



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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B1 Executive Director's Report

April 2023

Action Memo

Dave Hanson's Last Meeting

Council member Dr. Dave Hanson is stepping down from his North Pacific Council seat (see [attached](#) letter). Dr. Hanson has been a Council member since April 1988, participating as the designee for the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, where he has held the position of Deputy Director for many years. Prior to this position, Dr. Hanson served as Chief of Fisheries for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Dr. Hanson holds a Ph.D. in fisheries from the University of Idaho. Dave also serves as the PSMFC member on the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

As a North Pacific Council member, Dave served as parliamentarian and chaired several important Council committees including the Halibut Charter Committee and two Crab Bycatch Committees. Dr. Hanson holds the record for the longest serving North Pacific Council member ever (35 years)! Dave, on behalf of the Council and staff, I say thank you for your long service to the Council, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavours!

Jon McCracken Retiring

Council staff Economist Mr. Jon McCracken will be retiring at the end of April, so this is his last meeting. Jon started his career with the Council in May 1993 as an economic analyst, after completing his Masters Degree in Resource Economics at University of Alaska Fairbanks where he developed an econometric model of international markets for snow crab. He left the Council staff in 1995 to gain more experience in the field, working for several agencies and firms including the Bureau of Economic Analysis in Washington D.C., the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, ResourcEcon in Anchorage, Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, and the McDowell Group. He returned to work for the Council in January 2002, where he found his niche and developed into a knowledgeable and productive Economist on the Council staff. Jon is known for his expertise with limited access privilege programs, cooperatives, allocations and sideboards, MRA adjustments, LAPP programs and allocation reviews. Staff will provide a short presentation celebrating Jon and his career with the Council. Best wishes and fair winds in your retirement Jon!

Plan Team Nomination

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has nominated **Mr. Tyler Jackson** for appointment to the Council's BSAI Crab Plan Team. Mr. Jackson is a Biometrician within the Commercial Fisheries Division and an author for the Pribilof Islands golden king crab and Aleutian Islands golden king crab stock assessments. Mr. Jackson is also the current co-chair of the Scallop Plan Team. The SSC will review the nomination and provide a recommendation on the appointment at this meeting.

IFQ Report to the Fleet

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission AKFIN and NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region staff have published the 2023 IFQ Report to the Fleet, which is attached under the B1 agenda item. The revised format of the report includes an update on the implementation of rules affecting the IFQ program that became effective in 2022 and a series of data summary reports that describe the fishery. The included data summaries generally cover 2013 through 2022, reflecting the years since the Observer Program was restructured to its current form. NMFS, AKFIN, and Council staff are available during the Council meeting to address any questions on the contents of the 2023 Report and to receive feedback on possible inclusions or modifications for future reports.

Streamlining Allocation and Program Reviews

I just wanted to alert you that under the Staff Tasking Agenda item (E-1), staff will provide a short presentation on how we intend to address program and allocation reviews in the future.

Draft National Seafood Policy Comment Letter

You will receive a report on the draft National Seafood Policy under Agenda Item B-2. I just wanted to note here that the Council submitted a comment letter prior to the March 31 comment deadline. The letter is attached.

New Publications

Ms. Sarah Rheinsmith completed a **summary of BSAI Crab FMP Amendments** that was initiated several years ago by Doug Duncan (NMFS). This summary, which is attached and posted on our website, provides a full history of amendments for the Crab FMP. This builds upon the amendment summaries that staff previously prepared for GOA Groundfish and BSAI Groundfish FMPs.

Mr. Clay McKean has prepared Area Summaries of the **conservation and spatial management areas in the North Pacific EEZ**. This glossy brochure focuses on the North Pacific areas identified as conservation areas by the CCC Subcommittee on Area-based Management in the U.S., as well as other spatial management areas in the EEZ. The brochure will be very useful to the Council in understanding conservation values of existing areas relative to the implementation of the America the Beautiful initiative. The Area Summaries report is attached and posted on our website. Mr. McKean will be available to provide a short overview of the Area Summaries report. Note that Clay came aboard last August as our Alaska Sea Grant fellow, and he was recently hired as a Fishery Biologist II with ADF&G based in Anchorage.

The final report from the November 2022 **Council Member Ongoing Development** training is attached on the eAgenda. The meeting focused on Ecosystem-based Fishery Management, with a skills focus on making effective motions, and was attended by Bill Tweit, Rachel Baker, Andy Mezirow, and Anne Vanderhoeven.

In December 2022, the Council received a **briefing from the North Pacific Research Board on the Arctic Integrated Ecosystem Research Program (IERP)**, and the first in a series of short videos about the research process. The Council watched the film on how communities played a role in Arctic research. The remaining videos in the film have now been published, and Council members might be interested particularly to watch the video discussing [results from the IERP](#).

Update on Harassment Training and Cultural Awareness Training

I am pleased to report that 94% (47 of 50 people, including Council members, AP members, and staff) who were invited to take the Harassment Training module completed the training prior to the deadline.

Members of the AP and SSC will receive one-day in-person cultural awareness training from First Alaskans Institute prior to the start of this meeting.

Council Written Comment Policy

At every meeting, staff reports publicly to the Council on any comments removed from the commenting system, and the rationale for removal, so that we can monitor and revise the process as needed to address unanticipated events. The April meeting comment period was open for 18 days, from April 17 to 5pm on April 3. We also extended the comment period through Monday April 3, to provide additional time to comment after all materials were posted.

Recent Staff and Council Member Activities

- Ms. Maria Davis attended the Council Coordination Committee Communications Group Feb 15-17 hosted by the Gulf Council in Clearwater Florida. The meeting was attended by communication professionals from each Council who presented best practices on social media, public comment, outreach, and engagement along with successes and challenges in each area. The group will provide recommendations and a summary for the next CCC meeting in May.
- Dr. Kate Haapala and I participated in a Tribal Consultation between Tribes and Tribal Consortia from Western Alaska and the National Marine Fisheries Service on February 15.
- Ms. Anna Henry and Mr. Josh Keaton (NMFS AKR) gave a presentation on "Electronic Monitoring in North Pacific Fisheries" on March 10 at the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting.
- Ms. Sara Cleaver gave a presentation on the North Pacific Council process at ComFish in Kodiak on March 17.
- Dr. Diana Stram, Dr. Haapala, and Ms. Marrinan attended and made presentations at several DOI Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (RAC) meetings: Eastern Interior RAC March 1, Bristol Bay RAC March 8, and Seward RAC March 23.
- Ms. Nicole Watson gave a presentation at the AFS Alaska Chapter meeting March 27–31 in Fairbanks.
- Dr. Stram participated on the NPRB Science Panel meeting March 28-30.

Committee Meetings

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

- The Salmon Bycatch Committee met March 20-21 in Anchorage to develop recommendations on P&N and alternatives for analysis.
- The LKTKS Taskforce met March 2-3 to review and finalize onramp recommendations and review and finalize a LKTKS Policy Statement.
- The Bering Sea Climate Change Taskforce met March 1-2 to review of SSC comments on Climate Readiness Synthesis and begin planning for a Climate Scenario Planning workshop.
- The Scallop Plan Team met on March 6 to prepare the SAFE report and recommend harvest specifications.

- The PNCIAC met on March 29 to discuss recommendations for the upcoming Crab Rationalization Program Review.

Other Upcoming Events

NMFS is hosting a **Tribal Engagement Session** at the Council offices and virtually on Monday April 3 from 4-6 pm. A flyer is posted to B-2 on the Council's eAgenda.

The **Ecosystem Committee** is meeting on Tuesday, April 4, from 8:30am-4:30pm in the Denali Room.

The **Enforcement Committee** is meeting on Tuesday, April 4, from 1-4 pm at NPFMC office.

The BSAI pollock cooperatives are holding a **public informational session on the pollock fishery salmon avoidance plans** on Wednesday, April 5th from 5:30pm-7:00pm in the Aspen Room. A flyer for this event is attached.

The **Executive/Finance Committee** will meet in Executive Session on Wednesday April 5th from 1:00-4:30 pm in the Council office to review potential changes to the SOPP, review status of Council finances, complete a performance evaluation for the Executive Director, and discuss other administrative matters.

On Thursday April 6, from 5:30-7:30, in the Aleutian Room, NOAA will host a roundtable to share information about the **nominations for the Alaġum Kanuuġ (Heart of the Ocean) National Marine Sanctuary in the Pribilof Islands**. The roundtable is an opportunity for all to learn about the nominations, NOAA's process for nominating and designating national marine sanctuaries, and for attendees to share their perspectives and ask questions regarding the process and the nominations. A flyer for this event is attached.

On Friday April 7, Council staff will be available during lunch from 12-1:00 pm in the back of the Council meeting room to answer **questions on Council process**. This will be an informal opportunity for stakeholders unfamiliar with the council process to ask questions on how it works, and how to be effective in providing input into the process.