



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Meeting Summary

252nd Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
December 4th and December 7 -11, 2020
Webconference – Adobe Connect

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Attachments

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| 1) C3 BSAI Specs Motions | 3) Appointments |
| 2) C4 GOA Specs Motions | 4) Time Log |
| | 5) Newsletter |

The time log is included as a reference attachment for names, dates and times of each agenda item, and the newsletter is included to provide details of the agenda items and the meeting as a whole.

All documents and information related to the meeting are accessible online at:

<https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/1745>

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met on December 4th, and on December 7th through December 11, 2020. The following Council members, Council staff, SSC, and AP members attended the meetings.

Council Members

Jim Balsiger/Anne Marie Eich/Alicia Miller
National Marine Fisheries Service

Nicole Kimball
Appointed

Rachel Baker/Karla Bush (for Doug Vincent-Lang)
Alaska Department Fish and Game

Simon Kinneen, **Chair**
Appointed

Cora Campbell
Appointed

Staci MacCorkle
US Dept of State

Craig Cross
Appointed

Steve Marx (for Curt Melcher)
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

Kenny Down
Appointed

Andy Mezirow
Appointed

Stewart Cogswell (for Greg Siekaniec)
US Fish & Wildlife Service

Bill Tweit (for Kelly Susewind), **Vice Chair**
Washington Department Fish & Wildlife

Dave Hanson
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

RADM Matthew Bell Jr/CAPT Brennell
United States Coast Guard

John Jensen
Appointed

Council Staff

Armstrong, Jim
Cleaver, Sara
Cunningham, Sam
Davis, Maria
Evans, Diana (DD)
Fey, Mike (PSMFC)

Forristall, Angela (Sea Grant
Fellow)
Gleason, Shannon
Haapala, Kate
Henry, Anna
La Belle, Sarah

MacLean, Steve
Marrinan, Sarah
McCracken, Jon
Schmidt, Nicole
Stram, Diana
Witherell, Dave (ED)

Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC met from November 30th to December 4, 2020 via adobe connect in a virtual conference. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings:

Anne Hollowed, Co-Chair
NOAA Fisheries—AFSC

Chris Anderson
University of Washington

Mike Downs
Wislow Research

Kate Reedy
Idaho State University Pocatello

Brad Harris
Alaska Pacific University

Tien-Shi (Theresa) Tsou
Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Sherri Dressel, Co-Chair
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

Amy Bishop
Alaska Sea Life Center

Jason Gasper
NOAA Fisheries – Alaska Region

George Hunt
University of Washington

Franz Mueter
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Matt Reimer
University of California, Davis

Alison Whitman, Vice Chair
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Curry Cunningham
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Dana Hanselman
NOAA Fisheries—AFSC

Gordon Kruse
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Andrew Munro
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

Ian Stewart
Intl. Pacific Halibut Commission

Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel met from November 30th to December 5, 2020, via adobe connect in a virtual conference. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings:

Christiansen, Ruth (Co-Vice Chair)
Curran, Tory
Donich, Daniel
Drobnica, Angel (Chair)
Gruver, John
Gudmundsson, Gretar
Hayden, Natasha

Johnson, Jim
Johnson, Mellisa
Kauffman, Jeff
Kavanaugh, Julie
Lowenberg, Craig
Mann, Heather
O'Connor, Jamie
O'Donnell, Paddy

Peterson, Joel
Scoblic, John
Upton, Matt (Co-Vice Chair)
Vanderhoeven, Anne
Velsko, Erik
Weiss, Ernie
Wilt, Sinclair

A1 Call Meeting to Order

The Council approved the agenda without objection.

B Reports

The following reports were provided in writing and discussed. Mary Furuness, Steve Whitney, Lauren Smoker, Dr. Robert Foy, and Kendall Henry provided an oral report and presentation on their agenda items. Public testimony was heard.

B1 Executive Director's Report – David Witherell

B2 NMFS Management Report – Dr. Anne Marie Eich, Mary Furuness and Steve Whitney

B3 NOAA GC Report – Lauren Smoker

B4 NMFS Enforcement Report – Nathan Lagerwey

B5 AFSC Survey Planning 2021 – Dr. Robert Foy

B6 ADFG Report – Kendall Henry

B7 USCG Report – CAPT Jason Brennell and LCDR Jedediah Raskie

B8 USFWS Report – Stewart Cogswell

B9 SSC Report – Dr. Anne Hollowed (**SSC Co-Chair**)

B10 AP Report– Ruth Christiansen and Matt Upton (**AP Co-Vice Chairs**)

C1 Charter Halibut – 2021 Annual Management Measures

Council Staff: Jim Armstrong

Other Presenters: Sarah Webster (ADF&G)

Action Required:

1. Review ADF&G analysis of proposed measures
2. Review Charter Halibut Management Committee minutes
3. Recommend preferred management measures for 2021

***Summary:** At this meeting, the Council will select its preferred charter halibut measures for 2021 after considering recommendations developed by the Charter Halibut Management Committee at its November 30, 2020 meeting as well as harvest analyses provided by ADF&G.*

After the staff presentation, the following action was taken:

Mr. Mezirow made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:

The Council moves to approve and recommend to the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) the following management measures for IPHC regulatory Areas 2C and 3A.

IPHC Area 3A Harvest Measures

All allocations shown below include, unless otherwise specified: a daily bag limit of 2 halibut; with no annual limit per charter angler; Wednesdays closed to halibut retention all year; 1 trip per halibut charter vessel per day; and 1 trip per charter halibut permit per day.

If the allocation is less than 1.93Mlb (Status Quo FCEY) but greater than or equal to 1.85 Mlb:

- a daily bag limit of 2 halibut, with one fish of any size, and one fish less than or equal to 32 inches;
- All Wednesdays closed to retention of halibut, with a second fish of 32" or less, according to Table 24 in ADF&G analysis of proposed harvest regulations for 2021 to bring the projected harvest within the Area 3A allocation. Table 22 on page 45 of the ADF&G Analysis: Yield 2.470 Mlb.
- Apply a 25% COVID Impact Buffer as described in Appendix A-2, 2 on page 59 in the ADF&G Analysis to achieve a yield of $2.470 \times .75 = 1.85$ Million pounds is the projected removal.

If the allocation is less than 1.85 Mlb but greater than 1.74 Mlb

- If the allocation is below 1.85 million pounds, adjust the size of the second fish, down to a minimum of 30 inches to keep the charter harvest within their allocation. Table 24B on Page 47 of the ADF&G analysis.

IPHC area 2C Harvest Measure Recommendations

1. Apply a 35% reduction COVID Impacts Buffer in projected removals for 2021 under a reverse slot limit in Table 6, page 26, of the ADF&G analysis and use the adjusted table below for determining reverse slot limit harvest measures.
2. One Fish Daily Bag Limit.
3. If the adjusted Area 2C catch limit is at .65 million pounds (Reference SPR 43), reverse slot limit must be $\leq 44"$ or $\geq 80"$.
4. If Area 2C adjusted catch limit is from .651 million pounds to .751 million pounds, maintain the upper reverse slot limit at $\geq 80"$ and adjust the lower reverse slot limit upward to keep the projected harvest within the allocation.
5. If Area 2C adjusted catch limit is higher than .751 million pounds, maintain the lower reverse slot limit of $\leq 50"$ and adjust the upper reverse slot limit downward to keep the projected harvest within the allocation.

35% Buffer		
	Removals in Mlb	Adjusted
U44O80	0.993	0.645
U45O80	1.026	0.667
U46O80	1.048	0.681
U47O80	1.077	0.700
U48O80	1.097	0.713
U49O80	1.131	0.735
U50O80	1.155	0.751
U50O78	1.166	0.758
U50O76	1.168	0.759
U50O74	1.182	0.768
U50O72	1.209	0.786

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously on December 4, 2020, at 4:15 p.m.

C2 Cook Inlet Salmon FMP

Council Staff: Jim Armstrong
Other Presenters: Doug Duncan (NMFS AKRO)

Action Required: 1. Review the Public Review Draft of the EA/RIR
2. Recommend a preferred alternative, as appropriate

Summary: *The Council intends to take final action on the Cook Inlet Salmon issue at this meeting by adopting a preferred alternative for federal management of commercial salmon fishing in EEZ waters of Cook Inlet. Currently, the portion of the Cook Inlet EEZ where commercial salmon fishing occurs is excluded from the Fishery Management Plan for the Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska (FMP). This exclusion from the FMP defers management of salmon fishing in the Cook Inlet EEZ to the State of Alaska. A Ninth Circuit Court ruling held that the Council must amend the FMP to include the Cook Inlet EEZ, in accordance with the MSA and all other applicable Federal law. The Council's action on this agenda item will only be applicable to commercial salmon fisheries in the Cook Inlet EEZ.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following actions were taken:

Ms. Baker made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:

The Council selects Alternative 4, Federal management with the Cook Inlet EEZ closed to commercial salmon fishing, as the preferred alternative.

Mr. Tweit made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:

The Council deems proposed regulations that clearly and directly flow from the provisions of this motion to be necessary and appropriate in accordance with section 303(c). The Council authorizes the Executive Director and the Chairman to review the draft proposed regulations when provided by NMFS to ensure that the proposed regulations to be submitted to the Secretary under section 303(c) are consistent with these instructions.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Deeming motion passed with no objection on December 7, 2020, at 3:51 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION: Motion passed with no objection and one abstaining (Dr. Balsiger) on December 7, 2020, at 4:34 p.m.

C5 BSAI Pacific Cod Trawl Catcher Vessel LAPP

Council Staff: Jon McCracken
Other Presenters: Darrell Brannan (Brannan & Associates)
Dr. Mike Downs (Wislow Research Associates)
Stephanie Warpinski (NMFS AKRO SF)

Action Required: 1. Review analysis

2. Provide clarification and adjustments to elements and options, strawman alternatives

Summary: *The Council will conduct initial review of an analysis for a Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel (CV) limited access program (LAPP). The proposed program considers allocations of quota shares (QS) to trawl CV LLP licenses based on the harvest of targeted BSAI Pacific cod during the qualifying years that would yield an exclusive harvest privilege allocation for use in a BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod catch share program cooperatives. The action also considers allocating harvest shares to a processor permit based on processing history of BSAI Pacific cod during the qualifying years. This would yield an exclusive harvest privilege allocation for use in a BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod catch share program cooperatives.*

After the staff presentation and public comment, the following actions were taken:

Ms. Baker moves the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Cross:

The Council recommends releasing the analysis for another initial review after making the following revisions to the purpose and need, elements, and analysis. Additions are shown in underline and deletions are shown in ~~strikethrough~~.

Purpose and Need:

Over the last several years, total allowable catch for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Island has steadily decreased. The pace of the fishery has contributed to an increasingly compressed season, resulting in decreased ability to maximize the value of the fishery, and negatively impacting all fishery participants (catcher vessels, motherships, shoreside processors, and communities). This race for fish also discourages fishing practices that can minimize bycatch and threatens the sustained viability of the fishery. The Council is considering the development of a cooperative-based program to improve the prosecution of the fishery, with the intent of promoting safety and stability in the harvesting and processing sectors, increasing the value of the fishery, minimizing bycatch to the extent practicable, providing for the sustained participation of fishery dependent communities, and ensuring the sustainability and viability of the resource.

Element 1. Cooperative Style Systems

~~Option 1.1: One cooperative will be formed for AFA vessels and one cooperative will be formed for non-AFA vessels.~~

~~Each eligible license will be eligible for one cooperative and must join that cooperative to participate in the Pacific cod cooperative fishery.~~

~~Cooperative requires membership of 80% of the eligible catch history for that cooperative.~~

~~Vessels and LLP licenses that do not join a cooperative would be eligible to fish in a limited access fishery. Harvest and PSC in the limited access fishery would be limited to the Pacific cod and halibut and crab PSC that would have been issued to cooperatives had the eligible LLP licenses joined a cooperative.~~

~~Suboption 1.1.1: Reduce halibut and crab PSC apportionment to the BSAI trawl CV limited access fishery by 25% to 40%.~~

~~Option 1.2: Voluntary harvester cooperatives with no minimum number of licenses required.~~

Holders of qualified LLP licenses must join a cooperative annually in association with an eligible licensed processor (FFP or FPP) to harvest allocations of Pacific cod. Harvesters may change cooperatives and cooperative associations may change annually without penalty.

No limitation on the number of LLP licenses holders or eligible catch history needed to form a cooperative.

No limitation on the number of cooperatives that may form.

Inter-cooperative formation is allowed.

~~Sub~~Option 1.2.1: A minimum of three unique LLP license holders are needed to form a cooperative, using the 10% ownership rule.

~~Suboption (applicable to Options 1.1 and 1.2): inter-cooperative formation is allowed.~~

Element 2: Allocation to LLP Licenses

Catch history to determine allocations under this management action will not be considered beyond December 31, 2019.

2.1. Eligibility – Any LLP license assigned to a vessel that ~~authorized that vessel's~~ made legal landings of targeted trawl catcher vessel BSAI cod during the qualifying years (or an LLP license as of December 31, 2019 assigned to an AFA trawl CV that had BSAI Pacific cod catch in 1997)¹ is eligible to receive harvest shares.

Option: Establish a minimum threshold percentage range of 0.25%-1% by LLP holder for eligibility to receive harvest shares. Does not apply to those 8 licenses with a transferable AI endorsement.

2.2. Harvester Allocations – Eligible LLP licenses must be assigned to a cooperative to receive annual Pacific cod quota. The sector's harvest shares will be allocated to eligible LLP licenses or transferable AI endorsements, with each LLP license's or transferable AI endorsement's allocation based on the Pacific cod catch history (legal landings) of targeted BSAI cod authorized by that LLP license or a transferable AI endorsement during the following qualifying years:

Option 2.2.1: 2014 - 2019

Option 2.2.2: 2009 –2019

Option 2.2.3: 2004 –2019

Option 2.2.4: Allocations based on a blend of catch history and AFA sideboard history²

Suboptions to credit catch history/sideboard at:

Suboption 2.2.1: 50%/50%

Suboption 2.2.2: 80%/20%

¹ The latter criteria (LLP assigned to an AFA trawl CV that had BSAI Pacific cod catch in 1997) is only applicable if one of the blend options is selected under Option 2.2.4.

² Using staff approach of blending 1997 sideboard history with qualifying year option catch history attached to the eligible LLP license at the time of implementation of the trawl CV LAPP.

Suboption 2.2.3: 20%/80%

Suboptions (applicable to Options 2.2.1 – 2.2.4):

Suboption 2.2.1. Drop 1 Year

Suboption 2.2.2. Drop 2 Years

2.3. Catch history is attached to the LLP license at the time of harvest. If multiple licenses authorized catch by a vessel, in the absence of agreement of the license holders at the time of application, history will be:

Option 2.3.1: divided equally between those licenses.

Option 2.3.2: assigned to an LLP license by the owner of the vessel that made the catch.

2.4. Annual quota will be issued to each license based on its share of the total qualifying BSAI trawl catcher vessel catch history. Allocations will not be designated for harvest in a management area (i.e., BS or AI) but may be harvested from either area.

2.5. Option to allocate A and B season BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod only:

A and B season TACs (after deduction of the ICAs) will be allocated to cooperatives as annual cooperative quota (and to seasonal limited access fisheries, if applicable). Annual cooperative allocations (and seasonal limited access allocations, if applicable) attributable to each LLP license will be that LLP license's proportional share of the total qualifying Pacific cod history.

~~Staff should analyze distributional impacts of this option based on differential catch histories in the A and B season.~~

The C season allocation will remain 15 percent and remain a limited access fishery to any vessel with an eligible groundfish LLP license with an applicable area endorsement. The C season limited access fishery will be managed as currently by NMFS, including management of incidental catches of Pacific cod in other directed fisheries. C season TAC (and A and B season ICAs and cooperative quota) that NMFS projects to go unused are subject to reallocation to other sectors under current reallocation rules.

2.6. All species not allocated to cooperatives will be managed by maximum retainable amounts (MRAs), as under current management.

Element 3. Prohibited Species Catch Limits

The annual crab and halibut PSC available to the BSAI trawl catcher vessel Pacific cod sector will be as follows:

~~Option 3.1: Status quo methodology~~

~~Suboption 3.1.1: Establish trawl CV Pacific cod crab and halibut PSC apportionment based on historic use (using qualifying years selected under Element 2) between the trawl CV sector and the AFA C/P sector.~~

Option 3.1: Crab PSC will be maintained at the BSAI trawl limited access sector level.

Option 3.2: Establish separate PSC limits for the BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod sector. Reduce (Suboption 1: halibut and crab PSC Suboption 2: halibut PSC) apportionment to BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod sector that would be harvested under a status quo methodology by 10% to 25%.

Each cooperative will receive annual cooperative quota allocations of Pacific cod and apportionments of PSC based on members' qualifying catch histories (and processing histories, if applicable) to be harvested in accordance with the harvest cooperative agreement. The sector's PSC will be apportioned to cooperatives in proportion to their members' Pacific cod qualifying catch histories (and processing histories, if applicable).

Element 4: Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Sideboards

Option 4.1: All AFA non-GOA exempt CVs and AFA LLP licenses or CVs will be sideboarded as to all Gulf of Alaska (GOA) fishing activity, except for the CGOA Rockfish Program, based on their Gulf catch history during the BSAI Pacific cod qualifying period.

Option 4.2: AFA GOA-Exempt and non-AFA CVs and LLP licenses will not be permitted to lease transfer their BSAI Pacific cod cooperative quota cod history on their respective LLP license as a condition of continuing to benefiting from its an AFA GOA sideboard exemption. Cooperatives will be required to monitor GOA AFA and non-AFA exempt vessels to ensure they do not lease their BSAI Pacific cod CQ and implement a penalty structure for violations. Cooperatives will be required to report leasing activities and penalties issued in the annual report.

Suboption 4.2.1: AFA GOA Exempt and non-AFA CVs with LLP licenses of less than a threshold amount 200 mt, 400 mt, or 600 mt of qualifying BSAI cod history may lease transfer their BSAI cod history and continue to benefit from the AFA GOA sideboard exemption.

Option 4.3: Non-AFA LLP licenses would be sideboarded in the GOA (with the exception of the CGOA Rockfish Program) based on their GOA catch history during the qualifying years with the exception that those non-AFA CVs with less than a threshold amount of qualifying BSAI cod history, which would be exempt from the sideboard limitation.

Suboption: Any eligible CV LLP license that opts out of the BSAI Pacific cod program at implementation of the program will be exempt from GOA sideboards created by this program (one-time option).

Element 5: Processor and Community Provisions

5.1. No closed class of processors; all processors with an eligible FPP or FFP are eligible to process BSAI Pacific cod under this program (subject to eligibility requirements under the April 2019 Council action to limit catcher processors acting as motherships).

5.2. Limit (sideboard) on directed BSAI Pacific cod that can be delivered by trawl CVs to eligible C/Ps acting as motherships. The sideboard would be based on BSAI Pacific cod processing history by eligible C/Ps during qualifying years under Element 2.

Option 5.2.1: Each eligible CP acting as a mothership may process up to the higher of 1) the processor's history (percentage based on qualifying years selected in Element 2.2); or 2) the

history (percentage based on qualifying years selected under Element 2.2) from LLP licenses that are owned (in excess of 75%) directly or indirectly by the owner of a catcher processor LLP eligible for the offshore sector of the target non-CDQ BSAI Pacific cod trawl CV fishery (as of December 31, 2019).

5.3. Limit number of trawl CVs in the directed BSAI Pacific cod fishery that can deliver to eligible CPs acting as motherships. Trawl CVs can qualify for the offshore sector in one of two ways:

- 1) An LLP license that is owned (in excess of 75%) directly or indirectly by the owner of a catcher processor LLP eligible for the offshore sector of the target non-CDQ BSAI Pacific cod fishery (as of December 31, 2019)
- 2) Council will develop other eligibility thresholds for LLPs on trawl catcher vessels

Only quota arising from the history of an LLP license qualifying for the offshore sector will be permitted to be delivered offshore. Only vessels that are assigned LLP licenses that qualify for the offshore will be permitted to make offshore deliveries. Vessels using LLP licenses that are permitted to deliver offshore may also deliver any or all of the quota derived from the LLP license to shore based or floating processors.

~~5.43.~~ Allocation of harvest shares to processors (~~option: only this option is only~~ applicable to Bering Sea processors and eligible C/Ps if ~~different AI shoreside protections~~ if AI allocations are selected under element 6):

Onshore and offshore processors (~~Option:~~ subject to eligibility requirements under the April 2019 Council action to limit catcher processors acting as motherships) that have history of processing in the federal BSAI Pacific cod trawl CV fishery will be eligible to receive a percentage of total harvesting shares based on each onshore processor's and offshore processor's processing history. To be used, the processor's harvest shares would be transferred to the CV cooperative. ~~Additional restrictions on use of this quota must be developed through further analysis.~~

Option: A cooperative cannot assign a greater proportion of the harvest shares allocated to a processor to a vessel owned by that processor than the vessel brought into the cooperative absent any processor held shares. The cooperative will monitor this provision and include reporting on allocation of processor held shares in their report to the Council.

Percent of harvest shares and PSC to be allocated to eligible processors:

- Option 5.43.1: 5%
- Option 5.43.2: 10%
- Option 5.43.3: 15%
- Option 5.43.4: 25%
- Option 5.43.5: 30%

~~Suboption: Harvest shares only~~

Processing history years to receive harvest shares are the same as harvester years in Element 2.

Element 6: Aleutian Islands Processor Provisions

Options 6.1 and 6.2 are mutually exclusive.

Option 6.1: In any year when the community of Adak and/or Atka files a notice of intent to process, require the cooperative(s) to reserve a set-aside for delivery to a shoreplant, as defined in Amendment 113 regulations, in the Aleutian Island management region. The amount of the set-aside will be 10% to 25% of the BSAI CV trawl directed A season harvest amount. Adak or Atka may withdraw its intent to operate notice during the season if necessary; if so, the set aside requirement is removed.

~~Suboption 6.1.1: The set aside will be reduced by any amount Adak/Atka processors receive as a direct allocation of harvesting shares pursuant to this LAPP Program, regulation or legislation.~~

Option 6.2: In any year when the community of Adak and/or Atka files a notice of intent to process, annual harvest quota shall be issued to the plant operator designated in that notice of intent. In the event, one community issues a notice, the lesser of 5,000 mt or (option 1: 5.5%, option 2: 10%) of the total BSAI trawl catcher vessel Pacific cod quota (prior to allocations based on harvesting or processing histories)(1,961 mt in 2019) shall be issued to the plant. In the event both communities issue a notice the allocation shall be divided equally between two plants. Adak or Atka may withdraw its intent to operate notice during the season if necessary. In that case, the unharvested portion of the allocation will be reissued to the other AI shoreplant if it is operating.

Suboption 6.2.1: If no AI shoreplants are operating, the amount of annual quota equivalent to unharvested portion will be reissued to cooperatives (holders of LLP licenses with BS and/or AI harvest history in proportion to their annual allocations).

~~Suboption 6.2.1: Allocations are transferable between qualified entities.~~

Annual Aleutian Islands community shore plant allocations shall be transferable to any cooperative(s) (and between cooperatives) for harvest by member vessels that are assigned an AI trawl CV LLP license eligible under this program. Quota shall be harvestable exclusively in the AI and ~~any catch must be landed to the shore plant operated by the annual quota recipient (i.e., plant operator)~~ landed in the AI management region.

~~In the event any Aleutians community shore plant allocation is not fully harvested by March 21, that unharvested allocation will expire and an amount of annual quota equivalent to the unharvested portion will be reissued to cooperatives (holders of LLP licenses with BS and AI harvest history in proportion to their annual allocations).~~

Suboption 6.2.2: If the community of Adak and/or Atka files a notice of intent to process, annual harvest quota should be issued to an entity representing the community designated in the notice of intent.

Suboption 6.2.3: AI trawl vessels less than 60' LLP will be eligible under the program to receive and harvest option 1: 50%, option 2: 25%, or option 3: 10% of the Annual Aleutian Islands community shore-plant allocation of which must be harvested by these vessels. These vessels will be eligible to join a cooperative annually in association with the Adak and/or Atka plant regardless of whether they otherwise qualify for the program.

Element 7. Transferability

7.1. Catch histories are attached to LLP licenses and are non-severable from the LLP. Transfer of an LLP license eligible for this program results in the transfer of any program eligibility and catch history/harvest shares associated with the LLP license.

7.2. Allocations based on processing history are issued as separate permits, and the permit is only transferable to another processor. Permits issued to shoreside processors can only be transferred to other shoreside processors that hold an FPP. The history is non-severable from the permit except in the case that transfer of the permit to another eligible processor would result in exceeding the use cap under Option 8.3. In that case, the portion of the history over the cap is allowed to be severed from the permit and transferred to another eligible processor permit. *To be analyzed: Use and transfer restrictions on processor cooperative shares if selected (e.g., options for restrictions on use on company-owned vessels, transferability restrictions).*

7.3. Annual allocations of Pacific cod and PSC (whether derived from harvesting or processing histories) are transferable between cooperatives.

7.4. Post-delivery transfers of cooperative quota are permitted, but must be completed by December 31 (i.e., prior to annual cooperative quota expiring).

Element 8: Ownership and Use Caps

8.1. Harvester-issued cooperative shares. Processor-issued cooperative shares do not count toward this use cap. No person may hold or use more than option: 5%- 10% percent of the Pacific cod cooperative quota ~~or PSC apportionment~~ issued:

Option 8.1.1: using the individual and collective rule or

Option 8.1.2: using 10% ownership threshold or management and control for assigning quota to a holder's/entity's cap.

Suboption 8.1: Persons over the cap at the time of implementation are grandfathered.

8.2. No vessel may harvest more than option: 3% - 5% percent of the annual Pacific cod cooperative quota ~~or PSC apportionment~~ issued in the fishery.

Option 8.2.1: Vessels over the cap at the time of implementation are grandfathered.

8.3. Processor-issued cooperative shares³: No person may hold or use more than option: 15% - 20% percent of the Pacific cod cooperative quota ~~or PSC apportionment~~:

Option 8.3.1: using the individual and collective rule or

Option 8.3.2: using 10% ownership threshold or management and control for assigning quota to a holder's/entity's cap.

Suboption 8.3: Persons over the cap at the time of implementation are grandfathered.

³This cap refers to any harvest shares initially issued to processors on a processor permit under Element 5.3.

8.4. No processing facility may process more than 20%-30% percent of the Pacific cod cooperative quota.

~~Sub~~Option 8.4.1: Processing facilities over the cap are grandfathered.

Element 9. Cooperative Provisions

Annual cooperative applications must be filed on or before November 1 of the preceding year.

Cooperatives shall be formed by qualified LLP licenses with trawl CV Pacific cod history. Each LLP license is eligible to join one cooperative. A vessel assigned a qualified LLP license is a member of that LLP license's cooperative. A vessel may join a single cooperative. Vessels that are not designated on a trawl CV qualified LLP license are not eligible to join a cooperative.

Cooperatives are intended only to conduct and coordinate harvest activities of members and are not Fishermen's Collective Marketing Act (FCMA) cooperatives.

Membership agreements will specify that processor affiliated members cannot participate in any price setting negotiations, except as permitted by antitrust laws.

~~Each cooperative will receive annual cooperative quota allocations of Pacific cod and apportionments of halibut and crab PSC based on members' qualifying catch histories (and processing histories, if applicable) to be harvested in accordance with the harvest cooperative agreement. The sector's halibut and crab PSC will be apportioned to cooperatives in proportion to their members' Pacific cod qualifying catch histories (and processing histories, if applicable).~~

~~Option: Maintain crab PSC limits at the sector level.~~

Element 10. Share duration

All allocations and allowances under this program are revocable privileges that 1) may be revoked, limited or modified at any time; 2) shall not confer any right of compensation to the holder, if they are revoked limited, or modified, and; 3) shall not create or be construed to create any right, title or interest in or to any fish before the fish is harvested by the holder.

The duration of all harvest shares and associated PSC apportionments is 10 years. These permits will be renewed before their expiration, unless revoked, limited, or modified.

Element 11. Monitoring

All vessels in the program will be in the full coverage program (100% observer or electronic monitoring coverage category, if applicable). This element is not intended to modify the observer coverage exception provided for CVs delivering unsorted codends to a mothership. NMFS will develop monitoring and enforcement provisions necessary to track quota, harvest, PSC, and use caps. The Council authorizes NMFS to report weekly vessel-level bycatch information as authorized under MSA Sec 402(b)(2)(A).

Element 12. Reporting and Program Review

Each cooperative shall annually produce a report for the Council describing its performance in the preceding year.

Per the Magnuson Stevens Act, a formal detailed review of the program shall be undertaken 5 years after implementation, with additional reviews, at a minimum, each seven years thereafter.

Element 13. Cost recovery

A fee, not to exceed 3% of the ex-vessel value, will be charged on all program landings to cover the actual costs directly related to the management, data collection, and enforcement of the program.

Element 14. Gear Conversion

Pacific cod allocations/quota associated with trawl CV licenses may be fished annually with pot CV gear, by vessels that are a member of the trawl CV cooperative. A pot endorsement is not necessary, but the LLP license must have the appropriate area endorsement. Harvest would continue to be deducted from the annual trawl cooperative quota account to which the LLP is assigned and will not affect sector allocations. Quota derived from this program is not permanently designated as pot CV quota. If Option 2.5 is selected, gear conversion only applies to the A and B seasons based on the start and end dates for the trawl fishery. PSC use would be deducted from the PSC allocated to the cooperative. NMFS will develop monitoring and enforcement provisions necessary to track quota, harvest, PSC, and use caps.

In addition to the motion changes above, the Council requests the following in the next analysis:

- Provide quantification and analysis of the history of reallocations from trawl CV to other sectors, specifically data on amounts transferred, percentage of sector's final allocation, transfer timing and season origination of the reallocation (A, B, or C). Include secondary reallocations. Include a description of how reallocation decisions are made, including factors that result in unharvested quota, which influence timing and determine reallocation recipients.

Mr. Down made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Cross:

(Under Element 3, Option 3.2, Suboption 1 ~~strike~~ the following language and replace in **bold**)

Option 3.2: Establish separate PSC limits for the BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod sector. Reduce (Suboption 1: halibut and crab PSC Suboption 2: halibut PSC) apportionment to BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod sector by 10% to ~~25~~**35**%.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed 10/1 (Mr. Cross voting in opposition) on December 9, 2020, at 4:45 p.m.

Mr. Tweit made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:

(Under Element 7.1, insert the following Suboption)

7.1. Catch histories are attached to LLP licenses and are non-severable from the LLP. Transfer of an LLP license eligible for this program results in the transfer of any program eligibility and catch history/harvest shares associated with the LLP license.

Suboption: For the LLPs associated with the non-exempt AFA vessels, within ninety (90) days of publishing the Final Rule of this program, the owners of the LLP licenses that are associated with AFA non-exempt catcher vessels that had engaged in fish transfer agreements during the qualifying periods will be allowed to transfer the quota shares between other LLPs associated with AFA non-exempt vessels. Upon redistribution of the initial allocation to the designated LLP license, the BSAI P. Cod harvest quota shares will no longer be severable from its applicable LLP license to which it was reassigned.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection on December 9, 2020, at 4:52 p.m.

Ms. Campbell made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Down:
(Under Element 9 add the following language in **bold**)

Element 9. Cooperative Provisions

Annual cooperative applications must be filed on or before November 1 of the preceding year.

Cooperatives shall be formed by qualified LLP licenses with trawl CV Pacific cod history. Each LLP license is eligible to join one cooperative. A vessel assigned a qualified LLP license is a member of that LLP license's cooperative. A vessel may join a single cooperative. Vessels that are not designated on a trawl CV qualified LLP license are not eligible to join a cooperative **unless participating under Element 14.**

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed 9/2 (Mr. Cross and Mr. Marx voting in opposition) on December 9, 2020, at 5:10 p.m.

Mr. Cross made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Tweet:

- The analysis should consider impacts to TLAS fishery participants if trawl CVs who secure quota in the cod fishery increase their participation in the TLAS fishery and whether sideboards are necessary to protect the other participants of the TLAS fishery.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection on December 9, 2020, at 5:23 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION: Motion passed unanimously on December 9, 2020, at 5:34 p.m.

C3 BSAI Groundfish Specs – ESR Report, Final Specs, PT Report

Council Staff: Steve MacLean

Other Presenters: Dr. Elizabeth Siddon (AFSC – presenting BS ESR), Dr. Ivonne Ortiz (U. Wash – presenting AI ESR), Dr. Steve Barbeaux (AFSC, BSAI Co-Chair), Dr. Diana Stram (NPFMC)

Action Required: 1. Review 2020 Ecosystem Status Reports for the Eastern Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands

2. Approve the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report

3. Recommend Final BSAI groundfish harvest specifications for 2021 and 2022, including:

- Overfishing Level (OFL) and Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for all stocks
- Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for all stocks, taking into account the State waters Pacific cod fishery
- Annual ABC reserve for three flatfish species
- Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits and season apportionments of Pacific halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, *C. opilio* crab, and herring to target fishery categories
- Halibut Discard Mortality Rates (DMRs)

Summary: *At this meeting the Council will make final recommendations on groundfish harvest specifications, PSC limits, and halibut Discard Mortality Rates (DMRs) to manage the 2021 and 2022 BSAI groundfish fisheries. Once published in the Federal Register, these 2021/2022 final harvest specifications will replace harvest specifications implemented in March 2020 for the 2021 fisheries ([85 FR 13553](#)).*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following actions were taken:

Mr. Cross made the following motions which were seconded by Mr. Down:

Motion 1:

The Council moves to adopt the 2021/2022 OFLs, ABC's, and TAC's for Groundfish in the BSAI as shown in table 1 (attachment 1).

Motion 2:

The Council moves to set flatfish flexibility reserves in Table 7a and 7b (attachment 1) to maximize the ABC reserves for 2021 and 2022.

Motion 3:

The Council moves to approve the PSC amounts and distributions shown in Tables 8, 9, 10, and 11 and approve the 2020 BSAI SAFE report (attachment 1).

Motion 4:

The Council moves to approve the Halibut Discard Mortality Rates for 2021/2022 as shown in Table 12 (attachment 1).

VOTE ON MOTIONS: Motions passed unanimously on December 10, 2020, at 5:54 p.m.

C4 GOA Groundfish Specifications – ESR Report, Final Specs, PT Report

Council Staff: Sara Cleaver

Other Presenters: Dr. James Ianelli (NMFS AFSC, GOA Plan Team co-chair)
Dr. Bridget Ferriss (NMFS AFSC REFM – presenting ESR)

Action Required:

1. Review 2020 Ecosystem Status Report for the Gulf of Alaska
2. Approve the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report
3. Recommend Final GOA groundfish harvest specifications for 2021 and 2022, including:
 - Overfishing Level (OFL) and Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for all stocks
 - Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for all stocks, taking into account the State waters Pacific cod and pollock fisheries
 - Pacific halibut Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits and seasonal apportionments.
 - Pacific Halibut Discard Mortality Rates (DMRs)

Summary: *At this meeting, the Council will review the Ecosystem Status Report for the Gulf of Alaska, adopt the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Groundfish SAFE Report, and make final recommendations on groundfish harvest specifications, PSC limits, and halibut DMRs to manage the 2021 and 2022 GOA groundfish fisheries. Upon publication in the Federal Register, the 2021/2022 final harvest specifications will replace harvest specifications implemented in March 2020 for the 2021 fisheries ([85 FR 13802](#)).*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following actions were taken:

Ms. Kimball made the following motions which were seconded by Mr. Down:

Motion 1:

The Council approves the 2020 Gulf of Alaska SAFE report.

Motion 2:

The Council approves the final 2021 and 2022 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC, and the TACs as shown in the attached Table 1 (attachment 2).

Motion 3:

The TACs for both GOA Pacific cod and pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water Guideline Harvest Level fisheries. The GOA Pacific cod adjustments are shown in the attached Table 2 (attachment 2).

Motion 4:

The Council sets the final 2021 and 2022 Pacific halibut PSC limits, allowances, and apportionments in the GOA in Tables 14, 15, and 16 (attachment 2).

Motion 5:

The Council approves the updated halibut discard mortality rates for 2021 and 2022 as shown in attached Table 17 (attachment 2).

VOTE ON MOTIONS: Motions passed unanimously on December 11, 2020, at 12:06 p.m.

C6 BSAI Pacific Cod Pot Catcher Processor

Council Staff: Sam Cunningham

Action Required:

1. Review analysis
2. Consider designating a preliminary preferred alternative

***Summary:** The action alternative under consideration would remove “BSAI Pacific cod pot CP” endorsements from LLP licenses that were not credited with at least 1,000 metric tons of cod landings during a defined time period. Currently, eight LLP licenses hold the endorsement that allows a CP to fish for Pacific cod in the BS or AI with pot gear. If the Council were to select Option 1 under the action alternative, five LLP licenses would retain the endorsement. Four LLP licenses would retain the endorsement under Option 2.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following action was taken:

Mr. Down made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:

The Council recommends the RIR be released for final review and scheduled for final action with the following additions (**in Bold**) and deletions (~~in strike-out~~).

Purpose and Need

Amendment 85 **to the Groundfish FMP for the BSAI** assigned a portion of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Pacific cod TAC to the pot CP sector with the primary goals of aligning Pacific cod allocations with actual dependency and use and providing stability to all sectors. ~~Three~~ Major changes have occurred since the implementation of Amendment 85, which has resulted in less stability for the dependent vessels on which the Amendment 85 allocation was based:

1. Low crab **and Pacific cod** TACs and consolidation within the crab **and hook-and-line CP** fisheries has provided increased flexibility for pot CPs;
2. The TAC for Pacific cod in the BSAI has decreased over the last several years; and
3. The availability of rollovers to the pot CP sector has declined.

The Council is considering action to eliminate latent capacity in the fishery in order to increase stability for cod dependent pot CPs, to maintain consistently low rates of halibut and crab bycatch, and to ensure that condensed fishing seasons do not result in safety-at-sea concerns.

Alternatives

Alternative 1: No action

Alternative 2: ~~Remove the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod endorsements on CP pot LLP licenses unless the license is credited with a minimum directed landing of 1,000 metric tons in the management area based on the following threshold criteria:~~ **Remove the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod pot gear CP endorsements from LLP licenses unless the vessel(s) named on the LLP license at the time of landing is/are cumulatively credited with a minimum of 1,000 metric tons of retained commercial Pacific cod caught while operating as a CP with pot gear in the BSAI based on the following threshold criteria:**

Option 1: 2005 – 2019

Option 2: 2012 – 2019

Suboptions:

A: In any of three years

B: In any of four years

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection on December 11, 2020, at 1:58 p.m.

E1 Staff Tasking

Council Staff: David Witherell, Steve MacLean

Action Required:

1. Review Committees and Plan Teams
2. Receive Ecosystem Committee Report
3. Provide direction on tasking priorities and scheduling

Summary: *The Council will discuss the relative priority and scheduling of previously tasked projects, and provide guidance to the Chair and Executive Director about which items to prioritize for February and subsequent meetings. At the end of the meeting the Council Chair will also announce appointments (attachment 3) for 2021 Advisory Panel and SSC members, and appointments to the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) for 2021-2022.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following actions were taken:

Mr. Jensen made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Down:

Initiate a discussion paper to identify actions for Council consideration that limit trawl sablefish mortality to area sector allocations (TACs and ABCs).

The Council is interested in identifying management tools that prevent or minimize sablefish area- and sector-specific TAC and ABC overages.

The discussion paper should provide relevant data and consider management measures to address sector allocation overages such as:

1. Time/Area closures
2. Reduced allocations to target species with high sablefish bycatch
3. Inter-cooperative agreements and incentive programs
4. Lower maximum retainable allowances (MRA) or extended MRA status (i.e., no trawl sablefish target)
5. Other actions taken by other Councils to manage to sector allocations

Discussion should include management implications of restraining catch to regional, area and sector allocations, any benefits to the sablefish stock of reducing juvenile sablefish fishing mortality, and projected impacts to trawl and fixed gear sectors.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection on December 11, 2020, at 3:36 p.m.

Ms. Baker made the following motion which was seconded by Ms. Kimball:

The Council recommends prioritization of the following agenda items for the February 2021 Council meeting:

<u>Must do issues:</u>	<u>Time estimate (hours)</u>
B reports, SSC report, and AP report	4
BSAI crab – Norton Sound red king crab specifications/CPT report	2
Staff Tasking	4
<u>Additional prioritized issues:</u>	
Small sablefish release: Initial review	5
BSAI Crab PSC limit reductions: Prelim/Initial Review	4
BSAI Pacific cod pot CP: Final Action	3
Standardized bycatch reporting methodology	3
Research Priorities	2
EFP applications	2
<u>Committee Reports</u>	
BS Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team & Taskforces	2
Ecosystem Committee report	1
Community Engagement: Final recommendations	2
SSC workshop: Groundfish specification risk tables	2
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The Council also recommends scheduling the BSAI Pacific cod small boat access paper for April if possible.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection on December 11, 2020, at 3:58 p.m.

The Council adjourned on Friday December 11, 2020 at 4:02 P.M.

Council Motion
 Agenda Item C3 – BSAI Groundfish Specifications
 December 10, 2020

Motion 1:

The Council moves to adopt the 2021/2022 OFL's, ABC's, and TAC's for Groundfish in the BSAI as shown in table 1.

Species	Area	2020				Catch as of 11/7/2020	Final 2021			Final 2022		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL		ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC	
Pollock	EBS	4,085,000	2,043,000	1,425,000	1,364,949	2,594,000	1,626,000	1,375,000	2,366,000	1,484,000	1,400,000	
	AI	66,973	55,120	19,000	2,971	61,856	51,241	19,000	61,308	50,789	19,000	
	Bogoslof	183,080	137,310	75	8	113,479	85,109	250	113,479	85,109	100	
Pacific cod	BS	191,386	155,873	141,799	136,185	147,949	123,805	111,380	128,340	106,852	95,053	
	AI	27,400	20,600	13,796	5,321	27,400	20,600	13,796	27,400	20,600	13,796	
Sablefish	AK	50,481				60,426	29,588		70,710	36,955		
	BSAI		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8,113	n/a	n/a	9,924	
	BS	n/a	2,174	1,861	5,184	n/a	3,396	3,396	n/a	4,863	4,863	
	AI	n/a	2,952	2,039	1,123	n/a	4,717	4,717	n/a	6,860	5,061	
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	287,307	260,918	150,700	128,320	341,571	313,477	200,000	374,982	344,140	200,000	
Greenland turbot	BSAI	11,319	9,625	5,300	2,312	8,568	7,326	6,025	7,181	6,139	6,025	
	BS	n/a	8,403	5,125	1,639		6,176	5,125		5,175	5,125	
	AI	n/a	1,222	175	673		1,150	900		964	900	
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	84,057	71,618	10,000	10,265	90,873	77,349	15,000	94,368	80,323	15,000	
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	11,495	9,708	6,800	7,279	10,630	8,982	8,982	10,843	9,163	8,982	
Northern rock sole	BSAI	157,300	153,300	47,100	25,762	145,180	140,306	54,500	213,783	206,605	54,500	
Flathead sole	BSAI	82,810	68,134	19,500	9,001	75,863	62,567	25,000	77,763	64,119	25,000	
Alaska plaice	BSAI	37,600	31,600	17,000	19,954	37,924	31,657	24,500	36,928	30,815	22,500	
Other flatfish	BSAI	21,824	16,368	4,000	4,113	22,919	17,189	6,500	22,919	17,189	6,500	
Pacific ocean perch	BSAI	58,956	48,846	42,875	36,303	44,376	37,173	35,899	42,384	35,503	34,758	
	BS	n/a	14,168	14,168	8,895		10,782	10,782		10,298	10,298	
	EAI	n/a	11,063	10,613	9,557		8,419	8,419		8,041	8,041	
	CAI	n/a	8,144	8,094	7,966		6,198	6,198		5,919	5,919	
	WAI	n/a	15,471	10,000	9,885		11,774	10,500		11,245	10,500	
Northern rockfish	BSAI	19,751	16,243	10,000	8,362	18,917	15,557	13,000	18,221	14,984	13,000	
Blackspotted/Roughye Rockfish	BSAI	861	708	349	458	576	482	482	595	500	326	
	EBS/EAI	n/a	444	85	125	n/a	313	313	n/a	324	150	
	CAI/WAI	n/a	264	264	333	n/a	169	169	n/a	176	176	
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	722	541	375	214	722	541	500	722	541	225	
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,793	1,344	1,088	996	1,751	1,313	916	1,751	1,313	694	
	BS	n/a	956	700	293		919	522		919	300	
	AI	n/a	388	388	703		394	394		394	394	
Atka mackerel	BSAI	81,200	70,100	59,305	57,506	85,580	73,590	62,257	79,660	68,220	57,717	
	EAI/BS	n/a	24,535	24,535	22,926		25,760	25,760		23,880	23,880	
	CAI	n/a	14,721	14,721	14,588		15,450	15,450		14,330	14,330	
	WAI	n/a	30,844	20,049	19,992		32,380	21,047		30,010	19,507	
Skates	BSAI	49,792	41,543	16,313	17,221	49,297	41,257	18,000	47,372	39,598	16,000	
Sculpins	BSAI	67,817	50,863	5,300	4,805	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A		
Sharks	BSAI	689	517	150	179	689	517	200	689	517	200	
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	275	682	4,769	3,576	700	4,769	3,576	700	
Total	BSAI	5,584,382	3,272,581	2,000,000	1,849,473	3,945,315	2,747,727	2,008,113	3,802,167	2,682,318	2,009,924	

Sources: 2020 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2019; 2020 catches through November 7, 2020 from AKR Catch Accounting.

Motion 2:

The Council moves to set flatfish flexibility reserves in Table 7a and 7b to maximize the ABC reserves for 2021 and 2022.

TABLE 7A–FINAL 2021 ABC SURPLUS, ABC RESERVES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA (CDQ) ABC RESERVES, AND AMENDMENT 80 ABC RESERVES IN THE BSAI FOR FLATHEAD SOLE, ROCK SOLE, AND YELLOWFIN SOLE

[Amounts are in metric tons]			
Sector	Flathead sole	Rock sole	Yellowfin sole
ABC	62,567	140,306	313,477
TAC	25,000	54,500	200,000
ABC surplus	37,567	85,806	113,477
ABC reserve	37,567	85,806	113,477
CDQ ABC reserve	4,020	9,181	12,142
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	33,547	76,625	101,335

TABLE 7B–FINAL 2022 ABC SURPLUS, ABC RESERVES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA (CDQ) ABC RESERVES, AND AMENDMENT 80 ABC RESERVES IN THE BSAI FOR FLATHEAD SOLE, ROCK SOLE, AND YELLOWFIN SOLE

[Amounts are in metric tons]			
Sector	Flathead sole	Rock sole	Yellowfin sole
ABC	64,119	206,605	344,140
TAC	25,000	54,500	200,000
ABC surplus	39,119	152,105	144,140
ABC reserve	39,119	152,105	144,140
CDQ ABC reserve	4,186	16,275	15,423
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	34,933	135,830	128,717

Motion 3:

The Council moves to approve the PSC amounts and distributions shown in Tables 8, 9, 10, and 11 and approve the 2020 BSAI SAFE report.

TABLE 8–FINAL 2021 AND 2022 APPORTIONMENT OF PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES TO NON-TRAWL GEAR, THE CDQ PROGRAM, AMENDMENT 80, AND THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTORS

PSC species and area ¹	Total PSC	Non-trawl PSC	CDQ PSQ reserve ²	Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ	Amendment 80 sector ³	BSAI trawl limited access sector	BSAI PSC limits not allocated ²
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,515	710	315	n/a	1,745	745	n/a
Herring (mt) BSAI	2,723	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	97,000	n/a	10,379	86,621	43,293	26,489	16,839
<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	7,191,840	n/a	769,527	6,422,313	3,156,567	2,064,131	1,201,615
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 1	980,000	n/a	104,860	875,140	368,521	411,228	95,390
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 2	2,970,000	n/a	317,790	2,652,210	627,778	1,241,500	782,932

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of zones.

² The PSQ reserve for crab species is 10.7 percent of each crab PSC limit.

³ The Amendment 80 program reduced apportionment of the trawl PSC limits for crab below the total PSC limit. These reductions are not apportioned to other gear types or sectors.

TABLE 9–FINAL 2021 AND 2022 HERRING AND RED KING CRAB SAVINGS SUBAREA PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES FOR ALL TRAWL SECTORS

Fishery categories	Herring (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1
Yellowfin sole	118	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish ¹	58	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	8	n/a
Rockfish	8	n/a
Pacific cod	14	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	2,472	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2,3}	45	n/a
Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴	n/a	24,250
Total trawl PSC	2,723	97,000

¹“Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), Alaska plaice, arrowtooth

²Pollock other than midwater trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and “other species” fishery category.

³“Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

⁴In December 2020, the Council recommended and NMFS approves that the red king crab bycatch limit for non-pelagic trawl fisheries

Note: Species apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

TABLE 10—FINAL 2021 AND 2022 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

BSAI trawl limited access sector fisheries	Prohibited species and area ¹				
	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	<i>C. bairdi</i> (animals)	
				Zone 1	Zone 2
Yellowfin sole	265	23,338	1,945,831	346,228	1,185,500
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ²	-	-	-	-	-
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	-	-	-
Rockfish April 15-December 31	5	-	3,214	-	1,000
Pacific cod	300	2,954	82,939	60,000	50,000
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ³	175	197	32,147	5,000	5,000
Total BSAI trawl limited access sector PSC	745	26,489	2,064,131	411,228	1,241,500

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

² “Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), Alaska plaice, arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

³ “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

Note: Species apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

TABLE 11—FINAL 2021 AND 2022 HALIBUT PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR NON-TRAWL FISHERIES

Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI				
Non-trawl fisheries	Seasons	Catcher/processor	Catcher vessel	All Non-Trawl
Pacific cod	Annual Pacific cod	648	13	661
	January 1-June 10	388	9	n/a
	June 10-August 15	162	2	n/a
	August 15-December 31	98	2	n/a
Non-Pacific cod non-trawl-Total	May 1-December 31	n/a	n/a	49
Groundfish pot and jig	n/a	n/a	n/a	Exempt
Sablefish hook-and-line	n/a	n/a	n/a	Exempt
Total for all non-trawl PSC	n/a	n/a	n/a	710

Motion 4:

The Council moves to approve the Halibut Discard Mortality Rates for 2021/2022 as shown in Table 12.

Note: For information purposes only, the calculations for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod between the State Guideline Harvest Levels and the Federal TACs are shown in Table 13 .

Gear	Sector	Halibut discard mortality rate (percent)
Pelagic trawl	All	100
Non-pelagic trawl	Mothership and catcher/processor	84
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	59
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	9
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	9
Pot	All	32

		Aleutian Islands	Bering Sea
2021			
	ABC	20,600	123,805
	GHL	6,804	12,426
	MaxTAC	13,796	111,380
2022			
	ABC	20,600	106,852
	GHL	6,804	11,799
	MaxTAC	13,796	95,053

GHL in 2021 in the Bering Sea includes 10% of the ABC for the pot gear fishery and an additional 45 tons for the jig gear fishery. GHL in the Aleutian Islands is 39% of the ABC or a maximum of 6,804 t (15 million pounds).

GHL in 2022 in the Bering Sea includes 11% of the ABC for the pot gear fishery and an additional 45 tons for the jig gear fishery. GHL in the Aleutian Islands is 39% of the ABC or a maximum of 6,804 t (15 million pounds).

C-4 Council motion
2021 and 2022 Gulf of Alaska groundfish harvest specifications
December 11, 2020

The Council approves the 2020 Gulf of Alaska SAFE report.

The Council approves the final 2021 and 2022 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC, and the TACs as shown in the attached Table 1.

The TACs for both GOA Pacific cod and pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water Guideline Harvest Level fisheries. The GOA Pacific cod adjustments are shown in the attached Table 2.

The Council sets the final 2021 and 2022 Pacific halibut PSC limits, allowances, and apportionments in the GOA in Tables 14, 15, and 16 (attached).

The Council approves the updated halibut discard mortality rates for 2021 and 2022 as shown in attached Table 17.

Table 1. SSC recommended OFL and ABC and Council recommended TAC for Groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska (metric tons) for 2021 and 2022.

Species	Area	2020			Catch 11/12/2020	2021			2022		
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	2,712	-	-	n/a	2,643	-	n/a	2,298	-
	W (610)	n/a	19,175	19,175	19,005	n/a	18,477	18,477	n/a	16,067	16,067
	C (620)	n/a	54,456	54,456	55,395	n/a	54,870	54,870	n/a	47,714	47,714
	C (630)	n/a	26,597	26,597	25,538	n/a	24,320	24,320	n/a	21,149	21,149
	WYAK	n/a	5,554	5,554	5,180	n/a	5,412	5,412	n/a	4,706	4,706
	Subtotal	140,674	108,494	105,782	105,118	123,455	105,722	103,079	106,767	91,934	89,636
	EYAK/SEO	13,531	10,148	10,148	-	13,531	10,148	10,148	13,531	10,148	10,148
	Total	154,205	118,642	115,930	105,118	136,986	115,870	113,227	120,298	102,082	99,784
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	4,942	2,076	235	n/a	7,986	5,590	n/a	12,892	9,024
	C	n/a	8,458	3,806	3,474	n/a	13,656	10,242	n/a	22,045	16,534
	E	n/a	1,221	549	271	n/a	1,985	1,489	n/a	3,204	2,403
	Total	17,794	14,621	6,431	3,980	28,977	23,627	17,321	46,587	38,141	27,961
Sablefish	W	n/a	2,278	1,942	1,424	n/a	3,224	2,428	n/a	4,165	4,165
	C	n/a	7,560	6,445	5,846	n/a	9,527	8,056	n/a	11,111	11,111
	WYAK	n/a	2,521	2,343	1,789	n/a	3,451	2,929	n/a	4,009	4,009
	SEO	n/a	4,524	3,663	3,036	n/a	5,273	4,579	n/a	5,946	5,946
	GOA Total	n/a	16,883	14,393	12,095	n/a	21,475	17,991	n/a	25,231	25,231
	AK Total	50,481	22,009	n/a	n/a	60,426	29,588	n/a	70,710	36,955	n/a
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	23,849	13,250	22	n/a	24,151	13,250	n/a	24,460	13,250
	C	n/a	27,732	27,732	4,210	n/a	28,082	28,082	n/a	28,442	28,442
	WYAK	n/a	2,773	2,773	1	n/a	2,808	2,808	n/a	2,844	2,844
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,109	1,109	1	n/a	1,123	1,123	n/a	1,137	1,137
	Total	68,010	55,463	44,864	4,234	68,841	56,164	45,263	69,691	56,883	45,673
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	226	226	1	n/a	225	225	n/a	225	225
	C	n/a	1,948	1,948	99	n/a	1,914	1,914	n/a	1,914	1,914
	WYAK	n/a	2,105	2,105	3	n/a	2,068	2,068	n/a	2,068	2,068
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,751	1,751	4	n/a	1,719	1,719	n/a	1,719	1,719
	Total	7,163	6,030	6,030	107	7,040	5,926	5,926	7,040	5,926	5,926
Rex Sole	W	n/a	2,901	2,901	36	n/a	3,013	3,013	n/a	3,013	3,013
	C	n/a	8,579	8,579	1,202	n/a	8,912	8,912	n/a	8,912	8,912
	WYAK	n/a	1,174	1,174	1	n/a	1,206	1,206	n/a	1,206	1,206
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,224	2,224	-	n/a	2,285	2,285	n/a	2,285	2,285
	Total	18,127	14,878	14,878	1,239	18,779	15,416	15,416	18,779	15,416	15,416
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	31,455	14,500	288	n/a	32,377	14,500	n/a	31,479	14,500
	C	n/a	68,669	68,669	20,811	n/a	69,072	69,072	n/a	67,154	67,154
	WYAK	n/a	10,242	6,900	46	n/a	8,380	6,900	n/a	8,147	6,900
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	17,694	6,900	32	n/a	17,141	6,900	n/a	16,665	6,900
	Total	153,017	128,060	96,969	21,177	151,723	126,970	97,372	147,515	123,445	95,454
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	13,783	8,650	100	n/a	14,209	8,650	n/a	14,380	8,650
	C	n/a	20,201	15,400	1,817	n/a	20,826	15,400	n/a	21,076	15,400
	WYAK	n/a	2,354	2,354	-	n/a	2,427	2,427	n/a	2,456	2,456
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,858	1,858	-	n/a	1,915	1,915	n/a	1,939	1,939
	Total	46,572	38,196	28,262	1,917	47,982	39,377	28,392	48,534	39,851	28,445
Pacific ocean perch	W	n/a	1,437	1,437	1,335	n/a	1,643	1,643	n/a	1,572	1,572
	C	n/a	23,678	23,678	21,971	n/a	27,429	27,429	n/a	26,234	26,234
	WYAK	n/a	1,470	1,470	1,466	n/a	1,705	1,705	n/a	1,631	1,631
	W/C/WYAK	31,567	26,585	26,585	24,772	36,563	30,777	30,777	34,974	29,437	29,437
	SEO	5,525	4,653	4,653	-	6,414	5,400	5,400	6,136	5,165	5,165
	Total	37,092	31,238	31,238	24,772	42,977	36,177	36,177	41,110	34,602	34,602
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	1,133	1,133	769	n/a	2,023	2,023	n/a	1,926	1,926
	C	n/a	3,178	3,178	1,616	n/a	3,334	3,334	n/a	3,173	3,173
	E	n/a	1	-	-	n/a	1	-	n/a	1	-
	Total	5,143	4,312	4,311	2,385	6,396	5,358	5,357	6,088	5,100	5,099
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	52	52	6	n/a	52	52	n/a	52	52
	C	n/a	284	284	186	n/a	284	284	n/a	284	284
	E	n/a	372	372	301	n/a	372	372	n/a	372	372
	Total	944	708	708	493	944	708	708	944	708	708
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	776	776	231	n/a	270	270	n/a	265	265
	C	n/a	2,746	2,746	1,879	n/a	4,548	4,548	n/a	4,469	4,469
	WYAK	n/a	115	115	83	n/a	468	468	n/a	460	460
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	39	39	2	n/a	103	103	n/a	101	101
	Total	4,492	3,676	3,676	2,195	8,655	5,389	5,389	8,423	5,295	5,295
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	168	168	4	n/a	168	168	n/a	170	170
	C	n/a	455	455	183	n/a	456	456	n/a	459	459
	E	n/a	586	586	190	n/a	588	588	n/a	592	592
	Total	1,452	1,209	1,209	377	1,456	1,212	1,212	1,467	1,221	1,221
Demersal shelf rockfish	Total	375	238	238	104	405	257	257	405	257	257
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	326	326	50	n/a	352	352	n/a	352	352
	C	n/a	911	911	208	n/a	910	910	n/a	910	910
	E	n/a	779	779	201	n/a	691	691	n/a	691	691
	Total	2,688	2,016	2,016	459	2,604	1,953	1,953	2,604	1,953	1,953
Other Rockfish	W/C	n/a	940	940	647	n/a	940	940	n/a	940	940
	WYAK	n/a	369	369	101	n/a	369	369	n/a	369	369
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,744	2,744	95	n/a	2,744	300	n/a	2,744	300
	Total	5,320	4,053	4,053	843	5,320	4,053	1,609	5,320	4,053	1,609
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	3,000	608	6,200	4,700	3,000	6,200	4,700	3,000
Big Skate	W	n/a	758	758	32	n/a	758	758	n/a	758	758
	C	n/a	1,560	1,560	815	n/a	1,560	1,560	n/a	1,560	1,560
	E	n/a	890	890	188	n/a	890	890	n/a	890	890
	Total	4,278	3,208	3,208	1,035	4,278	3,208	3,208	4,278	3,208	3,208
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	158	158	21	n/a	158	158	n/a	158	158
	C	n/a	1,875	1,875	360	n/a	1,875	1,875	n/a	1,875	1,875
	E	n/a	554	554	260	n/a	554	554	n/a	554	554
	Total	3,449	2,587	2,587	636	3,449	2,587	2,587	3,449	2,587	2,587
Other Skates	GOA-wide	1,166	875	875	494	1,166	875	875	1,166	875	875
Sculpins	GOA-wide	6,932	5,199	5,199	570	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sharks	GOA-wide	10,913	8,184	8,184	1,581	5,006	3,755	3,755	5,006	3,755	3,755
Octopuses	GOA-wide	1,307	980	980	78	1,307	980	980	1,307	980	980
TOTAL		607,120	465,956	399,239	186,497	610,917	476,037	407,975	616,921	476,269	409,039

Sources: 2020 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2019, 2020 catches through November 12, 2020 from AKR Catch Accounting. Note: State waters GHL for Pacific cod fisheries are not included within the Federal TAC, but they are accounted for, as to not exceed the ABC when added together.

Table 2. GOA TAC and GHL Considerations for State Waters Pacific Cod**Final 2021 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod ABCs, TACs and State Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) in metric tons.**

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	7,986	13,656	1,985	23,627
State GHL	2,396	3,414	496	6,306
(%)	30%	25%	25%	25-30
Federal TAC	5,590	10,242	1,489	17,321

Note: The Federal TAC is only for Federal fisheries. It does not include the State GHL within it.

Final 2022 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod ABCs, TACs and State Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) in metric tons.

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	12,892	22,045	3,204	38,141
State GHL	3,868	5,511	801	10,180
(%)	30%	25%	25%	25-30
Federal TAC	9,024	16,534	2,403	27,961

Note: The Federal TAC is only for Federal fisheries. It does not include the State GHL within it.

Table 14--Final 2021 and 2022 Pacific Halibut PSC Limits, Allowances, and Apportionments (Values are in metric tons)

Trawl gear			Hook-and-line gear ¹				
			Other than DSR			DSR	
Season	Percent	Amount	Season	Percent	Amount	Season	Amount
January 20 - April 1	30.5	519	January 1 - June 10	86	221	January 1 - December 31	9
April 1 - July 1	20	341	June 10 - September 1	2	5		
July 1 - August 1	27	462	September 1 - December 31	12	31		
August 1 - October 1	7.5	128					
October 1 - December 31	15	256					
Total		1,706			257		9

¹ The Pacific halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limit for hook-and-line gear is allocated to the demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) fishery and fisheries other than DSR. The Council recommended and NMFS proposes that the hook-and-line sablefish fishery, and the pot and jig gear groundfish fisheries, be exempt from halibut PSC limits.

Table 15--Final 2021 and 2022 Seasonal Apportionments of the Pacific Halibut PSC Limit Apportioned Between the Trawl Gear Shallow-Water and Deep-Water Species Fisheries (Values are in metric tons)

Season	Shallow-water	Deep-water ¹	Total
January 20 - April 1	384	135	519
April 1 - July 1	85	256	341
July 1 - August 1	121	341	462
August 1 - October 1	53	75	128
Subtotal, January 20 - October 1	643	807	1,450
October 1 - December 31 ²			256
Total			1,706

¹ Vessels participating in cooperatives in the Rockfish Program will receive 191 mt of the third season (July 1 through August 1) deep-water species fishery halibut PSC apportionment.

² There is no apportionment between trawl shallow-water and deep-water species fisheries during the fifth season (October 1 through December 31).

Table 16--Final 2021 and 2022 Apportionments of the “Other hook-and-line fisheries” Halibut PSC Allowance Between the Hook-and-Line Gear Catcher Vessel and Catcher/Processor Sectors (Values are in metric tons)

“Other than DSR” allowance	Hook-and-line sector	Sector annual amount	Season	Seasonal percentage	Sector seasonal amount
257	Catcher Vessel	144	January 1 - June 10	86	124
			June 10 - September 1	2	3
			September 1 - December 31	12	17
	Catcher/Processor	113	January 1 - June 10	86	97
			June 10 - September 1	2	2
			September 1 - December 31	12	14

Table 17--Final 2021 and 2022 Discard Mortality Rates for Vessels Fishing in the Gulf of Alaska (Values are percent of halibut assumed to be dead)

Gear	Sector	Groundfish fishery	Halibut discard mortality rate (percent)
Pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	All	100
	Catcher/processor	All	100
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	Rockfish Program	60
	Catcher vessel	All others	69
	Mothership and catcher/processor	All	84
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	All	15
	Catcher vessel	All	13
Pot	Catcher vessel and catcher/processor	All	10

E Staff Tasking - Appointments

12/11/2020

Advisory Panel

The following members of the AP have been reappointed to a 3-year term: James Johnson, Mellisa Johnson, Matt Upton, and Anne Vanderhoeven.

Also, John Gruver has been reappointed for a 1-year term, and Brian Ritchie has been appointed to complete the term of Daniel Donich's seat, which expires at the end of 2021.

Finally, Megan O'Neill has also been newly appointed to the AP for 3-year terms.

AP members for 2021 will be:

Ruth Christiansen	Julie Kavanaugh	Brian Ritchie
Angel Drobnica	Craig Lowenberg	John Scoblic
John Gruver	Heather Mann	Matt Upton
Gretar Gudmondsson	Jamie O'Connor	Anne Vanderhoeven
James Johnson	Patrick O'Donnell	Erik Velsko
Mellisa Johnson	Megan O'Neil	Sinclair Wilt
Jeff Kauffman	Joel Peterson	

SSC

All current members of the SSC have been reappointed, with the exception of Dr. Gordon Kruse and Dr. Kate Reedy, who are stepping down. Dr. Chris Siddon and Dr. Patrick Sullivan have been newly appointed.

SSC members for 2021 will be:

Chris Anderson	Dana Hanselman	Matt Reimer
Amy Bishop	Brad Harris	Chris Siddon
Curry Cunningham	Anne Hollowed	Ian Stewart
Mike Downs	George Hunt	Patrick Sullivan
Sherri Dressel	Franz Mueter	Tien-Shui (Theresa) Tsou
Jason Gasper	Andrew Munro	Alison Whitman

Plan Teams

Scallop Plan Team: Dr. Tyler Jackson, ADFG, appointed as member

Committees

Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee: the following members have been appointed to 2-year terms:

Mark Casto	Gary Painter	Jamie Goen, non-voting secretary
Sean Dwyer	Edward Poulsen	
Lance Farr	Brett Reasor	
Dean Fasnacht	Elizabeth Reed	
Jake Jacobsen	Mike Simpson	
Steve Minor		



TIME LOG
NPFMC December Council Meeting – 252nd Plenary Session
Meeting held via web conference Adobe Connect
December 4, 7 - 11, 2020

Friday, December 4, 2020

A & B REPORTS

12/4/2020 8:01 AM	Call to Order
12/4/2020 8:06 AM	Approval of Agenda
12/4/2020 8:06 AM	B Reports – David Witherell Introduction
12/4/2020 8:47 AM	B2 NMFS BSAI Inseason Management Report – NMFS, Mary Furuness and Steve Whitney
12/4/2020 9:35 AM	B2 NMFS GOA Inseason Management Report – NMFS, Mary Furuness and Steve Whitney
12/4/2020 10:30 AM	B3 NOAA GC Report – Lauren Smoker
12/4/2020 11:00 AM	B4 NMFS Enforcement Report – Highlights
12/4/2020 11:01 AM	B5 AFSC Survey Planning 2021 – Dr. Robert Foy
12/4/2020 12:00 PM	Lunch Break
12/4/2020 1:00 PM	B6 ADFG Report – Kendall Henry
12/4/2020 1:14 PM	B Public Testimony
12/4/2020 1:14 PM	Stephanie Madsen
12/4/2020 1:20 PM	Natasha Hayden
12/4/2020 1:33 PM	Dan Falvey
12/4/2020 1:40 PM	Chad See
12/4/2020 1:48 PM	Linda Behnken
12/4/2020 1:57 PM	Jon Warrenchuk

C1 Charter Halibut - 2021 Annual Management Measures

12/4/2020 2:10 PM	C1 Presentation – NPFMC staff, Jim Armstrong and ADFG, Sarah Webster
12/4/2020 3:10 PM	Break
12/4/2020 3:20 PM	C1 AP Report – Ruth Christiansen
12/4/2020 3:30 PM	C1 Public Testimony
12/4/2020 3:30 PM	Jim Martin
12/4/2020 3:37 PM	Brian Ritchie
12/4/2020 3:42 PM	Forest Braden
12/4/2020 3:51 PM	Tom Gemmell
12/4/2020 3:53 PM	C1 Mr. Mezirow Motion
12/4/2020 4:16 PM	Recess

Monday, December 7, 2020

12/7/2020 8:00 AM Call to Order
12/7/2020 8:01 AM Balance of AP Report (except for C5) – Ruth Christiansen

C2 Cook Inlet Salmon FMP

12/7/2020 8:36 AM C2 Presentation – NMFS AKRO, Doug Duncan
12/7/2020 10:15 AM Break
12/7/2020 10:32 AM **C2 Public Testimony**
12/7/2020 10:34 AM Matt Pancratz
12/7/2020 10:38 AM Gary Hollier
12/7/2020 10:40 AM John McCombs
12/7/2020 10:43 AM McKenzie Mahan
12/7/2020 10:44 AM Terrence Hanofee
12/7/2020 10:47 AM Ted Crookston
12/7/2020 11:02 AM Norman Regis
12/7/2020 11:03 AM Dan Anderson
12/7/2020 11:09 AM Molly and Justin Brown
12/7/2020 11:11 AM Annette Bellamy
12/7/2020 11:14 AM Paul Ostrander
12/7/2020 11:21 AM Brent Johnson
12/7/2020 11:25 AM Doug Letch
12/7/2020 11:27 AM Ken Coleman
12/7/2020 11:31 AM Senator Peter Micciche
12/7/2020 11:45 PM Lunch Break
12/7/2020 12:48 PM Erik Huebsch
12/7/2020 1:00 PM Dave Martin
12/7/2020 1:40 PM Taylor Evenson
12/7/2020 1:43 PM Ben Mohr
12/7/2020 1:49 PM Georgie Heaverley
12/7/2020 1:52 PM Hannah Heimbuch
12/7/2020 1:57 PM Brian Ritchie
12/7/2020 2:00 PM Roland Maw
12/7/2020 2:10 PM Steve Vanek
12/7/2020 2:14 PM Hannah Harrison
12/7/2020 2:25 PM Matt Oxford
12/7/2020 2:31 PM Karen and Richard McGahan
12/7/2020 2:36 PM Ben Carpenter
12/7/2020 2:42 PM Charles Lindsay
12/7/2020 2:45 PM Matt Gruening
12/7/2020 2:47 PM Yakov Reutov
12/7/2020 2:50 PM Tim Dillon
12/7/2020 3:00 PM Break
12/7/2020 3:19 PM **C2 Ms. Baker Motion**
12/7/2020 4:35 PM Recess

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

C5 BSAI Pacific Cod Trawl Catcher Vessel LAPP

12/8/2020 8:02 AM	Call to Order
12/8/2020 8:02 AM	C5 Presentation – NPFMC staff, Jon McCracken, Darrell Brannan (Brannan & Associates), Dr. Mike Downs (Wislow Research Associates), and NMFS AKRO, Stephanie Warpinski
12/8/2020 11:35 AM	Lunch Break
12/8/2020 12:35 PM	C5 Presentation Continued
12/8/2020 2:20 PM	Break
12/8/2020 3:29 PM	C5 Presentation Continued
12/8/2020 3:29 PM	C5 AP Report – Ruth Christiansen and Matt Upton
12/8/2020 4:32 PM	Recess

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

12/9/2020 8:00 AM	Call to Order
12/9/2020 8:02 AM	C5 Public Testimony
12/9/2020 8:02 AM	Bob Breskovich
12/9/2020 8:12 AM	John Lani
12/9/2020 8:17 AM	Brent Paine
12/9/2020 8:40 AM	Phil Powell
12/9/2020 8:49 AM	Frank Kelty
12/9/2020 8:59 AM	Alex Jackson
12/9/2020 9:06 AM	Abby Duffy
12/9/2020 9:10 AM	Todd Loomis
12/9/2020 9:17 AM	Dustin Dickerson and Rachel Donkersloot
12/9/2020 9:35 AM	Trent Hartill
12/9/2020 9:50 AM	Break
12/9/2020 10:00 AM	Craig Lowenberg
12/9/2020 10:02 AM	Mike Alfieri
12/9/2020 10:10 AM	Chris Barrows
12/9/2020 10:14 AM	Steve Minor
12/9/2020 10:24 AM	Jamie Goen
12/9/2020 10:32 AM	Hannah Heimbuch
12/9/2020 10:38 AM	Caitlin Yeager
12/9/2020 10:41 AM	Tim Cusick
12/9/2020 10:44 AM	Mark Cooper
12/9/2020 10:50 AM	Steve Beard
12/9/2020 10:55 AM	Don Ashley
12/9/2020 11:07 AM	Dave Fraser
12/9/2020 11:14 AM	Jim Stone
12/9/2020 11:17 AM	Hunter Berns
12/9/2020 11:21 AM	Jake Everich
12/9/2020 11:24 AM	Julianne Curry

12/9/2020 11:30 PM	Lunch Break
12/9/2020 12:33 PM	Heather McCarty and Jeff Kauffman
12/9/2020 12:40 PM	Dan Martin
12/9/2020 12:45 PM	Rebecca Skinner
12/9/2020 1:00 PM	Patrick O'Donnell
12/9/2020 1:03 PM	Mateo Paz-Soldan
12/9/2020 1:07 PM	Chris Cooper
12/9/2020 1:15 PM	Forrest Braden
12/9/2020 1:21 PM	Chandler Johnson
12/9/2020 1:23 PM	Alexus Kwachka
12/9/2020 1:32 PM	Theresa Peterson
12/9/2020 1:39 PM	George Pollock
12/9/2020 1:41 PM	Linda Behnken
12/9/2020 1:46 PM	Julie Bonney
12/9/2020 1:52 PM	Franke Brown
12/9/2020 1:55 PM	Jeff Lackey
12/9/2020 1:59 PM	Heather Mann
12/9/2020 2:06 PM	Per Hesberg
12/9/2020 2:10 PM	Andy Wilder
12/9/2020 2:13 PM	Mark Fina
12/9/2020 2:20 PM	Break
12/9/2020 2:30 PM	C5 Staff questions
12/9/2020 3:05 PM	C5 Ms. Baker Motion
12/9/2020 5:36 PM	Recess

Thursday, December 10, 2020

C3 BSAI Groundfish Harvest – Ecosystem Status Report, Final Specifications, PT Report

12/10/2020 8:00 AM	Call to Order
12/10/2020 8:00 AM	C3 EBS ESR Presentation – AFSC, Elizabeth Siddon
12/10/2020 9:05 AM	C3 Aleutian Islands ESR Presentation – UW, Ivonne Ortiz
12/10/2020 9:32 AM	C3 Joint Plan Team Report – AFSC, Jim Ianelli
12/10/2020 10:25 AM	Break
12/10/2020 10:35 AM	C3 Joint Plan Team Report Continued
12/10/2020 11:21 AM	C3 BSAI PT Report – AFSC, Dr. Steve Barbeaux
12/10/2020 11:40 AM	Lunch
12/10/2020 12:40 PM	C3 BSAI PT Report Continued
12/10/2020 1:17 PM	C3 SSC Report – Dr. Anne Hollowed
12/10/2020 3:21 PM	C3 Public Testimony
12/10/2020 3:21 PM	Paul Clampitt
12/10/2020 3:30 PM	Bob Alverson
12/10/2020 3:45 PM	Steve Fish
12/10/2020 3:49 PM	Alexander Stubbs
12/10/2020 3:53 PM	Steve Martell
12/10/2020 3:59 PM	Paul Olson
12/10/2020 4:06 PM	Jon Warrenchuk

12/10/2020 4:12 PM	Victoria Curran
12/10/2020 4:15 PM	Lauren Divine
12/10/2020 4:21 PM	Linda Behnken
12/10/2020 4:31 PM	Stephanie Madsen, Brent Paine, Chris Barrows, Ted Loomis, Chris Woodley
12/10/2020 4:37 PM	Hahlen Barkhau
12/10/2020 4:39 PM	Chad See
12/10/2020 4:41 PM	Megan Peterson Williams
12/10/2020 4:45 PM	Arne Fuglvog
12/10/2020 4:49 PM	Ruth Christiansen
12/10/2020 4:52 PM	John Gruver
12/10/2020 4:58 PM	Dan Martin
12/10/2020 5:03 PM	Heather Mann
12/10/2020 5:07 PM	Alexus Kwachka
12/10/2020 5:10 PM	Brett Roth
12/10/2020 5:24 PM	C3 Mr. Cross Motion #1
12/10/2020 6:00 PM	Recess

Friday, December 11, 2020

C4 GOA Groundfish Harvest – Ecosystem Status Report, Final Specifications, PT Report

12/11/2020 8:00 AM	Call to Order
12/11/2020 8:00 AM	C4 GOA ESR – Bridget Ferriss
12/11/2020 8:49 AM	C4 GOA Plan Team Report – AFSC, Dr. Jim Ianelli
12/11/2020 9:15 AM	Balance of SSC Report – Dr. Anne Hollowed
12/11/2020 9:48 AM	C4 Public Testimony
12/11/2020 9:53 AM	Paul Clampitt
12/11/2020 10:02 AM	Shawn McManus
12/11/2020 10:12 AM	Jim Hubbard
12/11/2020 10:19 AM	Alexander Stubbs
12/11/2020 10:23 AM	Victoria Curran
12/11/2020 10:25 AM	Bob Alverson
12/11/2020 10:30 AM	Erik Velsko
12/11/2020 10:37 AM	Linda Behnken
12/11/2020 10:41 AM	Julie Bonney
12/11/2020 10:45 AM	Megan O’Neil
12/11/2020 10:50 AM	Jon Warrenchuk
12/11/2020 10:56 AM	Jody Cook
12/11/2020 11:02 AM	Kiril Basargin
12/11/2020 11:00 PM	Lunch Break
12/11/2020 11:45 PM	C4 Ms. Kimball Motion

C6 BSAI Pacific Cod Pot Catcher Processor

12/11/2020 12:07 PM	C6 Presentation – NPFMC staff, Sam Cunningham
12/11/2020 12:50 PM	C6 Public Testimony
12/11/2020 12:50 PM	Mary Boggs

12/11/2020 12:55 PM Gerry Davis and Doug Wells
12/11/2020 12:58 PM Shannon Carroll
12/11/2020 1:05 PM David Little
12/11/2020 1:10 PM Mike Shelford
12/11/2020 1:12 PM Leonard Herzog
12/11/2020 1:15 PM Heather McCarty and Jeff Kaufmann
12/11/2020 1:30 PM **C6 Mr. Down Motion**

E1 Staff Tasking

12/11/2020 2:00 PM David Witherell Overview
12/11/2020 2:05 PM Ecosystem Committee Report – NPFMC staff, Steve MacLean
12/11/2020 2:18 PM **E1 Public Testimony**
12/11/2020 2:18 PM Casey Knight
12/11/2020 2:23 PM Mike Alfieri
12/11/2020 2:26 PM Chad See
12/11/2020 2:33 PM Linda Behnken
12/11/2020 2:38 PM Shawn McManus
12/11/2020 2:41 PM Alexander Stubbs
12/11/2020 2:45 PM Theresa Peterson
12/11/2020 2:50 PM Jon Warrenchuk
12/11/2020 2:53 PM Craig Lowenberg
12/11/2020 3:09 PM **E1 Mr. Jensen Motion** – Sablefish Overages
12/11/2020 3:55 PM **E1 Ms. Baker Motion** – February Priorities
12/11/2020 4:01 PM E1 2020 Appointments
12/11/2020 4:02 PM Meeting Adjourned

December 2020 Newsletter

Appointments

The Council made the following appointments during the meeting.

Advisory Panel

The following members of the AP were reappointed to a 3-year term: James Johnson, Mellisa Johnson, Matt Upton, and Anne Vanderhoeven.

Also, John Gruver was reappointed for a 1-year term, and Brian Ritchie was appointed to complete the term of Daniel Donich's seat, which expires at the end of 2021.

Finally, Megan O'Neill was also newly appointed to the AP for a 3-year term.

AP members for 2021 will be:

Ruth Christiansen, Angel Drobica, John Gruver, Gretar Gudmondsson, James Johnson, Mellisa Johnson, Jeff Kauffman, Julie Kavanaugh. Craig Lowenberg, Heather Mann, Jamie O'Connor, Patrick O'Donnell, Megan O'Neill, Joel Peterson, Brian Ritchie, John Scoblic, Matt Upton, Anne Vanderhoeven, Erik Velsko, Sinclair Wilt

SSC

All current members of the SSC were reappointed, with the exception of Dr. Gordon Kruse and Dr. Kate Reedy, who are stepping down. Dr. Chris Siddon and Dr. Patrick Sullivan were newly appointed.

SSC members for 2021 will be:

Chris Anderson, Amy Bishop, Curry Cunningham, Mike Downs, Sherri Dressel, Jason Gasper, Dana Hanselman, Brad Harris, Anne Hollowed, George Hunt, Franz Mueter, Andrew Munro, Matt Reimer, Chris Siddon, Ian Stewart, Patrick Sullivan, Tien-Shui (Theresa) Tsou, Alison Whitman

Plan Teams

Scallop Plan Team: Dr. Tyler Jackson, ADFG, was appointed as member.

Committees

Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee: the following members were appointed to 2-year terms:

Mark Casto, Sean Dwyer, Lance Farr, Dean Fasnacht, Jake Jacobsen, Steve Minor, Gary Painter, Edward Poulsen, Brett Reasor, Elizabeth Reed, Mike Simpson; Jamie Goen (non-voting secretary)

Observer Annual Deployment Plan

The Council received a report on the Final Observer Program 2021 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP). This report highlighted changes to the report since the Council's review of the Draft ADP in October.

The 2021 ADP uses the Council's recommended port-based approach for partial coverage observer deployment, consistent with the redesigned 2020 ADP that is responsive to COVID-19 impacts on monitoring. The Final ADP also uses the Council's recommended deployment strata, and a coverage allocation scheme of a 15% baseline plus an optimized allocation based on discarded groundfish as well as halibut PSC and Chinook PSC. This results in the following deployment rates by strata:

- No selection – 0%
- Trawl – 16%
- Hook-and-line – 15%
- Pot – 15%
- Fixed-gear EM – 30%
- Trawl EM EFP—100% at-sea EM; plus: 30% shoreside monitoring in GOA or 100% shoreside monitoring in BS.

The 2021 fixed gear EM pool includes 168 vessels. Three additional vessels opted into the program; however, no additional funding is available to accommodate additional vessels at this time. Therefore, NMFS has approved 168 vessels for the EM selection pool for 2021.

Staff contact for observer issues is Kate Haapala.



Charter Halibut

The Council approved management measures for charter halibut fishing in Areas 2C and 3A in 2021 that will be submitted for approval by the IPHC at its annual meeting in January 2021. The measures approved by the Council were developed by the Charter Halibut Management Committee based on analyses provided by ADF&G as well as the needs of the fishery, and these measures are expected to constrain overall charter removals to the final 2021 area allocations, as determined by the IPHC under the Catch Sharing Plan.



The Council's recommended measures differ from those provided in past years by the addition of "COVID buffers", which are percentage reductions in expected effort and are used to scale harvest estimates generated using "normal", i.e., pre-2020, effort inputs in the ADF&G analysis. A range of factors is expected to contribute to the effort reductions, including constraints on travel to Alaska, financial distress among potential clients, timing of and participation in vaccination efforts, and operator health liability precautions, among others. Charter halibut effort was reduced in 2020 by approximately 50% in Alaska and the recommended COVID buffers (below) are considered to be conservative estimates of effort reductions for 2021.

For Area 2C, the Council is recommending that a 35% COVID buffer be used to scale the removals estimates provided in the [ADF&G analysis](#), specifically removals associated with reverse slot limits in Table 6 of that analysis. Subsequently, if the final Area 2C catch allocation is set at 0.65 million pounds, the reverse slot limit would be set at U44O80. If the final Area 2C catch allocation is between 0.651 million pounds and 0.751 million pounds, the lower bound of the reverse slot limit would be adjusted upward from U45 to a maximum of U50. If the final Area 2C catch allocation is greater than 0.751 million pounds, the lower bound of the reverse slot limit would stay at U50, while the upper bound would be adjusted downward to achieve the final allocation. For Area 2C, a one fish daily bag limit would also apply, as would all other status quo harvest restrictions.

For Area 3A, the Council is recommending that a 25% COVID buffer be used to scale the removals estimates, specifically those provided in Table 24 in the [analysis](#). If the final 3A allocation is determined to be less than 1.93 million pounds, but greater than or equal to 1.85 million pounds, the Council is recommending that charter anglers be allowed to keep one fish of any size and one fish measuring less than or equal to 32 inches. If the final 3A allocation is set below 1.85 million pounds but above than 1.74 million pounds, the size limit for the second retained halibut should be adjusted downward to achieve the final allocation. In addition to size limits and a daily bag limit of two halibut, restrictions for Area 3A in 2021 include closure of all Wednesdays to charter halibut fishing, one trip per halibut charter vessel per day; and one trip per charter halibut permit per day. There would be no annual limit on retained halibut per charter anglers in Area 3A.

Staff contact is Jim Armstrong.

Cook Inlet Salmon

The Council took final action on Cook Inlet salmon by selecting Alternative 4 – Federal management with the Cook Inlet EEZ closed to commercial salmon fishing, as its preferred alternative. Following Secretarial approval, the Council's action will amend the Salmon FMP by removing an exclusion from federal management that applies to a portion of Cook Inlet that overlaps with the EEZ. As a result of the Council's action, the Cook Inlet EEZ will be closed to commercial salmon fishing. However, this action will not impact commercial salmon fishing with State waters (0-3 nautical miles from shore) where the commercial driftnet fishery will continue to operate in Cook Inlet and be managed by the State of Alaska. The driftnet fishery is the only commercial salmon fishery that operates in both state and federal waters of Cook Inlet.



Prior to final action, the Council had conducted initial review of the analysis for this issue in October 2020, at which time only three alternatives had been formally established. After that review, however, the Council clarified that including the Cook Inlet EEZ in the FMP's existing prohibition on commercial salmon fishing for the "West Area" should be elevated as a distinct (fourth) alternative. A closure of the Cook Inlet EEZ to commercial salmon fishing was contemplated under Alternative 3 in the analysis, whereby such a closure would occur based on stock status or when information needed for management is absent. By adding Alternative 4 in October, the Council had clarified that it could also recommend an extended closure as a policy preference. Such an addition or modification of alternatives is commonly done between the initial and final review stages of a Council action.

Other alternatives considered by the Council included Alternative 2 (Federal management with specific measures delegated to the State of Alaska), and Alternative 3 (Federal management with no delegation to the State of Alaska). Alternative 1 (no action), while not considered a legal alternative, served to provide a baseline for comparison with other alternatives.

The Council initiated action on Cook Inlet salmon in 2017 after a Ninth Circuit Court ruling held that excluding federal waters of Cook Inlet put the Salmon FMP in violation of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Court ruling was the product of a federal lawsuit by the United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) and the Cook Inlet Fishermen's Fund (CIFF). In December 2019, UCIDA/CIFF appealed existing development on the FMP amendment to federal court, and in January 2020, the Court established a deadline of Dec 31, 2020 for final Council action.

After initiating the action in 2017, the Council expended considerable effort trying to find management approaches to reconcile a federal fishery management system with the unique challenges of the salmon life history and adjacent salmon fisheries under State jurisdiction. The Council convened the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee, which was created to include stakeholders, including plaintiffs, in the development of an FMP amendment. The Committee's recommendations were provided to the Council in June 2020, however, they were not further considered by the Council because they generally called for expanding the reach of the federal FMP into State waters, which is outside of the Council's jurisdiction.

Now that the Council has taken final action, the National Marine Fisheries Service will conduct its review of the recommended amendment. Given the time required for this review and rulemaking, it is anticipated that the changes will take effect for the Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery beginning with the 2022 fishing season.

Staff contact is Jim Armstrong.

BSAI Groundfish Specifications

The Council reviewed the Ecosystem Status Reports for the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea, approved the BSAI Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report, and made final recommendations on groundfish harvest specifications, prohibited species catch (PSC) limits, and halibut Discard Mortality Rates (DMRs) to manage the 2021 and 2022 BSAI groundfish fisheries. Harvest and PSC specifications for 2021 and 2022 fishing years are available in the [Council motions](#).

The Council reviewed Ecosystem Status Reports including 4-page summary briefs for the [Aleutian Islands](#) (AI) and the [Bering Sea](#) (BS). Ecosystem conditions are summarized in report card summaries at the beginning of each ESR. In the AI, the North Pacific Index was positive from fall 2019 to 2020 which caused persistent warm winds from the Southwest and suppressed storminess through fall and winter 2019/2020. The sea surface temperatures in the AI cooled in 2020 relative to the 2014-17 warm period, but the overall temperature was still warmer than average. In the BS, the 2019-2020 daily mean ice extent was within 1 standard deviation of the long-term mean, but sea ice appears to have been thinner. The cold pool was average, based on the ROMS hindcast model.

The [BSAI SAFE report](#) forms the basis for BSAI groundfish harvest specifications for the next two fishing years. Some groundfish stocks in the BSAI are assessed annually while others are assessed less frequently due to stock prioritization, including assessment methods and data availability. The global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 precluded most NMFS surveys in the BS and AI. Therefore, survey data were not available for most assessments, although new catch and fishery dependent data were available. The Teams expressed concern that additional years of missing surveys will affect the uncertainty around model estimates. Full assessments were performed in 2020 for nearly all stocks, partial assessments were produced for two stocks (Alaska plaice, northern rockfish). For stocks with partial assessments, specifications are rolled over from the previous assessment. The statewide sablefish assessment and a report for Grenadier, as part of the Ecosystem Component, were provided during the Joint Plan Team report. The Groundfish Plan Teams and the Council's SSC will continue to explore use of the species-specific risk tables for appropriate reductions from maxABC in future harvest specifications. To improve this process, the SSC will consider issues raised by the Plan Teams in application of the risk tables at a workshop during the February 2021 SSC meeting, as scheduling allows.

In specifications, the Council considered different apportionment methods for sablefish in the BSAI. The Council agreed with the Plan Team, SSC, and AP that the status quo fixed apportionment is no longer appropriate. The Council agreed with the SSC recommendation to implement a 25% step toward adopting the Plan Team and assessment author recommendation of the non-exponentially weighted 5-year average survey apportionment method. For 2021, this results in a sablefish statewide ABC of 29,588 t, with allocations of 3,396 t to the BS and 4,717 t to the AI. This is an 80% increase in the BSAI and 2.3x increase in the AI over 2020.

Final BSAI specifications for 2021 and 2022 are shown on [Table 1](#) in the Council motion.

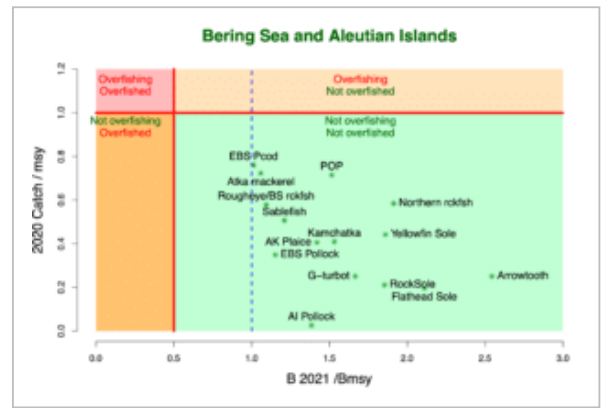
In 2019, the Council took final action to amend the FMPs for the BSAI (Amendment 121) and GOA (Amendment 110) to move the sculpin stock complex to the Ecosystem Component category. The amendments were approved by the Secretary of Commerce in 2020, and therefore annual specifications are no longer required for this complex.

Overall, the status of stocks in the BSAI continue to appear favorable. No stocks are experiencing overfishing or are overfished. All stocks are above B_{MSY} or the B_{MSY} proxy of $B_{35\%}$. The abundances of EBS pollock, EBS Pacific cod, all rockfishes managed under Tier 3, and all flatfishes managed under Tiers 1 or 3 are projected to be above B_{MSY} or the B_{MSY} proxy of $B_{35\%}$ in 2021.

In setting TACs for 2021 and 2022, the Council takes into account the Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) for fisheries occurring in State waters on the same species. In 2018, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified how GHLs in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands are set for Pacific cod. In 2021, the GHL in the AI will be set at 6,804 t, which is the maximum GHL that can be set for the AI. The Bering Sea GHL will be set at 12,426 t (10%

of the EBS pacific cod ABC plus an additional 45 t). The GHL for the Aleutian Islands in 2022 in the AI will be 39% of the AI ABC or the maximum of 6,804 t, and in the BS the GHL will be 11% of the EBS ABC plus an additional 45 t. The Council's OFLs, ABC, and TACs take the GHLS into account.

The Council specified an ABC reserve for flathead sole, rock sole, and yellowfin sole, which was specified as the ABC surplus for the species (i.e., the difference between the ABC and TAC); specified Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits for halibut, crab, and herring; and specified halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for the BSAI.



Staff contact for the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team and specifications is Steve MacLean.

GOA Groundfish Specifications

The Council approved the 2020 Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report and recommended final harvest specifications for the 2021 and 2022 GOA groundfish fisheries. For final rulemaking for the 2021 and 2022 fishing years, the Council recommended OFLs and ABCs consistent with SSC recommendations, and final TACs. The Council also recommended halibut PSC limit apportionments and adopted updated halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for 2021. In setting the TACs for 2021 and 2022, the Council accounts for guideline harvest levels (GHLs) for groundfish fisheries in state waters; full details are included in the [Council motion for the GOA](#).

The [2020 GOA Groundfish SAFE report](#) includes stock status updates for all 20 stocks or stock complexes managed through the GOA Groundfish FMP. No harvest specifications were set for sculpin for the upcoming years since that stock complex has been moved to the ecosystem component category. The GOA SAFE report forms the basis for GOA groundfish harvest specifications for the next two fishing years.

Based on consideration of stock prioritization including assessment methods and data availability, some stocks are assessed on an annual basis while others are assessed less frequently. Full assessments were produced for all stocks in the GOA in 2020 with the following exceptions: partial assessments were produced for rougheye/blackspotted rockfish, arrowtooth flounder, shallow-water flatfish, northern and southern rock sole, demersal shelf rockfish (DSR), and flathead sole, and no assessments were produced for rex sole, deepwater flatfish, shortraker rockfish, other rockfish, Atka mackerel, skates, or octopus. For these exceptions, specifications were rolled over from the previous assessment for that stock. Reports were provided for forage fish and grenadiers.

The Council also reviewed the Ecosystem Status Report for the GOA, including a 4-page [GOA ecosystem brief](#). The report highlighted close to average conditions for 2020. Sea surface temperatures returned to the long-term mean after 2014-2016 and 2019 heatwave years, with a warm summer and fall. While the previous marine heatwaves continue to impact some species, food availability in 2020 was average or improved over past years. The report also provided information of phytoplankton and zooplankton densities as well as forage fish, seabird and marine mammal trends. Additionally, the report highlighted impacts of the loss of some surveys due to Covid-19 and mitigation of data loss.

The GOA Pacific cod stock remains at low levels but is increasing and is estimated to be above the overfished determination level. Spawning biomass is projected to increase from 2021 to 2022 due to a stronger 2018 recruitment and reduction in fishing mortality since 2018. The 2021 Federal GOA Pacific cod Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is 17,321 mt, which reserves an additional 6,306 mt for the State GHL.

During the specifications process, the Council considered different apportionment methods for sablefish. The Council agreed with the Plan Team, SSC, and AP that the status quo fixed apportionment was no longer appropriate. The Council agreed with the SSC recommendation to implement a 25% stair step from the current (fixed) apportionment percentages toward the non-exponential 5-year survey average proposed by the authors. For 2021, this would equate to increases in the apportioned ABCs in all areas (up to 60% in the Aleutian Islands), but much smaller increases in those areas that have recently been apportioned a greater percentage than suggested by survey observations (only 17% in the East Yakutat area). The GOA wide TAC for 2021 is a 25% increase from the 2020 TAC.

The sum of the ABCs for all GOA groundfish stocks in 2021 is 476,037 mt, which is a 2.2% increase compared to the 2020 (465,956 mt) aggregate ABC. Maximum permissible ABCs were set for all stocks in the GOA in 2020, except for sablefish, dusky rockfish, and DSR. ABC less than the maximum permissible is recommended when there are additional conservation considerations that are not accounted for in the stock assessment, tier system, or harvest control rules. Further discussion of the risk table is included in the draft SSC report and the [BSAI Groundfish](#) newsletter article.

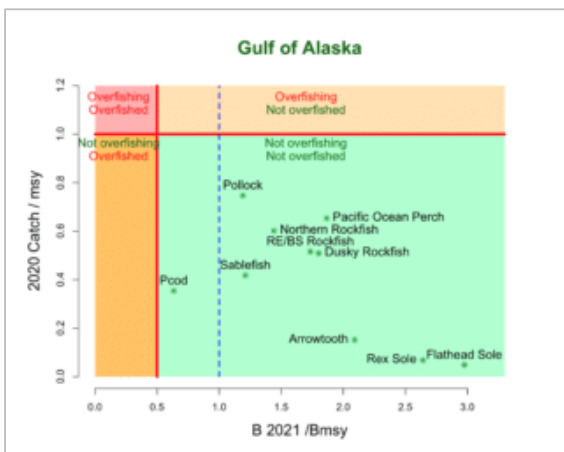


Figure: Summary of Gulf of Alaska stock status next year (spawning biomass relative to BMSY; horizontal axis) and current year catch relative to fishing at FMSY (vertical axis). Note that sablefish is for Alaska-wide values including the BSAI catches.

For most stocks, the Council established TACs equal to ABCs. Exceptions where the TAC is set below ABC include pollock, Pacific cod, sablefish, shallow water flatfish in the Western GOA, flathead sole in Western and Central GOA, other rockfish in the Eastern GOA, arrowtooth flounder (except in the Central GOA), and Atka mackerel.

The [GOA Groundfish Plan Team report](#) summarized the issues discussed and actions taken by the Plan Team at its virtual November meeting. Highlights of the GOA Plan Team report included stock assessment presentations from individual assessment authors and authors of the Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profiles (ESPs) for GOA pollock and Pacific cod. The SSC recommended 2021 and 2022 OFLs and ABCs and provided guidance on many of the assessments in its [draft SSC report](#). Some of the issues that pertain to GOA Groundfish, such as sablefish apportionment, are covered in the Joint Plan Team Report (discussed under [BSAI Groundfish](#)).

Staff contact is Sara Cleaver.

BSAI Pacific Cod Pot LLP Licenses

The Council received an initial review draft analysis of alternatives that could modify the number of License Limitation Program (LLP) licenses endorsed to fish for BSAI Pacific cod with pot gear as a catcher-processor.

The current number of licenses holding that endorsement is eight. The analysis was moved forward for public review, at which point the Council could take final action to recommend a preferred alternative.

The Council did not make substantive changes to the range of alternatives under consideration, and did not indicate a preliminary preferred alternative at this time. The range contains the No Action alternative (Alt. 1) and an action alternative that would remove BS and AI Pacific cod pot CP endorsements from licenses that were not credited with at least 1,000 mt of retained Pacific cod commercial catch while operating as a BSAI pot CP (Alt. 2). The 1,000 mt threshold will be evaluated over one of two historical periods (Options 1 and 2): 2005 – 2019 or 2012 – 2019. The Council clarified that historical catch should be counted cumulatively over the selected period, obviating the need for the two Suboptions that had been analyzed.



The Council did not modify the control date of December 10, 2019, meaning that it might not consider catch that occurred after that date relative to the 1,000 mt threshold.

The Council directed the analysts to consider SSC suggestions for revision and identified two other items to include in the next draft. The first item is a summary of other fisheries and/or modes in which LLP licenses that lose this endorsement could still be used, including other fisheries, gears, and areas as well as operating as a catcher vessel. The second item is a more detailed description of the communities connected to these LLP licenses through ownership, specifically referencing ties to Western Alaska CDQ groups.

Staff contact is Sam Cunningham.

BSAI Trawl CV Pacific Cod LAPP

At this meeting, the Council conducted an initial review of an analysis for a Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel (CV) limited access privilege program (LAPP). After reviewing the analysis, the Advisory Panel's recommendation, and listening to public testimony, the Council modified the purpose and need statement to include minimizing bycatch to the extent practicable and adjusted several of the elements and options under consideration for a June 2021 initial review analysis. A summary of those adjustments is provided below.

The proposed program considers allocations of quota shares (QS) to groundfish LLP licenses based on the harvest of targeted BSAI Pacific cod during the qualifying years. The action also considers allocating harvest shares to a processor permit based on processing history of BSAI Pacific cod during the qualifying years. This would yield an exclusive harvest privilege allocation for use in a BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod catch share program cooperatives. The purpose of this action is to improve the prosecution of the fishery with the intent of promoting safety and stability in the harvesting and processing sectors, increasing the value of the fishery, providing for the sustained participation of fishery-dependent communities, and ensuring the sustainability and viability of the resource. The analysis was made available to the Council and the public in October 2020.

Summary of adjustments to the elements and options under consideration:

- Element 1 – removed Option 1.1 from consideration, which required the AFA and non-AFA cooperative formation structure.
- Element 2 – 1) Clarified that catch history to determine allocations will not be considered beyond December 31, 2019. 2) Included an option to establish a minimum threshold percentage of 0.25%-1% for LLP license eligibility. 3) Clarified that AI transferable endorsements can also receive QS.
- Element 3 – 1) Modified the element to apportion halibut and crab PSC to the trawl CV sector, while also maintaining an option to leave crab PSC at the trawl limited access sector level. 2) Expanded the PSC reduction for the trawl CV sector to 35 percent. 3) Moved language from Element 9 that apportions PSC to the cooperative level to Element 3.
- Element 4 – 1) Adjusted Option 4.1 to calculate GOA sideboard limits for non-exempt AFA CVs based on all non-exempt AFA CVs (qualified and non-qualified). 2) In Option 4.2, combined both AFA exempt CVs and non-AFA CVs from leasing their BSAI Pacific cod CQ as a condition being exempt from GOA sideboard limits. Cooperatives would be required to monitor and enforce the sideboard exemption. 3) Adjusted Suboption 4.2.1 to authorize leasing of BSAI Pacific cod CQ for AFA GOA exempt and non-AFA CVs while maintaining their GOA sideboard exemption if their CQ was less than 200 mt, 400 mt, or 600 mt. 4) Removed Option 4.3 from consideration since non-AFA CVs were included in Option 4.2.
- Element 5 – 1) Option 5.2 would set individual processing limits for qualified C/P acting as a mothership in the BSAI trawl CV sector. The individual mothership processing limits would be based on the C/P's individual processing history in the fishery or harvest history of LLP licenses that are at least 75% owned by the firm that owns the qualified C/P. 2) Option 5.3 would establish limits on the number of trawl CVs that may deliver to C/Ps qualified to act as a mothership. Qualified CVs would be allowed to deliver all of the CQ derived from their LLPs to the C/P. The Council stated its intent to develop other eligibility criteria for CVs to deliver offshore processors at a future meeting. 3) Option 5.4 would establish a limit on the use of harvest shares issued to processors, based on the amount that the vessel's LLP would have brought into the cooperative absent any processor issued harvest shares.
- Element 6 – 1) Changes would allow Adak or Atka to withdraw its intent to operate notice and release the set-aside requirement (Option 6.1) or allow for the reallocation of CQ to qualified LLP license holders. 2) Option 6.2 adds the option to allocate 10% of the annual sector allocation to AI shoreplants or the community representative. 3) Option 6.2 would also establish a percentage (50%, 25%, or 10%) of an AI shoreplant allocation that must be harvested by AI trawl CVs less than 60' LOA and delivered to the AI shoreplant.
- Element 7 – 1) Included a suboption to authorized holders of eligible LLP licenses that authorize non-exempt AFA CVs the ability to transfer QS between LLP licenses to accommodate private lease agreements during the qualifying period. The window for transferring QS is 90 days from the publishing of the Final Rule. 2) As part of Element 7.2, the Council clarified that processor permits credited from this program can only be transfer to another processor and shoreside processor permits can only be transferred to another shoreside processors that holds an FPP. QS for these processor permits is non-severable except in the case of a transfer to another eligible processor results in exceeding the use cap under Option 8.3. The portion of QS over the use cap can be severed from permit and transferred to another eligible processor permit.
- Element 8 – 1) Option 8.1 establishes a range of harvester issued cooperative share owners and use caps to consider at 5% – 10%. 2) Option 8.2 establishes a range of vessel use caps to consider at 3% – 5% and provides for a grandfather provision. 3) Option 8.3 establishes a range of ownership and use caps on processor issued harvest shares of 15% – 20%. 4) Option 8.4 establishes a range of processing facility use caps of 20%-30%.

- Element 9 – Clarified vessels that are not designated on a trawl CV qualified LLP license are not eligible to join a cooperative unless participating under the gear conversion (Element 14).
- Element 10 – No changes.
- Element 11 – Clarified that the element is not intended to modify the observer coverage exception provided for CVs delivering unsorted codends to a mothership.
- Element 12 – No changes.
- Element 13 – No changes.
- Element 14 – 1) It stated that gear conversion only applies to the seasons covered by the PCTC and the season dates would be based on the start and end dates for the trawl fishery; PSC use would be deducted from the PSC allocated to the cooperative; NMFS will develop monitoring and enforcement provisions necessary to track quota, harvest, PSC, use caps, etc. 2) The Council discussed its intent regarding the vessels that would be allowed to harvest Pacific cod using gear conversion. Based on that discussion, staff will analyze allowing only qualified trawl CVs to harvest Pacific cod CQ with pot gear and analyze allowing both qualified trawl CVs and pot CVs that are not assigned to an LLP that holds PCTC CQ to harvest Pacific cod CQ as allowed by cooperative members that hold qualified LLPs for the PCTC.

The Council also requested that staff include an expanded discussion of reallocations and impacts to other sectors in the June 2021 initial review analysis. The final Council [motion](#) is posted. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

BSAI Pacific Cod Pot LLP Licenses

The Council received an initial review draft analysis of alternatives that could modify the number of License Limitation Program (LLP) licenses endorsed to fish for BSAI Pacific cod with pot gear as a catcher-processor. The current number of licenses holding that endorsement is eight. The analysis was moved forward for public review, at which point the Council could take final action to recommend a preferred alternative.

The Council did not make substantive changes to the range of alternatives under consideration, and did not indicate a preliminary preferred alternative at this time. The range contains the No Action alternative (Alt. 1) and an action alternative that would remove BS and AI Pacific cod pot CP endorsements from licenses that were not credited with at least 1,000 mt of retained Pacific cod commercial catch while operating as a BSAI pot CP (Alt. 2). The 1,000 mt threshold will be evaluated over one of two historical periods (Options 1 and 2): 2005 – 2019 or 2012 – 2019. The Council clarified that historical catch should be counted cumulatively over the selected period, obviating the need for the two Suboptions that had been analyzed.



The Council did not modify the control date of December 10, 2019, meaning that it might not consider catch that occurred after that date relative to the 1,000 mt threshold.

The Council directed the analysts to consider SSC suggestions for revision and identified two other items to include in the next draft. The first item is a summary of other fisheries and/or modes in which LLP licenses that lose this endorsement could still be used, including other fisheries, gears, and areas as well as operating as a catcher vessel. The second item is a more detailed description of the communities connected to these LLP licenses through ownership, specifically referencing ties to Western Alaska CDQ groups.

Staff contact is Sam Cunningham.

Staff Tasking

The Council discussed the relative priority and scheduling of previously tasked projects, and provided guidance to the Chair and Executive Director about which items to prioritize for February and subsequent meetings. The revised [3 meeting outlook](#) reflects this guidance, along with the posted [February eAgenda](#). Council meetings, including Plan Team and Committee [meetings](#), will be held virtually through the first part of 2021.

The Council also initiated a [discussion paper](#) to identify management tools that would prevent or minimize overages in sablefish area- and sector-specific TACs and ABCs.

Finally, the Council discussed the work of upcoming Committees, and made [appointments](#) to the SSC, AP, PNCIAC, and the Scallop Plan Team.

Upcoming Meetings

Before February Council meeting

- **Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Taskforce on Climate Change** – Dec 14 and 16, 2020
- **BSAI Crab Plan Team** – January 11-15, 2021
- **Community Engagement Committee** – January 12, 2021
- **Ecosystem Committee** – January 26, 2021
- **Enforcement Committee** – January 28, 2021 (T)
- **Finance/Executive Committee** – January 29 (T) – *Executive Session, not open to public*
- **Legislative Committee** – January 29 (T)

After February Council meeting

- **Scallop Plan Team** – February 17, 2021
- **SSPT** – March 2021 (T)
- **IFQ Committee** – mid-late March 2021
- **Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC)** – March/April 2021
- **BSAI Crab Plan Team** – May 17-21, 2021
- **Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC)** – May 2021
- **EM Trawl Committee** – May 2021

