

# PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP SHEET

Agenda Item: C-2<sup>(a)</sup> Groundfish Specs

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF:
1	Julie Penny	AGDP
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NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

**DRAFT Proposed GOA OFL, ABC and TAC Recommendations (metric tons) for 2012-2013 from SSC/AP (9/29/11)**

Species	Area	2011 final			8/20/2011 Catch	2012 final			2012 proposed			2013 proposed			AP rec TAC
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC	
Demersal shelf rockfish	SEO	479	300	300	72	479	300	300	479	300	300	479	300	300	
Thornyhead rockfish	W		425	425	140		425	425		425	425		425	425	
	C		637	637	267		637	637		637	637		637	637	
	E		708	708	131		708	708		708	708		708	708	
	Total	2,360	1,770	1,770	538	2,360	1,770	1,770	2,360	1,770	1,770	2,360	1,770	1,770	
Atka mackerel	GW	6,200	4,700	2,000	1,571	6,200	4,700	2,000	6,200	4,700	4,700	6,200	4,700	4,700	
Big skate	W		598	598	44		598	598		598	598		598	598	
	C		2,049	2,049	1,373		2,049	2,049		2,049	2,049		2,049	2,049	
	E		681	681	94		681	681		681	681		681	681	
	Total	4,438	3,328	3,328	1,511	4,438	3,328	3,328	4,438	3,328	3,328	4,438	3,328	3,328	
Longnose skate	W		81	81	22		81	81		81	81		81	81	
	C		2,009	2,009	585		2,009	2,009		2,009	2,009		2,009	2,009	
	E		762	762	56		762	762		762	762		762	762	
	Total	3,803	2,852	2,852	663	3,803	2,852	2,852	3,803	2,852	2,852	3,803	2,852	2,852	
Other skates	GW	2,791	2,093	2,093	612	2,791	2,093	2,093	2,791	2,093	2,093	2,791	2,093	2,093	
Other species	GW														
Squids	GW	1,530	1,148	1,148	223	1,530	1,148	1,148	1,530	1,148	1,148	1,530	1,148	1,148	
Sharks	GW	8,263	6,197	6,197	368	8,263	6,197	6,197	8,263	6,197	6,197	8,263	6,197	6,197	
Octopuses	GW	1,273	954	954	247	1,272	954	954	1,272	954	954	1,272	954	954	
Sculpins	GW	7,328	5,496	5,496	547	7,328	5,496	5,496	7,328	5,496	5,496	7,328	5,496	5,496	
<b>Total</b>	<b>GOA</b>	<b>723,930</b>	<b>590,121</b>	<b>318,288</b>	<b>143,435</b>	<b>743,422</b>	<b>603,990</b>	<b>335,078</b>	<b>743,422</b>	<b>603,992</b>	<b>584,442</b>	<b>743,422</b>	<b>603,990</b>	<b>584,440</b>	

Final 2011 and 2012 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs from final 2011-2012 harvest specifications rule.

For the November PT meeting the Council's recommendations for the proposed 2012-2013 and catch through November 12, 2011 will be included Pacific cod catch in 2010 does not include catch from State managed fisheries.

2012 final amounts were used as a place holder for 2012-2013 OFLs and ABCs.



**NOAA** NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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September 22, 2011

## **NOAA releases results of 2011 Bering Sea Groundfish Survey**

How much fish and crab can be sustainably caught by fishers in the Bering Sea next year?

The annual process to set total allowable catch levels for various groundfish and crab species in the Bering Sea took a big step forward this week, when NOAA scientists from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center completed calculating the initial biomass estimates from the 2011 eastern Bering Sea survey.

Groundfish and crab scientists from the AFSC completed the 30th in a series of standardized annual bottom trawl surveys of the eastern Bering Sea continental shelf this past summer aboard the chartered fishing vessels *Aldebaran* and *Alaska Knight*. The vessels bottom trawled at 376 stations over a survey area of 144,600 square nautical miles, finishing the survey August 4, 2011. The science crew processed and recorded the catch from each trawl catch by identifying, sorting, and weighing all the different crab and groundfish species and then measuring samples of each species.

At the conclusion of the survey, scientists carefully validated the data collected on fishing effort, catch rates, and biological characteristics of the fish populations (size distribution, age, growth rates, diet, etc.) in preparation to generate fishery-independent estimates of geographic and depth distribution, abundance, and population size and age composition of the various species. Supplementary biological and oceanographic data collected on the bottom trawl survey will improve understanding of life history of the groundfish and crab species and the ecological and physical factors affecting their distribution and abundance.

Trends in the annual estimates of bottom trawl survey biomass for selected groundfish species on the eastern Bering Sea shelf from 1987 to 2011 are shown in Figure 1. The biomass estimates from the 2011 bottom trawl survey for these selected species are:

- Walleye pollock: 3.11 million metric tons
- Rock sole: 1.98 million metric tons
- Alaska plaice: 520 thousand metric tons
- Greenland turbot: 26.2 thousand metric tons
- Pacific cod: 911 thousand metric tons
- Yellowfin sole: 2.40 million metric tons

Compared to 2010, there were slight decreases in the survey biomass of walleye pollock and rock sole, and slight increases in the survey biomass for the other four species (Fig. 1).

Scientists also found that the mean bottom temperatures on the eastern Bering Sea shelf were generally higher in 2011 compared to 2010, and the cold pool (< 2°C) during the late spring and early summer sampling period was significantly reduced in size (Fig. 2).

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Groundfish Plan Team will begin their review and incorporation of the survey data in the scientific stock assessments at their November 14-18, 2001 meeting, and will provide reports to the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee. The SSC will recommend acceptable biological catch for the different species at the December Council meeting in Anchorage. The Council's Advisory Panel will then recommend a total allowable catch for each of the species. Following the committee reports, the Council will consider committee recommendations and public testimony before recommending a total allowable catch for the various groundfish species in 2012.

The 2011 eastern Bering Sea survey results for crab are currently being reviewed by the NPFMC Crab Plan Team at their meeting at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, September 19-22 (<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/public-meetings/committees-related-meetings.html> ).

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Figures 1 and 2 below:

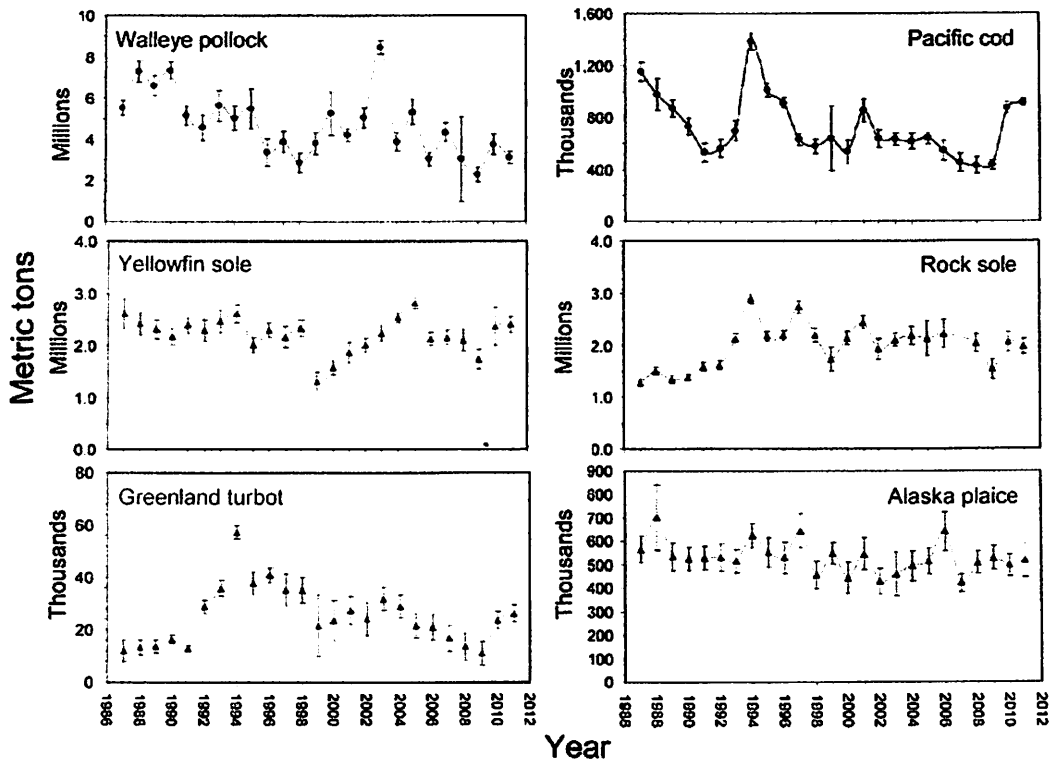


Figure 1. -- Time series (1987-2011) of estimated bottom trawl survey biomass for six eastern Bering Sea shelf groundfish species. Bars on data points are the standard errors for point estimates.

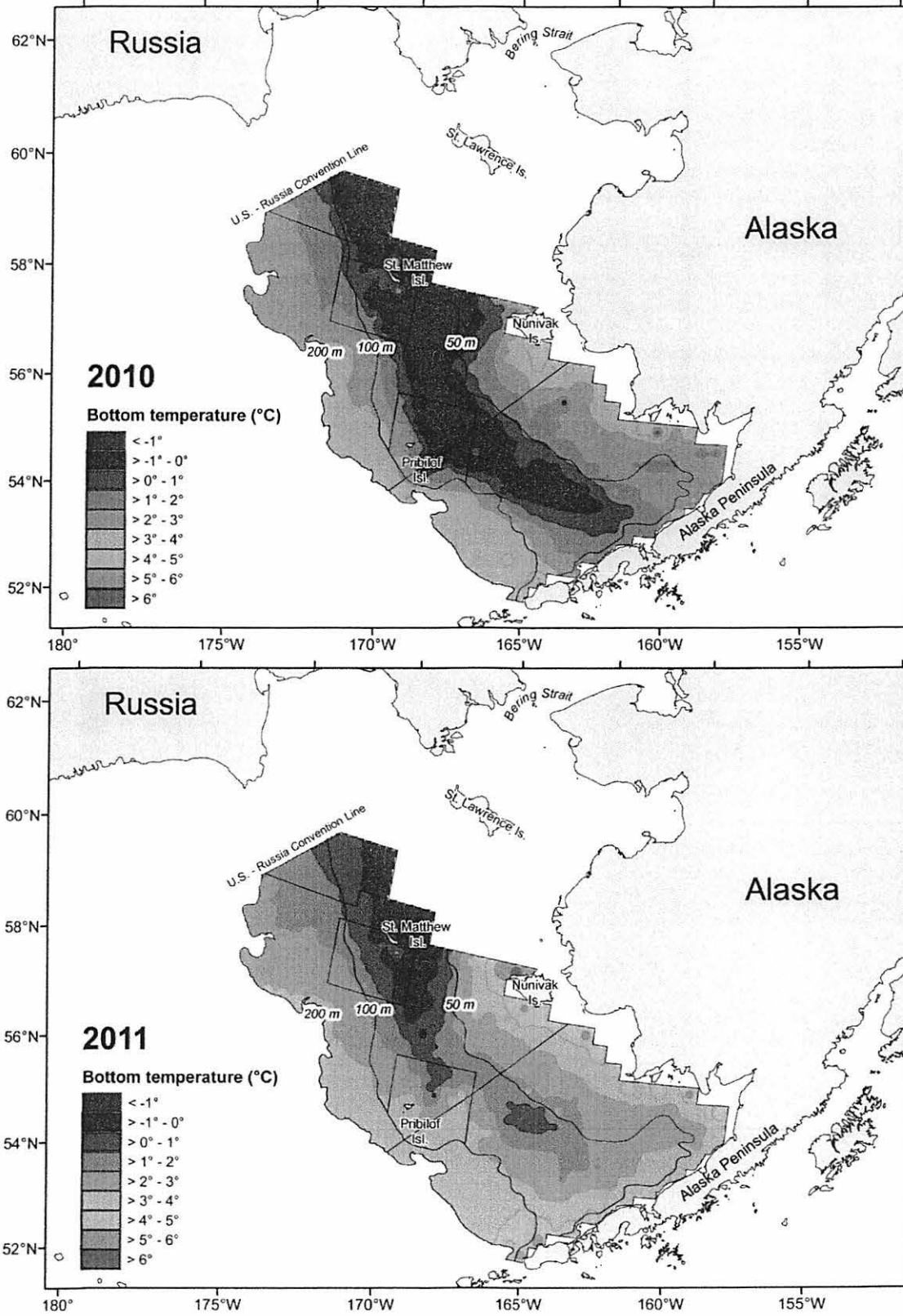


Figure 2. -- Map comparing mean bottom temperatures from the 2010 and 2011 eastern Bering Sea shelf bottom trawl survey.