



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Meeting Summary

267th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
December 4-11, 2023
Hybrid – Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel and [Zoom Webinar](#)

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Attachments

- 1) [Time Log](#)
- 2) [Newsletter](#)

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met December 4-11, 2023 at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska. The following Council members, Council staff, SSC, and AP members attended the meetings either in person or virtually.

The time log is included as a reference attachment for names, dates and times of each agenda item, and the newsletter is included to provide details of the agenda items and the meeting as a whole. All documents and information related to the meeting are accessible online at: <https://meetings.npfmc.org>

Council Members

The Council met December 7-10, at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage AK. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings (absent members are ~~stricken~~)

Rachel Baker/Karla Bush (for Doug Vincent-Lang) <i>Alaska Department Fish and Game</i>	Chris Oliver <i>Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission</i>
Kenny Down <i>Appointed</i>	CAPT Jason Brennell/LT Reid Wiegleb <i>United States Coast Guard</i>
Angel Drobnica Chair <i>Appointed</i>	Bill Tweit (for Kelly Susewind), Vice Chair <i>Washington Department Fish & Wildlife</i>
Pete Fasbender (for Sara Boario) <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>	Anne Vanderhoeven <i>Appointed</i>
John Jensen <i>Appointed</i>	Steve Williams/John Seabourne (for Curt Melcher) <i>Oregon Department Fish & Wildlife</i>
Nicole Kimball <i>Appointed</i>	Rudy Tsukada <i>Appointed</i>
Jon Kurland <i>National Marine Fisheries Service</i>	Josh Fortenberry & Demian Shanr <i>NOAA General Counsel</i>
Andy Mezirow <i>Appointed</i>	

Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC met December 4-6, at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage AK. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings (absent members are ~~stricken~~).

Chris Anderson <i>University of Washington</i>	Jason Gasper <i>NOAA Fisheries—AKR</i>	Andrew Munro <i>Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game</i>
Amy Bishop <i>University of Alaska Fairbanks</i>	Dana Hanselman <i>NOAA Fisheries—AFSC</i>	Chris Siddon <i>Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game</i>
Curry Cunningham <i>University of Alaska Fairbanks</i>	Brad Harris <i>Alaska Pacific University</i>	Ian Stewart <i>Intl. Pacific Halibut Commission</i>
Martin Dorn <i>University of Washington</i>	Michael Jepson <i>Independent</i>	Patrick Sullivan <i>Cornell University</i>
Mike Downs <i>Wislow Research</i>	Kailin Kroetz <i>Arizona State University</i>	Robert Suryan <i>NOAA Fisheries—AFSC</i>
Sherri Dressel, Co-Chair <i>Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game</i>	Kathryn Meyer <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	Alison Whitman, Vice Chair <i>Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>
Robert Foy <i>NOAA Fisheries—AFSC</i>	Franz Mueter, Co-Chair <i>University of Alaska Fairbanks</i>	

Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel met December 5-8, at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage AK. The following members were present for all or part of the meetings (absent members are ~~stricken~~):

Tamara Briggie	Mellisa Johnson	Landry Price
Jessie Edson	Julie Kavanaugh	Chelsae Radell
Gretar Gudmundsson	Rick Laitinen	Brian Ritchie, Chair
Tim Heuker	Heather Mann	Matt Upton
Lauren Howard, Co-Vice Chair	Paddy O'Donnell	Paul Wilkins, Co-Vice Chair
Jim Johnson	Megan O'Neil	Susie Zagorski

Council Staff

Cleaver, Sara	Fey, Michael	Rheinsmith, Sarah
Cochran, Shannon	Haapala, Kate	Schmidt, Nicole
Cunningham, Sam	Hillary, Kaylah (contractor)	Stram, Diana
Davis, Maria	La Belle, Sarah	Watson, Nicole
Evans, Diana (DD)	Marrinan, Sarah	Witherell, Dave (ED)

A1 Call Meeting to Order

The Council approved the agenda without objection.

B Reports

The following reports were provided and discussed.

B1 Executive Director's Report – David Witherell

- Presentation on GOA Allocation Reviews – Michael Fey (AKFIN)
- Presentation on Inflation Reduction Act Staff Paper – Diana Evans

B2 NMFS Management Report – Gretchen Harrington

- Presentation on Cook Inlet Salmon – Doug Duncan
- Presentation on BSAI In Season Management Report – Mary Furness & Steve Whitney
- Presentation on GOA In Season Management Report – Mary Furness
- Presentation on Aquaculture Opportunity Areas – Alicia Bishop

B3 NOAA General Counsel Report – written report only

B4 NOAA Enforcement Report – Alex Perry, Ben Cheeseman & Nathan Lagerway

B5 ADF&G Report – Kendall Henry

B6 USCG Report – CAPT Jason Brennell

B7 USFWS Report – written report only

B8 Industry Reports on Crab Avoidance – Sam Cunningham

- Bering Sea Pacific Pot Cod Cooperative – Craig Lowenberg
- Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers – Cory Lescher
- Alaska Seafood Cooperative – John Gauvin
- At-Sea Processors Association – Stephanie Madsen & Austin Estabrooks
- Freezer Longline Coalition – Chad See
- Midwater Trawlers Cooperative – Heather Mann
- United Catcher Boats – Brent Paine

Public comment was taken, then Ms. Kimball made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Mezirow.

MOTION: Gulf of Alaska Pacific Cod Allocation Review

NOAA’s Fisheries Allocation Policy Directive 01-119 provides for a brief, periodic evaluation of fisheries allocations, to review the original objectives of such actions and to remain relevant to current conditions. The Council accepts the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Pacific cod allocation review to fulfill the allocation policy directive after revision to incorporate the shoreside processing sector and community participation related to shoreside processing activity in Chapter 3 and a summary of the status of the GOA Pacific cod stock during the review period.

Overall, the Council finds the objectives of the GOA Pacific cod allocations (GOA Amendment 83) are still relevant and the allocations generally meet the original objectives of GOA Amendment 83 relative to establishing allocations to all sectors based on gear and operation type for the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod fisheries; reducing competition between sectors and enhancing stability by enabling sectors to plan harvesting and processing operations within a fishing year; promoting sustainable fishing practices; maintaining the historical division of catch among sectors while providing opportunities for new entrants; promoting community participation through both harvesting and processing sectors; and allow for increased participation by and new entrants in the jig sector.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed unanimously.

C1 Crab C Share Active Participation Requirement

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan

Other Presenters: Andrew Olson (NMFS AKR)

Action Required:

1. Final Review Draft – review analysis and addendum
2. Identify preferred alternative; adopt a final recommendation

Summary

After staff presentations, the AP report, and public comment, Mr. Down made the following motion that was seconded by Mr. Tweit:

MOTION: Crab C Shares

The Council adopts the following preferred alternative for final action.

Alternative 2 - Modify the CVC QS and CPC QS recency requirement.

Option 1: Restart the recent participation requirement when the final rule is implemented and reissue all revoked CVC and CPC QS starting in 2019 and until the final rule is implemented.

Option 3: Revise the eligibility requirements for CVC and CPC QS holders to receive annual IFQ and retain QS holdings to be the same for initial recipients and new entrants.

Include the additional regulatory changes recommended by NMFS in Section 2.5 of the Analysis:

- For the closed fishery exemptions at 50 CFR 680.40(g)(2) and 50 CFR 680.40(m)(2), clarify that a person who holds CVC or CPC QS in more than one fishery is exempt from active participation requirements in years when all of their CR crab fishery(ies) are closed.
- Clarify that the phrase “participated as crew in at least one delivery of crab in any CR crab fishery” as used in crab regulations at 50 CFR 680.40(g)(2), and 50 CFR 680.40(m)(2) means participating as crew during at least one fishing trip where a delivery of crab is made in any CR fishery.

In Addition:

- Under Alternative 2, Option 3, clarify that participation as crew on a tender vessel counts toward the 30-days of active participation.

AMENDMENT: Mr. Tweit made the following amendment, which was seconded by Ms. Vanderhoeven:

The Council deems proposed regulations that clearly and directly flow from the provisions of this motion to be necessary and appropriate in accordance with section 303(c). The Council authorizes the Executive Director and the Chairman to review the draft proposed regulations when provided by NMFS to ensure that the proposed regulations to be submitted to the Secretary under section 303(c) are consistent with these instructions.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: The amendment passed unanimously.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion as amended passed unanimously.

C2 Crab Facility Use Cap

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan

Action Required: 1. Final Review Draft – review
2. Identify preferred alternative; adopt a final recommendation.

Summary

After staff presentations, the AP report, and public comments, Ms. Baker made the motion below. It was seconded by Ms. Kimball.

MOTION:

The Council recommends Alternative 2 and 3 as its preferred alternatives.

Alternative 2. Remove the EAG and WAI processing facility use caps at 50 CFR 680.7(a)(9).

Alternative 3. Exempt custom processing of EBS snow crab IPQ with a South region designation, BBRKC IPQ, and WAG IPQ processed east of 174° W longitude from the PQS/IPQ and processing facility use caps under the program. Regionalization would still apply.

AMENDMENT: Mr. Tweit made the following amendment, which was seconded by Ms. Vanderhoeven:

The Council deems proposed regulations that clearly and directly flow from the provisions of this motion to be necessary and appropriate in accordance with section 303(c). The Council authorizes the Executive Director and the Chairman to review the draft proposed regulations when provided by NMFS to ensure that the proposed regulations to be submitted to the Secretary under section 303(c) are consistent with these instructions.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: The amendment passed unanimously.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion as amended passed unanimously.

C3 BSAI Groundfish Specifications

Council Staff: Dr. Diana Stram

Other Presenters: Dr. Elizabeth Siddon (NMFS AFSC – BS ESR), Dr. Ivonne Ortiz (U. Wash – AI ESR), Dr. Steve Barbeaux (NMFS AFSC, BSAI Plan Team Co-Chair), Dr. Kalei Shotwell (NMFS AFSC, BSAI Plan Team Co-Chair), Dr. Ingrid Spies (NMFS AFSC – AI cod), Dr. Jim Ianelli (NMFS AFSC, EBS Pollock)

Action Required:

1. Review 2023 Ecosystem Status Reports for the Eastern Bering Sea (EBS) and the Aleutian Islands, and BSAI Plan Team reports
2. Approve the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report
3. Recommend Final 2024 and 2025 BSAI groundfish harvest specifications, including:
 - Overfishing Level (OFL) and Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for all stocks
 - Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for all stocks, taking into account the State waters Pacific cod and Sablefish fishery
 - Annual ABC reserve for three flatfish species
 - Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits and seasonal apportionments of Pacific halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, C. opilio crab, and herring to target fishery categories
 - Halibut Discard Mortality Rates (DMRs)

Summary

After staff presentations, and considering the SSC and AP report, Ms. Vanderhoeven made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Down:

MOTION – BSAI Harvest Specifications:

The Council moves to approve to 2023 BSAI Groundfish SAFE report.

The Council moves to adopt the 2024/2025 OFLs, ABCs and TACs for groundfish in the BSAI as shown in Attached Table 1.

The Council also moves to set flatfish flexibility reserves as shown in Table 13 to maximize the ABC reserves for 2024/2025.

The Council moves to approve the PSC amounts and distributions as shown in Tables 14, 15, 16 , 17, and 18.

The Council moves to approve Pacific halibut DMRs for 2024/2025 as shown in Table 19.

AMENDMENT: Ms. Kimball, seconded by Mr. Down moved to correct a typo in Greenland Turbot.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: The amendment passed unanimously.

VOTE ON MOTION AS AMENDED: The motions passed unanimously.



Table 1–Council recommended 2024-2025 Overfishing Level (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), with Council recommended Total Allowable Catch (TAC) [Amounts are in metric tons]

Species	Area	2023				2024			2025		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 11/25/23	OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock ⁴	BS	3,381,000	1,910,000	1,300,000	1,310,189	3,162,000	2,313,000	1,300,000	3,449,000	2,401,000	1,325,000
	AI	52,383	43,413	19,000	3,706	51,516	42,654	19,000	53,030	43,863	19,000
	Bogoslof	115,146	86,360	300	118	115,146	86,360	250	115,146	86,360	250
Pacific cod ⁵	BS	172,495	144,834	127,409	124,413	200,995	167,952	147,753	180,798	150,876	132,726
	AI	18,416	13,812	8,425	3,299	18,416	12,431	8,080	18,416	12,431	8,080
Sablefish ⁶	Alaska-wide	47,390	40,502	n/a	n/a	55,084	47,146	n/a	55,317	47,350	n/a
	BS	n/a	8,417	7,996	5,392	n/a	11,450	7,996	n/a	11,499	9,500
	AI	n/a	8,884	8,440	2,384	n/a	13,100	8,440	n/a	13,156	8,440
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	404,882	378,499	230,000	111,638	305,298	265,913	195,000	317,932	276,917	195,000
Greenland turbot	BSAI	4,645	3,960	3,960	1,274	3,705	3,188	3,188	3,185	2,740	2,740
	BS	n/a	3,338	3,338	795	n/a	2,687	2,687	n/a	2,310	2,310
	AI	n/a	622	622	479	n/a	501	501	n/a	430	430
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	98,787	83,852	15,000	7,217	103,280	87,690	14,000	104,270	88,548	14,000
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	8,946	7,579	7,579	6,946	8,850	7,498	7,498	8,687	7,360	7,360
Rock sole ⁷	BSAI	166,034	121,719	66,000	27,129	197,828	122,091	66,000	264,789	122,535	66,000
Flathead sole ⁸	BSAI	79,256	65,344	35,500	8,946	81,605	67,289	35,500	82,699	68,203	35,500
Alaska plaice	BSAI	40,823	33,946	17,500	15,228	42,695	35,494	21,752	45,182	37,560	20,000
Other flatfish ⁹	BSAI	22,919	17,189	4,500	3,019	22,919	17,189	4,500	22,919	17,189	4,500
Pacific ocean perch	BSAI	50,133	42,038	37,703	35,007	49,010	41,096	37,626	48,139	40,366	37,181
	BS	n/a	11,903	11,903	10,196	n/a	11,636	11,636	n/a	11,430	11,430
	EAI	n/a	8,152	8,152	7,544	n/a	7,969	7,969	n/a	7,828	7,828
	CAI	n/a	5,648	5,648	5,460	n/a	5,521	5,521	n/a	5,423	5,423
	WAI	n/a	16,335	12,000	11,807	n/a	15,970	12,500	n/a	15,685	12,500
Northern rockfish	BSAI	22,776	18,687	11,000	10,322	23,556	19,274	16,752	22,838	18,685	15,000
Blackspotted/Rougheye rockfish ¹⁰	BSAI	703	525	525	529	761	569	569	813	607	607
	BS/EAI	n/a	359	359	213	n/a	388	388	n/a	412	412
	CAI/WAI	n/a	166	166	316	n/a	181	181	n/a	195	195
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	706	530	530	243	706	530	530	706	530	530
Other rockfish ¹¹	BSAI	1,680	1,260	1,260	1,188	1,680	1,260	1,260	1,680	1,260	1,260
	BS	n/a	880	880	624	n/a	880	880	n/a	880	880
	AI	n/a	380	380	564	n/a	380	380	n/a	380	380
Atka mackerel	BSAI	118,787	98,588	69,282	65,961	111,684	95,358	72,987	99,723	84,676	66,165
	EAI/BS	n/a	43,281	27,260	24,210	n/a	41,723	32,260	n/a	37,049	30,000
	CAI	n/a	17,351	17,351	17,210	n/a	16,754	16,754	n/a	14,877	14,877
	WAI	n/a	37,956	24,671	24,541	n/a	36,882	23,973	n/a	32,750	21,288
Skates	BSAI	46,220	38,605	27,441	25,183	45,574	37,808	30,519	44,203	36,625	30,361
Sharks	BSAI	689	450	250	321	689	450	400	689	450	400
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	400	151	6,080	4,560	400	6,080	4,560	400
TOTAL		4,859,585	3,155,268	2,000,000	1,769,803	4,609,077	3,454,204	2,000,000	4,946,241	3,527,996	2,000,000

Note: Regulatory areas and districts are defined at § 679.2 (BSAI=Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands)

¹ These amounts apply to the entire BSAI management area unless otherwise specified. With

² Except for pollock, the portion of the sablefish TAC allocated to hook-and-line and pot gear, ³ For the Amendment 80 species (Atka mackerel, flathead sole, rock sole, yellowfin sole, Pacific ⁴ Under § 679.20(a)(5)(i)(A), the annual BS pollock TAC, after subtracting first for the CDQ

⁵ The BS Pacific cod TAC is set to account for the 12 percent, plus 45 mt, of the BS ABC for

⁶ The sablefish OFL and ABC are Alaska-wide and include the Gulf of Alaska. The Alaska-

⁷ “Rock sole” includes *Lepidopsetta polyxystra* (Northern rock sole) and *Lepidopsetta*

⁸ “Flathead sole” includes *Hippoglossoides elassodon* (flathead sole) and *Hippoglossoides*

⁹ “Other flatfish” includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), Alaska

¹⁰ “Blackspotted/Rougheye rockfish” includes *Sebastes melanostictus* (blackspotted) and

¹¹ “Other rockfish” includes all *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus* species except for dark rockfish,

Table 13—Final 2024 and 2025 ABC Surplus, ABC Reserves, Community Development Quota (CDQ) ABC Reserves, and Amendment 80 ABC Reserves in the BSAI for Flathead Sole, Rock Sole, and Yellowfin Sole

[Amounts are in metric tons]

Sector	2024 Flathead sole	2024 Rock sole	2024 Yellowfin sole	2025 ¹ Flathead sole	2025 ¹ Rock sole	2025 ¹ Yellowfin sole
ABC	67,289	122,091	265,913	68,203	122,535	276,917
TAC	35,500	66,000	195,000	35,500	66,000	195,000
ABC surplus	31,789	56,091	70,913	32,703	56,535	81,917
ABC reserve	31,789	56,091	70,913	32,703	56,535	81,917
CDQ ABC reserve	3,401	6,002	7,588	3,499	6,049	8,765
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	28,388	50,089	63,325	29,204	50,486	73,152

¹ The 2025 allocations for Amendment 80 species between Amendment 80 cooperatives and the Amendment 80 limited access sector will not be known until eligible participants apply for participation in the program by November 1, 2024.

TABLE 14—PROPOSED 2024 AND 2025 APPORTIONMENT OF PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES TO NON-TRAWL GEAR, THE CDQ PROGRAM, AMENDMENT 80, AND THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTORS

PSC species and area and zone ¹	Total PSC	Non-trawl PSC	CDQ PSQ reserve ²	Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ	Amendment 80 sector ^{3,4}	BSAI trawl limited access sector	BSAI PSC limits not allocated to Amendment 80 ³
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,166	710	315	n/a	1,396	745	n/a
Herring (mt) BSAI	2,535	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	97,000	n/a	10,379	86,621	43,293	26,489	16,839
<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	4,350,000	n/a	465,450	3,884,550	1,909,256	1,248,494	726,799
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 1	980,000	n/a	104,860	875,140	368,521	411,228	95,390
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 2	2,970,000	n/a	317,790	2,652,210	627,778	1,241,500	782,932

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

² The PSQ reserve for crab species is 10.7 percent of each crab PSC limit.

³ The Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative Program (PCTC) reduced the Pacific cod PCTC PSC limit for halibut by 12.5 percent in 2024 and 25 percent in 2025. The Amendment 80 Program reduced apportionment of the trawl PSC limits for crab below the total PSC limit. These reductions are not apportioned to other gear types or sectors.

⁴ Under Amendment 123 and its implementing regulations, the BSAI halibut PSC limit for the Amendment 80 sector would be determined annually based on the most recent halibut abundance estimates from the IPHC setline survey index and the NMFS AFSC Eastern Bering Sea shelf trawl survey index (87 FR 75570, December 9, 2022).

TABLE 15—PROPOSED 2024 AND 2025 HERRING AND RED KING CRAB SAVINGS SUBAREA PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES FOR ALL TRAWL SECTORS

Fishery categories	Herring (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1
Yellowfin sole	146	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish ¹	74	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flound	8	n/a
Rockfish	8	n/a
Pacific cod	13	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	2,256	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2,3}	30	n/a
Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴	n/a	24,250
Total trawl PSC	2,535	97,000

¹“Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), Alaska plaice, arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland

²Pollock other than midwater trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and “other species” fishery category.

³“Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

⁴In December 2024, the Council recommended and NMFS approves that the red king crab bycatch limit for non-pelagic trawl fisheries within the RKCSS be limited to 25 percent of the red king crab PSC allowance (see § 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(2)).

Note: Species apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

TABLE 16—PROPOSED 2024 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

BSAI trawl limited access sector fisheries	Prohibited species and area ¹				
	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	<i>C. bairdi</i> (animals)	
				Zone 1	Zone 2
Yellowfin sole	250	23,337	1,192,179	346,228	1,185,500
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ²	-	-	-	-	-
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	-	-	-
Rockfish April 15-December 31	5	-	1,006	-	1,000
Total Pacific cod ³	315	2,955	50,281	60,000	50,000
AFA CP Pacific Cod	6	278	4,726	5,640	4,700
PCTC Program Pacific Cod, A and B season	257	1,653	28,130	33,567	27,973
Trawl CV Program, C season	15	134	2,278	2,718	2,265
PCTC Program unallocated reduction	37	890	15,147	18,075	15,062
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ⁴	175	197	5,028	5,000	5,000
Total BSAI trawl limited access sector PSC	745	26,489	1,248,494	411,228	1,241,500

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

² “Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), Alaska plaice, arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

³ With the implementation of the PCTC Program, the BSAI trawl limited access sector Pacific cod PSC limits will be split between AFA CPs, PCTC Program A and B-season, and trawl CV open access C-season. The PCTC crab PSC limit will be reduced by 35 percent beginning in 2024. In the first year of the PCTC Program, NMFS will apply a 12.5 percent reduction to the A and B season trawl CV sector halibut PSC apportionment in the annual harvest specifications after the Council recommends and NMFS approves the BSAI trawl limited access sector’s PSC limit apportionments to fishery categories. In the second year of the PCTC Program and every year thereafter, NMFS will apply a 25 percent reduction to the A and B season trawl CV sector halibut PSC apportionment. Any amount of the PCTC Program PSC limit remaining after the B season may be reapportioned to the trawl CV C-season. Because the annual halibut PSC limit for the PCTC Program is not a fixed amount established in regulation and, instead, is determined annually through the harvest specification process, NMFS must apply the reduction to the A and B season apportionment of the trawl CV sector apportionment to implement the overall PSC reductions under the PCTC Program.

⁴ “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses

Note: Species apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

TABLE 17—PROPOSED 2025 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

BSAI trawl limited access sector fisheries	Prohibited species and area ¹				
	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	<i>C. bairdi</i> (animals)	
				Zone 1	Zone 2
Yellowfin sole	250	23,337	1,192,179	346,228	1,185,500
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ²	-	-	-	-	-
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	-	-	-
Rockfish April 15-December 31	5	-	1,006	-	1,000
Total Pacific cod ³	315	2,955	50,281	60,000	50,000
AFA CP Pacific Cod	6	278	4,726	5,640	4,700
PCTC Program Pacific Cod, A and B season	220	1,653	28,130	33,567	27,973
Trawl CV Program, C season	16	134	2,278	2,718	2,265
PCTC Program unallocated reduction	73	890	15,147	18,075	15,062
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ⁴	175	197	5,028	5,000	5,000
Total BSAI trawl limited access sector PSC	745	26,489	1,248,494	411,228	1,241,500

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

² “Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), Alaska plaice, arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

³ With the implementation of the PCTC Program, the BSAI trawl limited access sector Pacific cod PSC limits will be split between AFA CPs, PCTC Program A and B-season, and trawl CV open access C-season. The PCTC crab PSC limit will be reduced by 35 percent beginning in 2024. In the first year of the PCTC Program, NMFS will apply a 12.5 percent reduction to the A and B season trawl CV sector halibut PSC apportionment in the annual harvest specifications after the Council recommends and NMFS approves the BSAI trawl limited access sector’s PSC limit apportionments to fishery categories. In the second year of the PCTC Program and every year thereafter, NMFS will apply a 25 percent reduction to the A and B season trawl CV sector halibut PSC apportionment. Any amount of the PCTC Program PSC limit remaining after the B season may be reapportioned to the trawl CV C-season. Because the annual halibut PSC limit for the PCTC Program is not a fixed amount established in regulation and, instead, is determined annually through the harvest specification process, NMFS must apply the reduction to the A and B season apportionment of the trawl CV sector apportionment to implement the overall PSC reductions under the PCTC Program.

⁴ “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses

Note: Species apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

Table 18—Final 2024 And 2025 Halibut Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances for Non-Trawl Fisheries

Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI				
Non-trawl fisheries	Seasons	Catcher/processor	Catcher vessel	All Non-Trawl
Pacific cod	Total Pacific cod	648	13	661
	January 1-June 10	388	9	n/a
	June 10-August 15	162	2	n/a
	August 15-December 31	98	2	n/a
Non-Pacific cod non-trawl-Total	May 1-December 31	n/a	n/a	49
Groundfish pot and jig	n/a	n/a	n/a	Exempt
Sablefish hook-and-line	n/a	n/a	n/a	Exempt
Total for all non-trawl PSC	n/a	n/a	n/a	710

Note: Seasonal or sector allowances may not total precisely due to rounding.

Table 19–2024 and 2025 Pacific Halibut Discard Mortality Rates (DMR) for the BSAI

Gear	Sector	Halibut discard mortality rate (percent)
Pelagic trawl	All	100
Non-pelagic trawl	Mothership and catcher/processor	85
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	63
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	7
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	7
Pot	All	26

C4 GOA Groundfish Specifications

Council Staff: Sara Cleaver

Other Presenters: Dr. James Ianelli (NMFS AFSC, GOA Plan Team co-chair) Chris Lunsford (NMFS AFSC, GOA Plan Team co-chair) Dr. Bridget Ferriss (NMFS AFSC REFM) - ESR)

Action Required:

1. Review the 2023 Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Ecosystem Status Report (ESR) and GOA Groundfish Plan Team reports.
2. Approve the GOA Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report.
3. Recommend final GOA Groundfish harvest specifications for 2024 and 2025, including:
 - Overfishing level (OFL) and Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for all stocks.
 - Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for all stocks, taking into account the State waters Pacific cod and pollock fisheries.
 - Pacific halibut Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits and seasonal apportionments.
 - Pacific halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs)

Summary

After staff presentations, the AP report, and the SSC report, Ms. Kimball made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jensen:

MOTION 1 – GOA Specifications:

The Council approves the 2023 Gulf of Alaska SAFE report.

The Council approves the final 2024 and 2025 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC, and the TACs as shown in the attached Table 1.

The Council clarifies that the specification of "other rockfish" will be: OFL and ABC at the gulf-wide level, with apportionment of ABC across the subareas as recommended by the SSC.

The TACs for both GOA Pacific cod and pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water Guideline Harvest Level fisheries. The GOA Pacific cod adjustments are shown in the attached Table 2.

The 2024 and 2025 Pacific halibut PSC limits, allowances, and apportionments in the GOA are attached in Tables 3, 4, and 5.

The Council approves the halibut discard mortality rates for 2024 and 2025 as shown in attached Table 6

Table 1. Final Harvest Specifications for Groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska for 2024 and 2025 (metric tons)

Species	Area	2023			Catch 11/9/2023	2024			2025		
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	3,723	n/a	-	n/a	4,769	n/a	n/a	3,942	n/a
	W (610)	n/a	26,958	26,958	26,226	n/a	38,882	38,882	n/a	32,144	32,144
	C (620)	n/a	77,005	77,005	65,384	n/a	90,937	90,937	n/a	75,179	75,179
	C (630)	n/a	33,729	33,729	33,394	n/a	50,587	50,587	n/a	41,821	41,821
	WYAK	n/a	7,523	7,523	6,888	n/a	5,565	5,565	n/a	4,601	4,601
	Subtotal	173,470	148,938	145,215	131,892	269,916	190,740	185,971	182,891	157,687	153,745
	EYAK/SEO	15,150	11,363	11,363	0	12,998	9,749	9,749	12,998	9,749	9,749
Total	188,620	160,301	156,578	131,892	282,914	200,489	195,720	195,889	167,436	163,494	
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	7,464	5,225	3,630	n/a	8,745	6,121	n/a	7,638	5,347
	C	n/a	14,830	11,123	10,836	n/a	20,590	15,442	n/a	17,981	13,486
	E	n/a	2,340	1,755	417	n/a	2,937	2,203	n/a	2,565	1,924
	Total	29,737	24,634	18,103	14,883	38,712	32,272	23,766	33,970	28,184	20,757
Sablefish	W	n/a	4,473	4,473	2,723	n/a	4,699	4,699	n/a	4,719	4,719
	C	n/a	9,921	9,921	6,413	n/a	9,651	9,651	n/a	9,693	9,693
	WYAK	n/a	3,205	3,205	2,401	n/a	2,926	2,926	n/a	2,940	2,940
	SEO	n/a	5,602	5,602	4,582	n/a	5,320	5,320	n/a	5,343	5,343
	GOA Total	n/a		23,201	16,118	n/a		22,596	n/a		22,695
Alaska-wide OFL and ABC	AK Total	47,390	40,502	n/a	22,746	55,084	47,146	n/a	55,317	47,350	n/a
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	22,485	13,250	25	n/a	23,337	13,250	n/a	23,782	13,250
	C	n/a	26,769	26,769	1,002	n/a	27,783	27,783	n/a	28,311	28,311
	WYAK	n/a	2,677	2,677	6	n/a	2,778	2,778	n/a	2,831	2,831
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,606	1,606	0	n/a	1,667	1,667	n/a	1,699	1,699
	Total	65,736	53,537	44,302	1,034	68,121	55,565	45,478	69,354	56,623	46,091
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	256	256	24	n/a	237	237	n/a	234	234
	C	n/a	2,105	2,105	72	n/a	2,655	2,655	n/a	2,614	2,614
	WYAK	n/a	1,407	1,407	4	n/a	1,856	1,856	n/a	1,827	1,827
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,048	2,048	4	n/a	2,314	2,314	n/a	2,278	2,278
	Total	6,918	5,816	5,816	105	8,387	7,062	7,062	8,257	6,953	6,953
Rex Sole	W	n/a	3,236	3,236	23	n/a	3,367	3,367	n/a	3,363	3,363
	C	n/a	13,110	13,110	392	n/a	13,639	13,639	n/a	13,624	13,624
	WYAK	n/a	1,439	1,439	1	n/a	1,453	1,453	n/a	1,439	1,439
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,879	2,879	0	n/a	2,905	2,905	n/a	2,877	2,877
	Total	25,135	20,664	20,664	415	25,978	21,364	21,364	25,900	21,303	21,303
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	30,469	14,500	384	n/a	30,409	14,500	n/a	30,323	14,500
	C	n/a	65,000	65,000	8,780	n/a	64,871	64,871	n/a	64,688	64,688
	WYAK	n/a	7,886	7,886	35	n/a	7,870	7,870	n/a	7,848	7,848
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	16,130	6,900	49	n/a	16,099	6,900	n/a	16,053	6,900
	Total	142,749	119,485	94,286	9,248	142,485	119,249	94,141	142,074	118,912	93,936
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	12,793	8,650	30	n/a	13,273	8,650	n/a	13,521	8,650
	C	n/a	21,487	21,487	434	n/a	21,307	21,307	n/a	21,702	21,702
	WYAK	n/a	2,320	2,320	0	n/a	3,876	3,876	n/a	3,949	3,949
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,880	2,880	0	n/a	2,047	2,047	n/a	2,086	2,086
	Total	48,161	39,480	35,337	464	49,414	40,503	35,880	50,322	41,258	36,387
Pacific ocean perch	W	n/a	2,529	2,529	2,486	n/a	1,787	1,787	n/a	1,726	1,726
	C	n/a	29,940	29,940	25,941	n/a	28,757	28,757	n/a	27,768	27,768
	WYAK	n/a	1,370	1,370	1,366	n/a	2,110	2,110	n/a	2,038	2,038
	W/C/WYAK	40,308	33,839	33,839	29,793	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	31,532
	SEO	3,994	3,354	3,354	0	n/a	7,065	7,065	n/a	6,822	6,822
	Total	44,302	37,193	37,193	29,793	47,466	39,719	39,719	45,835	38,354	38,354
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	2,614	2,614	388	n/a	2,535	2,535	n/a	2,446	2,446
	C	n/a	2,350	2,350	935	n/a	2,280	2,280	n/a	2,200	2,200
	E	n/a	-	-	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	0	0
	Total	5,927	4,964	4,964	1,323	5,750	4,815	4,815	5,548	4,646	4,646
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	51	51	21	n/a	34	34	n/a	34	34
	C	n/a	280	280	263	n/a	189	189	n/a	189	189
	E	n/a	374	374	204	n/a	424	424	n/a	424	424
	Total	940	705	705	488	863	647	647	863	647	647
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	149	149	74	n/a	145	145	n/a	137	137
	C	n/a	7,647	7,647	3,415	n/a	7,365	7,365	n/a	6,979	6,979
	WYAK	n/a	90	90	1	n/a	84	84	n/a	81	81
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	31	31	1	n/a	30	30	n/a	28	28
	Total	9,638	7,917	7,917	3,491	9,281	7,624	7,624	8,796	7,225	7,225
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	180	180	101	n/a	197	197	n/a	198	198
	C	n/a	232	232	156	n/a	315	315	n/a	317	317
	E	n/a	363	363	176	n/a	525	525	n/a	526	526
	Total	930	775	775	434	1,555	1,037	1,037	1,566	1,041	1,041
Demersal shelf rockfish	Total	376	283	283	188	376	283	283	376	283	
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	314	314	53	n/a	314	314	n/a	314	314
	C	n/a	693	693	91	n/a	693	693	n/a	693	693
	E	n/a	621	621	57	n/a	621	621	n/a	621	621
	Total	2,170	1,628	1,628	201	2,170	1,628	1,628	2,170	1,628	1,628

Other Rockfish	W/C (and WYAK for 2024 2025)	n/a	940	940	940	n/a	1,353	1,353	n/a	1,353	1,353
	WYAK (for 2023 only)	n/a	370	370	54	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,744	300	32	n/a	2,421	300	n/a	2,421	300
	Total	5,320	4,054	1,610	1,026	4,977	3,774	1,653	4,977	3,774	1,653
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	3,000	462	6,200	4,700	4,700	6,200	4,700	4,700
Big Skate	W	n/a	591	591	117	n/a	745	745	n/a	745	745
	C	n/a	1,482	1,482	814	n/a	1,749	1,749	n/a	1,749	1,749
	E	n/a	794	794	189	n/a	341	341	n/a	341	341
	Total	3,822	2,867	2,867	1,120	3,780	2,835	2,835	3,780	2,835	2,835
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	151	151	66	n/a	104	104	n/a	104	104
	C	n/a	2,044	2,044	481	n/a	1,894	1,894	n/a	1,894	1,894
	E	n/a	517	517	631	n/a	538	538	n/a	538	538
	Total	3,616	2,712	2,712	1,178	3,380	2,536	2,536	3,380	2,536	2,536
Other Skates	GOA-wide	1,311	984	984	443	887	665	665	887	665	665
Sharks	GOA-wide	6,521	4,891	4,891	1,777	6,521	4,891	4,891	6,521	4,891	4,891
Octopuses	GOA-wide	1,307	980	980	154	1,307	980	980	1,307	980	980
TOTAL		646,826	539,072	468,796	222,863	765,608	599,784	520,020	673,289	562,224	483,700

Sources: 2023 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2022. 2023 catches through November 9, 2023 from the AKR Catch Accounting System.

Table 2 – GOA TAC and GHL for State Waters Pacific Cod

Final 2024 GOA Pacific cod ABCs, TACs, and State Guideline Harvest Levels (mt)

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	8,745	20,590	2,937	32,272
State GHL	2,624	5,148	734	8,506
(%)	30%	25%	25%	
Federal TAC	6,121	15,442	2,203	23,766

Note: The Federal TAC is designated for Federal fisheries only and does not include the State GHL.

Final 2025 GOA Pacific cod ABCs, TACs, and State Guideline Harvest Levels (mt)

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	7,638	17,981	2,565	28,184
State GHL	2,291	4,495	641	7,427
(%)	30%	25%	25%	
Federal TAC	5,347	13,486	1,924	20,757

Note: The Federal TAC is designated for Federal fisheries only and does not include the State GHL.

Table 3 -- Final 2024 and 2025 Pacific Halibut PSC Limits, Allowances, and Apportionments

[Values are in metric tons]

Trawl gear			Hook-and-line gear ¹				
			Other than DSR			DSR	
Season	Percent	Amount ²	Season	Percent	Amount	Season	Amount
January 20 - April 1	30.5%	520	January 1 - June 10	86%	220	January 1 - December 31	9
April 1 - July 1	20%	341	June 10 - September 1	2%	5		
July 1 - August 1	27%	460	September 1 - December 31	12%	31		
August 1 - October 1	7.5%	128					
October 1 - December 31	15%	256					
Total		1,705			256		

¹ The Pacific halibut PSC limit for hook-and-line gear is allocated to the demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) fishery and fisheries other than DSR. Since 1995, the Council recommended and NMFS proposed that the hook-and-line sablefish fishery and the pot and jig gear groundfish fisheries be exempt from halibut PSC limits.

² PSC limits published in the Final Harvest Specifications (88 FR 13238, March 2, 2023) had rounding errors. The values presented in this table correct these rounding errors and will be published accordingly in the Proposed and Final 2024 and 2025 Harvest Specifications.

Table 4 -- Final 2024 and 2025 Apportionment of the Pacific Halibut PSC Limits Apportioned Between the Trawl Gear Shallow-Water and Deep-Water Species Fisheries

[Values are in metric tons]

Season	Shallow-water ¹	Deep-water ^{2,3}	Total ⁵
January 20 - April 1	384	135	520
April 1 - July 1	85	256	341
July 1 - August 1	121	341	460
August 1 - October 1	53	75	128
Subtotal January 20 - October 1	643	807	1,449
October 1 - December 31 ⁴	n/a	n/a	256
Total	n/a	n/a	1,705

¹ The shallow-water species fishery is composed of pollock, Pacific cod, shallow-water flatfish, flathead sole, Atka mackerel, and "other species" (sharks and octopuses).

² The deep-water species fishery is composed of sablefish, rockfish, deep-water flatfish, rex sole, and arrowtooth flounder ³ Vessels participating in cooperatives in the Rockfish Program will receive 191 mt of the third season (July 1 – August 1) deep-water species fishery Halibut PSC apportionment.

⁴ There is no apportionment between trawl shallow-water and deep-water species fisheries during the fifth season (October 1 through December 31).

⁵ PSC limits published in the Final Harvest Specifications (88 FR 13238, March 2, 2023) had rounding errors. The values presented in this table correct these rounding errors and will be published accordingly in the Proposed and Final 2024 and 2025 Harvest Specifications.

Table 5 -- Final 2024 and 2025 Apportionments of the “Other Hook and Line Fisheries” Halibut PSC Allowance Between the Hook-and-Line Gear Catcher Vessel and Catcher/Processor Sectors [Values are in metric tons]

Hook-and-Line gear (Other than DSR) Annual PSC Amount	Hook-and-line Sector	Annual Amount	Season	Seasonal Percentage	Seasonal Amount
256	CV	149	A	86%	128
			B	2%	3
			C	12%	18
	CP	107	A	86%	92
			B	2%	2
			C	12%	13

Table 6 -- Final 2024 and 2025 Discard Mortality Rates for Vessels Fishing in the Gulf of Alaska

[Values are percent of halibut assumed to be dead]

Gear	Sector	Groundfish fishery	Halibut discard mortality rate (percent)
Pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	All	100
	Catcher/processor	All	100
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	Rockfish Program	56
	Catcher vessel	All others	69
	Mothership and catcher/processor	All	83
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	All	11
	Catcher vessel	All	10
Pot	Catcher vessel and catcher/processor	All	26

Note: Tables 3-6 will correspond to Tables 14-17 in the final rule for harvest specifications, to be published in 2024.

VOTE ON MOTION 1: The motion passed without objection.

MOTION 2 – Socio-economic Indicators: Ms. Kimball made the following motion that was seconded by Mr. Tsukada:

The Council recommends NOAA and Council staff review available data and recommend species-level socio-economic indicators appropriate for the Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profiles (ESPs) to complement FMP-level data in ACEPO and the Economic SAFE report. The indicators could potentially reflect employment, scale and distribution of participation, markets and product form, major cost components, and other factors associated with each species warranting an ESP, if reliable and timely data are available at this level. These indicators would be reviewed by the SSC.

This review could also include whether there are ecosystem-level socio-economic indicators appropriate and useful to add to the Ecosystem Status Reports or other refinements to the timing or aggregation of information presented in ACEPO and the Economic SAFE reports.

VOTE ON MOTION 2: The motion passed without objection.

MOTION 3 – Spatial Management Policy: Ms. Kimball made the following motion that was seconded by Mr. Mezirow:

The Council requests a brief discussion paper on 1) the stock structure status for Gulf of Alaska shortraker rockfish, roughey and blackspotted rockfish, and thornyhead rockfish and the current ABC spatial management level; and 2) management or fishery implications resulting from alternative spatial allocations of ABC (i.e, if there are no conservation concerns, what combinations of subareas are necessary to reduce or avoid fishery management implications). This paper should be provided for the September Gulf Plan Team process and subsequently reviewed by the SSC and Council.

VOTE ON MOTION 3: The motion passed without objection.

C5 EFH FMP amendments

Council Staff: Sarah Rheinsmith

Action Required:

1. Review analysis of proposed FMP amendments to the BSAI Groundfish, GOA Groundfish, BSAI crab, Arctic and Salmon FMPs based on the information provided in the 2023 EFH 5-year review.
2. Final recommendation on proposed amendments

Summary

After staff presentations, the AP report, and public testimony, Mr. Kurland, seconded by Ms. Vanderhoeven, made the following motion.

MOTION: The Council recommends Alternative 2 for final action as indicated below. Changes from the February 2023 motion based on staff recommendation are indicated in ~~striketrough~~ and underline.

Alternative 2

Amend the Council's FMPs to incorporate the updated EFH information based on the new and best available science information identified in the 2023 EFH 5-year Review.

- **EFH component 1 (descriptions and identification).** Amend 4 FMPs to update EFH descriptions and maps, including up to EFH Level 3 information on habitat-related vital rates. Add or revise the EFH text descriptions and add or replace the maps for—
 - 41 species or complexes in the BSAI Groundfish FMP,
 - 46 species or complexes in the GOA Groundfish FMP,
 - all five species in the Crab FMP, and
 - all three species in the Arctic FMP.

For the Salmon FMP, replace the distribution maps for all five species with the EFH maps.

- **EFH component 2 (fishing effects).** Update the fishing effects (FE) information in the BSAI Groundfish, GOA Groundfish, and Crab FMPs to reflect updates to the FE model, analysis, and evaluation from the 2023 EFH 5-year Review.
- **EFH component 4 (non-fishing effects).** Revise the EFH appendices in the BSAI Groundfish, GOA Groundfish, Crab, and Arctic, ~~and Salmon~~ FMPs where conservation recommendations for non-fishing activities are described.
- **EFH component 7 (prey of EFH species).** Revise text or habitat description table information for two species of BSAI sharks, BSAI pollock, GOA Pacific cod, and BSAI red king crab in the BSAI Groundfish, GOA Groundfish, and Crab FMPs.
- **EFH component 9 (research and information needs).** Revise the EFH appendices with updated research and information needs in the BSAI Groundfish, GOA Groundfish, Crab, and Arctic, ~~and Salmon~~ FMPs.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed unanimously.

C6 Crab FMP housekeeping amendment

Council Staff: Sarah Rheinsmith

Action Required:

1. Review analysis of proposed housekeeping FMP amendment to the BSAI King and Tanner Crab (KTC) FMP
2. Final recommendation on proposed amendment

Summary

After staff presentations, the AP report, and public testimony, Ms. Baker, seconded by Mr. Jensen, made the following motion.

MOTION: The Council adopts the following Purpose and Need statement and recommends Alternative 2 as its preferred alternative.

Purpose and Need:

The BSAI King and Tanner Crab FMP was developed in 1989 and has been amended 53 times. Since the last major update to the FMP in 1998, there have been many changes in the crab fisheries, crab stocks, and crab fishery management in the BSAI that are not reflected in the current FMP. Given these changes since the last major FMP update, the contents of the FMP are outdated, and the organizational structure of the FMP is inconsistent with the other FMPs for fisheries off Alaska. Housekeeping of the BSAI Crab FMP is required to incorporate updated information consistent with MSA guidelines for an FMP. Additionally, the revised organizational structure of the FMP will improve clarity in the document.

Alternative 2: Replace the BSAI Crab FMP with a revised version to include: updated information on the status of stocks and fishing communities, a Fishery Impact Statement and research needs as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and improved organizational structure consistent with other North Pacific FMPs.

VOTE ON MOTION : The motion passed unanimously.

C7 2024 Charter halibut management measures

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan
Other Presenters: Brianna Bowman (ADF&G)
Action Required:
1. Review ADF&G analysis of proposed measures
2. Review Charter Halibut Management Committee minutes
3. Recommend preferred management measures for 2024

Summary: *The Council considered an analysis that projected 2024 charter removals under different scenarios of management measures and advice from its Charter Halibut Management Committee.*

After staff presentations, the AP report, and public testimony, Mr. Mezirow, seconded by Mr. Jensen, made the following motion:

MOTION: The Council adopts the following as 2024 charter halibut management measures. Changes from the AP motion are noted in red.

For the 2024 charter fishing season in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A, the Council recommends:

For IPHC Area 2C

All allocations shown below include a daily bag limit of one halibut and a reverse slot size limit where the upper limit is fixed at O80 (halibut 80 inches or longer may be retained).

- 1) If the allocation is equal to or greater than 0.943 Mlb:
 - begin with a lower size limit of U40 (retained halibut must be less than or equal to 40 inches in length) and increase this limit until the allocation is reached, as indicated in **Table 2C.4 (page 20)** of the ADF&G analysis.
- 2) If the allocation is less than 0.943 Mlb but greater than or equal to 0.863 Mlb:
 - To remain within the allocation, implement a lower size limit of U40 and close consecutive Fridays as needed from the end of the season, but extending no earlier than July 12th, as indicated in **Table 2C.4 (page 20)** in combination with **Table 2C.5f (page 26)** of the ADF&G analysis.
- 3) If the allocation is less than 0.863 Mlb but greater than or equal to **0.798** Mlb:
 - Change from a U40 lower size limit to a U36 lower size limit on July 15, and close consecutive Fridays as needed from the end of the season to remain within allocation, but extending no earlier than July 12th, as indicated in **Table 2C.6 (page 28)** in combination with **Table 2C.5f (page 26)** of the ADF&G analysis.
- 4) If the allocation is less than **0.798** Mlb but greater than or equal to 0.766 Mlb:
 - The lower size limit is U37, and close consecutive Fridays as needed from the end of the season, to remain within allocation but extending no earlier than July 12th, as indicated in **Table 2C.5f (page 26)** of the ADF&G analysis.

- 5) If the allocation is less than .766 Mlb but greater than or equal to .738 Mlb:
 - The lower size limit is U36, and close consecutive Fridays as needed from the end of the season, to remain within allocation but extending no earlier than July 12th, as indicated in **Table 2C.5f (page 26)** of the ADF&G analysis.
- 6) If the allocation is less than .738 Mlb but greater than or equal to .697 Mlb:
 - The lower size limit is U35, and close consecutive Fridays as needed from the end of the season, to remain within allocation but extending no earlier than July 12th, as indicated in **Table 2C.5f (page 26)** of the ADF&G analysis.
- 7) If the allocation is less than .697 Mlb but greater than or equal to .669 Mlb:
 - The lower size limit is U34, and close consecutive Fridays as needed from the end of the season, to remain within allocation but extending no earlier than July 12th, as indicated in **Table 2C.5f (page 26)** of the ADF&G analysis.

For IPHC Area 3A

All allocations shown below include, unless otherwise specified, a daily bag limit of 2 halibut; one fish of any size and one fish with a maximum size limit; 1 trip per charter vessel per day with retention of halibut; 1 trip per charter halibut permit per day; Wednesdays closed to halibut retention.

- 1) If the allocation is greater than or equal to 1.880Mlb:
 - The size of the second fish shall range from 28 inches up to 32 inches, until the projected charter harvest removals meet the allocation, as indicated in **Table 3A.11 (page 33)** of the ADF&G analysis
- 2) If the allocation is less than 1.880 Mlb, but greater than or equal to 1.590 Mlb:
 - In addition to all closed Wednesdays and a second halibut 28 inches or less, close as many Tuesdays as needed to keep the charter harvest removals within the Area 3A allocation, as indicated in **Table 3A.10 (page 32)** of the ADF&G analysis.
- 3) If the allocation is less than 1.590 Mlb but greater than or equal to 1.513 Mlb:
 - In addition to closing all Tuesdays and Wednesdays, lower the size of the second fish to as low as 26 inches, until the projected charter harvest removals meet the allocation, as indicated in **Table 3A.11.(page 33)** of the ADF&G analysis.
- 4) If the allocation is less than 1.513 Mlb:
 - **In addition to the Wednesday closures and 26-inch size limit indicated in (3) above,** implement a 4-fish annual limit of halibut, and implement the number of closed Tuesdays necessary to achieve the allocation, as indicated in **Table 3A.14 (page 36)** of the ADF&G analysis.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Kimball absent

The Council made a second motion on charter halibut under staff tasking.

D1 GOA Tanner Crab Protections

This item was postponed until a later date.

D2 BS FEP Climate Change Taskforce

Council Staff: Dr. Diana Stram

Other Presenters: Dr. Kirstin Holsman (AFSC)

Action Required:

1. Review workplan
2. Provide any feedback to the proposed scope or content

Summary

After staff presentations, the AP report, and public comment, Mr. Tweit commented that a motion would come under the next agenda item, Staff Tasking.

E1 Staff Tasking

Council Staff: David Witherell

Action Required:

1. Review Committees and Plan Teams
2. Provide direction on other tasking priorities and scheduling

Summary

The Council listened to staff presentations, the AP Report, and public comment.

MOTION 1 – Charter Halibut:

Mr. Mezirow , seconded by Ms. Kimball, made the following motion:

The Council directs staff to expand the Halibut timeline document to include an expanded analysis of options 4 and 5. This should include applying each option retrospectively to determine the impacts of each option on the precision of harvest estimates and operation of the Halibut Catch Sharing Plan.

Additionally, the Council requests the staff provide information on the performance of the Charter Halibut Registration program. This information should include metrics like the number of permits registered each year, number of permits retired, number of transferable permits and number of non-transferable permits.

VOTE ON MOTION 1: The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION 2 – IRA Funds and CCF:

Mr. Tweit, seconded by Ms. Vanderhoeven, made the following motion:

The Council endorses the scope of work and preliminary timeline and milestones outlined in the staff [workplan](#) presented at the December meeting, and directs staff to reflect this approach in grant applications for IRA climate resiliency funding.

The Council also endorses the Climate Change Taskforce’s proposed format and timing (June) for the Climate Scenario Workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to provide a suite of short- and long-term management recommendations to improve climate resiliency of federally managed fisheries in the North Pacific. The Council intends that discussions and case studies at the workshop be broadly applicable across the North Pacific, and that staff explore options to allow for broad participation including virtually. Recommendations resulting from the workshop could be considered in conjunction with the scoping period for the programmatic evaluation.

VOTE ON MOTION 2: The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS: Ms. Drobnica read of the list of appointments for 2024 which are as follows:

AP members for 2024 will be:

Tiffany Andrew	Mellisa Johnson	Chelsae Radell
Tamara Briggie	Julie Kavanaugh	Brian Ritchie
Eva Burke	Rick Laitinen	Annika Saltman
Nels Evans	Heather Mann	Paul Wilkins
Gretar Gudmundsson	Lauren Howard	Susie Zagorski
Tim Heuker	Patrick O’Donnell	
James Johnson	Landry Price	

SSC members for 2024 will be:

Chris Anderson	Jason Gasper	Franz Mueter
Amy Bishop	Dana Hanselman	Andrew Munro
Curry Cunningham	Brad Harris	Chris Siddon
Martin Dorn	Michael Jepson	Ian Stewart
Mike Downs	Kailin Kroetz	Patrick Sullivan
Sherri Dressel	Kathryn Meyer (alt Fabio	Robert Suryan
Robert Foy	Caltabellota)	Alison Whitman

Plan Teams

Dr. Lukas DeFilippo has been appointed to the **BSAI Groundfish Plan Team**, and Mr. Ethan Nichols has been appointed to the **BSAI Crab Plan Team**.

The Council adjourned Monday, December 11, 2023, at 11:44 A.M.