



B1 Executive Director's Report

April 2024

Action Memo

NOAA Fisheries VIP visit

Mr. Sam Rauch, NOAA Fisheries Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, will attend the Council meeting on Monday April 8 to provide a presentation on National issues, and he will be available to answer questions from the Council. Dr. Maureen Trnka, Senior Advisor for Regulatory Programs will also attend the full Council meeting. Welcome to the North Pacific Council meeting!

Plan Team Nomination

NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region has nominated Mr. Andrew Olson to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Crab Plan Team. Mr. Olson has relevant expertise in crab life history and crab fishery management. He was employed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game from 2009 to 2023 in a number of groundfish and shellfish research and leadership positions. He is currently a Fishery Management Specialist at the NMFS Alaska Region.

The SSC will review the nomination and provide a recommendation to the Council.

Climate Scenarios Workshop Update

Council staff are continuing to plan for the [Climate Scenarios Workshop](#), which will be held June 5-6, 2024 in Kodiak, AK in conjunction with the June Council meeting. The purpose of the workshop is to generate short- and long-term ideas for management approaches and tools to improve climate resiliency of federally managed fisheries in the North Pacific. A [draft workshop agenda](#) is available on the eAgenda.

For planning purposes we are requesting everyone (including Council/SSC/AP members, staff and interested members of the public) register for the workshop in advance and indicate whether you plan to attend in person or virtually. Here is the Climate Scenarios Workshop [registration form link](#).

The workshop will use climate scenario planning as an approach to explore ideas for building climate resilience and readiness in an uncertain and unpredictable future. A short [Introduction to Scenario Planning memo](#) is included on the eAgenda, and the hypothetical scenarios that will be used at the workshop will be made available in May.

Leading up to the workshop the Council will host three interactive virtual discussions to begin exploring the questions and concepts participants will discuss at the meeting. A flyer with more information on the dates, times, and topics for these virtual discussions is available in the briefing book.

Ms. Katie Latanich, Climate Program Manager, will provide a brief summary. Additional briefing materials and guidance on participation will be available closer to the workshop.

IFQ Report to the Fleet

The 2023 IFQ Report to the Fleet has been included under the ED report. The report includes regulatory changes that became active in 2023 and data from 2014 to 2023. Some data points included are TAC amounts and utilization, hired skipper activity, and transfer activity. The report in its current form was requested in 2020 and first published in 2021 to support the IFQ committee.

Alaska Salmon Research Task Force draft report

The Alaska Salmon Research Task Force is seeking input on its most recent draft of its Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Report as of April 2024. The Task Force is seeking public comment on existing knowledge, research gaps, and applied research that is needed to better understand the increased variability and declining salmon returns in some regions of Alaska. Written comments can be emailed to afsc.communications@noaa.gov by April 30, 2024.

The draft report is here: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/outreach-materials/draft-alaska-salmon-research-task-force-report-april-2024>

Council Written Comment Policy

At every meeting, staff reports publicly to the Council on any comments removed from the commenting system, and the rationale for removal, so that we can monitor and revise the process as needed to address unanticipated events. The comment period was open for 22 days, from March 8 to March 29. No submitted comments were removed.

Recent Staff and Council member activities

- Mr. Bill Tweit attended the World Fisheries Congress, held in Seattle March 3-7. He will provide a brief report to the Council on what he learned during the sessions.
- Ms. Karla Bush, Mr. John Jenson, Mr. Jon Kurland, Mr. Andy Mezirow, Ms. Diana Evans and Ms. Sara Cleaver, as well as other AP and SSC members, participated and provided presentations at the Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) workshop held in Kodiak February 26-March 1.
- Ms. Marrinan, Dr. Stram, and Dr. Haapala participated in a Tribal engagement session on March 19th related to the C2 agenda item.

Committee and Plan Team Meetings

The following Committee and Plan Team meetings have occurred since the December meeting:

- The Bering Sea FEP Climate Change Taskforce met on February 26 to discuss case studies for the Climate Scenarios workshop.
- The Scallop Plan Team met in Kodiak on March 5-6 to prepare the SAFE and recommend OFL catch specifications.
- PNCIAC met on March 15 to discuss Alaska Board of Fisheries proposals and elements for the crab rationalization program review. The report of the meeting is attached.
- The IFQ Committee met on March 28 to review the Area 4 Vessel Caps Initial Review analysis.

Other activities this week

The **Executive/Finance Committee** will meet in executive session on Wednesday April 3, from 1-5 pm to review an update on the financial status, provide guidance on budget planning for the next multi-year Council administrative grant, discuss several administrative issues, and provide an annual performance review for the Executive Director.

The **Full Council** is scheduled to meet in executive session on Thursday, April 14, at 4 pm to discuss administrative matters.

Killer Whale Excluder research

I have invited Mr. John Gauvin and Ms. Sarah Webster to give the Council an update on the killer whale excluder work. As you may recall, in December 2023 the Alaska Seafood Cooperative (AKSC) provided the Council with a brief update on plans to conduct research at Memorial University's flume tank facility to work on a gear modification to help prevent killer whales from entering nets used for deep water flatfish in the Bering Sea. In response to that AKSC update, the NPFMC requested a summary of the flume tank work including information on the gear modification and its implementation into the Bering Sea deep water flatfish fishery in 2024.