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News & Notes

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

October 2009

Olson Re-Elected Council Chair

The Council unanimously re-elected Eric Olson as Chairman and Dave Benson as Vice Chairman. Newly appointed Council member Dan Hull, along with Dave Benson and Ed Dersham, took the oath of office for their new terms. Hull fishes commercially and has been involved in the Council process for many years.

Council Meeting Broadcast Online

For the first time, the Council used the internet to stream the audio portion of the Council meetings while in session. Through a link posted on the Council website, users were able to listen, download meeting materials, and record the meeting. While the Council has always been recorded, and the audio files have always been available to the public, this technology makes it easier for the end user. As long as you have internet, you can be connected to the Council! For more information, or if you have questions, contact Maria Shawback at the Council office.



BSAI Crab Program

The Council staff reported on various aspects of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab rationalization program. The first report concerned the status of alternatives for providing an exemption to regional landing requirements in the event that compliance with those requirements is prevented by unavoidable circumstances. The exemption is intended to address safety risks, potential loss of resource (through excessive deadloss), and extreme economic hardships that may arise if deliveries under regional landing requirements applicable to Class A individual fishing quota (IFQ) are delayed or prevented by extreme icing or other uncontrollable circumstances. In the past several months stakeholders (including community representatives) have attempted to work through an agreement concerning the appropriate scope and conditions for the exemption. At its June 2009 meeting, the Council strongly urged stakeholders to exercise their best efforts to arrive at a consensus recommendation. Stakeholders indicated at this meeting that although progress was being made, no consensus has been reached. In response, the Council elected to take no action at this time, but requested that stakeholders inform the Council, if they believe their efforts have reached a point that Council action would be appropriate.

The Council also received an analysis of three actions to modify aspects of the community right of first refusal on processor quota shares to improve the effectiveness of the rights in protecting communities. The actions would add 30 days to

periods that the community right holder has to exercise the right and perform under the contract, remove any lapse of the right, and limit the application of the right to assets located in the community benefiting from the right. The Council adopted for consideration an option under which the right would apply to only PQS (and no other assets) and directed staff to modify the analysis to address issues identified, including provisions for establishing a price for transactions to which the right applies.

The Council also received a proposal for emergency rule making to address potential absence of processing capacity in the west region of the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery, as well as a proposal to create an exemption to that regional landing requirement in the event processing capacity is unavailable in the region. In response, the Council requested staff to prepare an analysis of the issue for the December meeting that would allow it to consider whether to recommend emergency rule making to the agency. The Council also adopted a purpose and need statement and alternatives that it could use to develop provision for such an exemption, in the event that processing capacity is unavailable in the region in the future. The Council also reviewed an outline for the 5-year review. In response the Council requested staff to provide additional information concerning the effects of leasing practices under the program. Staff contact is Mark Fina.

Data Collection

The Council received a brief report from the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee recommending a process to review the crab Economic Data Reports to improve the accuracy and efficiency of data reported in that program. Based on this recommendation, public testimony, and its experience with the data collection initiative for Chinook salmon bycatch measures, the Council requested staff to prepare a discussion paper reviewing the potential objectives for economic data collection and the structuring of data collection initiatives to achieve those objectives. The Council requested staff to discuss both the potential for the data collection initiatives to directly inform management questions and research initiatives using information from the agency's data quality review of the Crab Economic Data Reports and PNCIAC's recent review of those data, as well as any information from the Amendment 80 EDR process and the Chinook salmon bycatch data collection analysis. The paper is intended to assist the Council in developing future data collection programs and making revisions to the crab Economic Data Reports.

Upcoming Meetings

Salmon bycatch workgroup:
October 29, 9-5, Anchorage

Non-Target Species Committee: Seattle prior to Dec09 Council meeting

Groundfish Plan team:
Seattle, Nov 16 -20

Crab Plan Team: March 29th - April 1, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle

Scallop Plan Team: March 3-4, Juneau

GOA Pacific Cod Sector Split

At the October meeting, the Council made an initial review of the draft EA/RIR/IRFA for the proposed action to allocate the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs among the various gear and operation types. Currently, separate TACs are identified for Pacific cod in the Western, Central, and Eastern GOA management subareas, but the TACs are not divided among gear or operation types. This results in a derby-style race for fish and competition among the sectors for shares of the TACs. Sector allocations may provide stability to long-term participants in the fishery by reducing competition among sectors for access to the GOA Pacific cod resource.

The Council made several additions and revisions to the problem statement and to the components and options for analysis, and released the document for Public Review. In Component 2, the Council identified distinct Western and Central GOA options for defining sectors. There is an additional option in the Western GOA to establish three separate allocations for pot CVs, trawl CVs, and combination pot/trawl CVs (operators who hold dual gear licenses). Similarly, in Component 4, there are now distinct Western and Central GOA options for defining the set of years used to calculate catch history. In addition, the Council added options to take the average across these sets of years. The full range of years now includes 1995 through 2008 in the Western GOA and 2000 through 2008 in the Central GOA. The Council also added an option to expand the range of potential sector allocations in the analysis by 3%, in order to reflect a broader range of allocations for the Council's adjustment considerations under the revised Component 9. The range of sector allocations that will be analyzed is increased by 3% above the sector's highest potential allocation and decreased by 3% below the sector's lowest potential allocation. Sectors with an annual allocation of less than 5% would retain their current lowest potential allocation.

The options for managing the jig allocation in Component 5 were refined. The option to delegate management authority for the jig fishery to the State of Alaska (Option 3) was removed from Component 5. The Council made substantial revisions to Component 8, which addresses the protection of processing patterns established under the inshore/offshore regulations. There are four options to limit the amount of catch delivered to vessels acting as motherships. Under Option 1, no mothership processing activity of directed Pacific cod landings would be allowed in the GOA. Under Option 2, mothership processing would be capped as a percentage of the Federal Pacific cod TAC (up

to 10%) in each management area. Under Option 3, Federally-permitted processors could operate as motherships within the municipal boundaries of communities in the Western and Central GOA. Finally, under Option 4, Federally-permitted processors could operate as motherships within State of Alaska waters. There is also a suboption (applicable to Options 2, 3, and 4) to limit the weekly processing activity of motherships.

Finally, the options in Component 10 that address the parallel waters fishery were revised by the Council at the June 2009 meeting. No further revisions were made to Component 10 at the October meeting. In June 2009, the Council removed an option to establish a parallel fishery catch cap after reviewing information which showed that some participants rely heavily on the parallel waters fishery, and could lose access to the fishery if parallel waters catch is limited. The Council revised Option 2 to mirror the approach taken in the BSAI parallel waters Pacific cod fishery. The BSAI action addressed management issues resulting from the parallel waters participation of Federally-permitted vessels that do not hold LLP licenses. If GOA Pacific cod sector allocations are established, parallel waters activity by newly entering Federally-permitted vessels could erode the catches of historic participants who contributed catch history to the allocations and depend on the GOA Pacific cod resource. Vessels fishing in Federal waters are required to hold an LLP license with the appropriate area, gear, and species endorsements, but vessels fishing in parallel State waters are not required to hold an LLP license. The Council adopted an option for analysis that would preclude Federally-permitted vessels that do not have LLP licenses from participating in the GOA Pacific cod parallel fishery to prevent any such encroachment. These additional options were incorporated into the initial review draft for the October meeting.

The complete sector split motion is available on the Council website. The Public Review draft will be available in early November, and the Council is tentatively scheduled to take final action in December. Staff contact is Jeannie Heltzel.

GOA Chinook Salmon and Tanner Crab Bycatch

The Council initiated an analysis for management measures to reduce bycatch of Tanner crab in the Central GOA groundfish fisheries to facilitate stock rebuilding. The Council adopted a purpose and need statement, and identified four specific areas on the eastern side of Kodiak, representing areas of high Tanner crab abundance, in which management measures may be considered. The motion, including the map of areas, is posted on the Council website. The alternatives are as follows:

- Alt 1: Status Quo – No action
- Alt 2: Close areas to all groundfish (trawl, pot, and longline) fisheries.
 - Option 1: Year round
 - Option 2: Seasonally (January 1 – July 31)
 - SUBOPTIONS TO BOTH OPTIONS:
 - Suboption 1: trawl gear
 - Suboption 2: pot gear
 - Suboption 3: longline gear
 - Suboption 4: Vessels using approved, modified gear would be exempt from closures (e.g., trawl sweep modifications or pot escape mechanisms).
 - Suboption 5: Vessels using pelagic trawl gear would be exempt from closures
- Alt 3: In order to fish in these areas, require 100% observer coverage on all groundfish (trawl, pot, and longline) vessels

With respect to Chinook bycatch in the GOA groundfish fisheries, the Council asked for an updated discussion paper to be brought back at a future meeting. The revised discussion paper would provide updated catch data, and more comprehensive discussion of Chinook stock abundance and State regulatory measures for salmon. Additionally, the Council asked NOAA Fisheries (a) to report on GOA Chinook bycatch as part of their annual inseason management report, including mapping the distribution of bycatch to the extent possible; and (b) to implement the salmon sampling protocol in GOA groundfish fisheries as well as in the BSAI. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Rockfish Program

At the October meeting, the Council reviewed a description of alternatives defining a management program for the Central Gulf of Alaska rockfish fishery to be implemented when the current rockfish pilot program expires. The Council also received a preliminary analysis of those alternatives and a discussion paper with addressing specific decision points. Also at this meeting, the Council reviewed a NOAA GC opinion discussing the Council's authority to adopt management measures to processor interests in the fishery.

After reviewing information provided by staff, NOAA GC, and public comment, the Council revised its problem statement and the suite of elements and options for analysis. Some of the more significant revisions to the elements and options include:

- removing from consideration a number of catcher vessel alternatives that included harvester/processor associations intended to protect processor dependence on the fishery
- including an option to consider 2009 catch for eligibility of current participants in the entry level program
- establishing a trip-by-trip basis for applying maximum retainable amounts of incidental catch species to the CP sector
- allocating halibut PSC to the catcher processor limited access
- an option that would split of harvester shares 70/30 between eligible catcher vessels and eligible shore based processors

- an option that would require a minimum of two independent entities to form a catcher processor cooperative
- an option to establish a cap on harvests of a catcher vessel of no more than 4-10 percent of the target catcher vessel allocation (including an option to grandfather those vessels that historically exceeded that harvest level)
- an option to limit any shore based processor from processing more than 20 to 33 percent of aggregate primary rockfish or aggregate secondary species allocated to the catcher vessel sector, and
- an option under which the program would expire 10 years after implementation.

A complete copy of the revised problem statement and the suite of elements and options are provided on the Council website. The Council is schedule to review a preliminary analysis at the December meeting. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

BSAI Skates

The Council approved Amendment 95 to the BSAI Groundfish FMP, which would move skates from the "other species" category to the target species category and revise federal regulations to complement the FMP amendment. The action is intended to enhance the conservation of these species. If approved by the Secretary, quotas would be set for BSAI skates no sooner than the 2011 fishing year. Contact Jane DiCosimo for more information.

Amendment 93

During staff tasking, the Council added a new alternative that would require a cooperative to accept any person otherwise eligible to participate in a cooperative subject to the same terms and conditions that apply to all other members of the cooperative. The new alternative was added after reviewing a letter from NMFS recommending that the Council consider adding this additional alternative to the analysis for Amendment 80 cooperative formation (Amendment 93).

The existing amendment package, if approved, would modify the requirements that Amendment 80 quota share holders would need to meet in order to form a harvesting cooperative and receive an exclusive allocation of Amendment 80 species and associated PSC that are incidentally taken during the prosecution of BSAI groundfish fisheries. An initial review of the amendment package is scheduled for December 2009, with final action scheduled for February 2010. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

Criteria for evaluating HAPC proposals

The Council will be considering setting new HAPC priorities, and thus initiating a call for proposals for new HAPC sites, in conjunction with the EFH 5-year review (the complete report is scheduled for Council review in April 2010). In preparation for this, the SSC has been asked to re-examine the current criteria for evaluating HAPC proposals, which were criticized during the last HAPC proposal cycle. A SSC/Plan Team workgroup has proposed revisions to the criteria, which were presented to the joint Plan Teams in September 2009. The SSC noted that the revised criteria were a substantial improvement over those used previously, and a subgroup of SSC members will bring more detailed comments back to the SSC in February 2010. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Trawl Sweep Modification for the Bering Sea Flatfish Fisheries

The Council took final action to recommend Amendment 94 to the BSAI Groundfish FMP. Under this amendment, any vessel targeting flatfish with nonpelagic trawl gear in the Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI management area will be required to use elevating devices on their trawl sweeps. The modification will protect habitat by reducing damage to seafloor invertebrates, including crab species. The draft regulations, which specify the exact performance standard which vessels will be required to meet, are included in an appendix to the public review draft of the analysis, available on the Council website. The Council recommended that Amendment 94 become effective no sooner than the beginning of the 2011 fishing year, in order to provide sufficient time for vessels to make any modifications necessary to comply with the gear requirement. Research on the modification and its effects has been conducted over the last three years by the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, in cooperation with the flatfish industry.

In addition to the trawl sweep modification, the amendment implements four housekeeping changes to the BSAI FMP (described in detail in the analysis on the Council website), and two

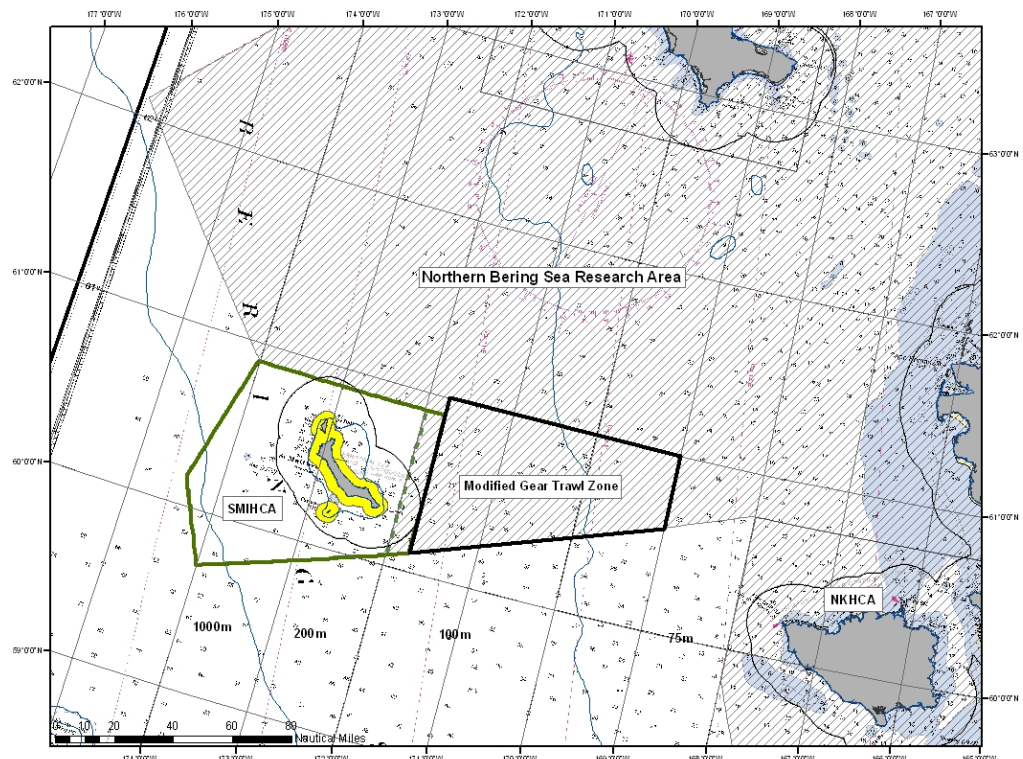
other changes, which are described below.

Creation of a Modified Gear Trawl Zone in the Bering Sea, and revision to the Northern Bering Sea Research Area (NBSRA)'s southern boundary

As part of Amendment 94, the Council has also recommended creating a Modified Gear Trawl Zone (MGTZ) to the east of St Matthew Island (see figure). This area is currently part of the NBSRA, but the NBSRA boundary would be revised to exclude this area. In the MGTZ, the use of modified trawl sweeps would be required at all times when using nonpelagic trawl gear, no matter what the target fishery. At the October meeting, the Council revised the geographical scope of the MGTZ so that the eastern boundary is 169° instead of 168° W. longitude, in response to concerns raised during public testimony that the eastern portion of the MGTZ is important to subsistence users.

Revision to the eastern boundary of the St Matthew Island Habitat Conservation Area (HCA)

On the advice of the Crab Plan Team, the Council has recommended that the eastern boundary of the St Matthew Island HCA be moved eastward, in order to encompass the territorial sea around St Matthew Island. The new boundary will be parallel to the existing boundary (see figure), and will provide some additional protection for blue king crab populations that are located to the east of the island. Staff contact is Diana Evans.



The Council identified its five-year research priorities for crab, scallop, and groundfish resources for 2010-2014, based on recommendations from its scientific and advisory panels. The list of research priorities is posted on the Council website for use by state and federal governments, and academic and research institutions. Contact Diana Stram (Crab and Scallop) or Jane DiCosimo (Groundfish) for more information.

Groundfish Specifications

The Council adopted proposed specifications for the GOA and BSAI groundfish fisheries for 2010 and 2011. NMFS will include these recommendations in the proposed rule that will be published in the *Federal Register*, and will not affect the catch limits that start the 2010 groundfish fisheries. Contact Jane DiCosimo (BSAI) and Diana Stram (GOA) for more information.

Chinook Salmon Bycatch Data Collection

The Council received an analysis of possible data collection programs intended to supplement existing data to improve future analyses of the effectiveness of the Chinook salmon bycatch measures adopted under Amendment 91. In response to comments from its Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Council clarified its intent for this action by formally adopting a purpose and need statement. The Council's purpose, in part, for considering additional data collection is stated as:

(1) evaluating the effectiveness of the IPA incentives in times of high and low levels of salmon bycatch abundance, the hard cap, and the performance standard in terms of reducing salmon bycatch, and (2) evaluating how the Council's action affects where, when, and how pollock fishing and salmon bycatch occur. The data collection program will also provide data for the agency to study and verify conclusions drawn by industry in the IPA annual reports. To ensure that a full assessment of the program is possible, the data collection program should be implemented at the time Amendment 91 is implemented or as soon as practicable.

To meet these objectives, the Council modified its alternatives, removing those likely to protract the implementation process. Under the revised alternatives, the Council is considering collecting transaction data concerning salmon bycatch allowances and pollock quota, fuel use and cost data (including fuel use to avoid salmon bycatch), and annual reports of vessel operators concerning efforts to avoid salmon and the incentives arising from incentive plan agreements. The Council directed staff to revise the analysis of data collection alternatives to address these changes and release the analysis for action at its December 2009 meeting. While these data are intended to allow for assessment of the program from its implementation, the Council also stated its intent to examine additional data through its Comprehensive Economic Data Collection Committee after IPAs have been fully developed and submitted to NMFS. Staff contact is Mark Fina.

Annual Catch Limits

The Council reviewed the status of amendments to the FMPs for crab, scallop, and groundfish to bring them into compliance with revised National Standard 1 guidelines for implementation of annual catch limits and accountability measures. The Council scheduled a preliminary review of the crab and scallop FMP amendment analyses in April 2010 following review in March by both the Scallop and Crab Plan Teams (see upcoming meetings for details). The Council tasked the Non-Target Species Committee with meeting again to revise alternatives for the analysis for the ACL amendment to the groundfish FMPs. The Council recommended that the committee consider an option to ensure the orderly development of potential new fisheries of non-specified species. The committee will consider: 1) establishing an ecosystem component complex that includes non-specified species; 2) prohibiting directed fishing on Ecosystem Component stocks; and 3) providing for experimental fishing permits for developing fisheries that include observers and detailed reporting requirements. Contact Diana Stram (Crab and Scallop) or Jane DiCosimo (Groundfish) for more information.

Permit Cost Recovery

A December 2004 NMFS Policy Directive (#30-120) called for the establishment of a uniform national policy of charging applicants for the cost of processing permit applications. Except for cost recovery implemented under the halibut and sablefish IFQ program and the Crab Rationalization Program, the fishery management plans for Alaska groundfish, crab, scallops, and salmon do not authorize the collection of fees to reimburse the federal government for the cost of issuing permits. Therefore, the Council selected a preferred alternative that recommends that the Council's FMPs be amended to require cost recovery for processing applications for all permits that are not already issued in cost-recovered programs such as IFQ halibut and sablefish and crab rationalization, or that are issued under the halibut subsistence or CDQ programs, as well as exempted fishery permits or prohibited species donation permits. Contact Ben Muse, NMFS Alaska Regional Office, for more information.

Rural Community Outreach

The Council's Rural Community Outreach Committee was initiated in June and first convened in August 2009. The purpose of the committee is three-fold: 1) to advise the Council on how to provide opportunities for better understanding and participation from rural and Alaska Native communities; 2) to provide feedback on community impacts sections of analyses; and 3) to provide recommendations on which Council actions need targeted outreach plans, beyond that of the normal Council process. The August committee report is posted on the Council website. In October, the Council reviewed the report and generally approved the committee recommendations, including:

- improving outreach on three levels (statewide, regional, and project-specific)
- providing audio broadcast of Council meetings (tested at the October Council meeting)
- re-designing the Council website and including a rural community issues component
- developing a targeted outreach plan for the proposed chum salmon bycatch action, including the first step of sending a status summary report and potential schedule to communities, agencies, and other entities
- consideration of a regional partnership approach in rural communities and an educational workshop on Council process and projects
- developing a calendar of regional meetings for use by the Council and public
- conducting the outreach committee's meetings in rural communities when possible

The Council also recommended that the committee meet prior to the December Council meeting, with the priority agenda item to be discussion of a potential chum salmon bycatch outreach plan. The committee has scheduled a meeting by teleconference, from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm on November 20, at (907) 271-2896. The agenda will be posted on the Council website in early November. Staff contact is Nicole Kimball.

BSAI Crab Stock Status and Rebuilding Plans

BSAI crab stock status relative to status determination criteria and OFLs for the 2009/10 crab fishing year were determined at this meeting (see attached tables). There are 10 crab stocks in the BSAI Crab FMP and all 10 must have annually established OFLs. Six of the ten stocks have OFLs established following the summer survey information availability. Two of the ten stocks (Norton Sound red king crab and AI golden king crab) have OFLs which were established following review and recommendations by the Crab Plan Team and SSC in the Spring of 2009 in order to allow for the summer fisheries for these stocks. The remaining two stocks (Adak red king crab and Pribilof Islands golden king crab) have OFLs recommended based on Tier 5 formulation (average catch).

No crab stocks were subject to overfishing in 2008/09. In 2008/09, three stocks (Bristol Bay red king crab, Pribilof Islands red king crab and St. Matthew Islands blue king crab) had estimated biomass

above the B_{MSY} proxy level. Two stocks remain under rebuilding plans: Eastern Bering Sea (EBS) snow crab and Pribilof Islands blue king crab. Of these, the Pribilof Islands blue king crab estimated biomass remains below its MSST and is still considered overfished. For EBS snow crab, estimated biomass is above the MSST but below its B_{MSY} proxy level and thus this stock will not be rebuilt within its rebuilding period. Rebuilding plans for EBS snow crab and Pribilof Islands blue king crab are to be revised for implementation by the 2011/12 fishing year. St. Matthew blue king crab estimated biomass is above B_{MSY} for the second consecutive year and may now be considered rebuilt.

Projections for 2009/10 indicate that two stocks (Bristol Bay red king crab and St. Matthew islands blue king crab) will have estimated biomass above the B_{MSY} proxy level. EBS Tanner crab estimated biomass for 2009/10 is projected to be below its MSST and considered to be approaching an overfished condition. A new rebuilding plan to EBS Tanner crab will be developed for implementation by the 2011/12 fishing year. Pribilof Islands red king crab biomass is estimated to drop substantially in the 2009/10 assessment year and is close to its MSST.

All three rebuilding plans (EBS snow crab, EBS Tanner crab, Pribilof Islands blue king crab) must be implemented by the 2011/12 fishing year. Alternatives for the Pribilof Islands blue king crab rebuilding plan were approved by the Council. These alternatives are the following:

1. Pribilof Islands Habitat Conservation Zone (PIHCZ) modified so closure is to all groundfish fishing (currently trawl-only).
2. PIHCZ modified for additional closure to pot cod fishing.
3. ADF&G crab closure areas applied to all groundfish fishing and just Pacific cod pot fishery: between 168 and 170 W long., and between 57 and 58 N lat.
4. New closure configuration which cover the entire distribution of the PIBKC stock. This closure would apply to (options):
 1. all groundfish fishing
 2. Pacific cod pot fishery only
5. PSC cap on Pribilof Islands blue king crab bycatch in groundfish fisheries

Preliminary alternatives for EBS snow crab were discussed, including modified harvest strategies, modifications to the Snow crab bycatch limit and area closure. Final alternatives for the EBS snow crab and EBS Tanner crab rebuilding plans will be selected at the December Council meeting. A special Crab Plan Team meeting is being convened March 29-April 1 in Seattle to review preliminary analysis of the three rebuilding plans and the ACL analysis for establishing ABC control rules for all 10 crab stocks. Preliminary review by the Council will occur at the April meeting with initial review scheduled for June 2010. The Council's motion for revisions to a discussion paper to evaluate groundfish fishery bycatch of crab stocks is posted on the Council's website. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Observer Program

The Council received a report on Phase II of a pilot project (EFP) to determine whether electronic monitoring (EM) could be used to improve estimation of halibut discards in the Central Gulf rockfish pilot program. The Phase II project investigated outstanding questions from the first (2007) phase of the study, including: a qualitative assessment of costs associated with EM under various scenarios; a determination of the extent to which different vessel configurations, sizes, and fishing methods would impact the practicability of EM; an evaluation of the time necessary to receive data from an EM system for use in quota management; and an assessment of the effectiveness of vessel self-reporting (e.g., estimates of halibut discards by size category). The presenters reported substantial equipment failure in the early weeks of the project, but noted that they appear solvable. The presenters also noted that the data availability time lag using a manual review system varies from about one to several weeks, depending upon whether the data are reviewed locally. Overall, the report concludes that EM appears to provide an accurate estimate of halibut bycatch on trawl vessels using a variety of chute designs, recognizing that these vessels were operating in a full retention environment, in which only halibut is discarded, and all retained catch is accounted for at the processing plant. The Council was appreciative of industry and NMFS efforts to follow through with this project under real-world conditions, and was interested in Phase III, which is tentatively planned for 2010. Phase III would potentially focus on improving the self-reporting approach, and compare an automated data review

system to the existing manual review. The entire Phase II EFP report is on the Council website.

The Council also reviewed the observer program restructuring implementation plan, and the Observer Advisory Committee (OAC) report on the plan. Generally, the Council supported the OAC's recommendations to further develop specific sections of the plan, with particular emphasis on how NMFS would further stratify within the <100% coverage sectors in the sample design. The Council also revised the alternatives to clarify that: 1) Alternative 2 includes the <60' BSAI groundfish sector in the restructured program under an ex-vessel value based fee system, and 2) all of the action alternatives include shoreside processors. The Council also supported the projected timeline, including review of the revised implementation plan at the February 2010 Council meeting. The Council requested the OAC convene prior to the February meeting in order to provide feedback on the revised plan. The Council also noted that it would consider adding a small boat representative from southeast Alaska to the OAC. The observer restructuring implementation plan, the OAC report, and the full Council motion on this issue are on the Council website. Staff contact is Nicole Kimball.

Tentative Meeting Dates for 2008-2011*

	February Week of/ Location	April Week of/ Location	June Week of/ Location	October Week of/ Location	December Week of/ Location
2009	2/ Seattle	March 30/ Hilton	1/Dutch Harbor Anchorage Hilton	1/Anchorage Hilton (NOTE: AP and SSC have a Thursday start, Council starts on Saturday.)	7/Anchorage Hilton
2010	8/Benson Hotel, Portland	6/Anchorage Hilton (AP and SSC start Tuesday, because of Easter, Council starts Thursday)	7/Sitka	4/Anchorage Captain Cook	6/Hilton
2011	January 31- February 8/ Seattle	March 28 - April 5 Anchorage	June TBA	September 26 Unalaska	Dec 5-13 Anchorage

* Meeting dates are subject to change depending on availability of meeting space. Any changes will be published in the Council's newsletter and updated on this page.

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 10/20/09

December 7, 2009 Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel	February 8, 2010 Portland, OR Benson Hotel	April 6, 2010 Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel
Joint meeting with BOF: Dec 8 MPA Nomination Process: Discuss & action as nec. (T) GOA P. cod sector split: Final Action AI Processing Sideboards: Initial Review (T) Am 80 Lost Vessel Replacement: Initial Review Am 80 Cooperative Formation: Initial Review CGOA Rockfish Program: Action as necessary BSAI Crab Amendment package: Review Progress BSAI Crab WAG Emergency Rule: Discussion paper BSAI Crab ROFR: Initial Review (T) BSAI Crab Rebuilding Plans: Review Alternatives Salmon Bycatch Data Collection: Final Action (T) BS Chum Salmon Bycatch: Committee Report/ Disc paper Rural Community Outreach Ctee: Report Groundfish ACL Requirements: Review Alternatives Bristol Bay Trawl Closure & Walrus: Discussion Papers (T) Heigermeister Is. Walrus protection: Discussion Paper Halibut Charter Logbook: Receive report Groundfish Final Catch Specifications: Approve EFH 5-Year Evaluation/HAPC Criteria: Review (T)	H&L Catch Accounting: Discussion paper Arrowtooth MRAs: Data report BS&AI P.cod Split: Discuss plan/action as necessary (April) GOA P.cod sideboards for crab vessels: Initial Review (T) AI Processing Sideboards: Final Action (T) Am 80 Lost Vessel Replacement: Final Action Am 80 Cooperative Formation: Final Action CGOA Rockfish Program: Action as necessary Observer Program Implementation Plan: Progress Report BSAI Crab activities: Action as necessary BSAI Crab ROFR: Final Action (T) Economic Data Collection: Disc paper (T) Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Proposals: Review & action as nec. CQE Program: Review/Disc paper BS Chum Salmon Bycatch: Action as necessary Groundfish ACL Requirements: Initial Review Crab and Scallop ACLs: Action as necessary (T) AI FEP addendum: Review/Discuss (T) Northern BS Research Plan: Review Progress	BS&AI P.cod Split: Discuss plan/action as necessary (April) GOA P.cod sideboards for crab vessels: Initial Review (T) CGOA Rockfish Program: Action as necessary Observer Program Implementation Plan: Progress Report BSAI Crab activities: Action as necessary BS Chum Salmon Bycatch: Action as necessary Groundfish ACL Requirements: Final Action GOA Tanner Crab Bycatch: Initial Review (T) GOA Chinook Salmon Bycatch: Discussion paper (T) Crab and Scallop ACLs: Action as necessary (T)

AI - Aleutian Islands
 GOA - Gulf of Alaska
 SSL - Steller Sea Lion
 BOF - Board of Fisheries
 FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan
 CDQ - Community Development Quota
 VMS - Vessel Monitoring System
 EFP - Exempted Fishing Permit
 BiOp - Biological Opinion
 (T) Tentatively scheduled

TAC - Total Allowable Catch
 BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
 IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
 GHLL - Guideline Harvest Level
 EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
 LLP - License Limitation Program
 SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation
 MPA - Marine Protected Area
 ACL - Annual Catch Limit
 HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern

Future Meeting Dates and Locations

February 8-, 2010 in Portland OR
 April 6-, 2010 in Anchorage (start on Tuesday)
 June 7 - , 2010 in Sitka
 Oct 4-, 2010 in Anchorage (Captain Cook)
 Dec 6- 2010 in Anchorage Hilton
 January 31-February 8, 2011-Seattle
 March 28-April 5, 2011-Anchorage
 June (TBA)
 September 26-, 2011 in Unalaska

Table 1 Projected stock status in 2009/10 and overfishing levels for 2009/10 fishery.
(Note diagonal fill indicates parameters not applicable for that tier level)

Chapter	Stock	Tier	Status (a,b,c)	F _{OFL}	B _{MSY} or B _{MSYproxy}	Years ¹ (biomass or catch)	2009/10 ² MMB	2009/10 MMB / MMB _{MSY}	γ	Mortality (M)	2009/10 OFL mill lbs [retained]
1	EBS snow crab	3	b	0.52	326.7	1979-current [recruitment]	251	0.77		0.23 (males, immat.) 0.29 (mature females)	73.0
2	BB red king crab	3	a	0.32	68.5	1995-current [recruitment] ⁵	95.17	1.08		0.18 default, estimated otherwise ⁴	22.56
3	EBS Tanner crab	4	b	0.07	189.76	1969-1980 [survey]	70.2	0.37	1.0	0.23	5.57
4	Pribilof Islands red king crab	4	b	0.08	8.78	1991-current [survey] ⁵	4.46	0.51	1.0	0.18	0.50
5	Pribilof Islands blue king crab	4	c	0	9.01	1980-1984; 1990-1997 [survey] ⁵	1.13	0.13	1.0	0.18	0.004
6	St. Matthew Island blue king crab	4	a	0.18	7.99	1989-current [model estimate] ⁵	12.47	1.56	1.0	0.18 (1978-98, 2000-08); 1.8 (1999)	1.723 total male catch
7	Norton Sound red king crab	4	a	0.18	3.07	1983-current [model estimate]	5.83	1.9	1.0	0.18	0.7125 [retained]
8	AI golden king crab	5				1990/91-1995/96 [retained catch]					9.18 [retained]
9	Pribilof Island golden king crab	5				1993-1998 [retained catch]					0.176 [retained]
10	Adak red king crab	5				1984/85-2007/08 [retained catch]					0.50 [retained]

1 For Tiers 3 and 4 where B_{MSY} or B_{MSYproxy} is estimable, the years refer to the time period over which the estimate is made. For Tier 5 stocks it is the years upon which the catch average for OFL is obtained.

2 MMB as projected for 2/15/2010 at time of mating.

3 Model mature biomass

4 Additional mortality males: two periods-1980-1985; 1968-1979 and 1986-2008. Females three periods: 1980-1984; 1976-1979; 1985 to 1993 and 1968-1975; 1994-2008. See assessment for mortality rates associated with these time periods.

5 Revised EBS trawl survey timeseries data used

6 For calendar year 2010

Table 2 Stock status in relation to status determination criteria 2008/09
 (Note diagonal fill indicates parameters not applicable for that tier level)

Chapter	Stock	Tier	MSST	B_{MSY} or $B_{MSYprox}$	2008/2009 ⁷ MMB	2008/2009 MMB / MMB_{MSY}	2008/09 OFL mill lbs [retained]	2008/09 Total catch
1	EBS snow crab	3	163.4	326.7	241	0.74	77.3	66.7
2	BB red king crab	3	34.3	68.5	87.8	1.28	24.2	23.1
3	EBS Tanner crab	4	94.9	189.76	118.0	0.62	15.52	4.96
4	Pribilof Islands red king crab	4	4.39	8.78	11.06	1.28	3.32	0.021
5	Pribilof Islands blue king crab	4	4.5	9.01	0.24	0.03	0.004	0.001
6	St. Matthew Island blue king crab	4	4.0	7.99	10.74	1.34	1.63 [retained]	0.20
7	Norton Sound red king crab	4	1.55	3.07	5.83	1.9	0.7125 [retained]	0.42
8	AI golden king crab	5					6.93 [retained]	9.18
9	Pribilof Island golden king crab	5					0.17 [retained]	0.001
10	Adak red king crab	5					0.46 [retained]	0.014

⁷ MMB as estimated during this assessment for 2008/09 as of 2/15/2009.