



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

June 6, 2016

## Agenda B-2: NMFS Management Report

### Status of Actions Report online

A status of Actions report is provided in **Attachment 1** and is updated daily at:  
<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/reports/amendments.pdf>

### Progress on Rulemaking

Highlights on progress since the April 2016 meeting include:

- [Final rule for Amendment 111 to the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands \(BSAI\) Fishery Management Plan \(FMP\)](#) – Revise Halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limits in the BSAI groundfish fisheries.  
**Effective: May 27, 2016**
- [Final Rule for Amendment 109 to the BSAI FMP](#) – Establish Community Development Quota (CDQ) Small Vessel Groundfish Fishery.  
**Effective: June 3, 2016**
- [Final Rule to Provide a Western Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab Full Offload Delivery Exemption.](#)  
**Effective: April 26, 2016**
- [Final Rule to Change Cost Recovery Pay Submittal Requirements.](#)  
**Effective: May 23, 2016**
- [Notice of Availability](#) for Amendment 103 to the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) FMP – Authorize reapportionment of salmon PSC limits in the GOA trawl fisheries.  
**Notice of Availability Comment Period Ends: July, 25, 2016**



### CQE Non-profit Status

NMFS recently determined that four community quota entities (CQEs) holding charter halibut permits are no longer active non-profit entities under State of Alaska law. The State dissolved the CQEs because they had not submitted reports that are required to maintain non-profit status. Under NMFS regulations, a CQE must be an active non-profit entity to hold charter halibut permits.

NMFS notified each affected CQE that it will have a period of 60 days (until late June 2016) to demonstrate to NMFS that it is an active non-profit entity with the State. If a CQE does not meet this requirement, NMFS would issue a Notice of Permit Revocation for the charter halibut permits currently issued to the CQE. The CQE would have the opportunity to appeal the decision to the NMFS National Appeals Office. Under this process, NMFS would not revoke permits before September 2016.

The affected CQEs have two options to demonstrate that they are an active non-profit entity. If the CQE community chooses to continue to be represented by the same CQE, the representatives of that CQE can apply to the State of Alaska for reinstatement of its active non-profit status. If the affected community chooses to identify another entity as a CQE, community representatives must submit a CQE application for the new entity and complete the NMFS approval process specified in regulations at 50 CFR 679.42(1)(3).

Following receipt of the letters from NMFS, one CQE reinstated its non-profit status and one CQE has stated its intent to do so. NMFS will update the Council with information on the status of the remaining CQEs as information becomes available.

### Salmon FMP

On May 6, 2016, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) sent a letter requesting that NMFS review the Council's Salmon FMP and the authority delegated to the State of Alaska for consistency with applicable Federal law. Under the Salmon FMP, the State manages the portion of the Southeast Alaska troll fishery that occurs in Federal waters. CRITFC is concerned because the 2015 Southeast Alaska troll fishery exceeded the pre-season Chinook salmon abundance index set under the Pacific Salmon Treaty. CRITFC requests that inseason management measures be implemented for the 2016 troll fishery to ensure that the Alaska salmon fisheries do not exceed the 2016 pre-season Chinook salmon abundance index. NMFS Alaska Region is working with the NMFS West Coast Region to respond to CRITFC's letter.

### Seabird Working Group & Outreach Update

NMFS has formed a Seabird Working Group in compliance with the USFWS 2015 Biological Opinion on the effects of the GOA and BSAI Groundfish Fisheries on short-tailed albatross. NMFS requested participation on the Seabird Working Group from USFWS, AFSC, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Oregon Department of Fish & Game, and Washington Department of Fish & Game. Representatives are expected to be named by June 23, 2016. Thus far, participants have been named for the State of Alaska (Kelly Nesvacil) and USFWS (Erin Knoll).

NMFS will contact the participants the last week of June to schedule an introductory meeting. The goal of the working group is to review available information for mitigating effects of the groundfish and halibut fisheries on short-tailed albatross and other seabirds. NMFS will keep the Council apprised of the working group's activities and any resulting recommendations for methods to reduce seabird bycatch. Any changes to seabird avoidance regulations are expected to follow the standard Council process.

NMFS has also been updating our seabird regulation handouts. The goal of these handouts is to provide a quick reference for the streamer line requirements on different types of fishing vessels. We plan to make these available at NOAA Enforcement offices and on the Alaska Region's Web site later this summer.

### 2016 Halibut Decksorting Exempted Fishing Permit

On May 6, 2016 NMFS issued an exempted fishing permit (EFP) to deck sort halibut on vessels participating in Amendment 80, trawl limited access, and CDQ groundfish fisheries in the BSAI through April, 2017. As of June 3, 2016, NMFS had received data sheets from seven vessels indicating their intent to participate in the EFP, two of these vessels had commenced EFP fishing and three others were planning to begin imminently. We anticipate participation from additional vessels throughout the year. NMFS staff and the permit holders are cooperating to resolve any operational issues that emerge as vessels embark on their first trips under the EFP. To date, all issues have been successfully resolved.

### New Staff

I am happy to announce that Bridget Mansfield has rejoined Sustainable Fisheries as fishery management specialist in our Ecosystem Branch (Brandee's Branch). Bridget brings an impressive suite of experience to our fishery management specialist position with over 20 years' experience working as a resource manager for NMFS. Bridget worked as a foreign fisheries observer in the north Pacific, and prepared fishery stock assessments and conducted marine mammal surveys in the Northeast Region. Bridget worked for Protected Resources Divisions in Alaska and Florida where she implemented key provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Bridget has worked for the Alaska Region since 1999. Bridget began in the Sustainable Fisheries Division working on regulatory packages for the North Pacific Observer Program. In 2003, Bridget transferred to Protected Resources where she led the Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program for 10 years and served as one of the Region's leading experts in implementing the MMPA. Bridget will continue to focus on marine mammal and fishery interactions. Welcome back Bridget.

We have also hired Megan Mackey to join our Ecosystem Branch. Megan brings a wealth of experience in fisheries policy and an educational background that includes a B.A. in Biology from Ripon College and a J.D. from Lewis and Clark Law School with an emphasis on environmental and natural resources law. In her most recent position, Megan served as the Fisheries Program Manager for Ecotrust in Portland, Oregon where she works to advance opportunities for community stewardship of natural resources and increase the long-term sustainability of marine ecosystems. Megan has also worked as a policy advisor to the Yukon

River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council and served as the Director of the Regional Marine Conservation Project. Megan served as the Vice Chair of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee from 2008 through 2014. Megan will work on fishery management plan and regulatory amendments, Endangered Species Act consultations, and will assist in preparing NEPA analyses. Megan will be joining us in early summer and we look forward to introducing her to all of you.

We have just completed the interview process for a position as a fishery management specialist in our Catch Accounting and Data Quality Branch (Jennifer's Branch). This position would fill needs in at-sea scale certification and eLandings support. We look forward to announcing the outcome of that recruitment process in the coming weeks.

## Status of Actions

(Changes since April 2016 Council meeting in **red highlight**)

B2 NMFS Report  
June 2016

FMP Amendment Status	Lead Council, SF, and GCAK Staff	Date of Council Final Action	Start Regional Review	Received by GCAK	Transmittal Date of Action to NMFS HQ for Review	Proposed FMP Amendment Notice of Availability Published in <i>Federal Register</i>	Proposed Rule Published in <i>Federal Register</i>	Final Rule or Notice of Approval Published in <i>Federal Register</i>
Amendment 101 (GOA) Allow pot longline gear in GOA sablefish IFQ Fishery	Cunningham Murphy Meyer	April 2015	<b>PR: 5/25/16</b>	<b>PR: 6/2/16</b>				
Amendment 103 (GOA) Reapportionment of Chinook salmon PSC limits in GOA trawl fisheries <b>Decision Date: Aug. 24, 2016</b>	Cunningham Hartman Schane	December 2015	PR: 4/1/16	<b>PR: 4/5/16</b>	<b>PR: 5/20/16</b>	<b>May 26, 2016 81 FR 33456 EOC: 7/25/16</b>		
Amendment 109 (BSAI) - CDQ Small Vessel Groundfish Fishery <b>Approved: April 16, 2016</b>	Marrinan Bibb Smoker	February 2015	PR: 08/11/16 FR: 3/22/16	PR: 08/21/15 FR: 3/24/16	PR: 1/12/16 <b>FR: 4/12/16</b>	Jan 21, 2016 81 FR 3374 EOC: 3/21/16	Feb 8, 2016 81 FR 6489 EOC: 3/09/16	<b>May 4, 2016 81 FR 26738 Effective: 6/3/16</b>
Amendment 110 (BSAI) Salmon prohibited species catch (PSC) management in the Bering Sea pollock fishery <b>Approved: March 30, 2016</b>	Harrington Stram Schane	April 2015	PR: 09/18/15 FR: 3/31/16	PR: 09/28/15 <b>FR: 4/4/16</b>	PR: 1/04/16 <b>FR: 5/13/16</b>	Jan 8, 2016 81 FR 897 EOC: 03/08/16	Feb 3, 2016 81 FR 5681 EOC: 3/4/16	
Amendment 111 (BSAI) Revise halibut PSC limits <b>Approved: January 20, 2016</b>	Evans McKeen Lepore	June 2015	PR: 8/28/15 FR: 2/29/16	PR: 8/28/15 FR: 2/29/16	PR: 10/23/15 <b>FR: 4/6/16</b>	Oct 29, 2015 80 FR 66486 EOC: 12/28/15	Nov 16, 2015 80 FR 71650 EOC: 12/16/15	<b>Apr 27, 2016 81 FR 24714 Effective: 5/27/16</b>
Amendment 113 (BSAI) Aleutian Islands Pacific cod shoreplant delivery requirements.	McCracken Scheurer Smoker	October 2015	PR: 3/24/16	<b>PR: 4/4/16</b>				

<b>Regulatory Amendment Status</b>	<b>Lead Council and SF Staff</b>	<b>Date of Council Final Action</b>	<b>Start Regional Review</b>	<b>Received by GCAK</b>	<b>Transmittal Date of Action to NMFS HQ for Review</b>	<b>Proposed Rule Published in <i>Federal Register</i></b>	<b>Final Rule Published in <i>Federal Register</i></b>
Changes to authorized cost recovery fee payments (Halibut & Sablefish, and Crab IFQ)	Kent Lepore	NMFS initiated October 2015	PR: 10/28/15 FR: 2/17/16	PR: 10/28/15 FR: 2/17/16	PR: 12/11/15 <b>FR: 4/7/16</b>	Dec 31, 2015 80 FR 81798 EOC: 02/01/16	<b>Apr 22, 2016</b> <b>81 FR 23645</b> <b>Effective: 5/23/16</b>
Western Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab Full Offload Delivery Exemption	Marrinan Kent Sullivan	October 2015	PR: 1/05/16 FR: 3/28/16	PR: 1/06/16 FR: 3/29/16	PR: 2/2/16 <b>FR: 4/8/16</b>	PR: 2/23/16 81 FR 8886 EOC: 3/24/16	<b>Apr 26, 2016</b> <b>81 FR 24511</b> <b>Effective: 4/26/16</b>
Voluntary full observer coverage for BSAI trawl vessels	Cunningham Miller Meyer	February 2016	<b>PR: 4/26/16</b>	<b>PR: 4/26/16</b>			
Revisions to Landings requirements	Kent Robinson Meyer	NMFS initiated February 2016	<b>PR: 5/25/16</b>	<b>PR: 5/26/16</b>			

## Inseason Management Report

Catch during 2016 is through May 28, 2016 and is compared to catch during 2015 through May 30, 2015. All catch amounts are in metric tons. Additional information from daily catch reports and information bulletins are available at: <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-catch-landings>

### Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

#### Bering Sea Pollock

NMFS reallocated 1,900 mt of CDQ and 5,000 mt of Aleut Corporation pollock TAC from the Aleutian Islands to the CDQ and non-CDQ Bering Sea TACs. All sectors caught their A season allocations. The B season opens at noon, A.l.t., June 10, 2016.

Bering Sea	2016 annual allocation	2016 catch	Percent taken
Inshore	581,379	230,598	40%
C/P	465,104	183,852	40%
Mothership	116,276	46,452	40%
CDQ	135,900	54,229	40%
Total	1,298,659	515,131	40%

#### Salmon in the Bering Sea Pollock Fisheries

Species	Chinook				Non-Chinook			
	2016		2015		2016		2015	
Amount	#	Rate <sup>1</sup>	#	Rate <sup>1</sup>	#	Rate <sup>1</sup>	#	Rate <sup>1</sup>
CDQ	1,245	2.30%	781	1.47%	415	0.77%	340	0.64%
Non-CDQ	15,572	3.02%	11,517	2.56%	3,351	0.65%	4,327	0.96%
Total	16,817	2.95%	12,298	2.45%	3,766	0.66%	4,667	0.93%

<sup>1</sup>Rate is number of salmon per metric tons of groundfish.

#### Aleutian Islands Pacific cod

NMFS closed directed fishing for the non-CDQ allocation of Pacific cod on March 22.

**BSAI Pacific cod by Sector**

BSAI Sector	2016				2015			
	A season allocation	Catch May 28	A season closed	# of vessels May 31	A season allocation	Catch May 28	A season closed	# of vessels May 31
CDQ	n/a	16,786	n/a	33	n/a	13,876	n/a	35
Hook-and-line C/P	55,581	54,491	n/a	29	55,116	53,501	n/a	28
Pot C/P	1,712	1,724	Jan 29	4	1,698	1,959	Feb 4	4
Pot CV >= 60 ft	9,587	9,073	Jun 10	16	9,507	9,146	Jun 10	15
Hook-and-line/Pot CVs < 60 ft <sup>1</sup>	6,226	6,163	Feb 5	19	6,138	6,890	Feb 2	20
Jig <sup>1</sup>	136	2	n/a	<3	171	1	n/a	< 3
Trawl CV	42,192	42,172	May 4	93	41,841	32,199	n/a	93
AFA CP	5,165	2,942	n/a	15	5,123	2,036	n/a	16
Amendment 80 CP	30,097	19,245	n/a	18	29,846	16,925	n/a	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,421</b>	<b>152,599</b>		<b>232</b>	<b>135,283</b>	<b>136,535</b>		<b>233</b>

<sup>1</sup>In 2016 NMFS reallocated 1,750 mt and in 2015 NMFS reallocated 1,700 mt of the A season jig allocation to the hook-and-line or pot gear less than 60 ft length overall allocation. In 2015, hook-and-line CVs continued to fish inside 3 miles after the directed fishery closure by NMFS.

**Pacific cod - Trawl catcher vessels**

In 2016, 55 trawl CVs targeting Pacific cod reported 39,224 mt relative to 47 trawl CVs targeting Pacific cod reporting 29,866 mt in 2015. The A season directed fishery closed March 9, 2016. The B season opened April 1, 2016 and closed April 4, 2016. The B season directed fishery reopened April 11, 2016 and closed May 4, 2016. The 2016 C season opens by regulation at noon, A.l.t., June 10, 2016 with an additional 7,446 mt for the trawl CV sector. In 2015, the fishery remained open until the regulatory closure on November 1, 2015.

**BSAI Flatfish (includes CDQ)**

The 2016 flatfish total catch is higher for Alaska plaice, other flatfish, and yellowfin sole relative to 2015.

Species	2016			2015		
	Catch	TAC	% Taken	Catch	TAC	% Taken
Alaska plaice	5,725	14,500	39%	4,577	18,500	25%
Arrowtooth flounder	2,512	14,000	18%	3,881	22,000	18%
Flathead sole	3,787	21,000	18%	4,790	24,250	20%
Greenland turbot	162	2,873	6%	239	2,648	9%
Kamchatka flounder	2,574	5,000	51%	3,022	6,500	46%
Other flatfish	2,067	2,500	83%	1,802	3,620	50%
Rock sole	37,345	57,100	65%	38,095	69,250	55%
Yellowfin sole	61,115	144,000	42%	58,190	149,000	39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,287</b>	<b>260,973</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>114,596</b>	<b>295,786</b>	<b>39%</b>



**BSAI Atka mackerel and Pacific ocean perch (includes CDQ)**

The 2016 total catch is higher for Atka mackerel and lower for Pacific ocean perch relative to 2015.

Species	2016			2015		
	Catch	TAC	% Taken	Catch	TAC	% Taken
Atka mackerel	22,449	55,000	41%	22,263	54,500	41%
Pacific ocean perch	4,394	31,900	14%	7,134	32,021	22%

**Gulf of Alaska**

**Pacific cod - Western GOA**

Sector	2016				2015			
	A season allocation	Catch May 28	A season closed	# of vessels May 30	A season allocation	Catch May 28	A season closed	# of vessels May 30
Hook-and-line C/P	2,982	2,779	June 10	6	2,850	2,795	Apr 2	7
Hook-and-line CV	192	78	Mar 11	26	183	101	June 10	33
Jig	595	52	n/a	7	569	55	n/a	6
Pot CV/CP	5,417	5,754	Feb 19	36	5,176	5,506	Feb 12	38
Trawl CV	7,579	7,306	Mar 12	25	7,242	7,004	Mar 11	23
Trawl C/P	246	45	June 10	2	235	2	Jan 20	< 3
Total	17,011	16,014		102	16,255	15,461		108

**Pacific cod - Central GOA**

Sector	2016				2015			
	A season allocation	Catch May 28	A season closed	# of vessels May 30	A season allocation	Catch May 28	A season closed	# of vessels May 30
Hook-and-line C/P	1,504	594	June 10	5	1,851	1,235	June 10	7
Hook-and-line CV <50 ft	2,411	2,036	Mar 11	87	4,241	3,967	June 10	91
Hook-and-line CV ≥50 ft	1,354	702	Mar 11	123	2,554	879	June 10	124
Jig	422	268	n/a	53	276	343	Mar 2	39
Pot CV/CP	8,028	8,354	Mar 31	58	8,118	8,308	Feb 16	49
Trawl CV	7,738	5,373	June 10	50	9,623	8,076	June 10	51
Trawl C/P	734	57	Jan 20	2	912	545	Jan 20	4
Total	22,190	15,216		378	27,594	21,171		365

In 2016, pot CV/CP closed February 1 and reopened March 12, jig closed March 1 and reopened March 19. In 2016, NMFS reallocated of 1,700 mt from hook-and-line CVs to pot CV/CP (1,500 mt) and jig (200 mt).

**Pollock**

Catch in the 620 pollock fishery is low due to the small size of pollock. For Areas 610 and 630, the fleet caught the available TACs.

2016 Seasons	610	620	630	640
A season allocation	3,826	42,040	12,456	9,348 (annual)
A season catch	3,579	14,398	12,507	0
A season closure	January 29	March 10	February 19	n/a
B season allocation	4,348	50,747	5,895	n/a
B season catch	4,282	18,567	6,378	0
B season closure	March 28	May 31 by regulation	March 13	n/a

<sup>1</sup>The 610 and 630 B season allocations include reallocations of unused 620 A season pollock TAC.

**Salmon PSC Limits in the GOA**

In 2016, Chinook salmon PSC is 6,991 salmon lower relative to 2015 for fisheries with PSC limits.

Chinook Salmon	2016 Limit	2016 PSC (Rate <sup>2</sup> )	2015 PSC (Rate <sup>2</sup> )
Total	n/a	3,389 (4%)	10,380 (8%)
Western GOA pollock	6,684	855 (11%)	417 (19%)
Central GOA pollock	18,316	2,453 (5%)	5,939 (7%)
Western/Central trawl CV	2,700	13 (0.05%)	2,874 (13%)
Central Rockfish Program CV	1,200	57 (0.71%)	684 (12%)
Western/Central trawl CP <sup>1</sup>	4,080	11 (0.50%)	466 (6%)

<sup>1</sup>The 2015 Western/Central trawl CP limit was 3,600 Chinook salmon. The 2016 limit includes the incentive buffer.

Non-Chinook Salmon	2016 PSC (Rate <sup>2</sup> )	2015 PSC (Rate <sup>2</sup> )
Total	143 (0.11%)	117 (0.07%)

<sup>2</sup>Rate is number of salmon per metric tons of groundfish.

### BSAI and GOA Halibut Mortality Data

For 2016 relative to 2015, the total halibut mortality in the BSAI is 12 mt lower and in the GOA is 324 mt higher. The Bering Sea rates include results from halibut decksorting EFPs.

Area, Gear, and Sector	2016			2015		
	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate
BSAI Total	1,353	831,237	0.16%	1,376	837,046	0.16%
Amendment 80	732	146,839	0.50%	920	154,892	0.59%
BSAI trawl limited access	463	535,309	0.09%	295	536,804	0.05%
Non-trawl Pacific cod	90	68,801	0.13%	113	65,852	0.17%
Non-trawl Other	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
CDQ	68	80,288	0.08%	48	79,498	0.06%
GOA Total	995	104,932	0.95%	672	134,053	0.50%
Trawl – non Rockfish	794	88,576	0.90%	539	117,063	0.46%
Trawl –Rockfish	17	8,040	0.21%	19	5,903	0.32%
Hook-and-line CP	43	3,947	1.09%	45	4,768	0.94%
Hook-and-line CV	141	4,369	3.23%	69	6,319	1.09%

#### Halibut PSC Limit Closures in the GOA

NMFS closed directed fishing for groundfish for catcher vessels using hook-and-line gear in the GOA on March 11, 2016, because the annual halibut PSC limit of 129 mt had been exceeded.

NMFS closed directed fishing for deep-water species for vessels using trawl gear in the GOA on March 16, 2016 because the 1st season halibut PSC limit for deep-water species of 85 mt had been reached. Directed fishing for deep-water species for vessels using trawl gear reopened on April 1, 2016 when the 2nd season halibut PSC limit for deep-water species of 256 mt became available. It closed on April 30, 2016, when the 2nd season halibut PSC limit for deep-water species reached the limit. The fishery reopened on May 15, 2016 when the amount of 2nd season halibut PSC limit remaining for the shallow-water species fisheries is shared with the deep-water species. The deep-water and shallow water species fisheries closed May 20, 2016 when the combined limit was reached.

Gear	Sector	Fishery	PSC	PSC Limit	Opened	Closed
hook-and-line	catcher vessel	groundfish (not including IFQ or demersal shelf rockfish)	141	129	1-Jan	11-Mar
trawl	all	deep-water species	92	85	20-Jan	16-Mar
trawl	all	deep-water species	391	341	1-Apr	30-Apr
trawl	all	deep-water/shallow water species (not including Rockfish Program and pelagic pollock)	794	810	15-May	20-May