
E STAFF TASKING

DAVID WITHERELL, FEBRUARY 2021



COMMITTEES / UPCOMING MEETINGS

Several meetings anticipated between now and spring 2021:

- **Scallop Plan Team** – February 17, 2021
- **Social Science Planning Team** – March 4, 2021
- **Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Taskforce on Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence** – March 16-17, 2021
- **IFQ Committee** – March 25-26, 2021
- **Ecosystem Committee (T)** – March 2021
- **Enforcement Committee (T)** – late March 2021
- **Executive Committee** – March/April 2021
- **Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC)** – April 2021
- **BSAI Crab Plan Team** – May 17-21, 2021

Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC) – May 2021

EM Trawl Committee – May 2021



OTHER REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Balance of Ecosystem Committee report
 - Deep sea coral Alaska research initiative
 - Marine invasive species
 - Future Committee work
- Upcoming NMFS workshop: PSTAT
 - Pacific Sablefish Transboundary Assessment Team developing a spatial MSE framework and movement models for sablefish: April 27-29 (T)



FUTURE MEETINGS/ APRIL 2021 AGENDA

- Virtual meetings through June 2021
 - in April will present ideas on what return to in-person meetings looks like
- Preliminary April 2021 agenda posted for your review
 - Revision dated 2/9/21
 - Major items: BSAI halibut ABM, several IFQ/halibut issues
 - Council dates: Monday – Friday, April 12-16
- June 2021: options to change dates from current (June 7-18)
 - June 1-11: moves meetings a week earlier, week of Memorial Day. Council must limit agenda so AP/SSC can hold 4 day meetings (Tu-F)
 - June 7-16: Council meets Fri-Weds, including over the weekend. Still need 4 day max SSC meeting, will schedule a report-writing day mid-week so that reports will be ready in time for Council.



DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK – 2/9/2021

	April 5-16, 2021	Council staff contact	June 1-11 or 7-18, 2021 (T)	Council staff contact	October 4-12, 2021 (T)	Council staff contact
Topics	<i>Online</i>		<i>Online</i>		<i>Hilton Hotel, Anchorage (T)</i>	
EVENTS/ REPORTS*	NMFS EFH annual consultation	<i>SML</i>	NOAA Enforcement report	<i>DW</i>	Election of officers	<i>DW</i>
	NIOSH report	<i>JMC</i>	AFSC report (monitoring/EM)	<i>DE</i>		
	Northern Edge 2021 report	<i>JMC</i>			EFP applications (T)	
	Seabird bycatch report	<i>SML</i>				
	Cooperative reports	<i>JMC</i>	Plan Teams handbook	<i>DS</i>		
BSAI CRAB SPECS			BSAI Crab (PIBKC, AIGKC): <i>ABC/OFL specifications</i>	<i>JA</i>	BSAI Crab (4 stocks): <i>ABC/OFL specifications</i>	<i>JA</i>
			Crab Plan Team: <i>Report</i>	<i>JA</i>	Crab Plan Team: <i>Report</i>	<i>JA</i>
GFISH SPECS					BSAI Groundfish: <i>Proposed specifications, PT report</i>	<i>SML</i>
					GOA Groundfish: <i>Proposed specifications, PT report</i>	<i>SCiv</i>
REPORTING/ MONITORING			Observer Annual Report: <i>Review, PC/FMAC reports</i>	<i>KH</i>	Observer Annual Deployment Plan: <i>Review, PCFMAC</i>	<i>KH</i>
			Trawl EM analysis: <i>Adopt alts, Trawl EM Cmte report</i>	<i>AH</i>	Trawl EM analysis: <i>Initial Review, Trawl EM Cmte</i>	<i>AH</i>
GOA GFISH MGMT						
BSAI GFISH MGMT			BSAI Pacific cod Trawl CV LAPP: <i>Initial Review</i>	<i>JMC</i>	BSAI Pacific cod Trawl CV LAPP: <i>Final Action (T)</i>	<i>JMC</i>
			BSAI Pcod sm. boat (<60') access: <i>Disc. Paper (T)</i>	<i>KH</i>		
CRAB MGMT						
BYCATCH	BSAI Halibut ABM: <i>Initial Review</i>	<i>DS</i>			BSAI Halibut ABM: <i>Final Action (T)</i>	<i>DS</i>
	Salmon genetics reports: <i>Review</i>	<i>DS</i>				
	Pollock IPA reports: <i>Review</i>	<i>DS</i>				
HALIBUT: IFQ/CHARTER	IFQ access opportunities: <i>Expanded Disc. Paper</i>	<i>AH</i>				
	GOA sablefish pots 3-year review: <i>Action as nec</i>	<i>SCu</i>				
	IFQ Committee: <i>Report</i>	<i>SCu</i>				
	RQE funding mechanism: <i>Discussion Paper (T)</i>	<i>SM</i>				
OTHER	Scallop SAFE: <i>Approve specs, PT report</i>	<i>JA</i>		<i>DE</i>	ACLIM report: <i>Review (T) (SSC only)</i>	<i>DS</i>
	Research priorities: <i>Review</i>	<i>JA</i>				
	Social Science Planning Team: <i>Report</i>	<i>SM</i>	BS FEP Team (T): <i>PT report, Ecosystem Cmte</i>			
	EDR Workshop: <i>Report</i>	<i>SM</i>				
	AFSC Community Report: <i>Review (SSC only)</i>	<i>KH</i>	MRSAM model: <i>Review (SSC only)</i>	<i>AH</i>		
ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED:			IFQ hired masters: <i>Discussion paper</i>		EDR programs revisions: <i>Discussion paper</i>	
			IFQ quota share transfers: <i>Discussion paper</i>		Economic Data Report amd: <i>Final Action</i>	
			Small sablefish release: <i>Initial Review (T)</i>		Trawl sablefish overages: <i>Discussion paper</i>	
			Halibut Catch Sharing Plan: <i>Allocation review (T; Dec 2021)</i>			

PUBLIC COMMENT INCLUDING EMERGENCY RULE REQUESTS

- Staff have updated tables and figure on vessel caps for halibut and sablefish provided in May 2020



NMFS EMERGENCY RULE POLICY

- Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act provides authority
- Council may request emergency rulemaking if it finds an emergency exists
 - Intent: circumstances that are “extremely urgent,” where “substantial harm to or disruption of the fishery would be caused in the time it would take to follow standard rulemaking procedures.”
- NMFS's Policy Guidelines – legal prerequisites:
 - 1. emergency must exist**
 - Results from recent, unforeseen events or recently discovered circumstances
 - Presents serious conservation or management problems in the fishery
 - Can be addressed through emergency regulations for which the immediate benefits outweigh the value of the normal rule making process (advance notice, public comment, and deliberative consideration of the impacts on participants)
 - 2. NMFS must have an administrative record justifying emergency regulatory action and demonstrating compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and National Standards.**



QUESTIONS?

Feedback always appreciated on how virtual meetings are working, ideas for improvement, etc.

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