

Staff Tasking / Research Priorities – Council letter encouraging a collaborative approach to addressing benthic habitat mapping objectives.

Multibeam sonar seabed data provides data on seafloor depth and substrata type that are useful for navigation as well as habitat mapping. Only a few ships deployed in the Bering Sea have the capability to conduct hydrographic seafloor mapping following National Ocean Survey charting protocols. For example, vessels that have ~~have~~ multibeam capability that frequent the region include the RV Thomas Thompson, USCG Healy, RV Mount Mitchell, RV Fairweather.

The NPFMC has identified habitat mapping as an important priority for informing fishery management (SSC priority #101 – HIGHEST STATED PRIORITY – on life history needs of non-recovering crab stocks, SSC priority #191, new Council motion on coral model validation (06/11/13). During discussions on the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan, the Bering Sea Slope inordinate productivity was recognized, yet this important feature of the BS FMP area has not been mapped. Recognizing these research priorities, the cost for hydrographic surveys and current budget constraints, the NPFMC may wish to encourage multibeam mapping of priority areas through focusing requests for research teams to fill in priority spatial gaps.

Toward this end, NPFMC may wish to request staff to:

Generate a letter to appropriate entities which encourages collaborative focus on multibeam mapping priority areas in the Bering Sea FMP area.

Draft letter

TO: NOS OCS, Hydrographic Survey Advisory Group, NSF, NPRB, University of Washington RV Thompson, USCG Healy

RE: Multibeam mapping priorities for benthic habitat in the Bering Sea

Dear NOS and all:

The NPFMC is responsible for advising NMFS on managing federal fisheries in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska. The MSA directs us to also manage habitats essential for FMP species. We have recently identified the Bering Sea Slope as a priority research area for benthic habitat. Only small regions (such as Pribilof Canyon) of the slope at the continental margin from 100 to 3,000 meter depths has been adequately multibeam mapped.

INSERT MAP HERE, show areas that have been multibeamed

OPTION: Indicate areas along the slope that are priorities.

To the extent that you have vessels being deployed for research or mapping missions in the Bering Sea Slope vicinity, we request:

- if vessel routing and schedule allow for acquiring multibeam data along the Bering Sea shelf break and slope (especially from 50 to 1200 meters).
- Collect data following NOS harbor depth protocols, or highest resolution protocol practical for your operation
- Retain and archive backscatter or snippets data for habitat characterization
- Collect and retain bottom typing benthic grab data to assist in groundtruthing bottom type to the extent reasonable.

Thank you,

NPFMC

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups (Revised May 28, 2013)

Council/Board of Fisheries Joint Protocol Committee

<p>Updated: 4/24/13</p> <p>Staff: Jane DiCosimo</p>	<p><u>Council:</u> Roy Hyder Ed Dersham Eric Olson</p>	<p><u>Board:</u> Karl Johnstone (chair) Sue Jeffrey Tom Kluberton</p>
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Council Coordination Committee

[Designated and renamed by Magnuson Act reauthorization April 2007]

<p>Appointed: 4/05 Updated: 10/28/12</p> <p>Staff: Chris Oliver</p>	<p><u>CFMC:</u> C: Carlos Farchette ED: Miguel Rolón</p> <p><u>GMFMC:</u> C: Doug Boyd ED: Doug Gregory</p> <p><u>MAFMC:</u> C: Richard Robins ED: Chris Moore</p> <p><u>NEFMC:</u> C: Rip Cunningham ED: Thomas Nies</p>	<p><u>NPFMC:</u> C: Eric Olson ED: Chris Oliver</p> <p><u>PFMC:</u> C: Dan Wolford ED: Don McIsaac</p> <p><u>SAFMC:</u> C: David Cupka ED: Bob Mahood</p> <p><u>WPFMC:</u> C: Arnold Palacios ED: Kitty Simonds</p>
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Council Executive/Finance Committee

<p>Updated: 8/10/07</p> <p><u>Status:</u> Meet as necessary</p> <p>Staff: Chris Oliver/Dave Witherell/Gail Bendixen</p>	<p>Eric Olson (Chair) Jim Balsiger (NMFS) Dave Hanson (PSMFC) Cora Campbell (ADFG) Roy Hyder (ODFW) Bill Tweit (WDFW)</p>
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Bering Sea Crab Advisory Committee

<p>Appointed: 4/25/07 Updated: 11/15/07</p> <p>Staff: TBD</p>	<p>Jerry Bongen Steve Branson Florence Colburn Sam Cotten (Chair) Linda Freed Dave Hambleton Phil Hanson Tim Henkel</p>	<p>Lenny Herzog Kevin Kaldestad Frank Kelty John Moller Rob Rogers Simeon Swetzof Ernest Weiss</p>
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NPFMC Committees & Workgroups
(Revised May 28, 2013)

Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch Workgroup

Appointed: 3/07 Staff: Diana Stram	Becca Robbins Gisclair John Gruver Karl Haflinger Jennifer Hooper Stephanie Madsen (Co-chair)	Eric Olson (Co-chair) Paul Peyton Mike Smith Vincent Webster (BOF)
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Comprehensive Economic Data Collection Committee

Appointed: 12/07 Updated: 2/9/09 Staff: Sam Cunningham	Bruce Berg Michael Catsi Dave Colpo Paula Cullenberg John Henderschedt (Chair)	Brett Reasor Glenn Reed Ed Richardson Mike Szymanski Gale Vick
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Charter Management Implementation Committee

Appointed: 6/11 Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Gary Ault Seth Bone Ed Dersham (Chair) Ken Dole Tim Evers	Kent Huff Stan Malcolm Andy Mezirow Richard Yamada
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Crab Interim Action Committee
[Required under BSAI Crab FMP]

Jim Balsiger, NMFS Cora Campbell, ADF&G Phil Anderson, WDF
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Ecosystem Committee

Updated: 10/22/07 <u>Status</u> : Active Staff: Diana Evans	Jim Ayers Dave Benton Doug DeMaster Dave Fluharty John Iani Jon Kurland Stephanie Madsen Tim Towarak Bill Tweit (Chair)
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NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(Revised May 28, 2013)

Enforcement Committee

<p>Updated: 7/03</p> <p><u>Status</u>: Active</p> <p>Staff: Jon McCracken</p>	<p>Roy Hyder (Chair) Nicole Kimball, ADF&G Lisa Lindeman/Garland Walker, NOAA-GC Martin Loefflad, NMFS Matt Brown, NMFS-Enforcement Glenn Merrill, NMFS Phillip Thorne/Anthony Kenne, USCG Jon Streigel, AK F&W Protection</p>
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Golden King Crab Arbitration Workgroup

<p>Appointed: 1/12</p> <p>Staff: TBD</p>	<p>Larry Cotter Duncan Fields (Chair) Mark Johanson Brett Reasor</p>	<p>Joe Sullivan Dick Tremaine Greg White</p>
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Halibut Charter Stakeholder Committee

<p>Appointed: 1/06 Updated: 3/29/10 <u>Status</u>: Idle, pending direction</p> <p>Staff: Jane DiCosimo</p>	<p>Seth Bone Robert Candopoulos Ricky Gease John Goodhand Kathy Hansen Dave Hanson (Chair) Dan Hull</p>	<p>Chuck McCallum Larry McQuarrie Scott Meyer Rex Murphy Peggy Parker Charles "Chaco" Pearman Greg Sutter</p>
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IFQ Committee

<p>Reconstituted: 7/31/03 Updated: 2/17/12</p> <p>Staff: Jane DiCosimo</p>	<p>Bob Alverson Rick Berns Julianne Curry Tim Henkel Dan Hull (Chair) Jeff Kauffman</p>	<p>Don Lane Dave Little Kris Norosz Paul Peyton Jeff Stephan Phil Wyman</p>
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Non-Target Species Committee

<p>Appointed: 7/03 Updated: 8/10/07</p> <p>Staff: Jane DiCosimo, NPFMC/ Olav Ormseth, AFSC</p>	<p>Julie Bonney John Gauvin Ken Goldman Karl Haflinger John Henderschedt (Chair) Michelle Ridgway</p>	<p>Janet Smoker Paul Spencer Lori Swanson Anne Vanderhoeven Jon Warrenchuk</p>
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NPFMC Committees & Workgroups
(Revised May 28, 2013)

Observer Advisory Committee

Reconstituted: 1/20/11 Updated: 2/12 Status: Active Staff: Chris Oliver/ Diana Evans	Bob Alverson Jerry Bongen Julie Bonney Kenny Down Dan Falvey Kathy Hansen Stacey Hansen Dan Hull (Chair)	Michael Lake Todd Loomis Paul MacGregor Brent Paine David Polushkin Joe Rehfuss Ann Vanderhoeven
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Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee

Appointed: 12/10 Revised: 2/15/13 Staff: Diana Stram	Keith Colburn Lance Farr (Chair) Mark Gleason Kevin Kaldestad Garry Loncon Steve Minor Gary Painter Kirk Peterson	Rob Rogers (Vice Chair) Vic Scheibert Dale Schwarzmiller Gary Stewart Tom Suryan Elizabeth Wiley Arni Thomson, Secretary (non-voting)
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Rural Outreach Committee

Appointed: 6/09 Staff: Steve MacLean	Tim Andrew Paula Cullenberg Duncan Fields Tom Okleasik Ole Olsen Eric Olson (Chair) Pete Probasco
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Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee

Appointed: 4/12 Updated: 5/12 <i>[formerly SSL RPA Committee; renamed February 2002]</i> Staff: Steve MacLean	Larry Cotter (Chair) Kenny Down Dave Fraser John Gauvin Todd Loomis	Gerry Merrigan Alvin Osterback Rudy Tsukada Jon Warrenchuk Ernie Weiss
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DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 5/22/13

June 3-11, 2013 Juneau, AK	Sept 30 - Oct 8, 2013 Anchorage, AK	Dec 9 - 17, 2013 Anchorage, AK
BOF/Council joint protocol meeting - June 12	BS Sablefish TAC Apportionment: Industry Report	
Observer Program: 3rd Party discussion paper; First year report; EM strategic plan; OAC report	Observer Program: 2nd year deployment plan	
SSL EIS: Progress Report; BiOp analytical approach	AI P. cod processing: Discussion Paper SSL EIS: Final Action (T)	
GOA Trawl Bycatch Management: Discussion Papers; roadmap GOA Trawl Data Collection: Initial Review	GOA Trawl Bycatch Management: action as necessary GOA Trawl Data Collection: Final Action	GOA Trawl Bycatch Management: action as necessary
H/S IFQ Disc papers (GOA sablefish pots, sablefish A-share caps) Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Leasing prohibition: Update Definition of fishing guide: Initial Review	BSAI Halibut PSC: Updated discussion paper (T) Definition of fishing guide: Final Action	Charter Halibut Measures: Cttee report and action as necessary
GOA Chinook Bycatch non-pollock trawl fisheries: Final Action	Co-op Reporting Requirements: Discussion Paper Industry IPA report for BSAI chum salmon BSAI Chinook Salmon Discussion Paper: Review	
BSAI Crab: CPT report; OFL/ABC specifications for 4 stocks	BSAI Crab: CPT report; OFL/ABC specifications for 6 stocks BSAI Crab Cooperative reports; crew provisions, etc.	PSEIS and SIR: Review Draft (T)
BS Canyons: Updated AFSC report; Fishing activities and management discussion paper	Groundfish Harvest Specifications: Adopt proposed specifications EGOA skate fishery: Discussion paper; PT recommendation	Groundfish Harvest Specifications: Adopt final specifications
GOA P cod sideboards for FLL: Final Action	Grenadier management: Initial Review (T)	Grenadier management: Final Action (T)
GOA Groundfish Tendering: Report (T)	Round Island Transit: Initial Review	Round Island Transit: Final Action (T)
	Stock Structure Workshop Report	
	Ecosystem Committee Report on EBFM Workplan	
LAPP Cost Recovery: Council recommendations	Amendment 80 program 5-Year review: Develop Workplan	
	EFP to reduce halibut mortality on Am 80 vessels: Receive report	
Research Priorities		<p align="center">ITEMS BELOW FOR FUTURE MEETINGS</p> BSAI Crab PSC numbers to weight: Discussion paper BSAI Crab bycatch limit evaluations: Expanded discussion paper Salmon EFH revisions: Initial Review ROFR Aleutia PQS: Final Action Greenland Turbot allocation: Initial Review Charter Halibut Compensated Reallocation Pool: Disc Paper MPA Nominations: Discuss and consider nominations

AI - Aleutian Islands
 AFA - American Fisheries Act
 BiOp - Biological Opinion
 BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
 BKC - Blue King Crab
 BOF - Board of Fisheries
 CQE - Community Quota Entity
 CDQ - Community Development Quota
 EDR - Economic Data Reporting
 EFH - Essential Fish Habitat
 EFP - Exempted Fishing Permit
 EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
 FLL - Freezer longliners
 GOA - Gulf of Alaska

GKC - Golden King Crab
 GHL - Guideline Harvest Level
 HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
 IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
 IBQ - Individual Bycatch Quota
 MPA - Marine Protected Area
 PSEIS - Programmatic Supplemental Impact Statement
 PSC - Prohibited Species Catch
 RKC - Red King Crab
 ROFR - Right of First Refusal
 SSC - Scientific and Statistical Committee
 SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation
 SSL - Steller Sea Lion
 TAC - Total Allowable Catch

Future Meeting Dates and Locations
 September 30-Oct 8, 2013 Anchorage
 December 9-17, 2013, Anchorage
 February 2-10, 2014, Seattle
 April 7-15, 2014, Anchorage
 June 2-10, 2014, Nome
 October 6-14, 2014 Anchorage
 December 8-16, 2014, Anchorage
 February 2-10, 2015, Seattle

(T) = Tentative

Status of 'Items for Future Meetings' from the 3-meeting outlook

A list of previously tasked items are included on the lower right corner of the 3-meeting outlook. This summary provides information on the status of these items.

BSAI Crab PSC numbers to weight: Discussion Paper

In June 2010, as part of the motion to initiate crab bycatch limits in all BSAI groundfish fisheries, the council briefly discussed the possibility of establishing crab caps by weight, rather than in numbers of crab. In June 2011, the Council explicitly tasked staff to prepare a separate discussion paper to evaluate changing the catch accounting of BSAI crab PSC from numbers to weight. This issue could be evaluated to some degree as part of the discussion paper addressing crab bycatch limits in BSAI groundfish fisheries, which could inform future direction on this issue. Alternatively, we could pursue this directly outside of any longer-term initiative to evaluate crab PSC limits in groundfish fisheries.

BSAI Crab bycatch limit evaluations: Expanded Discussion Paper

In February 2013, the Council reviewed a discussion paper on existing measures for trawl and pot bycatch management in the BSAI groundfish fisheries, as well as trends in bycatch by stock, and the relative percentage of the crab stock ABC the current bycatch comprises. For most stocks, while variable across years, groundfish bycatch represents a small (often <1%) component of the catch accruing towards the ABC. Following discussion of the relative complexity of the PSC limit analysis and its objectives, the Council requested an expanded discussion paper on four stocks: Bristol Bay red king crab, Bering sea Tanner crab, Bering Sea snow crab and St. Matthew blue king crab. The paper will include an historical evaluation of the existing closures for these stocks, for both permanent closures and those triggered by a PSC limit. Additionally, the paper will describe the stock and PSC (by groundfish gear type) distribution relative to these areas. The Council further recommended that the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team work together with the State to provide estimates of crab bycatch mortality in the respective groundfish fisheries by crab stock. This could help to reduce the uncertainty in projecting these estimates annually in TAC-setting, and assist the State in estimating an appropriate buffer level for groundfish bycatch, below the ACL.

Salmon EFH Revisions: Initial Review

At the time the Council took action on the 2010 EFH 5-year review, the AFSC was in the midst of developing a new methodology for refining EFH descriptions for salmon species. The Council opted to postpone action on updating the EFH sections of the Salmon FMP until the new methodology was ready for use. The methodology has now been peer-reviewed and published as a NOAA Technical Memorandum. In this amendment analysis, the Council would consider replacing the existing salmon EFH descriptions with the more refined descriptions resulting from the new AFSC methodology. Initial Review of the analysis will be scheduled when NMFS HD, AFSC, and Council staff time becomes available.

ROFR Aleutia PQS: Final Action

In February 2013, the Council took final action on several provisions to modify rights of first refusal created to benefit community interests under the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab rationalization program. To protect community interests, holders of most processor shares were required to enter agreements granting community designated entities a right of first refusal on certain transfers of those shares. The Council elected to take no action on a sixth action, which would have allocated up to 0.55 percent of the Bristol Bay red king crab processing quota share pool to Aleutia Corporation (a right

holding entity) to address a grievance concerning a right of first refusal that it formerly held on shares in that fishery. The Council urged the parties to that dispute to work to resolve their issues prior to further Council consideration of the matter, and scheduling of final action. A report from the internal workgroup was requested to be given in June.

Greenland Turbot Allocation: Initial Review

In June 2012, the Council received a staff presentation summarizing the BSAI Greenland turbot longline and trawl fisheries and information relative to possible sector allocations for the BSAI Greenland turbot fishery. Discussions have occurred between the Freezer Longline Coalition and the Amendment 80 Cooperatives to reach non-regulatory agreement to manage Greenland turbot catch in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands subareas, but to date those cooperatives have not been able to reach agreement on measures to ensure the directed fishery remains open. Because the cooperatives have not yet reached agreement, the Council voted in June 2012 to move ahead by adopting a draft purpose and need statement, and alternatives for analysis. In December, the Council agreed to put the analysis on hold until the results of the 2013 fishery become available.

Amendment 80 Program 5-Year Review

In accordance with MSA concerning limited access privilege (LAPP) programs, a formal and detailed review of the LAPP program is required 5 years after implementation of the program. The review provides an opportunity for the Council and the Secretary to determine whether the LAPP is meeting its intended goals and, if necessary, provide an opportunity for modification of the program to meet those goals. The specific MSA language at 303A(c)(1)(G) is as follows: *“Any LLP...shall...include provisions for the regular monitoring and review by the Council and the Secretary of the operations of the program, including determining progress in meeting the goals of the program and this Act, and any necessary modification of the program to meet those goals, with a formal and detailed review 5 years after the implementation of the program and thereafter to coincide with scheduled Council review of the relevant fishery management plan (but no less frequently than once every 7 years)”*

With the implementation of Amendment 80 Program in 2008, a 5-year review is required for this program in 2013. The Council will discuss development of a workplan and priority for scheduling this review in October.

Charter Halibut Compensated Reallocation Pool

In October 2012 the Council accepted a proposal to begin a discussion paper on a compensated reallocation pool plan for the charter sector in Area 2C and Area 3A. Alaska Charter Association and the Southeast Alaska Guides Organization requested that the Council consider initiating an amendment to the existing commercial halibut IFQ program. The groups provided a general outline for its proposal for the regulatory amendment that would create a new type of entity who may transfer (purchase, hold, and administer) commercial halibut QS for the common use of all charter halibut anglers. The amendment would allow a single eligible Recreational Quota Entity (RQE) for each regulatory area (2C and 3A). The RQE will be organized as a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of Alaska, with a regional quota share pool each for Area 2C and Area 3A. The RQE board would consist of stakeholders in the recreational halibut fishery in Alaska. This entity would provide a mechanism for the compensated transfer of allocation between the commercial and charter sectors based on a willing buyer and a willing seller model and provide a long-term solution to issues of insufficient allocations to the charter sector and uncompensated reallocation to the commercial sector. The purchased QS would be used to supplement guided angler fish under the proposed Halibut Catch Share Plan. The amount of QS that could be purchased by an RQE would be an amount sufficient to provide a means for guided anglers in Area 2C to eventually return to their traditional two halibut of any size daily bag limit, while at minimum to allow for a one fish of any size bag limit in times of low abundance. In Area 3A it would maintain the two halibut of any size daily bag limit.

The proposal does not address funding sources for the purchase of commercial halibut QS, nor does it need to, since that aspect of the compensated reallocation pool program would not be implemented in regulations and would not be part of the Council decision process or NMFS rulemaking, and therefore does not require analysis. The Council directed staff to prepare the paper after the organizations formerly submitted its RQE proposal to the Council, which has not yet occurred. In its deliberations on this proposal, the Council may wish to consider whether to allocate its agenda and staff resources only after the funding source has been finalized or consider recommending the regulatory amendment before funding sources have been identified, as it did in its adoption of the commercial quota entity (CQE) program. If the Council wishes to proceed with a discussion paper (or analysis), the proposal must be received by the Council with sufficient lead time for the staff to consult with Federal and State agencies to prepare the requested documents. In sum, this item is on hold awaiting a formal proposal from the charter organizations.

MPA Nominations: Discuss and Consider Nominations

In December 2009, the Council reviewed a discussion paper on the MPA nomination process, including a revised list of closure areas that appear to be eligible for inclusion into the national system of MPAs. The paper is posted: http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/PDFdocuments/meetings/MPA_1209.pdf Based on its review, the Council tasked staff to prepare a follow-up discussion paper that would incorporate anticipated guidance on the NOAA interpretation of 'avoid harm to the extent practicable', and evaluate the council's existing quasi marine reserves (i.e., Option 2 from the December 2009 discussion paper -- seamounts, AI coral gardens, Bowers Ridge, GOA coral HAPC areas, Sitka pinnacles, and Steller sea lion 3-nm no-transit zones) relative to the avoiding harm from the effects of fishing on these areas. The paper will also review the original list of eligible MPAs forwarded by the MPA center and develop draft justification of why sites would or would not be recommended for inclusion into the national system of MPAs. Further, the paper would discuss how a MPA nomination process could potentially interface with the EFH/HAPC process specified in the FMPs. Further work on the discussion paper has been put on hold until NOAA issues guidance on the interpretation of 'avoid harm'.

Groundfish Workplan

Priority actions revised in February 2007, status updated to current

General Priority	Specific priority actions	Related to mgmt objective:	Status (updated 5-25-13)	2013			
				Apr	Jun	Oct	Dec
Prevent Overfishing	a. continue to develop management strategies that ensure sustainable yields of target species and minimize impacts on populations of incidentally-caught species	5	Aggregate ABC/OFL for GOA 'other species' in 2008; BSAI skates TAC breakout in 2009; ecosystem component created in 2010 ACL II discussion paper under preparation				
	b. evaluate effectiveness of setting ABC levels using Tier 5 and 6 approaches, for rockfish and other species	4	AFSC responding to CIE reviews as part of harvest specifications process				
	c. continue to develop a systematic approach to lumping and splitting that takes into account both biological and management considerations	5	report from non-target species committee in Dec 09 Grenadier management initial review in Jun 2013				
Preserve Food Web	a. encourage and participate in development of key ecosystem indicators	10	Ecosystem SAFE presented annually GOA ecosystem assessment for 2013; EBS and AI ecosystem assessments developed in 2010, 2011				
	b. Reconcile procedures to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in establishing harvest limits, for rockfish and other species	11	ACL II discussion paper under preparation				
	c. develop pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the AI	13	FEP and brochure published 2007; AI ecosystem assessment developed in 2011				
Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	a. explore incentive-based bycatch reduction programs in GOA and BSAI fisheries	15	partially addressed in BS Chinook bycatch EIS, Kodiak Tanner crab closures (2010); GOA pollock Chinook PSC limits (2011), GOA halibut PSC limit reduction (2012) CGOA trawl catch shares, discussion paper in Jun 2013 GOA Chinook non-pollock PSC limits - final action Jun 13 BS chum bycatch review Oct 2013				
	b. explore mortality rate-based approaches to setting PSC limits in GOA and BSAI fisheries	20	partially addressed in BS Chinook bycatch EIS discussion paper on BSAI crab bycatch limits for 4 spp				
	c. consider new management strategies to reduce incidental rockfish bycatch and discards	17	partially addressed in rockfish program				
	d. develop statistically rigorous approaches to estimating bycatch in line with national initiatives	14, 19	National Bycatch Report revised in 2011 restructured observer program to be implemented in 2013				
	e. encourage research programs to evaluate population estimates for non-target species	16	Included in research priorities, adopted in June 2007				
	f. develop incentive-based and appropriate biomass-based trigger limits and area closures for BSAI salmon bycatch reduction, as information becomes available	14, 15, 20	bycatch limits for BS Chinook adopted Apr 09; BS chum bycatch review in Oct 2013				
	g. assess impact of management measures on regulatory discards and consider measures to reduce where practicable	17	partially addressed by arrowtooth MRA analyses (GOA - 2007, BSAI - 2010)				

Groundfish Workplan

Priority actions revised in February 2007, status updated to current

General Priority	Specific priority actions	Related to mgmt objective:	Status (updated 5-25-13)	2013			
				Apr	Jun	Oct	Dec
Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals	a. continue to participate in development of mitigation measures to protect SSL through the MSA process including participation in the FMP-level consultation under the ESA	23	RPA from final NMFS Biological Opinion implemented by Secretarial action for Jan 2011 SSL EIS initial review - April 2013				
	b. recommend to NOAA Fisheries and participate in reconsideration of SSL critical habitat	23					
	c. monitor fur seal status and management issues, and convene committee as appropriate	24, 25	monitoring through the Protected Species Report				
	d. adaptively manage seabird avoidance measures program	22	seabird avoidance measures in 4E in 2008				
Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat	a. evaluate effectiveness of existing closures	26	partially addressed in Bristol Bay red king crab discussion paper				
	b. consider Bering Sea EFH mitigation measures	27	BS habitat closures in 2007; BS flatfish trawl sweep mods required in 2009; EFH 5-year review/omnibus ams approved Apr 2011 Bristol Bay red king crab discussion paper in Feb 2013				
	c. consider call for HAPC proposals on 3-year cycle	27	HAPC cycle changed to 5 years, adopted Apr 2011 HAPC skate nurseries, adopted Feb 2013				
	d. request NMFS to develop and implement a research design on the effects of trawling in previously untrawled areas	27	Included in research priorities, adopted in June 2007 Development of NBSRA research plan halted				
Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery	a. explore eliminating latent licenses in BSAI and GOA	32	Trawl LLP recency in 2008; GOA fixed gear latent licenses in 2009				
	b. consider sector allocations in GOA fisheries	32, 34	GOA Pcod sector allocations in 2009; GOA rockfish program renewed in 2010 CGOA trawl catch shares, discussion paper in June 2013				
Increase Alaska Native & Community Consultation	a. Develop a protocol or strategy for improving the Alaska Native and community consultation process	37	protocol approved in 2008				
	b. Develop a method for systematic documentation of Alaska Native and community participation in the development of management actions	37	outreach plans for BSAI salmon bycatch actions Council Outreach Committee meets periodically				
Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement	a. expand or modify observer coverage and sampling methods based on scientific data and compliance needs	38, 39	improvements adopted in 2008, restructuring approved in 2010 Annual deployment review in June and plan in Oct (outline in April 2013) EM strategic plan in June 2013; EM pilot in 2013				
	b. explore development programs for economic data collection that aggregate data	40	partially addressed in BS Chinook bycatch in 2009, also Amd 80				
	c. modify VMS to incorporate new technology and system providers	41	VMS exemption for dinglebar Jun 08 VMS to be discussed with EM strategic plan in June 2013; Enforcement Cttee to consider use of advanced features				

Council Staff Workload and Timeline of Council Actions

Updated 5/23/2013

GROUND FISH ISSUES	Council Staff	NMFS Input	Discussion Paper	Initial Review	Final Action	Notes
GOA Trawl Bycatch Management	Darrell Brannan, Sam Cunningham, others	major contributor; GC input	Jun-13			A very big project for council staff, also M&E input from NMFS staff and possible GC input
GOA trawl Data Collection	Darrell Brannan, Sam Cunningham, others	major contributor; GC input		Jun-13	Oct-13	
Chinook salmon PSC for GOA non-pollock trawl fisheries	Diana Evans, Sam Cunningham	sections on M&E		Dec-12	Jun-13	Discuss in February schedule for final action - Final action in April will likely require revisitation in October
BSAI Chum Salmon Bycatch	Diana Stram	M&E, AFSC sections		April 2012, Dec 2012		No further staff work at thit time. Industry report on IPAs in Oct.
BSAI Halibut PSC	Jane DiCosimo, contractor	contributor	Oct-13			Potential major analysis if initiated
SSL EIS	Steve MacLean	lead; GC input		Apr-13	1-Oct-13	EIS and BiOp development on court approved schedule - mandatory action. Extensive committee work
AI cod processing sideboards	Jon McCracken, Steve MacLean	major contributor	Oct-13			
Grenadiers	Jane DiCosimo	AKRO lead	Jun-12	Oct-13	Dec-13	Lower priority
Greenland Turbot Allocation	Steve MacLean	tracking	Jun-12			Lower priority. On hold pending 2013 season
BS FLL GOA Cod sideboards	Jon McCracken	input from RAM	Jun-11	Feb-13	Jun-13	Majority of work completed
Round Island Transit Zones	Steve MacLean	M&E input, USFW input	Dec-12	Oct-13		will require coordination with AFSC, USFWS to establish appropriate zones and address M&E concerns
Groundfish ACL uncertainty	Jane DiCosimo, Diana Stram	AFSC lead				Ongoing work by plan teams; workgroup to involve SSC members
Crab bycatch limits/closures in BSAI groundfish fisheries	Diana Stram	AFSC, AKRO input on M&E	Feb-13			Expanded discussion paper on PSC and closures for BBRCK, SMBKC, Tanner and snow crab. ON DECK
Observer 3rd Party Contract Modal	Chris Oliver	major contributor	Jun-13			requires review of past efforts, legal and contracting issues

**GROUND FISH ISSUES -
continued**

	Council Staff	NMFS Staff	Discussion Paper	Initial Review	Final Action	Notes
VMS Requirements	Jon McCracken	tracking	Dec-12			On hold pending 2013 EM deployment results, EM strategic plan June 2013
PSEIS SIR	Diana Evans	AFSC major contributor	Dec-12	Dec-13		Coordination role by Council staff
BSAI Crab PSC to Weight	Diana Stram	input on M&E	?			Not yet scheduled; combine with bycatch limits or pursue separately ON DECK
BSAI sablefish TAC of IFQ/non-IFQ	Jane DiCosimo	tracking	Apr-13			Industry report in October
EGOA Skate Fishery	Diana Stram	inseason management input	Oct-13			Not yet scheduled; possible discussion paper to GOA PT in September
Bering Sea Canyons: Science and Fishery Information	Diana Evans, Diana Stram	AFSC report	Jun-13			Further action pending June review of information

CRAB ISSUES

	Council Staff	NMFS RO Staff	Discussion Paper	Initial Review	Final Action	Notes
BSAI Crab ROFR Aleutia PQS	?	input from RAM		Feb-13		Parties to work together to resolve issues
BSAI Crab Modeling Workshop	Diana Stram	tracking; AFSC input	Apr-13			Feb 26-March 1, 2013 in Anchorage. Another scheduled for 2014
BSAI crab control rules and uncertainty	Diana Stram	tracking; AFSC input				Ongoing work by Plan Team
BSAI Crab Co-op Provisions for Crew	?	major contributor, GC input	Feb-13			Cooperatives to report annually on measures to facilitate share acquisitions by active participants, factors affecting high lease rates and crew compensation. Oct

HALIBUT/SABLEFISH ISSUES

	Council Staff	NMFS RO Staff	Discussion Paper	Initial Review	Final Action	Notes
Halibut - federal definition of fishing guide	Jane DiCosimo	major contributor on M&E	Feb-13	Jun-13	Oct-13	Will require coordination with ADF&G and IPHC
Halibut/Sablefish IFQ leasing practices	Jane DiCosimo	lead	Jun-13			Update from NMFS in June
Halibut - Recreational Quota Entity common pool	Jane DiCosimo	on M&E				Pending proposal from stakeholders. ON DECK
Allow Sablefish pots in the GOA	Jane DiCosimo	tracking	Jun-13			
Increase limits on sablefish IFQ holdings	Jane DiCosimo	tracking	Jun-13			

OTHER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

	Council Staff	NMFS RO Staff	Report	Initial Review	Final Action	Notes
Salmon EFH revisions	Diana Evans	NMFS HD, AFSC science input				Not yet scheduled - awaiting NMFS HD staff availability; originated from EFH 5-yr review
EFH 5-Year Review	Diana Evans	NMFS HD, AFSC input				Scheduled for 2015
MPA nomination process	David Witherell	tracking	Dec-09	n/a	n/a	Awaiting NOAA Guidance on "Avoid Harm" before evaluating sites
Annual Co-op reports: AFA, Am 80, CGOA Rockfish	Jon McCracken	tracking	Oct-13	n/a	n/a	Co-op reporting requirements disc paper in Oct. Annual Reports from Industry (April)
AM 80 5-year review	Jon McCracken	tracking	Oct-13			Develop workplan in October
Observer Program	Diana Evans, Chris Oliver	lead	Jun-13	n/a	n/a	Updates as needed; Annual performance and deployment plan - Considerable Council staff involvement through 2013; 1.25% observer fee reevaluation in 2015
EFH Consultation Process	Diana Evans	lead	Jun-13	n/a	n/a	Biannual Reports from NMFS (Dec, June); standardized review procedure
Annual Halibut charter recommendations	Jane DiCosimo	tracking	Dec-13	n/a	n/a	At every December meeting; requires ADF&G staff analysis
Research Priorities	Diana Stram	n/a	Jun-13	n/a	n/a	Developing a new tracking report for research priorities
Crab, Scallop, Groundfish plan team and SAFE reports	Diana Stram, Jane DiCosimo	AFSC	most meetings	n/a	n/a	Crab PT:4/30-5/3 Anchorage, 9/17-20 Seattle, Groundfish PT 9/10-13, 11/18-22 Seattle; Scallop PT Feb 19-20 Kodiak. Major Council staff workload
BS Chinook Salmon	Diana Stram	AFSC	Oct-13	n/a	n/a	Report on update AEQ and Chinook bycatch in Bering Sea; action as necessary
Crab and Groundfish Stock Structure Workshop	Diana Stram	AFSC	Feb-13	n/a	n/a	Workshop scheduled for April 16 at AFSC

Current Other Projects

Strategic Planning	Chris Oliver, David Witherell	Working with the NMFS RO staff and NOAA GC to improve the analytical and implementation process.
Analytical template (EA/RIR/IRFA)	Diana Evans	We are developing a standardized analytical template to improve our analytical content and speed the regional and GC review process.
MONF 3 follow through	David Witherell, Diana Stram	MONF3 summary of panel discussions for proceedings.
Community Profiles Glossy	Mike Fey, David Witherell	Similar to the groundfish and fleet profiles, we are preparing ing a overview of fishing communities affected by federal fishing regulations.
Update Reference Manual, Personnel Rules, other guidance	Chris Oliver, David Witherell	These manuals need updating, but it has been a lower priority to date.
IPHC Halibut Bycatch Working Group Report	David Witherell, Jane DiCosimo	Preparation of report on halibut bycatch amounts and possible approaches to further minimize halibut bcatch
FMP Updates	Jane Dicosimo, Diana Stram	Ongoing updates of our FMPs with recently approved amendment language.
Groundfish FMP Summaries Glossy	Jane Dicosimo	Our 2012 summer intern (Ben Williams) revised groundfish FMP summaries to make them more accessible to the general public. Still needs work

Ongoing Administrative Work

Notes

Preparation for and attendance of staff at other agency meetings (IPHC, BOF, NPRB, PSMFC, AMSS, Council training, etc)	Liaison staff	Staff gives presentations and participates at meetings of partner agencies, and responds to requests for presentations at various venues.
Preparation and attendance at national and international meetings (IPHC, NPFC, ICC, CCC)	Chris Oliver, et al.	Significant obligations primarily for CCC related activities
Staffing and minutes preparation, briefing book and presentation preparation for Council meetings; preparation of newsletter	All staff	Each Council meeting effectively uses up 3 weeks of each staff persons time. Meeting minutes take several weeks to prepare. Significant workload
Staffing and minutes preparation for standing Council committees (Ecosystem, Enforcement, Charter Implementation, OAC, PNCIAC, SSLMC, ROC, etc.)	All staff	Staff plans and attends meetings of various Council committees, and prepares minutes of these meetings. Significant workload
Document review, staff administration and oversight, correspondence, etc.	Chris Oliver, David Witherell	Administrative duties require a substantial portion of each day.
Website maintenance, Council minutes, phones, wordprocessing, document compilation, copying, filing, office supplies, etc.	Maria Shawback, Peggy Kircher	Maintenance of the website requires regular updates and posting of new information.
Response to FOIA Requests and Administrative Records for litigation	Bendixen, Shawback, Kircher, Oliver, Witherell, other staff	Some requests for records can require long search and copying times (for which we are not reimbursed), as well as transcriptions of audio files.
Budgets, finance and operations; biennial audit	Gail Bendixen, Chris Oliver, David Witherell	Bills paid, bank statements reconciled, meeting arrangements/contracts, human resources, etc. Significant workload. Biennial audit April/May 2013
Miscellaneous professional obligations (NPRB reviews, participation on scientific and advisory committees, professional presentations and publications)	All staff	Staff participates on various Scientific/Advisory Committees, peer reviews NPRB proposals, publishes papers and presents at scientific meetings.
Fishery Evaluations, Reviews and Certifications	All staff	Staff contributes to reviews and status evaluations for MSC certifications, Global Trust Certifications, Fish Watch, CIE Reviews, etc.
Public Outreach	All staff	Staff prepares public outreach brochures, provides talks to students and delegations from other countries, and does rural outreach work as needed.
Legislation tracking and response	Chris Oliver, David Witherell	Potential for MSA reauthorization in 2013 - considerable workload in responding to various draft legislation in 2013 and beyond.

Note: While not a legal requirement, the target date for release of documents in advance of Council meetings is as follows:

Short Discussion Papers: 1 week

Initial Review Analyses: 2 weeks

Final Action Analyses: 4 weeks