

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups
(Revised January 28, 2009)

Council/Board of Fisheries Joint Protocol Committee

Updated: 8/10/07	<u>Council:</u> Dave Benson Ed Dersham Eric Olson	<u>Board:</u> Larry Edfelt John Jensen Mel Morris
Staff: Jane DiCosimo		

Council Coordination Committee

[Designated and renamed by Magnuson Act reauthorization April 2007]

Appointed: 4/05 Updated: 8/10/07 Staff: Chris Oliver	<u>CFMC:</u> C: Eugenio Pinerio ED: Miguel Rolon	<u>NPFMC:</u> C: Eric Olson ED: Chris Oliver
	<u>GMFMC:</u> C: Tom McIlwain ED: Rick Leard (acting)	<u>PFMC:</u> C: Donald Hansen ED: Don McIsaac
	<u>MAFMC:</u> C: Richard Robins ED: Dan Furlong	<u>SAFMC:</u> C: Duane Harris ED: Bob Mahood
	<u>NEFMC:</u> C: John Pappalardo ED: Paul Howard	<u>WPFMC:</u> C: Sean Martin ED: Kitty Simonds

Council Executive/Finance Committee

Updated: 8/10/07	Eric Olson (Chair)
<u>Status:</u> Meet as necessary	Doug Mecum (NMFS) Alt. Sue Salvesson Dave Hanson Denby Lloyd (ADFG) Alt. Dave Bedford Roy Hyder
Staff: Chris Oliver/Dave Witherell/Gail Bendixen	Jeff Koenings (WDF), Alt. Bill Tweit

Bering Sea Crab Advisory Committee

Appointed 4/25/07	Sam Cotten (Chair)	Lenny Herzog
Revised 11/15/07	Jerry Bongen	Kevin Kaldestad
	Steve Branson	Frank Kelty
	Florence Colburn	John Moller
	Linda Freed	Rob Rogers
	Dave Hambleton	Simeon Swetzof
	Phil Hanson	Ernest Weiss
Staff: Mark Fina	Tim Henkel	

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(Revised January 28, 2009)

Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch Workgroup

Appointed: 3/07 Staff: Diana Stram	Stephanie Madsen (Co-chair) Eric Olson (Co-chair) John Gruver Karl Haflinger Jennifer Hooper	Paul Peyton Becca Robbins Gisclair Mike Smith Vincent Webster (BOF)
---	--	--

Crab Interim Action Committee

[Required under BSAI Crab FMP]

Doug Mecum, NMFS Denby Lloyd, ADF&G Jeff Koenings, WDF
--

Ecosystem Committee

Updated: 8/10/07 <u>Status</u> : Active Staff: Diana Evans	Stephanie Madsen (Chair) Jim Ayers Jon Kurland Dave Benton Doug DeMaster/Bill Karp Dave Fluharty John Iani
--	--

Enforcement Committee

Updated: 7/03 <u>Status</u> : Active Staff: Jon McCracken	Roy Hyder (Chair) LCDR Lisa Ragone, USCG Major Steve Bear, AK F&W Protection Martin Loefflad, NMFS Herman Savikko, ADF&G Lisa Lindeman/Garland Walker, NOAA-GC Matt Brown/Ken Hansen, NMFS-Enforcement Sue Salvesson, NMFS
---	---

Fur Seal Committee

Updated: 8/10/07 <u>Status</u> : Active Staff: Bill Wilson	David Benson (Chair) Larry Cotter Aquilina Lestenkof Paul MacGregor Heather McCarty Anthony Mercurief
--	--

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(Revised January 28, 2009)

GOA Groundfish Rationalization Community Committee

Appointed: 11/04 Staff: Nicole Kimball	Hazel Nelson (Chair) Julie Bonney Duncan Fields Chuck McCallum	Patrick Norman Joe Sullivan Chuck Totemoff Ernie Weiss
---	---	---

Halibut Charter Stakeholder Committee

Appointed: 1/06 Revised: 11/5/07 Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Dave Hanson (Chair) Seth Bone Robert Candopoulos Ricky Gease John Goodhand Kathy Hansen Dan Hull	Chuck McCallum Larry McQuarrie Rex Murphy Peggy Parker Charles "Chaco" Pearman Greg Sutter
---	--	---

IFQ Implementation Committee

Reconstituted: 7/31/03 Updated: 8/10/07 Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Jeff Stephan (Chair) Bob Alverson Julianne Curry Tim Henkel Dennis Hicks Don Iverson	Don Lane Kris Norosz Paul Peyton <i>Vacancy (1)</i>
--	---	--

Non-Target Species Committee

Appointed: 7/03 Updated: 8/10/07 Staff: Jane DiCosimo, NPFMC/ Olav Ormseth, AFSC	Dave Benson (Chair) Julie Bonney John Gauvin Ken Goldman Karl Haflinger Simon Kinneen	Michelle Ridgway Janet Smoker Paul Spencer Lori Swanson Jon Warrenchuk
---	--	--

Observer Advisory Committee

Reconstituted: 1/06 Updated: 12/07 <u>Status</u> : Active Staff: Chris Oliver/ Nicole Kimball	Joe Kyle (Chair) Bob Alverson Christian Asay Jerry Bongen Julie Bonney Kenny Down Todd Loomis	Paul MacGregor Tracey Mayhew Brent Paine Peter Risse Kathy Robinson <i>Vacancy (1)</i>
---	---	---

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(Revised January 28, 2009)

Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee

Appointed: 2/07 Staff: Diana Stram	Steve Minor (Chair) Keith Colburn Lance Farr Phil Hanson Kevin Kaldestad Garry Loncon Gary Painter	Rob Rogers Vic Sheibert Gary Stewart Tom Suryan Arni Thomson, Secretary (non-voting)
---	--	---

Socioeconomic Data Collection Committee

Appointed: 12/07 Staff: Mark Fina	Glenn Reed (Chair) Bruce Berg Michael Catsi Dave Colpo Paula Cullenberg	Brett Reasor Ed Richardson Mike Szymanski Gale Vick
--	---	--

Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee

Appointed: 2/01 Updated: 8/10/07 [formerly SSL RPA Committee; renamed February 2002] Staff: Bill Wilson	Larry Cotter (Chair) Jerry Bongen Julie Bonney Mel Morris John Gauvin John Henderschedt Daniel Hennen Sue Hills	Frank Kelty Terry Leitzell Dave Little Steve MacLean Stephanie Madsen Max Malavansky, Jr Art Nelson Beth Stewart
---	--	---

VMS Committee

Appointed: 6/02 <u>Status</u> : Idle, pending direction Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Roy Hyder (Chair) Al Burch Guy Holt Ed Page LCDR Lisa Ragone Lori Swanson
--	--

February 2, 2009 Seattle, WA Renaissance Hotel	March 30, 2009 Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel	June 1, 2009 Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel
SSL Draft Status Quo BiOp&EIS: <i>Update on schedule</i> BS&AI P.cod Split: <i>Discuss plan/action as necessary</i> SSL Survey Results: <i>Report and action as necessary</i> AFA Coop Reports: <i>Receive reports</i>	GOA fixed gear LLP recency: <i>Final Action</i> GOA P cod sector split: <i>Initial Review</i>	GOA P cod sector split: <i>Final Action</i>
Am 80 Cooperative Formation: <i>Initial Review</i>	Am 80 Cooperative Formation: <i>Final Action</i> Am 80 Lost Vessel Replacement: <i>Initial Review</i> Am 80 Cooperative Report: <i>Review</i>	Am 80 Lost Vessel Replacement: <i>Final Action</i>
GOA sideboards for AFA CVs: <i>Discussion paper</i> GOA P.cod sideboards for crab vessels: <i>Initial Review</i> GOA Rockfish Program Changes: <i>Discussion Paper</i>	GOA P.cod sideboards for crab vessels: <i>Final Action (T)</i>	Permit Fees: <i>Initial Review</i>
AI Pcod Processing Sideboards: <i>Discussion Paper</i>		
BSAI Crab Regional Delivery Relief: <i>Initial Review</i>	BSAI Crab Regional Delivery Relief: <i>Final Action (T)</i>	
Comprehensive Data Collection: <i>Committee Report</i> BSAI Crab Amendments: <i>Review Progress/Cttee Report</i> BSAI Crab EDR Surveys: <i>Progress Report</i> Halibut catch sharing plan: <i>Discussion papers (SSC only)</i> Halibut/Sablefish Inactive IFQ Permits: <i>Review/rescind?</i>	BSAI Crab Amendments: <i>Discussion Papers</i>	BSAI Crab Amendments: <i>Action as necessary</i>
BSAI Fixed Gear Parallel Fisheries: <i>Initial Review</i>	BSAI Fixed Gear Parallel Fisheries: <i>Final Action</i>	
BS Chinook Salmon Bycatch: <i>ICA progress/SSC review</i> <i>Committee Report</i>	BS Chum Salmon Bycatch: <i>Refine Alternatives</i> BS Chinook Salmon Bycatch EIS: <i>Final Action</i>	BS Chum Salmon Bycatch: <i>Refine Alternatives</i>
BS Bottom Trawl Sweeps: <i>Discussion Paper</i>	BS Bottom Trawl Sweeps: <i>Initial Review (T)</i>	BS Bottom Trawl Sweeps: <i>Final Action (T)</i>
Arctic FMP: <i>Final Action</i>	Bristol Bay Trawl Closure & Walrus: <i>Discussion Paper</i>	BSAI Crab: <i>SAFE report/Pribilof BKC rebuilding alternatives</i>
	GOA Tanner & Chinook Bycatch: <i>Discussion Paper</i> BSAI Skates Complex: <i>Initial Review</i>	BSAI Skates Complex: <i>Final Action</i>
MPA Nomination Process: <i>Discuss & Action as necessary</i>	HAPC Criteria & Process: <i>Review/Discuss</i>	AI FEP addendum: <i>Review/Discuss (T)</i> HAPC Process: <i>Action as necessary</i>
AKNative/Community Outreach: <i>Report & Action as necessary</i>	Scallop Mgmt: <i>Team report/review and approve SAFE</i>	PSEIS: <i>Discuss/Review objectives & workplan</i>
Halibut PSC Discard Survival EFP: <i>Review</i>		

AI - Aleutian Islands
 GOA - Gulf of Alaska
 SSL - Steller Sea Lion
 BOF - Board of Fisheries
 FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan
 CDQ - Community Development Quota
 VMS - Vessel Monitoring System
 NOI - Notice of Intent
 (T) Tentatively scheduled

TAC - Total Allowable Catch
 BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
 IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
 GHV - Guideline Harvest Level
 EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
 LLP - License Limitation Program
 SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation
 PSC - Prohibited Species Catch
 HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern

Future Meeting Dates and Locations

March 30 -, 2009 in Anchorage
 June 1-, 2009 in Anchorage
 October 1-, 2009 in Anchorage (AP, SSC start on THURSDAY)
 (Council on Saturday)
 December 7-, 2009 in Anchorage
 February 8-, 2010 in Portland OR
 April 6-, 2010 in Anchorage (start on Tuesday)
 June 7-, 2010 in Stika

Council Project Summary February 2009

Council Projects	Projected Weeks	Council/ NMFS %	Comments
Groundfish Fishery Issues			
GOA P. cod Sector Splits	4	70/30	Initial review in April (Jeannie/NMFS)
GOA fixed gear recency	4	90/10	Initial review in April (Jeannie)
GOA P.cod sideboards for BSAI crab vessels	2	90/10	Initial Review in February (Jon)
GOA Sideboards for AFA CVs	3	90/10	Discussion paper in February (Jeannie/Jon)
GOA Sideboards for CGOA rockfish	0	90/10	Being Prepared for SOC review (Diana E)
Break out BSAI Skate complex	6	80/20	Initial Review in April (Jane/Jon)
Break out BSAI/GOA Squid	2	90/10	Initial Review in October (Jane/Jon)
Break out BSAI/GOA Sharks	2	90/10	Initial Review in February 2010 (Jane/Jon)
Observer Program (changes to existing program)	2	80/20	Being prepared for Secretarial Review (NMFS/Nicole).
Observer Program Restructuring	6	50/50	Committee report in October (Nicole)
Trawl LLP Recency	0	90/10	Submitted to NMFS for Secretarial Review (NMFS/Nicole).
Pacific cod BS and AI split	?	90/10	Discussion paper in February (Jon/Nicole/NMFS)
Comprehensive economic data collection	?	10/90	Workgroup report in February (NMFS/Mark/Jeannie)
Am 80 cooperative formation	4	20/80	Initial Review in February (NMFS/Jon).
BSAI Fixed Gear Parallel fisheries	3	80/20	Initial Review in February (Jeannie/NMFS).
AI cod processor sideboards	4	90/10	Discussion paper in February (Nicole).
CGOA Rockfish pilot program changes	?	80/20	Discuss in February (Mark/NMFS)
AM 80 Vessel Replacement	?	10/90	Initial Review in February (Jon/NMFS)

Halibut Fishery Issues

Charter Moratorium	0	90/10	Being Prepared for SOC review (Jane/Nicole/NMFS/contractor)
Charter Catch Sharing Plan	4	90/10	Being prepared for SOC review (Jane/contractor/NMFS)
Charter 2C GHL Measures	0	90/10	Proposed rule published; Comments due 1/21 (NMFS)
IFQ hired skipper 12 month issue	1	90/1+D270	Being prepared for SOC review (Jane/NMFS)
Subsistence Rural Eligibility	1	90/10	Being prepared for Secretarial Review (Jane/NMFS)

Crab Fishery Issues

Pribilof Blue king crab rebuilding plan	1	50/50	Discuss alternatives in June (NMFS/ADF&G/Diana S)
BSAI Crab Regional Delivery Emergency Relief	1	90/10	Initial Review in February (Mark)
BSAI Crab Economic Data Reporting	?	20/80	Discuss in February (NMFS/Mark)
BSAI Crab Arbitration issues	0	20/80	Being prepared for SOC (Mark/NMFS)
BSAI Crab Loan Program Fees	0	20/80	Being prepared for SOC (Mark/NMFS)
BSAI Crab Program Changes	?	90/10	Prgress Report in February (Mark/NMFS/contractor)
BSAI Crab Advisory Committee	?	90/10	Report in December (Mark/NMFS)

CDQ Issues

CDQ Cost-Recovery	?	10/90	Discuss in future meeting (NMFS/Nicole)
CDQ Amendment 71/22 (remaining MSA provisions)	?	50/50	Discuss at future meeting (Nicole/NMFS)
CDQ: Regulation of harvest (MSA provision)	0	10/90	Being Prepared for Secretarial Review (Nicole/NMFS)

Bycatch Issues

GOA Salmon and Crab Bycatch Controls	?	80/20	Discussion paper in April (Diana E.)
BSAI Chum salmon bycatch	?	70/30	Discuss alternatives in April (Diana S)
BSAI Chinook Salmon Bycatch EIS	12	70/30	Final Action in April (Diana S./other)

Ecosystem Issues

BS bottom trawl sweep modifications	6	50/50	Discussion paper in February (Diana E/NMFS)
Bristol Bay Trawl Closure and walrus	4	90/10	Discussion paper in April (Diana E/Bill/NMFS)
EFH 5 Yr review		20/80	Discuss at future meeting (Diana E. NMFS)
HAPC nomination process		20/80	Discuss in April (Diana E./NMFS)
Ecosystem-based Management	?	90/10	Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum meeting in future (Diana E)
Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan	0	90/10	Discuss addendum in June (Diana E.)
Arctic Fishery Management Plan	4	90/10	Final Action in February (Bill/NMFS)
SSL BiOp	?	30/70	Review schedule in February (Bill/NMFS)

Project timeline and major tasking for Council analytical staff. Updated 1/27/09

Analytical Staff	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Mark Fina, Sr. Economist CGOA Rockfish Program changes BSAI Crab Regional Delivery Relief BSAI Crab program changes	Discussion Initial Review Progress report		Final Action (T) Discussion papers						Initial Review (T)
Jon McCracken, Economist GOA P.cod sideboards for crab vessels GOA sideboards for AFA CVs (lead) BS&AI Pcod area split	Initial Review Discussion Discussion		Final Action (T) Initial Review (T)						
Jeannie Heltzel, Fishery Analyst GOA P.cod sector split GOA fixed gear recency BSAI Fixed Gear Parallel Fisheries GOA sideboards for AFA CVs (assist) Data collection/analyses assistance	Initial Review Discussion report		Initial Review Final Action Final Action Initial Review (T)						
Jane DiCosimo, Sr. Plan Coord Halibut catch sharing plan Halibut/sablefish IFQ Groundfish Plan Team BSAI /GOA Squid BSAI Skates	discussion paper SSC		Initial Review		Final Action				Initial Review (T)
Diana Stram, Plan Coordinator BSAI Chinook Salmon bycatch EIS BSAI Chum Salmon bycatch Groundfish Plan Team Crab Management Scallop Management	incentive program review Plan Team meeting		Final Action review alternatives SAFE report		review alternatives workshop/ plan team SAFE report	PribBKC alternatives/draft SAFE		plan team plan team	discussion SAFE
Bill Wilson, Protected Species Arctic FMP Bristol Bay Trawl closure and walrus Marine Mammal issues FMP Consultation	Final Action BiOp schedule update		Discussion paper						
Diana Evans, Fishery Analyst Groundfish PSEIS Update EAM and AI FEP GOA crab and salmon bycatch EFH and HAPC BS bottom trawl sweeps	scallop pt review Discussion		Discussion paper HAPC discussion Initial Review	Crab team review	Discuss plan Review addendum			Grounfish team review	
Nicole Kimball, Fishery Analyst CDQ Projects AI P.cod processing Sideboards Observer Program Community Outreach BSAI Pcod split (assist)	Discussion paper Report discussion		Report w/salmon bycatch						Committee report

Groundfish Workplan

Priority actions revised in February 2007, status updated to current

General Priority (in no particular order)	Specific priority actions	Related to management objective:	Status (updated 1-23-09)	2009					2010					
				Feb	Apr	Jun	Oct	Dec	Feb	Apr	Jun	Oct	Dec	
Prevent Overfishing	a. continue to develop management strategies that ensure sustainable yields of target species and minimize impacts on populations of incidentally-caught species	5	Aggregate ABC/OFL for GOA 'other species' in Apr 08 BSAI skates TAC breakout init review Apr 2009 BSAI/GOA squids breakout analysis in 2009, then BSAI/GOA sharks											
	b. evaluate effectiveness of setting ABC levels using Tier 5 and 6 approaches, for rockfish and other species	4	AFSC responding to CIE reviews as part of harvest specifications process											
	c. continue to develop a systematic approach to lumping and splitting that takes into account both biological and management considerations	5	BSAI Pcod split discussion in Feb 09 otherwise on hold pending Natl Std 1 guideline final rule (expected in Spring 2009)											
Preserve Food Web	a. encourage and participate in development of key ecosystem indicators	10	ecosystem SAFE presented annually; AI FEP identified/refined indicators for the Aleutians											
	b. Reconcile procedures to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in establishing harvest limits, for rockfish and other species	11	on hold pending National Standard 1 guideline final rule (expected in Spring 2009)											
	c. develop pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the AI	13	FEP brochure published Dec 07 FEP revisions in 2009, further implementation discussed by FEP team and Ecosystem Committee											
Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	a. explore incentive-based bycatch reduction programs in GOA and BSAI fisheries	15	partially addressed in BSAI salmon bycatch EIS											
	b. explore mortality rate-based approaches to setting PSC limits in GOA and BSAI fisheries	20	partially addressed in BSAI salmon bycatch EIS											
	c. consider new management strategies to reduce incidental rockfish bycatch and discards	17												
	d. develop statistically rigorous approaches to estimating bycatch in line with national initiatives	14, 19	National Bycatch Report update in Dec 07											
	e. encourage research programs to evaluate population estimates for non-target species	16	Part of research priorities, adopted in June 2007											
	f. develop incentive-based and appropriate biomass-based trigger limits and area closures for BSAI salmon bycatch reduction, as information becomes available	14, 15, 20	EIS for caps and regulatory closure areas for Chinook, final action in Apr 09; discussion paper on chum measures for Apr 09											
	g. assess impact of management measures on regulatory discards and consider measures to reduce where practicable	17	partially addressed by GOA arrowtooth MRA analysis (Council action Oct 07)											

Council Outreach Workgroup Meeting Report

November 24, 2008

10 am – 4 pm

NPRB conference room
1007 West 3rd Avenue, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501

Workgroup Members Attended: Paula Cullenberg, Duncan Fields, Bob Henrichs, Jennifer Hooper, Eric Olson (Chair), Caleb Pungowiyi

Council staff: Nicole Kimball, Chris Oliver (Executive Director)

Other participants: George Plentikoff, Barbara MacManus

1. Introductions & purpose of the meeting

After introductions among the group, the Chair summarized the purpose of the meeting. This workgroup was formed with the purpose of reviewing a discussion paper on potential approaches to implementing the Council's groundfish policy workplan priority to improve communication and participation with communities and Alaska Native entities. The workgroup was tasked with providing recommendations to the Council on an overall approach to improve upon its existing public process, understanding that there may be ways to better engage with communities and Alaska Native entities on a consistent basis, as well as on projects that may be of specific interest to these stakeholders. The Council approved initiation of this workgroup at its June 2008 meeting.

2. Review Council action to-date & handouts

The workgroup was provided with several documents prior to the meeting, and these were reviewed briefly by Council staff (Nicole Kimball). These documents included:

- A Potential Approach to Implementing the Council's Groundfish Policy Workplan Priority: Increase Alaska Native and Community Consultation (May 2008)
- Chinook Salmon Bycatch Outreach Plan and Outreach Flyer (2008)
- Arctic Fishery Management Plan Outreach Plan and Outreach Flyer (2007)

The purpose was to review the policy approaches that had been presented to the Council at prior meetings, highlighting those that the Council appeared most interested in, and use the suggestions in the May 2008 paper as a starting point for the group's discussion. Review of recent outreach plans (Arctic FMP and Chinook salmon bycatch) also provided some background, such that the workgroup understood recent outreach efforts specific to two ongoing projects. These examples were effectively test projects for the project-specific outreach approaches suggested in the May 2008 discussion paper.

3. Discussion: potential pathway for improving Council outreach & stakeholder participation

The group discussed the potential for a standing Council committee that could provide input to the Council on ways to improve outreach to Alaska Native entities and communities, as well as recommendations on specific Council actions that may warrant a more detailed outreach plan, beyond the

normal Council process. The pros and cons of such a committee were thoroughly addressed. The discussion considered Council budget restraints, broad representational interests, Council staff time, and the importance of community considerations under the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act. After lengthy discussion, the group eventually developed a strong consensus that a standing "Alaska Native and community outreach" committee should be formed by the Council. The committee would operate as any other Council committee (no-host). The primary purpose for the committee would not be to provide the Council with community input on particular actions, but rather to provide the Council with recommendations regarding how to better communicate with Alaska Native groups and communities. Specifically, the workgroup recommended three primary tasks for the committee:

- 1) Advise the Council on how to provide opportunity for better understanding and participation from rural communities and Alaska Native entities (two-way communication).
- 2) Provide advice on which Council actions/issues need a specific outreach plan, and prioritize those issues.
- 3) Facilitate input on the type of community-specific information that should be in Council analyses. The intent is to find ways to improve the community impacts sections of analyses, and to have a focused means to do so on a regular basis. These recommendations may be universal in nature, but would not preclude review of a particular analysis.

The group noted that the membership of such a committee could be very dynamic, in that the committee chairman could request "advisors" to help inform the committee as new issues arise. The primary goal is to have a structured and consistent way to vet issues, even if region-specific, project-specific, or at-large advisories to the committee may be necessary. While the group did not consider specific membership, it agreed that a relatively small committee would likely be the most effective and productive. The workgroup discussed designing a committee that would not exceed nine members, which includes two Council members (Olson and Fields). The workgroup deferred to the Chair to designate committee members, recognizing that the primary goal is to appoint members with appropriate expertise, and that some broad geographic representation would be considered to the extent practicable. The group also discussed the frequency of potential committee meetings, and requested no less than one a year, if current issues warranted a meeting. One member expressed a desire to have meetings as often as quarterly.

Other suggestions relevant to the standing committee recommendation are as follows:

- A specific annual budget should be attached to this effort. Council Executive Director can provide additional information on budget limitations at future meetings. Workgroup members asked about the potential for regional corporations or other entities to fund travel specific to Council outreach plans, but the Council and Council members are not permitted to receive external funding to conduct Council business. However, regional corporations could fund individual committee members to participate in the committee process, or fund individual residents to travel to Council meetings.
- Location of committee meetings. Focus on Anchorage initially, and ensure that the location does not preclude any member from attending. Consider committee meetings in rural Alaska in the future. The workgroup also recommended teleconferencing committee meetings if necessary, in order to have maximum participation.
- Committee staffing. The workgroup hoped that that committee would not take significant staff time, but that the majority of staff time would be devoted to project-specific outreach plans. The workgroup did not recommend hiring a tribal liaison, but to use existing staff at this time. (The

Executive Director noted that the Council is not positioned to hire new staff in the near future.) The workgroup questioned whether NMFS may have staff available to help fulfill a logistics coordinator role toward this effort, and requested that NMFS be approached and encouraged to help support the committee's outreach efforts.

- The workgroup recommended leaving all of the project-specific approaches, from the May 2008 policy paper, to the full committee for discussion. All of these suggestions should be considered when determining how to develop a project-specific outreach plan.

The workgroup also talked about a general goal of increasing rural participation in the fisheries management process and commended the Council's effort on the Arctic FMP and Chinook salmon bycatch outreach efforts. While direct contact is preferable, it may not be possible due to cost and logistical difficulties – either for rural residents to travel to Council meetings, or for the Council to meet in rural areas.

One suggestion discussed at length was the possibility of teleconferencing the Council meetings, and allowing public testimony to be provided over the phone. The intent is to find a way to provide feedback on a local level directly to the Council. The group agreed that this was not a feasible idea. There were several practical concerns, as the length of Council meetings and time allotted for each agenda item would not be able to accommodate this practice. The group then discussed the possibility of a video feed or streaming the meeting (listen only), allowing people outside of Anchorage or Seattle to listen to the meeting in real-time. The workgroup left further discussion of this issue to the standing committee.

The workgroup also suggested asking resource agencies to assist in project-specific outreach plans (e.g., Arctic FMP, salmon bycatch). The group discussed whether NMFS could contribute resources (e.g., staff, sponsor workshops, etc), and suggested that the Council work jointly with NMFS when possible. For example, if NMFS is conducting a tribal consultation in a rural community, staff should determine whether the Council can conduct an outreach meeting, if appropriate, in the same location and timeframe. Staff should also determine whether there are ways that the Council outreach efforts can bolster tribal consultation efforts, without confusing the Council's outreach priority with the agency responsibility to provide government-to-government consultations. There may be some meaningful efficiencies to be gained, recognizing that any action should not confuse the Council's outreach efforts with the agency's obligation to fulfill its tribal consultation requirements.

One member also suggested developing a cycle such that Council members travel to rural Alaska and convey information on the Council process and current issues, while receiving input directly from Native and community residents. This suggestion stemmed from the discussion paper, and the group had sufficient interest in this approach such that they recommended it be considered by the standing committee, if initiated.

The workgroup also recommended creating a database (i.e., running calendar) of regional meetings, such that the Council and staff would be aware of regularly scheduled (typically annual) meetings in rural Alaska that draw a broad cross-section of stakeholders. This would allow staff to better plan outreach meetings, as well as potentially provide the opportunity for Council members to attend and/or provide presentations on Council issues. It would also provide a quick way to find contact information for interested stakeholders when implementing a project-specific outreach plan. Examples of meetings to include were: Association of Village Council Presidents, Alaska Federation of Natives, Alaska Board of Fisheries, boroughs, Alaska Forum on the Environment, Alaska Inter-tribal Council, Alaska Native Regional Corporations, stateside Native co-management groups, etc. It was suggested to contact State of Alaska staff to see if this type of effort has already been completed.

Finally, the workgroup discussed some simple strategies to broaden current participation in the Council process, such as posting the Council agenda in some key village newspapers. Two members of the workgroup (Hooper and Pungowiyi) participated in Council outreach meetings on recent issues (Chinook salmon bycatch and Arctic FMP, respectively). They offered to contact others that participated, in order to provide feedback to Council staff on the strengths and weaknesses of those approaches.

X 4. Summary of primary recommendations

The workgroup recommends the Council initiate a standing committee (*Council Community Outreach and Impacts Committee*) to provide: input to the Council on ways to improve outreach to Alaska Native entities and communities; recommendations for specific Council actions that warrant specific outreach plans; and input on the type of community-specific information that should be provided in Council analyses.

The workgroup recommends creating a database (i.e., running calendar) of regional meetings, such that the Council and staff would be aware of regularly scheduled meetings in rural Alaska that draw a broad cross-section of stakeholders.

The workgroup recommends that other potential outreach strategies identified both in this workgroup report, and in the May 2008 policy paper, should be further discussed by the standing committee and detailed recommendations provided to the Council.

5. Schedule future meeting if necessary

The workgroup did not see a need for a future meeting of the workgroup. The workgroup recommended moving forward with the recommendation to appoint a standing committee, prior to the April 2009 Council meeting. A committee meeting could then be scheduled, with more formalized recommendations on outreach provided to the Council at its April or June 2009 meeting.

Regional outreach meetings for Draft EIS on Chinook bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery

Southeast Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (RAC) meeting: Sept 2008, Juneau. NMFS: Gretchen Harrington. RAC Coordinator: Robert Larson (907) 772-5930 robertlarson@fs.fed.us

Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting: Oct 7, Dillingham. NPFMC: Nicole Kimball & Diana Stram. RAC Coordinator: Donald Mike (907) 786-3629 donald_mike@fws.gov

Association of Village Council Presidents: Oct 8, Bethel. NPFMC: Nicole Kimball, Diana Stram, Eric Olson, Bill Tweit. AVCP Contact: Jennifer Hooper, jhooper@avcp.org

Eastern Interior Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting: Oct 15, Nenana. NPFMC: Diana S. Obren Davis, Gerry Merrigan, Duncan Fields. NMFS: Gretchen Harrington. RAC Coordinator: Vince Mathews (907) 456-0277 vince_mathews@fws.gov

Northwest Arctic Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting: Oct 16, Kotzebue. NPFMC: Diana Stram, Gerry Merrigan, Duncan Fields. NMFS: Obren Davis. RAC Coordinator: Barbara Armstrong (907) 786-3885 barbara_armstrong@fws.gov

Western Interior Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting: Oct 28, McGrath. NPFMC: Nicole Kimball, Diana Stram, Dave Benson, Sam Cotten. RAC Coordinator: Vince Mathews (907) 456-0277 vince_mathews@fws.gov

Nome outreach meeting: Jan 22, Nome. NPFMC: Nicole Kimball, Diana Stram, Eric Olson, Bill Tweit; NMFS: Sally Bibb, Jon Kurland. Contact & location: Austin Ahmasuk, Nome Eskimo Community hall.

Additional meetings attended & presentations made:

Yukon River Panel meeting: Dec 9, Anchorage. NPFMC: Diana Stram, Chris Oliver, Eric Olson, Bill Tweit, Sam Cotten, Roy Hyder, Ed Dersham, Jon Henderschedt, Dave Benson, Greg Balough.