



Agenda Topics

Virtual Council meeting, January 31 – February 10, 2022

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Council Chair will welcome everyone to the meeting and Council members will approve the agenda.

B. REPORTS – *David Witherell*

In this section of the meeting, each agency represented on the Council provides a written management report. After all the reports, the public has a chance to provide comment, and the Council will discuss action they need to take, either at this point or at the end of the meeting.

C1 Economic Data Reporting Amendments – *Sarah Marrinan*

The Council will consider changes to a program that requires participants in certain fisheries to report things like fuel prices, crew pay, and license or lease costs. The Council may decide to discontinue the program if the amount of time and effort it takes to collect the information is more than the benefits to the program.

C2 BSAI Crab – *Diana Stram*

A team of technical experts (the Crab Plan Team) met in January to discuss the status and appropriate harvest level for Norton Sound red king crab as well as to review scientific information on Alaska crab stocks. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Council will review the report and recommendations of the Plan Team and will set harvest limits based on that information.

C3 Snow Crab Rebuilding Plan – *Jon McCracken*

Snow crab was reported overfished in October 2021, and by law, a rebuilding plan must be in place within two years. The Crab Plan Team met in January and will meet in May and are making recommendations and estimating time frames for rebuilding the stock. At this meeting, the Council will hear an update.

D1 Allocation Review of Halibut Catch Share Plan Areas 2C/3A – *Sarah Marrinan*

Annually, the Catch Sharing Plan, (CSP) divides up the amount of halibut in area 2C and 3A available to the charter and commercial fisheries. The Council will review a document that describes elements of the CSP and decide if the program and the way the halibut is divided among the fisheries, is working the way it is supposed to.

D2 Greenland Turbot with Longline Pots – *Sam Cunningham*

The Council will review a paper that considers the authorization of longline pot gear for fishing Greenland turbot in the Bering Sea. Greenland turbot is currently fished with trawl and hook-and-line gear; killer whales are known to take turbot catch from hook-and-line gear.

D3 Groundfish Management Policy – Diana Evans

Every three years, the Council reviews management programs in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska to make sure the goals and objectives – like ‘preserving the food web’ and ‘promoting sustainable fisheries and communities’ are being met.

D4 Trawl EM – Anna Henry

Electronic monitoring (EM) is being used with shoreside observers to estimate catch and discard and to monitor for compliance with regulations in some trawl fisheries. The Council is interested in broader application and is seeking feedback from the SSC on types of data, quality, availability and priorities for a larger program application

D5 EFH Distribution, Fishing Effects Models Review - Diana Evans

Healthy habitat for commercial and recreational fisheries where fish spawn, breed, or grow to maturity is Essential Fish Habitat, or EFH. The Council is required to review EFH in the North Pacific and evaluate how fishing practices effect the habitat. At this meeting the SSC will review maps, new activities and forecasts in preparation for a 5 year EFH review in October.

D6 Marine Mammal Status Update – Diana Evans

The SSC will hear updates about new research affecting our understanding of the health of marine mammal populations that may be impacted by Alaska fishing.

D7 Economic SAFE Report – Jon McCracken

The SSC will review economic status reports for the groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska, and the crab fishery in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands.

E. Staff Tasking – Diana Evans, David Witherell

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