009
212	Chukchi Sea	2010
213	Central Gulf of Mexico.	2010
215	Western Gulf of Mexico.	2010
216	Central Gulf of Mexico.	2011
217	Beaufort Sea	2011
218	Western Gulf of Mexico.	2011
219	Cook Inlet	2011
221	Chukchi Sea	2012
222	Central Gulf of Mexico.	2012

TABLE B: DRAFT PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR 2007-2012—POTENTIAL LEASE SALE SCHEDULE FOR AREAS SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS*

Sale No.	Area	Year
214	North Aleutian Basin.	2010
220	Mid-Atlantic	2011
223	North Aleutian Basin.	2012

* Lease sales would only be held if the President chooses to modify the withdrawal in both areas and Congress discontinues the annual appropriations moratorium in the Mid-Atlantic.

Assurance of Fair Market Value

Section 18 of the OCS Lands Act requires receipt of fair market value for OCS oil and gas leases and the rights they convey. The proposed program carries forward the provisions published in the draft proposed program: setting minimum bid levels by individual lease sale based on market conditions and continuing use of a two-phase bid evaluation process.

Information Requested

We request all interested and affected parties to comment on the size, timing, and location of leasing and the procedures for assuring fair market value that are included in the Proposed

5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007–2012. Respondents who submitted information in response to previous requests for comments on the preparation of this 5-year program may wish to reference that information, as appropriate, rather than repeating it in their comments on the proposed program. We also invite comments and suggestions on how to proceed with the section 18 analysis for the proposed final program.

Section 18(g) authorizes confidential treatment of privileged or proprietary

information that is submitted. In order to protect the confidentiality of such information, respondents should include it as an attachment to other comments submitted and mark it appropriately. On request, the MMS will treat such information as confidential from the time of its receipt until 5 years after approval of the new leasing program, subject to the standards of the Freedom of Information Act. MMS will not treat as confidential any aggregate summaries of such information, the

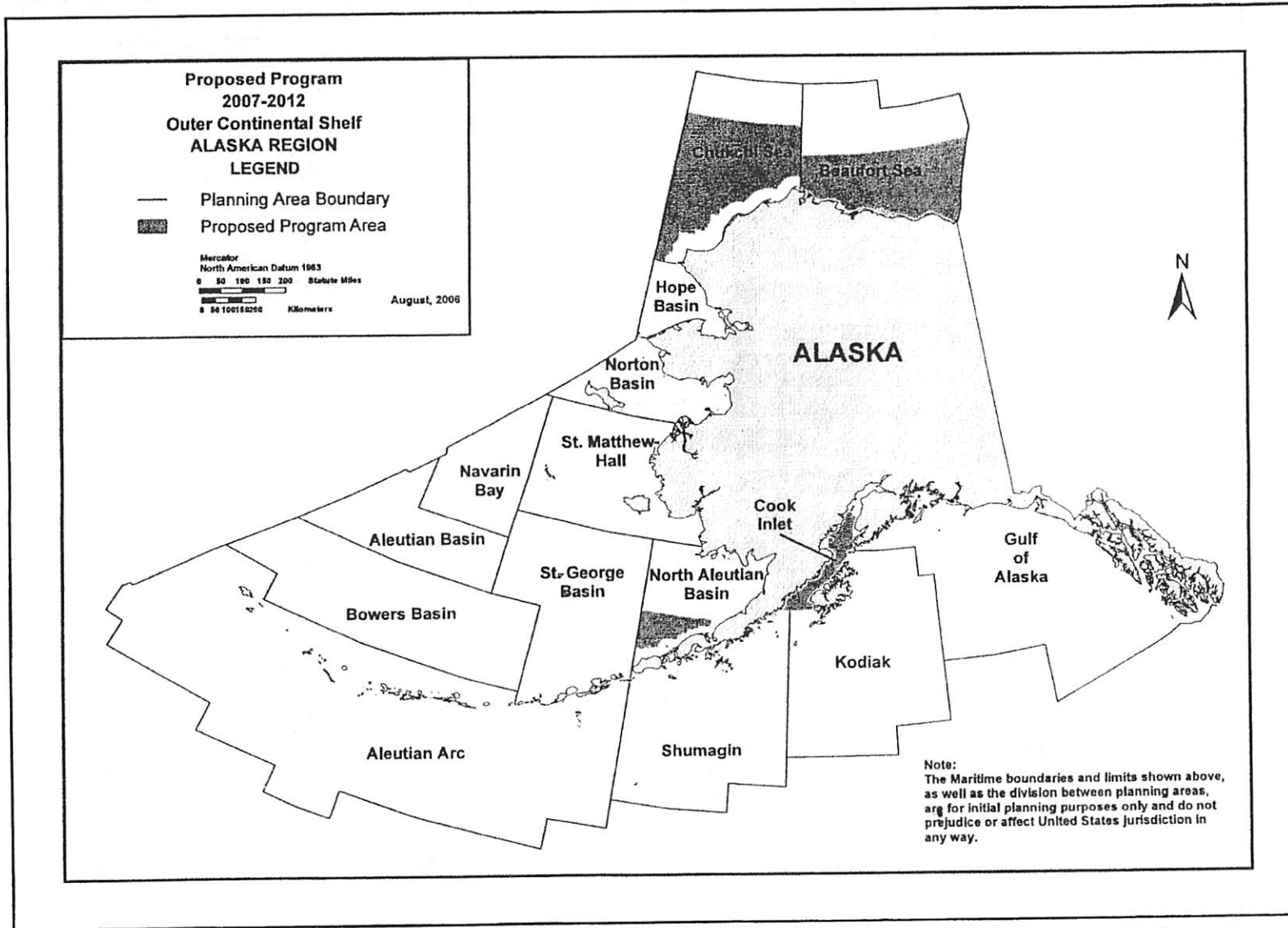
names of respondents, and comments not containing such information.

Next Steps in the Process

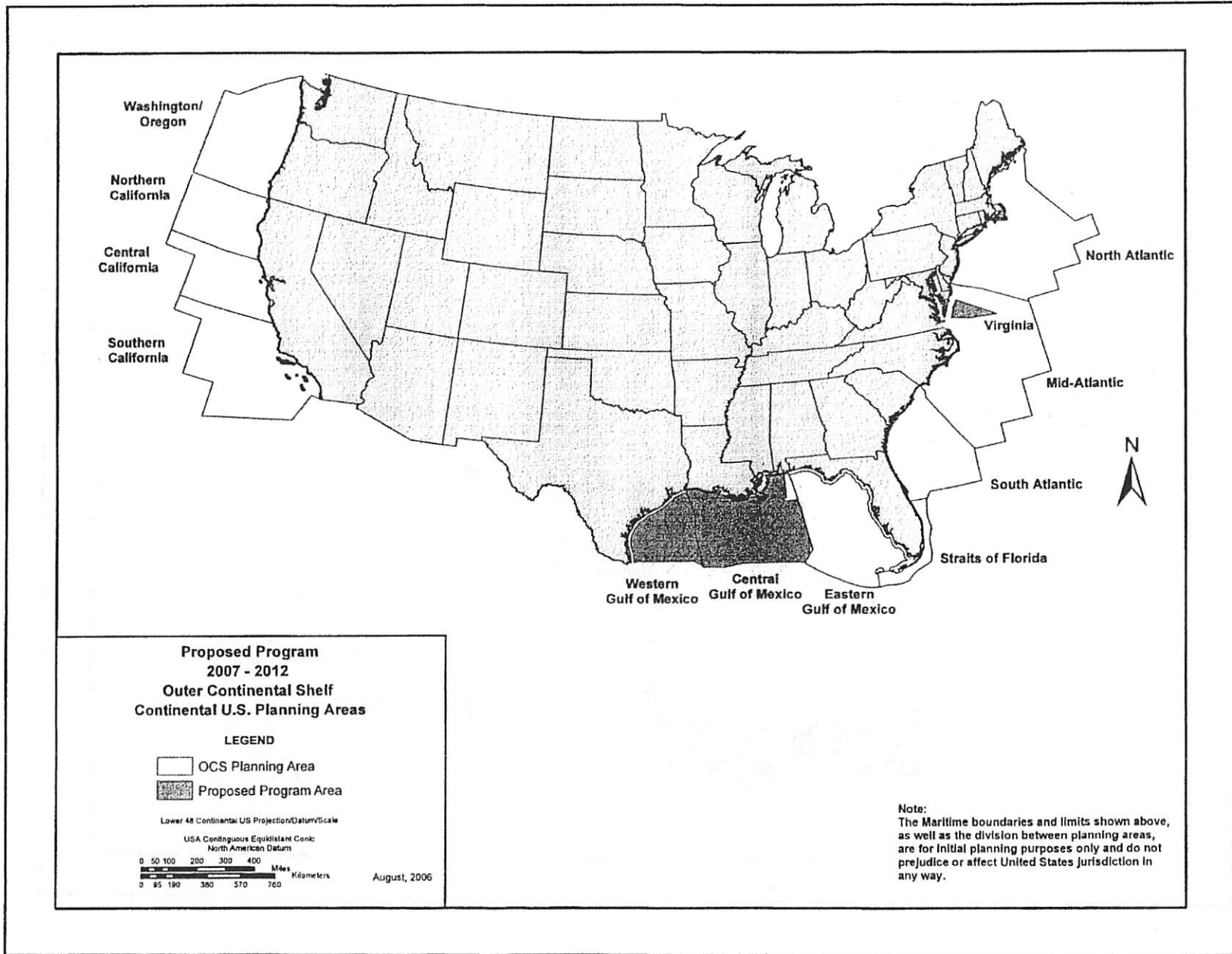
MMS plans to issue the proposed final program and final EIS in the spring of 2007. Sixty days later, the Secretary may approve the new 5-year program to go into effect as of July 1, 2007.

Dated: August 21, 2006.

R. M. "Johnnie" Burton,
Director, Minerals Management Service.
BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P



Map A: Alaska Program Areas



Map B: Lower 48 Program Areas

**OCS Oil and Gas
5-Year Leasing Program
for 2007-2012**

North Aleutian Basin Update

presented at the

Alaska Marine Ecosystems Forum

September 18, 2006

Paul Stang

Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment
Minerals Management Service, Alaska Region



MMS Background: An Ocean & Mineral Agency

- The Outer Continental Shelf
 - off the coast beyond 3 miles
 - Oil and Gas Leasing, Regulation, Monitoring, Inspections
 - Sand, gravel, gold, other minerals,
 - Energy from sun, wind, currents, waves
-
- Royalty Collection and Disbursement

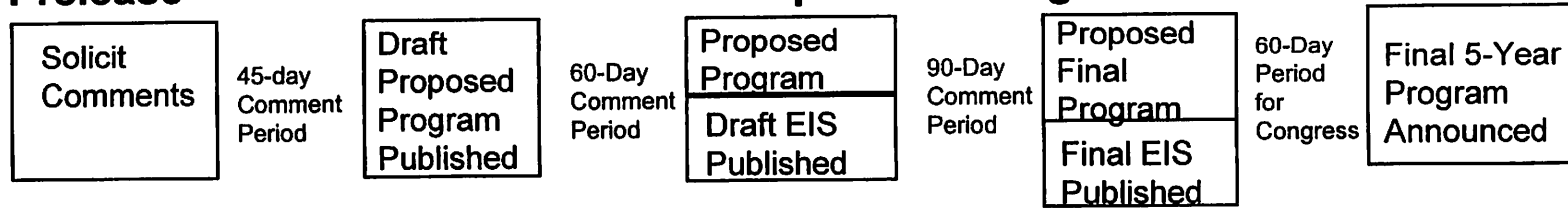


- Environmental & Technical Research

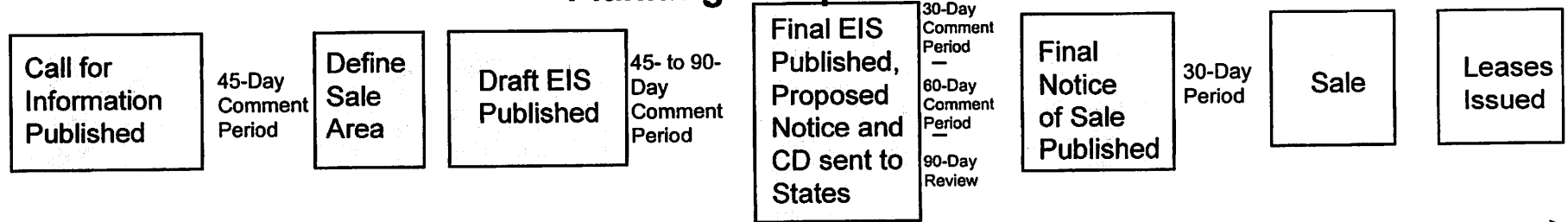
The OCS Leasing, Exploration, and Development Process

Prelease

Develop 5-Year Program

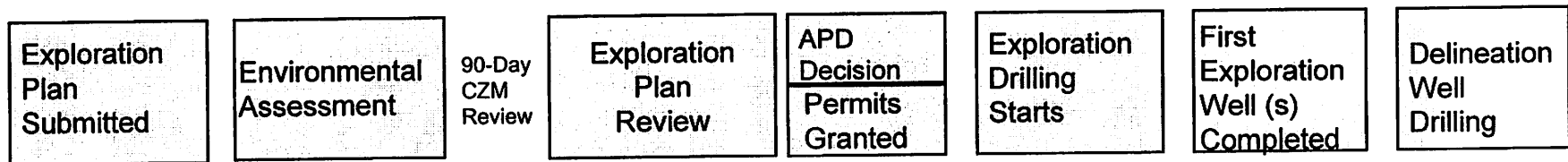


Planning for Specific Sale

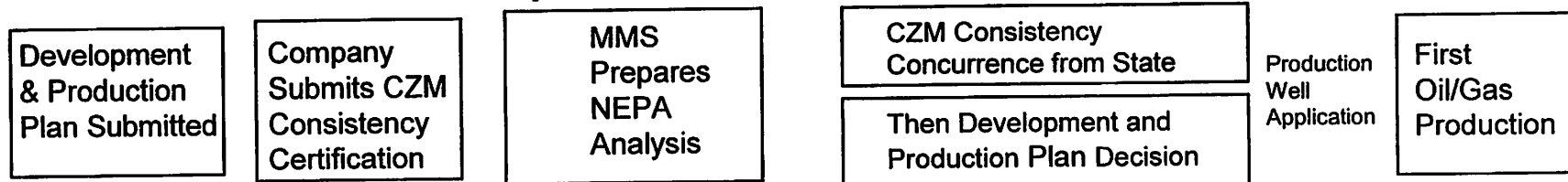


Post Lease

Exploration Plan Approval

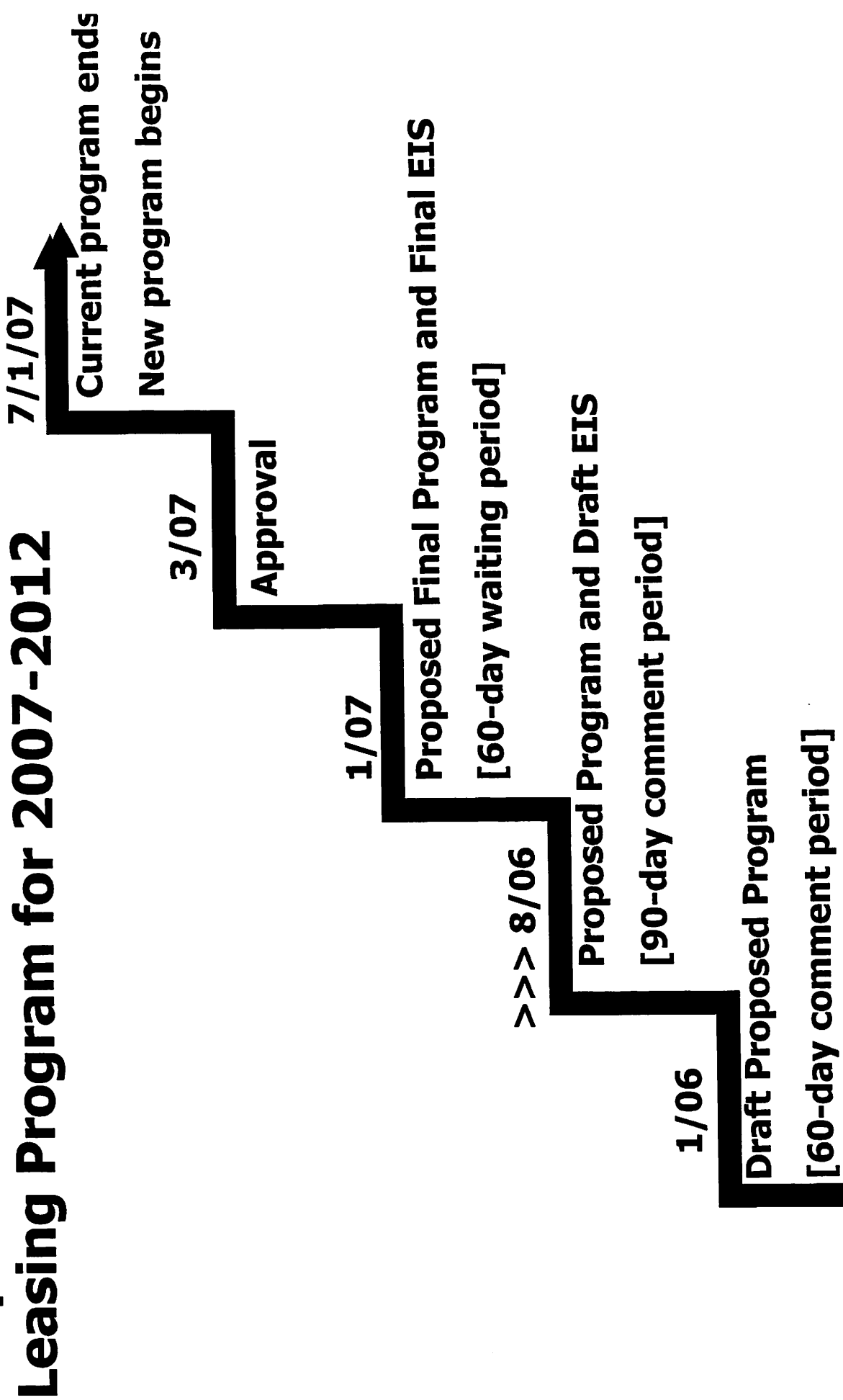


Development and Production Plan Approval



Abbreviations: ADP, Application for Permit to Drill; CD, Consistency Determination; CZM, Coastal Zone Management; EIS, Environmental Impact Statement
NEPA, National Environmental Policy Act

Preparation of the OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007-2012



* Request for Comments and Information [45-day comment period]

Relationship of a Sale to the 5-Year Program

- **For a sale to occur in a Planning Area, it must be within the 5-Year Program.**
- **In other words, only those areas that were included in the Proposed Program are candidates for a sale.**
- **Inclusion in the 5-Year Program does not guarantee a sale.**



Proposed Program
2007 - 2012
Outer Continental Shelf
ALASKA REGION

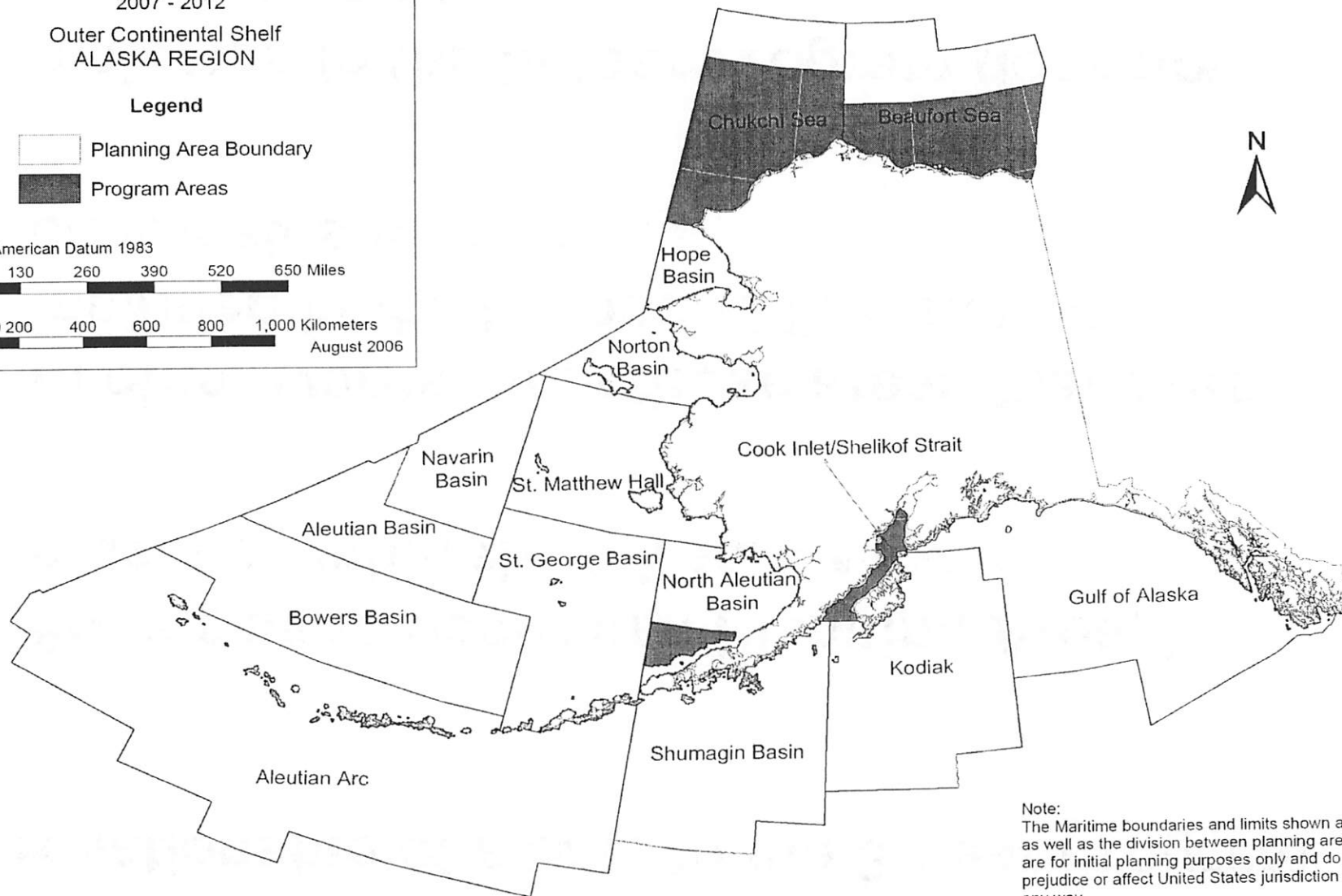
Legend

- Planning Area Boundary
- Program Areas

North American Datum 1983

0 65 130 260 390 520 650 Miles

0 100 200 400 600 800 1,000 Kilometers
August 2006

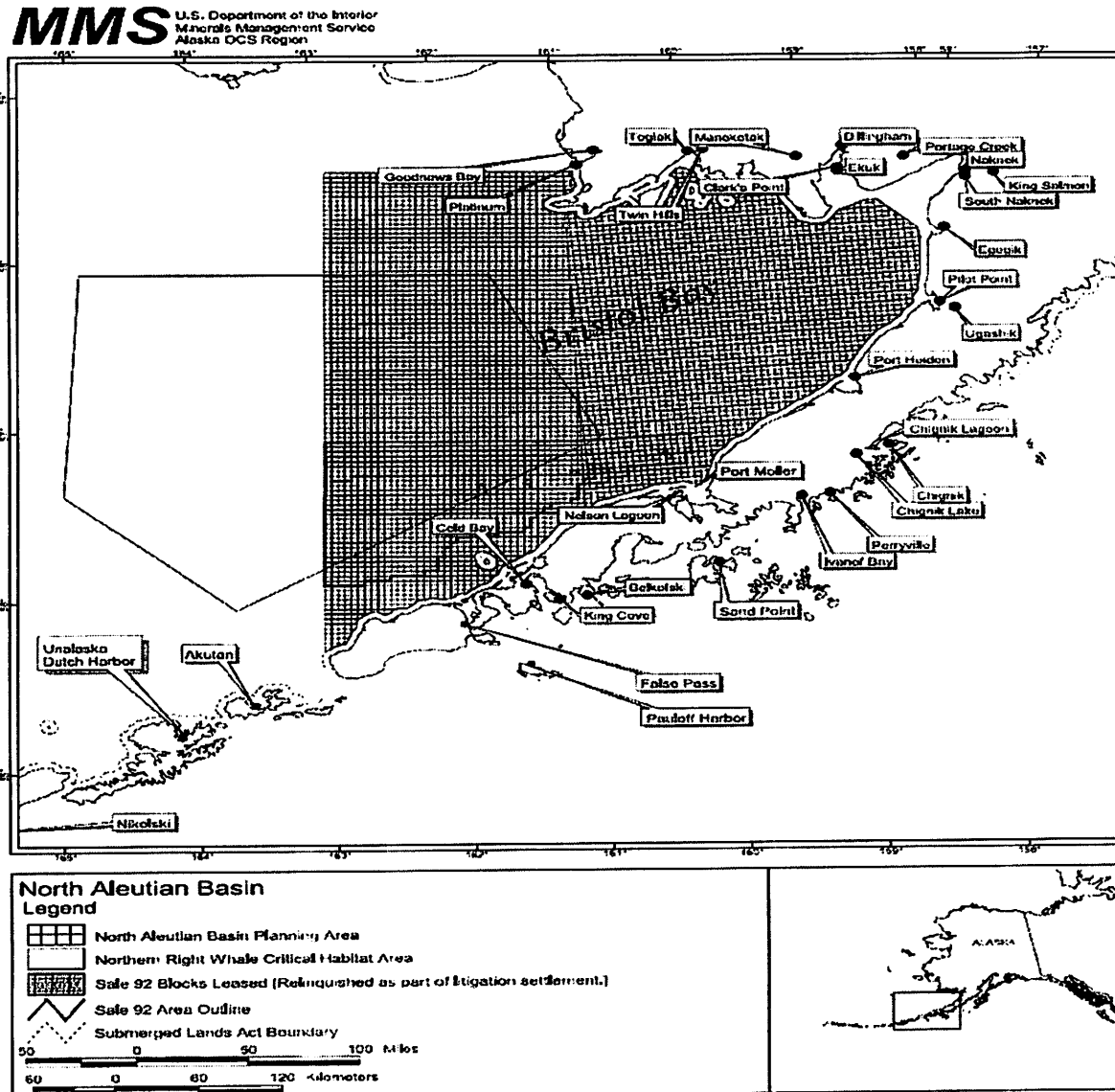


Proposed 5-Year Program

- **On 8/24/06, the Secretary of the Interior issued the Proposed 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program (2007-12). Comments on the program are due by 11/24/06, and on the DEIS by 11/22/06.**
- **The Proposed Program includes two sales in the NAB, one in 2010 and one in 2012 -- both limited to the "Sale 92" area as requested by the Governor.**
- **The Proposed Program notice acknowledges that the North Aleutian Basin planning area remains under Presidential withdrawal and that the Governor of Alaska has requested that the withdrawal be lifted.**



“Sale 92” Area and Right Whale Critical Habitat



Schedule of Public Hearing/Meeting for NAB and Anchorage

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------------|
| • Unalaska | 9/25 | 6:30 – 9 PM |
| • Cold Bay | 9/26 | 7 – 10 PM |
| • Nelson Lagoon | 9/27 | 4:30 – 7 PM |
| • Anchorage | 9/28 | 5 – 7 PM |
| • Sand Point | 9/28 | 7 – 10 PM |
| • Goodnews Bay | 10/9 | 5 – 7:30 PM |
| • Naknek | 10/10 | 6:30 – 9 PM |
| • Dillingham | 10/11 | 6:30 – 9 PM |



NAB Oil and Gas Estimates

Risked Technically Recoverable

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>>95 % chance</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>> 5 % chance</u>
Gas (Trillion Cubic Feet)	0.4	8.6	22.3
MBOE*	73	1,567	4064
Oil (million barrels)	19	751	2,712

We see the basin as more Natural Gas Prone.



*MBOE = Million Barrel of Oil Equivalent

MMS ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NORTH ALEUTIAN BASIN

- **MMS plans to hold a 4-day research planning meeting with local, Tribal, State, and Federal scientific experts and other interested stakeholders (about 100 participants)**
 - **Review status of available information**
 - **Advise MMS of study needs**

NAB ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

(Continued)

- **Contracted with Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) from the Department of Energy to facilitate the meeting and process.**
- **Dr. Kirk Lagory (ANL) – Principle Investigator (Lagory@anl.gov)**
- **Mtg. is 11/28-12/1/06 in Anchorage**

NAB ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

(Continued)

- Argonne will collect environmental reports and information from 1995 to present
- Meeting will use of Subject Matter experts from key topical areas:
 - **Physical Oceanography / Fate of Effects of Oil Spills**
 - **Marine Mammals**
 - **Biology**
 - Fisheries
 - Water Fowl
 - **Socioeconomics**
 - Commercial Fishing
 - Subsistence



Contact Information

- **Paul Stang**
Paul.Stang@mms.gov
(907) 334-5233 Cell: (907) 382-1075
- **Fred King**
Fred.King@mms.gov
(907) 334-5271
- **Kate Wedemeyer**
Kate.Wedemeyer@mms.gov
(907) 334-5278

Minerals Management Service
3801 Centerpoint Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 334-5200



North Pacific Fishery Management Cou

AGENDA B-1(
OCTOBER 200

Stephanie Madsen, Chair
Chris Oliver, Executive Director



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

Telephone: (907) 271-2809

Fax: (907) 271-2817

Visit our website: www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc

September 22, 2006

Mr. Stetson Tinkham
OMC Bureau Oceans & Int'l
Environ. & Scientific Affairs
Dept of State, Room 7820
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Stetson:

It is with regret that I write to congratulate you on your retirement, and recognize your many, many years of exemplary service, and in particular your contributions in the arena of national and international fisheries issues. My regret is not that I am writing this letter, but only that you are retiring.

You will be sorely missed. I know that your years of service have included a much broader array of responsibilities than those of our fish world, but it is within that fish world that we have interacted, and that is where I have borne witness to your energy, patience, tact, wit, and unblinking resolve. From the meeting rooms of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, to the formal settings of international treaty negotiations, to the smoke-filled, after-hours, seedy barrooms where the real business gets done, you have left your indelible mark (and I am *not* referring to that messy incident in St. Petersburg). The rest of us will truly be missing your wisdom and guidance for a long time to come.

I wish you the best in your retirement, and we will keep your nameplate for the State Department seat on the North Pacific Council - heck, now that you are retired you might have time to attend one of our meetings! In all seriousness Stetson, it has been a genuine pleasure working with you and all of us here in the Council 'family' will miss you greatly. Best of luck.

Sincerely,

Chris Oliver
Executive Director

cc: Council members

DRAFT AGENDA v9/25/06

Council Chairs and Executive Directors Meeting
Hotel Washington, Washington, D.C.
October 30 – 31, 2006

Monday, October 30th.

- 9:00 (1 hr) Welcome, opening remarks, and updates - Bill Hogarth
- 10:00 (1 hr) Potential address by the Secretary or other Dept. rep - date/time TBD
- 11:00 (1 hr) Issues related to Limited Access Privilege Programs
Implementation of recommendations of GAO Report on LAPPs
Status of the LAP Guidelines Project
- 12:00 (1 hr 30 min) *Lunch on your own*
- 1:30 (1 hr) Draft Framework for the Development of the National System of MPAs
- 2:30 (45 min) Refining EFH Guidance
- 3:15 (1 hr 30 min) Ending Overfishing Goal
- 4:45 *Adjourn*

Tuesday, October 31st.

- 8:30 (1 hr 30 min) MSA reauthorization
H 5018 re: en bloc amendment (collaborative strategic plans)
Catch limit/ABC/OY issues, esp. S 2012 language
- 10:00 (1 hr) Budget Discussion
- 11:00 (2 hr) *Lunch on your own*
- 1:00 (1 hr at OMB) Council members meet w/OMB Examiner
- 2:30 (1 hr) Council Administrative Issues
Federal Medical Benefits for Council Staff
Status of Councils re: FOIA Requests
- 3:30 (30 min) Agenda Items for January 2007 CCED meeting.
- 4:00 *Adjourn*

2006 Council Orientation Agenda, Draft 9/22/06

Time (Elapsed Time)	Subject	Presenter
Tuesday, October 31, 2006		
8:00	(30 min) <i>Breakfast</i>	
8:30	(15 min) Welcome and Opening Remarks	Bill Hogarth
8:45	(30 min) Goals and Purposes of Council Training And Council Environment	Mary Hope Katsourous
9:15	(30 min) Rules of Conduct and Conflict of Interest for Council Members	Will Jacobi
9:45	(45 min) Magnuson-Stevens Act Overview	Marian Macpherson
10:30	<i>Break</i>	
10:45	(30 min) Magnuson-Stevens Act Overview (continued)	Marian Macpherson
11:15	(45 min) Other Statutory Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws Affecting Fisheries Management • Litigation • Integration of Conflicting Statutes 	Adam Issenburg
12:00	(90 min) <i>Lunch/w speaker</i>	Rod Moore
1:30	(45 min) Ecosystem Approaches to Management	Steve Murawski
2:15	(60 min) Stock Assessment: The Science of Fisheries The Foundation for Fisheries Management Setting OYs and ABCs The importance of data collection Understanding the limitations of stock assessment	Rick Methot
3:15	(15 min) <i>Break</i>	
3:30	(30 min) Panel: Stock Assessment – Advice to New Members	Rick Methot (Mod)
4:00	(45 min) FMPs and the Council Process: Overview of Requirements & Steps in the Process	Marian Macpherson
5:00	<i>Adjourn</i>	

<u>Time (Elapsed Time)</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
Wednesday, November 1, 2006		
8:00	<i>(25 min) Breakfast</i>	
8:25	(5 min) Summary of Day 1 discussions and what to expect in Day 2	Mary Hope Katsourous
8:30	(60 min) Overview of Ten National Standards\ Discussion of National Standard 1	Marian Macpherson Rick Methot
9:30	(60 min) Protected Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Protected Areas • Panel: MPAs as a Management Tool 	Joe Uravitch
10:30	<i>(15 min) Break</i>	
10:45	(60 min) Protected Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endangered Species Act • Marine Mammal Protection Act 	Ann Garrett Melissa Andersen
11:45	(30 min) Social Impact Assessment	Peter Fricke
12:15	<i>(90 min) Lunch w/speaker</i>	
1:45	(60 min) Enforcement	Dale Jones LCDR Bob Hendrickson
2:45	(30 min) International Fisheries Issues Impacting Councils	Jean-Pierre Ple
3:15	<i>(15 min) Break</i>	
3:30	(45 min) Guidelines for Economic Analysis of Fishery Management Actions	Jose Montanez-MAFMC
4:30	(15 min) Connecting the Dots <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap of the process and timelines 	Marian Macpherson
5:00	<i>Adjourn</i>	

<u>Time</u>	<u>Elapsed Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
Thursday, November 2, 2006			
8:00	(25 min)	Breakfast	
8:25	(5 min)	Summary of Day 2 discussions and what to expect in Day 3	Mary Hope Katsourous
8:30	(60 min)	National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	John Hansel
9:30	(30 min)	Panel: NEPA as Part of the Management Process	John Hansel (Mod)
10:00 (15 min) Break			
10:15	(60 min)	Working the Complete FMP Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying the FMP/RSP Steps • Considering All Relevant Laws • NMFS-Council Roles • Discussion 	Marian Macpherson
11:15	(30 min)	MSA Reauthorization Status (effect of MSA Reauthorization on each Section of MSA)	Alan Risenhoover
11:45	(15 min)	Summary and Wrap-up	Mary Hope Katsourous

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

AGENDA B-1(e)
OCTOBER 2006

Stephanie Madsen, Chair
Chris Oliver, Executive Director



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

Telephone (907) 271-2809

Fax (907) 271-2817

Visit our website: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc>

September 18, 2006

Dr. Gordon H. Kruse
President's Professor of Fisheries
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, Juneau Center
University of Alaska Fairbanks
11120 Glacier Highway
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject: UAF's proposal for a marine-oriented IGERT program

Dear Dr. Kruse:

This letter follows on to our March letter supporting your pre-proposal. Now that you are in the proposal stage, I wanted to reiterate our endorsement of the concept embodied in your University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) proposal for a new Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT) in marine ecosystem research and management. I also wanted to specifically support the concept of a class structured toward the management processes, including attendance and participation in NPFMC Council or Committee meetings. We would welcome the attendance of students as part of this program, and I believe that 'being in the room' when important management programs are being developed represents a unique and productive learning experience.

Our Council has been leading the nation with the implementation of ecosystem-based fishery management approaches, and we are currently developing a Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the Aleutian Islands. Also, we have been aggressively implementing other creative management approaches, including individual fishing quotas, community development quotas, voluntary rolling hotspot systems for managing bycatch, and other programs that integrate a host of social and economic considerations into the management and conservation of fishery resources. The increasing complexity of the fisheries management in Alaska raises the demand for a new breed of university graduates, who have solid education in traditional fishery backgrounds, plus interdisciplinary training in economics, sociology, policy, and law.

Again, I am pleased to commit the NPFMC to serve as a collaborating institution to participate in your new IGERT internship program, if it is funded. We also look forward to students' participation directly in the Council process. I believe this is an important and positive aspect of the proposed program. We wish you success with your proposal and look forward to working even more closely with you and your UAF colleagues and students in the future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Oliver".

Chris Oliver
Executive Director

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

AGENDA B-1(f)
OCTOBER 2006

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Chris Oliver, Executive Director



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September 14, 2006

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Data Manager/Analyst

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

DUTIES: To serve as a data manager and analyst, with primary responsibilities to coordinate the use of fisheries data derived from several source agencies, and provide select data consolidated from those sources to analysts working on a variety of fishery related analyses of biological, economic, and social impacts of proposed fishery management plans and regulations. Will assist the Executive Director, Deputy Director, Senior Economist, and other Council staff in the identification of appropriate data for analysis of issues pertaining to fisheries management off Alaska, particularly the groundfish and crab fisheries. Will participate as part of a team of economic and biological analysts from Council staff and from the staffs of other agencies. Position provides data support for the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements and Regulatory Impact Reviews for a variety of proposed management measures. Specific duties will include:

1. Working with the Alaska Fisheries Information Network, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and other state and federal agencies to access and coordinate use of large, comprehensive sets of state and federal fisheries data in support of analytical requirements of Council and other agency staff. Consolidate, compile, and provide various data sets from larger databases for use in issue-specific analyses. Maintain thorough documentation of compilation of resulting data sets. Develop protocol for error checking of base data, and feedback mechanisms to source agencies.
2. Prepare technical data and assist in preparation of analyses of economics issues, policy issues, and position papers relative to the formation of fisheries management measures. Conducting critical reviews of other analyses developed in support of plans.
3. Acting, upon assignment, as a liaison between the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and other agencies with which it cooperates, including the Alaska Fisheries Information Network, National Marine Fisheries Service, the Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the International Pacific Halibut Commission.
4. Acting, upon request, as spokesman for the staff in discussions with the Council or the Council's committees on matters relating to the fisheries data and/or the impacts of proposed fishery management regulations.
5. Attending Council meetings, public hearings, committee meetings, and other meetings and hearings as required.
6. Other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Desired Minimums:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in statistics, economics, or other field requiring analysis of large, complex data sets (or comparable on-the-job experience).
- Progressively responsible experience in data management and analysis.
- Ability to articulate technical information to non-technical audiences, ability to write clearly and succinctly, and ability to work closely with people from diverse scientific and technical backgrounds are necessary to this position.
- Proficiency in data manipulation, statistical analysis, and the use of information systems.
- Working knowledge and experience with various software packages used for data analysis (including Access and Excel) and proficiency in data manipulation with at least one statistical software package (such as SAS or SPSS).

Persons with qualifications less than the specified minimums may be considered, but placement of such persons may be accordingly lower.

Preferred:

- Experience with state or national level commercial and recreational fisheries data, particularly with North Pacific fisheries and their management.
- Master's degree in natural resource policy, agricultural economics, fisheries sciences, or related disciplines.
- Familiarity with Oracle and SQL.
- Demonstrated abilities in fisheries management analyses and writing.
- Experience with multi-disciplinary, inter-agency task forces.
- Familiarity with North Pacific fisheries management agencies and authorities.

SALARY: GS-10/11 federal equivalent plus Alaska Cost of Living Allowance (\$58,000-\$83,000 DOE), plus fringe benefits package that includes life and health insurance and participation in the State of Alaska Retirement Plan.

LOCATION: The Council office is located in Anchorage, Alaska. Travel will be required to attend meetings in other Alaska and Pacific Northwest locations.

TERM OF EMPLOYMENT: A minimum commitment of three years is desired. Interagency personnel assignments (IPAs) also will be considered.

TO APPLY: A current curriculum vitae or employment resume, which highlights relevant experience, training, education, research skills, and publications, is required. A brief statement of interest, which describes the skills you would bring to this position, is also requested. Please include your time of availability. Send these materials to:

Mr. Chris Oliver, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W. 4th Avenue, #306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

The deadline for applications is October 20, 2006. Telephone inquiries: Dr. Mark Fina, Senior Economist (907) 271-2809.

No format is prescribed; however, resumes and statements of interest which do not exceed three pages in length will be appreciated. Letters of recommendation or references may be included. Education transcripts are not needed at this time.



30th Anniversary Celebration
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Evening Program [Draft]

- 6:00 p.m. Social Hour – No Host Bar
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner Service
- 8:00 p.m. Introductory Remarks: Stephanie Madsen, *Master of Ceremonies*
- Special Welcome: Governor of Alaska (to be invited)
Representative Don Young (Invited)
Senator Lisa Murkowski (Invited)
- Keynote Speaker: Senator Ted Stevens (Invited)
- Opening Remarks:
Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, *NOAA Administrator*
Dr. Bill Hogarth, *Assistant Administrator, NOAA Fisheries*
Dr. Jim Balsiger, *Alaska Region Administrator, NOAA Fisheries*
- Reflections
- Special Recognitions
- A lighthearted review of the past 30 years
- Closing Comments
- 9:30 p.m. Dancing – No Host Bar
- 10:30 p.m. Conclusion of Festivities

Music provided by the *After Six Orchestra*
Jerry Wilson, Band Leader