

## Executive Director's Report

### Electronic Monitoring Workshop

On July 29-30 we co-sponsored an electronic monitoring workshop with NOAA Fisheries and the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) in Seattle, with nearly 100 participants and attendees, including several Council members. While we might still be a ways from deploying electronic monitoring as a substitute for observers on any large scale, we did explore the current state of the technologies and many of the technical and management impediments that remain. The agenda and list of participants is attached under Item B-1 (a). The proceedings have been posted on our website and hard copies are available upon request.

### Miscellaneous Observer Program Issues

Following our second request to NOAA Fisheries HQ concerning observer status (professional vs technical) and associated wage determinations, we received further response this summer as contained under Item B-1(b). This letter suggests that, pending resolution from the Department of Labor, there is information being developed by NMFS that could inform the Council sufficiently (even without advice from DOL) to proceed with analyses that have been on hold pending resolution of this issue. I presume the Council needs to see that information in order to determine if it is sufficient to proceed with consideration of program re-structuring.

Related to this issue is a recent memorandum from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to Dr. Balsiger, noting the status of the recommendations from the 2004 OIG report on the observer program. This memo, contained under Item B-1(c) indicates that OIG still considers recommendation #9 open; i.e., establishment of requirements which ensure a vessel selection process that produces random sampling of the fisheries and better control of the distribution of observer coverage. These of course are two primary goals of our previous attempts at program restructuring.

Item B-1(d) is a recent letter from NOAA Fisheries in response to a letter from several observer providers concerning Level 2 certification endorsements and associated shortages of qualified observers.

Item B-1(e) is a copy of a letter from Dr. Balsiger in response to a letter from Senator Stevens' office regarding potential federal funding to further support observer placement in North Pacific fisheries.

### Joint Protocol Committee Meeting

The Council/Board of Fish Protocol Committee met on September 12 and discussed several issues which were identified when we last met with the full Council and Board earlier this year. A report from that meeting will be distributed at this meeting, and we will refer to that report as is applicable during the Council's agenda. While the report references several Board proposals which might be of interest to the Council, and which were related to agenda items for the Protocol Committee, we did not cover all Board proposals from this year's cycle which might be of interest (there are some additional proposals which relate to groundfish, or to halibut, or to sport fishery issues). While the Protocol Committee is probably an appropriate venue to review at least some of these proposals, our existing Protocol Agreement calls for the Council to review Board proposals of mutual interest at our December meeting. Later this fall the Board will be determining whether to accept proposals for further consideration, but will not act on these proposals until spring of 2009. Therefore, we still have time to confer with Board and State staff, round

up the relevant proposals, and schedule them for review by the Council in December when our agenda is a little bit less crowded. At that time we could discuss any specific proposals of interest, and then provide input to the Board (where appropriate) when we meet with the full Board in early 2009.

### IPHC News Releases

Two recent news releases from the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) are contained under Item B-1(f) – a 2008 landings report through September 15, and an announcement of a major NOAA grant to the IPHC which will allow them to equip their survey vessels (covering over 1200 survey stations each year) with water-column profilers which measure a variety of oceanic conditions. This will provide a comprehensive data set for use by numerous researchers and agencies, through the National Ocean Data Center.

### Plan Team Nominations

We are fortunate to have received several nominations for our Plan Teams which will fill crucial holes in the memberships of those Teams. Item B-1(g) is a letter from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) nominating Dr. Nancy Friday to serve as a marine mammal specialist on the GOA Groundfish Plan Team. Item B-1(h) is a letter from the AFSC nominating several individuals – (1) Dr. Paul Spencer on the GOA Groundfish Plan Team for his rockfish population dynamics expertise and non-target species analysis; (2) Dr. Dana Hanselman on the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team for his modeling and general expertise; and, (3) Dr. Michael Dalton for the GOA Groundfish Plan Team for his socioeconomic expertise; (4) Dr. Alan Haynie for the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team for his socioeconomic expertise; and, (5) Dr. Brian Garber-Younts for the BSAI Crab Plan Team for his socioeconomic expertise.

We are also fortunate to receive an additional nomination from the State of Washington (Item B-1(i)) for Dr. Henry Cheng, to replace Dr. Theresa Tsou on both the BSAI and GOA Groundfish Plan Teams. Dr. Cheng is a senior statistician for the WDFW with extensive fisheries experience. Resumes for these individuals are attached and our SSC will review these nominations and provide recommendations at this meeting. These nominations represent the addition of significant expertise to our Teams!

### Donut Hole/ICC Meeting in Kaliningrad

In September I attended the annual meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea (CPCCMPCBS), or better know as the Donut Hole Convention, as well as the annual meeting of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on Fisheries (ICC), of which I am an ex-officio member. Mr. Tweit, Lt. Commander Ragone, and Ms. Ricci were also in attendance as well as a number of other agency and industry advisors. At the ICC meeting we had continued discussions of boundary line issues, enforcement issues and agreements, seabird and marine mammal issues of mutual interest, and multilateral issues including negotiations relative to the Northwest Pacific Ocean (for which Mr. Benson will be representing the Council at upcoming meetings in Tokyo later this month), proposals by the Russian delegation for mutual fishing opportunities in our respective EEZs, and issues related to the Arctic Ocean and our own FMP development. I would defer to our State Department representative for any further report on results of the ICC meeting.

### Federal Register Notices of Interest

Over the past month, three FR notices have been published which are of interest to the Council. The first, under Item B-1(j), is an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) relative to development of regulations to implement the consultation provisions of section 304(d) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. This is a major issue for some of our Council counterparts in other parts of the country, but it is an

issue which we may wish to provide comment on. Once an actual proposed rule is published, there may be an "all-Council" (CCC) comment letter developed. The deadline is October 31 and I suggest that staff work on a draft comment letter to circulate for Council input prior to that deadline.

Item B-1(k) is a request for nominations to the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee. There are 15 of the Committee members whose terms expire in October 2009, and the Department of Commerce is seeking nominations to fill those vacancies. A list of current and expiring members and the Committee Charter can be viewed at <http://mpa.gov>.

Item B-1(l) is another ANPR, this one relative to revision of National Standard 2 guidelines and the use of "best available science", in light of recent MSA changes for SAFE reports, peer review, and the role of SSCs relative to peer review requirements. We have provided general comments with regard to these MSA provisions previously, but I believe we need to reiterate those in response to this ANPR. The deadline for comments is December 17, and I suggest that staff work on a draft comment letter to circulate for Council input prior to that deadline.

#### AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiatives RFP

Item B-1(m) is a copy of a recent request for proposals from the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative for its 2009 funding cycle. Proposals are due by November 20, 2008, to the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, with \$400,000 in available funding.

#### Trawl Net Recycling Program

Item B-1(n) is an announcement and information regarding Seattle Fishermen's Terminal trawl net recycling program, which was launched earlier this year. I agreed to do my best to help distribute this information to the fishing industry.

#### MPA Framework and Nomination Process

As you recall we submitted extensive comments on the final Marine Protected Area Framework, including concerns over the listing/delisting process, the criteria for protecting designated areas, and the various authorities relative to these issues. We have been notified that the initial nomination process will begin this fall, with a target of having the first group of MPAs admitted to the system by the end of this year. Representatives from NOAA's Marine Protected Area Center would like to discuss the final Framework and the proposed nomination process with each of the Regional Fishery Management Councils, and I have agreed to have a presentation and discussion at our December Council meeting.

#### My Turn – Responsible Fisheries Management

For your information, Item B-1(o) is a letter to the Juneau Empire written by David Witherell, in response to a letter (also attached) written by George Pletnikoff which was published earlier in the Juneau Empire. I believe David's letter does an excellent job of clarifying the facts relative to the statements made in Mr. Pletnikoff's letter.

#### Admiral Lautenbacher Stepping Down

Item B-1(p) is a message from Admiral Lautenbacher, announcing his resignation to the President to be effective October 31, 2008.

#### MSA Update

For your information, Item B-1(q) is the most recent summary of MSA reauthorization tasks pulled from the NOAA website. Over the summer we submitted extensive comments on the Annual Catch Limit proposed rule, based on the efforts of staff and, more significantly, a subcommittee of our SSC. We also submitted comments (once again) on the proposed rule to implement the NEPA revisions. Since the close of the comment period on the NEPA proposed rule, I have also been involved in two meetings with the CCC subcommittee assigned to this issue and NOAA Fisheries HQ personnel working on this rule. At this time I cannot tell you whether the agency will proceed with a final rule, or pull it back as has been suggested by numerous organizations. If the agency does proceed with a final rule, I am hopeful that our comments, and the input of our CCC subcommittee, will be reflected in that final rule.

There are a number of other MSA issues which I have not been tracking closely over the summer, due to the press of the priority issues, but I intend to prepare a more comprehensive update for you at the December meeting. Two of our members, Mr. Dersham and Mr. Henderschedt, will be attending the Council member training later this month, as required by the new MSA provisions.

#### Job Announcement of Interest

Item B-1(r) is a job announcement, closing October 16, for a coordinator position on NOAA's Regional Collaboration Team, now led by Dr. DeMaster. This announcement is actually for eight positions, one in each region including Alaska.

#### Events or Meetings this week

On Wednesday evening the Alaska King Crab Research, Rehabilitation, and Biology program (AKCRRAB) will host an informal meeting to present production and research accomplishments of that program. This will be on Wednesday evening, October 1, in the AP meeting room at around 5:15 or 5:30. Item B-1(s) contains additional information on this event.

The Council's Executive/Finance Committee will meet in closed session on Thursday evening (tentatively), after recess of the Council meeting, to review finance and other administrative issues. The full Council will meet in Executive Session on Friday to review a report of the Finance Committee and to discuss any litigation related issues.



## FINAL

### Electronic Fisheries Monitoring Workshop

**Location:** Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Seattle, Building 9, Auditorium

**Dates:** July 29– 30, 2008

**Registration:** <http://efmworkshop.nprb.org/start.jsf> We please request that all attendees register by July 1.

**Steering Committee:** Martin Loefflad (NMFS AFSC), Nicole Kimball (NPFMC), Chris Oliver (NPFMC), Jennifer Watson (NMFS AKR), Francis Wiese (NPRB)

#### **Background:**

A number of electronic monitoring (EM) technologies have been applied to fisheries monitoring in many applications, and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) assessed the range of EM tools being used in fisheries in 2004.<sup>1</sup> Most recently, the use of video technologies has seen considerable interest, and several different applications have begun to use video in the North Pacific and elsewhere. Within the North Pacific, video technology has been proposed as a potential way to supplement existing observer coverage, enhance the value of the data NMFS currently receives, and/or fill data gaps that have proven difficult to meet with human observers. Some video applications are currently in place, while others are being developed or under consideration.

Given the range of interest in video, there is a need to assess the state of the current technology on both national and international fronts, with an eye toward its future use in the North Pacific. This workshop will consider EM broadly, such that video is viewed in an information system context with potential for integration with other data and data acquisition systems.

#### **Workshop Goal:**

The goal of the workshop is to assess the current state of the art/science of video monitoring technology in fisheries, its applicability to research and management of the North Pacific fisheries, its future potential, and research and development needs.

---

<sup>1</sup>Appendix I to the EA/RIR/IRFA for BSAI Amendment 86/GOA Amendment 76: Extension or Modification of the Program for Observer Procurement and Deployment in the North Pacific, public review draft, May 12, 2006. *Appendix I: Fisheries Monitoring Technologies* is a report prepared for the NPFMC by MRAG Americas, Inc., April 2004. The entire EA/RIR/IRFA is provided at: [http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current\\_issues/observer/OPO606.pdf](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/observer/OPO606.pdf).

## FINAL

### Workshop Agenda

#### July 29 – Tuesday

- 8 – 8:15 am      Introduction: **Bill Karp**, Deputy Director, AFSC & **Chris Oliver**, Executive Director, NPFMC
- 8:15 – 9:30 am      Keynote speaker, **Howard McElderry**, Archipelago Marine Research Ltd, Victoria BC  
*Current assessment of the state of video applications in fisheries in the United States and internationally*
- 9:30 – 9:45 am      Morning break
- 9:45 – 11:45 am      Panel 1: Lessons Learned from Past Applications  
(15 minutes for each presentation + 45 minutes Q&A)  
*Panelists will summarize lessons learned from video experience to date.*  
Moderator: **Martin Loefflad**, NMFS AFSC  
**Bruce Leaman**, IPHC  
**Jennifer Watson**, AKR  
**Jon Cusick**, NWR  
**Amy Van Atten**, NE  
**Rick Stanley**, DFO, Canada
- 11:45 – 1:15 pm      Lunch (on your own)
- 1:15 – 3 pm      Panel 2: Industry Perspective  
(15 minutes for each presentation + 30 minutes Q&A)  
*Panelists will summarize their perspectives on the use of video identifying any issues of concern.*  
Moderator: **Nicole Kimball**, NPFMC  
**Paul MacGregor**, At-sea Processors Association  
**Julie Bonney**, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank  
**Bob Alverson**, Halibut/longline sector representative  
**Todd Loomis**, Cascade Fishing  
**John Gauvin**, Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation
- 3 – 3:15 pm      Afternoon break
- 3:15 – 4:30 pm      Panel 3: NMFS Legal, Management, and Enforcement Considerations  
(15 minutes for each presentation + 30 minutes Q&A)  
*Panelist will explore: What fisheries management information needs could be addressed using video monitoring? What enforcement or compliance needs could be addressed using video monitoring? What management, legal and enforcement concerns need to be addressed to utilize video monitoring for management and compliance goals?*  
Moderator: **Chris Oliver**, NPFMC  
Management perspective: **Sue Salveson**, AKR NMFS  
Legal perspective: **Susan Auer**, NOAA GC EL/AK  
**Tom Meyer**, NOAA GC AK  
Enforcement perspective: **Ken Hansen**, OLE Alaska Region  
**Dayna Matthews**, OLE Northwest Region

## FINAL

### July 30 – Wednesday

- 8 – 8:15 am      Introductory remarks, **Martin Loefflad**, Director, Fisheries Monitoring & Analysis Division, AFSC
- 8:15 – 10 am      Panel 4: What new video work is underway for use in fisheries management?  
(15 minutes for each presentation + 30 minutes Q&A)  
*Panelists will review ongoing research projects and identify potential future applications.*  
Moderator: **Jennifer Watson**, NMFS Alaska Region  
Halibut longline fishery: **Gregg Williams**, IPHC  
Rockfish pilot project: **Alan Kinsolving**, NMFS Alaska Region  
Shoreside hake fishery: **Frank Lockhart**, NMFS Northwest Region  
Gulf of Mexico longline project: **Jack McGovern**, NMFS Southeast Region
- 10 – 10:15 am      Morning break
- 10:15 – 11:45 am      Panel 5: Research & development advancements and future needs  
(15 minutes for each presentation + 30 minutes Q&A)  
*Panelists will review future possibilities for video applications.*  
Moderator: **Clarence Pautzke**, NPRB  
Review the state of video in other fishery research applications: **David Somerton**, NMFS AFSC  
Potential for integrations: **Bill Karp**, NMFS AFSC  
How to operationalize video: **Howard McElderry**, Archipelago Marine Research  
Catch Meter in US fisheries monitoring: **Helge Hammersland**, Scantrol, Norway  
Economic trade-offs: **Gordon Gislason**, BC
- 11:45 – 1:15 pm      Lunch
- 1:15 – 2:45 pm      Synthesis & Discussion  
Re-cap and summarize the key points from the panels: **Bob Trumble**, MRAG  
Group discussion
- 2:45 - 3 pm      Closing comments: **Bill Karp**, NMFS AFSC

## 5 List of Participants

Name	Institution	Email	Country
Alan Hayne	NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center	alan.hayne@noaa.gov	USA
Alan Kinsolving	NMFS, Sustainable Fisheries, Scales Program Coordinator	alan.kinsolving@noaa.gov	USA
Alfred Lee Cook	World Wildlife Fund, Marine Program, Senior Fisheries Program Officer	bubba.cook@wwfus.org	USA
Alvin Katekaru	DOC/NOAA/NMFS/ Pacific Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Assistant Regional Administrator	alvin.katekaru@noaa.gov	USA
Amy Sierra Van Atten	NOAA Fisheries, Northeast Fisheries Observer Program, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Fisheries Sampling Branch, Operations Coordinator	Amy.Van.Atten@noaa.gov	USA
Beth Daudistel	Best Use Cooperative, Data Manager	daudistel@seanet.com	USA
Bob Trumble	MRAG Americas, Inc.	bob.trumble@mragamericas.com	USA
Brandee Gerke	National Marine Fisheries Service - Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries Division	brandee.gerke@noaa.gov	USA
Brent Paine	United Catcher Boats, Executive Director	bpaine@ucba.org	USA
Brian Corrigan	U.S. Coast Guard, District Thirteen (Seattle, WA), Fisheries Enforcement	brian.p.corrigan@uscg.mil	USA
Brian H Mason	National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division, Fisheries Biologist	Brian.mason@noaa.gov	USA
Bruce M Leaman	International Pacific Halibut Commission, Executive Director	bruce@iphc.washington.edu	USA
Chris Oliver	North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Executive Director	chris.oliver@noaa.gov	USA
Christopher Kellogg	New England Fishery Mgmt Council, Deputy Director	ckellogg@nefmc.org	USA
Cindy R Smith	Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Northern Region Sector Coordinator	csmith@gmri.org	USA
Clarence Pautzke	North Pacific Research Board, Executive Director	cpautzke@nprb.org	USA
Corey Niles	WDFW, Intergovernmental Resource Management, Marine Resources Policy Coordinator	nilescbn@dfw.wa.gov	USA
Craig H Faunce	Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division, Research Fishery Biologist	Craig.Faunce@noaa.gov	USA
Daniel Jason Salerno	Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Research, Collaborative Research Technician	dsalerno@gmri.org	USA
Dave Colpo	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	dave_colpo@psmfc.org	USA
David Pratt	Sea Technology Company	david@seatechnologycompany.com	USA
David Somerton	Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NMFS	David.Somerton@noaa.gov	USA
David W Benson	NPFMC, Council member	davebenson@tridentseafoods.com	USA
Dawn Michelle Mann	Archipelago Marine Research Ltd., Fisheries Monitoring Programs, Information Services Division, Program Manager	dawnm@archipelago.ca	CAN

Name	Institution	Email	Country
Dayna Robert Matthews	NMFS/Office of Law Enforcement, Dept of Commerce, West Coast Enforcement Coordinator	dayna.matthews@noaa.gov	USA
Dennis C Hansford	DOC/NOAA/NMFS/S&T/Assessment and Monitoring/National Observer Program, Fishery Biologist	dennis.hansford@noaa.gov	USA
Duncan Fields	NPFMC, Council member	dfields@ptialaska.net	USA
Earl Krygier	Consultant	minoaml@yahoo.com	USA
Emilie Anne Litsinger	Environmental Defense Fund, Oceans Program, Groundfish Project Manager	elitsinger@edf.org	USA
Eric Kingma	NOAA Fisheries	eric.kingma@noaa.gov	USA
Forrest R. Bowers	State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, BSAI Area Management Biologist	forrest.bowers@alaska.gov	USA
Frank D Lockhart	NOAA Fisheries - Northwest Region, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Assistant Regional Administrator	frank.lockhart@noaa.gov	USA
Gordon Gislason	GSGislason & Associates Ltd.	gsg@gsg.bc.ca	CAN
Greg Clapp	Archipelago Marine Research Ltd., Electronic Monitoring , Program Manager	GregC@archipelago.ca	CAN
Gregg H Williams	International Pacific Halibut Commission, Program head, Research & Fish Management	gregg@iphc.washington.edu	USA
Gretchen Arentzen	NOAA-NMFS Northwest Region, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Groundfish Regulations	Gretchen.Arentzen@noaa.gov	USA
Helge Hammersland	Scantrol, Managing Director	helge@scantrol.no	Norway
Herman Savikko	State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game	herman.savikko@state.gov	USA
Howard McElderry	Archipelago Marine Research LTD, Director Electronic Monitoring Division	howardm@archipelago.ca	CAN
Jake Kritzer	Environmental Defense Fund, Senior Marine Scientist	jkritzer@edf.org	USA
Jamie A Marchetti	NOAA, Pacific Island Office, Biologist	jamie.marchetti@noaa.gov	USA
Jane DiCosimo	NPFMC, Fishery Analyst	jane.dicosimo@noaa.gov	USA
Jason Anderson	Best Use Cooperative, Manager	jasonanderson@seanet.com	USA
Jennie Harrington	MRAG Americas, Inc., Fishery Biologist	jennie.harrington@mragamanicas.com	USA
Jennifer Cahalan	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, NMFS AFSC Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division, Statistician	jennifer_cahalan@psmfc.org	USA
Jennifer Mondragon	NMFS Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries	Jennifer.Mondragon@noaa.gov	USA
Jennifer Watson	NMFS Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries	jennifer.watson@noaa.gov	USA
Jessica A. Schrader	Archipelago Marine Research LTD, Electronic Monitoring Programs, Data Analyst	jessicas@archipelago.ca	CAN
Joanna Grebel	California Dept of Fish & Game	jgrebel@dfg.ca.gov	USA

Name	Institution	Email	Country
Joe Sullivan	Mundt MacGregor LLP, Partner	jsullivan@mundtmac.com	USA
John Gauvin	H&G Workgroup, NPRB member, MCAF Cooperative Research	gauvin@seanet.com	USA
John Gruver	United Catcher Boats, Inter-Coop Manager	jgruver@ucba.org	USA
John Henderschedt	Premier Pacific Seafoods, Operations and Fisheries Management Coordinator	johnh@prempac.com	USA
John Clarke McGovern	National Marine Fisheries Service, Sustainable Fisheries, Fishery Biologist	john.mcgovern@noaa.gov	USA
Jon McCracken	North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Fisheries Analyst	jon.mccracken@noaa.gov	USA
Jonathan Cusick	NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Observer Program Manager	Jonathan.Cusick@noaa.gov	USA
Jorgen Dalskov	National Institute of Aquatic Resources, Section for Monitoring, Fishery Advisor / Head of Division	jd@aqua.dtu.dk	Denmark
Julie Anne Bonney	Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Executive Director	jbonney@gci.net	USA
Karl Hafinger	Sea State, Inc	karl@seastateinc.com	USA
Katherine Hellen	Sea State Inc., Data Analyst	katherine@seastateinc.com	USA
Katy McGauley	Alaska Groundfish Data Bank	katymcgauley@gmail.com	USA
Kelly Corbett	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Assistant Project Leader	kelly.c.corbett@state.or.us	USA
Ken Hansen	NOAA OLE	kenneth.hansen@noaa.gov	USA
Kenny Down	Freezer Longline Coalition, Executive Director	kennydown@comcast.net	USA
L. Roy Hyder	North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Principal State Official Designee	hyderrh@madras.net	USA
Lewis Van Fossen	National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Islands Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Resource Management Specialist	lewis.vanfossen@noaa.gov	USA
Lisa M Thompson	Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division, Supervisory Fishery Biologist	Lisa.thompson@noaa.gov	USA
Lloyd Johannessen		stormlloyd@comcast.net	
Lori Swanson	Groundfish Forum, Executive Director	loriswanson@seanet.com	USA
Maria Jose Pria	Archipelago Marine Research Ltd., Electronic Monitoring, Data Analyst	mariajosep@archipelago.ca	CAN
Martin Loefflad	NMFS, Fisheries Monitoring and Assessment, Director	Martin.Loefflad@noaa.gov	USA
Meaghan H. M. Brosnan	U.S. Coast Guard, 13th Coast Guard District	mbrosnan@u.washington.edu	USA
Melissa A Sanderson	Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association, Fisheries Policy, Monitoring Director	mel@ccchfa.org	USA
Melissa Summer Vasquez	Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment, Coastal Environmental Management, Graduate student	mvs2@duke.edu	USA
Michael Lake	Alaskan Observers, Inc., President	aoistaff@alaskanobservers.com	USA

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Country</b>
Michael A Cenci	WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Enforcement Program, Deputy Chief	cencimac@dfw.wa.gov	USA
Nicole Sioux Kimball	North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Fisheries analyst	nicole.kimball@noaa.gov	USA
Olav Ormseth	NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Research Fishery Biologist	Olav.Ormseth@noaa.gov	USA
Patrick Barelli	U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Response and Enforcement (dre)	Patrick.T.Barelli@uscg.mil	USA
Patti Nelson	NMFS, Fisheries Monitoring and Assessment	patti.nelson@noaa.gov	USA
Paul MacGregor	At-Sea Processors Association	pmacgregor@mundtmac.com	USA
Rebecca Dorval	US Coast Guard, North Pacific Regional Fisheries Training Center, Commanding Officer	rebecca.w.dorval@uscg.mil	USA
Rick Stanley	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Research Biologist	rick.stanley@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	CAN
Robert Brian Chambers	US Coast Guard, LT	rbcham@u.washington.edu	USA
Robert Dayton Alverson	Fishing Vessel Owners' Association, Manager	robertalverson@msn.com	USA
Robert Mark Farrell	Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Data and Information, Chief Information Officer	Mark.Farrell@afma.gov.au	AUS
Robert Morley Stanley	Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Data and Information, Manager On Boat Data Collection	Bob.Stanley@afma.gov.au	AUS
Shannon Fitzgerald	NOAA Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center	shannon.fitzgerald@noaa.gov	USA
Stefanie Lyn Moreland	State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, Extended Jurisdiction Program Manager	stefanie.moreland@alaska.gov	USA
Stephen P Freese	NMFS Northwest Region, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Chief, Permits and Economics Branch	Steve.Freese@noaa.gov	USA
Susan Auer	USDOC/NOAA, General Counsel for Enforcement & Litigation, Senior Enforcement Attorney	susan.auer@noaa.gov	USA
Susan J Salveson	NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Assistant Regional Administrator	Sue.Salveson@noaa.gov	USA
Thomas Meyer	NOAA General Counsel, Commerce, Attorney advisor	tom.gcak.meyer@noaa.gov	USA
Todd M Loomis	Cascade Fishing, Inc., Government Affairs	tloomis@cascadefishing.com	USA
Wayne Donaldson	Alaska Department of Fish & Game	wayne.donaldson@alaska.gov	USA
William A Karp	NOAA Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Deputy Director for Science and Research	bill.karp@noaa.gov	USA



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** AGENDA B-1(b)  
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE OCTOBER 2008  
 1315 East-West Highway  
 Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
 THE DIRECTOR

JUN 24 2008

RECEIVED  
 JUN 24 2008  
 N.P.F.M.C.

Mr. Chris Oliver  
 Executive Director  
 North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Thank you for your letter regarding efforts by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to resolve observer compensation issues related to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and the Service Contract Act (SCA). As you know, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) sent a letter to the Department of Labor (DOL) on November 29, 2005, and we have yet to receive a response. We have recently become aware of fishing industry efforts to work directly with DOL to resolve these issues. We believe that it is appropriate to allow that process to reach conclusion before we take further action.

The NMFS has initiated analyses that may assist the Council in addressing the cost issue, even without advice from DOL on these outstanding FLSA issues. The information to be presented to the Council will provide a range of observer payment options, using the most recent SCA wage determinations and assuming the FLSA requirements for overtime apply. Working from a set of work day assumptions, the Council should be able to use this information to analyze costs for any potential future program.

Sincerely,

James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.  
 Acting Assistant Administrator  
 for Fisheries

Page 2

THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR  
 FOR FISHERIES



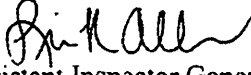




AGENDA B-1(c)  
OCTOBER 2008  
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Office of Inspector General**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

September 5, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. James W. Balsiger  
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

FROM: Lisa Allen   
Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Inspections and  
Program Evaluations

SUBJECT: Status Report on Recommendations from 2004 OIG  
Report—*NMFS Observer Programs Need to Improve Data  
Quality Assurance, Performance Monitoring, and  
Communication Efforts* (IPE-15721)

As part of the OIG's current review of certain aspects of NOAA's fisheries enforcement efforts, we did additional follow-up to determine whether the following two recommendations should be closed, as requested in NMFS' February 12, 2008 memo to our office.

**Recommendation #1: Develop and implement statistically valid, unbiased vessel selection procedures for observer programs with contractual relationships with observer providers and continually monitor the implementation to ensure that the vessel selection process is properly implemented.**

OIG heard from NMFS managers and biologists that data integrity within the observer program continues to improve. NMFS' work developing sampling frames based on lists of actively participating vessels in fisheries, and its efforts to keep these lists complete and current, meets the intent of this recommendation. For example, NMFS staff in several regions report that inactive vessels are removed from selection lists, and call-in systems are used in several regional observer programs, two ways to keep selection lists more current. We also heard that when there are issues maintaining accurate lists of active vessels in a fishery, one contractor has added staff in order to more closely monitor port activity. Also, when permits can be switched from one vessel to another within a year, one observer program is examining adaptive sampling designs to account for changes in fleet and fishing patterns over a season.

The national program reports that an automated process for tracking selected vessels is being developed, and work has been done evaluating the benefits of random versus probability-based sampling. We also learned that vessel monitoring system (VMS) electronic data has been compared to observer-reported data to further determine biases. Notably, outreach programs have been implemented in all regional observer programs reminding uncooperative vessel owners or captains that MSA and MMPA observer requirements to take observers is not optional. This should reduce this potential bias.

One NMFS official noted that certain vessels do not call in as required, so do not appear in the pool selected. NMFS should continue to address this and other issues of potentially biased samples.

Based on the above observations, this recommendation is now closed.

**Recommendation #9: For the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program, we recommend that the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries take appropriate steps to work with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to establish requirements for an observer program that includes a vessel selection process that produces random sampling of the fishery.**

Fishery managers still cannot control when and where observers are deployed in the North Pacific region. Recent efforts to analyze costs and compare other regional observer programs, both fee-based and industry-funded, should assist the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's restructuring of their industry-funded model. We understand that under each of the alternative models considered, NMFS would contract with the observer contractor directly using fee-proceeds and/or direct federal funding.

You and several other NMFS and FMC officials told us that a set of questions NMFS sent to the Department of Labor, which included whether the observers are technicians or professionals under the Fair Labor Standards Act, remains unanswered since November 29, 2005. We learned that the observer contractors in Alaska asked the Department of Labor to clarify observer compensation and overtime pay issues so that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council can more accurately estimate costs associated with a fee-based alternative.

Until NMFS and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council establish requirements for an observer program that includes a vessel selection process that produces random sampling of the fisheries and better control of the distribution of observer coverage, our recommendation will remain open. This is the only open recommendation from the 2004 report.

We appreciate NMFS' work to reduce bias in and enhance the validity of vessel selection procedures for observer programs. If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 482-5422 or Michael Ketover at (202) 482-2189.

cc. Todd J. Zinser, Inspector General  
Judith J. Gordon, Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation  
John Oliver, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS  
Mack Cato, NOAA Audits

COPY FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMM  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division  
7600 Sand Point Way Northeast  
Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

September 15, 2008

RECEIVED  
SEP 17 2008

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Observer Providers,

Thank you for your letter concerning Level 2 observer certification endorsements. We understand the problem you are experiencing in meeting the increased demands for Level 2 observers; however, we do not agree that the solution lies in lowering the experience requirements for obtaining a Level 2 endorsement to an observer's certification. We feel that successfully completing 60 days of on-the-job applied observer data collection experience is an essential requirement for a certified observer to achieve a Level 2 endorsement.

As was stated in our recent correspondence to you, we have been developing a strategy to help alleviate the current situation by creating a more efficient pathway towards achievement of a Level 2 certification endorsement.

Please let me reiterate the changes we intend to make in the Level 2 endorsement process.

As stated in regulation (50 CFR §679.50 (j)(1)(v)(D)), a Level 2 endorsement to an observer's certification may be obtained by meeting the following requirements:

- (1) Be a prior observer in the groundfish fisheries off Alaska who has completed at least 60 days of observer data collection;
- (2) Receive an evaluation by NMFS for his or her most recent deployment that indicated that the observer's performance met Observer Program expectations for that deployment;
- (3) Successfully complete a NMFS-approved Level 2 observer training as prescribed by the Observer Program;
- (4) Comply with all other requirements of this section.

In our August 21 memo to all Observer Providers, we outlined our plan to incorporate the Level 2 training materials into the 3-week and 4-day briefings this fall in preparation for the 2009 fishery season. We believe that this change will achieve two goals. The first goal is to increase the knowledge and skill level of all observers. As management regimes in the North Pacific continue to develop, the data collected by observers are becoming an increasingly important tool for management. As a result, the work observers do has a growing impact on individual vessels and seasons. To ensure that observers are prepared to face the many challenges presented to them at sea, we plan to upgrade our initial training to include what were historically 'Level 2' materials. This will prepare inexperienced observers to make informed decisions that positively affect data quality.



The second goal is to simplify the Level 2 endorsement process. By including Level 2 instruction materials in the initial 3-week training course, the need for observers to complete a separate, 4-day Level 2 training class will be eliminated. This should greatly ease the logistical, time and cost issues associated the original Level 2 endorsement process. Essentially, an observer will now gain a Level 2 endorsement after (1) successfully completing the initial 3-week training course, (2) completing at least 60 days of observer data collection and (3) receiving an acceptable evaluation by NMFS for his or her most recent deployment. Once an observer has achieved a Level 2 endorsement to their observer certification, they may additionally receive a Level 2 "lead" observer endorsement by meeting further requirements.

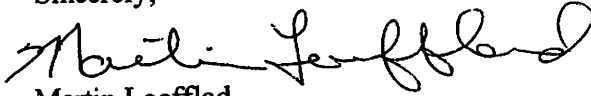
We agree that observers graduating from our initial training courses will be better prepared to work aboard vessels that are managed through individual vessel quota monitoring systems (i.e., CDQ, AFA and Amendment 80 vessels). We also acknowledge that some vessels that are under requirements to carry two observers are allowed to carry one certified observer, and one Lead Level 2 observer. However, we do not think this demonstrates the obsolescence of the Level 2 requirements. On the contrary, it emphasizes the importance of having at least one experienced observer aboard vessels participating in fisheries with allocations to individuals, entities or cooperatives. The observer data collected aboard these vessels is crucial to the accurate accounting of quotas, and the responsibility for observer coverage should not rest solely on the shoulders of an inexperienced observer. The Level 2 endorsement system ensures a higher level of observer experience, which is vital to the success of NMFS's fisheries monitoring and management activities.

Further modifications to the Level 2 endorsement requirements, presented in your August 18 letter, would involve a change to Federal fisheries regulations. This would require proposed and final rule making involving the support of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. At this time, we would not support any actions to change the basic Level 2 or Lead Level 2 experience thresholds. Deploying observers who have proven their skills via successful cruises helps to ensure that NMFS management decisions affecting these vessels and fisheries are based on the best information possible

We are supportive of changes to coverage requirements for Level 2 and Lead Level 2 observers when they are required by law, or are modifications where NMFS data quality can be maintained. Please note that revisions to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) modified some coverage requirements in Community Development Quota (CDQ) fisheries. The details and interim guidance on these changes is available on the Alaska Regional Office web site at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/cdq/ltrcdqobservers.pdf>. A regulatory amendment that would make NMFS regulations consistent with these MSA requirements is being developed and further information is available at: [http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/cdq/msa/regharv\\_eair07.pdf](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/cdq/msa/regharv_eair07.pdf).

We appreciate your efforts in meeting the observer coverage needs of the groundfish fishing industry in the North Pacific, and we look forward to continuing our close working relationship.

Sincerely,



Martin Loefflad  
Director  
Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division

cc:

Jim Balsiger – Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
Doug Mecum – Acting Regional Administrator, Alaska Region  
Doug DeMaster – Director, Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
Bill Karp – Deputy Director, Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
Sue Salvesson – Assist. Regional Admin., Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region  
Kenny Downs – Freezer Longliner Coalition  
Joe Kyle – Observer Advisory Committee Chair  
Stephanie Madsen – At Sea Processors  
Chris Oliver – North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Executive Director  
Brent Payne – United Catcher Boats  
Glenn Reed – Pacific Seafood Processors Association  
Lori Swanson – Groundfish Forum



AGENDA B-1(e)  
OCTOBER 2008  
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
THE DIRECTOR

SEP 23 2008

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RECEIVED  
SEP 23 2008  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Senator Stevens:

Thank you for your letter to Eric Webster, NOAA's former Director of Legislative Affairs, on behalf of Kodiak Mayor Carolyn Floyd, regarding federal funding for the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program (Alaska Observer Program). For many years, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council have been working together to find resolution to the funding issues surrounding the Alaska Observer Program.

As background, in 1990 the Alaska Observer Program replaced the Foreign Fisheries Observer Program, which had been funded in large part by foreign nations that were rapidly being phased out of the groundfish fishery in Alaska. In the transition, observers were needed on the emerging domestic fleet, but federal funds were not available and NMFS lacked authority to levy fees on the domestic industry for observers. Therefore, the North Pacific Council and NMFS decided to implement a program whereby the fishing industry paid the direct costs of placing observers on their vessels and in their shoreside processing plants, and the Federal Government paid the costs of program administration, observer training, safety and sampling equipment, and data management. Under this program, the majority of costs are borne by the fishing industry, as is noted in the Mayor's letter. The North Pacific Council and NMFS are working together to restructure the Alaska Observer Program in order to address a number of issues including the within-Alaska cost issue, using the Magnuson-Stevens Act giving NMFS authority to levy fees to pay for the cost of deploying observers in the North Pacific.

As of 2008, each region of NMFS has some type of observer program in place. The amount of federal funding received by the Alaska Observer Program is substantial. To update the cost figures presented in Mayor Floyd's letter, the FY 2008 Federal Government contribution to the Alaska Observer Program is approximately \$5.2 million, and the industry contribution is in the range of \$13 to \$15 million per year. Other regions receive federal funding between \$1 million and \$12 million. The majority of observer programs in other regions are funded primarily by the Federal Government, with the exception of the West Coast offshore fishery for Pacific whiting and the Northeast Coast fishery for scallops, which receive between \$500,000 and \$1 million in industry funds.

The current allocation of federal funds for observer programs supports Agency priorities in each Region. NMFS will keep the funding issues relating to the Alaska Observer Program in mind as it reviews these priorities in upcoming budget cycles. To the extent that additional funding is

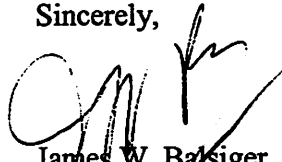


appropriated to support the AK Observer Program, we would consider using it to reduce the current observer cost burden on the industry and federal government. However, until such funding is available, NMFS will continue to work through the North Pacific Council to restructure the Alaska Observer Program to address the within-Alaska cost issues.

The restructuring of the Alaska Observer Program is on the agenda of the North Pacific Council, and a discussion paper and presentation outlining restructuring issues are scheduled for their December 2008 meeting. I encourage Mayor Floyd and her constituents to participate in the Council process so their voices are heard.

If you have further questions, please contact Karl Anderson, Director of NOAA's Office of Legislative Affairs, at (202) 482-4981.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Balsiger', written over a circular stamp or watermark.

James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.  
Acting Assistant Administrator  
for Fisheries

cc: Chris Oliver, Executive Director, NPFMC  
Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Representative Don Young  
Doug DeMaster – F/AKC  
Doug Mecum – F/AKR  
John Boreman – F/ST  
Martin Loefflad – F/AKC  
Samantha Brooke – F/ST4



# News Release

P.O. BOX 95009, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98145-2009

September 16, 2008

## 2008 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 10

### Quota Share Commercial Fisheries Update

The 2008 quota share halibut fisheries opened on March 8. It is estimated that the following catches and numbers of landings were made in the Alaskan IFQ and CDQ fisheries and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through September 15, 2008.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	6,210.0	5,326.3	1,827
3A	24,220.0	19,361.3	2,032
3B	10,900.0	8,912.2	642
4A	3,100.0	2,293.3	222
4B IFQ	1,488.0	1,148.5	79
4C IFQ*	884.5	48.1	15
4D IFQ*	1,238.3	1,648.3	56
4BCDE CDQ	2,139.2	1,934.8	2,261
<b>Alaska total</b>	<b>50,180.0</b>	<b>40,672.8</b>	<b>7,134</b>
2B	7,917.7	6,003.4	812
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>58,097.7</b>	<b>46,676.2</b>	<b>7,946</b>

\*Area 4C IFQ and CDQ can be fished in Area 4D

The catch off Alaska represents 81% of the 2008 catch limit. For comparison, 42.4 million pounds, or 81% of the 2007 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery between March 10 and September 17, 2007.

The catch from British Columbian waters represents 76% of the 2008 catch limit. For comparison, 7.9 million pounds, or 73% of the 2007 catch limit, were landed from Area 2B between March 10 and September 15, 2007.

### Incidental Commercial Halibut Catch in the Area 2A Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery

The total allowable incidental commercial catch of halibut allocated to the limited entry, fixed gear sablefish fishery which operates in Area 2A north of Point Chehalis, Washington is 70,000 pounds. It is estimated that 24,254 pounds have been landed through August 27. This incidental halibut catch fishery remains open until further notice. For further incidental fishery retention information call the NMFS hotline (1-800-662-9825).

continued...

Annette Islands Reserve Fishery Continues in Area 2C

The Metlakatla Indian Community has been authorized by the United States Government to conduct a commercial halibut fishery within the Annette Islands Reserve. The eighth 48-hour opening of the 2008 season occurred between August 22 and August 24 and resulted in the landing of 2,231 pounds of halibut. After eight openings, a grand total of 34,626 pounds of halibut have been landed in 2008. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

- END -

Bruce M. Leaman  
Executive Director  
Phone: (206) 634-1838  
Fax: (206) 632-2983  
Web: [www.iphc.washington.edu](http://www.iphc.washington.edu)

# News Release

September 16, 2008

P.O. BOX 95009, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98145-2009

## **International Pacific Halibut Commission Receives Major Grant to Monitor Ocean Conditions from Oregon to the Bering Sea**

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) is pleased to announce receipt of a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to monitor ocean conditions. The IPHC conducts an annual survey of the Pacific halibut stock from Oregon through the northern Bering Sea and western Aleutian Islands. This survey occupies more than 1200 fishing stations every year, using chartered commercial fishing vessels. The \$0.5 million grant will allow the Commission to equip all of the survey vessels with water-column profilers to be deployed at each of these stations. The profilers will collect data on salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, ocean acidity (pH), and fluorescence (chlorophyll), throughout the water column, which will provide a unique and valuable annual snapshot of oceanic conditions above the continental shelf over most of the northeast Pacific Ocean. These data will benefit not only IPHC research but also provide a major comprehensive data set on ocean conditions for use by all researchers in the north Pacific Ocean, through the National Ocean Data Center. Implementation of the full data collection process will begin with the 2009 IPHC survey program.

The grant is the result of combined efforts by IPHC researchers Dr. Steven Hare and Lauri Sadorus, in cooperation with Dr. Phyllis Stabeno of the NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory. IPHC Executive Director Dr. Bruce Leaman commented, "This is a tremendous opportunity for partnership between the IPHC and NOAA in the establishment of a long-term data set that will benefit all researchers and allow us to improve our understanding of significant events and changes in the ocean environment. The longer-term effects of ocean warming and acidification as well as the increasing frequency of hypoxic zones in the ocean are strong determinants in the population dynamics of halibut and other marine species. Data collected under this grant will be paired with observations of species abundance at each IPHC survey station, providing a rich data set to improve our understanding of these influences. We are very excited to receive the support of NOAA in this program."

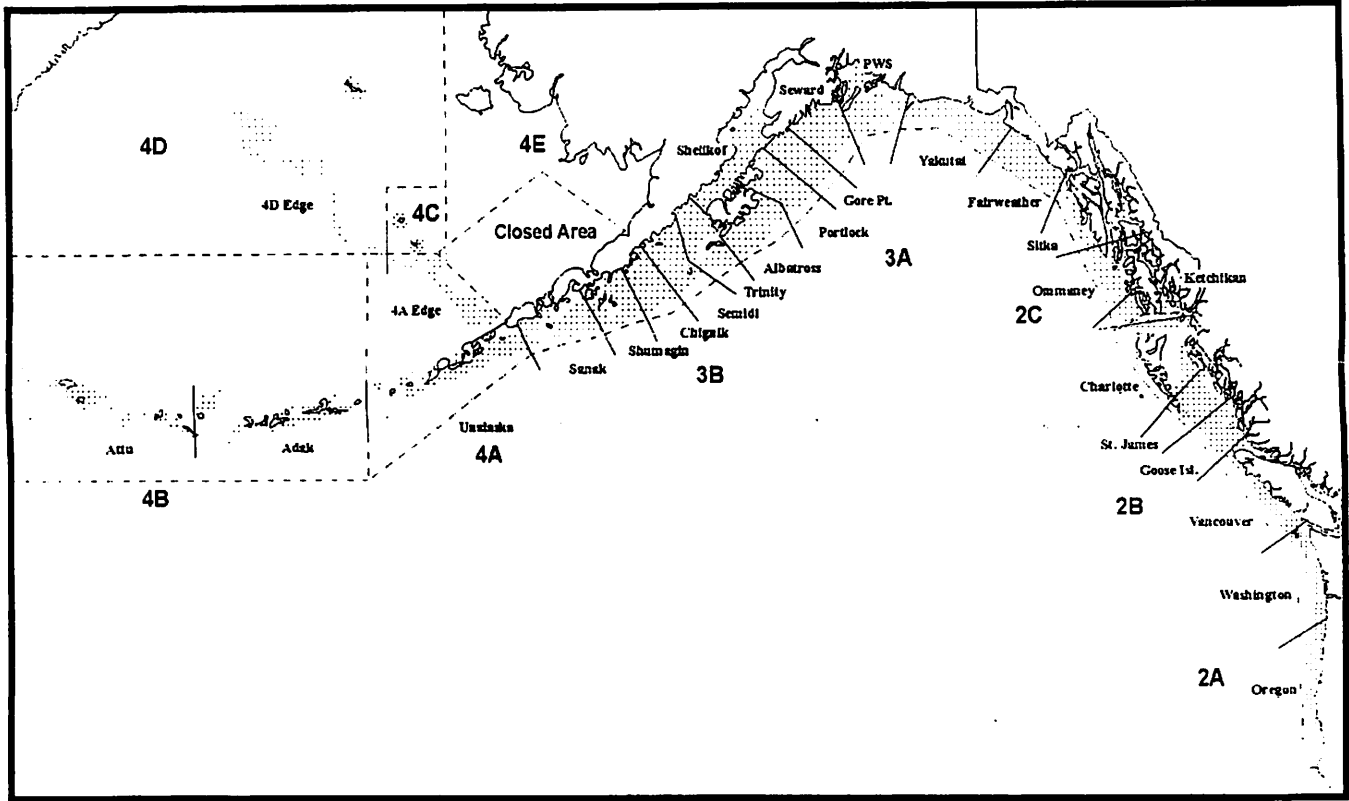
The International Pacific Halibut Commission is a joint United States – Canada commission established in 1923 for the management of sustainable yield from Pacific halibut stocks in the northeast Pacific Ocean.

- END -

Bruce M. Leaman  
Executive Director  
Phone: (206) 634-1838  
Fax: (206) 632-2983  
Web: [www.iphc.washington.edu](http://www.iphc.washington.edu)

RECEIVED  
SEP 22 2008

N.P.H.C.



International Pacific Halibut Commission Regulatory Areas and survey stations (dots) in the northeast Pacific Ocean.



AGENDA B-1(g)  
OCTOBER 2008  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.  
Bldg. 4, F/AKC  
Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

September 4, 2008

Chris Oliver  
Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

RECEIVED  
SEP - 8 2008  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chris:

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center offers Dr. Nancy Friday for your consideration to serve on the NPFMC groundfish plan team. Nancy's knowledge of marine mammal distribution and dynamics would provide useful expertise to the GOA plan team. Attached is Dr. Friday's curriculum vitae for your consideration.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this additional expert to support the NPFMC GOA plan team.

Sincerely,

DP Douglas P. DeMaster  
Science & Research Director,  
Alaska Region

cc: John Bengtson  
Phil Clapham

Attach.



**Nancy A. Friday, Ph.D.**  
NOAA/Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
National Marine Mammal Laboratory  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115 USA  
(206) 526-6266  
Email: Nancy.Friday@noaa.gov

## **EDUCATION**

**Ph.D.** in Oceanography 5/1997, The University of Rhode Island. Dissertation title: *Evaluating Photographic Capture-Recapture Estimates of Abundance of North Atlantic Humpback Whales*

**B.A.** in Social Science (magna cum laude) 5/1987, Simon's Rock College of Bard. Thesis title: *Women and Mathematics, Sexual Inequality in Numbers*

**A.A.** in Liberal Arts 5/1985 (with Distinction & Blodgett Scholarship 1985), - Simon's Rock College of Bard, Great Barrington, MA 1985

The University of Pennsylvania 9/1989 – 12/1990

McGill University 9/1985 – 4/1986

## **EMPLOYMENT**

**Research Fishery Biologist** Alaska Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Mammal Laboratory 8/2000 – present. Develop quantitative models for studying cetacean populations, including spatial distribution and habitat models. Spatial distribution models are being developed to model cetacean distribution relative to oceanographic variables using classification tree models, generalized additive and generalized linear models. Estimate cetacean abundance using distance sampling methods.

**National Research Council Resident Research Associate** Northeast Fisheries Science Center 5/1997 – 6/2000. Post-doctoral position awarded by the National Research Council for modeling the dynamics of the North Atlantic humpback whale population using individual based, age- and sex-structured, and spatially-structured models.

**Graduate Research Assistant** The University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography 1/1992 – 8/1996. Modeling cetacean population dynamics. Study the ability of individuals to agree on photographic quality and whale distinctiveness scores for individual identification photographs. Examine the sensitivity of mark-recapture estimates on abundance to the effect of photographic quality and of whale distinctiveness and to sampling probabilities of individual whales during the YoNAH project.

**Field Technician** The University of Rhode Island 6/1992 – 8/9/1992. Sample estuarine waters in New England for water properties, benthic fauna, and fish stocks for the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program

**Lab Technician** The Wistar Institute 2/1989-7/1991. Research aging and atherogenesis in relation to human endothelial and smooth muscle cells. Perform general lab maintenance.

**Teaching and Research Assistant** The School for Field Studies 8/1989. Assist in the logistics of field work and teaching academic material for the "The Biology and Behavior of Bottlenose Dolphins" course taught at Beaufort, NC.

## SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee (since 1997)  
Society of Marine Mammalogy (since 1989)  
Association for Women in Science (since 1993)  
European Cetacean Society (2000)

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Friday, N.A., T.D. Smith, P.T. Stevick, J. Allen, T. Fernald. 2008. Balancing bias and precision in capture-recapture estimates of abundance. *Marine Mammal Science* 24(2): 253-275.
- Aydin, K., S. Gaichas, I. Ortiz, D. Kinzey, N. Friday. 2007. A comparison of the Bering Sea, Gulf of Alaska, and Aleutian Islands large marine ecosystems through food web modeling, U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-AFSC-178, 298 p.
- Wade, P.R., V.N. Burkanov, M.E. Dahlheim, N.A. Friday, L.W. Fritz, T.R. Loughlin, S.A. Mizroch, M.M. Muto, D.W. Rice, L.G. Barrett-Lennard, N.A. Black, A.M. Burdin, J. Calambokidis, S. Cerchio, J.K.B. Ford, J.K. Jacobsen, C.O. Matkin, D.R. Matkin, A.V. Mehta, R.J. Small, J.M. Straley, S.M. McCluskey, G.R. Van Blaricom, P.J. Clapham. 2007. Killer whales and marine mammal trends in the North Pacific – a re-examination of evidence for sequential megafauna collapse and the prey-switching hypothesis. *Marine Mammal Science*. 23(4):766-802.
- Punt, A.E., N.A. Friday, T.D. Smith. 2006. Reconciling Data on the Trends and Abundance of North Atlantic Humpback Whales Within a Population Modeling Framework. *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*. 8(2):145-159.
- Sinclair, E.H., S.E. Moore, N.A. Friday, T.K. Zeppelin, J.M. Waite. 2005. Do patterns of Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) diet, population trend and cetacean occurrence reflect oceanographic domains from the Alaska Peninsula to the central Aleutian Islands? *Fisheries Oceanography*. 14(Suppl. 1):223-242.
- Friday, N., T.D. Smith. 2003. The Effect of Age and Sex Selective Harvest Patterns for Baleen Whales. *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*. 5(1):23-28.
- Clapham, P.J., P. Berggren, S. Childerhouse, N.A. Friday, T. Kasuya, L. Kell, K.-H. Kock, S. Manzanilla-Naim, G. Notabartolo di Sciarra, W.F. Perrin, A.J. Read, R.R. Reeves, E. Rogan, L. Rojas-Bracho, T.D. Smith, M. Stachowitsch, B.L. Taylor, D. Thiele, P.R. Wade, and R.L. Brownell, Jr. 2003. Viewpoint: Whaling as Science. *BioScience*. 53:210-212.
- Stevick, P.T., J. Allen, P.J. Clapham, N. Friday, S.K. Katona, F. Larsen, J. Lien, D.K. Mattila, P.J. Palsbøll, J. Sigurjónsson, T.D. Smith, N. Øien, P.S. Hammond. 2003. North Atlantic Humpback Whale Abundance and Rate of Increase Four Decades After Protection from Whaling. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 258:263-273.
- Moore, S.E., J.M. Waite, N.A. Friday, T. Honkalehto. 2002. Cetacean Distribution and Relative Abundance on the Central-Eastern and Southeastern Bering Sea Shelf with Reference to Oceanographic Domains. *Progress in Oceanography* 55(1-2):249-262.
- Waite, J.M., N.A. Friday, S.E. Moore. 2002. Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*) Distribution and Abundance in the Central and Southeastern Bering Sea, July 1999 and June 2000. *Marine Mammal Science* 18(3):779-786
- Friday, N., T.D. Smith, P.T. Stevick, J. Allen. 2000. Measurement of Photographic Quality and Individual Distinctiveness for the Photographic Identification of Humpback Whales, *Megaptera novaeangliae*. *Marine Mammal Science* 16(2):355-374.
- Dixon, P., N. Friday, P. Ang, S. Heppell, M. Kshatriya. 1997. Sensitivity Analysis of Structured-Population Models for Management and Conservation. In: *Structured-Population Models in Marine, Terrestrial, and Freshwater Systems* (Population and Community Biology Series 18). (Eds: S. Tuljapurkar, H. Caswell) Chapman & Hall, New York, 471-513.
- Sorger, T., N. Friday, L.-D. Yang, E.M. Levine. 1995. Heparin and the Phenotype of Adult Human Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells. *In Vitro Cell. Dev. Biol.-Animal* 31:671-683.



AGENDA B-1(h)  
OCTOBER 2008

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

August 25, 2008

Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.  
Bldg. 4, F/AKC  
Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

Chris Oliver, Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

RECEIVED

AUG 29 2008

Dear Chris:

**N.P.F.M.C.**

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center offers the following individuals for your consideration to serve on the NPFMC groundfish plan teams: Dr. Paul Spencer to serve on the GOA groundfish plan team and Dr. Dana Hanselman to serve on the BSAI groundfish plan team. Paul's knowledge of rockfish population dynamics and nontarget species analyses would provide useful expertise to the GOA plan team, and Dana's modeling skills would give the BSAI plan team a stronger analytical base. I have attached Dr. Spencer's and Dr. Hanselman's curriculum vitae for your consideration.

In response to the BSAI/GOA Groundfish and BS Crab plan teams' requests for individuals with socioeconomic expertise, we also offer Dr. Brian Garber-Yonts to serve on the BS Crab plan team, Dr. Alan Haynie for the BSAI groundfish plan team, and Dr. Michael Dalton for the GOA groundfish plan team. Dr. Dan Lew, who previously served on both the BSAI and GOA groundfish plan teams, has relocated to California, so the appointments of Drs. Haynie and Dalton will actually be replacements for Dr. Lew. Dr. Garber-Yonts has significant knowledge of the BS crab fisheries and the crab rationalization program and economic data collection. Dr. Haynie has been involved in numerous socioeconomic studies relating to the Bering Sea, including salmon bycatch. Dr. Dalton, who previously served on the PFMC SSC, is well-versed in the Council process and has a very broad perspective of socioeconomic issues and relationships to global change. Their CV's are also attached for your consideration.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these experts to support the NPFMC plan teams.

Sincerely,

William Kark  
Douglas P. DeMaster  
Science & Research Director,  
Alaska Region

cc: Patricia Livingston  
Phil Mundy

Attachments





**DANA H. HANSELMAN**  
Auke Bay Laboratories/NMFS/NOAA  
17109 Lena Loop Rd, Juneau, AK 99801  
(907)789-6626, dana.hanselman@noaa.gov

### **PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION**

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	Ecology	BS	1997
University of Alaska, Fairbanks	Fisheries Biology	MS	2000
University of Alaska, Fairbanks	Fisheries Biology	PhD	2004

### **APPOINTMENTS**

June 2003-present. Research Fishery Biologist. Auke Bay Laboratories/NOAA. Juneau, AK  
Supervisor: Dr. Jonathan Heifetz.

Research activities: Responsible for stock assessments of several rockfish species and Alaska sablefish. These assessments and supporting marine ecological research provide advice to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Participate in at-sea field research on rockfish and sablefish surveys. Other activities include research on rockfish biology and surveys, sablefish distributions, and population dynamics.

August 1998-May 2003. Graduate Research Assistant.

University of Alaska, Fairbanks--Fisheries Division, Juneau, AK.

Advisor: Dr. Terrance J. Quinn.

Research activities: Rockfish survey sampling designs and stock assessment.

### **RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

Courtney, D.L., J. N. Ianelli, D. Hanselman, and J. Heifetz. 2007. Extending statistical age-structured assessment approaches to Gulf of Alaska rockfish (*Sebastes* spp.). In: Heifetz, J., DiCosimo J., Gharrett, A.J., Love, M.S, O'Connell, V.M, and Stanley, R.D. (eds.). *Biology, Assessment, and Management of North Pacific Rockfishes*. Alaska Sea Grant, University of Alaska Fairbanks. pp 429–449.

Hanselman, D.H. 2004. Gulf of Alaska Pacific ocean perch: stock assessment, survey design and sampling. Ph.D. Thesis. University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. 172 pp.

Hanselman, D. H., J. Heifetz, J. Fujioka, Shotwell, S.K., and J. N. Ianelli. 2007. Gulf of Alaska Pacific ocean perch. In *Stock assessment and fishery evaluation report for the groundfish resources of the Gulf of Alaska as projected for 2008*. North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306 Anchorage, AK 99501.

Hanselman, D. H., C. Lunsford, J. Fujioka, and C. Rodgveller. 2007. Alaskan Sablefish. In *Stock assessment and fishery evaluation report for the groundfish resources of the GOA and BS/AI as projected for 2007*. North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306 Anchorage, AK 99501.

- Hanselman, D. H., C. Lunsford, J. Fujioka, and C. Rodgveller. 2006. Alaskan Sablefish. In Stock assessment and fishery evaluation report for the groundfish resources of the GOA and BS/AI as projected for 2007. North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306 Anchorage, AK 99501.
- Hanselman, D. H., C. Lunsford, J. Fujioka, and M. Sigler. 2005. Alaskan Sablefish. In Stock assessment and fishery evaluation report for the groundfish resources of the GOA and BS/AI as projected for 2007. North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306 Anchorage, AK 99501.
- Hanselman, D.H., and Quinn II, T.J. 2004: Sampling rockfish populations: adaptive sampling and hydroacoustics. *In* Sampling rare or elusive species. Edited by W. Thompson, Island Press, Washington. pp. 271-296.
- Hanselman, D.H., T.J. Quinn II, C. Lunsford, J. Heifetz and D.M. Clausen. 2003. Applications in adaptive cluster sampling of Gulf of Alaska rockfish. *Fish. Bull.* 101(3): 501-512.
- Hanselman, D., P.D. Spencer, S.K. Shotwell, and R.R. Reuter. 2007. Localized depletion of three Alaskan rockfish species. Proceedings of the 23rd Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium: Biology, Assessment, and Management of North Pacific Rockfishes.
- Heifetz, J., D. Hanselman, D. Courtney, and J. N. Ianelli. 2007. Gulf of Alaska northern rockfish. In Stock assessment and fishery evaluation report for the groundfish resources of the Gulf of Alaska as projected for 2006. North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306 Anchorage, AK 99501.
- Lunsford, C., S.K. Shotwell, and D. Hanselman. Gulf of Alaska pelagic shelf rockfish. 2007. In Stock assessment and fishery evaluation report for the groundfish resources of the Gulf of Alaska as projected for 2006. North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306 Anchorage, AK 99501.
- Malecha, P. W., D. H. Hanselman, and J. Heifetz. 2007. Growth and mortality of rockfish (Scorpaenidae) from Alaskan waters. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-AFSC-172. 61 p.
- Shotwell, S.K., D. Hanselman, and D. Clausen. Gulf of Alaska rougheye rockfish. In Stock assessment and fishery evaluation report for the groundfish resources of the Gulf of Alaska as projected for 2006. North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306 Anchorage, AK 99501.
- Shotwell, S.K., M.D. Adkison, and D.H. Hanselman. 2005 . Accounting for climate variability in forecasting Alaskan chum salmon in data-limited situations. *In*: Kruse, G.H., V.F. Gallucci, D.E. Hay, R.I. Perry, R.M. Peterman, T.C. Shirley, P.D. Spencer, B. Wilson, and D. Woodby (eds.), Fisheries assessment and management in data-limited situations. Alaska Sea Grant College Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks.
- Spencer, P., D. Hanselman, and M. Dorn. 2007. The effect of maternal age of spawning on estimation of Fmsy for Alaska Pacific ocean perch. *In*: Heifetz, J., DiCosimo J., Gharrett, A.J., Love, M.S, O'Connell, V.M, and Stanley, R.D. (eds.). Biology, Assessment, and Management of North Pacific Rockfishes. Alaska Sea Grant, University of Alaska Fairbanks. pp 513 – 533.

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### PAUL DAVID SPENCER

NMFS, Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115  
Ph. (206) 526-4248  
Email: [paul.spencer@noaa.gov](mailto:paul.spencer@noaa.gov)

### EDUCATION

- 1997 Ph.D., Oceanography, University of Rhode Island,  
Title of Dissertation: The dynamics and optimal harvesting  
of multispecies fisheries in fluctuating environments.
- 1989 M.S., Fisheries, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN,
- 1986 B.S., Biology, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN,  
56301. Graduated Summa Cum Laude.

### EXPERIENCE

- 1998 - present. Research Fisheries Biologist, Alaska Fisheries Science  
Center (AFSC), NMFS, Seattle, WA. Responsible for  
conducting fishery stock assessments on several rockfish  
stocks and stock complexes in the eastern Bering Sea and  
Aleutian Islands region, conducting research on processes  
underlying production of marine fish stocks, and providing  
advice to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.  
Since 1999, have served as chair of AFSC's Rockfish Working  
Group, which meets to prioritize and conduct research  
projects related to Alaska rockfish.
- 1997 - 1998 Research Fisheries Biologist, Southwest Fisheries Science  
Center, NMFS, Tiburon, CA.
- 1993 - 1997 Research Assistant, Graduate School of Oceanography,  
University of Rhode Island, Narragansett, RI.
- 1992 - 1993 Research Assistant, University of Alaska, Juneau Center for  
Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, Juneau, Alaska.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Modeling of fisheries population dynamics and  
management, fisheries oceanography, description and analysis of rockfish  
habitat, survey design.

### SELECTED SERVICE ON SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

Chairman, Alaska Fisheries Science Center Rockfish Working Group,  
1999-present.

Co-chair, Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act Technical Guidance Team for  
Vulnerability Evaluation, 2007-present.

Member, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Committee on non-  
target species management, 2003 to present.

Participant, ICES Workshop on the Integration of Environmental Information into Fisheries Management Strategies and Advice, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2007.

Member, National Marine Protected Area Science Center Institute working group on maternal age effects and marine reserves, 2007-2008.

### **STOCK ASSESSMENT AND FISHERY EVALUATION (SAFE) DOCUMENTS**

Since 1999, I have been lead author or co-author on over 50 SAFE reports for BSAI flatfish and rockfish.

### **SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

Spencer, P.D. In press. Density-independent and density-dependent factors affecting temporal changes in spatial distributions of eastern Bering Sea flatfish. *Fisheries Oceanography*.

Spencer, P.D., D. Hanselman, and M. Dorn. 2007. The effect of maternal age of spawning on estimation of  $F_{msy}$  for Alaskan Pacific ocean perch. In J. Heifetz, J. DiCosimo, A.J. Gharrett, M.S. Love, V.M. O'Connell, and R.D. Stanley (eds.). *Biology, assessment, and management of north Pacific rockfishes*, pp 513-533. Alaska Sea Grant, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Hanselman, D.H., P. Spencer, K. Shotwell and R. Reuter. 2007. Short-term localized depletion and long-term localized population changes for Alaskan rockfish. . In J. Heifetz, J. DiCosimo, A.J. Gharrett, M.S. Love, V.M. O'Connell, and R.D. Stanley (eds.). *Biology, assessment, and management of north Pacific rockfishes*, pp 493-511. Alaska Sea Grant, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Reuter, R. and P. Spencer. 2007. Characterizing aspects of rockfish (*Sebastes* spp.) assemblages in the Aleutian Islands using historical survey data. In J. Heifetz, J. DiCosimo, A.J. Gharrett, M.S. Love, V.M. O'Connell, and R.D. Stanley (eds.). *Biology, assessment, and management of north Pacific rockfishes*, pp 383-409. Alaska Sea Grant, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Logerwell, E.A., K. Aydin, S. Barbeaux, E. Brown, M.E. Conners, S. Lowe, J. Orr, I. Ortiz, R. Reuter, L. Schauffler, and P. Spencer. 2005. Geographic patterns in the demersal ichthyofauna of the Aleutian Islands. *Fisheries Oceanography* 14 (Supplement 1):93-112.

Rooper, C. N., M. Zimmermann and P. D. Spencer. 2005. Using ecologically based relationships to predict the distribution of flathead sole (*Hippoglossoides elassodon*) in the eastern Bering Sea. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 290:251-262

G. Kruse, V. Galluci, I. Perry, T. Shirley, P. Spencer, B. Wilson, and D. Woodby. [eds.]. 2005. *Fisheries assessment and management of new and developed fisheries in data-poor situations*. University of Alaska Sea Grant College Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks. 958 p.

Spencer, P.D. and J.N. Ianelli. 2005. Application of a Kalman filter to a multispecies stock complex. pp. 613-634 *In* G. Kruse, V. Galluci, I. Perry, T. Shirley, P. Spencer, B. Wilson, and D. Woodby. [eds.]. Fisheries assessment and management of new and developed fisheries in data-poor situations. University of Alaska Sea Grant College Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Spencer, P.D., T.K. Wilderbuer, and Chang Ik Zhang. 2002. A mixed-species yield model for eastern Bering Sea shelf flatfish fisheries. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 59:291-302.

Spencer, P.D. and J.S. Collie. 1997. Patterns of population variability in marine fish stocks. *Fisheries Oceanography* 6:188-204.

**Alan C. Haynie, Ph.D.**  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Bldg 4  
Seattle, WA 98115

Tel: 206-526-4253 Fax: 206-526-6723 email: [Alan.Haynie@noaa.gov](mailto:Alan.Haynie@noaa.gov)

### **Education**

A.B. Stanford University, Economics and International Relations  
M.A., Ph.D. University of Washington, Economics

### **Professional Experience**

Economist at NOAA Fisheries Alaska Fisheries Science Center: 2004-present  
Affiliate Assistant Professor, University of Washington School of Marine Affairs, 2006-present  
NMFS/Sea Grant Graduate Economics Fellow, 2003-2004  
Instructor, Research & Teaching Assistant, University of Washington, Department of Economics and Program on the Environment, 2000-2003  
Environmental Consultant, Cascadia Consulting Group; 1996-1999

### **Publications and Working Papers**

Branch, T., Hilborn, R., Haynie, A. et. al. "Fleet dynamics and fishermen behavior: lessons for fisheries managers," *Canadian Journal of Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences*, 2006.

Haynie, A. "Expected Profit Model: A New Method to Measure the Welfare Impacts of Marine Protected Areas." UW Department of Economics Dissertation, 2005.

Fell, H. and A. Haynie. "Property Rights and Rent Extraction: Estimating Time-varying Bargaining Power in a Fishery." Revising for resubmission to *Economic Inquiry*.

Haynie, A. and D. Layton. "A Discrete Choice Expected Profit Model for Analyzing Spatial Fishing Behavior." Revising for resubmission to the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*.

Haynie, A., R. Hicks, and K. Schneir. "Bycatch Avoidance via Information Sharing." Under review.

Haynie, A. "Estimating the Value of a Fishing Right: An Analysis of Changing Usage and Value in the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program."

Haynie, A. "A method for the design of fixed time-area closures to reduce salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery."

Haynie, A. "Addressing salmon bycatch through market-based mechanisms."

### **Edited Proceedings, Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures**

- Haynie, Alan. "Climate Change and Changing Fisher Behavior in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery," International Symposium on Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans, Gijon, Spain, May 2008.
- Haynie, Alan. "The Expected Profit Model," NMFS NESSW Biannual Meeting, Port Townsend, WA, May 2008.
- Haynie, Alan and James Ianelli. "Salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery." Presentation to the Joint NSAW/NESSW Session, Port Townsend, WA, May 2008.

- Haynie, Alan. "Discussion Paper: Addressing salmon bycatch through market-based mechanisms." Presentations to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), the NPFMC Advisory Panel, and the NPFMC Scientific & Statistical Committee, Seattle, WA, February 2008.
- Haynie, Alan. "Some thoughts on Incentives for bycatch avoidance," Presentation to the NPFMC Salmon Bycatch Workgroup, Anchorage, AK, May 2007.
- Haynie, Alan. "Evaluating the Cost and Effectiveness of Bycatch Closures in the Bering Sea: Methods and Preliminary Results." Presentation to the NPFMC Scientific & Statistical Committee, Anchorage, AK, March 2007.
- Haynie, Alan. "Salmon Bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery," IIFET Conference, Portsmouth, UK, July 2006.
- Haynie, Alan. "Fisher Behavior with Area Closures & Economic Rationalization." Presentation to the Joint NSAW/NESSW Session, San Francisco, CA, April 2006.
- Haynie, Alan. "Economics and Social Sciences Lessons for Marine Policy Makers." NMFS NESSW Biannual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 2006.
- Haynie, Alan. "Salmon Bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery," UW School of Marine Affairs Seminar, Seattle, WA, April 2006.
- Haynie, Alan. "Incentives for bycatch avoidance: hotspot closures and individual bycatch quotas." Presentation to the NPFMC Scientific & Statistical Committee, Anchorage, AK, April 2006.
- Haynie, Alan. "Fisher response to MPAs before and after the end of the race for fish: Steller sea lion protection and the Bering Sea pollock fishery," First International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC), Geelong, Australia, October 2005.
- Haynie, Alan. "The Expected Profit Model: a new method of evaluating areas closures, with applications to Distribution," North American Association of Fisheries Economists (NAAFE), Vancouver, Canada, May 2005.
- Haynie, Alan. "The Cost of Closing the Steller Sea Lion Conservation Area," NOAA/NMFS Headquarters Seminar, March 2005.
- Haynie, Alan and David Layton. "Estimating the economic impact of the Steller sea lion conservation area," NOAA Social Science Bi-annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, October 2005. (At this meeting, I also organized a session on spatial fisheries management and analysis.)
- Haynie, Alan and David Layton. "Estimating the economic impact of the Steller sea lion conservation area: developing and applying new methods for evaluating spatially complex area closures," IIFET 2004 Japan Proceedings.
- Haynie, Alan. "Spatial Models of the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery: A New Location Choice Model," Sea Grant/NMFS Graduate Fellows Symposium, Woods Hole, MA, May 2004.
- Haynie, Alan. "Spatial Models of the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery: A New Location Choice Model," University of Washington, Department of Fisheries Quantitative Seminar, January 2004.
- Layton, David F., Alan Haynie (presenter), and Daniel Huppert. "Modeling Fishing Behavior Under Spatial Regulation: A Discrete/Continuous Expected Profit Model," American Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, July 2003.
- Layton, David F., Alan Haynie (presenter), and Daniel Huppert. "Modeling Fishing Behavior Under Spatial Regulation: A Discrete/Continuous Expected Profit Model," University of Colorado Environmental Economics Workshop, Boulder, CO, July 2003.

#### **Referee Activity**

- *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*
- *Marine Resource Economics*
- *Natural Resource Modeling*
- *ICES Journal of Marine Science*
- *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*
- *Environmental and Resource Economics*
- *Coastal Management Journal*.

### **Awards and Fellowships**

- NOAA Fisheries Economics and Social Sciences Best Research Paper Award (2nd Place), 2008
- Sea-Grant/ National Marine Fisheries Graduate Fellowship for Resource Economics, 2003-2005
- Stanford University Dean's Award for Service, 1991
- Stanford University Undergraduate Opportunities Research Award for Independent Scholarship, 1991
- U.S. Senate- Japan Exchange Scholarship, Osaka, Japan, 1987

### **Supervisory Activities**

- Harrison Fell, Department of Economics, University of Washington, PhD 2007. I served as the NOAA Fisheries Mentor for Harrison's Sea Grant/NMFS Resource Economics Fellowship and as a member of his Ph.D. committee. Harrison is now with Resources for the Future (RFF).
- Emily Springer, Department of Marine Affairs, University of Washington. I supervised Emily in her capacity as a Research Assistant at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center and served as a committee member for Emily's Master's Thesis. Emily is now pursuing a PhD at the University of Alaska.
- Suresh Sethi, UW SAFS (Master's committee); Suresh is now pursuing his Ph.D. in Fisheries at UW SAFS.
- Cameron Speir, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I served as the NOAA Fisheries Mentor for Cameron's Sea Grant/NMFS Resource Economics Fellowship and as a member of his Ph.D. committee. Cameron is now an economist with NOAA Fisheries in Santa Cruz, CA.



**Michael Graham Dalton**

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Resource Ecology and Fisheries Management Division

7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 4, Seattle WA 98115

Tel: (206) 526-6551 Fax: (206) 526-6723 Email: michael.dalton@noaa.gov

**Education**

Ph. D. Economics, University of Minnesota, September 1995

B.S. Economics and Mathematics (Cum Laude), University of Minnesota, June 1989

**Professional Experience**

Industry Economist, NOAA Fisheries, June 2006 – present

Scientific and Statistical Committee, Pacific Fishery Management Council

(Chair, Economics Subcommittee), March 2001 – December 2006

Associate Professor, California State University Monterey Bay, May 2006 - June 2006

Assistant Professor, California State University Monterey Bay, August 2001-June 2006

Lecturer, California State University Monterey Bay, August 1998 - June 2001

Research Associate, Stanford University, September 1995 - August 1999

Research and Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota, September 1990 - 1995

**Selected Funded Research Projects (PI or Co-PI)**

Framework for Integrated Dynamic Global Modeling of Land Use, Energy, and Economic Growth. U.S. Department of Energy. Co-PIs: Atul Jain, Dept. Atmospheric Sciences, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign; Brian O'Neill, Brown University and International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis. May 2006 - February 2008.

Households, consumption, and energy use: The role of demographic change in future U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Co-PIs: Brian O'Neill; Alexia Prskawetz, Vienna Institute for Demography. November 2002 - September 2006.

Empirical evaluation of regional scale marine reserves and the groundfish trawl fishery with geographical information systems, analysis of covariance, and bioeconomic modeling. NOAA California Sea Grant. Co-PI: Stephen Ralston, NOAA Fisheries. March 2002 - June 2006.

Measuring impacts on fishing communities: A framework for integrated socioeconomic assessment. NOAA Saltonstall-Kennedy Program. Co-PI: Caroline Pomeroy, Inst. Marine Science, University of California Santa Cruz and UC Sea Grant Extension Program. April 2003 - August 2006.

Market channels and value added at Monterey Bay ports. NOAA California Sea Grant. Co-PI: Caroline Pomeroy, November 2002 - March 2005.

**Selected Publications**

Dalton, M., B.C. O'Neill, A. Prskawetz, L. Jiang, and J. Pitkin. 2008. Population Aging and Future Carbon Emissions in the United States, *Energy Economics*, **30**, 642-675.

Dalton, M. and S. Ralston. 2004. The California Rockfish Conservation Area and Groundfish Trawlers at Moss Landing Harbor, *Marine Resource Economics*, **18**, 67-83.

Dalton, M. 2002. Synthesizing Trends of the Twentieth Century: Population and Climate Change, *Climatic Change*, **55**, 409-412.

Dalton, M. 2001. El Nino, Expectations, and Fishing Effort in Monterey Bay, California, *J. Environmental Economics and Management*, **42**, 336-359.

Kremen, C., J. Niles, M. Dalton, G. Daily, P. Ehrlich, J. Fay, D. Grewal and R. Guillery. 2000. Economics of Rain Forest Conservation Across Scales, *Science*, **288**, 1828-1832.

Ehrlich, P., G. Wolff, G. Daily, J. Hughes, S. Daily, M. Dalton, and L. Goulder. 1999. Knowledge and the Environment, *Ecological Economics*, **30**, 267-284.

Dalton, M. 1997. The Welfare Bias from Omitting Climatic Variability in Economic Studies of Global Warming, *J. Environmental Economics and Management*, **33**, 221-239.

## Brian Garber-Yonts

Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

Tel: 206-526-6301

Fax: 206-526-6723

email: Brian.Garber-Yonts@noaa.gov

### Education

B.S. University of California, Davis, Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning, 1992  
M.S. Oregon State University, Resource and Environmental Economics, 1996  
Ph.D. Oregon State University, Ph.D. Forest Social Science, 2001

### Professional Experience

Industry Economist, NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 2005- present  
Assistant Professor (Courtesy), Department of Forest Resources, Oregon State University, 2004-current  
Research Economist, Postdoctoral Appointment, USDA Forest Service, PNW Research, 2001-2005  
Research Associate, Department of Forest Resources, Oregon State University, 2000-2001

### Selected Publications

- Felthoven, R., B. Garber-Yonts and J. Sepez. 2008. "Socioeconomic Data Needs for Policy Analysis in Fisheries in and off Alaska." To be submitted to the *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*.
- Polasky, Stephen, E. Nelson, J. Camm, B. Csuti, P. Fackler, E. Lonsdorf, C. Montgomery, D. White, J. Arthur, B. Garber-Yonts, R. Haight, J. Kagan, A. Starfield, C. Tobalske. 2008. "Where to Put Things? Spatial Land Management to Sustain Biodiversity and Economic Returns." *Biological Conservation* 141(6): 1505-1524.
- Wolf, P., R. Gimblett, L. Kennedy, R. Itami, and B. Garber-Yonts. 2008. "Monitoring and Simulating Recreation and Subsistence Use in Prince William Sound, Alaska." In Randy Gimblett and Hans Skov-Petersen (eds.), *Monitoring, Simulation and Management of Visitor Landscapes*. University of Arizona Press: Tuscon, AZ.
- Spies, T.A., K.N. Johnson, K.M. Burnett, J.L. Ohmann, B.C. McComb, G.H. Reeves, P. Bettinger, J.D. Kline, B. Garber-Yonts. 2007. "Cumulative ecological and socio-economic effects of forest policies in coastal Oregon", *Ecological Applications* (in press).
- Johnson, K.N., P. Bettinger, J. Kline, T. A. Spies, M. Lennette, G. Lettman, B. Garber-Yonts, and T. Larsen. 2007. "Simulating Forest Structure, Timber Production, and Socio-Economic Effects in a Multi-Owner Province", *Ecological Applications* (in press).
- Garber-Yonts, B.E.. 2005. Conceptualizing and measuring demand for recreation on national forests: a review and synthesis. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland, OR. General Technical Report PNW-GTR-645.40 p.
- Garber-Yonts, B., J. Kerkvliet, R. Johnson. 2004. "Public Values for Biodiversity Conservation Policies in the Oregon Coast Range" *Forest Science* 50(5): 589-602.
- Kline J.D., R.J. Alig, B. Garber-Yonts. 2004. "Forestland social values and open space preservation," *Journal of Forestry* 102(8): 39-45.
- Polasky, S., J. Camm and B. Garber-Yonts. 2001. "Selecting Biological Reserves Cost Effectively", *Land Economics* 77(1): 68-78.

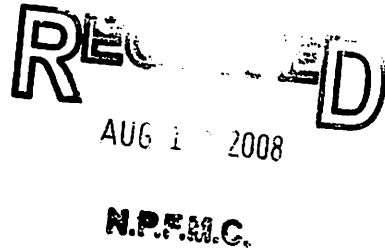


AGENDA B-1(i)  
OCTOBER 2008

State of Washington  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N • Olympia, WA 98501-1091 • (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207  
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building • 1111 Washington Street SE • Olympia, WA

August 15, 2008



Mr. Chris Oliver  
Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup>, Suite 306  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) wishes to nominate Dr. Henry Cheng to replace Dr. Theresa Tsou on the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan Teams. Dr. Cheng is a senior statistician for WDFW; his curriculum vitae is attached. We are confident that Dr. Cheng's experience with marine fish management issues in Washington State and Australia, as well as his experience with stock assessment techniques, provides him with the necessary background for service on the Plan Team.

Sincerely,

Bill Tweit, Distant Waters Policy Lead  
Intergovernmental Resource Management

Enclosure

## Curriculum Vitae

**Vision:** To be an applied statistician, support, and give advice to students, managers and scientists.

**Mission:** To build a better world by improving management and solving problem based on science.



Dr Henry Yuk Wing Cheng  
(Teachers' Certificate., B. Sc. (Hons),  
M. Sc. (Hons), Ph.D.)

Senior statistician  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Tel no.: (360) 902 2689 [office], (360) 9432565 [home]  
Email: [chengywc@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:chengywc@dfw.wa.gov), [chengywc@yahoo.com](mailto:chengywc@yahoo.com)

**Home Address:** 4005, 16<sup>th</sup> Lane NE Olympia, WA98506  
**SSN:** 535-51-1756  
**Green Card No:** A 098130628  
**Marital Status:** Married with one daughter and one son

**Biography appeared in 2007-2009**  
Who's Who in the World  
Who's Who in America

**Work Experience:**

<u>Time</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Position/Duties</u>
8/92-6/95	University of NSW	Part-time Tutor (Ph.D. student)
2/94-6/95	University of NSW	Full time research assistant (Statistician)
7/95-12/96	University of UWA	Research officer (Statistician) – developing SAS, C, Fortran and Splus programs
1/97-10/01	Fisheries Department	Research Scientist (1997) and Senior Research Scientist (Statistician) (1999) – Head of statistics, IT and library sections; developing and monitoring performance indexes of the supervised sections, developing strategic plans for IT; supervising three external funded projects with grant up to 1.5 millions; developing experimental design with GIS information; maintaining the transformation of licensing and logbook database conversion with time.
10/01 – 12/02	WACEIO, Curtin University of Technology	Senior research fellow – preparing tender and fund application; developing new courses for industries, assist the director in developing strategies for the research centre, providing consultation for ISO certification processing.
1/03-onwards	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Research scientist - providing statistical advice and management changes to the Assistant Director, fisheries managers and biologists, reviewing both internal and external scientific reports; developing and monitoring the performance of fisheries by indicators, developing sampling protocol for mail, phone, aerial and creel surveys; developing program and database for more than 15 fish species.

**Education:**

<u>Name of Schools/Universities</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Course attended/completed</u>
Chuen Yuen College	74-81	HKCEE, HKAL
Northcote College of Education	82-84	Teachers' Certificate (Mathematics, Science & P.E.)
Hong Kong Polytechnic	84-89	B.Sc.(Hons) (Mathematics and Computing)
University of Wollongong	90-91	M.Sc.(Hons)(Statistics) (Completed six subjects, medical statistics, experimental design I and II, quality control, statistical consulting, longitudinal study in statistics and an honour thesis)
University of New South Wales (ranked 1 <sup>st</sup> in Australia, 14 <sup>th</sup> in the world)	93-96	Ph.D.(Statistics)-experimental design

**Research Thesis:**

**Cheng, Y.W.** (1990). *A Survey on the Kodiak King Crabs Data*, M. Sc.(Hon) thesis. University of Wollongong.

**Cheng, Y.W.** (1996). *Construction of Optimal Change-over Designs*, Ph.D. thesis, University of New South Wales, Australia

**Publication:**

I have published more than 35 peer-reviewed papers in journals and books, 20 peer-reviewed papers in peer-reviewed research reports.

**Selected peer-reviewed publication*****Experimental design***

- Cheng, Y.W.** and Street, D.J. (1997). Construction of optimal non-strongly balanced change-over designs, *Comm. in Statist.*, **26**(5), 1073-1082.
- Cheng, Y. W.**, Street, Deborah J., and Wilson, W.H. (2003) Two stage generalized simulated annealing for the construction of changeover designs, 69-79 in *Designs 2002*, ed. W.D. Wallis. Boston: Kluwer Academic Publishers, ISBN 1-4020-7599-5.
- Chen, M. F., Apperson, J.A., Marty, G.D. and **Cheng, Y.W.** 2006. Copper sulfate treatment decreases hatchery mortality of larval white seabass *Atractoscion nobilis*, *Aquaculture*, **254**, 102-114.

***Computing and education research***

- Lee, C.H.L., **Cheng, Y.W.** and Depickere, A. (2003). Comparing smart card adoption in Singapore and Australian universities, *International Journal of Human Computer Studies*, **58**, 307-325.
- Lee, C.H.M, **Cheng, Y.W.**, Rai, S. and Depickere, A. (2004) What affect student cognitive style in the development of hypermedia learning system?, *Computers and Education*, **45**, 1-19. [top 25 hot papers in social science]

***Applied statistics***

- Cheng, Y.W.**, Lawrence, C.S., Morrissy, N.M. and Bellanger, J.E. (2002). The statistical correlations and implied causal relationships among physical, chemical and biological parameters and yabby (*Cherax albidus* Clark 1936) production in Western Australian farm dams, *Freshwater Crayfish*, **13**, 67-79.
- Cheng, Y.W.** and Kuk, A.Y.C. (2002). Determination of the unknown age at first capture of western rock lobsters (*Panulirus cygnus*) by random effects model, *Biometrics*, **58** (2), 459-462.

***Invited papers by the editors***

- Cheng, Y.W.** and Kuk, A.Y.C. (2003). Biological and statistical issues in fitting growth curves to capture-recapture data, *Biometrics*, **59**(4), 1186-1189.
- Cheng, Y.W.** and Lawrence, C.S. (2004) Estimating the parameters of the statistical upper bound of dry hepatopancreas weight of yabbies (*Cherax albidus*) by the EM1 algorithm. *Far East Journal of Theoretical Statistics*, **13**, 67-80.
- Cheng, Y.W.** and Gallinat, M. (2004) Statistical analysis of the relationship among environmental variables, inter-annual variability and smolt trap efficiency of salmonids in the Tucannon River, *Fisheries Research*, **70**, 229-238.
- Cheng, Y.W.** and Mackie M. (2005) Dual regression analysis of head and body length relationships Spanish mackerel, *Scomberomorus commerson*, in Western Australia, . *Far East Journal of Theoretical Statistics*, **19**, 219-230.

**Conference and poster presentation:**

I have organized two international conferences, and presented my research in more than twenty conferences and workshops.

**Research funding awarded:**

Co-investigator of FRDC 94/075: Enhancement of yabbie production from Western Australian farm dams. (FRDC contributed \$300K).

Co-investigator of FRDC 97/139: Enhancement of yabbie production from farm dams (FRDC contributed \$400K)

Principal Investigator of FRDC 99/155: Modelling Western Australian fisheries with techniques of time series analysis: examining data from a different perspective. (FRDC contributed \$240K and the total budget for the whole project was \$440K).

Principal Investigator: Estimating the uncertainty in analytical measurement- calibration and testing laboratories certification of ISO. (Genalysis contributed \$23K).

Chief Investigator of ARC 2003 linkage (LP0349015): Modelling the Australia wool auction price (ARC contributed \$69K and wool industry contributed \$30K).

**Management plan developed (co-author)**

Puget Sound Rockfish Conversation and Management Plan 2007.

**Computing and programming skills:**

I am familiar with

- i) High-level languages : C, FORTRAN, Pascal, Basic and Clipper.
- ii) Statistics Packages : SAS, SPSS, R, S-plus, Glim, Genstat and Minitab.
- iii) Mathematics Packages: NAG, IMSL, GPSS, Mathematica and Maple.
- iv) Commercial Packages : Lotus, Dbase (SQL), Excel, Word, and Access.

Additionally, I had attended two computer courses offered by the University of Hong Kong in 1989. The first course was "Advanced Topics in Computer Science - The Unix Operating System". The second course was "Advanced Topics in Computer Science - Object Oriented Modelling".



**Referees:**

1. Dr. Martin Chen,  
Fish health specialist  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Email: [chenmfc@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:chenmfc@dfw.wa.gov)  
Tel. no: 360-9022666
  
2. Kurt Reidinger, Biologist, [subordinate]  
Science Division,  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Email: [reidikfr@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:reidikfr@dfw.wa.gov)  
Tel. no: 360-9022183
  
3. Wang, Huilin, IT manager [peer]  
Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development  
Tel. No: 360-7252726

asked to sign in and estimate the amount of time needed for such presentation. This will permit the panel to allocate an appropriate amount of time for each presenter. These meetings will not be adjourned until everyone on the list has had an opportunity to address the panel.

(d) Position papers or other handout material relating to the substance of these meetings will be accepted. Participants wishing to submit handout material should present an original and two copies (3 copies total) to the presiding officer. There should be additional copies of each handout available for other attendees.

(e) These meetings will not be formally recorded.

#### Agenda for the Meetings

- Sign-in.
- Presentation of Meeting Procedures.
- FAA explanation of the planned Class B modifications.
- Solicitation of Public Comments.
- Closing Comments.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40103, 40113, 40120; E.O. 10854, 24 FR 9565, 3 CFR, 1959–1963 Comp., p. 389.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 13, 2008.

Edith V. Parish,

Manager, Airspace and Rules Group.

[FR Doc. E8–19275 Filed 8–25–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 15 CFR Part 922

[Docket No. 070726413–8730–01]

RIN 0648–AV89

#### Conducting Consultations Pursuant to Section 304(d) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act

**AGENCY:** Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONNS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (Commerce).

**ACTION:** Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** NOAA solicits public comment on whether development of regulations implementing certain aspects of the consultation provisions of section 304(d) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act is appropriate and, if so, what such regulations should contain to ensure the efficient application and

implementation of, and compliance with, this statutory requirement.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by October 31, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit all electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments can also be mailed to David Bizot, Attn: 304(d) ANPR, NOIA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 1305 East-West Hwy (N/ORM6), SSMC4 #11500, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Bizot, ONNS Permit and Consultations Coordinator, 301–713–7268.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Consultation Under Section 304(d) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act

The National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NNSA) authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to designate and manage areas of the marine environment with special national significance due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or esthetic qualities as national marine sanctuaries. The Secretary has delegated to NOAA and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONNS) the authority to implement the NNSA and provide comprehensive management of the National Marine Sanctuary System for its primary purpose of marine resource protection. The ONNS implements the NNSA through regulations, permitting, enforcement, research, monitoring, education and outreach.

In the 1992 amendments to the NMSA, Congress added section 304(d), 16 U.S.C. 1434(d), which requires interagency consultation between NOAA and Federal agencies taking actions, including authorization of private activities, “likely to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure a sanctuary resource.” In addition, Federal agencies are required to consult on proposed actions that “may affect” the resources of Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNNS), Public Law 102–587 § 2202(e).

Section 304(d) outlines the basic process by which Federal agencies are to consult with NOAA on activities that trigger the need to consult. If a Federal agency finds that a proposed action is likely to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure sanctuary resources (or, for SBNNS, “may affect” sanctuary resources), the agency is required to submit a “written statement” to the ONNS describing the potential effects of the activity on sanctuary resources at the earliest practicable time, but in no

case later than no later than 45 days before the final approval of the action, unless another schedule is agreed to. If the ONNS finds that the proposed action is likely to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure a sanctuary resource, it must, within 45 days of receipt of complete information on the proposed action from the Federal agency, develop and recommend “reasonable and prudent alternatives” for the Federal agency to implement to protect sanctuary resources. If the ONNS recommends alternatives to the proposed action, the Federal agency is required to consult with the ONNS regarding plans for incorporating these recommendations into the proposed action. If the Federal agency decides not to follow the ONNS recommendations, it must provide a written explanation for that decision to the ONNS. If the Federal agency takes an action other than an alternative recommended by the ONNS and the action results in the destruction of, loss of, or injury to a sanctuary resource, the head of the agency must promptly prevent and mitigate further damage and restore or replace the sanctuary resource in a manner approved by the ONNS.

##### II. Proposed Development of Regulations

ONNS staff work diligently with Federal agencies to assist them in achieving full compliance with the NNSA, and encourage Federal agencies to work proactively with the ONNS to identify actions that may require NNSA consultation and to complete consultation at the earliest practicable time. However, more detailed regulatory provisions addressing the consultation process and requirements (e.g., how section 304(d) relates to other statutory and regulatory requirements, how a consultation might be conducted for a class of actions, and what information must be provided in a sanctuary resource statement) may be helpful to Federal agencies to more efficiently and effectively conduct the required consultation. NOAA therefore provides this notice for purposes of evaluating whether the development of such regulations to further implement the NNSA section 304(d) consultation requirement would be useful to Federal agencies and the public.

##### III. Action Requested From the Public

To expand upon the basic statutory requirements for NMSA consultations, NOAA is considering addressing a number of elements pertaining to these consultations through regulation and seeks comments on the following:

1. It may be appropriate to provide a process for a Federal agency to conduct a single NMSA consultation on a series or class of actions similar in type and effect. Would the public and other Federal agencies find this useful and, if so, how might the ONMS best identify the most appropriate actions that could be subject to this arrangement?

2. Beyond simply describing the action and its potential effects on sanctuary resources, what additional information, if any, should be included in the written statement provided to the ONMS by the Federal action agency to ensure that the consultation fully addresses the effects of the activity on sanctuary resources?

3. The ONNS anticipates there may be circumstances where a sanctuary resource statement might need to be supplemented, such as when the scope of the proposed action changes prior to the conclusion of the consultation process. The ONMS seeks comment on what other circumstances might require a supplemental statement and if this issue should be addressed through regulation.

4. The ONNS desires that 304(d) consultations be integrated as efficiently as possible with the other statutory requirements that may apply to a Federal agency action. Should regulations address how 304(d) consultations can be best integrated or otherwise coordinated with, for example, actions required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), consultations conducted pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat provision)? If so, what considerations should be made by the ONNS and Federal agencies when integrating NNSA consultations with these other requirements?

5. When multiple Federal agencies are involved with a project, the ONNS believes it may be helpful to consider designating a lead agency to conduct 304(d) consultations on behalf of the other agencies. Do agencies and the public believe this would be useful and, if so, how should this designation be determined and what procedures should govern this arrangement?

6. The ONNS believes that the ONNS permit and NNSA consultation processes should be integrated for Federal activities that trigger both the 304(d) and NNSA permit requirements. Would additional information on how this integration could work be helpful and, if so, should it be described via regulation?

7. Section 304(d) states that if a Federal agency takes action other than what was recommended, and a sanctuary resource is destroyed, lost, or injured, the agency taking action should "prevent and mitigate further damage and restore or replace the sanctuary resource" in a manner approved by ONNS. Would it be helpful to Federal agencies and the public to have regulations to implement this statutory directive?

8. If the circumstances under which a consultation was completed change (i.e., if new information becomes available, there are changes to the proposed action, or the results of monitoring show injury or loss to sanctuary resources), a previously completed NNSA consultation might need to be reopened in order to protect sanctuary resources in accordance with the NNSA. Should regulatory procedures be developed to govern how and when a consultation should be re-opened?

9. Are there any other ideas that should be considered in order to best facilitate and improve the NNSA consultation requirements and process?

Comments received will help NOAA determine its next steps. If NOAA decides that regulations are appropriate for the implementation of NNSA section 304(d), they will be promulgated in compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act, NEPA and other relevant statutes and executive orders.

*Classification:* This Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking has been determined to be significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Dated: August 19, 2008.

John H. Dunnigan,  
Assistant Administrator for Oceans and Coastal Zone Management.

[FR Doc. E8-19662 Filed 8-25-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-NK-M

---

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

### 20 CFR Parts 404 and 416

[Docket No. SSA-2008-0030]

RIN 0960-AG82

#### Authorization of Representative Fees

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** We propose to revise our rules regarding payment of representative fees to allow representatives to charge and receive a fee from third parties without requiring our authorization in certain instances. We also propose to eliminate the requirement that we authorize fees for

legal guardians or court-appointed representatives who provide representational services in claims before us if a court has already authorized their fees. We are proposing these revisions to reflect changes in representatives' business practices, and in the ways in which claimants obtain representation, and to make more efficient the way we process representative fees.

**DATES:** To make sure that your comments are considered, we must receive them no later than September 25, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any one of four methods—Internet, facsimile, regular mail, or hand-delivery. Commenters should not submit the same comments multiple times or by more than one method. Regardless of which of the following methods you choose, please state that your comments refer to Docket No. SSA-2008-0030 to ensure that we can associate your comments with the correct regulation:

1. Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. (This is the most expedient method for submitting your comments, and we strongly urge you to use it.) In the "Comment or Submission" section of the webpage, type "SSA-2008-0030", select "Go", and then click "Send a Comment or Submission." The Federal eRulemaking portal issues you a tracking number when you submit a comment.

2. Telefax to (410) 966-2830.

3. Letter to the Commissioner of Social Security, P.O. Box 17703, Baltimore, MD 21235-7703.

4. Deliver your comments to the Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, 922 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235-6401, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on regular business days.

All comments are posted on the Federal eRulemaking portal, although they may not appear for several days after receipt of the comment. You may also inspect the comments on regular business days by making arrangements with the contact person shown in this preamble.

*Caution:* All comments we receive from members of the public are available for public viewing on the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Therefore, you should be careful to include in your comments only information that you wish to make publicly available on the Internet. We strongly urge you not to include any personal information, such as your Social Security number or medical information, in your comments.

and implementing feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for the denial of an application.

In conformance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements (15 CFR 14.36), any data collected in projects supported by NCCOS/CSCOR should be delivered to a National Data Center (NDC), such as the National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC), in a format to be determined by the institution, the NDC, and the Program Officer. Information on NOAA NDCs can be found at <http://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/datainfo.html>. It is the responsibility of the institution for the delivery of these data; the DOC will not provide additional support for delivery beyond the award. Additionally, all biological cultures established, molecular probes developed, genetic sequences identified, mathematical models constructed, or other resulting information products established through support provided by NCCOS/CSCOR are encouraged to be made available to the general research community at no or modest handling charge (to be determined by the institution, Program Officer, and DOC).

#### Reporting

All performance (i.e. technical progress) reports shall be submitted electronically through the Grants Online system unless the recipient does not have internet access. In that case, performance reports are to be submitted to the NOAA program manager. All financial reports shall be submitted in the same manner.

#### Agency Contacts

**Technical Information:** Libby Jewett, Program Manager, 301-713-3338/ext 121, Internet: [libby.jewett@noaa.gov](mailto:libby.jewett@noaa.gov).

**Business Management Information:** Laurie Golden, NCCOS/CSCOR Grants Administrator, 301-713-3338/ext 151, Internet: [laurie.golden@noaa.gov](mailto:laurie.golden@noaa.gov).

#### Other Information

##### Administrative Procedure Act

Notice and comment are not required under the Administrative Procedure Act, (5 U.S.C. 553), or any other law, for notices relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)). Because notice and comment is not required, a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is not required and has not been prepared for this notice, (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq).

##### Paperwork Reduction Act

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number. This notification involves collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, and SF-LLL has been approved by the OMB under control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040 and 0348-0046, respectively.

Dated: September 2, 2008.

John Potts,

Chief Financial Officer, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service.

[FR Doc. E8-20926 Filed 9-8-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JS-S

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

##### Federal Register Notice Calling for Nominations to Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Marine Protected Areas (MPA), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC)

**ACTION:** Notice requesting nominations for the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce is seeking nominations for membership on the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee). The Advisory Committee was established to advise the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior in implementing Section 4 of Executive Order 13158, specifically on strategies and priorities for developing the national system of marine protected areas (MPAs) and on practical approaches to further enhance and expand protection of new and existing MPAs.

Nominations are sought for highly qualified non-Federal scientists, resource managers, and people representing other interests or organizations involved with or affected by marine conservation including in the Great Lakes. Fifteen members of the Committee have terms that expire

October 31, 2009, and nominations are sought to fill these vacancies.

Individuals seeking membership on the Advisory Committee should possess demonstrable expertise in a related field or represent a stakeholder interest affected by MPAs. Nominees also will be evaluated based on the following factors: Marine policy experience, leadership and organization skills, region of country represented, and diversity characteristics. The membership reflects the Department's commitment to attaining balance and diversity. The full text of the Advisory Committee Charter and its current membership can be viewed at the Agency's Web page at <http://mpa.gov>. **DATES:** Nominations must be postmarked on or before November 30, 2008.

**ADDRESS:** Nominations should be sent to: Lauren Wenzel, National Marine Protected Areas Center, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Station 9143, Silver Spring, MD 20910. E-mail: [Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov). E-mail nominations are acceptable.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lauren Wenzel, National Marine Protected Areas Center, 1305 East-West Highway, Building 4, Station 9143, 301-713 3100 ext. 136, [Lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:Lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In Executive Order 13158, the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior were directed to seek the expert advice and recommendations of non-federal scientists, resource managers, and other interested people and organizations through a Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee was established in June 2003 and includes 30 members.

The Committee meets at least once annually. Committee members serve for one, four year nonrenewable term. Members of the Committee will not be compensated, but may, upon request, be allowed travel and per diem expenses.

Each nomination submission should include the proposed member's name and organizational affiliation, a cover letter describing the nominee's qualifications and interest in serving on the Advisory Committee, curriculum vitae or resume of the nominee, and no more than three supporting letters describing the nominee's qualifications and interest in serving on the Committee. Self-nominations are acceptable. The following contact information should accompany each submission: The nominee's name, address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address if available.

is destroyed, recolonization would be impossible and the population supported by that breeding pond would be extirpated.

Habitat loss on private lands is an imminent threat that is compounded by a variety of other factors. Fire suppression on private lands occupied by the frosted flatwoods salamander represents one of the biggest threats to the species' habitat and the continued existence of the species on these sites. However, 62 percent of frosted flatwoods salamander populations have an improved chance of surviving demographic and environmental stochasticity given that the distribution of breeding sites occurs within an adult salamander's dispersal distance.

We believe that, when combining the effects of historical, current, and projected habitat loss and degradation, historical and ongoing drought, and the exacerbating effects of disease, predation, small population size, and isolation, the frosted flatwoods salamander continues to be likely to become an endangered species throughout all of its range within the foreseeable future. We believe these threats, particularly the threats to populations resulting from habitat degradation and fragmentation, small population size, and drought, are current and are projected to continue into the future. We have determined that these threats are operating on the species and its habitat with a moderate degree of magnitude throughout most of its range and with a moderate degree of severity, as discussed above.

Based on the best available scientific and commercial information, we have determined that the preferred action is for the frosted flatwoods salamander to retain its status as a threatened species under the Act. Without the protection of the Act, significant management of threats would likely occur on public lands; however, there is still substantial risk of loss of ponds to drought and disease and, on private lands, a variety of potential threats (for example, introduction of fish, predation, pesticides), and development. As discussed previously, declines resulting from drought can occur within only a few years. In the case of the frosted flatwoods salamander, 38 percent of populations have only one breeding pond. If the habitat at that site is destroyed, recolonization would be impossible and the population supported by that breeding pond would be extirpated. This could occur within a few years given recurring drought conditions and existing threats. While not in immediate danger of extinction, the frosted flatwoods salamander is

likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range if the present trends that negatively affect the species, and its limited and restricted habitat, continue. Furthermore, because these threats to the species are of comparable magnitude and severity across all of the species' range, we have determined that an analysis of whether a specific portion of the range might require a different listing status is not warranted at this time.

**Available Conservation Measures**

For additional information on available conservation measures, please refer to the proposed rule published in the Federal Register on August 13, 2008 (73 FR 47258).

**References Cited**

A complete list of all references cited in this document is available upon request from the Field Supervisor Ray Aycock, Mississippi Field Office (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT).

**Author(s)**

The primary authors of this package are the staff of the Mississippi Field Office (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT).

**Authority**

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: September 5, 2008.

Lyle Laverty,  
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

[FR Doc. E8-21878 Filed 9-17-08; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4310-55-S

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 600**

[Docket No. 0808041047-81182-01]

RIN 0648-AW62

**Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Scientific and Statistical Committees; Peer Review; National Standard Guidelines**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Advanced notice of proposed rulemaking; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that it is considering, and is seeking public

comment on proposed rulemaking to revise National Standard 2 (NS2) guidelines regarding use of best scientific information available, in light of reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). NMFS is considering modifying the language describing the content and purpose of the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report or related documents, and adding language regarding peer review processes, the role of the scientific and statistical committees (SSCs) of the Regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils), and the relationship between peer reviews and SSCs.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before 5 p.m., local time, December 17, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by 0648-AW62, by any one of the following methods:

- Electronic Submissions: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>.
- Fax: Attn: William Michaels 301-713-1875.
- Mail: William Michaels, NOAA Fisheries Service, Office of Science and Technology, 1315 East-West Highway, F/ST4, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**Instructions:** All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

NMFS will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bill Michaels, 301-713-2363 x136.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On January 12, 2007, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (MSRA) was signed into law. The MSRA amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Act included provisions to improve the use of science in decision-making, provide for a stronger role for Councils' SSCs and enhance peer review processes.

Currently, the NS2 guidelines address the use of best scientific information available to support fishery management actions, prescribe the content and purpose of SAFE reports or similar

documents, and assign responsibility for the preparation and review of SAFE reports to the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary). SAFE reports are intended to provide the Councils with a summary of current scientific information available to make management decisions and are intended to contain information upon which Councils are to base harvest specifications, including annual harvest levels from each stock. At this time, NS2 does not specifically mention that the SAFE should include SSC recommendations for acceptable biological catch from either the SSC or peer review process (established under Section 302(g)(1)(E) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act). SSC recommendations for acceptable biological catch are the basis upon which each Council is to set annual catch limits (ACLs), and ACLs are not to exceed these fishing level recommendations per Section 302(h)(6) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. NMFS is considering, and is seeking public comment on how to revise the discussion of SAFE reports in the NS2 to include the scientific recommendations that are to be provided by the SSCs under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, as reauthorized.

NMFS is inviting comment on the extent to which the NS2 guidelines should provide guidance as to what constitutes "best scientific information available." In 2004, the National Research Council (NRC) of the National

Academies was charged with examining the application of the term "best scientific information available" as the basis for fishery conservation and management measures required under NS2 and recommended approaches for a more uniform application of the standard within the context of current and future fisheries management efforts. The NRC recommendations can be found in their publication, "Improving the Use of the Best Scientific Information Available" Standard in Fisheries Management" (NRC 2004, <http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php>). Although NMFS has informally adopted many of the NRC recommendations, this advanced notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) is an opportunity to solicit and incorporate recommendations into the NS2 guidance.

Section 302(g)(1)(E) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act provides that "(T)he Secretary and each Council may establish a peer review process for that Council for scientific information used to advise the Council about the conservation and management of the fishery. The review process, which may include existing committees or panels, is deemed to satisfy the requirements of the guidelines issued pursuant to section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal year 2001," otherwise known as the Information Quality Act. At present,

none of the 10 national standards, or national standard guidelines, directly discuss or provide guidance on peer review processes.

NMFS is considering expanding NS2 to include specific language regarding peer review processes. NS2 appears to be the logical national standard to provide further guidance regarding peer reviews, since a peer review process is one method for ensuring that the best scientific information available is utilized in Council decisions. This language may include minimum criteria for peer review processes, based in part on the public comments received. Furthermore, there may be a need to clarify the relationship between the peer review processes that may be established by the Secretary and each Council and the role of the SSC of that Council vis-à-vis the peer review process.

Finally, NMFS seeks comments from the public on other issues or clarifications to NS2 that the public would like to see addressed in this rulemaking.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1851.

**Dated:** September 15, 2008.

**Samuel D. Rauch III,**  
*Deputy Assistant Administrator for  
Regulatory Programs, National Marine  
Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E8-21837 Filed 9-17-08; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

## 2009 AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative Request for Proposals

The Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative (AYK SSI) invites the submission of proposals for its 2009 funding cycle.

Research priorities are drawn from the AYK SSI Research and Restoration Plan (RRP), our strategic salmon science plan which guides the Initiative's research funding.

SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS FOR DETAILS

2009 Funding Level:	\$400,000.00
Duration of Projects	Up to a maximum of 23 months.
Full Proposal Deadline	November 20, 2008
Selection of full proposals for funding:	No later than January 30, 2009
Project Start Date:	No sooner than May 1, 2009
Project End Date:	No later than March 31, 2011

The AYK SSI is an innovative partnership among six state, federal and native organizations dedicated to collaboratively addressing the salmon research and restoration needs of the region.

Please visit our website  
[www.aykssi.org](http://www.aykssi.org)

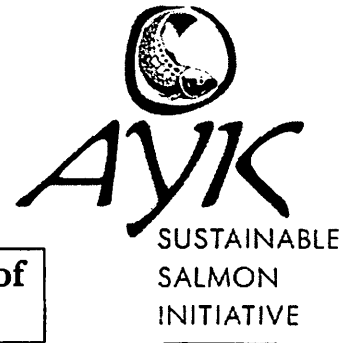
### CONTACT:

**Karen Gillis**

Executive Director  
Bering Sea Fishermen's Association  
110 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 279-6519 / fax (907) 258-6688  
(888) 927-2732 toll-free  
[karengillis@alaska.net](mailto:karengillis@alaska.net)

**Dr. Joseph Spaeder**

Research Coordinator  
AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative  
PO Box 2087  
Homer, AK 99603  
(907) 235-0697  
[jspaeder@earthlink.net](mailto:jspaeder@earthlink.net)



**Invitation and Instructions for Submission of  
2009 Full Research Proposals**

**OVERVIEW OF 2009 INVITATION:**

2009 Funding Level:	\$400,000.00
Duration of Projects	Up to a maximum of 23 months.
<b>Full Proposal Deadline</b>	<b>November 20, 2008</b>
Selection of full proposals for funding :	No later than January 30, 2009
Project Start Date:	No sooner than May 1, 2009
Project End Date:	No later than March 31, 2011

**INTRODUCTION:**

Alaska salmon and freshwater fish have been critical to the survival of the people and wildlife in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) region for thousands of years. Encompassing over 40% of the state, the AYK region includes: the watersheds of the Norton Sound region up to and including the village of Shishmaref, the Yukon River Watershed within Alaska, and the Kuskokwim River Watershed, (including the coastal watersheds north of Cape Newenham), plus the Bering Sea marine ecosystem.

In response to the recent salmon declines, native regional organizations have joined with state and federal agencies to form an innovative partnership to collaboratively address salmon research and restoration needs. This partnership includes the Association of Village Council Presidents, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Kawerak, Inc., Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, NOAA Fisheries, US Fish & Wildlife Service, plus additional native, governmental and NGO ex-officio partner institutions. The AYK SSI is governed by an eight-member Steering Committee (SC) and advised by a six-member Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) composed of members representing relevant scientific disciplines. To date, Congress has appropriated \$20.5 million to support this interagency, multi-disciplinary research effort to determine the cause of the declines and recoveries of salmon in the region.

Bering Sea Fishermen's Assoc.  
110 W. 15th Ave, Unit A  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

(907) 279-6519  
(888) 927-2732

WWW.AYKSSI.ORG

*Arctic • Yukon • Kuskokwim*



Successful full proposals approved by the AYK SSI Steering Committee under the 2009 funding cycle will be funded for a period of up to 23 months. Up to \$400,000 is available to support research projects under this Invitation to Submit Full Proposals. The AYK SSI Memorandum of Understanding places certain restrictions on funding past or existing research projects. We encourage proposers with questions about these restrictions to download and review the Memorandum of Understanding at: <http://www.aykssi.org/About/Principles.htm> . Reporting requirements for projects funded by the AYK SSI, which include semi-annual and annual performance reports, plus a final project report, can be viewed at <http://www.aykssi.org/Research/Reporting.htm>.

---

## **PURPOSE AND GOAL OF THE AYK SSI RESEARCH AND RESTORATION PROGRAM**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the AYK SSI is to collaboratively develop and implement a comprehensive research plan to understand the causes of the declines and recoveries of AYK Salmon.

### **AYK SSI Research and Restoration Program Goal**

By 2012, assemble existing information, gain new information and improve techniques for understanding the trends and causes of variation in salmon abundance and human use of salmon that support sustainable use and restoration through a collaborative and inclusive process.

---

## **AYK SSI 2009 RESEARCH PRIORITY**

Research priorities for our annual call for research proposals are drawn from the AYK SSI Research and Restoration Plan (RRP), our strategic salmon science plan is designed to identify significant knowledge gaps and establish research priorities that complement other relevant research programs in the region without duplication of effort (view the full Research and Restoration Plan at (<http://www.aykssi.org/SciencePlanning/index.htm>)). In doing so, the Plan provides a science-based roadmap guiding the Initiative's current and future "Invitations to Submit Research Proposals" and ensuring that available funds target the highest priority research questions and issues.

The RRP is organized around a conceptual foundation, several overarching questions and three research frameworks: 1) Salmon Life Cycle; 2) Human Systems; 3) Synthesis and Prediction. Across these three frameworks, a total of eleven high priority hypotheses were identified directly addressing the program goal of "*...understanding the trends and causes of variation in salmon abundance and fisheries...*"

The 2009 High Priority Hypothesis (as noted below) was selected by the AYK SSI Steering Committee and is drawn from the RRP's Human Systems Framework.

**2009 High Priority Hypothesis<sup>1</sup>:** The cumulative effects of habitat loss by mining activities can be severe at local levels but not at regional scales, except in the Norton Sound region.

*To assist investigators in further addressing the hypothesis, which is the foundation of this call for proposals, the AYK SSI drafted the following language:*

The Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim region contains several thousand miles of streams and other waters used or potentially used as habitat by salmon. Proposals are invited to address knowledge gaps in the Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC) within the AYK SSI region (more detailed information regarding the AWC can be found at: <http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/SARR/awc/>). Data collected should meet the criteria for inclusion of water bodies in the AWC (proposers are encouraged to coordinate with ADFG to ensure that protocols are sufficient). Areas to be surveyed should target regions/streams/rivers at risk of impacts from human activities. Proposals should clearly articulate the extent of data gaps and the importance of filling these gaps.

## Scientific Evaluation Criteria

The AYK SSI Scientific Technical Committee will conduct detailed technical review of all proposals based on the following evaluation criteria:

1. **Responsiveness to the 2009 AYK SSI Research Priority:** Does the proposal clearly describe how it will address and advance the selected hypothesis (see research priority listed above)?
2. **Soundness of project design and methods:** Are the objectives clear and achievable (see guidelines for drafting research objectives in Appendix #2 below)? Are the methods as likely to be effective as any others available in achieving the proposed objectives? What are the strengths and/or weaknesses of the technical design relative to achieving productive results?
3. **Personnel / Cost effectiveness / Deliverables:** Does the proposer(s) have the requisite technical expertise to complete the project? Can the objectives be achieved with these personnel for the amount of funding requested and within the proposed timeframe? Is it cost effective? Are the products/deliverables identified and acceptable?
4. **Coordination and Consultation:** Has the proposer(s) made reasonable efforts to coordinate and collaborate with related projects and avoid duplication of effort? Have appropriate local consultations been completed? Have opportunities for local and/or regional capacity building, where appropriate, been considered?
5. **Capacity Building:** Has the proposer(s) demonstrated initial progress toward appropriate consultations with local communities and/or presented a plan for ensuring that this project will contribute to developing partnerships and building the capacity of individuals, agencies, and organizations in the region to meaningfully participate in fisheries research activities (see capacity building guidelines below).

---

<sup>1</sup> The hypothesis presented here reflects statements about how processes may cause salmon abundance to vary. Hypotheses should not be interpreted as statements of fact nor statements of belief of the AYK SSI, but are propositions about how the salmon system may work – they may be true or they may be false! The hypotheses are posed as positive statements designed for studies to either prove or disprove. It may be helpful for the reader to insert before each hypothesis, “To determine whether...”.

---

## DEADLINES & INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING PROPOSALS

---

### Proposal Deadline and Submission

Deadline for submission is **Thursday, November 20, 2008, 5:00 PM**. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Except in extraordinary circumstances, we strongly urge all investigators to submit online via the AYK SSI Online Submission System. (If online submission is not possible, or you do not have a reliable internet connection for uploading files, please see details of email/mail submission procedures below.)

#### Electronic Submission:

Online submission is the strongly preferred method of submission and will be available at [http://www.aykssi.org/extranet/FY08\\_Proposal/login.cfm](http://www.aykssi.org/extranet/FY08_Proposal/login.cfm) between **September 15 and November 20, 2008 (5:00 PM)**.

When submitting your proposal via the AYK SSI Online Submission System you will be asked to fill in a variety of forms as well as to upload files. All proposals must be prepared and submitted using the format described below. Proposal information will remain active and accessible as the investigator moves through the submittal system. Investigators have the ability to update any information provided at any time prior to your final submission or the proposal deadline, whichever comes first. Should you encounter problems, technical help is available by phone at the number provided online.

Once all required fields have been filled in, a final submission and confirmation page will appear. Once you click the Submit button you will receive an e-mail confirmation.

If you do not receive an e-mail confirming your submission from the AYK SSI Submission System within two hours, you must use one of these two alternative methods of submission:

1. Email your proposal to [karen.gillis@bsfaak.org](mailto:karen.gillis@bsfaak.org) (making sure you save a copy of the e-mail confirmation you will receive) or
2. Mail your proposal as a hard copy and CD via USPS, per instructions below.

#### Mail Submission:

If your internet connection prevents you from reliably uploading files, you may submit your full proposal via mail to:

AYK SSI  
c/o Bering Sea Fishermen's Association  
110 W. 15th Avenue, Unit A  
Anchorage, AK 99501

The complete full proposal package must be US Postal Service postmarked by **November 20, 2008**. Retain a copy of the USPS confirmation of postmark date for your records. Please include a CD with your package or email electronic versions of all your documents to [karen.gillis@bsfaak.org](mailto:karen.gillis@bsfaak.org).

**NOTE:** Regardless of your method of submission, it is your responsibility to ensure that you obtain a written confirmation of your full proposal submission via email or a USPS confirmation of postmark date.

### Additional Questions:

Applicants can refer to <http://www.aykssi.org> for a copy of proposal application materials and information about our research priorities. Please contact the AYK SSI staff at (907) 279-6519 (toll free 888-927-2732) or email AYK SSI's Program Director, Karen Gillis ([karen.gillis@bsfaak.org](mailto:karen.gillis@bsfaak.org)) if you need further information or clarification.

---

### General Instructions

- Submission through the AYK SSI Submission System ([http://www.aykssi.org/extranet/FY08\\_Proposal/login.cfm](http://www.aykssi.org/extranet/FY08_Proposal/login.cfm)) is strongly preferred.
- Full Proposal and Curriculum Vitae (CV) should be prepared and submitted in MS WORD using Times New Roman 11 point.
- Total length of the main body of the proposal, (Section II. Objectives and Project Design (excluding proposal summary, introduction, coordination, capacity building, budget pages, references and CV's.) constituting the main body of the proposal, **should not exceed 12 pages.**
- Do not change font styles or sizes of the headings and subheadings of the form.
- Eliminate investigator instructions (those comments/descriptions contained in brackets listed after each heading/subheading) from the form prior to submittal of the proposal.
- Projects may not have a start date before May 1, 2009.
- Projects may not have an end date after March 31, 2011.
- Include one page CV for each project investigator. CVs exceeding one page will not be accepted.

- Project Title:** [Maximum 40 characters]
- Investigator(s):** [Names of individuals proposing project. Include affiliation and all contact information--address, phone, fax, and e-mail. If there are multiple proposers/principle investigators, indicate which individual will serve as the lead investigator or project manager. Please be aware that e-mail will be the primary method of communication regarding the status of your proposal.]
- Project Period:** [Successful proposals submitted for the 2009 funding cycle will be funded for a maximum of three years. Applicants should not request a project start date before **May 1, 2009**. All funded research work must be completed by March 31, 2011. All invoicing must be completed and submitted by April 30, 2011 and final project completion reports and final products must be completed and submitted by May 31, 2011.]
- AYK SSI Funding:** [Total amount of AYK SSI funding requested.]
- Matching Funds:** [Not required. List total funds already secured from non-AYK SSI sources, if any, that will be applied to the project.]
- Study Location:** [General geographic area in which field work will be conducted, including the watershed and tributary as appropriate; e.g., Kwethluk River watershed.) If there are other areas of the state that may be impacted by this study, please list these areas as well.]
- Abstract:** [Provide a brief (300 words or less) summary of the project in language understandable to audiences unfamiliar with your subject area. The abstract may be edited for clarity, brevity, and readability by AYK SSI staff. The abstract should be suitable for reports to Congress, the Alaska state legislature, and the public. The abstract should include a short synopsis of the following:
- a) The issue addressed and why the project is needed
  - b) Project hypotheses and objectives (see instructions for drafting research project objectives below)
  - c) Overview of research methods
  - d) Anticipated impacts/ outcomes, and any measurable benefits.]

**[If the above information should exceed one page, please set a page break at the end of the additional page(s).]**

## I. INTRODUCTION

[Provide the background and overview of the proposed work. What problem is the project designed to address? Describe the background and history of the problem. Review the scientific literature covering the most significant works related to the project. The purpose of this overview and literature review is to place the proposed research in the larger context of what work has been done, what is known, and what remains to be known.]

## II. PROJECT DESIGN

**A. Objectives and Project Design** [Section II. Objectives and Project Design (excluding proposal summary, introduction, coordination, capacity building, budget pages, references and CV's.), constituting the main body of the proposal, **should not exceed 12 pages.**]

1. **Project Objectives:** [Numerically list research objectives in the sequence of their completion. Many proposals fail to be recommended for funding because of poorly formulated objectives. *Objectives are **not** methodological steps or lists of tasks (e.g., collect data, conduct experiments, analyze data, write report.) Research objectives identify a pattern or process to be described and can be used to evaluate research progress. Objectives should be worded to reflect the research questions to be answered, the hypotheses to be tested, or the processes to be described. A set of objectives are ideally related to each other. When little information exists to formulate questions and hypotheses then research objectives focused on description are appropriate. See "Guidelines for Drafting Research Project Objectives" in Appendix #2.]*
2. **Justification:**
  - a. [Briefly describe the rationale for the project. State clearly and succinctly how, through data gathering and analysis, your project will engage and advance the AYK SSI 2009 High Priority Hypothesis. **In light of the size of the AYK SSI region watersheds and the limited funding available under the 2009 invitation, proposers should clearly describe their rationale in selecting boundaries for the proposed work.**
  - b. Describe why each objective is important and its anticipated benefits to salmon/salmon fisheries/salmon fishers.]
3. **Project Impacts/Outcomes/Evaluation of Project Objectives:** [Provide a description of anticipated impacts of the project/objectives and any measurable benefits. For each objective provide a performance measure. Describe the qualitative and quantitative metrics that you will use to measure accomplishment of each objective.]
4. **Methods:** [Describe your approach to achieving your objectives. For each objective listed above, what specific hypotheses will be tested and how? Clearly identify a specific set of procedures needed to accomplish each objective. As appropriate, describe the statistical or conceptual model that is the basis for your work; including the experimental design, assumptions required, sample size and other relevant information. We encourage limiting this section to approximately three pages. However, this section should contain enough detail to allow a reviewer to understand how the study will be conducted, including how data will be collected and analyzed. To improve clarity, the Methods section may be divided into subsections that represent different components of the study.]

- 5. Results / Deliverable Products:** [Describe the project results and the products to be provided at the conclusion of the study, as well as their estimated completion date. Depending upon the specific study, deliverables may also include such products as electronic databases, graphics, or meetings. The AYK SSI encourages funded investigators to publish the results of their work in peer-reviewed journals. Note that AYK SSI requirements include: semi-annual performance reports, an annual performance metrics report and a Final Project Report that describes fulfillment of objectives and includes an abstract, introduction, methods, results and discussion. Specific details about format, distribution and peer review of final reports can be found on our website ([www.aykssi.org](http://www.aykssi.org)) and will be addressed during development of the funding contract for successful proposals.]
- 6. Milestones/Project Timelines:**
- [Using the format below specify when major tasks associated with each project objective will be completed. Reviewers will use this information along with annual project reports to assess whether PIs are meeting objectives and are eligible for continued funding.
  - Estimate the beginning and completion dates for critical segments of the study, including all deliverables, and provide this information in tabular form following the examples below.]

**Example:**  
 Objective 1 Task. Collect data and develop sediment-core chronologies in lake-productivity indicators. To be met by August 2009 and August 2010.

Objective 2 Task. Enter and compare sediment data corresponding to the past few decades to salmon population statistics. To be met by November 2009 and November 2010.

Objective 3 Task. Reconstruct time-series of lake productivity, input of marine-derived nutrients, and salmon escapement. To be met by March 2011.

**Sample Multi-year Project Schedule (Example Project period 5/1/09 through 3/31/11):**

Using State Fiscal Calendar	Year 1: 08-09	Year 2: 09-10		Year 3: 10-11	
TASKS	May-Jun	Jul-Dec	Jan-Jun	Jul- Dec	Jan-Jun
Start up	May 1, 2009				
Performance Metrics	May				April
Data Collection		June-August		June-August	
Data Entry		October		October	
Analysis		November		November	
Semiannual Performance Reports		July	January	July	January
<b>Final Invoice MUST be submitted no later than...</b>					April 30, 2011
<b>Final Report/Project Completion Form Due</b>					May 31, 2011
<b>Submission of Final Product Due</b>					May 31, 2011

**Sample One-year Project Schedule (Example Project period 5/1/09 through 4/30/10):**

Using State Fiscal Calendar	FY09	FY10	
TASK	May-Jun	July-Dec	Jan-Jun
Start up	May 1, 2009		
Data Collection	May	July	
Data Entry		August	
Analysis		September	
Semiannual Performance Reports		July	January
Final Invoice MUST be submitted no later than...			May 30, 2010
Final Report/Project Completion Form Due			June 30, 2010
Submission of Final Product			June 30, 2010

- 7. Performance Ability and Administrative Expertise:** [Briefly summarize the investigator(s) and/or organization’s experience in performing work similar to that proposed here. Past reports or professional journal articles by the investigator(s) relevant to this proposal should be cited, and unpublished work should be briefly described as it relates to the investigator’s or organization’s ability to accomplish the objectives. Describe the field capabilities needed to carry out the study when particular equipment or technologies are essential components to conducting a study (e.g., cultural and community knowledge, sonar equipment, shop facility for weir fabrication, drift gillnet boats). Describe the organizational ability to carry out the administrative aspects of the project. The proposal should include a one-page curriculum vitae for each investigator. Other evidence of performance ability may be attached as an appendix to the proposal. Investigator’s performance ability and administrative expertise may be evaluated on the following:
1. History of investigator’s performance on past projects.
  2. Individual qualifications of each investigator and their role in the investigation.
  3. Technical and administrative expertise of an organization to complete the work.
  4. Summary of experience.
  5. Past reports and articles.
  6. Field capabilities.]
- 8. Coordination and Collaboration with Other Efforts:** [Describe the relationships and links between the proposed project and other relevant projects in progress in the AYK region. Indicate how the proposed project relates to, complements, or includes collaborative efforts with other proposed or existing projects in the same geographic or topical area. Describe any coordination that has taken or will take place and what form the coordination will take (shared field sites, research platforms, sample collection, data management, equipment purchases, etc.). If the proposed project requires or includes collaboration with other agencies, organizations or scientists to accomplish the work, such arrangements should be fully explained. If the relationship with other proposals is unknown, or if your proposal is in conflict with another project, note this and explain why.]



9. **Capacity Building:** [The purpose of this section is to ensure that local communities are aware of the proposed work, and where appropriate, opportunities for local or regional capacity building have been designed into the project. Projects must include appropriate partners and contribute, to the maximum degree possible, to the capacities of agencies, local communities, and residents of the region to participate in fishery research and management. Prior to submission principal investigators must have completed appropriate consultation about their project with local villages and communities in the area where the project is to be conducted (letters of support from local organizations add to the strength of a proposal). As appropriate, investigators and their organizations should be able to demonstrate the ability to create and/or maintain effective relationships with local communities/organizations and a commitment to capacity building. Specifically, we request the following information:

- As applicable, list local communities that may be involved with the project or realize benefits from the project. What consultations have been conducted as part of planning of the proposed work?
- As applicable, present a plan for how this study will develop partnerships and build the capacity of individuals, agencies, and organizations in the region to meaningfully participate in fisheries research activities. Indicate whether this study would provide opportunities to develop professional capabilities and administrative skills of agencies and organizations in the region.

For additional detail on this topic, see “**Guidelines for Capacity Building in AYK SSI Research Program**” in **Appendix #1** below.

10. **Matching Funds / Partner Contributions:** [Matching funds are encouraged, but not required. What other entities, if any, have committed funding or are likely to fund the project you are proposing? If you have submitted your proposal to other potential funding sources, please describe to which source(s) it has been submitted, when a funding decision will be made, and—in the event other funding is approved—whether or not AYK SSI funds will also be needed.]

### III. Budget

[NOTE: You must prepare your budget using the MS Excel document “AYK SSI Budget Forms 2009.xls”. A copy of this form can be downloaded from [www.aykssi.org](http://www.aykssi.org).]

Instructions are provided on each Excel budget worksheet.

#### **Additional Special Instructions:**

- **Fill in only the shaded areas on the budget forms.** The summary worksheet and appropriate un-shaded cells on other worksheets will automatically in-fill based upon figures entered in the shaded cells within the detailed budget worksheets.
- **Keep all worksheets in the same Excel workbook,** as in the accompanying document and submit as a single document along with the text of your proposal. Do not submit worksheets as separate attachments. You may rename the entire Excel workbook.
- **Leave any unused worksheet/budget forms in the Excel Workbook. This is essential in order to preserve embedded formulas and ensure that the multiple worksheets sum properly.**

- A. **Project Costs:** [Describe and justify the budget for each organization or agency requesting funding in this proposal using the mandatory budget categories and forms included in the MS Excel document "AYK SSI Budget Forms 2009.xls" available for download from our website.

**You must include in the proposal detailed narrative text for each category providing an explanation and/or process for how the funds will be used and/or allocated. Narrative totals must equal exactly the figures in the budget table.**

**Proposals without adequate budget narrative detail will be returned to be fixed.]**

- **100 - Personnel (including Fringe Benefits):** [Include the salary detail for all employees assigned to this project. Explain the duties for each individual identified by name and position. State the time commitments such as hours and percent of time for each position. List the total charges for each person. Include all fringe benefits in correlation to the employee's hourly wage and the number of hours to be worked in association with the proposed project. Identify what types of fringe benefits are being covered. Describe the total charges for each person listed along with an explanation of how the charges were calculated.]
- **200 - Travel:** [These costs include lodging, airfare, per diem, ground transportation and other directly-related expenses incurred while traveling for the purpose of the proposed project. Include each traveler's name, dates of travel, purpose of travel, destination, and itemized costs to include lodging, airfare, per diem, ground transportation, etc. Identify why the requested travel is directly relevant to the successful completion of the project. If there are any actual trip details that remain unknown, please explain what the basis for the proposed travel charges. Re. Outreach: During the final year of the project, applicants must include in their travel budget the costs for at least one representative of the project to attend an annual AYK SSI research review/outreach meeting to present their results. The principal investigator(s) shall cooperate with the AYK SSI and its Program Director in developing materials for interpretation of the project and research results to the public.]
- **300 - Contractual:** [Include all expenditures associated with contractually-related activities that are directly associated with the proposed project. List each contract as a separate item. Please describe the applicability to the project for each contract to be acquired.]
- **400 - Supplies:** [Include a description of all equipment that individually costs under \$5,000 and miscellaneous supplies and materials that are required for the purpose of the proposed project. Itemize supplies by type of material or nature of expense. Please identify how the proposed charges are necessary for the successful completion of the project.]
- **500 - Equipment:** [Include items that individually cost more than \$5,000. For any items of equipment whose costs exceed \$5,000, a description of the item and associated costs is required. List each item of equipment being requested. For each item of equipment, please identify the number of units, cost per unit and total cost specified. Explain why each item of equipment is necessary for the successful completion of the project.]
- **600 - Indirect Costs:** [These are costs that cannot be specifically identified with conducting the proposed project, but would be incurred by the investigating organization as a result of administering the proposed project. Indirect costs generally include space rental, utilities, postage, data processing, training, safety management, affirmative action programs, administrative support, and supervisory oversight. **Note: All proposals must include the backup documentation to support all associated indirect costs. You are required to upload this document as part of your proposal package.** A copy of the negotiated indirect cost rate document or similar document will meet this requirement. Congressional intent is that

institutions undertaking research with these funds apply the funds to expenses that are directly related to the project, and have the ability to complete the project with very low indirect cost rates. If you have questions, please contact AYK SSI Staff toll-free at 866-927-2732.]

- **Funds other than AYK SSI / Matching Funds:** [Matching funds or cost-sharing is not required for this program. However, proposals must reflect the total budget necessary to accomplish the project, including in-kind contributions and/or donations.]

**B. Federal Proposing Agencies:** [Note: Those federal agencies whose projects are approved for funding by the AYK SSI may need to seek certification by NOAA as eligible to receive federal funds from this NOAA-funded Program.]

**C. Literature cited:** [Provide complete citations for all references cited in the proposal.]

## APPENDIX #1

---

### Guidelines for Capacity Building in AYK SSI Research Program

---

Within the AYK SSI research program capacity building refers to “Capacity building is the process by which rural/ Tribal groups, organizations, and NGO’s expand and develop technical and administrative abilities enabling them to participate in a range of fisheries research activities to the maximum level they desire.”

Projects must include appropriate partners and contribute, to the maximum degree possible, to the capacities of local communities, organizations, and residents of the region to participate in fishery research. Proposers must list the communities that may be affected by the project or realize benefits from the project and describe consultations have been conducted as part of planning of the proposed work? This section should include a plan outlining how this project will contribute to developing partnerships and building the capacity of individuals, agencies, and organizations in the region.

The graphic below illustrates a continuum of capacity building as measured by levels of local or regional organizational involvement in research projects, and will be used to evaluate the Capacity Building criterion above. Investigators are encouraged to develop the highest level of community and regional involvement that is reasonably practical to their project. Proposals that involve greater levels of community involvement will rank higher for this component. Not all research methods or projects lend themselves to contributing to regional or local capacity building.

Additional capacity building resources, including a listing of local and regional organizations and examples of effective fisheries research capacity building from the region and beyond, can be found at our website at <http://www.aykssi.org/Research/Capacitybuild.htm>

**Capacity Building as Measured by Levels of Community Involvement in AYK SSI Projects <sup>1</sup>**

8	Community Control	Projects are locally derived, administered and managed, full responsibility for project management is delegated to or assumed by the community
7	Partnerships	Partnership of equals between state and federal agencies and local users; joint decision making institutionalized
6	Collaboration	Community is involved in policy and decision making about project objectives
5	Cooperation	Use of local knowledge and local research assistants; some Research/assessment activities are contracted to local groups
4	Developing Partnerships	Partnerships in project development may start; common objectives sought
3	Communication	Two-way communication begins; research plans begin to include and reflect local concerns
2	Consultation	Communities/organizations are consulted on projects; feedback from research findings go to community
1	Informing	Communities/organizations are informed about projects; communication is one way



1. Cannon, R., A. Craver, M. Rearden, T. Roettiger, C. Schleusner, B. Spangler, P. Wheeler, and D. Wiswar. 2005. *Capacity Building in the Fisheries Resources Monitoring Program: A Guiding Document for Project Investigators*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage, Alaska. 6 p. Available, at <<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/fisupply.cfm>>

## APPENDIX #2

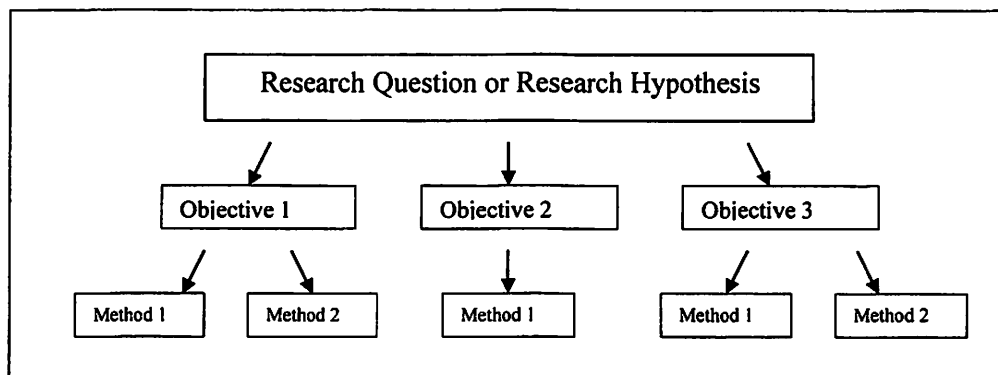
### Guidelines for Drafting Research Project Objectives

These guidelines are designed to provide direction and assistance for drafting effective objectives for fisheries research proposals. Clear objectives are fundamental to the project design and provide the framework for evaluating project performance. Many proposals fail to advance to a request for a full proposal due to poorly formulated objectives. While these guidelines focus on drafting clear and effective research objectives, it is important to also discuss the relationship among the project research question / hypothesis, objectives and methods.

All research projects begin with either a well-framed research question or hypothesis, from which flows the research objectives. Hypotheses are possible explanations for a phenomenon and predictions are what you expect to occur if the hypothesis is true. Hypotheses are not to be interpreted as statements of fact nor statements of belief of the AYK SSI Program, but are propositions about how the salmon system may work – they may be true or they may be false! The hypotheses are posed as positive statements, while research questions are framed as questions. A good hypothesis or research question should be narrow enough to address specific issues but not so narrow that it can be addressed with a yes or no answer or the gathering of a few statistics. Once one or more research questions or hypotheses are formulated, research objectives can be developed.

Objectives identify a pattern among a set of variables or a process to be described and can be used to evaluate research progress. Objectives should be worded to reflect or link to the research questions to be answered, the hypotheses to be tested, and the processes to be described. A set of objectives are ideally related to each other. Objectives should relate directly to the research question or problem; generally, they address types of information or datasets needed to address the question or problem. Project objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable. They define what will be accomplished by a given point in time. Research objectives should not include descriptions of how they will be accomplished; that is they are **not** methodological steps (e.g., collect data, analyze data, write report). This information is presented in the methods section. When little information exists to formulate questions and hypotheses then research objectives focused on description are appropriate.

In the methods section, describe discrete, specific methods or tasks for accomplishing each objective. The methods should clearly articulate and demonstrate that they will yield the information needed to accomplish the research objectives. The figure and examples below illustrate how the methods and objectives relate to the research question or problem.



## **HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE #1: HYPOTHESIS-OBJECTIVES-METHODS:**

### Hypothesis or Research Question:

Marine survival and growth of salmon varies due to density-dependent processes of competition and predation among salmon species and to climate change.

### Objectives:

1. To determine whether changes in the abundance of pink salmon and climate change are associated with changes in growth and abundance of Norton Sound chum salmon.
2. To determine whether changes in the abundance of pink salmon are positively correlated with growth and abundance Unalakleet River and Kuskokwim River coho salmon.

### Methods:

- Reconstruct annual and seasonal growth indices of Kwiniuk River chum salmon, 1975-2006, based on scale pattern analysis.
- Reconstruct Norton Sound adult chum salmon returns from each brood year using recently assembled age composition data, predictions of age composition from long-term age composition datasets, and available catch and spawning escapement data for each watershed in Norton Sound.
- Reconstruct annual and seasonal growth indices of Unalakleet River coho salmon, 1983-2006, and Kuskokwim coho salmon, 1967-2006, based on scale pattern analysis.
- Assemble indices of Bering Sea climate change (e.g., seasonal SST, Nome seasonal air temperature, date of ice breakup in Bering Sea, Arctic Oscillation Index, PDO, and regime shifts).
- Etc.....

## **HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE #2: RESEARCH QUESTION-OBJECTIVES-METHODS:**

### Hypothesis or Research Question:

How do ecological processes regulate population size and generate annual variability in the abundance of adult Chinook salmon?

### Objectives:

1. Determine whether density dependent mortality is due to mainly to competition for spawning habitat or to competition between juveniles during summer rearing.
2. Determine how seasonal patterns of stream discharge and other environmental variables affect food production and the area and quality of profitable and safe feeding habitat.
3. Determine how food abundance and water temperature interact to influence growth rate, energy reserves, and marine survival.

### Methods:

- Survey the longitudinal distribution and density of spawners, fry, and fingerlings to assess and select study reaches.
- Estimate adult abundance from mark-recapture experiments, plus historic weir and tower counts.
- Estimate total egg deposition from estimates of adult abundance and redd counts, combined with historic age-sex-length data.
- Use bioenergetic modeling to investigate the relationship between food intake, water temperature, growth rate, and energy reserves.
- Assemble existing data, augmented with new data, to assess stream flow, flow history, season, temperature, light intensity, turbidity, and nutrient inputs
- Test hypotheses about the way ecological processes generate annual variations in the abundance of Chinook salmon using modeling and retrospective analysis.
- Etc.....

**Subject:** New Fishermen's Terminal Trawl Net Recycling Program

**From:** "Lohrer, Laurie" <Lohrer.L@portseattle.org>

**Date:** Mon, 15 Sep 2008 16:55:33 -0700

**To:** chris.oliver@noaa.gov

Chris:

Bob King at Marine Conservation Alliance suggested I send information to you re: our new Trawl Net Recycling Program, launched April 2008 by Port of Seattle's Fishermen's Terminal in collaboration with Skagit River Steel and Recycling in Burlington, and funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The program offers fishermen and fishing companies an environmentally sustainable, yet economically viable alternative to storage or disposal of nets at landfills. Nets are recycled into various useful items, including bicycle seats, screwdriver handles, mats and decking. We're excited to launch this program and see results as we move towards the end of B season. Working together we can help reduce waste, preserve our ocean and contribute to a cleaner earth.

Net recycling is free to Fishermen's Terminal customers that deliver nets stripped of metal and debris to the Terminal. Companies that provide stripped or unstripped nets directly to Skagit River Steel and Recycling will pay a small fee, however, this low cost option is still cheaper and easier than landfill disposal.

All net recycling operations require advance notice. The primary Net Recycling contact at Port of Seattle is Scott Brown, Fishermen's Terminal operations manager (phone 206-728-3398), who works directly with Port customers to organize logistics of their net recycling. Non-Port customers can work directly with Lois Young at Skagit River Steel and Recycling at 360-757-6096.

Please distribute this email to any additional NOAA staff and others you know that might be interested. Let me know if you have questions or would like me to forward hard copies of the brochure for distribution.

Regards-

Laurie Lohrer  
Special Projects/Harbor Services Group  
Ph 206-696-3735  
Email [lohre.l@portseattle.org](mailto:lohre.l@portseattle.org)

<b>Trawl Net Recycling Brochure Port of Seattle.pdf</b>	<b>Trawl Net Recycling</b> <b>Content-Description:</b> Brochure Port of Seattle.pdf <b>Content-Type:</b> application/pdf <b>Content-Encoding:</b> base64
---	---

<b>FT Trawl Net Recycling Pilot Program 042108 release.doc</b>	<b>Content-Description:</b> FT Trawl Net Recycling Pilot Program 042108 release.doc
--	---



**For immediate release  
April 21, 2008**

Contact: Charla Skaggs, Media Officer  
Port of Seattle  
206.728.3235 office  
206.610.9982 pager

## **No Foolin'! Trawl Net Recycling Program Began at Port of Seattle on April 1<sup>st</sup>**

SEATTLE - The first-ever West Coast regional trawl net recycling program began at Port of Seattle's Fishermen's terminal on April 1. The program offers free or low cost net and metal recycling to commercial fishing customer vessels moored at Fishermen's Terminal, the region's largest commercial fishing facility and home port of the North Pacific fishing fleet.

Participating vessels will be able to deliver nets to Fishermen's Terminal for transport to Skagit River Steel and Recycling Company, based in nearby Burlington. The project reduces solid waste by providing free or inexpensive alternative to landfill disposal, and was funded by a Marine Debris Prevention grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Nets stripped of metal chain, cable, shackles and floats and delivered free of debris will be recycled free of charge. Fishermen's Terminal and Maritime Industrial Center commercial fishing customers can participate by contacting the Port Office at (206) 728-3395 in advance to arrange logistics. Metal components leftover from the stripped nets will also be recycled onsite at no cost.

Inquiries for low cost recycling of unstripped nets should be directed to Skagit River Steel and Recycling Company at (360) 757-6096.

Commercial gillnets are also accepted free of charge for recycling from customers at Fishermen's Terminal.

Recycling is not new to Fishermen's Terminal - customers also have access to on-site recycling of aluminum, cardboard, ferrous and non ferrous metal, glass, paper, gillnets, used oil, and oily bilge water.

Fishermen's Terminal is owned and operated by the Port of Seattle. The Trawl Net Recycling Program a component of the Port's goal to become the cleanest, greenest, most energy-efficient port in the United States.

For more information call 206-728-3395, email [ft@portseattle.org](mailto:ft@portseattle.org) or visit [www.portseattle.org](http://www.portseattle.org).

## Working Towards Solutions

The best way to protect our environment, whether marine or land based, is by working together on new & innovative recycling efforts.

Fishermen's Terminal Trawl Net Recycling Program fills an industry need by providing trawl net recycling options, reducing storage cost of unused nets, and limiting solid waste impact on landfills. This program is a collaboration between Port of Seattle's Fishermen's Terminal, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Skagit River Steel & Recycling Company, and fishing vessel owners & operators.

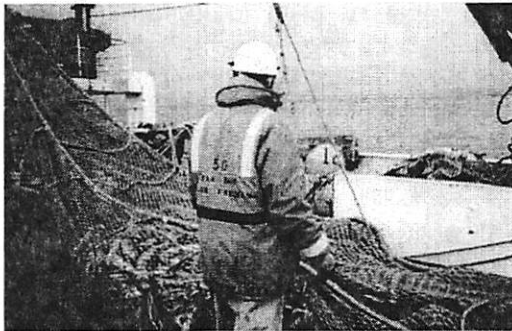
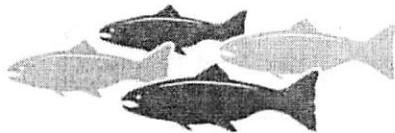


Photo courtesy National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/Department of Commerce

FISHERMEN'S TERMINAL



A PORT OF SEATTLE PROPERTY

3919 - 18th Ave West  
Seattle WA 98119  
206-728-3395  
ft@portseattle.org  
www.portseattle.org

Call today to start recycling your nets!

Port   
of Seattle

## Fishermen's Terminal TRAWL NET RECYCLING



Photo courtesy National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration / Department of Commerce

## FREE & LOW COST OPTIONS

## Trawl Net Recycling at Fishermen's Terminal



Photo by Karna McKinney, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NOAA / Department of Commerce

### Why Recycle your Trawl Nets?

- ... Reduces storage and disposal costs.
- ... Reduces solid waste into landfills & costly delays if nets are entangled in equipment.
- ... Lost nets, fishing gear and other debris can smother and crush sensitive ecosystems and bottom-dwelling species.
- ... Fishing nets and line can entangle, maim or drown wildlife species.

### New Trawl Net Recycling Program at Fishermen's Terminal

The Port of Seattle, in cooperation with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Skagit River Steel & Recycling is pleased to announce a pilot trawl net recycling program. Fishermen's Terminal customers can recycle stripped nets FREE at the Terminal. All fishing companies can recycle nets at low cost with Skagit River Steel & Recycling Company.

Your participation in this voluntary program reduces solid waste into landfills and impact lost trawl nets may have on ocean ecosystem.

Be Part of the Pollution Solution

## Get Started Today

### FREE

#### Stripped Trawl Net Recycling

Stripped trawl nets from customers can be recycled free at Fishermen's Terminal. Steel cable & chain will be accepted & recycled free.

#### Here's How

1. Nets must be stripped free of floats, bristles, cables & chain, and must be clean & free of debris.
2. Please bundle nets tightly with line for easy handling.
3. Once nets are stripped, schedule your net drop off by calling Fishermen's Terminal at 206-728-3395 Mon-Fri 8am-4pm.
4. Fishermen's Terminal offers free onsite recycling of coiled cables, bundled chains, shackles & floats leftover from your nets.

### LOW COST

#### Unstripped Net Recycling

Full trawl nets can also be recycled at low cost by working directly with Skagit River Steel & Recycling Company in Burlington Washington to arrange logistics, scheduling and fees. Remember, this low cost recycling option is still easier and cheaper than landfill disposal.

#### Here's How

1. Unstripped nets must be bundled or pursed.
2. Contact Lois Young at Skagit River Steel & Recycling Co 360-757-6096 for details scheduling, logistics, fees and payment.
3. All arrangements for unstripped net recycling must be made directly with Skagit River Steel & Recycling Company.

Call today for more information:  
Fishermen's Terminal 206-728-3395

**NEWS**

Opinion

AA + -

Home > News > Opinion > My turn: Responsible fisheries management

Sunday, September 21, 2008  
Story last updated at 9/21/2008 - 9:30 am

## My turn: Responsible fisheries management

By David Witherell | My Turn

The recent opinion piece by George Pletnikoff "My turn: Fishing councils must be held accountable" is apparently based on a fundamental misunderstanding of federal fisheries management, and thus compels me to respond.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council was established in 1976 to allow local fishermen to participate in the development of fishing regulations right here in Alaska, rather than in Washington, D.C. Management measures developed by the Council must be approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service, and must comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as well as all other applicable federal law. The Council is accountable to the American public through these laws and regulations, and not to the fishing industry, Greenpeace, or any other group.

Pletnikoff argues that because some Council members are fishermen, the Council sets catch limits too high and allows overfishing to occur, and thus reforms are needed. Yet this argument is patently false.

In the North Pacific, catch limits are established annually based on comprehensive stock assessments prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Biologically sustainable catch limits are set by scientists on the Scientific and Statistical Committee, and not by Council members. The Scientific Committee has never set a catch limit that allows overfishing. This practice has proven so successful in the North Pacific, that it is now federal law and applies to all regional fisheries in the United States. By law, the Council can never assign total allowable catch limits higher than the sustainable limits set by the Scientific Committee. As a result, no stock of groundfish off Alaska is overfished or subject to overfishing, period.

Ironically, every point that Pletnikoff raises in his opinion piece illustrates how the Council provides responsible stewardship of the marine resources off Alaska. For example, he notes that Pacific ocean perch and yellowfin sole stocks were depleted by foreign vessels in the 1960s. What he fails to mention is that these very stocks were rebuilt by conservative management measures implemented by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and are now at very high biomass levels and support sustainable fisheries.

Pollock stocks increase and decline in response to environmental effects on production and survival of young. As a result, biomass can increase or decrease from year to year. Biologically conservative catch limits, which are established by scientists rather than Council members, are adjusted to constrain catches relative to projected stock biomass and trends. For example, biomass of Bering Sea pollock is currently declining from the 2004 peak abundance level. In 2008, catch limits were reduced by 24 percent, resulting in substantial economic losses to the fishing industry. Yet Pletnikoff discusses the recent reduction in pollock catch limits as an indication of mismanagement. The exact opposite is true. The first tenet of good fisheries conservation is to reduce catches during years when stock productivity is low.

Alaska's fisheries generate thousands of jobs, contribute millions of dollars to the economies of coastal communities across Alaska, and provide high quality nutrition for people around the world. Yet Pletnikoff maligns industry and commerce, and implies that marine fish extraction is inherently bad and should be curtailed. The fact is that federal law requires fisheries to be managed for optimum yield, which includes commercial and recreational harvests for the benefit of U.S. citizens.

The North Pacific is recognized as having one of the best science-based fisheries management programs in the world, and has become a model for responsible fisheries management in the United States. In fact, most of the world's fish catch that is certified as environmentally safe and sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council (an independent, international, non-profit group) is caught off Alaska. I urge readers to get the unbiased facts from the National Marine Fisheries Service at [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch).

• David Witherell is the deputy director of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. He holds a master's degree in fisheries management, is a certified fisheries professional and has authored numerous peer-reviewed scientific papers on ecosystem-based management and fisheries conservation. He lives in Anchorage and can be reached at [David.Witherell@noaa.gov](mailto:David.Witherell@noaa.gov).

ARTICLE LINKS: [Printer Friendly Version](#) | [Email This Article](#) | [Commenting Policy](#)

**Reader Comments Disclaimer & Warning:** *These comments do not represent the Juneau Empire's views. Comments that include profanity or personal attacks or other inappropriate comments or material will be removed from the site. Additionally, entries that contain signatures by someone other than the actual author will be removed. Finally, we will take steps to block users who violate any of our posting standards, terms of use or privacy policies or any other policies governing this site. Please review the full rules governing commentaries and discussions at [our user agreement page](#). You are fully responsible for the content that you post.*

Comments containing special characters of %, #, and () will not post. Also new registered readers will need to log off and log back on to post.

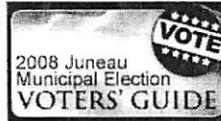
Registered readers may rate comments by clicking the or buttons.

To report an inappropriate comment or help moderate readers can click the . Three moderation votes will hide a comment



**TOP ADS**

- TOP JOBS**
- Teacher Assistant Gold**  
Creek Child Development Center. PT to...
  - Fire Extinguisher Technician**  
Position available F/T. Must be...
  - Join Our Team!**  
Full and Part-time Positions Customer Service,...
  - We Need People Who Knead People**  
Immediate part-time and full-time...
  - Commercial Divers Sitka**  
Sitka Tribe of Alaska is seeking certified...
- [View All TopJobs](#)
- TOP HOMES**
- TOP RENTALS**
- TOP BOATS**
- TOP AUTOS**



all around JUNEAU.com

all • in • one online calendar

EMPIRE'S Sports In Juneau What's Happening Around Town Out & About

CAPITAL CITY WEEKLY'S A&E Support Groups Meetings

STOP SHOP NEWSPAPER ads

JUNEAU REAL ESTATE / JULIE BURNS / JOHN WILLIAMS

Monday, September 15, 2008  
 Story last updated at 9/15/2008 - 9:25 am

## My turn: Fishing councils must be held accountable

By George Pletnikoff | My Turn

With the fishing gear, be it larger-than-football-field nets that drag the ocean's floor for fish, crab pots, longline fishing hooks or other gear used to catch and kill fish, much more than fish are being destroyed. Let's look at one approach: the deep-sea trawlers that hunt and search for pollock and other flat fishes.

The first major commercial groundfish fishery in the Gulf of Alaska targeted Pacific Ocean perch. The size of the catch rose quickly through the early 1960s until the resource was depleted. The fishery then began targeting walleye pollock. As happened with perch, the catch of pollock rose gradually through 1980 when a large spawning aggregation was discovered in the waters off of Kodiak Island. Over the next five years, the spawning aggregation was heavily exploited and the fishery peaked and collapsed. (Trites, Northern Fur Seals: Why Have They Declined, 1991).

The same picture can be painted for these fisheries in the Bering Sea. Yellowfin sole catches rose from 1954 to 1961 until the stock declined due to overfishing. As the yellowfin sole declined, the fishery moved to pollock. (Trites, Northern Fur Seals: Why Have They Declined, 1991).

Now we know that the pollock fishery in the Kodiak waters, the Bogoslov Island waters, and the Aleutian Islands have either been shut down due to overfishing or their catchable amounts severely cut because of overfishing. So what's new? Outside multinational fishing companies see an opportunity to exploit beyond reason, come into our waters and destroy. Sounds like a familiar tune when discussing other resources in our great state: oil and gas, minerals, forests, salmon populations and sadly, people.

It's beginning to sound like a problem that needs some serious attention from our state and federal governments. After all, our governments lay claim to represent all the people of both our state and nation. Oh, yeah, we do have such oversight boards and councils. The National Marine Fisheries Service and the Alaska Board of Fish are legally charged with that responsibility. And to help in these processes, advisory councils are put in place to help give direction.

NMFS has the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the ABF has regional advisory councils. But guess what? The NPFMC and the ABF are stocked, not with fish, but with commercial fishing representatives and interests to make these decisions. And these councils and boards are ripe for the plucking. Industry lobbyists and lawyers might often wine and dine these "representatives of the people's resource" to get their quotas, no matter the science. And they would often get their way. Take a quick look at the NPFMC's Web site and see who the council members are and whom they work for.

"Drill, baby, drill" is not a new cry for resource development at any cost. In the 1980s and 1990s and up to this day it has been "fish, baby, fish," before there are no more fish to catch.

With the problems of climate change, other animals' populations crashing and people being dislocated, it is time to reappoint "representative" people to these councils and boards. Industry greed and ways of doing business have got to stop. There is a lot of talk these days about reform. If ever an industry needed reform, this is it.

Just last year, the NPFMC cut the total amount of pollock catch a whopping 24 percent from the year before! If that same amount of decline were done to, say, the oil and gas industries, you would hear a loud cry from the public. We need to pay close attention to the reasons for this kind of management of our resources. One of the reasons given for the drastic cut the pollock fishery took was lack of recruitment. Oh, yeah. I forgot to tell you that twice a year, millions of pounds of pollock roe, the caviar of the Bering Sea, is auctioned off to a handful of "by invitation only" companies.

"Fish, baby, fish."

This is the people's resource put into the trusting hands of appointed councils. We must hold them accountable. They work for us, not the industry.


• George Pletnikoff is Unangan from the Pribilof Islands. He works for Greenpeace as the Alaska Oceans Campaigner. He can be reached at [george.pletnikoff@greenpeace.org](mailto:george.pletnikoff@greenpeace.org).

ARTICLE LINKS: [Printer Friendly Version](#) | [Email This Article](#) | [Commenting Policy](#)

**Reader Comments Disclaimer & Warning:** *These comments do not represent the Juneau Empire's views. Comments that include profanity or personal attacks or other inappropriate comments or material will be removed from the site. Additionally, entries that contain signatures by someone other than the actual author will be removed. Finally, we will take steps to block users who violate any of our posting standards, terms of use or privacy policies or any other policies governing this site. Please review the full rules governing commentaries and discussions at our [user agreement page](#). You are fully responsible for the content that you post.*

Comments containing special characters of %, #, and () will not post. Also new registered readers will need to log off and log back on to post.

Registered readers may rate comments by clicking the  or  buttons.

To report an inappropriate comment or help moderate readers can click the . Three moderation votes will hide a comment



### TOP ADS

#### TOP JOBS

**Teacher Assistant Gold**  
 Creek Child Development Center, PT. Ic...

**Fire Extinguisher Technician**  
 Position available F/T. Must be...

**Join Our Team!**  
 Full and Part-time Positions Customer Service,...

**We Need People**  
 Who Knead People immediate part-time and full-time...

**Commercial Divers Sitka**  
 Sitka Tribe of Alaska is seeking certified...

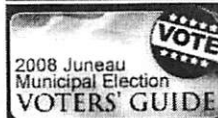
[View All TopJobs](#)

#### TOP HOMES

#### TOP RENTALS

#### TOP BOATS

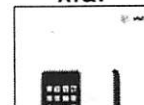
#### TOP AUTOS



HELP US  
 CELEBRATE  
 50 YEARS OF  
 STATEHOOD



AT&T



**Subject:** Message From the Under Secretary

**From:** "VADM Conrad C. Lautenbacher Jr., USN (Ret.)" <Announcement@noaa.gov>

**Date:** Tue, 23 Sep 2008 15:43:36 -0400

Message From the Under Secretary

September 23, 2008

Dear colleagues:

As we move toward the transition period between administrations, I report to you today that I have submitted my resignation to the President to be effective October 31, 2008. This has been the job of a lifetime and I have been honored and privileged to work with all of you as a part of the NOAA team.

In my departing letter, I noted just a few of team NOAA's many accomplishments in the past several years and my pride in you and in being part of this great organization. Such things as:

- The creation of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands marine conservation area, now known as the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, an area larger than all of our national parks combined and the second largest area in the world dedicated to the preservation of one of the world's most unique coral reef areas.
- The initiation of the first-ever Earth Observation Summit which led to the formation of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the commitment of 75 nations and 51 international organizations to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), without which, among other things, it will be impossible to monitor the viability and progress of any world wide agreement to reduce green house gasses and mitigate global warming.
- The funding and completion of a comprehensive Pacific and Atlantic Tsunami warning system as a component of GEOSS so that we may never again see the tragic losses that occurred during the 2004 Indonesian tsunami.
- The concerted effort to end overfishing and create truly sustainable fisheries for the future which resulted in strong legislation and significant progress in meeting this important goal.
- The great improvements in severe weather forecasting which have helped to save many lives and protect property during a period of increased severe weather activity.
- The significant investments in climate modeling as well as the beginning of a truly global operational climate observing system which added to U.S. leadership and prestige in climate science.

In the meanwhile, nothing will change as to the operation and functioning of NOAA. There is a strong leadership and management team in place in which I have complete confidence. We have instituted comprehensive transition planning and preparation activities, and we are on track to be thoroughly prepared for whatever the future beyond January 2009 brings. I am indeed proud of all



that you have accomplished and I will continue to the day I depart and beyond to work for you in gaining visibility, public understanding, and support for the vital national mission that NOAA performs.

conrad lautenbacher signature

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.

Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator

---

This message was generated for the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator by the NOAA Information Technology Center/Financial and Administrative Computing Division

*Science, Service, Stewardship*



## NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

The Sustainable Fisheries Division provides stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management and the promotion of healthy marine ecosystems.

### Implementing the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006

On January 12, 2007, President Bush signed into law the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (MSRA). The new law (P.L. 109-479) is groundbreaking in several respects: it mandates the use of annual catch limits and accountability measures to end overfishing, it provides for widespread market-based fishery management through limited access programs, and it calls for increased international cooperation.

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is working to fully implement the MSRA. The MSRA requires a variety of new reports, studies, Secretarial determinations, and other activities to be completed by specific dates. There are also many required provisions that do not have specific due dates, but must be implemented. The Office of Sustainable Fisheries (SF) has been tracking the implementation of all these activities. For tracking purposes, SF has divided all tasks associated with implementation of MSRA into 3 priority levels:

- ❖ Priority 1 – Time constrained – date-specified in the Act
- ❖ Priority 2 – Required to be implemented but no specific date
- ❖ Priority 3 – Action is authorized, but not required

This report documents the status of all tasks related to the implementation of the MSRA.

Additional details on individual tasks can be found on the NOAA Fisheries MSRA implementation website at:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007>



## Implementing MSRA

### Status

The following Priority 1 tasks were due within the first 12-months.

Within 30 days (February 12, 2007)

- Framework 42 Report (Section 215(b)) – Completed

Within 60 days (March 12, 2007)

- Secretarial determination of Federal and State consistency related to groundfish management in New England and Hawaii (Section 110) – Completed

Within 90 days (April 12, 2007)

- Define the term “illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing” (Section 403) – Completed
- Amend the FMP for Bering Sea Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs (Section 122a) – Completed
- Establish a process for monitoring and certifying contractor performance regarding any contract to construct or deploy tsunami detection equipment (Section 804) – Completed

Within 6 months (July 12, 2007)

- Develop a recovery plan for Klamath River Coho salmon (Section 113(b)) – Completed
- Develop a training course for new Council members (Section 103(g)) – Completed
- Promulgate regulations to establish an expedited, uniform, and regionally-based process for issuing Exempted Fishing Permits (Section 204) – Pending
  - A proposed rule published December 21, 2007 and accepted public comments through March 20, 2008. A final rule is under development.
- Report on the impacts of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, & Wilma on commercial and recreational fisheries in the states of Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas (Section 213) – Completed
- Report on the impacts of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, & Wilma on fisheries habitat in the states of Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas (Section 213) – Completed
- Propose revised NEPA-MSA procedures for compliance with NEPA (Section 107)
  - A Proposed rule published May 14, 2008. Public comments are accepted until August 12, 2008.
- Report on the state of science for integration of ecosystem considerations in regional fisheries management (Section 210) – Pending
  - The report is expected during the fall of 2008.

Within 8 months (September 12, 2007)

- Assess Post-Baccalaureate education in fisheries sciences (Section 217) – Pending
  - This report is currently under review within the agency.

Within 9 months (October 12, 2007)

- Report on Council Management Coordination (Completed by MAFMC) (Section 216) – Completed

*Science, Service, Stewardship*

- Report on recovery progress and actions taken to implement the Klamath River Coho salmon recovery plan. *January 12, 2009, annual report thereafter.*
  - The recovery plan was completed and made available to the public.
  - Actions are being taken under the plan, and a report is being drafted.
- Implement data-sharing measures accessible by enforcement agencies (October, 12, 2009)
- Report to the Congress evaluating the current status of tsunami detection, forecasting, and warning (1/31/10)
- Report to Congress tsunami technology transfer (1/12/10)

*Beyond 2 years (2010 and beyond)*

- Amend all fishery management plans to meet annual catch limit (ACLs) requirements. ACLs are required in fishing year 2010 for stocks subject to overfishing and in fishing year 2011 for all others.
  - A proposed rule to revise the guidelines for National Standard 1 providing guidance on how to comply with new ACL and accountability measure (AM) requirements was published on June 9, 2008. Comments are accepted through September 8, 2008.

**In Summary, during the first year and a half of implementation:**

- 15 Priority 1 tasks are Complete
- 10 tasks are on track for completion by statutory deadlines or are in final stages of completion.
- 5 tasks are *delayed*

## Science, Service, Stewardship

### Within 1 year (January 12, 2008)

- Conflict of Interest Report to Congress (January 1, 2008) (Section 103(i)(4) – Completed
- Develop IFQ referenda guidelines (Section 106(a)) – Pending
  - A proposed rule was published April 23, 2008, and is open for public comment through June 23, 2008 (see 73 FR 21893).
- Develop revised NEPA-MSA procedures (Section 107) – Pending
  - A proposed rule was published May 14, 2008, and is open for public comment through August 12, 2008 (see 73 FR 27998).
- Deep Sea Coral Report to Congress – Completed
- Excess Harvesting Capacity Report to Congress (112(a)(8)) – Completed
- Establish a Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (Section 116(a)) – Completed
- Joint report to Congress on vessel monitoring systems, with USCG (due August 2008) – Pending

### **The following Priority 1 tasks are ongoing and are due within 2 or more years.**

### Within 2 years (January 12, 2009)

- Establish a program to improve recreational fisheries data.
  - A proposed rule to establish the process and requirements for anglers and for-hire vessels to register with NMFS if they fish in the EEZ was published on June 12, 2008, with comments accepted through August 11, 2008.
  - Pilot projects for 2008 have been selected.
- Publish the 1st Illegal, Unreported, or Unregulated (IUU) Biennial Report, procedures, & certification. This report will be issued *biennially after its initial issuance*.
  - A proposed rule on a procedure for certifying IUU fishing flag states and a procedure for certifying flag states whose fishing vessels are responsible for unacceptable levels of bycatch of protected living marine resources is expected in the summer of 2008.
- Designate a Senate-confirmed, senior official within NOAA to perform the duties of the Secretary with respect to international agreements involving fisheries and other living marine resources.
- Pacific Fishery Management Council will develop a proposal for an appropriate rationalization program for the Pacific trawl groundfish and whiting fisheries, including the shore-based sector of the Pacific whiting fishery.

*Science, Service, Stewardship*

- 1 task is in final review

1. *Fisheries Conservation and Management Fund*

- 16 tasks are in progress.

1. *Access to Certain Information - Revises provisions specifying access to confidential information.*
2. *Community-Based Habitat Restoration Program*
3. *Council SOPPs Revisions – Incorporates various changes from MSRA that impact Council SOPPs*
4. *Deep Sea Coral Research/Management - Establish a Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program & submits information to the appropriate Councils*
5. *Fishery Impact Statement Requirements - Revises text with regards to analyses*
6. *Fishing Capacity Reduction – Revises provisions under which a FCR can operate*
7. *Implementation of Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention*
8. *Investment in Seafood Processing – a project plan is currently being developed*
9. *Multi-Year Research Priorities – Requires regularly updated research priorities*
10. *Pacific Whiting - Implements the Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of Canada on Pacific Hake/Whiting signed in Nov. 2003.*
11. *Peer Review – Authorizes establishment of a process that satisfies IQA*
12. *Regional Disaster Relief and Evaluation – establishes a regional economic transition program*
13. *Rockfish Demonstration Program - Amends program from 2 years to 5 years.*
14. *Technical Revisions to 50 CFR 600*
15. *WP and NP Community Development - Establishes regionally-based pilot programs*
16. *Use of Fishery Finance Program for Sustainable Purposes – amends USC*

- 4 items currently have no funding associated with them, so no activities are being conducted for them at this time.

1. *Restoration study - Authorizes a study to update scientific information and protocols needed to improve restoration techniques for coastal habitat.*
2. *Study on the acidification of oceans*
3. *Impact of TEDs on Shrimping*
4. *Herring study*

- 4 tasks are ~~waiting or delayed~~. Revised schedules may be developed to implement these projects at a later date.

1. *Hurricane grants*
2. *North Pacific Fisheries Convention*
3. *LAPPs – Provides guidance on the implementation of limited access privilege programs*
4. *Stipends – payment of a stipend to SSC members under certain restrictions*

The agency is also implementing, to the extent practicable, other tasks under the MSRA that are either required or authorized. Below is a summary of those tasks, identified as Priority 2 (required) and Priority 3 (authorized).

**Priority 2<sup>1</sup> tasks (44) & Priority 3<sup>2</sup> tasks (6) – Summary as of June 12, 2008**

24 tasks are complete or require no specific action to be effective (for instance, are self-implementing under the law or are statements of intent).

1. *CDQ Bycatch limitations*
2. *Cooperative Research and Management Program*
3. *Council Coordination Committee*
4. *Economic impacts – Revises text with regards to analyses*
5. *Emergency regulations - Extends the second emergency period from 180 days to 186 days.*
6. *Fisheries Hurricane Assistance Program - Establishes an assistance program for the Gulf of Mexico commercial and recreational fishing industry*
7. *Guidance to U.S. Commissioners to International Fishery Management Efforts*
8. *Habitat Restoration due to Hurricane Effects on Shrimp and Oyster Fisheries and Habitats*
9. *Joint Enforcement Agreements – Revises JEAs*
10. *Observers - Revises observer requirements for foreign fisheries in the Pacific Insular Area.*
11. *Oregon and California Salmon Fishery - 2006 fall Chinook salmon fisheries eligible to receive direct assistance*
12. *Summer Flounder Rebuilding - Allows Secretary to extend the time for rebuilding of summer flounder under certain conditions*
13. *Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund - Requires certain fines and penalties be deposited into the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund*
14. *Findings with illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) Fishing – Congress finds that international cooperation is necessary to address IUU fishing*
15. *International Overfishing and Domestic Equity- requires us to immediately take appropriate action at the international level to end overfishing*
16. *Northern Pacific Halibut Act - Amends the Northern Pacific Halibut Act to increase penalties.*
17. *Prohibited Acts- adds prohibitions to the law*
18. *Puget Sound Regional Shellfish Settlement – implements the settlement*
19. *Regional Ecosystem-based Management & Research*
20. *SEAK Capacity Redux – Appropriations - For SE Alaska Fisheries Communities Capacity Reduction*
21. *Shark Feeding - Prohibits feeding of sharks to attract sharks for purposes other than harvest in the EEZ off Hawaii*
22. *Data Collection – Authorizes collection of proprietary and economic info*
23. *Reauthorization of other fisheries acts*
24. *Western Pacific Fishery Demonstration Projects – revises requirements*

---

<sup>1</sup> Required without a due date

<sup>2</sup> Authorized, but not required

## MSRA Reauthorization Tracking: by Status update of tasks (30 items) As of September 5, 2008

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
<b>Annual Catch Limits (1 item)</b>			
<p>1. Establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits in the plan (including a multiyear plan), implementing regulations, or annual specifications, at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability. The amendment made by subsection (a)(10)—(1) shall, unless otherwise provided for under an international agreement in which the United States participates, take effect— (A) in fishing year 2010 for fisheries determined by the Secretary to be subject to over fishing; and (B) in fishing year 2011 for all other fisheries; and (2) shall not apply to a fishery for species that have a life cycle of approximately 1 year unless the Secretary has determined the fishery is subject to overfishing of that species; and (3) shall not limit or otherwise affect the requirements of section 301(a)(1) or 304(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(1) or 1854(e), respectively).</p> <p>2. Requires that rebuilding plans be submitted 2 years after stock declared and overfishing is ended immediately.</p>	01/01/10	On Track	<p>* Annual Catch Limits must be in place for overfished stocks by 1/01/10. However, the task tracked here is GUIDELINES to be provided to NMFS/Councils to establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits.</p> <p>* A Notice of Intent published on 2/14/07 (72 FR 7016). The public comment period is closed.</p> <p>* The proposed revisions to the guidelines for National Standard 1(NS1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act published on June 9, 2008 (73 FR 32526). Public comments will be accepted through September 22, 2008.</p> <p>* A notice of public meetings for the ACL proposed rule was published on June 26, 2008 (73 FR 36300)</p> <p>A summary of comments received at scoping meetings, the proposed rule, and the RIR/IRFA may be found here:  <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/catchlimits.htm">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/catchlimits.htm</a></p> <p>NMFS announced on August 27, 2008, in the Federal Register (73 FR 50585) that it is withdrawing a proposed rule for revisions to National Standard 1 guidelines, which was published on June 22, 2005 (70 FR 36240). See:  <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/withdrawal_of_2005_NS1_proposed_rule.pdf">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/withdrawal_of_2005_NS1_proposed_rule.pdf</a></p>
<b>Bycatch (1 item)</b>			
<p>1. Program: The Secretary, in cooperation with the Councils and other affected interests, and based upon the best scientific information available, shall establish a bycatch reduction program, including grants, to develop technological devices and other conservation engineering changes designed to minimize bycatch, seabird interactions, bycatch mortality, and post-release mortality in Federally managed fisheries. The section specifies program requirements.</p> <p>2. Incentives: Authorizes councils to establish a system of incentives for bycatch reduction, including establishment of individual bycatch quotas.</p> <p>3. Seabird Bycatch: Authorizes Sec., in coordination with the Sec. of Interior, to undertake projects in cooperation with industry to improve information and technology to reduce seabird bycatch.</p>	01/12/08	Completed	<p>The incentives and seabird bycatch tasks (items 2 and 3) do not have associated statutory deadlines but are being tracked with the overall bycatch program task because these components are part of the overall bycatch reduction program in section 316 of the revised Magnuson-Stevens Act.</p> <p>A Policy Directive establishing this program was signed by NMFS on January 11, 2008. The Directive may be found at <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/directives">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/directives</a></p>
<b>Conflict of interest (1 item)</b>			
On January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on	01/01/08	Completed	<p>NMFS prepared guidance for the Councils on what information to collect for the annual report to Congress.</p> <p>This report has been provided to Congress on March 3, 2008, and is available at:</p>



Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
<p>Resources on action taken by the Secretary and the Councils to implement the disclosure of financial interest and recusal requirements of this subsection, including identification of any conflict of interest problems with respect to the Councils and scientific and statistical committees and recommendations for addressing any such problems.</p> <p><b>Council Liaison (1 item)</b></p> <p>The MA Council, in consultation with the NE Council, shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation - (1) describing the role of council liaisons between the MA and NE Councils, including an explanation of council policies regarding the liaison's role in Council decision-making since 1996; (2) describing how management actions are taken regarding the operational aspects of current joint FMPs, and how such joint plans may undergo changes through amendment or framework processes; (3) evaluating the role of the NE and the MA Council liaisons in the development and approval of management plans for fisheries in which the liaisons or members of the non-controlling Council have a demonstrated interest and significant current and historical landings of species managed by either; (4) evaluating the effectiveness of the various approaches developed by the Councils to improve representation for affected members of the non-controlling Council in decision-making, such as use of liaisons, joint management plans, and other policies, taking into account both the procedural and conservation requirements of the MSA; and (5) analyzing characteristics of NC and FL that supported their inclusion as voting members of more than one Council and the extent to which those characteristics support RI's inclusion on a second Council (the MA Council).</p>	10/12/07	Completed	<p><a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/2007_fd_and_recusal_report.pdf">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/2007_fd_and_recusal_report.pdf</a></p> <p>The MA Council prepared this report in consultation with the NE Council. NMFS provided assistance as requested. The report can be viewed at: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/otherprovisions.html">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/otherprovisions.html</a></p>
<b>Deep Sea Coral Report to Congress (1 item)</b>			
<p>The Secretary, in consultation with the Councils, shall submit biennial reports to Congress and the public on steps taken by the Secretary to identify, monitor, and protect deep sea coral areas, including summaries of the results of mapping, research, and data collection performed under the program.</p>	01/12/08	Completed	<p>The Report to Congress will draw heavily from "The State of Deep Coral Ecosystems of the United States", which was called for in the President's Ocean Action Plan. The status report was released on December 10, 2007 and can be found at: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/dce.html">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/dce.html</a></p>
<b>Ecosystem Research (1 item)</b>			
<p>Requires Sec, in consultation with the Councils, to undertake and complete a study on the state of science for integration of ecosystem considerations in regional fisheries management. The study should build upon the recommendations of the advisory panel (established under Section 406 of MSA). Stipulates what must be included in study.</p>	07/12/07	Delayed	<p>NMFS completed a workshop in Jan 2008 with participation from the Councils, NMFS Science Centers and the Ecosystem Principles Advisory Panel. A report from this workshop is presently under development and will be prepared for delivery to Congress in July 2008. Report begins clearance process in May 2008.</p>
<b>Environmental Review Process - NEPA (1 item)</b>			
<p>The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Councils and the Council on Environmental Quality, revise and update agency procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321</p>	01/12/08	Delayed	<p>The National Marine Fisheries Service solicited public comment through April 20, 2007, on the environmental review provisions required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (MSRA).</p>

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
et seq.). Specifies requirements of the procedures. First part of schedule specifies when revised procedures are to be proposed. Proposed rule shall provide 90 days for public comment. Requires that the Secretary promulgate final procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4231 et seq.) no later than 12 months after the date of enactment.			For more information, see: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/notice_to_public_5.pdf">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/notice_to_public_5.pdf</a> A summary of the public comments received has been posted on the website. See: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/publiccomments.htm">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/publiccomments.htm</a>  NMFS has published a proposed rule to revise and update NMFS procedures for complying with NEPA in the context of fishery management actions. Public comments will be accepted through August 12, 2008. See: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/nepa_proposed_rule.pdf">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/nepa_proposed_rule.pdf</a>
<b>Experimental Fishing Permits (1 item)</b>			
Requires Sec., in consultation with the Councils, to promulgate regulations that establish an expedited, uniform, and regionally-based process for issuance of experimental fishing permits.	07/12/07	Delayed	A proposed rule was published on 12-21-2007 (72 FR 72657). See: <a href="http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-24866.pdf">http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-24866.pdf</a> Extension published March 18, 2008 (73 FR 14428). See: <a href="http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-5425.pdf">http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-5425.pdf</a> Comment period ended on April 4, 2008.
<b>Fishery Science (1 item)</b>			
Secretaries of Commerce and Education shall collaborate to study if there is a shortage of individuals with post -baccalaureate degrees in fisheries science and shall submit a report to congress detailing the findings and recommendations of the study.	07/12/07	Delayed	The NMFS Office Of Science and Technology has contracted with the American Fisheries Society to determine if there is a shortage of individuals with post -baccalaureate degrees in fisheries science. A survey of over 80 fishery-related departments in higher learning institutions in the U.S. was distributed in July 2007. The report of survey results is expected to be available by early 2008.
<b>Framework 42 (1 item)</b>			
The Secretary of Commerce shall conduct a unique, thorough examination of the potential impact on all affected and interested parties of Framework 42 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP and report the Secretary's findings. The report shall include a detailed discussion of the provisions specified in the section.	02/12/07	Completed	See: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/Framework42ReporttoCongressFinalFinal.pdf">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/Framework42ReporttoCongressFinalFinal.pdf</a>
<b>Hurricane (2 items)</b>			
The Secretary of Commerce shall transmit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources on the impact of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, and Hurricane Wilma on— (1) commercial and recreational fisheries in the States of Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas; (2) shrimp fishing vessels in those States; and (3) the oyster industry in those States.	07/12/07	Completed	This report has been submitted to Congress and may be viewed at: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/Fisheries_Report_Final.pdf">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/Fisheries_Report_Final.pdf</a>
The Secretary of Commerce shall transmit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources on the impact of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, and Hurricane Wilma on habitat, including the habitat of shrimp and oysters in those States.	07/12/07	Completed	This report has been submitted to Congress and may be viewed at: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/HurricaneImpactsHabitat_080707_1200.pdf">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/HurricaneImpactsHabitat_080707_1200.pdf</a> with errata: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/errata_080707.pdf">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/errata_080707.pdf</a>
<b>IFQ Referenda Guidelines (LAPP) (1 item)</b>			



Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
<p>Within 1 year after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary shall publish guidelines and procedures to determine procedures and voting eligibility requirements for referenda and to conduct such referenda in a fair and equitable manner.</p>	01/12/08	Delayed	<p>This project was discussed at the Gulf Council meeting on June 4, 2007: <a href="http://www.gulfcouncil.org/Beta/GMFMCWeb/downloads/committee%20schedule-607.pdf">http://www.gulfcouncil.org/Beta/GMFMCWeb/downloads/committee%20schedule-607.pdf</a> and at the New England Council on June 19, 2007: <a href="http://www.nefmc.org/calendar/index.html">http://www.nefmc.org/calendar/index.html</a></p> <p>A proposed rule has been published and is open for public comment through June 23, 2008 (see 73 FR 21893). See: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/</a></p> <p>For rule and public comments see: <a href="http://www.regulations.gov">http://www.regulations.gov</a> then type in RIN "0648-AW05" under "Search".</p>
<b>International fisheries (3 items)</b>			
<p>Amends the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to require the Secretary, in consultation with the Sec of State, to provide to Congress, a biennial report that includes— (1) the state of knowledge on the status of international living marine resources shared by the U.S. or subject to treaties or agreements to which the U.S. is a party, including a list of all such fish stocks classified as overfished, overexploited, depleted, endangered, or threatened with extinction by any international or other authority charged with management or conservation of living marine resources; (2) a list of nations whose vessels have been identified under section 609(a) or 610(a), including the specific offending activities and any subsequent actions taken pursuant to section 609 or 610; (3) a description of efforts taken by nations on those lists to comply take appropriate corrective action consistent with sections 609 and 610, and an evaluation of the progress of those efforts, including steps taken by the U.S. to implement those sections and to improve international compliance; (4) progress at the international level, consistent with section 608, to strengthen the efforts of international fishery management organizations to end IUU fishing; and (5) steps taken by the Secretary at the international level to adopt international measures comparable to those of the U.S. to reduce impacts of fishing and other practices on protected living marine resources, if no international agreement to achieve such goal exists, or if the relevant international fishery or conservation organization has failed to implement effective measures to end or reduce the adverse impacts of fishing practices on such species.</p> <p>The Secretary shall establish a procedure for determining if a nation identified under subsection 609(a) and listed in the report under section 607 has taken appropriate corrective action with respect to the offending activities of its fishing vessels identified in the report under section 607, providing for notice and an opportunity for comment by any such nation. The Secretary shall determine, on the basis of the procedure, and certify to the Congress no later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary promulgates a final rule containing the procedure, and biennially thereafter in the report under section 607— (A) whether the government of each nation identified under subsection (a) has provided documentary evidence that it has taken corrective</p>	01/12/09	On Track	<p>An advance notice of proposed rulemaking and request for public comments was published June 11 (72 FR 32052-5; <a href="http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-11254.pdf">http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-11254.pdf</a>) to solicit public comments on a procedure for certifying IUU fishing flag states and a procedure for certifying flag states whose fishing vessels are responsible for unacceptable levels of bycatch of protected living marine resources. Notice of three public input sessions was published (72 FR 33436): July 2 in Silver Spring, MD; July 5 in Long Beach, CA; and July 5 in Seattle, WA). Identification and certification decisions are required elements of the biennial report. Target date for publication of a proposed rule is December '08; target date for close of the public comment period is March 2009, and publication of a final rule is TBD.</p>

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
action with respect to the offending activities of its fishing vessels identified in the report; or (B) whether the relevant international fishery management organization has implemented measures that are effective in ending the illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing activity by vessels of that nation.			
The Secretary shall publish a definition of the term 'illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing' for purposes of this Act, including in the definition, at a minimum—(A) fishing activities that violate conservation and management measures required under an International fishery management agreement to which the United States is a party, including catch limits or quotas, capacity restrictions, and bycatch reduction requirements; (B) overfishing of fish stocks shared by the United States, for which there are no applicable international conservation or management measures or in areas with no applicable international fishery management organization or agreement, that has adverse impacts on such stocks; and (C) fishing activity that has an adverse impact on seamounts, hydrothermal vents, and cold water corals located beyond national jurisdiction, for which there are no applicable conservation or management measures or in areas with no applicable international fishery management organization or agreement.	04/12/07	Completed	Definition published in the Federal Register on April 12, 2007, at 72 FR 18404-5. See: <a href="http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/07-1830.pdf">http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/07-1830.pdf</a>
The Secretary, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall designate a Senate-confirmed, senior official within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to perform the duties of the Secretary with respect to international agreements involving fisheries and other living marine resources, including policy development and representation as a U.S. Commissioner, under any such international agreements.	01/12/09	Targets/Milestones Being Established	
<b>Joint Enforcement Agreements (2 items)</b>			
The National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States Coast Guard shall transmit a joint report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources containing— (1) a cost-to-benefit analysis of the feasibility, value, and cost of using vessel monitoring systems, satellite-based maritime distress and safety systems, or similar systems for fishery management, conservation, enforcement, and safety purposes with the Federal government bearing the capital costs of any such system; (2) an examination of the cumulative impact of existing requirements for commercial vessels; (3) an examination of whether satellite-based maritime distress and safety systems, or similar requirements would overlap existing requirements or render them redundant; (4) an examination of how data integration from such systems could be addressed; (5) an examination of how to maximize the data-sharing opportunities between relevant State and Federal agencies and provide specific information on how to develop these opportunities, including the provision of direct access to satellite-based maritime distress and safety	04/12/08	Final Action Pending	The due date to Congress has been extended to August 31, 2008.

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
<p>system or similar system data to State enforcement officers, while considering the need to maintain or provide an appropriate level of individual vessel confidentiality where practicable; and</p> <p>(6) an assessment of how the satellite-based maritime distress and safety system or similar systems could be developed, purchased, and distributed to regulated vessels.</p> <p>The Secretary shall implement data-sharing measures to make any data required to be provided by this Act from satellite-based maritime distress and safety systems, vessel monitoring systems, or similar systems—</p> <p>(A) Directly accessible by State enforcement officers authorized under subsection (a) of this section; and</p> <p>(B) Available to a State management agency involved in, or affected by, management of a fishery if the State has entered into an agreement with the Secretary under section 402(b)(1)(B) of this Act.</p>	10/12/09	On Track	On Track
<b>King/Tanner Crab (1 item)</b>			
<p>Sec. Comm shall amend the FMP for the BSAI King and Tanner Crabs for the Northern Region (as that term is used in the plan) to authorize—</p> <p>(A) an eligible entity holding processor quota shares to elect on an annual basis to work together with other entities holding processor quota shares and affiliated with such eligible entity through common ownership to combine any catcher vessel quota shares for the Northern Region with their processor quota shares and to exchange them for newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares for the Northern Region; and</p> <p>(B) an eligible entity holding catcher vessel quota shares to elect on an annual basis to work together with other entities holding catcher vessel quota shares and affiliated with such eligible entity through common ownership to combine any processor quota shares for the Northern Region with their catcher vessel quota shares and to exchange them for newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares for the Northern Region.</p>	04/12/07	Completed	<p>AMENDMENT APPROVED.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOA published 2/5/07 - 72 FR 5255</li> <li>• Comment period ended: 4/6/07</li> <li>• Amendment was approved by NMFS on 4/12/07</li> </ul>
<b>Marine Recreational Fisheries Information (1 item)</b>			
<p>1. Sec. Comm, in consultation with reps of the rec fishing industry and experts in statistics, technology, and other appropriate fields, shall establish a program to improve the quality and accuracy of information generated by MRFSS. The program must take into account the 2006 NRC report "Review of Recreational Fisheries Survey Methods." Identifies the goal of the program and what it shall include. The Sec. must complete the program and implement the improved MRFSS by January 1, 2009.</p> <p>Within 24 months of establishment of the revised MRFSS program, requires Sec. to submit a report to Congress describing progress toward achieving the program goals and objectives.</p> <p>2. Creation of National Registry Program for Marine Recreational Fishing. The "Sec. Comm shall establish and implement regionally based registry program for recreational fishermen in each of the 8 fishery</p>	01/12/09	On Track	<p>To develop an improved recreational fishing data collection program, an Executive Steering Committee was established and met for the first time in March, 2007. Members include fisheries managers and scientists from NOAA Fisheries, the interstate marine fisheries commissions, and the regional fishery management councils. Executive Steering Committee has established the Operations Team. OT has begun to set milestones and timelines for issue-specific work groups.</p> <p>The OT estimates making the program proposal available for public comment by July, 2008 See: <a href="http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/RecSurveyUpgrade/RecSurveyUpgrade.html">http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/RecSurveyUpgrade/RecSurveyUpgrade.html</a></p> <p>The recreational registry task does not have an associated statutory deadline but it is being tracked with data collection task because the registry information is needed to support data collections improvements required in the new MRIP.</p> <p>A proposed rule to implement the national registry of recreational fishers was published on June 12, 2008 (73 FR 33381). Public comments are invited through August 11, 2008. The</p>

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
<p>management regions. Program shall not require a fee before January 1, 2011 and shall provide for (a) registration (including identification and contact information) of individuals who engage in recreational fishing in EEZ, for anadromous species, or for Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond EEZ and (b) if appropriate, the registration (including the ownership, operator, and identification of the vessel) of vessels used in such fishing. Secretary shall exempt from registration under the program recreational fishermen and charter fishing vessels licensed, permitted, or registered under laws of a State if Secretary determines information from State program is suitable for the Secretary's use or is used to assist in completing marine recreational fisheries statistical surveys, or evaluating the effects of proposed conservation and management measures for marine recreational fisheries."</p>			<p>rule may be found at: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/</a></p>
<b>Overcapacity (1 item)</b>			
<p>Subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary shall, within 12 months after the date of the enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 submit to the Congress a report—</p> <p>(i) identifying and describing the 20 fisheries in United States waters with the most severe examples of excess harvesting capacity in the fisheries, based on value of each fishery and the amount of excess harvesting capacity as determined by the Secretary;</p> <p>(ii) recommending measures for reducing such excess harvesting capacity, including the retirement of any latent fishing permits that could contribute to further excess harvesting capacity in those fisheries; and</p> <p>(iii) potential sources of funding for such measures.</p>	01/12/08	Completed	<p>NMFS conducted capacity assessments for fisheries in each of the 8 regions. The comprehensive report consistent with the required provisions has been submitted to Congress on May 21, 2008.</p> <p>A copy of the report is available at: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/</a></p>
<b>Pacific Groundfish (1 item)</b>			
<p>Requires the Pacific Fishery Management Council to develop a proposal for an appropriate rationalization program for the Pacific trawl groundfish and whiting fisheries, including the shore-based sector of the Pacific whiting fishery. In developing the rationalization proposal, the Pacific Council must fully analyze alternative program designs, assess the proposal's impact on conservation and economies of the communities, fishermen, and processors participating in the groundfish trawl fisheries, including the shore-based sector of the Pacific whiting fishery. Requires the Pacific Council to submit the proposal and related analysis to Congress within 24 months of enactment.</p>	01/12/09	On Track	<p>The PFMC met from June 10 -15, 2007 and voted to approve a list of alternatives for preliminary analysis. A detailed list of the alternatives may be found here: &lt;<a href="http://www.pcouncil.org/bb/2007/0607/E9a_ATT2.pdf">http://www.pcouncil.org/bb/2007/0607/E9a_ATT2.pdf</a>&gt;</p> <p>The Groundfish Advisory Committee provided its recommendations to the PFMC at its November 2007 meeting. Briefing Book documents on the TIQ alternatives can be found under Agenda item D.7 here: &lt;<a href="http://www.pcouncil.org/bb/2007/bb1107.html#groundfish">http://www.pcouncil.org/bb/2007/bb1107.html#groundfish</a>&gt;</p>
<b>Salmon Recovery Plan (1 item)</b>			
<p>The Secretary of Commerce shall complete a recovery plan for Klamath River Coho salmon and make it available to the public. Within 2 years of enactment, and annually thereafter, the Sec. is required to submit a report to Congress on the actions taken under the recovery plan and other law relating to the recovery of Klamath River Coho salmon and how these actions are contributing to its recovery;</p>	01/12/09	On Track	<p>A presentation was made at the PFMC the week of April 2nd, 2007.</p> <p>A notice of availability of the recovery plan was published in the Federal Register on July 10, 2007 (72 FR 37512). The recovery plan is available at: <a href="http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/salmon/MSRA_RecoveryPlan_FINAL.pdf">http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/salmon/MSRA_RecoveryPlan_FINAL.pdf</a></p>

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
<p>progress on restoration of salmon spawning habitat, including water conditions that relate to salmon health and recovery (with emphasis on the Klamath River and its tributaries below Iron Gate Dam); the status of other Klamath River anadromous fish populations, and actions taken by the Sec. to address the 2003 National Research Council's recommendations regarding monitoring and research on Klamath River salmon stocks.</p>			
<b>Secretarial Action on State-waters fishing (1 item)</b>			
<p>The Secretary of Commerce shall determine whether fishing in State waters—  (A) without a New England Multispecies groundfish fishery permit on regulated species within the multispecies complex is not consistent with the applicable Federal fishery management plan; or  (B) without a Federal bottomfish and seamount groundfish permit in the Hawaiian archipelago on regulated species within the complex is not consistent with the applicable Federal fishery management plan or State data are not sufficient to make such a determination.  If the Secretary makes a determination that such actions are not consistent with the plan, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the Council, and after notifying the affected State, develop and implement measures to cure the inconsistency pursuant to section 306(b).</p>	03/12/07	Completed	<p>Analyses completed and are available at:  NERO: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/NER_section_110_20070226.pdf">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/NER_section_110_20070226.pdf</a>  PIRO: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/section_110_analysis_PIRO_20070321.pdf">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/section_110_analysis_PIRO_20070321.pdf</a></p>
<b>Training (2 items)</b>			
<p>Requires the Sec., in consultation with the Councils and the National Sea Grant College Program, develop a training course for new Council members. Training course shall be made available to new and existing Council members and staff from the RO's and RSC's of NMFS, and may be made available to committee or advisory panel members as resources permit.</p>	07/12/07	Completed	<p>New member Council training is scheduled for the week of October 15, 2007.  A syllabus of the training program is available at:  <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/council_training_syllabus_200707_v2.pdf">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/council_training_syllabus_200707_v2.pdf</a>  Training presentations can be seen here:  <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/reg_svcs/Council%20stuff/council%20orientation/2007/2007TrainingAgenda_web.htm">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/reg_svcs/Council%20stuff/council%20orientation/2007/2007TrainingAgenda_web.htm</a></p>
<p>Council members appointed after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 shall complete a training course that meets the requirements of this section not later than 1 year after the date on which they were appointed. Any Council member who has completed a training course within 24 months before the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 shall be considered to have met the training requirement of this paragraph.</p>	01/12/09	Completed	<p>New member training was conducted the week of October 23, 2007.</p>
<b>Tsunami (4 items)</b>			
<p>The National Weather Service, in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall transmit to Congress a report on how the tsunami forecast system under this section will be integrated with other United States and global ocean and coastal observation systems, the global earth observing system of systems, global seismic networks, and the Advanced National Seismic System.</p>	01/12/08	Completed	<p>View NWS charter here:  <a href="http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/weather_water/TsunamiPage.html">http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/weather_water/TsunamiPage.html</a>  View Indian ocean tsunami warning system program here:  <a href="http://www.iotws.org/ev_en.php?ID=1267_201&amp;ID2=DO_TOPIC">http://www.iotws.org/ev_en.php?ID=1267_201&amp;ID2=DO_TOPIC</a></p>

Task	Due date	Status	Additional Information
			This final Report may be viewed at: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/</a>
The National Weather Service, in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall transmit a report to Congress on how technology developed under section 806 is being transferred into the program under this section.	01/12/10	On Track	View NWS charter here: <a href="http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/weather_water/TsunamiPage.html">http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/weather_water/TsunamiPage.html</a>  View Indian ocean tsunami warning system program here: <a href="http://www.iotws.org/ev_en.php?ID=1267_201&amp;ID2=DO_TOPIC">http://www.iotws.org/ev_en.php?ID=1267_201&amp;ID2=DO_TOPIC</a>
The Administrator shall establish a process for monitoring and certifying contractor performance in carrying out the requirements of any contract to construct or deploy tsunami detection equipment, including procedures and penalties to be imposed in cases of significant contractor failure or negligence.	04/12/07	Completed	View NWS charter here: <a href="http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/weather_water/TsunamiPage.html">http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/weather_water/TsunamiPage.html</a>  View Indian ocean tsunami warning system program here: <a href="http://www.iotws.org/ev_en.php?ID=1267_201&amp;ID2=DO_TOPIC">http://www.iotws.org/ev_en.php?ID=1267_201&amp;ID2=DO_TOPIC</a>
Comptroller General of the U.S. shall transmit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives that (1) evaluates the current status of the tsunami detection, forecasting, and warning system and the tsunami hazard mitigation program established under this title, including progress toward tsunami inundation mapping of all coastal areas vulnerable to tsunami and whether there has been any degradation of services as a result of the expansion of the program; (2) evaluates the NWS's ability to achieve continued improvements in the delivery of tsunami detection, forecasting, and warning services by assessing policies and plans for the evolution of modernization systems, models, and computational abilities (including the adoption of new technologies); and (3) lists the contributions of funding or other resources to the program by other Federal agencies, particularly agencies participating in the program.	01/31/10	On Track	View NWS charter here: <a href="http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/weather_water/TsunamiPage.html">http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/weather_water/TsunamiPage.html</a>  View Indian ocean tsunami warning system program here: <a href="http://www.iotws.org/ev_en.php?ID=1267_201&amp;ID2=DO_TOPIC">http://www.iotws.org/ev_en.php?ID=1267_201&amp;ID2=DO_TOPIC</a>

## MSRA Implementation: by Status Update (50 items) As of September 5, 2008

Issue	MSRA Citation	Output	Status	Additional Information
<b>Access to Certain Information (1 item)</b>				
Revises provisions specifying access to confidential information.	203	Undetermined	2-In Progress	
<b>CDQ Bycatch limitations (1 item)</b>				
Revises bycatch limitations	116(a)	Regulatory Change	6-Completed	<p>Final rules implementing Amendments 80 (72 FR 52668) and 85 (72 FR 50788) to the FMP for BSAI Groundfish issued to increase CDQ allocations for species supporting directed fisheries. The CDQ Panel made its allocation decision for 2008 fisheries in early October and provided it to NMFS.</p> <p>CDQ allocations represent ongoing activities for the agency. Each year, the CDQ Panel will make its allocation decision under this section of the MSRA and provide it to NMFS. However, no further action relative to this task is required at this time. Should the CDQ Panel not reach consensus, NMFS would issue rules defining the process by which it would make the allocations as provided for in the revised Magnuson-Stevens Act.</p>
<b>Community-Based Habitat Restoration Program (1 item)</b>				
Requires Sec. of Commerce to establish a community-based fishery and coastal habitat restoration program to implement and support the restoration of fishery and coastal habitats.	117	Program	2-In Progress	<p>A description of NOAA's Community-Based Restoration Program can be found at: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/index.html">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/index.html</a></p> <p>NOAA published an Omnibus Federal Register Notice on July 2, 2007 to announce the availability of FY2008 competitive federal grant funds ( <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/funding_opportunities/funding_nationwide.htm">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/funding_opportunities/funding_nationwide.htm</a> ) . Through NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program, funds are provided to implement individual, grass-roots restoration projects to restore fish habitat. Deadline for applications closed September 27, 2007.</p>
<b>Cooperative Research and Management Program (1 item)</b>				
Requires Sec., in consultation with the Councils, to establish a regional cooperative research and management program. Funds would be provided on a competitive basis and based on regional fishery management needs. Under cooperative research and management program, priority is given to projects that: - collect data to improve, supplement, or enhance stock assessments; - assess the amount and type of bycatch or post-release mortality; - use conservation engineering designed to reduce bycatch; - identify HAPCs and habitat conservation methods; and collect and compile economic and social data.	204	Program	6-Completed	

Issue	MSRA Citation	Output	Status	Additional Information
<b>Council Coordination Committee (1 item)</b>				
Authorizes the Councils to establish a Council coordination committee consisting of chairs, vice chairs, and executive directors to discuss issues of relevance to all Councils.	103(g)	Other	6-Completed	The Councils have established the CCC via motions passed at recent meetings. Information on these motions is available from the Councils.
<b>Council SOPPs Revisions (1 item)</b>				
<p>1. Requires that conflict of interest disclosures be made available on the internet, as well as at the Council offices</p> <p>2. Authorizes the tribal representative on the Pacific Council to designate as an alternate, during the period of the representative's term, an individual knowledgeable concerning tribal rights, tribal law, and the fishery resources of the geographical area concerned.</p> <p>3. Within the list of Gulf Council nominees that is submitted to the Sec. [through FY 2012], requires Governors to include at least one nominee each from the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors, and one other nominee who is knowledgeable on fisheries conservation and management. If Governor's list does not meet requirements, requires the Sec. to publish a notice in the Federal Register asking State residents to submit names and biographical information of nominees that meet unmet requirement. Further stipulates that an individual who owns or operates a fish farm outside of the United States from may not be a representative of the commercial or recreational fishing sector.</p> <p>4. Modify notice requirements for regular and emergency Council meeting, and for closed Council meetings.</p> <p>5. Require that each council establish, maintain, and appoint the members of a SSC to assist in the development, collection, evaluation, and peer review of such statistical, biological, economic, social, and other scientific information as is relevant to [an FMP]. Requires each SSC provide ongoing scientific advice for fishery management decisions, including recommendations for acceptable biological catch and MSY; and reports on stock status and health, bycatch, habitat status, socioeconomic impacts of</p>	103(a),(b),(e),(f),(i),(j)	Revise Council SOPPs	2-In Progress	



Issue	MSRA Citation	Output	Status	Additional Information
<p>management measures, and sustainability of fishing practices. Requires SSC members be Federal employees, State employees, academicians, or independent experts with strong scientific or technical credentials and experience.</p> <p>6. SSCs are required to hold meetings in conjunction with Council meetings, to the extent practicable.</p>				
<b>Data Collection (1 item)</b>				
<p>Authorizes collection of proprietary and economic info, i.e., strikes restriction on info that would disclose proprietary or confidential commercial or financial info. Authorizes Secretary to implement an information collection or observer program to obtain additional info for fisheries management.</p>	202	Other	7-No action needed	<p>If the Secretary determines that information is necessary for developing, implementing, revising, or monitoring a fishery management plan, or for determining whether a fishery is in need of management, the Secretary may, by regulation, implement an information collection or observer program requiring submission of such additional information for the fishery.</p>
<b>Deep Sea Coral Research/Management (1 item)</b>				
<p>1. Requires the Sec., in consultation with appropriate Councils and in coordination with other Federal agencies and educational institutions, to establish a Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program and submit information to the appropriate Councils</p>	105 and 211	Program	2-In Progress	<p>The President's Ocean Action Plan has identified a priority for efforts to survey, research, and protect deep sea coral communities. NOAA is committed to working with partners to improve the conservation of these important ecosystems. On December 10, 2007, NOAA published "The State of Deep Coral Ecosystems of the United States", called for in the President's Ocean Action Plan. This peer-reviewed report, prepared by NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, provides the first comprehensive national assessment of these unique and vulnerable ecosystems and provides a baseline for future research and management efforts under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act. The report can be found at: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/dce.html">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/dce.html</a>.</p> <p>On March 13, the NOAA released the first report to Congress on the Implementation of the Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program, called for in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (MSRA). Prepared under the auspices of NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program and in consultation with the Nation's eight Regional Fishery Management Councils, the report provides information on steps taken by NOAA and its partners to identify, monitor, and protect deep sea coral areas. Sections provide a brief discussion of current knowledge and knowledge gaps about deep sea corals, NOAA's expertise and authorities to conserve deep sea coral communities, and summaries of management actions taken by NOAA, the Fishery Management Councils, other federal agencies, and international organizations in 2007. The final section highlights research priorities for 2009 and recommendations for addressing knowledge gaps. The report includes an initial list of areas known to contain deep sea corals with limited protection from interactions with fishing gear. NOAA recommends that the Regional Fishery Management Councils evaluate areas for protection as allowed under discretionary provisions of the MSRA. Copies of the report can be downloaded at the NOAA</p>
<p>2. Authorizes designation of zones in areas where deep sea corals are identified under section 408 (i.e., the new Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program), to protect deep sea corals from physical damage from fishing gear or to prevent loss or damage to such fishing gear from interactions with deep sea corals. FMPs may take into account the different circumstances affecting fisheries from different States and ports, including distances to fishing grounds and proximity to time and area closures. FMPs may include measures to conserve target and non-target species and habitats, considering the ecological factors affecting fishery populations.</p>				

Issue	MSRA Citation	Output	Status	Additional Information
				Fisheries website: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/rtc.pdf">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/rtc.pdf</a> . Deep sea coral related research and management tasks without statutory deadlines were combined because of the interrelated nature of the work.
<b>Economic impacts (1 item)</b>				
Requires that any rebuilding plans that reduce the overall harvest take into consideration the economic impact of the harvest restrictions or recovery benefits on the fishery participants in each sector.  Revises National Standard 8 by inserting "by utilizing economic and social data that meets the requirements of paragraph (2)" after "fishing communities".	104(a)	Undetermined	6-Completed	Implementation of the economic impact requirements, as a task, will be tracked under activities conducted under the Fishery Impact Statement/Required Provisions task.
<b>Emergency regulations (1 item)</b>				
Extends the second emergency period from 180 days to 186 days.	108	Other	6-Completed	Agency guidance has been updated to reflect this change.
<b>Findings with IUU Fishing (1 item)</b>				
Adds a finding that international cooperation is necessary to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.	402	Other	7-No action needed	This language is self-implementing. No further action is required to comply with this provision of the MSRA.
<b>Fisheries Conservation and Management Fund (1 item)</b>				
Require Sec. to establish and maintain a Fishery Conservation and Management Fund. Monies in the Fund must be used for: - improving harvest data collection; - cooperative fishery research & analysis; - development of technologies to improve seafood quality; - analysis of the benefits & risks of seafood consumption; - marketing of sustainable U.S. fishery products; - improving data collection under the MRFSS; & - providing financial assistance to fishermen for the modification of fishing practices and gear to meet MSA requirements. Authorizes deposits generated through quota set-asides, appropriations, and funds from States, private/public entities, or non-profit organizations. Requires the Sec. to apportion monies in the Fund every 2 years (without appropriation or fiscal year limitation) among the 8 Council regions, based on regional priorities identified through the Council	208	Other	5-Final Review	

Issue	MSRA Citation	Output	Status	Additional Information
process, except no region can receive less than 5 percent of the Fund in each allocation period. Monies from the fund may not be used to defray the costs of complying with MSA requirements.				
<b>Fisheries Hurricane Assistance Program (1 item)</b>				
Requires Sec. to establish an assistance program for the Gulf of Mexico commercial and recreational fishing industry. Appropriated funds must be allocated among the Gulf states in proportion to the percentage of the fishery landed by each state. (Funds allocated to Florida must be based exclusively on the proportion of catch landed by the Florida Gulf Coast fishery.) Of the funds made available to each state, 2% must be distributed to fishermen with a demonstrated record of compliance with turtle excluder and bycatch reduction regulations. The rest of the funds must provide for personal and small business assistance, domestic product marketing and seafood promotion, state seafood testing programs, development of limited entry programs, assistance or incentives for use of turtle excluder and bycatch reduction devices, and voluntary capacity reduction programs for shrimp fisheries under limited access programs.	115	Other	6-Completed	Appropriations sent to Gulf States in September 2007.
<b>Fishery Impact Statement/Required Provisions (1 item)</b>				
Encompasses a variety of revisions to MSA with respect to economic and social impacts, particularly as they address the requirements of each FMP and what it must include in its fishery impact statement. Includes discussion of likely effects of management on safety of human life at sea.	101(a), 101(b), 104(a),	Other	2-In Progress	The economic, social, cumulative impact analysis and safety-at-sea provisions have been combined into a single task because of the similarity of data and analysis required under the MSRA.
<b>Fishing Capacity Reduction (1 item)</b>				
Authorizes Sec. to pay the owner of a fishing vessel under a fishing capacity reduction program if such vessel is scrapped or subject to title restrictions, all permits are surrendered, and all claims associated with present and future limited access system permits are relinquished. Prohibits Sec. from making a payment under a fishing capacity reduction program, with respect to a vessel that will not be scrapped, unless the Sec. certifies that the vessel will not be used for any fishing, including fishing in the waters of a foreign	112(a)	Guidelines	2-In Progress	

Issue	MSRA Citation	Output	Status	Additional Information
<p>nation and fishing on the high seas. Strikes subsection (e) under 312 and inserts new implementation plan, including framework regulations, program regulations, harvester proponent's implementation plan, participation contracts, reduction auctions, and bid invitations.</p>				
<p><b>Guidance to U.S. Commissioners to International Fishery Management Efforts (1 item)</b></p>				
<p>1. Amends HSDMPA to: Requires the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, and in cooperation with relevant fishery management councils and any relevant advisory committees, to take actions to improve the effectiveness of international fishery management organizations in conserving and managing fish stocks under their jurisdiction. Actions include—(a) urging specified action by international fishery management organizations to which the United States is a member—(b) urging action by international fishery management organizations to which the United States is a member, as well as all members of those organizations, to adopt and expand the use of market related measures to combat illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing —(c) urging action by other nations at bilateral, regional, and international levels, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora and the World Trade Organization to take all steps necessary, consistent with international law, to adopt measures and policies that will prevent fish or other living marine resources harvested by vessels engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing from being traded or imported into their nation or territories.</p> <p>2. Requires that (a) in managing any fisheries under an international fisheries agreement to which the US is a party, the appropriate Council or Secretary shall take into account the traditional participation in the fishery, relative to other nations, by fishermen of the US on fishing vessels of the US; (b) MSA provisions be communicated and promoted when the United States participates in an RFMO that does not have a process for developing formal plans to rebuild.</p> <p>3. When establishing catch allocations under international fisheries agreements, the Sec., in consultation with the head of the Coast Guard and the Sec. of State, is required to ensure that all</p>	<p>4(2), 401,402,4 03,407</p>	<p>Policy statement</p>	<p>6-Completed</p>	<p>The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, P.L. 109-479 (MSRA) contains a number calls for action relevant to U.S. delegations to international fisheries meetings. Many of the actions called for are initiatives that the United States is already undertaking. A policy document has been prepared compiling these calls for action for the information and use of heads of U.S. delegations to relevant international fisheries meetings. It is undergoing final internal review and has a target public release date of January 18, 2008.</p>

Issue	MSRA Citation	Output	Status	Additional Information
<p>catch history (associated with a U.S. vessel) remains with the United States in that fishery, and is not transferred or credited to any other nation or vessel of such nation.</p> <p>4. Authorizes the Sec. to undertake specified activities to promote improved monitoring and compliance for high seas fisheries or fisheries governed by international fishery management agreements.</p> <p>5. Reiterates Finding with IUU Fishing (MSA Section 2(12)) that international cooperation is necessary to address illegal unreported, and unregulated fishing.</p>				
<b>Habitat Restoration due to Hurricane Effects on Shrimp and Oyster Fisheries and Habitats (1 item)</b>				
<p>The Secretary shall carry out activities to restore fishery habitats, including the shrimp and oyster habitats in Louisiana and Mississippi.</p>	213	Other	6-Completed	<p>Congress provided \$128 million in federal funds to be distributed to the 5 Gulf of Mexico states affected by the 2005 hurricane season. The funds were provided to the Gulf States Marine Fishery Commission in August 2006 via a one-time NOAA grant to be distributed to the states. The states received varying amounts of funding based on the severity of the impacts to their shrimp and oyster habitats. Some of the funds (\$1.2M) will be used to administer and coordinate the funds, and monitor the activities in each state.</p>
<b>Herring Study (1 item)</b>				
<p>Authorizes Sec. to conduct a cooperative research program to study distribution, abundance, and the role of herring as forage fish in the Northwest Atlantic. Sec. would be required to engage multiple fisheries sectors and stakeholder groups in planning, designing, and implementation of program. Final results must be presented within 3 months of study's completion and an interim report must be provided at the end of FY 2008. Authorizes \$2,000,000 for study during FY 2007-FY 2009.</p>	205	Study	4-Funding Currently Unavailable	<p>Funding is currently unavailable for this study.</p>
<b>Hurricane Grants (1 item)</b>				
<p>Subject to the availability of appropriations, requires Sec. to provide assistance and loan forgiveness to eligible holders of fishery finance program loans for expenditures within the declared fisheries disaster area as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita. For FY 2006-FY 2012, \$15,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec. for each eligible holder.</p>	114	Guidelines	3-Waiting/Delayed	

Issue	MSRA Citation	Output	Status	Additional Information
<b>Impact of Turtle Excluder Devices on Shrimping (1 item)</b>				
Requires the Undersecretary of Commerce to execute an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to jointly conduct a multi-year, comprehensive study to measure utilization of turtle excluder devices (TEDs), analyze the impacts on sea turtle mortality, and evaluate innovative technologies to increase shrimp retention in TEDs while ensuring sea turtle protection. When conducting this study, the Undersecretary must ensure that observers are placed onboard commercial shrimp fishing vessels where appropriate or necessary. Requires the National Academy of Sciences to submit biannual reports to Congress with a summary of preliminary findings and conclusions until a final report is submitted to Congress.	212	Study	4-Funding Currently Unavailable	Currently funding is not available for this study. However, NMFS is conducting background assessments of the available information and research to determine to what extent study-related issues may already have been addressed.
<b>Implementation of Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (1 item)</b>				
Implements the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the Highly Migratory Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.	501	Other	2-In Progress	
<b>International Overfishing and Domestic Equity (1 item)</b>				
Requires the Sec. in cooperation with the State Department, to immediately take appropriate action at the international level to end overfishing if the Sec. of Commerce determines a fishery is overfished, or approaching a condition of being overfished due to excessive international pressure, and there are no management measures to end overfishing under an international agreement.	406	Other	7-No action needed	No additional action is needed to implement this requirement of the MSRA. NMFS annually publishes the "Report to Congress on the Status of US Fisheries" that reports the status of each stock relative to overfished and overfishing status. NMFS will use this information to work to end overfishing in the international arena.
<b>Investment in Seafood Processing (1 item)</b>				
Requires the Sec. to work with the Small Business Administration (SBA) and other Federal agencies to develop financial and other mechanisms to encourage U.S. investment in seafood processing facilities in the United States for fisheries that lack processing capacity.	106(c)	Report	2-In Progress	
<b>Joint Enforcement Agreements (1 item)</b>				
Requires Sec. of Commerce to promptly enter into a confidentiality agreement with a State if a written opinion or certification is provided allowing State to maintain confidentiality of information, or	111(a)	Agreement/M OU	6-Completed	Language in joint enforcement agreements between NMFS and the States has been revised to reflect the new Magnuson-Stevens requirements for data confidentiality.

Issue	MSRA Citation	Output	Status	Additional Information
reasonable assurance is provided that the State will protect confidential information.				
<b>LAPPs (1 item)</b>				
Authorizes submission and approval of Limited Access Privilege programs (LAPPs) that meet certain requirements, detailed in Sec. 106.	106(a)	Guidelines	3- Waiting/Delayed	The Office of Sustainable Fisheries sought public comment on guidance for the LAPP provisions found in section 303A of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006. The comment period closed on September 30, 2007 and all comments received through October 31, 2007 were accepted. ( <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/PartnershipsCommunications/lapp/LAPPguidance.htm">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/PartnershipsCommunications/lapp/LAPPguidance.htm</a> )  This project is delayed due to other priorities and a revised schedule will be provided in a future MSRA status update.
<b>Multi-Year Research Priorities (1 item)</b>				
Requires Councils develop, in conjunction with the SSC, multi-year research priorities for fisheries, fisheries interactions, habitats, and other areas of research that are necessary for management purposes, for 5-year periods. Requires research priorities be updated as necessary and submitted to the Sec. and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional science centers for consideration in developing research priorities and budgets for the region of the Council.	103(d)(2)	Other	2-In Progress	
<b>North Pacific Fisheries Conservation (1 item)</b>				
Authorizes the North Pacific Council to establish a system, or systems, of fees, which may vary by fishery, management area, and observer coverage level, to pay for the cost of implementing a fisheries research plan.	214	FMP Amendment	3- Waiting/Delayed	
<b>Northern Pacific Halibut Act (1 item)</b>				
Amends the Northern Pacific Halibut Act to increase penalties. Amends the Northern Pacific Halibut Act to add section on revocation or suspension of permits.	301-302	Other	7-No action needed	This language is self-implementing. No further action is required to implement with this provision of the MSRA.
<b>Observers (1 item)</b>				
Revises observer requirements for foreign fisheries in the Pacific Insular Area. The Sec. of Commerce, in consultation with the WPFMC, determines adequate monitoring methods for harvest, bycatch, and compliance with U.S. law by foreign vessels	404	Other	6-Completed	No action is currently necessary for this task. The new MSRA provision takes effect only when there is a PIAFA in place (and corresponding conservation plan). Under the MSA, Marine Conservation Plans must be in place before a Pacific Insular Area Fishing Agreement (PIAFA) can be implemented. There are four MCPs currently in place or under review. There has been no PIAFA to date.

Issue	MSRA Citation	Output	Status	Additional Information
that fish under a Pacific Insular Area fishing agreement.				<p>No action is currently necessary for this task. The new MSRA provision takes effect only when there is a PIAFA in place (and corresponding conservation plan). Under the MSA, Marine Conservation Plans must be in place before a Pacific Insular Area Fishing Agreement (PIAFA) can be implemented. There are four MCPs currently in place or under review. There has been no PIAFA implemented to date.</p> <p>Monitoring programs would be part of the PIAFA negotiations held with the foreign applicant. The specifics of the proposed monitoring would probably not be included in the PIAFA itself, but would be described in detail in associated documents. The Secretary would review the proposed monitoring plan to ensure that it met the requirements of the MSRA and any other applicable law. At that time, the Secretary would determine the appropriate regulatory action, including any necessary rule-making. Previous similar programs have been implemented via public notice of availability and comment, and proposed and final rules.</p>
<b>Oregon and California Salmon Fishery (1 item)</b>				
Makes Federally recognized Indian tribes and small businesses adversely affected by Federal closures and fishing restrictions in the Oregon and California 2006 fall Chinook salmon fishery eligible to receive direct assistance under section 312(a) of the Act and section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act. In providing assistance, the Sec. is prohibited from using more than 4% of any monetary assistance for administrative costs.	113(c)	Other	6-Completed	Congress provided \$60.4 million in federal funds to be distributed to fishermen, tribes, and businesses affected by the 2006 Klamath commercial fishery disaster. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission will distribute funds via a \$60 million NOAA grant that was approved this August. The Commission worked with California and Oregon and the Hoopa and Yurok Tribes to develop the grant application. In designing the program, the PSMFC also consulted with State Governors and West Coast Congressional Delegations. A portion of the fund (\$1.3 million) will be used to coordinate, plan, administer and monitor disaster funding activities, including public outreach.
<b>Pacific Whiting (1 item)</b>				
Implements the Agreement Between the Government of the United States and the Government of Canada on Pacific Hake/Whiting signed in Nov. 2003. (Section 601-611)	601	Program	2-In Progress	A Federal Register notice seeking nominations for advisory panel members was published on Oct. 24, 2007 (72 FR 60317).
<b>Peer Review (1 item)</b>				
Authorizes that the Secretary and each Council may establish a peer review process for that Council for scientific information used to advise the Council about the conservation and management of the fishery. The review process, which may include existing committees or panels, is deemed to satisfy the requirements of the guidelines issued pursuant to section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal year 2001 (Public Law 106-554—Appendix C; 114 Stat. 2763A-153).	103(b)	Undetermined	2-In Progress	
<b>Prohibited Acts (1 item)</b>				



Issue	MSRA Citation	Output	Status	Additional Information
Prohibits the import, export, transport, sale, receipt, acquisition or purchase of fish taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of foreign law or regulation. Prohibits the use of any fishing vessel after the Sec. of Commerce has paid the vessel owner under a fishing capacity reduction program. Prohibits the use of any fishing vessel in Federal or state waters, on the high seas, or in the waters of another country, after the Sec. has made a payment to the owner of the fishing vessel under a fishing capacity reduction program.	118	Other	7-No action needed	This language is self-implementing. No further action is required to comply with this provision of the MSRA.
<b>Puget Sound Regional Shellfish Settlement (1 item)</b>				
Implements the Puget Sound Regional Shellfish Settlement	702	Other	7-No action needed	Requirements apply to the Secretary of Interior rather than Secretary of Commerce. Therefore, NOAA Fisheries Service will not be tracking this task.  Doug Tedrick, Special Assistant to the Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Department of the Interior, is the contact for this issue.
<b>Reauthorization of other acts (1 item)</b>				
Reauthorizes the following legislation: - Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act (increases authorization to Sec. of Commerce to \$1 mill annually for FY 2006-2011); and - Yukon River Salmon Act of 2000 (authorizes \$4 mill annually for FY 2006-2011). - Shark Finning Prohibition Act (reauthorizes Act through FY 2011 at current funding level); - Pacific Salmon Treaty Act (reauthorizes Act through FY 2009 and transfers language establishing a Northern Boundary and Southern Boundary Restoration and Enhancement Fund - under the 1999 Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement between the U.S. and Canada - from an omnibus appropriations bill in 2001, to the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act); and - Extends state authority for managing the Dungeness Crab fishery (under P.L. 105-384) through 2016. - Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (General appropriations of \$5 mill FY 07-12). - Anadromous Fish Conservation Act (authorizes \$4.5 mill FY07-12).	302	Other	7-No action needed	This language is self-implementing. No further action is required to implement this provision of the MSRA.
<b>Regional Disaster Relief and Evaluation (1 item)</b>				
1) Authorizes Sec., upon request and in consultation with the Governors of affected States, to establish a regional economic transition program to provide disaster relief assistance to fishermen,	113	Regulatory Change	2-In Progress	The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is today seeking early comment on proposed definitions, procedures and provisions for the new regional disaster relief provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act. Comments or information must have been received by January 4, 2008.

Issue	MSRA Citation	Output	Status	Additional Information
<p>charter fishing operations, processors, and owners of related fishing infrastructure affected by a catastrophic regional fishery disaster, as defined in the bill.</p> <p>1a) Subject to the availability of appropriations, the program shall provide funds or other economic assistance to affected entities or governmental entities for disbursement to affected entities for meeting immediate regional shoreside infrastructure needs, financial assistance and job training, fishing capacity reduction, and other activities authorized under section 312(a) of the Act or section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fish Act.</p> <p>1b) Authorizes that any fisherman who decides to scrap a fishing vessel under the program shall be eligible for job training assistance.</p> <p>2) Within 2 months after a catastrophic regional fishery disaster, the Secretary shall provide the Governor of each State participating in the program a comprehensive economic and socio-economic evaluation of the affected region's fisheries.</p>				<p><a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/NMFS_request4comments_disaster_assistance.pdf">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/NMFS_request4comments_disaster_assistance.pdf</a></p> <p>Regional Disaster Relief and Evaluation tasks were combined because of the interrelated nature of the work. The declaration of a disaster under these circumstances triggers a required evaluation of the effect on the region's fisheries.</p>
<b>Regional Ecosystem-based Management &amp; Research (1 item)</b>				
<p>Authorizes Sec. to provide technical and grant assistance to the Councils for development of regional pilot programs that build upon recommendations of the advisory panel and the study.</p>	210	Other	7-No action needed	<p>The MSRA authorizes the Secretary to provide technical advice and assistance to the Councils for the development and design of regional pilot programs that build upon the recommendations of the advisory panel and the study both established under Section 406 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to advance ecosystem considerations in regional fishery management. No further action or guidance is needed to implement this authorization.</p>
<b>Restoration Study (1 item)</b>				
<p>Authorizes Sec. to conduct a study to update scientific information and protocols needed to improve restoration techniques for coastal habitat. Authorizes \$500K for FY 2007</p>	206	Study	4-Funding Currently Unavailable	<p>Funding is currently unavailable for this study.</p>
<b>Rockfish Demonstration Program (1 item)</b>				
<p>Amends program from 2 years to 5 years.</p>	218	FMP Amendment	2-In Progress	
<b>SEAK Capacity Redux - Appropriations (1 item)</b>				
<p>For SE Alaska Fisheries Communities Capacity Reduction Amends Section 209 of the DOC and related</p>	121	Other	7-No action needed	<p>This language is self-implementing. No further action is required to implement this provision of the MSRA.</p>

Issue	MSRA Citation	Output	Status	Additional Information
Agencies Appropriations Act, 2005, by inserting new amounts				
<b>Shark Feeding (1 item)</b>				
Prohibits feeding of sharks to attract sharks for purposes other than harvest in the EEZ off Hawaii	119	Other	7-No action needed	This language is self-implementing. No further action is required to implement this provision of the MSRA.
<b>Stipends (1 item)</b>				
Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall pay a stipend to SSC members that are not employed by the Federal government or a State government agency.	103(b)	Revise Council SOPPs	3- Waiting/Delayed	
<b>Study on the Acidification of the Oceans (1 item)</b>				
Requires the Sec. to request the National Research Council conduct a study on the acidification of the oceans and how this process affects U.S. fisheries.	701	Study	4-Funding Currently Unavailable	Funding is currently unavailable for this task. However, NMFS would be required to conduct the study from current funding if the current version of the 2008 Senate appropriations bill becomes law.
<b>Summer Flounder Rebuilding (1 item)</b>				
Allows Secretary to extend the time for rebuilding of summer flounder under certain conditions	120(a)	Other	6-Completed	NMFS determined that the 2007 fishing specifications for summer flounder would meet the requirements of the MSRA. NMFS issued an emergency rule implementing the 2007 specifications (72 FR 2458) and an extension of the emergency rule (72 FR 32813) to extend the specifications to the end of 2007.
<b>Technical Revisions to 50 CFR 600 (1 item)</b>				
1. Specifies that TALFF is discretionary except that TAL shall be zero for fisheries determined by the Secretary to have adequate or excess domestic harvesting capacity.	Sections 3 and 5(3), 102	Regulatory Change	2-In Progress	This task encompasses MSRA provisions that are non-discretionary and require no interpretation or further guidance from NOAA Fisheries to implement. Examples of the revisions include changes in definitions, statements of fact and inclusion of new terms.
2. Defines new terms and revises existing terms under MSA.				The MSRA provision that modifies the Caribbean Council's jurisdiction is an administrative issue and will be included in the general technical amendment. An update to Council FMPs may be needed for the Caribbean Council to include a description of its jurisdiction.
3. Amends jurisdiction of the Caribbean. Inclusion in the technical revisions to the 600 regs is per agreement with the SERO (H. Blough).				
<b>Use of Fisheries Finance Program for Sustainable Purposes (1 item)</b>				
Amends section 53706(a)(7) of title 46, United States Code, to read as follows: “(7) Financing or refinancing— “(A) the purchase of individual fishing quotas in accordance with section 303(d)(4) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (including the reimbursement of obligors for expenditures previously made for such	209	Regulatory Change	2-In Progress	

Issue	MSRA Citation	Output	Status	Additional Information
<p>a purchase);  “(B) activities that assist in the transition to reduced fishing capacity; or  “(C) technologies or upgrades designed to improve collection and reporting of fishery-dependent data, to reduce bycatch, to improve selectivity or reduce adverse impacts of fishing gear, or to improve safety.”</p>				
<b>Western Pacific Fishery Demonstration Projects (1 item)</b>				
<p>Eliminates requirement that Sec. of Interior provide funding for Western Pacific fishery demonstration projects and clarifies which fishery communities are eligible to receive grants for these projects.</p>	207	Other	7-No action needed	No further action is required to implement this provision of the MSRA. The Department of Commerce has been the lead in providing grants for demonstration projects. The language clarifies the term community which had been defined earlier statute.
<b>Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund (1 item)</b>				
<p>Requires that fines and penalties, imposed on foreign vessels for violations occurring within the EEZ off Midway Atoll, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Palmyra Atoll, Jarvis, Howland, Baker, and Wake Islands, be deposited into the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund (established under section (7) of this section).</p>	Section 6	Other	6-Completed	The Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund was established previously under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. A process to administer the fund is place and is functioning as described under the MSRA. Any payments received by the Secretary under a Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement for any Pacific Insular Area other than American Samoa, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands are deposited in the fund. The funds are primarily spent to further conservation and management objectives, including implementation of a marine conservation plans. Fines for several recent penalties have been deposited.
<b>WP and NP Community Development (1 item)</b>				
<p>Establishes regionally-based pilot program for marine education and training in the Western Pacific and North Pacific to foster understanding, practical use of knowledge, and technical expertise relevant to stewardship of living marine resource. Specifies program components.</p>	109	Program	2-In Progress	

**Subject:** NOAA Regional Collaboration Positions  
**From:** Announcement@noaa.gov  
**Date:** Fri, 26 Sep 2008 14:40:25 -0400



# NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MEMORANDUM FOR: All NOAA Employees  
FROM: Workforce Management Office  
SUBJECT: NOAA Regional Collaboration Positions

NOAA is looking for management level individuals at the Management and Program Analyst, ZA-343-4 and GS-343-13/14 levels, to act as coordinators to further NOAA's Regional Collaboration effort. One coordinator will be hired to serve on each of NOAA's eight Regional Collaboration Teams: Alaska, Central, Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico, North Atlantic, Pacific, Southeast & Caribbean, and Western. The vacancy announcements for these positions are open until 12 midnight E.S.T. on Thursday, October 16, 2008. These Regional Teams handle issues such as climate change and the impact of natural disasters that cross traditional political boundaries, and work to increase the value and consistency of NOAA's services to our customers by improving intra-agency service integration and regional coordination among federal agencies, states, and other stakeholders.

The coordinators will support the teams as they blend the place-based needs of customers and partners at the regional scale with NOAA's priorities and responsibilities as a federal agency. The selected individuals will assess our stakeholders' needs, strengthen relationships with our partners, and promote the "one NOAA" principles of improved internal communications and efficiency.

NOAA's Regional Collaboration Teams were formed to improve the agency's delivery of services such as drought information, hazard mitigation tools, and ecosystem assessments that cut across Line Offices. Success of this effort will be measured by NOAA's ability to advance the work of the agency towards these goals:

- Improved services for the benefit of NOAA's customers (e.g., citizens, researchers, resource managers);
- Increased value and productivity of partnerships (e.g., other federal agencies, academic institutions, state and local governments);
- Improved stakeholder relations and support (e.g., Congress, non-profits, industry);
- Improved internal communications and efficiency across NOAA's existing organizational structure; and
- A more visible and valued NOAA.

This job is open to status and non-status applicants, and current NOAA employees are encouraged to apply for the status positions. Note that each duty station is located in selected cities within each of the eight regions and each region will be advertised separately, so please look at the location carefully when applying.

To learn more and apply on-line, please visit: <http://www.careers.noaa.gov/hotjobs.html>, and click on NOAA Regional Coordinator Positions.

---

This message was generated for the Workforce Management Office

**Subject:** AKCRRAB informational meeting

**From:** Heather McCarty <hdmccarty@gmail.com>

**Date:** Thu, 25 Sep 2008 10:48:17 -0800

**To:** Arni Thomson <accrabak@earthlink.net>, Edward Poulsen <edpoulsen@comcast.net>, Jim Stone <Jstonecrab@aol.com>, Steve Minor <steve@wafro.com>, Steve Manley <smanley@cbsfa.com>, Phillip Lestenkof <plestenkof@cbsfa.com>, "Jonathan L. Thorpe CPA" <jthorpe@cbsfa.com>, mateo paz-soldan <cpaz-soldan@dtb.us>, Jeff Kauffman <jeff@msdh-llc.com>, John Iani <lji@vnf.com>, Dave Hambleton <dhambleton@tridentseafoods.com>, pat hardina <PatH@IcicleSeafoods.com>, Linda Kozak <kozak@alaska.com>, Gordon Kruse <Gordon.Kruse@uaf.edu>, Douglas A Woodby <doug\_woodby@fishgame.state.ak.us>, "Lloyd, Denby S (DFG)" <denby.lloyd@alaska.gov>, John Hilsinger <john.hilsinger@alaska.gov>

**CC:** Paula Cullenberg <anpjc@uaa.alaska.edu>, Ginny Eckert <g.eckert@uaf.edu>, Rodger Painter <rodgerpainter@hotmail.com>, Gale Vick <gkvsons@alaska.net>, Jeff Hetrick <jjh@seward.net>, Jeff Stephan <jstephan@ptialaska.net>, Chris Mierzejek <cmierzejek@apicda.com>, Larry Cotter <LCotter371@aol.com>, Simon Kinneen <simon@nsedc.com>, Heidi Herter <heidi.herter@uaf.edu>, Sara Persselin <Sara.Persselin@noaa.gov>, Bob Foy <Robert.Foy@noaa.gov>, Jim Swingle <jimswingle@hotmail.com>, 'Benjamin Daly' <daly@sfos.uaf.edu>, Celeste Leroux <celeste.leroux@uaf.edu>, Chris Oliver <chris.oliver@noaa.gov>, Gail Bendixen <Gail.Bendixen@noaa.gov>, Doug Schneider <fndgs@uaf.edu>, Kurt Byers <fnkmb1@uaf.edu>, Sue Keller <fnsk@uaf.edu>, "Bradley G. Stevens" <bstevens@umassd.edu>

All:

This is to invite you and members of your groups to an informational meeting hosted by the Alaska King Crab Research, Rehabilitation and Biology (AKCRRAB) program during the Council week in Anchorage. Please join us for an hour, and feel free to forward this notice to your colleagues and members.

The meeting is at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, in the AP room, Howard Rock Ballroom A, at the Sheraton Hotel. We will begin convening right after the AP is finished.

Members of the AKCRRAB steering committee and the science team will make brief presentations on the production and research accomplishments of the program so far, and invite questions and discussion from industry participants. We will provide handouts and posters on the program history, research and goals. We look forward to industry participation and feedback.

The AKCRRAB program was launched in 2006, with the immediate goal of increasing the understanding of red and blue king crabs in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska, and the potential for hatchery culture and rearing of crab juveniles to rehabilitate declining wild crab stocks.

Email me with any questions or requests.

Thanks, Heather McCarty  
For the AKCRRAB program

**Joint Protocol Committee (BOF/NPFMC) meeting  
September 12, 2008  
Hilton Hotel  
Anchorage, Alaska**

Summary  
(draft 9/26/08)

Council members in attendance: Eric Olson, Ed Dersham, and Dave Benson. Board of Fisheries members in attendance: Melvin Morris and John Jensen.

NMFS and NPFMC staff in attendance included Lisa Lindeman, Diana Stram, Jane DiCosimo, Jeannie Heltzel, Sue Salvesson, and Chris Oliver. State staff in attendance included Nick Sagalkin, Stefanie Moreland, Kerri Tonkin, Jim Fall, Charlie Trowbridge, Herman Savikko, Wayne Donaldson, Jim McCullough, Forrest Bowers, Sue Aspelund, Steve Daugherty, Lance Nelson, and Jim Marcotte.

Public attending included Kenny Downs, Clem Tillion, Sam Cotten, Brent Paine, Art Nelson, Chuck McCallum.

Call to Order. Mel Morris, Chair of the Board of Fisheries serving as Chair for the meeting, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Friday, September 12.

Annual catch limits (ABC/TAC): Possible revisions to scallop and crab management. Jane DiCosimo (NPFMC staff) provided a review of proposed federal standards applied nation-wide as a result of congressional action to revise guidelines to prevent overfishing. A key component is a new ecosystem component for management of non-target species. Direction is provided in setting Annual Catch Limits (ACL) for all Federally-managed stocks. There are implications for all fisheries, including revisions to management of crab and scallop fisheries that are under joint federal and state management. Dr. Diana Stram (NPFMC staff) indicated that a new component is the need to have some form of buffer to keep harvests below Overfishing Level (OFL), the maximum level that can be taken. The Council had recently provided comments on the proposed rule to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Subsistence halibut program - Bycatch retention. Dr. Jim Fall (ADF&G, Subsistence) noted that low numbers of rockfish and lingcod are taken as bycatch when halibut are targeted in subsistence fisheries, and that retention is allowed. Retention is provided for in Southeast Alaska by either personal use regulations or by educational permits. Retention is provided for in Southcentral Alaska by educational permits in areas outside of nonsubsistence areas. He recommended coordination between state and federal management. He reported that an ADF&G proposal to the BOF would provide a solution.

Salmon bycatch.

a) Chinook. Diana Stram reviewed elements of the draft environmental impact statement on regulatory action being taken to revise management measures for Chinook salmon in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery. Options include closing different areas and/or applying a hard cap by sector and by season. A preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) was selected by the Council in June 2008. The Council's PPA includes a specified cap level of 68,392 Chinook salmon (Annual scenario 1) "if an ICA is in place that provides explicit incentive(s) for each participant to avoid salmon bycatch in all years". The hard cap in the absence of such an approved ICA (Annual scenario 2) would be 47,591 Chinook salmon. The

agency hopes to have the draft ready for public review in early December, then allow a 60-day review period prior to April 2009. The full range of alternatives will be available to the Council in April.

b) Chum. Diana Stram provided an overview of current Council activities on chum salmon bycatch management measures. The Council bifurcated the analyses of chum and Chinook management measures and are pursuing them on different timeframes. The Council will review alternatives for revised management measures for chum salmon at the October Council meeting. The current ICA continues to manage rolling hot spot closures for chum salmon under the regulatory closure exemption provided by Amendment 84.

Gulf of Alaska issues - Pacific cod sector split and GOA Pacific cod jig fishery

Jeannie Heltzel (NPFMC staff) described a potential Council action that would allocate the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs among the various gear and operation sectors. The action includes options to restructure management of the GOA Pacific cod jig fisheries so that a federal jig allocation could be managed jointly with the State waters jig allocations. The intent of the jig options is to increase opportunities for jig vessels to fish in Federal waters and to minimize the amount of unharvested jig quota. Initial review of the sector split action is scheduled for the December 2008 Council meeting, and final action is tentatively scheduled for April 2009.

Gulf of Alaska issues - GOA Fixed Gear Recency

Jeannie Heltzel (NPFMC staff) described a potential Council action that would remove latent fixed gear LLP licenses from the WGOA and CGOA groundfish fisheries, and potentially add a Pacific cod endorsement to fixed gear licenses that would restrict access to the directed Pacific cod fisheries. Initial review and final action are scheduled concurrently with the GOA Pacific cod sector split action.

BSAI Fixed Gear Parallel Waters Pacific Cod Fishery

Jeannie Heltzel (NPFMC staff) reported that in 2008, 5 fixed gear CPs that do not have Federal fisheries permits (FFPs) and/or LLP licenses participated in the BSAI Pacific cod fishery. These vessels fished exclusively in the parallel waters Pacific cod fishery. Vessels are not required to hold FFPs or LLPs to fish in the parallel waters fisheries.

The Council is considering several options to preclude non-federally permitted vessels from participating in the parallel waters fisheries. Options include: 1) requiring any CP pot or hook-and-line vessel with an LLP to have a Pacific cod endorsement, 2) requiring any CP pot or hook-and-line vessel with an LLP to surrender its LLP to participate in the BSAI Pacific cod parallel waters fishery, 3) requiring any CP pot or hook-and-line vessel to surrender all federal permits (FFP, LLP, and IFQ) to participate in the BSAI Pacific cod parallel waters fishery, 4) other solutions for the Council to maintain control over federally permitted vessels, and 5) potential actions for vessels with no federal permits or licenses.

Forrest Bowers (ADFG) noted that one approach the Board could take is to modify the existing parallel waters fisheries management plan. What is allowed in state regulation (5 AAC 28.087) was discussed. Lance Nelson (Department of Law) noted that the State may have concerns about Option 1, and would like to review any options the Council is considering under this action.



Agenda Change Requests submitted to BOF. Herman Savikko (ADF&G) and Forrest Bowers described the Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) submitted to the Board of Fisheries for initial review at its October 2008 worksession.

*ACR 3 - Clarify regulations on non-pelagic trawl closure in the Bristol Bay Area. (5 AAC 39.165(3), and 39.164 (b)(7))*

*ACR 7 - Modify regulations on non-pelagic trawl and essential fish habitat in the Bering Sea. (5 AAC 39.164(b) and 5 AAC 39.167)*

*ACR 8 - Provide a uniform vessel size limit of 60 feet in the Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery. (5 AAC 28.647(d)(3))*

*ACR 9 - Reduce catch in A season and spread out harvest over monthly increments for the Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery. (5 AAC 28.647(d))*

*ACR 10 - Reduce daily catch limit to 75,000 pounds for the Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery. (5 AAC 28.647(d)(7))*

*ACR 12 - Limit longline vessel to 55 feet in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands management area Pacific cod fishery. (5 AAC 28.087)*

Lance Nelson noted that the Board need not limit consideration of these requests to only the agenda change request criteria (5 AAC 39.999(a)(1)) since its same policy provides for coordination of state regulatory actions with federal fishery agencies, programs, and laws as reasonably necessary.

Groundfish Maximum Retainable Allowance (MRA) issues. Herman Savikko described issues recently identified by enforcement authorities over differences between Kodiak area and Bering Sea area catch reporting practices for fish harvested but not offloaded at a processor. This discrepancy may be tied to different interpretations of "delivery" in 5 AAC 28.055 and 5 AAC 28.344.

Other species management - State report on state/federal data collection differences for octopus. Wayne Donaldson (ADF&G) described the different state and federal management approaches for octopus and expressed concerns over the potential lack of coordination on conservation. State regulations classify octopus as a miscellaneous shellfish whereas federal regulations classify octopus as a groundfish. Differences in catch reporting, allowable bycatch, and allowance of directed harvest can all lead to conservation problems with this trans-boundary resource. Additional concerns include management as a complex when there may be important species conditions and potential rapid increases of harvest effort should market conditions change quickly.

Charlie Trowbridge (ADF&G) pointed out a similar situation in trying to better coordinate state and federal management of sharks and skates. A recent state legislation appropriation was made for a skate fishery feasibility study. Jane DiCosimo noted federal action taken in 2002 that created separate skate quotas for big skate, long nose skate, and other skates through a fishery management plan in the Gulf of Alaska, although there has been little follow-up interest by industry. A similar FMP amendment is planned to set a separate quota for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands skates in 2009.

Charlie Trowbridge also noted several Prince William Sound area proposals scheduled for consideration by the Board of Fisheries in December.

Public Testimony. In the public testimony portion of the meeting, only Kenny Down (Freezer Longline Coalition) offered testimony. He addressed issues associated with the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Pacific cod fishery and allowances in state waters that are inconsistent with allocations in federal regulations.

The meeting concluded at noon.