

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(Revised May 31, 2011)

Council/Board of Fisheries Joint Protocol Committee

Updated: 8/10/07 Staff: Jane DiCosimo	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><u>Council:</u></td> <td style="width: 50%;"><u>Board:</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dave Benson</td> <td>Vince Webster</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ed Dersham</td> <td>John Jensen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eric Olson</td> <td>Mel Morris</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Council:</u>	<u>Board:</u>	Dave Benson	Vince Webster	Ed Dersham	John Jensen	Eric Olson	Mel Morris
<u>Council:</u>	<u>Board:</u>								
Dave Benson	Vince Webster								
Ed Dersham	John Jensen								
Eric Olson	Mel Morris								

Council Coordination Committee

[Designated and renamed by Magnuson Act reauthorization April 2007]

Appointed: 4/05 Updated: 7/23/09 Staff: Chris Oliver	<p><u>CFMC:</u> C: Eugenio Piñeiro-Soler ED: Miguel Rolón</p> <p><u>GMFMC:</u> C: Robert Shipp ED: Steve Bortone</p> <p><u>MAFMC:</u> C: Richard Robins ED: Chris Moore</p> <p><u>NEFMC:</u> C: John Pappalardo ED: Paul Howard</p>	<p><u>NPFMC:</u> C: Eric Olson ED: Chris Oliver</p> <p><u>PFMC:</u> C: Dave Ortmann ED: Don McIsaac</p> <p><u>SAFMC:</u> C: David Cupka ED: Bob Mahood</p> <p><u>WPFMC:</u> C: Manual Deunas ED: Kitty Simonds</p>
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Council Executive/Finance Committee

Updated: 8/10/07 <u>Status:</u> Meet as necessary Staff: Chris Oliver/Dave Witherell/Gail Bendixen	Eric Olson (Chair) Jim Balsiger (NMFS) Alt. Glenn Merrille Dave Hanson (PSMFC) Cora Campbell (ADFG) Roy Hyder (ODFW) Bill Tweit (WDFW)
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Bering Sea Crab Advisory Committee

Appointed 4/25/07 Revised 11/15/07 Staff: Mark Fina	Sam Cotten (Chair) Jerry Bongen Steve Branson Florence Colburn Linda Freed Dave Hambleton Phil Hanson Tim Henkel	Lenny Herzog Kevin Kaldestad Frank Kelty John Moller Rob Rogers Simeon Swetzof Ernest Weiss
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NPFMC Committees & Workgroups
(Revised May 31, 2011)

Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch Workgroup

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

Appointed: 12/07 Updated: 2/9/09 Staff: Jeannie Heltzel	John Henderschedt (Chair) Bruce Berg Michael Catsi Dave Colpo Paula Cullenberg	Brett Reasor Glenn Reed Ed Richardson Mike Szymanski Gale Vick
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Crab Interim Action Committee
[Required under BSAI Crab FMP]

Jim Balsiger, NMFS Cora Campbell, ADF&G Phil Anderson, WDF

Ecosystem Committee

Updated: 10/22/07 <u>Status</u> : Active Staff: Diana Evans	Stephanie Madsen (Chair) Jim Ayers Dave Benton Doug DeMaster/Bill Karp Dave Fluharty John Iani Jon Kurland Caleb Pungowiyi
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Enforcement Committee

Updated: 7/03 <u>Status</u> : Active Staff: Jon McCracken	Roy Hyder (Chair) CAPT Mike Cerne, USCG Jon Streigel, AK F&W Protection Martin Loefflad, NMFS Stefanie Moreland, ADF&G Lisa Lindeman/Garland Walker, NOAA-GC Sherrie Meyers/Ken Hansen, NMFS-Enforcement Glenn Merrille, NMFS
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NPFMC Committees & Workgroups
(Revised May 31, 2011)

Halibut Charter Stakeholder Committee

Appointed: 1/06 Revised: 3/29/10 <u>Status</u> : Idle, pending direction Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Dave Hanson (Chair) Seth Bone Robert Candopoulos Ricky Gease John Goodhand Kathy Hansen Dan Hull Chuck McCallum	Larry McQuarrie Scott Meyer Stephanie Moreland Rex Murphy Peggy Parker Charles "Chaco" Pearman Greg Sutter
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IFQ Committee

Reconstituted: 7/31/03 Updated: 11/09 Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Dan Hull (Chair) Bob Alverson Rick Berns Julianne Curry Tim Henkel Don Iverson	Jeff Kauffman Don Lane Kris Norosz Paul Peyton Jeff Stephan Phil Wyman
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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 Michelle Ridgway	Janet Smoker Paul Spencer Lori Swanson Anne Vanderhoeven Jon Warrenchuk
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Observer Advisory Committee

Reconstituted: 1/20/11 Updated: 1/25 <u>Status</u> : Active Staff: Chris Oliver/ Nicole Kimball	Dan Hull (Chair) Bob Alverson Jerry Bongen Julie Bonney Kenny Down Dan Falvey Kathy Hansen	Michael Lake Todd Loomis Paul MacGregor Brent Paine David Polushkin Darren Stewart Ann Vanderhoeven
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NPFMC Committees & Workgroups
(Revised May 31, 2011)

Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee

Appointed: 12/10 Staff: Diana Stram	Steve Minor (Chair) Keith Colburn Kevin Kaldestad Garry Loncon Gary Painter Kirk Peterson Rob Rogers (Vice Chair) Vic Sheibert	Dale Swartzmiller Gary Stewart Tom Suryan Elizabeth Wiley Arni Thomson, Secretary (non-voting)
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Rural Outreach Committee

Appointed: 6/09 Staff: Nicole Kimball	Eric Olson (Chair) Paula Cullenberg Duncan Fields Jennifer Hooper Tom Okleasik Ole Olsen Pete Probasco
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Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee

Appointed: 2/01 Updated: 11/09 [formerly SSL RPA Committee; renamed February 2002] Staff: Jeannie Heltzel Advisor: Dan Hennen	Larry Cotter (Chair) Jerry Bongen Julie Bonney Kenny Down John Gauvin Pat Hardina Sue Hills Frank Kelty	Steve MacLean Stephanie Madsen Max Malavansky, Jr Gerry Merrigan Mel Morris Art Nelson Glenn Reed Beth Stewart
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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 5-26-11)	2012												
				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 in Oct 2009 remaining other species mgmt addressed under ACLs: final action in Apr 10													
	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 initial review in Oct 11 report from non-target species committee in Dec 09													
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 (report 2011); EBS indicator synthesis for 2010													
	b. Reconcile procedures to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in establishing harvest limits, for rockfish and other species	11	report from non-target species committee in Dec 09 AFSC discussion paper, Jun 2011													
	c. develop pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the AI	13	FEP brochure published Dec 07 FEP updates, AI report for 2011													
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. Tanner crab Kodiak closures (C action Oct 2010); GOA pollock / Chinook final action Jun 2011, GOA comprehensive Chinook analysis afterwards BS chum initial review Jun 2011 IBQ discussion paper Oct 2011													
	b. explore mortality rate-based approaches to setting PSC limits in GOA and BSAI fisheries	20	partially addressed in BSAI salmon bycatch EIS analysis of BSAI crab bycatch limits in 2012													
	c. consider new management strategies to reduce incidental rockfish bycatch and discards	17	partially addressed in rockfish program													
	d. develop statistically rigorous approaches to estimating bycatch in line with national initiatives	14, 19	National Bycatch Report update in Dec 07; new National Bycatch Report under development													
	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	bycatch limit for Chinook adopted Apr 09. initial review chum bycatch analysis in Jun 2011													
	g. assess impact of management measures on regulatory discards and consider measures to reduce where practicable	17	partially addressed by arrowtooth MRA analyses (Council action: GOA - Oct 07. BSAI - Oct 10)													

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 5-26-11)	2012							
				Jun	Oct	Dec	Feb	Apr	Jun	Oct	Dec
Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals	a. continue to participate in development of mitigation measures to protect SSL through the MSA process including participation in the FMP-level consultation under the ESA	23	RPA from final NMFS Biological Opinion implemented by Secretarial action for Jan 2011								
	b. recommend to NOAA Fisheries and participate in reconsideration of SSL critical habitat	23									
	c. monitor fur seal status and management issues, and convene committee as appropriate	24, 25									
	d. adaptively manage seabird avoidance measures program	22	Council action. seabird avoidance measures in 4E in Jun 08								
Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat	a. evaluate effectiveness of existing closures	26	NMFS researching GOA closed areas (Sanak & Albatross), Council review in 2011								
	b. consider Bering Sea EFH mitigation measures	27	Council action on measures in June 07 BS flatfish trawl sweep mods required in Oct 09 EFH 5-year review/omnibus amds approved Apr 2011 discussion on Bristol Bay red king crab Dec 2011 draft Northern BS Research Plan Dec 2011								
	c. consider call for HAPC proposals on 3-year cycle	27	HAPC cycle changed to 5 years. adopted Apr 2011 HAPC skate nurseries initial review Oct 2011								
	d. request NMFS to develop and implement a research design on the effects of trawling in previously untrawled areas	27	Part of research priorities, adopted in June 2007 Also part of NBSRA research plan development								
Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources	a. explore eliminating latent licenses in BSAI and GOA	32	Council action on trawl LLP recency in Apr 08 GOA fixed gear latent licenses in Apr 09								
	b. consider sector allocations in GOA fisheries	32, 34	Final action GOA Pcod sector allocations Dec 09 Reauthorization of GOA rockfish program, Jun 2010								
Increase Alaska Native and Community Consultation	a. Develop a protocol or strategy for improving the Alaska Native and community consultation process	37	protocol presented in Jun 08 annual review of protocol								
	b. Develop a method for systematic documentation of Alaska Native and community participation in the development of management actions	37	outreach plan for chum salmon in Feb-Mar 2011 Workshop for NBSRA research plan, Sep 12 2011								
Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement	a. expand or modify observer coverage and sampling methods based on scientific data and compliance needs	38, 39	Council action in Apr 08 to improve program. Oct 10 to restructure program next phase of electronic monitoring EFP 2010; report in 2011								
	b. explore development programs for economic data collection that aggregate data	40	final action. salmon bycatch data collection Dec 09 partially addressed in BSAI Amd 80								
	c. modify VMS to incorporate new technology and system providers		Council action. VMS exemption for dinglebar gear. Jun 08								

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 5/18/11

June 6 -, 2011 Nome, AK	September 26 -, 2011 Unalaska, AK	December 5 -, 2011 Anchorage, AK
Halibut Catch Share Plan: <i>Review</i> Algorithm Methodology SSL Research: <i>NMFS Update</i> GOA Halibut PSC: <i>Progress Report</i> P. cod assessment model review (SSC only) Groundfish uncertainty/Tot catch accounting: <i>Disc. Paper (SSC)</i> BSAI Chum Salmon Bycatch: <i>Initial Review</i> GOA Chinook Salmon Bycatch: <i>Final Action</i> BSAI Crab draft SAFE: <i>Review and approve catch specification for Norton Sound RKC and AI GKC</i> Pribilof BKC Rebuilding Plan: <i>Review Data</i> Habitat Conservation Area Boundary: <i>Review</i> Northern Bering Sea Research Plan Report: <i>Review</i> Research Priorities: <i>Approve</i>	Observer Program: <i>Review Restructuring Regulations; OAC Report</i> GOA Halibut PSC: <i>Initial Review; white paper on IBQs</i> GOA Pacific cod A-season opening dates: <i>Discussion paper</i> BSAI Chum Salmon Bycatch: <i>Final Action (T)</i> Salmon FMP: <i>Initial Review; Workshop Report</i> Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Leasing prohibition: <i>Discussion paper (T)</i> CQE vessel use caps: <i>Initial Review/ Final Action (T)</i> CQE in Area 4B: <i>Initial Review; 4B Fish-up guidance</i> BS & AI P.cod split: <i>Discussion paper (T)</i> GOA Flatfish Trawl Sweep Modifications: <i>Initial Review</i> BS Freezer longliners: <i>Discussion paper on vessel replacement; Draft Regs Catch Monitoring & Enforcement</i> Crab EDR Revisions: <i>Initial Review</i> BSAI Crab: <i>Report from stakeholders</i> BSAI Crab SAFE Report: <i>Approve catch specifications</i> Pribilof BKC Rebuilding Plan: <i>Final Action</i> Tanner Crab Rebuilding: <i>Review Alternatives</i> HAPC - Skate sites: <i>Initial Review</i> Groundfish catch specifications: <i>Adopt proposed specifications</i> Halibut mortality on trawlers EFP: <i>Review/Approve (T)</i>	AFA Vessel Replacement: <i>Discussion Paper (T)</i> Halibut Subsistence: <i>Update</i> GOA Halibut PSC: <i>Final Action</i> GOA P.cod Jig Fishery Management: <i>Final Action (T)</i> GOA Chinook Bycatch All Trawl Fisheries: <i>Discussion Paper (T)</i> Salmon FMP: <i>Final Action</i> Halibut/sablefish IFQ changes: <i>Discussion paper (T)</i> CQE in Area 4B: <i>Final Action</i> BS & AI P.cod split: <i>Initial Review (T)</i> Northern Bering Sea Research: <i>Review Draft Plan</i> GOA Flatfish Trawl Sweep Modifications: <i>Final Action</i> Groundfish PSEIS: <i>Discuss schedule</i> Crab EDR Revisions: <i>Final Action</i> Groundfish SAFE Report: <i>Adopt final catch specifications</i> BBRKC spawning area/fishery effects: <i>Updated Disc paper (T)</i> HAPC - Skate sites: <i>Final Action</i> ITEMS BELOW FOR FUTURE MEETINGS BSAI Tanner Crab rebuilding plan: <i>Initial Review</i> Crab bycatch limits in BSAI groundfish fisheries BSAI Flatfish specification flexibility Grenadiers and EC Category: <i>Discussion paper</i> Halibut Migration Model: <i>SSC Review (Feb-T)</i> AI P.cod Processing Sideboards: <i>Initial Review</i> GOA Chinook salmon PSC in all groundfish fisheries BSAI halibut PSC limit: <i>Discussion paper</i> MPA Nominations: <i>Discuss and consider nominations</i>

AI - Aleutian Islands
 AFA - American Fisheries Act
 BiOp - Biological Opinion
 BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
 BKC - Blue King Crab
 BOF - Board of Fisheries
 CQE - Community Quota Entity
 CDQ - Community Development Quota
 EDR - Economic Data Reporting
 EFP - Exempted Fishing Permit
 EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
 EFH - Essential Fish Habitat
 GOA - Gulf of Alaska

GKC - Golden King Crab
 GHF - Guideline Harvest Level
 HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
 IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
 MPA - Marine Protected Area
 PSEIS - Programmatic Supplemental Impact Statement
 PSC - Prohibited Species Catch
 RKC - Red King Crab
 ROFR - Right of First Refusal
 SSC - Scientific and Statistical Committee
 SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation
 SSL - Steller Sea Lion
 TAC - Total Allowable Catch

Future Meeting Dates and Locations

September 26 -, 2011 in Unalaska
December 5 -, 2011 in Anchorage
January 30- Feb 7 2012 - Reannnaissance Hotel, Seattle
March 26-April 3, 2012 Hilton Hotel - Alaska
June 4 - June 12, 2012 Kodiak Best Western
October 1-Oct 9, 2012 - Hilton Hotel, Anchorage
December 3 - Dec 11, 2012 - Anchorage

(T) Tentatively scheduled

NPFMC/NMFS Action - updated 5/18/11

AGENDA D-2 June 2011

Action	Status	Staffing	2011					2012				
			May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Blue = Post Council Action, Rulemaking												
Halibut Catch sharing plan	Proposed and Final Rule	NMFS 90% Council 10%										Refer to NMFS Management report
BSAI crab arbitration, C-shares, cod sideboards	Preparation of rulemaking packages	NMFS 80% Council 20%										Refer to NMFS Management report
Litigation workload	Ongoing	NMFS 90% Council 10%										Refer to NMFS Management report
Am 80 lost vessel replacement	Proposed and Final Rule	NMFS 90% Council 10%										Refer to NMFS Management report
BSAI Chinook Salmon EDR	Proposed and Final Rule	NMFS 90% Council 10%										Refer to NMFS Management report
GOA Rockfish Program	Preparation of rulemaking package	NMFS 90% Council 10%										Refer to NMFS Management report
GOA Pcod Sector Split	Preparation of rulemaking package	NMFS 90% Council 10%										Refer to NMFS Management report
12 month 20% halibut sablefish QS	Proposed and Final Rule	NMFS 100% Council 0%										Refer to NMFS Management report
Tanner crab bycatch in the GOA	Preparation of rulemaking package	NMFS 90% Council 10%										Refer to NMFS Management report
BSAI Crab ACLs; Snow crab rebuilding plan	Preparation of amendment package	NMFS 50% Council 50%										Refer to NMFS Management report
Scallop ACL plan amendments	Preparation of amendment package	NMFS 50% Council 50%										Refer to NMFS Management report
BSAI Arrowtooth Flounder MRAs	Preparation of rulemaking package	NMFS 90% Council 10%										Refer to NMFS Management report
Observer Program restructuring	Preparation of SOC draft and rulemaking package	NMFS 80% Council 20%										Refer to NMFS Management report
BSAI Crab Emerg relief	Preparation of rulemaking package	NMFS 90% Council 10%										Refer to NMFS Management report
New CQE communities	Preparation of rulemaking package	NMFS 90% Council 10%										Refer to NMFS Management report
3A CQE D class purchase	Preparation of rulemaking package	NMFS 90% Council 10%										Refer to NMFS Management report
Am 80 GRS changes	Preparation of rulemaking package	NMFS 90% Council 10%										Refer to NMFS Management report
EFH Amendments	Preparation of rulemaking package	NMFS 90% Council 10%										Refer to NMFS Management report
Halibut/sablefish Hired Skipper	Preparation of rulemaking package	NMFS 80% Council 20%										Refer to NMFS Management report
BSAI Crab IFQ/IPQ application	Preparation of rulemaking package	NMFS 90% Council 10%										Refer to NMFS Management report
Remove inactive Halibut/Sablefish QS	Final Rule	NMFS 100% Council 0%										Refer to NMFS Management report



ALASKA INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL

ADVOCATING FOR 229 FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED SOVEREIGN TRIBES

445 East Fifth Avenue - Anchorage, Alaska 99501

907-563-9334 Main

907-563-9337 Fax

AGENDA D-2
Supplemental
JUNE 2011

Mr. Eric Olsen, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

RECEIVED
MAY 13 2011

13 MAY 2011

RE: TRIBAL HAPC NOMINATION PROPOSAL REQUESTS

Dear Mr. Olsen,

We, the Federally Recognized Sovereign Alaska Tribes represented through the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council (AITC) unfortunately missed the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (NPFMC) announcement last year for proposals to be considered under your Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) process. We understand that one of our Executive Council Members, George Pletnikoff, testified and requested that the Council, through your Outreach Committee, begin a process to train our Federally Recognized Sovereign Alaska Tribal Governments, or at least inform us, of this very critical process that can have long term affects on our survival as Alaska's Indigenous Peoples.

As you are aware, Presidential Executive Order 13175 mandates that all Federal Agencies initiate meaningful Tribal Consultation with all Indian/Alaska Native Tribes.

"The United States has a unique legal and political relationship with Indian tribal governments, established through and confirmed by the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, executive orders, and judicial decisions. In recognition of that special relationship, pursuant to Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000, executive departments and agencies (agencies) are charged with engaging in regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications, and are responsible for strengthening the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian tribes."

We strongly believe and affirm that the sensitive habitat of our waters, waters that our Federally Recognized Sovereign Alaska Tribes, Villages, and Nations have never relinquished authority to manage to Russia, the United States of America or the State of Alaska. The decisions of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council have significant and detrimental tribal implications and impacts. The North Pacific Fishery Management

Council is bound to implement Presidential Executive Order 13175 and provide for the Federally Recognized Sovereign Alaska Tribes regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration.

Many of our Federally Recognized Sovereign Alaska Tribes feel the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has not met the requirement and responsibility of Presidential Executive Order 13175, and we are very concerned. The decisions of North Pacific Fishery Management Council without the Federally Recognized Sovereign Alaska Tribes consultation and collaboration may be considered intentional acts of Genocide (18 USCA 1091(a) (4)), by continue to make decisions that "subjects the group to conditions of life that are intended to cause the physical destruction of the group in whole or in part;" without the Federally Recognized Sovereign Alaska Tribes participation.

Through this letter, AITC is requesting that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council once again consider HAPC nominations after training the Federally Recognized Sovereign Alaska Tribes in your process and procedures, and further request Mr. Eric Olsen, Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council to assistance Alaska Inter-Tribal Council and the numerous Federally Recognized Sovereign Alaska Tribes in putting together such nominations to fruition. Our Tribes Villages and Nations are facing many serious economic, social, spiritual and physical challenges. Our ways of life are threatened by the declines we face in the salmon by catch activities that also severely impact the rest of the foods we depend upon for our survival. North Pacific Fishery Management Council makes many decisions that can have negative impacts on our people. The dangerous practice of trawling in all its forms comes to mind.

On behalf of our Federally Recognized Sovereign Alaska Tribal Governments, Alaska Inter-Tribal Council strongly urges and requests that at the very least, the Council considers our proposal herein stated, and to host collaborations and consultations in the hub cities, villages across Alaska.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



David Harrison, Executive Director

**Cc The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America**

**The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**The Honorable Hillary Clinton,
U.S. Secretary of State**

**The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor State of Alaska**

**The Honorable and Respected Leaders
229 Federally Recognized Sovereign Alaska Tribal Governments.**

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Eric A. Olson, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director



605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306
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Visit our website: <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc>

May 23, 2011

David Harrison, Executive Director
Alaska Inter-Tribal Council
445 East Fifth Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Harrison:

We received your May 13, 2011 letter addressed to Chairman Olson (attached). Thank you for your input regarding the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council's concerns regarding the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) process and Presidential Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments (E.O. 13175).

With regards to your request that the Council again consider HAPC nominations, I will pose the question of reopening HAPC nominations and reinitiating the HAPC process to the Council during staff tasking at the next Council meeting, scheduled for this June in Nome, Alaska. If the Council decides to reopen that HAPC process, we can also consider ways to utilize our staff, or our Rural Community Outreach Committee, to better inform interested parties wishing to engage in that process. The Council's Outreach Committee and associated outreach activities were designed to enhance the participation of Alaska Native and other rural constituents in our management process. These activities are supplemental to the formal government-to-government Tribal consultations required by E.O. 13175.

With regard to the latter, Council actions are advisory to the Secretary of Commerce, and as such, we believe the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the federal agency responsible for formal government-to-government Tribal consultation under E.O. 13175, and any requests referencing E.O. 13175 should be directed to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Again, thank you for your input. We look forward to hearing from you during staff tasking at the next Council meeting. If unable to attend in person, written comments for Council notebooks will be accepted at the Council office until Tuesday, May 31, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Oliver". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chris Oliver
Executive Director

Cc: President Barak Obama
Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Department of State
Secretary Ken Salazar, Department of the Interior
Dr. Jim Balsiger, Alaska Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service
Governor Sean Parnell, State of Alaska

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JUN - 1 2011

May 31, 2011

LATE COMMENT

Mr. Eric Olson Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Maximum size limits, with accompanying methodologies and assumptions under the CSP

Chairman Olson:

I appreciate the chance to comment on the issue of the CSP algorithm scheduled for discussion at the Council's June meeting in Nome. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend in person because my business demands my presence seasonally from mid-May through mid-September, as is likely the case with most of the charter community.

As I share my perspective on maximum size limits and methodologies, please keep in mind that any methodology determined appropriate by the Council will not alleviate the inadequacy of allocation under the CSP for halibut anglers choosing to use a guide. Allocations are already barely sufficient under the GHL for area 3A angler demand and sorely insufficient for area 2C angler demand. At a minimum, CSP allocations should align with current allowable harvest under the GHL at similar abundance levels.

Maximum Size Limits

Straight use of maximum size limits to control angler harvest strips away a core benefit for guided fisherman. Sport fisherman do not fish to fill pounds of quota share. To a large extent, they fish in anticipation of being able to catch and keep a "whopper", if even just a single fish. Across-the-board maximum size limits eliminate this opportunity.

Area 2C guided fisherman are currently confused as to why other anglers, up fishing with friends on the same halibut grounds, can keep two halibut of any size per day, while they are confined to a daily bag limit of one fish 37 inches or under. They are also perplexed by the regulation when they observe long-liners pulling gear and are informed that the commercial sector is obligated to keep everything 32 inches or greater.

The Council chose to pass on measures, such as annual or reverse slot limits (both currently used by state managers), that would allow guided fisherman to experience benefits that are core to the recreational fishing experience and closer in alignment with opportunities afforded other user groups. I encourage the Council to fundamentally re-consider its approach to harvest controls, whatever the presiding management plan, so that the angling experience may retain more aspect of its traditional appeal.

Fluctuations In Demand

The commercial halibut fishery routinely fishes to its allocation, regardless of the market value of its harvest. Recreational anglers, in the market for catching halibut, will forego spending their resources on a fishing trip if the opportunity to catch and keep halibut is significantly diminished, resulting in lower harvests than projected under an assumption of static demand.

This premise is no longer anecdotal. For example, I fished 81 days during last season during recession conditions and started on May 18. This year to date I have 51 days booked and start on June 9. Ninety percent of my seasonal activity is established by this time every year, and given the lack of incentive for fisherman to take a day on a 37 inch one fish limit, this is probably where things will remain for my guided trips this summer.

Most 2C operators are also reporting negative angler reaction to the new regulation, and that a significant number of people are opting out of fishing under the maximum size limit. Fisherman that have already fished under the 37 inch rule this year are reporting that they will not return. Modeling should account for fluctuations in demand/effort in response to diminished or liberalized opportunity. More restrictive access to halibut is an added cost to fisherman, while more liberal access is a benefit. Consumers will respond accordingly by decreasing or increasing consumption.

Neither of the King methodologies account for change in demand, nor has the state hybrid (Meyer Method C) yet incorporated a mechanism to reflect change in demand. Managers can easily cause the sport sector to undershoot its mark by implementing harvest restrictions that make it less appealing for fisherman to participate in the guided halibut fishery but ignoring the influence of those restrictions on removals.

High-Grading

Area 2C is the only area governed by guided angler limits more restrictive than the historical bag limit of two halibut per day of any size. Logbook data from charter operations in 2C show that anglers caught fewer than one fish per day on average under a restriction of one halibut per day of any length, even with an opportunity to high-grade to a fish of any size. Anglers were either unable to catch or unconcerned about catching more than two halibut per day on average.

Unless a maximum size limit affords anglers more incentive or more opportunity to high-grade, it appears unlikely that all fish under a maximum size limit scenario will come in exactly at that limit. It is also unlikely that maximum size limits will provide more opportunity for fish of a certain length, as there are only a certain percentage of fish at that length naturally available by area annually.

There may be more incentive to high-grade under maximum size limits as anglers fishing for multiple days may not be able to offset a small yield of filets from a small fish one day with a higher yield from a bigger fish on a different day. With a maximum size limit in a very restrictive range, such as 37 inches, this seems improbable because the gain in yield moving from a fish with a length in the low to mid-30s to a 37 inch fish isn't substantial, especially when compared with opportunities afforded by fishing for other species.

Bias in Estimating Average Weight

ADF&G sub-area G (Gustavus/Elfin Cove) accounted for approximately 23% of 2C guided removals by weight in 2010. Only 54% sampling occurred in sub-area G for the same year. The sampling showed that 41% of harvest by weight in the area were over 60 inches (Meyer analysis).

Creel samples may only be taken if all halibut are left whole. In Gustavus, where I operate, many captains will fillet halibut at sea to avoid congestion at dockside where there is inadequate room at the floats to accommodate leisurely filleting of fish at port. Fisherman are much more likely to request that

captains refrain from filleting at sea when the catch is picture-worthy, meaning some or all nice halibut in the catch. This practice skews the weight representation being fed to ADF&G average weight modeling and can contribute to an over-projection of 2C guided sport harvest.

Summary

Maximum size limits may be the least friendly of available harvest measures to apply to the guided sport fishery. Any controls, especially low maximum lengths, will discourage angler participation in the fishery and result in lower removals and should be accounted for in modeling. High-grading under a maximum length scenario is not likely to result in a significant increase in average weight across fish historically below the size limit nor is it likely that most anglers will be able to high-grade to the maximum size limit. It would benefit anglers, the charter community, and managers to examine potential bias in harvest data collection.

I urge the Council to be flexible in its thinking as we move forward in trying to establish long-term, equitable solutions to the management of the halibut resource.

Sincerely,

**Forrest Braden
True North Sport Fishing
truenorthsportfishing@gmail.com
907 723-1970**

LATE COMMENT

FROM:

Carl Wassilie
Yup'iaq Biologist
Alaska's Big Village Network
3724 B Campbell Airstrip Road
Anchorage, AK 99504
Carlwassilie.acyn@gmail.com

RECEIVED
JUN - 8 2011

TO:

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252
Fax: (907) 271-2817

Dear Mr. Olson and Council Members:

I am a subsistence fisherman in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region. I am writing to comment on chum salmon bycatch reduction measures in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. High chum salmon bycatch numbers may threaten our salmon and our way of life, and current regulations provide no limit on the number of chum salmon which may be taken as bycatch. Chum salmon serves an important cultural and economic role in my family, and throughout Western Alaska, particularly in recent years when Chinook salmon runs have been low and harvests restricted.

Chum salmon provides a critical source of food for us and Chum provides nutrients for other living organisms for a rich ecosystem that is critical to survival. The commercial salmon harvest provides the only means of income for many who live in the remote villages of the Yukon River. Our salmon runs must be protected.

Fall chum salmon runs on the Yukon River have been below average in recent years. As a result, subsistence harvests of fall chum salmon have been restricted, and no directed commercial harvests of fall chum salmon have taken place on the Yukon River.

While bycatch is not the sole cause of these low runs, it is vital that we all bear the burden of sacrifice to protect our salmon runs. Therefore, I recommend that the Council adopt management measures which will effectively reduce and limit chum salmon bycatch and adequately protect Western Alaska chum salmon runs at a biologically acceptable level.

Sincerely,

Carl G. Wassilie

Yup'iaq Biologist

LATE COMMENT



Chevak Traditional Council
P.O. Box 140
Chevak, Alaska 99563
(907) 858-7428 fax (907) 858-7812
chevaktc@gmail.com

Qissunamiut Tribal Government

May 25, 2011

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306,
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

RECEIVED
JUN - 2 2011

Dear Mr. Olson and Council Members:

We are the Chevak Native Village a federally recognized tribe for the Kashunamiut. Through our tribal government the Chevak Traditional Council represent the interests of the Kashunamiut for their health, safety and welfare. This letter is our comment on the request for chum salmon bycatch reduction measures in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. High chum salmon bycatch numbers may threaten the salmon runs and our way of life, and current regulations providing no limit on the number of chum salmon which may be taken as bycatch.

Chum salmon serves important cultural and economic role in Chevak, and throughout Western Alaska, it is our longstanding practice to support other communities that are affected by these low returns.

In recent years when Chinook salmon runs have been low and harvests restricted, our elders have been taken as criminals when they are practicing their lifestyles just to feed their families. Chum salmon provides a critical source of food for us, and the commercial salmon harvest provides the only means of income for many who live in the remote villages of the of the Yukon River. Our subsistence way of life must also be protected at all costs, it should not be compromised so that pollock fisheries will flourish and literally pollute the Bering Seas with fish that they discard. They may do well to provide their bycatch to the subsistence users if the returns are nil to nothing as has been experienced. They are also jeopardizing other subsistence resources when they are scraping the sea bottom which may also be vegetation for fish and sea mammals. It has been said that the sea bottom vegetation will take several years to grow back, and that too will not only bring hardship not just for us but also for the fish and game.

These are just a drop in the bucket of the need to protect the subsistence users mainly because they do not have the funds to travel to your meetings and provide for comments which their counterparts can do and this in turn looks like the native population is divided. Our CDQ funded organizations are using Pollock fisheries funds to come to your meetings in numbers and campaign for Pollock fisheries and forget that their member villages are subsistence and commercial fish users.

Let this letter reflect that there needs to be measures taken to protect our salmon runs and that the burden seems to be carried by the small guy who does not have a voice and relies on these returns for his survival. Subsistence is a way of life and should not be compromised at any cost. Commercial fisheries is often the only source of income and mainly used for subsistence hunting and fishing gears and to survive through the harsh winters. Let this letter reflect our request for the need for the Council to adopt management measures to effectively reduce the bycatch and adequately protect chum salmon runs which the villages need to survive on.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'James Ayuluk', written over a horizontal line.

James Ayuluk
Tribal Chief

cc. files



Chevak Traditional Council

P.O. Box 140

Chevak, Alaska 99563

(907) 858-7428 fax (907) 858-7812
chevaktc@gmail.com

Qissunamiut Tribal Government

RESOLUTION 2011-16

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC) TO ADOPT MANAGEMENT MEASURES ADDRESSING THE CHUM SALMON BYCATCH IN THE BERING SEA POLLOCK FISHERY

WHEREAS: the Chevak Traditional Council (Council) a governing body for the Chevak Native Village (Chevak) a sovereign entity and a federally recognized Tribe; and

WHEREAS: the Council represents the interests of the Kashunamiut for their health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS: the five member governing body of the Council is fully authorized to act for and on behalf of it's tribal members arising under the Self-Determination Act of 1975, Public Law 93-638 as amended , 25 U.S.C. Et. Seq.; and

WHEREAS: chum salmon are a vital subsistence fishery resource and provide an essential source of food, income and culture for the people of the Yukon River region; and

WHEREAS: subsistence harvests of fall chum salmon have been restricted in recent years, and no directed commercial harvests of fall chum salmon have taken place on the Yukon River; and

WHEREAS: according to the best available scientific information a portion of the chum salmon taken as bycatch are of Western Alaska origin, including the Yukon River; and

WHEREAS: extremely high bycatch numbers have been reached under the current management measures and although chum salmon bycatch has been low in the last few years, there is nothing in regulation to prevent extremely high bycatch from occurring again and it is prudent to adopt new management measures; and

WHEREAS: the NPFMC is in the process of developing regulations intended to minimize chum salmon bycatch; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Chevak Native Village requests that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council adopt management measures

which will effectively reduce and limit chum salmon bycatch and adequately protect Western Alaska chum salmon runs at a biologically acceptable level.

CERTIFICATION

This certifies that the Council is composed of five (5) duly elected members of Chevak Native Village of whom 5 were present at a meeting held this 25th day of May and the Council adopted this resolution by a vote of 3 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 1 abstaining.

CHEVAK TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

Attest:


James Ayuluk, Tribal Chief


Pete Slats, Secretary/Treasurer

