Meeting Summary

235th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
October 2 - 9, 2017
Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska

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Attachments
1) GOA Specs
2) BSAI Specs
3) Time Log
4) Newsletter
The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met Wednesday, October 4, through Monday, October 9, 2017 at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. The following Council, NPFMC staff, SSC, and AP members attended the meetings.

**Council Members**

Balsiger, Jim  
Cotter, Sam  
Cross, Craig  
Down, Kenny  
Hanson, Dave  
Hartill, Trent (Alt for Cotter)  
Hull, Dan (Chair, re-elected)

Marx, Steve  
Kinneen, Simon (Oath of Office)  
Laukitis, Buck  
Lepore, John (GC)  
CAPT Stephen White  
Merrill, Glenn (Alt for Balsiger)  
Mezirow, Andy

Peterson, Theresa  
LCDR Corrie Sergent  
Smoker, Lauren (GC)  
Tweit, Bill (Vice Chair, re-elected)

**NPFMC Staff**

Armstrong, Jim  
Cunningham, Sam  
Evans, Diana (DD)  
Fey, Mike (AKFIN)  
Gleason, Shannon

Kircher, Peggy  
MacLean, Steve  
Marrinan, Sarah  
McCracken, Jon  
Mezirow, Andy

Shawback, Maria  
Schmidt, Nicole  
Stram, Diana  
Witherell, Dave (ED)

**Scientific and Statistical Committee**

The SSC met from October 2 - 4, 2017 at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK.

Members present were:

Farron Wallace, Chair  
NOAA Fisheries—AFSC

Sherri Dressel, Vice Chair  
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

Chris Anderson  
University of Washington

Robert Clark  
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

Jason Gasper  
NOAA Fisheries—Alaska Region

George Hunt  
University of Washington

Gordon Kruse  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Dayv Lowery  
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Seth Macinko  
University of Rhode Island

Franz Mueter  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Kate Reedy  
Idaho State University Pocatello

Matt Reimer  
University of Alaska Anchorage

Ian Stewart  
Intl. Pacific Halibut Commission

Alison Whitman  
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Members absent were:

Jennifer Burns  
University of Alaska Anchorage

Lew Coggins  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Brad Harris  
Alaska Pacific University

Anne Hollowed  
NOAA Fisheries—AFSC

Terry Quinn  
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Advisory Panel

The AP met Tuesday, October 3, through Saturday, October 7, 2017. Members present were (absent stricken):

Carroll, Shannon       Gruver, John       Peterson, Joel
Christiansen, Ruth     Kauffman, Jeff      Scoblic, John
Cochran, Kurt          Kwachka, Alexus     Stephan, Jeff
Crowley, John          Lowenberg, Craig     Stevens, Ben
Donich, Daniel         McCallum, Chuck     Upton, Matt (Co-Vice Chair)
Drobnica, Angel (Co-V Chair) O'Donnell, Paddy  Weiss, Ernie (Chair)
Downing, Jerry

B REPORTS

The following reports were given and discussed. Actions were deferred to staff tasking.

B1 Executive Director’s Report – David Witherell
- St. Paul Outreach Summary – Steve MacLean

B2 NMFS Management Report – Glenn Merrill
- ACLIM Report – Alan Hanie and Kristen Holsman
- Deep Sea Coral Report – Chris Rooper and Heather Colman

B3 NOAA GC Report – Lauren Smoker

B4 ADF&G Report – Trent Hartill

B5 USCG Report – LCDR Corrie Sergent

B6 USFWS Report – Aaron Martin
- Seabird Update – Rob Kayler
- Coastal Resilience and Adaptation – Aaron Poe

B7 Protected Species Report - Steve MacLean

C1 CHARTER HALIBUT ANNUAL PERMIT REGISTRATION

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Sarah Marrinan. The following actions were taken:

Mr. Mezirow made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:

The Council recommends releasing the analysis for public review after revising the purpose and need statement to read:

*The charter halibut fishery currently lacks a Charter Halibut Permit (CHP) registration or renewal process. The lack of CHP renewal process limits the information available to the Council for understanding and tracking changes and trends in CHP ownership, participation and latency. A renewal process also would improve enforcement of CHP usage on the water and facilitate retirement of non-transferable permits. The Council is considering developing an annual renewal for the CHP Program to provide improved information to evaluate whether changes to the CHP Program are necessary as a result of changes in ownership and participation of CHPs, facilitate retirement of non-transferable permits when ownership changes, and improve the ability of enforcement agents to ensure valid permits are...*
being used.

The alternatives are shown below, with the Council’s preliminary preferred alternative in **bold**:

**Alternative 1. Status Quo**

**Alternative 2.** Implement an annual registration process for transferable and non-transferable charter halibut permits (CHP). A CHP holder must submit the following information to NMFS on an annual basis to register a CHP:

- CHP number,
- CHP holder name (individual or non-individual entity), and
- CHP holder address.

If a CHP is not registered with NMFS, the CHP would not be valid for use during the applicable fishing year.

*Options for additional requirements could include (options are not mutually exclusive):*

**Option 1.** CHP ownership (e.g., ownership holdings for the CHP by individual(s), partners, or a corporate entity).

**Option 2.** Natural person(s) and/or vessel(s) that will use the permit.

*Sub-option:* If a non-transferable CHP is used by a natural person(s) and/or vessel(s) that was not submitted to NMFS during the annual registration, the CHP would not be valid for use during the following year.

**Option 3.** For non-transferable permits, the CHP holder must notify NMFS where the permit will be used (i.e., the beginning and/or ending port(s) to trips where the CHP is used.

*Sub-option:* If a non-transferable CHP is used for a trip that begins or ends in a port that was not submitted to NMFS during the annual registration, the CHP would not be valid for use during the following year.

Mr. Cotten made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Laukitis:

(Add option 4 from the AP motion)

**Option 4. CHP use as indicated by answering the following questions:**

1) In the last year, was this CHP used by an operator who is not part of the CHP ownership structure?

2) If yes, what were the agreed upon compensation terms for the use of the CHP?
   a. No compensation; operator is an employee of the CHP holder...
b. A flat fee paid to the permit holder  
c. A fee that is a percentage of gross earnings  
d. Combination of flat fee and percentage

Mr. Cross made the following amendment to the amendment which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:  
(un-bold option 4 so that it will be an alternative but will not be a part of the PPA)

Option 4. CHP use as indicated by answering the following questions:

1) In the last year, was this CHP used by an operator who is not part of the CHP ownership structure?

2) If yes, what were the agreed upon compensation terms for the use of the CHP?
   a. No compensation; operator is an employee of the CHP holder  
   b. A flat fee paid to the permit holder  
   c. A fee that is a percentage of gross earnings

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT: Amendment to the amendment passed with no objection  
October 5, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 10:31 a.m.

Ms. Peterson made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:  
(add 4th bullet under Alternative 2)

Alternative 2. Implement an annual registration process for transferable and non-transferable charter halibut permits (CHP). A CHP holder must submit the following information to NMFS on an annual basis to register a CHP:

• CHP number,

• CHP holder name (individual or non-individual entity)

• CHP holder address

• CHP holder phone number and/or CHP holder email address

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 10:32 a.m.
Mr. Laukitis made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Cotten:
(add the following language in bold)

The charter halibut fishery currently lacks a Charter Halibut Permit (CHP) registration or renewal process. The lack of CHP renewal process limits the information available to the Council for understanding and tracking changes and trends in CHP ownership, participation and latency. A renewal process also would improve enforcement of CHP usage on the water and facilitate retirement of non-transferable permits. It will also ensure that the Council and stakeholders get more complete information about the performance and usage of CHPs and to help assess the degree to which CHP holders are demonstrating active participation in the fishery. The Council is considering developing an annual renewal for the CHP Program to provide improved information to evaluate whether changes to the CHP Program are necessary as a result of changes in ownership and participation of CHPs, facilitate retirement of non-transferable permits when ownership changes, and improve the ability of enforcement agents to ensure valid permits are being used.

Mr. Tweit made the following amendment to the amendment which was seconded by Ms. Peterson:
(strikeout and add the following language in bold)

It will also ensure that the Council and stakeholders get more complete information about the performance and usage of CHPs and to help assess the degree to which CHP holders are demonstrating active participants in the fishery.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT: Amendment to the amendment passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 11:11 a.m.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 11:12 a.m.

VOTE ON MAIN AMENDED MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 11:13 a.m.
C2 MIXING OF GUIDED AND UNGUIDED HALIBUT

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Jon McCracken. The following actions were taken.

Mr. Mezirow made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Cross:

The Council recommends releasing the analysis for public review after making the following revisions to the purpose and need, alternatives, and analysis. The preliminary preferred alternative is shown in bold.

Purpose and Need

Different regulations apply to guided and unguided (i.e., chartered and non-chartered) halibut fishing trips. Possessing halibut harvested from both guided and unguided trips on the same fishing vessel at the same time presents challenges for accountability and enforcement that cannot be adequately addressed by current regulations. Mixed guided and unguided halibut can occur on multi-day fishing vessels and mothership charter fishing and floating lodges, and to a lesser extent on fishing vessels that are owned by self-guided fishing operations that also provide sport fishing guide services to their clients. The potential for mixing guided and unguided halibut exists on every fishing vessel floating lodge and mothership that services halibut harvesters. The number of these operations and the associated halibut harvests remain unknown. The mixing of guided and unguided halibut could expand in the future as charter operators look for ways to maximize halibut harvests for guided and unguided anglers on their fishing vessels.

Once guided and unguided halibut are mixed aboard a fishing vessel, it is difficult to determine which halibut were harvested under the guided regulations and which halibut were harvested under the unguided regulations. The current regulatory structure allows guided and unguided halibut to be mixed on a fishing vessel but does not provide the regulated public or authorized officers with a mechanism to ensure compliance with the more restrictive guided halibut regulations. A regulatory change could ensure proper accounting of guided and unguided catch.

Alternatives

Alternative 1: Take no action

Alternative 2: Prohibit the possession of guided and unguided halibut simultaneously on any fishing vessel.

Alternative 3: If halibut harvested using sport fishing guide services is possessed with halibut harvested not using sport fishing guide services on Convention waters in Area 2C or 3A, the IPHC annual management measures for guided sport fishing for the area that the halibut was harvested apply to all halibut onboard the fishing vessel.

Suboption 3.1: Include “other fishing facility” as well as “fishing vessel”.

The Council recommends that the analysis be revised to:

1. Include the revisions suggested by staff and the Enforcement Committee, except the recommendation to include a new suboption 2.1.

2. An expanded discussion of the changes in guided and unguided halibut fishery management measures that led to an increase in multi-day, mothership and floating
lodge operations and increasing potential for mixing halibut caught by guided and unguided anglers.

3. An expanded discussion of the regulatory history of current prohibitions on mixing halibut in the commercial, subsistence, and sport fisheries.

4. Available information on mothership and floating lodge sport halibut operations in areas 2C and 3A (i.e., number of operations identified, description of services offered, whether operation holds CHPs, etc.)

Mr. Tweit made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Cross:

(Strike the following language under Alternative 3, bullets 2 and 4)

2. An expanded discussion of the changes in guided and unguided halibut fishery management measures that led to an increase in multi-day, and mothership and floating lodge operations and increasing potential for mixing halibut caught by guided and unguided anglers.

4. Available information on mothership and floating lodge sport halibut operations in areas 2C and 3A (i.e., number of operations identified, description of services offered, whether operation holds CHPs, etc.)

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 1:42 p.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 1:43 p.m.

C3 BSAI CRAB SPECIFICATIONS

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram. The following action was taken.

Mr. Hartill made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Cross:

The Council accepts the Crab SAFE report and adopts the OFLs and ABCs recommended by the SSC for the Eastern Bering Sea Snow Crab, Bristol Bay Red King Crab, Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab, Pribilof Islands Red and Blue King Crab, and St. Matthew Island Blue King Crab.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 5, 2017 at 2:34 p.m.
C4 GROUNDFISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Jim Armstrong and Jim Ianelli (AFSC). The following actions were taken.

Mr. Laukitis made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Cross:

Tables Shown in Attachment 1

The Council recommends the proposed 2018 and 2019 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC, and set the TACs as recommended by the AP as shown in the attached table to the AP minutes. The TACs for both Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod and Pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water GHL fisheries. The GOA Pacific cod adjustments are shown in the attached table to the AP minutes provided by staff (revised C4 item 6).

The Council recommends setting the proposed 2018 and 2019 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the GOA as provided in Tables 9, 10 and 11 (C4 item 7).

The Council recommends the updated halibut DMRs for both the BSAI and the GOA for 2018 and 2019 as shown in Table 1 (C4 item 8).

The Council adopts the AP recommendation to write a letter to NMFS and ask that all three of the survey vessels be used for the Gulf of Alaska surveys.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection October 6, 2017 at 9:05 a.m.

Mr. Cross made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Laukitis:

Tables Shown in Attachment 2

The Council adopts Table 8 (C4 item 4a), the proposed 2018 and 2019 apportionments of PSC catch allowances in the BSAI.

The Council adopts Table 10 (C4 item 4c), proposed 2018 and 2019 prohibited species bycatch allowances for the BSAI trawl limited access sector.

The Council adopts the flatfish ABC reserves as the difference between the ABC and the TAC. The Council adopts the proposed 2018 and 2019 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs as shown in the table attached to the AP motion for groundfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands with the exception that the TAC for EAI/BS Atka mackerel that reads 34,500 t be corrected to 34,000 t and the 500 t be added to EBS pollock (1,359,358 t) so that it reads 1,359,858 t.

The Council adopts the updated halibut DMRs for the BSAI for 2018 and 2019 as shown in Table 1 (C4 item 8).

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 6, 2017 at 9:09 a.m.
C5 OBSERVER TENDERING ISSUE AND LOW SAMPLING RATES

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC Deputy Director, Diana Evans. The following action was taken.

**Mr. Merrill made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Hartill:**

**Tendering**

The Council initiates the following projects. Priorities will be discussed during staff tasking.

1) An analysis to change the definition of a tender trip. This analysis should include options 2a and 2b described in the tendering discussion paper that would either start a new trip with delivery to a tender, or limit the number of deliveries to a tender vessel and evaluate observer deployment from tender vessels.

2) Development of EM for trawl vessels fishing in the GOA pollock fishery to monitor for full retention and allow Chinook salmon monitoring during the offload at the processing plant.

**Low Sampling Rates**

The Council initiates an analysis to consider increasing the observer fee. The analytical process follow the OAC recommendation to develop observer coverage reference points, including how changes to the zero selection pool and EM optimization affect current coverage levels.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed 10/1 with one objection (Mr. Laukitis) October 6, 2017 at 12:02 p.m.
C6 2018 OBSERVER PROGRAM ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT PLAN

The Council heard a presentation on the Annual Deployment Plan from AFSC staff, Chris Rilling, and Craig Faunce, and the EMWG and OAC reports from NPFMC Deputy Director, Diana Evans. The following actions were taken.

Mr. Merrill made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Cross:

The Council supports the following recommendations for the draft 2018 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP):

Continue the trip-selection method, definition of the “no-selection pool”, the policy of not granting exemptions, and ODDS logging procedures described in the draft 2018 ADP.

Use the following sampling strata for 2018:

- EM selection pool: Fixed gear vessels that have opted-in and been approved to be in the EM selection pool and have an approved VMP.
- Hook-and-line vessels greater than or equal to 40 feet (ft) length overall (LOA)
- Hook-and-line vessels greater than or equal to 40 ft LOA delivering to tenders
- Pot vessels greater than or equal to 40 ft LOA
- Pot vessels greater than or equal to 40 ft LOA delivering to tenders
- Trawl vessels
- Trawl vessels delivering to tenders

Use an observer deployment allocation strategy of 15% plus optimization based on discarded groundfish and halibut and Chinook PSC (as described in Appendix C of the draft 2018 ADP).

Continue to collect salmon genetic samples, and use the methodologies for vessels delivering shoreside or to tender vessels described in the draft 2018 ADP.

The Council suggests analysts consider the impacts of reduced Pacific cod TACs on fishing effort and coverage rates in the BSAI and GOA. Information from the November groundfish plan team meetings be used to guide the analysts.

Based on the information at the time the draft ADP was prepared, the Council supports the following preliminary deployment rates for the trip-selection strata in 2018:

- No selection - 0%
- EM selection pool - 30%
- Hook-and-line - 16%
- Tender hook-and-line - 15%
- Pot - 15%
- Tender Pot - 15%
- Trawl - 19%
- Tender trawl - 15%
For the 2017 Annual Report (provided in June 2018) and the 2019 Annual Deployment Plan:

- In coordination with the OAC, consider the comments from the SSC to include an evaluation of gear specific “hurdle” approaches, incorporate crab PSC estimates, and develop additional metrics for optimization in the annual evaluation process, to the extent possible.
- Evaluate the impacts of mixed gear trips on future sampling designs with the implementation of sablefish pot fishery.
- Consider the recommendations from the OAC to separate EM stratum information by gear type.
- Evaluate the cost implications and operational implications, for vessels and EM service providers, of deploying EM on 100% of trips in the EM selection pool, with selection for video review occurring after the trip is completed.

The Council requests that NMFS reprogram ODDS and CAS to allow vessels to be in the EM pool for fixed gear and in the observer pool for trawl gear in the same year. The prioritization will be determined in staff tasking.

The Council requests staff to provide the EM/ER Strategic Plan of 2013 and descriptions of proposed EM projects. This information will help the Council prioritize projects, and determine whether and when an EM workgroup should be appointed to shepherd new projects.

Mr. Laukitis made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Down:
(add the following language in bold)

For the 2017 Annual Report (provided in June 2018) and the 2019 Annual Deployment Plan:

- In coordination with the OSC, consider the comments from the SSC to include an evaluation of gear specific “hurdle” approaches, incorporate crab PSC estimates, and develop additional metrics for optimization in the annual evaluation process, to the extent possible.
- Evaluate the impacts of mixed gear trips on future sampling designs with the implementation of sablefish pot fishery.
- Consider the recommendations from the OAC to separate EM stratum information by gear type.
- Evaluate the cost implications and operational implications, for vessels and EM service providers, of deploying EM on 100% of trips in the EM selection pool, with selection for video review occurring after the trip is completed.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed no objection October 7, 2017 at 10:48 a.m.

Mr. Tweit made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Kinneen:
(add the following language in bold)

For the 2017 Annual Report (provided in June 2018) and the 2019 Annual Deployment Plan:

- In coordination with the OAC, consider the comments from the SSC and AP to include an evaluation of gear specific “hurdle” approaches, incorporate crab PSC estimates, and develop additional metrics for optimization in the annual evaluation process, to the extent possible.
VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed no objection October 7, 2017 at 10:49 a.m.

Mr. Tweit made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Hartill:
(add the following language in bold and delete the following language in strikethrough)

Use an observer deployment allocation strategy of 15% plus optimization based on discarded groundfish and halibut and Chinook PSC optimization approach based on groundfish discards and halibut PSC (as described in Appendix C of the draft 2018 ADP).

Continue to collect salmon genetic samples, and use the methodologies for vessels delivering shoreside or to tender vessels described in the draft 2018 ADP.

The Council suggests analysts consider the impacts of reduced Pacific cod TACs on fishing effort and coverage rates in the BSAI and GOA. Information from the November groundfish plan team meetings be used to guide the analysts.

Based on the information at the time the draft ADP was prepared, the Council supports the following preliminary deployment rates for the trip-selection strata in 2018:

- No selection - 0%
- EM selection pool - 30%
- Hook-and-line - 16% 19%
- Pot - 15% 4%
- Tender Pot - 15% 6%
- Trawl - 19% 22%
- Tender trawl - 15% 12%

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed 7/4 (Mr. Merrill, Mr. Cross, Mr. Marx, and Mr. Laukitis voting in opposition) October 7, 2017 at 11:08 a.m.

VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION: Motion passed no objection October 7, 2017 at 11:09 a.m.

C7 GOA ROCKFISH PROGRAM REVIEW

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC contractors, Darrell Brannan and Mike Downs. The following action was taken.

Mr. Merrill made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Kinneen:

The Council accepts the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program review as complete and final with the addition of information, to the extent practical, recommended by the SSC in the bullets on page 25 of its draft minutes.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 7, 2017 at 2:40 p.m.
C8 SALMON FMP AMENDMENT

The Council heard a presentation from NPFMC staff, Jim Armstrong and NMFS' Gretchen Harrington. The following action was taken.

Mr. Merrill made the following motion which was seconded by Ms. Peterson:

The Council intends to amend the Fishery Management Plan for the Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ Off Alaska (Salmon FMP) to manage the commercial salmon fishery in the Cook Inlet exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Focusing on Cook Inlet first allows the Council to design fishery management regime for Cook Inlet that recognizes the complex issues in Cook Inlet. The Council intends to consider an FMP amendment to address the salmon fisheries in the EEZ of Prince William Sound and South Alaska Peninsula under a separate and subsequent action.

The Council modifies the preliminary purpose and need to read as follows: (additions are shown in **bold**, deleted text is shown in strikethrough.)

**Preliminary Purpose and Need**

The Council intends to amend the Salmon FMP to manage the three traditional net fishing areas that occur in Federal waters; of Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and South Alaska Peninsula. Federal management in an FMP must meet the Magnuson-Stevens Act required provisions for an FMP in section 303(a) and related Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions. This proposed action is necessary to bring the Salmon FMP into compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act consistent with the recent Ninth Circuit ruling and the Judgement of the District Court in UCIDA et al., v. NMFS.

**Conservation and Management Measures for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3**

The Council directs NMFS and Council staff to continue to work with the State of Alaska to develop options for the conservation and management measures required under 303(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and related Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions. Staff should continue to prioritize their work on the following requirements:

- management policy and objectives,
- conservation and management measures,
- status determination criteria,
- annual catch limits and accountability measures,
- methods to report bycatch and measures to minimize bycatch and the mortality of unavoidable bycatch,
- the salmon plan team or other process for annually determining status of the stocks and providing stock assessment and fishery evaluation information, and
- the process for review and appeal of State management measures applicable under the FMP.
Stakeholder Salmon Committee

The Council intends to form a Salmon Committee for stakeholders to address the required provisions for an FMP amendment to manage the commercial fisheries in the Federal waters of Cook Inlet.

To develop the scope of work for the Salmon Committee, the Council will solicit written proposals from the public to help the Council identify the specific required conservation and management measures under 303(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and related Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions where a committee would assist in the evaluation of information relevant to the development of options for a fishery management plan amendment and serve a useful purpose.

Council and NMFS staff, working with ADF&G staff, will provide an update on the issues identified from this solicitation and a proposed timeline for engagement by a stakeholder committee at a future Council meeting.

With this information, the Council will determine the composition, scope, and schedule for a stakeholder workgroup and request stakeholder participation in the Salmon Committee.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 7, 2017 at 5:55 p.m.

C9 HALIBUT ABUNDANCE-BASED PSC LIMITS

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram, and IPHC’s Dr. Allen Hicks. The following actions were taken.

Mr. Hartill made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Laukitis:

The Council modifies the Purpose and Need statement as follows:

“The current fixed yield based halibut PSC caps are inconsistent with management of the directed halibut fisheries and Council management of groundfish fisheries, which are managed based on abundance. When halibut abundance declines, PSC becomes a larger proportion of total halibut removals and thereby further reduces the proportion and amount of halibut available for harvest in directed halibut fisheries. Conversely, if halibut abundance increases, halibut PSC limits could be unnecessarily constraining. The Council is considering linking PSC limits to halibut abundance to provide a responsive management approach at varying levels of halibut abundance. The Council is considering abundance-based PSC limits to control total halibut mortality, particularly at low levels of abundance. Abundance-based PSC limits also could provide an opportunity for the directed-halibut fishery, and protect the halibut spawning stock biomass, particularly at low levels of abundance. The Council recognizes that abundance-based halibut PSC limits may increase and decrease with changes in halibut abundance.”

The Council tasks staff to develop a preliminary analysis focusing on providing additional description of control rules, including discussion of features that best meet the Council’s objectives, a qualitative evaluation of the control rule, and performance. Included in the analysis, staff should provide evaluation of the linkage between the index value and the control feature that effects PSC limits. The Council tasks staff to include the following in the analysis:

1. Develop strawman ABMs using the EBS shelf bottom trawl survey and IPHC setline survey for area 4ABCDE as indices. Provide examples and analyze indices applied separately using control rule options in Element 2 below.
2. Additionally, using strawman ABMs, apply indices to control rules individually to each gear type to establish separate PSC limits. Evaluate and provide a description of the tradeoffs of the following control rule features, as well as the impact on PSC limits:
   - IPHC Coastwide stock status (30:20) control rule
   - Explicit consideration of the O26 composition of PSC in a control rule
   - Sloped transitions between stair-steps in a decision table
3. Investigate and evaluate different index/control rule combinations using various tools (e.g., simulation analysis from April 2016 and 2017 discussion papers) as outlined by the SSC. Provide discussion of the tradeoffs of the different control rules and features as it relates to the Council’s objectives. In evaluating this, the Council instructs staff to maintain the existing proportional PSC allocation among sectors.

The Council refines the component elements and options for consideration in ABM development, and instructs staff to confine preliminary analysis to these elements and options.

**Element 1 – Abundance index and application**
Option 1. Apply EBS trawl survey and IPHC setline survey for 4ABCDE separately to establish a single PSC limit
Option 2. Index trawl gear to EBS survey, index fixed gear to IPHC setline survey
Option 3. Index EBS trawl survey and IPHC setline survey to trawl gear
Option 4. Index EBS trawl survey and IPHC setline to fixed gear

**Element 2 – Control Rules**
Option 1. Linear
Option 2. Decision table
Option 3. Multi-dimensional

**Element 3 – PSC limit responsiveness to abundance changes**
Option 1. Include IPHC stock status (30:20) as breakpoints in the control rule
Option 2. Sloped transitions between stair-steps in decision table
Option 3. PSC limit varies proportionally (1:1) with change in abundance index.
   - Suboption – Different variation above and below (1:1)

**Element 4 – Starting point for PSC limit**
Option 1. 10% below 2016 PSC use (2,118 mt)
Option 2. 2016 PSC use (2,354 mt)
Option 3. 2016 PSC limit (3,515 mt)
Option 4. 10% above 2016 PSC limit (3,867 mt)
Option 5. Additional value within range of Options 1-4

**Element 5 - Maximum PSC limit (ceiling)**
Option 1. 2016 PSC limit (3,515 mt)
Option 2. 2015 PSC limit (4,426 mt)
Option 3. No ceiling
Option 4. Additional value to be selected

**Element 6 - Minimum PSC limit (floor)**
Option 1. No floor (PSC goes to 0)
Option 2. 2016 use (2,354 mt)
Option 3. IPHC Control Rule - PSC limit goes to zero at 20% stock status
Option 4. Additional value to be selected
Mr. Kinneen made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Laukitis:
(add the following language to the end of the motion)

The Council directs NMFS to initiate scoping for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT**: Amendment passed no objection October 8, 2017 at 4:38 p.m.

**VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION**: Motion passed unanimously October 8, 2017 at 4:51 p.m.

**D1 HALIBUT DECK SORTING EFP AND HALIBUT GENETICS SAMPLING EFP**

The Council received a presentation from Brandee Gerke (NMFS Alaskan Region), and John Gauvin and Christopher Oliver of the Alaska Seafood Cooperative. The following action was taken.

Mr. Cross made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Down:

The Council supports issuance of an exempted fishing permit to continue refining methods for sorting halibut on deck of non-pollock trawl vessels in the BSAI and GOA in 2018 and 2019.

The Council also supports issuance of an exempted fishing permit for crew members to collect genetic samples from incidentally caught halibut on a hook-and-line vessel in the 2018 A season western Aleutian Islands Pacific cod fishery.

**VOTE ON MOTION**: Motion passed no objection October 8, 2017 at 5:40 p.m.

**D2 IFQ COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Sam Cunningham. The following action was taken.

Mr. Laukitis made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Mezirow:

The Council requests that NMFS supplement the 2017 IFQ Program cost recovery report to describe the process used by the Office of Law Enforcement to charge costs to the IFQ cost recovery program in recent years. In addition, the report should describe changes to the process for charging costs beginning in Federal fiscal year 2018.

**VOTE ON MOTION**: Motion passed no objection October 9, 2017 at 10:18 a.m.
D3 HALIBUT RETENTION IN SABLEFISH POTS

The Council received a presentation from NPFMC staff, Sam Cunningham. The following actions were taken.

Mr. Laukitis made the following motion which was seconded by Ms. Peterson:

The Council initiates an analysis to allow retention of halibut in pot gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands with the following purpose and need statement and alternatives:

Purpose and Need
Interactions with whales throughout the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands affect the ability of sablefish and halibut quota share holders to harvest their IFQ by reducing catch per unit of effort and increasing fishing costs. Whale interactions are increasing for vessels using pot gear in the sablefish IFQ fishery and vessels fishing halibut IFQ with longline gear in the BSAI. Research into developing technological solutions to deter whales and changes in fishing strategies has not resolved the problem. The problem may be addressed by revisions to current regulations that authorize pot gear as legal gear for retention of halibut in the BSAI. Allowing retention of halibut caught in pot gear in the BSAI could address the negative impacts of whale interactions on sablefish and halibut quota share holders by reducing the amount of halibut lost to whale depredation. The Council seeks to reduce the problems associated with whale depredation while minimizing gear conflicts. The Council seeks to reduce the amount of unaccounted mortality occurring due to whale depredation.

Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 2: Allow retention of legal-size halibut in pot gear used to fish sablefish IFQ in the BSAI, provided the IFQ holder also holds sufficient halibut IFQ for that IPHC regulatory area.
   Element 1: Applies to both single pots and longline pots
   Element 2: Gear retrieval
      Option 1: No gear tending requirements (status quo)
      Option 2: A vessel with unfished sablefish IFQ onboard cannot leave gear on the grounds untended for more than (Suboptions) 5-10 days
   Element 3: Limit of 9-inch maximum width of tunnel openings does not apply when vessel has unfished halibut IFQ onboard
   Element 4: All vessels using pot gear to fish IFQ are required to use logbooks and VMS

NMFS will include pot gear effort and catch of IFQ species in its annual management report to the Council. The Council intends to review the effects of allowing retention of halibut in pot gear 3 years after implementation.
Mr. Tweit made the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Cross
(add the following language in **bold** and delete the following language in strikethrough)

Purpose and Need

Interactions with whales throughout the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands affect the ability of sablefish and halibut quota share holders to harvest their IFQ by reducing catch per unit of effort and increasing fishing costs. **Whale interactions depredation on discarded halibut are increasing** for vessels using pot gear in the sablefish IFQ fishery and vessels fishing halibut IFQ with longline gear in the BSAI. Research into developing technological solutions to deter whales and changes in fishing strategies has not resolved the problem. The problem may be addressed by revisions to current regulations that authorize pot gear as legal gear for retention of halibut in the BSAI. Allowing retention of halibut caught in pot gear in the BSAI could address the negative impacts of whale interactions on sablefish and halibut quota share holders by reducing the amount of halibut lost to whale depredation. The Council seeks to reduce the problems associated with whale depredation while minimizing gear conflicts. The Council seeks to reduce the amount of unaccounted mortality occurring due to whale depredation.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT**: Amendment passed no objection October 9, 2017 at 11:47 a.m.

**VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION**: Motion passed unanimously October 9, 2017 at 11:49 a.m.

**E1 STAFF TASKING**

David Witherell presented a list of items for discussion at staff tasking from the B reports and other items during the meeting; and other staff tasking materials. Diana Evans presented the Ecosystem Workshop proposal for February, and Steve MacLean presented the Ecosystem Committee minutes. In addition to discussing the relative priority of previously tasked projects, the Council initiated new actions and letters and clarified direction and tasking for its various committees. The following actions were taken.
Ecosystem Committee and Northern Fur Seals

Ms. Peterson made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Tweit:

The Ecosystem Committee anticipates the next meeting will take place in February of 2018.

The Council encourages the Agency to revisit and update the Conservation Plan for the Eastern Pacific Stock of Northern Fur Seals and requests that NMFS report to the Ecosystem Committee on their plans to update the 2007 Conservation Plan. The report should include review and potential revisions to Plan objectives, review and potential revisions to the Conservation Action Outline, incorporation of data available since publication of the Plan, and mechanisms for incorporating local knowledge and expertise including the effectiveness of co-management agreements with tribal governments.

The Council recommends the Ecosystem Committee discuss ways for Bering Sea communities to provide input to the Council with ecosystem issues and concerns.

The committee will discuss Ecosystem Committee membership during subsequent meetings and provide recommendations back to the Council.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed no objection October 9, 2017 at 4:45 p.m.

Observer EM Letter

Ms. Peterson made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Laukitis:

The Council will draft a letter to NMFS Headquarters.

The letter will first thank the agency for providing additional funds to the observer program, highlighting how the funds help to augment coverage rates and benefits the program.

The letter will also comment on the draft 2018 ADP recommendation to require 100% coverage on EM boats in 2019 with a 30% post trip selection.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously October 9, 2017 at 5:14 p.m.

Stranded BSAI and GOA Pacific Cod

Mr. Down made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Cotten:

The Council requests that staff develop a discussion paper outlining steps necessary to remove obstacles that impede achieving, on a continuing basis, the complete harvest of Pacific cod allocations in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and the Gulf of Alaska.

The discussion paper should outline the process for reallocating Pacific cod, and options for National Marine Fisheries Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to facilitate the harvest by state and federal fishery participants of stranded allocations of Pacific cod in state waters (GHL) fisheries, with a focus on the Aleutian Island Sub district (AIS) GHL fishery.
The discussion paper should also address impediments to the complete harvest of Pacific cod allocations in the federal fisheries, including the bulleted allocations, and to examine steps to facilitate earlier season rollover of BSAI Pacific cod allocations by NMFS.

- ICA on fixed gear in the BSAI allocation
- ICA in the GOA
- GOA Rock Fish Pilot Program allocation

**Mr. Cross made the following substitute motion which was seconded by Mr. Mezirow:**

The Council requests that staff add a module to the BSAI cod allocation review outlining steps necessary to remove obstacles that impede achieving, on a continuing basis, the complete harvest of Pacific cod allocations in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and add a similar discussion when reviewing the allocations in the Gulf of Alaska.

The discussion paper should outline the process for reallocating Pacific cod, and options for NMFS and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to facilitate the harvest by state and federal fishery participants of stranded allocation of Pacific cod in state waters (GHL) fisheries, with a focus on the Aleutian Island Sub district (AIS) GHL fishery.

The discussion paper should also address impediments to the complete harvest of Pacific cod allocations in the federal fisheries, including the below allocations, and to examine steps to facilitate earlier season rollover of BSAI Pcod (e.g. Amendment 85) allocations by NMFS.

- ICA on fixed gear in the BSAI allocation
- ICA in the GOA
- GOA Rock Fish Pilot Program allocation
- Amendment 80 fleet allocation

**VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Motion passed no objection October 9, 2017 at 5:53 p.m.

During Staff Tasking the Council appointed Dr. Amanda Bishop of the Alaska Sea Life Center in Seward, Alaska, to the SSC through 2018. Bishop is currently serving as a postdoctoral researcher at the Sea Life Center and has a background in Coastal Environmental Management and Behavioral Ecology. Dr. Dan Lew, an economist from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, was appointed to the GOA Groundfish Plan Team. Lew has served on the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team in the past, and has expertise with the economics of the recreational fishing sector and IFQ markets.

**THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ON MONDAY OCTOBER 9, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M.**
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Sources: 2016 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2015; 2017 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from the harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2016; 2018 and 2019 catches through December 31, 2016 and 2017 catches through September 2, 2017 from AKR Catch Accounting.
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<td>Demersal shelf rockfish</td>
<td></td>
<td>364</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thornyhead Rockfish</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>988</td>
<td>689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,615</td>
<td>1,961</td>
<td>1,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Rockfish</td>
<td>W/C</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1,534</td>
<td>1,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WYAK</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EYAK/SEO</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>3,665</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,424</td>
<td>5,773</td>
<td>5,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atka mackerel</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>4,700</td>
<td>4,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Skate</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>1,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1,056</td>
<td>1,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,086</td>
<td>3,814</td>
<td>3,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longnose Skate</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>1,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2,513</td>
<td>2,513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,274</td>
<td>3,206</td>
<td>3,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Skates</td>
<td>GOA-wide</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2558</td>
<td>1,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sculpins</td>
<td>7,338</td>
<td>5,591</td>
<td>5,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sharks</td>
<td>6,020</td>
<td>4,514</td>
<td>4,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Squids</td>
<td>4,514</td>
<td>4,514</td>
<td>4,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Octopuses</td>
<td>6,504</td>
<td>4,878</td>
<td>4,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>727,684</td>
<td>590,809</td>
<td>293,617</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: 2016 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2015; 2017 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from the harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2016, 2016 catches through December 31, 2016 and 2017 catches through September 2, 2017 from AKR Catch Accounting.
Proposed 2018/2019 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod ABCs, TACs and State Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) in metric tons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specifications</th>
<th>Western</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>Eastern</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>22,565</td>
<td>27,471</td>
<td>4,894</td>
<td>54,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State GHL</td>
<td>6,770</td>
<td>6,868</td>
<td>1,224</td>
<td>14,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(%)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal TAC</td>
<td>15,796</td>
<td>20,603</td>
<td>3,671</td>
<td>40,069</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposed 2018 and 2019 GOA Harvest Specifications

Table 9. Proposed 2018 and 2019 Pacific Halibut PSC Limits, Allowances, and Apportionments (Values are in metric tons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trawl gear</th>
<th>Hook-and-line gear¹</th>
<th>Other than DSR</th>
<th>DSR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Season</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Amount²</td>
<td>Season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20 - April 1</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>January 1 - June 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1 - July 1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>June 10 - September 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1 - September 1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>September 1 - December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1 - October 1</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>128</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1 - December 31</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>256</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,706</td>
<td></td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ The Pacific halibut PSC limit for hook-and-line gear is allocated to the demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) fishery and fisheries other than DSR. The hook-and-line IFQ sablefish fishery is exempt from halibut PSC limits, as are pot and jig gear for all groundfish fisheries.

Table 10. Proposed 2018 and 2019 Seasonal Apportionments of the Pacific Halibut PSC Limit Apportioned Between the Trawl Gear Shallow-Water and Deep-Water Species Fisheries (Values are in metric tons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Shallow-water</th>
<th>Deep-water¹</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 20 - April 1</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1 - July 1</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1 - September 1</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1 - October 1</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>Any remainder</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal, January 20 - October 1</td>
<td>768</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>1,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1 - December 31²</td>
<td>256</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,706</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Vessels participating in cooperatives in the Rockfish Program will receive 191 mt of the third season (July 1 through September 1) deep-water species fishery halibut PSC apportionment.
² There is no apportionment between trawl shallow-water and deep-water species fisheries during the fifth season (October 1 through December 31).

Attachment 1
Table 11. Proposed 2018 and 2019 Apportionments of the “Other hook-and-line fisheries” Halibut PSC Allowance Between the Hook-and-Line Gear Catcher Vessel and Catcher/Processor Sectors (Values are in metric tons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“Other than DSR” allowance</th>
<th>Hook-and-line sector</th>
<th>Sector annual amount</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Seasonal percentage</th>
<th>Sector seasonal amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>257</td>
<td>Catcher Vessel</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>January 1 - June 10</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>June 10 - September 1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>September 1 - December 31</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catcher/Processor</td>
<td>128</td>
<td></td>
<td>January 1 - June 10</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>June 10 - September 1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>September 1 - December 31</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1. Proposed 2018 DMRs and currently specified 2017 DMRs. Green font indicates reduced DMRs and red font indicates increase. DMRs for mothership operations are included under CPs.

### 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operational Group</th>
<th>Sample Size (Mean Annual (N_{\text{viabilities}}))</th>
<th>Estimate DMR?</th>
<th>DMR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sector Region Gear Target</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSAI CP PTR all</td>
<td>4,151</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPT all</td>
<td>1,753</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAL all</td>
<td>11,676</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POT all</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOA CP PTR all</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPT all</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAL all</td>
<td>1,247</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POT all</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSAI CV PTR all</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPT all</td>
<td>2,282</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAL all</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POT all</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOA CV PTR all</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPT all</td>
<td>RPP(^e)</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non-RPP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAL all</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POT all</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operational Group</th>
<th>Sample Size (Mean Annual (N_{\text{viabilities}}))</th>
<th>Estimate DMR?</th>
<th>DMR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sector Region Gear Target</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSAI CP PTR all</td>
<td>3,097</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPT all</td>
<td>2,025</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAL all</td>
<td>8,838</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POT all</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOA CP PTR all</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPT all</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAL all</td>
<td>1,493</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POT all</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSAI CV PTR all</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPT all</td>
<td>2,456</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAL all</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POT all</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOA CV PTR all</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPT all</td>
<td>RPP(^e)</td>
<td>937</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non-RPP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAL all</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POT all</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^e\) — 2017 RPP DMR calculated by proxy methods based on catch composition. RPP was directly estimated in 2018.
TABLE 8–PROPOSED 2018 AND 2019 APPORTIONMENT OF PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES TO NON-TRAWL GEAR, THE CDQ PROGRAM, AMENDMENT 80, AND THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PSC species and area¹</th>
<th>Total PSC</th>
<th>Non-trawl PSC</th>
<th>CDQ PSQ reserve²</th>
<th>Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ</th>
<th>Amendment 80 sector³</th>
<th>BSAI trawl limited access fishery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI</td>
<td>3,515</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1,745</td>
<td>745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herring (mt) BSAI</td>
<td>2,013</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red king crab (animals) Zone 1</td>
<td>97,000</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>10,379</td>
<td>86,621</td>
<td>43,293</td>
<td>26,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. opilio (animals) COBLZ</td>
<td>9,105,477</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>974,286</td>
<td>8,131,191</td>
<td>3,996,480</td>
<td>2,613,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. bairdi crab (animals) Zone 1</td>
<td>830,000</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>88,810</td>
<td>741,190</td>
<td>312,115</td>
<td>348,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Pacific cod non-trawl-Total</td>
<td>2,520,000</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>269,640</td>
<td>2,250,360</td>
<td>532,660</td>
<td>1,053,394</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of zones.
² The PSQ reserve for crab species is 10.7 percent of each crab PSC limit.
³ The Amendment 80 program reduced apportionment of the trawl PSC limits for crab below the total PSC limit. These reductions are not apportioned to other gear types or sectors.
### TABLE 9-PROPOSED 2018 AND 2019 HERRING AND RED KING CRAB SAVINGS SUBAREA PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES FOR ALL TRAWL SECTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fishery categories</th>
<th>Herring (mt) BSAI</th>
<th>Red king crab (animals) Zone 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellowfin sole</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/ Kamchatka flounder/sablefish</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockfish</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific cod</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Pacific cod non-trawl-Total</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>24,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total trawl PSC</td>
<td>2,013</td>
<td>97,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 “Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

2 Pollock other than midwater trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and “other species” fishery category.

3 “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes sculpins, sharks, skates, squids, and octopuses.

4 In October 2017 the Council recommended that the red king crab bycatch limit for non-pelagic trawl fisheries within the RKCSS be limited to 25 percent of the red king crab PSC allowance (see § 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(2)).

**Note:** Species apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.
### TABLE 10—PROPOSED 2018 AND 2019 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BSAI trawl limited access fisheries</th>
<th>Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI</th>
<th>Red king crab (animals) Zone 1</th>
<th>C. opilio (animals) COBLZ</th>
<th>C. bairdi (animals) Zone 1</th>
<th>C. bairdi (animals) Zone 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellowfin sole</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>23,338</td>
<td>2,463,587</td>
<td>293,234</td>
<td>1,005,879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockfish April 15-December 31</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,069</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific cod</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>2,954</td>
<td>105,008</td>
<td>50,816</td>
<td>42,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>40,701</td>
<td>4,235</td>
<td>4,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total BSAI trawl limited access PSC</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>26,489</td>
<td>2,613,365</td>
<td>348,285</td>
<td>1,053,394</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas.

<sup>2</sup> “Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

<sup>3</sup> “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes sculpins, sharks, skates, squids, and octopuses.

**Note:** Species apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.
### TABLE 11–PROPOSED 2018 AND 2019 HALIBUT PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR NON-TRAWL FISHERIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-trawl fisheries</th>
<th>Seasons</th>
<th>Catcher/ processor</th>
<th>Catcher vessel</th>
<th>All Non-Trawl</th>
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<td>Pacific cod</td>
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<td>648</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January 1-June 10</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td></td>
<td>June 10-August 15</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td>August 15-December 31</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td>Non-Pacific cod non-trawl-Total</td>
<td>May 1-December 31</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Groundfish pot and jig</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sablefish hook-and-line</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total for all non-trawl PSC</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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</table>
# October SSC proposed BSAI Groundfish OFL and ABC and AP proposed TAC recommendations for 2018-2019 (in metric tons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>2016 (\times)1000</th>
<th>2017 (\times)1000</th>
<th>Catch (\times)1000</th>
<th>2016 (\times)1000</th>
<th>2017 (\times)1000</th>
<th>2016 (\times)1000</th>
<th>2017 (\times)1000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>BSS</td>
<td>3,910</td>
<td>2,090</td>
<td>1,340</td>
<td>1,352,707</td>
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<td>12,593</td>
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<td>1,499</td>
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<td>Yellowfin sole</td>
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<td>211,700</td>
<td>144,000</td>
<td>135,350</td>
<td>287,000</td>
<td>260,800</td>
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<td>Greenland turbot</td>
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<td>3,462</td>
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<td>41,000</td>
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<td>13,000</td>
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<td>33,320</td>
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<td>31,319</td>
<td>53,152</td>
<td>43,723</td>
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<td>Blackspot/Rougheye rockfish</td>
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<td>561</td>
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<td>612</td>
<td>501</td>
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<td></td>
<td>EBS/CAI</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>72</td>
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<td>306</td>
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<td>CAI/WAI</td>
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<td>200</td>
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<td>518</td>
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<td>102,700</td>
<td>87,200</td>
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<td>28,500</td>
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<td>1,022</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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</table>

Sources: 2016 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2017 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2015 and December 2016, respectively; 2016 catches through December 31, 2016 and 2017 catches through September 2, 2017 from AKR Catch Accounting.
Table 1. Proposed 2018 DMRs and currently specified 2017 DMRs. Green font indicates reduced DMRs and red font indicates increase. DMRs for mothership operations are included under CPs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operational Group</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Gear</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Sample Size (Mean Annual N Viabilities)</th>
<th>Estimate DMR?</th>
<th>DMR</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BSAI</strong></td>
<td>CP</td>
<td>PTR</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>4,151</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NPT</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>1,753</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>85%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HAL</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>11,676</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>8%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>POT</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOA</strong></td>
<td>CP</td>
<td>PTR</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NPT</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>85%</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>all</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>PTR</td>
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<td>224</td>
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<td>44</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>14%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>POT</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOA</strong></td>
<td>CV</td>
<td>PTR</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>HAL</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>729</td>
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<td>POT</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</table>

* RPP DMR calculated by proxy methods based on catch composition. RPP was directly estimated in 2018.
WEDNESDAY October 4, 2017

10/04/2017 08:06:33 AM   Call to Order
10/04/2017 08:10:41 AM   Election of Officers – Sam Cotten for Dan Hull and Bill Tweit
10/04/2017 08:11:27 AM   Motion – Approval of the Agenda

B1 REPORTS

10/04/2017 08:12:48 AM   B1 Executive Director’s Report – David Witherell
10/04/2017 08:33:30 AM   B1 St. Paul Outreach Summary – Steve MacLean
10/04/2017 09:12:20 AM   Executive Director Report – Legislative Update
10/04/2017 09:55:47 AM   Break
10/04/2017 10:20:38 AM   B2 NMFS Report
10/04/2017 10:20:19 AM   AA Chris Oliver and James Uthmeier speak
10/04/2017 10:43:51 AM   ACLIM Report – Alan Hanie & Kristen Holsman
10/04/2017 10:52:27 AM   Lunch Break
10/04/2017 01:02:21 PM   ACLIM Report Continued
10/04/2017 02:04:41 PM   Deep Sea Coral Report – Chris Rooper
10/04/2017 03:09:55 PM   Break
10/04/2017 03:29:51 PM   In Season Management Report – Mary Fureness
10/04/2017 03:33:27 PM   B3 NOAA GC Report – Lauren Smoker
10/04/2017 03:37:33 PM   B4 ADF&G Report – Trent Hartill
10/04/2017 03:47:42 PM   B5 USCG Report – Corrie Sergent
10/04/2017 03:57:10 PM   B6 USFWS Seabird Update – Rob Kayler
10/04/2017 04:12:06 PM   B6 Coastal Resilience and Adaptation - Aaron Poe
10/04/2017 04:20:27 PM   B6 USFWS Report – Aaron Martin
10/04/2017 05:14:45 PM   B7 Protected Species Report – Steve MacLean
10/04/2017 05:26:32 PM   Break
10/04/2017 05:29:18 PM   Public Testimony
10/04/2017 05:34:14 PM   Arthur Severance
10/04/2017 05:43:48 PM   Phil Zavadil & Lauren Divine
10/04/2017 05:47:02 PM   Duncan Fields
10/04/2017 05:50:50 PM   Jon Warrenchuk
10/04/2017 05:55:54 PM   Shannon Carroll
10/04/2017 05:57:56 PM   Becca Robbins Gisclair
10/04/2017 05:57:56 PM   Council Recess
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:04:05 AM</td>
<td>Call to Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:04:14 AM</td>
<td>Recognition of Roy Hyder</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>C1 CHARTER HALIBUT ANNUAL PERMIT REGISTRATION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:04:51 AM</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:04:58 AM</td>
<td><strong>C1 Staff Presentation</strong> – Sarah Marrinan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:34:01 AM</td>
<td><strong>C1 Public Testimony</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:34:04 AM</td>
<td>Bruce Gabrys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:41:17 AM</td>
<td>Samantha Weinstein</td>
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<td>10:49:30 AM</td>
<td>Jim Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:53:22 AM</td>
<td>Tom Gemmell</td>
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<td><strong>C1 Mr. Mezirow Motion</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:57:13 AM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:57:33 AM</td>
<td>C1 Motion Continued</td>
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<td><strong>C2 MIXING OF GUIDED AND UNGUIDED HALIBUT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:20:15 AM</td>
<td><strong>C2 Presentation</strong> – NPFMC Jon McCracken</td>
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<td>12:00:44 PM</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>01:10:43 PM</td>
<td><strong>Enforcement Committee Report</strong> – Jon McCracken</td>
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<tr>
<td>01:15:59 PM</td>
<td>AP Report – Angel Drobnica</td>
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<td>01:17:21 PM</td>
<td><strong>C2 Public Testimony</strong></td>
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<td>01:17:29 PM</td>
<td>Tim Comer</td>
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<td>01:22:43 PM</td>
<td>Samantha Weinstein</td>
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<td>01:25:09 PM</td>
<td>Jim Martin</td>
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<td>01:32:47 PM</td>
<td><strong>C2 Mr. Mezirow Motion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td><strong>C3 BSAI CRAB SPECIFICATIONS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>01:43:05 PM</td>
<td><strong>C3 Presentation</strong> – NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02:28:28 PM</td>
<td>SSC Report – Farron Wallace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02:31:50 PM</td>
<td>AP Report – Matt Upton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02:35:16 PM</td>
<td><strong>C3 Mr. Hartill Motion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02:40:16 PM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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**NO PUBLIC TESTIMONY TAKEN ON THIS AGENDA ITEM**
C4 GROUNDFISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS
10/05/2017 03:36:38 PM  C4 Staff Presentation – Jim Armstrong, Jim Ianelli
10/05/2017 05:04:16 PM  Recess for day

FRIDAY October 6, 2017

10/06/2017 08:12:22 AM  C4 Presentation/Questions Continued
10/06/2017 08:23:08 AM  SSC Report – Farron Wallace
10/06/2017 08:49:11 AM  AP Report – Matt Upton
10/06/2017 08:53:06 AM  C4 Public Testimony
10/06/2017 08:53:10 AM  Julie Bonney
10/06/2017 08:56:59 AM  Jon Warrenchuk
10/06/2017 09:01:46 AM  C4 Mr. Laukitis Motion
10/06/2017 09:07:49 AM  C4 Mr. Cross Motion
10/06/2017 09:10:24 AM  Break

C5 OBSERVER TENDERING ISSUE

10/06/2017 09:33:03 AM  C5 Presentation – NPFMC DD, Diana Evans
10/06/2017 09:49:28 AM  OAC Report – Diana Evans
10/06/2017 10:47:50 AM  AP Report – Angel Drobnica
10/06/2017 11:00:20 AM  Break
10/06/2017 11:11:27 AM  C5 Public Testimony
10/06/2017 11:11:37 AM  Bob Alverson
10/06/2017 11:19:21 AM  Beth Stewart
10/06/2017 11:24:28 AM  Dan Falvey
10/06/2017 11:35:04 AM  Julie Bonney
10/06/2017 11:45:47 AM  C5 Mr. Merrill Motion
10/06/2017 12:05:03 PM  Lunch Break

C6 2018 OBSERVER PROGRAM ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT PLAN

10/06/2017 02:35:55 PM  C6 Presentation Chris Rilling AFSC
10/06/2017 02:54:00 PM  Craig Faunce ADP Presentation
10/06/2017 03:53:28 PM  EMWG Report – Diana Evans (NPFMC)
10/06/2017 04:17:01 PM  OAC Report – Diana Evans (NPFMC)
10/06/2017 04:33:19 PM  SSC Report – Farron Wallace
10/06/2017 04:46:05 PM  AP Report – Angel Drobnica
10/06/2017 04:56:26 PM  C6 Public Testimony – Out of Order
10/06/2017 04:56:56 PM  Malcolm Milne
10/06/2017 05:17:31 PM  Dan Falvey
10/06/2017 05:24:54 PM  Molly Zaleski and Jon Warrenchuk
10/06/2017 05:29:26 PM  Recess for the day
C7 GOA ROCKFISH PROGRAM REVIEW

10/07/2017 11:33:37 AM   C7 Presentation – Darrell Brannan and Mike Downs
10/07/2017 12:15:14 PM   Lunch Break
10/07/2017 01:17:35 PM   C7 Presentation Continued
10/07/2017 02:19:54 PM   AP Report – Matt Upton
10/07/2017 02:20:20 PM   C7 Public Comment
10/07/2017 02:36:42 PM   Alexus Kwachka
10/07/2017 02:41:09 PM   C7 Mr. Merrill Motion
10/07/2017 02:41:09 PM   Break

C8 SALMON FMP AMENDMENT

10/07/2017 03:00:26 PM   C8 Presentation – Jim Armstrong & Gretchen Harrington
10/07/2017 04:04:05 PM   Outreach Summary – Jim Armstrong
10/07/2017 04:11:03 PM   AP Report – Angel Drobnica
10/07/2017 04:16:37 PM   Break
10/07/2017 04:33:23 PM   C8 Public Testimony
10/07/2017 04:32:54 PM   Terry Nininger
10/07/2017 04:34:41 PM   Larry Engel
10/07/2017 04:45:10 PM   Howard Delo
10/07/2017 04:48:19 PM   Mike Wood
10/07/2017 04:51:22 PM   Beth Stewart
10/07/2017 04:57:40 PM   Erik Huebsch
10/07/2017 05:03:33 PM   David Martin
10/07/2017 05:18:38 PM   Ernie Weiss and Paul Gronholdt
10/07/2017 05:22:00 PM   Mike Stanley
10/07/2017 05:25:02 PM   Steve Brown
10/07/2017 05:27:17 PM   Jeff Stephan
10/07/2017 05:35:48 PM   C8 Mr. Merrill Motion
10/07/2017 05:55:20 PM   Recess
### C9 HALIBUT ABUNDANCE-BASED PSC LIMITS

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<tr>
<td>10/08/2017 09:47:20 AM</td>
<td><strong>C9 Presentation</strong> – Dr. Diana Stram and IPHC, Allen Hicks</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/08/2017 11:00:54 AM</td>
<td>C9 Presentation Continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/08/2017 12:08:48 PM</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/08/2017 01:22:36 PM</td>
<td>C9 Presentation continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/08/2017 01:37:12 PM</td>
<td>AP Report – Matt Upton</td>
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<td><strong>10/08/2017 01:46:38 PM</strong></td>
<td>C9 Public Testimony</td>
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<td>10/08/2017 01:46:50 PM</td>
<td>Karl Haflinger – Out of Order</td>
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<td>10/08/2017 02:05:15 PM</td>
<td>Mark Fina</td>
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<td>10/08/2017 02:08:52 PM</td>
<td>John Gauvin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/08/2017 02:15:34 PM</td>
<td>Mateo Paz-Soldan &amp; Jeff Kauffman</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/08/2017 02:21:50 PM</td>
<td>Chad See</td>
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<td>10/08/2017 02:33:13 PM</td>
<td>Peggy Parker</td>
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<td><strong>10/08/2017 04:10:17 PM</strong></td>
<td>C9 Mr. Hartill Motion</td>
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### D1 HALIBUT DECK SORTING EFP & HALIBUT GENETICS SAMPLING EFP

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<tr>
<td>10/08/2017 04:52:40 PM</td>
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<td>AP Report – Matt Upton</td>
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<td><strong>10/08/2017 05:35:18 PM</strong></td>
<td>D1 Mr. Cross Motion</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/08/2017 05:45:18 PM</td>
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NO PUBLIC TESTIMONY TAKEN ON THIS AGENDA ITEM

### MONDAY October 9, 2017

### D2 IFQ COMMITTEE REPORT

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>10/09/2017 08:39:31 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/09/2017 09:33:11 AM</td>
<td>AP Report – Angel Drobnica</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/09/2017 09:35:37 AM</td>
<td><strong>D2 Public Testimony</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Linda Behnken</td>
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<td>10/09/2017 09:42:47 AM</td>
<td>Bob Alverson</td>
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<td>10/09/2017 09:48:22 AM</td>
<td>Natasha Hayden</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/09/2017 10:00:56 AM</td>
<td>Tom Panamaroff</td>
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D3 HALIBUT RETENTION IN SABLEFISH POTS

D3 Presentation – Sam Cunningham
AP Report – Angel Drobnica
D3 Public Testimony
Jeff Kauffman, Mateo Paz-Soldan, Heather McCarty
Bob Alverson
Linda Behnken
D3 Mr. Laukitis Motion

E1 STAFF TASKING
Review draft letter to Senator Sullivan
Diana Evans update on Electronic Monitoring
Ecosystem Committee Report – Steve MacLean
ThreeMeeting Outlook
E Public Testimony
Dale Smith
Nicole Kimball
Christina Hendrickson
Bob Alverson
Chad See
Chris Woodley and Todd Loomis
Linda Behnken
Stephanie Madsen
Heather McCarty
Mateo Paz-Soldan and Phil Zavadil
Nancy Munro
Julie Bonney
Break
Resume Staff Tasking and Deliberations
E1 Ms. Peterson Motion on Ecosystem Committee
E1 Ms. Peterson Motion on Observer EM Letter
E1 Mr. Down Motion on Stranded Cod
E1 Mr. Cross Substitute Motion on Stranded Cod
Meeting Adjourned
Call for Nominations – AP, SSC, CQE seat on IFQ Committee

The Council is accepting nominations for its Scientific and Statistical Committee, and its Advisory Panel.

SSC nominees should have areas of expertise in biology/stock assessment, marine mammals, statistics, fisheries/resource economics, sociology/anthropology, or other relevant disciplines and be federal employees, state employees, academicians, or independent experts not employed by advocacy or interest groups SSC members serve one-year terms but may be reappointed. The SSC advises the Council on all aspects of the decision-making process, including stock assessments and annual specifications, protected species interactions, and adequacy of analyses supporting various management actions.

The AP is composed of representatives of the fishing industry and others interested in the management of the North Pacific fisheries, and provides advice from those perspectives. AP members serve for three-year terms, and may be reappointed for up to two subsequent consecutive terms. Members of the panel are expected to attend up to five meetings, four to six days in length, each year. Eight seats are open for nomination; note that no seats on the Advisory Panel are designated to a particular stakeholder group or geographical area, and the Council encourages all interested stakeholders to apply. Five AP members are up for re-appointment: Shannon Carroll, Carina Nichols, Jeff Stephan, Matt Upton, and Ernie Weiss. Three AP members have terms expiring: John Crowley, Jerry Downing, and Chuck McCallum. There is also one seat for which there will be a one-year appointment, replacing Art Nelson who resigned midterm.
The Council is also soliciting a community quota entity (CQE) representative to join the IFQ Committee. The intent is to have a CQE representative who is able to attend the next IFQ Committee meeting tentatively scheduled for February 5, 2018 in Seattle.

Please send letters of interest and/or nominations to npfmc.comments@noaa.gov. Nominations close December 1.

**Council Elections and Appointments**

The Council re-elected Dan Hull as Chairman, and re-elected Bill Tweit as Vice-Chair for the upcoming year. The Council appointed Dr. Amanda Bishop of the Alaska Sea Life Center in Seward, Alaska, to the SSC through 2018. Bishop is currently serving as a postdoctoral researcher at the Sea Life Center and has a background in Coastal Environmental Management and Behavioral Ecology. Dr. Dan Lew, an economist from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, was appointed to the GOA Groundfish Plan Team. Lew has served on the BSAI Plan team in the past, and has expertise with the economics of the recreational fishing sector and IFQ markets.

**Roy Hyder leaves Council; Welcome to Steve Marx**

Roy Hyder, who has been the designee of the Director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife since October 2001, retired from the Council in August. The Council held an informal gathering/reception in the Hilton to celebrate him, and also presented him formally with a plaque honoring his service during the Council B reports. Council members and representatives of Oregon fishery stakeholders thanked him for his commitment to managing and conserving Alaskan fishery resources. Best wishes to he and his wife Holly in their future endeavors.

In his place, Mr. Steve Marx has been appointed to be the new representative from Oregon. Steve Marx has recently retired from the Oregon Department of Fish and Game where he served for 34 years, most recently as a manager of ODFW’s West Region. He began his career as a district fish biologist and watershed manager and has been instrumental in developing partnerships among diverse constituents. We welcome him to the process.

**B7 Northern Fur Seal Discussion Paper**

The Council reviewed a discussion paper synthesizing information about the northern fur seal in Alaska. The paper, requested by the Council in June 2017, summarized historical and current population and management of northern fur seals in Alaska, feeding habits, winter movements, vital rate studies, habitat concerns, and conservation and management concerns. After review of the document and public comment, the Council, at Staff Tasking, passed a motion encouraging the Agency to revisit and update the Conservation Plan for the Eastern Pacific Stock of Northern Fur Seals, and requested that the Agency report to the Council’s Ecosystem Committee on their plans to update the 2007 Conservation Plan. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

**C1 Charter Halibut Permit Renewal Process**

The Council recommended the release of a document for Public Review that considers implementing a charter halibut permit (CHP) annual renewal process. The Council established a preliminary preferred alternative that would require annual submission of CHP holder name, CHP number, registered address, phone number and/ or email address, and CHP ownership structure. Under the Council’s preliminary preferred alternative, if a CHP is not registered with NMFS, the CHP would not be valid for use during the applicable fishing year.
The Council also included an option to consider adding questions into the renewal application that would gather information on CHP leasing practices. This option was not added into the preliminary preferred alternative, but will undergo further analysis and be considered in the Public Review draft that returns to the Council. Council staff is Sarah Marrinan.

C2 Mixing of Guided and Unguided Halibut

At this meeting, the Council reviewed an initial review analysis for limiting the mixing of guided and unguided halibut on a fishing vessel. Alternatives for consideration include: 1) no action; 2) prohibit the possession of guided and unguided halibut simultaneously on any vessel; and 3) if halibut harvested using sport fishing guide services is on a vessel with halibut harvested without using sport fishing guide services, in IPHC Area 2C or 3A, the IPHC annual management measures for guided sport fishing for that area apply to all halibut onboard the fishing vessel.

After reviewing the initial review analysis and recommendations from the Enforcement Committee and the Advisory Panel, the Council released the document for public review. The Council also revised the purpose and need statement to clarify that this action applies to fishing vessels and not floating lodges. The Council selected Alternative 3 as its preliminary preferred alternative, and recommended the analysis be revised to include the following additional information:

- Staff and Enforcement Committee revisions, except the recommendation to include a new suboption 2.1.
- Changes that led to an increase in multi-day and mothership operations, and increasing potential for mixing halibut.
- The regulatory history of current prohibitions on mixing halibut in the commercial, subsistence, and sport fisheries.
- Description of mothership sport halibut operations in areas 2C and 3A.

Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

C3 BSAI Crab Specifications

The Council reviewed the final BSAI Crab Stock Assessment Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report and received information on the status of the ten federally managed crab stocks. Based on this report, the SSC recommends overfishing levels (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) levels for 2017/18.

The SAFE report also reports on catch accruing towards OFL and ABC levels the previous year (see table below) and provides stock status in relation to status determination criteria. For stocks for which biomass information is available the current biomass in relation to its target managed stock size ($B_{MSY}$) is determined. EBS Tanner crab and Pribilof Island red king crab are estimated to be above $B_{MSY}$ for 2017/18, while EBS snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, Saint Matthew blue king crab and Norton Sound red king crab have all declined since last year, and are estimated to be below $B_{MSY}$. Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock remains overfished and estimated to be well below its minimum stock size threshold (MSST). The SSC increased the buffer for St. Matthew blue king crab from 2016/17 due to concerns with steeply declining stock biomass.

The CPT and SSC review assessments on a staggered time frame with some stocks assessed on an annual basis while others are assessed less frequently. The OFL and ABC table below also shows when each stock will next be assessed. Stocks can be assessed more frequently on a case-by-case basis should data
indicate that it is necessary. The final SAFE report and Crab Plan Team report is available on the Council’s website. Staff contact for BSAI crab stocks is Diana Stram.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>OFL (1000t)</th>
<th>SSC recommended ABC (1000t)</th>
<th>Buffer %</th>
<th>Next assessment cycle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EBS snow crab</td>
<td>28.41</td>
<td>22.70</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BB red king crab</td>
<td>5.60</td>
<td>5.04</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBS Tanner crab</td>
<td>25.42</td>
<td>20.33</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pribilof Islands red king crab</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pribilof Islands blue king crab</td>
<td>0.00116</td>
<td>0.00087</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Matthew Island blue king crab</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norton Sound red king crab</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AI golden king crab</td>
<td>6.05</td>
<td>4.54</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pribilof Islands golden king crab</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western AI red king crab</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C4 Groundfish Specifications

The SSC was presented with the Joint Groundfish Plan Teams Report that summarized the issues discussed and actions taken by the Plan Teams at their September meeting in Seattle, WA. Highlights of the Plan Team report included overviews of the various surveys conducted in support of stock assessments and ecosystem analyses, spatial management issues, as well as Team discussions with individual assessment authors. For proposed rulemaking for the 2018 and 2019 fishing years, the SSC and Council recommended OFLs and ABCs based on a rollover of existing 2018 specifications for all stocks except GOA and EBS Pacific cod. Reduced survey catches for those two stocks necessitated downward adjustment of proposed OFL/ABC by about 30% for GOA and 15% for EBS. Fully updated stock assessments for these two stocks and other BSAI/GOA groundfish will be reviewed by the Plan Teams at their upcoming November meeting. Consistent with SSC-recommended OFLs and ABCs, the Council recommended proposed TACs and PSC limits and adopted updated Halibut DMRs for 2018 and 2019.

The Council received a letter from ADF&G indicating that the combined, post-season sum of the three-river index (Upper Yukon, Unalakleet and Kuskokwim rivers) of Chinook salmon was above the defined threshold (250,000) for a low Chinook year, therefore the existing Chinook PSC limits for the EBS pollock fishery will remain in place for 2018.

Staff contact for BSAI groundfish is Diana Stram and for GOA groundfish is Jim Armstrong.

C5 Tendering Scoping Paper

The Council reviewed a scoping paper identifying the specific observer data concerns with respect to vessels engaged in tendering, and the OAC recommendations for developing short-term and long-term solutions. The Council agreed with the OAC recommendations, and initiated the following two projects. To address the issue of salmon monitoring and sampling in the GOA pollock fishery, the Council recommends the development of electronic monitoring for trawl vessels participating in the GOA
pollock fishery, to monitor for full retention and allow dockside monitoring of salmon during offload at the plant. For the data concern related to observer bias, the Council initiated an analysis to change the definition of a tender trip for the purpose of observer coverage, so that vessels would re-log trips for observer random selection on a more frequent basis when delivering to tender vessels. The analysis should also evaluate deploying observers directly from tender vessels. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

C5 Low Sampling Rates Discussion Paper
The Council reviewed a discussion paper that considered options for increasing partial coverage selection rates. The Council opted to initiate an analysis to consider increasing the observer fee, with the first steps of the analytical process to follow the Observer Advisory Committee recommendations to develop observer coverage reference points.

The paper was prepared by a subgroup of the OAC and endorsed by the OAC, and evaluated whether there are short-term options that can be addressed through changes to the Annual Deployment Plan or the Catch Accounting System, and longer-term solutions that may involve regulatory change. One of the short-term options, to secure Federal funding, has been achieved this year, which will increase selection rates for the next two years (2018-2019). Chris Oliver, NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator, noted in his address to the Council, however, that this additional Federal funding should be considered as a one-time reallocation, and is not a long-term solution for funding at-sea observer coverage. As such, the Council initiated an analysis to increase the fee, linked with the OAC’s recommendation on next steps which call for refining the reference points by which to judge what level of sampling is sufficient, and optimization work that can be done through the Annual Deployment Plan, namely to revise the criteria for the zero-selection pool, and optimize the balance of vessels using Electronic Monitoring versus those in the human observer pools. While recognizing that the immediate next steps require agency staff work, the Council requested that the OAC subgroup continue to engage and interact with staff on developing these steps. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

C6 Draft 2018 ADP
The Council reviewed the Draft 2018 Observer Annual Deployment Plan (ADP), received a report from its Observer Advisory Committee (OAC) and its Electronic Monitoring Workgroup (EMWG), and provided recommendations to NMFS. The Council supports the ADP’s continuing recommendation to deploy observers by gear type in 2018, for trawl, longline, and pot gear (regardless of vessel length), as well as having separate strata for trawl and pot vessels delivering to tenders. The Council does not support a separate stratum for hook-and-line vessels delivering to tenders, because there are so few instances of this activity.

The Council disagreed with the NMFS recommendation with respect to the observer deployment allocation scheme, as identified in the draft 2018 ADP. The Council prefers the use of the allocation scheme that was in place in 2017, which is full optimization based on discards and halibut PSC. Under the Council’s preferred allocation scheme, selection rates for the pot strata would decrease substantially, and coverage in the hook and line and trawl strata would increase. The agency will take the Council’s recommendation under advisement in its development of a final ADP, which will be reported to the Council in December 2017.

The Council agreed with the remainder of the provisions of the draft ADP for deployment in 2018, and provided recommendations for the 2017 Annual Report (which will be presented in June 2018) and for the 2019 ADP. These include development of a different allocation scheme that provides for minimum selection rates that are specific by gear type; and evaluation of the deployment into the sablefish pot
The Council objected to the agency’s statement of intent in the draft ADP that in 2019, the agency would require 100% coverage on EM boats in 2019 with selection of trips for video review occurring after the trip is completed. The Council requested that this change be fully evaluated to understand the cost and operational implications of such a change for vessels and EM service providers. An additional request was made to NMFS to undertake programming changes as necessary to allow vessels in future to be in the EM pool for fixed gear, and in the observer pool for trawl gear, in the same year. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

C6 Other Observer Issues
The Council reviewed the EMWG and the OAC recommendations on draft Statement of Work for the EM and observer service provider contracts for partial coverage, on which the NMFS Acquisition and Grants Office (AGO) is currently soliciting input. In staff tasking, the Council requested that the OAC, EMWG, and Advisory Panel comments be compiled and submitted to the AGO during the public comment period.

The Council also reviewed the status of regulatory amendments and other analytical projects affecting the Observer Program, and OAC recommendations regarding their relative priority. There are several new electronic monitoring (EM) projects that have been proposed now that the Council is completing its implementation of EM for the fixed gear fleets. The Council requested staff to provide descriptions of propose EM projects for a future meeting, to help the Council prioritize projects and determine whether and when an EM Workgroup should be appointed to shepherd new projects. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

C7 Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program Review
The Council reviewed the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program review and allocation policy review, and accepted the reviews as complete and final, once the analysts include to the extent practical, the minor additions requested by the SSC. These include additional information on processed products, crew and processing workers, and some revision to the existing language.

The Central GOA Rockfish Program review is required under Section 303A(c)(1)(G) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act. That provision states that all Limited Access Privilege Programs must include a formal and detailed 5-year program review after implementation of the program. The program review document presented at this meeting fulfilled those Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act requirements.

In addition, NOAA Fisheries created an allocation policy to provide a mechanism to ensure fisheries allocations are periodically evaluated to remain relevant to current conditions. The Council, during its June 2017 meeting, directed staff to include the required fishery allocation review as part of the overall Central GOA Rockfish Program review. After reviewing the Central GOA Rockfish Program review document, the Council determined that the document met the allocation review guidance requirements. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

C8 Salmon FMP
The Council received an update from staff on preliminary development of a Salmon FMP amendment that would extend federal management authority to three traditional net fishing areas that are located in federal waters, but are currently exempt from the FMP. The Council chose to sequence its action by focusing initially on Cook Inlet, and is requesting written proposals from the public on proposed management areas.
Progress thus far has been through information provided in two discussion papers. The initial paper (April 2017) laid out the history and scope of the issue for the Council to recommend preliminary alternatives, and the expanded discussion paper presented at the October 2017 meeting analyzed options under the alternative Federal/State or Federal only management approaches currently under consideration. The options addressed in the expanded discussion paper represent ways to address specific Magnuson Stevens Act (MSA) requirements for federal FMPs. The MSA requirements and corresponding options are summarized in Table ES 1-1 in the discussion paper’s executive summary, and are addressed in further detail in Chapter 2 of the discussion paper.

As part of its decision to initiate the amendment, the Council indicated it would create a stakeholder workgroup to assist in development of options. An evening outreach meeting was held during the October Council meeting week to discuss the formation of the workgroup and the issues that it should consider. A summary of the meeting was provided to the Council, and the discussion provided a very useful picture of the range of public positions on the action.

After reviewing the expanded discussion paper, and informed by public testimony, the Council took action to solicit written proposals from the public to help further the development of the management measures for the FMP amendment. Additionally, the Council chose to limit the scope of the first amendment to only the traditional net fishing area in federal waters that is located in Cook Inlet. The amendment was originally going to comprehensively address all three traditional net areas in Prince William Sound and South Peninsula. The Council felt, however, that focusing on Cook Inlet in this action would 1) be consistent with instruction provided in the District Court’s judgement, 2) directly address the area that has been at the center of the litigative history of this action, and 3) inform, and possibly streamline development of a future action that would apply to the other two traditional net areas.

Request for Written Proposals

The Council is amending the Salmon FMP to include the traditional net fishing area in Cook Inlet within the management unit (see figure below). The Council intends, at a future meeting, to form a Salmon Committee that will include stakeholders and will assist the development of the amendment by reviewing and recommending measures necessary to satisfy Section 303(a) of the MSA and related MSA provisions.

To develop the scope of work for the Salmon Committee, the Council is soliciting written proposals from the public to help the Council identify specific required conservation and management measures for the Salmon Committee to evaluate relevant to the development of options for a fishery management plan amendment. Further resources and reference materials can be found on the Salmon FMP page on the Council’s website. PROPOSAL DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1, 2018, Please submit written proposals to james.armstrong@noaa.gov.
C9 BSAI Halibut Abundance-based PSC Management

The Council reviewed a discussion paper on the development of abundance based PSC limits for BSAI halibut prepared by an inter-agency workgroup of analysts from the Council, NMFS, and the IPHC. The paper compiled results from topic-specific discussion papers prepared for the Council over the last two years, and reviewed a range of potential indices to link halibut PSC to abundance in the Bering Sea, and for reviewing potential control rules to establish PSC limits based on the selected index or indices. Following review of the discussion paper, the Council concurred with the workgroup and SSC recommendations to move forward with two indices: the estimates of halibut biomass from the NMFS Eastern Bering Sea annual shelf trawl survey, and from the annual IPHC setline survey in Areas 4ABCDE.

The Council provided further direction on explicit elements and options to consider while developing control rules, including the shape of the control rule, a range of starting points for PSC limits (2,118 mt to 3,867 mt), and the maximum and minimum PSC limits under consideration. The control rule shapes being considered include linear (various slopes and stair-steps), multi-dimensional, and decision/“Lookup” tables for using multiple indices to set PSC limits. The Council tasked staff to develop a preliminary analysis using these specific elements and options, with a focus on providing additional description of these types of control rules. The working group will identify the control rule features that best meet the Council’s five stated objectives for this action, and provide a qualitative evaluation of the control rules and their performance at varying levels of abundance. The working group will evaluate the difference between establishing a PSC limit that is aggregated across all gear types and then allocated to...
gears and sectors, as well as limits that are indexed separately by gear type to establish separate PSC limits. In either case, trawl PSC limits will be apportioned to sectors according to existing proportional allocations.

The Council also directed the NMFS to initiate scoping for preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for this action. It is anticipated that the scoping report from the agency will be available when the preliminary analysis comes back to the Council. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

D1 Deck Sorting and Halibut Genetic Sample EFPs
The Council reviewed and supports two exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications that were presented at the meeting. The first is to allow on-deck sorting of Pacific halibut on non-pelagic trawl catcher processor vessels, as a means of reducing halibut bycatch mortalities. The EFP would extend, through 2018 and 2019, a current EFP granted to the Alaska Seafood Cooperative and co-applicants, which expires at the end of 2017. Under the EFP, vessels are allowed to sort halibut removed from a codend on the deck, rather than routing halibut over the flow scale and below deck, and release those fish back into the water after sampling halibut for length and condition, using IPHC halibut mortality assessment methods. All groundfish and halibut harvested must be within existing allocations for groundfish and halibut mortality. It remains the intent of the Council that once this EFP extension is complete, a regulatory change will have been implemented to allow deck sorting.

The second EFP proposes to allow crew members to collect genetic samples from incidentally caught halibut on a hook-and-line vessel in the 2018 A season western Aleutian Islands Pacific cod fishery. The purpose of the experiment is to confirm or reject results of a previous genetic stock structure study which indicated that Pacific halibut in the western Aleutian Islands are genetically distinct from the remainder of the eastern Pacific population. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

D2 IFQ Committee
The Council reviewed the minutes of the IFQ Committee which met on Monday, October 2. The committee reviewed staff papers on: NMFS’s cost recovery program, an action that would allow retention of halibut IFQ in BSAI pot gear, and a review of the first year of sablefish fishing with longline pot gear in the GOA. The committee and the Council requested supplementary information on the attribution of enforcement costs to the IFQ program be included NMFS’s annual cost recovery reports. The committee recommended that the halibut retention action be moved forward as an analysis of alternatives that includes options for retention of both incidental and intentionally caught halibut (that action is covered in greater detail under the D3 Halibut Retention agenda item). Regarding the first year of longline pots in the GOA, the committee noted that effective gear-end marking has been a challenge; the chairman reminded the committee that the Council has encouraged vessels using pot gear to communicate with one another about lost gear and effective new marking technologies.

The committee held an expansive discussion about ways in which the IFQ Program is or is not working for the benefit of certain stakeholders who work on the water, or desire access to that work. That conversation centered around the high cost of quota, hired master use, and rural access to the fishery. The Council encouraged committee members to work on proposals for program revisions that would further the original objectives of the IFQ Program, and to vet such proposals at the next committee meeting.

The committee recommended that the Council seat a CQE representative on the IFQ Committee. The Council is currently soliciting nominations for a CQE representative to join the committee before its next
Staff contact is Sam Cunningham.

D3 Halibut Retention in Pot Gear
After reviewing a staff discussion paper, the Council initiated an analysis to allow vessels using pot gear in the BSAI to retain legal-size halibut if they possess the appropriate IFQ. The Council established a purpose and need statement that recognizes the challenge of whale depredation on longline gear and on halibut that must be discarded in the presence of whales because regulations do not allow them to be retained. Whale depredation causes unaccounted mortality on the sablefish and halibut resource, and hinders the ability of IFQ holders to prosecute the fishery in an effective manner. Noting that the IPHC recently revised its regulations to allow halibut retention in pot gear and that retention is currently allowed in the GOA, the Council seeks to align Federal retention regulations with the IPHC and apply them consistently throughout Alaska waters.

The Council will review analysis of a ‘no action’ alternative and one action alternative. The action alternative contains an element that would allow fishermen to deploy pots with a wider opening, which could lead to more effective harvest of legal-size halibut. The action alternative does not frame the catching of halibut with pot gear as “targeted/directed” or “incidental.” Rather, the Council will analyze a measure that provides the fishery latitude to fish for IFQ in the manner that is most effective in the presence of depredating whales, and would review the effects of allowing halibut retention three years after implementation in accordance with the NPFMC and IPHC commitment to review retention in GOA longline pot gear subsequent to implementation of GOA Amendment 101. The Council will consider whether regulations that make pots a more effective gear for the harvest of halibut would introduce pots to new areas and increase the chance of gear conflict. To that effect, the action alternative includes an option that would require vessels that are participating in the fishery to tend their gear at least every five to ten days, and requires vessels fishing pot gear to complete logbooks and utilize VMS.

Staff contact is Sam Cunningham.

E Staff Tasking
In addition to discussing the relative priority and scheduling of previously tasked projects, the Council took the following actions and clarified direction and tasking for its committees:

- Tasked staff to add a module to the BSAI cod allocation review outlining steps necessary to remove obstacles that impede achieving, on a continuing basis, the complete harvest of Pacific cod allocations in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and add a similar discussion when reviewing the allocations in the Gulf of Alaska.
- Requested the agency revisit and update the Conservation Plan for the Eastern Pacific stock of Northern Fur Seals, and report on plans to the Ecosystem Committee.
- Recommended that the Ecosystem Committee discuss deep-sea coral research priorities, ways for Bering Sea communities to provide input to the Council with ecosystem issues and concerns, and Ecosystem Committee membership with recommendations back to the Council.
- Agreed to hold an Ecosystem Research Workshop during the February Council meeting
- Requested that the Executive Director and the Chair explore ways to coordinate the December Council meeting with the Young Fishermen’s Summit.
- Requested the agency work with NOAA Enforcement to resolve a question about when the starting time for a trawl tow begins.
• Requested an evening presentation on Alaska seafood markets from the McDowell Group during the December Council meeting.

• Approved the proposed allocation review schedule as identified in the Executive Director’s Report.

• Extend the public comment deadline for future Council meetings to close-of-business on the Thursday before the meeting.

• Directed staff to send letters regarding: a) comments to Senator Sullivan on draft legislation; b) comments to the agency on reducing the GOA survey to only two vessels; c) thank you to the agency for providing additional funds to the Observer Program, and commenting on the draft 2018 ADP recommendation to require 100% coverage on EM boats in 2019 with post-trip selection; d) comments to the NOAA Acquisition and Grants Office on the observer and EM service provider statements of work; e) request that the Navy to report back on 2017 Northern Edge activities and plans for 2018; f) thank you to James Uthmeier for visiting the Council meeting, and comments on the regulatory reform process.

Here is the revised Three-Meeting Outlook resulting from this Council meeting. Motions are posted on the Council website through the Agenda. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Groundfish Plan Teams: November 13-17, AFSC, Seattle
Legislative Committee: December 5, 2017 (T), Anchorage, AK
Charter Halibut Management Committee: December __, 2017, Anchorage, AK
Crab Plan Team: January 9-11, 2018 Hilton, Anchorage, AK
IFQ Committee: February 5, 2018 Seattle, WA
Ecosystem Committee: February 6, 2018 Seattle, WA
Ecosystem research workshop: February 7, 2018 as part of the February Council meeting, Seattle, WA
Crab Plan Team, May 7-10, 2017, Anchorage, AK
EM Workgroup or OAC workgroup: May 15, 2018, AFSC, Seattle, WA
OAC meeting: May 16-17, 2018, AFSC, Seattle, WA

NPRB Request for Proposals

The North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) announced the release of its Core Program Request for Proposals (RFP). The 2018 RFP has an anticipated funding amount of $4.45 million. Please consult the 2018 RFP for further details on research priorities for this year. Submission Deadline: December 15, 2017 (4PM AKST)

Nominations sought for Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

NOAA Fisheries is seeking nominations, through November 27, 2017, to fill current and pending vacancies on the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) due to term limits. MAFAC advises the Secretary of Commerce on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. The Committee draws on its members’ expertise and other sources to evaluate and make recommendations to the Secretary and NOAA on the development
and implementation of agency regulations, policies, and programs critical to the mission and goals of the NOAA Fisheries Service.

MAFAC members represent the wide spectrum of commercial, recreational, subsistence, and aquaculture fisheries interests; tribes; seafood industry; protected resources and habitat interests; environmental organizations; academic institutions; consumer groups; and other living marine resource interest groups.

Nominees should possess demonstrable expertise in one of these fields and be able to fulfill the time commitments required for two in-person annual meetings and between-meeting subcommittee work. Membership is balanced geographically across states and territories, ethnically, and on the basis of gender, in addition to the range of expertise and interests listed. Individuals serve for a term of three years. Members may serve a second consecutive term, if re-appointed.

A MAFAC member cannot be a Federal employee, a member of a Regional Fishery Management Council, a registered Federal lobbyist, or a State employee. Membership is voluntary, and except for reimbursable travel and related expenses, service is without pay. The committee functions solely as an advisory body (complying fully with the Federal Advisory Committee Act) which reports to the Secretary.

Full nomination instructions and guidelines are described in this Federal Register notice.

For questions or more information, please contact Jennifer Lukens, Executive Director of MAFAC, jennifer.lukens@noaa.gov or Heidi Lovett, heidi.lovett@noaa.gov.
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<td>Draft EM Policy directive: Review and comment (T)</td>
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<td>Final 2018 Observer Annual Deployment Plan: NMFS Report</td>
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<td>WGOA P cod A season halibut PSC rates: Discussion Paper</td>
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<td>WGOA pollock C/D season timing Chinook PSC: Disc paper</td>
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<td>Stranded Cod in GOA Trawl B Season: Disc paper</td>
<td>April 2-10, 2018</td>
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<td>Small sideboards: Initial Review</td>
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<td>BSAI Groundfish Specifications: PT Report; Final Specs</td>
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<td>GOA Groundfish Specifications: PT Report; Final Specs</td>
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<td>2018 Charter halibut management measures: Final Action</td>
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<td>RQE Charter Halibut Permit Ownership Caps: Disc paper</td>
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<td>Chinook Salmon Excluder EFP: Consultation (T)</td>
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<td>ACL - Annual catch limits</td>
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<td>AI - Aleutian Islands</td>
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<td>AFA - American Fisheries Act</td>
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<td>BiOp - Biological Opinion</td>
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<td>BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands</td>
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<td>BKC - Blue King Crab</td>
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<td>CDQ - Community Development Quota</td>
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<td>CQE - Community Quota Entity</td>
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<td>CP - catcher processor</td>
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<td>CV - catcher vessel</td>
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<td>EM - Electronic monitoring</td>
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<td>EFH - Essential Fish Habitat</td>
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<td>EFP - Exempted Fishing Permit</td>
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<td>FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan</td>
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<td>GOA - Gulf of Alaska</td>
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<td>GKC - Golden King Crab</td>
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<td>HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern</td>
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<td>IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota</td>
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<td>ICA - Inter-cooperative Agreements</td>
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<td>IPHC - International Pacific Halibut Commission</td>
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<td>LLP - Limited License Plan</td>
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<td>MRA - Maximum Retainable Allowance</td>
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<td>PSC - Prohibited Species Catch</td>
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<td>RKC - Red King Crab</td>
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<td>RQE - Recreational Quota Entity</td>
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<td>SSC - Scientific and Statistical Committee</td>
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<td>SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation</td>
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<td>SSL - Steller Sea Lion</td>
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<td>TAC - Total Allowable Catch</td>
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<td>TLAS - Trawl Limited Access Sector</td>
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<td>WGOA - Western Gulf of Alaska</td>
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<td>Salmon genetics reports: Review</td>
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<td>Salmon FMP Cook Inlet: Review FMP measure proposals</td>
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<td>Halibut Abundance-based PSC limits: Preliminary analysis (T)</td>
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<td>Raise the observer fee: discuss after ref points analysis</td>
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(T) = Tentative