



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone 907-271-2809 | www.npfmc.org

Meeting Summary

240th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
October 1 - 8, 2018
Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska

CONTENTS

A & B REPORTS.....	3
C1 BSAI CRAB SPECIFICATIONS FOR 4 STOCKS.....	3
C2 GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS	4
C3 2019 OBSERVER PROGRAM ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT PLAN	5
C4 HALIBUT RETENTION IN BSAI POTS.....	6
C5 BERING SEA FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN.....	8
C6 BSAI HALIBUT ABUNDANCE-BASED MANAGEMENT PSC LIMITS.....	8
C7 ALEUTIAN ISLANDS PACIFIC COD SET-ASIDE ADJUSTMENT	10
C8 IFQ MEDICAL, BENEFICIARY TRANSFER PROVISIONS.....	12
D1 IFQ CQE FISH UP IN 3A.....	14
D2 SABLEFISH DISCARD ALLOWANCE	15
D3 UNGUIDED HALIBUT RENTAL BOATS.....	16
E1 STAFF TASKING.....	18
Appointments	18

Attachments

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1) GOA GF Specifications | 3) Time Log |
| 2) BSAI GF Specifications | 4) Newsletter |

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met Wednesday, October 3, 2018 through Monday, October 8, 2018, at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. The following Council, Council staff, SSC, and AP members attended the meetings.

Council Members

Balsiger, Jim	Jensen, John (Oath of Office)	Mezirow, Andy (Oath of Office)
Bush, Karla (alternate for Cotten)	Laukitis, Buck	Peterson, Theresa
CAPT, Allison Caputo	Lepore, John (GC)	Sullivan, Maura (GC)
Cotten, Sam	Kinneen, Simon (elected Chairman)	Tweit, Bill (Vice Chair, re-elected)
Cross, Craig (Oath of Office)	Marx, Steve	Weinstein, Ivan
Down, Kenny	Merrill, Glenn (alternate for Balsiger)	LCDR Yvonne, Yang (alternate for Caputo)
Hanson, Dave		

Council Staff

Armstrong, Jim	Figus, Elizabeth	McCracken, Jon
Cleaver, Sara	Gleason, Shannon	Schmidt, Nicole
Cunningham, Sam	Kircher, Peggy	Stram, Diana
Davis, Maria	La Belle, Sarah	Witherell, Dave (ED)
Evans, Diana (DD)	MacLean, Steve	
Fey, Mike (PSMFC)	Marrinan, Sarah	

Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC met from October 1 - 3, 2018 at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK.

Members present were:

Gordon Kruse, Co-Chair University of Alaska Fairbanks	Anne Hollowed, Co-Chair NOAA Fisheries—AFSC	Sherri Dressel, Vice Chair Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Chris Anderson University of Washington	Robert Clark Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game	Mike Downs Northern Economics
Ron Felthoven NOAA Fisheries—AFSC	Jason Gasper NOAA Fisheries – Alaska Region	Dana Hanselman NOAA Fisheries—AFSC
Brad Harris Alaska Pacific University	George Hunt University of Washington	Dayv Lowry Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Franz Mueter University of Alaska Fairbanks	Terry Quinn University of Alaska Fairbanks	Heather Renner U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ian Stewart Intl. Pacific Halibut Commission	Alison Whitman Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	

Members absent were:

Amy Bishop
Alaska Sea Life Center

Kate Reedy
Idaho State University Pocatello

Advisory Panel

The AP met Tuesday, October 2, through Friday, October 5, 2018 at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. All members were present.

Carroll, Shannon	Johnson, Jim	Scoblic, John
Christiansen, Ruth	Kauffman, Jeff	Stevens, Ben
Cochran, Kurt	Kwachka, Alexis	Upton, Matt (Co-Vice Chair)
Donich, Daniel	Lowenberg, Craig	Vanderhoeven, Anne
Drobnic, Angel (Co-Vice Chair)	Nichols, Carina	Weinstein, Samantha
Gruver, John	O'Donnell, Paddy	Weiss, Ernie (Chair)
Hayden, Natasha	Peterson, Joel	Wilt, Sinclair

A & B REPORTS

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

A1 Oath of Office & Election of Officers

Simon Kinneen was elected Chairman and Bill Tweit was elected Vice Chair. Craig Cross, John Jensen, and Andy Mezirow took the Oath of Office and were sworn in for a 3-year period.

B1 Executive Director's Report – David Witherell

- Council Workshops Discussion Paper – Diana Evans

B2 NMFS Management Report – Glenn Merrill

- In-Season Management Report – Mary Furuness

B3 NOAA GC Report – Maura Sullivan

B4 ADF&G Report – Forrest Bowers

B5 USCG Report – LCDR Yvonne Yang

B6 USFWS – Greg Siekaniec

- Report on Endangered Species Act – Doug Cooper
- Update on Alaska Seabird Mortality Rate – Rob Kaler
- Update on Salmon Stocks – Gary Decosas

B7 Protected Species Report – Council staff, Steve MacLean

B8 Halibut Decksorting EFP – AK Seafood Cooperative, John Gauvin and Chris Oliver

C1 BSAI CRAB SPECIFICATIONS FOR 4 STOCKS

The Council heard the SAFE report and the CPT report from NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram and AFSC, Dr. Bob Foy. The following action was taken:

Ms. Bush 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, and St. Matthew Island Blue King Crab.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 3, 2018, at 4:05 p.m.

C2 GROUNDFISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

The Council heard the Joint Plan Team Report and the BSAI Plan Team Report from NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram, as well as the GOA Plan Team Report from NPFMC staff, Jim Armstrong. AFSC staff, Dr. Stephanie Zador and Dr. Elizabeth Siddon gave an Ecosystem Assessment of the Northern Bering Sea. AFSC staff, Dr. Bob Lauth gave the Bering Sea Bottom Trawl Survey Results. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council adopts the proposed 2019 and 2020 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC, and sets 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 (attachment 1). Note that the OFL, ABC, and TAC for squid are no longer required to be specified, since squids have been reclassified into the ecosystem component category through Amendment 106 to the GOA FMP.

The Council adopts setting the proposed 2019 and 2020 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the GOA as provided in Tables 14, 15 and 16 (attachment 1).

The Council adopts the updated halibut DMRs for the GOA for 2019 and 2020 as shown in Table 17 (attachment 1).

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 in 2019.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 4, 2018, at 11:03 a.m.

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

The Council adopts the proposed 2019 and 2020 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish specifications of the OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and sets the TACs as shown in the attached BSAI Table 1 (attachment 2), with all proposed specifications consisting of rollovers of final specifications from 2019.

The Council adopts the 2019 and 2020 flatfish flexibility ABC reserves as shown in Table 7, (attachment 2).

The Council adopts the PSC limits as shown in Tables 8, 9, 10, 11, (attachment 2) for halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, opilio crab, and herring and their gear type and target fishery apportionments. The 2019 and 2020 crab PSC limits have been revised using current biomass amounts and herring PSC limits will be revised when the most current biomass amounts are known.

The Council adopts the halibut DMRs for 2019 and 2020 as shown in Table 12, (attachment 2).

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 4, 2018, at 11:39 a.m.

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

The Council clarifies its policy is that the plan team develop and recommend ABCs which are based on biological and environmental scientific information through the stock assessment and Tier process. Socio-economic factors should be considered during the TAC setting process at the Council and not incorporated into the ABC recommendations.

Mr. Tweit made the following amendment which was seconded by Ms. Peterson:
(Amended language in **bold**)

The Council clarifies its policy is that the plan team develop, and **the SSC** recommend ABCs which are based on biological and environmental scientific information through the stock assessment and Tier process. Socio-economic factors should be considered during the TAC setting process at the Council and not incorporated into the ABC recommendations.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed unanimously October 4, 2018, at 11:48 a.m.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 4, 2018, at 11:50 a.m.

C3 2019 OBSERVER PROGRAM ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT PLAN

The Council heard a presentation on the FMAC minutes from NPFMC staff, Dr. Elizabeth Figus, as well as a presentation on the Draft 2019 ADP by AFSC staff, Jennifer Ferdinand, Dr. Craig Faunce, and Dr. Phil Ganz. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council supports NMFS' recommendations for the deployment strata and allocation scheme of 15% plus optimized allocation based on discarded groundfish and halibut PSC and Chinook PSC as described in the Draft 2019 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP).

The Council recommends that if additional funds become available that NMFS expand the EM trip selection pool up to 165 vessels using the order of priority as presented in the Draft 2019 ADP. The Council also requests that NMFS include Sitka as a primary port for EM deployment in 2019.

The Council requests that the Agency prioritize staff time to engaging with the Council's EM Committee to develop EM for compliance monitoring and for salmon accounting on pelagic trawl catcher vessels fishing in the BSAI and the GOA as well as vessels delivering to tender vessels.

The Council requests NMFS provide additional information about the cost structure under the observer contract and how costs may be expected to fluctuate at different funding levels.

The Council requests that NMFS provide an update on the following analytical tasks to the FMAC in May 2019:

- 1) an evaluation of how the observer fee will be split between EM and Observers for the draft 2020 ADP; and
- 2) an evaluation of Observer Program performance metrics in the annual report.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 4, 2018, at 4:35 p.m.

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

The Council recommends the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee partial coverage subgroup develop additional recommendations for how to potentially lower costs and increase observer coverage rates in the partial coverage category while maintaining: the data sufficient for managing the fisheries; randomized deployment; and cost equity considerations among participants. The subgroup should also continue to provide input on differential deployment base levels by gear type.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 4, 2018, at 4:52 p.m.

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

The Council supports the FMAC and AP recommendations to write two letters to NMFS. First, a letter to the National Observer Program in support of solutions to observer safety issues on a regional specific level. Second, a letter to NMFS HQ to request additional Federal funding to supplement observer deployment in the partial coverage category.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with one objection (Mr. Laukitis) October 4, 2018, at 5:02 p.m.

C4 HALIBUT RETENTION IN BSAI POTS

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Sara Cleaver and NMFS staff, Stephanie Warpinski. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council recommends the following purpose and need statement and alternatives, elements, and options to allow halibut retention in pot gear in the BSAI. Preferred alternatives are in **bold**.

Purpose and Need Statement:

Interactions with whales throughout the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) affect the ability of sablefish and halibut QS holders to harvest their IFQ by reducing catch per unit of effort and increasing fishing costs. Whale depredation is increasing for vessels fishing halibut IFQ with longline gear, and for halibut discarded when using pot gear to fish sablefish IFQ in the BSAI. The purpose of this action is to address whale depredation on discarded halibut and to allow for more efficient harvest of halibut in areas with whale depredation. Research into developing technological solutions to deter whales and changes in fishing strategies have not resolved this problem. The problem may be addressed by revisions to current regulations that authorize pot gear as legal gear to retain halibut in the BSAI. Allowing retention of halibut caught in pot gear in the BSAI could address the negative impacts of whale depredation on QS holders. This action seeks to reduce the problems associated with whale depredation, including unobserved halibut mortality, while minimizing gear conflicts. In the event that there is conservation concern for a shellfish or groundfish species, NMFS would have the authority to close the directed longline and pot halibut fisheries in both the BSAI and the Gulf of Alaska.

Alternative 1: No action (status quo).

Alternative 2: Allow retention of legal-sized halibut in single or longline pot gear used to fish for halibut or sablefish IFQ/CDQ in the BSAI provided the IFQ/CDQ holder holds sufficient halibut

IFQ/CDQ for that IFQ regulatory area. The Pribilof Islands Habitat Conservation Zone will be closed to all fishing with pot gear.

Element 1: Gear retrieval

Option 1: No gear tending requirements (status quo)

Option 2: A vessel cannot leave gear on the grounds untended for more than (sub-options 5-10 days)

Element 2: Limit of a 9-inch maximum width of tunnel opening does not apply when vessel has unfished halibut IFQ/CDQ onboard.

Element 3: All vessels using pot gear to fish IFQ/CDQ are required to use logbooks and VMS.

Element 4: Require escape mechanisms in the mesh panels of pots.

Option 1: No escape mechanism requirement for crab (status quo)

Option 2: Require escape mechanism for crab

Element 5: Establish regulations that would allow NMFS to close IFQ fishing for halibut if an OFL is approached for a groundfish or shellfish species consistent with regulations in place for groundfish.

The Council requests that NMFS include BSAI IFQ pot gear effort in its annual inseason management report to the Council. The Council intends to review the effects of allowing retention of halibut in pot gear three years after implementation.

To the extent practicable, the Council recommends that halibut fishermen in the BSAI interested in using pot gear under this action consult with crab industry participants on appropriate crab escape mechanisms to minimize crab bycatch.

Ms. Peterson made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Mezirow:

~~(Strike the following language under Alternative 2, element 1, option 2)~~

Option 2: A vessel cannot leave gear on the grounds untended for more than ~~(sub-options 5-10 days)~~

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment failed 3/8 (Mr. Merrill, Mr. Cotten, Mr. Cross, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Laukitis, Mr. Mezirow, Mr. Tweit, and Mr. Kinneen voting in opposition) October 5, 2018, at 12:09 p.m.

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

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

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection on October 5, 2018, at 12:17 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 5, 2018, at 12:20 p.m.

C5 BERING SEA FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Diana Evans and AFSC staff, Dr. Kerim Aydin. The following action was taken:

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

The Council accepts the draft Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (BS FEP), and directs staff to prepare the plan for final adoption by the Council.

The Council requests staff consider and incorporate SSC comments and EC recommendations to the extent practical. The Council recognizes that some of the issues highlighted by the SSC will continue to be addressed as the Council implements the BSFEP framework, once it is adopted. Specifically, the Council requests the document include an expanded discussion regarding the role of the 1) BSFEP team and 2) the BSFEP in synthesizing existing efforts to facilitate ecosystem-based fishery management.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 6, 2018, at 9:23 a.m.

C6 BSAI HALIBUT ABUNDANCE-BASED MANAGEMENT PSC LIMITS

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram, and IPHC staff, Dr. Allan Hicks. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council recommends the following revisions and clarifications to the alternatives, and direction on a stakeholder committee to the preliminary review draft. The Council also recommends that the analysts incorporate the comments from the SSC to the extent practical.

Apportionment:

The analysis should clearly demonstrate the effects of the alternatives on the resulting allocations to the Amendment 80, BSAI trawl limited access, non-trawl, and CDQ sectors. Allow the CDQ PSC cap to vary with abundance in the same manner as the trawl sector.

Indices:

Base the indices on the timeframe 1998 – 2018 and standardize the primary index to the most recent year.

Alternatives:

Alternative 1: No action

Alternative 2: Single index used to set trawl and/or non-trawl halibut PSC limit.

Option 1: NMFS EBS bottom trawl survey index.

Option 2: IPHC Area 4 setline survey index.

Alternative 3: Primary and secondary indices are used to set trawl and/or non-trawl PSC limit.

Option 1: Primary index is EBS trawl survey, secondary index is Area 4 setline survey.

Option 2: Primary index is Area 4 setline survey, secondary index is EBS trawl survey.

The secondary index modifies the PSC limit after the primary index is applied when the secondary index is in a “high state” or a “low state” (as defined by Element 4 breakpoint options). The extent to which the secondary index influences the PSC limit above or below these breakpoints is determined by selection of options under Element 5.

For each alternative above, the PSC limit will be proportional to the primary index in a 1:1 fashion (e.g., when the index goes up 10%, the PSC limit goes up 10%) prior to modifications by the secondary index and prior to the application of Elements 2 and 3 (floors and ceilings).

Alternative 4: Use two indices (EBS trawl survey and Area 4 setline survey) to set the non-trawl PSC limit in the form of a look-up table. Both indices should be standardized to the mean (1998 – 2018).

Options for dimensions of the look-up table: a) 3x3, b) 5x5, c) 7x 7, d) 10x10

The following elements and options are exclusive to Alternatives 2 – 4.

Element 1 – Starting point for PSC limit

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

Option 2. 2016 use (2,354 mt)

Element 2 – Maximum PSC limit (ceiling)

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

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

Element 3 – Minimum PSC limit (floor)

Option 1. 2016 use (2,354 mt)

Option 2. ½ of 2016 PSC limit (1,758 mt)

Option 3. ½ of 2016 PSC use (1,177 mt)

Element 4 – Breakpoint for secondary index (Alternative 3 only)

Option 1. Index is 25% below or above average

Option 2. Index is above or below average

Element 5 – Magnitude of the response for secondary index (Alternative 3 only)

Up to 2 options may be chosen

Option 1. Up faster than 1:1

Option 2. Up slower than 1:1

Option 3. Down faster than 1:1

Option 4. Down slower than 1:1

Use of IPHC Area 4 setline survey as an index: Describe how setting a PSC limit based on IPHC Area 4 setline survey index meets the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable law.

Stakeholder committee:

The Council intends to form a stakeholder committee that will recommend up to four scenarios from the above Alternatives, Elements, and Options for analysis. This committee will meet to draft these scenarios prior to the February Council meeting. Council staff will attend committee meeting for purposes of feedback and clarification to the Committee. These scenarios, if approved by the Council, may be analyzed in the EIS/RIR.

Mr. Merrill made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Lauikits:

Incorporate the following element for analysis under all action alternatives.

Element: PSC limit responsiveness to abundance changes.

This element would limit the annual rate of change of PSC limits. This element could be applied to limit the amount of change of the PSC limit on an annual basis.

- Option 1: PSC limit varies no more than 5% per year
- Option 2: PSC limit varies no more than 15% per year
- Option 3: PSC limit varies no more than 25% per year

Suboption: This element could be applied to limit the amount of change between the current PSC limits and the implementation of this action.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection on October 6, 2018, at 3:33 p.m.

Ms. Peterson made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Mezirow:

(Add the following Option under Alternative 4, Element 1 **in bold**)

Element 1 – Starting point for PSC limit

- Option 1. 2016 PSC limit (3,515 mt)
- Option 2. 2016 use (2,354 mt)
- Option 3. 2017 use (1,948 mt)**

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment failed 4/7 (Mr. Merrill, Mr. Cross, Mr. Down, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Marx, Mr. Mezirow, and Mr. Tweit voting in opposition) October 6, 2018, at 3:38 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 6, 2018, at 4 p.m.

C7 ALEUTIAN ISLANDS PACIFIC COD SET-ASIDE ADJUSTMENT

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

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

The Council recommends selecting a preliminary preferred alternative shown in **bold** with the following changes from the AP motion shown in underlined text. The Council releases this analysis for public review. Paragraph 4 in

Alternative 1. No Action

Alternative 2. Amend CFR 679.20 (a)(7)(viii)(E) as follows (changes in bold and underlined):

(1) Language is unchanged

(2) Language is unchanged

(3) Aleutian Islands Unrestricted Fishery. Prior to March 15, vessels otherwise authorized to directed fish for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands may directed fish for that portion of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod non-CDQ directed fishing allowance that is specified as the Aleutian Islands Unrestricted Fishery as determined in paragraph (a)(7)(viii)(B) of this section and may deliver their catch to any eligible processor, provided directed fishing for Pacific cod by the catcher vessel trawl sector is allowed in the BS Subarea.

(4) Management of Trawl Catcher Vessels in the Aleutian Islands Unrestricted Fishery. If the trawl catcher vessel sector is closed in the BS Subarea prior to March 15, only trawl catcher vessels that deliver their catch of Aleutian Islands Pacific cod to an Aleutian Islands shoreplant for processing may directed fish for that portion of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod non-CDQ directed fishing allowance that is specified as the Aleutian Islands Unrestricted Fishery as determined in paragraph (a)(7)(viii)(B) of this section.

(5) Minimum Aleutian Islands shoreplant landing requirement. If less than 1,000 mt of the Aleutian Islands Catcher Vessel Harvest Set-Aside is landed at Aleutian Islands shoreplants on or before February 28, then paragraphs (a)(7)(viii)(E)(1) thru (4) of this section will not apply for the remainder of the fishing year.

(6) Language is unchanged

Alternative 3. If the Aleutian Islands Catcher Vessel Harvest Set-Aside is in effect, the trawl CV sector may not engage in directed fishing for cod from the Aleutian Islands Unrestricted Fishery until the earlier of March 15 or until the entire Set-Aside is landed.

This prohibition will be removed if less than 1,000 mt of the Aleutian Islands Catcher Vessel Harvest Set Aside has not been landed by February 28.

Alternative 4.

- 1) Prior to March 21, the A season trawl CV Pacific cod harvests in the Bering Sea and trawl CV Pacific cod harvests in the Aleutian Islands except harvests delivered shoreside west of 170° longitude in the AI shall be limited to an amount equal to the BSAI aggregate CV trawl sector A season allocation minus the lessor of the AI directed Pacific cod non CDQ DFA or 5,000 mt.**

Upon the closure under the above provision, directed trawl CV fishing for non CDQ BSAI Pacific cod is prohibited for all trawl CVs vessels except trawl CVs delivering shoreside west of 170° longitude in the AI prior to March 21, unless restrictions are removed earlier under 3 or 4 below.

- 2) Prior to March 15 AI directed Pacific cod non CDQ harvests of any sector other than the CV sector delivering shoreside west of 170° longitude in the AI as defined in 1) are limited to the amount of the AI directed Pacific cod non CDQ DFA above minus the amount set aside from the trawl CV BSAI allocation under 1). Catches of those other sectors under this provision are not subject to the regional delivery requirement.**
- 3) If less than 1,000 mt of the AI Pacific cod non CDQ TAC has been landed shoreside west of 170° longitude in the AI by February 28 the restrictions under 1) and 2) shall be suspended for the remainder of the year.**
- 4) If prior to November 1, neither the City of Adak nor the City of Atka have notified NMFS of the intent to process non CDQ directed AI Pacific cod in the upcoming year, the Aleutian Islands shoreside delivery requirement and restriction on the trawl CV sector allocation is suspended for the upcoming year. Cities can voluntarily provide notice prior to the selected date.**

Options that Apply to Alternative 4:

Option 1: Under Alternative 4, part 1 paragraph 2, change the date for requiring shoreside deliveries to March 15.

Option 2: Keep the dates the same but allow Pacific cod harvested in the AI to be delivered either shoreside or at sea after March 15, the BS limitation would not apply after March 21st or sooner if the AI Pacific cod TAC is achieved.

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

(Add in **bold** and ~~strike~~ the following language under Alternative 4)

- 1) Prior to March 21, the A season trawl CV Pacific cod harvests in the Bering Sea and trawl CV Pacific cod harvests in the Aleutian Islands except harvests delivered shoreside west of 170° longitude in the AI shall be limited to an amount equal to the BSAI aggregate CV trawl sector A season allocation minus the ~~lesser~~ **lesser** of the AI directed Pacific cod non CDQ DFA or 5,000 mt.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection October 7, 2018, at 11:03 a.m.

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

(~~Strike~~ the following language under Alternative 4, Option 1)

Option 1: Under Alternative 4, ~~part 1 paragraph 2~~, change the date for requiring shoreside deliveries to March 15.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection October 7, 2018, at 11:06 a.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 7, 2018, at 11:09 a.m.

C8 IFQ MEDICAL, BENEFICIARY TRANSFER PROVISIONS

The Council heard a presentation from NMFS staff, Stephanie Warpinski and NMFS contractor, Darrell Brannan. The following actions were taken:

Dr. Balsiger made the following motion which was seconded by Ms. Peterson:

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and suite of alternatives for public review. Staff should consider and address comments from the AP to the extent practicable. The preliminary preferred alternatives are shown in **bold**; new language from the February 2018 motion is underlined.

Purpose and Need Statement:

The Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program was designed to ensure that the sablefish and halibut fisheries are predominately owner-operated where the quota share (QS) holders fish the annual IFQ. Transfers (leases) of IFQ derived from catcher vessel QS have generally been prohibited. Two transfer provisions, the medical transfer provision and the beneficiary transfer provision, were implemented after the original program to allow 1) QS holders to retain their QS during a temporary medical hardship and 2) a surviving spouse or designated beneficiary to temporarily transfer QS after the QS holder's death. NMFS has identified problems administering these provisions and would like the Council to clarify their intent. The medical transfer provision would benefit from a broader definition of a certified

medical professional and a revision to allow the provision to be used for any medical reason within a set of years. The beneficiary transfer provision would benefit from a clarification on who has the authority to transfer IFQ from a decedent's QS and a definition of immediate family member. NMFS and IFQ fishermen would benefit from clarification of the Council's intent for the program and if necessary adjusting the regulations to better reflect the program's objectives.

The Council recommends the following suite of alternatives for the proposed action to modify the IFQ medical and beneficiary transfer provisions.

Alternative 1: Status Quo

Alternative 2: Modify the medical transfer provision.

Element 1: Define "Certified Medical Professional"

Option 1: Replace the current definition with a single, broader definition of certified medical professional, such as "Health care provider." Health care provider could be defined as:

An eligible health care provider is an individual authorized to provide health care services by the State where he or she practices and performs within the scope of their specialty to diagnose and treat medical conditions as defined by applicable Federal, state, or local laws and regulations. A health care provider outside the U.S. and its territories licensed to practice medicine is included in this definition.

Option 2: Define a Certified Medical Professional as all or a sub-set of those individuals defined in the Social Security Act Sections 1861(r) and 1861(s).

Suboption: Option 1 and Option 2 would be limited to U.S. medical professionals.

Element 2: Revise federal regulations to allow the medical transfer provision to be used for any medical reason for:

Option 1: 2 of 5 most recent years

Option 2: 3 of 7 most recent years

Note: Only transfers after implementation of new rule would count towards the limit.

Suboptions apply to either Option 1 or 2:

Suboption 1: Establish a limit on the number of times (based on two options to define years) the medical transfer provision may be used (range of 5 to 10 times).

Suboption 2: Define most recent year as one year (365 days) from the date the medical transfer application was approved by NMFS.

Option 3: Allows QS holders to transfer 100% of IFQ associated with QS held under eligible medical transfer to designee for two years; in the third time a

medical transfer is used out of 7 years, the QS holder can transfer 80% of IFQ (by area by species) to designee; in the fourth time, the QS holder can transfer 60% of IFQ; medical transfers would not be allowed during the most recent 7 year period.

Alternative 3: Modify the beneficiary transfer provision.

Element 1: At 50 CFR 679.41(k) modify all references to surviving spouse and immediate family member by adding “estate.”

Element 2: Define “immediate family member” in regulations at 50 CFR 679 as follows:

Option 1: US Office of Personnel Management definition

Option 2: Federal Family Medical Leave Act definition

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

(Add Option 3 under Alternative 2, Element 1)

Option 3: The Council directs staff to review definitions of “immediate family member” that could be used for the medical transfer provision which are more restrictive than those used for designated beneficiary provision regulations.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection October 7, 2018, at 2:40 p.m.

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

(~~Strike~~the following language so that there is no PPA)

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and suite of alternatives for public review. Staff should consider and address comments from the AP to the extent practicable. The preliminary preferred alternatives are shown in **bold**; new language is underlined.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment failed 3/8 (Dr. Balsiger, Mr. Cotten, Mr. Cross, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Laukitis, Mr. Mezirow, Ms. Peterson, and Mr. Kinneen voting in opposition) October 7, 2018, at 2:45 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 7, 2018, at 2:56 p.m.

D1 IFQ CQE FISH UP IN 3A

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Sara Cleaver. The following action was taken:

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

Approve the following amendment to the CQE program for initial review:

Purpose and Need:

The ability of fishermen in a remote coastal community to purchase QS or maintain existing QS may be limited by a variety of factors both shared among and unique to each community. Although the specific causes for decreasing QS holdings in a specific community may vary, the net effect is a disincentive to participation by residents of these communities in the halibut and sablefish IFQ fisheries. The substantial decline in the number of resident QS holders and the total amount of QS held by residents of remote coastal communities may have aggravated unemployment and related social and economic conditions in those communities. To remedy these barriers to participation in remote coastal communities, the Council developed the CQE Program to provide these communities with long-term opportunities to access the halibut and sablefish resources. Program regulations that restrict CQE ability to fish "D" class quota on "C" class vessels has, in some circumstances, limited the CQE community's access to fish CQE halibut, particularly in Area 3A. Modifying the program to allow CQEs to fish "D" class quota on "C" class vessels in Area 3A will further the Council's intent of encouraging CQE communities to secure long-term opportunities to access halibut.

Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 2: Allow CQE communities to fish "D" class quota on "C" class vessels after:

- a. August 15
- b. September 1

Alternative 3: Allow CQE communities to fish "D" class quota on "C" class vessels in a limited number of years.

- a. 2 out of 3 years
- b. 3 out of 5 years
- c. 3 out of 7 years

Alternatives 2 and 3 could be combined.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 7, 2018, at 5:13 p.m.

D2 SABLEFISH DISCARD ALLOWANCE

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Jim Armstrong. The following actions were taken:

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

Initiate a second discussion paper to gather more information on the possible implications of modifying the requirement to retain small sized sablefish in the Alaska IFQ longline and pot fisheries (GOA and BSAI).

The discussion paper should include an evaluation of the following:

- A process for establishing species-specific and gear-specific discard mortality rates (DMR) for sablefish that outlines the work necessary to maintain the relevance of that DMR over time.
- An assessment of the reliability of applying temporary proxy DMRs from other fisheries to the sablefish IFQ longline and pot fisheries and the implications of increased monitoring necessary to establish observer-based DMRs.

- The possibility of allowing discards during years of high abundance versus years of lower abundance and how to establish a threshold between high and low abundance years.
 - The possibility of increased whale depredation if discarding is allowed.
 - An exploration of gear modifications and methods of fishing that could aid in avoiding small sablefish.
-
- The implications of small sablefish discards increasing the probability of approaching the overall TAC or exceeding the ABC.
 - A discussion about the concerns of fishing down the existing spawning stock.
 - Potential for and implications of high-grading under size-based management.

CAPT Caputo made the following amendment which was seconded by Ms. Peterson:

(Add the following bullet to the discussion paper)

- Add investigation of enforcement options.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection October 8, 2018, at 10:33 a.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 8, 2018, at 10:36 a.m.

D3 UNGUIDED HALIBUT RENTAL BOATS

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Steve MacLean. The following actions were taken:

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

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and suite of alternatives for initial review.

Purpose and Need

Over the past six years, declining trends in halibut abundance and the proportionate reductions in guided sport bag limits may incentivize sport fishing businesses to offer non-guided vessel rentals and assisted unguided fishing experiences. This shift appears to be contributing to a proportional increase in unguided sport harvest in IPHC Areas 2C and 3A. Because unguided sport harvest is deducted from the total allowable catch of halibut before the guided sport and commercial allocations are set, the growth in unguided halibut harvest could result in a reallocation of halibut from the guided sport and commercial sectors to the unguided sport sector. To provide a measure of stability in the future to the halibut charter and commercial sectors, the Council is considering management strategies for the unguided halibut sport sector that will require registration for vessels offering non-guided vessel rentals and apply charter halibut bag and size limits when halibut is retained on non-guided vessel rentals. Registration and consistent management measures between charter and non-guided vessel rentals would ensure appropriate accounting of sport halibut catch and reduce incentives for shifting harvest patterns that could reduce allocations to the charter and commercial sectors. This proposed action is not intended to modify regulations for private anglers.

Alternatives (more than one action alternative may be chosen)

Alternative 1: No Action (Status quo)

Alternative 2: Require registration for non-guided vessel rental vessels

Require registration for non-guided motor vessels that operate in IPHC Areas 2C and 3A that are used to retain recreationally harvested halibut and that are rented for compensation. This registration would apply to all vessels used to provide access to the halibut resource for compensation, including but not limited to unguided rental boats, mother ships, bare boat charters, fishing clubs, time shares and all other means whereby compensation is exchanged for access to the halibut resource.

Element 1: Apply the registration requirements:

Suboption 1: IPHC regulatory area 2C and 3A

Suboption 2: Only IPHC regulatory 2C

Element 2: Require non-guided rental vessel registration:

Suboption 1: Annually renewal

Suboption 2: Every 3 years

Suboption 3: Every 5 years

Alternative 3: Align bag limits between charter anglers and anglers on non-guided rental vessels

Apply the same daily bag limit or size limit to anglers that apply to charter anglers under the Catch Sharing Plan.

Suboption: Provide an exemption to aligning bag and size limits to MWR vessels

The analysis should describe:

(1) The potential definitions for non-guided rental vessels and the ability to reliably identify those vessels;

(2) The potential authority and methods for registering non-guided vessels either by NMFS or the State of Alaska; and

(3) Methods for accounting for halibut harvested by non-guided vessel anglers using either the State of Alaska Statewide Harvest Survey, or through the State of Alaska Saltwater Logbook;

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

~~(Strike~~ and add the following language in **bold** under the Purpose and Need)

Over the past six years, declining trends in halibut abundance and the proportionate reductions in guided sport bag limits may incentivize sport fishing businesses to offer non-guided vessel rentals and assisted unguided fishing experiences. This shift appears to be contributing to a proportional increase in unguided sport harvest in IPHC Areas 2C and 3A. Because unguided sport harvest is deducted from the total allowable catch of halibut before the guided sport and commercial allocations are set, the growth in unguided halibut harvest could result in a reallocation of halibut from the guided sport and commercial sectors to the unguided sport sector. To provide a measure of stability in the future to the halibut charter and commercial sectors, the Council is considering management strategies for the unguided halibut sport sector that will require registration for vessels offering non-guided vessel rentals and apply charter halibut bag and size limits when halibut is retained on non-guided vessel rentals. Registration and consistent management measures between charter and non-guided vessel rentals would ensure appropriate accounting of sport halibut catch and reduce incentives for shifting harvest patterns that could reduce allocations to the charter and commercial sectors. This proposed action is not intended to modify regulations for private anglers **fishing on private boats**.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection October 8, 2018, at 1:46 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 8, 2018, at 1:55 p.m

E1 STAFF TASKING

Executive Director, David Witherell, presented a list of items for discussion at staff tasking taken from the B reports and other items during the meeting. In addition to discussing the relative priority of previously tasked projects, the Council requested staff prepare a series of letters to NMFS on the following topics:

- Feedback on the National Bycatch Report.
- Feedback on the National Observer Safety Report.
- Additional funding for observer days in the Council's partial coverage observer program.
- Prioritizing options for AFSC survey deployment.

Additionally, the Council discussed the following issues:

- Formation of a halibut stakeholder committee. The Council provided guidance for the terms of reference for that committee.
- A staff report on public workshops. The Council expressed its intention of considering workshops in the future for public engagement on appropriate topics.
- The agenda for the Joint Protocol Committee. The Council requested some additional updates that may be relevant for discussion with the Board of Fish representatives.
- The Council requested staff include in the BSAI Pacific cod allocation workplan an evaluation of the <60 sector.
- Prioritization of observer analytical tasks. The Council requested an update on progress with analyses that address observer coverage on vessels delivering to tenders.

Appointments

Social Science Plan Team

Dr. Courtney Carothers was appointed to serve as a representative of UAF adding expertise in Local and Traditional Knowledge with rural and Alaska Native coastal villages and organizations. The Council also reserved a seat on the Plan Team for a qualified ADF&G representative. The Council asked staff to bring back suggestions on a process for the Council to select a SSPT member to broadly represent Tribal organizations.

Community Engagement Committee

The Council appointed members of the newly formed Committee: Jennifer Hooper, Robert Keith, Nicole Kimball, Merissa Mercurieff, Tom Panamaroff, Becca Robins Gisclair, and Rob Sanderson. Simon Kinneen and Theresa Peterson will Co-Chair the committee.

Kenny Down was appointed to the Joint Protocol Committee, and John Jensen appointed as Chair of the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee.

THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ON MONDAY OCTOBER 8, 2018 AT 4:21 P.M.

Table 1. GOA - COUNCIL Proposed OFL and ABC, and AP Proposed TAC Recommendations (metric tons) for 2019-2020 (Page 1)

10/4/2018

Species	Area	2017				2018				2019 and 2020		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 9/8/18	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	5,094	-	-	n/a	4,037	-	-	n/a	2,664	-
	W (610)	n/a	43,602	43,602	49,452	n/a	30,188	30,188	17,380	n/a	19,921	19,921
	C (620)	n/a	98,652	98,652	81,612	n/a	79,495	79,495	70,330	n/a	52,459	52,459
	C (630)	n/a	48,929	48,929	53,063	n/a	40,939	40,939	21,284	n/a	27,016	27,016
	WYAK	n/a	7,492	7,492	40	n/a	6,833	6,833	4,125	n/a	4,509	4,509
	Subtotal	235,807	203,769	198,675	184,167	187,059	161,492	157,455	113,119	131,170	106,569	103,905
	EYAK/SEO	13,226	9,920	9,920	-	11,697	8,773	8,773	-	11,697	8,773	8,773
Total	249,033	213,689	208,595	184,167	198,756	170,265	166,228	113,119	142,867	115,342	112,678	
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	36,291	25,404	18,166	n/a	8,082	5,657	3,488	n/a	7,633	5,343
	C	n/a	44,180	33,135	16,983	n/a	8,118	6,089	3,653	n/a	7,667	5,750
	E	n/a	7,871	5,903	55	n/a	1,800	1,350	92	n/a	1,700	1,275
	Total	105,378	88,342	64,442	35,204	23,565	18,000	13,096	7,233	21,412	17,000	12,368
Sablefish	W	n/a	1,349	1,349	1,181	n/a	1,544	1,544	859	n/a	2,174	2,174
	C	n/a	4,514	4,514	4,823	n/a	5,158	5,158	3,783	n/a	7,260	7,260
	WYAK	n/a	1,605	1,605	1,698	n/a	1,829	1,829	1,612	n/a	2,573	2,573
	SEO	n/a	2,606	2,606	2,798	n/a	2,974	2,974	2,161	n/a	4,187	4,187
	Total	11,885	10,074	10,074	10,500	22,703	11,505	11,505	8,415	35,989	16,194	16,194
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	20,921	13,250	274	n/a	25,206	13,250	25	n/a	25,544	13,250
	C	n/a	19,306	19,306	2,296	n/a	25,315	25,315	994	n/a	25,655	25,655
	WYAK	n/a	3,188	3,188	-	n/a	2,242	2,242	1	n/a	2,272	2,272
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,099	1,099	-	n/a	1,925	1,925	1	n/a	1,951	1,951
	Total	54,583	44,514	36,843	2,570	67,240	54,688	42,732	1,021	68,114	55,422	43,128
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	256	256	21	n/a	413	413	2	n/a	416	416
	C	n/a	3,454	3,454	228	n/a	3,400	3,400	121	n/a	3,442	3,442
	WYAK	n/a	3,017	3,017	8	n/a	3,239	3,239	5	n/a	3,279	3,279
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,565	2,565	2	n/a	2,332	2,332	3	n/a	2,361	2,361
	Total	11,182	9,292	9,292	259	11,294	9,385	9,385	131	11,431	9,499	9,499
Rex Sole	W	n/a	1,459	1,459	48	n/a	3,086	3,086	35	n/a	2,909	2,909
	C	n/a	4,930	4,930	1,433	n/a	8,739	8,739	1,310	n/a	8,236	8,236
	WYAK	n/a	850	850	2	n/a	1,737	1,737	2	n/a	1,657	1,657
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,072	1,072	-	n/a	1,811	1,811	-	n/a	1,727	1,727
	Total	10,860	8,311	8,311	1,483	18,706	15,373	15,373	1,347	17,692	14,529	14,529
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	28,100	14,500	286	n/a	37,253	14,500	298	n/a	35,844	14,500
	C	n/a	107,934	75,000	26,530	n/a	73,480	48,000	11,650	n/a	70,700	48,000
	WYAK	n/a	37,405	6,900	33	n/a	16,468	6,900	37	n/a	15,845	6,900
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	12,654	6,900	14	n/a	23,744	6,900	11	n/a	22,845	6,900
	Total	219,327	186,093	103,300	26,863	180,697	150,945	76,300	11,996	173,872	145,234	76,300
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	11,098	8,650	73	n/a	12,690	8,650	61	n/a	13,222	8,650
	C	n/a	20,339	15,400	1,978	n/a	20,238	15,400	1,369	n/a	21,087	15,400
	WYAK	n/a	2,949	2,949	-	n/a	1,932	1,932	-	n/a	2,013	2,013
	S	n/a	857	857	-	n/a	406	406	-	n/a	424	424
	Total	43,128	35,243	27,856	2,051	43,011	35,266	26,388	1,430	44,822	36,746	26,487

Sources: 2017 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2016; 2018 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from the harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2017, 2017 catches through December 31, 2017 and 2018 catches through September 8, 2018 from AKR Catch Accounting.

Table 1. GOA - COUNCIL Proposed OFL and ABC, and AP Proposed TAC Recommendations (metric tons) for 2019-2020 (Page 2)

Species	Area	2017				2018				2019 and 2020		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 9/8/18	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pacific ocean perch	W	n/a	2,679	2,679	2,682	n/a	3,312	3,312	2,950	n/a	3,240	3,240
	C	n/a	16,671	16,671	18,442	n/a	20,112	20,112	14,687	n/a	19,678	19,678
	WYAK	n/a	2,786	2,786	2,757	n/a	3,371	3,371	3,352	n/a	3,298	3,298
	W/C/WYAK	25,753	22,136	22,136	23,881	31,860	26,795	26,795	20,989	31,170	26,216	26,216
	SEO	2,073	1,782	1,782	-	2,902	2,441	2,441	-	2,840	2,389	2,389
	Total	27,826	23,918	23,918	23,881	34,762	29,236	29,236	20,989	34,010	28,605	28,605
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	432	432	234	n/a	420	420	225	n/a	382	382
	C	n/a	3,354	3,354	1,601	n/a	3,261	3,261	1,966	n/a	2,965	2,965
	E	n/a	4	-	-	n/a	4	-	-	n/a	3	-
	Total	4,522	3,790	3,786	1,835	4,380	3,685	3,681	2,191	3,984	3,350	3,347
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	38	38	43	n/a	44	44	21	n/a	44	44
	C	n/a	301	301	232	n/a	305	305	251	n/a	305	305
	E	n/a	947	947	277	n/a	515	515	270	n/a	514	514
	Total	1,715	1,286	1,286	552	1,151	864	864	542	1,151	863	863
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	158	158	125	n/a	146	146	33	n/a	135	135
	C	n/a	3,786	3,786	2,470	n/a	3,502	3,502	2,733	n/a	3,246	3,246
	WYAK	n/a	251	251	22	n/a	232	232	11	n/a	215	215
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	83	83	5	n/a	77	77	7	n/a	72	72
	Total	5,233	4,278	4,278	2,622	4,841	3,957	3,957	2,784	4,488	3,668	3,668
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	105	105	34	n/a	176	176	69	n/a	174	174
	C	n/a	706	706	329	n/a	556	556	412	n/a	550	550
	E	n/a	516	516	175	n/a	712	712	122	n/a	703	703
	Total	1,594	1,327	1,327	538	1,735	1,444	1,444	603	1,715	1,427	1,427
Demersal shelf rockfish	Total	357	227	227	130	394	250	250	122	394	250	250
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	291	291	155	n/a	344	344	124	n/a	344	344
	C	n/a	988	988	616	n/a	921	921	526	n/a	921	921
	E	n/a	682	682	250	n/a	773	773	272	n/a	773	773
	Total	2,615	1,961	1,961	1,021	2,717	2,038	2,038	922	2,717	2,038	2,038
Other Rockfish	W/C	n/a	1,534	1,534	1,001	n/a	1,737	1,737	993	n/a	1,737	1,737
	WYAK	n/a	574	574	45	n/a	368	368	111	n/a	368	368
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	3,665	200	32	n/a	3,489	200	38	n/a	3,488	200
	Total	7,424	5,773	2,308	1,078	7,356	5,594	2,305	1,142	7,356	5,593	2,305
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	3,000	1,074	6,200	4,700	3,000	1,218	6,200	4,700	3,000
Big Skate	W	n/a	908	908	190	n/a	504	504	412	n/a	504	504
	C	n/a	1,850	1,850	1,338	n/a	1,774	1,774	723	n/a	1,774	1,774
	E	n/a	1,056	1,056	128	n/a	570	570	67	n/a	570	570
	Total	5,086	3,814	3,814	1,656	3,797	2,848	2,848	1,202	3,797	2,848	2,848
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	61	61	189	n/a	149	149	31	n/a	149	149
	C	n/a	2,513	2,513	718	n/a	2,804	2,804	416	n/a	2,804	2,804
	E	n/a	632	632	299	n/a	619	619	183	n/a	619	619
	Total	4,274	3,206	3,206	1,206	4,763	3,572	3,572	630	4,763	3,572	3,572
Other Skates	GOA-wide	2,558	1,919	1,919	1,573	1,845	1,384	1,384	470	1,845	1,384	1,384
Sculpins	GOA-wide	7,338	5,591	5,591	1,316	6,958	5,301	5,301	385	6,958	5,301	5,301
Sharks	GOA-wide	6,020	4,514	4,514	1,635	6,020	4,514	4,514	1,943	6,020	4,514	4,514
Squids	GOA-wide	1,516	1,137	1,137	39	1,516	1,137	1,137	35	-	-	-
Octopuses	GOA-wide	6,504	4,878	4,878	231	1,300	975	975	82	1,300	975	975
TOTAL		796,158	667,877	535,863	303,577	655,707	536,921	427,512	164,758	602,897	479,050	375,280

Sources: 2017 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2016; 2018 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from the harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2017, 2017 catches through December 31, 2017 and 2018 catches through September 8, 2018 from AKR Catch Accounting.

Proposed 2019/2020 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod ABCs, TACs and State Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) in metric tons.

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	7,633	7,667	1,700	17,000
State GHL	2,290	1,917	425	4,632
(%)	30%	25%	25%	25-30
Federal TAC	5,343	5,750	1,275	12,368

Table 14. Proposed 2019 and 2020 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 15. Proposed 2019 and 2020 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 16. Proposed 2019 and 2020 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	120	January 1 - June 10	86	103
			June 10 - September 1	2	2
			September 1 - December 31	12	14
	Catcher/Processor	137	January 1 - June 10	86	118
			June 10 - September 1	2	3
			September 1 - December 31	12	16

Table 17. Final 2019 and 2020 Halibut Discard Mortality Rates for Vessels Fishing in the Gulf of Alaska. (Values are percent of halibut assumed to be dead.)

Gear	Sector	Groundfish fishery	Halibut discard mortality rate (percent)
Pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	All	100
	Catcher/processor	All	100
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	Rockfish Program	49
	Catcher vessel	All others	67
	Mothership and catcher/processor	All	79
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	All	11
	Catcher vessel	All	21
Pot	Catcher vessel and catcher/processor	All	4

Table 1. BSAI - Council Proposed OFL and ABC, and AP Proposed TAC Recommendations (metric tons) for 2019-2020

10/4/2018

Species	Area	2017				2018				2019 and 2020		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 12/31/2017	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 9/8/2018	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	EBS	3,640,000	2,800,000	1,345,000	1,359,274	4,797,000	2,592,000	1,364,341	1,294,454	4,592,000	2,467,000	1,384,200
	AI	43,650	36,061	19,000	1,507	49,289	40,788	19,000	1,748	37,431	30,803	19,000
	Bogoslof	130,428	60,800	500	186	130,428	60,800	450	9	130,428	60,800	500
Pacific cod	BS	284,000	239,000	223,704	222,814	238,000	201,000	188,136	142,502	201,000	170,000	159,120
	AI	28,700	21,500	15,695	12,258	28,700	21,500	15,695	10,906	28,700	21,500	15,695
Sablefish	BS	1,499	1,274	1,274	1,159	2,887	1,464	1,464	1,422	4,576	2,061	2,061
	AI	2,044	1,735	1,735	590	3,917	1,988	1,988	457	6,209	2,798	2,798
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	287,000	260,800	154,000	132,266	306,700	277,500	154,000	97,101	295,600	267,500	156,000
Greenland turbot	BSAI	11,615	6,644	4,500	2,834	13,148	11,132	5,294	1,765	13,540	11,473	5,294
	BS	n/a	5,800	4,375	2,712	n/a	9,718	5,125	1,614	n/a	10,016	5,125
	AI	n/a	844	125	122	n/a	1,414	169	151	n/a	1,457	169
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	76,100	65,371	14,000	6,518	76,757	65,932	13,621	4,528	75,084	64,494	14,000
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	10,360	8,880	5,000	4,503	11,347	9,737	5,000	2,814	12,022	10,317	5,000
Northern rock sole	BSAI	159,700	155,100	47,100	35,214	147,300	143,100	47,100	27,513	136,000	132,000	49,100
Flathead sole	BSAI	81,654	68,278	14,500	9,149	79,862	66,773	14,500	8,262	78,036	65,227	16,500
Alaska plaice	BSAI	42,800	36,000	13,000	16,492	41,170	34,590	16,100	21,453	38,800	32,700	16,252
Other flatfish	BSAI	17,591	13,193	2,500	4,133	17,591	13,193	4,000	5,871	17,591	13,193	4,000
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	53,152	43,723	34,900	32,544	51,675	42,509	37,361	25,524	50,098	41,212	37,880
	BS	n/a	12,199	11,000	8,987	n/a	11,861	11,861	4,024	n/a	11,499	11,499
	EAI	n/a	10,307	7,900	7,803	n/a	10,021	9,000	6,370	n/a	9,715	9,715
	CAI	n/a	8,009	7,000	6,868	n/a	7,787	7,500	6,767	n/a	7,549	7,549
	WAI	n/a	13,208	9,000	8,886	n/a	12,840	9,000	8,363	n/a	12,449	9,117
Northern rockfish	BSAI	16,242	13,264	5,000	4,699	15,888	12,975	6,100	5,286	15,563	12,710	6,500
Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish	BSAI	612	501	225	205	749	613	225	190	829	678	225
	EBS/EAI	n/a	306	100	71	n/a	374	75	45	n/a	414	75
	CAI/WAI	n/a	195	125	134	n/a	239	150	145	n/a	264	150
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	666	499	125	161	666	499	150	147	666	499	150
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,816	1,362	875	831	1,816	1,362	845	763	1,816	1,362	845
	BS	n/a	791	325	261	n/a	791	275	145	n/a	791	275
	AI	n/a	571	550	570	n/a	571	570	618	n/a	571	570
Atka mackerel	BSAI	102,700	87,200	65,000	64,449	108,600	92,000	71,000	54,474	97,200	84,400	72,500
	EAI/BS	n/a	34,890	34,500	34,267	n/a	36,820	36,500	21,435	n/a	33,780	33,780
	CAI	n/a	30,330	18,000	17,749	n/a	32,000	21,000	20,077	n/a	29,350	24,895
	WAI	n/a	21,980	12,500	12,433	n/a	23,180	13,500	12,962	n/a	21,270	13,825
Skates	BSAI	49,063	41,144	26,000	31,892	46,668	39,082	27,000	13,517	44,202	36,957	27,000
Sculpins	BSAI	56,582	42,387	4,500	5,342	53,201	39,995	5,000	4,173	53,201	39,995	5,000
Sharks	BSAI	689	517	125	142	689	517	180	85	689	517	180
Squids	BSAI	6,912	5,184	1,342	1,996	6,912	5,184	1,200	1,456	0	0	0
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	400	281	4,769	3,576	250	160	4,769	3,576	200
Total	BSAI	5,110,344	4,013,993	2,000,000	1,951,439	6,235,729	3,779,809	2,000,000	1,726,580	5,936,050	3,573,772	2,000,000

Sources: 2017 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2018 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2016 and December 2017, respectively; 2017 catches through December 31, 2018 catches through September 8, 2018 from AKR Catch Accounting.

TABLE 7—PROPOSED 2019 AND 2020 ABC SURPLUS, ABC RESERVES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA (CDQ) ABC RESERVES, AND AMENDMENT 80 ABC RESERVES IN THE BSAI FOR FLATHEAD SOLE, ROCK SOLE, AND YELLOWFIN SOLE

[Amounts are in metric tons]			
Sector	Flathead sole	Rock sole	Yellowfin sole
ABC	65,227	132,000	267,500
TAC	15,500	49,100	156,000
ABC surplus	49,727	82,900	111,500
ABC reserve	49,727	82,900	111,500
CDQ ABC reserve	5,321	8,870	11,931
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	44,406	74,030	99,570

TABLE 8—PROPOSED 2019 AND 2020 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	Am 80 sector ³	BSAI trawl limited access fishery
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,515	710	315	n/a	1,745	745
Herring (mt) BSAI	1,830	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	11,916,450	n/a	1,275,060	10,641,390	5,230,243	3,420,143
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 1	980,000	n/a	104,860	875,140	368,521	411,228
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 2	2,970,000	n/a	317,790	2,652,210	627,778	1,241,500

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of zones.

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

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

TABLE 9—PROPOSED 2019 AND 2020 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	80	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ¹	39	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	5	n/a
Rockfish	5	n/a
Pacific cod	9	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	1,662	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2,3}	30	n/a
Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴	n/a	24,250
Total trawl PSC	1,830	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, and octopuses.

⁴ In October 2018, the Council recommended that the red king crab bycatch limit for non-pelagic trawl fisheries within the RKCSS be limited to 25% 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 2019 AND 2020 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	3,224,126	346,228	1,185,500
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ²	-	-	-	-	0
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	-	-	0
Rockfish April 15-December 31	4	-	5,326	-	1,000
Pacific cod	391	2,954	137,426	60,000	49,999
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ³	200	197	53,265	5,000	5,000
Total BSAI trawl limited access PSC	745	26,489	3,420,143	411,228	1,241,500

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, and octopuses.

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

TABLE 11—PROPOSED 2019 AND 2020 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

TABLE 12—PROPOSED 2019 AND 2020 PACIFIC HALIBUT DISCARD MORTALITY RATES FOR THE BSAI

Gear	Sector	Halibut discard mortality rate (percent)
Pelagic trawl	All	100
Non-pelagic trawl	Mothership and catcher/processor	78
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	59
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	4
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	8
Pot	All	19



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone 907-271-2809 | www.npfmc.org

TIME LOG Meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska Hilton Hotel October 3 – 9, 2018

Wednesday October 3, 2018

10/3/2018 8:00 AM Call to Order
10/3/2018 8:01 AM Approval of Minutes and Agenda
10/3/2018 8:02 AM Oath of Office – Mr. Jensen, Mr. Cross, and Mr. Mezirow
10/3/2018 8:03 AM Election of Officers – Simon Kinneen as Chairman and Bill Tweit and Vice Chairman

B1 REPORTS

10/3/2018 8:07 AM **B1 Executive Director's Report** – David Witherell
10/3/2018 9:00 AM **B2 NMFS Management Report** – Glenn Merrill
10/3/2018 9:13 AM In Season Management Report – Mary Furuness
10/3/2018 9:38 AM **B3 NOAA GC Report** – Maura Sullivan
10/3/2018 9:40 AM **B4 ADF&G Report** – Forrest Bowers
10/3/2018 9:50 AM **B5 USCG Report** – LCDR Yvonne Yang
10/3/2018 10:00 AM **B6 USFWS Report** – Greg Siekaniec
10/3/2018 10:03 AM Report on Endangered Species Act – Doug Cooper
10/3/2018 10:15 AM Update on Alaska Seabird Mortality Rate – Rob Kaler
10/3/2018 10:30 AM Break
10/3/2018 10:45 AM Update on Salmon Stocks – Gary Decosas
10/3/2018 11:00 AM **B7 Protected Species Report** – Steve MacLean
10/3/2018 11:10 AM **B8 Halibut Decksorting EFP** – John Guavin and Chris Oliver
10/3/2018 11:55 AM Ecosystem Workshop Update – NPFMC DD, Diana Evans
10/3/2018 12:05 PM Lunch Break
10/3/2018 1:15 PM **B Public Testimony**
10/3/2018 1:15 PM Lauren Divine
10/3/2018 1:31 PM Melissa Heflin on behalf of Jerry Ivanoff
10/3/2018 1:37 PM Nicole Kimball and Julie Bonney
10/3/2018 1:42 PM Becca Robbins Gisclair

C1 BSAI CRAB SPECIFICATIONS FOR 4 STOCKS

10/3/2018 1:48 PM **C1 Presentation** - SAFE Report & CPT Report – Council staff, Dr. Diana Stram and AFSC, Dr. Bob Foy
10/3/2018 3:50 PM C1 SSC Report – Dr. Gordon Kruse
10/3/2018 4:00 PM AP Report – Matt Upton
10/3/2018 4:01 PM **C1 Ms. Bush Motion**

C2 GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

10/3/2018 4:15 PM **C2 Introduction** – Council staff, Dr. Diana Stram and Jim Armstrong
10/3/2018 4:17 PM Ecosystem Assessment of Northern Bering Sea – AFSC, Dr. Stephanie Zador and Dr. Elizabeth Siddon
10/3/2018 4:35 PM Bering Sea Bottom Trawl Survey Results – AFSC, Dr. Bob Lauth
10/3/2018 5:00 PM Recess

Thursday October 4, 2018

C2 GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

10/4/2018 8:05 AM Call to Order
10/4/2018 8:15 AM Joint Plan Team Report – Council staff, Dr. Diana Stram
10/4/2018 9:05 AM BSAI Plan Team Report – Council staff, Dr. Diana Stram
10/4/2018 9:30 AM GOA Plan Team Report – Council staff, Jim Armstrong
10/4/2018 9:59 AM Morning Break
10/4/2018 10:30 AM SSC Report – Dr. Gordon Kruse
10/4/2018 10:50 AM AP Report – Matt Upton
10/4/2018 11:00 AM **C2 Public Comment**
10/4/2018 11:00 AM Elizabeth Reed
10/4/2018 11:03 AM Gerry Merrigan
10/4/2018 11:13 AM Malcolm Milne
10/4/2018 11:19 AM **C2 Mr. Laukitis Motion** – GOA Specifications
10/4/2018 11:35 AM **C2 Mr. Cross Motion** – BSAI Specifications
10/4/2018 11:40 AM **C2 Mr. Cross Motion** – Socioeconomic Motion
10/4/2018 11:50 AM Break for Lunch
10/4/2018 1:18 PM **C4 Public Testimony – Out of Order**
10/4/2018 1:18 PM Leonard Herzog

C3 2019 OBSERVER PROGRAM ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT PLAN

10/4/2018 1:29 PM **C3 Presentation** – Council staff, Elizabeth Figus
10/4/2018 1:30 PM Draft 2019 Annual Deployment Plan, AFSC Jennifer Ferdinand, Craig Faunce, and Phil Ganz
10/4/2018 2:01 PM FMAC Report – Council staff, Elizabeth Figus
10/4/2018 2:25 PM SSC Report – Dr. Gordon Kruse
10/4/2018 2:31 PM AP Report – Matt Upton
10/4/2018 2:39 PM **C3 Public Testimony**
10/4/2018 2:39 PM Nicole Kimball, Dan Falvey, Julie Bonney, Abigail Turner
10/4/2018 3:10 PM Break
10/4/2018 3:30 PM Bob Alverson
10/4/2018 3:46 PM Molly Zaleski
10/4/2018 3:55 PM **C3 Mr. Merrill Motion**

10/4/2018 4:39 PM	C3 Mr. Tweit Motion – Partial Coverage Recommendations
10/4/2018 4:54 PM	C3 Mr. Tweit Motion – Letters to NMFS Re Additional Funding
10/4/2018 5:00 PM	Recess

Friday October 5, 2018

C4 HALIBUT RETENTION IN BSAI POTS

10/5/2018 8:06:00 AM	C4 Presentation – Council staff, Sara Cleaver & NMFS’s staff, Stephanie Warpinski
10/5/2018 9:29:33 AM	AP Report – Matt Upton
10/5/2018 9:42:13 AM	C4 Public Testimony
10/5/2018 9:42:13 AM	Erik Velsko
10/5/2018 9:50:14 AM	Jamie Goan, Gretar Gunderson, Jay Boldin
10/5/2018 9:59:22 AM	Bernie Burkholder
10/5/2018 10:12:53 AM	Jeff Kauffman
10/5/2018 10:29:08 AM	Break
10/5/2018 10:46:00 AM	Linda Behnken
10/5/2018 11:01:45 AM	Rhonda Hubbard
10/5/2018 11:06:14 AM	Matt Robinson
10/5/2018 11:28:04 AM	C4 Mr. Laukitis Motion
10/5/2018 12:21:15 PM	Lunch Break
10/5/2018 1:33:35 PM	Full SSC Presentation – Dr. Gordon Kruse
10/5/2018 2:50:36 PM	Break

C5 BERING SEA FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN

10/5/2018 3:03:49 PM	C5 Presentation – NPFMC Deputy Director, Diana Evans & AFSC, Dr. Kerim Aydin
10/5/2018 3:55:33 PM	Recess

Saturday October 6, 2018

10/6/2018 8:04 AM	Ecosystem Committee Report – Council staff, Steve MacLean
10/6/2018 8:13 AM	AP Report – Angel Drobnica
10/6/2018 8:15 AM	C5 Public Testimony
10/6/2018 8:16 AM	Rose Fosdick
10/6/2018 8:27 AM	Steve Marx
10/6/2018 8:34 AM	Lauren Divine
10/6/2018 8:39 AM	Julie Raymond-Yakoubian
10/6/2018 8:45 AM	Stephanie Madsen
10/6/2018 8:54 AM	Becca Robbins Gisclair
10/6/2018 8:57 AM	Break
10/6/2018 9:07 AM	C5 Mr. Tweit Motion

C6 BSAI HALIBUT ABUNDANCE-BASED MANAGEMENT PSC LIMITS

10/6/2018 9:25 AM	C6 Presentation – Council staff, Dr. Diana Stram & IPHC, Dr. Allan Hicks
10/6/2018 10:02 AM	Break
10/6/2018 10:21 AM	C6 Presentation Continued
10/6/2018 11:42 AM	RIR: Description of Fisheries – Council staff, Jon McCracken
10/6/2018 11:51 AM	Lunch Break
10/6/2018 1:03 PM	AP Report – Angel Drobnica
10/6/2018 1:11 PM	C6 Public Testimony
10/6/2018 1:12 PM	Gerry Merrigan
10/6/2018 1:23 PM	Mark Fina
10/6/2018 1:32 PM	Heather McCarty
10/6/2018 1:42 PM	Jeff Kauffman
10/6/2018 1:50 PM	Mateo Paz-Soldan & Simeon Swetzof
10/6/2018 2:00 PM	Chris Woodley
10/6/2018 2:10 PM	Steve Martell
10/6/2018 2:24 PM	Malcolm Milne
10/6/2018 2:45 PM	Break
10/6/2018 3:05 PM	C6 Ms. Bush Motion
10/6/2018 3:31 PM	C6 Mr. Merrill Amendment
10/6/2018 4:01 PM	Recess

Sunday October 7, 2018

C7 ALEUTIAN ISLANDS PACIFIC COD SET-ASIDE ADJUSTMENT

10/7/2018 8:30 AM	Call to Order
10/7/2018 8:33 AM	C7 Presentation – Council staff, Jon McCracken
10/7/2018 9:53 AM	AP Report – Angel Drobnica
10/7/2018 10:02 AM	Break
10/7/2018 10:18 AM	C7 Public Testimony
10/7/2018 10:18 AM	Dave Fraser
10/7/2018 10:25 AM	Steve Minor
10/7/2018 10:33 AM	Nicole Kimball
10/7/2018 10:40 AM	Clem Tillion
10/7/2018 10:43 AM	John Gruver
10/7/2018 10:55 AM	C7 Mr. Cotten Motion

C8 IFQ MEDICAL BENEFICIARY TRANSFER PROVISIONS

10/7/2018 11:10 AM	C8 Presentation – NMFS’s staff, Stephanie Warpinski and NPFMC contractor, Darrell Brannan
10/7/2018 12:10 PM	Break
10/7/2018 1:19 PM	C8 Presentation Continued
10/7/2018 1:23 PM	AP Report – Angel Drobnic
10/7/2018 1:36 PM	C8 Public Testimony
10/7/2018 1:36 PM	Erik Velsko
10/7/2018 1:44 PM	Linda Behnken
10/7/2018 1:50 PM	Bob Alverson
10/7/2018 2:03 PM	Break
10/7/2018 2:12 PM	C8 Mr. Balsiger Motion
10/7/2018 2:36 PM	C8 Mr. Laukitis Amendment
10/7/2018 2:56 PM	Break

D1 IFQ CQE FISH UP IN 3A

10/7/2018 3:18 PM	D1 Presentation , Council staff, Sara Cleaver
10/7/2018 3:52 PM	AP Report – Angel Drobnic
10/7/2018 3:54 PM	D1 Public Testimony
10/7/2018 3:55 PM	Duncan Fields
10/7/2018 4:22 PM	Darren Muller
10/7/2018 4:37 PM	Tom Panamaroff
10/7/2018 4:42 PM	Break
10/7/2018 4:50 PM	D1 Ms. Peterson Motion
10/7/2018 5:14 PM	D2 Public Testimony – Out of Order Bernie Burkholder
10/7/2018 5:18 PM	Recess

Monday October 8, 2018

D2 SABLEFISH DISCARD ALLOWANCE

10/8/2018 8:06 AM	Call to order
10/8/2018 8:06 AM	D2 Presentation – Council staff, Jim Armstrong
10/8/2018 9:32 AM	AP Report – Angel Drobnic
10/8/2018 9:34 AM	D2 Public Testimony
10/8/2018 9:35 AM	Erik Velsko
10/8/2018 9:43 AM	Linda Behnken
10/8/2018 9:55 AM	Bob Alverson
10/8/2018 10:01 AM	Julie Bonney
10/8/2018 10:16 AM	Break
10/8/2018 10:28 AM	D2 Mr. Laukitis Motion

D3 UNGUIDED HALIBUT RENTAL BOATS

10/8/2018 10:48 AM	D3 Presentation – Council staff, Steve MacLean
10/8/2018 11:52 AM	AP Report – Angel Drobica
10/8/2018 1:05 PM	D3 Public Testimony
10/8/2018 1:05 PM	Judy Brakel
10/8/2018 1:17 PM	Linda Behnken and Tom Gemmell
10/8/2018 1:24 PM	George Hutchings
10/8/2018 1:30 PM	D3 Mr. Mezirow Motion

E1 STAFF TASKING

10/8/2018 1:58 PM	Update on 3 Meeting Outlook – David Witherell
10/8/2018 2:18 PM	AP Report – Angel Drobica
10/8/2018 2:20 PM	Break
10/8/2018 2:38 PM	E1 Staff Tasking
10/8/2018 2:38 PM	Stephen Rollins
10/8/2018 2:44 PM	Bob Alverson
10/8/2018 2:57 PM	Mark Fina and Heather McCarty
10/8/2018 3:08 PM	Dustan Dickerson
10/8/2018 3:26 PM	George Hutchings
10/8/2018 3:31 PM	Julie Raymond-Yakoubian
10/8/2018 3:33 PM	Julie Bonney
10/8/2018 4:21 PM	Meeting Adjourned

October 2018 Newsletter

Kinneen Elected Council Chair; New Council Members



Simon Kinneen

The Council elected **Mr. Simon Kinneen** as Chair of the Council for the upcoming year, and re-elected **Mr. Bill Tweit** as Vice-Chair. As Mr. Tweit has been serving as Interim Chair since August, the Council commemorated his service with a mini gavel.

Mr. John Jensen joins the NPFMC as a new council member from Petersburg, Alaska. Mr. Jensen has experience in recreational fishing as well as a career in commercial fishing, and currently sits on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Board of Fish, and is a member of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission.

Captain Allison J. Caputo is also joining the Council as the USCG representative. Captain Caputo is the Chief of Maritime Law Enforcement for the Seventeenth Coast Guard District. The USCG representative is a non-voting member of the Council who assists with decision making, specifically on enforcement and safety issues.

Mr. Ivan Weinstein participated during this meeting as a representative of the US State Department in the Office of Marine Conservation.

Re-appointed to the Council for three-year terms are **Craig Cross** and **Andy Mezirow**. Mr. Cross has been involved in the Council process for over 20 years and currently works for Aleutian Spray Fisheries in Seattle. This will be his third term on the Council. Mr. Mezirow has been re-appointed to his second term on the Council after serving on the Council's Advisory Panel. Mr. Mezirow is a charter vessel business owner based in Seward.



Parliamentarian Dave Hanson presents a miniature gavel to Bill Tweit in appreciation for his service as interim chair.

Call for Nominations

The Council is accepting nominations for its Scientific and Statistical Committee, Advisory Panel, and BSAI Halibut ABM Stakeholder Committee.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (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. **Nominations, letters of interest, and a resume should be submitted to the Executive Director by November 30th at 12pm Alaska time.**

The **Advisory Panel** (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 five days in length, each year. 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. There are eight seats available for appointment on the AP. Of these, seven are held by existing AP members who are eligible to serve another term, and have indicated interest in doing so: Dan Donich, Angel Drobnic, John Gruver, Craig Lowenberg, Joel Peterson, Ben Stevens, and Samantha Weinstein. The remaining open seat, previously held by Shannon Carroll, who resigned in July, will be appointed by the Council for the remaining two years of the three-year term. **Nominations, letters of interest, and a resume should be submitted to the Executive Director by November 30th at 12pm Alaska time.** Please note that the names of those who submit a nomination will be made public.

The Council is also accepting nominations for a **Halibut Stakeholder Committee**, which will provide recommendations for the scenarios to be analyzed in the upcoming halibut abundance-based management PSC limit analysis. The Committee will also provide recommendations on measurable objectives and associated performance metrics to be considered by analysts in evaluating trade-offs among alternatives. The committee will meet to draft these scenarios prior to the February 2019 Council meeting, with an initial update on Committee progress to be provided to the Council in December. The committee is intended to include a range of interested stakeholders from both the directed BSAI groundfish and directed Area 4 halibut fisheries. **Interested members of the public should submit a letter of interest and brief resume to the Council chairman and Executive Director by close of business on October 30th.**

The Council is seeking nominations to the **Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee**, PNCIAC. PNCIAC's function is to provide the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council with advice and recommendations regarding appropriate measures for the conservation and management of the BSAI king and Tanner crab fisheries. There are up to 15 seats available, and each member serves a two-year term. **Nominations close December 1.** Please send a letter of interest to staff contact [Sarah Marrinan](#).

Plan Team / Committee Appointments

The Council appointed new membership to the **Social Science Planning Team**, in response to a Council call to add expertise in Local and Traditional Knowledge and those who work directly with rural and Alaska Native coastal villages and/or tribal organizations. The Council selected Dr. Courtney Carothers to serve as a member of the Team, and reserved a seat for ADF&G, who will be nominated and subjected to approval by the Council. In addition, the Council requested that at a future meeting, staff bring back suggestions on a process for the

Council to select a Social Science Planning Team member to broadly represent the Tribal organizations. Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

The Council appointed members to the **Community Engagement Committee**, which was authorized by the Council at the June 2018 meeting. A call for nominations was open from June through September. From the nominations, the Council chose seven committee members representing fishing communities from all over Alaska. The committee members are: Simon Kinneen and Theresa Peterson (co-Chairs), Jennifer Hooper, Robert Keith, Nicole Kimball, Merissa Mercurieff, Tom Panamaroff, Rob Sanderson, and Becca Robins Gisclair. The committee will develop tools and processes to facilitate improved communication and understanding between rural communities and tribes and the Council. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

In addition, John Jenson was appointed to Chair the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee, and Kenny Down was appointed to the Council's Joint Protocol Committee with the Board of Fish.

Halibut Deck Sorting EFP Updates

The Council received an update from representatives of the Alaska Seafood Cooperative concerning the ongoing halibut deck sorting Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) research, which is testing handling methods or reducing halibut mortality in non-pollock groundfish fisheries. The research is intended to explore implementation issues that will be applied in the proposed regulatory amendment to implement voluntary halibut deck sorting on trawl catcher processors when operating in non-pollock groundfish fisheries off Alaska, which is currently under internal development at NMFS. The analysis and proposed rule for the regulatory amendment is anticipated during the spring of 2019.



New tools for automating observer data collections

In addition to reporting on halibut mortality encountered during the EFP, the **presentation** compared deck sorting performance with previous years, and reported on operational changes introduced in 2018. Additionally, the Alaska Seafood Cooperative has field tested an electronic length measuring board this year, which has potential to speed up data collections, reduce data entry errors, and reduce observer workload relative to current manual data entry methods. Additional work and more trials of the electronic board and chute cameras are planned for 2019. Staff contact is Elizabeth Figus.

BSAI Crab Specifications

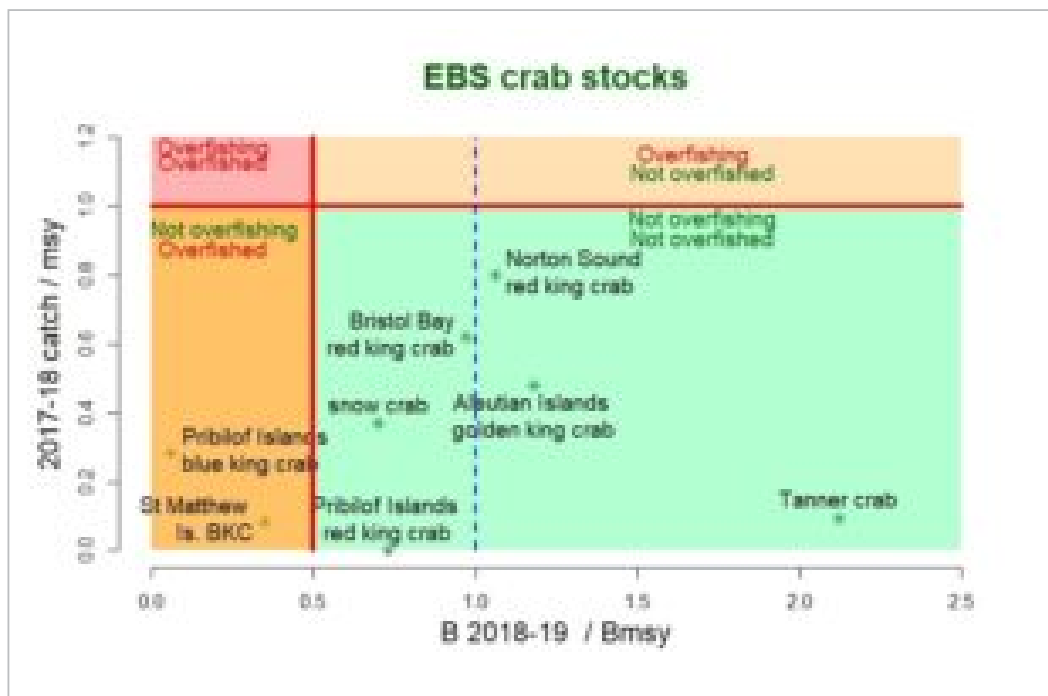
The Council reviewed the final **BSAI Crab Stock Assessment Fishery Evaluation** (SAFE) report and received information on the status of the ten federally managed crab stocks. Based on this report, the SSC recommends overfishing levels (OFLs) and acceptable biological catch levels (ABCs) for 2018/19 and reports

on catch accruing towards these levels in the previous year (see table below). The SAFE report also provides stock status in relation to status determination criteria. For stocks for which biomass information is available, a determination of where the current biomass is in relation to its target (B_{MSY}) managed stock size is provided. EBS Tanner crab and Aleutian Islands golden king crab are estimated to be above B_{MSY} for 2018/19, while EBS snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, Pribilof Islands red king crab and Norton Sound red king crab have all declined since last year, and are estimated below B_{MSY} . The Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock remains overfished, and is estimated to be well below its minimum stock size threshold (MSST). Saint Matthew blue king crab is also estimated to drop below its MSST in 2019, and therefore the Council anticipates receiving an overfished determination from NMFS following this meeting, which will initiate steps to prepare and implement a rebuilding plan amendment for this stock.

Under a process to accommodate specific fishery and data availability needs, the Crab Plan Team and SSC review assessments in a staggered time frame, with some stocks assessed on an annual basis while others are assessed less frequently. The cycle for assessment frequency is shown in the table below, in conjunction with the SSC’s recommended OFLs and ABCs. Stocks can be assessed more frequently on a case-by-case basis, if data indicates it is necessary.

The Crab Plan Team will meet next in Nome, Alaska, for their January 22-25, 2019 meeting. Additional details, including draft agenda, logistics and other information, will be posted to the Council’s website in the next month to facilitate arrangements. Staff contact for BSAI crab stocks is Diana Stram.

Status of Bering Sea crab stocks in relation to status determination criteria (B_{MSY} , MSST, overfishing) for 2018.



*Status of Pribilof Islands blue king crab and Pribilof Islands red king crab is based on the 2017 assessment.

**Note that information is insufficient to assess Tier 5 stocks according to these criteria (i.e., Western Aleutian Islands red king crab, Pribilof Islands golden king crab).

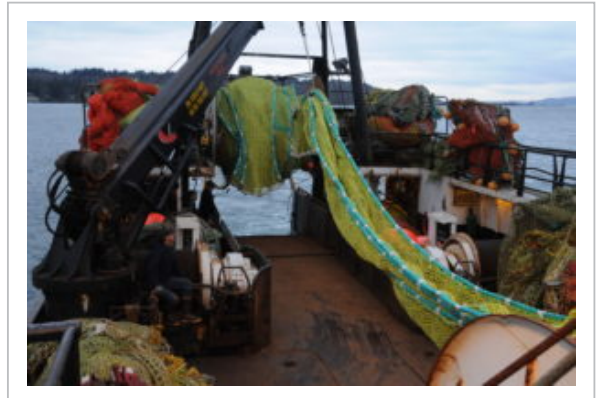
Stock	OFL (1000t)	SSC recommended ABC (1000t)	Buffer %	Nest assessment cycle
EBS snow crab	29.70	23.80	20%	2019
BB red king crab	5.34	4.27	20%	2019
EBS Tanner crab	20.87	16.70	20%	2019
Pribilof Islands red king crab*	0.48	0.36	25%	2019
Pribilof Islands blue king crab*	0.00116	0.00087	25%	2019
St. Matthew Island blue king crab	0.04	0.03	25%	2019
Norton Sound red king crab	0.20	0.16	20%	2019
AI golden king crab	5.51	4.14	25%	2019
Pribilof Islands golden king crab**	0.09	0.07	25%	2020
Western AI red king crab**	0.06	0.01	75%	2020

*Status of Pribilof Islands blue king crab and Pribilof Islands red king crab is based upon the 2017 assessment.

**Note that information is insufficient to assess Tier 5 stocks according to these criteria (Western Aleutian Islands red king crab, Pribilof Islands golden king crab).

Groundfish Harvest 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, as well as Team discussions with individual assessment authors. Two additional reports were addressed by the Teams in this cycle. The first was a report from a June Assessment modeling workshop addressing ensemble modeling and reductions below the maximum permissible ABC due to increased scientific uncertainty in the point estimate of the OFL specified under the Tier system. The second report was from a subgroup of the Joint Teams that met after the workshop to further explore reductions below maximum permissible ABC and recommend risk classification frameworks for ABC reductions. Reports from both groups were presented to the Joint Teams with recommendations from the Teams contained in the Plan Team Report.



Other issues brought forward to the SSC by the Joint Plan Teams included further development of ecosystem socioeconomic profiles (ESPs), and ecosystem status reports (ESRs), criteria for initiating new stock assessments within the prioritization schedule, and the application of the vector-autoregressive spatio-temporal (VAST) model for estimating survey biomass. The SSC provided guidance and recommendations on these issues as well as on harvest specifications for 2019.

For proposed rulemaking for the 2019 and 2020 fishing years, the SSC and Council recommended OFLs and ABCs based on a rollover of existing 2019 specifications for all stocks. Fully updated stock assessments for 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 2019; full details are included in the Council motions for the [GOA](#) and the [BSAI](#).

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 below the defined threshold (250,000) for a low Chinook year. The Council relies on the three-river index value to set Chinook PSC limits for the EBS pollock fishery, therefore a lower Chinook PSC limit will be in place for 2019.

In response to Council discussion and Team and SSC recommendations regarding when to set ABC below the maximum permissible based upon increased scientific uncertainty, the Council moved the following:

The Council clarifies its policy is that the Plan Team develop, and the SSC recommend, ABCs which are based on biological and environmental scientific information through the stock assessment and Tier process. Socio-economic factors should be considered during the TAC-setting process at the Council, and not incorporated into the ABC recommendations.

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

Observer Program Annual Deployment Plan

The Council reviewed the Observer Program [Draft 2019 Annual Deployment Plan](#) (ADP), received a [report](#) from its Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC, formerly named the Observer Advisory Committee), and provided recommendations to NMFS. The Council [supported](#) NMFS' recommendations for the deployment strata (to use the same strata as in 2018) and a coverage allocation scheme of 15% plus optimized allocation based on discarded groundfish, halibut PSC, and Chinook PSC, as described in the Draft 2019 ADP. Final selection rates for the deployment strata will be determined in the Final ADP, which will be reported to the Council in December. The Draft ADP includes an EM selection pool for fixed gear vessels, and the Council recommended that if additional funds become available, NMFS should expand the EM trip selection pool to up to 165 vessels, using the order of priority for candidate vessels as presented in the Draft 2019 ADP. The Council requested NMFS include Sitka on the list of 'primary ports' for EM deployment in 2019.



The Council also received a [report](#) from the Trawl EM Committee, and requested NMFS prioritize staff time to engage with the Committee to develop EM for compliance monitoring and for salmon accounting on pelagic trawl catcher vessels fishing in the BSAI and the GOA as well as vessels delivering to tender vessels.

The Council requested NMFS provide additional information about the cost structure under the observer contract and how costs may be expected to fluctuate at different funding levels. The Council recommended the FMAC partial coverage subgroup develop additional recommendations for how to potentially lower costs and increase observer coverage rates in the partial coverage category while maintaining: data sufficient for managing the fisheries; randomized deployment; and cost equity considerations among participants. The subgroup should also continue to provide input on differential deployment base levels by gear type. In the meantime, the Council decided to compose a letter to NMFS headquarters to request additional Federal funding to supplement observer deployment in the partial coverage category.

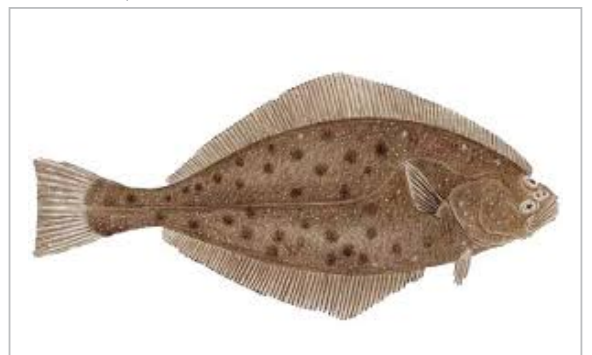
The Council requested NMFS provide updates to the FMAC in May 2019 regarding an evaluation of how the observer fee will be split between fixed gear EM and human observers for the draft 2020 ADP; and, an evaluation of Observer Program performance metrics in the 2018 Annual Report. Finally, the Council requested staff to write a letter to the National Observer Program in support of regional-specific solutions to observer safety issues. Staff contact for observer issues is Elizabeth Figus.

Halibut in Pots

The Council took [final action](#) on an issue that would allow retention of legal-size halibut in pot gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI), provided the operator holds sufficient halibut IFQ or CDQ for the corresponding regulatory area. The purpose of this action is to allow for more efficient harvest of the halibut resource by decreasing wastage of legal-size halibut discarded in the BSAI sablefish pot fishery and to allow for the possibility of reduced whale depredation of halibut off of hook-and-line gear.

This action includes the following elements: 1) an exemption to the 9-inch maximum width of the tunnel opening on pots, 2) VMS and logbook requirements for all vessels using pot gear to fish IFQ/CDQ, and 3) in the event that the overfishing limit for a shellfish or groundfish species is approached, regulations would allow NMFS to close IFQ fishing for halibut as necessary. Additionally, the Pribilof Islands Habitat Conservation Zone would be closed to all fishing with pot gear. To the extent practicable, the Council has recommended that halibut fishermen in the BSAI interested in using pot gear under this action consult with crab fishery participants on appropriate crab escape mechanisms to minimize crab bycatch.

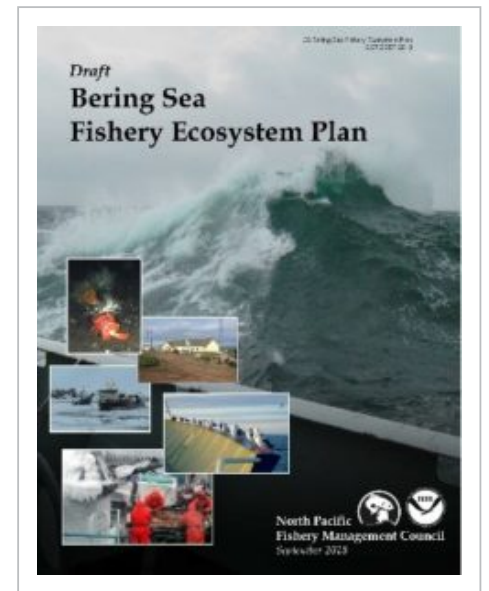
Until the action is approved by the Secretary of Commerce and implemented by NMFS, retention of halibut in pots in the BSAI is not permitted. The Council plans to review the effects of allowing retention of halibut in pot gear three years after implementation.



Staff contact is Sara Cleaver.

Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan

The Council reviewed an **initial draft** of the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP). The Bering Sea FEP establishes a framework for the Council's continued progress towards ecosystem-based fishery management (EBFM) of the Bering Sea fisheries, and relies and builds on the Council's existing processes, advisory groups, and management practice. The core FEP document reviewed at the meeting identifies management goals and objectives for the FEP and for monitoring of the Bering Sea ecosystem, and describes how the FEP framework will support research projects (Action Modules) to address Council priorities. The FEP offers a framework for strengthening trust, transparency, and a sense of shared investment among managers, scientists, and stakeholders. It is intended to be a living document and process, and adopting the FEP will mark the beginning of the Council's use of the FEP to improve ecosystem-based fishery management.



The Council requested that the **Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team**, which has been developing the FEP, make specific clarifications to the document following the recommendations of the Ecosystem Committee, and SSC, including the role of the FEP team in the ongoing FEP process, how the FEP will avoid redundancy with existing Council processes, and identifying the FEP as a strategic document.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

BSAI Halibut Abundance-based Management

BSAI ABM PSC limits preliminary analysis

The Council evaluated a **preliminary review draft** EIS/RIR of alternatives for abundance-based management (ABM) of BSAI halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limits. The analysis centered primarily around a detailed description of the Council's alternatives, elements and options, and a historical analysis of the application of candidate PSC limits from within the alternative set, to show the behavior of control rule features relative to estimated PSC limits. A narrative description was also included of how the three directly regulated BSAI groundfish sectors approach their fishing year in the context of the various constraints they face, including but not limited to halibut PSC limits. This section was included to provide the context



necessary to understand interactions between fisheries, and the factors that drive the decisions made during the year by fleet managers and vessel operators in the Amendment 80 sector, the trawl limited access sector, and the hook-and-line catcher-processor sector.

The Council made a number of changes to the alternative set based upon the preliminary analysis, staff workgroup recommendations, SSC comments, and stakeholder and Advisory Panel input. The current suite of alternatives are the following:

- **Alternative 1:** No action
- **Alternative 2:** Single index used to set trawl and/or non-trawl halibut PSC limit.
 - **Option 1:** NMFS EBS bottom trawl survey index.
 - **Option 2:** IPHC Area 4 setline survey index.
- **Alternative 3:** Primary and secondary indices are used to set trawl and/or non-trawl PSC limit.
 - **Option 1:** Primary index is EBS trawl survey, secondary index is Area 4 setline survey.
 - **Option 2:** Primary index is Area 4 setline survey, secondary index is EBS trawl survey.
- **Alternative 4:** Use two indices (EBS trawl survey and Area 4 setline survey) to set the non-trawl PSC limit in the form of a look-up table.

A range of elements and options are contained within each of the alternatives. Further detail on these are provided in the Council's [motion](#) as well as direction to analysts on standardization of the indices under the different alternatives, and apportionment of PSC limits to sectors.

BSAI Halibut ABM Stakeholder Committee

The Council moved to form a stakeholder committee that will provide recommendations for the ABM scenarios to be analyzed in the draft EIS/RIR. The Committee will also provide recommendations on measurable objectives and associated performance metrics to be considered by analysts in evaluating trade-offs among alternatives. This committee will meet to draft these scenarios prior to the February Council meeting with an update on the initial committee meeting provided to the Council in December. The committee is intended to include a range of interested stakeholders from both the directed BSAI groundfish and directed Area 4 halibut fisheries. Interested members of the public should submit a letter of interest and brief resume to the Council chairman and Executive Director by October 30th.

Staff contact is Diana Stram.

AI Pacific Cod Set-Aside Adjustment

The Council reviewed an [initial review document](#) that would adjust Amendment 113 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area. The intent of the proposed action is to adjust Amendment 113 such that the prosecution of the BSAI Pacific cod fishery aligns

with the Council's original objective of providing stability to AI shoreplant operations, AI harvesters, and AI fishing communities dependent on AI Pacific cod harvesting and shoreside processing activity.

At this meeting, the Council released the document for public review, selected Alternative 4 as the preliminary preferred alternative, and added two options to Alternative 4. The new options adjust the BS trawl CV Pacific cod A-season limitation. Option 1 would change the end date for the limitation to from March 21 to March 15, while Option 2 would continue the March 21 end date for the limitation but modify the limitation restriction to only require harvesting of the limitation in the AI.



The final motion is available on the Council's website under the [C-7 October agenda item](#). Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

IFQ Medical and Beneficiary Transfers

After reviewing the [initial draft analysis](#) of the medical transfer and beneficiary lease provisions, the Council approved a preliminary preferred alternative for each issue and added an option to the medical transfer provision. The final Council motion, including all amendments, [is available here](#).

Preliminary preferred alternatives selected for the medical transfer provision would replace the current definition of a certified medical professional with a broader term, "health care provider". This approach is used by the Pacific Council for medical leases in their limited entry fixed gear sablefish primary fishery. A health care provider would be defined as an individual authorized to provide health care services in the State where he or she practices and preforms within the scope of their specialty. Health care providers outside the U.S. that are licensed to practice medicine are included in the definition.

The Council's preliminary preferred alternative defining the use of the medical transfer provision would revise federal regulations to allow the medical transfer provision to be used for **any** medical reason. This would modify the regulations that currently state that the medical transfer provision may be used in 2 of the 5 most recent years for the **same** medical condition. That change is more restrictive since it would not allow an individual to use the medical transfer provision repeatedly by having a medical professional attest to different medical conditions on the medical transfer form. The Council did not select a preliminary preferred alternative for the number of years the medical transfer could be used during a defined number of years. It is still considering 2 of 5 years and 3 of 7 years as the number of time the provision could be used. The Council did not include a lifetime limit on the number of years an individual could use the medical transfer provision as part of their preliminary preferred alternative.

An option (Alternative 2, Option 3) was added to the analysis that allows for additional use of the medical transfer provision, but would place limits on the amount of IFQ that could be leased some years. The option allows a QS holder to lease their IFQ up to 4 times during a 7-year period, but the third and fourth time the lease is used, during the 7-year period, only 80% and 60% of the IFQ issued to the QS holder could be transferred, respectively.

The Council's preliminary preferred alternative for the beneficiary transfer provision would include "estate" when referencing surviving spouse and immediate family member at 50 CFR 679.41(k). The Council's motion also identified the U.S. Office of Personnel Management definition of "immediate family member" as its preliminary preferred alternative to define that term. Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

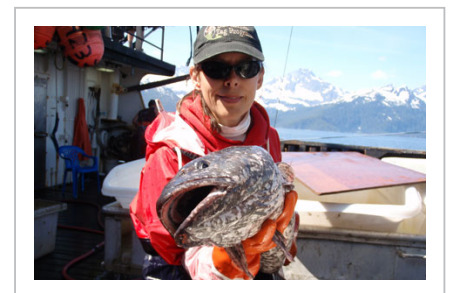
IFQ CQE Fish Up in Area 3A

The Council reviewed a [discussion paper](#) on whether to allow Community Quota Entities (CQEs) in Area 3A to fish D-class halibut IFQ on C-class vessels. Current regulations that restrict CQE ability to fish "D" class quota on "C" class vessels have, in some circumstances, limited the CQE community's access to fish CQE halibut, particularly in Area 3A. The discussion paper provided an overview of current vessel size restrictions for CQEs across regulatory areas, the original intent of D-class quota shares under the IFQ and CQE programs, CQE participation in Area 3A, and an initial look at potential impacts of the proposed action. After reviewing the document and hearing public testimony, the Council developed a [Purpose and Need Statement and alternatives to be analyzed](#) for initial review (available on the Council's website under Agenda Item D1). The alternatives include options to allow CQE communities to fish "D" class quota on "C" class vessels only after specified dates, as well as options to limit the number of years CQEs could participate in this opportunity. The action is intended as a fallback mechanism for CQEs that have unfished D-class quota late in the season to potentially avoid revenue loss, furthering the Council's intent of encouraging CQE communities to secure long-term opportunities to access halibut. Staff contact is Sara Cleaver.



Small Sablefish Discarding

The Council reviewed a [discussion paper](#) that considered modifying the requirement to retain sablefish in the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) longline and pot fisheries. The Council's request for the discussion paper was responsive to public testimony in April 2018 that the IFQ fishery was experiencing an increase in catch of small sablefish due to an unprecedentedly large 2014 year class. Small size fish are of lesser value to harvesters and processors, and stakeholders had expressed interest in



Sablefish, photo courtesy ADFG

discarding small fish for both economic and conservation purposes.

Encounters with small sablefish have increased throughout Alaska waters, but the most dramatic shift occurred in the Western GOA and the BSAI. The discussion paper identified information needed to develop a discard mortality rate (DMR) for IFQ-caught sablefish as well as changes to observer sampling protocols that would be required. The paper also provided information on the relationship between value-per-pound and market category, noting that while price varies by year, it is stable across FMP subareas within each year.

At the meeting, the Council determined that, rather than embarking on an analysis of potential management alternatives, they would like further information in a second discussion paper. Specifically, the Council requested that the paper evaluate:

- A process for establishing species-specific and gear-specific DMRs for sablefish that outlines the work necessary to maintain the relevance of that DMR over time.
- An assessment of the reliability of applying temporary proxy DMRs from other fisheries to the sablefish IFQ longline and pot fisheries and the implications of increased monitoring necessary to establish observer-based DMRs.
- The possibility of allowing discards during years of high abundance versus years of lower abundance and how to establish a threshold between high and low abundance years.
- The possibility of increased whale depredation if discarding is allowed.
- An exploration of gear modifications and methods of fishing that could aid in avoiding small sablefish.
- The implications of small sablefish discards increasing the probability of approaching the overall TAC or exceeding the ABC.
- A discussion about the concerns of fishing down the existing spawning stock.
- Potential for and implications of high-grading under size-based management
- Enforcement options

Staff contact is Jim Armstrong.

Unguided Halibut Rental Boats

The Council reviewed a [discussion paper](#) to explore mechanisms to create a registry for motorized rental boats that are used by unguided anglers to harvest halibut in IPHC regulatory areas 2C and 3A, and initiated an analysis. The Council requested the discussion paper in December 2017, and stated that they were concerned that differences in harvest regulations between guided and unguided sport anglers, and the apparent growth of the rental boat segment of the unguided sector may negatively impact other halibut fishing sectors. The discussion paper provided an overview of existing vessel registration programs, examined patterns in halibut harvest in the unguided, guided, and commercial sectors in recent years, and addressed questions posed by the Council in their [December 2017 motion](#). After



Sitka Harbor

review, the Council passed a [motion](#) initiating an analysis of alternatives to require registration for non-guided rental vessels in IPHC areas 2C and 3A, and align bag limits between charter anglers and anglers on non-guided rental vessels by applying the charter angler daily bag limit and size limit to recreational anglers. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

Staff Tasking

In addition to discussing the relative priority and scheduling of previously tasked projects, the Council requested staff prepare a series of letters to NMFS:

- providing feedback on the [National Bycatch Report](#).
- providing feedback on the [National Observer Safety Report](#) that was recently issued, emphasizing the need for regionally-based response.
- requesting [additional funding for observer days](#) in the Council's partial coverage observer program and staffing support for the Observer Program to support analytical work requested by the Council for program amendments
- to the [Alaska Fisheries Science Center](#) (AFSC), prioritizing options for survey deployment should limited funding be available in 2019 and 2020. A subgroup of the Council's SSC met with AFSC staff in September, and prepared a [report](#) which was endorsed by the Council and the full SSC. The letter will re-emphasize the Council and SSC's continued designation of a full complement of vessels to conduct annual bottom trawl surveys in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska, as critical ongoing monitoring.

Additionally, the Council discussed the following issues:

- Formation of a halibut stakeholder committee, and guidance for the terms of reference for that committee.
- A staff report on public workshops, with the intention of considering workshops in the future for public engagement on appropriate topics.
- The [agenda for the Joint Protocol Committee](#), and some additional updates that may be relevant for discussion with the Board of Fish representatives.
- Inclusion in the BSAI Pacific cod allocation workshop of an evaluation of the <60 sector.
- Prioritization of observer analytical tasks, and direction to the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee to consider analyses that address observer coverage on vessels delivering to tenders.
- Appointments to the Social Science Planning Team and the Community Engagement Committee, as well as Council member appointments to the Joint Protocol Committee and the Cook Inlet Salmon FMP Committee.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Upcoming meetings

[Subscribe to our Calendar Feed »](#)

- Joint Protocol Committee, October 17, 2018, Anchorage, AK
- Charter Halibut Management Committee meetings, October 30, 2018 and December 3 or 4, 2018 (T)
- Trawl EM Committee meeting, November 19-20, IPHC office, Seattle, WA
- BSAI and GOA Groundfish Plan Team meetings, November 13-16, AFSC, Seattle, WA
- Halibut Stakeholder Committee – to be determined, likely a teleconference in November 2018
- Ecosystem Committee – to be determined, likely a teleconference in November 2018
- Cook Inlet Salmon Committee, December 4, Anchorage, AK
- Crab Plan Team, January 22-25, 2019, Nome AK; May 1-3, 2019, Anchorage, AK
- Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee, February 4, 2019, Portland, OR (T)
- Scallop Plan Team, February 20, 2019, Kodiak, AK
- Salmon Bycatch Genetics Workshop – to be determined, likely in March 2019 in Seattle, WA