

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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**SPECIAL NOTICE**

Please note the *NEW* Council office mailing address above. We will *NOT* be renewing our Post Office box after December 31, 1995, so please adjust your records accordingly.

#5-95NEWSLETTER12/18/95

## December Council Meeting Yields Harvest Quotas and More

The Council met in Anchorage on December 5-10. Among the issues addressed were: setting of 1996 catch quotas for groundfish; resolution of the North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan and the future direction of the Observer Program; direction on initiating a reduction of waste and discards; and, announcement of SSC and AP members for 1996. A draft agenda for the January 1996 meeting (week of January 10-14) is attached.

## Scientific and Statistical Committee Appointments

One new appointment to the SSC was confirmed at the December meeting. Appointed to his first term on the SSC is *Dr. Jim Balsiger* with the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle. He will replace Dr. William Aron who is retiring at the end of 1995. Since 1980, Dr. Aron has contributed a great deal of time, guidance and knowledge to the management of our fishery resources, and will surely be missed. The following eleven members of the SSC were reappointed for 1996:

- Keith Criddle—UAF, Dept of Economics
- Douglas Eggers—ADF&G, Juneau
- Susan Hills—UAF, School of Fisheries & Science
- Douglas Larson—UC Davis, Dept Agricultural Economics
- Richard Marasco—Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NMFS
- Marc Miller—UW, School of Marine Affairs
- Terrence Quinn II—UA, Juneau Center for Ocean Sciences
- Phil Rigby—ADF&G, Juneau
- Jack Tagart—DFW, Fish Mgmt., Marine Resources Div.
- Albert Tyler—UAF, School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences
- Hal Weeks—Oregon, Dept of Fish & Wildlife

## BSAI Team Gets New Member

The Council is pleased to announce the addition of *Dr. Josh Greenberg* to the Bering Sea/



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Aleutian Islands crab plan team. Dr. Greenberg is a faculty member of the University of Alaska - Fairbanks with a PhD in Resource Economics from Washington State University. At UAF, he specializes in the economics of the crab fisheries of Alaska and is a recognized expert on world crab markets.

### 1996 Advisory Panel Appointments Announced

Four new members have been appointed to the Council's Advisory Panel for 1996:

<i>Craig Cross</i>	Commercial Fisherman
<i>Kris Fanning</i>	Commercial Crab Fisherman
<i>Justine Gundersen</i>	Commercial/Subsistence Fisher
<i>John Lewis</i>	Sportfishing Representative



The following eighteen Advisory Panel members were reappointed for the coming year:

Ragnar Alstrom	Commercial Fisherman
John Bruce	Deep Sea Fishermen's Union
Dave Benson	Tyson Seafoods Group
Al Burch	Alaska Dragger's Association
Bruce Cotton	Long John Silvers, Inc.
Dan Falvey	Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association
David Fraser	Commercial Fisherman
Arne Fuglvog	Commercial Fisherman
Scott Highleyman	Environmental Community
Spike Jones	Commercial Fisherman
Stephanie Madsen	Aleutian Logistics
Pete Maloney	UNISEA
Hazel Nelson	Bristol Bay Economic Development Corp.
Dean Paddock	Bristol Bay Driftnetter's Association
John Roos	Pacific Seafood Processors Association
John Sevier	Alaska Pacific Seafoods
Robert Wurm	Kodiak Vessel Owners Association
Lyle Yeck	Commercial Fisherman



### Council Announces New Appointments to the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee

The Council appointed six new members to the PNCIAC for the 1996-1997 term, as follows:

Phil Hanson	Vice President of Operations, UniSea, Inc.
Gary Painter	Commercial crab fisherman
Rob Rogers	General Manager Floating Production, Icicle Seafoods
Gary Stewart	Commercial crab fisherman
Clyde Sterling	Vice President Peninsula Operations, Peter Pan Seafoods, Inc.
Joseph Wabey	Commercial crab fisherman

The Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) was formed by the Council to provide the Bering Sea crab industry from the Pacific Northwest access to the Alaska regulatory process, similar to that of Alaskan residents. The committee meets several times a year to review proposed changes in crab fishery regulations.

Other PNCIAC committee members reappointed to 2-year terms include:

Dave Benson	Tyson Seafoods Group
Kevin Kaldestad	Kaldestad Fisheries
Garry M. Loncon	Royal Aleutian Seafoods, Inc.
Robert Miller	Cascade Boat Company
Arni Thomson	Alaska Crab Coalition

### **Observer Program**

The Council resolved the future direction of the observer program by repealing the fee-based North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan (Research Plan), and proceeding with development of a modified pay-as-you-go program. Under the modified plan, fishing operations required to carry observers would continue to pay directly for those observers, but would do so through a third-party umbrella organization which would provide an interface between fishing operations and the independent observer contracting companies. This structure is designed to alleviate any conflict of interest concerns by creating an "arms length" relationship between the observer contracting companies and the fishing operations. NMFS would still retain certain critical functions of the program, including debriefing and use of the data collected for management of the fisheries. This new structure for the Observer Program will not be in place until at least 1997; for 1996 the existing observer coverage requirements will remain in place, with fishing operations contracting directly with independent observer contracting companies for their observers.

Between now and April 1996, agency and Council staff will develop the appropriate analyses and plan amendments to implement the modified program. This program will likely necessitate issuance of a competitive procurement by NMFS for selection of the third-party umbrella organization (or Prime Contractor). Included in the Council's action is the formation of an Observer Advisory Committee (OAC) to assist in development of the specifics of this program. As part of this overall action, the Council specifically requested that the modified pay-as-you-go program also address other issues raised during the last several months of discussions, including:

- (1) Compensation and insurance packages for observers.
- (2) Consistent mechanisms to provide observers for State of Alaska managed crab fisheries to ensure compatibility between the crab and groundfish observer programs.
- (3) Options to defray costs to vessel owners who would pay an unreasonably high proportion of their gross catch value for direct observer coverage. Options would include: a fleet-wide surcharge on observer coverage; observer pooling for vessels in this group; and, adjustment of coverage levels for vessels in this group.

The Council's action also includes initiation of the steps necessary to terminate the 1995 fee collection program and to refund the fees collected to date. Council staff contact person is Chris Oliver.

### **Improved Retention and Utilization**

At this meeting, the Council reviewed an analytical outline from staff which focused on the BSAI pollock and Rock sole fisheries as a starting point for the Council's improved retention and utilization initiative. The Council adopted for public review the following draft problem statement:

## Draft Problem Statement for Improved Retention/Utilization

In managing the fisheries under its jurisdiction, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is committed to: (1) assuring the long-term health and productivity of fish stocks and other living marine resources of the North Pacific and Bering Sea ecosystem; and (2) reducing bycatch, minimizing waste, and improving utilization of fish resources in order to provide the maximum benefit to present and future generations of fishermen, associated fishing industry sectors, communities, consumers, and the nation as a whole. These commitments are also reflected in the Council's CRP problem statement.

The Council's overriding concern is to maintain the health of the marine ecosystem to ensure the long-term conservation and abundance of the groundfish and crab resources. As a response to this concern, a program to promote improved utilization and effective control/reduction of bycatch and discards in the fisheries off Alaska should address the following problems:

1. Bycatch and discard loss of groundfish, crab, herring, salmon, and other non-target species.
2. Economic loss and waste associated with the discard mortality of target species harvested but not retained for economic reasons.
3. Inability to provide for a long-term, stable fisheries-based economy due to loss of fishery resources through wasteful fishing practices.
4. The need to promote improved retention and utilization of fish resources by reducing waste of target groundfish species to achieve long-term sustainable economic benefits to the nation.

The Council then directed staff to continue analysis, with the inclusion of the BSAI Pacific cod and yellowfin sole fisheries. Options to be evaluated would pertain to all gear types and will include:

1. Requiring full retention of the target species only, in these four fisheries.
2. Require full retention of all four species when engaged in fishing for any of the four species, and
3. Require full retention of these four species when involved in any BSAI groundfish fishery.

The Council also addressed the utilization aspect of this proposal, and included the following options to be analyzed:

1. Species may be processed into any form (meal for example), whether or not fit for human consumption.
2. Species must be processed into human consumptive form; options for minimum percentage are 50%, 70%, and 90%.
3. Reduction to meal is limited to a maximum rate of 50%, 30%, or 10%.

In conjunction with the alternatives shown above, the analysis will examine options for allowing limited processing by catcher vessels (under the Council approved License Limitation program, license designations would prohibit catcher vessels from any processing at sea). Options for this limited processing allowance include processing of bycatch amounts, processing of some levels of species for which restricted market opportunities

exist, and processing of up to 5 mt round weight per day for vessels under 60' and up to 18 mt per day for vessels greater than 60'. The target date for completion of the analysis, and review by the Council, is June 1996.

A committee of industry representatives and technical experts will be appointed by the Council Chairman to assist in the development of this program, including both the retention and utilization aspects of the proposal. Broad representation from major industry sectors will be sought, along with persons who have technical expertise in vessel and processing engineering. A first meeting of this committee is tentatively scheduled to occur in conjunction with the January 1996 Council meeting in Anchorage. If there is a delay in finalizing appointments to the committee, there at least will be an industry meeting, exact time to be announced, also in conjunction with the January meeting. Interested parties should submit nominations to the Council Executive Director, Clarence Pautzke. Council staff contact person is David Witherell.

### Vessel Bycatch Accounts/VBAs

In September, the Council identified some type of system of individual accountability for PSC species bycatch as a high priority for staff analysis. In December, staff reported on the general structure planned for the analysis and a first cut at the alternatives, elements, and options which would be evaluated. The initial list of alternatives is based largely on a proposal received from United Catcher Boats (UCB) describing a program of Vessel Bycatch Accounting (VBA). These documents are available from the Council upon request. The Council deferred any action on this issue until the January 1996 meeting in Anchorage, where they will have more time to consider the alternatives and nature of the analysis. Council staff contact person is Chris Oliver.

### Sablefish and Halibut IFQ Program

At the December meeting, the Council approved the analysis for allowing QS to be used on vessels of the same size class or smaller ("buydown" proposal) for public review. This plan amendment addresses the need for increased flexibility of halibut and sablefish QS transfers for Category B, C, and D vessels, while maintaining the goals of the IFQ program and modified block amendment to limit consolidation, allow new entrants into the fishery, and protect coastal communities. Small boat fishermen have reported the scarcity of medium to large size blocks ( $\geq 5,000$  lb) in some areas and have requested that the Council enable them to purchase shares from QS holders in larger vessel size categories. Large vessel operators (Category B) have reported difficulties in utilizing or marketing small Category B blocks and have requested the opportunity to downsize their operations or sell QS to owners of smaller vessels. Also, crewmen who purchase Category B or C shares will have access to a larger pool of vessels from which to harvest their shares while working on deck.

A final vote will be taken at the January meeting, when the Council will also be considering for initial review an increase in the 1994 block sweep-up levels of 1,000 lb for halibut and 3,000 lb for sablefish. Options for analysis include 3,000 and 5,000 lb for halibut, and 5,000 and 7,000 lb for sablefish.

In December, the Council also approved a catch sharing plan to framework a formula for apportioning Area 4 subarea halibut allocations. The Council approved the percentages listed in Table 1. These percentages will be applied to the overall Area 4 halibut quota determined by the International Pacific Halibut Commission in January. The Council designated the first 80,000 lb of quota above the 1995 Area 4 quota (5.92 million lb) to Area 4E. Any quota above 6 million lb will be allocated according to the percentages in Table 1. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

Table 1. Current allocation of halibut in Area 4.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Current Allocation</u>
4A	33
4B	39
4C	13
4D	13
4E	<u>2</u>
	100%



## Halibut Charter Management

Due to the press of Council business already in progress, the Council will delay consideration of halibut charter management. There will be a brief status report on the issue at the Joint Council/Board of Fish meeting on January 9, 1995, but the issue is not on the agenda for the Council's plenary session. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

## Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish Specifications

The Council adopted final groundfish specifications for the 1996 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish fisheries, including Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), Total Allowable Catch (TAC), and Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits and apportionments. The Council recommendations for ABCs, TACs, and apportionments are listed in Table 2.

Groundfish abundance in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area remains relatively stable for most species. For 1996, the Council recommended a 1,190,000 mt TAC for Eastern Bering Sea pollock, a decrease of 60,000 mt from 1995. Of the TAC, 45% is allocated to the roe season ("A") and 55% to the non-roe season ("B"). As with last year, the "A" season will begin on January 20 for the inshore fleet and January 26 for the offshore fleet. The "B" season opening date, which has been August 15, will be reviewed by the Council at upcoming meetings to determine if a season delay (such as September 1) might be warranted. Changes could be in effect for the 1996 "B" season. The pollock TAC for the Aleutian Islands area is set at 35,600 mt, and 1,000 mt for the Bogoslof district (Area 518). The Council continues to recommend no directed fishing for pollock in the Bogoslof district. Based on a 7.5% allocation, the 1996 Community Development Quotas will be 89,250 mt for the Eastern Bering Sea and 2,670 mt for the Aleutian Islands areas.

The Council recommended a 270,000 mt TAC for Pacific cod, an increase of 20,000 mt from 1995. Under the allocations of Amendment 24, 2% of the TAC will be reserved for jig gear, 44% for fixed gear (longline and pot gear), and 54% for trawl gear. For the fixed gear seasonal apportionment of Pacific cod, the Council recommends that 80,000 mt be released the first trimester (January 1 - April 30), 18,000 mt for the second trimester (May 1 - August 31), and 2,980 mt for the third trimester. The remaining 17,820 mt of the fixed gear's allocation will be held in reserve. The Council passed a motion to prepare a regulatory amendment to provide that any C season for fixed gear cod in the BSAI commence on December 1 or be contiguous with the B season, with final action scheduled for the April meeting.

In most cases, recommended TACs for other groundfish are similar to last year. Notable exceptions include sablefish, Pacific ocean perch, and Atka mackerel. A decline in sablefish stock biomass and recruitment was indicated by surveys and observations by fishermen. Consequently, the recommended TAC for sablefish was reduced to 1,100 mt in the Bering Sea and 1,200 mt in the Aleutian Islands area. An increasing stock of Pacific ocean perch in the Aleutian Islands led to a higher catch limit (12,100 mt), which was apportioned among regulatory areas as a safeguard against localized depletion. Catch limits were also increased for Atka mackerel from 80,000 mt in 1995 to 106,157 mt in 1996.

Recommended apportionments of prohibited species catch limits for 1996 are listed in Table 3 (trawl fisheries) and Table 4 (non-trawl fisheries). The total PSC limit for herring (1,697 mt) is 1% of the estimated herring biomass in the eastern Bering Sea. Total PSC limits for other species are specified in regulations, but are seasonally apportioned among fisheries during the annual specification process (Table 3). One notable change for 1996 is the seasonal apportionment of red king crab and zone 1 Tanner crab for the yellowfin sole trawl fishery. Another major change is a recommendation for no PSC to be apportioned to directed trawl fisheries for turbot, sablefish, or arrowtooth flounder. This recommendation essentially prohibits directed fishing for these species with trawl gear. For the non-trawl halibut PSC apportionment, the Council recommended allocating more halibut to the Pacific cod fishery, particularly in the first trimester (Table 4). The Council again recommended

that pot gear, jig gear, and sablefish hook-and-line fisheries be exempt from the non-trawl PSC program for 1996. Staff contact is David Witherell.

### Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Specifications

The Council approved final 1996 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications, including Acceptable Biological Catches (ABCs), Total Allowable Catches (TACs), and Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits (Table 5). The specifications are based on the current stock assessments contained in the final Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE), as well as recommendations by the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan Team, Advisory Panel, and the Scientific and Statistical Committee.

Many of the quotas remain unchanged from 1995: deepwater flatfish, rex sole, flathead sole, shallow water flatfish, arrowtooth, shortraker/rougheye, northern rockfish, pelagic shelf rockfish, and Atka mackerel. The triennial Gulf of Alaska trawl survey will be conducted in 1996 and new stock assessments will be prepared for these species for 1997. The TAC for other slope rockfish was decreased to 2,020 mt for 1996. The TAC for Pacific ocean perch, which is calculated from the rebuilding plan, was increased from 5,630 to 6,959 mt. The Council approved a plan amendment to allow the Pacific ocean perch TAC to be set at or below the calculation from the rebuilding plan, but did not change the TAC for 1996.

New stock assessments for pollock, Pacific cod, sablefish, and thornyheads resulted in lowered TACs. The pollock ABC was reduced from 65,360 mt in 1995 to 52,700 mt for 1996. Increased pollock recruitment in the 1995 Shelikof Strait hydroacoustic survey and length frequency data from the 1990-95 surveys show the progression of the strong 1988 year class through the population. The 1995 survey also observed the largest year class of 1-year old fish (15% of the biomass) since the survey began. The average contribution of 1-year old fish had been less than 1%, so there is some preliminary evidence for future recovery of the stock.

The 1996 Pacific cod ABC and TAC were set at 65,000 mt, down from 69,200 mt in 1995. Stock abundance is declining below any level previously estimated (3% since last year) and recent recruitment levels appear to be below normal.

The 1996 thornyhead ABC was reduced to 1,560 mt from 1,900 mt in 1995. The primary reason for the reduced ABC was the incorporation of an increase in size at 50% maturity in the assessment model. The TAC was then set at 1,248 mt, 20% below the ABC, to give an additional buffer.

The 1996 sablefish ABC and TAC was set at 17,080 mt for 1996. The results of the sablefish longline survey indicated a reduction in 1996 biomass of 8% between 1994 and 1995. The ABC and TAC, however, were reduced 22% from last year, as indicated by a 10% decrease in the exploitation rate and a 1996 biomass level that was 14% lower than projected in the assessment.

With the advent of the 1995 ITQ fisheries, industry expressed concern over the possibility of longline survey results being affected by fishing operations just prior to and during sampling. Because of the importance of the survey index in determining ABC and understanding the dynamics of the sablefish stock, the sablefish longline fleet was asked to avoid the survey areas for a few days before the area was to be sampled. The survey encountered little longline activity in the Western and Central Gulf. Somewhat more activity was observed in the Eastern Gulf, in the Cape Spencer/Cross Sound area and the area off of Sitka. The survey also encountered trawl activity targeting fish on the slope in early July in the Chirikof area. For the most part, cooperation was good in 1995 and is expected to improve in the future.

The 1996 longline survey schedule has been modified to provide more opportunity for fishing activity to avoid the survey. The survey is scheduled to start earlier and be halfway through the Central Gulf before the July trawl opening, providing more area that has already been surveyed and need not be avoided. The survey would not

reach the West Yakutat area until about July 18, hopefully allowing the area to rest after a short rockfish opening. The survey is also scheduled to be as far south as the Sitka area before the traditional salmon troll closure around August 13, allowing more area for troller/longliners to fish north of the survey vessel.

A new assessment for demersal shelf rockfish increased the TAC from 580 mt in 1995 to 950 mt in 1996 and is based on results of the 1994 and 1995 line transect survey of yelloweye rockfish in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska. Increased estimates of density in the 1995 survey data are largely due to a change in survey equipment, ensuring that 100% of the fish were counted. Also, the 1994 density estimates from Northern Southeast Outside and Southern Southeast Outside areas were reanalyzed.

Last year, the GOA Groundfish Plan Team recommended separating black rockfish from the pelagic shelf rockfish assemblage, but the Council followed the SSC recommendation to postpone action until better scientific data were available to analyze the effects of species separation. Black rockfish have been targeted by a small boat jig fishery in the Central Gulf for several years, separate from the offshore trawl fisheries for rockfish using catcher-processor vessels. Black rockfish and dusky rockfish would be better managed separately because of their different habitat preferences. Currently, there is no constraint on the developing black rockfish jig fishery under the TAC based on high abundances of dusky rockfish in the trawl surveys. The longevity and slow growth of black rockfish make them particularly susceptible to overfishing.

This year, the Team recommended separating dusky rockfish from the assemblage because better data were available for calculating a separate ABC and overfishing level for this species. The Team recommended that the Council initiate a plan amendment to examine nearshore pelagic rockfish management. Alternatives could include: (1) separating black rockfish from the assemblage, remove it from the federal FMP, and turn its management over to the State of Alaska, and; (2) separate dusky rockfish from the assemblage and leave the remaining species under the FMP. The SSC did not support separating dusky for 1996, but did recommend that the Council proceed with the plan amendment. The Council will address this issue further at the joint Council /Board of Fisheries meeting on January 9. The joint meeting will also discuss other State groundfish management issues. ADF&G has proposed managing a State water fishery for pollock in Prince William Sound, and a Pacific cod fishery in Cook Inlet. ADF&G will also report on the demersal shelf rockfish license limitation program. The Council further requested NMFS to manage the shortraker/rougheye, thornyhead, and other slope rockfish fisheries on bycatch status.

The Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits for halibut in the Gulf of Alaska are set by gear type and may be apportioned seasonally over the fishing year. For 1996, the Council recommended PSC apportionments based on 1995 rates shown below for the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries. A regulatory amendment to exempt the IFQ sablefish fishery from the halibut PSC requirement was approved earlier this year, thereby lowering the hook and line PSC from 750 to 300 mt. The seasonal PSC caps for hook and line gear were revised from 1995, but still include 10 mt for demersal shelf rockfish fisheries in the Southeast Outside District. The exemption for pot gear from the halibut PSC limits is continued. Halibut discard mortality rates recommended by IPHC staff were also approved (Table 6). Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

<u>Trawl</u>		<u>Hook and Line</u>	
1st quarter	600 mt (30%)	1st trimester	250 mt (86%)
2nd quarter	400 mt (20%)	2nd trimester	15 mt ( 5%)
3rd quarter	600 mt (30%)	3rd trimester	25 mt ( 9%)
4th quarter	400 mt (20%)	DSR	10 mt
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,000 mt</b>		<b>300 mt</b>



<u>Season</u>	<u>Shallow Water</u>	<u>Deep Water</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jan 20 - Mar 31	500 mt	100 mt	600 mt
Mar 31 - Jun 30	100 mt	300 mt	400 mt
Jun 30 - Sep 30	200 mt	400 mt	600 mt
Sep 30 - Dec 31	no apportionment		400 mt
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>800 mt</b>	<b>800 mt</b>	<b>2,000 mt</b>

### Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Amendment Update

Pacific ocean perch rebuilding plan. A plan amendment to revise the rebuilding plan for POP was approved by the Council. This amendment allows the Council to specify a POP TAC *at or below* the amount dictated by the POP Rebuilding Plan. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

Gulf of Alaska pollock trimester allocations. The Council approved an analysis for public review at the December meeting to amend the groundfish FMP to framework greater flexibility in setting seasonal allowances of pollock TAC. The proposed action would combine the third and fourth quarterly allowances into a single release of 50 percent of the TAC on either September 15, or October 1. The first and second quarter allowances of 25 percent of the pollock TAC in the W/C Regulatory Area would remain unchanged. Please call Linda Roberts at the Council office to obtain a copy. An additional Council action to return to the original quarterly allocations, once TACs return to 80,000 mt or more, will proceed as a separate regulatory amendment. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

Directed Fishing Standards. Separate regulatory amendments were initiated to allow 0-5% bycatch of Pacific cod and pollock against arrowtooth flounder and to prohibit northern rockfish as bycatch for the shortraker/rougheye fishery.

### Pacific Cod Allocations in the BSAI

The existing allocations of Pacific cod by gear type in the BSAI (54% trawl, 44% fixed gear, and 2% to jig gear) are scheduled to sunset at the end of 1996. In order to keep these allocations in place beginning in 1997, the Council has initiated analyses for an FMP amendment which would extend the gear allocation through 1999. The Council added new alternatives to be examined for the percentage splits, so that the full list of options will include:

1. No Action (the allocations will expire at the end of 1996).
2. 54%/44%/2% and 44%/54%/2% - trawl/fixed gear/jig gear.
3. 59%/39%/2% and 39%/59%/2% - "
4. 69%/29%/2% and 29%/69%/2% - "

An analysis will be prepared for review by the Council at the April 1996 meeting with final action scheduled for June 1996. As part of this action, the Council also will examine a further split of the trawl gear allocation, between catcher vessels and catcher/processor vessels (60%/40% and vice-versa). This will be analyzed concurrently with the gear split, but likely on a separate timeline with initial review by the Council in June of 1996. The proposal also includes a discard disincentive provision which would reallocate a sector's discard in one year to the other sector's harvest limit the next year.

**Public Review Documents**

Three amendment analyses are available for public review: (1) an IFQ amendment for using large vessel QS on smaller vessels (buydown); (2) plan amendment for a Western/Central Gulf pollock trimester seasonal apportionment; and (3) a regulatory amendment for requiring grid-sorting by all factory trawlers and catcher vessels dumping groundfish directly to a stern tank before sorting. Contact the Council office for copies.

**Wake Up to Sleeper Sharks!**

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) is requesting help in obtaining samples from shark stomachs in the North Pacific, relative to their food habits and possible predation impacts on marine mammals. The attached information sheet summarizes the methods for collecting and storing stomachs, the information which should be recorded, and the delivery points for those samples.

**TENTATIVE Council Meeting Schedule through 1997**

	January (week of)	April (week of)	June (week of)	September (week of)	December (week of)
1996	8th/Anchorage	15th/Anchorage	10th/Portland*	16th/Sitka	9th/Anchorage
1997	6th/Anchorage	14th/Anchorage	16th/Kodiak	22nd/Seattle	8th/Anchorage

\* Changed from earlier published date - switched Portland meeting date from week of 17th to week of the 10th.



*Warmest wishes for a Happy Holiday season  
and a healthy and happy New Year!*

*North Pacific Fishery Management Council Staff*

*Gerson*      *Chris*      *Linda*      *Helen*  
*Jane*      *Marcus*      *Diane*      *Danell*      *Eric*

**REQUEST FOR SAMPLES TO EXAMINE THE FOOD HABITS OF SHARKS  
AND THEIR POSSIBLE PREDATION ON MARINE MAMMALS IN ALASKA**

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) would like to collect stomach contents and other data from sharks caught incidental to commercial fisheries in Alaska. This is a pilot project to explore the food habits of sharks in Alaska and their possible predation on marine mammals. Studies elsewhere suggest the possibility that sharks could be a significant predator on pinnipeds in Alaska. A 13-foot Pacific sleeper shark (*Somniosus pacificus*) was collected in Kachemak Bay in 1958. It contained parts of three harbor seals in its stomach. We are aware of no other such reports and we have no data pertaining to this question. Results from this pilot project will help determine if a research effort should go forward.

To collect the best possible food habits data, we prefer that shark stomachs be collected and frozen intact. Small food particles, many of which may be sufficient to identify prey species, can be lost easily if the stomachs are opened at sea. Stomachs should be removed as quickly as possible, tied off at both ends, placed in a plastic bag, and stored in a freezer. A tag, written in pencil, with the date and some means for identifying the stomach sample must be attached. **Do not sample stomachs from spiny dogfish. We are particularly interested in sharks greater than 8 feet in length.** To optimize the value of these samples, we would like to have as much of the following information as possible:

Vessel name (Optional)  
Date of capture  
Time of capture (if known)  
Latitude and longitude  
Type of fishing gear  
Depth of fishing gear - estimated depth of shark capture  
Target species of fishery  
Species of shark (see drawings on the reverse side)  
SEX (see drawings on the reverse side)  
Total length (snout to tip of tail - estimate if not landed)

Record the date, location, and as much other data as possible, including species and an estimate of overall length, of all sharks that are not landed. Frozen stomachs and data can be delivered to the following:

**Kodiak**


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National Marine  
Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 1638  
Kodiak, AK 99615  
(907) 487-5961

**Dutch Harbor**


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National Marine  
Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 638  
Dutch Harbor, AK  
99692  
(907) 581-2062

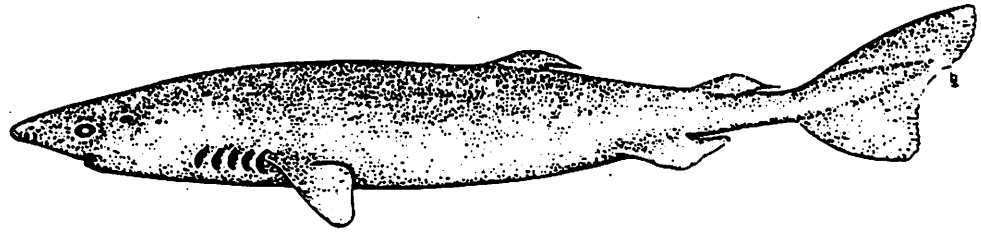
**Seattle**


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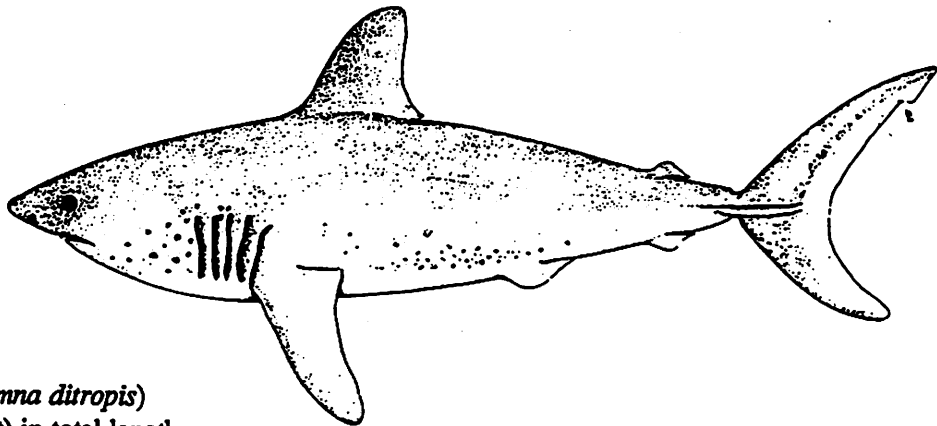
Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Bin C15700  
Seattle, Washington 98115-0070  
(206) 526-4000

Species of sharks most frequently encountered in Alaska waters.

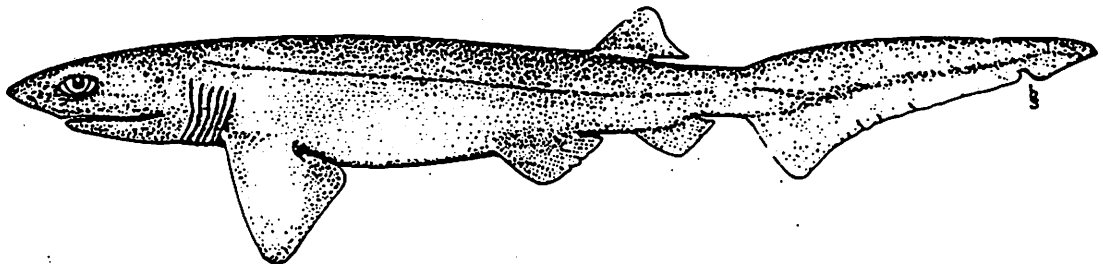
NOTE: Incidental catches of other species is possible



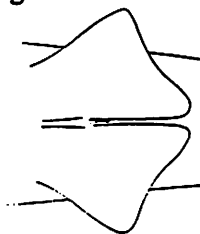
Pacific sleeper shark (*Somniosus pacificus*)  
may exceed 7.0 m (23 ft) in total length



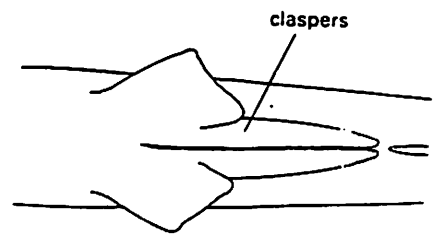
Salmon shark (*Lamna ditropis*)  
up to 3 m (10 ft) in total length



Sixgill or mud shark (*Hexanchus griseus*)  
may exceed 8 m (26 ft) in total length



pelvic fins, female (ventral view)



pelvic fins, male (ventral view)

Ventral view of pelvic fins, showing difference between males and females

**Table 2 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish  
Final 1996 Council Recommendations and Apportionments (mt)**

Species	Area	Biomass	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	EBS	6,672,000	1,460,000	1,190,000	1,190,000
	"A" season				45%
	"B" season				55%
	AI	142,505	47,000	35,600	35,600
	Bogoslof	1,100,000	121,000	121,000	1,000
Pacific cod	BS/AI	1,640,000	420,000	305,000	270,000
Yellowfin sole	BS/AI	2,850,000	342,000	278,000	200,000
Greenland turbot	BS/AI	67,000	25,100	10,300	7,000
	BS			6,900	4,667
	AI			3,400	2,333
Arrowtooth	BS/AI	576,000	162,000	129,000	9,000
Rock sole	BS/AI	2,360,000	420,000	361,000	70,000
Flathead sole	BS/AI	593,000	140,000	116,000	30,000
Other flatfish	BS/AI	590,000	120,000	102,000	35,000
Sablefish	EBS	14,100		1,200	1,100
	AI	12,000		1,300	1,200
	BS/AI		3,300		
POP complex					
True POP	EBS	44,100	2,860	1,800	1,800
Other POP	EBS	29,700	1,400	1,400	1,260
True POP	AI	309,000	25,200	12,100	12,100
	Western			6,050	6,050
	Central			3,025	3,025
	Eastern			3,025	3,025
Sharp/Northern	AI	96,800	5,810	5,810	5,229
Short/Rougheye	AI	45,600	1,250	1,250	1,125 *
Other rockfish	EBS	7,100	497	497	447 *
	AI	13,600	952	952	857 *
Atka mackerel	AI	578,000	164,000	116,000	106,157
	Western			55,700	45,857
	Central			33,600	33,600
	Eastern			26,700	26,700
Squid	BS/AI	n/a	3,000	3,000	1,000
Other species	BS/AI	687,000	137,000	27,600	20,125
<b>BS/AI TOTAL</b>		<b>19,967,500</b>	<b>3,602,369</b>	<b>2,820,809</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>

EBS = eastern Bering Sea

BS/AI = Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands

BS = Bering Sea

AI = Aleutian Islands

OFL = overfishing level

ABC = acceptable biological catch

TAC = total allowable catch

ITAC = recommended TAC less the 15% reserve.

\*Note: the Council recommended that shortraker/rougheye and other rockfish be bycatch only for 1996.

**Table 3 Final 1996 BSAI Trawl Fisheries PSC  
Apportionments and Seasonal Allowances**

Fishery Group	Halibut Mortality Cap (mt)	Herring (mt)	Red King Crab (animals) Zone1	C. bairdi Zone1	C. bairdi Zone2
<b>Yellowfin sole</b>	820	287	50,000	250,000	1,530,000
January 20 - March 31	160		5,000	50,000	
April 1 - May 10	150		15,000	200,000	
May 11 - August 14	100		10,000		
August 15 - Dec 31	410		20,000		
<b>Rocksole/other flatfish</b>	730		110,000	425,000	510,000
January 20-March 29	453				
March 30 - June 28	139				
June 29-December 31	138				
<b>Turbot/sablefish/ Arrowtooth</b>	0				0
<b>Rockfish</b>	110	7			10,000
Jan. 1 - Mar. 29	30				
Mar. 30 - June 28	50				
June 29 - Dec. 31	30				
<b>Pacific cod</b>	1,685	22	10,000	250,000	260,000
January 20-October 24	1,585				
Oct. 25-December 31	100				
<b>Pollockmackerel/o.species</b>	430	154	30,000	75,000	690,000
January 20-April 15	330				
April 16- December 31	100				
<b>Pelagic Trawl Pollock</b>		1,227			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,775</b>	<b>1,697</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>

Note: unused PSC allowances may be rolled into the following seasonal apportionment.

**Table 4 Final 1996 BSAI Non-Trawl Fisheries PSC Bycatch Allowances and fixed gear Pacific cod seasonal apportionments**

Fishery Group	Halibut Mortality (mt)	Seasonal Apportion of cod ITAC (mt)
<b>Pacific Cod</b>	800	
Jan 1 - April 30	475	80,000
May 1 - August 31	40	18,000
Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	285	2,980
<b>Other Non-Trawl*</b>	100	
<b>Groundfish Pot</b>	Exempt	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>900 mt</b>	<b>100,980</b>

Note: unused PSC halibut from first trimester will be rolled into the third trimester.

\* Includes hook & line fisheries for rockfish and Greenland turbot.

Sablefish hook & line fisheries will be exempted from the halibut mortality cap.

Jig gear will also be exempted from the halibut mortality cap.

Table 5

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH ABCs and TACs						
Final 1996 North Pacific Fishery Management Council Specifications (mt)						
Species	Area	1995			COUNCIL	COUNCIL
		ABC	TAC	Catch*	1996 ABC	1996 TAC
Pollock	W (61)	30,380	30,380	30,221	25,480	25,480
	C (62)	15,310	15,310	12,895	12,840	12,840
	C (63)	16,310	16,310	24,661	13,680	13,680
	E	3,360	3,360	3,464	2,810	2,810
	Total	65,360	65,360	71,241	54,810	54,810
Pacific Cod	W	20,100	20,100	22,247	18,850	18,850
	C	45,650	45,650	44,654	42,900	42,900
	E	3,450	3,450	1,172	3,250	3,250
	Total	69,200	69,200	68,073	65,000	65,000
Flatfish, Deep Water	W	670	460	96	670	460
	C	8,150	7,500	1,894	8,150	7,500
	E	5,770	3,120	221	5,770	3,120
	Total	14,590	11,080	2,211	14,590	11,080
Rex Sole	W	1,350	800	220	1,350	800
	C	7,050	7,050	3,633	7,050	7,050
	E	2,810	1,840	174	2,810	1,840
	Total	11,210	9,690	4,027	11,210	9,690
Flathead Sole	W	8,880	2000	587	8,880	2000
	C	17,170	5000	1,558	17,170	5000
	E	2,740	2740	29	2,740	2740
	Total	28,790	9,740	2,174	28,790	9,740
Flatfish, Shallow Water	W	26,280	4,500	359	26,280	4,500
	C	23,140	12,950	5,065	23,140	12,950
	E	2,850	1,180	7	2,850	1,180
	Total	52,270	18,630	5,431	52,270	18,630
Arrowtooth	W	28,400	5,000	1,416	28,400	5,000
	C	141,290	25,000	15,469	141,290	25,000
	E	28,440	5,000	928	28,440	5,000
	Total	198,130	35,000	17,813	198,130	35,000
Sablefish	W	2,600	2,600	1,665	2,200	2,200
	C	8,600	8,600	7,313	6,900	6,900
	W. Yakutat	4,100	4,100	3,779	3,040	3,040
	E. Yak./SEO	6,200	6,200	5,149	4,940	4,940
	Total	21,500	21,500	17,906	17,080	17,080
Pacific Ocean Perch	W	1,180	1,014	1,422	1,460	1,260
	C	3,130	2,702	2,665	3,860	3,333
	E	2,220	1,914	1,707	2,740	2,366
	Total	6,530	5,630	5,794	8,060	rebuilding plan 6,959
Shortraker/Rougheye	W	170	170	210	170	170
	C	1,210	1,210	1,250	1,210	1,210
	E	530	530	833	530	530
	Total	1,910	1,910	2,293	1,910	1,910
Rockfish, Other Slope	W	180	57	31	180	100
	C	1,170	368	928	1,170	1,170
	E	5,760	1,810	521	5,760	750
	Total	7,110	2,235	1,480	7,110	2,020
Rockfish, Northern	W	640	640	112	640	640
	C	4,610	4,610	5,530	4,610	4,610
	E	20	20	47	20	20
	Total	5,270	5,270	5,689	5,270	5,270
Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf	W	910	910	107	910	910
	C	3,200	3,200	2,282	3,200	3,200
	E	1,080	1,080	584	1,080	1,080
	Total	5,190	5,190	2,973	5,190	5,190
Rockfish, Demersal Shelf	SEO	580	580	180	950	950
Thornyhead	Gulfwide	1,900	1,900	1,107	1,560	1,248
Atka Mackerel	W		2,310	326		2,310
	C		925	368		925
	E		5	2		5
	Total	3,240	3,240	696	3,240	3,240
Other Species	Gulfwide	NA	13,308	3,608	NA	12,040
<b>GULF OF ALASKA</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>492,780</b>	<b>279,463</b>	<b>223,796</b>	<b>475,170</b>	<b>252,898</b>

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\* Catch through October 28, 1995

Table 6

Recommendations for 1996 Preseason assumed Discard Mortality Rates for halibut bycatch (based on Table 4 in Appendix C).

Region/Target	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1993-94 Average	Used in 1995	Recommendation for 1996
<b>BSAI TRAWL</b>									
MWT Pollock	81	81	87	90	85	n/a	88	89	88
Atka mackerel	69	73	62	56	69	n/a	63	59	63
Rock sole/Oflats <sup>1</sup>	58	68	78	72	73	n/a	73	75	73
Pacific cod	68	60	67	62	64	n/a	63	65	63
BT Pollock	65	59	76	78	78	n/a	78	77	78
Rockfish	62	54	59	78	71	n/a	75	69	75
Yellowfin sole <sup>1</sup>	73	74	77	75	71	n/a	73	76	73
Arrowtooth	57	41	-	-	-	n/a	49 <sup>2</sup>	49	49
Grnld. turbot	58	38	-	-	59	n/a	49 <sup>2</sup>	48	49
<b>GOA TRAWL</b>									
MWT Pollock	63	74	69	63	81	n/a	72	66	72
Atka mackerel	-	-	-	55	41	n/a	48	-	48
Rockfish	61	65	69	62	52	n/a	57	66	57
BT Pollock at-sea	65	56	67	81	-	n/a	74	74	74
BT Pollock shrbds	65	56	72	54	54	n/a	54	63	54
Shallwtr flatfish	62	61	62	66	67	n/a	67	64	67
Pacific cod	61	55	59	56	55	n/a	56	58	56
Dpwtr fltsh spr/sum <sup>3</sup>	(57)	(52)	(59)	63	56	n/a	60	59	60
Dpwtr fltsh fall/win <sup>3</sup>	(57)	(52)	(59)	56	48	n/a	52	59	52
<b>BSAI H&amp;L</b>									
Pacific cod	17	21	18	18	15	11.5 <sup>4</sup>	13 <sup>2</sup>	11.5	11.5
Sablefish	13	18	19	14	35	n/a	25	17	17 <sup>5</sup>
Rockfish	18	29	-	-	-	n/a	24 <sup>2</sup>	24	24
Grnld. turbot	-	-	17	21	23	n/a	22	19	22
<b>GOA H&amp;L</b>									
Pacific cod	13	17	30	9	15	n/a	12	20	12
Sablefish	11	28	23	26	19	n/a	23	25	23 <sup>5</sup>
Rockfish	15	20	-	-	16	n/a	18 <sup>2</sup>	18	18
<b>BSAI POT</b>									
Pacific cod	7	3	12	4	10	n/a	7	8	7
<b>GOA POT</b>									
Pacific cod	10	5	16	20	13	n/a	17	18	17

<sup>1</sup>During 1990 and 1991, "Other flatfish" was grouped with yellowfin sole. Since 1992, the target has been grouped with rock sole.

<sup>2</sup>Average of the two most recent years.

<sup>3</sup>Figures shown for 1990-1992 represent the annual discard mortality rate, i.e., across all seasons.

<sup>4</sup>From Williams and Sadorus (1995).

<sup>5</sup>Plan Team recommendation. For the BSAI fishery, this is an average of 1992 and 1993; the GOA fishery uses and average of 1993 and 1994.



# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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December 15, 1995

## DRAFT AGENDA

**121st Plenary Session  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
January 9-14, 1996  
Anchorage Hilton Hotel  
Anchorage, Alaska**

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will meet together with the Alaska Board of Fisheries on Tuesday, January 9, 1996 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. The Council will begin its regular plenary session on Wednesday, January 10, at 8:00 a.m., and continue through Sunday, January 14. Other meetings to be held during the week are:

<u>Committee/Panel</u>	<u>Beginning</u>
Advisory Panel	1:00 p.m., Monday, Jan. 8
Scientific and Statistical Committee	1:00 p.m., Monday, Jan. 8

**AP/SSC MEMBERS -- PLEASE NOTE MEETINGS WILL BEGIN AT 1:00 PM ON MONDAY, JANUARY 8. PLEASE CHECK HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND CHANGE AS NECESSARY.**

All meetings except Council executive sessions are open to the public. Other committee and workgroup meetings may be scheduled on short notice during the week. All meetings will be held at the hotel unless otherwise noted.

### **INFORMATION FOR PERSONS WISHING TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE COUNCIL**

Sign-up sheets are available at the registration table for those wishing to testify before the Council on a specific agenda item. Sign-up must be completed before public comment begins on that agenda item. Additional names are generally not accepted after public comment has begun. A general comment period is scheduled toward the end of the meeting, time permitting, for comment on matters not on the current agenda.

Submission of Written Comments/Testimony. Any written comments and materials to be included in Council meeting materials must be submitted to the Council office by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday of the week before the Council is scheduled to begin (i.e., January 3 for this meeting). Material received after the deadline may not be included in meeting materials. Written materials provided during the meeting for distribution to Council members should be provided to the Council secretary. A minimum of 18 copies is needed to ensure that Council members, the executive director, NOAA General Counsel and the official meeting record each receive a copy. If you wish copies to be available for the Advisory Panel (22), Scientific and Statistical Committee (12), staff (10) or the public (50), they must also be provided after the pre-meeting deadline.

### FOR THOSE WISHING TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE ADVISORY PANEL

The Advisory Panel has revised its operating guidelines to incorporate a strict time management approach to its meetings. Rules for testimony before the Advisory Panel have been developed which are similar to those used by the Council. Members of the public wishing to testify before the AP must sign up on the list for each topic listed on the agenda. Sign-up sheets are provided in a special notebook located at the back of the room. The deadline for registering to testify is when the agenda topic comes before the AP. The time available for individual and group testimony will be based on the number registered and determined by the AP Chairman. **The AP may not take public testimony on items for which they will not be making recommendations to the Council.**

### FOR THOSE WISHING TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

The usual practice is for the SSC to call for public comment immediately following the staff presentation on each agenda item. In addition, the SSC will designate a time, normally at the beginning of the afternoon session on the first day of the SSC meeting, when members of the public will have the opportunity to present testimony on any agenda item. The Committee will discourage testimony that does not directly address the technical issues of concern to the SSC, and **presentations lasting more than ten minutes will require prior approval from the Chair.**

### COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

<b>ABC</b>	Acceptable Biological Catch	<b>MMPA</b>	Marine Mammal Protection Act
<b>AP</b>	Advisory Panel	<b>MSY</b>	Maximum Sustainable Yield
<b>ADF&amp;G</b>	Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game	<b>mt</b>	Metric tons
<b>BSAI</b>	Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands	<b>NMFS</b>	National Marine Fisheries Service
<b>CDQ</b>	Community Development Quota	<b>NOAA</b>	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Adm.
<b>CRP</b>	Comprehensive Rationalization Program	<b>NPFMC</b>	North Pacific Fishery Management Council
<b>EA/RIR</b>	Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review	<b>OY</b>	Optimum Yield
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone	<b>POP</b>	Pacific ocean perch
<b>FMP</b>	Fishery Management Plan	<b>PSC</b>	Prohibited Species Catch
<b>GOA</b>	Gulf of Alaska	<b>SAFE</b>	Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Document
<b>IBQ</b>	Individual Bycatch Quota	<b>SSC</b>	Scientific and Statistical Committee
<b>IPHC</b>	International Pacific Halibut Commission	<b>TAC</b>	Total Allowable Catch
<b>ITAC</b>	Initial Total Allowable Catch	<b>VBA</b>	Vessel Bycatch Accounting
<b>MFCMA</b>	Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act	<b>VIP</b>	Vessel Incentive Program

December 15, 1995

**DRAFT AGENDA**

**121st Plenary Session  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
January 10-14, 1996  
Anchorage Hilton Hotel  
Anchorage, Alaska**

	<u>Estimated Hours</u>
A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER	
(a) Approval of Agenda	•
(b) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings	•
B. REPORTS	
B-1 Executive Director's Report	•
B-2 NMFS Management Reports	•
(a) Status of amendments and regulatory actions.	(1 hour for
(b) RAM Division IFQ and Moratorium Program report.	A/B items)
(c) Status report on scale regulations.	
C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS	
C-1 <u>BSAI Pacific Cod Allocations</u>	(3 hours)
Review analytical outline and scope of work.	
C-2 <u>Sablefish and Halibut IFOs</u>	(3 hours)
(a) Implementation Team report.	
(b) Final review of buydown amendment.	
(c) Initial review of sweepup amendment.	
C-3 <u>Crab Management Issues</u>	(6 hours)
(a) Summary of Board-Council Consultation.	
(b) Discussion of issues raised by PNCIAC.	
(c) Discussion of Tanner crab PSCs and inseason adjustments: Initial review of EA/RIR.	
(d) Further direction to Crab Rebuilding Committee.	
C-4 <u>Improved Retention and Utilization</u>	(2 hours)
Status report on analytical effort.	
C-5 <u>Comprehensive Rationalization Planning</u>	(6 hours)
(a) Pollock ITQs: further development of alternatives.	
(b) Vessel Bycatch Allowances: further development of workplan and alternatives for analysis.	
C-6 <u>Council Operations</u>	(1 hour)
Review concerns raised by SSC and consider how to improve operations.	

22 agenda hours

C-7 Research Priorities (1 hour)  
Final review of research priorities for submission to NMFS.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 Groundfish Amendments (8 hours)  
(a) Overfishing definitions: Initial review.  
(b) Halibut gridsorting amendment: Final action.  
(c) Pollock trimester allocations in Gulf of Alaska: Final action.  
(d) BSAI pollock B season: Further Council direction.  
(e) Status report on Salmon Foundation.

D-2 Staff Tasking (1 hour)

E. FINANCIAL REPORT

F. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

32 Total Agenda Hours

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**TIME SUMMARY**

Total agenda hours	32.00 hours
Lunches - 5 days (1.25 ea)	6.25 hours
Breaks (4/day, 20 min ea)	<u>6.75 hours</u>
Total hours required:	45.00 hours

Meeting as follows: (Wednesday through Sunday only)

8 am - 5:30 pm, 5- days x 9.5 hours = 47.5 hours

# **DRAFT**

**AGENDA ITEMS  
NPFMC/BOF MEETING  
JANUARY 9, 1996  
(Tentative time: 10:30 a.m.)  
Anchorage Hilton Hotel**

1. **Introduction**
  - a. **Crab Plan Team Report**
  - b. **PNCIAC Report**
2. **Research (observer) Plan update**
3. **1995/96 Crab Fishery Updates**
4. **Use of ADF&G Length Base-analysis to estimate Bristol Bay red king crab abundance**
5. **Council action on BSAI crab issues:**
  - a. **Bering Sea trawl closures**
    - 1) **Pribilof Islands**
    - 2) **non-pelagic trawl closure for Bristol Bay red king crab**
  - b. **Tanner crab bycatch cap transfers between Zones 1 and 2**
  - c. **Other crab bycatch management issues**
6. **BOF proposals for March meeting that are under Category 2 FMP criteria**
7. **BSAI Crab Research Update**
8. **State intentions for managing groundfish, scallops, and other fisheries of mutual interest, in 1996**

	SSC	AP	COUNCIL
<b>Monday, Jan. 8</b>			
	1:00pm Election of Officers C-1 P. cod allocations C-3(c-d) Crab Issues	1:00pm Election of Officers C-2 Sablefish/Halibut IFQs C-4 Imp. Retention/Utilization	
<b>Tuesday, Jan. 9</b>	8:00am C-6 Council Ops C-7 Rsch Priorities	8:00am C-1 P. cod allocations	COUNCIL/BOARD OF FISHERIES JOINT MEETING  10:30am <u>Tentative</u> starting time
	1:00pm D-1(a-c) Groundfish Amendments	1:00pm C-5 CRP	
<b>Wednesday, Jan. 10</b>	8:00am continue as necessary	8:00am C-3 Crab Issues C-6 Council Ops	8:00am Call to Order Agenda Approval Minutes Approval B-1 ED Rpt B-2 NMFS & RAM Rpts C-1 BSAI P. cod alloc.  12:00 Lunch
		1:00pm C-7 Rsch Priorities D-1 Grfish Amendments	1:00pm C-2 Sablefish/Halibut IFQs
<b>Thursday, Jan. 11</b>			8:00am C-3 Crab Management  12:00 Lunch
			1:00pm C-4 Improved Retention/Utilization
<b>Friday, Jan. 12</b>			8:00am C-5 CRP  12:00 Lunch
			1:00pm D-1 Groundfish Amendments
<b>Saturday, Jan. 13</b>			8:00am D-1, continued  12:00 Lunch
			1:00pm C-6 Council Ops C-7 Rsch Priorities D-2 Staff Tasking
<b>Sunday, Jan. 14</b>			8:00am continue as necessary

NOTE: The above agenda items may not be taken in the order in which they appear and are subject to change as necessary; other items may be added. All meetings are open to the public with the exception of Council Executive Sessions.