


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director
DATE: March 24, 2004
SUBJECT: Staff Tasking

ESTIMATED TIME 2 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Review tasking and provide direction.

BACKGROUND

The list of Council Committees is attached under Item D-2(a). The Steller Lion Mitigation Committee will meet April 26th at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, and the Fur Seal Committee will be meeting via teleconference in the next month or so, but no date has been set.

Item D-2(b) is a three-meeting outlook, and Item D-2(c) is a summary of current staff tasking. As we discussed in February, a few projects have been delayed or put on hold while the NMFS and Council staff focus on analyzing and implementing Congressionally mandated programs (BSAI crab rationalization, and AI pollock allocation), and other major issues (GOA rationalization, IRIU, Observer Program, HAPC). Some staff time should become available after the April meeting (Jane will be back in our office, and Diana Evans is finishing up with the PGSEIS), so we can begin work on some of the 'back-burner' projects. These projects may include: administrative changes to the halibut subsistence program, repeal of the vessel incentive program, non-target species, SR/RE retention, and IFQ program changes (likely with contract assistance). The Council may want to provide guidance on prioritizing projects for tasking.

NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

Last Updated: March 25, 2004

AP COMMITTEE

<u>Pending</u> Staff: Chris Oliver	Roy Hyder, Chair Dennis Austin Kevin Duffy
---------------------------------------	--

National Conference Committee

<u>Appointed June 2003</u> Staff: Chris Oliver	Stephanie Madsen, Chair Dennis Austin David Benton John Bundy Jim Balsiger
---	--

Council/Board of Fisheries Joint Protocol Committee

Last update: 7/28/03 Staff: Jane DiCosimo	<u>Council</u> Dave Benson Hazel Nelson Stosh Anderson	<u>Board</u> Mel Morris Art Nelson Ed Dersham
--	---	--

Council Executive Committee

Updated: 7/28/03 Staff: Chris Oliver	Chair: Stephanie Madsen Dennis Austin Jim Balsiger Kevin Duffy Roy Hyder
---	---

Crab Interim Action Committee

[Required under BSAI Crab FMP]

Dennis Austin, WDF Jim Balsiger, NMFS Kevin Duffy, ADF&G
--

NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

DPSEIS Steering Committee

<u>Appointed 2001</u>	Stephanie Madsen, Chair Dennis Austin Jim Balsiger Kevin Duffy Chris Oliver
-----------------------	---

Ecosystem Committee

Last update: 10/25/01 <u>Status:</u> Meet as necessary Staff: Diana Evans/ David Witherell	Chair: David Fluharty Stosh Anderson Dorothy Childers Tony DeGange Dan Falvey George Hunt, Jr. Patricia Livingston Donna Parker	<u>Other Staff Support</u> Steve Davis Doug Eggers
---	---	--

Enforcement Committee

Last update: July 2003 <u>Status:</u> Active Staff: Chris Oliver	Chair: Roy Hyder Earl Krygier, ADF&G James Cockrell, F&W Protection Jeff Passer, NMFS-Enforcement Rich Preston, USCG Sue Salveson, NMFS-Mgmt. Lisa Lindeman, NOAA - GC	<u>Other Staff Support</u> As Necessary
--	---	--

Essential Fish Habitat Committee

Appointed: 5/15/01 Last Update: July 2003 <u>Status:</u> Idle, pending direction Staff: Cathy Coon	Chair: Linda Behnken Vice Chair: Stosh Anderson Gordon Blue Ben Enticknap Jon Kurland John Gauvin Earl Krygier Heather McCarty Glenn Reed Michelle Ridgway Scott Smiley
---	---

NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

Finance Committee

Last Update: 10/25/01	Chair: Stephanie Madsen Dennis Austin Jim Balsiger Kevin Duffy Dave Hanson Roy Hyder Richard Marasco
<u>Status:</u> Meet as necessary	
Staff: Gail Bendixen/Chris Oliver	

Fur Seal Committee

Last Update: 7/25/03	Chair: David Benson Evie Witten Anthony Mercurief Larry Cotter Paul MacGregor Aquilina Lestenkof Steve Minor
<u>Status:</u> Active	
Staff: Bill Wilson	

Halibut Charter IFQ Implementation

<u>Status:</u> Pending SOC submittal

IFQ Implementation Committee

<u>Status:</u> Reconstituted as shown (July 2003).	Chair: Jeff Stephan Bob Alverson Arne Fuglvog/Cora Crome Dennis Hicks Don Iverson Don Lane	Gerry Merrigan Kris Norosz Paul Peyton David Soma
Staff: Jane DiCosimo		

NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

IRIU Technical Committee

<p>Appointed: 07/12/02</p> <p><u>Status:</u> Pending reconstitution</p> <p>Staff: Jon McCracken Marcus Hartley, Northern Econ. Lauren Smoker, NOAA GC</p>	<p>Chair, Dave Hanson Michelle Ridgway Susan Robinson John Henderschedt Donna Parker Eric Olson Greg Baker Gerry Merrigan</p>	<p>Teressa Kandianis Matt Doherty Bill Orr Ed Richardson Dave Wood</p>
---	--	--

Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Committee

<p><u>Status:</u> Pending appointment of additional members.</p> <p>Staff: Chris Oliver</p>	<p>Chair: Stephanie Madsen Dennis Austin David Benton Kevin Duffy Roy Hyder John Bundy</p>
---	---

Non-Target/Other Species Committee

<p>Appointed: 7/26/03</p> <p>Staff: Jane DiCosimo, Sarah Gaichas, NMFS</p>	<p>Chair: Arne Fuglvog, Chair Karl Haflinger Whit Sheard Michelle Ridgway Eric Olson Lori Swanson Dave Wood Thorn Smith Paul Spencer</p>
--	---

Observer Advisory Committee

<p>Last update: February 2004</p> <p><u>Status:</u> Active</p> <p>Staff: Chris Oliver/ Nicole Kimball</p>	<p>Chair: Joe Kyle LeeAnne Beres Julie Bonney Pete Risse Kim Dietrich [Alt: Gillian Stoker] John Gauvin Rocky Caldero</p>	<p>Tracey Mayhew Trevor McCabe Bob Mikol Kathy Robinson Susan Robinson Arni Thomson Jerry Bongen Brent Paine</p>
---	--	--

NPFMC COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee

Last Update: 3/19/04 Staff: Diana Stram	Chair: Gary Painter Keith Colburn Lance Farr Phil Hanson Kevin Kaldestad Garry Loncon	Rob Rogers Clyde Sterling Gary Stewart Tom Suryan Vic Sheibert Arni Thomson, Secretary [non -voting]
--	---	--

Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee

Appointed: 2/10/01 Updated: Jan 2004 Pending membership adjustment [formerly SSL RPA Committee; renamed at Feb 02 meeting) Staff: Bill Wilson	Chair: Larry Cotter David Benson Jerry Bongen Julie Bonney Shane Capron Tony DeGange Doug DeMaster Steve Drage John Gauvin Sue Hills	John Iani Terry Leitzell Denby Lloyd Chuck McCallum Matt Moir Bob Small Beth Stewart Farron Wallace John Winther
--	--	--

U.S.-Russia International Committee

<u>Status:</u> Pending reconstitution. Staff: Chris Oliver	Chair: Stephanie Madsen Dennis Austin John Bundy Kevin Duffy Rich Preston
---	--

VMS Committee

Appointed: 06/02 <u>Status:</u> Idle, pending direction Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Chair, Earl Krygier Al Burch Guy Holt	Bob Mikol Ed Page Capt. Rich Preston Lori Swanson
--	--	--

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 2/11

March 29, 2004 Anchorage Hilton	June 7, 2004 Portland, Oregon	October 4, 2004 Sitka, Alaska
Joint Council/Board meeting	CDQ Eligibility Amendments: <i>Report also legislation update</i>	
CDQ Program: <i>Report</i>		
GOA Rockfish Demonstration: <i>Develop alternatives</i>	GOA Rockfish Demonstration: <i>Action as necessary</i>	GOA Rockfish Demonstration: <i>Action as necessary</i>
	IFQ Allocational changes: <i>Initial Review (T)</i> IFQ Administrative Changes: <i>Initial Review (T)</i>	IFQ Allocational changes: <i>Final Action (T)</i> IFQ Administrative Changes: <i>Final Action (T)</i>
GOA Rationalization: <i>Discuss State water issues</i>	GOA Rationalization: <i>Action as necessary meet were data dep.</i>	GOA Rationalization: <i>Action as necessary</i>
HAPC: <i>Review alternatives for analysis</i>	HAPC: Finalize <i>Alternatives for Analysis major item</i>	HAPC: <i>Report and action as necessary</i>
DPSEIS and FMP Revisions: <i>Final Action</i>	DPSEIS Timeline for Management Policy: <i>Discuss further action major item</i>	
	SSL adjustments in GOA: <i>Initial & Final Action (T)</i>	
	Crab EIS: <i>Final Action</i>	
Flatfish IRIU: <i>Report and action as necessary</i>	Flatfish IRIU Trailing Amendment 80A & 80B: <i>Initial Review (T) Disc. papers</i>	Flatfish IRIU Trailing Amendment 80A & 80B: <i>Final Action (T)</i>
Observer Program: <i>Report and action as necessary</i>	Observer Program: <i>Initial Review (T) update</i>	Observer Program: <i>Final Action (T)</i>
	Non-Target Species: <i>Discuss action as necessary Jane-Cate convene in sea by Cnel mtg.</i>	Non-Target Species: <i>Discuss action as necessary</i>
AI Pollock Fishery Allocation: <i>Initial Review</i>	AI Pollock Fishery Allocation: <i>Final Action late May</i>	
Scallop LLP and FMP: <i>Review background and develop alternatives to modify LLP</i>	Scallop LLP and FMP update: <i>Initial Review (T)</i>	Scallop LLP and FMP update: <i>Final Review (T)</i>

TAC - Total Allowable Catch
BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
AFA - American Fisheries Act
HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
LLP - License Limitation Program
PSC - Prohibited Species Catch

MSA - Magnuson Stevens Act
GOA - Gulf of Alaska
SSL - Steller Sea Lion
VIP - Vessel Incentive Program
SEIS - Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
CDQ - Community Development Quota
IRIU - Improved Retention/Improved Utilization

SAFE - Stock assessment and fishery evaluation
VMS - Vessel Monitoring System
CV - Catcher Vessel CP- Catcher Processor
SSC - Scientific & Statistical Committee
FMP - Fishery Management Plan
DPSEIS - Draft Programmatic Groundfish SEIS
(T) Tentatively scheduled

Council Project Summary Updated March 24, 2004

Mandated Actions	Project/ Council/ Weeks NMFS %	Comments
1 Programmatic Groundfish SEIS (revision)	2 20/80	Final action in April (Diana E)
2 FMP Updates (groundfish and scallop)	2 90/10	Concurrent with DPSEIS (Diana S./Diana E.)
3 EFH EIS	? 20/80	Comments on Draft Due April 15, 2004 (David)
4 HAPC Process	10 50/50	Begin alternative formulation in April (Cathy/David)
5 Crab FMP EIS	? 50/50	Final Action in June (Mark, Chris)
6 Aleutian Islands Pollock Allocation	3 50/50	Initial Review in April (Bill/NMFS)
7 GOA Rockfish Demonstration Program	? Oct-90	Formulate alternatives in April (Mark)

Council Priorities *Bold =Highest priority

8 GOA Rationalization*	? 90/10	Major project (Jane,Mark,Nicole, Bill, Elaine, Diana S, Diana E,contractors)
9 IR/U flatfish adjustments (Am 79)	1 80/20	Amendment 79 being prepared for Secretarial review
10 IR/U flatfish trailing amendments* (Am 80)	16 80/20	Progress Report on Am 80 in April (Contract/Jon)
11 SR/RE retention	3 20/80	Not started. (Jane/NMFS)
12 Halibut Charter IFQ/GHL	0 100/0	Pending SOC submission. (Jane/Darrell)
13 Other Species (non-target, CDQ aspects, sharks/skates)	10 60/40	Further analysis required (Jane/NMFS). Advisory committee established.
14 Observer Program (long-term)	10 60/40	Further discussion in April (Nicole/Chris)

Other Projects Previously Tasked

15	BSAI Salmon Bycatch Discussion paper	?	?	On hold indefinitely
16	IFQ Administrative Changes (medical, hired skipper, check-in..)	1	10/90	Initial review in June (T) (NMFS/Jane)
17	IFQ Allocative Issues (blocks, QS categories, 4C&4D)	8	80/20	Initial review in June/October (Jane/Nicole/Contractor)
18	Repeal of VIP	2	10/90	Delayed (NMFS/Jane)
19	GOA Salmon Bycatch Caps	8	80/20	Incorporated into GOA Rationalization EIS (Diana S./Cathy/ADF&G)
20	Opilio VIP	2	50/50	Not started -Pending action on existing VIP
21	Catch/bycatch disclosure (vessel level)	2	70/30	Discussion paper - Postponed
22	Scoping paper on fee/loan program for IFQ Charter (NMFS?)	1	10/90	Pending SOC review of program (NMFS)
23	Groundfish overfishing definitions	?	10/90	FR notice on NS 1 forthcoming
24	SSL Trailing Amendment (Committee proposal)	3	40/60	Initial Review and Final Action in June (Bill)
25	Subsistence amendment packages for halibut	8	50/50	Delayed (NMFS/Jane) May add alternatives for eligibility
26	AFA s/b caps to quotas and trawl LLP recency	10	80/20	Pending further Council direction and staff availability
27	Charter IFQ Community Set-Aside analysis	6	90/10	Awaiting Secretarial Approval (Nicole)
28	Industry proposal for pollock bycatch	?	90/10	Pending proposal and Council Direction
29	CDQ eligible communities	?	80/20	Report in April (Nicole)
30	Scallop LLP revision and FMP update	4	80/20	Develop alternatives in April (Diana S)
31	Crab Overfishing definition revision			Initial review in June 05 (Diana S)
32	Trawl 3rd wire issue			Discussion paper in June (Bill)
33	SSL research abstracts compendium			Summary in June (Bill)
34	CDQ Amendment 71	?	20/80	Report in April; pending council direction (Nicole)

**Public Testimony Sign-Up Sheet
and
Other Handouts Received**

PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP SHEET FOR

AGENDA ITEM D-2 STAFF TASKING

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	AFFILIATION
1	X ED LUTTRELL / COURT J. HARRISON	
2	X Julie Banning	AGDB
3	X ERIC OLSON	BIBAC
4	Heather Mc...	...
5	X Phillip Hesterhof	CBSA
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

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

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

April 2004 Staff tasking

The following actions were approved for analysis at the October (subsistence) and December (IFQ) 2003 Council meetings. Council and NMFS staff planned to package the actions as follows. The Council may wish to prioritize individual actions and reorganize the packages to reflect the new prioritization.

Subsistence halibut fishery. The following actions from the April 2002 preferred alternative were rescheduled for action in October 2004¹.

- Action 1. 10 hooks and 20 fish annual limit in Kodiak road zone and Chiniak Bay
- Action 2. 10 hooks and no annual limit in Prince William Sound
- Action 3. 10 hooks and no annual limit in Cook Inlet
- Action 4. revise daily subsistence halibut limits in these areas to address rockfish and ling cod bycatch

The Council also initiated new analyses of the following proposed for review and action in 2004.

- Action 1. Possession limits equal to daily bag limits
- Action 2. Adopt the State of Alaska definition of charter vessels to enhance enforcement of prohibition of their use for subsistence halibut fishing
- Action 3. Revise the \$400 customary trade limit to either \$100 or no cash trade
- Action 4. Revise the proposed 3 permit stacking limit to either 1 or 2 per vessel.
- Action 5. Add a ceremonial, cultural, or educational harvest permit system in non-subsistence use areas by Alaska Native Tribes whose traditional fishing grounds are located within these areas. The permit would be limited to a harvest of 20 fish per day.

Commercial halibut and sablefish individual fishing quota fisheries. In December 2003, the Council approved the following actions for analysis. No timeline was set for action.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYSIS:

- Action 1. Amend regulations to allow medical transfers
 - Alternative 1. No action.
 - Alternative 2. Allow medical transfers.

- Action 2. Amend QS use rights/hired skipper provisions
 - Alternative 1. No action.
 - Alternative 2. Tighten the criteria for the 20 percent ownership requirement (ownership is documented by contemporary abstract of title).
 - Option 1. Document 20% ownership by contemporary abstract of title continuously for previous:
 - 1. 12 months
 - 2. 24 months
 - 3. year-to-date plus previous calendar year; and/or
 - Option 2. A vessel is limited to a maximum of 5 QS holders who may hire a skipper(s) on that vessel in the previous:
 - 1. 12 months
 - 2. 24 months
 - 3. year-to-date plus previous calendar year

¹ Staff note: data from the ADFG survey is not expected to be available until October 2004, so this action is recommended to be rescheduled for December 2004, at the earliest.

Action 3. Amend check-in/check out requirements

Alternative 1. No action.

Alternative 2. Add check-in/check out and/or VMS requirements to the BS and AI sablefish regulations.

Option 1. Add check-in/check-out for the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea sablefish fishery (e.g., in Dutch Harbor, Adak, St Paul, St George)

Option 2. Require VMS when fishing in the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea sablefish fishery

Action 4. Amend sablefish product recovery rate

Alternative 1. No action.

Alternative 2. Change product recovery rate from 0.98 to 1 for bled sablefish.

ALLOCATIVE ANALYSIS:

Action 1. Amend halibut block program in Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D

Alternative 1. No action.

Alternative 2. Increase blocks from 2, to 3 or 4

Alternative 3. Unblock all QS > 20,000 lbs. (now in QS units) where the 2003 TAC level exceeds a 20,000 lb. unit equivalent

Alternative 4. Allow QS > 20,000 lbs. to be divided into smaller blocks

Alternative 5. Increase the Area 2C and 3A halibut sweep-up level to the 5,000 lb equivalent in current QS units (2C: 35,080 units; 3A: 40,860 units)

Action 2. Amend Area 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C and 4D QS categories

Alternative 1. No action.

Alternative 2. Allow D category QS to be fished as C category shares

Alternative 3. Allow D category QS to be fished as C or B category QS

Alternative 4. Combine C and D category QS

Action 3. Amend the fish down regulations for halibut (Area 2C) and sablefish (Southeast)

Alternative 1. No action.

Alternative 2. Eliminate the exception to the fish down regulations for halibut (Area 2C) and sablefish (Southeast)

Action 4. Amend IFQ and CDQ regulations to allow Area 4C fishermen to harvest Area 4C IFQ and CDQ in Area 4D.

Alternative 1. No action.

Alternative 2. Allow Area 4C fishermen to harvest Area 4C IFQ and CDQ in Area 4D

Option: Allow Area 4D fishermen to harvest Area 4D IFQ and CDQ in Area 4C