



Agenda Topics

Virtual Council meeting, October 2, 9, and 12-16, 2020

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The head of NMFS in Alaska will swear in two members who have been reappointed to the Council, and the Council will elect a chair and vice-chair for the year. The Council Chair will then welcome everyone to the meeting and Council members will approve the agenda.

B. REPORTS—*David Witherell*

In this section of the meeting, each agency represented on the Council provides a written management report and responds to questions. After all the reports, the public has a chance to provide comment, and the Council will discuss action they need to take, either at this point or at the end of the meeting.

C. MAJOR ISSUES/FINAL ACTION ITEMS

C1 Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Crab 4 stocks - *Jim Armstrong*

A team of technical experts met in September to discuss the size and status of four crab stocks in the Bering Sea and to make recommendations on how much crab can be caught. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee will review the recommendations and the Council will set harvest limits based on their recommendations.

C2 Bering Sea Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska Groundfish – *Steve MacLean, Sara Cleaver*

The Council will review information from teams of technical experts about the status of the ecosystem, available scientific information, and other issues relevant to the upcoming assessment of groundfish stocks. The Council will recommend proposed catch limits for the 2021 BSAI groundfish fisheries, however, final catch limits will not be chosen until December.

C3 Sculpin/Squid product types – *Steve MacLean*

The Council will review a document that analyzes the effects of allowing the processing and sale of squid and sculpin and make a final recommendation.

C4 Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery Management Plan – *Jim Armstrong*

The Council will review a document analyzing changes that would affect commercial salmon fisheries in an offshore part of the Cook Inlet. These fisheries were previously managed entirely by the State of Alaska. A final recommendation will be made in December.

C5 Observer 2021 Annual Deployment Plan, PCFMAC and Trawl EM Committee reports – *Kate Haapala, Diana Evans*

The Council will review plans and make recommendations to get observers and/or electronic monitoring (camera) systems on fishing boats in 2021. Depending on what type of gear the boats use to fish which

species, some need observers or cameras all the time, and some only part of the time. Two of the Council's fishery monitoring advisory committees will provide advice.

C6 Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Halibut Abundance-Based Management – *Diana Stram, Sam Cunnningham*

The Council will review changes to halibut bycatch limits for most trawl catcher/processor vessels fishing for non-pollock species in the BSAI. The bycatch limits under consideration could fluctuate up and down annually with changes in the overall abundance of BSAI halibut. The Council will also review a discussion paper with additional management options to address halibut bycatch in the BSAI.

D. OTHER ISSUES

D1 Survey planning – AFSC report, SSC subgroup report – *Diana Evans*

The Council will hear a presentation from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center on their plans for sending out boats to do fish surveys in 2021. The Council will also consider recommendations from their Scientific and Statistical Committee about longer-term survey planning.

D2 Seafood production Executive Order – *David Witherell*

The President issued an Executive Order that asked each Regional Fishery Management Council to submit a prioritized list of recommended actions to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production within sustainable fisheries. The Council will hear testimony and provide recommendations.

E. STAFF TASKING – *Diana Evans, David Witherell*

The Council will listen to public testimony about existing and new management measures that the public may be interested in and will provide feedback to staff and the Council Chair about how to prioritize staff work on existing and new projects. The Council will specifically discuss the agenda for the December Council meeting.

The Council will also review its committee membership and identify agendas for any upcoming committee meetings.