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News & Notes

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

December 2014

Council Appointments

The Council re-appointed all its members of the SSC to another year term and added new member Brad Harris, who had been an alternate on the committee from the University of Alaska. The Council also said goodbye to Pat Livingston, who has served on the SSC, and partially as Chair, for 12 years. The Council thanked her for her service, and congratulated her on her retirement. New appointees to the Advisory Panel include Andy Mezirow from the charter sector, Jeff Stephan, of the United Fishermen's Marketing Association, and Matt Upton, of US Seafoods. Other AP members include: Ruth Christiansen, Kurt Cochran, John Crowley, Jerry Downing, Jeff Farvour, Becca Robbins-Gisclair, John Gruver, Jeff Kauffman, Mitch Kilborn, Alexis Kwachka, Craig Lowenberg, Anne Vanderhoeven, Chuck McCallum, Joel Peterson, Theresa Peterson, Ernie Weiss, Sinclair Wilt, and Paddy O'Donnell (one-year term). Laura Stichert, of ADF&G Commercial Fisheries in Kodiak, was appointed to the Crab Plan Team. Welcome, and we look forward to working with you in 2015.



Pat Livingston is retiring after 37.5 years from AFSC, and will be missed as Chairman of the SSC.



Photo: Karla Bush

Observer Program

Electronic Monitoring

The Council reviewed the EM Workgroup's progress with developing a cooperative research plan for 2015, and moving towards pre-implementation of EM in 2016. 2015 fieldwork will focus both on operational testing of EM camera systems in the under 58 ft longline fleet, as well as further research on all EM systems to evaluate whether they will successfully achieve the Council's goal to integrate EM used for catch estimation into the Observer Program. The Workgroup outlined a timeframe for how the fieldwork and pre-implementation years will intersect with the Council's analytical process and EM's eventual integration into the Annual Deployment Plan process. The Workgroup also reported on the budget and funding for the 2015 fieldwork, and opportunities for funding for the 2016 pre-implementation year. The Council concurred with the Workgroup's direction for developing the cooperative research plan, which will be reviewed by the SSC in February 2015.

The Council also received the latest draft of the Alaska Regional Implementation Plan for Electronic Technologies. All the NMFS regions have been requested to develop and submit such a plan to headquarters by the end of the year. At the Council's request, the Workgroup reviewed the plan at their last meeting, and provided clarifications with respect to the reporting of proposed costs.

Small Catcher/Processors

At this meeting, the Council adopted a purpose and need statement and alternatives for a regulatory amendment analysis to revise the allowances for placing small catcher/processors in the partial

coverage category. The Council had previously identified this regulatory change as a high priority for potential regulatory amendments to the Observer Program. Currently, under the Program, there is a general requirement that all catcher/processors are placed in the full coverage category, with two limited exceptions based on a vessel's activity from 2003 through 2009, and one exception based on a minimal amount of daily processing. The Council reviewed a discussion paper, prepared by NMFS staff, evaluating different ways that the Council might consider revising the thresholds, while still maintaining an appropriate balance between data quality and the cost of observer coverage, and ensuring the threshold is not unduly difficult to apply and enforce. The motion is posted online. Council contact is Diana Evans.

LL2 Workgroup

The Council received a report on the efforts of observer providers, the freezer longline fleet, and NMFS to collectively come up with immediate solutions to the current shortage of qualified level 2 fixed gear observers, which are required for freezer longline vessels operating in the Bering Sea. Participants in the workgroup committed to pursuing a variety of actions in the short term. The report is available online, under the Council's December 2014 B2 agenda item.



Retiring Martin Loefflad was presented with a plaque noting his 37 years of service with NMFS and Alaska Fisheries, and with the Alaska Observer Program. Best wishes in new endeavors.

Halibut and Sablefish Vessel IFQ Caps

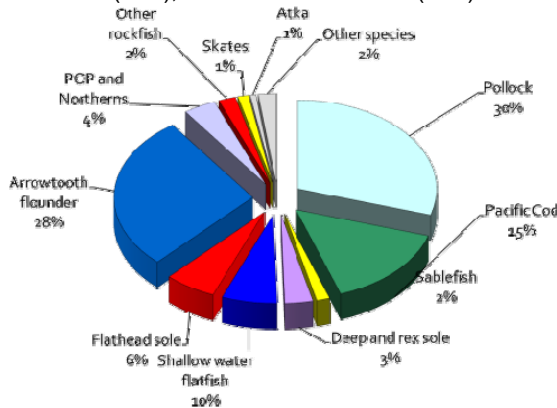
The Council received a discussion paper on vessel IFQ caps which considered proposals seeking to change the way vessel IFQ caps affect participants in the sablefish and/or halibut IFQ fishery. This discussion was instigated by submission and continued interest by stakeholders in a proposal to increase vessel IFQ caps for sablefish A quota shares. This proposal was augmented with a separate proposal to create a floor in the vessel IFQ cap for halibut IFQ. Several other approaches for modifying vessel IFQ caps were also recommended in written and spoken public testimony to the Council. After a lengthy discussion on the appropriate scope and potential distribution of benefits of action, the Council chose to take no action on this issue. Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

GOA Skate MRA

The Council reviewed the Final EA/RIR/IRFA on an action to revise the Maximum Retainable Amount (MRA) for all skate species in the Gulf of Alaska fisheries. The Council adopted Alternative 4, the Preliminary Preferred Alternative, and the alternative recommended by the AP, as its Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative would reduce the MRA for all skates in all GOA groundfish fisheries to 5%. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

GOA Groundfish Specifications

The Council approved the Gulf of Alaska Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report and recommended final catch specifications for the 2015 and 2016 groundfish fisheries. As part of the Plan Team presentations and Council deliberations, the updated ecosystem SAFE report sections were presented. The sum of the Plan Team recommended ABCs increased by 7% compared with last year. This is primarily driven by projected increases in pollock (+17%), Pacific cod (+16%), Pacific ocean perch (+9%), and shallow water flatfish (+8%). Notable declines were projected in demersal shelf rockfish (-18%), big skate (-13%), roughey and blackspotted rockfish (-10%), dusky rockfish (-7%), and northern rockfish (-6%).



Percentage breakouts of 2015 ABCs by species and stock complexes. Source Dr. Jim Ianelli.

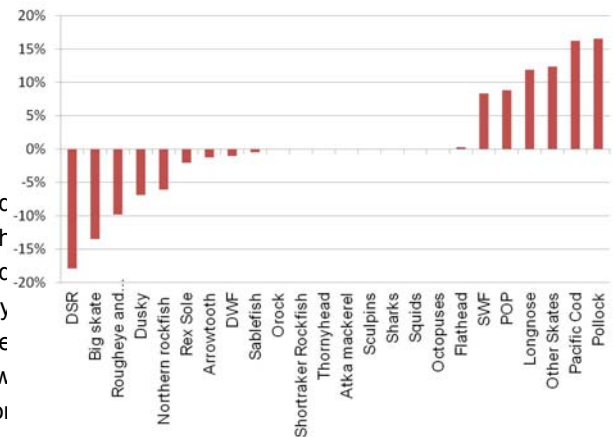
The abundances of Pacific cod, Dover sole, flathead sole, northern and southern rock sole, arrowtooth flounder, Pacific ocean perch, roughey and blackspotted rockfish, northern rockfish, and dusky rockfish are above target stock size. The abundances of pollock and sablefish are below target stock size. The target biomass levels for deep-water flatfish (excluding Dover sole), shallow-water flatfish (excluding northern and southern rock sole), rex sole, shortraker rockfish, other rockfish, demersal shelf rockfish, thornyhead rockfish, Atka mackerel, skates, sculpins, squid, octopus, and sharks are unknown.

For most stocks the Council established TACs equal to ABCs with some exceptions. For Pacific cod the ABC was reduced 25% in EGOA and CGOA and by 30% in WGOA to account for removals in the state managed fishery. Pollock TAC in W/C/WYAK was reduced 2.5% to account for GHM in Prince William Sound. Additional exceptions include those fisheries

where the bycatch of other target species is a concern, specifically shallow water flatfish (W and C GOA), flathead sole (W and C GOA), arrowtooth flounder (GOA wide) and other rockfish (EYAK/SEO). For those fisheries, the TAC is also set below the ABC. Atka mackerel was established at levels to meet incidental catch needs in other fisheries only (no directed fishing is allowed). Specifications for 2015-2016 are posted on the Council's website.

Prohibited Species Catch Limits:

The Council adopted halibut prohibited species catch limits, by season and gear apportionment for 2015-2016 and further specified apportionments of the 'other hook and line fisheries' annual halibut PSC allowance between the hook-and-line gear catcher vessel and catcher/processor sectors following the Pacific cod sector split allocation implemented in 2012. The PSC numbers for 2015 include the additional 5% (12% cumulative) reduction in year two of the three year stairs-step reduction in Halibut PSC limits based upon the action taken under Amendment 95 to the FMP. The Council recommended OFLs, ABCs and TACs for 2015 and 2016, the SAFE report for GOA groundfish, the Ecosystem Considerations Chapter and the Economic SAFE report is on the Council's website. Staff contact is Jim Armstrong.

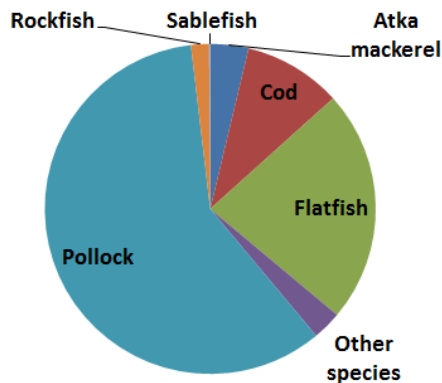


Estimated percent change in ABC in 2015 relative to 2014 for GOA stocks. Source Dr. Jim Ianelli.

Hristos se rodi **God Jul**
 Glædelig Jul Mele Kalikimaka Feliz Navidad
 FELIZ NATAL Mitho Makosi Kesikansi
 Kjesale hody a shrove nowe leto Do Nada Sung Tan Chuk Ha
GLEDILEG JOL Feliz Natal
 NATALE HILARE ET ANNUM FAUSTUM Buorrit Juovllat
 Joyeux Nadolig Llawen Mo'adim Lesimkha
 Noel Merry Christmas
 Maligayang Pasko BUONE FESTE NATALIZIE
 GAJAN KRISTNASKON MERRY KESHMISH

BSAI Harvest Specifications

The Council adopted the BSAI Groundfish SAFE report and annual catch limits based on recommendations from its advisory committees. The sum of the total allowable catches (TACs) or quotas for all BSAI groundfish is 2 million t for 2015 and 2016. The TACs were set below the sum of the recommended ABCs. The sum of the recommended ABCs for 2015 and 2016 are 2,842,543 t and 2,728,127 t, respectively. Overall, the status of the stocks continues to appear favorable. Nearly all stocks are above their target biomass size (B_{MSY}). The sum of the biomasses for 2015 represents a 7% increase from 2014.



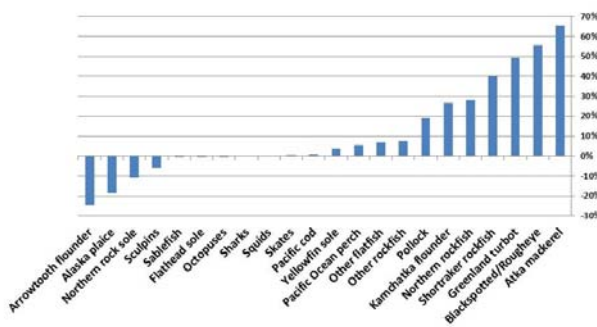
Relative breakouts of biomass of major species groups in the BSAI

In conjunction with the implementation of Amendment 105 to the BSAI Groundfish FMP, the Council also set the annual ABC reserve for three flatfish species, northern rock sole, flathead sole and yellowfin sole. The Council established the entire ABC surplus as the ABC reserve. This ABC surplus is used to allow for more efficiency in the harvest of these flatfish species. NMFS will provide an annual report to the Council on the flatfish exchanges by the Amendment 80 fleet in utilizing this increased flexibility. This report is designed to assist the Council in future specifications as to whether or not setting a discretionary buffer in the ABC reserve is desirable.

The Council also adopted revised PSC limits for crab stocks, Pacific halibut, and herring. The final BSAI groundfish harvest specifications will be published as a final rule in the Federal Register by late February/early March 2015. They will replace the current 2015 harvest specifications that were adopted by the Council in December 2013.

Groundfish specifications for 2015-2016 are available on the Council's website. Staff Contact is Diana Stram.

Change in ABC from 2014 to 2015



GOA Sablefish Longline Pots

The Council refined alternatives for an action that would allow pot longline gear in the GOA sablefish IFQ fishery. The option to use pot longline gear could be granted for all GOA areas – Western GOA, Central GOA, West Yakutat, and Southeast Outside – or only for the GOA areas specified in final action. The analysis was released for public review.

The Council refined elements of the action alternative, with a focus on managing the potential grounds preemption and gear conflict challenges associated with adding pot gear to existing hook-and-line areas. A range of per-vessel pot limits was defined for analysis (limit of 60 to 400 pots). The efficacy and cost of gear tracking measures, such as pot tags and buoy transponders, will also be analyzed. The Council will consider pot gear retrieval requirements that are designed to reduce the length of time that grounds are preempted, and likelihood of hang-ups on gear that is already set. Those measures include an electronic database of pots that have been set, left, or lost on the grounds, and a requirement to tend or remove gear within a certain number of days after fishing is commenced.

Among the additional information that staff will provide is a more detailed accounting of whale deterrence efforts that stakeholders have undertaken, and continue to test. Final action is scheduled for April 2015. Staff contact is Sam Cunningham.

Walker, Sullivan Address Council

Newly elected Alaska Governor Bill Walker and Alaska Senator Dan Sullivan both took the opportunity to address the Council. Walker spoke to the Council on Thursday the 11th, and emphasized his commitment to maintaining the health and sustainability of Alaska's fisheries while supporting communities. He commented on the cooperative nature of the Council working with the agencies in both Washington and Oregon, and affirmed his support of the work that is done. Sullivan outlined his upcoming work in his committee appointments, specifically the Senate Commerce Committee.



Sullivan confirmed his commitment to working closely with the Council on the Magnuson-Stevens Re-Authorization Act along with other issues affecting Alaska's fishing industry and requested Council input on various issues.

Pribilof Canyon Corals

In April 2014, the Council adopted a Purpose and Need Statement for an action to determine whether and how the Council should recommend amendment of the BSAI Groundfish and Crab FMPs to protect known, significant concentrations of deep-sea corals in the Pribilof Canyon and adjacent slope from fishing impacts. At the same time, the Council requested that time be scheduled to allow for public scoping on two topics: (1) the general range of alternatives that should be considered under this action, and (2) the best process by which to identify, develop, and refine alternatives. That opportunity was provided during the December Council meeting, and the Council heard from a number of stakeholders. After receiving input, the Council directed staff, during Staff Tasking, to begin an informal dialogue with AFSC researchers to discuss potential criteria that the Council could use to develop and evaluate protection alternatives for corals on the Bering Sea slope. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

Openings at AOOs

The Alaska Ocean Observing System is hiring two staff positions - one for Operations Director (a new position) and another for Program Coordinator. To apply, Please submit a letter of interest, resume and 3 references to Cindy Ecklund at cindy@alaskasealife.org by COB January 26, 2015. More information and full descriptions available at www.aooos.org.

Charter Halibut Management

The Charter Management Implementation Committee met in October 2015 and again in December 2015 to consider management measures that are intended to keep the charter halibut harvest within each area's (2C and 3A) 2015 allocation. The Council received a report from the Committee that identified those recommended management measures and received a report from Scott Meyer (ADF&G Sportfish Division) that projected the effects of those management measures on the expected 2015 charter halibut harvest. Based on an Area 2C halibut allocation of 0.787 million pounds and an Area 3A allocation of 1.89 million pounds, the Charter Management Implementation Committee recommended, and the Council approved, the following management measures for recommendation to the International Pacific Halibut Commission:

For Area 2C:

- One-fish daily bag limit
- Reverse slot limit of U40" – O80" (must be ≤40 inches or ≥ 80 inches)

If the final charter allocation is sufficiently higher than the "blue line" to accommodate a change in the reverse slot limit, adjust the size of the lower limit up ward to meet the allocation.

For Area 3A:

- Two-fish daily bag limit (one of any size)
- Maximum size of one of the two fish is 29" (if only one fish is harvested, it may be any size)
- One trip per day (limit each vessel to one trip per calendar day)
- Prohibition on halibut charter fishing on Thursdays, during June 15 – August 31.

If the final charter allocation is sufficiently higher than the "blue line", adjust the maximum size of the second fish upward to meet the allocation.

The regulations for GAF remain the same. **Additionally, the Council is soliciting names for appointments to the Recreational Quota Entity workgroup. Applicants from the Charter industry as well as people involved in the halibut longline fishery are encouraged to apply for appointment. Deadline is January 23, 2015. Nominations can be mailed to the office, or emailed to npfmc.comments@noaa.gov.**

Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

Vessel Monitoring System

At this meeting, the Enforcement Committee provided a report to the Council that assesses the utility of several advanced Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in the North Pacific. These features include geo-fencing, increased polling rates, declarations of species, gear, and area, and two-way communication. The report was tasked to the Committee following a series of discussion papers during 2012 that evaluated the use and requirement of VMS in the North Pacific fisheries and other regions. The reported provided an overview of VMS program, advanced features of the VMS not currently utilized in the North Pacific, uses of VMS by the different user groups, where VMS fits into the Strategic Plan for Electronic Monitoring/Electronic Reporting (EM/ER) in the North Pacific, and the Enforcement Committee's implementation recommendations to the Council.

After reviewing the report, the Council tasked the Enforcement Committee to review its April 2005 "Enforcement Considerations for NOAA Fisheries and North Pacific Fishery Management Council Staff" (precepts) paper to include advanced VMS features where appropriate in the matrix of different management measures. In addition, the Council also tasked the Committee to review other enforcement considerations in other regions to determine if there are other enforcement tools that might be of use for the North Pacific. Finally, the Council tasked staff to prepare a technical document on VMS usage for the universe of non-VMS vessels in the North Pacific for use by the Council in considering enforcement and electronic monitoring issues associated with future FMP and regulatory actions. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.



Amendments for LLP Exemptions

The Council took action to amend typographical errors in three of the Fisheries Management Plans (FMP): the FMP for Groundfish of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI), Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA), and BSAI King and Tanner Crab. Errors were discovered in the length thresholds of vessels exempt from the License Limitation Program (LLP) requirements in these three FMPs. The Council's original intention in establishing the LLP was to allow for an exemption for vessels *less than or equal to* 32 ft length overall (LOA) in the BSAI, and vessels *less than or equal to* 26 ft LOA in GOA. However these thresholds were mistakenly specified as *less than* 32 ft LOA and *less than* 26 ft LOA, respectively in the FMPs.

Amendments will align the FMP text with current Federal regulations that correctly captures the Council's original intent as well as current operations in the fisheries. These changes are not expected to have impacts on stakeholders in these fisheries, or the nature of the fisheries in any way. Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

NPRB Seeking Nominations

On July 21, 2015, one Board member seat representing the interests of the fishing industry will become available. NPRB is currently seeking nominations for its twentieth member that represents the fishing industry, is appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, and serves on the NPRB Executive Committee. This seat has a three-year term. Specific criteria are used by the Board in making a selection from among nominees for the fishing industry seat which is subject to approval by the Secretary of Commerce. More information and the criteria is available at nprb.org.

December 2014 Council meeting.



Staff Tasking

In addition to discussing the timing and relative priority of previously tasked projects, and tasking for various workgroups and committees, the Council provided clarifications on several important issues. Additionally, the Council tasked the following:

- Re-solicit nominations for the Charter Halibut RQE workgroup.
- Request staff to provide draft structure and guidance for possible establishment of a standing Protected Resources Committee.
- Publicize the proposed USGC Arctic Port Access Route Study and request for comments in the newsletter.
- Request the plan teams convene a working group on stock complexes that would discuss the implications of breaking out species from individual complexes. Also, have the group consider and provide a recommendation regarding a standing committee to address all National Standard 1 issues.
- Request the Enforcement Committee to review the "Enforcement Precepts" paper, incorporate the new VMS information, and post the paper on our website when finalized.
- Share testimony regarding criteria and data thresholds for Pribilof corals with the AFSC researchers with the objective of providing the data for possible use in this fashion when the AFSC finalizes its report to the Council in June.
- Task staff to prepare a discussion paper addressing the 10 items relative to the GOA trawl bycatch management project for review in October, rather than April as had been previously scheduled.
- Expedite the review and consultation of the halibut deck sorting EFP for additional work in 2015, and send a letter to the IPHC informing them of deck sorting studies.

Upcoming Meetings

EM Workgroup: January 12-13, 2015 – Anchorage

PNCIAC: January 12, 9am-12
Fishermen's Terminal, Seattle

Crab Modeling Workshop:
January 13-15, 2015 – AFSC,
Seattle

Crab Plan Team: January 16,
2015 – AFSC, Seattle

Salmon Bycatch Outreach:
January 20, Nome, AK

Scallop Plan Team: TBD,
tentatively late January

Ecosystem Committee: TBD,
tentatively early March

Comment Opens for BSAI Crab C Share Eligibility

Comment is open on Amendment 31, which would temporarily expand the eligibility requirements for individuals wishing to acquire C share Quota Share by transfer; establish minimum participation requirements for C share QS holders to be eligible to receive an annual allocation of Individual Fishing Quota; to retain their C share QS and establish an administrative process for revocation if he or she fails to satisfy the minimum participation requirements; establish a regulatory mechanism to ensure that three percent of the total allowable catch for each CR Program crab fishery is allocated as IFQ to holders of C share QS; and remove the prohibition on leasing C share IFQ. Submit comments by: *Electronic Submission:* www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2010-0265, click the "Comment Now!" icon OR *Mail:* Sustainable Fisheries Division, ATTN: Ellen Sebastian; Alaska Region NMFS P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668. Deadline is Feb 13.

Bering Sea Halibut Bycatch

During the course of the meeting, the Council had reports, testimony, and discussion about levels of halibut bycatch in the Bering Sea in 2014, and the interaction between bycatch levels and harvest allocations for the 2015 directed halibut fisheries. A motion for emergency action failed on a tied vote. In February, the Council will be reviewing an analysis to reduce PSC limits for halibut in BSAI groundfish fisheries, and will hear reports from industry sectors about the extent to which they have achieved the 10% reduction in BSAI halibut PSC use (from average usage over 2009-2013), which they were requested to voluntarily undertake in 2014-2015. The Council will also be meeting jointly with the IPHC to discuss halibut PSC limits, total mortality accounting for halibut, avenues for coordinated bycatch reduction (including incentives in the GOA and BSAI), and reconciliation of bycatch estimation between NMFS and IPHC areas and fisheries. Additionally, the Council heard from the trawl industry about the potential to accelerate deck sorting proposals designed to minimize the mortality associated with halibut bycatch in the trawl fisheries, in an effort to get a program in place for 2015. The Council supports industry efforts to reduce bycatch through all available means.

Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch

The Council took initial review of an analysis to modify bycatch management in the Bering Sea pollock fishery for Chinook and chum salmon. The analysis summarized the impacts of broad management measures, including combined management measures for Chinook and chum salmon under pollock industry-run incentive plan agreements (IPAs), modifications to pollock seasons, modifications to management for Chinook under the IPAs, and a lower benchmark (performance standard) for Chinook bycatch under conditions of low western Alaska Chinook abundance. The Council has noted that while current bycatch levels for Chinook salmon are low compared to historical levels, there may be an opportunity for improvement in both vessel behavior and overall bycatch levels, particularly in light of the continued extremely poor stock status of Chinook salmon in western Alaska.

The analysis indicated that moving chum salmon into IPA management would likely be beneficial and provide for more comprehensive management of both species. Measures to incrementally create more stringent incentives within the IPAs for Chinook salmon were expected to be successful in reducing some additional Chinook salmon bycatch, although the actual savings would be contingent on the magnitude of the incentives and vessel-level responses. Measures to modify the pollock B- season were also expected to result in savings of Chinook salmon as they reduced the need to fish in September and October when Chinook bycatch rates are highest, however this could increase chum salmon bycatch incrementally as well as result in the potential for forgone pollock harvest, particularly at the vessel-level. Reducing the performance standard to which the IPAs are evaluated annually was expected to result in some bycatch reduction dependent upon the magnitude of the reduction and the response by IPAs overall and vessel-level behavior. Under all of the alternatives evaluated, the magnitude of the reduction in bycatch was difficult to estimate given the need to better understand the relative constraints and increased incentives created by modifying current management measures.

The Council heard public testimony from western Alaska in-river salmon users regarding the restrictions they have faced in harvesting salmon in-season in an attempt to conserve Chinook

salmon. The Council also heard from the pollock industry on their continued efforts to reduce bycatch and impose more stringent management measures on their participants voluntarily. The industry provided specific information for analysis of proposed modifications to their programs to meet the Council's intent. The pollock industry also indicated that a better approach to reducing B-season Chinook bycatch may be to shift some of the available quota to the winter ('A') season in order to avoid harvesting pollock at the latter part of the summer fishery when Chinook bycatch rates are higher.

After considerable discussion and deliberation, the Council modified the alternatives under consideration. Two major changes include:

- 1) Modification of the seasonal apportionment of pollock TAC from A to B season. Options included shifting 5-10% of the B-season quota into the A-season.
- 2) Reducing both the performance standard and the overall PSC limit (60,000 hard cap) by the same percentage reductions (25-60%) in times of low western Alaska Chinook abundance.

The Council is scheduled for final action at the April 2015 meeting. The Council will be engaging in outreach efforts to western Alaskan communities in February and March 2015 to provide information regarding the management measures under consideration, the timeline for action, and to provide a greater opportunity for rural residents to submit public comment. A schedule is under development and will include a statewide teleconference to explain the Council action, timing and schedule and answer questions from the public as well as targeted outreach meetings to various western Alaskan communities. These meetings will be integrated into specific Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (RAC) meetings where possible. Participation at meetings with additional western Alaskan organizations will be considered as timing and scheduling allows. Council members and Council staff will participate in these meetings, and documentation will be made available to the public and the Council prior to final action. A schedule and overview of outreach efforts for this action will be posted to the Council website soon. The full Council motion including the purpose and need and the alternatives being considered is available on the Council's website. A revised public review draft of the analysis will be available in mid-March. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Council adopted TACs, OFLs and ABCs (metric tons) for GOA Groundfish, 2015-2016

Species	Area	2014			Catch as of 11/8/14	2015			2016		
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock ^{a/}	W (61)	n/a	36,070	36,070	13,318	n/a	31,634	31,634	n/a	41,472	41,472
	C (62)	n/a	81,784	81,784	83,049	n/a	97,579	97,579	n/a	127,936	127,936
	C (63)	n/a	39,756	39,756	42,068	n/a	52,594	52,594	n/a	68,958	68,958
	WYAK	n/a	4,741	4,741	1,317	n/a	4,719	4,719	n/a	6,187	6,187
	Subtotal	211,998	162,351	162,351	139,752	256,545	191,309	186,526	321,067	250,824	244,553
	EYAK/SEO	16,833	12,625	12,625	1	16,833	12,625	12,625	16,833	12,625	12,625
	Total	228,831	174,976	174,976	139,753	273,378	203,934	199,151	337,900	263,449	257,178
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	32,745	22,922	20,910	n/a	38,702	27,091	n/a	38,702	27,091
	C	n/a	53,100	39,825	38,429	n/a	61,320	45,990	n/a	61,320	45,990
	E	n/a	2,655	1,991	294	n/a	2,828	2,121	n/a	2,828	2,121
	Total	107,300	88,500	64,738	59,633	140,300	102,850	75,202	133,100	102,850	75,202
Sablefish	W	n/a	1,480	1,480	1,195	n/a	1,474	1,474	n/a	1,338	1,338
	C	n/a	4,681	4,681	4,706	n/a	4,658	4,658	n/a	4,232	4,232
	WYAK	n/a	1,716	1,716	1,655	n/a	1,708	1,708	n/a	1,552	1,552
	SEO	n/a	2,695	2,695	2,819	n/a	2,682	2,682	n/a	2,436	2,436
	Total	12,500	10,572	10,572	10,375	12,425	10,522	10,522	11,293	9,558	9,558
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	20,376	13,250	243	n/a	22,074	13,250	n/a	19,577	13,250
	C	n/a	17,813	17,813	4,144	n/a	19,297	19,297	n/a	17,114	17,114
	WYAK	n/a	2,039	2,039	1	n/a	2,209	2,209	n/a	1,959	1,959
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	577	577	1	n/a	625	625	n/a	554	554
	Total	50,007	40,805	33,679	4,389	54,207	44,205	35,381	48,407	39,204	32,877
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	302	302	68	n/a	301	301	n/a	299	299
	C	n/a	3,727	3,727	271	n/a	3,689	3,689	n/a	3,645	3,645
	WYAK	n/a	5,532	5,532	5	n/a	5,474	5,474	n/a	5,409	5,409
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	3,911	3,911	4	n/a	3,870	3,870	n/a	3,824	3,824
	Total	16,159	13,472	13,472	348	15,993	13,334	13,334	15,803	13,177	13,177
Rex Sole	W	n/a	1,270	1,270	124	n/a	1,258	1,258	n/a	1,234	1,234
	C	n/a	6,231	6,231	3,382	n/a	5,816	5,816	n/a	5,707	5,707
	WYAK	n/a	813	813	1	n/a	772	772	n/a	758	758
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,027	1,027	-	n/a	1,304	1,304	n/a	1,280	1,280
	Total	12,207	9,341	9,341	3,507	11,957	9,150	9,150	11,733	8,979	8,979
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	31,142	14,500	1,875	n/a	30,752	14,500	n/a	29,545	14,500
	C	n/a	115,612	75,000	33,085	n/a	114,170	75,000	n/a	109,692	75,000
	WYAK	n/a	37,232	6,900	50	n/a	36,771	6,900	n/a	35,328	6,900
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	11,372	6,900	16	n/a	11,228	6,900	n/a	10,787	6,900
	Total	229,248	195,358	103,300	35,026	226,390	192,921	103,300	217,522	185,352	103,300
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	12,730	8,650	212	n/a	12,767	8,650	n/a	12,776	8,650
	C	n/a	24,805	15,400	2,284	n/a	24,876	15,400	n/a	24,893	15,400
	WYAK	n/a	3,525	3,525	1	n/a	3,535	3,535	n/a	3,538	3,538
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	171	171	-	n/a	171	171	n/a	171	171
	Total	50,664	41,231	27,746	2,497	50,792	41,349	27,756	50,818	41,378	27,759

a/ 2015-2016 W/C/WYAK Subarea amounts for pollock are apportionments of subarea ACL that allow for regulatory reapportionment.

b/ Note 1 mt moved from the northern rockfish stock EGOA allocation to EGOA "other rockfish" category.

Council adopted TACs, OFLs and ABCs (metric tons) for GOA Groundfish, 2015-2016

Species	Area	2014			Catch as of 11/8/14	2015			2016		
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pacific Ocean Perch	W		2,399	2,399	2,063		2,302	2,302		2,358	2,358
	C		12,855	12,855	13,434		15,873	15,873		16,184	16,184
	WYAK		1,931	1,931	1,871		2,014	2,014		2,055	2,055
	W/C/WYAK	19,864			17,368	23,406	20,189	20,189	23,876	20,597	20,597
	SEO	2,455	2,124	2,124	-	954	823	823	973	839	839
	E(subtotal)				1,880		2,837	2,837		2,894	2,894
Total		22,319	19,309	19,309	17,368	24,360	21,012	21,012	24,849	21,436	21,436
Northern Rockfish ^{a/}	W	n/a	1,305	1,305	802	n/a	1,226	1,226	n/a	1,158	1,158
	C	n/a	4,017	4,017	3,410	n/a	3,772	3,772	n/a	3,563	3,563
	E	n/a	-	-	-	n/a	-	-	n/a	-	-
	Total	6,349	5,322	5,322	4,212	5,961	4,998	4,998	5,631	4,721	4,721
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	92	92	73	n/a	92	92	n/a	92	92
	C	n/a	397	397	323	n/a	397	397	n/a	397	397
	E	n/a	834	834	253	n/a	834	834	n/a	834	834
	Total	1,764	1,323	1,323	649	1,764	1,323	1,323	1,764	1,323	1,323
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	317	317	134	n/a	296	296	n/a	273	273
	C	n/a	3,584	3,584	2,825	n/a	3,336	3,336	n/a	3,077	3,077
	WYAK	n/a	1,384	1,384	87	n/a	1,288	1,288	n/a	1,187	1,187
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	201	201	4	n/a	189	189	n/a	174	174
	Total	6,708	5,486	5,486	3,050	6,246	5,109	5,109	5,759	4,711	4,711
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	82	82	25	n/a	115	115	n/a	117	117
	C	n/a	864	864	536	n/a	632	632	n/a	643	643
	E	n/a	298	298	172	n/a	375	375	n/a	382	382
	Total	1,497	1,244	1,244	733	1,345	1,122	1,122	1,370	1,142	1,142
Demersal shelf rockfish	Total	438	274	274	104	361	225	225	361	225	225
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	235	235	237	n/a	235	235	n/a	235	235
	C	n/a	875	875	666	n/a	875	875	n/a	875	875
	E	n/a	731	731	218	n/a	731	731	n/a	731	731
	Total	2,454	1,841	1,841	1,121	2,454	1,841	1,841	2,454	1,841	1,841
Other Rockfish ^{b/} (Other slope)	WGOA & CGOA	n/a	-	-	-	n/a	-	-	n/a	-	-
	WYAK	n/a	1,031	1,031	940	n/a	1,031	1,031	n/a	1,031	1,031
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	580	580	53	n/a	580	580	n/a	580	580
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,470	200	37	n/a	2,469	200	n/a	2,469	200
	Total	5,347	4,081	1,811	1,030	5,347	4,080	1,811	5,347	4,080	1,811
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	2,000	981	6,200	4,700	2,000	6,200	4,700	2,000
Big Skate	W	n/a	589	589	135	n/a	731	731	n/a	731	731
	C	n/a	1,532	1,532	1,150	n/a	1,257	1,257	n/a	1,257	1,257
	E	n/a	1,641	1,641	94	n/a	1,267	1,267	n/a	1,267	1,267
	Total	5,016	3,762	3,762	1,379	4,340	3,255	3,255	4,340	3,255	3,255
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	107	107	51	n/a	152	152	n/a	152	152
	C	n/a	1,935	1,935	1,031	n/a	2,090	2,090	n/a	2,090	2,090
	E	n/a	834	834	336	n/a	976	976	n/a	976	976
	Total	3,835	2,876	2,876	1,418	4,291	3,218	3,218	4,291	3,218	3,218
Other Skates	Total	2,652	1,989	1,989	1,559	2,980	2,235	2,235	2,980	2,235	2,235
Sculpins	GOA-wide	7,448	5,569	5,569	1,075	7,448	5,569	5,569	7,448	5,569	5,569
Sharks	GOA-wide	7,986	5,989	5,989	1,188	7,986	5,989	5,989	7,986	5,989	5,989
Squids	GOA-wide	1,530	1,148	1,148	92	1,530	1,148	1,148	1,530	1,148	1,148
Octopuses	GOA-wide	2,009	1,507	1,507	1,057	2,009	1,507	1,507	2,009	1,507	1,507
Total		790,468	640,675	499,274	292,544	870,064	685,597	536,158	910,895	731,049	590,161

a/ 2015-2016 W/C/WYAK Subarea amounts for pollock are apportionments of subarea ACL that allow for regulatory reapportionment.

b/ Note 1 mt moved from the northern rockfish stock EGOA allocation to EGOA "other rockfish" category.

OFL, ABC and TAC for 2015 and 2016 (12.13.2014)											
Species	Area	2014				2015			2016		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch 11/29	OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	EBS	2,795,000	1,369,000	1,267,000	1,296,337	3,330,000	1,637,000	1,310,000	3,490,000	1,554,000	1,310,000
	AI	42,811	35,048	19,000	2,375	36,005	29,659	19,000	38,699	31,900	19,000
	Bogoslof	13,413	10,059	75	427	21,200	15,900	100	21,200	15,900	100
Pacific cod	BS	299,000	255,000	246,897	218,759	346,000	255,000	240,000	389,000	255,000	240,000
	AI	20,100	15,100	6,997	6,145	23,400	17,600	9,422	23,400	17,600	9,422
Sablefish	BS	1,584	1,339	1,339	314	1,575	1,333	1,333	1,431	1,211	1,211
	AI	2,141	1,811	1,811	818	2,128	1,802	1,802	1,934	1,637	1,637
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	259,700	239,800	184,000	152,742	266,400	248,800	149,000	262,900	245,500	149,000
Greenland turbot	BSAI	2,647	2,124	2,124	1,655	3,903	3,172	2,648	6,453	5,248	2,648
	BS	n/a	1,659	1,659	1,478	n/a	2,448	2,448	n/a	4,050	2,448
	AI	n/a	465	465	177	n/a	724	200	n/a	1,198	200
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	125,642	106,599	25,000	18,926	93,856	80,547	22,000	91,663	78,661	22,000
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	8,270	7,100	7,100	6,441	10,500	9,000	6,500	11,000	9,500	6,500
Northern rock sole	BSAI	228,700	203,800	85,000	51,793	187,600	181,700	69,250	170,100	164,800	69,250
Flathead sole	BSAI	79,633	66,293	24,500	16,261	79,419	66,130	24,250	76,504	63,711	24,250
Alaska plaice	BSAI	66,800	55,100	24,500	19,320	54,000	44,900	18,500	51,600	42,900	18,500
Other flatfish	BSAI	16,700	12,400	2,650	4,397	17,700	13,250	3,620	17,700	13,250	3,620
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	39,585	33,122	33,122	32,379	42,558	34,988	32,021	40,809	33,550	31,991
	BS	n/a	7,684	7,684	7,435	n/a	8,771	8,021	n/a	8,411	8,021
	EAI	n/a	9,246	9,246	9,021	n/a	8,312	8,000	n/a	7,970	7,970
	CAI	n/a	6,594	6,594	6,438	n/a	7,723	7,000	n/a	7,406	7,000
	WAI	n/a	9,598	9,598	9,485	n/a	10,182	9,000	n/a	9,763	9,000
Northern rockfish	BSAI	12,077	9,761	2,594	2,346	15,337	12,488	3,250	15,100	12,295	3,250
Blackspotted/Rougeye rockfish	BSAI	505	416	416	196	560	453	349	688	555	349
	EBS/EAI	n/a	177	177	98	n/a	149	149	n/a	178	149
	CAI/WAI	n/a	239	239	98	n/a	304	200	n/a	377	200
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	493	370	370	196	690	518	250	690	518	250
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,550	1,163	773	936	1,667	1,250	880	1,667	1,250	880
	BS	n/a	690	300	319	n/a	695	325	n/a	695	325
	AI	n/a	473	473	617	n/a	555	555	n/a	555	555
Atka mackerel	BSAI	74,492	64,131	32,322	30,946	125,297	106,000	54,500	115,908	98,137	54,817
	EAI/BS	n/a	21,652	21,652	21,184	n/a	38,492	27,000	n/a	35,637	27,317
	CAI	n/a	20,574	9,670	9,520	n/a	33,108	17,000	n/a	30,652	17,000
	WAI	n/a	21,905	1,000	242	n/a	34,400	10,500	n/a	31,848	10,500
Skates	BSAI	41,849	35,383	26,000	25,990	49,575	41,658	25,700	47,035	39,468	25,700
Sculpins	BSAI	56,424	42,318	5,750	4,720	52,365	39,725	4,700	52,365	39,725	4,700
Sharks	BSAI	1,363	1,022	125	130	1,363	1,022	125	1,363	1,022	125
Squids	BSAI	2,624	1,970	310	1,678	2,624	1,970	400	2,624	1,970	400
Octopuses	BSAI	3,450	2,590	225	400	3,452	2,589	400	3,452	2,589	400
Total	BSAI	4,196,553	2,572,819	2,000,000	1,896,627	4,769,174	2,848,454	2,000,000	4,935,285	2,731,897	2,000,000

Final 2014 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs from 2014-2015 final harvest specifications, as revised; total catch updated through November 29, 2014.

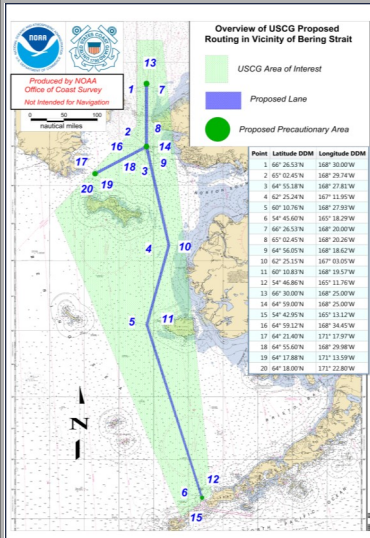
Final 2015 - 2016 OFLs and ABCs from November Plan Team results



Arctic Port Access Route Study (PARS)

PROPOSED VESSEL ROUTE

Coast Guard Solicits Comments



(full size on reverse)

On 05 December 2014 the Coast Guard opened a 6 month comment period on a Port Access Route Study (PARS) which originally started in 2010. The Coast Guard is conducting this study, in part, to devise ways to make commercial vessel traffic between the Arctic and Unimak Pass safer anticipating a potential increase in the amount of traffic. Based on comments received in 2010 the Coast Guard has developed a potential vessel routing system for the area. The routing measures consist of a series of 4 nautical mile wide, two-way routes coupled with precautionary areas at junction points.

The proposed routing measures are voluntary for all vessels and fishing is not prohibited within the two-way route. Vessels engaged in fishing that choose to operate within the route would be expected to operate in accordance with the Navigation Rules and not impede the passage of other vessels that are transiting via the shipping lane.

As a major user of the waterway, the Coast Guard is very interested in comments from the commercial fishing industry on this proposed route.

In development of the routing system the Coast Guard has taken into account some of the known high density fishing areas. For example, the proposed route is well to the east of the 100 fathom curve in the Bering Sea and well to the west of the Red King Crab Savings Area in Bristol Bay. Also considered were the Habitat Conservation Areas along this shipping corridor and other environmentally or ecologically important areas.

This proposed route closely mirrors current traffic patterns for traffic between Unimak Pass and the Bering Strait. If the Bering Strait commercial vessel traffic increases, we anticipate this proposed route will minimize disruptions to commercial fishing vessels because we expect commercial cargo vessels will choose to follow published and charted shipping lanes.

Goals of Arctic PARS

- Reduce Impact on Environment
- Reduce Maritime Accidents
- Reduce Oil Spills
- Reduce Marine Mammal Strikes
- Increase Safety on Waterway.
- Increase Navigation Predictability
- Increase Efficiency of Waterway

FULL DETAILS

All comments received to date and a chart showing the proposed two-way route can be downloaded from:

<http://www.regulations.gov>

Type "USCG-2014-0941" into search bar, and press "search".

Click "Open Docket Folder".

All comments and associated documents will be displayed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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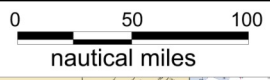
Mr. David Seris

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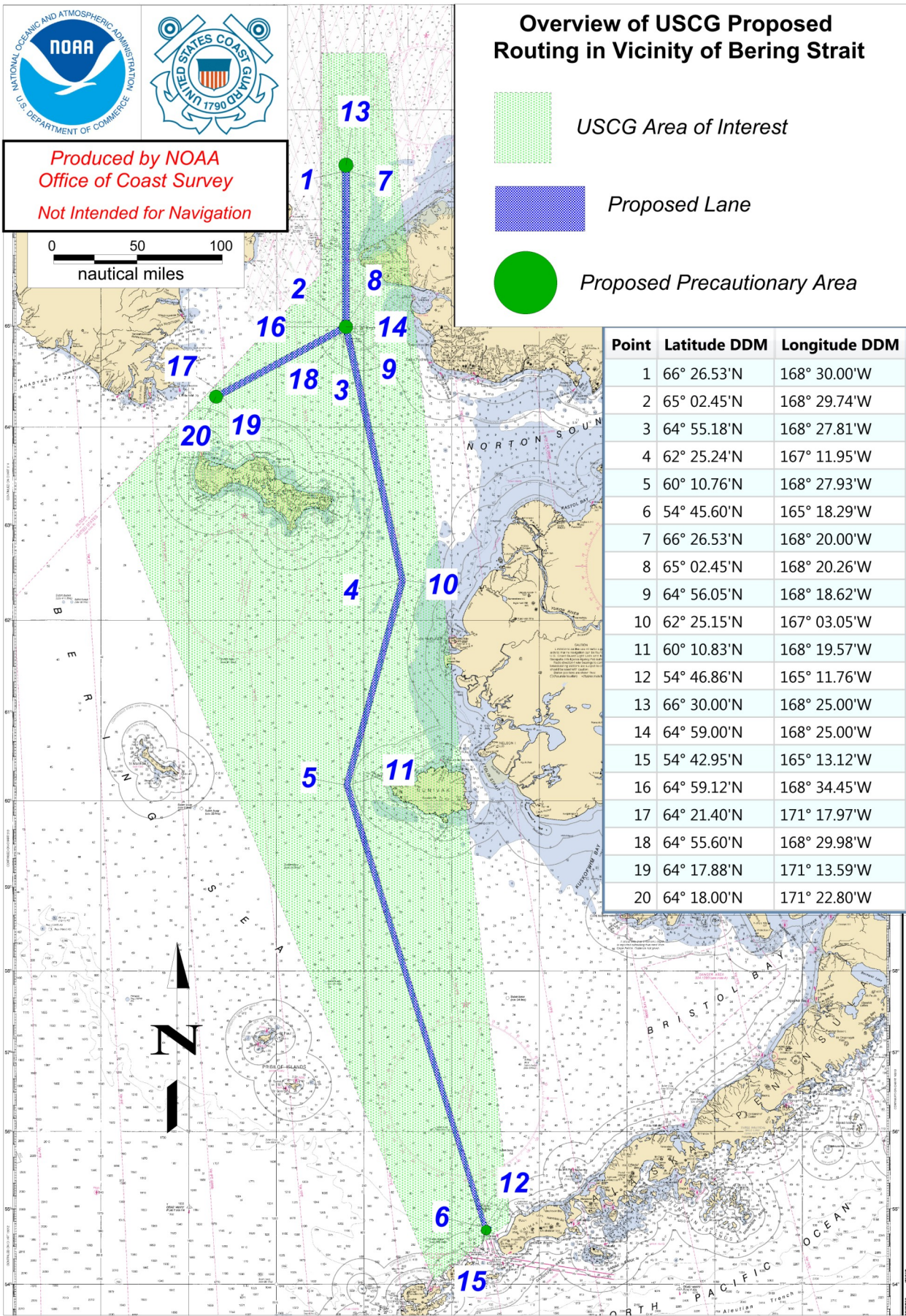


Produced by NOAA
Office of Coast Survey
Not Intended for Navigation



Overview of USCG Proposed Routing in Vicinity of Bering Strait

-  USCG Area of Interest
-  Proposed Lane
-  Proposed Precautionary Area



Point	Latitude DDM	Longitude DDM
1	66° 26.53'N	168° 30.00'W
2	65° 02.45'N	168° 29.74'W
3	64° 55.18'N	168° 27.81'W
4	62° 25.24'N	167° 11.95'W
5	60° 10.76'N	168° 27.93'W
6	54° 45.60'N	165° 18.29'W
7	66° 26.53'N	168° 20.00'W
8	65° 02.45'N	168° 20.26'W
9	64° 56.05'N	168° 18.62'W
10	62° 25.15'N	167° 03.05'W
11	60° 10.83'N	168° 19.57'W
12	54° 46.86'N	165° 11.76'W
13	66° 30.00'N	168° 25.00'W
14	64° 59.00'N	168° 25.00'W
15	54° 42.95'N	165° 13.12'W
16	64° 59.12'N	168° 34.45'W
17	64° 21.40'N	171° 17.97'W
18	64° 55.60'N	168° 29.98'W
19	64° 17.88'N	171° 13.59'W
20	64° 18.00'N	171° 22.80'W