



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Meeting Summary

245th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
June 3 - 10, 2019
Harrigan Centennial Hall, Sitka, Alaska

CONTENTS

A CALL MEETING TO ORDER	3
B REPORTS.....	3
C1 BSAI CRAB a) AIGKC and PIBKC SAFE reports; b) CPT Report; c) SMBKC Rebuilding	4
C2 GOA POLLOCK/COD SEASONS, ALLOCATIONS.....	5
C3 OBSERVER 2018 ANNUAL REPORT.....	7
C4 CRAB PARTIAL DELIVERIES	8
C5 SCULPINS TO ECOSYSTEM COMPONENT.....	9
C6 CQE FISH-UP IN 3A	10
D1 SALMON BYCATCH.....	11
D2 BSAI COD ALLOCATION REVIEW	13
D3 AI TRAWL SET ASIDE	13
D5 IFQ ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES	14
D6 BERING SEA FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN.....	16
D7 SOCIAL SCIENCE PLANNING TEAM	16
D8 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE.....	17
E1 STAFF TASKING.....	17

Attachments

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1) D5 AP Motion on IFQ Access Opportunities | 2) Time Log |
| | 3) Newsletter |

The time log is included as a reference attachment for names, dates and times of each agenda item, and the newsletter is included to provide details of the agenda items and the meeting as a whole.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met Wednesday, June 5, 2019 through Monday, June 10, 2019, at the Harrigan Centennial Hall, Sitka, Alaska. The following Council, Council staff, SSC, and AP members attended the meetings.

Council Members

Jim Balsiger/Glenn Merrill/ Chris Oliver
National Marine Fisheries Service

Kinneen, Simon Chair
Appointed

Rachel Baker/Karla Bush (for Doug Vincent-Lang)
Alaska Department Fish and Game

Steve Marx (for Curt Melcher)
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

Craig Cross
Appointed

Andy Mezirow
Appointed

Kenny Down
Appointed

Theresa Peterson
Appointed

Dave Hanson
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

Bill Tweit, Vice Chair (for Kelly Susewind)
Washington Department Fish & Wildlife

John Jensen
Appointed

RADM Matthew Bell Jr/CAPT Allison Caputo
United States Coast Guard

Buck Laukitis
Appointed

Council Staff

Armstrong, Jim
Cleaver, Sara
Cunningham, Sam
Davis, Maria
Evans, Diana (DD)
Fey, Mike (PSMFC)

Figus, Elizabeth
Gleason, Shannon
Henry, Anna
La Belle, Sarah
MacLean, Steve
Marrinan, Sarah

McCracken, Jon
Schmidt, Nicole
Stram, Diana
Witherell, Dave (ED)

Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC met from June 3 - 5, 2019 at the Harrigan Hall, Sitka, Alaska. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings (absent members are show in ~~strikeout~~)

Anderson, Chris
Bishop, Amy
Down, Mike
Dressel, Sherri (Vice-Chair)
Felthoven, Ron
Gasper, Jason
Hanselman, Dana

Harris, Brad
Hollowed, Anne (Co-Chair)
Hunt, George
Kruse, Gordon (Co-Chair)
Lowry, Dayv
Munro, Andrew

Mueter, Franz
~~Reedy, Kate~~
Renner, Heather
Stewart, Ian
~~Whitman, Alison~~

Advisory Panel

The AP met Tuesday, June 4, through Friday, June 7, 2019 at the Harrigan Hall, Sitka, Alaska. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings (absent members are show in ~~strikeout~~):

Christiansen, Ruth	Kauffman, Jeff	Stevens, Ben
Cochran, Kurt	Kwachka, Alexis	Upton, Matt (Co-Vice Chair)
Donich, Daniel	Lowenberg, Craig	Vanderhoeven, Anne
Drobnica, Angel (Co-Vice Chair)	Nichols, Carina	Velsko, Erik
Gruver, John	O'Connor, Jamie	Weiss, Ernie (Chair)
Gudmundsson, Gretar	O'Donnell, Paddy	Wilt, Sinclair
Hayden, Natasha	Peterson, Joel	Velsko, Erik
Johnson, Jim	Scoblic, John	

A CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The following action was taken:

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

The Council approves the agenda.

VOTE ON MOTION: Roll call vote: Mr. Oliver, Ms. Baker, Mr. Cross, Mr. Down, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Laukitis, Mr. Marx, Mr. Mezirow, Ms. Peterson, Mr. Tweit, and Mr. Kinneen all voting in approval. Motion passes unanimously on June 5, 2019 at 8:10 a.m.

B REPORTS

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

B1 Executive Director's Report – David Witherell

- Farewell to Council members Theresa Peterson and Buck Laukitis

B2 NMFS Management Report – Glenn Merrill

B3 NOAA GC Report – Molly Watson

B4 NOAA Enforcement Report – Will Ellis

B5 ADF&G Report – Karla Bush

B6 USCG Report – LCDR Yvonne Yang

- Polar Code Report – LCDR Jonathan Dale
- General Comments – RADM Bell, June 9, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

C1 BSAI CRAB a) AIGKC and PIBKC SAFE reports; b) CPT Report; c) SMBKC Rebuilding

Council Staff: Jim Armstrong & Dr. Diana Stram

Other Presenters: Katie Palof and Dr. Martin Dorn (CPT Co-Chairs)

SSC Report: Dr. Anne Hollowed

AP Report: Angel Drobica

Action Required: 1) Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (AIGKC) – specify OFL/ABC 2) Pribilof Islands Blue King Crab (PIBKC) – specify OFL/ABC 3) Review BSAI CPT report 4) Saint Matthew blue king crab (SMBKC) rebuilding plan – progress report, consider alternatives

Background: The CPT met in May to review the stock assessments for AIGKC and PIBKC and recommend OFLs and ABCs for these stocks. In October 2018 the Council was officially notified that SMBKC was overfished. A rebuilding plan is being developed that will specify a minimum timeframe and other management considerations for rebuilding. The rebuilding plan must be implemented prior to the start of the 2020/2021 SMBKC fishing season.

The following actions were taken:

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

The Council accepts the 2019 Aleutian Islands golden king crab and Pribilof Islands blue king crab SAFE reports and adopts the OFLs and ABCs for the 2019/2020 fishing year as recommended by the SSC.

Aleutian Islands golden king crab -	OFL	5,249 mt
	ABC	3,937 mt
Pribilof Islands blue king crab -	OFL	1.16 mt
	ABC	0.87 mt

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection (Mr. Cross absent) June 5, 2019, at 2:21 p.m.

Ms. Bush made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and alternatives for analysis.

Purpose and Need

The St. Matthew Island blue king crab stock was declared overfished on October 22, 2018, because the estimated spawning biomass was below the minimum stock size threshold specified in the crab FMP. In order to comply with provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, a rebuilding plan must be implemented prior to the start of the 2020/2021 fishing season.

The St. Matthew Island blue king crab directed fishery has been closed since the 2016/2017 season. The St. Matthew Island Habitat Conservation Area (SMIHCA) was created in 2008 and expanded in 2010 to protect blue king crab habitat; vessels fishing with nonpelagic trawl gear are prohibited from fishing in the SMIHCA. Other fishery closure areas include a 20nm Steller sealion closure around the southern tip of Hall Island to trawling, hook-and-line, and pot fisheries for pollock, Pacific cod, and Atka mackerel. In addition, all state waters surrounding St. Matthew, Hall, and Pinnacle Islands are closed to the taking of king crab and to commercial groundfish fishing.

This action is necessary to facilitate compliance with requirements of the MSA to end and prevent overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks, and achieve optimum yield.

Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 2: Set target rebuilding time frame (T_{TARGET}) for the number of years necessary to rebuild the stock to the B_{MSY} level at a probability $\geq 50\%$. The stock will be considered “rebuilt” once it reaches B_{MSY} .

Option 1: No directed fishing until the stock is rebuilt (T_{MIN})

Option 2: Allow the directed fishery to open based on the state harvest strategy while the stock is rebuilding (T_{MAX})

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously June 5, 2019, at 2:28 p.m.

C2 GOA POLLOCK/COD SEASONS, ALLOCATIONS

Council Staff: Sara Cleaver and Sam Cunningham

Other Presenters: Bridget Mansfield (NMFS)

SSC Report: SSC did not take up this action.

AP Report: Angel Drobnic

Action Required: Review analysis and consider recommendation of preferred alternatives

Background: The Council’s purpose for this action is to reduce inefficiency in the harvest and management of the pollock and Pacific cod fisheries and to promote opportunities to harvest the resource at times when it is most valuable and accessible. The alternatives developed by the Council were specifically designed to avoid redistribution of fishing opportunities between management areas or harvest sectors.

The following actions were taken:

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

The Council recommends the following purpose and need statement and alternatives, elements, and options to increase efficiencies for participants in the Gulf of Alaska Pollock and Pacific cod trawl fisheries. Preferred alternatives are in **bold**. New language is underlined.

Purpose and Need Statement:

Evaluation of the pollock and Pacific cod trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska indicates the seasonal distribution of pollock and cod may create inefficiencies for participants and there may be opportunities to improve management of the fisheries. Modifying the seasons or seasonal allocations of pollock and cod could increase fishery yield, particularly for roe quality and quantity of pollock, management flexibility and potentially decrease prohibited species catch. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) intends to improve prosecution of these fisheries while not re-distributing allocations of pollock or cod between management areas or participants. The Council understand that this action may have implications for Steller sea lion management measures and would be reviewed consistent with the Endangered Species Act.

Alternative 1. No action. (Status quo)

Alternative 2. Combine the A and B season into a single season (January 20 through May 31) and combine the C and D season into a single season (August 25 through November 1) and allocate pollock among a combined A/B and C/D season 50% to the A/B season and 50% to the C/D season. This change is applicable to areas 610, 620, and 630.

The amount of unharvested pollock that may be reallocated from one season to the following season, or among areas, will remain at the status quo of 20%

Option 1: Increase the amount of unharvested pollock that may be reallocated from one season to the following season, or among areas, from 20% to:

Sub-option 1: 25%

Sub-option 2: 30%

Option 2: Change the start date of a combined C/D pollock season from August 25 to September 1 resulting in a combined season under Alternative 2 that runs from September 1 to November 1.

Alternative 3. Modify the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod allocation for trawl catcher vessels as follows:

Option 1: CGOA A season 23.21444%; B season 18.36967%
WGOA A season 29.62%; B season 8.78%

**Option 2: CGOA A season 25.29364%; B season 16.29047%
WGOA A season 31.54%; B season 6.86%**

Option 3: CGOA A season 27.37285%; B season 14.21126%
WGOA A season 33.46%; B season 4.94%

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

The Council deems proposed regulations that clearly and directly flow from the provisions of this motion to be necessary and appropriate in accordance with section 303(c). The Council authorizes the Executive Director and the Chairman to review the draft proposed regulations when provided by NMFS to ensure that the proposed regulations to be submitted to the Secretary under section 303(c) are consistent with these instructions.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment passed with no objection June 6, 2019 at 8:20 a.m.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with one objection (Mr. Down) June 6, 2019, at 8:40 a.m.

C3 OBSERVER 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Council Staff: Dr. Elizabeth Figus

Other Presenters: Dr. Craig Faunce & Jennifer Ferdinand (AFSC), Dr. Phil Ganz & Alicia Miller (NMFS Regional Office), Jaclyn Smith (NMFS-OLE)

SSC Report: Dr. Anne Hollowed

AP Report: Angel Drobnica

Action Required: 1) Observer 2018 Annual Report 2) Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC) Report

Background: The North Pacific Observer report provides a scientific evaluation of the deployment of observers in 2018, to assess whether the objectives of the program have been met.

The FMAC met in May 2018 and reviewed the Observer Program 2018 report and discussed the status of analytical projects related to the Observer Program.

The following action was taken:

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

1. The Council supports the NMFS recommendations listed in section 7.1 (pg. 92) of the 2018 Annual Report.
2. Based on input from the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC), AP, and SSC the Council also recommends the following:
 - If external funds can be leveraged, expand the Electronic Monitoring (EM) selection pool in 2020 by 30 vessels and include testing of alternative EM systems and data service delivery models.
 - In the 2019 Annual Report (to be presented in June 2020), the Council recommends that NMFS:
 - Continue to refine the cost metrics and funding information presented in Chapter 2 to better characterize costs and allow comparisons between observer and EM costs in the full and partial coverage categories.
 - Continue to include an evaluation of observer effects in pelagic and non-pelagic trawl within the trawl stratum.
 - Incorporate the analysis of observer statement incident rates (presented in Appendix D) in future reports.
 - NMFS work with the FMAC and industry prior to implementing potential future changes to the Observer Declare and Deploy System (ODDS).
3. Regarding the Observer Analytical Tasks, the Council supports the FMAC's recommendations to:
 - Remove the task "Observer Disembark Location" and take no further action on this item.
 - Prioritize the project to assess how biological information currently collected by observers is used in stock assessment.
 - Initiate a discussion paper to scope a shoreside sampling program, in conjunction with some minimal level of at-sea observer coverage, to complement Fixed Gear EM.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously (Mr. Mezirow absent from vote) June 7, 2019, at 11:21 a.m.

C4 CRAB PARTIAL DELIVERIES

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan

SSC Report: Dr. Anne Hollowed

AP Report: Angel Drobnic

Action Required: 1) Initial Review Draft 2) Review CPT report, Enforcement minutes, SSC and AP report on this issue 3) Identify preliminary preferred alternative

Background: Through this analytical package the Council is considering removing a regulatory prohibition that bans vessels fishing for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Crab Rationalization (CR) Program crab from conducting a partial offload of crab and then continuing to fish, prior to the offload of any remaining crab. The analysis describes the expected benefits the harvesters, potential impacts on processors and communities, and expected implications for management, enforcement, and accounting.

The following action was taken:

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

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and alternatives for analysis. Additions to the purpose and need are shown in **bold** and underline and deletions are shown in ~~strike through~~. The Council recommends the analysis be released for public review. The Preliminary Preferred Alternative is indicated in **bold**.

Purpose and Need Statement:

*The purpose of this action is to allow vessels participating in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization (CR) Program to make partial deliveries of crab and then continue fishing before fully offloading all harvested crab. This action would ~~be to~~ remove Federal regulations that prohibit the continuation of a fishing trip subsequent to a partial offload of crab in the CR program. The need for this action is to provide operational flexibility to vessels to conduct their business in an ~~the safest and~~ **economically** efficient manner, **in particular** ~~and~~ when emergencies or special circumstances arise, while also ensuring proper catch accounting.*

Alternative 1 (No Action) – Status quo is maintained. Vessels are prohibited from resuming fishing for CR crab on board a vessel once a landing has commenced and until all CR crab are landed, unless fishing in the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery.

Alternative 2 – Remove the prohibition on resuming fishing for CR crab on board a vessel once a landing has commenced and until all CR crab are landed. This will allow vessels to make partial deliveries of CR crab and then continue fishing before fully offloading all harvested crab.

Option: In the event of a partial offload within a fishing trip, only entire tank crab contents may be offloaded. (Any tank started for offload must be fully offloaded).

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously (Mr. Mezirow absent from vote) June 7, 2019, at 2:50 p.m.

C5 SCULPINS TO ECOSYSTEM COMPONENT

Council Staff: Steve MacLean

Presenter: Megan Mackey (NMFS)

SSC Report: Dr. Anne Hollowed

AP Report: Matt Upton

Action Required: 1) Initial Review Draft 2) Identify preliminary preferred alternative

Background: Previously, Council directed staff to develop a discussion paper to evaluate the level of conservation and management required for sculpins in the BSAI and GOA, and whether sculpins could be managed as non-target ecosystem component species. Sculpins are currently taken only as bycatch in fisheries directed at other target species in the BSAI and GOA. Sculpins do not appear to require conservation and management and could be considered an ecosystem component species.

The following actions were taken:

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

The Council adopts the following revised purpose and need statement and alternatives for public review. Additional text is indicated in underline. The Preliminary Preferred Alternative is indicated in **bold**.

Purpose and Need Statement:

Sculpins are benthic predators distributed throughout the BSAI and GOA where they occupy all benthic habitats along continental shelf and slope areas. No conservation concerns exist for sculpins in the BSAI and GOA. Sculpins are currently managed as target species despite being caught only incidentally, and an annual OFL, ABC, and TAC for the sculpin complex is specified separately for the BSAI and GOA. Incidental catch of sculpins has been substantially below ABC, OFL. There are no directed fisheries for sculpins in either the BSAI or GOA, and sculpin bycatch is rarely retained. If the total TAC of sculpins is caught, retention is prohibited for the remainder of the year.

The purposes of this action are to identify the appropriate level of conservation and management required for sculpins and to accurately classify the sculpin complex in the BSAI and GOA groundfish FMPs based on the best available scientific information. The revised General Section of the National Standard guidelines includes options for classification and management of target and non-target species in FMPs. Options for classification and management of non-target stocks include identification of the species as “non-target ecosystem component species, not in need of conservation and management.” The best available data indicate that sculpins are not in need of conservation and management and could be reclassified as non-target ecosystem component species.

Alternative 1: Status quo. Continue to manage sculpins as a target species in both the BSAI and GOA groundfish FMPs. OFL, ABC, and TAC will continue to be set for sculpins in both areas.

Alternative 2: Designate sculpins in both BSAI and GOA FMPs as non-target ecosystem component species. Establishment of OFL, ABC, and TAC will no longer be required.

Remove regulations referring to sculpins as target species and implement regulations for the groundfish fishery that:

- **Prohibit directed fishing for sculpins,**

- **Establish a sculpin maximum retainable amount (MRA) when directed fishing for other fisheries at a level to discourage retention while allowing flexibility to prosecute other fisheries:**
 - Option 1 MRA = 2%
 - Option 2 MRA = 10%
 - **Option 3 MRA = 20%**

- **Require recordkeeping and reporting to monitor and report catch and discards of sculpin species annually.**

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection (Mr. Mezirow absent from vote) June 7, 2019, at 3:30 p.m.

C6 CQE FISH-UP IN 3A

Council Staff: Sara Cleaver

Other Presenters: Stephanie Warpinski & Doug Duncan (NMFS)

SSC Report: The SSC did not take up this agenda item.

AP Report: Matt Upton

Action Required: 1) Public Review Draft 2) Identify preferred alternative

Background: During the April 2019 meeting, the Council adopted a revised purpose and need statement and alternatives. The Council requested staff recommendations for further revisions to the purpose and need and alternatives to meet the Council’s intent as it was discussed at the meeting. This action currently analyzes possible socio-economic impacts of allowing for this harvest flexibility and provides a discussion of enforcement and management concerns related to the action alternatives.

The following action was taken:

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

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and alternatives for final action. The preferred alternative is indicated in **bold**.

Purpose and Need Statement:

The ability of fishermen in a remote coastal community to purchase QS or maintain existing QS may be limited by a variety of factors both shared among and unique to each community. Although the specific causes for decreasing QS holdings in a specific community may vary, the net effect is a disincentive to participation by residents of these communities in the halibut and sablefish IFQ fisheries. The substantial decline in the number of resident QS holders and the total amount of QS held by residents of remote coastal communities may have aggravated unemployment and related social and economic conditions in those communities. To remedy these barriers to participation in remote coastal communities, the Council developed the CQE Program to provide these communities with long-term opportunities to access the halibut and sablefish resources. Public testimony has indicated that in one of these remote communities, fishermen leasing CQE-held “D” class halibut IFQ do not always have “D” class vessels that are available to harvest the IFQ, and that the smaller skiffs often used in this community as “D” class vessels are not ideal for harsher weather and ocean conditions later in the season when halibut tend to move further offshore. Program regulations in Area 3A that restrict CQE ability to fish “D” class quota on “C” class vessels have, in some circumstances, limited the CQE community’s ability to access CQE halibut in Area 3A. Therefore, modifying the regulations would provide

more flexibility to CQE community participants to harvest “D” class quota in Area 3A. Allowing CQEs located within 3A to fish “D” class quota on “C” class vessels in Area 3A will further the Council’s intent of encouraging CQE communities to secure long-term opportunities to access halibut.

Alternative 1: No action (status quo)

Alternative 2: Allow eligible CQEs residents in Area 3A to fish halibut IFQ derived from CQE-held D class QS on C or D class vessels in Area 3A.

Option 1: beginning on August 15.

Option 2: beginning on September 1.

Option 3: for the duration of the annual IFQ season.

Alternative 3: Allow eligible CQE residents in Area 3A to fish halibut IFQ derived from CQE-held D class QS on C or D class vessels in Area 3A only in a limited number of years:

Option 1: 2 out of 3 years

Option 2: 3 out of 5 years

Option 3: 3 out of 7 years

Note: Alternatives 2 and 3 can be combined.

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

(Strike option 1: and replace with option 3)

Alternative 2: Allow eligible CQEs residents in Area 3A to fish halibut IFQ derived from CQE-held D class QS on C or D class vessels in Area 3A.

~~Option 1: beginning on August 15.~~

Option 2: beginning on September 1.

Option 3: for the duration of the annual IFQ season.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Amendment failed 3/8 (Ms. Baker, Mr. Cross and Mr. Laukitis voting in favor) June 9, 2019, at 11:15 a.m.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Motion passed 9/2 (Mr. Cross and Mr. Jensen voting in opposition) June 9, 2019, at 11:24 a.m.

D1 SALMON BYCATCH

Council Staff: Dr. Diana Stram

Other Presenters: IPA Reports: John Gruver (United Catcher Boats), Stephanie Madsen & Austin Estabrooks (At Sea Processors Association), Ja

Salmon Genetics: Dr. Chris Kondzela, Dr. Chuck Guthrie (AFSC)

SeaShare: Jim Harmon

SSC Report: Dr. Anne Hollowed

AP Report: Angel Drobica

Action Required: 1) 2018 reports (IPA, GOA Chinook, SeaShare) 2) Salmon genetics 2017 review for EBS and GOA 3) Council salmon bycatch workshop report, action as necessary

Background: 1) Under regulations implementing the Amendment 91 Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch management program, annual reports are required of each IPA entity and are provided to the Council. In conjunction with Council review of GOA Chinook PSC actions, the Council requested the staff develop a report. SeaShare provides an annual update on the Prohibited Species Donation Program efforts to provide donated salmon and halibut PSC to food donation programs in the GOA and BSAI communities. 2) Genetics reports on stock of origin of Chinook and chum salmon bycatch are available for the 2017 Bering Sea pollock fishery, the GOA pollock fishery, GOA rockfish CV trawl fishery and the GOA non-pollock CP trawl fisheries. 3) NPFMC held a public workshop to facilitate feedback on how stock composition reports can be improved to better inform industry bycatch avoidance efforts, discuss appropriate spatial and temporal resolution of stock identification, and identify other associated analyses that could be used by stakeholders to better understand the causes of, and potential measures to minimize, salmon bycatch.

The following action was taken:

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

The Council thanks the scientists at the NMFS Auke Bay Lab for their continued efforts to produce and refine the Chinook and chum salmon bycatch genetic composition reports; it is an issue that is important to the Council.

The Council appreciates the contributions by industry, agency, university, and other stakeholder participants in the salmon bycatch workshop. It was a much-needed opportunity for constructive collaboration, provided a productive forum for exchange of knowledge on the composition of salmon bycatch, and was a good first step towards aligning the available information with industry needs to support sound fisheries management.

The Council identifies the following priorities and future direction:

- Process the back log of more recent Chinook salmon scales (from the BSAI and GOA) in order to update the age-length key used in the BSAI Chinook salmon AEQ model and to develop a necessary age-length key for the GOA.
- Tasking for salmon bycatch workgroup:
 1. Examine the available salmon bycatch dataset to identify and help prioritize potential future research possibilities. Explore the addition of syntheses to the now extensive datasets on salmon bycatch to examine how all these pieces of information can be used to inform future management actions.
 2. Explore the options for collaboration among salmon genetic laboratories to continue development of coastwide genetic baselines for chum and Chinook salmon.
 3. Identify the existing data gaps in defining comprehensive stock composition in the GOA.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously June 6, 2019, at 3:46 p.m.

D2 BSAI COD ALLOCATION REVIEW

Council Staff: Jon McCracken

SSC Report: Dr. Anne Hollowed

AP Report: Matt Upton

Action Required: 1) Review the BSAI cod allocation review 2) Determine if further action is warranted

Background: This allocation review provides an evaluation of the objectives of Amendment 85 and the appropriate groundfish FMP objectives, and discusses other relevant factors that may impact allocations, such as changes in BSAI Pacific cod management, species population, and the environment or ecosystem since implementation of Amendment 85. If the Council deems that the Amendment 85 objectives are no longer being met, then the Council could initiate a process to consider whether an FMP amendment to develop a new sector allocation and/or modify objectives as necessary, based on the guidance provided in the Fisheries Allocation Policy Directive.

The following actions were taken:

Ms. Baker made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:

The Council accepts the BSAI Pacific cod allocation review as complete and final with the addition of information to the extent practicable recommended by the SSC.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection June 8, 2019, at 11:25 a.m.

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

The Council requests staff to include the following considerations into the BSAI Pacific cod actions on the Council's agenda:

- Stranded BSAI Pacific cod discussion paper - outline the process for reallocating Pacific cod to all sectors
- BSAI Pacific cod trawl CV management and BSAI Pacific cod pot CV management - potential impacts of proposed rationalization on other sectors

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously June 8, 2019, at 11:41 a.m.

D3 AI TRAWL SET ASIDE

Council Staff: Jon McCracken

SSC Report: The SSC did not take up this agenda item.

AP Report: Matt Upton

Action Required: 1) Discussion paper 2) Determine if further action is warranted

Background: In April 2019, the Council tasked staff to prepare a discussion paper that includes a status report on the Amendment 113 litigation, the Council's December 2018 revision to Amendment 113 including the purpose and need and alternatives considered, and a brief summary of conditions in the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod fishery that have occurred since Amendment 113 was implemented. The Council also asked staff to include in the discussion paper potential regulatory approaches that could be used to provide opportunities for trawl catcher vessels harvesting Pacific cod in the AI and delivering to AI shoreplants. The Council's discussion paper request stems from the March 21, 2019, U.S. District Court opinion that NMFS failed to demonstrate that the rule implementing Amendment 113 satisfied the requisite standards for such

regulatory measures set forth by the MSA. The Court vacated the rule implementing Amendment 113 and remanded the rule to NFMS for reconsideration consistent with Court's opinion.

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

The Council requests a discussion of trawl CV harvests and deliveries in the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod fishery and the set aside provisions established with Amendment 113 under the "protections for harvesters, processors, and communities" section of the BSAI Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel management scoping document.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with one objection (Ms. Peterson) June 8, 2019, at 4:30 p.m.

D5 IFQ ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES

Council Staff: Anna Henry, Sarah Marrinan, Sam Cunningham

SSC Report: The SSC did not take up this agenda item.

AP Report: Matt Upton

Action Required: 1) Review discussion paper 2) Determine whether further action is warranted

Background: In June 2018 the Council received a presentation on a report titled, "Turning the Tide: Addressing the Graying of the Fleet and Loss of Rural Fisheries Access." In response to this report the Council requested a discussion paper to review Norway's Recruitment Quota and similar global examples of programs that facilitate access opportunities for rural community residents and new entrants within limited access fisheries and how these programs may apply to the Halibut and Sablefish IFQ Program. Should the Council move forward with this action it is important to identify the specific objective of an access program including target population and mechanism(s) for increasing access opportunities and to define how an access program would be considered successful.

The following action was taken:

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

The Council requests staff develop an expanded discussion paper identifying considerations related to the creation of an entry-level Access Pool of halibut and sablefish QS that facilitates entry level opportunities to these fisheries in all areas. The Access Pool would establish a new channel into the halibut/sablefish fisheries that supports entry level opportunity for vessel owner-operators and crew members.

Target Population:

- The target population for this action is individuals (crew and owner operators) seeking entry level opportunities to enter the GOA-halibut/sablefish fisheries. Qualification requirements for the Access Pool may include a TEC.
- Entry level is defined as owning less than 5,000 lbs.

Mechanisms:

- Consider a range of funding options such as:
 - using newly created QS units based on a one-time 0.5% or 1.0% of the QS Pool for halibut and sablefish in all areas and/or

- The Access Pool could be funded by holding back of 0.5% or 1.0% of GOA halibut/sablefish QS transferred until the Access Pool holds 1.0% of individual Area QS.
 - Donations or tax deductible benefits
- The Access Pool QS units could not be sold.
 - Individual participation in the Access Pool would be temporary.
 - The new QS would be subject to current observer fees/coverage requirements and IFQ cost recovery fees.

Entity:

- The established Access Pool entity would receive the allocation and determine the distribution to applicants based on criteria established by the entity and approved by the Council
- For the Access Pool entity, explore potential entity structures that may receive and administer the QS, including, a non-profit created for the purpose.
- Explore limitations on which entity may receive the initial allocation of new QS units and resulting IFQ.
- Consider the appropriate number of Access Pool entities for the action.
- Highlight explicit Council decision points necessary with each of these approaches including the amount of detail needed in developing criteria for governance and allocation.

The Discussion paper should:

- Explore the effect of creating a new class of Access Pool QS on the existing QS market and on existing QS holders.
- Explore the effect of allowing or prohibiting the Access Pool entity from acquiring additional QS (through purchase or gift) on the existing market and existing QS holders.
- Explore considerations related to MSA requirement of non-discrimination between residents of different states.
- Consider the potential impacts of establishing a QS ownership threshold for graduating out of the Access Pool (e.g., may enter pool with 1000 pounds; may remain in pool with up to 5000 pounds before being disqualified from Access Pool).
- Estimate the cost to govern/operate the Access Pool.
- Further discussion of other tools that this Council and other regions are using to facilitate ownership.

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

Concepts included in the June 2019 AP motion on creation of an Access Pool for an expanded discussion paper be forwarded to the IFQ committee for discussion and be added to the IFQ Program Task List for review by the committee prior to further Council consideration.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION WITHDRAWN: Mr. Down withdrew his motion on June 9, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

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

The Council requests the staff develop an expanded discussion paper identifying the considerations in the original AP motion (attachment 1) that was presented to the Council.

VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Motion passed unanimously June 9, 2019, at 5:44 p.m.

D6 BERING SEA FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN

Council Staff: Diana Evans

Ecosystem Committee Report: Steve MacLean (NPFMC)

SSC Report: Dr. Anne Hollowed

AP Report: Matt Upton

Action Required: 1) Review FEP Team report, approve FEP Team Terms of Reference 2) Review draft action module workplans, and appoint Taskforces for each Action Module

Background: The BS FEP Team met in Seattle, WA on May 6-7, 2019. The core FEP document describes how the FEP framework will support research projects (Action Modules) to address Council priorities. Council and NMFS staff have drafted workplans for the two initiated Action Modules, which are presented here for Council review, and for the Council to appoint Taskforces for each Action Module which will complete the workproducts envisioned under each module. The FEP Team report includes general recommendations for the type of expertise that is needed for each Taskforce.

The following action was taken:

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

1. The Council approves the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team (Team) Terms of Reference, as revised to address the Ecosystem Committee input at this meeting.
2. The Council endorses in principle the Team's workplans, and as revised after input from the Ecosystem Committee and the SSC at this meeting, for the following Action Modules:
 - a. Evaluating effects of climate change on fish, fisheries, and the Bering Sea ecosystem, and develop management considerations
 - b. Develop Protocols for Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and subsistence.
3. The Council should establish a taskforce for each action module that is appointed by the Council Chair. The workplans identify the approximate size and qualifications for taskforce membership that should guide the Council Chair in his appointments.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed with no objection June 10, 2019, at 9:14 a.m.

D7 SOCIAL SCIENCE PLANNING TEAM

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan (NPFMC)

Other Presenters: Steve Kasperski (AFSC)

SSC Report: Anne Hollowed

AP Report: The AP did not give a report on this agenda item.

Action Required: 1) Review Social Science Planning Team Report

Background: From May 7 through May 9, 2019 the Social Science Planning Team (SSPT) met for its annual in-person meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, AK. The group discussed the Data Gap Analysis, new and underrepresented research relevant to the North Pacific, the use of qualitative information in the fisheries management, Economic Data Reports including the Council's recent actions to consider revisions to these data collections, as well as receiving an update on the Fishery Ecosystem Plan action modules.

No action was taken under this agenda item.

D8 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Council Staff: Steve MacLean

SSC Report: The SSC did not take up this agenda item.

AP Report: The AP did not give a report on this agenda item.

Action Required: 1) Review committee minutes

Background: The Council established the Community Engagement Committee to develop tools and processes to facilitate improved communication and understanding between rural communities and tribes for the Council. The Community Engagement Committee met on Tuesday June 4, to continue work on their tasked objective to identify and recommend strategies for the Council to provide effective community engagement with rural and Alaska Native communities.

No action was taken under this agenda item.

E1 STAFF TASKING

Council Staff: David Witherell and Diana Evans

Action Required: 1) Review committees/meetings 2) Provide direction on tasking and scheduling, including for the October 2019 Council meeting

The following actions were taken:

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

The Council requests the Chair and Executive Director draft a letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Department of Justice recommending they appeal the DC District Court's decision on Amendment 113.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed 8/1 (Mr. Marx voting in opposition, Mr. Balsiger abstaining from vote, and Mr. Laukitis absent) June 10, 2019, at 12:58 p.m.

Appointments

Committees and Plan Teams

- The Council appointed Julie Kavanaugh to the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee

THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ON MONDAY JUNE 10, 2019 AT 1:10 P.M.

**ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
June 4-7, 2019 - Sitka, AK**

D5 IFQ Access Options

AP Motion

The AP recommends that the Council request staff to develop an expanded discussion paper identifying considerations related to the creation of an Access Pool of halibut and sablefish QS that facilitates entry level opportunities to these fisheries in the GOA². The Access Pool would establish a new channel into the halibut/sablefish fisheries that supports entry level opportunity for crew members and vessel owner-operators for a set number of years.

Target Population:

- The target population for this action is entry level fishermen (crew and owner-operators) in GOA¹ fishing communities seeking to enter the halibut/sablefish fisheries.
- Entry level is defined as owning less than 5,000 lbs of combined QS in all areas based on 2019 quota holdings.

Mechanisms:

- The Access Pool could be funded using newly created QS units based on a one-time 1% of 2019 QS Access Pool for halibut **and sablefish** in **all** areas 2C, 3A, and 3B, individually, and sablefish in areas SE, WY, CG, and WG, individually.
- The Access Pool could be funded by a tax of .5% or 1% of QS transferred, halibut **and sablefish** in all areas 2C, 3A, and 3B, individually, and sablefish in areas SE, WY, CG, and WG, individually.³
- The access pool QS units could not be sold.
- Individual participation in the Access Pool would be temporary.
- The new QS would be subject to current observer and IFQ cost recovery fees.

Entity:

- For the access pool entity, explore using current MSA language related to Regional Fishery Associations (RFA) to structure the access entity, the creation of a new non- RFA entity to receive and administer the QS, and allocating the Access Pool QS units to an existing or newly formed regional organization for administration.
- The established access pool entity would receive the allocation and determine the distribution to applicants based on criteria established by the entity and approved by the Council.

The Discussion paper should:

- Highlight explicit Council decision points necessary with each of these approaches including the amount of detail needed in developing criteria for allocation.
- Explore the effect of creating a new class of Access Pool QS on the existing QS market and on existing QS holders.
- Consider whether creation of new halibut/sablefish QS units is considered an “initial allocation” under MSA guidelines for RFAs.
- Consider the appropriate number of RFAs for the action.
- **Be reviewed by the IFQ committee.**⁴

Amendment¹ passed 16-1

Amendment² passed 12-5

Amendment³ passed 12-5

Amendment⁴ passed 17-0

Motion as amended passed 17-0

Rationale:

- *This action intends to be responsive to community feedback received both in writing and in public testimony highlighting challenges in accessing halibut/sablefish IFQ fisheries, and to generate a discussion paper exploring another entry-level access channel into these fisheries.*
- *The high cost of entry has resulted in an insurmountable barrier for some individuals. An Access Pool could provide an opportunity to mitigate these costs. While both state and federal loan programs exist to provide an ownership path, and these are important to maintain and strengthen, an Access Pool could provide a new access channel for fishing communities.*
- *Stability in coastal fishing communities throughout Alaska is dependent upon access to fisheries adjacent to these communities, which have limited alternate economic opportunities. An Access Pool could serve as a tool to ensure ongoing participation by these communities.*
- *The motion is limited in scope but not intended to provide an exhaustive list of details of a program at this time. An expanded discussion paper will highlight outstanding questions, issues and potential frameworks of such a program.*
- *A better understanding of the type of entity that could hold quota in the context of MSA, the target population, and a potential funding source would serve to provide guidance for stakeholders to make recommendations for next steps without extensive Council time.*
- *It is intended that the quota source be structured as a new pool of QS units that would be added to the number of total units but would result in fewer pounds of halibut/sablefish allocated to traditional QS holders on an annual basis. This approach is responsive to quota share holder’s feedback and the current loans that individuals have for purchased IFQ tied to QS units.*
- *It is not intended that the Council would create the entity, but would make QS available for an entity to apply for. The entity would then develop eligibility criteria for participants and submit it to NMFS and the Council for review. Questions remain as to how many entities could form.*

- *As stated in the staff briefing, the genesis of this agenda item was the Council request for a discussion paper to review Norway's Recruitment Quota and similar global examples of programs that facilitate access opportunities for rural communities and new entrants within limited access fisheries and how these programs may apply to the Halibut and Sablefish IFQ Program.*
- *The problem with barriers to entry are not unique to Alaska, as Washington and Oregon have rural fishing communities and fishermen struggling to fully participate in the fishery and it's imperative that all states that participate in the fishery have an opportunity to inform and guide the council process on this important issue through the IFQ Committee process.*
- *This motion is consistent with the Council's intent when commissioning the discussion paper that it be presented to the IFQ Committee (see page 11 of the staff report).*
- *It is appropriate and consistent with the existing IFQ Committee review process of stakeholder engagement to have the findings in the IFQ Access Discussion Paper reviewed and vetted as is the charge of this stakeholder committee.*
- *A white paper from the Norwegian government is being developed on the performance of its access program that should be utilized by the IFQ Committee to help inform its efforts on this matter.*

Rationale against amendment striking reference to the specific regulatory areas that would fund an access pool:

- *This action should specify the GOA regulatory areas as those funding the access pool, as the Bering Sea already has an access pool through the CDQ program for a target population of Bering Sea communities*

Rationale against amendment striking reference to target communities as those in the GOA:

- *The intent of this action should be to provide for the ongoing participation of individuals in fishing communities adjacent to the resource, which should focus this action on Alaska coastal fishing communities. These fishing communities have limited economic opportunity and have been the primary voices asking for a mechanism to provide another channel of opportunity to participate in the fishery. GOA residents in particular have limited opportunities available and should be a focus of this program.*

Substitute motion

The AP recommends that the Council direct staff to present the IFQ Access Discussion Paper to the IFQ Committee for their consideration.

Substitute Motion failed 7-10



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
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TIME LOG Meeting held in Sitka, Alaska Harrigan Centennial Hall June 5 – 10, 2019

Wednesday June 5, 2019

6/5/2019 8:07 AM Call to Order
6/5/2019 8:08 AM Approval of Minutes and Agenda
6/5/2019 8:09 AM Roll call vote on approval of agenda
6/5/2019 8:09 AM Chris Oliver speaks to NMFS funding

B1 REPORTS

6/5/2019 8:25 AM **B1 Executive Director Report**
6/5/2019 8:25 AM Farewell to Theresa Peterson
6/5/2019 8:27 AM Farewell to Buck Laukitis
6/5/2019 8:59 AM **B2 NMFS Management Report** – Glenn Merrill
6/5/2019 9:22 AM **B3 NOAA GC Report** – Molly Watson
6/5/2019 9:28 AM **B4 NOAA Enforcement Report** – Will Ellis
6/5/2019 9:40 AM **B5 ADF&G Report** – Karla Bush
6/5/2019 9:57 AM **B6 USCG Report** – LCDR Yvonne Yang
6/5/2019 10:04 AM Break
6/5/2019 10:27 AM **B6 Polar Code Report** – LCDR Jonathan Dale
6/5/2019 10:45 AM Emergency Rule Petition Process – Glenn Merrill
6/5/2019 10:57 AM **B Public Testimony**
6/5/2019 11:01 AM Nicolaas Mink
6/5/2019 11:05 AM Joel Markis
6/5/2019 11:10 AM Chester Clark
6/5/2019 11:14 AM Molly Blakey

C1 BSAI CRAB: a) SAFE report; b) CPT Report; c) SMBKC Progress Report

6/5/2019 11:19 AM **C1 CPT Report** – NPFMC staff, Jim Armstrong & ADF&G, Katie Palof
6/5/2019 11:35 AM **SMBKC Report** – NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram & ADF&G, Katie Palof
6/5/2019 12:02 PM Lunch Break
6/5/2019 1:39 PM C1 SSC Report – Dr. Anne Hollowed
6/5/2019 2:17 PM AP Report – Angel Drobnic
6/5/2019 2:20 PM **C1 Ms. Bush Motion** – Crab Specifications
6/5/2019 2:24 PM **C1 Ms. Bush Motion** – SMBKC

*No public testimony was taken on this agenda item.

C2 GOA POLLOCK/COD SEASONS, ALLOCATIONS

6/5/2019 2:29 PM	C2 Presentation , NPFMC staff, Sam Cunningham, and Sara Cleaver, and NMFS staff, Bridget Mansfield
6/5/2019 4:03 PM	AP Report – Angel Drobnic
6/5/2019 4:08 PM	C2 Public Testimony
6/5/2019 4:08 PM	Paul Gronholdt and Ernie Weiss
6/5/2019 4:13 PM	Beth Stewart
6/5/2019 4:20 PM	Julie Bonney
6/5/2019 4:32 PM	Kurt Cochran
6/5/2019 4:41 PM	Rebecca Skinner and Patrick O’Donnell
6/5/2019 5:05 PM	Recess

Thursday June 6, 2019

6/6/2019 8:06 AM	Call to Order
6/6/2019 8:07 AM	C2 Dr. Balsiger Motion

D1 SALMON BYCATCH: a) IPA Reports, SeaShare; b) Salmon Genetics c) Salmon Bycatch Workshop Report

6/6/2019 8:41 AM	D1 NPFMC staff introduction, Dr. Diana Stram
6/6/2019 8:55 AM	APA CP - IPA Report, Stephanie Madsen and Austin Estabrooks
6/6/2019 9:28 AM	IPA Report - John Gruver
6/6/2019 9:43 AM	SeaShare Presentation - Jim Harmon
6/6/2019 10:00 AM	Break
6/6/2019 10:20 AM	Salmon Chum Genetics Presentation - Chris Kondzela
6/6/2019 10:59 AM	Chinook Salmon Genetics Presentation – Chuck Guthrie
6/6/2019 11:42 AM	NPFMC Salmon Bycatch Workshop – NPFMC staff, Dr. Diana Stram
6/6/2019 12:00 PM	Lunch Break
6/6/2019 1:14 PM	C6 or D5? Public Testimony out of turn - Natasha Hayden
6/6/2019 1:14 PM	Salmon Bycatch Workshop Report Continued
6/6/2019 2:07 PM	SSC Report – Dr. Anne Hollowed
6/6/2019 2:08 PM	AP Report – Angel Drobnic
6/6/2019 2:16 PM	D1 Public Testimony
6/6/2019 2:16 PM	Carter Hughes
6/6/2019 2:25 PM	Matt Donohoe
6/6/2019 2:29 PM	Julie Raymond-Yakoubian
6/6/2019 2:33 PM	Bert Bergman
6/6/2019 2:36 PM	Verner Wilson
6/6/2019 2:41 PM	Linda Behnken
6/6/2019 2:50 PM	Julie Bonney
6/6/2019 2:55 PM	Amy Daughery
6/6/2019 3:00 PM	Break
6/6/2019 3:42 PM	D1 Ms. Baker Motion

C3 OBSERVER 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

6/6/2019 3:50 PM **C3 Presentation and Annual Report** – AFSC, Jennifer Ferdinand,
Phil Ganz, and Craig Faunce
6/6/2019 4:50 PM Enforcement Report – Jaelyn Smith
6/6/2019 5:08 PM Chapter 5 - ODDS Trip Logging – Craig Faunce
6/6/2019 5:14 PM Recess

Friday June 7, 2019

6/7/2019 8:08 AM Call to Order
6/7/2019 8:09 AM C3 Presentation Continued - Jennifer Ferdinand
6/7/2019 8:50 AM FMAC Report – Elizabeth Figus
6/7/2019 9:40 AM SSC Report – Dr. Anne Hollowed
6/7/2019 9:54 AM AP Report – Ernie Weiss
6/7/2019 9:55 AM Break
6/7/2019 10:15 AM **C3 Public Testimony**
6/7/2019 10:16 AM Ernie Weiss
6/7/2019 10:19 AM Carter Hughes
6/7/2019 10:22 AM Dan Falvey
6/7/2019 10:38 AM Molly Zaleksi
6/7/2019 10:44 AM Nicole Kimball
6/7/2019 10:56 AM Julie Bonney
6/7/2019 11:06 AM **C3 Mr. Merrill Motion**
6/7/2019 11:30 AM Balance of SSC Report
6/7/2019 12:15 PM Break

C4 CRAB PARTIAL DELIVERIES

6/7/2019 1:40 PM **C4 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Sarah Marrinan
6/7/2019 2:20 PM AP Report – Angel Drobica
6/7/2019 2:21 PM **C4 Public Testimony**
6/7/2019 2:22 PM Steve Minor
6/7/2019 2:25 PM Jamie Goen and Lance Farr
6/7/2019 2:34 PM Frank Kelty
6/7/2019 2:39 PM **C4 Ms. Bush Motion**

C5 SCULPINS TO ECOSYSTEM COMPONENT

6/7/2019 3:05 PM **C5 Presentation** – NMFS staff, Megan Mackey
6/7/2019 3:25 PM AP Report – Matt Upton
6/7/2019 3:27 PM **C5 Mr. Merrill Motion**

*No public testimony or action was taken on this agenda item

D2 BSAI COD ALLOCATION REVIEW

6/7/2019 3:37 PM **D2 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Jon McCracken
6/7/2019 3:37 PM Recess

Saturday June 8, 2019

6/8/2019 9:03 AM Call to Order
6/8/2019 9:04 AM **D2 Presentation continued**
6/8/2019 9:16 AM AP Report – Matt Upton
6/8/2019 9:18 AM **D2 Public Testimony**
6/8/2019 9:20 AM Dustan Dickerson
6/8/2019 9:37 AM Gerry Merrigan
6/8/2019 9:45 AM Paul Gronholdt
6/8/2019 9:47 AM Alan Flyod
6/8/2019 9:49 AM Garrett Kavanaugh
6/8/2019 9:58 AM Pat Davis
6/8/2019 10:05 AM Julie Kavanaugh
6/8/2019 10:16 AM Hannah Heimbuch
6/8/2019 10:36 AM Chris Woodley
6/8/2019 10:42 AM Todd Hoppe
6/8/2019 10:55 AM Break
6/8/2019 11:15 AM **D2 Ms. Baker Motion – Allocation Review**
6/8/2019 11:26 AM **D2 Mr. Laukitis Motion – October 2019 Pcod Discussion Papers**
6/8/2019 11:42 AM Lunch Break

D3 AI TRAWL SET ASIDE

6/8/2019 1:01 PM **D3 Presentation** – NPFMC staff, Jon McCracken
6/8/2019 1:53 PM AP Report – Matt Upton
6/8/2019 2:01 PM **D3 Public Testimony**
6/8/2019 2:02 PM Garrett Kavanaugh
6/8/2019 2:05 PM Dave Fraser
6/8/2019 2:21 PM Brent Paine
6/8/2019 2:42 PM Julie Kavanaugh
6/8/2019 2:45 PM Hannah Heimbuch
6/8/2019 2:47 PM Todd Hoppe
6/8/2019 2:52 PM Steve Minor
6/8/2019 3:08 PM Break
6/8/2019 3:30 PM Mateo Paz-Soldan
6/8/2019 3:40 PM Frank Kelty
6/8/2019 3:43 PM Kay Larson-Blair
6/8/2019 3:48 PM George Pollock
6/8/2019 3:53 PM Heather Mann
6/8/2019 3:59 PM Linda Behnken
6/8/2019 4:07 PM **D3 Ms. Baker Motion**
6/8/2019 4:30 PM Recess

Sunday June 9, 2019

C6 CQE FISH-UP IN 3A

6/9/2019 9:01 AM	Call to Order C6 Presentation – Council staff, Sara Cleaver and NMFS staff, Stephanie Warpinski
6/9/2019 9:35 AM	AP Report – Matt Upton
6/9/2019 9:41 AM	C6 Public Testimony
6/9/2019 9:42 AM	Joseph Delgado
6/9/2019 9:51 AM	Jim Skonberg
6/9/2019 9:53 AM	Rick Berns
6/9/2019 10:03 AM	Darren Muller
6/9/2019 10:18 AM	Jeff Farvor
6/9/2019 10:23 AM	Linda Behnken
6/9/2019 10:30 AM	Cater Hughes
6/9/2019 10:31 AM	Break
6/9/2019 10:50 AM	C6 Ms. Peterson Motion

D5 IFQ ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES

6/9/2019 11:26 AM	D5 Presentation – NPFMC staff, Anna Henry, Sarah Marrinan, and Sam Cunningham
6/9/2019 12:10 PM	Break for Lunch
6/9/2019 1:32 PM	Greetings from RADM Matthew Bell Jr.
6/9/2019 1:57 PM	D5 Presentation Continued
6/9/2019 2:16 PM	AP Report – Matt Upton
6/9/2019 2:34 PM	D5 Public Testimony
6/9/2019 2:33 PM	Carter Hughes
6/9/2019 2:38 PM	Rick Bearns
6/9/2019 2:46 PM	Darren Muller
6/9/2019 2:49 PM	Linda Behnken
6/9/2019 3:15 PM	Joseph Delgado
6/9/2019 3:17 PM	Jim Johnson
6/9/2019 3:33 PM	Break
6/9/2019 3:48 PM	Dustin Dickerson
6/9/2019 3:50 PM	Hannah Heimbuch
6/9/2019 3:54 PM	Dan Falvey
6/9/2019 4:07 PM	Jeff Farvour
6/9/2019 4:10 PM	D5 Ms. Peterson Motion

D6 BERING SEA FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN

6/9/2019 5:54 PM	D6 Presentation – NPFMC staff, Diana Evans
6/9/2019 6:15 PM	Recess

Monday June 10, 2019

6/10/2019 8:05 AM Call to Order
6/10/2019 8:06 AM **D6 Presentation Continued**
6/10/2019 8:32 AM Ecosystem Report – NPFMC staff, Steve MacLean
6/10/2019 8:36 AM AP Report – Matt Upton
6/10/2019 8:37 AM Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian
6/10/2019 8:41 AM Stephanie Madsen
6/10/2019 8:52 AM **D6 Mr. Tweit Motion**

D7 SOCIAL SCIENCE PLANNING TEAM

6/10/2019 9:16 AM **D7 Presentation** – Dr. Steve Kasperski
6/10/2019 9:49 AM Break

*No public testimony or action was taken on this agenda item

D8 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

6/10/2019 10:14 AM **D8 CEC Report** – Council staff, Steve MacLean

*No public testimony or action was taken on this agenda item

E1 STAFF TASKING

6/10/2019 10:30 AM **E1 Staff Tasking** – NPFMC Executive Director, David Witherell
6/10/2019 10:34 AM Bering Sea Snow Crab Update – NPFMC staff, Steve MacLean
6/10/2019 10:37 AM E1 Staff Tasking Continued
6/10/2019 11:03 AM **E1 Public Testimony**
6/10/2019 11:05 AM Julie Kavanaugh
6/10/2019 11:08 AM Hannah Heimbuch
6/10/2019 11:12 AM Jay Erie
6/10/2019 11:14 AM Chris Woodley, Heather McCarty, Chad See, Mateo Paz-Soldan
6/10/2019 11:23 AM Jamie Goen
6/10/2019 11:26 AM Steve Minor and Mateo Paz-Soldan
6/10/2019 11:40 AM Heather Mann
6/10/2019 11:47 AM Linda Behnken
6/10/2019 11:49 AM Lunch Break
6/10/2019 12:21 PM Staff Tasking Continued
6/10/2019 12:52 PM **E1 Ms. Baker Motion**
6/10/2019 1:10 PM Meeting Adjourned

]

June 2019 Newsletter

Laukitis and Peterson leave Council



A reception at Halibut Point in Sitka was held to recognize outgoing Council members Buck Laukitis of Homer and Theresa Peterson of Kodiak. Both Laukitis and Peterson acknowledged their involvement with fishing communities and noted they will still be involved in the Council process, albeit in a different capacity. We thank them for their commitment to Alaska communities and to managing and conserving Alaskan fishery resources. Best of luck to them in their future endeavors.

The Council would also like to thank the [businesses and organizations](#) that donated seafood for the reception and set up the location. Sunny weather was appreciated by all who attended.

Call for Nominations

IFQ Committee

The Council is soliciting for two new IFQ Committee members. The IFQ Committee is a standing advisory body comprised of vessel owner/operators, crew, processors, and trade group representatives (including vessel owners' associations and CDQ groups). The Committee meets independently – though sometimes in conjunction with a Council meeting – and discusses the merits of proposals to modify or update management of the Halibut & Sablefish IFQ fishery. Committee members are sometimes tasked to review documents that analyze potential program changes or to develop proposals for modifications that meet the Council's management objectives. The Committee formulates recommendations that are conveyed to the Council and its other advisory bodies in the form of meeting minutes and staff presentations.

The Council is specifically seeking nominees who are IFQ crew participants who do not own quota and vessel-owners who hold no quota share or a small amount of quota share and hope to purchase additional quota share in the future. Please submit a letter of interest describing your background by email to Sam Cunningham (sam.cunningham@noaa.gov) or by mail to the Council office. The deadline for applications is July 12, 2019.

Trawl Electronic Monitoring Committee

The Trawl Electronic Monitoring Committee convenes industry members, agency representatives, and EM service providers to collaboratively design, test and develop electronic monitoring systems to suit the needs of Alaskan fisheries. **The Trawl EM Committee has a vacancy for a representative from the processing sector.** A nominations period to fill this vacancy is open through July 12, 2019. The new member will be appointed in time to attend the upcoming Trawl EM Committee meeting on August 20-21, 2019, in Portland, OR. Please submit a letter of interest describing your background to Diana Evans by email (diana.evans@noaa.gov) or mail to the Council office.

Cook Inlet Salmon Committee

The Council is announcing a call for nominations to the [Cook Inlet Salmon Committee](#) for one or two stakeholders who represent new or recent involvement in the Cook Inlet salmon driftnet fishery. The Cook Inlet Salmon Committee was established to assist the Council in developing measures to extend Federal management to traditional net-fishing areas in the EEZ waters of Cook Inlet. Committee focus, in the near term, is on management of the commercial salmon driftnet fishery in Cook Inlet, and so representation by that sector is currently being emphasized by the Council. Stakeholders at the beginning of their driftnetting careers, who are looking forward to decades of future involvement in the fishery, are in need of greater representation on the Committee as it makes recommendations for developing a long-term management framework. **If you are a new or recent S03H permit holder who is active in the fishery and are interested in membership on the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee, please email a letter describing your background and interest to james.armstrong@noaa.gov , or mail your letter to the Council address. The Council will accept nominations and applications through July 12, 2019 in order to allow new Committee members to participate in a late September Committee meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Armstrong at 907-271-2805.**

Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Action Module Taskforces

The Council will be issuing a call for nominations for the Bering Sea FEP Action Module Taskforces, described in the BS FEP [newsletter article](#), by the end of June, once revisions to the draft Action Module workplans have been made to respond to Council direction.

BSAI Crab Management

The Council approved 2019/2020 fishing year OFLs and ABCs for the Aleutian Islands golden king crab and Pribilof Islands blue king crab stocks, and reviewed summaries and SSC comments for stock assessment scenarios and other issues addressed at the Crab Plan Team's May 2019 meeting. The Council also reviewed issues related to rebuilding the St. Matthew blue king crab stock and adopted a purpose and need statement and alternatives for a forthcoming analysis in support of developing the rebuilding plan.

For AI golden king crab specifications, the Council adopted an OFL of 5,249 mt and an ABC of 3,937 mt, and for Pribilof Island blue king crab, the Council adopted an OFL of 1.16 mt and an ABC of 0.87 mt, all of which

are consistent with the recommendations of the Crab Plan Team, SSC, and AP. Complete 2019 SAFE chapters for those stocks are posted, along with the Crab Plan Team May meeting report, on the Council's website. Final 2019/2020 OFLs and ABCs for five BSAI crab stocks (snow crab, Tanner crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, Pribilof Island red king crab, and St. Matthew blue king crab) will be specified in October.



The Council was officially notified on October 22, 2018 that the St. Matthew blue king crab stock was overfished, and according to the MSA, a rebuilding plan will have to be implemented within two years of that date, coincident with the start of the 2020/2021 fishing season. The MSA envisions rebuilding of overfished stocks in no more than ten years, unless this cannot be accomplished even when fishing mortality is constrained to zero. Accordingly, the rebuilding plan that is being developed for St. Matthew blue king crab will identify the minimum time for rebuilding (T_{MIN}), which corresponds to zero fishing mortality, as well as the maximum permissible rebuilding time, T_{MAX} . Estimation of T_{MIN} and T_{MAX} , is contingent on the appropriate B_{MSY} target that defines a rebuilt stock once achieved. A breakpoint analysis of biomass time series was reviewed by the Crab Plan Team and SSC and suggests that the stock may currently be in a period of lower productivity, which reduces T_{MIN} and T_{MAX} relative to existing B_{MSY} . Final target time frames and the OFL during rebuilding will be determined in October following CPT and SSC review. The adopted alternatives include options to either close directed fishing for St. Matthew blue king crab or allow low level harvest under the State's harvest policy. In adopting the alternatives, the Council noted that recent groundfish fishery bycatch is not constraining to crab stock recovery, and that NMFS in-season management authority may be used at any time during rebuilding to close areas to groundfish effort and prevent crab bycatch from reaching OFL.

Staff contact is Jim Armstrong

GOA Pollock and Cod Seasonal Allocation Adjustments

At the June 2019 meeting, the Council took final action to recommend adjusting Gulf of Alaska (GOA) pollock and Pacific cod seasonal allocations. The purpose of this action is to reduce operational and management inefficiencies in the Western and Central GOA trawl catcher vessel (CV) pollock and Pacific cod fisheries. The Council intends to promote opportunities to harvest the resource at times when it is most valuable and accessible and to avoid redistribution of fishing opportunities between management areas or harvest sectors (e.g., non-trawl sectors). The Council also aims to provide the fleet with additional flexibility to manage and avoid prohibited species catch (PSC). Finally, the Council's preferred alternative is intended to be in accordance with measures that mitigate impacts on ESA-listed Steller sea lions.

The Council's preferred alternative for pollock would modify the existing equal (25%) four-season TAC allocation to two equal (50%) seasonal allocations. The pollock A and B seasons would be combined into a season that runs from January 20 through May 31 and the C and D seasons would be combined into a season that runs from September 1 through November 1. The start date for the latter season would be moved from August 25 to September 1. The change to the start date would address the potential for the pollock C season to overlap the end of the commercial salmon harvest in some years. That overlap can cause congestion that affects individual plant facilities differently depending on throughput capacity and the characteristics of the delivering fleet.



As part of its preferred alternative for pollock, the Council also chose to maintain the 20% cap on in-year seasonal rollovers of unharvested pollock TAC. The choice to maintain the status quo was made in response to public testimony indicating that a higher cap can result in situations where underharvest in one season may be continued into the following season, further stranding pollock TAC in areas with low expected CPUE.

For Pacific cod, the Council aims to reduce the underharvest of B season TAC in the GOA trawl CV sector by moving some of the allocated season TAC to the A season when Pacific cod are typically more aggregated. The preferred alternative is structured such that seasonal allocations to other gear/operational-type sectors would not be altered. The seasonal allocation ratio across all sectors in each area (Western GOA and Central GOA) would be modified from the status quo of 60% in the A season and 40% in the B season. The new ratio would be 64% of total annual TAC in the A season and 36% in the B season.

The preferred alternatives increase flexibility in the timing of the fishery, potentially increasing yield and, in some cases, providing the fleet with an enhanced ability to minimize encounters with prohibited species (Chinook salmon and Pacific halibut). The alternatives do not pose any additional risk to the GOA pollock or Pacific cod stocks since harvest specifications would continue to control overall harvest of these target species. Likewise, the efficacy of PSC limits constraining bycatch of Chinook salmon and halibut is not affected by the alternatives.

Throughout the development of this action, the Council has articulated its intent to provide benefits to fishery participants while not adversely impacting ESA-protected Steller sea lions. The public review draft, reviewed at this meeting, provides the background information that would be necessary to begin a consultation on impacts to Steller sea lions, should that be warranted. If this action raises ESA jeopardy concerns, this action will be brought back to the Council for further consideration.

Staff contacts are Sam Cunningham and Sara Cleaver.

At their June 2019 meeting in Sitka, the Council received a presentation on the Observer [Program Annual Report for 2018](#) and a [report](#) from the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC). The Annual Report provides a scientific evaluation of the deployment of observers in 2018, to evaluate if deployment expectations were met that year. The report also includes information describing the program, enforcement trends, outreach efforts, and agency recommendations for developing the 2020 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP).

The Council commends the agency on the Annual Report, and the ability it provides to adjust and improve the program. The Council supports NMFS' recommendations for the 2020 ADP listed in section 7.1 of the Annual Report (p. 92-94). If external funds are available, the Council recommends further expanding the electronic monitoring (EM) selection pool in 2020 by up to 30 more vessels and including tests of alternative EM systems and data service delivery models. It was also noted that Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission is working to determine what is necessary to accommodate more vessels in the Fixed Gear EM pool and to date has hired two new reviewers to focus exclusively on Alaska EM review.

The Council reviewed FMAC recommendations on observer analytical tasking and supported the FMAC recommendation to initiate a discussion paper about shoreside sampling in the Fixed Gear EM pool. This recommendation leverages ongoing work by the FMAC partial coverage Subgroup to integrate monitoring tools, as well as work at the Trawl EM Committee to draft an application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) for testing EM on trawl vessels in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. The Council noted the discussion paper should scope a shoreside sampling program, in conjunction with some minimal level of at-sea observer coverage, to complement Fixed Gear EM.

The Council also supported the FMAC recommendation to remove the "Observer Disembark Location" analysis from the tasking list and take no further action on this item, because this issue has largely been resolved through the use of EM. Additionally, the Council supported the FMAC recommendation to prioritize

an assessment of how biological information currently collected by observers is used in stock assessment.



The Council provided a few specific recommendations for next year's Annual Report. The Council recommends the next Annual Report (reviewing 2019) continue to refine cost metrics and funding information in Chapter 2; continue to include an evaluation of observer effects separately in pelagic and non-pelagic trawl fisheries; and, incorporate the analysis of observer statement incident rates in future reports. Members noted the importance of analyzing observer statement and incident rates to get a more holistic view of the need for and enforcement of observer harassment and other issues. The Council also encourages NMFS to continue working closely with FMAC and the

industry prior to implementing potential future changes to the Observer Declare and Deploy System (ODDS).

The Council acknowledged the importance of the agency continuing to work to present performance metrics of the partial coverage program in a way that both the Council and the general public can better understand.

Finally, the Council noted appreciation of the high quality work taking place through collaboration between industry members and agency staff via meetings of the FMAC and the subgroup. Members voiced support for the continued involvement of a subgroup of the FMAC in the ongoing work to explore integration of monitoring tools to increase coverage and contain costs, as described in the FMAC report. Staff contact for observer issues is Diana Evans.

Crab Partial Offloads

The Council identified a preliminary preferred alternative for a proposal to allow vessels participating in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Crab Rationalization (CR) Program to partially offload crab harvested and then continue fishing before fully offloading all remaining harvested crab. The Council's preliminary preferred alternative would remove Federal regulations that prohibit the continuation of a fishing trip subsequent to a partial offload of crab in the CR program. The flexibility afforded under this amendment is not expected to be used often, due to the harvesters' economic incentives of limiting crab deadloss and conducting efficient deliveries. The intent is to provide operational flexibility for vessel operators to conduct their business in the safest and economically efficient manner and when emergencies or special circumstances arise. The Council chose to move this action forward for Public Review, with the potential to take final action the next time it is scheduled.

In its preliminary preferred alternative, the Council *did not* include a proposed option which would have required any tank started for offload to be fully offloaded prior to any subsequent fishing. This was not included due to the enforcement challenges and circumstances in which this additional requirement would make the proposed flexibility less effective. However, the document highlighted that harvesters will likely have an incentive to offload full tanks when possible due to a desire to minimize crab deadloss. Moreover, a voluntary separation of catch from different "partial fishing trips" paired with increased communication with ADF&G could aid in some of the data quality challenges that will likely arise if trips are linked together under this flexibility.



Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

Classification of Sculpins in the BSAI and GOA FMPs

The Council reviewed the Initial Review Draft of an Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Impact Review (EA/RIR) to evaluate alternatives for classifying sculpins as target species or ecosystem component species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Fishery Management Plans (FMPs). The Initial Review concluded that sculpins meet the requirements for classification as an ecosystem component species in both the BSAI and GOA FMPs. The Initial Review draft was requested by the Council after review of a discussion paper in April 2019, and a detailed descriptions of sculpins and the alternatives is found in the April 2019 [newsletter](#).



At this meeting, the Council adopted a revised purpose and need statement and alternatives, including a Preliminary Preferred Alternative, for public review. The Purpose and Need Statement was revised to include the statement that “The best available data indicate that sculpins are not in need of conservation and management and could be reclassified as non-target ecosystem component species.” Alternatives include the no-action alternative, and the preliminary preferred action alternative that would classify sculpins as ecosystem-component species in the BSAI and GOA FMPs. The action alternative includes regulations to prohibit directed fishing for sculpins, require recordkeeping and reporting to monitor and report catch and discards of sculpin species, and establish maximum retainable amounts (MRAs) for sculpins at 2%, 10%, or 20 % (PPA).

The National Marine Fisheries Service will take the lead in developing the appropriate analysis. Council staff contact is Steve MacLean.

CQE Fish Up in Area 3A

The Council took final action to allow eligible CQE residents in Area 3A to fish halibut IFQ derived from CQE-held D class QS on C or D class vessels in Area 3A beginning on August 15th each year. This action provides flexibility for CQEs to potentially avoid revenue loss and is intended as a fallback mechanism for CQEs that have unfished D-class quota late in the season should unforeseen challenges arise.



As of 2019, one CQE in Area 3A holds D class IFQ. Current Area 3A regulations that require D class IFQ to be fished on D class vessels have, in some circumstances, limited this CQE community’s ability to fully harvest their halibut IFQ. The Council’s preferred alternative to include a date after which this “fish up” measure can be utilized was in response to concerns that future CQE purchases of quota share could target D class QS with the intent of fishing it on C class vessels if this opportunity was allowed for the duration of the IFQ season. This action provides a way for the CQE to keep D class quota in the community, furthering the Council’s intent of

encouraging CQE communities to secure long-term opportunities to access halibut.

Staff contact is Sara Cleaver.

Salmon Bycatch

The Council received a number of reports related to BSAI and GOA salmon bycatch including the EBS pollock fishery incentive plan agreement (IPA) reports, an update from the SeaShare food donation program, genetic stock of origin reports for chum and Chinook in both the GOA and BSAI and a summary of a NPFMC-sponsored workshop on salmon bycatch and genetics from April 2019. The Council identified priorities and tasking for future work.

Per regulation, EBS pollock IPA representatives provide annual reports on their measures to reduce and avoid Chinook and chum bycatch. The written reports from all three sectors (catcher vessels, catcher processors, and motherships) are posted to the Council website and agenda. Representatives from the inshore catcher vessel and catcher processor sectors also provided verbal summaries of their actions in 2018. The Council commended all three sectors for their extensive and continued innovative efforts to avoid salmon bycatch at all levels of encounters.

A voluntary update was provided by SeaShare, a non-profit food donation program which is authorized to accept salmon and halibut PSC for hunger relief. This organization continues extensive efforts to provide fish annually to additional communities each year across Alaska and to expand efforts to reach remote villages by providing donated food storage facilities. The Council continues to appreciate the hunger relief work by SeaShare and acknowledges the industry funding and efforts to support this valuable program.

Geneticists from the AFSC Auke Bay lab provided reports on the stock of origin of Chinook and chum salmon bycatch for the 2017 Bering Sea pollock fishery, the GOA pollock fishery, GOA rockfish (and arrowtooth) CV trawl fishery and the GOA non-pollock CP trawl fisheries. The report this year provides finer scale spatial and temporal resolution. On average in the Bering Sea, the relative proportion of salmon from western Alaskan rivers caught as bycatch continues to decline while proportionally, interceptions from British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest have increased. Chum bycatch continues to be dominated by Asian origin fish. Age-specific stock composition results are also now available for chum bycatch. Similar age data is lacking for Chinook but it was noted that a backlog of scales is available for aging.



The Council reviewed a report from the salmon bycatch genetics workshop held in April 2019. The purpose of the workshop was to facilitate feedback on how stock composition reports can be improved to better inform industry bycatch avoidance efforts, discuss appropriate spatial and temporal resolution of stock identification, and identify other associated analyses that could be used by stakeholders to better understand the causes of, and potential measures to minimize, salmon bycatch. A number of recommendations were brought forward from workshop participants.

The Council moved to identify a number of priorities for future work as well as a suite of tasks for the Council's salmon bycatch workgroup (which consists of NMFS, ADFG, and Council staff). The Council intends to send a letter to the AFSC to request prioritization of aging the back log of Chinook scales. This work would allow the agency to update the age-length key used in the BSAI Chinook adult equivalence (AEQ) model as well as to develop an age-length key for GOA Chinook. Additional tasking to the workgroup includes the following: examination of the available bycatch datasets to prioritize analyses for informing future management actions, exploring additional collaboration amongst genetic laboratories for continued development of coastwide genetic baselines for chum and Chinook salmon and identifying existing data gaps and defining stock composition in the GOA for development of an AEQ.

Staff contact is Diana Stram.

BSAI Pacific cod Allocation Review

At this meeting, the Council reviewed the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Pacific cod allocation review, and accepted it as complete and final pending the addition, to the extent practicable, of information recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee. The review was responsive to NMFS' Fisheries Allocation Policy Directive, issued in July of 2016, under which the Council is required to conduct a 10-year review of BSAI Pacific cod allocations to ensure that the optimal yield is being achieved under current conditions. The goal of the allocation review was to assist the Council in determining whether or not the development and evaluation of BSAI Pacific cod allocation alternatives are warranted.

Overall, the Council noted that Amendment 85 has provided intended stability for sectors in the BSAI Pacific cod fishery, improved social and economic structures for sectors, and provided entry level and local opportunities for some small vessels, although participation by entry level and small vessels is not uniform across all sectors. Amendment 85 allocations have continued to allow optimal yield to be achieved on a continuing basis, which is a fundamental objective of Amendment 85 and can be extremely challenging given the variable nature of the fishery and balancing of the Council's Amendment 85 objectives across the nine sectors.



As a follow up to information identified in the Amendment 85 allocation review, the Council requested staff include a description of the process for reallocating inseason

among BSAI Pacific cod sectors in the stranded BSAI and GOA Pacific cod discussion paper scheduled for the October Council meeting. In addition, the Council requested staff include the potential impacts on other sectors of the proposed rationalization of the trawl catcher vessel (CV) and pot CV sectors, in the BSAI Pacific cod trawl and pot CV management scoping paper scheduled for the October Council meeting.

As noted by the Council, the BSAI Pacific cod allocation review highlighted ongoing uncertainty experienced by the BSAI hook-and-line/pot less than 60' CV sector in the federal BSAI Pacific cod fishery, due to its reliance on inseason reallocations, lack of a B-season apportionment, and challenges created by a multi-gear type sector. The Council is considering development of trawl CV and pot CV rationalization programs that could impact harvest patterns and inseason reallocations in the BSAI Pacific cod fishery, and there is some potential these actions could increase uncertainty for the hook-and-line/pot less than 60' CV sector and reduce fishing access the sector has been historically dependent upon. It is for this reason that the Council has requested that a discussion of these issues be included in the upcoming October scoping paper.

Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

AI Pacific Cod Set-Aside

At the June meeting, the Council received a discussion paper that included a status report on Amendment 113 litigation and potential regulatory approaches that could be used to provide opportunities for trawl catcher vessels harvesting Pacific cod in the AI and delivering the Pacific cod to AI shoreplants. After reviewing the discussion paper and receiving public testimony, the Council requested a discussion of trawl CV harvests and deliveries in the AI Pacific cod fishery and the set-aside provisions established with Amendment 113 be included in the BSAI Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel management scoping document scheduled for the October 2019 Council meeting. The Council also noticed the public that depending on the results of the scoping paper, the Council may consider an AI focused limited access program (LAPP) as a long-term solution for AI shoreplant protections in the future.



The Council considered but ultimately did not recommend a proposal for an emergency action to implement a BS limitation for the 2020 A-season BSAI Pacific cod for the trawl catcher vessel sector. In part, the proposal for emergency action stems from the March 21, 2019, U.S. District Court opinion concerning Amendment 113 and removal of the rules implementing Amendment 113. The Council noted that the proposal would not guarantee deliveries of AI Pacific cod to AI shoreplants, and therefore would not resolve the emergency identified in the proposal. Although the Council recognized the risks to AI shoreplants as a result of removing the regulations previously implementing Amendment 113, the Council concluded that the emergency rule proposal does not meet all the criteria for an emergency rule. In addition, the Council requested a discussion of the AI set-aside structure as part of the community protection section of the BSAI Pacific cod trawl CV management scoping paper. The intent of this approach is to provide a comprehensive, long-term solution for

the BSAI Pacific cod trawl CV fishery, of which an AI set-aside is one of several important elements in the management of that fishery.

Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

IFQ Access Opportunities- Global Examples

The Council reviewed a discussion paper outlining domestic and international examples of programs that facilitate access opportunities for rural communities and new entrants within limited access fisheries and tasked staff to come back with an expanded paper. The Council requested this discussion paper at the June 2018 meeting in response to information from the IFQ 20-year program review, academic research, and public testimony regarding access challenges in the IFQ Program. The discussion paper provided a more detailed review of Norway's Recruitment Quota, and highlighted access program design specifications, distributional impacts, and legal considerations that may be relevant to an application in the North Pacific for the Halibut and Sablefish IFQ Program.



The Council directed staff to develop an expanded discussion paper identifying considerations related to the creation of a quota Access Pool for halibut and sablefish QS that facilitates entry-level opportunities. The Access Pool would be targeted at crewmembers and vessel owner-operators whose QS holdings equate to less than 5,000 lbs. of IFQ in 2019. Participation in the Access Pool would be temporary, meaning that a qualifying individual could only fish this quota for a set number of years. Access Pool QS could not be sold. The quota for this pool would be limited to an amount equal to 1% of the 2019 halibut and QS pool and could be "funded" either by newly created QS units, by withholding 0.5% or 1.0% of QS that is transferred, or a combination of the two. The Access Pool would be structured such that a Regional Fishery Association (RFA) or another entity receives the allocation and determines the criteria for distribution to applicants; criteria would be reviewed by the Council and approved by NMFS. The discussion paper will highlight explicit Council decision points necessary for this approach, the amount of detail needed to develop criteria for allocation, effects on the QS market and existing QS holders, and MSA considerations regarding the ability to allocate QS to RFAs.

The Council noted that the details of the Access Pool may seem overly prescribed for an expanded discussion paper, and that its intent is not to endorse a specific program or threshold at this time but that the Council is interested in reviewing more information about this type of program from members of the public and Council staff. The Council also directed the IFQ Committee to review this expanded discussion paper.

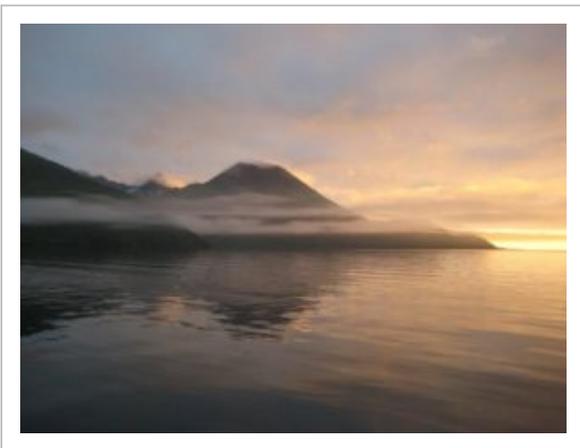
Staff contact is Anna Henry

Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan

At this meeting, the Council reviewed a report from the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Team, and endorsed draft workplans and established taskforces for the two Action Modules that the Council has initiated:

- Evaluating effects of climate change on fish, fisheries, and the Bering Sea ecosystem, and develop management considerations
- Develop Protocols for Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and subsistence.

The Council adopted the Bering Sea FEP in December 2018. The Bering Sea FEP establishes a framework for the Council's continued progress towards ecosystem-based fishery management (EBFM) of the Bering Sea fisheries, and describes how the FEP framework will support research projects (Action Modules) to address Council priorities. The Council views the FEP as a tool to promote ecosystem science, provide a systematic approach to identifying ecosystem considerations and priorities, enhance ecosystem considerations as they are incorporated into Council decisions, and provide a flexible, adaptive platform to address management and conservation needs in the face of climate and ecosystem change.



The FEP Team, which is an interagency group of Council, NMFS, and other Federal, State and IPHC staff, has transitioned from its development role to an ongoing role maintaining the FEP and managing Action Modules, providing strategic guidance on the Bering Sea ecosystem, and supporting outreach and communication on the FEP and the Bering Sea ecosystem as relates to the Council's fishery management role. The Council approved the BS FEP Team's proposed Terms of Reference, and encouraged the Team to continue with the work outlined in the FEP Team report, including development of an Ecosystem Health Report and outreach efforts such as Bering Sea FEP [storymaps](#).

The Council also endorsed the Team's draft Action Module workplans in principle, as revised in response to Council, Ecosystem Committee, and SSC comments in June 2019. Similarly, the Council established a taskforce for each action module, to be appointed by the Council Chair following a call for nominations. In particular, the Council clarified that these Action Modules are intended to have a specific focus on producing workproducts within a 2-3 year timeframe. Any output of the FEP and the Action Modules is intended to be informative and relevant to the Council but not prescriptive, and any recommendations that come from the Action Modules will be reviewed and considered by the Council through the normal process.

The intent of the Climate Change Module is described in the workplan, and is intended to synthesize climate impacts from ongoing research efforts, and ensure that climate resiliency evaluation of Bering Sea fisheries and their management are designed to provide relevant information to the Council. The taskforce for this module should be approximately 10 people, to include diverse knowledge holders and have an

interdisciplinary focus. For the LK/TK/Subsistence module, the intent is to create a clear set of directions for the Council regarding best practices for solicitation and consideration of local knowledge and traditional knowledge, and how impacts to subsistence are understood and incorporated into analyses. The intent is not data collection but rather best practice protocols that can be applied to improve ongoing Council decision making. The taskforce for this module is recommended to be slightly larger, up to 15 people, with approximately equal representation of LK, TK, and subsistence expertise, and drawing both from experts and knowledge bearers.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Social Science Planning Team Report

The Council received a report from the Social Science Planning Team (SSPT) on their annual meeting. The SSPT meeting occurred on May 7-9, 2019 at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage. The group discussed the Data Gap Analysis, new and underrepresented research relevant to the North Pacific, the use of qualitative information in the fisheries management, Economic Data Reports including the Council's recent actions to consider revisions to these data collections, as well as an update on the Fishery Ecosystem Plan action modules.

The Council encouraged further development of the Data Gap Analysis. The Council endorsed the SSC's recommendation of considering and prioritizing analytical questions the Council has framed for past analyses, especially those highlighted by the SSC where there is a clear need for addressing uncertainty in potential impacts.

The Council supported the idea of the SSPT conducting a day long technical workshop focused on improvements to the EDRs. The Council encouraged the Team and the work done to improve the EDR process, to engage stakeholders, and incorporate stakeholder feedback. This workshop will likely be scheduled for late summer, with details to be posted on the SSPT [webpage](#).

The SSPT's next official meeting is an interim teleconference which will occur in November. The exact date and agenda for the meeting will also be forthcoming on the SSPT webpage. Among other topics, the SSPT hopes to further discuss the Data Gaps Analysis as well as receiving a presentation on qualitative methods from some of the SSPT members.

Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

Community Engagement Committee

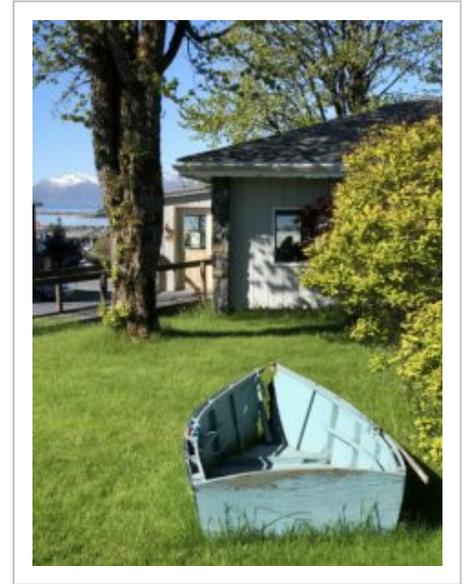
The Council received a progress report from the Community Engagement Committee (CEC). The CEC met on June 4 and reviewed the annotated list of current Council communication and engagement strategies to begin to identify deficiencies and strategies for developing more robust rural and tribal community

engagement. The CEC will continue to meet to develop engagement strategies and will provide periodic progress reports to the Council. The CEC expects to complete their report in the spring of 2020.

Council staff contact is Steve MacLean.

NPRB Research Tracking

The SSC received an overview presentation addressing recent North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) funding themes, an update on progress related to coordination efforts with Council research prioritization, methods for tracking research priorities, and potential for NPRB database functionality to support coordination with Council processes. The SSC is expected to comprehensively address the Council's extensive list of research priorities in February 2020 and welcomed the potential for working more effectively with NPRB in improving that effort. A specific improvement that the NPRB could provide is the ability to track NPFMC-identified projects through the sequence of proposal, funding, completion, and publication steps. For the next comprehensive review, the SSC is considering an accompanying evening event to provide stakeholders with a focused opportunity for making research recommendations. There was SSC interest in the NPRB's two-prong approach to categorizing research funding opportunities by their relevance to either management or ecosystem and other science issues. This could potentially provide a basis for creating two "top ten" lists of highlighted research priorities for the Council rather than the single list that was used in 2018.



Staff contact is Jim Armstrong

Upcoming meetings

- Trawl EM Committee meeting, August 21-22, Portland, OR
 - Crab Plan Team, September 16-20, AFSC, Seattle, WA
 - Groundfish Plan Teams, September 16-20, AFSC, Seattle, WA
 - Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team, sometime in September 2019, teleconference
 - Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee, September 23-24, AFSC, Seattle, WA
 - Community Engagement Committee, tentative late summer/early fall meeting
 - Cook Inlet Salmon Committee, September 30, Homer, AK (tentative; alternately earlier in September)
-

Staff Tasking

The Council discussed the relative priority and scheduling of previously tasked projects (see revised 3 meeting outlook), as well as the following issues.

- The Council received an update from staff about snow crab data requested in April, which will be available on the Council's webpage during the course of the summer.
- Staff also provided an update on ongoing progress with the BSAI Halibut ABM PSC analysis, which is on track for initial review in October. The Council requested staff convene an educational webinar prior to the October Council meeting.
- The State of Alaska also noticed stakeholders that the Deputy Commissioner and Extended Jurisdiction staff are continuing to develop State positions on management structure in the BSAI and GOA fisheries, and will be reaching out to stakeholders throughout the summer.

The Council directed staff to develop and send several letters:

- To NMFS, to request prioritization of the processing backlog of recent Chinook salmon scales that are used for age-length keys.
- To legislative staff, in response to their request to provide comments on the "Forage Fish Conservation Act" bill.
- To NMFS and the Department of Justice, recommending that the U.S. District Court's decision on Amendment 113 be appealed.
- To Rear Admiral Bell and the U.S. Coast Guard, thanking him for attending the Council meeting and for Coast Guard efforts to add assets to their Alaska capability.
- To the US Army Corps of Engineers, comment letter on the Draft EIS for Pebble Mine

Committees and advisory groups:

- The Council issued solicitations for a processor representative on the Trawl EM Committee, two new entrant permit holders for the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee, and new seats for the IFQ Committee to represent crew and those looking to acquire quota share.
- The Council will also issue solicitations for the Bering Sea FEP Action Module Taskforces for Climate Change and LK/TK/Subsistence.
- The Council appointed Julie Kavanaugh to the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee.
- The Council Chair noted that there will be upcoming changes to Council member Committee chairship appointments, to accommodate changing membership on the Council.
- The Council also tasked staff to bring back a strategic look at the relative roles and responsibilities of the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee, its subgroup, and the Trawl EM Committee, to ensure that each group understands its relative objectives and scope, and is appropriately constituted to address them.

Halibut ABM Update

Staff updated the Council that the BSAI Halibut abundance-based management (ABM) PSC limit analysis is on track for initial review of a draft EIS in October 2019. Following the release of the draft EIS in early September, the Council will host a web-based informational meeting on the BSAI Halibut ABM analysis in September. The

meeting will focus on providing an overview of the analysis and fielding clarification questions to the analysts from stakeholders. Details on the meeting will be posted as a spotlight on the Council's website later this summer.

Recreational Fisheries Roundtable

The National Marine Fisheries Service hosted a Recreational Fisheries Roundtable on Thursday, June 6 from 5:30 – 7:00 PM. The Roundtable is an outcome from the 2018 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/new-plans-engaging-recreational-fishermen>) and is an opportunity for recreational fishers and charter business owners and employees to meet with managers at the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, and the Council to ask questions, and gain a better understanding of recreational fisheries management in Alaska. Engagement objectives for the meeting included:

- Establishing a visible presence among the recreational fishing community
- Developing a mutual understanding of priorities, concerns, and challenges
- Enhancing collaboration with the recreational fishing community.

The summit was well attended by local fishermen and charter business owners and employees. Several Council members were present along with Chris Oliver (Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries), Council staff, NMFS staff, and ADF&G staff. No formal presentations were provided, but the Council's Charter Halibut Management Committee process was explained and participation in the committee process was encouraged. Attendees had open opportunity to ask questions of any of the managers in attendance. Council member Andy Mezirow explained his role in the Council process and provided a summary of charter issues that the Council has considered over the last several years.

At the end of the meeting, ADF&G staff provided an introduction to the electronic logbook that they developed for charter operators.

Another Recreational Fisheries Roundtable is scheduled for October 2019 in Homer, AK.