



Agenda Topics

Council Meeting, April 6-11, 2023

In-person in Anchorage, Alaska, with remote participation opportunities

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Council Chair will 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 and/or verbal management report. In April, there are also additional management presentations as well. 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.

C1 Cook Inlet Salmon FMP amendment – Nicole Watson

The Council is considering an amendment to allow federal management of salmon in Cook Inlet, after closing a portion of the area in 2016. A lawsuit led to opening the fishery in 2022, and the Council will now consider a path forward that is responsive to the court decision and to stakeholders.

C2 Salmon bycatch reports – Diana Stram

The Council will receive informational reports about salmon caught as bycatch in Alaska trawl fisheries and which river system they were originally from. Also, fishing industry representatives will give updates on their efforts to make sure that salmon bycatch remains low. The Council's Salmon Bycatch Committee will give its report and recommendations for changes to management of chum salmon bycatch.

C3 Scallops – SAFE report – Sarah Rheinsmith

A group of scallop experts, the Scallop Plan Team, met virtually in February to discuss the status and appropriate harvest level for scallops. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Council will review the Plan Team's report and set appropriate harvest limits for the 2023/2024.

C4 Scallop FMP multi-year specifications amendment – Sarah Rheinsmith

The Scallop Fishery Management Plan requires that a report assessing scallop stocks be prepared every year. However, new data is not always available every year, and the Council is considering an change to the plan that would allow the timing for assessing stocks to be more flexible, based on when new data is available and also the health of the stock.

C5 Greenland turbot in longline pots – Sam Cunningham

The Council is considering whether to authorize longline pot gear as a legal gear to fish for Bering Sea Greenland turbot. The fishery has been using hook-and-line gear, but killer whales eating turbot hooked on the gear has caused boats to stop fishing. Alternatives include allowing any non-trawl vessel with a specific license to use longline pot gear, or limiting the ability to only specific vessels. There is strong interest in keeping the fishery open.

D1 Report on SSC rapid environmental change workshop – Diana Evans

The SSC hosted a workshop in February 2023 to identify science and monitoring requirements for supporting future Council decision-making. The Council will review recommendations from the draft workshop report and any additional discussions from the SSC.

D2 Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (BS FEP) Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, Subsistence (LKTKS) Taskforce – Kate Haapala

The Council will review a document that provides guidance for incorporating LK, TK, and subsistence information into the Council's decision-making process. The Council may choose to adopt them and/or initiate work on implementing the guidance, or first release the recommendations for an extended public comment period.

D3 BS FEP Climate Change Taskforce – Diana Stram

The Council will hear a report from the Climate Change Taskforce (CCTF) who reviewed SSC comments on the climate readiness. The CCTF will also give an update on future plans for a Climate Change workshop.

D4 Groundfish and Crab Economic SAFE reports (SSC ONLY) – Jon McCracken

Economic experts from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center will present the economic status reports on Crab and Groundfish fisheries. The Groundfish report includes detailed economic data, such as ex-vessel revenue estimates and product price projections for the most commercially valuable species. Meanwhile, the Crab report contains economic information such as production, sales, revenue and price indices in the harvesting and processing sectors.

D5 Annual Community Engagement and Participation Overview (ACEPO) report, NSRKC research update (SSC ONLY) – Kate Haapala

The SSC will review a report that provides information on communities' participation in North Pacific groundfish and crab fishing. The SSC will also receive a presentation on recent research on community perceptions of the Norton Sound Red King Crab fishery, which is not related to the ACEPO report but is responsive to the Council's research priorities.

D6 Groundfish Plan Team Dec 2022 workgroup recommendations (SSC ONLY) –Sara Cleaver

The Groundfish Plan Teams recommended that the SSC consider forming a working group to address topics related to agreed rules, or Harvest Control Rules, that determine how much fishing can take place. Recommendations include new approaches for accounting for changes in ecosystems related to climate change. The SSC will discuss whether or not to endorse the workgroup 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 also review its committee membership and identify agendas for any upcoming committee meetings.