

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

News and Notes



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Charter Halibut

The Council reviewed the draft analysis of a proposed halibut catch sharing plan (CSP) for Areas 2C and 3A. The Council provided additional option and clarifications for the previous suite of alternatives, elements, and options. The No Action alternative would maintain the current guideline harvest level program for the charter fisheries in these areas. Alternative 2 would implement a catch sharing plan for the two fisheries that would set an initial allocation to each sector (Element 1) and allow for seasonal increases in allocation by allowing charter halibut limited entry permit holders to lease commercial individual fishing quotas for use as guided angler fish in the charter sector (Element 5). Potential catch accounting systems for monitoring those IFQ leases for use in the charter sector are under Element 6. Additional policy decisions on the regulatory cycle for future analyses of management measures to restrict the charter sectors to their allocations (Element 2), suite of potential management measures (Element 3), and potential timelines for shortening the delay in implementing revised regulations (Element 4) would not be implemented in regulations. The public review draft will be released by September 1, 2008, and final action will be scheduled for October 2008. If approved by the Secretary of Commerce, implementation of the CSP would be expected no sooner than the 2010 charter halibut season. The Council also reviewed an ADF&G staff evaluation of the 2006 charter logbook program. The draft CSP analysis, April Council motion, ADF&G logbook report, and the ADF&G staff logbook presentation are posted on the Council website. Contact Jane DiCosimo for more information.

AP Appointments

The Council appointed two new members to its Advisory Panel at this meeting; Tim Evers and Rex Murphy. Murphy was on an interim appointment for the April meeting, and has been approved by the Council to fill the rest of the term (through 2009) vacated by Tina McNamee. Murphy is the owner and operator of Winter King Charters in Homer, Alaska. Tim Evers was appointed through the end of 2008. Evers owns and operates a variety of recreational services in Ninilchik, Alaska. We welcome them both to the process!



L: Earl Krygier at the farewell party recounting his years working with the Council. R: Chairman Olson presents a plaque to Andy Smoker.

So Long, Farewell...

Earl Krygier, a Council member who often sat in as the Alternate for the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, is retiring this year. Earl has been involved in the Council process for 18 years. A farewell party was held during the week to honor Earl's long time commitment and dedication, and to thank him for his contribution to the conservation and management of Alaska's fishery resources, both in the state and federal arenas. We also bode farewell to Andy Smoker, long-time in-season management guru for NMFS who is retiring in May. Best wishes to both!

Upcoming Meetings

The **Crab Plan Team** will meet on May 6-9, 2008 at the Alaska Fishery Science Center in Seattle, Washington from 9:00am to 5:00pm, (9th – 9:00am to 12:00pm); September 16-18, Anchorage, Location TBA.

The **BSAI Crab Advisory Committee** will meet April 29, 2008, 8:30am to 5:30pm at the Swedish Culture Center, 1920 Dexter Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109.

The **Non-Target Species Committee** will meet April 23, 2008 9:00am – 5:00pm at the Alaska Fishery Science Center, National Marine Mammal Conference Room.

The **Groundfish Plan Team** will meet September 22-24, 2008 (M-W) and November 17-21, AFSC, Seattle.

The **Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee** will meet May 13-16, 2008 in Seward at the Alaska Sea Life Center.

Trawl LLP Recency

The Council took final action on BSAI FMP Am. 92 and GOA FMP Am. 82 to remove latent trawl CV and CP licenses from the BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries. Under the Council's preferred alternative, area endorsements (BS, AI, WG and/or CG) would be removed from trawl CV and CP licenses unless the license has at least two trawl groundfish landings during 2000 – 2006 in the endorsement area. An option was also selected that would allow trawl CV licenses with both a CG and WG endorsement to retain both endorsements if they meet the landings criteria selected under Alternative 3 for one Gulf area (e.g., CG or WG) and have significant recent landings in that same area (20 landings in 2005, 2006, or 2007). The intent is to increase stability in the trawl sectors and protect existing participants from the possible future use of latent licenses, and thus a potential reduction in their gross revenue share due to this participation. Note that several sectors (AFA, Am. 80, and CG rockfish pilot program) were exempt from one or more endorsement thresholds specific to their cooperative programs.

In addition, a separate component of the action would create 12 new AI endorsements for use on existing non-AFA trawl CV licenses in the Aleutian Islands. As only one of the existing six non-AFA trawl CV licenses with AI endorsements is estimated to qualify to retain its AI endorsement under the first part of this amendment, the intent was to allow recent participants in the AI parallel or State waters cod fishery to qualify for an AI endorsement in order to participate in the new trawl limited access Atka mackerel and POP fisheries, as well as the Pacific cod fishery. The overall intent is to help facilitate economic development in Adak, recognizing that vessels are more likely to fish in the AI if they have a suite of Federal fisheries in which to participate.

Under the Council's preferred alternative, an estimated 8 new AI endorsements would be earned by <60' non-AFA trawl CV licenses that met the participation criteria. These endorsements would be severable from the overall license, such that they could be transferred to other <60' non-AFA trawl CV licenses. Note that the existing LLP program does not allow an endorsement to be severed from the overall license. In addition, an estimated 4 new AI endorsements would be earned by ≥60' non-AFA trawl CV licenses that met the participation criteria; these endorsements would not be severable and transferable. The Council recommended transferability for the AI endorsements earned on <60' licenses, in order to better ensure that they would continue to be used in the AI in the long-term, for the benefit of the community of Adak. Given that effort could be significantly increased by transferring AI endorsements between ≥60' non-AFA trawl license holders, combined with public testimony that the license holders that earn the endorsements are interested in fishing in the AI, it was deemed that transferability of the endorsements on ≥60' licenses was not necessary.

Overall, the Council's action would reduce the number of trawl CV groundfish licenses endorsed for a specific area by an estimated: 22% in the BS, 45% in the CG, and 52% in the WG. With the addition of an estimated 12 new AI endorsements, the number of trawl CV groundfish licenses endorsed for the AI

would increase by 15%. The Council's action would reduce the number of trawl CP groundfish licenses endorsed for a specific area by an estimated: 11% in the AI; 6% in the BS, 26% in the CG, and 27% in the WG.

The complete Council motion is on the website. Staff contact is Nicole Kimball.

Seabird Deterrence Exemption

At the February 2007 meeting, the Council requested an analysis of a trailing amendment to consider a small vessel exemption from seabird deterrence regulations in all or part of IPHC Area 4E. Fisheries conducted in this area are primarily from small vessels that are not rigged for deterrence devices and harvest small quantities of fish, primarily halibut, and do not interact with appreciable numbers of seabirds. Thus, while available data suggested that such an exemption in Area 4E might be appropriate, the Council tasked staff to complete an analysis of seabird information in the eastern Bering Sea, particularly short-tailed albatross satellite tagging data, to better inform such a decision. NMFS staff presented an analysis of data on fishery catches in this area, the types of vessels participating in these fisheries, and the distribution and abundance of seabirds that inhabit Area 4E, particularly short-tailed albatross (STAL). The analysis includes the delineation of a "STAL Area" in the southern portion of 4E in which albatross are likely to occur, and an alternative in the analysis is to not exempt vessels from the seabird deterrence regulations in the STAL area. After receiving public comment and the SSC report, the Council requested that SSC comments be incorporated into the draft EA/RIR/IRFA and then send the document out for public review. The Council is scheduled to take final action in June 2008. The EA/RIR/IRFA will be posted on the Council and the NMFS websites. Staff contact is Bill Wilson.

Scallop Management

The 2008 Scallop Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report was compiled by the Scallop Plan Team, which meets annually to review the status of stocks and to update the SAFE report. The SSC reviewed and approved the SAFE report and made a number of suggestions for inclusion in the document the following year. Management of scallop stocks is delegated to the State of Alaska under a Federally-approved FMP. The State manages scallops by region in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska. During the 2006/07 season, 8 of 9 registration areas were open for scallop fishing. Of these 8 areas only 5 had fishing effort occurring in them. Scallop harvests within these areas are limited by the Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) established by the State. Information on scallop stocks is provided by biennial surveys in two regions and by the statewide scallop observer program. New video survey technology is being utilized to provide additional information on scallop stocks. The scallop stocks in Alaska are neither overfished nor approaching an overfished condition. The 2008 Scallop SAFE report and the minutes from the Scallop Plan Team are available on our website. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Observer Program

The Council took final action on a regulatory amendment package to revise Federal regulations relevant to several administrative and procedural requirements applicable to the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program. The Council's preferred alternative on each of seven issues closely mirrors the Advisory Panel and Observer Advisory Committee's recommendations. In sum, the Council recommended removing several Federal regulations which are either not necessary or extremely difficult to enforce. The Council also took action to clarify that observer companies can provide observers and scientific data collectors for the purposes of specific research activities.

The Council's preferred alternative also changes the definition of a 'fishing day' as it applies to the fleets subject to 30% observer coverage requirements. The new definition would require that an observer be onboard during the entire 24-hour 'fishing day' period in order for it to count as a day of observer coverage, and the 24-hour period would be from noon to noon (as opposed to the current midnight to midnight definition). The revision is intended to improve observer data quality and reduce the amount of 'non-representative' fishing that occurs when an observer is onboard. In addition, the Council recommended a change to regulations that would require observer providers to submit cost data every third year to NMFS, as represented by copies of industry invoices. Access to these data would be limited to agency staff. The public review draft of the analysis is on the Council website.

The Council also recommended moving forward on three separate recommendations stemming from the March OAC meeting relative to an observer data request; sending a letter to NOAA HQ urging resolution of observer compensation issues; and convening the OAC in the future in order to explore whether some of the problems particular to the GOA fisheries could be resolved through regulatory measures as opposed to comprehensive observer program restructuring.

With regard to the longer-term restructuring issue, the Council approved a motion to task staff to work with ADF&G and IPHC to develop a discussion paper to evaluate and provide recommendations on possible modifications to the problem statement, issues, and alternatives in the observer restructuring analysis last reviewed by the Council in 2006. Review of this discussion paper would be scheduled for the December 2008 meeting. The complete Council motion is on the website. Staff contact is Nicole Kimball.

Council Meeting in Kodiak, June 2-10

Book your rooms now, because rumor has it that they are filling up fast! May we suggest calling the Kodiak Island Visitor's Bureau or visiting their website for help with accommodations: www.kodiak.org or calling them at 907-486-4782 or 800-789-4782. We will see you there!

Amendment 62/62

The Council review Amendments 62/62 at this meeting and affirmed its 2002 decision concerning this amendment package. Final action on Amendments 62/62 took place at two meetings. In June 2002, the Council took final action to revise obsolete or inconsistent inshore/offshore language in the BSAI and GOA Groundfish FMPs. In October 2002, the Council took final action to allow AFA stationary floating processors to move locations up to four times in the BSAI during a calendar year. Since that time, a combination of circumstances has resulted in the delay of bringing these amendments forward for NMFS' approval and implementation. Recognizing the changes in the pollock fishery and because other amendments have incorporated some of the proposed FMP changes, the Council thought it prudent to review the amendment package to affirm its 2002 decision. With the Council affirming their 2002 decision on this action, the amendment package will be updated and forward for NMFS' approval and implementation. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

GOA Sideboards for BSAI Crab Vessels

At this meeting the Council postponed initial review of GOA sideboards for BSAI crab vessels until June due to time limitations. This amendment package includes three proposed actions: 1) adjust the GOA Pacific cod sideboard exemption qualifications for non-AFA crab vessels, 2) exempt qualified non-AFA crab vessels from GOA pollock sideboards, and 3) exempt non-AFA crab vessels from GOA Pacific cod sideboard limits from November 1 to December 31 of each year. Despite the Council's postponement of this action, the SSC and AP did review the analysis and made several recommendations concerning the analysis and the proposed action. Staff will address these recommendations to the extent practicable in the initial review draft for the June meeting. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

GOA Other Species

The Council adopted an alternative to set an aggregate overfishing level (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) for the GOA 'other species' complex. Under the status quo, the Council sets only total allowable catch (TAC) for the 'other species' complex, using a formula in the GOA Groundfish FMP that allows the Council to set TAC at a level that accommodates incidental catch in the groundfish fisheries. As a result of the proposed action, the Council will receive annual stock assessments for the 'other species' complex, and will set TAC based on the SSC's recommended biological catch limits (OFL and ABC). This will mimic the procedure that is currently in place for the BSAI 'other species' complex. Pending Secretarial approval, this amendment to the GOA FMP is intended to be in place for the December 2009 catch specifications process. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

BSAI Crab Management

At its April 2008 meeting, the Council took up several issues related to the rationalization program for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fisheries, including work of its advisory committee, the potential revision to the 90/10 A share/B share split under the program, the economic data reporting program, active participation requirements for holders of captain/crew shares (C shares), amendments to the arbitration program, and the renewal of the cooling off provision and rights of first refusal for processing shares that are associated with the community of St. George.

The Council received a **report from its advisory committee** that outlined the recent work of the committee. In response, the Council retasked the committee to continue development of alternatives to address issues identified with four aspects of the program: underharvest of allocations in the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery, community interests under right of first refusal contracts, participation of long-term crew in the program, and emergency relief from regionalization landing requirements. In the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery, the Council suggested the consideration of options that would remove processor quota shares from either the entire fishery or only the western region, a use-it-or-lose-it provision for processor quota shares, and a reallocation of processor quota shares to address community interests. The Council included options to compensate processor quota share holders for any shares revoked. To address issues concerning the effectiveness of community rights of first refusal, the Council identified options that would renew all rights of first refusal, provide additional time to communities to exercise the right and perform, and develop a community loan program to assist in financing of share purchases using the rights. To address crew entry, the Council identified an option that would set aside a portion of any share transfer for purchase by active captains and crew. The Council also requested the committee to continue to work on development of provisions to address emergency relief from regionalization. The committee is scheduled to meet again on April 29th in Seattle.

The Council continued the development of its **purpose and need statement and alternatives to revise the 90/10 A share/B share split** under the program. The Council refined its alternatives adding substantial detail and options under the different proposed modifications to the program. The Council specifically identified two alternatives to the status quo. The first would remove processor quota shares from all fisheries, but could retain North and West regionalization in the fisheries to which those limitations apply. The second alternative would remove processor quota shares from all fisheries except the Bristol Bay red king crab and Bering Sea *C. opilio* fisheries. The A share/B share splits could be reduced in those fisheries. The motion includes a number of options defining mechanisms to revise the split, including the creation of new crew quota shares from either owner quota shares or processor quota shares. Options could increase the percentage of crew shares from the current 3 percent to as much as 33 percent of the harvest share pool and could impose limits on the number of pounds of crab that may be harvested by any vessel (including vessels fishing for a cooperative) in the Bristol Bay red king crab and Bering Sea *C. opilio* fisheries. Options are also included that would compensate processors for the removal of processor quota shares with harvester quota shares or through payments from a

loan program that would be funded with harvester cost recover fees.

In response to testimony and a motion from Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee, the Council passed a motion approving a suggested process for **review of data quality for data submitted under the crab economic data reporting (EDR)**. That process includes industry reviews of metadata describing the data and its quality and a report back to the Council on the output of that process. The Council also stated its intent that use of the data be postponed until this review process is completed.

The Council took action adopting a preferred alternative for **active participation requirements for the acquisition and use of C shares**. Under the preferred alternative, a person must meet active participation requirements to receive annual IFQ allocations and retain C share quota share holdings. Specifically, a C share holder who does not participate in fishing trip in a crab fishery for three consecutive crab seasons (or in the case of recipients of an initial allocation, in a fishery in or off Alaska for a total of 30 days for three consecutive crab seasons) would not receive annual IFQ allocation. If a person fails to meet one of those participation requirements for four consecutive years, all C share quota share holdings of the person would be revoked. The Council, however, included a transition period for persons who would be deprived of IFQ or QS under this action. Under this transition period, no IFQ would be withheld until 3 years after implementation of the amendment and no QS would be revoked until 5 years after the implementation of the amendment. The Council also included in its preferred alternative a provision that would allow persons who fished in the crab fisheries in 3 of the 5 seasons preceding implementation of the rationalization program to acquire C shares. Under the current rule, a person must be active in the crab fisheries in the 365 days prior to applying to acquire C shares.

The Council also adopted a preferred alternative to **modify certain aspects of the binding arbitration system**. The first modification would allow the arbitration organizations to agree to waive the requirement for market reports and non-binding price formulas in the event that a fishery is not likely to open. The second moves back the due date for the non-binding formula for the golden king crab fisheries to ensure that data from the most recent year are available to the analyst producing those reports. The third modification provides flexibility in timing and content of the market reports to allow arbitration organizations to ensure that those reports are useful to fishery participants and up to date. The Council also adopted a provision that would clarify that the arbitration organizations, arbitrators, market analysts, and third party data providers have the discretion to develop arbitration procedures and make decisions, provided those actions are not inconsistent with the regulations. This provision is intended to clarify the scope of authority of these administrators of the arbitration program.

The Council also reviewed an analysis of an action to **renew the cooling off period requirement and the rights of first refusal for all processing shares issued based on processing history in St. George**. The Council elected to delay any action on this issue until the October 2008 meeting. Staff contact is Mark Fina

Exempted Fishing Permits

The Council's SSC reviewed two experimental fishing permit (EFP) applications that have been submitted to NMFS. Due to time constraints, the Council was unable to receive the reports formally, but forwarded the SSC's comments to the agency. First, an application has been made to test the performance of a trawl salmon excluder device. The project continues development that was begun under other EFPs between 2004 and 2007, and experiments would occur between autumn 2008 and spring 2010. The EFP would exempt the applicant from fishery regulations regarding pollock total allowable catch, prohibited species catch limits and salmon savings area closures, and observer requirements. Secondly, an application for exploring electronic monitoring of discarded halibut in the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program was also reviewed. The project would occur in the summer of 2008, beginning May 1, and the EFP would exempt participating vessels from a portion of the observer coverage requirements.

Dinglebar VMS

The Council reviewed an initial draft of an analysis to exempt GOA fishermen from the requirement to transmit VMS while operating with dinglebar gear on board. The VMS requirement was put in place to enforce the GOA Coral Habitat Protection Areas, five small areas in the vicinity of Fairweather Ground and Cape Ommaney in Southeast Alaska, which are closed to fishing.

The Council released the document for public review, pending revisions to address several issues highlighted by the SSC, regarding the description of habitat and socioeconomic impacts. The Council made minor changes to the problem statement, and also revised the alternatives, retaining the alternative to exempt dinglebar fishermen from the VMS requirement, but eliminating an alternative to redefine 'mobile bottom contact gear' to exclude dinglebar gear. Final action is scheduled for June 2008; if the Council adopts the exemption, it is expected to be effective before the start of the 2009 dinglebar fishery. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Staff Tasking

During the staff tasking agenda item, the Council voted to initiate analysis of groundfish processing sideboards to provide community protections for central Aleutian Island communities. The analysis will examine options for groundfish sideboards on processing vessels that contributed opilio history to BSAI crab PSQ, and Amendment 80 catcher processors (CPs) acting as motherships. The Council also initiated analysis of a BSAI Crab FMP amendment to modify provisions addressing fees that may be assigned to the Crab Loan Program. The Council also directed staff to prepare a discussion paper on reporting and licensing requirements for fixed gear catcher processors (pot and hook-and-line CPs) participating in the BSAI parallel cod fishery. Lastly, the Council tasked staff to send in a comment letter relative to the proposed rule for Amendment 89, noting that the Councils intent at time of adoption was that a new amendment would be initiated to open the so-called 'wedge' area, together with gear modification requirements, at such a time when the gear modification testing was completed. In addition, this comment letter should include a suggestion by the Council that the review of the Etolin Strait area boundary, and the adoption of a Northern Bering Sea research plan (to test the impacts of bottom trawling on benthic habitat), both be scheduled for the June 2011 meeting.

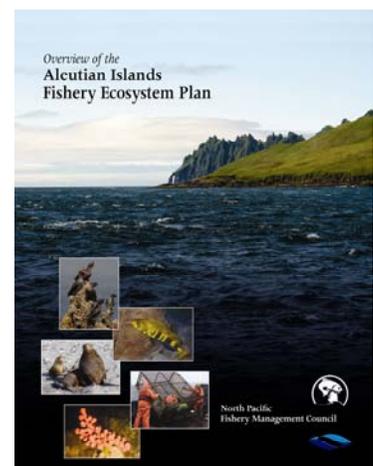
Electronic Fisheries Monitoring Workshop

The Council, NMFS, and the NPRB are co-hosting an Electronic Fisheries Monitoring Workshop on July 29 - 30 at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle. The goal of the workshop is to assess the current state of the art/science of video monitoring technology in fisheries, its applicability to research and management of the North Pacific fisheries, its future potential, and research and development needs. There is no charge for registration, but we ask that all participants register at <http://efmworkshop.nprb.org/start.jsf> by July 1. The agenda is provided on the registration website.

Odds and Ends

The Council office is paring down our hard copy mailing lists and beefing up our electronic distribution of agendas, newsletters, and other information. If you are still on our hardcopy mailing list and ALSO get the information you need electronically, please e-mail maria.shawback@noaa.gov so we can take your name off our mailing list and in the process save postage AND paper!

Please also e-mail or call our office if you would like a copy of the Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan. There are a few left and we'd be happy to send you one. The plan is also available on the Council's web site. Contact Maria.Shawback@noaa.gov for a copy.



Salmon Bycatch EIS

The Council reviewed preliminary analyses and information for the forthcoming Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch Measures EIS and made modifications to the problem statement and the suite of alternatives. The major changes to the alternatives for analysis are the following:

- 1- Management measures for Chinook and non-Chinook (chum) under consideration were bifurcated to separate analyses. The Chinook analysis will proceed on the current timeline for initial review in June while the non-Chinook analysis will be discussed in October. Depending upon the measures under consideration for both species, it is possible that implementation measures resulting from both analyses proceed on similar time frames.
- 2- Hard caps for Chinook are seasonally allocated by a range of options with a suboption to rollover available salmon from A to B season within a management year.
- 3- Triggered closures for Chinook are being considered as large-scale closures by season. These closures are based upon areas that comprised 90% of the bycatch on average over the period 2000-2007. One large area is considered in the A season and three separate areas (triggered simultaneously) in the B season.
- 4- Two options are being considered for the management of the area closures, overall management by NMFS or an option for management of the closures within the Intercooperative Agreement (ICA). In either case, the areas are triggered by a cap level selected by the Council.
- 5- No fixed closure options are being considered at this time for either salmon species.
- 6- For the non-Chinook salmon analysis, alternatives under consideration include hard caps and triggered closures.

Additional modifications to the alternatives include the following: an additional mid-point sector allocation option, additional transfer provisions by sector and cooperative, specific methodology for rolling available salmon to other sectors still fishing, removal of the option to modify the PSC accounting period and removal of the area-closure exemption. The Council modified the problem statement for the analysis. The full Council motion, areas under consideration, problem statement and preliminary analyses as presented in April are available on our website. Initial review is scheduled for June 2008. The draft document for initial review will be available on the Council website in late May. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Ecosystem Committee

The Ecosystem Committee meeting was postponed until May 20th. The Council did, however, receive a copy of the NOAA Alaska Region Collaboration Team's NOAA Integrated Services Plan. The plan is currently out for public review, and is available for download. Staff contact is Diana Evans. <http://www.arh.noaa.gov/docs/ARCTicISpv2publicreview.pdf>.

SSL Recovery Plan

The Council received a briefing from the Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, on the Final Revised Steller Sea Lion Recovery Plan. In development since the early 2000s, the Final Recovery Plan provides the Agency with a blueprint for "recovering" the endangered western SSL and the threatened eastern SSL. The Council expressed several lingering concerns with the Final Recovery Plan, and requested that a letter be sent to NMFS requesting the Agency to give a report to the Council on how it intends to implement the Recovery Plan's high priority recovery actions, particularly monitoring the growth of the SSL population in the Russian subarea and implementing an adaptive management program to evaluate fishery conservation measures. The Council also recommended that NMFS initiate the process for delisting the eastern SSL since this stock appears to have met the criteria required for delisting. The Council also requested that NMFS' marine mammal research permitting office rescind the prohibition on conducting research on adult female SSLs as soon as possible, since information on female SSL productivity, pup production and natality trends are crucial missing pieces of information needed to better understand SSL population health in the North Pacific and to recover the western SSL. The letter to NMFS will be posted on the Council's web site. Staff contact is Bill Wilson.

SSL Mitigation Committee Report

The Council's Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee (SSLMC) has been working for more than two years to develop a package of recommendations for changes in SSL protection measures in the GOA and BSAI pollock, Pacific cod, and Atka mackerel fisheries. According to the schedule for implementation of these proposed changes, the Council must select a preliminary preferred alternative in June 2008 so that preparation of an EIS can be finalized in early 2009 and then rulemaking can be completed before the end of 2009. The Council's schedule calls for the new measures to be in place for the 2010 fishing year. SSLMC Chairman Larry Cotter reported to the Council that the Committee intends to remain on schedule to provide draft recommendations by the Council's June 2008 meeting. However, the SSLMC has reviewed the Final Revised SSL Recovery Plan, and reported to the Council that it could not determine from the Recovery Plan a sufficiently clear perspective on what kinds of changes in SSL protection measures might be possible. The SSLMC anticipates that this information and the Agency's view of SSL interactions with the current fisheries will not be available until the draft *status quo* BiOp is released for public review in May 2008, and therefore the SSLMC has decided to delay further consideration of proposals until the BiOp is available. The SSLMC will meet in Seward on May 12-16, 2008 to review the BiOp and then prepare a package of recommendations. Staff contact is Bill Wilson.

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 4/12/08

June 2, 2008 Kodiak, AK	September 29, 2008 Sheraton Hotel , Anchorage, AK	December 8, 2008 Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK
<p>SSLMC Report and Recommendations SSL dEIS: Select Prelim. Preferred Alternative SSL draft status quo BiOp: Review and Comment Permit Fees: Discussion Paper GOA Rockfish Pilot Program Review: Report CGOA Rockfish EFP, Phase 1: Receive Report GOA fixed gear LLP recency: Initial Review GOA P cod sector split: Initial Review</p> <p>GOA sideboards for BSAI crab vessels: Initial Review</p> <p>GOA sideboards re GOA rockfish: Initial Review (T) GOA sideboards for AFA CVs: Initial Review</p> <p>BSAI Crab Issues: 90/10 analysis update/Committee Rpt BSAI Crab Loan Program Fees: Initial Review/Final Action</p> <p>Am 80 sector cooperative criteria: Discussion paper</p> <p>Halibut Subsistence Rural Definition: Initial/Final Action</p> <p>Halibut Trawl Excluder EFP results: Report</p> <p>BSAI Salmon Bycatch EIS: Initial Review GOA Crab and Salmon Bycatch: Discussion paper</p> <p>Arctic FMP: Preliminary Review (Council only)(T) BS Habitat Conservation Gear Mods: Progress Report (T) VMS Exemption for Dinglebar Gear: Final Action</p> <p>4E Seabird Avoidance Measures: Final Action BSAI Crab OFL: Plan Team Report; Prelim SAFE report Other Species Mgmt: Committee Report; Action as nec. Research Priorities: Review and Adopt PSEIS Priorities: Review workplan Outreach/Stakeholder Participation: Report</p>	<p>Permit Fees: Initial Review (T)</p> <p>GOA fixed gear LLP recency: Final Action GOA P cod sector split: Final Action BSAI fixed gear parallel fisheries: Discussion Paper GOA sideboards for BSAI crab vessels: Final Action GOA sideboards re Am 80 PSC: Initial Review (T) GOA sideboards re GOA rockfish: Final Action (T) GOA sideboards for AFA CVs: Final Action (T) AI Processor Sideboards: Initial Review (T)</p> <p>BSAI Crab 90/10 Amendment: Prelim. Review BSAI Crab 3-year review: Receive Report BSAI Crab St. George Protection: Final Action</p> <p>P. Cod area split (BS/AI): Update & Action as necessary</p> <p>Charter Halibut Catch Sharing Plan: Final Action</p> <p>CDQ Program: Update on Oversight Regulations</p> <p>BSAI Salmon Bycatch EIS: Action as necessary</p> <p>Arctic FMP: Initial Review</p> <p>BSAI Crab SAFE: Review and Approve</p> <p>Groundfish Specifications: Initial Action</p>	<p>Permit Fees: Final Action (T)</p> <p>GOA sideboards re Am 80 PSC: Final Action (T)</p> <p>AI Processor Sideboards: Final Action (T)</p> <p>BSAI Crab 90/10 Amendment: Initial Review</p> <p>CDQ Program: Action as necessary</p> <p>BSAI Salmon Bycatch EIS: Final Action</p> <p>Arctic FMP: Final Action</p> <p>Groundfish Specifications: Final Action</p>

AI - Aleutian Islands
 GOA - Gulf of Alaska
 SSL - Steller Sea Lion
 BOF - Board of Fisheries
 FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan
 CDQ - Community Development Quota
 VMS - Vessel Monitoring System
 NOI - Notice of Intent
 (T) Tentatively scheduled

TAC - Total Allowable Catch
 BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
 IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
 GHl - Guideline Harvest Level
 EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
 LLP - License Limitation Program
 SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation
 PSC - Prohibited Species Catch
 HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern

Future Meeting Dates and Locations
 June 2- , 2008 in Kodiak
 September 29- , 2008 in Anchorage
 December 8- , 2008 in Anchorage
 February 2 - , 2009 in Seattle
 March 30 - , 2009 in Anchorage
 June 1- , 2009 in Dutch Harbor
 September 30- , 2009 in Anchorage
 December 7- , 2008 in Anchorage



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 Permit #69

NPFMC Tentative Meeting Dates for 2008-2009*

	February Week of/ Location	April Week of/ Location	June Week of/ Location	October Week of/ Location	December Week of/ Location
2008	4/Seattle Marriott Renaissance	March 31/ Anchorage Hilton	2/Kodiak	September 29/ Anchorage Sheraton	8/Anchorage Hilton
2009	2/Seattle	March 30/ Anchorage Hilton	June 1/Dutch Harbor	September 30/Anchorage Hilton (note: AP and SSC have a WEDNESDAY start, Council starts on Friday.)	7/Anchorage Hilton

*Meeting dates subject to change depending on availability of meeting space. Any changes will be published in the Council's newsletter.