
SYNTHESIS OF WRITTEN B REPORTS

DECEMBER 2021



B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Lauren Smoker retiring after 31 yr. with NOAA GC

- NOAA GC lead on Crab Rationalization, CDQ Program, BSAI Pacific cod allocations, Am 80 Program, inshore/offshore and AFA, Steller sea lion mitigation measures; many others.
- Alaska Region NOAA GC expert on recusal process, NEPA, FOIA, federal and state salmon management, and pretty much everything MSA.

As Demian Shane notes *“She is feisty and friendly at once, endearing herself to everyone who has had the privilege of working with her.”*

Best wishes in your retirement Lauren – we are all going to miss you!



B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

New Council Members

- Mr. Doug Mecum, Acting Administrator NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region. [Welcome back Doug!](#)
- Mr. Peter Fasbender, Assistant Regional Director, Fisheries and Ecological Services, is the new USFWS designee. [Welcome aboard Peter!](#)

SSC Retirements

- SSC members Dr. Matt Reimer and Dr. Anne Hollowed. [Thank you for your service!](#)



B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Review of St. George Unangan Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

- NOAA conducting 5-year review of the sanctuary nomination to determine if the nomination continues to meet the criteria to stay in the NMS inventory. NPFMC previously raised concerns with criteria #7 (community-based support). Comments due 12/17/21.

NOAA requesting comments on advancing goals of America the Beautiful report (30x30 initiative)

- Comments requested on specific topics. I have provided staff notes under each topic that could be used as a basis for comments. Comments due 12/28/21.



B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Written Comment Policy - The comment period was open for 16 days, closing on COB November 30. A total of 240 written comments; 0 comments were removed.

Cultural Awareness Training – First Alaskans Institute provided training to staff 11/4-5. Council training being scheduled for 3/22.

Informational updates:

- Young Fishermen's Summit – December 6-9
- AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative research proposal themes
- The Future Ocean podcast

Amendment 80 report on Halibut Avoidance

- Written report posted under B-1; cooperative representatives can answer questions.

Executive Session today after Council breaks for the day (3pm)



B2 NMFS MANAGEMENT REPORT

TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Progress on rulemaking and implementations
- Final ADP, and proposed rule for a national minimum insurance standard
- Cost recovery fee modifications
- Updates on Aquaculture Opportunity Areas, Tribal consultation, Guided Angler Fish use, MMPA List of Fisheries, Donut Hole Convention, NEPA, and staff changes

ORAL REPORT from NMFS staff

- Year-end inseason management report for BSAI and GOA



B3 NOAA GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Designated officials and notice of recusals posted
- Two new complaints challenging final rule for Salmon FMP Amendment 14:
 - Humbyrd v. Raimondo
 - UCIDA v. NMFS



B4 NOAA ENFORCEMENT REPORT

TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Operational highlights
- Joint Enforcement Agreement with AWT
- Education and outreach activities
- Case Updates
- Incident and settlement summary
- Observer program



Will Ellis, Assistant Director Alaska Division OLE, is retiring at the end of the year. **Congratulations Will; thank you for your service in ensuring sustainable fisheries!**



B5 ADF&G REPORT

TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Status of State fisheries:
 - Al Golden King Crab
 - EBS Tanner Crab
 - Statewide Scallops
 - Pacific cod
- BOF meeting updates and proposals of interest



Attachments to B-5

- Governor's Bycatch Taskforce
- Subsistence Halibut Harvest Report



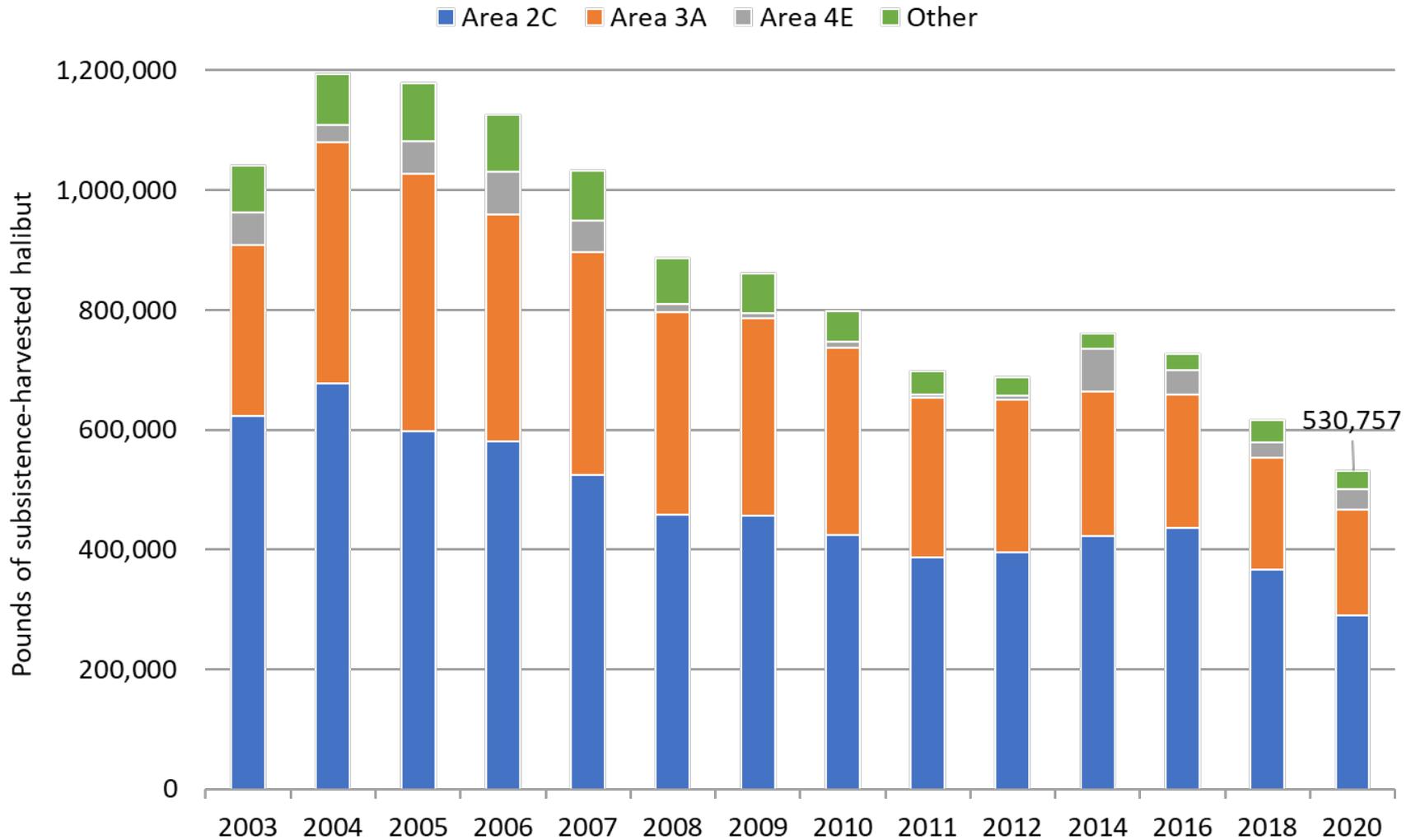
METHODS: SUBSISTENCE HARVESTS OF PACIFIC HALIBUT¹⁰

- 14th year of program
- Voluntary mailed survey to all Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) holders: 8,078
- Supplemented by contacts & interviews in 4 communities in Southeast and Western AK
- Harvests of some non-SHARC holders (57) included in estimates
- Total target group = 8,135 potential fishers
- Sample achievement: 5,127 surveys (63%)

Note: The report authors: Lauren Sill and David Koster, and subsistence program manager Caroline Brown, will be available to answer questions



SUBSISTENCE HARVESTS BY AREA, ALASKA



- Overall, 2020 harvest survey was a success: good response rates and overall reliable harvest estimates
- Reasons for trends in harvests (state, area, community) and needs assessments are complex and require further investigation
- Concerns about nonrenewal of SHARCs, especially in certain regulatory areas
- Need to supplement mailed SHARC survey with in-person survey in portions of Area 4
- Recommendation to continue harvest monitoring

Note: The report authors: Lauren Sill and David Koster, and subsistence program manager Caroline Brown, will be available to answer questions



B6 USCG REPORT – SEP-NOV 2021

TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Summary of enforcement activities at U.S. EEZ boundaries, IUU and the high seas enforcement, and for critical habitat areas
- Vessel boardings and list of fisheries violations
- Vessel safety / search and rescue cases
- USCG resource summary



B7 USFWS REPORT

Oral Report from Mr. Peter Fasbender, the new USFWS designee

- Update on Federal Subsistence Salmon Management
- Change in Council Representation

