
SYNTHESIS OF WRITTEN B REPORTS

FEBRUARY 2022



B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

New Council Staff - Ms. Sarah Rheinsmith has joined the staff as a fishery analyst. She has an MS in Marine Biology from the University of North Carolina. She will be the coordinator of Crab and Scallop Plan Teams, take the staff lead on EFH, and work on analyses.



AP/SSC Election of Officers –

- **SSC:** Drs. Dressel/Meuter co-chairs, Whitman vice-chair
- **AP:** Drobnica chair, Christiansen/Upton vice-chairs

Plan Team Nomination – NPRB has nominated Ms. Danielle Dickson to the Bering Sea FEP team to replace Dr. Mellish.

Written Comment Policy – Comment period open for 15 days; no comments were removed.



B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

North Pacific Right Whale Flyer – Staff collaborated with NMFS to develop a flyer on Right Whales for distribution to commercial fishing vessels; how to identify these whales, report sightings, and best practices for avoidance.

Yukon Salmon Summit – The Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is hosting an upcoming event, “Yukon Salmon Summit: Be Stewards of Our Salmon for Generations” on **Feb 28-March 2** (hybrid format). TCC is looking to include all voices on the Yukon, including fishing families, scientists, and policy makers. If you are interested in attending, there is an RSVP link in the B-1 memo.



B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DOI Request for Comments on America the Beautiful (the 30 x 30 initiative) Atlas

- Atlas will be the tool to track conservation and restoration of U.S. lands and waters
- Written comments have been requested regarding the data used, the level of conservation provided, and attributes of each conservation area to be included in the Atlas.
- Comments are due March 7
- Staff comments for possible use in comment letter are attached to B-1.

A Federal Advisory Committee will be established to provide NOAA with advice on area-based management



B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

New Proposal for National Marine Sanctuary: Alaġum Kanuux̄

- Proposal is being evaluated NMS staff over the next couple of months to determine if it meets requirements for inclusion in the inventory of successful nominations
- 100 nm around St. Paul and St. George Islands.
- Would establish a co-management governance framework between the tribal governments of St. Paul and St. George and the U.S. government with equitable consensus-driven management decision-making authority



B1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

New Legislation - Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act (S. 3429)

- Senators Sullivan and Murkowski have introduced a bill to form an Alaska Salmon Research Task Force to identify knowledge & research gaps and create a coordinated research strategy.
 - The task force (13-19 members) would be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce and would include one member of the NPFMC.

New Legislation - Salmon FISH Act (H.R. 6491)

- Rep. Huffman introduced bill to require identification of salmon conservation areas and salmon strongholds.

ORAL REPORT - Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program projects

- Ms. Jamie Goen and Mr. Scott Goodman will provide an oral report on results of the research to examine gear modifications to cod and halibut pots to reduce crab bycatch.



B2 NMFS MANAGEMENT REPORT

TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Progress on rulemaking and implementations
- Status of various petitions: Emergency rulemaking requests for salmon bycatch and red king crab savings area; transition to ropeless fishing for pot gear nationwide, potential ESA status listing for Sunflower sea stars, zero takes of Cook Inlet beluga whales.
- Cost recovery fee modifications and cost recovery reports for Am 80, AFA, CDQ, IFQ, Rockfish, and Crab
- Updates on Aquaculture Opportunity Areas, Tribal consultation, and staff changes
- Inseason management report



ORAL REPORT from Dr. Bob Foy (AFSC)



B3 NOAA GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Designated officials and notice of recusals posted
- Briefing Schedule set on litigation challenging Salmon FMP Amendment 14



B4 ADF&G REPORT

TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Status of State fisheries:
 - Al Golden King Crab
 - EBS Tanner Crab and snow crab
 - Statewide Scallops
 - Pacific cod
- BOF meeting updates and proposals of interest



B5 USCG REPORT – SEP-NOV 2021

TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- Summary of enforcement activities at U.S. EEZ boundaries, IUU and the high seas enforcement, and for critical habitat areas
- Vessel boarding statistics, halibut and sablefish enforcement, forward operating locations summary, crab fisheries boardings
- Vessel safety / search and rescue cases
- USCG resource summary



ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

LCDR John Suckow - Operation North Pacific Guard 2021
(counter-IUU fishing in the North Pacific)

LCDR Jedediah Raskie - Foreign Military Activity in the
Bering Sea and Arctic.



B6 USFWS REPORT

No new Updates



B7 IPHC REPORT

Oral Report from IPHC Executive Director Dr. David Wilson

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC



HALIBUT COMMISSION

