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# News & Notes

## North Pacific Fishery Management Council

October 2016

## Welcome New Council Members

Newly appointed Council members Buck Laukitis and Theresa Peterson were sworn in at the opening of the Council meeting. Peterson, a Kodiak resident and commercial fisherwoman, is outreach coordinator for the Alaska Marine Conservation Council (AMCC) and served on the Council's advisory panel. Laukitis, also a commercial fisherman, has served as president of the North Pacific Fisheries Association and is involved in many fishery boards and commissions. Congratulations to the new Council members!

## Council Elections and Appointments

The Council re-elected Dan Hull as Chairman, and re-elected Bill Tweit as Vice-Chair for the upcoming year. Shannon Carroll, AMCC's policy director in Anchorage, is appointed to the AP for the remainder of Theresa Peterson's term, which ends in 2017. The Council also appointed two new Plan Team members: Ben Daly, Research Coordinator ADFG Kodiak, was appointed to the Crab Plan Team and Dr. Kirstin Holsman, Research Fishery Biologist, AFSC Seattle, was appointed to the Bering Sea Groundfish Plan Team.

## Murkowski Addresses Council

Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski visited the Council meeting on Thursday, October 6, and commended the Council for its continued hard work and leadership in fisheries management, reiterating her support for Alaska's fisheries and the people and communities which depend upon the sustainable management of these resources.



## IFQ Program Review

The SSC, the AP, and the Council received a presentation of the first comprehensive review of the halibut and sablefish IFQ program, 20 years since implementation. Based on a scope determined through several iterations of discussion at the Council meetings, the document was framed around the 10 original objectives of the IFQ program, in addition to the topic of entry opportunities in these two fisheries.

Overall, the Council bodies found the document to be thorough and responsive to the recommendations provided during the scoping of this document. The Council approved the document as final and complete with the addition of further discussion as suggested by the SSC and AP, to the extent practicable. In particular, the final version of the document will include:

- a section describing the benefits and limitations of consolidation limits and entry level provisions with respect to overall program success and to the fleet consolidation that has taken place since IFQ Program implementation;
- a revision of the description of the indices of community level engagement in IFQ fisheries to more clearly define the term 'engagement' as it relates to multiple aspects of fisheries activity; and
- graphics and maps that show the changes in quota share holdings for Alaska communities over time to better understand the effects of the program.

The final version of the document will be made publicly available on the NPFMC website.

Subsequent to finalization of this document, the Council plans to reconstitute the IFQ Implementation Committee in order to provide recommendations to the Council regarding potential future revisions to the IFQ program. Current members of the IFQ Committee

should express their interest in continuing to serve. The Council is also soliciting nominations for new members. Membership is intended to represent a broad range of stakeholders in the IFQ fisheries, including representatives from both directed halibut and sablefish fisheries, representation covering multiple areas, and IFQ processors. **Nominations are due November 11.**

Based on findings from the IFQ Program review as well as discussion at the Council meeting, the following issues were proposed for consideration by the IFQ Committee:

- Sweep-ups of small blocked QS units
- Use of the medical lease provision
- Definition of "immediate family member" under the beneficiary lease provision
- Impacts of quota share loss on Alaska's rural communities and further exploration of the geographic distribution of quota ownership. Additionally, define rural communities by several population sizes (such as 1,500, 2,500 and 7,500) to better understand how population dynamics have resulted in different outcomes for rural community IFQ participation. This could also include examining the impacts on Alaska communities by region.
- Geographical distribution of new entrant quota ownership
- Use of hired masters in the IFQ fisheries
- In addition, the IFQ committee should bring forward to the Council any further concerns that they find in the review document

This new version of the IFQ Committee will be chaired by Council member Buck Laukitis. The timing of the next committee meeting will be determined by the availability of new members. The Council hopes to receive a committee report that responds to issues that stem from this program review at the February 2017 Council meeting in Seattle. Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

# AP/SSC Nominations

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

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

The AP is composed of representatives of the fishing industry and others interested in the management of the North Pacific fisheries, and provides advice from those perspectives. Members of these panels are expected to attend up to five meetings, three to six days in length, each year. Current seats up for re-appointment are: Ruth Christiansen, Kurt Cochran, Jeff Kauffman, Alexis Kwachka, Paddy O'Donnell, Jeff Stephan, and Sinclair Wilt.

Please send letters of interest and/or nominations to [npfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:npfmc.comments@noaa.gov).

**Nominations close December 1.**

# Observer Issues

## 2017 Annual Deployment Plan

The Council reviewed the Draft 2017 Observer Annual Deployment Plan (ADP), received a report from its Observer Advisory Committee (OAC), and provided recommendations to NMFS. The Council supports the ADP's continuing recommendation to deploy observers by gear type in 2017, for trawl, longline, and pot gear (regardless of vessel length), as well as adding separate strata by gear type for vessels delivering to tenders. The remaining provisions of the ADP are the same as those in effect for 2016. The agency will conduct outreach this fall and winter, focusing on the implications of the new tender strata. Under optimal allocation of observer days among the strata based on discarded groundfish, the preliminary selection rates for the six strata would be:

- Trawl: 18% for trawl vessels, and 14% for trawl vessels delivering to tenders
- Hook-and-line: 11%, and 27% for hook-and-line vessels delivering to tenders
- Pot: 3% for pot vessels, and 6% for pot vessels delivering to tenders

The Council requested that for the draft 2018 ADP, the agency include prioritization of PSC-limited fisheries (to include both prohibited species and groundfish species on PSC status, as appropriate) in the weighting schemes for optimal allocation among strata. The Council also recommended that NMFS continue development of performance metrics to evaluate both the deployment performance and the reliability of the catch and bycatch estimates, as part of the Annual Report and ADP process.

The Council also noted the lower deployment rates that are projected for 2017 under the proposed strata, which are a direct result of the lower total observer days available in the budget, and the likelihood that these lower rates will continue for the next few years. The Council recommends that NMFS begin to consider approaches to address low coverage rates that include the following: 1) finding efficiencies within the existing sampling design, and 2) evaluating the present fee structure, which would include both the impact of integrating electronic monitoring, and consideration of the 1.25% industry-assessed fee for partial observer coverage. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## 2017 EM Pre-Implementation Plan

The Council approved the 2017 Electronic Monitoring (EM) Pre-implementation Plan, as

recommended by the Council's Fixed Gear EM Workgroup. The plan defines EM deployment in 2017 for longline and pot vessels. The EMWG proposes a maximum 90-vessel EM pool for longline vessels in 2016, and a 30-vessel pool for pot vessels, under a trip selection model with a target selection rate of 30% of logged trips. Vessels participating in the EM pool will be placed in the "No Selection Pool" for human observer coverage in 2017.

There are approximately 90 vessels that have opted into the EM pool to date, responding to a letter sent by the NMFS Observer Program earlier this year. Now that the Council has finalized the program rules for 2017 pre-implementation, those vessels will be contacted to confirm their placement in EM selection pool, or to give them an opportunity to tell NMFS they would prefer to return to the human observer pool. There is also room within the Council's approved EM selection pool to accommodate some additional vessels that meet the Council's criteria.

The Council also concurred with EM Workgroup recommendations to continue other EM research and development in 2017, within the confines of the budget. Research projects include developing other EM technologies, including stereo cameras, EM lite (data from sensors only, no cameras), and real time data transmission, and developing EM for use on vessels under 40 ft. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## Lead Level 2 Discussion Paper

The Council reviewed a discussion paper evaluating regulatory and additional non-regulatory measures to alleviate industry concern about the high potential for a shortage of fixed-gear lead level 2 (LL2) observers for freezer longline vessels in the BSAI, as a lack of availability of a LL2 observer could delay or prevent a vessel operator from fishing. The discussion paper provides a history and background on the LL2 shortage issue, including non-regulatory solutions that have been put in place since 2014; the Observer Program's evaluation of the experience requirements necessary to successfully deploy as a single LL2 observer on a freezer longline vessel; and a preliminary assessment of options identified by the Council in October 2015 to evaluate their feasibility in resolving the potential shortage of LL2 observers.

The Council directed staff to begin an analysis for initial review, and adopted a purpose and need statement as well as alternatives. The Council identified that the following options from the discussion paper should be considered in the analysis: Option 1, which allows deployment of a different observer if a LL2 observer is not available;

# Observer safety Action Plan

The Council received a briefing from NMFS about the national Observer Safety Action Plan, released in August 2016 (<http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/stories/2016/10/observer-safety-review.html>). The plan includes three components: (1) a contracted external review of national and regional observer program safety policy and practices, to identify gaps and recommend safety and health standard actions to effectively safeguard fisheries observers at the regional, national, and international levels; (2) an online survey of past and present observers to identify incentives and disincentives for remaining an observer; and (3) improvements to observer insurance coverage, to be discussed at a national workshop on November 8-9, 2016 in Washington DC.

The observer survey is available to past and present observers to identify incentives and disincentives for remaining an observer [www.surveymonkey.com/r/JQM63FL](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JQM63FL). The survey includes questions relevant to Lead Level 2 observer availability in Alaska.



Option 4, which institutes a Federally-sponsored at-sea training program for observers to get their LL2 endorsement; and Option 6, which allows freezer longline vessels with flow scales to choose between a single LL2 observer or two observers, of which one must have a level 2 endorsement. NMFS noted concerns about implementing Options 1 and 4, which will be evaluated in the analysis. The Council clarified that at final action, more than one option could be adopted simultaneously. The Council also encouraged the Observer Program to pursue the non-regulatory changes identified in the discussion paper, which could increase the preparedness of new LL2 observers deployed on freezer longline vessels by providing more training and revising data collection protocols for a single observer on freezer longline vessels. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## Electronic Monitoring Integration Analysis

The Council reviewed the initial review draft of the Electronic Monitoring (EM) Integration Analysis. The document analyzes alternatives that would allow an EM system onboard vessels to monitor the harvest and discard of fish and other incidental catch at sea, as a supplement to human observer coverage. The analysis was developed with input from the Council's Fixed Gear EM Workgroup.

The Council selected Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative. Under Alternative 2, data from EM systems deployed at sea would be used for catch estimation in fishery management. The pre-implementation work has shown that Alternative 2 is viable, and it is the model that more closely mirrors the current Observer Program. The analysis would integrate EM into the established observer program process for the partial coverage category, so that the Council and NMFS would consider through the Annual Deployment Plan, how to optimize observer and EM deployment for fisheries in the partial

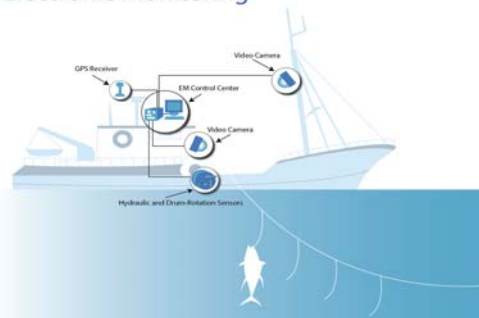
coverage category on an annual basis.

The Council also requested that staff add an option under Alternative 2 to allow fishing IFQ in multiple areas with monitoring by either an observer or EM. This option was recommended by the Council's EM Workgroup and OAC, and supported by the Enforcement Committee. EM could allow effective compliance of IFQ harvest in each IFQ area, addressing an issue that has been raised by stakeholders since the restructuring of the observer program in 2013, as vessels no longer have any choice as to when they are selected to take an observer. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## Rockfish Retention

The Council also requested a discussion paper for a subsequent action to require all fixed gear vessels to retain all rockfish, regardless of species. This was included as an option in the EM analysis applying specifically to vessels using EM, but the Council elected to initiate this as a separate discussion applying to all fixed gear catcher vessels. Potential benefits of this action would be to make it easier for vessel operators by treating all rockfish consistently (retention requirements for demersal shelf rockfish already exist in Southeast Alaska) and potentially reducing waste. These and other issues will be evaluated in the discussion paper. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## Electronic Monitoring



## Streamer Lines

A limited number of new or replacement streamer lines are available for free to vessel operators that are required to use streamer lines. In Alaska, seabird avoidance measures are required to be used by operators of all vessels greater than 26 ft LOA using hook-and-line gear while fishing for 1) IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or IFQ sablefish in the EEZ off Alaska or State of Alaska waters (0 to 200 nm combined); or 2) groundfish in the EEZ off Alaska (3 to 200 nm). Streamer lines are currently available at NMFS Law Enforcement Offices in Dutch Harbor, Kodiak, and Juneau. Please visit <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/pr/seabird-avoidance-gear> for more information or contact Anne Marie Eich: (907) 586-7172, or [annemarie.eich@noaa.gov](mailto:annemarie.eich@noaa.gov).

## Wakefield 2017

Abstracts for oral presentations and posters are invited for the 2017 Wakefield Symposium: Impacts of a Changing Environment on the Dynamics of High-latitude Fish and Fisheries, to be held May 9-12, 2017 in Anchorage, Alaska, USA. The abstract submission deadline is January 15, 2017. The symposium will examine the impacts of the environment, especially climate change and variability, on the dynamics of arctic and subarctic species of commercial, subsistence, and ecological importance. For more information, see <https://seagrant.uaf.edu/conferences/2017/wakefield-fish-dynamics/>

## Upcoming meetings

### Charter Halibut Implementation

**Committee:** October 24, 10-5,

Council Offices, Anchorage;

EM Workgroup: November 28-29,

Seattle, WA

December 7, 9am, Anchorage

**Groundfish Plan Team:** November

14-18, AFSC, Seattle

## PNCIAC Nominations

The Council is seeking nominations to the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee, PNCIAC. There are 16 seats available, and each member serves a two-year term. Nominations close December 1.

## Call for nominations

The IFQ Committee is seeking nominations for membership representing processors and quota holders from all areas and class size. Members of this committee will represent the current characteristics of QS holders in the IFQ fisheries, including new and historical participants, regulatory areas, and the processing sector. To make a nomination, please send a letter of interest to [Chris.Oliver@noaa.gov](mailto:Chris.Oliver@noaa.gov) by November 11.

## EFH Review

The Council reviewed the summary report for the 2015/2016 review of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and passed a motion to update EFH text descriptions and maps, consistent with stock assessment author and Plan Team recommendations. Amended FMP appendices will be prepared for Council review at the April, 2017 meeting. Additionally, the Council will review the effects of non-fishing activities on EFH, as well as proposed methods to evaluate effects of fishing on EFH in December 2016. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

## Proposed Groundfish Harvest Specifications

The SSC received a report from the BSAI and GOA Groundfish Plan Teams on issues covered at the September Plan Team meeting. The SSC and Council recommended, for proposed rulemaking, OFLs and ABCs for the 2017 and 2018 fishing years based on a rollover of existing 2017 specifications. Additionally, the Council recommended proposed TACs and PSC limits consistent with existing specifications. The SSC reviewed a number of issues for the upcoming assessment cycle and provided specific recommendations for authors to address in their assessment updates.

The Council received a letter from ADF&G indicating that the combined, post-season, three-river index (Upper Yukon, Unalakleet and Kuskokwim rivers) of Chinook salmon was 270,800 which is above the defined threshold (250,000) for a low Chinook year. Because of this, the existing Chinook PSC limits for the EBS pollock fishery will remain in place for 2017.

Based on review of a report from the Stock Structure Working Group, the SSC recommended that harvest of the BSAI blackspotted and rougheye rockfish stocks continue to be use a maximum sub-area species catch limit (MSSC) in the WAI in 2017 and that NMFS continue to report catch in conjunction with this limit.

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

## Stock Prioritization

The National Marine Fisheries Service provided a report to the Groundfish and Crab Plan Teams on progress towards application of the national Stock Assessment Prioritization (SAP) plan which serves as a guide for how stock assessments should be prioritized in a given year (Methot 2015). The guidelines for prioritization of stock assessments considered five themes: Fishery Importance, Stock Status, Ecosystem Importance, Assessment Information, and Stock Biology. The goal of the stock prioritization effort is to identify scenarios for NPFMC deliberation that simultaneously improve efficiency in the stock assessment process while maintaining the high quality and timely advice that has successfully delivered the stock assessment advice needed to build economically viable, sustainable and equitable fisheries within an ecosystem approach to fisheries management framework. The Joint Groundfish Plan teams will convene a special meeting in January to provide input on the scenarios for target assessment frequency considered as well as what assessment advice would be provided to the Council in years without an assessment. The Crab Plan Team initiated a sub-group to draft application of a modified target frequency plan for BSAI Crab stocks and will also provide their input and recommendations on this issue during their regular January meeting. The Council will receive reports from the Plan Teams as well as a report from NMFS at the February Council meeting on progress and plans on this initiative as it relates to stock assessments in the North Pacific. Staff contacts are Diana Stram and Jim Armstrong.

## BSAI Abundance-Based Halibut PSC limits

The Council reviewed a discussion paper by an inter-agency working group tasked with evaluating abundance-based halibut PSC limits in the BSAI groundfish fisheries. Following extensive discussion of objectives, a range of indices and control rule formulations, the Council moved to provide direction to the workgroup for a subsequent discussion paper in order to move forward with developing alternative measures to set abundance-based halibut PSC limits. The Council confirmed the objectives inferred by the workgroup and requested that performance metrics and quantitative tools be developed to evaluate the tradeoffs between competing objectives for this action. The next iteration of this paper will consider a broad suite of halibut abundance indices and control rules including consideration of 2 or 3-dimensional frameworks for setting PSC limits as outlined in the SSC minutes. The Council specifically directed the workgroup to consider the development of separate control rules to set PSC limits by hook and line and trawl gear. The Council intends to hold a public workshop in conjunction with the February Council meeting in Seattle to solicit stakeholder feedback on the development of performance metrics and applications of control rules to a range of indices to address Council objectives for abundance-based halibut PSC management. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

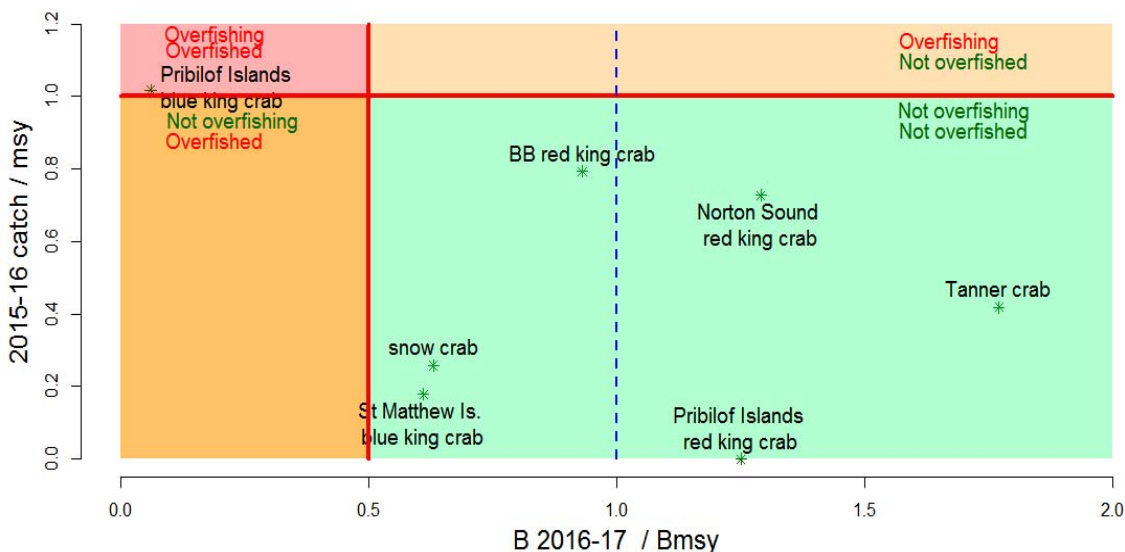
## BSAI Crab Management

The SSC provided final recommendations to the Council on final OFLs and ABCs for six federally managed crab stocks. The stocks with summer fisheries as well as those established on catch data only have specifications set in June. The stocks which employ data from the EBS NMFS trawl survey thus cannot be assessed until survey data are available in early September. Summer catch data for NSRKC however are not available in time for fall specifications, nor is assessing this stock with the June timing feasible as the CDQ fishery can open as early as May thus this stock is assessed in the winter. A summary of assessment timing by stock is shown in the table below:

Stock	CPT review and recommendations to SSC	SSC review and recommendations to Council
Norton Sound red king crab (NSRKC)	January	February
Aleutian Is. golden king crab (AIGKC)	May	June
Pribilof Is. golden king crab (PIGKC)	May	June
Western Aleutian Is. red king crab (WAIRKC)	May	June
EBS snow crab	September	October
Bristol Bay red king crab(BBRKC)	September	October
EBS Tanner crab	September	October
Pribilof Is. red king crab (PIRKC)	September	October
Pribilof Is. blue king crab (PIBKC)	September	October
Saint Matthew blue king crab (SMBKC)	September	October

Three stocks are in Tier 3 (EBS snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab and EBS Tanner crab), four stocks in Tier 4 (St. Matthew blue king crab, Pribilof Islands blue king crab, Pribilof Islands red king crab, and Norton Sound red king crab) and three stocks in Tier 5 (Al golden king crab, Pribilof Islands golden king crab, and Adak red king crab). EBS Tanner crab and Pribilof Island red king crab are estimated to be above  $B_{MSY}$  for 2016/17 while snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, Saint Matthew blue king crab and Norton Sound red king crab are estimated below  $B_{MSY}$ . Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock remains overfished and estimated to be well below its MSST.

### EBS crab stocks



The Pribilof Blue king crab stock experienced overfishing in the 2015/16 fishing year where total catch exceeded the OFL for this stock. NMFS indicated to the Council that it will use in-season management authority provided under 50 CFR 679.25 to publish a notification in the Federal Register specifying inseason adjustments to prevent overfishing of Pribilof Islands blue king crab. Precise inseason closures to vessels fishing for groundfish with bottom contact gear will be specified as needed in order to avoid overfishing in the future. The BSAI Crab SAFE report and specifications for 2016/2017 are posted to the Council's website. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Staff contact for halibut DMRs is Jim Armstrong.

## IFQ Leasing by CDQ Groups

The Council conducted an initial review of a regulatory amendment package that would allow CDQ groups to lease halibut IFQ in Areas 4B, 4C and 4D in years of low halibut catch limits in regulatory Areas 4B and 4CDE. In effect, this proposal would allow CDQ groups to lease halibut IFQ for use by residents on vessels less than or equal to 51 ft LOA, subject to IFQ use regulations and the groups' internal management.

The Council established this action alternative as their preliminary preferred alternative, setting a threshold of 1 million pounds for Area 4B and 1.5 million pounds for Area 4CDE under which this flexibility would be available to the groups. The preliminary preferred alternative would also allow Area 4D IFQ that is leased to CDQ groups be fished in Area 4E and it would establish a "cooling off" period of 5 years, during which newly acquired QS could not be leased to a CDQ group.

Given concerns raised during public testimony on potential impacts to other users in Area 4B, the Council included two more options: restricting the duration of consecutive IFQ leasing (Option 5), and restricting the size of leasable pounds of QS (Option 6). The Council directed the next iteration of analysis to also include SSC recommendations as well as further analysis of the potential impacts on the pool of quota holders who are currently fishing on vessels they do not own in Areas 4B and Areas 4C/4D, and on the walk-on businesses that support these quota holders. Given these additional areas of analysis, the Council did not release the draft for public review, but asked for another initial review analysis to return at a later meeting.

Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

## Enforcement Committee

At the June 2016 meeting, the Council tasked staff to prepare a discussion paper on information concerning co-mingling of guided and unguided halibut on the same vessel. The Enforcement Committee reviewed the draft discussion paper and recommended further development of the potential alternatives in the discussion paper and recognized that another work session will be necessary to finalize the potential alternatives. In the interim, members of the committee will assist staff in developing a description of the potential alternatives.

The Council had also tasked the Enforcement Committee to initiate a discussion paper to examine requirements for a regulatory amendment to allow donation of fish seized by law enforcement officers to local food banks or the SeaShare program. Will Ellis (Office of Law Enforcement), informed the committee that a discussion paper to the Council is not necessary at this time given Office of Law Enforcement and NOAA General Counsel has determined the agency has pre-existing statutory authority necessary to donate any seized fish species. NOAA Office of Law Enforcement is continuing to pursue the donation program internally through policy changes between Office of Law Enforcement and General Council. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

## Chairman Recognizes Dr. Low

Chairman Dan Hull took time to recognize Dr. Loh-Lee Low, a fishery scientist at the Alaska Fishery Science Center in Seattle. Citing a long list of accomplishments, Hull noted Dr. Low has over 40 years dedicated to the science, conservation, and management of North Pacific Fisheries. Thank you for your service, Dr. Low.

## Staff Tasking

In addition to discussing the relative priority of previously tasked projects, the Council provided clarifications on several issues and discussed tasking for its various committees. Additionally, the Council approved a revised Regional Operating Agreement and an Advisory Panel Handbook. The Council also tasked staff with the following:

- Write a letter of support for research on development of seasonal forecasting of oceanographic conditions, noting that this type of research is valuable for understanding groundfish recruitment and ecosystem-based fishery management;
- Write a letter to the NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries Program on the St. George sanctuary proposal, and provide a list of local community entities in the area, which is important for determining if there is adequate community-based support for this proposal.
- Write a comment letter on NOAA's draft roadmap for a national implementation strategy for ecosystem-based fishery management, with input from the Ecosystem Committee.
- Prepare an informational report on the potential for using AIS to mark sablefish pot buoys.



The Council will be hosting a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management Act on December 8, 2016 at the Captain Cook in the evening, starting at 6pm.

Please register through our [website](#). Reservations are required, seats are limited.

**DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 10/9/2016**

December 6-14, 2016 [SSC starts Tues, AP on Wed, Council on Thurs.] Anchorage, AK	January 30-Feb 7, 2017  Seattle, WA	April 3-11, 2017  Anchorage, AK
<p><b>40 Year Anniversary Celebration Banquet - Thursday, Dec. 8</b></p> <p>GOA Trawl Bycatch Management: <b>Preliminary Analysis</b></p> <p>2017 Charter halibut management measures: <b>Final action</b></p> <p>Charter Halibut permit leasing: <b>Discussion paper (T)</b></p> <p>Charter Halibut RQE Program: <b>Final Action</b></p> <p>EFPs (Halibut deck sorting, RKC Savings Area, salmon excluder)</p> <p>Groundfish Harvest Specifications: <b>Final specifications</b></p> <p>Am 80 Halibut PSC Measures: <b>Report</b></p> <p>EM Integration: <b>Final Action</b></p> <p>EFH Effects of Fishing Criteria: <b>Discussion paper</b></p> <p>EFH non-fishing effects report: <b>Review and approve</b></p> <p>Stock Assessment 101 Training (<b>evening presentation</b>)</p>	<p>Stock Assessment Prioritization: <b>Review</b></p> <p>Observer disembark location: <b>Initial Review (T)</b></p> <p>IFQ Committee recommendations for potential new actions: <b>Report</b></p> <p>BSAI YFS TLA Fishery limited entry: <b>Initial Review</b></p> <p>GOA Gear Specific Skate MRAs: <b>Discussion paper</b></p> <p>BSAI Crab Specs for NSRKC: Final OFL/ABC specifications BSAI Crab Plan Team Report</p> <p>Area 4 Halibut IFQ Leasing: <b>Initial Review (T)</b></p> <p>Mixing of guided &amp; unguided halibut: <b>Disc paper (T)</b></p> <p>Bristol Bay Red King Crab PSC: <b>Discussion paper</b></p> <p>AFA 10-year Review: <b>Review Report</b></p> <p>Squid to Ecosystem Component Category: <b>Initial Review</b></p> <p>BSAI Salmon genetics spatial/temporal distribution: <b>Disc paper (T)</b></p>	<p>GOA Trawl Bycatch Management: <b>Action as necessary (T)</b></p> <p>Lead Level 2 Observers: <b>Initial Review (T)</b></p> <p>EFH Omnibus Amendments: <b>Initial Review</b></p> <p>Pollock ICA/IPA reports Update on salmon genetics (T) Co-op Reports (AFA, Am 80, GOA Rockfish, BSAI Crab)</p> <p>Bering Sea FEP: <b>Update and action as necessary</b></p> <p>BSAI Halibut Abundance-based PSC limits: <b>Action as necessary</b></p> <p>Crab binding arbitration fomula: <b>Discussion paper</b></p> <p>BSAI Tanner crab custom processing cap: <b>Discussion paper</b></p> <p>Scallop SAFE and catch specifications: <b>Approve, PT report</b></p> <p><b>ITEMS BELOW NOT YET SCHEDULED</b></p> <p>Remove WAI Red King Crab from FMP: <b>Initial Review</b></p> <p>Bering Sea FEP: <b>Review Draft FEP</b></p> <p>Allocation Policy Directive: <b>Discussion paper</b></p> <p>Salmon FMP Amendment (?)</p> <p>Observer deployment trip determination/transfer: <b>Disc paper</b></p> <p>Fixed Gear CV Rockfish Retention: <b>Discussion paper</b></p> <p>Bering Sea Snow Crab PSC Limits: <b>Initial Review</b></p> <p>Observer Insurance Requirements: <b>Disc paper for Reg Am</b></p>

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  
EM - Electronic monitoring  
EFH - Essential Fish Habitat  
EFP - Exempted Fishing Permit  
EIS - Environmental Impact Statement  
FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan  
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  
ICA - Inter-cooperative Agreements  
IPA - Incentive Program Agreements  
LLP - Limited License Plan  
MRA - Maximum Retainable Allowance  
PSC - Prohibited Species Catch  
RKC - Red King Crab  
RQE - Recreational Quota Entity  
SIR - Supplemental Information Report  
SSC - Scientific and Statistical Committee  
SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation  
SSL - Steller Sea Lion  
TAC - Total Allowable Catch  
TLAS - Trawl Limited Access Sector  
YFS - Yellowfin sole  
VMS - Vessel Monitoring System

**Future Meeting Dates and Locations**

December 6-14, 2016, Anchorage  
January 30 – February 7, 2017, Seattle  
April 3-11, 2017, Anchorage  
June 5-13, 2017, Juneau  
October 2-10, 2017, Anchorage  
December 4-12, 2017, Anchorage  
February 5-13, 2018, Seattle  
April 2-10, 2018, Anchorage  
June 4-12, 2018, Nome (T)  
October 1-9, 2018, Anchorage  
December 3-11, 2018, Anchorage  
February 4-12, 2019, Portland  
April 1-9, 2019, Anchorage

**(T) = Tentative**