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NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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B9 Cooperative Reports, Incentive Plan Agreement (IPA) Reports, Trawl Electronic Monitoring IPA report, and SeaShare report

June 2026

Action Memo

Council Staff:	Sarah Marrinan, Dr. Kate Haapala
Other Presenters:	Chelsae Radell, Danielle Bennett, Susie Zagorski, Austin Estabrooks, and Hannah Lindoff
Action Required:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Review of written cooperative reports, salmon bycatch Incentive Plan Agreement (IPA) reports, trawl Electronic Monitoring (EM) IPA report, and SeaShare report2. Receive select oral presentations3. No action required; Council may consider any modifications to reporting process.

BACKGROUND

This agenda item directs the Council to written cooperative reports, Incentive Plan Agreement (IPA) reports, and a trawl Electronic Monitoring (EM) report all linked on the Council's website; as well as a report from SeaShare. The Council will also receive oral presentations on some of these reports. In past years, cooperative and IPA reports have been received at the April meeting and the link on the eAgenda contains the historical archive of those reports. This action memo includes a description of each type of report.

List of Oral Presentations:

- Chelsae Radell and Danielle Bennett: CGOA Rockfish Intercooperative report, Trawl EM report
- Susie Zagorski: AFA CV Intercooperative report, PCTC Intercooperative report and Inshore IPA report
- Austin Estabrooks: PCC/ HSSC cooperative report and PCC IPA report
- Hannah Lindoff: SeaShare report

No action is required related to this agenda item. However, the Council may consider modifications to this reporting process and/or request additional or different information from the content provided. As a reminder, for any requests, deletions, and/or clarifications of information provided in the cooperative reports (voluntary or otherwise), IPA reports, or trawl EM report, the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) requires Federal agencies (1) to seek public comment on proposed collections and (2) to submit proposed collections for review and approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB reviews agency information collection requests for approval and disapproval. The PRA should not discourage the Council from making requests for voluntary cooperative information to be included in future cooperative reports. Rather, this guidance advises the Council to pursue any type of information requests in a deliberative manner, providing clear explanation of the objective of the new information.

Council and NMFS staff will track these Council information requests and submit the necessary PRA paperwork to OMB, so a clear explanation for requests is helpful.

Cooperative reports: The Council has developed several catch share programs that include cooperative-based fishing. Cooperatives provide an internal management structure for vessels or license holders to pool quota, coordinate harvesting, and fish more efficiently. Under these programs, cooperatives have been required or requested to submit a written annual report to NMFS and/or the Council. These annual cooperative reports are intended as a resource to track the effectiveness of the cooperatives and their ability to meet the goals laid out for the programs. Additionally, the reports are a tool for the cooperatives to provide feedback on the programs to the Council.

Below is a brief description of each of the five cooperative-based programs that submit annual reports, as well as a list of active cooperatives. A table is also provided with an overview of mandatory and voluntary elements of the different cooperative reports.

The five cooperative reports the Council may receive on an annual basis are as follows:

(a) American Fisheries Act (AFA) Cooperative Reports

In 1998, Congress established the AFA specifically for the pollock fishery in the BSAI management area. Among other things, the AFA encouraged domestic enterprise in Alaskan fisheries and established provisions for the creation of fishery cooperatives in three sectors: at-sea catcher processors (CPs), motherships, and inshore catcher vessels (CVs). Cooperatives are given exclusive allocation of pollock based on their members’ historical catch. See below for a list of current AFA cooperatives.

AFA cooperatives active in 2025	
Inshore	<i>Catcher Vessel Intercooperative</i>
	Akutan Catcher Vessel Cooperative
	Northern Victor Fleet Cooperative
	Unalaska Fleet Cooperative
	Unisea Fleet Cooperative
	Westward Fleet Cooperative
Mothership	Mothership Fleet Cooperative
CP	Pollock Conservation Cooperative & High Seas Catchers’ Cooperative

(b) Amendment 80 Cooperative Reports

Implemented in 2008, the Amendment 80 Program is a limited access privilege program (LAPP) that allocates a portion of total allowable catch (TAC) for Atka mackerel, Pacific ocean perch, and three flatfish species (yellowfin sole, rock sole, and flathead sole), along with an allocation of prohibited species catch (PSC) quota for halibut and crab, in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI), to the Amendment 80 sector.

The Amendment 80 cooperative(s) also provide halibut bycatch management plans to the Council at the December meeting. That request originated from the Council during the June 2015 meeting. In addition, as part of the BSAI flatfish flexibility action (Amendment 105), the Council asked for information on flatfish exchanges, cooperative transfers, and actual harvest. NMFS provides this information as part of their December inseason management report. As noted in the table below, Alaska Seafood Cooperative has been the only Amendment 80 cooperative in recent years.

Amendment 80 cooperatives active in 2025
Alaska Seafood Cooperative

(c) Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) Rockfish Cooperative Reports

In 2007, the CGOA Rockfish Pilot Program was implemented. The program was intended to enhance resource conservation and improve economic efficiency for harvesters and processors who participated in the program. Allocations of the primary rockfish species (Pacific ocean perch, northern rockfish, and pelagic rockfish) and important incidental catch species (i.e., sablefish, Pacific cod, shortraker and rougheye rockfish, and thornyhead rockfish) are divided between the catcher vessel sector and the catcher processor sector. In addition, each sector is allocated halibut PSC limits based on historic catch of halibut in the target rockfish fisheries. As part of reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act in 2007, the CGOA Rockfish Pilot Program was extended until December 31, 2011. During that time, the Council completed action on Amendment 88 to the GOA Fishery Management Plan that revised the CGOA Rockfish Program and the amendment was implemented in 2012.

The CGOA Rockfish Program was reauthorized with an effective date of March 31, 2021 (Amendment 111). As part of this amendment, the requirement that the Rockfish Program cooperatives submit a cooperative annual report to NMFS was removed, and instead the Council requested that the Rockfish Program cooperatives continue to voluntarily provide annual reports to the Council. The table below provides a list of the current CGOA Rockfish Program cooperatives.

CGOA Rockfish cooperatives active in 2025
Best Use Cooperative
North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative
OBSI Rockfish Cooperative
Silver Bay Seafoods Rockfish Cooperative
Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative

(d) BSAI Crab Cooperative Reports

The BSAI Crab Rationalization program was implemented in 2005. The program issued harvest quota shares to vessel owners (license holders) and captains, as well as issuing processor quota shares to processors based on their associated history. The crab rationalization program allows for the voluntary formation of harvesting cooperatives to coordinate crab harvest. If a quota share holder is associated with a cooperative, the annual pounds of IFQ that are derived from the quota share holder’s quota is issued to their cooperative and able to be internally managed and harvested among its members. Annually, more than 99 percent of the crab rationalization harvesting quota share is harvested through cooperatives.

When implemented, the BSAI Crab rationalization program did not include a pre-established reporting requirement for cooperatives. In 2013, the Council reviewed an analysis evaluating the Council’s management options for promoting active participation among lease holders, as well as lease rates, crew compensation, and active participation through flexible cooperative management. While the Council opted against a regulatory solution at that time, it requested that the industry use non-regulatory methods to address these concerns. The Council requested a cooperative report be voluntarily provided by coop managers on an annual basis demonstrating the effectiveness of non-regulatory measures employed, noting that these reports would help the Council determine whether to take regulatory action in the future. The Council letter sent to each of the cooperatives requested that they voluntarily report on:

- measures the cooperative is taking to facilitate QS transfers to active participants (including crew members and vessel owners),

- available measures to address high lease rates, and
- measures to address crew compensation rates.

The letter also requests any additional information or data the cooperatives wish to provide demonstrating the effectiveness of existing measures and the level of participation in cooperative-established measures. The Council recommended using the seven question/response format, as has been employed by many of the groups in the past, as their preferred reporting structure. See below for a list of current BSAI Crab cooperatives.

BSAI Crab cooperatives active in 2025/26
Alaska King Crab Harvesters Cooperative
Aleutian Island Cooperative
Alternative Crab Exchange (ACE)
Coastal Villages Crabbing Cooperative
Crab Producers and Harvesters Association
Dog Boat Cooperative
Inter-cooperative Exchange (ICE)
R & B Cooperative
Trident Affiliated Crab Harvesting Cooperative

(e) BSAI Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative Reports (PCTC)

The PCTC Program is a LAPP to harvest Pacific cod in the BSAI trawl CV sector. Implemented in 2024, the PCTC Program allocates Pacific cod harvest quota to qualifying groundfish License Limitation Program (LLP) license holders and qualifying processors and requires participants to form cooperatives to harvest the quota.

Under the PCTC Program, the Council has requested cooperatives to provide voluntary annual reports. These reports shall include specific information on the structure, function, and operation of the cooperatives. Specifically, each cooperative report should include information on CQ leasing activities and any penalties issued, harvest of CQ resulting from processor-held QS, cooperative membership, cooperative management, and performance (including implementation of the AI CQ set-aside when in effect). See below for a list of PCTC Program cooperatives.

PCTC cooperatives active in 2025
Akutan Cod Association
Unified Cod Coop
GA Catcher Vessel Association
US Seafood Cod Coop

Summary of the cooperative reporting requirements and voluntary requests for information

Cooperative program	Required information	Voluntary information
AFA Coop Report	<p><i>Report submitted to NPFMC as established in 50 CFR §679.61(f) as well as Section 210(a)(1)(B) of the AFA:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allocation of pollock and sideboard species to cooperative ▪ Sub-allocations of pollock and sideboard species on a vessel-by-vessel basis ▪ Retained and discarded catch on an area-by-area and vessel-by-vessel basis ▪ Method used to monitor fisheries ▪ Actions taken by cooperative against members that exceed catch or bycatch ▪ The total weight of pollock landed outside the State of Alaska on a vessel-by- vessel basis ▪ Number of salmon taken, by species and season ▪ Each vessel’s number of appearances on the weekly “dirty 20” lists for non- Chinook salmon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AFA exempt vessel activity in the GOA ▪ Inter-temporal harvest information ▪ Measures taken to reduce bycatch in the BSAI trawl limited access yellowfin sole fishery (Council motion E1, June 12, 2017) ▪ Voluntary presentation at Council meeting
Amendment 80 Coop Report	<p><i>Report submitted to NMFS as established in 50 CFR 679.5(s)(6)(I):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Actual retained and discarded catch of CQ and GOA sideboard limit by area and by vessel ▪ Information on the directed and bycatch species transfers by species, amount, and date ▪ Method used to monitor fisheries ▪ Actions taken by co-ops against members that exceed assigned CQ ▪ The percent of groundfish retained by the cooperative relative to aggregate groundfish retained by all Amendment 80 co-ops ▪ Results from a third-party audit on cooperatives annual groundfish retention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Catch information from the Northern Bristol Bay Trawl Area ▪ A retrospective indication of Amendment 80 catch capacity ▪ Inter-temporal harvest information ▪ Measures taken to reduce bycatch in the BSAI trawl limited access yellowfin sole fishery (Council motion E1, June 12, 2017) ▪ Voluntary presentation at Council meeting
Central GOA Rockfish Coop Report	<p>As part of Amendment 111 for the GOA FMP, all required cooperative information was removed from regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooperative report ▪ Inter-temporal harvest information ▪ Use consistent terminology ▪ Voluntary presentation at Council meeting
Crab Rationalization Coop Report¹		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase availability of QS for transfer to active participants and crew members ▪ Decrease high QS lease rates ▪ Improve low crew compensation ▪ Voluntary presentation at Council meeting
Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative Report		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CQ leasing activities and any penalties issued, ▪ Harvest of CQ resulting from processor-held QS, ▪ Cooperative membership, cooperative management, and performance (including implementation of the AI CQ set-aside when in effect) ▪ Voluntary presentation at Council meeting

¹ The Council’s motion from April 11, 2014, stated that the “Council’s preferred reporting format for crab cooperatives answer the seven questions asked by the Council, as exemplified by the ICE report of 2013. Additionally, the Council encourages all coops’ answers to be as quantitative as possible, as well as encourage 100% compliance with filing the reports by March 1 of each year.

Salmon Bycatch IPA reports: This agenda item also includes written IPA reports from participants in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, with an opportunity for IPA representatives to provide an oral presentation of these reports. The IPAs are civil legal contracts containing incentives (and penalties) for salmon bycatch avoidance that respond to Federal regulations at 50 CFR 679.21(f)(12)(iii)(E). The IPA reports are distinct from the AFA cooperative reports, and regulations specify that each IPA’s annual report must address the incentive measures for salmon bycatch avoidance that were in effect during the previous year, how incentive measures affected individual vessels (i.e., vessel-level incentives), how incentive measures affected salmon bycatch avoidance beyond current levels, the amount of salmon caught as bycatch and target catch (pollock) at the end of each fishing season, among others.

Incentive Plan Agreement reports for 2025
Bering Sea Pollock Mothership Salmon Saving Incentive Plan
Chinook Salmon Bycatch Reduction Incentive Plan
Inshore Salmon Savings Incentive Plan

Trawl Electronic Monitoring (TEM) IPA report: NOAA Fisheries implemented a regulated Trawl Electronic Monitoring (TEM) program in 2025 for pelagic trawl pollock catcher vessels and tender vessels delivering to shoreside processors in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and the Gulf of Alaska. Participation in the TEM category is voluntary, and a vessel owner or operator must opt into the category on an annual basis. The TEM category utilizes EM systems to monitor whether discards at sea occur. This EM video footage is reviewed to verify vessel discard estimates. Observers stationed at shoreside processors sample the catch to collect data that was previously collected by at-sea observers.

Catcher vessels directed fishing for pollock with pelagic trawl gear in the Gulf of Alaska or Aleutian Islands fisheries must be part of a TEM Incentive Plan Agreement (IPA) (i.e., vessels in the partial coverage trawl EM category). Catcher vessels directed fishing for pollock with pelagic trawl gear in the Bering Sea or Community Development Quota fisheries need not be party to a TEM IPA (i.e., vessels in the full coverage trawl EM category). A TEM IPA is a voluntary private contract between catcher vessel owners or operators in the TEM partial coverage category that establishes incentives for these vessels to increase communication, avoid prohibited species catch (such as salmon), and maintain the intent of the pollock trip limits (§ 679.7(b)(2)), trawl gear performance standard (§ 679.7(a)(14)), and maximum retainable amount (MRA) overage prohibitions (§ 679.7(a)(16)). Under a TEM IPA, vessels participating in the trawl EM category must comply with pollock trip limits, the trawl gear performance standard, and MRAs even though they are exempted from those regulations.

Regulations at 50 CFR 679.57(f) state the representative of each approved incentive plan must submit a written annual report to the Council, which will be available to the public. The Annual Report must contain the following information: A comprehensive description of the incentive measures, a description of how these incentive measures affected individual vessels, an evaluation of whether incentive measures were effective in avoiding exceeding maximum retainable amounts and GOA pollock trip limits (if applicable), and a description of any amendments to the terms of the incentive plan that were approved by NMFS since the last annual report and the reasons that the amendments were made. At the receipt of the Annual Reports on the incentive plan, the Council may re-evaluate the goals of the incentive plan program and make adjustments as necessary.

In 2025, one TEM IPA was formed and approved by NMFS.

Trawl EM IPA reports for 2025
GOA TEM IPA

SeaShare report: At its December 2025 meeting, the Council received a [letter from SeaShare](#), the non-profit organization that aids the seafood industry in donating to hunger-relief organizations in the United States. PSC species, such as Chinook and chum salmon, cannot be retained for commercial sale. NMFS authorizes SeaShare to administer the Prohibited Species Donation Program (PSDP) for salmon and halibut in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. SeaShare and partners work to distribute salmon and halibut within Alaska and in the lower 48. The Council will receive a presentation on this program and its efforts in 2025.