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# SYNTHESIS OF WRITTEN B REPORTS

OCTOBER 2021



# B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## New Council Members:

### Anne Vanderhoeven

- Ms. Vanderhoeven has been a groundfish observer, a CDQ group quota manager, and is currently Director of Government Affairs for Arctic Storm Management Group. She served on the AP from 2010-2015 and 2018-2021.

[Welcome aboard Anne!](#)



### David Moore

- Mr. Moore has officially replaced Staci MacCorkle as the representative for the Department of State. David is a Foreign Service Officer with the Office of Marine Conservation. [Welcome aboard David!](#)

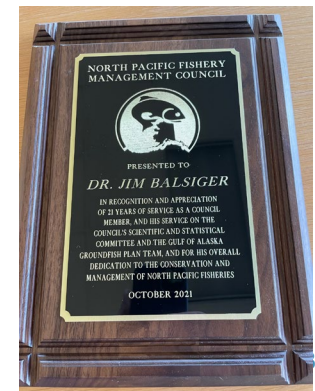


# B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## Dr. Balsiger's Last Meeting

- After a 47-year career with NOAA Fisheries, Jim Balsiger is retiring in November.
- He served as an assessment scientist, Director of AFSC, Regional Administrator for the Alaska Region, and Acting Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries.
- Jim served on the GOA Groundfish Plan Team, the SSC, and has been a Council member since May 2000.
- On behalf of the entire Council, I thank Jim for his service to the Council and his work to conserve and manage North Pacific marine resources.

Congratulations Jim!



# B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## Plan Team Nominations

- **Ms. Caroline Brown** to fill vacancy left by Jim Fall on the Social Science Plan Team
- **Dr. Philip Joy** to fill vacancy left by Jane Sullivan on the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Plan Team
- **Mr. Jared Weems** to replace Ben Daly on the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team
- **Dr. Mike Litzow** to the BSAI Crab Plan Team

## SSC Nomination

- **Ms. Kathryn Meyer** for full appointment as the primary WDFW representative on the SSC (she participated as an interim member at this SSC meeting). Ms. Meyer is a Senior Research Scientist in the WDFW Marine Fish Science Unit.

## Interim AP appointment

- **Ms. Susie Zagorski** to fill the AP vacancy left by Anne Vanderhoeven's Council appointment, through December. Full term extends through 2023.



# B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## Written Comment Policy

- The comment period was open for 13 days, closing on COB September 29.
- A total of 254 comments; 0 comments were removed.
- None of the filtered words from this meeting's comments appear to have been profane, but the free profanity filter we are using masked many words that we would not consider to be profanity (e.g., killer (as in whales), drunk (driver), crabs, pollock, and sex/sex ratio). We are looking into options to address this issue.

CCC Meeting October 19-21, 2021. [Agenda at Fisherycouncils.org](https://www.fisherycouncils.org)

## Technical Memo on ACLs for Data-limited stocks

- SSC has reviewed the draft and will provide the Council with comments to forward to NMFS HQ.



# B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## New Legislation

- HR 3764 - Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2021 (Rep. Grijalva)
- HR 4690 – Sustaining America’s Fisheries for the Future Act of 2021 (Rep. Huffman)
  - Council comment letter on HR 4690 requested by Representatives Huffman and Case was sent on September 30. **NPFMC comment letter is attached to B-1.** Note that due to lobbying restrictions, the Council comments focus on technical changes and potential effects on Council’s ability to fulfill its MSA responsibilities and achieve performance of its grant, and do not provide general support or disfavor with the bill.

## Staff Changes

- Jim Armstrong resigned August 24, and Steve MacLean resigned effective October 15.

## Vacancy Announcement

- A vacancy announcement has been posted for fishery analyst(s): <https://www.npfmc.org/npfmc-seeks-fishery-analyst/>

**Executive Session today** after Council breaks for the day



# RURAL FISHERIES COMMUNITY/TRIBAL LIAISON UPDATE

## ■ Yukon River outreach trip

- The Tanana Chiefs Conference invited the Council and staff to participate in an outreach trip at the June 2021 Council meeting
- The August 2021 trip was postponed by TCC due to Covid-19 concerns, but there is mutual interest in coordinating an outreach trip in the future
- Ongoing interim outreach efforts – distributing materials related to the Council process and salmon bycatch management, giving an outreach presentation in a Yukon River Fisheries Drainage Association series, and staff availability for questions

## ■ Cultural awareness training

- Council staff are scheduled for a virtual training with First Alaskans Institute on November 4 and 5, 2021
- The Council can expect an update on staff experience in December 2021



# B2 NMFS MANAGEMENT REPORT

## TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Progress on rulemaking
  - Proposed rule to remove GOA sablefish pot gear tags and notary requirements will publish in the Federal Register on October 6, 2021.
  - NMFS is accepting public comments on the Halibut ABM DEIS until October 25th, 2021.
- Inseason management updates
- Seabird Bycatch Report
- Aquaculture Opportunity Area Identification Process
- Revising the Conservation Plan for Northern Fur Seals
- Petition to List Sunflower Sea Stars under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Red King Crab Savings Subarea (RKCSS)
- **Staff Changes**





# B2 NMFS MANAGEMENT REPORT

## One Correction

- The 2021 Chinook Salmon PSC limit is 45,000, not 60,000 as originally stated on page 10 in the NMFS Management report.

## Updates to the IFQ Committee

- NMFS requests on time submission of the IFQ Registered Buyer Exvessel Value and Volume Report, no later than October 15, 2021.
- NMFS requests that individuals contacting the staff during this time practice patience during this holiday season.



# B3 NOAA GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

## TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Designated officials and notice of recusals posted [no recusals required]
- Written litigation report on a recent magistrate judge's report and recommendation in *Wild Fish Conservancy v. Thom*.
  - Includes a one-page summary of the case and current status; includes the magistrate judge's report and recommendation
  - NOAA GC will be available during B reports to answer any questions



# B4 AFSC REPORT

## ORAL REPORTS from AFSC staff

- Briefing and opportunity for Council comments on:
  - NOAA Climate and Fisheries Initiative (CFI)
  - NMFS Regional Action Plans for Climate for the Bering Sea, Gulf of Alaska, and Arctic



# B5 ADF&G REPORT

## TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Status of State fisheries for
  - Southeast Alaska Chinook troll fishery
  - Aleutian Islands golden king crab
  - Scallop
  - State-waters Pacific cod
- BOF Work Session October 20-21, 2021, via web conference. BOF meeting on Prince William Sound/Upper Copper and Upper Susitna Rivers Finfish and Shellfish, Nov 30-Dec 6, 2021, Cordova. Comments due 11/15.
- Letter on Chinook salmon 3-river index = estimated to be below 250,000 threshold



# B6 USCG REPORT – JUN-AUG 2021

## TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Summary of enforcement activities relative to IUU fishing, U.S. boundaries, and critical habitat areas
- Vessel boardings, list of fisheries violations
- Halibut and sablefish enforcement
- Vessel safety / search and rescue cases
- USCG resource summary



# B7 USFWS REPORT

- Preliminary Federal Subsistence Salmon Management - Post Season Summary
  - Status reports for Yukon, Kuskokwim, Chignik, Copper, Buskin, Afognak, Situk, and Stikine River systems
- Seabird Mortality Events
  - 2,200 dead seabirds have been reported to date statewide



# B8 US NAVY: NORTHERN EDGE 2021

**ORAL REPORT** from Mr. John Mosher, US Pacific Fleet, and Mr. Chris Hunt, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest

- Northern Edge exercises conducted in May 2021 in the Gulf of Alaska
- Marine Species Monitoring Program

