

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Meeting Summary

235th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
October 2 - 9, 2017
Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska

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Attachments

- 1) GOA Specs
- 2) BSAI Specs
- 3) Time Log
- 4) Newsletter

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met Wednesday, October 4, through Monday, October 9, 2017 at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. The following Council, NPFMC staff, SSC, and AP members attended the meetings.

Council Members

Balsiger, Jim	Marx, Steve	Peterson, Theresa
Cotten, Sam	Kinneen, Simon (Oath of Office)	LCDR Corrie Sergent
Cross, Craig	Laukitis, Buck	Smoker, Lauren (GC)
Down, Kenny	Lepore, John (GC)	Tweit, Bill (Vice Chair, re-elected)
Hanson, Dave	CAPT Stephen White	
Hartill, Trent (Alt for Cotten)	Merrill, Glenn (Alt for Balsiger)	
Hull, Dan (Chair, re-elected)	Mezirow, Andy	

NPFMC Staff

Armstrong, Jim	Cunningham, Sam	Kircher, Peggy	Shawback, Maria
Evans, Diana (DD)		MacLean, Steve	Schmidt, Nicole
Fey, Mike (AKFIN)	Gleason, Shannon	Marrinan, Sarah	Stram, Diana
		McCracken, Jon	Witherell, Dave (ED)

Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC met from October 2 - 4, 2017 at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK.

Members present were:

Farron Wallace, Chair <i>NOAA Fisheries—AFSC</i>	Sherri Dressel, Vice Chair <i>Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game</i>	Chris Anderson <i>University of Washington</i>
Robert Clark <i>Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game</i>	Jason Gasper <i>NOAA Fisheries—Alaska Region</i>	George Hunt <i>University of Washington</i>
Gordon Kruse <i>University of Alaska Fairbanks</i>	Dayv Lowry <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	Seth Macinko <i>University of Rhode Island</i>
Franz Mueter <i>University of Alaska Fairbanks</i>	Kate Reedy <i>Idaho State University Pocatello</i>	Matt Reimer <i>University of Alaska Anchorage</i>
Ian Stewart <i>Intl. Pacific Halibut Commission</i>	Alison Whitman <i>Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	

Members absent were:

Jennifer Burns <i>University of Alaska Anchorage</i>	Lew Coggins <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>	Brad Harris <i>Alaska Pacific University</i>
Anne Hollowed <i>NOAA Fisheries—AFSC</i>	Terry Quinn <i>University of Alaska Fairbanks</i>	

Advisory Panel

The AP met Tuesday, October 3, through Saturday, October 7, 2017. Members present were (absent stricken):

Carroll, Shannon	Gruver, John	Peterson, Joel
Christiansen, Ruth	Kauffman, Jeff	Scoblic, John
Cochran, Kurt	Kwachka, Alexis	Stephan, Jeff
Crowley, John	Lowenberg, Craig	Stevens, Ben
Donich, Daniel	McCallum, Chuck	Upton, Matt (Co-Vice Chair)
Downing, Jerry	Nichols, Carina	Weiss, Ernie (Chair)
Drobnica, Angel (Co-V Chair)	O'Donnell, Paddy	Wilt, Sinclair

B REPORTS

The following reports were given and discussed. Actions were deferred to staff tasking.

B1 Executive Director's Report – David Witherell

- St. Paul Outreach Summary – Steve MacLean

B2 NMFS Management Report – Glenn Merrill

- ACLIM Report – Alan Hanie and Kristen Holsman
- Deep Sea Coral Report – Chris Rooper and Heather Colman

B3 NOAA GC Report – Lauren Smoker

B4 ADF&G Report – Trent Hartill

B5 USCG Report – LCDR Corrie Sergeant

B6 USFWS Report – Aaron Martin

- Seabird Update – Rob Kayler
- Coastal Resilience and Adaptation – Aaron Poe

B7 Protected Species Report - Steve MacLean

C1 CHARTER HALIBUT ANNUAL PERMIT REGISTRATION

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Sarah Marrinan. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council recommends releasing the analysis for public review after revising the purpose and need statement to read:

The charter halibut fishery currently lacks a Charter Halibut Permit (CHP) registration or renewal process. The lack of CHP renewal process limits the information available to the Council for understanding and tracking changes and trends in CHP ownership, participation and latency. A renewal process also would improve enforcement of CHP usage on the water and facilitate retirement of non-transferable permits. The Council is considering developing an annual renewal for the CHP Program to provide improved information to evaluate whether changes to the CHP Program are necessary as a result of changes in ownership and participation of CHPs, facilitate retirement of non-transferable permits when ownership changes, and improve the ability of enforcement agents to ensure valid permits are

being used.

The alternatives are shown below, with the Council's preliminary preferred alternative in **bold**:

Alternative 1. Status Quo

Alternative 2. Implement an annual registration process for transferable and non-transferable charter halibut permits (CHP). A CHP holder must submit the following information to NMFS on an annual basis to register a CHP:

- **CHP number,**
- **CHP holder name (individual or non-individual entity), and**
- **CHP holder address.**

If a CHP is not registered with NMFS, the CHP would not be valid for use during the applicable fishing year.

Options for additional requirements could include (options are not mutually exclusive):

Option 1. CHP ownership (e.g., ownership holdings for the CHP by individual(s), partners, or a corporate entity).

Option 2. Natural person(s) and/or vessel(s) that will use the permit.

Sub-option: If a non-transferable CHP is used by a natural person(s) and/or vessel(s) that was not submitted to NMFS during the annual registration, the CHP would not be valid for use during the following fishing year.

Option 3. For non-transferable permits, the CHP holder must notify NMFS where the permit will be used (i.e., the beginning and/or ending port(s) to trips where the CHP is used.

Sub-option: If a non-transferable CHP is used for a trip that begins or ends in a port that was not submitted to NMFS during the annual registration, the CHP would not be valid for use during the following year.

Mr. Cotten made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Laukitis:
(add option 4 from the AP motion)

Option 4. CHP use as indicated by answering the following questions:

1) In the last year, was this CHP used by an operator who is not part of the CHP ownership structure?

2) If yes, what were the agreed upon compensation terms for the use of the CHP?

a. No compensation; operator is an employee of the CHP holder

- b. A flat fee paid to the permit holder**
- c. A fee that is a percentage of gross earnings**
- d. Combination of flat fee and percentage**

Mr. Cross made the following amendment to the amendment which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:
(un-bold option 4 so that it will be an alternative but will not be a part of the PPA)

Option 4. CHP use as indicated by answering the following questions:

- 1) In the last year, was this CHP used by an operator who is not part of the CHP ownership structure?
- 2) If yes, what were the agreed upon compensation terms for the use of the CHP?
 - a. No compensation; operator is an employee of the CHP holder
 - b. A flat fee paid to the permit holder
 - c. A fee that is a percentage of gross earnings

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT: Amendment to the amendment passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 10:31 a.m.

Ms. Peterson made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:
(add 4th bullet under Alternative 2)

Alternative 2. Implement an annual registration process for transferable and non-transferable charter halibut permits (CHP). A CHP holder must submit the following information to NMFS on an annual basis to register a CHP:

- **CHP number,**
- **CHP holder name (individual or non-individual entity)**
- **CHP holder address**
- **CHP holder phone number and/or CHP holder email address**

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 10:32 a.m.

Mr. Laukitis made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Cotten:
(add the following language in bold)

*The charter halibut fishery currently lacks a Charter Halibut Permit (CHP) registration or renewal process. The lack of CHP renewal process limits the information available to the Council for understanding and tracking changes and trends in CHP ownership, participation and latency. A renewal process also would improve enforcement of CHP usage on the water and facilitate retirement of non-transferable permits. **It will also ensure that the Council and stakeholders get more complete information about the performance and usage of CHPs and to help assess the degree to which CHP holders are demonstrating active participation in the fishery.** The Council is considering developing an annual renewal for the CHP Program to provide improved information to evaluate whether changes to the CHP Program are necessary as a result of changes in ownership and participation of CHPs, facilitate retirement of non-transferable permits when ownership changes, and improve the ability of enforcement agents to ensure valid permits are being used.*

Mr. Tweit made the following amendment to the amendment which was seconded by Ms. Peterson:
(~~strikeout~~ and add the following language in bold)

*It will also ensure that the Council and stakeholders get more complete information about the performance and usage of CHPs and to help assess the degree to which CHP holders are ~~demonstrating~~ active ~~participation~~ **participants** in the fishery.*

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT: Amendment to the amendment passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 11:11 a.m.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 11:12 a.m.

VOTE ON MAIN AMENDED MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 11:13 a.m.

C2 MIXING OF GUIDED AND UNGUIDED HALIBUT

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Jon McCracken. The following actions were taken.

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

The Council recommends releasing the analysis for public review after making the following revisions to the purpose and need, alternatives, and analysis. The preliminary preferred alternative is shown in bold.

Purpose and Need

Different regulations apply to guided and unguided (i.e., chartered and non-chartered) halibut fishing trips. Possessing halibut harvested from both guided and unguided trips on the same **fishing** vessel at the same time presents challenges for accountability and enforcement that cannot be adequately addressed by current regulations. Mixed guided and unguided halibut can occur on multi-day **fishing vessels and mothership charter fishing and floating lodges**, and to a lesser extent on **fishing** vessels that are owned by self-guided fishing operations that also provide sport fishing guide services to their clients. The potential for mixing guided and unguided halibut exists on every **fishing vessel, floating lodge and mothership** that services halibut harvesters. The number of these operations and the associated halibut harvests remain unknown. The mixing of guided and unguided halibut could expand in the future as charter operators look for ways to maximize halibut harvests for guided and unguided anglers on their **fishing** vessels.

Once guided and unguided halibut are mixed aboard a **fishing** vessel, it is difficult to determine which halibut were harvested under the guided regulations and which halibut were harvested under the unguided regulations. The current regulatory structure allows guided and unguided halibut to be mixed on a **fishing** vessel but does not provide the regulated public or authorized officers with a mechanism to ensure compliance with the more restrictive guided halibut regulations. A regulatory change could ensure proper accounting of guided and unguided catch.

Alternatives

Alternative 1: Take no action

Alternative 2: Prohibit the possession of guided and unguided halibut simultaneously on any **fishing** vessel.

Alternative 3: If halibut harvested using sport fishing guide services is possessed with halibut harvested not using sport fishing guide services on Convention waters in Area 2C or 3A, the IPHC annual management measures for guided sport fishing for the area that the halibut was harvested apply to all halibut onboard the fishing vessel.

~~Suboption 3.1: Include "other fishing facility" as well as "fishing vessel".~~

The Council recommends that the analysis be revised to:

1. Include the revisions suggested by staff and the Enforcement Committee, except the recommendation to include a new suboption 2.1.
2. An expanded discussion of the changes in guided and unguided halibut fishery management measures that led to an increase in multi-day, mothership and floating

lodge operations and increasing potential for mixing halibut caught by guided and unguided anglers.

3. An expanded discussion of the regulatory history of current prohibitions on mixing halibut in the commercial, subsistence, and sport fisheries.
4. Available information on mothership and floating lodge sport halibut operations in areas 2C and 3A (i.e., number of operations identified, description of services offered, whether operation holds CHPs, etc.)

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

~~(Strike the following language under Alternative 3, bullets 2 and 4)~~

~~2. An expanded discussion of the changes in guided and unguided halibut fishery management measures that led to an increase in multi-day, and mothership and floating lodge operations and increasing potential for mixing halibut caught by guided and unguided anglers.~~

~~4. Available information on mothership and floating lodge sport halibut operations in areas 2C and 3A (i.e., number of operations identified, description of services offered, whether operation holds CHPs, etc.)~~

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 1:42 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 1:43 p.m.

C3 BSAI CRAB SPECIFICATIONS

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram. The following action was taken.

Mr. Hartill made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Cross:

The Council accepts the Crab SAFE report and adopts the OFLs and ABCs recommended by the SSC for the Eastern Bering Sea Snow Crab, Bristol Bay Red King Crab, Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab, Pribilof Islands Red and Blue King Crab, and St. Matthew Island Blue King Crab.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 2:34 p.m.

C4 GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Jim Armstrong and Jim Ianelli (AFSC). The following actions were taken.

Mr. Laukitis made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Cross:

Tables Shown in Attachment 1

The Council recommends the proposed 2018 and 2019 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC, and set the TACs as recommended by the AP as shown in the attached table to the AP minutes. The TACs for both Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod and Pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water GHL fisheries. The GOA Pacific cod adjustments are shown in the attached table to the AP minutes provided by staff (revised C4 item 6).

The Council recommends setting the proposed 2018 and 2019 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the GOA as provided in Tables 9, 10 and 11 (C4 item 7).

The Council recommends the updated halibut DMRs for both the BSAI and the GOA for 2018 and 2019 as shown in Table 1 (C4 item 8).

The Council adopts the AP recommendation to write a letter to NMFS and ask that all three of the survey vessels be used for the Gulf of Alaska surveys.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 6, 2017 at 9:05 a.m.

Mr. Cross made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Laukitis:

Tables Shown in Attachment 2

The Council adopts Table 8 (C4 item 4a), the proposed 2018 and 2019 apportionments of PSC catch allowances in the BSAI.

The Council adopts Table 10 (C4 item 4c), proposed 2018 and 2019 prohibited species bycatch allowances for the BSAI trawl limited access sector.

The Council adopts the flatfish ABC reserves as the difference between the ABC and the TAC. The Council adopts the proposed 2018 and 2019 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs as shown in the table attached to the AP motion for groundfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands with the exception that the TAC for EAI/BS Atka mackerel that reads 34,500 t be corrected to 34,000 t and the 500 t be added to EBS pollock (1,359,358 t) so that it reads 1,359,858 t.

The Council adopts the updated halibut DMRs for the BSAI for 2018 and 2019 as shown in Table 1 (C4 item 8).

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 6, 2017 at 9:09 a.m.

C5 OBSERVER TENDERING ISSUE AND LOW SAMPLING RATES

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC Deputy Director, Diana Evans. The following action was taken.

Mr. Merrill made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Hartill:

Tendering

The Council initiates the following projects. Priorities will be discussed during staff tasking.

- 1) An analysis to change the definition of a tender trip. This analysis should include options 2a and 2b described in the tendering discussion paper that would either start a new trip with delivery to a tender, or limit the number of deliveries to a tender vessel and evaluate observer deployment from tender vessels.
- 2) Development of EM for trawl vessels fishing in the GOA pollock fishery to monitor for full retention and allow Chinook salmon monitoring during the offload at the processing plant.

Low Sampling Rates

The Council initiates an analysis to consider increasing the observer fee. The analytical process follow the OAC recommendation to develop observer coverage reference points, including how changes to the zero selection pool and EM optimization affect current coverage levels.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed 10/1 with one objection (Mr. Laukitis) October 6, 2017 at 12:02 p.m.

C6 2018 OBSERVER PROGRAM ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT PLAN

The Council heard a presentation on the Annual Deployment Plan from AFSC staff, Chris Rilling, and Craig Faunce, and the EMWG and OAC reports from NPFMC Deputy Director, Diana Evans. The following actions were taken.

Mr. Merrill made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Cross:

The Council supports the following recommendations for the draft 2018 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP):

Continue the trip-selection method, definition of the “no-selection pool”, the policy of not granting exemptions, and ODDS logging procedures described in the draft 2018 ADP.

Use the following sampling strata for 2018:

- EM selection pool: Fixed gear vessels that have opted-in and been approved to be in the EM selection pool and have an approved VMP.
- Hook-and-line vessels greater than or equal to 40 feet (ft) length overall (LOA)
- ~~• Hook-and-line vessels greater than or equal to 40 ft LOA delivering to tenders~~
- Pot vessels greater than or equal to 40 ft LOA
- Pot vessels greater than or equal to 40 ft LOA delivering to tenders
- Trawl vessels
- Trawl vessels delivering to tenders

Use an observer deployment allocation strategy of 15% plus optimization based on discarded groundfish and halibut and Chinook PSC (as described in Appendix C of the draft 2018 ADP).

Continue to collect salmon genetic samples, and use the methodologies for vessels delivering shoreside or to tender vessels described in the draft 2018 ADP.

The Council suggests analysts consider the impacts of reduced Pacific cod TACs on fishing effort and coverage rates in the BSAI and GOA. Information from the November groundfish plan team meetings be used to guide the analysts.

Based on the information at the time the draft ADP was prepared, the Council supports the following preliminary deployment rates for the trip-selection strata in 2018:

- No selection - 0%
- EM selection pool - 30%
- Hook-and-line - 16%
- ~~• Tender hook-and-line - 15%~~
- Pot - 15%
- Tender Pot - 15%
- Trawl - 19%
- Tender trawl - 15%

For the 2017 Annual Report (provided in June 2018) and the 2019 Annual Deployment Plan:

- In coordination with the OAC, consider the comments from the SSC to include an evaluation of gear specific “hurdle” approaches, incorporate crab PSC estimates, and develop additional metrics for optimization in the annual evaluation process, to the extent possible.
- Evaluate the impacts of mixed gear trips on future sampling designs with the implementation of sablefish pot fishery.
- Consider the recommendations from the OAC to separate EM stratum information by gear type.
- Evaluate the cost implications, for vessels and EM service providers, of deploying EM on 100% of trips in the EM selection pool, with selection for video review occurring after the trip is completed.

The Council requests that NMFS reprogram ODDS and CAS to allow vessels to be in the EM pool for fixed gear and in the observer pool for trawl gear in the same year. The prioritization will be determined in staff tasking.

The Council requests staff to provide the EM/ER Strategic Plan of 2013 and descriptions of proposed EM projects. This information will help the Council prioritize projects, and determine whether and when an EM workgroup should be appointed to shepherd new projects.

Mr. Laukitis made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Down:
(add the following language **in bold**)

For the 2017 Annual Report (provided in June 2018) and the 2019 Annual Deployment Plan:

- In coordination with the OSC, consider the comments from the SSC to include an evaluation of gear specific “hurdle” approaches, incorporate crab PSC estimates, and develop additional metrics for optimization in the annual evaluation process, to the extent possible.
- Evaluate the impacts of mixed gear trips on future sampling designs with the implementation of sablefish pot fishery.
- Consider the recommendations from the OAC to separate EM stratum information by gear type.
- Evaluate the cost **implications and operational** implications, for vessels and EM service providers, of deploying EM on 100% of trips in the EM selection pool, with selection for video review occurring after the trip is completed.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed no objection October 7, 2017 at 10:48 a.m.

Mr. Tweit made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Kinneen:
(add the following language **in bold**)

For the 2017 Annual Report (provided in June 2018) and the 2019 Annual Deployment Plan:

- In coordination with the OAC, consider the comments from the SSC **and AP** to include an evaluation of gear specific “hurdle” approaches, incorporate crab PSC estimates, and develop additional metrics for optimization in the annual evaluation process, to the extent possible.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed no objection October 7, 2017 at 10:49 a.m.

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

(add the following language in **bold** and delete the following language in ~~strikethrough~~)

Use an observer deployment allocation strategy of ~~15% plus optimization based on discarded groundfish and halibut and Chinook PSC~~ **optimization approach based on groundfish discards and halibut PSC** (as described in Appendix C of the draft 2018 ADP).

Continue to collect salmon genetic samples, and use the methodologies for vessels delivering shoreside or to tender vessels described in the draft 2018 ADP.

The Council suggests analysts consider the impacts of reduced Pacific cod TACs on fishing effort and coverage rates in the BSAI and GOA. Information from the November groundfish plan team meetings be used to guide the analysts.

Based on the information at the time the draft ADP was prepared, the Council supports the following preliminary deployment rates for the trip-selection strata in 2018:

- No selection - 0%
- EM selection pool - 30%
- Hook-and-line - ~~16%~~ **19%**
- Pot - ~~15%~~ **4%**
- Tender Pot - ~~15%~~ **6%**
- Trawl - ~~19%~~ **22%**
- Tender trawl - ~~15%~~ **12%**

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed 7/4 (Mr. Merrill, Mr. Cross, Mr. Marx, and Mr. Laukitis voting in opposition) October 7, 2017 at 11:08 a.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION: Motion passed no objection October 7, 2017 at 11:09 a.m.

C7 GOA ROCKFISH PROGRAM REVIEW

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC contractors, Darrell Brannan and Mike Downs. The following action was taken.

Mr. Merrill made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Kinneen:

The Council accepts the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program review as complete and final with the addition of information, to the extent practical, recommended by the SSC in the bullets on page 25 of its draft minutes.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 7, 2017 at 2:40 p.m.

C8 SALMON FMP AMENDMENT

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Jim Armstrong and NMFS' Gretchen Harrington. The following action was taken.

Mr. Merrill made the following motion which was seconded by Ms. Peterson:

The Council intends to amend the *Fishery Management Plan for the Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ Off Alaska* (Salmon FMP) to manage the commercial salmon fishery in the Cook Inlet exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Focusing on Cook Inlet first allows the Council to design fishery management regime for Cook Inlet that recognizes the complex issues in Cook Inlet. The Council intends to consider an FMP amendment to address the salmon fisheries in the EEZ of Prince William Sound and South Alaska Peninsula under a separate and subsequent action.

The Council modifies the preliminary purpose and need to read as follows: (additions are shown in **bold**, deleted text is shown in ~~striketrough~~.)

Preliminary Purpose and Need

The Council intends to amend the Salmon FMP to manage the ~~three~~ traditional net fishing areas that occur in Federal waters; **of Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and South Alaska Peninsula**. Federal management in an FMP must meet the Magnuson-Stevens Act required provisions for an FMP in section 303(a) and related Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions. This proposed action is necessary to bring the Salmon FMP into compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act consistent with the recent Ninth Circuit ruling **and the Judgement of the District Court in *UCIDA et al., v. NMFS***.

Conservation and Management Measures for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3

The Council directs NMFS and Council staff to continue to work with the State of Alaska to develop options for the conservation and management measures required under 303(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and related Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions. Staff should continue to prioritize their work on the following requirements:

- management policy and objectives,
- conservation and management measures,
- status determination criteria,
- annual catch limits and accountability measures,
- methods to report bycatch and measures to minimize bycatch and the mortality of unavoidable bycatch,
- the salmon plan team or other process for annually determining status of the stocks and providing stock assessment and fishery evaluation information, and
- the process for review and appeal of State management measures applicable under the FMP.

Stakeholder Salmon Committee

The Council intends to form a Salmon Committee for stakeholders to address the required provisions for an FMP amendment to manage the commercial fisheries in the Federal waters of Cook Inlet.

To develop the scope of work for the Salmon Committee, the Council will solicit written proposals from the public to help the Council identify the specific required conservation and management measures under 303(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and related Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions where a committee would assist in the evaluation of information relevant to the development of options for a fishery management plan amendment and serve a useful purpose.

Council and NMFS staff, working with ADF&G staff, will provide an update on the issues identified from this solicitation and a proposed timeline for engagement by a stakeholder committee at a future Council meeting.

With this information, the Council will determine the composition, scope, and schedule for a stakeholder workgroup and request stakeholder participation in the Salmon Committee.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 7, 2017 at 5:55 p.m.

C9 HALIBUT ABUNDANCE-BASED PSC LIMITS

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram, and IPHC's Dr. Allen Hicks. The following actions were taken.

Mr. Hartill made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Laukitis:

The Council modifies the Purpose and Need statement as follows:

*"The current fixed yield based halibut PSC caps are inconsistent with management of the directed halibut fisheries and Council management of groundfish fisheries, which are managed based on abundance. When halibut abundance declines, PSC becomes a larger proportion of total halibut removals and thereby further reduces the proportion and amount of halibut available for harvest in directed halibut fisheries. Conversely, if halibut abundance increases, halibut PSC limits could be unnecessarily constraining. The Council is considering linking PSC limits to halibut abundance to provide a responsive management approach at varying levels of halibut abundance. The Council is considering abundance-based PSC limits to control total halibut mortality, **particularly at low levels of abundance. Abundance-based PSC limits also could provide an opportunity for the directed-halibut fishery, and protect the halibut spawning stock biomass, particularly at low levels of abundance.** The Council recognizes that abundance-based halibut PSC limits may increase and decrease with changes in halibut abundance."*

The Council tasks staff to develop a preliminary analysis focusing on providing additional description of control rules, including discussion of features that best meet the Council's objectives, a qualitative evaluation of the control rule, and performance. Included in the analysis, staff should provide evaluation of the linkage between the index value and the control feature that effects PSC limits. The Council tasks staff to include the following in the analysis:

1. Develop strawman ABMs using the EBS shelf bottom trawl survey and IPHC setline survey for area 4ABCDE as indices. Provide examples and analyze indices applied separately using control rule options in Element 2 below.

2. Additionally, using strawman ABMs, apply indices to control rules individually to each gear type to establish separate PSC limits. Evaluate and provide a description of the tradeoffs of the following control rule features, as well as the impact on PSC limits:
 - o IPHC Coastwide stock status (30:20) control rule
 - o Explicit consideration of the O26 composition of PSC in a control rule
 - o Sloped transitions between stair-steps in a decision table
3. Investigate and evaluate different index/control rule combinations using various tools (e.g., simulation analysis from April 2016 and 2017 discussion papers) as outlined by the SSC. Provide discussion of the tradeoffs of the different control rules and features as it relates to the Council's objectives. In evaluating this, the Council instructs staff to maintain the existing proportional PSC allocation among sectors.

The Council refines the component elements and options for consideration in ABM development, and instructs staff to confine preliminary analysis to these elements and options.

Element 1 – Abundance index and application

Option 1. Apply EBS trawl survey and IPHC setline survey for 4ABCDE separately to establish a single PSC limit

Option 2. Index trawl gear to EBS survey, index fixed gear to IPHC setline survey

Option 3. Index EBS trawl survey and IPHC setline survey to trawl gear

Option 4. Index EBS trawl survey and IPHC setline to fixed gear

Element 2 – Control Rules

Option 1. Linear

Option 2. Decision table

Option 3. Multi-dimensional

Element 3 – PSC limit responsiveness to abundance changes

Option 1. Include IPHC stock status (30:20) as breakpoints in the control rule

Option 2. Sloped transitions between stair-steps in decision table

Option 3. PSC limit varies proportionally (1:1) with change in abundance index.

Suboption – Different variation above and below (1:1)

Element 4 – Starting point for PSC limit

Option 1. 10% below 2016 PSC use (2,118 mt)

Option 2. 2016 PSC use (2,354 mt)

Option 3. 2016 PSC limit (3,515 mt)

Option 4. 10% above 2016 PSC limit (3,867 mt)

Option 5. Additional value within range of Options 1-4

Element 5 - Maximum PSC limit (ceiling)

Option 1. 2016 PSC limit (3,515 mt)

Option 2. 2015 PSC limit (4,426 mt)

Option 3. No ceiling

Option 4. Additional value to be selected

Element 6 - Minimum PSC limit (floor)

Option 1. No floor (PSC goes to 0)

Option 2. 2016 use (2,354 mt)

Option 3. IPHC Control Rule - PSC limit goes to zero at 20% stock status

Option 4. Additional value to be selected

Mr. Kinneen made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Laukitis:

(add the following language to the end of the motion)

The Council directs NMFS to initiate scoping for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed no objection October 8, 2017 at 4:38 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 8, 2017 at 4:51 p.m.

D1 HALIBUT DECK SORTING EFP AND HALIBUT GENETICS SAMPLING EFP

The Council received a presentation from Brandee Gerke (NMFS Alaskan Region), and John Gauvin and Christopher Oliver of the Alaska Seafood Cooperative. The following action was taken.

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

The Council supports issuance of an exempted fishing permit to continue refining methods for sorting halibut on deck of non-pollock trawl vessels in the BSAI and GOA in 2018 and 2019.

The Council also supports issuance of an exempted fishing permit for crew members to collect genetic samples from incidentally caught halibut on a hook-and-line vessel in the 2018 A season western Aleutian Islands Pacific cod fishery.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed no objection October 8, 2017 at 5:40 p.m.

D2 IFQ COMMITTEE REPORT

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Sam Cunningham. The following action was taken.

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

The Council requests that NMFS supplement the 2017 IFQ Program cost recovery report to describe the process used by the Office of Law Enforcement to charge costs to the IFQ cost recovery program in recent years. In addition, the report should describe changes to the process for charging costs beginning in Federal fiscal year 2018.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed no objection October 9, 2017 at 10:18 a.m.

D3 HALIBUT RETENTION IN SABLEFISH POTS

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Sam Cunningham. The following actions were taken.

Mr. Laukitis made the following motion which was seconded by Ms. Peterson:

The Council initiates an analysis to allow retention of halibut in pot gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands with the following purpose and need statement and alternatives:

Purpose and Need

Interactions with whales throughout the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands affect the ability of sablefish and halibut quota share holders to harvest their IFQ by reducing catch per unit of effort and increasing fishing costs. Whale interactions are increasing for vessels using pot gear in the sablefish IFQ fishery and vessels fishing halibut IFQ with longline gear in the BSAI. Research into developing technological solutions to deter whales and changes in fishing strategies has not resolved the problem. The problem may be addressed by revisions to current regulations that authorize pot gear as legal gear for retention of halibut in the BSAI. Allowing retention of halibut caught in pot gear in the BSAI could address the negative impacts of whale interactions on sablefish and halibut quota share holders by reducing the amount of halibut lost to whale depredation. The Council seeks to reduce the problems associated with whale depredation while minimizing gear conflicts. The Council seeks to reduce the amount of unaccounted mortality occurring due to whale depredation.

Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 2: Allow retention of legal-size halibut in pot gear used to fish sablefish IFQ in the BSAI, provided the IFQ holder also holds sufficient halibut IFQ for that IPHC regulatory area.

Element 1: Applies to both single pots and longline pots

Element 2: Gear retrieval

Option 1: No gear tending requirements (status quo)

Option 2: A vessel with unfished sablefish IFQ onboard cannot leave gear on the grounds untended for more than (Suboptions) 5-10 days

Element 3: Limit of 9-inch maximum width of tunnel openings does not apply when vessel has unfished halibut IFQ onboard

Element 4: All vessels using pot gear to fish IFQ are required to use logbooks and VMS

NMFS will include pot gear effort and catch of IFQ species in its annual management report to the Council. The Council intends to review the effects of allowing retention of halibut in pot gear 3 years after implementation.

Mr. Tweit made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Cross
(add the following language in **bold** and delete the following language in ~~strikethrough~~)

Purpose and Need

Interactions with whales throughout the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands affect the ability of sablefish and halibut quota share holders to harvest their IFQ by reducing catch per unit of effort and increasing fishing costs. Whale ~~interactions~~ **depredation on discarded halibut** ~~are~~**is** increasing for vessels using pot gear in the sablefish IFQ fishery and vessels fishing halibut IFQ with longline gear in the BSAI. Research into developing technological solutions to deter whales and changes in fishing strategies has not resolved the problem. The problem may be addressed by revisions to current regulations that authorize pot gear as legal gear for retention of halibut in the BSAI. Allowing retention of halibut caught in pot gear in the BSAI could address the negative impacts of whale interactions on sablefish and halibut quota share holders by reducing the amount of halibut lost to whale depredation. The Council seeks to reduce the problems associated with whale depredation while minimizing gear conflicts. The Council seeks to reduce the amount of unaccounted mortality occurring due to whale depredation.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed no objection October 9, 2017 at 11:47 a.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 9, 2017 at 11:49 a.m.

E1 STAFF TASKING

David Witherell presented a list of items for discussion at staff tasking from the B reports and other items during the meeting; and other staff tasking materials. Diana Evans presented the Ecosystem Workshop proposal for February, and Steve MacLean presented the Ecosystem Committee minutes. In addition to discussing the relative priority of previously tasked projects, the Council initiated new actions and letters and clarified direction and tasking for its various committees. The following actions were taken.

Ecosystem Committee and Northern Fur Seals

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

The Ecosystem Committee anticipates the next meeting will take place in February of 2018.

The Council encourages the Agency to revisit and update the Conservation Plan for the Eastern Pacific Stock of Northern Fur Seals and requests that NMFS report to the Ecosystem Committee on their plans to update the 2007 Conservation Plan. The report should include review and potential revisions to Plan objectives, review and potential revisions to the Conservation Action Outline, incorporation of data available since publication of the Plan, and mechanisms for incorporating local knowledge and expertise including the effectiveness of co-management agreements with tribal governments.

The Council recommends the Ecosystem Committee discuss ways for Bering Sea communities to provide input to the Council with ecosystem issues and concerns.

The committee will discuss Ecosystem Committee membership during subsequent meetings and provide recommendations back to the Council.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed no objection October 9, 2017 at 4:45 p.m.

Observer EM Letter

Ms. Peterson made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Laukitis:

The Council will draft a letter to NMFS Headquarters.

The letter will first thank the agency for providing additional funds to the observer program, highlighting how the funds help to augment coverage rates and benefits the program.

The letter will also comment on the draft 2018 ADP recommendation to require 100% coverage on EM boats in 2019 with a 30% post trip selection.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 9, 2017 at 5:14 p.m.

Stranded BSAI and GOA Pacific Cod

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

The Council requests that staff develop a discussion paper outlining steps necessary to remove obstacles that impede achieving, on a continuing basis, the complete harvest of Pacific cod allocations in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and the Gulf of Alaska.

The discussion paper should outline the process for reallocating Pacific cod, and options for National Marine Fisheries Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to facilitate the harvest by state and federal fishery participants of stranded allocations of Pacific cod in state waters (GHL) fisheries, with a focus on the Aleutian Island Sub district (AIS) GHL fishery.

The discussion paper should also address impediments to the complete harvest of Pacific cod allocations in the federal fisheries, including the bulleted allocations, and to examine steps to facilitate earlier season rollover of BSAI Pacific cod allocations by NMFS.

- ICA on fixed gear in the BSAI allocation
- ICA in the GOA
- GOA Rock Fish Pilot Program allocation

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

The Council requests that staff add a module to the BSAI cod allocation review outlining steps necessary to remove obstacles that impede achieving, on a continuing basis, the complete harvest of Pacific cod allocations in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and add a similar discussion when reviewing the allocations in the Gulf of Alaska.

The discussion paper should outline the process for reallocating Pacific cod, and options for NMFS and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to facilitate the harvest by state and federal fishery participants of stranded allocation of Pacific cod in state waters (GHL) fisheries, with a focus on the Aleutian Island Sub district (AIS) GHL fishery.

The discussion paper should also address impediments to the complete harvest of Pacific cod allocations in the federal fisheries, including the below allocations, and to examine steps to facilitate earlier season rollover of BSAI Pcod (e.g. Amendment 85) allocations by NMFS.

- ICA on fixed gear in the BSAI allocation
- ICA in the GOA
- GOA Rock Fish Pilot Program allocation
- Amendment 80 fleet allocation

VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Motion passed no objection October 9, 2017 at 5:53 p.m.

During Staff Tasking the Council appointed Dr. Amanda Bishop of the Alaska Sea Life Center in Seward, Alaska, to the SSC through 2018. Bishop is currently serving as a postdoctoral researcher at the Sea Life Center and has a background in Coastal Environmental Management and Behavioral Ecology. Dr. Dan Lew, an economist from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, was appointed to the GOA Groundfish Plan Team. Lew has served on the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team in the past, and has expertise with the economics of the recreational fishing sector and IFQ markets.

THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ON MONDAY OCTOBER 9, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M.

Species	Area	OFL	2016 ABC	TAC	Catch	OFL	2017 ABC	TAC	Catch as of 9/2/17	2018 & 2019		
										OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	6,358	-	n/a	n/a	5,094	-	-	n/a	3,937	-
	W (610)	n/a	56,494	56,494	61,252	n/a	43,602	43,602	9,198	n/a	33,701	33,701
	C (620)	n/a	124,927	124,927	47,025	n/a	98,652	98,652	61,132	n/a	76,249	76,249
	C (630)	n/a	57,183	57,183	64,816	n/a	48,929	48,929	16,062	n/a	37,818	37,818
	WYAK	n/a	9,348	9,348	133	n/a	7,492	7,492	40	n/a	5,791	5,791
	Total		322,858	254,310	247,952	173,226	235,807	203,769	198,675	86,432	182,204	157,496
	EYAK/SEO	13,226	9,920	9,920	-	13,226	9,920	9,920	-	13,226	9,920	9,920
	Total	336,084	264,230	257,872	173,226	249,033	213,689	208,595	86,432	195,430	167,416	163,479
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	40,503	28,352	18,475	n/a	36,291	25,404	15,505	n/a	22,565	15,796
	C	n/a	49,312	36,984	23,973	n/a	44,180	33,135	14,646	n/a	27,471	20,603
	E	n/a	8,785	6,589	69	n/a	7,871	5,903	45	n/a	4,894	3,671
	Total	116,700	98,600	71,925	42,517	105,378	88,342	64,442	30,196	67,486	54,930	40,069
Sablefish	W	n/a	1,272	1,272	1,059	n/a	1,349	1,349	698	n/a	1,367	1,367
	C	n/a	4,023	4,023	4,175	n/a	4,514	4,514	3,412	n/a	4,574	4,574
	WYAK	n/a	1,475	1,475	1,656	n/a	1,605	1,605	1,498	n/a	1,626	1,626
	SEO	n/a	2,317	2,317	2,464	n/a	2,606	2,606	2,070	n/a	2,640	2,640
	Total	10,326	9,087	9,087	9,354	11,885	10,074	10,074	7,678	12,045	10,207	10,207
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	20,851	13,250	148	n/a	20,921	13,250	248	n/a	21,042	13,250
	C	n/a	19,242	19,242	3,658	n/a	19,306	19,306	1,830	n/a	19,418	19,418
	WYAK	n/a	3,177	3,177	1	n/a	3,188	3,188	-	n/a	3,206	3,206
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,094	1,094	1	n/a	1,099	1,099	-	n/a	1,105	1,105
	Total	54,520	44,364	36,763	3,808	54,583	44,514	36,843	2,078	54,893	44,771	36,979
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	186	186	4	n/a	256	256	20	n/a	257	257
	C	n/a	3,495	3,495	220	n/a	3,454	3,454	121	n/a	3,488	3,488
	WYAK	n/a	2,997	2,997	9	n/a	3,017	3,017	7	n/a	3,047	3,047
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,548	2,548	5	n/a	2,565	2,565	2	n/a	2,590	2,590
	Total	11,102	9,226	9,226	238	11,182	9,292	9,292	150	11,290	9,382	9,382
Rex Sole	W	n/a	1,315	1,315	172	n/a	1,459	1,459	44	n/a	1,478	1,478
	C	n/a	4,445	4,445	1,573	n/a	4,930	4,930	1,120	n/a	4,995	4,995
	WYAK	n/a	766	766	3	n/a	850	850	2	n/a	861	861
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	967	967	-	n/a	1,072	1,072	-	n/a	1,087	1,087
	Total	9,791	7,493	7,493	1,748	10,860	8,311	8,311	1,166	11,004	8,421	8,421
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	28,183	14,500	1,007	n/a	28,100	14,500	176	n/a	25,747	14,500
	C	n/a	107,981	75,000	18,784	n/a	107,934	75,000	19,161	n/a	98,895	75,000
	WYAK	n/a	37,368	6,900	26	n/a	37,405	6,900	30	n/a	34,273	6,900
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	12,656	6,900	13	n/a	12,654	6,900	11	n/a	11,595	6,900
	Total	219,430	186,188	103,300	19,830	219,327	186,093	103,300	19,378	196,635	170,510	103,300
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	11,027	8,650	228	n/a	11,098	8,650	65	n/a	11,282	8,650
	C	n/a	20,211	15,400	2,190	n/a	20,339	15,400	1,357	n/a	20,677	15,400
	WYAK	n/a	2,930	2,930	2	n/a	2,949	2,949	-	n/a	2,998	2,998
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	852	852	-	n/a	857	857	-	n/a	872	872
	Total	42,840	35,020	27,832	2,420	43,128	35,243	27,856	1,422	43,872	35,829	27,920

Sources: 2016 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2015; 2017 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from the harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2016, 2016 catches through December 31, 2016 and 2017 catches through September 2, 2017 from AKR Catch Accounting.

Species	Area	2016				2017			Catch as of 9/2/17	2018 & 2019		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch	OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC
Pacific Ocean Perch	W	n/a	2,737	2,737	2,654	n/a	2,679	2,679	2,530	n/a	2,627	2,627
	C	n/a	17,033	17,033	17,646	n/a	16,671	16,671	13,025	n/a	16,347	16,347
	WYAK	n/a	2,847	2,847	2,827	n/a	2,786	2,786	2,757	n/a	2,733	2,733
	W/C/WYAK	26,313	22,617	22,617	23,127	25,753	22,136	22,136	18,312	25,252	21,707	21,707
	SEO	2,118	1,820	1,820	-	2,073	1,782	1,782	-	2,032	1,747	1,747
	Total	28,431	24,437	24,437	23,127	27,826	23,918	23,918	18,312	27,284	23,454	23,454
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	457	457	121	n/a	432	432	211	n/a	400	400
	C	n/a	3,547	3,547	3,316	n/a	3,354	3,354	1,311	n/a	3,108	3,108
	E	n/a	4	-	-	n/a	4	-	-	n/a	4	-
	Total	4,783	4,004	4,004	3,437	4,522	3,790	3,786	1,522	4,175	3,512	3,508
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	38	38	53	n/a	38	38	22	n/a	38	38
	C	n/a	301	301	419	n/a	301	301	153	n/a	301	301
	E	n/a	947	947	305	n/a	947	947	246	n/a	947	947
	Total	1,715	1,286	1,286	777	1,715	1,286	1,286	421	1,715	1,286	1,286
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	173	173	95	n/a	158	158	81	n/a	146	146
	C	n/a	4,147	4,147	3,217	n/a	3,786	3,786	2,249	n/a	3,499	3,499
	WYAK	n/a	275	275	7	n/a	251	251	22	n/a	232	232
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	91	91	8	n/a	83	83	5	n/a	77	77
	Total	5,733	4,686	4,686	3,327	5,233	4,278	4,278	2,357	4,837	3,954	3,954
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	105	105	42	n/a	105	105	20	n/a	104	104
	C	n/a	707	707	484	n/a	706	706	244	n/a	702	702
	E	n/a	516	516	115	n/a	516	516	158	n/a	512	512
	Total	1,596	1,328	1,328	641	1,594	1,327	1,327	422	1,583	1,318	1,318
Demersal shelf rockfish	Total	364	231	231	117	357	227	227	111	357	227	227
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	291	291	207	n/a	291	291	79	n/a	291	291
	C	n/a	988	988	689	n/a	988	988	472	n/a	988	988
	E	n/a	682	682	222	n/a	682	682	218	n/a	682	682
	Total	2,615	1,961	1,961	1,118	2,615	1,961	1,961	769	2,615	1,961	1,961
Other Rockfish	W/C	n/a	1,534	1,534	1,190	n/a	1,534	1,534	850	n/a	1,534	1,534
	WYAK	n/a	574	574	53	n/a	574	574	41	n/a	574	574
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	3,665	200	40	n/a	3,665	200	25	n/a	3,665	200
	Total	7,424	5,773	2,308	1,283	7,424	5,773	2,308	916	7,424	5,773	2,308
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	2,000	1,092	6,200	4,700	3,000	987	6,200	4,700	3,000
Big Skate	W	n/a	908	908	166	n/a	908	908	112	n/a	908	908
	C	n/a	1,850	1,850	1,884	n/a	1,850	1,850	1,050	n/a	1,850	1,850
	E	n/a	1,056	1,056	51	n/a	1,056	1,056	100	n/a	1,056	1,056
	Total	5,086	3,814	3,814	2,101	5,086	3,814	3,814	1,262	5,086	3,814	3,814
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	61	61	154	n/a	61	61	21	n/a	61	61
	C	n/a	2,513	2,513	887	n/a	2,513	2,513	545	n/a	2,513	2,513
	E	n/a	632	632	355	n/a	632	632	220	n/a	632	632
	Total	4,274	3,206	3,206	1,396	4,274	3,206	3,206	786	4,274	3,206	3,206
Other Skates	GOA-wide	2,558	1,919	1,919	1,666	2,558	1,919	1,919	910	2,558	1,919	1,919
Sculpins	GOA-wide	7,338	5,591	5,591	1,332	7,338	5,591	5,591	1,168	7,338	5,591	5,591
Sharks	GOA-wide	6,020	4,514	4,514	2,016	6,020	4,514	4,514	841	6,020	4,514	4,514
Squids	GOA-wide	1,530	1,148	1,148	239	1,516	1,137	1,137	18	1,516	1,137	1,137
Octopuses	GOA-wide	6,504	4,878	4,878	383	6,504	4,878	4,878	162	6,504	4,878	4,878
Total		727,684	590,809	293,617	297,193	796,158	667,877	535,863	179,460	682,141	572,710	465,832

Sources: 2016 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2015; 2017 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from the harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2016, 2016 catches through December 31, 2016 and 2017 catches through September 2, 2017 from AKR Catch Accounting.

C4-Addendum-GOA Pcod Adjustments

Proposed 2018/2019 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod ABCs, TACs and State Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) in metric tons.

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	22,565	27,471	4,894	54,930
State GHL	6,770	6,868	1,224	14,861
(%)	30%	25%	25%	25-30
Federal TAC	15,796	20,603	3,671	40,069

Proposed 2018 and 2019 GOA Harvest Specifications

Table 9. Proposed 2018 and 2019 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 ²	Season	Percent	Amount	Season	Amount
January 20 - April 1	27.5	469	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 - September 1	30	512	September 1 - December 31	12	31		
September 1 - October 1	7.5	128					
October 1 - December 31	15	256					
Total		1,706			257		9

¹ The Pacific halibut PSC limit for hook-and-line gear is allocated to the demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) fishery and fisheries other than DSR. The hook-and-line IFQ sablefish fishery is exempt from halibut PSC limits, as are pot and jig gear for all groundfish fisheries.

Table 10. Proposed 2018 and 2019 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	85	469
April 1 - July 1	85	256	341
July 1 - September 1	171	341	512
September 1 - October 1	128	Any remainder	128
Subtotal, January 20 - October 1	768	682	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 September 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 11. Proposed 2018 and 2019 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	129	January 1 - June 10	86	111
			June 10 - September 1	2	3
			September 1 - December 31	12	15
	Catcher/Processor	128	January 1 - June 10	86	110
			June 10 - September 1	2	3
			September 1 - December 31	12	15

Table 1. Proposed 2018 DMRs and currently specified 2017 DMRs. Green font indicates reduced DMRs and red font indicates increase. DMRs for mothership operations are included under CPs.

2017						
Operational Group				Sample Size (Mean Annual N _{Viabilities})	Estimate DMR?	DMR
Sector	Region	Gear	Target			
CP	BSAI	PTR	all	4,151	N	100%
		NPT	all	1,753	Y	85%
		HAL	all	11,676	Y	8%
		POT	all	571	Y	6%
	GOA	PTR	all	0	N	100%
		NPT	all	196	N	85%
		HAL	all	1,247	Y	11%
		POT	all	479	Y	10%
CV	BSAI	PTR	all	224	N	100%
		NPT	all	2,282	Y	52%
		HAL	all	44	Y	14%
		POT	all	571	Y	6%
	GOA	PTR	all	1	N	100%
		NPT	RPP ^e	547	Y	67%
			non-RPP		Y	65%
		HAL	all	729	Y	12%
POT	all	479	Y	10%		

2018						
Operational Group				Sample Size (Mean Annual N _{Viabilities})	Estimate DMR?	DMR
Sector	Region	Gear	Target			
CP	BSAI	PTR	all	3,097	N	100%
		NPT	all	2,025	Y	84%
		HAL	all	8,838	Y	8%
		POT	all	548	Y	9%
	GOA	PTR	all	0	N	100%
		NPT	all	132	N	84%
		HAL	all	1,493	Y	10%
		POT	all	602	Y	7%
CV	BSAI	PTR	all	151	N	100%
		NPT	all	2,456	Y	60%
		HAL	all	36	Y	17%
		POT	all	548	Y	9%
	GOA	PTR	all	0	N	100%
		NPT	RPP	937	Y	62%
			non-RPP		Y	67%
		HAL	all	1	Y	17%
POT	all	602	Y	7%		

^e – 2017 RPP DMR calculated by proxy methods based on catch composition. RPP was directly estimated in 2018

TABLE 8—PROPOSED 2018 AND 2019 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 fishery
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,515	710	315	n/a	1,745	745
Herring (mt) BSAI	2,013	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
<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	9,105,477	n/a	974,286	8,131,191	3,996,480	2,613,365
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 1	830,000	n/a	88,810	741,190	312,115	348,285
Non-Pacific cod non-trawl-Total	2,520,000	n/a	269,640	2,250,360	532,660	1,053,394

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.

C4 item 4b: BSAI PSC Limits

TABLE 9-PROPOSED 2018 AND 2019 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	100	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ¹	43	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/ Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	5	n/a
Rockfish	5	n/a
Pacific cod	10	n/a
Non-Pacific cod non-trawl-Total	1,800	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2,3}	50	n/a
Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴	n/a	24,250
Total trawl PSC	2,013	97,000

¹ “Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

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

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

⁴ In October 2017 the Council recommended that the red king crab bycatch limit for non-pelagic trawl fisheries within the RKCSS be limited to 25 percent of the red king crab PSC allowance (see § 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(2)).

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

TABLE 10—PROPOSED 2018 AND 2019 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

BSAI trawl limited access 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	150	23,338	2,463,587	293,234	1,005,879
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ²	-	-	-	-	0
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	-	-	0
Rockfish April 15-December 31	4	-	4,069	-	849
Pacific cod	391	2,954	105,008	50,816	42,424
Pollock/Atka mackerel/ other species ³	200	197	40,701	4,235	4,243
Total BSAI trawl limited access PSC	745	26,489	2,613,365	348,285	1,053,394

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas.

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

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

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

C4 item 4d: BSAI PSC Limits

TABLE 11–PROPOSED 2018 AND 2019 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	n/a
	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

October SSC proposed BSAI Groundfish OFL and ABC and AP proposed TAC recommendations for 2018-2019 (in metric tons)

Species	Area	2016			Catch	2017			Catch as of 9/2/17	2018 and 2019		
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	EBS	3,910,000	2,090,000	1,340,000	1,352,707	3,640,000	2,800,000	1,345,000	1,287,862	4,360,000	2,979,000	1,359,358
	AI	39,075	32,227	19,000	1,257	43,650	36,061	19,000	1,095	49,291	40,788	19,000
	Bogoslof	31,906	23,850	500	1,005	130,428	60,800	500	186	130,428	97,428	500
Pacific cod	BS	390,000	255,000	238,680	231,514	284,000	239,000	223,704	171,442	258,687	208,265	194,936
	AI	23,400	17,600	12,839	12,593	28,700	21,500	15,695	10,675	28,700	21,500	15,695
Sablefish	BS	1,304	1,151	1,151	532	1,499	1,274	1,274	984	1,519	1,291	1,274
	AI	1,766	1,557	1,557	349	2,044	1,735	1,735	405	2,072	1,758	1,735
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	228,100	211,700	144,000	135,350	287,000	260,800	154,000	92,798	276,000	250,800	154,000
Greenland turbot	BSAI	4,194	3,462	2,873	2,238	11,615	6,644	4,500	2,623	12,831	10,864	4,500
	BS	n/a	2,673	2,673	2,117	n/a	5,800	4,375	2,528	n/a	9,484	4,375
	AI	n/a	789	200	121	n/a	844	125	95	n/a	1,380	125
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	94,035	80,701	14,000	11,110	76,100	65,371	14,000	5,051	67,023	58,633	14,000
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	11,100	9,500	5,000	4,851	10,360	8,880	5,000	4,091	10,700	9,200	5,000
Northern rock sole	BSAI	165,900	161,000	57,100	45,101	159,700	155,100	47,100	33,341	147,300	143,100	50,100
Flathead sole	BSAI	79,562	66,250	21,000	10,384	81,654	68,278	14,500	7,949	79,136	66,164	15,500
Alaska plaice	BSAI	49,000	41,000	14,500	13,385	42,800	36,000	13,000	13,326	36,900	32,100	13,000
Other flatfish	BSAI	17,414	13,061	2,500	2,847	17,591	13,193	2,500	4,028	17,591	13,193	2,500
Pacific ocean perch	BSAI	40,529	33,320	31,900	31,319	53,152	43,723	34,900	24,057	51,950	42,735	34,900
	BS	n/a	8,353	8,000	8,221	n/a	12,199	11,000	5,444	n/a	11,924	11,000
	EAI	n/a	7,916	7,900	7,444	n/a	10,307	7,900	4,208	n/a	10,074	9,900
	CAI	n/a	7,355	7,000	6,765	n/a	8,009	7,000	5,890	n/a	7,828	7,500
	WAI	n/a	9,696	9,000	8,888	n/a	13,208	9,000	8,515	n/a	12,909	12,000
Northern rockfish	BSAI	14,689	11,960	4,500	4,541	16,242	13,264	5,000	4,125	15,854	12,947	5,000
Blackspotted/Rougheye rockfish	BSAI	693	561	300	159	612	501	225	163	750	614	225
	EBS/EAI	n/a	179	100	72	n/a	306	100	49	n/a	374	100
	CAI/WAI	n/a	382	200	87	n/a	195	125	114	n/a	240	125
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	690	518	200	112	666	499	125	133	666	499	125
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,667	1,250	875	789	1,816	1,362	875	593	1,816	1,362	875
	BS	n/a	695	325	282	n/a	791	325	216	n/a	791	325
	AI	n/a	555	550	507	n/a	571	550	377	n/a	571	550
Atka mackerel	BSAI	104,749	90,340	55,000	54,485	102,700	87,200	65,000	45,766	99,900	85,000	65,000
	EAI/BS	n/a	30,832	28,500	28,360	n/a	34,890	34,500	16,236	n/a	34,000	34,500
	CAI	n/a	27,216	16,000	15,795	n/a	30,330	18,000	17,304	n/a	29,600	21,500
	WAI	n/a	32,292	10,500	10,330	n/a	21,980	12,500	12,226	n/a	21,400	13,910
Skates	BSAI	50,215	42,134	26,000	29,687	49,063	41,144	26,000	22,623	46,583	39,008	26,000
Sculpins	BSAI	52,365	39,725	4,500	4,947	56,582	42,387	4,500	4,058	56,582	42,387	4,500
Sharks	BSAI	1,363	1,022	125	126	689	517	125	82	689	517	125
Squids	BSAI	6,912	5,184	1,500	1,378	6,912	5,184	1,342	2,006	6,912	5,184	1,342
Octopuses	BSAI	3,452	2,589	400	627	4,769	3,576	400	152	4,769	3,576	400
Total	BSAI	5,324,080	3,236,662	2,000,000	1,953,391	5,110,344	4,013,993	2,000,000	1,739,614	5,764,649	4,167,913	2,000,000

Sources: 2016 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2017 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2015 and December 2016, respectively; 2016 catches through December 31, 2016 and 2017 catches through September 2, 2017 from AKR Catch Accounting.

Table 1. Proposed 2018 DMRs and currently specified 2017 DMRs. Green font indicates reduced DMRs and red font indicates increase. DMRs for mothership operations are included under CPs.

2017						
Operational Group				Sample Size (Mean Annual N _{Viabilities})	Estimate DMR?	DMR
Sector	Region	Gear	Target			
CP	BSAI	PTR	all	4,151	N	100%
		NPT	all	1,753	Y	85%
		HAL	all	11,676	Y	8%
		POT	all	571	Y	6%
	GOA	PTR	all	0	N	100%
		NPT	all	196	N	85%
		HAL	all	1,247	Y	11%
		POT	all	479	Y	10%
CV	BSAI	PTR	all	224	N	100%
		NPT	all	2,282	Y	52%
		HAL	all	44	Y	14%
		POT	all	571	Y	6%
	GOA	PTR	all	1	N	100%
		NPT	RPP ^e	547	Y	67%
			non-RPP		Y	65%
		HAL	all	729	Y	12%
POT	all	479	Y	10%		

2018						
Operational Group				Sample Size (Mean Annual N _{Viabilities})	Estimate DMR?	DMR
Sector	Region	Gear	Target			
CP	BSAI	PTR	all	3,097	N	100%
		NPT	all	2,025	Y	84%
		HAL	all	8,838	Y	8%
		POT	all	548	Y	9%
	GOA	PTR	all	0	N	100%
		NPT	all	132	N	84%
		HAL	all	1,493	Y	10%
		POT	all	602	Y	7%
CV	BSAI	PTR	all	151	N	100%
		NPT	all	2,456	Y	60%
		HAL	all	36	Y	17%
		POT	all	548	Y	9%
	GOA	PTR	all	0	N	100%
		NPT	RPP	937	Y	62%
			non-RPP		Y	67%
		HAL	all	1	Y	17%
POT	all	602	Y	7%		

^e – 2017 RPP DMR calculated by proxy methods based on catch composition. RPP was directly estimated in 2018

TIME LOG
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska
Hilton Hotel
October 4 – 9, 2017

WEDNESDAY October 4, 2017

10/04/2017 08:06:33 AM Call to Order
10/04/2017 08:08:47 AM Oath of Office – Jim Balsiger, Simon Kinneen, Kenny Down
10/04/2017 08:10:41 AM Election of Officers – Sam Cotten for Dan Hull and Bill Tweit
10/04/2017 08:11:27 AM Motion – Approval of the Agenda

B1 REPORTS

10/04/2017 08:12:48 AM **B1 Executive Director’s Report** – David Witherell
10/04/2017 08:33:30 AM B1 St. Paul Outreach Summary – Steve MacLean
10/04/2017 09:12:20 AM Executive Director Report – Legislative Update
10/04/2017 09:55:47 AM Break
10/04/2017 10:20:38 AM **B2 NMFS Report**
10/04/2017 10:20:19 AM AA Chris Oliver and James Uthmeier speak
10/04/2017 10:43:51 AM **ACLIM Report** – Alan Hanie & Kristen Holsman
10/04/2017 10:52:27 AM Lunch Break
10/04/2017 01:02:21 PM ACLIM Report Continued
10/04/2017 02:04:41 PM Deep Sea Coral Report – Chris Rooper
10/04/2017 02:27:56 PM Deep Sea Coral Report - Heather Coleman Presentation
10/04/2017 02:50:17 PM Break
10/04/2017 03:09:55 PM **B2 NMFS Management Report** – Glenn Merrill
10/04/2017 03:16:50 PM In Season Management Report – Mary Fureness
10/04/2017 03:29:51 PM **B3 NOAA GC Report** – Lauren Smoker
10/04/2017 03:33:27 PM **B4 ADF&G Report** – Trent Hartill
10/04/2017 03:37:33 PM **B5 USCG Report** – Corrie Sergeant
10/04/2017 03:47:42 PM **B6 USFWS Seabird Update** – Rob Kayler
10/04/2017 03:57:10 PM **B6 Coastal Resilience and Adaptation** - Aaron Poe
10/04/2017 04:12:06 PM **B6 USFWS Report** – Aaron Martin
10/04/2017 04:20:27 PM **B7 Protected Species Report** – Steve MacLean
10/04/2017 05:14:45 PM Break
10/04/2017 05:26:32 PM **B Public Testimony**
10/04/2017 05:29:18 PM Arthur Severance
10/04/2017 05:34:14 PM Phil Zavadil & Lauren Divine
10/04/2017 05:43:48 PM Duncan Fields
10/04/2017 05:47:02 PM Jon Warrenchuk
10/04/2017 05:50:50 PM Shannon Carroll
10/04/2017 05:55:54 PM Becca Robbins Gisclair
10/04/2017 05:57:56 PM Council Recess

THURSDAY October 5, 2017

10/05/2017 08:04:05 AM Call to Order
10/05/2017 08:04:14 AM Recognition of Roy Hyder

C1 CHARTER HALIBUT ANNUAL PERMIT REGISTRATION

10/05/2017 08:41:51 AM Break
10/05/2017 08:49:58 AM **C1 Staff Presentation** – Sarah Marrinan
10/05/2017 09:27:27 AM **AP Report** – Matt Upton
10/05/2017 09:34:01 AM **C1 Public Testimony**
10/05/2017 09:34:04 AM Bruce Gabrys
10/05/2017 09:41:17 AM Samantha Weinstein
10/05/2017 09:49:30 AM Jim Martin
10/05/2017 09:53:22 AM Tom Gemmell
10/05/2017 09:57:13 AM **C1 Mr. Mezirow Motion**
10/05/2017 10:51:56 AM Break
10/05/2017 11:15:33 AM C1 Motion Continued

C2 MIXING OF GUIDED AND UNGUIDED HALIBUT

10/05/2017 11:20:15 AM **C2 Presentation** – NPFMC Jon McCracken
10/05/2017 12:00:44 PM Lunch
10/05/2017 01:10:43 PM **Enforcement Committee Report** – Jon McCracken
10/05/2017 01:15:59 PM **AP Report** – Angel Drobnica
10/05/2017 01:17:21 PM **C2 Public Testimony**
10/05/2017 01:17:29 PM Tim Comer
10/05/2017 01:22:43 PM Samantha Weinstein
10/05/2017 01:25:09 PM Jim Martin
10/05/2017 01:32:47 PM **C2 Mr. Mezirow Motion**

C3 BSAI CRAB SPECIFICATIONS

10/05/2017 01:43:05 PM **C3 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram
10/05/2017 02:28:28 PM SSC Report – Farron Wallace
10/05/2017 02:31:50 PM **AP Report** – Matt Upton
10/05/2017 02:35:16 PM **C3 Mr. Hartill Motion**
10/05/2017 02:40:16 PM **Break**

NO PUBLIC TESTIMONY TAKEN ON THIS AGENDA ITEM

C4 GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

10/05/2017 03:36:38 PM **C4 Staff Presentation** – Jim Armstrong, Jim Ianelli
10/05/2017 05:04:16 PM Recess for day

FRIDAY October 6, 2017

10/06/2017 08:12:22 AM C4 Presentation/Questions Continued
10/06/2017 08:23:08 AM SSC Report – Farron Wallace
10/06/2017 08:49:11 AM **AP Report** – Matt Upton
10/06/2017 08:53:06 AM **C4 Public Testimony**
10/06/2017 08:53:10 AM Julie Bonney
10/06/2017 08:56:59 AM Jon Warrenchuk
10/06/2017 09:01:46 AM **C4 Mr. Laukitis Motion**
10/06/2017 09:07:49 AM **C4 Mr. Cross Motion**
10/06/2017 09:10:24 AM Break

C5 OBSERVER TENDERING ISSUE

10/06/2017 09:33:03 AM **C5 Presentation** – NPFMC DD, Diana Evans
10/06/2017 09:49:28 AM OAC Report – Diana Evans
10/06/2017 10:47:50 AM **AP Report** – Angel Drobnica
10/06/2017 11:00:20 AM Break
10/06/2017 11:11:27 AM **C5 Public Testimony**
10/06/2017 11:11:37 AM Bob Alverson
10/06/2017 11:19:21 AM Beth Stewart
10/06/2017 11:24:28 AM Dan Falvey
10/06/2017 11:35:04 AM Julie Bonney
10/06/2017 11:45:47 AM **C5 Mr. Merrill Motion**
10/06/2017 12:05:03 PM Lunch Break

C6 2018 OBSERVER PROGRAM ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT PLAN

10/06/2017 02:35:55 PM **C6 Presentation** Chris Rilling AFSC
10/06/2017 02:54:00 PM Craig Faunce ADP Presentation
10/06/2017 03:53:28 PM EMWG Report – Diana Evans (NPFMC)
10/06/2017 04:17:01 PM OAC Report – Diana Evans (NPFMC)
10/06/2017 04:33:19 PM SSC Report – Farron Wallace
10/06/2017 04:46:05 PM **AP Report** – Angel Drobnica
10/06/2017 04:56:26 PM **C6 Public Testimony – Out of Order**
10/06/2017 04:56:56 PM Malcolm Milne
10/06/2017 05:17:31 PM Dan Falvey
10/06/2017 05:24:54 PM Molly Zaleski and Jon Warrenchuk
10/06/2017 05:29:26 PM Recess for the day

SATURDAY October 7, 2017

10/07/2017 09:10:59 AM SSC Report C7 thru D1 – Farron Wallace
10/07/2017 09:51:31 AM **C6 Public Testimony**
10/07/2017 09:51:20 AM Todd Hoppy
10/07/2017 10:03:52 AM Ruth Christiansen
10/07/2017 10:14:07 AM Julie Bonney
10/07/2017 10:22:30 AM **C6 Mr. Merrill Motion**
10/07/2017 11:12:51 AM Break

C7 GOA ROCKFISH PROGRAM REVIEW

10/07/2017 11:33:37 AM **C7 Presentation** – Darrell Brannan and Mike Downs
10/07/2017 12:15:14 PM Lunch Break
10/07/2017 01:17:35 PM C7 Presentation Continued
10/07/2017 02:19:54 PM **AP Report** – Matt Upton
10/07/2017 02:20:18 PM **C7 Public Comment**
10/07/2017 02:20:20 PM Alexis Kwachka
10/07/2017 02:28:11 PM Julie Bonney
10/07/2017 02:36:42 PM **C7 Mr. Merrill Motion**
10/07/2017 02:41:09 PM Break

C8 SALMON FMP AMENDMENT

10/07/2017 03:00:26 PM **C8 Presentation** – Jim Armstrong & Gretchen Harrington
10/07/2017 04:04:05 PM Outreach Summary – Jim Armstrong
10/07/2017 04:11:03 PM **AP Report** – Angel Drobnica
10/07/2017 04:16:37 PM Break
10/07/2017 04:33:23 PM **C8 Public Testimony**
10/07/2017 04:32:54 PM Terry Nininger
10/07/2017 04:34:41 PM Larry Engel
10/07/2017 04:45:10 PM Howard Delo
10/07/2017 04:48:19 PM Mike Wood
10/07/2017 04:51:22 PM Beth Stewart
10/07/2017 04:57:40 PM Erik Huebsch
10/07/2017 05:03:33 PM David Martin
10/07/2017 05:18:38 PM Ernie Weiss and Paul Gronholdt
10/07/2017 05:22:00 PM Mike Stanley
10/07/2017 05:25:02 PM Steve Brown
10/07/2017 05:27:17 PM Jeff Stephan
10/07/2017 05:35:48 PM **C8 Mr. Merrill Motion**
10/07/2017 05:55:20 PM Recess

SUNDAY October 8, 2017

C9 HALIBUT ABUNDANCE-BASED PSC LIMITS

10/08/2017 09:47:20 AM **C9 Presentation** – Dr. Diana Stram and IPHC, Allen Hicks
10/08/2017 10:40:40 AM Break
10/08/2017 11:00:54 AM C9 Presentation Continued
10/08/2017 12:08:48 PM Lunch Break
10/08/2017 01:22:36 PM C9 Presentation continued
10/08/2017 01:37:12 PM **AP Report** – Matt Upton
10/08/2017 01:46:38 PM C9 Public Testimony
10/08/2017 01:46:50 PM Karl Haflinger – Out of Order
10/08/2017 02:05:15 PM Mark Fina
10/08/2017 02:08:52 PM John Gauvin
10/08/2017 02:15:34 PM Mateo Paz-Soldan & Jeff Kauffman
10/08/2017 02:21:50 PM Chad See
10/08/2017 02:33:13 PM Peggy Parker
10/08/2017 02:44:12 PM Bob Alverson
10/08/2017 02:56:35 PM Linda Behnken
10/08/2017 03:15:26 PM Heather McCarty
10/08/2017 03:23:48 PM Chris Woodley
10/08/2017 03:33:00 PM Angel Drobnica
10/08/2017 03:35:28 PM Break
10/08/2017 04:10:17 PM **C9 Mr. Hartill Motion**

D1 HALIBUT DECK SORTING EFP & HALIBUT GENETICS SAMPLING EFP

10/08/2017 04:52:40 PM **D1 Presentation** – John Gauvin and Christopher Oliver Jr.
10/08/2017 05:33:16 PM AP Report – Matt Upton
10/08/2017 05:35:18 PM **D1 Mr. Cross Motion**
10/08/2017 05:45:18 PM Recess

NO PUBLIC TESTIMONY TAKEN ON THIS AGENDA ITEM

MONDAY October 9, 2017

D2 IFQ COMMITTEE REPORT

10/09/2017 08:39:31 AM **D2 Staff Report** – Sam Cunningham
10/09/2017 09:33:11 AM **AP Report** – Angel Drobnica
10/09/2017 09:35:37 AM **D2 Public Testimony**
10/09/2017 09:35:44 AM Linda Behnken
10/09/2017 09:42:47 AM Bob Alverson
10/09/2017 09:48:22 AM Natasha Hayden
10/09/2017 10:00:56 AM Tom Panamaroff

10/09/2017 10:18:27 AM **D2 Mr. Laukitis Motion**
10/09/2017 10:20:58 AM **Break**
D3 HALIBUT RETENTION IN SABLEFISH POTS

10/09/2017 10:41:24 AM **D3 Presentation** – Sam Cunningham
10/09/2017 11:07:07 AM **AP Report** – Angel Drobnica
10/09/2017 11:12:11 AM **D3 Public Testimony**
10/09/2017 11:12:24 AM Jeff Kauffman, Mateo Paz-Soldan, Heather McCarty
10/09/2017 11:19:25 AM Bob Alverson
10/09/2017 11:25:42 AM Linda Behnken
10/09/2017 11:36:19 AM **D3 Mr. Laukitis Motion**

E1 STAFF TASKING

10/09/2017 01:38:47 PM Review draft letter to Senator Sullivan
10/09/2017 02:04:48 PM Diana Evans update on Electronic Monitoring
10/09/2017 02:04:59 PM Ecosystem Committee Report – Steve MacLean
10/09/2017 02:21:34 PM ThreeMeeting Outlook
10/09/2017 02:36:46 PM E Public Testimony
10/09/2017 02:37:11 PM Dale Smith
10/09/2017 02:58:08 PM Nicole Kimball
10/09/2017 03:04:04 PM Christina Hendrickson
10/09/2017 03:11:21 PM Bob Alverson
10/09/2017 03:16:33 PM Chad See
10/09/2017 03:21:52 PM Chris Woodley and Todd Loomis
10/09/2017 03:25:34 PM Linda Behnken
10/09/2017 03:29:48 PM Stephanie Madsen
10/09/2017 03:37:58 PM Heather McCarty
10/09/2017 03:45:42 PM Mateo Paz-Soldan and Phil Zavadil
10/09/2017 03:57:50 PM Nancy Munro
10/09/2017 04:02:27 PM Julie Bonney
10/09/2017 04:11:24 PM Break
10/09/2017 04:38:56 PM Resume Staff Tasking and Deliberations
10/09/2017 04:42:21 PM **E1 Ms. Peterson Motion** on Ecosystem Committee
10/09/2017 05:08:49 PM **E1 Ms. Peterson Motion** on Observer EM Letter
10/09/2017 05:34:29 PM **E1 Mr. Down Motion** on Stranded Cod
10/09/2017 05:50:07 PM **E1 Mr. Cross Substitute Motion** on Stranded Cod
10/09/2017 06:00:12 PM Meeting Adjourned

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Call for Nominations – AP, SSC, CQE seat on IFQ Committee

The Council is accepting nominations for its Scientific and Statistical Committee, and its Advisory Panel.

SSC nominees should have areas of expertise in biology/stock assessment, marine mammals, statistics, fisheries/resource economics, sociology/anthropology, or other relevant disciplines and be federal employees, state employees, academicians, or independent experts not employed by advocacy or interest groups. SSC members serve one-year terms but may be reappointed. The SSC advises the Council on all aspects of the decision-making process, including stock assessments and annual specifications, protected species interactions, and adequacy of analyses supporting various management actions.

The AP is composed of representatives of the fishing industry and others interested in the management of the North Pacific fisheries, and provides advice from those perspectives. AP members serve for three-year terms, and may be reappointed for up to two subsequent consecutive terms. Members of the panel are expected to attend up to five meetings, four to six days in length, each year. Eight seats are open for nomination; note that no seats on the Advisory Panel are designated to a particular stakeholder group or geographical area, and the Council encourages all interested stakeholders to apply. Five AP members are up for re-appointment: Shannon Carroll, Carina Nichols, Jeff Stephan, Matt Upton, and Ernie Weiss. Three AP members have terms expiring: John Crowley, Jerry Downing, and Chuck McCallum. There is also one seat for which there will be a one-year appointment, replacing Art Nelson who resigned mid-term.

The Council is also soliciting a community quota entity (CQE) representative to join the IFQ Committee. The intent is to have a CQE representative who is able to attend the next IFQ Committee meeting tentatively scheduled for February 5, 2018 in Seattle.

Please send letters of interest and/or nominations to npfmc.comments@noaa.gov. **Nominations close December 1.**

Council Elections and Appointments

The Council re-elected Dan Hull as Chairman, and re-elected Bill Tweit as Vice-Chair for the upcoming year. The Council appointed **Dr. Amanda Bishop** of the Alaska Sea Life Center in Seward, Alaska, to the SSC through 2018. Bishop is currently serving as a postdoctoral researcher at the Sea Life Center and has a background in Coastal Environmental Management and Behavioral Ecology. **Dr. Dan Lew**, an economist from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, was appointed to the GOA Groundfish Plan Team. Lew has served on the BSAI Plan team in the past, and has expertise with the economics of the recreational fishing sector and IFQ markets.

Roy Hyder leaves Council; Welcome to Steve Marx

Roy Hyder, who has been the designee of the Director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife since October 2001, retired from the Council in August. The Council held an informal gathering/reception in the Hilton to celebrate him, and also presented him formally with a plaque honoring his service during the Council B reports. Council members and representatives of Oregon fishery stakeholders thanked him for his commitment to managing and conserving Alaskan fishery resources. Best wishes to he and his wife Holly in their future endeavors.

In his place, Mr. Steve Marx has been appointed to be the new representative from Oregon. Steve Marx has recently retired from the Oregon Department of Fish and Game where he served for 34 years, most recently as a manager of ODFW's West Region. He began his career as a district fish biologist and watershed manager and has been instrumental in developing partnerships among diverse constituents. We welcome him to the process.

B7 Northern Fur Seal Discussion Paper

The Council reviewed a discussion paper synthesizing information about the northern fur seal in Alaska. The paper, requested by the Council in June 2017, summarized historical and current population and management of northern fur seals in Alaska, feeding habits, winter movements, vital rate studies, habitat concerns, and conservation and management concerns. After review of the document and public comment, the Council, at Staff Tasking, passed a motion encouraging the Agency to revisit and update the Conservation Plan for the Eastern Pacific Stock of Northern Fur Seals, and requested that the Agency report to the Council's Ecosystem Committee on their plans to update the 2007 Conservation Plan. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

C1 Charter Halibut Permit Renewal Process

The Council recommended the release of a document for Public Review that considers implementing a charter halibut permit (CHP) annual renewal process. The Council established a preliminary preferred alternative that would require annual submission of CHP holder name, CHP number, registered address, phone number and/ or email address, and CHP ownership structure. Under the Council's preliminary preferred alternative, if a CHP is not registered with NMFS, the CHP would not be valid for use during the applicable fishing year.

The Council also included an option to consider adding questions into the renewal application that would gather information on CHP leasing practices. This option was not added into the preliminary preferred alternative, but will undergo further analysis and be considered in the Public Review draft that returns to the Council. Council staff is Sarah Marrinan.

C2 Mixing of Guided and Unguided Halibut

At this meeting, the Council reviewed an initial review analysis for limiting the mixing of guided and unguided halibut on a fishing vessel. Alternatives for consideration include: 1) no action; 2) prohibit the possession of guided and unguided halibut simultaneously on any vessel; and 3) if halibut harvested using sport fishing guide services is on a vessel with halibut harvested without using sport fishing guide services, in IPHC Area 2C or 3A, the IPHC annual management measures for guided sport fishing for that area apply to all halibut onboard the fishing vessel.

After reviewing the initial review analysis and recommendations from the Enforcement Committee and the Advisory Panel, the Council released the document for public review. The Council also revised the purpose and need statement to clarify that this action applies to fishing vessels and not floating lodges. The Council selected Alternative 3 as its preliminary preferred alternative, and recommended the analysis be revised to include the following additional information:

- Staff and Enforcement Committee revisions, except the recommendation to include a new suboption 2.1.
- Changes that led to an increase in multi-day and mothership operations, and increasing potential for mixing halibut.
- The regulatory history of current prohibitions on mixing halibut in the commercial, subsistence, and sport fisheries.
- Description of mothership sport halibut operations in areas 2C and 3A.

Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

C3 BSAI Crab Specifications

The Council reviewed the final BSAI Crab Stock Assessment Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report and received information on the status of the ten federally managed crab stocks. Based on this report, the SSC recommends overfishing levels (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) levels for 2017/18.

The SAFE report also reports on catch accruing towards OFL and ABC levels the previous year (see table below) and provides stock status in relation to status determination criteria. For stocks for which biomass information is available the current biomass in relation to its target managed stock size (B_{MSY}) is determined. EBS Tanner crab and Pribilof Island red king crab are estimated to be above B_{MSY} for 2017/18, while EBS snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, Saint Matthew blue king crab and Norton Sound red king crab have all declined since last year, and are estimated to be below B_{MSY} . Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock remains overfished and estimated to be well below its minimum stock size threshold (MSST). The SSC increased the buffer for St. Matthew blue king crab from 2016/17 due to concerns with steeply declining stock biomass.

The CPT and SSC review assessments on a staggered time frame with some stocks assessed on an annual basis while others are assessed less frequently. The OFL and ABC table below also shows when each stock will next be assessed. Stocks can be assessed more frequently on a case-by-case basis should data

indicate that it is necessary. The final SAFE report and Crab Plan Team report is available on the Council’s website. Staff contact for BSAI crab stocks is Diana Stram.

<i>Stock</i>	<i>OFL (1000t)</i>	<i>SSC recommended ABC (1000t)</i>	<i>Buffer %</i>	<i>Next assessment cycle</i>
<i>EBS snow crab</i>	28.41	22.70	20%	2018
<i>BB red king crab</i>	5.60	5.04	10%	2018
<i>EBS Tanner crab</i>	25.42	20.33	20%	2018
<i>Pribilof Islands red king crab</i>	0.48	0.36	25%	2019
<i>Pribilof Islands blue king crab</i>	0.00116	0.00087	25%	2020
<i>St. Matthew Island blue king crab</i>	0.12	0.09	25%	2018
<i>Norton Sound red king crab</i>	0.30	0.24	20%	2018
<i>AI golden king crab</i>	6.05	4.54	25%	2018
<i>Pribilof Islands golden king crab</i>	0.09	0.07	25%	2020
<i>Western AI red king crab</i>	0.06	0.01	75%	2020

C4 Groundfish Specifications

The SSC was presented with the Joint Groundfish Plan Teams Report that summarized the issues discussed and actions taken by the Plan Teams at their September meeting in Seattle, WA. Highlights of the Plan Team report included overviews of the various surveys conducted in support of stock assessments and ecosystem analyses, spatial management issues, as well as Team discussions with individual assessment authors. For proposed rulemaking for the 2018 and 2019 fishing years, the SSC and Council recommended OFLs and ABCs based on a rollover of existing 2018 specifications for all stocks except GOA and EBS Pacific cod. Reduced survey catches for those two stocks necessitated downward adjustment of proposed OFL/ABC by about 30% for GOA and 15% for EBS. Fully updated stock assessments for these two stocks and other BSAI/GOA groundfish will be reviewed by the Plan Teams at their upcoming November meeting. Consistent with SSC-recommended OFLs and ABCs, the Council recommended proposed TACs and PSC limits and adopted updated Halibut DMRs for 2018 and 2019.

The Council received a letter from ADF&G indicating that the combined, post-season sum of the three-river index (Upper Yukon, Unalakleet and Kuskokwim rivers) of Chinook salmon was above the defined threshold (250,000) for a low Chinook year, therefore the existing Chinook PSC limits for the EBS pollock fishery will remain in place for 2018.

Staff contact for BSAI groundfish is Diana Stram and for GOA groundfish is Jim Armstrong.

C5 Tendering Scoping Paper

The Council reviewed a scoping paper identifying the specific observer data concerns with respect to vessels engaged in tendering, and the OAC recommendations for developing short-term and long-term solutions. The Council agreed with the OAC recommendations, and initiated the following two projects. To address the issue of salmon monitoring and sampling in the GOA pollock fishery, the Council recommends the development of electronic monitoring for trawl vessels participating in the GOA

pollock fishery, to monitor for full retention and allow dockside monitoring of salmon during offload at the plant. For the data concern related to observer bias, the Council initiated an analysis to change the definition of a tender trip for the purpose of observer coverage, so that vessels would re-log trips for observer random selection on a more frequent basis when delivering to tender vessels. The analysis should also evaluate deploying observers directly from tender vessels. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

C5 Low Sampling Rates Discussion Paper

The Council reviewed a discussion paper that considered options for increasing partial coverage selection rates. The Council opted to initiate an analysis to consider increasing the observer fee, with the first steps of the analytical process to follow the Observer Advisory Committee recommendations to develop observer coverage reference points.

The paper was prepared by a subgroup of the OAC and endorsed by the OAC, and evaluated whether there are short-term options that can be addressed through changes to the Annual Deployment Plan or the Catch Accounting System, and longer-term solutions that may involve regulatory change. One of the short-term options, to secure Federal funding, has been achieved this year, which will increase selection rates for the next two years (2018-2019). Chris Oliver, NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator, noted in his address to the Council, however, that this additional Federal funding should be considered as a one-time reallocation, and is not a long-term solution for funding at-sea observer coverage. As such, the Council initiated an analysis to increase the fee, linked with the OAC's recommendation on next steps which call for refining the reference points by which to judge what level of sampling is sufficient, and optimization work that can be done through the Annual Deployment Plan, namely to revise the criteria for the zero-selection pool, and optimize the balance of vessels using Electronic Monitoring versus those in the human observer pools. While recognizing that the immediate next steps require agency staff work, the Council requested that the OAC subgroup continue to engage and interact with staff on developing these steps. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

C6 Draft 2018 ADP

The Council reviewed the Draft 2018 Observer Annual Deployment Plan (ADP), received a report from its Observer Advisory Committee (OAC) and its Electronic Monitoring Workgroup (EMWG), and provided recommendations to NMFS. The Council supports the ADP's continuing recommendation to deploy observers by gear type in 2018, for trawl, longline, and pot gear (regardless of vessel length), as well as having separate strata for trawl and pot vessels delivering to tenders. The Council does not support a separate stratum for hook-and-line vessels delivering to tenders, because there are so few instances of this activity.

The Council disagreed with the NMFS recommendation with respect to the observer deployment allocation scheme, as identified in the draft 2018 ADP. The Council prefers the use of the allocation scheme that was in place in 2017, which is full optimization based on discards and halibut PSC. Under the Council's preferred allocation scheme, selection rates for the pot strata would decrease substantially, and coverage in the hook and line and trawl strata would increase. The agency will take the Council's recommendation under advisement in its development of a final ADP, which will be reported to the Council in December 2017.

The Council agreed with the remainder of the provisions of the draft ADP for deployment in 2018, and provided recommendations for the 2017 Annual Report (which will be presented in June 2018) and for the 2019 ADP. These include development of a different allocation scheme that provides for minimum selection rates that are specific by gear type; and evaluation of the deployment into the sablefish pot

fishery; reporting of EM stratum information. The Council objected to the agency's statement of intent in the draft ADP that in 2019, the agency would require 100% coverage on EM boats in 2019 with selection of trips for video review occurring after the trip is completed. The Council requested that this change be fully evaluated to understand the cost and operational implications of such a change for vessels and EM service providers. An additional request was made to NMFS to undertake programming changes as necessary to allow vessels in future to be in the EM pool for fixed gear, and in the observer pool for trawl gear, in the same year. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

C6 Other Observer Issues

The Council reviewed the EMWG and the OAC recommendations on draft Statement of Work for the EM and observer service provider contracts for partial coverage, on which the NMFS Acquisition and Grants Office (AGO) is currently soliciting input. In staff tasking, the Council requested that the OAC, EMWG, and Advisory Panel comments be compiled and submitted to the AGO during the public comment period.

The Council also reviewed the status of regulatory amendments and other analytical projects affecting the Observer Program, and OAC recommendations regarding their relative priority. There are several new electronic monitoring (EM) projects that have been proposed now that the Council is completing its implementation of EM for the fixed gear fleets. The Council requested staff to provide descriptions of propose EM projects for a future meeting, to help the Council prioritize projects and determine whether and when an EM Workgroup should be appointed to shepherd new projects. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

C7 Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program Review

The Council reviewed the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program review and allocation policy review, and accepted the reviews as complete and final, once the analysts include to the extent practical, the minor additions requested by the SSC. These include additional information on processed products, crew and processing workers, and some revision to the existing language.

The Central GOA Rockfish Program review is required under Section 303A(c)(1)(G) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act. That provision states that all Limited Access Privilege Programs must include a formal and detailed 5-year program review after implementation of the program. The program review document presented at this meeting fulfilled those Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act requirements.

In addition, NOAA Fisheries created an allocation policy to provide a mechanism to ensure fisheries allocations are periodically evaluated to remain relevant to current conditions. The Council, during its June 2017 meeting, directed staff to include the required fishery allocation review as part of the overall Central GOA Rockfish Program review. After reviewing the Central GOA Rockfish Program review document, the Council determined that the document met the allocation review guidance requirements. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

C8 Salmon FMP

The Council received an update from staff on preliminary development of a Salmon FMP amendment that would extend federal management authority to three traditional net fishing areas that are located in federal waters, but are currently exempt from the FMP. The Council chose to sequence its action by focusing initially on Cook Inlet, and is requesting written proposals from the public on proposed management areas.

Progress thus far has been through information provided in two discussion papers. The initial paper (April 2017) laid out the history and scope of the issue for the Council to recommend preliminary alternatives, and the expanded discussion paper presented at the October 2017 meeting analyzed options under the alternative Federal/State or Federal only management approaches currently under consideration. The options addressed in the expanded discussion paper represent ways to address specific Magnuson Stevens Act (MSA) requirements for federal FMPs. The MSA requirements and corresponding options are summarized in Table ES 1-1 in the discussion paper's executive summary, and are addressed in further detail in Chapter 2 of the discussion paper.

As part of its decision to initiate the amendment, the Council indicated it would create a stakeholder workgroup to assist in development of options. An evening outreach meeting was held during the October Council meeting week to discuss the formation of the workgroup and the issues that it should consider. A summary of the meeting was provided to the Council, and the discussion provided a very useful picture of the range of public positions on the action.

After reviewing the expanded discussion paper, and informed by public testimony, the Council took action to solicit written proposals from the public to help further the development of the management measures for the FMP amendment. Additionally, the Council chose to limit the scope of the first amendment to only the traditional net fishing area in federal waters that is located in Cook Inlet. The amendment was originally going to comprehensively address all three traditional net areas in Prince William Sound and South Peninsula. The Council felt, however, that focusing on Cook Inlet in this action would 1) be consistent with instruction provided in the District Court's judgement, 2) directly address the area that has been at the center of the litigative history of this action, and 3) inform, and possibly streamline development of a future action that would apply to the other two traditional net areas.

Request for Written Proposals

The Council is amending the Salmon FMP to include the traditional net fishing area in Cook Inlet within the management unit (see figure below). The Council intends, at a future meeting, to form a Salmon Committee that will include stakeholders and will assist the development of the amendment by reviewing and recommending measures necessary to satisfy Section 303(a) of the MSA and related MSA provisions.

To develop the scope of work for the Salmon Committee, the Council is soliciting written proposals from the public to help the Council identify specific required conservation and management measures for the Salmon Committee to evaluate relevant to the development of options for a fishery management plan amendment. Further resources and reference materials can be found on the [Salmon FMP page](#) on the Council's website. PROPOSAL DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1, 2018, Please submit written proposals to james.armstrong@noaa.gov.

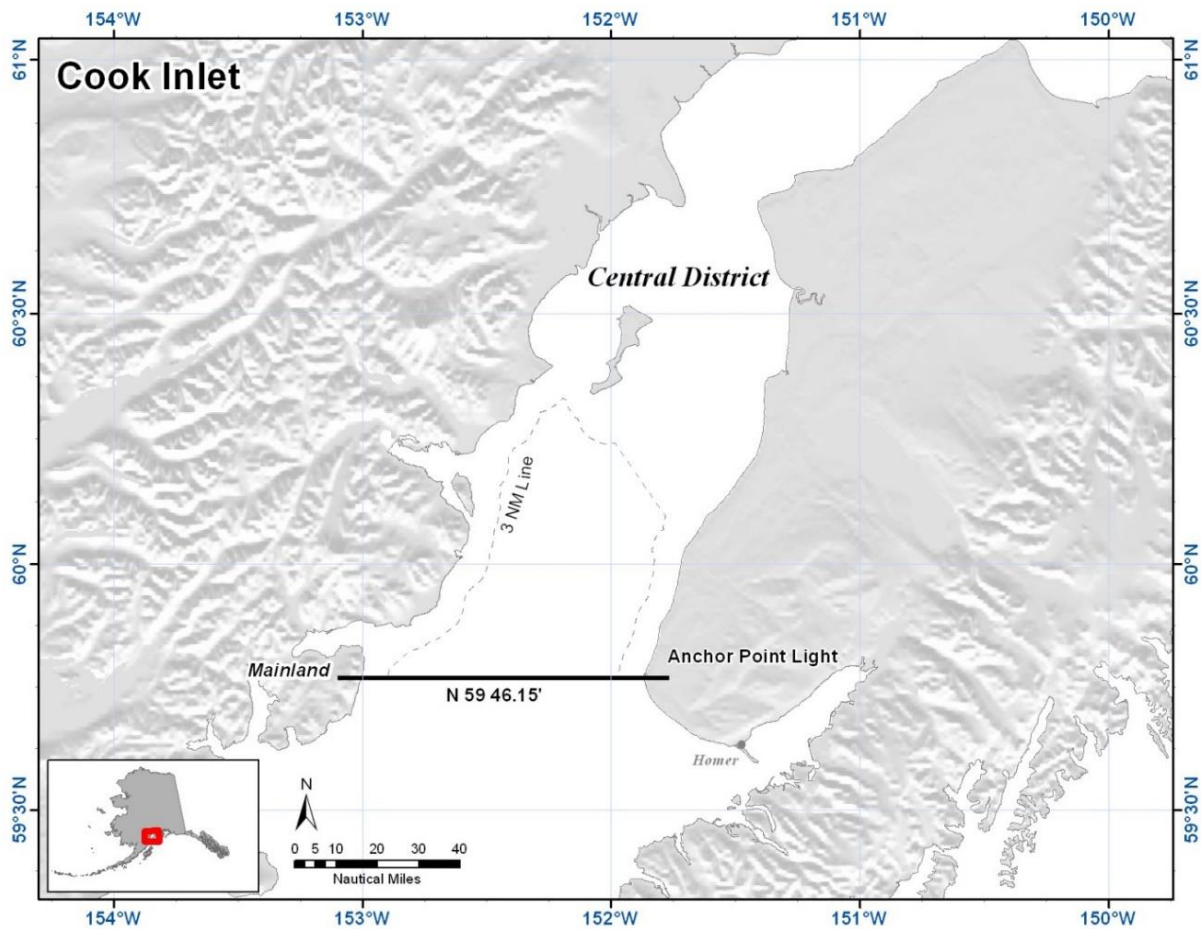


Figure 1. Traditional net fishing area in Cook Inlet

C9 BSAI Halibut Abundance-based PSC Management

The Council reviewed a discussion paper on the development of abundance based PSC limits for BSAI halibut prepared by an inter-agency workgroup of analysts from the Council, NMFS, and the IPHC. The paper compiled results from topic-specific discussion papers prepared for the Council over the last two years, and reviewed a range of potential indices to link halibut PSC to abundance in the Bering Sea, and for reviewing potential control rules to establish PSC limits based on the selected index or indices.

Following review of the discussion paper, the Council concurred with the workgroup and SSC recommendations to move forward with two indices: the estimates of halibut biomass from the NMFS Eastern Bering Sea annual shelf trawl survey, and from the annual IPHC setline survey in Areas 4ABCDE.

The Council provided further direction on explicit elements and options to consider while developing control rules, including the shape of the control rule, a range of starting points for PSC limits (2,118 mt to 3,867 mt), and the maximum and minimum PSC limits under consideration. The control rule shapes being considered include linear (various slopes and stair-steps), multi-dimensional, and decision/“Lookup” tables for using multiple indices to set PSC limits. The Council tasked staff to develop a preliminary analysis using these specific elements and options, with a focus on providing additional description of these types of control rules. The working group will identify the control rule features that best meet the Council’s five stated objectives for this action, and provide a qualitative evaluation of the control rules and their performance at varying levels of abundance. The working group will evaluate the difference between establishing a PSC limit that is aggregated across all gear types and then allocated to

gears and sectors, as well as limits that are indexed separately by gear type to establish separate PSC limits. In either case, trawl PSC limits will be apportioned to sectors according to existing proportional allocations.

The Council also directed the NMFS to initiate scoping for preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for this action. It is anticipated that the scoping report from the agency will be available when the preliminary analysis comes back to the Council. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

D1 Deck Sorting and Halibut Genetic Sample EFPs

The Council reviewed and supports two exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications that were presented at the meeting. The first is to allow on-deck sorting of Pacific halibut on non-pelagic trawl catcher processor vessels, as a means of reducing halibut bycatch mortalities. The EFP would extend, through 2018 and 2019, a current EFP granted to the Alaska Seafood Cooperative and co-applicants, which expires at the end of 2017. Under the EFP, vessels are allowed to sort halibut removed from a codend on the deck, rather than routing halibut over the flow scale and below deck, and release those fish back into the water after sampling halibut for length and condition, using IPHC halibut mortality assessment methods. All groundfish and halibut harvested must be within existing allocations for groundfish and halibut mortality. It remains the intent of the Council that once this EFP extension is complete, a regulatory change will have been implemented to allow deck sorting.

The second EFP proposes to allow crew members to collect genetic samples from incidentally caught halibut on a hook-and-line vessel in the 2018 A season western Aleutian Islands Pacific cod fishery. The purpose of the experiment is to confirm or reject results of a previous genetic stock structure study which indicated that Pacific halibut in the western Aleutian Islands are genetically distinct from the remainder of the eastern Pacific population. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

D2 IFQ Committee

The Council reviewed the minutes of the IFQ Committee which met on Monday, October 2. The committee reviewed staff papers on: NMFS's cost recovery program, an action that would allow retention of halibut IFQ in BSAI pot gear, and a review of the first year of sablefish fishing with longline pot gear in the GOA. The committee and the Council requested supplementary information on the attribution of enforcement costs to the IFQ program be included NMFS's annual cost recovery reports. The committee recommended that the halibut retention action be moved forward as an analysis of alternatives that includes options for retention of both incidental and intentionally caught halibut (that action is covered in greater detail under the D3 Halibut Retention agenda item). Regarding the first year of longline pots in the GOA, the committee noted that effective gear-end marking has been a challenge; the chairman reminded the committee that the Council has encouraged vessels using pot gear to communicate with one another about lost gear and effective new marking technologies.

The committee held an expansive discussion about ways in which the IFQ Program is or is not working for the benefit of certain stakeholders who work on the water, or desire access to that work. That conversation centered around the high cost of quota, hired master use, and rural access to the fishery. The Council encouraged committee members to work on proposals for program revisions that would further the original objectives of the IFQ Program, and to vet such proposals at the next committee meeting.

The committee recommended that the Council seat a CQE representative on the IFQ Committee. The Council is currently soliciting nominations for a CQE representative to join the committee before its next

meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for February 5, 2018 in Seattle, WA, in conjunction with the February Council meeting.

Staff contact is Sam Cunningham.

D3 Halibut Retention in Pot Gear

After reviewing a staff discussion paper, the Council initiated an analysis to allow vessels using pot gear in the BSAI to retain legal-size halibut if they possess the appropriate IFQ. The Council established a purpose and need statement that recognizes the challenge of whale depredation on longline gear and on halibut that must be discarded in the presence of whales because regulations do not allow them to be retained. Whale depredation causes unaccounted mortality on the sablefish and halibut resource, and hinders the ability of IFQ holders to prosecute the fishery in an effective manner. Noting that the IPHC recently revised its regulations to allow halibut retention in pot gear and that retention is currently allowed in the GOA, the Council seeks to align Federal retention regulations with the IPHC and apply them consistently throughout Alaska waters.

The Council will review analysis of a 'no action' alternative and one action alternative. The action alternative contains an element that would allow fishermen to deploy pots with a wider opening, which could lead to more effective harvest of legal-size halibut. The action alternative does not frame the catching of halibut with pot gear as "targeted/directed" or "incidental." Rather, the Council will analyze a measure that provides the fishery latitude to fish for IFQ in the manner that is most effective in the presence of depredating whales, and would review the effects of allowing halibut retention three years after implementation in accordance with the NPFMC and IPHC commitment to review retention in GOA longline pot gear subsequent to implementation of GOA Amendment 101. The Council will consider whether regulations that make pots a more effective gear for the harvest of halibut would introduce pots to new areas and increase the chance of gear conflict. To that effect, the action alternative includes an option that would require vessels that are participating in the fishery to tend their gear at least every five to ten days, and requires vessels fishing pot gear to complete logbooks and utilize VMS.

Staff contact is Sam Cunningham.

E Staff Tasking

In addition to discussing the relative priority and scheduling of previously tasked projects, the Council took the following actions and clarified direction and tasking for its committees:

- Tasked staff to add a module to the BSAI cod allocation review outlining steps necessary to remove obstacles that impede achieving, on a continuing basis, the complete harvest of Pacific cod allocations in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and add a similar discussion when reviewing the allocations in the Gulf of Alaska.
- Requested the agency revisit and update the Conservation Plan for the Eastern Pacific stock of Northern Fur Seals, and report on plans to the Ecosystem Committee.
- Recommended that the Ecosystem Committee discuss deep-sea coral research priorities, ways for Bering Sea communities to provide input to the Council with ecosystem issues and concerns, and Ecosystem Committee membership with recommendations back to the Council.
- Agreed to hold an Ecosystem Research Workshop during the February Council meeting
- Requested that the Executive Director and the Chair explore ways to coordinate the December Council meeting with the Young Fishermen's Summit.
- Requested the agency work with NOAA Enforcement to resolve a question about when the starting time for a trawl tow begins.

- Requested an evening presentation on Alaska seafood markets from the McDowell Group during the December Council meeting.
- Approved the proposed allocation review schedule as identified in the Executive Director's Report.
- Extend the public comment deadline for future Council meetings to close-of-business on the Thursday before the meeting.
- Directed staff to send letters regarding: a) comments to Senator Sullivan on draft legislation; b) comments to the agency on reducing the GOA survey to only two vessels; c) thank you to the agency for providing additional funds to the Observer Program, and commenting on the draft 2018 ADP recommendation to require 100% coverage on EM boats in 2019 with post-trip selection; d) comments to the NOAA Acquisition and Grants Office on the observer and EM service provider statements of work; e) request that the Navy to report back on 2017 Northern Edge activities and plans for 2018; f) thank you to James Uthmeier for visiting the Council meeting, and comments on the regulatory reform process.

Here is the [revised Three-Meeting Outlook](#) resulting from this Council meeting. Motions are posted on the Council website through the Agenda. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Groundfish Plan Teams: November 13-17, AFSC, Seattle

Legislative Committee: December 5, 2017 (T), Anchorage, AK

Charter Halibut Management Committee: December __, 2017, Anchorage, AK

Crab Plan Team: January 9-11, 2018 Hilton, Anchorage, AK

IFQ Committee: February 5, 2018 Seattle, WA

Ecosystem Committee: February 6, 2018 Seattle, WA

Ecosystem research workshop: February 7, 2018 as part of the February Council meeting, Seattle, WA

Crab Plan Team, May 7-10, 2017, Anchorage, AK

EM Workgroup or OAC workgroup: May 15, 2018, AFSC, Seattle, WA

OAC meeting: May 16-17, 2018, AFSC, Seattle, WA

NPRB Request for Proposals

The North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) announced the release of its Core Program Request for Proposals (RFP). The 2018 RFP has an anticipated funding amount of \$4.45 million. Please consult the [2018 RFP](#) for further details on research priorities for this year. **Submission Deadline: December 15, 2017 (4PM AKST)**

Nominations sought for Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

NOAA Fisheries is seeking nominations, **through November 27, 2017**, to fill current and pending vacancies on the **Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC)** due to term limits. MAFAC advises the Secretary of Commerce on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. The Committee draws on its members' expertise and other sources to evaluate and make recommendations to the Secretary and NOAA on the development

and implementation of agency regulations, policies, and programs critical to the mission and goals of the NOAA Fisheries Service.

MAFAC members represent the wide spectrum of commercial, recreational, subsistence, and aquaculture fisheries interests; tribes; seafood industry; protected resources and habitat interests; environmental organizations; academic institutions; consumer groups; and other living marine resource interest groups.

Nominees should possess demonstrable expertise in one of these fields and be able to fulfill the time commitments required for two in-person annual meetings and between-meeting subcommittee work. Membership is balanced geographically across states and territories, ethnically, and on the basis of gender, in addition to the range of expertise and interests listed. Individuals serve for a term of three years. Members may serve a second consecutive term, if re-appointed.

A MAFAC member cannot be a Federal employee, a member of a Regional Fishery Management Council, a registered Federal lobbyist, or a State employee. Membership is voluntary, and except for reimbursable travel and related expenses, service is without pay. The committee functions solely as an advisory body (complying fully with the Federal Advisory Committee Act) which reports to the Secretary.

Full nomination instructions and guidelines are described in this [Federal Register notice](#).

For questions or more information, please contact Jennifer Lukens, Executive Director of MAFAC, jennifer.lukens@noaa.gov or Heidi Lovett, heidi.lovett@noaa.gov.

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 10/17/2017

December 4-12, 2017 Anchorage, Alaska	February 5-12, 2018 Seattle, Washington	April 2-10, 2018 Anchorage, Alaska
IPHC Report Draft EM Policy directive: <i>Review and comment (T)</i> Final 2018 Observer Annual Deployment Plan: <i>NMFS Report</i> WGOA Pcod A season halibut PSC rates: Discussion Paper WGOA pollock C/D season timing Chinook PSC: Disc paper WGOA pollock trip limits: Discussion paper Stranded Cod in GOA Trawl B Season: Disc paper Small sideboards: Initial Review BSAI Groundfish Specifications: PT Report; Final Specs GOA Groundfish Specifications: PT Report; Final Specs 2018 Charter halibut management measures: Final Action RQE Charter Halibut Permit Ownership Caps: Disc paper Charter Halibut Permit Latent Capacity: Discussion paper Self-guided halibut rental boats: Discussion paper BS cod trawl CV participation: Discussion paper Fixed Gear CV Rockfish Retention: Discussion paper Chinook Salmon Excluder EFP: Consultation (T)	IPHC Report (T) Ecosystem Research Workshop Arctic Exploratory Fishing: Discussion paper Decksorting Regulatory Analysis: Update Small Sideboards: Final Action (T) BSAI Crab: Norton Sound RKC ACL: Final Specifications Crab Plan Team Report: Action as necessary GOA CV Chinook PSC limit adjustments: Initial Review Programmatic Groundfish Objectives: Review IFQ medical lease provision: Discussion Paper IFQ beneficiary designation provision: Discussion Paper IFQ Committee: Report on proposals BS Trawl CV EM Compliance EFP: Review and approve (T) Observer and EM Projects: Review and prioritize next steps (T)	Pollock ICA/IPA reports: Review Salmon genetics reports: Review Co-op Reports (AFA, A80, GOA Rockfish, BSAI Crab): Review Salmon FMP Cook Inlet: Review FMP measure proposals Scallop SAFE and catch specifications: Approve, PT report Halibut Abundance-based PSC limits: Preliminary analysis (T) Halibut retention in BSAI Sablefish pots: Initial Review BS FEP: <i>Preliminary Review</i> GOA CV Chinook PSC limit adjustments: <i>Final Action (T)</i> Charter Halibut Annual Permit Registration: Final Action Mixing of guided and unguided halibut: Final Action ITEMS BELOW NOT YET SCHEDULED GOA Tanner Crab observer/effort data - <i>Discussion paper</i> Bering Sea Snow Crab PSC Limits: <i>Initial Review</i> Observer Insurance Requirements: <i>Disc paper for Reg Am</i> Clarify LLP CV and CP Requirements (NMFS) Observer disembark location: <i>Initial Review</i> Reference points for partial coverage: <i>Discussion paper (T)</i> Raise the observer fee: <i>discuss after ref points analysis</i> Observer zero selection and EM optimization: <i>June 2018</i> Change the observer tender trip definition: <i>Initial Review</i> CGOA Rockfish Reauthorization: <i>Discussion paper in Oct 2018</i> BSAI cod allocation review: <i>2018</i>

ACL - Annual catch limits
 AI - Aleutian Islands
 AFA - American Fisheries Act
 BiOp - Biological Opinion
 BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
 BKC - Blue King Crab
 CDQ - Community Development Quota
 CQE - Community Quota Entity
 CP - catcher processor
 CV - catcher vessel
 EM - Electronic monitoring
 EFH - Essential Fish Habitat
 EFP - Exempted Fishing Permit
 FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan
 FMP - Fishery Management Plan
 GOA - Gulf of Alaska

GKC - Golden King Crab
 HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
 IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
 ICA - Inter-cooperative Agreements
 IPHC - International Pacific Halibut Commission
 LLP - Limited License Plan
 MRA - Maximum Retainable Allowance
 PSC - Prohibited Species Catch
 RKC - Red King Crab
 RQE - Recreational Quota Entity
 SSC - Scientific and Statistical Committee
 SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation
 SSL - Steller Sea Lion
 TAC - Total Allowable Catch
 TLAS - Trawl Limited Access Sector
 WGOA - Western Gulf of Alaska

Future Meeting Dates and Locations
 December 4-12, Hilton Hotel, Anchorage
 February 5-13, 2018, Renaissance Seattle Hotel, Seattle
 April 2-10, 2018, Hilton Hotel, Anchorage
 June 4-12, 2018, Best Western Convention Center, Kodiak
 October 1-9, 2018, Hilton Hotel, Anchorage
 December 3-11, 2018, Hilton Hotel, Anchorage
 February 4-12, 2019, Benson Hotel, Portland
 April 1-9, 2019, Anchorage
 June 2-11, 2019 Sitka
 Sept 30-October 8, 2019, Homer
 December 2-10, 2019, Anchorage

(T) = Tentative