



B1 Executive Director's Report

October 2025

Action Memo

Bill Tweit Retirement

Mr. Bill Tweit announced his retirement from WDFW and the Council effective August 1. Bill was a Council member for 20 years (since 2005), serving as Vice-Chair since 2015. He has also served as Chair of the Ecosystem Committee and the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee for many years and served as a NPFMC designee on the Council Coordination Committee. He was also a member of the Executive/Finance Committee and Legislative Committee and represented the Council in numerous national and international scientific/management meetings and workshops.



Bill's departing message to Council members was as follows: "What a great ride it has been. So many big issues, so many big accomplishments, so many big challenges. At this juncture in my journey, I reflect on my great fortune. Privileged to be a voting member of the Council that has become a model for so many other management forums, not just in the U.S. but globally. Privileged to play a role in sustainable management of one of the world's most important fisheries, putting sustainably harvested and affordable seafood on a mind-boggling number of tables. Privileged to work with, and befriend, so many extraordinary people. Thank you all for being there with me."

Thank you, Bill, for your many contributions to the management and sustainability of fisheries in the North Pacific. It's been our privilege to work with you. We all wish you well in retirement!

Mr. Nate Pamplin (WDFW) has been named the official Washington designee for the WDFW Director Kelly Susewind (formal designation letter is [attached](#)). Welcome aboard Nate!

David Witherell Retirement

After 33 years with the Council staff, I am retiring at the end of October. The announcement is [attached](#). Thank you for the opportunity to serve the public as the Council's Executive Director.

New Email Addresses for Council Staff

In August, the staff transitioned from using the @noaa.gov email addresses to @npfmc.org. This brings us in line with all the other regional fishery management councils.

Final Sablefish and Halibut IFQ Program Review Report Posted

The report has been finalized per Council request and is posted on our website here: https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/halibut/IFQProgramReview_082225.pdf

Final AFA Program Review Report Posted

The report has been finalized per Council request and is posted on our website here:
https://files.npfmc.org/catch_shares/AFA/AFAProgramReview_0925.pdf

Pelagic Trawl Gear Innovation Research Summaries

In a June 2025 [motion](#), the Council tasked staff to prepare a public document to summarize research relevant to pelagic trawl gear innovation. Research summaries for six research projects were published on the NPFMC [website](#), with a plan for iterative updates as they become available.

Council Finance Update

In mid-August, we received our funding for 2025, which was almost at the level we received in 2024 and requested for 2025. In July, the Executive Finance Committee reviewed the status of finances and provided direction to the Executive Director on budgeting and contingency plans for the remainder of 2025 and 2026. A report from the Committee is [attached](#), including a draft Terms of Reference approved by the Committee. The Council may want to move to formally adopt a TOR for this committee under the E-1 agenda item.

Cook Inlet Salmon Catch Specifications

At its June meeting, the Council indicated that it did not intend to recommend harvest specifications for the Cook Inlet salmon fishery in the EEZ and requested that NMFS implement these harvest specifications under Secretarial authority. In deliberating the motion, the Council noted the limitations on resources and time available, as well as the direction from NMFS at the May 2025 CCC meeting to manage fewer stocks.

Subsequently, the Council received a letter from NOAA Assistant Administrator Eugenio Pineiro-Soler directing the Council to meet its statutory requirement to develop annual catch limits that do not exceed the recommendations of its SSC (see [attached](#) letter posted under B2).

If the Council wishes to take this up, the Council could potentially schedule the Cook Inlet salmon catch specifications for a future meeting (e.g., February).

IPHC Response Letter on Localized Depletion in Area 4

In February, Dr. David Wilson, IPHC Executive Director, sent the Council a [letter](#) regarding a proposal submitted by a member of the public at the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101). The proposal expressed concerns regarding the possibility of localized depletion of Pacific halibut around St. Matthew Island and proposed regulatory amendments to the application of commercial fishery limits in IPHC Regulatory Areas 4C and 4D. Specifically, the proposal advocated removal of the provision allowing Pacific halibut IFQ and CDQ quota holders in Area 4C to harvest their quota in Area 4D north of 60° N latitude and east of 174° W longitude.

In April, the Council [responded](#) with a request for additional information to address the validity of concerns regarding localized depletion of Pacific halibut around St. Matthew Island. Council members stated their desire to review the scientific information regarding localized depletion in that area before considering whether any management responses should be developed.

In June, IPHC has sent a response letter to the Council (see [attached](#)) providing information on localized depletion of halibut in Area 4D in the vicinity of St. Matthew Island. The IPHC concluded that there are no specific biological concerns associated with continuing to allow Regulatory Area 4C quota

holders to harvest in a focused manner in this part of Regulatory Area 4D. The Council may wish to discuss whether and how to address these concerns under the E-1 agenda item.

2026 MREP Workshop Accepting Applications

The next North Pacific Marine Resources Education Program (MREP) Fisheries Science and Management Workshop is scheduled for February 23-27, 2026, in Juneau Alaska. A flyer is [attached](#). The Steering Committee is currently [accepting applications](#), and preference for the 2026 workshop will be given to applications received by October 12, 2025. The workshop (including travel) is free to participants. A flyer is posted that provides information on the program and what is covered at the workshop.

Council Response to EO 14276

Executive Order 14276 “Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness” specifically provides for input from the Regional Fishery Management Councils in achieving the goals of the EO, to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production. The Council provided [initial recommendations](#) in June, and there is an opportunity for the Council to provide supplemental recommendations at this meeting during the B reports. An [action memo](#) describing potential Council action is posted, and NMFS has also updated their [regulatory review discussion paper](#) to support Council recommendations. Council and NMFS staff will provide a short presentation.

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 October meeting comment period was open from September 5-26. No submitted comments were removed.

Recent Staff and Council member activities

- Bill Tweit and Chris Oliver participated in a virtual NOAA Stock Assessment Tiger Team meeting in August.
- Several council members and staff had a meet and greet with Kirby Struhar (staff on House Committee on Natural Resources) and Josh Walton (Fisheries staff for Nick Begich) at the Council office on August 25.
- In July, Sara Cleaver went to sea on a sablefish pot fishing trip on the F/V Deliverance with Captain Todd Hoppe.
- Anna Henry participated in the NPRB Science Panel meeting in August.
- Diana Evans and Sara Cleaver, and several Council and AP members, participated in the Marine Resources Education Program Steering Committee meeting held in our office on June 18 as well as virtual planning sessions for the 2026 workshop.
- Diana Evans provided a presentation on NPFMC research priorities at the PSMFC meeting in September.
- Several staff met with Global Trust assessors auditing the halibut/ sablefish commercial fisheries under the Certified Sustainability International (CSI) RFM Standard on September 3.
- Staff provided written answers to questions from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), where assessors are completing the Year 4 Surveillance and Reassessment of the US North Pacific halibut and sablefish fishery.

Committee and Plan Team Meetings

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

- The Crab Plan Team met virtually September 8-12, report under Agenda C3.
- The PCFMAC/FMAC met virtually September 10, report under Agenda C2.
- The GOA and BSAI Groundfish Plan Teams met virtually September 16-18, report under Agenda C5.

Other Meetings or Events this Week

The Council will meet in **executive session** on Friday, October 3 from 3-5 pm, to discuss administrative matters.