



# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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## Meeting Summary

256th Plenary Session  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
October 6<sup>th</sup> and October 10-15, 2021  
Webconference – Adobe Connect

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### Attachments

- |                              |               |
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| 1) GOA specification tables  | 3) Time Log   |
| 2) BSAI specification tables | 4) Newsletter |

The time log is included as a reference attachment for names, dates and times of each agenda item, and the newsletter is included to provide details of the agenda items and the meeting as a whole. All documents and information related to the meeting are accessible online at:

<https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2352>

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met October 6th, and on October 10<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via adobe connect in a virtual conference. The following Council members, Council staff, SSC, and AP members attended the meetings.

### Council Members

Jim Balsiger/Glenn Merrill  
*National Marine Fisheries Service*

Nicole Kimball  
*Appointed*

Rachel Baker/Karla Bush (for Doug Vincent-Lang)  
*Alaska Department Fish and Game*

Simon Kinneen, **Chair**  
*Appointed*

Cora Campbell  
*Appointed*

Steve Marx (for Curt Melcher)  
*Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife*

Craig Cross  
*Appointed*

David Moore  
*U.S. Department of State*

Kenny Down  
*Appointed*

RADM Nathan Moore/CAPT Brennell  
*United States Coast Guard*

Holly Carroll (for Greg Siekaniec)  
*US Fish & Wildlife Service*

Andy Mezirow  
*Appointed*

Dave Hanson  
*Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission*

Bill Tweit (for Kelly Susewind), **Vice Chair**  
*Washington Department Fish & Wildlife*

John Jensen  
*Appointed*

Anne Vanderhoeven  
*Appointed*

### Council Staff

Cleaver, Sara  
Cunningham, Sam  
Davis, Maria  
Evans, Diana (DD)  
Fey, Mike (PSMFC)  
Gleason, Shannon

Haapala, Kate  
Henry, Anna  
Hillary, Kaylah  
La Belle, Sarah  
MacLean, Steve  
Marrinan, Sarah

McCracken, Jon  
Schmidt, Nicole  
Stram, Diana  
Witherell, Dave (ED)

## **Scientific and Statistical Committee**

The SSC met from September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, and on October 4<sup>th</sup> to October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, via adobe connect in a virtual conference. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings.

Anne Hollowed, Co-Chair  
*NOAA Fisheries—AFSC*

Kathryn Meyer  
*Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*

Curry Cunningham  
*University of Alaska Fairbanks*

Dana Hanselman  
*NOAA Fisheries—AFSC*

Andrew Munro  
*Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game*

Ian Stewart  
*Intl. Pacific Halibut Commission*

Sherri Dressel, Co-Chair  
*Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game*

Chris Anderson  
*University of Washington*

Mike Downs  
*Wislow Research*

Brad Harris  
*Alaska Pacific University*

Matt Reimer  
*University of California, Davis*

Patrick Sullivan  
*Cornell University*

Alison Whitman, Vice Chair  
*Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*

Amy Bishop  
*Alaska Sea Life Center*

Jason Gasper  
*NOAA Fisheries – Alaska Region*

George Hunt  
*University of Washington*

Chris Siddon  
*ADF&G*

Franz Mueter  
*University of Alaska Fairbanks*

## **Advisory Panel**

The Advisory Panel met from October 4<sup>th</sup> to October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, via adobe connect in a virtual conference. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings:

Christiansen, Ruth (Co-Vice Chair)  
Drobnica, Angel (Chair)  
Gruber, John  
Gudmundsson, Gretar  
Johnson, Jim  
Johnson, Mellisa  
Kauffman, Jeff

Kavanaugh, Julie  
Lowenberg, Craig  
Mann, Heather  
O'Donnell, Paddy  
O'Neil, Megan  
Peterson, Joel  
Ritchie, Brian

Scoblic, John  
Upton, Matt (Co-Vice Chair)  
Velsko, Erik  
Wilson, Marissa  
Wilt, Sinclair  
Zagorski, Suzie

## A1 Call Meeting to Order/Oath of Office/Election of Officers

**Dr. Jim Balsiger administered the Oath of Office to Council members Anne Vanderhoeven, Andy Mezirow, and John Jensen.**

**For the upcoming year, Simon Kinneen was re-elected Chair and Bill Tweit was re-elected Vice-chair by unanimous consent.**

The Council approved the agenda without objection.

## B Reports

The following reports were provided in writing and discussed. In addition, Dr. Bob Foy gave a presentation for Updates on Survey and Climate Research along with Dr. Anne Hollowed, Dr. Martin Dorn, and Dr. Jim Thorson. John Mosher and Christopher Hunt provided an oral update on the US Navy Report for Northern Edge 2021 exercises.

**B1 Executive Director's Report** – David Witherell

**B2 NMFS Management Report** – Glenn Merrill

**B3 NOAA GC Report** – Molly Watson

**B4 AFSC Report** – Dr. Robert Foy

- B4 CFI report – Dr. Anne Hollowed
- B4 EBS RAP report – Dr. Anne Hollowed
- B4 GOA RAP report – Dr. Martin Dorn
- B4 Arctic RAP report – Dr. Jim Thorson

**B5 ADFG Report** – Karla Bush and Kendall Henry

**B6 USCG Report** – CAPT Jason Brennell and LCDR Jedediah Raskie

**B7 USFWS Report** – Holly Carroll

**B8 US Navy Report on Northern Edge 2021 exercises** – John Mosher and Christopher Hunt

**B10 SSC Report** – Dr. Sherri Dressel (SSC Co-Chair)

**B11 AP Report** – Matt Upton and Ruth Christiansen (AP Co-Vice Chairs)

## C1 BSAI Crab – SAFE report, ABC/OFL; Plan Team Report

**Council Staff:** Dr. Diana Stram

**Other Presenters:** Dr. Martin Dorn (AFSC), Katie Palof (ADFG), Dr. Mike Litzow (AFSC)

**Action Required:**

1. EBS Snow Crab – Specify OFL/ABC for 2021/22
2. Bristol Bay Red King Crab - Specify OFL/ABC for 2021/22
3. EBS Tanner Crab - Specify OFL/ABC for 2021/22
4. Saint Matthew Blue King Crab, Pribilof Island Red King Crab - Specify OFL/ABC for 2021/22
5. Crab Plan Team Report for the October 2021 meeting
6. Review/Approve final SAFE report

**Summary:** The Crab Plan Team met to discuss the size and status of Tanner crab, snow crab, and Bristol Bay red king crab stocks in the Bering Sea, to make recommendations on harvest limits. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee will review their recommendations and the Council will set appropriate harvest limits for the upcoming crab seasons.

After staff presentations and public comment, the following action was taken:

**Ms. Bush made the following motion which was seconded by Ms. Vanderhoeven:**

The Council accepts the Crab SAFE report and adopts the following 2021/22 OFLs and ABCs recommended by the SSC for the following stocks:

Stock	OFL (kt)	ABC (kt)
Eastern Bering Sea snow crab	7.5	5.6
Bristol Bay red king crab	2.23	1.78
Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab	27.17	21.74
St. Matthew Island blue king crab	0.05	0.04
Pribilof Islands red king crab	0.86	0.65

*kt = thousands of metric tons*

The Council supports the recommendations of the SSC as practicable and encourages the Alaska Fishery Science Center to consider extending the NMFS trawl survey into deeper waters by adding stations to the standard Bering Sea trawl survey design. The Council supports continued efforts to move all assessments to GMACs and ongoing work by state and federal scientists to evaluate changing stock distributions in relation to currently defined stock boundaries.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously on October 6, 2021, at 1:20 p.m.

## C2 IFQ Omnibus Amendments & IFQ Committee Report

**Council Staff:** Sara Cleaver (IFQ analysis) and Sarah Marrinan (IFQ Committee Report)

**Other Presenters:** Abby Jahn and Alicia Miller (NMFS AKRO SF)

**Action Required:**

1. Review the Initial Review Draft of the EA/RIR and determine whether to release for final action
2. Consider whether to select a PPA
3. Review IFQ Committee Report

**Summary:** *The Council will review an analysis on several revisions to Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program regulations. This analysis evaluates five elements relevant to pot gear used to fish IFQ, including gear specifications and configuration requirements, pot limits, and gear retrieval requirements, and one element to authorize jig gear as a legal gear type for the harvest of sablefish IFQ. This action also evaluates an alternative to remove the Adak CQE residency requirement for a period of five years.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following action was taken:

**Ms. Campbell made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:**

The council recommends releasing the analysis for final action with the following changes to elements and options. Additions are shown in **bold underline** and deletions shown in ~~strikethrough~~.

Purpose and Need:

IFQ stakeholders, the IFQ Committee, and NMFS have identified regulatory revisions that could increase operational efficiency, reduce administrative burden, and clarify how harvesters can meet existing regulatory requirements. In addition, the Council is considering revisions to pot limits and gear tending restrictions also identified through the recent 3-year GOA sablefish pot review to determine whether they are serving their intended purpose.

The Community Quota Entity (CQE) program was modified in 2014 to include the Aleutian Islands. This allowed the community of Adak to form a CQE and purchase halibut and sablefish quota. Since the implementation of the Aleutian Islands CQE in 2014, Adak has faced challenges being able to harvest its IFQ. The Council is considering temporarily broadening who is eligible to harvest IFQ held by the Adak CQE to provide more opportunities for more fully harvesting its allocation.

Alternative 1: No action

Alternative 2: Revise IFQ program regulations to address the following regulatory clarifications

Element 1: Clarify that “slinky pots” are a legal gear for the IFQ fishery **and CDQ fisheries**, and revise regulations to allow the use of biodegradable twine in the door latch or pot tunnel.

Element 2: Remove buoy configuration, **radar reflector**, and flagpole requirements in regulation but retain “LP” marking requirement.

Element 3: Authorize jig gear as a legal gear type for the harvest of sablefish IFQ **and CDQ**.

Element 4: Revise the pot gear configuration requirements to remove the 9-inch maximum width of tunnel opening so it does not apply when vessel **begins a trip with** ~~has~~ unfished halibut IFQ onboard.

**Option: Remove the 9-inch maximum width of the tunnel opening for vessels targeting IFQ sablefish.**

Element 5: Pot Limits

Option 1: Change the Pot Limit for Western Yakutat and/or Southeast Outside to

**Suboption a) 160 pots per vessel**

Suboption ~~a~~**b) 200** pots per vessel

Suboption ~~b~~**c) 300** pots per vessel

Element 6: Gear Retrieval requirements

Option 1: Remove the gear retrieval requirement

Option 2: Modify the gear retrieval requirement to 7 days for all GOA areas

Suboption: 3 days in SEO

Alternative 3: Remove Adak CQE residency requirement for a period of five years.

Note: Alternatives 2 and 3 are not mutually exclusive.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection on October 10, 2021, at 3:18 p.m.

### **C3 Charter Halibut RQE Funding Mechanism Initial Review**

**Council Staff:** Sarah Marrinan  
**Other Presenters:** Kurt Iverson (NMFS)  
**Action Required:** 1. Review analysis  
2. Determine any additional action or points of consideration before this issue is reviewed by the Charter Halibut Management Committee

**Summary:** *At this meeting the Council will review an analysis of options to establish a fee collection program for charter vessel operators to fund the Recreational Quota Entity (RQE). All options that consider a fee being collected by NMFS from charter operators would require U.S. Congressional action to provide this authority as well as allowing for the authority for the appropriation of funds back to the RQE. Two mechanisms are considered in this paper: 1) a charter halibut stamp mechanism and 2) an annual operator fee mechanism.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following action was taken:

**Mr. Mezirow made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:**

The Council recommends releasing the analysis for final action and identifies the following preliminary preferred alternative. The preliminary preferred alternative is in **bold**. The Council also recommends that the Charter Halibut Management Committee review the current analysis prior to their October meeting and provide their recommendations to the Council prior to Final Action.

**Alternative 2: Establish a fee collection program for Charter Vessel Operators to fund the Recreational Quota Entity**

**Option 1: Charter Halibut Stamp**

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection on October 10, 2021, at 4:35 p.m.

### **D1 Halibut Catch Sharing Plan – Allocation Review Workplan**

**Council Staff:** Sarah Marrinan  
**Action Required:** 1. Review Workplan  
2. Suggest any changes to the proposed workplan

**Summary:** *In July 2016, NOAA Fisheries created an Allocation Policy to provide a mechanism to ensure fisheries allocations are periodically evaluated to remain relevant to current conditions. In response to this Policy, the Council is preparing to conduct an Allocation Review for its Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing*

*Plan (CSP). At this meeting the Council will review a workplan of proposed information to include in the Allocation Review for Consideration.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following action was taken:

**Mr. Mezirow made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:**

The Council adopts the proposed Halibut Catch Share Workplan and tentative scheduling for the Halibut Catch Sharing Plan in IPHC Areas 2C and 3A.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed with no objection on October 11, 2021, at 9:10 a.m.

## **C4 BSAI Pacific Cod Trawl CV LAPP – Final Action**

**Council Staff:** Jon McCracken

**Other Presenters:** Darrell Brannan (Brannan & Associates), Dr. Mike Downs (Wislow Research Associates); Stephanie Warpinski, Abby Jahn and Joe Krieger (NMFS AKRO SF)

**Action Required:** 1. Consider designating a preferred alternative

**Summary:** *The Council will receive the public review analysis for a Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel (CV) limited access program (LAPP). The proposed program considers allocations of quota shares (QS) to groundfish LLP licenses based on the harvest of targeted BSAI Pacific cod during the qualifying years. The action also considers allocating harvest shares to a processor permit based on processing history of BSAI Pacific cod during the qualifying years. This would yield an exclusive harvest privilege allocation for use in a BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod catch share program cooperatives.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following actions were taken:

**Ms. Baker made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:**

This motion includes the staff recommended changes in Section 8.6 of the analysis to improve consistency to the language included in the Council’s purpose and need statement, elements, and options as adopted by the Council at its June 2021 meeting. This revised language is intended to improve consistency in terminology and language that would be used for implementing the Council’s recommendation and is not intended to substantively modify the elements or options.

Additions are shown in underline and deletions are shown in ~~striketrough~~. The Council’s preferred alternative is shown in **bold**.

**Purpose and Need:**

*Over the last several years, total allowable catch for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BSAI) has steadily decreased. The pace of the fishery has contributed to an increasingly compressed season, resulting in decreased ability to maximize the value of the fishery, and negatively impacting all fishery participants (catcher vessels, motherships, shoreside processors, and communities). This race for fish also discourages fishing practices that can minimize bycatch and threatens the sustained viability of the fishery. The Council is considering the development of a cooperative-based program to improve the*



*prosecution of the fishery, with the intent of promoting safety and stability in the harvesting and processing sectors, increasing the value of the fishery, minimizing bycatch to the extent practicable, providing for the sustained participation of fishery dependent communities, and ensuring the sustainability and viability of the resource.*

### **Element 1. Cooperative Style System**

**Voluntary harvester cooperatives.**

**Holders of qualified trawl catcher vessel (CV) License Limitation Program (LLP) licenses under Element 2 must join a cooperative annually in association with an eligible licensed processor (Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) or Federal Processing Permit (FPP)) to harvest their trawl CV Pacific cod cooperative quota (CQ). Harvesters may change cooperatives and cooperative associations may change annually without penalty.**

**No limitation on the number of LLP license holders or qualifying catch history (legal landings) needed to form a cooperative.**

**No limitation on the number of cooperatives that may form.**

**Inter-cooperative formation is allowed.**

**Option: A minimum of three LLP licenses are needed to form a cooperative.**

### **Element 2: Initial Allocation to LLP Licenses**

**Catch history to determine initial quota share (QS) allocations under this management action will not be considered beyond December 31, 2019.**

**2.1. Eligibility – Any LLP license assigned to a vessel that made qualifying catch history (legal landings) of targeted trawl CV BSAI Pacific cod during the qualifying years (or an LLP license as of December 31, 2019, assigned to an American Fisheries Act (AFA) trawl CV that had BSAI Pacific cod catch in 1997)<sup>1</sup> and any transferable Aleutian Islands (AI) endorsement is eligible to receive QS.**

Option: Establish a minimum threshold percentage range of 0.25%-1% by LLP holder for eligibility to receive QS. Partial ownership of LLP licenses counts toward the minimum threshold using the individual and collective rule. Does not apply to those 8 LLP licenses with a transferable AI endorsement.

**2.2. Harvester Allocations – Eligible LLP licenses must be assigned to a cooperative for the cooperative to receive annual Pacific cod CQ. The initial allocation of QS will be made to eligible LLP licenses or transferable AI endorsements, with each LLP license's or transferable AI endorsement's QS based on the Pacific cod qualifying catch history (legal landings) of targeted BSAI Pacific cod authorized by that LLP license or a transferable AI endorsement<sup>2</sup> during the following qualifying years:**

<sup>1</sup>The latter criteria (LLP assigned to an AFA trawl CV that had BSAI Pacific cod catch in 1997) is only applicable if one of the blend options is selected under Option 2.2.4.

<sup>2</sup> Landings of targeted AI Pacific cod in the parallel fishery prior to receiving a transferable AI endorsement (2004 through September 13, 2009) in addition to legal landings of targeted Pacific cod in the parallel and federal fishery after receiving a transferable AI endorsement would qualify under the Council's criteria for catch history.

Option 2.2.1: 2014 - 2019

**Option 2.2.2: 2009 – 2019**

Option 2.2.3: 2004 –2019

Option 2.2.4: Allocations based on a blend of catch history and AFA sideboard history<sup>3</sup>

Suboptions to credit catch history/sideboard at:

Suboption 2.2.1: 50%/50%

Suboption 2.2.2: 80%/20%

Suboption 2.2.3: 20%/80%

Suboptions (applicable to Options 2.2.1 – 2.2.4):

**Suboption 2.2.1. Drop 1 Year**

Suboption 2.2.2. Drop 2 Years

**2.3. For the initial allocation of QS, qualifying catch history is attached to the LLP license at the time of harvest. If multiple LLP licenses authorized catch by a vessel, in the absence of an agreement provided by the LLP license holder at the time of application, qualifying catch history will be:**

Option 2.3.1: divided equally between those LLP licenses.

**Option 2.3.2: assigned to an LLP license by the owner of the vessel that made the catch.**

**2.4. Annual CQ will be issued to each cooperative by NMFS based on the aggregate QS attached to LLP licenses that are assigned to the cooperative. NMFS will issue CQ by season and rely on the cooperatives to ensure the seasonal limits are not exceeded. Unused A season CQ may be rolled over to the B season. QS will not be designated for harvest in a management area (i.e., BS or AI) but may be harvested from either area.**

**2.5. Option to allocate A and B season BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod only:**

**A and B season trawl CV Pacific cod sector allocations (after deduction of the ICAs) will be allocated to cooperatives as CQ. Annual CQ attributable to each LLP license will be that LLP license's proportional share of the total QS.**

**The C season trawl CV Pacific cod allocation will remain 15 percent and remain a limited access trawl CV fishery and will be available to any trawl CV with an eligible groundfish LLP license with an applicable area endorsement. The C season limited access fishery will be managed as currently by NMFS, including management of incidental catches of Pacific cod in other directed fisheries. C season trawl CV sector apportionments (including A and B season ICAs and CQ remaining after June 10) that NMFS projects to go unused are subject to reallocation to other sectors under current reallocation rules.**

**2.6. All groundfish species not allocated to cooperatives will be managed by maximum retainable amounts (MRAs), as under current management.**

**2.7 The BSAI Pacific cod sideboard limit for AFA trawl CVs at 50 CFR 679.64(b)(3)(ii) is removed for the A and B season upon implementation of this program. The BSAI Pacific cod sideboard limit for AFA**

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<sup>3</sup> Using staff approach of blending 1997 sideboard history with qualifying year option catch history attached to the eligible LLP license at the time of implementation of the trawl CV LAPP.

trawl CVs at 50 CFR 679.64(b)(3)(ii) is maintained for the C season upon implementation of this program.

The BSAI halibut PSC sideboard limit for AFA trawl CVs at 50 CFR 679.64(b)(4)(i) and Table 40 is removed upon implementation of this program.

The BSAI crab PSC sideboard limit for AFA trawl CVs at 50 CFR 679.64(b)(4)(i) and Table 41 is maintained upon implementation of this program.

### Element 3. Prohibited Species Catch Limits

The annual crab and halibut PSC limits available to the BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod sector will be established through the annual specification process as follows:

Option 3.1: Crab PSC limits will be maintained at the BSAI trawl limited access sector level.

Option 3.2: Establish separate PSC limits for the BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod sector. Halibut PSC limit will be apportioned based on historical use (using qualifying years selected under Element 2) between the trawl CV sector and the AFA catcher processor (CP) sector. Crab PSC limits will be apportioned based on the proportion of BSAI Pacific cod allocated to the trawl CV sector and the AFA CP sector.

Option 3.3: Reduce PSC limit to BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod sector.

Suboption 3.3.1: Reduce halibut PSC limit by 10%; 25%; 35%.

Suboption 3.3.2: Reduce crab PSC limits by: 10%; 25%; 35%; 45%.

Red king crab Zone 1: (80% reduction from 2019 limit)

C. opilio Bycatch Limitation Zone: (69% reduction from 2019 limit)

C. bairdi Zone 1 and Zone 2: (48% reduction from 2019 limit)

Suboption 3.3.3: Phase in halibut PSC limit reduction over ~~3~~<sup>2</sup> years. ~~One-third~~<sup>One-half</sup> of the total halibut PSC limit reduction is implemented each year.

Option 3.4: If Element 2.5 is selected, establish separate C season halibut and crab PSC apportionments (5%-15%) before applying PSC limit reductions for the PCTC program.

Each cooperative will receive annual CQ of Pacific cod and apportionments of PSC limits based on members' qualifying catch histories (and processing histories, if applicable) to be harvested in accordance with the harvest cooperative agreement. The sector's PSC limits will be apportioned to cooperatives in proportion to its initial Pacific cod CQ apportionment and will be monitored at the cooperative level, resulting in a prohibition on directed fishing for Pacific cod (halibut PSC limit) or a prohibition on directed fishing for Pacific cod in a specified area (crab PSC limits) by that cooperative if the cooperative PSC limit apportionment is reached. PSC limits are transferable between cooperatives based on the same rules established for Pacific cod CQ.

### Element 4: Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Sideboards

Option 4.1: All ~~AFA non~~-GOA ~~non~~-exempt AFA CVs and AFA LLP licenses will be sideboarded (in aggregate for all GOA groundfish fishing activity) and for halibut PSC (on the annual amount of the

**total trawl halibut PSC limit), except for vessels when participating in the Central GOA Rockfish Program, based on their GOA catch history during the BSAI Pacific cod qualifying period.**

**Prohibit directed fishing in regulations for the GOA non-exempt AFA CVs and LLPs for Southeast Outside pollock, Western shallow-water flatfish, and both Central and Eastern deep-water flatfish, and Eastern Pacific Ocean perch.**

**Option 4.2: AFA GOA-exempt and non-AFA CVs assigned to LLP licenses and CVs assigned to under 60' LLP licenses with AI transferable endorsements that receive annual BSAI Pacific cod CQ will not be permitted to lease their BSAI Pacific cod CQ as a condition of benefiting from a GOA sideboard exemption. If the vessel assigned to the qualified GOA exempt LLP license does not fish the GOA during the calendar year, except for the Central GOA Rockfish Program, the BSAI Pacific cod CQ generated by the LLP license can be leased that calendar year. Cooperatives will be required to monitor GOA AFA exempt and non-AFA vessels and vessels assigned to under 60' LLP licenses with AI transferrable endorsements to ensure they do not lease their BSAI Pacific cod CQ and implement a penalty structure for violations. Cooperatives will be required to report leasing activities and penalties issued in the BSAI Pacific cod cooperative annual report.**

**Suboption 4.2.1: AFA GOA-exempt, and non-AFA CVs, and CVs assigned to under 60' LLP licenses with AI transferable endorsements with LLP licenses of less than 200 mt, 400 mt, or 600 mt of average annual qualifying BSAI Pacific cod history may lease their BSAI Pacific cod CQ and benefit from the GOA sideboard exemption.**

#### **Element 5: Processor and Community Provisions**

**5.1. No closed class of processors; all processors with an eligible FPP or FFP are eligible to process BSAI Pacific cod CQ under this program (subject to eligibility requirements under BSAI FMP Amendment 120 to limit CPs acting as motherships).**

**5.2. Limit (sideboard) on directed BSAI Pacific cod CQ that can be delivered by trawl CVs to eligible CPs acting as motherships. The sideboard would be based on BSAI Pacific cod processing history by eligible CPs during qualifying years under Element 2. The sideboard will be assigned to the LLP license authorizing the CP to act as a mothership in the BSAI Pacific cod fishery.**

**Option 5.2.1: Each eligible CP acting as a mothership may process up to the higher of 1) 125% of the eligible CP's processing history (percentage based on qualifying years selected in Element 2.2 no drop year); or 2) the history (percentage based on qualifying years selected under Element 2.2) from LLP licenses that are owned (in excess of 75%) directly or indirectly by the owner of a CP LLP eligible for the offshore sector of the target non-CDQ BSAI Pacific cod trawl CV fishery (as of December 31, 2019), not to exceed 125% of the eligible CP's processing history (percentage based on qualifying years selected in Element 2.2 no drop year).**

**Option 5.2.2: Each eligible CP acting as a mothership may process up to the eligible CP's processing history (percentage based on qualifying years selected in Element 2.2).**

**5.3. Limit number of trawl CVs in the directed BSAI Pacific cod fishery that can deliver to eligible CPs acting as motherships. Trawl CVs can qualify for the offshore sector in one of two ways:**

- 1) An LLP license that is owned (in excess of 75%) directly or indirectly by the owner of a CP LLP eligible for the offshore sector of the target non-CDQ BSAI Pacific cod fishery (as of December 31, 2019)
- 2) An LLP license in which a) 90% or b) 75% or more of the quota arising from the history of the LLP license qualifying for the non-CDQ BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod fishery was delivered offshore during the qualifying years selected in Element 2.2.

Only initial quota arising from the history of an LLP license qualifying for the offshore sector will be permitted to be delivered offshore. Only vessels that are assigned LLP licenses that qualify for the offshore sector will be permitted to make offshore deliveries. Vessels using LLP licenses that are permitted to deliver offshore may also deliver any or all of the quota derived from the LLP license to shorebased or floating processors.

**5.4. Allocation of QS to processors (this option is only applicable to Bering Sea processors and eligible CPs if AI provisions are selected under element 6):**

**Onshore and offshore processors with an eligible FFP or FPP (subject to eligibility requirements under BSAI FMP Amendment 120 to limit CPs acting as motherships) that have history of processing in the federal BSAI Pacific cod trawl CV fishery will be eligible to receive a percentage of total QS based on each onshore processor's and offshore processor's processing history. To be used, the processor's CQ would be transferred to the CV cooperative.**

**If a processor holding QS does not associate with a cooperative, that processor's CQ will be divided among cooperatives in the same proportion as the processor's CQ assigned to individual cooperatives by the associated processor that year relative to total processor derived CQ that was issued that year.**

**If a processor associated with more than one cooperative during a year, the CQ derived from their processor permit would be divided between the cooperatives in the same proportion as the CQ derived from LLP licenses.**

**Option: A cooperative cannot assign a greater proportion of the CQ resulting from processor held QS to an LLP license owned by that processor for harvest by a vessel owned by that processor than the LLP license would have brought into the cooperative absent any processor held QS. The cooperative will monitor this provision and include reporting on harvest of CQ resulting from processor held QS in the BSAI Pacific cod cooperative annual report.**

**Percent of QS to be allocated to eligible processors:**

- Option 5.4.1: 5%
- Option 5.4.2: 10%
- Option 5.4.3: 15%
- Option 5.4.4: 20%
- Option 5.4.5: 22.5%**
- Option 5.4.5~~6~~: 25%
- Option 5.4.6~~7~~: 30%

**Processing history years (including any drop year option selected in element 2.2) to receive QS are the same as harvester years in Element 2.**

Processors that are no longer active (no longer hold an FPP) would not be issued QS. The processing history associated with those processors would be deducted from the total amount of eligible processing history during the qualifying years when calculating the distribution of QS to processors.

#### Element 6: Aleutian Islands Processor Provisions

Options 6.1 and 6.2 are mutually exclusive.

Under this element:

An AI shoreplant is defined consistent with vacated Amendment 113 regulations.

An AI shoreplant operating under the provisions of this element is exempt from the processing facility use cap in element 8.4.

All cooperatives will be required to establish an intercooperative agreement that describes how either the set-aside provision in option 6.1 or the annual AI community shoreplant QS in option 6.2 will be administered by the cooperatives to ensure that harvests in the Bering Sea do not exceed the minimum set aside or shoreplant allocation amounts. This intercooperative agreement ~~should~~ **must** establish how the cooperatives intend to harvest the set-aside or shoreplant QS in years when it applies. This intercooperative agreement must be provided as part of the annual cooperative application and is required before NMFS can issue CQ. A cooperative intending to harvest any amount of the set-aside must provide the cooperative's plan for coordinating harvest and delivery of the set-aside with an AI shoreplant in the cooperative application.

**Option 6.1:** In any year when the community of Adak and/or Atka files a notice of intent to process, require the cooperative(s) to reserve a set-aside for delivery to an AI shoreplant. The amount of the set-aside (AI CQ reserve) will be 10% to 25% of the BSAI CV trawl directed A season CQ and is in effect ~~only~~ during the A and B season. Any remaining portion of the ~~set-aside~~ AI CQ reserve will be reallocated to cooperatives in the same proportion as the initial CQ if Adak and/or Atka withdraws its intent to operate notice during the A or B season, ~~or after the end of the A season, whichever comes first.~~

The intercooperative agreement must establish how cooperatives would ensure that CVs < 60 feet LOA assigned to an LLP license with a transferable AI trawl endorsement have the opportunity to harvest a percentage of the AI ~~set-aside~~ CQ reserve for delivery to an AI shoreplant. Option 1: 50%, option 2: 25%, or **option 3: 10% of the A-season AI community set-aside CQ reserve.**

NMFS will establish a separate AI Incidental Catch Allowance (ICA) and AI Directed Fishing Allowance (DFA) to support the AI CQ reserve.

When the AI CQ reserve is set equal to the AI DFA, directed fishing for Pacific cod in the AI may only be conducted by PCTC Program vessels that deliver their catch of AI Pacific cod to AI shoreplants for processing.

When the AI DFA is greater than the AI CQ reserve amount, the difference between the AI DFA and the AI CQ reserve will be available for directed fishing by all non-CDQ fishery sectors with sufficient A-season allocations and may be processed by any eligible processor.

Option 6.2: In any year when the community of Adak and/or Atka files a notice of intent to process, annual QS shall be issued to the plant operator designated in that notice of intent. In the event, one community issues a notice (option 1: 5.5%, option 2: 10%) of the total BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod CQ (prior to QS based on harvesting or processing histories) shall be issued to the plant. In the event both communities issue a notice, the CQ shall be divided equally between two plants. Adak or Atka may withdraw its intent to operate notice during the season if necessary. In that case, the unharvested portion of the CQ will be reissued to the other AI shoreplant if it is operating.

Suboption 6.2.1: If no AI shoreplants are operating, the amount of annual CQ equivalent to unharvested portion will be reissued to cooperatives (holders of LLP licenses with BS and/or AI harvest history in proportion to their initial CQ).

Annual AI community shoreplant allocations shall be transferable to any cooperative(s) (and between cooperatives) for harvest by member vessels that are assigned an AI trawl CV LLP license eligible under this program. CQ shall be harvestable exclusively in the AI and landed in the AI management region.

Suboption 6.2.2: If the community of Adak and/or Atka files a notice of intent to process, annual CQ should be issued to an entity representing the community designated in the notice of intent.

Suboption 6.2.3: AI trawl CVs less than 60' assigned to an LLP license with a transferable AI endorsement will be eligible under the program to be assigned to a cooperative annually in association with the Adak and/or Atka plant regardless of whether they otherwise qualify for the program. Option 1: 50%, option 2: 25%, or option 3: 10% of the annual AI community shoreplant allocation must be harvested by these vessels.

## **Element 7. Transferability**

**7.1. Initially issued QS are attached to trawl CV LLP licenses and are non-severable from the LLP licenses. Transfer of an LLP license eligible for this program results in the transfer of any program eligibility and QS associated with the LLP license.**

**Suboption 7.1.1: For the LLP licenses associated with the non-exempt AFA vessels, within ninety (90) days of initial issuance of QS, the owners of the LLP licenses that are associated with AFA non-exempt CVs that had engaged in fish transfer agreements during the qualifying periods and whose QS allocation at initial issuance does not exceed the ownership cap in element 8.1 may transfer the QS between other LLP licenses associated with AFA non-exempt vessels subject to the ownership cap in element 8.1. After these transfers are approved by NMFS, the BSAI Pacific cod QS will no longer be severable from the LLP license to which it was reassigned.**

**7.2. QS based on processing history are issued as separate permits, and the permit is only transferable to another processor. Permits issued to shoreside processors can only be transferred to other shoreside processors that hold an FPP. The QS is non-severable from the permit except in the case that transfer of the permit to another eligible processor would result in exceeding the use cap under Option 8.3. In that case, the portion of the QS over the cap is allowed to be severed from the permit and transferred to another eligible processor permit or shoreside processor that holds an FPP.**

**7.3. Annual Pacific cod CQ and PSC limits (whether derived from harvesting or processing histories) are transferable between cooperatives.**

**7.4. Post-delivery transfers of CQ are permitted, but must be completed by ~~December 31~~ August 1 (i.e., prior to annual CQ expiring).**

#### **Element 8: Ownership and Use Caps**

**8.1. Harvester-issued QS. Processor-issued QS does not count toward this use cap. No person may hold or use more than option: 5%- 10% of the Pacific cod QS issued:**

**Option 8.1.1: using the individual and collective rule or**

Option 8.1.2: using 10% ownership threshold or management and control for assigning QS to a holder's/entity's cap.

**Suboption 8.1: Persons over the cap at the time of QS issuance are grandfathered.**

**8.2. No vessel may harvest more than option: 3%; 4%; 5% of the annual Pacific cod CQ issued in the fishery.**

**Option 8.2.1: Vessels over the cap at the time of QS issuance are grandfathered. The grandfather provision is applied to the vessel designated on an LLP license that yields more than 5% of the annual Pacific cod CQ at the time of initial allocation. This grandfather provision is not transferrable if the LLP license is transferred to a new owner.**

**8.3. Processor-issued QS<sup>4</sup>: No person may hold or use more than option: 15% - 20% of the Pacific cod QS:**

**Option 8.3.1: using the individual and collective rule or**

Option 8.3.2: using 10% ownership threshold or management and control for assigning QS to a holder's/entity's cap.

**Suboption 8.3: Persons over the cap at the time of QS issuance are grandfathered.**

**8.4. No ~~processing facility~~ company may process more than 20%-30% of the Pacific cod CQ.**

**Option 8.4.1: using the individual and collective rule**

**~~Option 8.4.12: Processing facilities~~ Company over the cap at the time of QS issuance are grandfathered.**

#### **Element 9. Cooperative Provisions**

**Annual cooperative applications must be filed on or before November 1 of the preceding year.**

**Cooperatives shall be formed by holders of qualified LLP licenses with trawl CV Pacific cod QS. Each LLP license may be assigned to one cooperative. A list of CVs (both trawl and pot gear vessels, if Element 14 is selected) eligible to harvest a portion of that cooperative's CQ must be identified in the annual cooperative application.**

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<sup>4</sup>This cap refers to any QS initially issued to processors on a processor permit under Element 5.3.



**Cooperatives are intended only to conduct and coordinate harvest activities of members and are not Fishermen's Collective Marketing Act (FCMA) cooperatives.**

**Membership agreements will specify that processor affiliated members cannot participate in any price setting negotiations, except as permitted by antitrust laws.**

#### **Element 10. Share duration**

**All QS and allowances under this program are revocable privileges that 1) may be revoked, limited or modified at any time; 2) shall not confer any right of compensation to the holder, if they are revoked limited, or modified, and; 3) shall not create or be construed to create any right, title or interest in or to any fish before the fish is harvested by the holder.**

**The duration of all QS and associated PSC apportionments is 10 years. These permits will be renewed before their expiration, unless revoked, limited, or modified.**

#### **Element 11. Monitoring**

**All vessels harvesting CQ will be in ~~full coverage (100% observer or electronic monitoring coverage category, if applicable)~~. This element is not intended to modify the observer coverage exception provided for CVs delivering unsorted codends to a mothership or the current at-sea observer data transmission requirements for non-AFA trawl CVs. ~~NMFS will develop a~~ Monitoring and enforcement provisions necessary will be implemented to track quota, harvest, PSC, and use caps. Shoreside processors will be required to operate under a NMFS-approved Catch Monitoring and Control Plan. The Council authorizes NMFS to report weekly vessel-level PSC information as authorized under Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) Sec 402(b)(2)(A).**

#### **Element 12. Reporting and Program Review**

**Each cooperative shall annually produce a report for the Council describing its membership, cooperative management, and performance in the preceding year including use of CQ derived from processor issued QS and harvest and delivery of the AI CQ reserve, if applicable.**

**Per the MSA, a formal detailed review of the program shall be undertaken 5 years after implementation, with additional reviews, at a minimum, each seven years thereafter.**

#### **Element 13. Cost recovery**

**A fee, not to exceed 3% of the ex-vessel value, will be charged on all program landings to cover the actual costs directly related to the management, data collection, and enforcement of the program.**

#### **Element 14. Gear Conversion**

**Pacific cod CQ associated with trawl CV LLP licenses may be fished annually by a CV using pot gear. A pot endorsement is not required, but the LLP license used by a CV must have the appropriate area endorsement. Harvest would be deducted from the annual trawl CQ account to which the LLP license is assigned and will not affect sector allocations. CQ harvested by a pot CV is not permanently designated as pot CV CQ. If Option 2.5 is selected, gear conversion only applies to the A and B seasons based on the start and end dates for the trawl fishery. Pot CVs harvesting CQ would be subject to 100% coverage and**

PSC use would be deducted from the PSC limit allocated to the cooperative. NMFS will develop monitoring and enforcement provisions necessary to track quota, harvest, PSC, and use caps.

## C4 Amendments

**Mr. Marx made the following amendment (Element 3) which was seconded by Ms. Vanderhoeven:**  
Amendment to Suboption 3.3.1 - reduce halibut PSC to 20% as the PPA.  
(new language in red):

*Council's preliminary preferred alternative is shown in **bold**.*

**Option 3.3: Reduce PSC limit to BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod sector.**

**Suboption 3.3.1: Reduce halibut PSC limit by 10%; ~~20%~~; 25%; 35%.**

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment failed 8/3 (Mr. Merrill, Ms. Baker, Ms. Campbell, Mr. Down, Ms. Kimball, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Kinneen, Mr. Mezirow voting in opposition) on October 13, 2021, at 12:45 p.m.

**Mr. Mezirow made the following amendment (Element 4) which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:**  
Amendment to suboption 4.2.1 replace 200 mt with 300 mt, (new language in red):

*Council's preliminary preferred alternative is shown in **bold**.*

**Suboption 4.2.1: AFA GOA-exempt, ~~and non-AFA CVs, and CVs assigned to under 60' LLP licenses with AI transferable endorsements~~ with LLP licenses of less than ~~200 mt~~, ~~300 mt~~, 400 mt, or 600 mt of average annual qualifying BSAI Pacific cod history may lease their BSAI Pacific cod CQ and benefit from the GOA sideboard exemption.**

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed 8/3 (Ms. Baker, Ms. Campbell, Ms. Kimball voting in opposition) on October 13, 2021, at 1 p.m.

**Ms. Campbell made the following amendment (Element 6) which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:**  
Amendment in Element 6.1, in the second sentence replace 10% with 12% (new language in red):

*Council's preliminary preferred alternative is shown in **bold**.*

**Option 6.1: In any year when the community of Adak and/or Atka files a notice of intent to process, require the cooperative(s) to reserve a set-aside for delivery to an AI shoreplant. The amount of the set-aside (AI CQ reserve) will be ~~10%~~ ~~12%~~ to 25% of the BSAI CV trawl directed A season CQ and is in effect ~~only~~ during the A and B season. Any remaining portion of the ~~set-aside AI CQ reserve~~ will be reallocated to cooperatives in the same proportion as the initial CQ if Adak and/or Atka withdraws its intent to operate notice during the A or B season, ~~or after the end of the A season, whichever comes first.~~**

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed 7/4 (Mr. Down, Mr. Marx, Mr. Tweit, and Ms. Vanderhoeven voting in opposition) on October 13, 2021, at 1:10 p.m.

**Mr. Tweit made the following amendment (Element 7) which was seconded by Mr. Marx:**  
Amendment to suboption 7.1.1 add the following language (new language in red):

*Council's preliminary preferred alternative is shown in **bold**.*

**Suboption 7.1.1: For the LLP licenses associated with the non-exempt AFA vessels, within ninety (90) days of initial issuance of QS, the owners of the LLP licenses that are associated with AFA non-exempt CVs that had engaged in fish transfer agreements during the qualifying periods and whose QS allocation at initial issuance does not exceed the ownership cap in element 8.1 may transfer the QS between other LLP licenses associated with AFA non-exempt vessels subject to the ownership cap in element 8.1. After these transfers are approved by NMFS, the BSAI Pacific cod QS will no longer be severable from the LLP license to which it was reassigned **unless modification is supported by an operation of law**.**

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed unanimously on October 13, 2021, at 1:15 p.m.

**Mr. Merrill made the following amendment (Element 11) which was seconded by Ms. Vanderhoeven:**  
Amendment to Element 11 add the following language to the end of the second sentence (new language in red):

**All vessels harvesting CQ will be in ~~full coverage (100% observer or electronic monitoring coverage category, if applicable)~~. This element is not intended to modify the observer coverage exception provided for CVs delivering unsorted codends to a mothership or the current at-sea observer data transmission requirements for non-AFA trawl CVs **for the first 3 years after implementation**. ~~NMFS will develop a~~ Monitoring and enforcement provisions necessary will be implemented to track quota, harvest, PSC, and use caps. Shoreside processors will be required to operate under a NMFS-approved Catch Monitoring and Control Plan. The Council authorizes NMFS to report weekly vessel-level PSC information as authorized under Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) Sec 402(b)(2)(A).**

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed unanimously on October 13, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.

**Mr. Tweit made the following deeming amendment which was seconded by Ms. Campbell:**

The Council deems proposed regulations that clearly and directly flow from the provisions of this motion to be necessary and appropriate in accordance with section 303(c).

The Council authorizes the Executive Director and the Chairman to review the draft proposed regulations when provided by NMFS to ensure that the proposed regulations to be submitted to the Secretary under section 303(c) are consistent with these instructions.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed unanimously on October 13, 2021, at 2:35 p.m.

**VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously on October 13, 2021, at 2:40 p.m.

## C5 Observer Annual Deployment Plan

**Council Staff:** Sara Cleaver  
**Other Presenter:** Jennifer Ferdinand (AFSC) and Geoff Mayhew (PSMFC)

**Action Required:**

1. Review the Draft 2022 ADP
2. Receive PCFMAC report
3. Provide recommendations to NMFS for the final 2022 ADP and other recommendations as necessary.

**Summary:** *The Council is scheduled to review the Draft 2022 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP) for the partial coverage category of the North Pacific Observer Program and provide recommendations to NMFS for the Final 2022 ADP. The ADP explains how NMFS intends to assign fishery observers and electronic monitoring (EM) to groundfish and halibut vessels fishing in the partial coverage category. The Council will also receive the report from the recent PCFMAC meeting.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following action was taken:

**Ms. Kimball made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Tweet:**

The Council supports the following PCFMAC and NMFS recommendations for the 2022 draft Observer Annual Deployment Plan (ADP) for partial coverage fisheries. Observer coverage rates resulting from this approach and the final budget are expected in the final 2022 ADP in December. Fisheries not covered under the ADP remain in the full (100% or 200%) coverage category.

- Three gear-based deployment strata (hook-and-line, pot, and trawl)
- Trip selection from all ports
- Observer deployment allocation strategy of adjusted 15% plus optimization for groundfish discards, halibut PSC and Chinook salmon PSC
- Zero selection pool of fixed-gear vessels <40' LOA and vessels fishing with jig gear
- Fixed and pelagic trawl gear electronic monitoring (EM) deployment strategies, including current priorities for inclusion in the fixed gear EM pool plus ability of a vessel to share EM systems
- Maintaining NMFS' ability to release a trip from observer coverage on a case-by-case basis
- Maintaining the automatic release of a trip if the vessel has been selected for three consecutive trips

The Council supports maintaining this stratification and allocation strategy for 2023 with the clarification that additional fixed gear EM vessels may be added to the EM pool in 2023 (up to 200 total vessels) provided they opt-in prior to November 1, 2022, additional funding for EM equipment is secured, and they meet the criteria in the ADP.

The Council strongly supports NMFS' continued work on the comprehensive partial coverage cost efficiencies analysis, including the PCFMAC recommendations, under a schedule that ensures the results inform the next observer contract with the objective that the new contract will contain cost efficiency measures and support additional efforts to manage costs.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously on October 14, 2021, at 10:45 a.m.

## **C6 BSAI and GOA Groundfish Specifications**

**Council Staff:** Sara Cleaver (GOA), Steve MacLean (BSAI)

**Action Required:**

1. Review Joint, BSAI, and GOA Plan Team reports
2. Recommend proposed BSAI and GOA groundfish harvest limits, prohibited species catch limits, and halibut discard mortality rates for 2022-2023
3. Finalize risk table guidance for inclusion in future stock assessments

**Summary:** *The Council will review information from teams of technical experts about the status of the ecosystem, available scientific information, and other issues relevant to the upcoming assessments of groundfish stocks. The Council will recommend proposed catch limits for the 2022 and 2023 fishing years for the GOA and BSAI groundfish fisheries, however, final catch limits will be recommended in December after final assessments are completed.*

After staff and SSC presentations and public comment, the following actions were taken:

**Ms. Kimball made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:**

The Council adopts the proposed 2022 and 2023 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and the TACs shown in Table 1. Final specifications will be approved in December. The TACs for both Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod and pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water GHF fisheries. The proposed Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod adjustments for state water GHF fisheries are shown in Table 2.

The Council adopts the proposed 2022 and 2023 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the Gulf of Alaska as provided in Tables 9, 10, and 11.

The Council adopts the proposed 2022 and 2023 halibut discard mortality rates for the Gulf of Alaska as shown in Table 12 (attachment 1).

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously on October 15, 2021, at 12:50 p.m.

**Ms. Kimball made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Mezirow:**

1. The Council supports the SSC recommendation to move to Step 2 of the Spatial Management Policy for consideration of separating DSR from the other rockfish complex Gulf-wide. An update of the 2017 discussion paper on this topic to identify economic and management implications and tools to achieve conservation and management goals should be developed to inform this process.
2. The Council requests NOAA continue work with the IPHC to ensure the collection and timely input of CPUE data from the sablefish logbooks, and to continue efforts to input data from electronic monitoring logbooks, to support the sablefish stock assessment.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously on October 15, 2021, at 12:58 p.m.

**Ms. Vanderhoeven made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:**

The Council adopts the proposed 2022 and 2023 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish harvest specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and sets the TACs, as shown in the attached BSAI Table 1, with all proposed specifications consisting of rollovers of 2022 final specifications from 2021/2022 harvest specifications as approved in December 2020. The TACs for both BS and AI Pacific cod have been adjusted to account for the State water GHF fisheries.

The Council adopts the proposed flatfish ABC reserves, 2022 and 2023 annual and seasonal PSC limits and apportionments in the BSAI as provided in attached Tables 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, for halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, opilio crab and herring and their gear type and target fishery apportionments. The 2022 and 2023 crab PSC limits have been revised using current biomass amounts.

The Council adopts the proposed 2022 and 2023 halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for the BSAI as shown in Table 12 (attachment 2).

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously on October 15, 2021, at 1:05 p.m.

## **D2 ACLIM 2.0 Report and GOA CLIM update**

**Council Staff:** Diana Evans  
**Other Presenters:** ACLIM – Dr. Kirstin Holsman, Dr. Alan Haynie  
GOA CLIM – Dr. Martin Dorn  
**Action Required:** 1. Receive reports, provide feedback as appropriate.

**Summary:** *Lead principal investigators for the [ACLIM project](#) will brief the Council on the second phase of the ACLIM project, which began late last year. The team is looking for Council input at this stage of the project to ensure that the results will be informative and relevant for future Council management discussions about climate change and management tradeoffs in the Bering Sea. The intent is to provide resource managers with alternative “climate-ready” management strategies to help them understand management objective tradeoffs, and how to adapt to changing conditions so North Pacific marine resources remain sustainable, and fisheries and communities are as resilient as possible.*

Council members provided verbal feedback but no action was taken on this agenda item.

## E1 Staff Tasking

**Council Staff:** David Witherell and Diana Evans

**Action Required:**

1. Review Committees and Plan Teams
2. Provide direction on tasking priorities and scheduling

**Summary:** *The Council will listen to public testimony about existing and new management measures that the public may be interested in and will provide feedback to staff and the Council Chair about how to prioritize staff work on existing and new projects. The Council will specifically discuss the different aspects of returning to in-person meetings.*

*The Council will also review its committee membership, identify agendas for any upcoming committee meetings, and discuss plans for returning to in-person meetings.*

After staff presentations and public comment, the following actions were taken:

### E1 Salmon Bycatch

**Ms. Baker made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Marx:**

The Council requests:

- 1) An updated bycatch impact (AEQ) analysis which includes current genetic stock identification information and an updated age/length composition for Chinook salmon along with estimates of how many Chinook salmon taken as bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery would have returned to Western Alaska Chinook salmon stock groupings. The analysis should include a PSC harvest rate analysis and an estimate of the Chinook salmon bycatch impacts to each specific stock grouping at the current cap levels and at actual bycatch levels in recent years.

The Council also requests that the report include recommendations to evaluate impacts of chum salmon bycatch in the pollock fishery with currently available data.

- 2) A stock status update of Western Alaska Chinook and chum salmon stocks.

In addition, the Council requests staff write a letter to the Secretary of State to request help to identify levels and stock composition of bycatch of salmon in waters outside of the jurisdiction of the United States.

The Council requests staff write a letter in support of recent requests to the Secretary of Commerce for increased and dedicated funding for salmon research, observation, and monitoring, including on the lifecycle of salmon species in the freshwater, nearshore, and marine environments, and the effects that environmental changes are having on salmon throughout their lifecycle.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously on October 15, 2021, at 1:50 p.m.

### E1 RKC Savings Area Expansion

**Ms. Baker made the following motion which was seconded by Dr. Balsiger:**

The Council requests an analysis on the likely impacts of expanding the Red King Crab Savings Area through emergency rule to shift the northern boundary from 57° 00.0' N to 57° 30.0' N. This analysis should assess the immediate conservation benefits for female red king crab and whether an emergency rule would improve the likelihood of a directed red king crab fishery in the following year consistent with NOAA's emergency rule criteria. The analysis should include an evaluation of impacts this closure may have on red king crab and other PSC species and harvests of groundfish species to the extent possible and as needed to inform the Council.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously on October 15, 2021, at 2:20 p.m.

## E1 BBRKC

**Ms. Campbell made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Down:**

The Council initiates a discussion paper to:

1. Provide the best available information on bottom contact by pelagic trawl gear and the impact it may have on BBRKC stocks.
2. Evaluate boundaries used for the BBRKC survey, stock assessment, PSC limits, and directed fishery.
3. Summarize mechanisms used in other council managed fisheries to create flexible, responsive spatial management measures for all gear types and how they might be applied to protect BBRKC.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously on October 15, 2021, at 2:40 p.m.

## E1 Small Sablefish Release

**Mr. Down made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Balsiger:**

When time, resources, and staff allow, direct staff to prepare and schedule for Council consideration a small sablefish release Initial Review document to be scheduled for an upcoming meeting.

Request that analysis build on the previous initial review and AP motion from February 2021 with the following additional analysis and other factors as staff find necessary.

- Provide additional context relative to sablefish biomass of potential release mortality, considering a range of DMRs from 12 % to 40 %
- Evaluate "high grading" concerns in context of fishery economics
- Evaluate uncertainties surrounding release mortality rate and "high grading" rate in context of existing model and catch accounting uncertainties

**Ms. Baker made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:**

(delete the following language in ~~strikethrough~~)



When time, resources, and staff allow, direct staff to prepare and schedule for Council consideration a small sablefish release Initial Review document to be scheduled for an upcoming meeting.

~~Request that analysis build on the previous initial review and AP motion from February 2021 with the following additional analysis and other factors as staff find necessary.~~

- ~~• Provide additional context relative to sablefish biomass of potential release mortality, considering a range of DMRs from 12 % to 40 %~~
- ~~• Evaluate “high grading” concerns in context of fishery economics~~
- ~~• Evaluate uncertainties surrounding release mortality rate and “high grading” rate in context of existing model and catch accounting uncertainties~~

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** Amendment passed unanimously on October 15, 2021, at 3 p.m.

**VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously on October 15, 2021, at 3:10 p.m.

## E1 Climate Initiatives

**Mr. Tweit made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:**

- The Council recommends that the AFSC, in finalizing these three Regional Action Plans and in progress with developing the CFI, that the output of these various research efforts be linked to the Council process and management actions. This would encompass both the Council's initiatives through the Fishery Ecosystem Plan and its Climate change and LKTKS Taskforces, as well as information that will inform the Council's consideration of harvest specifications for the groundfish, crab, and scallop fisheries.
- The Council encourages the agency to work closely with other agency partners, in particular USFWS. The FWS manages conservation of key ecosystem species, such as seabirds and some marine mammals, and it is important to integrate their work; their Landscape Conservation Cooperatives is one area to consider strengthened partnerships, as their initiative incorporates community participation and grassroots engagement.
- The Council should send a letter to the Secretary of Commerce describing our support for these Regional Action Plans and the CFI, and underscoring the importance of providing funding for these initiatives without reducing funding for existing programs.

The Council supports the SSC comments, and requests the plans be revised to respond to their input. The Council emphasize that the RAPs should link proposed projects and research to management application in the Council or other processes and should highlight and follow through on coordination with all partners moving forward.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously on October 15, 2021, at 3:15 p.m.

## E1 Council Appointments

- Ms. Caroline Brown appointed to the Social Science Plan Team
- Dr. Philip Joy appointed to the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team
- Mr. Jared Weems appointed to the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team
- Dr. Mike Litzow appointed to the BSAI Crab Plan Team
- Ms. Kathryn Meyer appointed as the primary Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife representative to the SSC

**The Council adjourned on Friday, October 15, 2021, at 3:40 P.M.**

Table 1. Proposed SSC recommended OFL and ABC and Council recommended TACs for Groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska (metric tons) for 2022 and 2023

10/14/2021

Species	Area	2020				Catch as of 12/31/2020	2021				2022-2023		
		OFL	ABC	TAC			OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 9/11/2021	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	2,712	-		n/a	2,643	n/a		n/a	2,298	n/a	
	W (610)	n/a	19,175	19,175	19,005	n/a	18,477	18,477	10,635	n/a	16,067	16,067	
	C (620)	n/a	54,456	54,456	55,399	n/a	54,870	54,870	40,993	n/a	47,714	47,714	
	C (630)	n/a	26,597	26,597	25,575	n/a	24,320	24,320	10,020	n/a	21,149	21,149	
	WYAK	n/a	5,554	5,554	5,180	n/a	5,412	5,412	5,143	n/a	4,706	4,706	
	Subtotal		140,674	108,494	105,782	105,159	123,455	105,722	103,079	66,791	106,767	91,934	89,636
	EYAK/SEO	13,531	10,148	10,148	-	13,531	10,148	10,148	1	13,531	10,148	10,148	
	Total	154,205	118,642	115,930	105,159	136,986	115,870	113,227	66,792	120,298	102,082	99,784	
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	4,942	2,076	222	n/a	7,986	5,590	3,417	n/a	12,892	9,024	
	C	n/a	8,458	3,806	3,501	n/a	13,656	10,242	6,996	n/a	22,045	16,534	
	E	n/a	1,221	549	221	n/a	1,985	1,489	198	n/a	3,204	2,403	
	Total		17,794	14,621	6,431	3,944	28,977	23,627	17,321	10,611	46,587	38,141	27,961
Sablefish	W	n/a	2,278	1,942	1,469	n/a	3,224	2,428	1,190	n/a	4,165	4,165	
	C	n/a	7,560	6,445	6,053	n/a	9,527	8,056	5,214	n/a	11,111	11,111	
	WYAK	n/a	2,521	2,343	1,834	n/a	3,451	2,929	1,858	n/a	4,009	4,009	
	SEO	n/a	4,524	3,663	3,139	n/a	5,273	4,579	2,576	n/a	5,946	5,946	
Alaska-wide OFL and ABC	GOA Total	n/a	16,883	14,393	12,495	n/a	21,475	17,992	10,838	n/a	25,231	25,231	
	AK Total	50,481	22,009	n/a	n/a	60,426	29,588	n/a	n/a	70,710	36,955	n/a	
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	23,849	13,250	20	n/a	24,151	13,250	20	n/a	24,460	13,250	
	C	n/a	27,732	27,732	4,338	n/a	28,082	28,082	1,354	n/a	28,442	28,442	
	WYAK	n/a	2,773	2,773	1	n/a	2,808	2,808	1	n/a	2,844	2,844	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,109	1,109	1	n/a	1,123	1,123	1	n/a	1,137	1,137	
	Total	68,010	55,463	44,864	4,360	68,841	56,164	45,263	1,376	69,691	56,883	45,673	
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	226	226	1	n/a	225	225	1	n/a	225	225	
	C	n/a	1,948	1,948	98	n/a	1,914	1,914	67	n/a	1,914	1,914	
	WYAK	n/a	2,105	2,105	3	n/a	2,068	2,068	5	n/a	2,068	2,068	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,751	1,751	3	n/a	1,719	1,719	4	n/a	1,719	1,719	
	Total	7,163	6,030	6,030	105	7,040	5,926	5,926	77	7,040	5,926	5,926	
Rex Sole	W	n/a	2,901	2,901	36	n/a	3,013	3,013	9	n/a	3,013	3,013	
	C	n/a	8,579	8,579	1,201	n/a	8,912	8,912	183	n/a	8,912	8,912	
	WYAK	n/a	1,174	1,174	1	n/a	1,206	1,206	1	n/a	1,206	1,206	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,224	2,224	-	n/a	2,285	2,285	-	n/a	2,285	2,285	
	Total	18,127	14,878	14,878	1,238	18,779	15,416	15,416	193	18,779	15,416	15,416	
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	31,455	14,500	282	n/a	32,377	14,500	135	n/a	31,479	14,500	
	C	n/a	68,669	68,669	20,755	n/a	69,072	69,072	7,963	n/a	67,154	67,154	
	WYAK	n/a	10,242	6,900	49	n/a	8,380	6,900	46	n/a	8,147	6,900	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	17,694	6,900	35	n/a	17,141	6,900	20	n/a	16,665	6,900	
	Total	153,017	128,060	96,969	21,121	151,723	126,970	97,372	8,164	147,515	123,445	95,454	
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	13,783	8,650	100	n/a	14,209	8,650	23	n/a	14,380	8,650	
	C	n/a	20,201	15,400	1,811	n/a	20,826	15,400	449	n/a	21,076	15,400	
	WYAK	n/a	2,354	2,354	-	n/a	2,427	2,427	-	n/a	2,456	2,456	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,858	1,858	-	n/a	1,915	1,915	-	n/a	1,939	1,939	
	Total	46,572	38,196	28,262	1,911	47,982	39,377	28,392	472	48,534	39,851	28,445	
Pacific ocean perch	W	n/a	1,437	1,437	1,336	n/a	1,643	1,643	1,322	n/a	1,572	1,572	
	C	n/a	23,678	23,678	22,389	n/a	27,429	27,429	21,442	n/a	26,234	26,234	
	WYAK	n/a	1,470	1,470	1,466	n/a	1,705	1,705	1,662	n/a	1,631	1,631	
	W/C/WYAK	31,567	26,585	26,585	25,191	36,563	30,777	30,777	24,426	34,974	29,437	29,437	
	SEO	5,525	4,653	4,653	-	6,414	5,400	5,400	-	6,136	5,165	5,165	
	Total	37,092	31,238	31,238	25,191	42,977	36,177	36,177	24,426	41,110	34,602	34,602	
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	1,133	1,133	770	n/a	2,023	2,023	332	n/a	1,926	1,926	
	C	n/a	3,178	3,178	1,615	n/a	3,334	3,334	1,656	n/a	3,173	3,173	
	E	n/a	1	-	-	n/a	1	-	-	n/a	1	-	
	Total		5,143	4,312	4,311	2,385	6,396	5,358	5,357	1,988	6,088	5,100	5,099
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	52	52	6	n/a	52	52	2	n/a	52	52	
	C	n/a	284	284	186	n/a	284	284	152	n/a	284	284	
	E	n/a	372	372	299	n/a	372	372	243	n/a	372	372	
	Total		944	708	708	491	944	708	708	397	944	708	708
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	776	776	231	n/a	270	270	91	n/a	265	265	
	C	n/a	2,746	2,746	1,883	n/a	4,548	4,548	2,656	n/a	4,469	4,469	
	WYAK	n/a	115	115	83	n/a	468	468	30	n/a	460	460	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	39	39	1	n/a	103	103	-	n/a	101	101	
	Total	4,492	3,676	3,676	2,198	8,655	5,389	5,389	2,777	8,423	5,295	5,295	
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	168	168	4	n/a	168	168	20	n/a	170	170	
	C	n/a	455	455	185	n/a	456	456	130	n/a	459	459	
	E	n/a	586	586	194	n/a	588	588	159	n/a	592	592	
	Total		1,452	1,209	1,209	383	1,456	1,212	1,212	309	1,467	1,221	1,221
Demersal shelf rockfish	Total	375	238	238	105	405	257	257	84	405	257	257	
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	326	326	50	n/a	352	352	35	n/a	352	352	
	C	n/a	911	911	208	n/a	910	910	82	n/a	910	910	
	E	n/a	779	779	204	n/a	691	691	114	n/a	691	691	
	Total		2,688	2,016	2,016	462	2,604	1,953	1,953	231	2,604	1,953	1,953
Other Rockfish	W/C	n/a	940	940	663	n/a	940	940	989	n/a	940	940	
	WYAK	n/a	369	369	109	n/a	369	369	114	n/a	369	369	
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,744	2,744	110	n/a	2,744	300	24	n/a	2,744	300	
	Total		5,320	4,053	4,053	882	5,320	4,053	1,609	1,127	5,320	4,053	1,609
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	3,000	608	6,200	4,700	3,000	792	6,200	4,700	3,000	
Big Skate	W	n/a	758	758	28	n/a	758	758	121	n/a	758	758	
	C	n/a	1,560	1,560	785	n/a	1,560	1,560	335	n/a	1,560	1,560	
	E	n/a	890	890	148	n/a	890	890	97	n/a	890	890	
	Total		4,278	3,208	3,208	961	4,278	3,208	3,208	553	4,278	3,208	3,208
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	158	158	20	n/a	158	158	28	n/a	158	158	
	C	n/a	1,875	1,875	348	n/a	1,875	1,875	396	n/a	1,875	1,875	
	E	n/a	554	554	248	n/a	554	554	383	n/a	554	554	
	Total		3,449	2,587	2,587	616	3,449	2,587	2,587	807	3,449	2,587	2,587
Other Skates	GOA-wide	1,166	875	875	461	1,166	875	875	487	1,166	875	875	
Sculpins	GOA-wide	6,932	5,199	5,199	535	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sharks	GOA-wide	10,913	8,184	8,184	1,481	5,006	3,755	3,755	821	5,006	3,755	3,755	
Octopuses	GOA-wide	1,307	980	980	79	1,307	980	980	22	1,307	980	980	
	TOTAL	607,120	465,956	399,239	187,171	610,917	476,037	407,976	133,344	616,921	476,269	409,039	

Sources: 2020 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2019, and 2020 catches through December 31 from AKR Catch Accounting.

2021 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs, as well as 2022 OFLs and ABCs, are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2020. 2021 catches through September 11, 2021 from AKR Catch Accounting.

**Table 2. Proposed 2022 and 2023 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod ABCs, TACs and State Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) in metric tons**

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	12,892	22,045	3,204	38,141
State GHL	3,868	5,511	801	10,180
(State GHL %)	30%	25%	25%	25-30
Federal TAC	9,024	16,534	2,403	27,961

Note: The Federal TAC is only for Federal fisheries. It does not include the State GHL.

**Table 9. Proposed 2022 and 2023 Pacific Halibut PSC Limits, Allowances, and Apportionments (Values are in metric tons)**

Trawl gear			Hook-and-line gear <sup>1</sup>				
			Other than DSR			DSR	
Season	Percent	Amount	Season	Percent	Amount <sup>2</sup>	Season	Amount
January 20 - April 1	30.5	519	January 1 - June 10	86	221	January 1 - December 31	9
April 1 - July 1	20	341	June 10 - September 1	2	5		
July 1 - August 1	27	462	September 1 - December 31	12	31		
August 1 - October 1	7.5	128					
October 1 - December 31	15	256					
Total		1,706			257		9

<sup>1</sup> The Pacific halibut PSC limit for hook-and-line gear is allocated to the demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) fishery and fisheries other than DSR. The hook-and-line IFQ sablefish fishery is exempt from halibut PSC limits, as are pot and jig gear for all groundfish fisheries.

**Table 10. Proposed 2022 and 2023 Seasonal Apportionments of the Pacific Halibut PSC Limit Apportioned Between the Trawl Gear Shallow-Water and Deep-Water Species Fisheries (Values are in metric tons)**

Season	Shallow-water	Deep-water <sup>1</sup>	Total
January 20 - April 1	384	135	519
April 1 - July 1	85	256	341
July 1 - August 1	121	341	462
August 1 - October 1	53	75	128
Subtotal, January 20 - October 1	643	807	1,450
October 1 - December 31 <sup>2</sup>			256
Total			1,706

<sup>1</sup> Vessels participating in cooperatives in the Central GOA Rockfish Program will receive 191 mt of the third season (July 1 through September 1) deep-water species fishery halibut PSC apportionment.

<sup>2</sup> There is no apportionment between trawl shallow-water and deep-water species fisheries during the fifth season (October 1 through December 31).

**Table 11. Proposed 2022 and 2023 Apportionments of the “Other hook-and-line fisheries” Halibut PSC Allowance Between the Hook-and-Line Gear Catcher Vessel and Catcher/Processor Sectors (Values are in metric tons)**

“Other than DSR” allowance	Hook-and-line sector	Sector annual amount	Season	Seasonal percentage	Sector seasonal amount
257	Catcher Vessel	144	January 1 - June 10	86	124
			June 10 - September 1	2	3
			September 1 - December 31	12	17
	Catcher/Processor	113	January 1 - June 10	86	97
			June 10 - September 1	2	2
			September 1 - December 31	12	14

**Table 12. Proposed 2022 and 2023 Halibut Discard Mortality Rates for Vessels Fishing in the Gulf of Alaska. (Values are in percent of halibut assumed to be dead.)**

Gear	Sector	Groundfish fishery	Halibut discard mortality rate (percent)
Pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	All	100
	Catcher/processor	All	100
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	Rockfish Program	66
	Catcher vessel	All others	69
	Mothership and catcher/processor	All	83
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	All	15
	Catcher vessel	All	12
Pot	Catcher vessel and catcher/processor	All	29

Table 1. Council Proposed recommended OFL, ABC for Groundfish in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (metric tons) for 2022-2023

10/8/2021

Species	Area	2020				2021				AP Proposed 2022/2023		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 12/31/2020	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 9/11/2021	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	EBS	4,085,000	2,043,000	1,425,000	1,367,229	2,594,000	1,626,000	1,375,000	1,297,613	2,366,000	1,484,000	1,400,000
	AI	66,973	55,120	19,000	3,205	61,856	51,241	19,000	1,497	61,308	50,789	19,000
	Bogoslof	183,080	137,310	75	9	113,479	85,109	250	49	113,479	85,109	100
Pacific cod	BS	191,386	155,873	141,799	141,537	147,949	123,805	111,380	98,057	128,340	106,852	95,053
	AI	27,400	20,600	13,796	7,474	27,400	20,600	13,796	4,170	27,400	20,600	13,796
Sablefish	BSAI/GOA	50,481	n/a	n/a	n/a	60,426	29,558	n/a	4,207	70,710	36,955	n/a
	BS	n/a	2,174	1,861	5,302	n/a	3,396	3,396	2,993	n/a	4,863	4,863
	AI	n/a	2,952	2,039	1,210	n/a	4,717	4,717	1,213	n/a	6,860	5,061
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	287,307	260,918	150,700	133,799	341,571	313,477	200,000	83,790	374,982	344,140	200,000
Greenland turbot	BSAI	11,319	9,625	5,300	2,326	8,568	7,326	6,025	1,578	7,181	6,139	6,025
	BS	n/a	8,403	5,125	1,648	n/a	6,176	5,125	1,126	n/a	5,175	5,125
	AI	n/a	1,222	175	678	n/a	1,150	900	453	n/a	964	900
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	84,057	71,618	10,000	10,684	90,873	77,349	15,000	6,753	94,368	80,323	15,000
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	11,495	9,708	6,800	7,442	10,630	8,982	8,982	6,417	10,843	9,163	8,982
Northern rock sole	BSAI	157,300	153,300	47,100	25,937	145,180	140,306	54,500	13,448	213,783	206,605	54,500
Flathead sole	BSAI	82,810	68,134	19,500	9,393	75,863	62,567	25,000	8,042	77,763	64,119	25,000
Alaska plaice	BSAI	37,600	31,600	17,000	20,078	37,924	31,657	24,500	14,531	36,928	30,815	22,500
Other flatfish	BSAI	21,824	16,368	4,000	4,174	22,919	17,189	6,500	2,370	22,919	17,189	6,500
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	58,956	48,846	42,875	40,417	44,376	37,173	35,899	23,698	42,384	35,503	34,758
	BS	n/a	14,168	14,168	11,944	n/a	10,782	10,782	3,119	n/a	10,298	10,298
	EAI	n/a	11,063	10,613	10,621	n/a	8,419	8,419	5,854	n/a	8,041	8,041
	CAI	n/a	8,144	8,094	7,966	n/a	6,198	6,198	4,898	n/a	5,919	5,919
	WAI	n/a	15,471	10,000	9,886	n/a	11,774	10,500	9,826	n/a	11,245	10,500
Northern rockfish	BSAI	19,751	16,243	10,000	8,443	18,917	15,557	13,000	5,642	18,221	14,984	13,000
Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish	BSAI	861	708	349	517	576	482	482	349	595	500	326
Rockfish	EBS/EAI	n/a	444	85	149	n/a	313	313	107	n/a	324	150
	CAI/WAI	n/a	264	264	368	n/a	169	169	242	n/a	176	176
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	722	541	375	294	722	541	500	346	722	541	225
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,793	1,344	1,088	1,098	1,751	1,313	916	631	1,751	1,313	694
	BS	n/a	956	700	359	n/a	919	522	273	n/a	919	300
	AI	n/a	388	388	739	n/a	394	394	358	n/a	394	394
Atka mackerel	BSAI	81,200	70,100	59,305	58,884	85,580	73,590	62,257	34,736	79,660	68,220	57,717
	EAI/BS	n/a	24,535	24,535	24,291	n/a	25,760	25,760	13,691	n/a	23,880	23,880
	CAI	n/a	14,721	14,721	14,596	n/a	15,450	15,450	14,922	n/a	14,330	14,330
	WAI	n/a	30,844	20,049	19,997	n/a	32,380	21,047	19,814	n/a	30,010	19,507
Skates	BSAI	49,792	41,543	16,313	19,136	49,297	41,257	18,000	15,619	47,372	39,598	16,000
Sculpins	BSAI	67,817	50,863	5,300	5,155	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sharks	BSAI	689	517	150	179	689	517	200	308	689	517	200
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	275	691	4,769	3,576	700	146	4,769	3,576	700
<b>Total</b>	BSAI	<b>5,584,382</b>	<b>3,272,581</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>1,874,613</b>	<b>3,945,315</b>	<b>2,747,727</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>1,637,689</b>	<b>3,802,167</b>	<b>2,682,318</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>

Sources: 2020 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2021 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2019 and December 2020, respectively; 2020 catches through December 31, and 2021 catches through September 11, 2021 from AKR Catch Accounting.

TABLE 7–PROPOSED 2022 AND 2023 ABC SURPLUS, ABC RESERVES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA (CDQ) ABC RESERVES, AND AMENDMENT 80 ABC RESERVES IN THE BSAI FOR FLATHEAD SOLE, ROCK SOLE, AND YELLOWFIN SOLE

[Amounts are in metric tons]			
Sector	Flathead sole	Rock sole	Yellowfin sole
ABC	64,119	206,605	344,140
TAC	25,000	54,500	200,000
ABC surplus	39,119	152,105	144,140
ABC reserve	39,119	152,105	144,140
CDQ ABC reserve	4,186	16,275	15,423
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	34,933	135,830	128,717



TABLE 8—PROPOSED 2022 AND 2023 APPORTIONMENT OF PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES TO NON-TRAWL GEAR, THE CDQ PROGRAM, AMENDMENT 80, AND THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTORS

PSC species and area <sup>1</sup>	Total PSC	Non-trawl PSC	CDQ PSQ reserve <sup>2</sup>	Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ	Amendment 80 sector <sup>3</sup>	BSAI trawl limited access sector	BSAI PSC limits not allocated <sup>2</sup>
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,515	710	315	n/a	1,745	745	n/a
Herring (mt) BSAI	2,532	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	32,000	n/a	3,424	28,576	14,282	8,739	5,555
<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	4,350,000	n/a	465,450	3,884,550	1,909,256	1,248,494	726,799
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 1	830,000	n/a	88,810	741,190	312,115	348,285	80,790
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 2	2,520,000	n/a	269,640	2,250,360	532,660	1,053,394	664,306

<sup>1</sup> Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of zones.

<sup>2</sup> The PSQ reserve for crab species is 10.7 percent of each crab PSC limit.

<sup>3</sup> The Amendment 80 program reduced apportionment of the trawl PSC limits for crab below the total PSC limit. These reductions are not apportioned to other gear types or sectors.

TABLE 9-PROPOSED 2022 AND 2023 HERRING AND RED KING CRAB SAVINGS SUBAREA  
PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES FOR ALL TRAWL SECTORS

Fishery categories	Herring (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1
Yellowfin sole	110	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish <sup>1</sup>	54	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	7	n/a
Rockfish	7	n/a
Pacific cod	13	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	2,299	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species <sup>2,3</sup>	42	n/a
Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear <sup>4</sup>	n/a	8,000
Total trawl PSC	2,532	32,000

<sup>1</sup>“Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), Alaska plaice, arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

<sup>2</sup>Pollock other than midwater trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and “other species” fishery category.

<sup>3</sup>“Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

In October 2021, the Council recommended and NMFS approves that the red king crab bycatch limit for non-pelagic trawl fisheries within the RKCSS be limited to 25 percent of the red king crab PSC allowance (see § 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(2)).

Note: Species apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

TABLE 10--PROPOSED 2022 AND 2023 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

BSAI trawl limited access sector fisheries	Prohibited species and area <sup>1</sup>				
	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	<i>C. bairdi</i> (animals)	
				Zone 1	Zone 2
Yellowfin sole	150	7,700	1,192,179	293,234	1,005,879
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	-	-	-
Rockfish April 15-December 31	4	-	1,006	-	849
Pacific cod	391	975	50,281	50,816	42,424
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species <sup>3</sup>	200	65	5,028	4,235	4,243
Total BSAI trawl limited access sector PSC	745	8,739	1,248,494	348,285	1,053,394

<sup>1</sup> Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

<sup>2</sup> “Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), Alaska plaice, arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

<sup>3</sup> “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

Note: Species apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

TABLE 11–PROPOSED 2022 AND 2023 HALIBUT PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR NON-TRAWL FISHERIES

Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI				
Non-trawl fisheries	Seasons	Catcher/processor	Catcher vessel	All Non-Trawl
Pacific cod	Annual Pacific cod	648	13	661
	January 1-June 10	388	9	n/a
	June 10-August 15	162	2	n/a
	August 15-December 31	98	2	n/a
Non-Pacific cod non-trawl-Total	May 1-December 31	n/a	n/a	49
Groundfish pot and jig	n/a	n/a	n/a	Exempt
Sablefish hook-and-line	n/a	n/a	n/a	Exempt
Total for all non-trawl PSC	n/a	n/a	n/a	710

TABLE 12—PROPOSED 2022 AND 2023 PACIFIC HALIBUT DISCARD MORTALITY RATES (DMR)

Gear	Sector	Halibut discard mortality rate (percent)
Pelagic trawl	All	100
Non-pelagic trawl	Mothership and catcher/processor	84
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	62
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	10
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	10
Pot	All	33



**TIME LOG**  
**NPFMC October Council Meeting – 256th Plenary Session**  
**Meeting held via web conference Adobe Connect October 6,**  
**2021, and October 10-15, 2021**

**Wednesday, October 6, 2021**

**A & B REPORTS**

10/6/2021 8:00 AM	Call to Order
10/6/2021 8:04 AM	Oath of Office
10/6/2021 8:07 AM	Election of Officers

**C1 BSAI Crab**

10/6/2021 8:12 AM	<b>C1 Presentation Bering Sea Crab Bottom Trawl Survey Results – Mike Litzow – NMFS AFSC</b>
10/6/2021 8:12 AM	C1 BSAI Crab Stocks – Katie Palof & Martin Dorn
10/6/2021 9:37 AM	<b>C1 SSC Report – Dr. Sherri Dressel</b>
10/6/2021 10:30 AM	Break
10/6/2021 10:40 AM	AP Report – Ruth Christensen
10/6/2021 10:42 AM	<b>C1 Public Testimony</b>
10/6/2021 10:43 AM	Adam Hosmer
10/6/2021 10:47 AM	Siri Dammarell
10/6/2021 10:51 AM	Jamie Goen/Cory Lescher
10/6/2021 11:02 AM	Casey McManus
10/6/2021 11:06 AM	Sean Dwyer
10/6/2021 11:16 AM	Chris Studeman
10/6/2021 11:18 AM	Jennifer Gore Dwyer
10/6/2021 11:22 AM	Scott Goodman
10/6/2021 11:37 AM	Gabriel Prout
10/6/2021 11:42 AM	Heather McCarty
10/6/2021 11:45 PM	<b>Lunch Break</b>
10/6/2021 12:46 PM	Nikolai Sivertstol
10/6/2021 12:49 PM	Dana Rude (for Mark Casto)
10/6/2021 1:01 PM	Mateo Paz-Soldan
10/6/2021 1:01 PM	Craig Lowenberg
10/6/2021 1:02 PM	Rick Shelford
10/6/2021 1:06 PM	Lauren Divine
10/6/2021 1:10 PM	Scott Campbell
10/6/2021 1:21 PM	<b>C1 Ms. Bush Motion</b>

## **B Reports**

10/6/2021 1:45 PM	B1 Executive Director Report
10/6/2021 1:53 PM	B8 US Navy Report on Northern Edge – John Mosher & Chris Hunt
10/6/2021 2:18 PM	B report continued
10/6/2021 2:36 PM	<b>B4 AFSC Report</b> – Updates on Surveys and Climate Research
10/6/2021 3:02 PM	B4 CFI Report – Dr. Anne Hollowed, AFSC
10/6/2021 3:32 PM	B4 EBS RAP Report – Dr. Anne Hollowed
10/6/2021 3:44 PM	B4 GOA RAP – Dr. Martin Dorn, AFSC
10/6/2021 3:59 PM	B4 Arctic RAP – Dr. Jim Thorson, AFSC
10/6/2021 4:11 PM	B Public Testimony
10/6/2021 4:11 PM	Janessa Esquible
10/6/2021 4:18 PM	Serena Fitka
10/6/2021 4:25 PM	Mary Peltola
10/6/2021 4:36 PM	Jonathan Samuelson
10/6/2021 4:36 PM	Recess

## **Sunday, October 10, 2021**

10/10/2021 8:00 AM	Call to order
10/10/2021 8:04 AM	<b>B Public Testimony Continued</b>
10/10/2021 8:04 AM	Mike Williams Sr.
10/10/2021 8:27 AM	Jaylene Wheeler
10/10/2021 8:33 AM	Jennifer Hooper
10/10/2021 8:42 AM	Elizabeth MacDonald
10/10/2021 8:48 AM	Brooke Woods
10/10/2021 8:52 AM	Chief Chairman Pollack Simon
10/10/2021 9:05 AM	Natasha Singh
10/10/2021 9:10 AM	Ben Stevens
10/10/2021 9:16 AM	Dr. Jim Simon
10/10/2021 9:22 AM	Lauren Divine
10/10/2021 9:28 AM	Heather McCarty
10/10/2021 9:32 AM	Linda Behnken
10/10/2021 9:46 AM	Becca Robbins Gisclair
10/10/2021 9:52 AM	Malinda Chase
10/10/2021 9:57 AM	Myron Naneng
10/10/2021 10:02 AM	Rochelle Adams
10/10/2021 10:06 AM	Dorothy Shockley
10/10/2021 10:12 AM	Break
10/10/2021 10:20 AM	Discussion on B reports
10/10/2021 10:54 AM	<b>AP Report on C2, C3, and D1</b>

## **C2 IFQ Omnibus Amendments**

10/10/2021 11:12 AM	<b>C2 Presentation</b> – NPFMC staff, Sara Cleaver and Abby Jahn
10/10/2021 11:35 AM	Break
10/10/2021 12:35 PM	C2 Presentation continued
10/10/2021 1:35 PM	C2 IFQ Committee Report – NPFMC staff, Sarah Marrinan
10/10/2021 1:49 PM	<b>C2 Public Testimony</b>
10/10/2021 1:49 PM	Tad Fujioka
10/10/2021 1:51 PM	Paul Clampitt
10/10/2021 1:59 PM	John Moller
10/10/2021 2:01 PM	Bob Alverson
10/10/2021 2:07 PM	Alexander Stubbs
10/10/2021 2:11 PM	Steve Fish
10/10/2021 2:18 PM	Brett Roth
10/10/2021 2:31 PM	Linda Behnken
10/10/2021 2:41 PM	Kathy Hansen
10/10/2021 2:45 PM	Lance Nylander
10/10/2021 2:50 PM	Nick Johanson
10/10/2021 2:54 PM	Bernie Burkholder
10/10/2021 2:57 PM	Tim Wilkie
10/10/2021 3:07 PM	<b>C2 Ms. Campbell Motion</b>

## **C3 Charter Halibut Recreational Quota Entity Funding Mechanism Initial Review**

10/10/2021 3:19 PM	C3 Presentation – NPFMC staff, Sarah Marrinan and NMFS, Kurt Iverson
10/10/2021 4:08 PM	<b>C3 Public Testimony</b>
10/10/2021 4:08 PM	Forest Braden
10/10/2021 4:13 PM	Richard Yamada
10/10/2021 4:15 PM	Jim Martin
10/10/2021 4:18 PM	<b>C3 Mr. Mezirow Motion</b>
10/10/2021 4:34 PM	Recess

## **Monday, October 11, 2021**

### **D1 Halibut Catch Sharing Plan – Allocation Review Workplan**

10/11/2021 8:02 AM	Call to Order
10/11/2021 8:02 AM	D1 Presentation – NPFMC staff, Sarah Marrinan and NMFS, Kurt Iverson
10/11/2021 8:29 AM	<b>D1 Public Testimony</b>
10/11/2021 8:29 AM	Linda Behnken
10/11/2021 8:40 AM	Marc Carrel
10/11/2021 8:42 AM	Kathy Hansen
10/11/2021 8:44 AM	Forest Braden
10/11/2021 8:50 AM	Tom Gemmell
10/11/2021 8:52 AM	Jim Martin
10/11/2021 9:03 AM	<b>D1 Mr. Mezirow Motion</b>



## **C4 BSAI Pacific Cod Trawl CV LAPP**

10/11/2021 9:15 AM	<b>C4 Presentation</b> – NPFMC staff, Jon McCracken, Darrell Brannan (Brannan & Associates), Mike Downs (Wislow Research), Stephanie Warpinski (NMFS AKRO SF), Abby Jahn (NFMS AKRO SF)
10/11/2021 11:47 AM	<b>Lunch Break</b>
10/11/2021 12:50 PM	C2 Presentation Continued
10/11/2021 3:01 PM	C2 SSC Report – Dr. Sherri Dressel
10/11/2021 3:20 PM	C2 AP Report – Ruth Christiansen and Matt Upton
10/11/2021 4:07 PM	Recess

## **Tuesday, October 12, 2021**

### **C4 BSAI Pacific Cod Trawl CV LAPP continued**

10/12/2021 8:00 AM	Call to order
10/12/2021 8:01 AM	<b>C4 Public Testimony</b>
10/12/2021 8:01 AM	Alex Jackson
10/12/2021 8:04 AM	Bob Breskovich
10/12/2021 8:07 AM	Philip Powell
10/12/2021 8:17 AM	Ernie Weiss
10/12/2021 8:22 AM	Brent Paine
10/12/2021 8:39 AM	Mark Fina
10/12/2021 8:46 AM	Shannon Carroll
10/12/2021 9:03 AM	Chris Barrows
10/12/2021 9:10 AM	Jon Warrenchuk
10/12/2021 9:16 AM	Trent Hartill
10/12/2021 9:31 AM	Tom Enlow
10/12/2021 9:40 AM	Ron Kavanaugh
10/12/2021 9:45 AM	Mark Cooper
10/12/2021 9:50 AM	Break
10/12/2021 10:05 AM	Stephanie Madsen
10/12/2021 10:15 AM	Frank Kelty
10/12/2021 10:18 AM	Linda Behnken
10/12/2021 10:23 AM	Jeff Lackey
10/12/2021 10:32 AM	John Moller
10/12/2021 10:48 AM	John Gruver
10/12/2021 11:03 AM	Caitlin Yeager
10/12/2021 11:15 AM	Mike Hyde
10/12/2021 11:28 AM	Linda Larson
10/12/2021 11:34 AM	Chad See
10/12/2021 11:45 AM	Lunch Break
10/12/2021 12:46 PM	Paul Wilkins
10/12/2021 12:51 PM	Heather McCarty
10/12/2021 1:02 PM	Hunter Berns
10/12/2021 1:11 PM	Mateo Paz-Soldan

10/12/2021 1:18 PM	Jeff Kauffman
10/12/2021 1:35 PM	Julie Kavanaugh
10/12/2021 1:38 PM	Theresa Peterson
10/12/2021 1:45 PM	Lauren Divine
10/12/2021 1:50 PM	Don Ashley
10/12/2021 1:53 PM	Craig Lowenberg
10/12/2021 2:18 PM	Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian
10/12/2021 2:34 PM	Jamie Goen
10/12/2021 2:42 PM	Dan Martin
10/12/2021 2:48 PM	Ephraim Froehlich
10/12/2021 2:57 PM	Jim Stone
10/12/2021 2:59 PM	Steve Minor
10/12/2021 3:03 PM	George Pollock
10/12/2021 3:07 PM	Julianne Curry
10/12/2021 3:14 PM	Steve Beard
10/12/2021 3:20 PM	Justin Johnson
10/12/2021 3:25 PM	Alexus Kwachka
10/12/2021 3:29 PM	Abby Duffy
10/12/2021 3:33 PM	Layton Lockett
10/12/2021 3:35 PM	Julie Bonney
10/12/2021 3:54 PM	Patrick O'Donnell

**Wednesday, October 13, 2021**

**C4 BSAI Pacific Cod Trawl CV LAPP - Continued**

10/13/2021 8:00 AM	Call to order
10/13/2021 8:01 AM	<b>C4 Public Testimony Continued</b>
10/13/2021 8:02 AM	Heather Mann
10/13/2021 8:15 AM	Hannah Heimbuch
10/13/2021 8:23 AM	Dave Fraser
10/13/2021 8:35 AM	Rebecca Skinner
10/13/2021 8:42 AM	Chris Cooper
10/13/2021 9:15 AM	Break
10/13/2021 9:55 AM	<b>C4 Ms. Baker Motion</b>
10/13/2021 1:59 PM	Comments on Motion
10/13/2021 2:44 PM	Break

**B10 SSC Report**

10/13/2021 3:22 PM	Balance of SSC Report – Dr. Sherri Dressel
10/13/2021 4:45 PM	Recess

## **Thursday, October 14, 2021**

10/14/2021 8:00 AM Call to order  
10/14/2021 8:03 AM AP report for C6 and E – Ruth Christiansen

### **C5 Observer Annual Deployment Plan**

10/14/2021 8:18 AM C5 Presentation on Draft ADP for 2022 – AFSC, Jennifer Ferdinand and Geoffrey Mayhew  
10/14/2021 9:04 AM C5 PCFMAC report – NPFMC staff, Sara Cleaver  
10/14/2021 9:50 AM **C5 Public Testimony**  
10/14/2021 9:51 AM Bob Alverson  
10/14/2021 10:01 AM Dan Falvey  
10/14/2021 10:12 AM John Gauvin  
10/14/2021 10:19 AM Abigail Turner-Franke  
10/14/2021 10:28 AM Julie Kavanaugh  
10/14/2021 10:33 AM **Ms. Kimball Motion**

### **C6 BSAI and GOA Groundfish Specifications**

10/14/2021 10:45 AM C6 Joint PT Report and BSAI PT Report– NPFMC staff, Steve MacLean  
10/14/2021 11:03 AM C6 GOA Groundfish Plan Team  
10/14/2021 11:16 AM **C6 Public Testimony**  
10/14/2021 11:16 AM Jim Armstrong  
10/14/2021 11:23 AM Megan Williams  
10/14/2021 11:29 AM Linda Behnken  
10/14/2021 11:44 PM Lunch Break  
10/14/2021 12:49 PM **C6 Ms. Kimball Motion** – GOA proposed specifications  
10/14/2021 12:54 PM **C6 Ms. Kimball Motion** – GOA – additional requests  
10/14/2021 1:03 PM **C6 Ms. Vanderhoeven Motion** – BSAI proposed specifications

### **D2 ACLIM 2.0 Report and GOA CLIM update**

10/14/2021 1:17 PM D2 ACLIM presentation – Dr. Kirstin Holsman (AFSC)  
10/14/2021 2:41 PM D2 GOA CLIM presentation – Dr. Martin Dorn (AFSC)  
10/14/2021 3:05 PM **D2 Public Testimony**  
10/14/2021 3:06 PM Heather McCarty  
10/14/2021 3:09 PM Stephanie Madsen  
10/14/2021 3:17 PM Lauren Divine  
10/14/2021 3:31 PM Linda Behnken  
10/14/2021 3:36 PM Jon Warrenchuk

## E1 Staff Tasking

10/14/2021 3:51 PM

E1 Presentation – NPFMC staff, David Witherell and Diana Evans

### Friday, October 15, 2021

10/15/2021 8:00 AM	Call to order
10/15/2021 8:03 AM	<b>E Public Testimony</b>
10/15/2021 8:04 AM	Adolph Lupie
10/15/2021 8:08 AM	Henry Lupie
10/15/2021 8:12 AM	Mary Peltola
10/15/2021 8:25 AM	Mike Williams Sr.
10/15/2021 8:28 AM	Brooke Woods
10/15/2021 8:33 AM	Bob Alverson
10/15/2021 8:35 AM	Jamie Goen
10/15/2021 8:50 AM	Craig Lowenberg
10/15/2021 8:53 AM	Carrie Stevens
10/15/2021 8:56 AM	Paul Clampitt
10/15/2021 8:59 AM	Julie Raymond-Yakoubian
10/15/2021 9:09 AM	Bruce Ervin
10/15/2021 9:12 AM	Siri Dammarell
10/15/2021 9:15 AM	David Harris
10/15/2021 9:19 AM	Ephraim Froehlich
10/15/2021 9:23 AM	Gabriel Prout
10/15/2021 9:29 AM	John Gauvin
10/15/2021 9:39 AM	Rick Shelford
10/15/2021 9:45 AM	Break
10/15/2021 9:45 AM	Jennifer Gore Dwyer
10/15/2021 10:00 AM	Nikolai Siverstol
10/15/2021 10:04 AM	Jim Stone
10/15/2021 10:06 AM	Edward Poulsen
10/15/2021 10:14 AM	Chad See
10/15/2021 10:24 AM	Ann Robertson for Miguel Camacho Castillo
10/15/2021 10:27 AM	Keith Colburn
10/15/2021 10:32 AM	Patricia McDonald
10/15/2021 10:44 AM	Theresa Peterson
10/15/2021 10:50 AM	Oystein Lone
10/15/2021 10:54 AM	Hannah Heimbuch
10/15/2021 11:04 AM	Chris Woodley
10/15/2021 11:10 AM	Heather McCarty
10/15/2021 11:17 AM	Mateo Paz-Soldan
10/15/2021 11:23 AM	Linda Behnken
10/15/2021 11:28 AM	Lauren Divine
10/15/2021 11:32 AM	Becca Robbins Gisclair
10/15/2021 11:43 AM	James Sipary Sr.
10/15/2021 11:52 AM	Christian Gudmundsson (for Gretar Gudmundsson)
10/15/2021 11:54 AM	Lance Farr

10/15/2021 11:59 AM	Serena Fitka
10/15/2021 12:05 PM	Lunch Break
10/15/2021 1:12 PM	<b>Ms. Baker Motion</b> – Salmon Bycatch
10/15/2021 1:59 PM	<b>Ms. Baker Motion</b> – RKC Savings Area Expansion
10/15/2021 2:22 PM	<b>Ms. Campbell Motion</b> – BBRKC
10/15/2021 2:39 PM	<b>Mr. Down Motion</b> – Small Sablefish Release
10/15/2021 3:11 PM	<b>Mr. Tweit Motion</b> – Climate Initiatives
10/15/2021 3:40 PM	Meeting Adjourned

# October 2021 Newsletter

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## Call for Nominations

The Council is accepting nominations for the SSC and Advisory Panel, and also the Charter Halibut Management Committee.

## SSC and Advisory Panel

The Council is accepting nominations for its Scientific and Statistical Committee and its Advisory Panel. Members seeking reappointment do not need to submit new application materials; for others, please submit your nomination [here](#) by Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 5pm Alaska time. Please note that the names, resumes, and supporting letters of those who submit a nomination will be posted on our website.

**Scientific and Statistical Committee** (SSC) nominees should have areas of expertise in biology/stock assessment, marine mammals, statistics, fisheries/resource economics, sociology/anthropology, or other relevant disciplines and be federal employees, state employees, academicians, or independent experts not employed by advocacy or interest groups. SSC members serve one-year terms but may be reappointed. The SSC advises the Council on all aspects of the decision-making process, including stock assessments and annual specifications, protected species interactions, and adequacy of analyses supporting various management actions. New SSC candidates should submit nominations, letters of interest, and a resume to the Executive Director through our [nomination portal](#) by **November 30th at 5pm** Alaska time. More information on the terms of reference, appointment process, and duties of SSC members can be found in the [SSC Handbook](#).

The **Advisory Panel** (AP) is composed of representatives of the fishing industry and others interested in the management of the North Pacific fisheries, and provides advice from those perspectives. AP members generally serve for three-year terms, and may be reappointed for up to two subsequent, consecutive terms. Members of the panel are expected to attend up to five meetings, four to five days in length, each year. In 2022, we hope to hold meetings in-person, but it is possible that some meetings may need to be held virtually. Note that no seats on the Advisory Panel are designated to a particular stakeholder group or geographical area, and the Council encourages all interested stakeholders to apply. Of paramount importance, the Council will consider the demonstrated ability of the candidate to be objective and to consider all aspects of an issue. More information on the terms of reference, appointment process, and duties of AP members can be found in the [AP Handbook](#).

There are [nine AP appointments](#) expiring in December 2021. The 3-year terms for seven seats expire in 2021, and of these, five are currently occupied by AP members who are eligible to serve another term: Angel Drobica, Gretar Gudmundsson, Brian Ritchie, Erik Velsko, Marissa Wilson; AP members Craig Lowenberg and Joel Peterson are no longer eligible for reappointment. Additionally, current AP member Susie Zagorski is the interim appointee in 2021 for a seat that has two remaining years on its term, and she is eligible for reappointment. Finally, the last expiring appointment is held by John Gruver, who was appointed to a one-year term only. Nominations, letters of interest, and a resume should be submitted to the Executive Director through our [nomination portal](#) by **November 30th at 5pm** Alaska time. Letters of support are not required but will also be considered.

# Charter Halibut Management Committee

The Council is seeking an additional representative from Area 3A to join the [Charter Halibut Management Committee](#). The Council's Charter Halibut Management Committee was established to develop recommended management alternatives for the charter halibut fishery in Areas 2C and 3A. Requested changes to management measures are suggested by the Committee in October of each year, then evaluated by ADF&G staff to estimate the expected charter halibut removals relative to the charter halibut catch limits for each area. . The Committee recommends management measures to the Council in December of each year. **This year, the Committee is scheduled to meet on October 26-27, 2021, and on December 6, 2021.**

**If you are interested in joining the Charter Halibut Management Committee, please send a letter of interest to [Sarah Marrinan](#) at the Council office by November 30, 2021.**

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## Council Membership Changes

### **Kinneen and Tweit re-elected**

The Council unanimously re-elected Simon Kinneen as Chair and Bill Tweit as Vice-Chair.

### **Council welcomes Vanderhoeven and Moore**

The Council swore in Anne Vanderhoeven as its newest member at the beginning of its October meeting. Ms. Vanderhoeven is the Director of Government Affairs for Arctic Storm and has been involved in the Council process for many years. She recently served on the Council's Advisory Panel as a representative for the Community Development Quota groups and is active and involved on many Council committees. She began her career as a fisheries observer and brings decades of experience across many sectors and fleets.

Additionally, David Moore joins the Council as the new representative for the US Department of State, where he serves as the International Relations Officer of the Office of Marine Conservation.

At this meeting, the Council also swore in Andy Mezirow and John Jensen to their third and second terms, respectively. Each term is three years. Council member's full bios are included on the [website](#).

### **Dr. Jim Balsiger retires**

Dr. Balsiger, NOAA Fisheries' Alaska Regional Administrator, will be retiring November 30, following 47 years of service to NOAA Fisheries. He served as Regional Administrator, Regional Director of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, and Acting Administrator for NOAA Fisheries during that time.

Dr. Balsiger has a long history of working with the Council and on North Pacific fisheries issues, including serving as Chairman of the GOA Groundfish Plan Team and a stint on the Council's SSC. Jim noted many things have changed over the years, specifically how bycatch is calculated, and including a variety of options for analysis. He was appreciative of the time he has worked in fisheries management in Alaska and thanked all the stakeholders, scientists, staff, and public that have contributed to the process. We wish you all the best in your retirement, Jim!

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## BSAI Salmon Bycatch

The Council received a tremendous amount of heartfelt public testimony on the impacts of low salmon runs in recent years (particularly in 2021) to the people living in western Alaska communities, and the importance of salmon resources for food security as well as traditional and cultural purposes. After substantial discussion, the Council moved to request a report to continue the process of evaluating the estimation and impact of high seas bycatch of salmon on run returns as well as continued support for research funding to better understand the diverse causes of low salmon returns to these regions.

Specifically, the Council requests:

- An updated bycatch impact (AEQ) analysis which includes current genetic stock identification information and an updated age/length composition for Chinook salmon along with estimates of how many Chinook salmon taken as bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery would have returned to Western Alaska Chinook salmon stock groupings. The analysis should include a PSC harvest rate analysis and an estimate of the Chinook salmon bycatch impacts to each specific stock grouping at the current cap levels and at actual bycatch levels in recent years.

The Council also requests that the report include recommendations to evaluate impacts of chum salmon bycatch in the pollock fishery with currently available data.

- A stock status update of Western Alaska Chinook and chum salmon stocks.

In addition, the Council requested two letters be drafted. The first is to the Secretary of State to request help to identify levels and stock composition of bycatch of salmon in waters outside of the jurisdiction of the United States. The second letter is to the Secretary of Commerce in support of recent requests to for increased and dedicated funding for salmon research, observation, and monitoring, including on the lifecycle of salmon species in the freshwater, nearshore, and marine environments, and the effects that environmental changes are having on salmon throughout their lifecycle.

Additional information on the State's intention to engage local users in the development of a research plan and strategy to address these issues as well as continued progress on the availability of the Council's requested report will be posted to the Council website.

Staff contact is Diana Stram

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## BSAI Crab

### Approval of the SAFE report and 2021/22 OFL and ABC

The Council approved the Final 2021 BSAI Crab SAFE report and specified OFLs and ABCs for eastern Bering Sea (EBS) snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, EBS Tanner crab, Saint Matthew blue king crab and Pribilof



Island red king crab for the 2021/2022 fishing season. The Council took this action following a review of the affected crab stocks as well as the BSAI Crab Plan Team's (CPT) Report from their September 2021 meeting. The Council's motion adopting the 2021/2022 OFLs and ABCs for these five BSAI crab stocks is provided [here](#).

In addition to approving the SAFE and OFLs and ABCs, the Council noted its support of the detailed recommendations of the SSC, as practicable, and encourages the Alaska Fishery Science Center to consider extending the NMFS trawl survey into deeper waters by adding stations to the standard Bering Sea trawl survey design. The Council supports continued efforts to move all assessments to GMACs and ongoing work by state and federal scientists to evaluate changing stock distributions in relation to currently defined stock boundaries

## BSAI Crab Stock Status

The **final 2021 BSAI Crab SAFE** report describes how the status of a crab stock is determined based on a system of five tiers that stocks fall into, based on the amount of information that can be generated in the stock assessment. For most of the crab stocks managed by the Council, data are available to support estimation of stock biomass ( $B$ ), so stock status compares current biomass (i.e.,  $B_{2021}$ ) to target ( $B_{MSY}$ ) and threshold ( $\frac{1}{2} B_{MSY}$ ) biomass (see Figure below). The final 2021 SAFE report indicates that Aleutian Islands golden king crab, and Pribilof Islands red king crab and EBS Tanner crab are all above  $B_{MSY}$ , while Bristol Bay red king crab, and Norton Sound red king crab are below  $B_{MSY}$  but above  $\frac{1}{2} B_{MSY}$ , and EBS snow crab, Pribilof Islands blue king crab, and St Matthew blue king crab are below  $\frac{1}{2} B_{MSY}$ .



**Status of eight Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab stocks in relation to status determination criteria ( $B_{MSY}$ , MSST, overfishing) for 2021. Note that information is insufficient to assess Tier 5 stocks according to these criteria (WAIRKC, PIGKC).**

EBS snow crab, Saint Matthew blue king crab and Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock are all below the minimum stock size threshold (MSST) for these stocks and means that they are all overfished. Pribilof Islands blue king crab have been overfished since 2002, while Saint Matthew blue king crab were declared to be overfished in October 2018. Under the rebuilding plan, the fishery will remain closed until the stock has growth to a level that allows for an opening under the State of Alaska's harvest strategy.

EBS snow crab biomass was below the threshold in 2021 and was declared overfished by NMFS on October 19, 2021. A **rebuilding plan for EBS snow crab** will be developed by the Council and must be implemented within two years. Discussion of the rebuilding plan will begin at the January 2022 CPT meeting and the Council will develop draft alternatives for the rebuilding analysis in February 2022.

Due to ongoing concerns with the status of the Bristol Bay red king crab (BBRKC) stock and the closure of the directed fishery in 2021/2022, the Council took **additional actions with respect to BBRKC**. The Council will evaluate the potential impacts and benefits of expanding northward the Red King Crab Savings Area (RKCSA) as an emergency action, and also initiated a discussion paper to consider several factors that may have impact on the BBRKC stock. Further description of these motions is included under [staff tasking](#).

Under the five-tier system described in the Crab SAFE report, methods are provided for estimating catch levels that constitute overfishing (i.e., exceeding the OFL). According to the 2021 SAFE report, overfishing did not occur on any of the Council's crab stocks.

Staff contact is Diana Stram.

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## IFQ items and Committee Report

At this meeting, the Council evaluated the initial review draft of the IFQ Omnibus analysis and the IFQ Committee Report, made changes to the alternatives and elements, and released the analysis for final action. The analysis considered several elements intended to increase operational flexibility for those using pot and jig gear to harvest IFQ, as well as a separate alternative to remove the Adak CQE residency requirement for five years to provide more opportunity for the Adak CQE to fully harvest its allocation. The IFQ Committee report characterized the range of viewpoints concerning appropriate gear retrieval requirements, pot limits, and changes to pot gear configuration requirements.

After receiving the presentation on the analysis, the Committee report and public testimony, the Council released the document for final action. The Council did not select a preliminary preferred alternative at this time, however it did revise the alternatives and elements in its [motion](#). The Council noted that while some of the elements in the analysis, such as changes to the biodegradable panel regulations, flagpole and buoy requirements, authorizing jig gear to harvest sablefish IFQ, and the exemption to the CQE residency requirement, are straightforward, a few of the elements require more consideration due to diverging perspectives on how to proceed. The revised motion aims to balance the need for flexibility and gear innovation with the concerns heard in public testimony about a potential directed halibut fishery using pot gear. Element 4 would revise the pot gear configuration requirements to remove the 9-inch maximum width of tunnel opening so it does not apply when vessel has unfished halibut IFQ onboard. The Council's revised motion includes an option to remove this tunnel opening requirement on vessels that possess sablefish IFQ but do not possess halibut IFQ. The Council clarified that this motion does not allow exemption from the tunnel opening requirement if the vessel does not have sablefish IFQ onboard. In other words, a vessel with *only* halibut IFQ on board would not be able to use a larger tunnel opening to target halibut; the requirement is linked to participation in the sablefish IFQ fishery.

The Council also indicated that elements should apply to CDQ as well as IFQ fisheries where appropriate, as regulations applicable to the CDQ program are intended to be no more restrictive than the regulations in effect for comparable non-CDQ fisheries managed under individual fishing quotas.

Staff contact is Sara Cleaver.

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## Recreational Quota Entity Funding Mechanism

At this meeting, the Council considered an Initial Review Analysis of options to establish a fee collection program for charter vessel operators to fund the Recreational Quota Entity (RQE), and released it for final action. The analysis evaluates NMFS as the primary fee collection agency under different options. Two mechanisms are considered: 1) a charter halibut stamp mechanism and 2) an annual operator fee mechanism. A charter halibut stamp would require charter operators to purchase a halibut stamp for each guided angler, for each day that the charter angler is on a charter vessel that intends to harvest halibut operating in IPHC

regulatory areas 2C and 3A. An annual operator fee mechanism would be an administrative action tied to the renewal of a Charter Halibut Permit (CHP) and scaled to the angler effort associated with that CHP. The analysis highlights the benefits and challenges of each option, as well as aspects that require further consideration.

All options that propose a fee be collected by NMFS from charter operators require U.S. Congressional action, to provide the fee collection authority as well as to allow for the appropriation of collected funds back to the RQE. This action is currently being considered in Congress under Senate Bill S.273. The bill passed in the Senate on September 14, 2021 and will next be considered by the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Council recommended releasing the analysis for final action and identified the charter halibut stamp concept as the preliminary preferred alternative. The Council also recommends that the Charter Halibut Management Committee review the current analysis prior to their October meeting and provide their recommendations to the Council prior to Final Action.

The Charter Halibut Management Committee intends to meet virtually on October 26 and 27, 2021 to discuss management measures for 2022 as well as RQE funding recommendations. The meeting links, agenda, and meeting documents will be posted to the [Committee's electronic agenda](#).

Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

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## BSAI Trawl CV Pacific Cod LAPP

The Council took final action to create a Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel (CV) limited access privilege program (LAPP). After careful consideration of all the information presented, including the analysis, Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Advisory Panel (AP) recommendations, and public testimony, the Council selected a preferred alternative. Once approved by the Secretary of Commerce, the preferred alternative will allocate quota shares (QS) to groundfish LLP licenses based on the harvest of qualifying trawl CV BSAI Pacific cod catch. The action will also allocate harvest shares to a processor permit based on processing history of qualifying targeted trawl CV BSAI Pacific cod landings. Harvesters and processors will then assign the cooperative quota (CQ) derived from the QS to cooperatives on an annual basis as an exclusive harvest privilege allocation.

The purpose of this action is to improve the prosecution of the fishery with the intent of promoting safety and stability in the harvesting and processing sectors, increasing the value of the fishery, minimizing bycatch to the extent practicable, providing for the sustained participation of fishery dependent communities, and ensuring the sustainability and viability of the resource.

The following is a summary of the [preferred alternative](#):

- Element 1 – Voluntary harvester cooperative structure formed by holders of qualified trawl CV LLP licenses in association with an eligible licensed processor. Cooperative formation will require a minimum of three LLP licenses with Pacific cod QS to be assigned to the cooperative.
- Element 2 – 1) Option 2.2.2 (2009-2019) qualifying years with one drop year, 2) in the case of stacked LLP licenses (Option 2.3.2) that authorized qualifying catch history when no agreement is provided by

the vessel owner/license holders at the time of application, qualifying catch history would be assigned to an LLP license by the owner of the vessel that made the catch, 3) NMFS will issue CQ to cooperatives by season (Element 2.4), and 4) allocate A and B season BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod only leaving the C season allocation as a limited access trawl fishery (Element 2.5).

- Element 3 – 1) Annual halibut and crab PSC limits available to the BSAI trawl CV Pacific cod sector will be established through the annual specification process, 2) establish a separate halibut PSC limits for the trawl CV and American Fisheries Act (AFA) catcher processor (CP) sectors in the Pacific cod fishery based on historic use of halibut PSC and establish separate crab PSC limits for each of the two sectors in the Pacific cod fishery based on the proportion of BSAI Pacific cod allocated to the two sectors (Option 3.2), 3) reduce the halibut PSC limit apportioned to the trawl CV sector's cooperative Pacific cod fishery by 25% and reduce the crab PSC limits apportioned to the sector's cooperative Pacific cod fishery by 35% (Suboption 3.3.1 & 3.3.2), 4) phase in the halibut PSC limit reduction over 2 years (Suboption 3.3.3), 5) establish a separate C season halibut and crab PSC apportionment of 5% of the trawl CV Pacific cod fishery PSC limit before applying PSC limit reductions noted above (Option 3.4), and 6) PSC limits will be apportioned to the cooperatives in proportion to their initial Pacific cod CQ allocation and will be monitored at the cooperative level.
- Element 4 – Option 4.1- revise the GOA groundfish and halibut PSC sideboard limits for all GOA non-exempt AFA CVs and AFA LLP licenses based on Element 2.2.2 (2009-2019) qualifying years. Halibut PSC sideboard limits will be managed as an annual limit. Option 4.2 – 1) prohibit AFA GOA-exempt CVs, non-AFA CVs, and CVs assigned to License limitation Program (LLP) licenses endorsed for less than 60' length overall with an Aleutian Islands (AI) transferable endorsement from leasing their BSAI Pacific cod CQ as a condition of benefiting from GOA sideboard exemption, 2) vessels assigned to a qualified GOA sideboard exempt LLP license that does not fish in the GOA during the calendar year, except when fishing under the CGOA Rockfish Program, can lease their BSAI Pacific cod CQ that calendar year, and 3) vessels assigned to qualified GOA exempt LLP licenses with less than 300 mt of average annual qualifying BSAI Pacific cod history to lease their BSAI Pacific cod CQ and benefit from the GOA sideboard exemption (Suboption 4.2.1).
- Element 5 – 1) All processors with an eligible FPP or FFP are eligible to process BSAI Pacific cod under this program (subject to eligibility requirements under BSAI FMP Amendment 120) (Element 5.1), 2) limit directed BSAI Pacific cod that can be delivered by trawl CVs to eligible CPs acting as a mothership. Specifically, the preferred alternative is Option 5.2.1 which allow each eligible CP acting as a mothership to process up to 125% of the eligible CP's qualifying processing history, and 3) allocate 22.5% of QS to eligible processors (Element 5.4).
- Element 6 – Require cooperatives to reserve 12% of the BSAI A season trawl CV sector CQ as a set-aside for delivery to an AI shoreplant if the community of Adak or Atka file a notice of intent to process that year (Option 6.1). The set-aside will be in effect during the A and B seasons and any remaining portion of the AI CQ reserve will be reallocated to cooperatives in the same proportion as the initial allocation if the intent to process is withdrawn during the A or B seasons. The preferred alternative requires an intercooperative agreement that describes how the set-aside will be administered by the cooperatives to ensure that harvests from the BS and AI CQ reserve do not exceed the minimum set aside, how the cooperatives intend to harvest the set-aside, and how cooperatives would ensure that CVs < 60' assigned to an LLP license with transferable AI trawl endorsement have the opportunity to harvest 10% of the AI set-aside for delivery to AI shoreplants. A cooperative intending to harvest any amount of the set-aside must provide the cooperative's plan for coordinating harvest and delivery of the set-aside with an AI shoreplant in the cooperative application.
- Element 7 – Catch histories are attached to trawl CV LLP licenses and are non-severable from the LLP license. For LLP licenses associated with the non-exempt AFA vessels, transfers of QS are authorized for

a 90-day period following initial issued QS. The 5% ownership cap from Element 8.1 will apply. Transfers of QS outside the 90-day period due to an operation of law will be permitted.

- Element 8 – Option 8.1 establishes a 5% ownership and use cap using the individual and collective rule with a grandfather provision. Option 8.2 establishes a 5% vessel use cap with a grandfather provision. Option 8.3 establishes a 20% ownership and use cap on processor issued harvest shares using the individually and collective rule and a grandfather provision. Option 8.4 establishes a 20% processing company use cap with a grandfather provision.
- Elements 9 through 13 were selected as part of the preferred alternative.
- Element 14, gear conversion, was not selected as part of the preferred alternative. The Council noted that given the new information about Bristol Bay red king crab and EBS snow crab stocks, the impacts of implementing gear conversion at this time are uncertain.

Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

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## Observer Annual Deployment Plan and PCFMAC Report

The Council reviewed the Observer Program Draft 2022 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP) and received a report from the Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC). The Council **supported NMFS' recommendations** for deploying observers and electronic monitoring (EM) on vessels in the partial coverage groundfish and halibut fisheries in 2022. Specifically, the Council supported NMFS' recommendations for the coverage allocation scheme of an adjusted 15% plus optimization based on discarded groundfish and halibut PSC and Chinook PSC, as described in the Draft 2022 ADP. This approach provides a 95% confidence interval that baseline coverage levels will be met for all strata. Observer coverage rates resulting from this approach and the final budget will be available in the final 2022 ADP in December.

The Council supports maintaining this allocation strategy through 2023, with the caveat that additional fixed gear vessels (up to 200 total vessels) may be added to the EM pool in 2023 provided that: they opt-in prior to November 1, 2022, additional funding for EM equipment is secured, and vessels meet the criteria in the ADP. Maintaining this strategy through 2023 would make staff resources available to work on the comprehensive partial coverage cost efficiencies analysis that the Council prioritized.

The Council strongly supports NMFS' continued work on the comprehensive partial coverage cost efficiencies analysis, and supports the PCFMAC recommendations with respect to that work. The Council requests that the schedule for that analysis ensure the results are available to inform bidding for the next observer contract, in order that the new contract is able to contain cost efficiency measures and supports additional efforts to manage costs. Under staff tasking, the Council affirmed that the PCFMAC should meet in February 2022 to discuss the agency's cost efficiency analysis in advance of the annual FMAC meeting in May. The Council requested that to the extent possible, the agency report specifically identify the benefits of using a Federal contractor for partial coverage observer days, and what issues would need to be addressed should the Council express interest in an alternative model.

Staff contact is Sara Cleaver.

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# Groundfish Plan Team Reports and Proposed Harvest Specifications

The Council received reports from the recent Joint, BSAI, and GOA Groundfish Plan Team meetings, and recommended 2022 and 2023 BSAI and GOA groundfish harvest and prohibited species catch (PSC) specifications for proposed rulemaking.

The SSC was presented with the Joint Groundfish Plan Teams Report, the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team Report, and the GOA Groundfish Plan Team Report, which summarized the issues discussed and actions taken by the Plan Teams at their September meetings. The SSC also received a preview of ecosystem status reports (ESRs) which highlighted areas of concern, noteworthy topics, and developing narratives for the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska. Full presentations of these reports will be provided to the Council in December.

The Council received condensed presentations of the Groundfish Plan Team reports that focused on issues most relevant to proposed specifications and items requested by the Council. Updated groundfish stock assessments will be reviewed by the Plan Teams at the [upcoming virtual meetings November 15-19, 2021](#) and the Council will receive full reports at its December meeting prior to recommending final BSAI and GOA groundfish harvest specifications.

## Joint Plan Teams including sablefish

Highlights from the Joint Plan Teams report include updates on sablefish research and proposed modeling updates, and discussions on the application of risk tables.

The Council requested that NOAA continue to work with the IPHC to ensure the collection and timely input of CPUE data from the sablefish logbooks. Continued efforts to input data from electronic monitoring logbooks would support the sablefish stock assessment (see [part 2 of the Council's motion](#)).

## BSAI Groundfish

Highlights from the BSAI Plan Team report include a review of the CIE reports for eastern Bering Sea Pacific cod and BSAI Greenland turbot, and blackspotted rockfish genetics and spatial issues.

For proposed rulemaking for the 2022 and 2023 fishing years, the Council recommended OFLs and ABCs consistent with SSC recommendations, and proposed TACs for all species, based on rollover of the existing 2022 specifications for all BSAI groundfish stocks. The Council also recommended PSC limits for halibut, crab, and herring, and adopted halibut Discard Mortality Rates (DMRs) for 2022 and 2023. Full details are included in the Council [motion](#) for proposed BSAI groundfish proposed harvest specifications.

The Council received a [letter](#) from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) indicating that the combined, post-season sum of the run sizes from the rivers comprising the three-river index (Upper Yukon, Unalakleet, and Kuskokwim Rivers) of Chinook salmon is 165,148 and is below the threshold level of 250,000. Therefore, following the regulations at 50 CFR 679.21, the performance standard for the Bering Sea pollock fishery will remain at 33,318 Chinook salmon, and the PSC limit will remain at 45,000.



## GOA Groundfish

For proposed rulemaking for the 2022 and 2023 fishing years, the Council recommended OFLs and ABCs consistent with SSC recommendations, and proposed TACs for all species, based on rollover of the existing 2022 specifications for all GOA Groundfish stocks. Additionally, the Council recommended GOA halibut PSC limit apportionments and adopted updated halibut DMRs for 2022; full details are included in the Council [motion](#) for the GOA groundfish proposed harvest specifications.

The main highlight from the GOA Plan Team report to the Council was the other rockfish/demersal shelf rockfish spatial management issue. In response, the Council initiated a discussion paper to identify management and economic implications of separating GOA demersal shelf rockfish from the Other rockfish complex GOA-wide (see [motion](#)).

Staff contact for BSAI Groundfish is Diana Stram. Staff contact for GOA Groundfish is Sara Cleaver.

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## Halibut Catch Sharing Plan Allocation Review – Workplan

At this meeting, the Council approved the workplan for the Area 2C and 3A halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) allocation review. The halibut CSP established an abundance-based allocation between the commercial halibut fishery and the guided recreational (charter) fishery in the International Pacific Halibut Commission Regulatory Area 2C and Area 3A. This allocation is being reviewed in response to NOAA Fisheries Allocation Policy which seeks to ensure fisheries allocations are periodically evaluated to remain relevant to current conditions.

The workplan includes 1) a summary of the NOAA Allocation Policy and the triggers and process for Allocation Reviews, 2) a summary of the resources that helped to define the scope of the Allocation Review, and 3) the proposed content to be included. This workplan stage is intended to align expectations of an Allocation Review (e.g., information that will be provided, types of decisions that can be made, etc.), outline a process that is transparent, and facilitate clear ways for stakeholders to participate in this process.

The Council suggested the review should also acknowledge the potential compensated reallocation opportunity that exists with the Recreational Quota Entity and the impacts of this opportunity if funding becomes available. The CSP allocation review is tentatively scheduled for the February 2022 meeting.

Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

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## Climate Reports – Regional Action Plans, ACLIM, GOA CLIM

The Council received several excellent presentations at this meeting on ongoing climate research and initiatives, and provided recommendations and feedback. In [staff tasking](#), the Council encouraged continued efforts with respect to these climate research initiatives, but asked that they specifically link research effort outcomes to how they would inform the Council process and management actions, including specific Council tools such as the BS Fishery Ecosystem Plan Climate Change Taskforce work, and use of ecosystem considerations in the harvest specifications process. The Council also emphasized the importance of

identifying synergies with other agencies working on similar issues, and the need for consistent Federal funding for such initiatives without reprogramming funding from existing programs. The Council supported the SSC comments on the various reports, and recommended they be incorporated into future iterations.

The following are the various presentations that the Council received during the course of the meeting:

- The director of the NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) updated the Council on **2021 and 2022 fish and ecosystem surveys**, and discussed how the various initiatives underway work together to develop climate-informed science for management across different spatial and temporal scales.
- **NOAA's Climate Fisheries Initiative** is a cross-NOAA effort which, when combined with existing programs, will enable the sustained operational ocean prediction and decision support system needed to reduce negative impacts and increase resilience of ecosystems and coastal communities.
- AFSC staff also gave presentations on three **Regional Action Plans on climate**, for the Bering Sea, the Gulf of Alaska, and the Arctic. Each of the RAPs takes a regional approach to the **NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy**, which specifies goals and objectives for producing, delivering, and using climate-related information needed to reduce impacts and increase resilience with changing climate and ocean conditions. The RAPs focus on building regional capacity, partners, products, and services tailored to each specific region, and identify current and new climate research activities over the time period of the RAPs, as well as evaluating remaining key scientific gaps for each region.

The Council also received technical presentations on progress with **Climate Integrated Modeling research projects for the Bering Sea (ACLIM) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA CLIM)**.

- The **GOA CLIM** project is just beginning its work, and will examine how individuals, families, and communities may adapt to climate variability and associated changes in fisheries and marine ecosystems. It will also identify the factors underlying adaptation choices, and tradeoffs associated with those adaptations. Predicted fleet responses and adaptations will be coupled with regional economic models to understand potential economic impacts on fishing communities. In turn, fleet behavior will feed into biological models to understand changes in harvest patterns and species composition of catch.
- The **ACLIM** project began several years ago, and is now in its second phase, focusing on development of alternative "climate-ready" management strategies to help them understand management objective tradeoffs, and how to adapt to changing conditions so North Pacific marine resources remain sustainable and fisheries and communities are as resilient as possible. At this meeting, the lead investigators solicited input from the Council and stakeholders on the management scenarios and harvest control rules that will be modeled under projected climate change scenarios. In addition to the overall request that linkages between ACLIM and the Council's **Climate Change Taskforce** are clearly identified, the Council also expressed their interest in the potential for ACLIM to use the current situation with declining crab stocks as a test case for adaptive climate tools, especially as snow crab is a focus species for the second phase of ACLIM.

As the ACLIM integrated modeling system advances, the AFSC will work to ensure that there are consistent formal and informal opportunities for public input. The project leads noted that they are planning an April 2022 workshop (more details available in early 2022). In the meantime, ACLIM has created a number of new working groups that are focused on diverse climate-related activities and are designed to help ensure that the work of ACLIM is as effectively coordinated as possible with initiatives at AFSC and beyond. These groups will regularly communicate their activities to the Council's Climate Change Taskforce and the public and request input from the public and diverse Council bodies. The current working groups are:



1. Ensemble modeling
  2. Climate downscaling and ocean modeling
  3. Spatial Modeling
  4. Social, economic, and fishery modeling
  5. Climate enhanced Stock Assessment Models and HCRs
  6. Food web models
  7. Ecophysiology, energetics, IBMs, & early life history working
  8. Marine mammals
  9. Indicators for ESRs and ESP
  10. Post-docs / students across ACLIM and GOA-CLIM
  11. PI Communication coordination: management, on ramps to Council and international coordination and communication.
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## Staff Tasking

The Council discussed the relative priority and scheduling of previously tasked projects, and identified new tasking. The revised [3 meeting outlook](#) reflects this guidance.

The Council was briefed on the planning for in-person meetings. All Council meetings will remain virtual through the end of 2021. The Council is tentatively planning to hold the February 2022 meeting in person, but will make a final decision based on current circumstances in early December. Based on Council direction, staff are planning to accommodate remote accessibility options at the next in-person meeting, including broadcasting the SSC and AP in addition to the Council, and allowing for remote testimony. In case the 2022 meetings are not able to occur in-person, [alternate dates](#) have been identified for 2022 should the meetings need to switch to a virtual mode.

The Council directed staff to write the following letters:

- A letter to the Secretary of State, to request help to identify levels and stock composition of bycatch of salmon in waters outside the jurisdiction of the United States (see also [here](#)).
- two letters to the Secretary of Commerce. First, to support recent requests for increased and dedicated funding for salmon research, observation, and monitoring, including on the lifecycle of salmon species, and the effects of environmental change on salmon. Second, in support of the NMFS Regional Action Plans on Climate and the NOAA Climate and Fisheries Initiative, and underscoring the importance of providing funding for these initiatives without reducing funding for existing programs.
- A letter to the AFSC, in appreciation for the climate reports presentations, and providing recommendations on finalizing the Regional Action Plans on Climate. In particular, the Council emphasized the need to link proposed projects and research to management application in the Council or other processes (including the Council's ongoing Bering Sea FEP Climate Change Task Force), and to highlight and follow through on coordination with agency and community partners moving forward.

The Council also tasked the following projects:

- an updated salmon bycatch impact analysis, using current genetic stock identification information, and including a PSC harvest rate analysis and estimate of the Chinook salmon bycatch impacts on specific

salmon stock groupings. The report should also evaluate impacts of western Alaska chum salmon bycatch, and stock status update of western Alaska Chinook and chum stocks.

- an analysis of the likely conservation benefits and impacts of shifting the Red King Crab Savings Area boundary further northward through emergency rule.
- a discussion paper on the impact of bottom contact by pelagic trawl gear on Bristol Bay Red King Crab stocks, the boundaries used for the BBRKC survey, stock assessment, PSC limits, and the directed fishery, and an exploration of mechanisms for creating flexible, responsive spatial management measures for all gear types that might be applied to protect BBRKC.

The Council made the following appointments:

- Kathryn Meyer was appointed as the primary Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife representative to the SSC.
- Caroline Brown was appointed to the Social Science Plan Team.
- Philip Joy was appointed to the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team.
- Jared Weems was appointed to the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team.
- Mike Litzow was appointed to the BSAI Crab Plan Team.

Finally, the Council issued a [call for nominations](#) for the SSC, the Advisory Panel, and a vacancy for an Area 3A representative on the Charter Halibut Management Committee.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

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## Upcoming Meetings

### October

- Charter Halibut Management Committee – October 26-27

### November

- ~~Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Local Knowledge/Traditional Knowledge/Subsistence Taskforce – November 8, 10~~ *Postponed to January*
- BSAI and GOA Groundfish Plan Teams, November 15-19

### December

- Charter Halibut Management Committee – December 6

### Early 2022

- BSAI Crab Plan Team – January 10-14, 2022
- Ecosystem Committee – January 25, 2022 (T)
- Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Taskforce on Climate Change – January 2022 (TBD)
- Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Local Knowledge/Traditional Knowledge/Subsistence Taskforce – January 2022 (TBD)

- Scallop Plan Team – February 2022 (TBD)
- Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC) – February 2022 (TBD)

## Second Council Ecosystem Workshop: tentatively October 2022

The Ecosystem Committee is developing a plan for a second Council Ecosystem Workshop. The intent is for a day and a half workshop held in conjunction with a Council meeting, and in-person interaction among workshop participants will be key to its success. The Committee subgroup working on planning is now recommending a new **target date for the workshop, to be held in conjunction with the October 2022 Council meeting** (likely during the week of October 3-7, 2022). The Ecosystem Committee will report back to the Council at the February meeting with a developed proposal, but wanted the Council calendar to reflect these tentative dates in order to notify interested participants who may need to plan for travel in their 2022 budget.