

Eric A. Olson  
Chairman  
Chris Oliver  
Executive Director

605 W 4th, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 271-2809  
(907) 271-2817

[www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc](http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc)



# News & Notes

## North Pacific Fishery Management Council

December 2009

## AP and SSC Appointed

Appointments to the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee and Advisory Panel were made at the December meeting. The Council announced the following reappointments for 3-year terms to the Advisory Panel: Craig Cross, Tim Evers, Becca Robbins Gisclair, Jan Jacobs, Bob Jacobson, and Matt Moir. Additionally, the AP welcomes a new member: Anne Vanderhoven who has been working for BBEDC on fishery issues. Thanks to Mike Martin and Rex Murphy for their participation on the Advisory Panel, and we look forward to working with them in different capacities in the future. The Council also reappointed all the SSC members to 1-year terms. We would also like to welcome Dr. Tom Gelatt, of the National Marine Mammal Laboratories to the AI Ecosystem Plan Team. A full list of AP, SSC, and Council members and their contact information and terms is available on our website.

The Council also presented Bill Wilson, retiring Protected Resources Coordinator, with a plaque thanking him for his work in fishery management, and his dedicated service to preserving marine resources.



## Chum Salmon Bycatch

The Council reviewed a discussion paper outlining data and information on chum (non-Chinook) salmon bycatch in the EBS pollock fishery and the draft suite of alternatives for analysis of bycatch management measures for chum salmon in this fishery. The Council also received a report from ADF&G staff on western Alaska chum stock status as well as the report and recommendations from its Salmon Bycatch Workgroup following their October meeting.

Modifications to the draft alternatives included lowering the overall cap threshold levels, modifying the year sets for calculations of sector-specific allocations, and the addition of new discrete area closure options to be developed with area-specific caps. The full motion is available on the Council website.

The Council requested that industry participants developing Incentive Program Agreements (IPA) in conjunction with the Amendment 91 Chinook Salmon Bycatch program provide staff written details of the proposed programs by mid-March. This request is to facilitate incorporation of this information into the forthcoming chum analyses.

A review of analytical methods for the impact analysis with a focus on considering data limitations for chum stock of origin information will occur at the February SSC meeting. Further discussion of available data for chum bycatch genetic sampling in conjunction with on-going Chinook bycatch sampling analyses will occur by an inter-agency workgroup with an update on scheduling provided to the Council in February. At that time draft closure configurations in response to the Council's new alternative will also be proposed. The Council will finalize their alternatives for analysis at the June 2010 meeting.

The Council considered multiple aspects in developing a timeline for the analysis of proposed changes to the management measures for chum

salmon bycatch in the EBS pollock fishery. These considerations included the scope of the analysis (complexity of the Council's alternatives), staff availability due to analysts' respective workloads and timeframe for additional responsibilities, the determination of the appropriate NEPA document, outreach on the project, and the timing of implementation of any preferred action by the Council. Staff contact for the chum bycatch management measures analysis is Diana Stram.

## Outreach Plan

The Council also reviewed a draft outreach plan developed to correspond with the review of the chum salmon bycatch alternatives and analytical schedule at the same meeting. The outreach plan was developed by Council staff, with input from NMFS, the Rural Community Outreach Committee, and affected stakeholders. It is intended to improve the Council's decision-making processes on the proposed action, as well as enable the Council to maintain ongoing and proactive relationships with Alaska Native and rural communities.

The Council generally approved the proposed outreach plan with three primary components: direct mailings to stakeholders; regional/community outreach meetings; and documentation of rural outreach meeting results. As part of the plan, the Council expressed its intent to target nine regional meetings in western and interior Alaska in fall 2010 and early 2011, as staff availability and meeting schedules allow. The plan has one to two Council members and appropriate staff analysts attending each meeting, along with primary NMFS staff as available. Comments provided during these regional meetings would be documented and provided to the Council in an outreach report prior to the Council's initial review of the chum analysis.

The Council expressed its preference for a schedule that would allow for review of a preliminary analysis at its February 2011 meeting; initial review and selection of a preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) at its June 2011 meeting in Nome; and potential final action in October or December 2011. Staff contact on chum outreach is Nicole Kimball.

## Groundfish ACLs

The Council identified alternatives for analysis to amend the groundfish FMPs so as to comply with statutory requirements to implement annual catch limits (ACL) and accountability measures (AM) for groundfish by January 2011. The Magnuson-Stevens Act mandates that species and species groups must be identified in "the fishery" for which ACLs and AMs would be required. An ecosystem component category may be included in the FMPs for species/groups that are not targeted for harvest, or likely to become overfished or subject to overfishing, and are not generally retained for sale or personal use. The analysis also will address inadequacies in the FMP texts for documenting compliance with ACL and AM requirements through the harvest specification process. The Council revised its ACL action plan, which includes the proposed alternatives. It is posted on the Council website. Initial review will occur in February 2010 and final action in April 2010 to ensure implementation by the statutory deadline. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

## BSAI Arrowtooth Flounder MRAs

The Council initiated an analysis to consider changes to the maximum retainable amounts for the BSAI directed arrowtooth flounder fishery. Alternatives to be considered in the analysis are: (1) status quo, (2) MRAs based on a Pacific cod template, and (3) MRAs based on a flathead sole template. The Council has not yet identified a timeline for action.

## Pacific Cod Sector Split

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council took final action on Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Pacific cod sector allocations. The Council voted 9-2 to establish sector allocations for the Western and Central GOA management areas, and also recommended measures to limit mothership processing activity in the GOA and increase entry level opportunities for jig gear. The Council received extensive public testimony over two days from individuals representing harvesters, processors, and coastal communities.

The Council began reviewing options for establishing GOA Pacific cod sector allocations in 2007, after setting aside further consideration of a more comprehensive GOA groundfish rationalization program. The action is intended to enhance stability in the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries, reduce competition among the sectors, and preserve the historic distribution of catch among sectors.

The Council's action establishes Pacific cod allocations for 6 sectors in the Western GOA and 7 sectors in the Central GOA (including the jig sector; see table below). Allocations were calculated by taking each sector's 'best option' from 4 options in the Western GOA and 6 options in the Central GOA for calculating catch history, and then scaling

allocations so that they sum to 100%. The Western GOA allocations to the pot CV/CP, hook-and-line CP, and trawl CP sectors were then adjusted to account for differences between using each sector's best option and taking the average across the 4 options. In addition, the seasonal apportionments of the Western GOA trawl CV and pot CV/CP allocations were shifted to allow more trawl harvests during the A season, because there is little trawl effort during the B season.

The jig sector will receive an initial allocation that is higher than the sector's historic catch in the GOA of 1% of the Central GOA TAC and 1.5% of the Western GOA TAC, with a stairstep provision to increase the jig allocation by 1% if 90% of the Federal jig allocation in an area is harvested in any given year. The jig allocation will be capped at 6% of the Central and Western GOA Federal Pacific cod TACs. In addition, the jig allocation will be stepped down by 1% in the following year if at least 90% of the previous allocation is not harvested in a given year, but will not drop below the initial allocation. The jig allocation will be managed as a parallel/Federal fishery, and will be apportioned 60% to the A season and 40% to the B season. However, the Council's motion also recommended that if the Alaska Board of Fisheries relinquishes any portion of the State waters Pacific cod jig GHL, the jig GHL would roll into the Federal jig allocation. A combined State/Federal allocation would be apportioned 80% to the A season and 20% to the B season. The Council's motion also recommended

Western GOA sector allocations with jig allocation taken off the top of the TAC

|              | Annual Allocation | Compare to 60/40 |          | A season allocation          | B season allocation          | A season allocation            | B season allocation            |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|----------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|              |                   | A season         | B season | Percent of annual allocation | Percent of annual allocation | Percent of seasonal allocation | Percent of seasonal allocation |
|              |                   |                  |          |                              |                              |                                |                                |
| HAL CP       | 19.8%             | 55.2%            | 44.8%    | 10.9%                        | 8.9%                         | 18.2%                          | 22.2%                          |
| HAL CV       | 1.4%              | 47.2%            | 52.8%    | 0.7%                         | 0.7%                         | 1.1%                           | 1.8%                           |
| Pot CV/CP    | 38.0%             | 52.0%            | 48.0%    | 19.8%                        | 18.2%                        | 32.9%                          | 45.6%                          |
| Trawl CP     | 2.4%              | 37.9%            | 62.1%    | 0.9%                         | 1.5%                         | 1.5%                           | 3.7%                           |
| Trawl CV     | 38.4%             | 72.3%            | 27.7%    | 27.7%                        | 10.7%                        | 46.2%                          | 26.6%                          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>100.0%</b>     |                  |          | <b>60.0%</b>                 | <b>40.0%</b>                 | <b>100.0%</b>                  | <b>100.0%</b>                  |

Central GOA sector allocations with jig allocation taken off the top of the TAC

|              | Annual Allocation | Compare to 60/40 |          | A season allocation          | B season allocation          | A season allocation            | B season allocation            |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|----------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|              |                   | A season         | B season | Percent of annual allocation | Percent of annual allocation | Percent of seasonal allocation | Percent of seasonal allocation |
|              |                   |                  |          |                              |                              |                                |                                |
| HAL CP       | 5.1%              | 80.3%            | 19.7%    | 4.1%                         | 1.0%                         | 6.8%                           | 2.5%                           |
| HAL CV <50   | 14.6%             | 63.9%            | 36.1%    | 9.3%                         | 5.3%                         | 15.5%                          | 13.2%                          |
| HAL CV >=50  | 6.7%              | 84.0%            | 16.0%    | 5.6%                         | 1.1%                         | 9.4%                           | 2.7%                           |
| Pot CV/CP    | 27.8%             | 63.9%            | 36.1%    | 17.8%                        | 10.0%                        | 29.7%                          | 25.1%                          |
| Trawl CP     | 4.2%              | 48.8%            | 51.2%    | 2.0%                         | 2.2%                         | 3.4%                           | 5.4%                           |
| Trawl CV     | 41.6%             | 50.8%            | 49.2%    | 21.1%                        | 20.5%                        | 35.2%                          | 51.2%                          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>100.0%</b>     |                  |          | <b>60.0%</b>                 | <b>40.0%</b>                 | <b>100.0%</b>                  | <b>100.0%</b>                  |

changing the start date for the directed B season for jig gear to June 10, or after the State jig fishery closes, to provide a year-round Pacific cod fishery for jig vessels.

Other elements of the Council's action address rollovers and hook-and-line halibut PSC apportionments. Any unharvested sector allocations would roll to CV sectors first (Component 6). The hook-and-line halibut PSC allowance will be apportioned between CVs and CPs in proportion to the Pacific cod allocations to each sector (Component 7).

The Council's action includes extensive provisions addressing mothership and stationary floating processor activity in the GOA. The harvest sector allocations will supersede the current 90%/10% inshore/offshore processing allocations, and the Council's action is intended to protect historic processing and community delivery patterns established in the GOA groundfish fisheries. Motherships will be allowed to process up to 2% of the Western GOA Pacific cod TAC, but will be prohibited from processing groundfish in the Central GOA. There has been no mothership processing activity since 2000 in the Central GOA and limited mothership activity in the Western GOA in recent years. In addition, floating processors that do not harvest groundfish or act as a stationary floating processor in a given year may process up to 3% of the respective Western and Central GOA TACs, provided that they operate within the municipal boundaries of Community Quota Entity (CQE) communities. Vessels may continue to elect to operate as a

stationary floating processor in the GOA, but are limited to processing groundfish at a single geographic location in Alaska State waters in a given year, and may not operate as a CP in the GOA or BSAI in the same calendar year. There is no cap on the amount of Pacific cod processed by stationary floating processors.

Finally, the Council's action addressed potential entry by Federally-permitted vessels into the parallel waters fishery. If GOA Pacific cod sector allocations are established, parallel waters activity by Federally-permitted vessel operators who do not hold LLPs could erode the catches of historic participants who contributed catch history to the sector allocations and depend on the GOA Pacific cod resource. Vessels fishing in Federal waters are required to hold an LLP license with the appropriate area, gear, and species endorsements, but vessels fishing in parallel State waters are not required to hold an LLP license. The Council's action precludes Federally-permitted vessels that do not have LLP licenses from participating in the GOA Pacific cod parallel fishery to prevent any such encroachment.

The Council's final motion on GOA Pacific cod sector allocations is available on the Council website. Staff contact is Jeannie Heltzel.

## Crab Rebuilding Plans

The Council reviewed alternatives for the snow crab and Tanner crab rebuilding plans as well as the proposed outline for a combined ACL/rebuilding plan amendment analysis and a separate Pribilof Islands blue king crab rebuilding plan. The Council had previously reviewed and approved the Pribilof Islands blue king crab rebuilding plan alternatives in October.

The Council endorsed the comments and recommendations by the SSC regarding examinations to be included in upcoming assessment reviews as well as under the ACL and rebuilding plan analyses (to the extent possible under the current analytical timeframe for those analyses). Specific recommendations for the rebuilding plan alternatives include:

- an alternative for an 8-year time frame for snow crab rebuilding. This alternative would contain the harvest constraint (75%FOFL) extended out to a higher probability of rebuilding as afforded by the longer timeframe.
- a performance measure (for all rebuilding plans) to evaluate the probability that the stock does not rebuild by a certain year (for example after 10 years), similar to the B<sub>20%</sub> threshold for some groundfish.

The ACL analysis and the rebuilding plans will be reviewed by the Crab Plan Team meeting at their March 2010 meeting, followed by preliminary review by the SSC, AP and Council in April. The Council and Board of Fisheries requested that a review of these analyses also be provided to the BOF at their March meeting in order to allow the opportunity to provide recommendations to the Council on preferred rebuilding alternatives. Initial review of these analyses is scheduled for June 2010. A presentation by NMFS and Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation on their joint survey study and the implications thereof for snow crab stock assessment plans will occur at the February meeting. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

## Upcoming Meetings in 2010

**Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee** – January 26-28, AFSC, Traynor Room, Seattle

**AI Ecosystem Team** – January 27-28, AFSC, Seattle

**Ecosystem Committee** – January 28, AFSC, Seattle

**Observer Advisory Committee** – January 29, AFSC, Seattle

**Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum** – January 2010 (date TBD), Anchorage

**IFQ Implementation Team** - mid-Jan or early Feb 2010 TBA

**Rural Community Outreach Committee** – February 23, Anchorage

**Community and Subsistence Workshop for the Northern Bering Sea Research Plan** – February 24-25, Anchorage

**Scallop Plan Team** – March 3-4, Juneau

**Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee** – week of March 8, to review BiOp, Juneau (location TBD)

**Crab Plan Team** – March 29-April 1 AFSC, Seattle

**Non-Target Species Committee** – April 2010 TBA

**Groundfish Plan Teams** – week of September 20, Seattle

**Wakefield Symposium** – November 8-11, Anchorage

**Groundfish Plan Teams** – week of November 15, Seattle

# 2010/11 GOA Groundfish Specifications

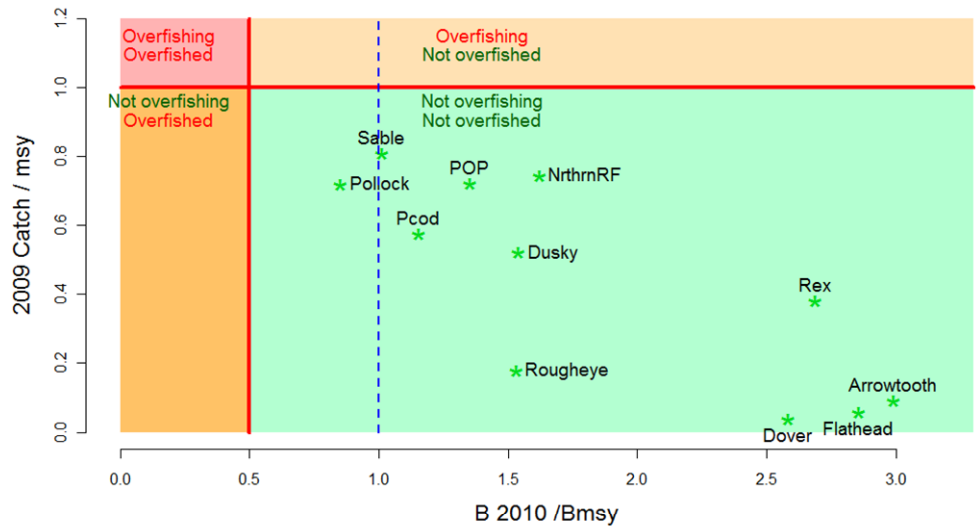
The Council approved the 2009 Gulf of Alaska Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report and recommended final catch specifications for the 2010 and 2011 groundfish fisheries. This was a survey year for the summer GOA groundfish survey thus full assessments are presented for all species. Proposed and final specifications are established for a period of up to two years. This requires specifying OFLs, ABCs and TACs for 2010 and 2011.

The sum of the ABCs increased by 9% (49,444 t) compared with last year. This is primarily driven by increases in pollock 34,845 t (70%) and Pacific cod 23,800 t (43%). Sablefish declined by 790 t (-7%). ABC levels decreased in deep water flatfish 2,978 t (32%) and flathead sole 958 t (2%). Arrowtooth flounder was down by 5,630 t (2%). The ABC level increased for Pacific ocean perch (2,473 t or 16%) and for aggregate other species (535 t or 8%). The ABC for northern rockfish increased by 738 t (17%), while demersal shelf rockfish ABC dropped by 18% and other slope rockfish by 13%. Big skates remained relatively constant while Longnose skates declined slightly.

The abundances of Pacific cod, Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, Pacific ocean perch, rougheye and blackspotted rockfish, northern rockfish, and dusky rockfish are above target stock size. The abundances of pollock and sablefish are below target stock size (see figure). The target biomass levels for other deep-water flatfish, shallow-water flatfish, shortraker rockfish, demersal shelf rockfish, other pelagic shelf rockfish, other slope rockfish, thornyhead rockfish, Atka mackerel, skates, sculpins, squid, octopus, and sharks are unknown. No groundfish stocks in the GOA are overfished nor experiencing overfishing.

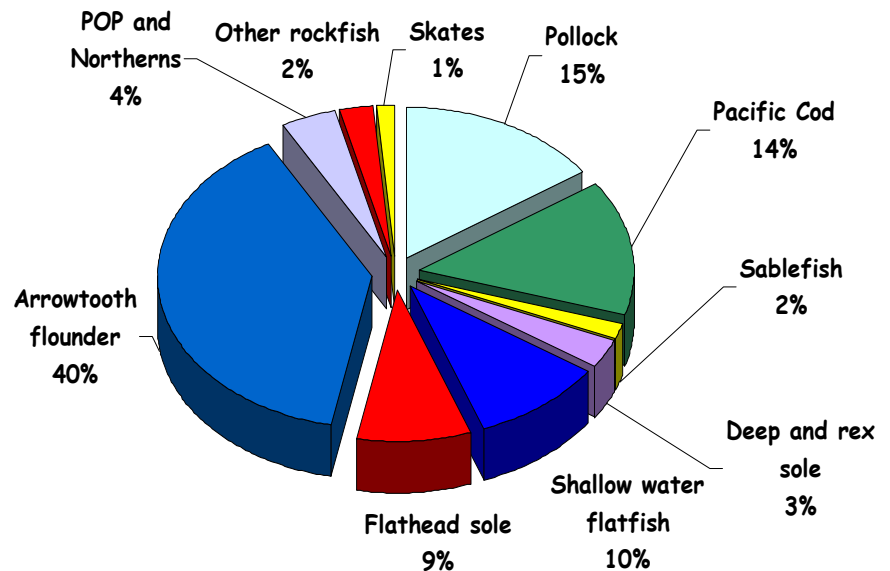
For most stocks, the Council established TACs equal to ABCs with some exceptions. These exceptions include Pacific cod, where the quota was reduced approximately 24.7% to account for removals in the state managed fishery, and those fisheries where the bycatch of other target species is a concern, specifically for Shallow water flatfish (W and C GOA), Flathead sole (W and C GOA), Arrowtooth flounder (GOA wide) and Other slope rockfish (EYAK/SEO). For those fisheries, the TAC was set below the ABC. Atka mackerel was also established at levels to meet incidental catch needs in other fisheries only (no directed fishing is allowed).

## Gulf of Alaska



Summary status of age-structured GOA species relative to 2009 catch levels (vertical axis) and projected 2010 spawning biomass relative to  $B_{MSY}$  levels. Note that the 2009 MSY level is defined as the 2009 catch at  $F_{OFL}$ .

2010 ABCs by species groups are shown below:



### Prohibited Species Catch Limits:

The Council adopted the halibut prohibited species catch limits, by season and gear apportionment for 2010-2011. The Council requested a discussion paper on the procedure and analysis necessary to modify limits and apportionments for halibut PSC in the GOA and clarification on where this process differs from the procedure in the BSAI.

### Pacific Halibut Discard Mortality Rates

Halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) are set by the Council on a 3-year cycle based on recommendations by International Pacific Halibut Commission staff. Current rates will expire at the end of 2009 thus new rates were recommended for 2010 -2012 based on the established procedure of basing the rates on an average of annual DMRs from the previous 10 years.

The Council recommended OFLs, ABCs and TACs for 2010 and 2011, the SAFE Report for the GOA groundfish for 2009, and revised DMRs. Additional information on the summary of GOA groundfish stocks may be viewed at:

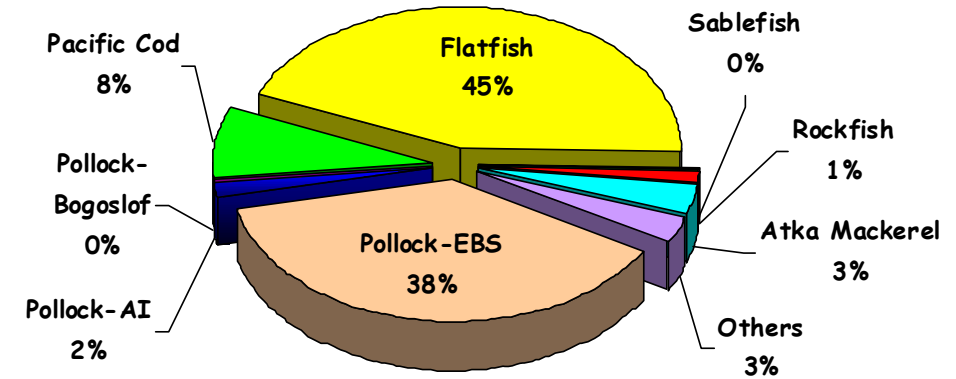
<http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/stocks/assessments.htm>

Staff contact for GOA groundfish specifications is Diana Stram.

# 2010/11 BSAI Groundfish Specifications

The Council adopted ABCs for 2010 and 2011 of 2,120,000 t and 2,457,000 t, respectively. These are 89,000 t below and 248,000 t above the sum of the 2009 ABCs (2,209,000 t), indicating an anticipated rebound in stock status in 2011, after a slight drop in 2010. The sum of 2010 and 2011 TACs totaled 1,677,000 t and 1,997,000 t, compared to 1,682,000 t in 2009.

Total groundfish biomass for 2010 (15.9 million t) is the same as last year's estimate. Groundfish ABCs recently have trended down for gadoids, but generally up for flatfishes. No groundfish stocks are overfished or experiencing overfishing, as shown in lower right quadrant of the figure. The 2009 bottom trawl survey biomass estimate for pollock was 2.28 million t, down 25% from the 2008 estimate, and the lowest point in the 1982-2009 time series. The 2009 bottom trawl survey biomass estimate for pollock was 2.28 million t, down 25% from the 2008 estimate, and the lowest point in the 1982-2009 time series. The estimate from the EIT survey was 0.924 million t, down 7% from last year's survey, and the lowest point in the 1979-2009 time series. The 2006 year class is above-average, though not as strong as estimated previously. The 2010 pollock ABC recommendation of 813,000 t is about equal to the 2009 ABC (815,000 t); the



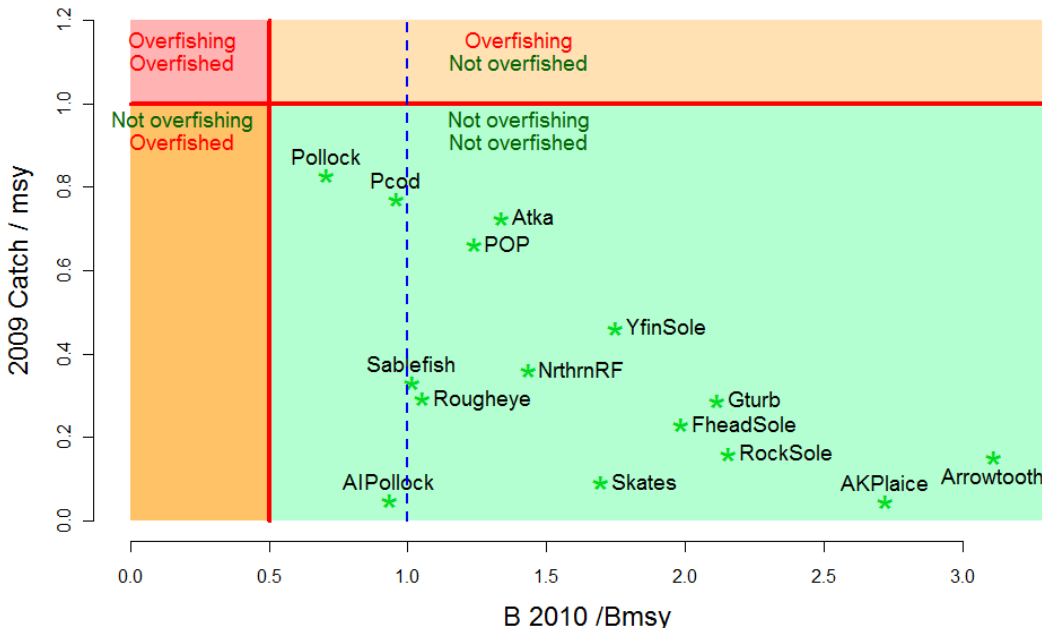
2011 ABC recommendation is 1,110,000 t, anticipating recruitment of the 2006 year class.

Following the highest observation in 1994, the Pacific cod bottom trawl survey biomass estimate declined steadily through 1998. While the estimates remained around 600,000 t from 2002 through 2005, the estimates dropped consistently from 2005 through 2008. The 2009 survey biomass estimate was 421,000 t, up 4% from 403,000 t in 2008. The numeric abundance estimate from the 2009 EBS shelf bottom trawl survey of 717 million fish was up about 50% from the 2008 estimate. The 2008 year class, which has been observed only once, appears to be extremely large,

although this estimate is accompanied by a large confidence interval. The 2006 year class, which appeared exceptionally strong in the 2007 survey, still appears to be above average. However, the 2006 year class follows a string of five consecutive sub-par year classes spawned from 2001-2005. The Pacific cod ABC recommendation is down 4% in 2010 compared to 2009 and up 18% in 2011 compared to 2009.

The Council also adopted prohibited species catch limits Pacific halibut, crab, and herring for 2010 and 2011 and halibut discard mortality rates for CDQ and non-CDQ fisheries for 2010-2012. The final harvest specifications are posted on the Council website.

## Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands



The Council noted concerns expressed by the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team and SSC that the Aleutian Island bottom trawl survey was last conducted in 2006. The Council urged NMFS to place a high priority for fully funding and conducting the AI bottom trawl survey in 2010 in order to provide biomass estimates to maintain Tier 5 and higher assessments for those stocks. Failing to conduct the survey in 2010 may jeopardize the current tier status of these stocks. Additionally, the bottom trawl survey is an important source of ecosystem information for this region.

Staff contact for BSAI groundfish issues is Jane DiCosimo.

# Board of Fisheries Proposals

The Council met jointly with the Alaska Board of Fisheries on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 on management issues of mutual interest. Items on the agenda included: (1) revising the Joint Protocol Agreement between the two agencies; (2) Status of Steller Sea Lion Biological Opinion; (3) Board proposals potentially affecting federal groundfish fisheries; (4) GOA cod federal actions; (5) Chum salmon bycatch federal action; (6) Council community/rural outreach; (7) federal action on crab and scallop annual catch limits; (8) federal action on walrus and fishery interactions issues; (9) Arctic Fishery Management Plan; and (10) federal Groundfish Observer Program restructuring initiative. The Council discussed some of those issues again during the staff tasking agenda item of the Council meeting. The Council recommended that Council staff attend the 2010 Board meetings to convey the Council's concerns on proposals 108 and 109, which propose to increase the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in State waters.

## Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch Data Collection

At its December 2009 meeting, the Council selected a preferred alternative to initiate a new data collection program in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands pollock fishery. The program is intended to improve the data available for analysis of the effectiveness of Amendment 91, the Council's recent action to reduce Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fleet. Under Amendment 91, participants in the pollock fishery may participate in Incentive Plan Agreements (IPA) that are required to include incentives to reduce bycatch at all levels of Chinook salmon encounters. The data collection is intended to aid analysts in understanding the effects and impact of the IPAs and the system of hard caps and performance standards established by Amendment 91. As a part of this action, the Council also indicated its intent to have its Comprehensive Economic Data Collection Committee consider this data collection after IPAs have been fully developed and submitted to NMFS.

The Council's program establishes several new data reporting requirements. IPAs and AFA cooperatives would summarize the assignment of Chinook and pollock to each participating vessel at the start of each fishing season and summarize all in-season transfers of Chinook and pollock. In addition, all parties to transfers of Chinook allowances that include monetary exchanges must report the amount of that monetary compensation and whether any other assets were included in the transaction (e.g., pollock quota or non-monetary compensation). Vessels must also report any change in fishing grounds that is due primarily to salmon bycatch avoidance along with annual reports of average annual hourly fuel burned fishing and transiting and annual fuel purchases in cost and gallons, which might then be used to estimate costs of moving vessels to avoid salmon bycatch. Lastly, skippers in the fishery will be required to complete an annual survey describing various aspects of their on grounds decision making, including fishing location choices and salmon bycatch reduction measures.

As a part of its action, the Council requested to review both the regulations and reporting forms prior to their submission to the Secretary of Commerce and the Office of Management and Budget for implementation. Staff contact is Mark Fina.

## Rural Community Outreach

The Council's Rural Community Outreach Committee was initiated in June and first convened in August 2009. The purpose of the committee is three-fold: (1) to advise the Council on how to provide opportunities for better understanding and participation from rural and Alaska Native communities; (2) to provide feedback on community impacts sections of analyses; and (3) to provide recommendations on which Council actions need targeted outreach plans, beyond that of the normal Council process. In October, the Council reviewed the August committee report and generally approved the committee recommendations.

The committee met again for a half-day teleconference on November 20. While the committee's agenda included updates on previous recommendations on overall outreach efforts, the primary focus was providing input for development of a potential outreach plan for the proposed action on chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fisheries, in order to correspond with the Council's review of the chum salmon bycatch alternatives in December. The committee generally supported staff's overall approach to the outreach plan, and made specific recommendations and additions. In addition, the committee also made recommendations regarding the re-design of the Council website, development of a regional meeting calendar and a rural community contact list, and the timing and agenda for the next meeting. In December, the Council received the November committee report and generally approved moving forward with the committee's recommendations, including another committee meeting on February 23 in Anchorage. The purpose of the meeting would be to receive updates on ongoing outreach recommendations and efforts, and to further develop the chum salmon bycatch outreach plan. For discussion of the Council's review of the chum salmon bycatch outreach plan, which incorporates the committee's suggestions, refer to the Bering Sea chum salmon bycatch newsletter item.

Both the August and November Rural Community Outreach Committee reports are posted on the Council website, as well as the draft chum salmon bycatch outreach plan. Staff contact is Nicole Kimball.

## Amendment 80 Co-op Formation

At the December meeting, the Council completed an initial review of the draft EA/RIR/IRFA for the proposed action to modify Amendment 80 cooperative formation regulations. The following are the alternatives addressed in the analysis:

- **Alternative 1:** (Status quo) – A minimum of 3 unique quota share holders holding at least 9 quota share permits are required to form a cooperative.
- **Alternative 2:** Reduce the number of unique quota share holders required to form a cooperative from 3 to 2 or 1 unique quota share holder.
- **Alternative 3:** Reduce the number of quota share permits required to form a cooperative from the existing 9 permits to some lower range. (e.g., 3 permits to the existing 9 permits)
- **Alternative 4:** Reduce both the number of unique quota share holders and the number of quota share permits required to form a cooperative (combination of Alternatives 2 and 3).
- **Alternative 5:** Allow a cooperative to form with a minimum of 3 unique QS holders holding at least 9 QS permits (status quo), or a single or collective group of entities that represent 20%, 25%, or 30% of the sector quota share.
- **Alternative 6:** Require that a cooperative accept all members of a cooperative who are otherwise eligible to join a cooperative subject to the same terms and conditions as all other members.
- **GRS Suboption** (Applicable to all Alternatives): The GRS shall be applied in aggregate to all cooperatives if this calculation meets or exceeds the GRS requirement.

At this meeting, the Council modified the purpose and need statement to incorporate new language from Alternative 6. The Council also added a new suboption under Alternative 4 that would require a minimum of 2 quota share holders and 7 quota share permits to form a cooperative. Also added was a new suboption that may be applied under all alternatives that would require a quota share holder to assign all quota share permits to either one or more cooperatives or the limited access fishery. Finally, the Council released the document for public review. The amendment package is scheduled for final action at the February 2010 Council meeting. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

## BSAI Crab

At its December meeting, the Council requested that NOAA Fisheries promulgate an emergency regulation to suspend the regional delivery requirement in the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery for the remainder of the 2009-2010 crab fishing year. During the summer, Adak Fisheries, the only operator of a crab processing shore plant in the West region, declared bankruptcy. Although efforts are underway to open the plant this winter, the status of its operation remains uncertain. In addition, Council members questioned the feasibility of other processing arrangements (such as the introduction of a floating processor). In deliberations, the Council stated that these circumstances justify emergency rulemaking, as the 50 percent of the TAC required to be delivered to a processor in the West region would likely remain unharvested in the absence of emergency rulemaking. Since the Council's recommendation passed by less than a unanimous vote, whether to pursue emergency rulemaking remains within the discretion of the Secretary of Commerce. In addition, NOAA Fisheries expressed concern that emergency rulemaking may not be feasible, as certain time consuming analytical and procedural requirements apply to emergency rulemaking.

As a follow up to the emergency rulemaking recommendation, the Council adopted alternatives for analysis to establish a provision for future exemptions for the West region landing requirements. Under one alternative, the exemption would apply if interested parties (identified as QS holders, PQS holders, communities, and possibly shore plant operators) all consent to the exemption. An option under consideration would prohibit any party from unreasonably withholding consent to the exemption. The Council also included an alternative that would remove the West region landing requirement altogether from all IFQ and IPQ in the fishery.

The Council also chose to postpone any further action on broader changes to the crab program (including alternatives that would increase the crew share pool or further limit the maximum annual allocation of IPQ) until after the 5-year review of the program scheduled for fall 2010.

Staff contact is Mark Fina.

## MPA Nominations

The Council reviewed a discussion paper on the MPA nomination process, including a revised list of closure areas that appear to be eligible for inclusion into the national system of MPAs, and tasked staff to prepare two papers for review at a future meeting. The first is a discussion paper that would incorporate anticipated guidance on the NOAA interpretation of 'avoid harm to the extent practicable', and evaluate the council's existing quasi marine reserves relative to avoiding harm from the effects of fishing on these areas. The paper would also review the original list of eligible MPAs forwarded by the MPA Center and develop draft justification of why sites would or would not be recommended for inclusion into the national system of MPAs. Further, the paper would discuss how a MPA nomination process could potentially interface with the EFH/HAPC process specified in the FMPs. The second paper is a briefing report that would provide an initial evaluation of the avoid harm provision relative to fishing impacts on resources protected by the four MPAs off Alaska that are already part of the National System of MPAs (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska Marine National Wildlife Refuge, and Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve). Staff contact is Dave Witherell.

# Halibut Management

The Council received agency updates on the status of actions affecting the charter halibut fisheries. NMFS Alaska Region staff notified the Council that the limited entry (moratorium) draft final rule is in the Secretarial review stage at NMFS headquarters. The Alaska Region has recommended that, if approved, implementation would begin with permit application and issuance in 2010 and a requirement to have the limited entry permits on board charter vessels fishing for halibut would begin in February 2011.

ADF&G briefed the Council on final 2008 and projected 2009 charter halibut removals for Areas 2C and 3A (reports are posted on the website). The Council urged NMFS to move forward with implementation of the charter halibut vessel moratorium program, implement the Catch Sharing Plan analysis in 2011, and to consider implementing additional management measures necessary to hold the charter sector harvest in Area 2C to its GHL in 2010.

The Council also tasked its Halibut IFQ Implementation Team with meeting again to review IFQ proposals that were received after its October 2009 meeting. The deadline for additional proposals is January 10, 2010; the Council noted that neither the team nor the Council will review any proposals that are received after that date. The team will convene in late January or early February 2010. All IFQ proposals received by the deadline will be posted on the Council website. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

## Rockfish Program

At the November meeting, the Council reviewed a short discussion paper identifying two elements of an alternative that would allocate a specific percentage of harvest shares to eligible processors based on their qualifying processing histories. The alternative did not have a definition of the rules governing transfers and holdings of the harvest shares issued to processors.

After reviewing the information provided, the Council revised the alternatives for analysis to include the following:

- Harvest shares awarded to processors will be divisible for transfer
- Harvest shares held by processors will be subject to the same 5% cap for holding and use that applies to harvest shares held by harvesters
  - Suboption: 10% cap
  - Suboption: Grandfather initial recipients
- The harvest shares held by processors may be transferred to:

Option 1: Those processors, at the plant level, who were initially issued harvest shares

Option 2: Those processors who have processed at least 100-250 metric tons of rockfish delivered by catcher vessels within any two-year period during the new program

- Suboption 1: in the port of Kodiak
- Suboption 2: to a shoreside processing facility

Option 3: A holder of a Central GOA rockfish program eligible LLP qualifying for catcher vessel sector in the rockfish program

A revised problem statement and the suite of elements and options are provided on the Council website. The Council is scheduled to review a preliminary analysis at the February meeting. Staff contacts are Jon McCracken and Mark Fina.

## BiOp Update

The Council received an update from staff on the status of the upcoming draft *status quo* Biological Opinion (BiOp). Also, the Council's SSL Mitigation Committee met during the Council's December meeting week to discuss preparations for the BiOp review and to refine their list of data and information the Committee will need to prepare for that review. The BiOp will be released by the NMFS Office of Protected Resources on March 1, 2010. To prepare for the BiOp review, the SSLMC will meet January 26-28, 2010 at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center

in Seattle to receive reports on recent studies of SSLs and relevant research on predators and predation rates, nutrition, fishery interactions, and other information. The SSLMC has developed a list of data they wish to review, and requests have been made to the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Alaska SeaLife Center, University of Alaska, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, the North Pacific Universities Marine Mammal Research Consortium, and Oregon State University. After receiving these updates on SSL science, the SSLMC will then convene March 8, 2010 in Juneau to receive and review the BiOp and to prepare comments for the Council. Currently, the Council is scheduled to receive the BiOp at its April 2010 meeting. However, the Council has requested NMFS to accommodate several data and scheduling requests related to the SSL survey results (see below) and the review of the BiOp by the Center for Independent Experts (CIE). These requests, if accommodated, could affect the BiOp schedule. Staff contacts are Bill Wilson and Jeannie Heltzel.

## Steller Sea Lion Pup Survey Results

Lowell Fritz with the National Marine Mammal Laboratory provided a report to the Council on the 2009 SSL pup surveys across the range of the eastern and western Distinct Population Units (DPS) of SSL. The 2009 surveys resulted in pup counts of approximately 10,792 Steller sea lion pups within the range of the western DPS in Alaska on rookeries and major haul-outs; the survey team was unable to survey sites in the western Aleutian or Pribilof Islands in 2009 because of weather and equipment issues. According to the NMML report, pup production at major rookeries (N=31) increased by 921 pups between 2005 and 2009 (+10%), but declines in pup production occurred in portions of the range. Steller sea lion pup production in southeast Alaska (eastern DPS) totaled 7,462 pups in 2009, with 7,443 counted at the 5 major rookeries where 5,510 were counted in 2005. The entire report may be found at:

[www.afsc.noaa.gov/nmml/PDF/SSL-Survey-09-memo-11-30-09.pdf](http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/nmml/PDF/SSL-Survey-09-memo-11-30-09.pdf).

Staff contacts are Jeannie Heltzel and Bill Wilson.



## Halibut Deck Sorting EFP

The Council received a final report on an exempted fishing permit (EFP) to investigate on-deck sorting of Pacific halibut as a means of reducing halibut bycatch mortalities on Amendment 80 vessels. Various field tests were conducted in May and June 2009. Overall, the project showed that halibut mortality rates on Amendment 80 trawlers can be reduced by sorting halibut out of the catch on deck, so as to return them to sea as quickly as possible. The average halibut mortality rate for halibut sorted on deck was 45%, compared to the average 75% mortality rate that is currently assigned to BSAI flatfish fisheries. Most of the modified handling procedures used for the EFP appeared to be feasible for use in the fisheries.

The next step will be to work on ways to make alternative halibut handling workable in some or all of the Amendment 80 target fisheries. This will involve additional design and field work to develop automated halibut length or weight accounting procedures, improvements to electronic monitoring protocols, and work to address integration of on deck halibut sorting into the existing catch accounting system for the Amendment 80 sector. Staff contact is Diana Evans.



## Staff Tasking

During the staff tasking agenda item, the Council took action to initiate new analyses and discussion papers, and gave staff direction on a variety of issues. The Council requested staff draft letters on the NOAA catch share policy and the Marine Spatial Planning document for review in February. The Council also requested letters be sent to NMFS regarding (1) issues with the recent Steller sea lion survey and other issues that have

implications for the forthcoming ESA Biological Opinion; (2) urging NMFS to conduct the 2010 Aleutian Island bottom trawl survey as originally planned; and (3) clarifying the Council's priorities relative to processing salmon bycatch samples. The Council directed staff to prepare discussion papers on (1) the process for changing regulations regarding the halibut PSC limits in the GOA and BSAI; and (2) causes and possible solutions to the stranding of Pacific cod TAC in the Bering Sea. The Council tasked staff to prepare an analysis for initial review to adjust the MRAs in the BSAI arrowtooth flounder fishery. Lastly, the Council provided direction regarding participation at the spring Board of Fisheries meeting, a request for a report from industry on foodbank donation programs, update on proposed national legislation, and information on state regulation of yelloweye rockfish fisheries. Staff contact is David Witherell.

## EFH 5-year Review

The preliminary summary report of the essential fish habitat (EFH) 5-year review was presented to the Ecosystem Committee and the Council in December 2009. The report includes reviews of the individual species EFH information by the groundfish stock assessment authors, as well as the review of most of the non-fishing activities that impact EFH. Preliminary information on the review of fishing effects on EFH is included in the report, however this section will be expanded for the final report, at which time individual species reviews for crab, scallop, and salmon species will also be added.

The Council approved the Ecosystem Committee's recommendations with respect to the preliminary report, which include alerting nonfishing stakeholders to the current EFH review process, and working with the State of Alaska for review of the Salmon FMP. Additionally, the Council directed staff to include a discussion of what research has been done to address unknown impacts identified in the 2005 EFH EIS, and also the 2005 CIE review comments. Under the current timeline, the report will be finalized in March 2010, and distributed to the Council and the public. At the April 2010 meeting, the Council will decide whether any of the new information highlighted in the review warrants initiating FMP amendments to revise EFH descriptions and recommendations in the Council FMPs. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## HAPC Priorities

The Council decided in June 2009 to consider whether to set HAPC priorities, and initiate another HAPC proposal cycle, in conjunction with the EFH 5-year review. A discussion of the most recent HAPC proposal process, suggestions for HAPCs that have come before the Council since that time, and suggestions from the groundfish stock assessment authors for possible HAPC priorities, are included in the EFH 5-year review preliminary report.

Recommendations from review of crab, scallop, and salmon EFH will be included in the final report, scheduled for March 2010. The Council will consider the schedule for a possible HAPC proposal cycle in conjunction with setting criteria for evaluating HAPC proposals, at the February 2010 meeting. Staff contact is Diana Evans.



## North Pacific Fishery Management Council

605 West 4th, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-271-2809 ph  
907-271-2817 fax  
[www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc](http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc)

## Observer Regulations Proposed Rule

On September 30, NMFS published a proposed rule for an observer regulatory amendment previously approved by the Council in April 2008:

<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/prules/74fr50155.pdf>. The proposed action includes six issues, including revising the fishing day definition, revising observer conduct regulations, and requiring observer providers to submit copies of invoices. On November 19, NMFS sent a letter to the Council that outlines four changes NMFS is considering to the proposed rule as it proceeds to the final rule. Two of those changes are related to the requirement for observer providers to submit invoices, and two address observer conduct regulations. The only significant change under consideration is to require observer providers to submit monthly invoices every year, as opposed to monthly invoices every third year, as was originally approved by the Council. Because these changes differ from the Council's original motion, NMFS is required to consult with the Council per Section 304(b)(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The letter provided and presented at this December Council meeting constituted the basis for this consultation. The Council approved a motion that concurred with NMFS' proposed changes; the final rule is expected in early 2010. The NMFS letter on this issue is on the Council website. Staff contact is Nicole Kimball.

## Pacific Walrus Updates

The Council received update reports on two issues relevant to potential fishery interactions with Pacific walrus in northern Bristol Bay. An updated discussion paper was presented on the status of a voluntary groundfish industry agreement in the Northern Bristol Bay Trawl Area (NBBTA), operational in 2009. Industry avoided fishing in the southern part of the NBBTA in the May and June yellowfin sole fishery, and also stopped fishing at all in the area a week earlier than required, in order to reduce the potential for interference with local halibut fishermen or create disturbance to walrus. Industry intends to continue with the terms of the voluntary agreement, and the Council supported this action and appreciated efforts by the affected parties to develop solutions outside the regulatory process. The Council took no further action at this time.

Another issue relates to an emerging walrus haulout on the west side of Hagemeister Island in northern Bristol Bay. This haulout has been used by larger numbers of walrus over the past years, and in April 2009 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service reported to the Council its concerns over the potential disturbance effects of fishing and other human activities near this haulout. Therefore the Council requested a discussion paper on options for creating a protection area at this haulout site, and at the December meeting the Council received the discussion paper. After considering some of the options in the discussion paper, and receiving public comment, the Council requested that NMFS and USFWS staff prepare an analysis of alternatives addressing human activities that occur near the Hagemeister Island haulout, and referred this issue to the Joint Protocol Committee to help develop alternatives for the analysis. The Council noted that most disturbance effects are likely from activities not related to Council-managed fisheries, and requested that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service engage in discussions with the Alaska Board of Fisheries and other entities in northern Bristol Bay that may be sources of disturbance in this area. Staff contacts are Diana Evans, Jeannie Heltzel, and Bill Wilson.

## Fixed Gear LLPs for Communities

In October, the Council requested that staff prepare a discussion paper outlining how Western and Central GOA fixed gear LLPs were allocated to community quota entities (CQEs) under the Council's action in April 2009 on GOA fixed gear recency. There are 21 communities eligible under the CQE Program in the Western and Central GOA. At this meeting, the Council reviewed a discussion paper and approved a motion to amend the fixed gear recency motion only with respect to CQE licenses. The Council's original motion allowed each CQE (Western and Central GOA only) to request a number of fixed gear-endorsed licenses equal to the number currently held by residents of the community that were estimated to be removed under the fixed gear recency action under a one landing threshold, or two licenses, whichever is greater. Under these criteria, an estimated total of 21 LLPs endorsed for the Western GOA could be requested by CQEs located in the Western GOA, and an estimated 50 LLPs endorsed for the Central GOA could be requested by CQEs located in the Central GOA. However, at final action, the Council selected a threshold of 10 mt, as opposed to one landing, for the overall action. Thus, the number of licenses approved for allocation to each CQE was inconsistent with the Council's stated intent of providing the same number of licenses to CQEs that residents of those communities were estimated to lose under the recency action. The Council's action in December remedies that inconsistency by effectively allowing an estimated maximum of 6 additional Western GOA fixed gear licenses and 9 additional Central GOA fixed gear licenses, for request by CQEs located in those respective management areas. The number of LLPs available by request to each specific CQE will be published in the proposed rule for fixed gear recency, based on information in the NMFS RAM database. Staff contact is Nicole Kimball.

**North Pacific Fishery Management Council Recommendations for Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Groundfish OFLs, ABCs, and TACs for 2010-2011 Fisheries**

| Species               | Area     | 2009             |                  |                  |                  | 2010             |                  |                  | 2011             |                  |                  |
|-----------------------|----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                       |          | OFL              | ABC              | TAC              | Catch*           | OFL              | ABC              | TAC              | OFL              | ABC              | TAC              |
| Pollock               | EBS      | 977,000          | 815,000          | 815,000          | 810,052          | 918,000          | 813,000          | 813,000          | 1,220,000        | 1,110,000        | 1,110,000        |
|                       | AI       | 34,000           | 28,200           | 19,000           | 1,282            | 40,000           | 33,100           | 19,000           | 39,100           | 32,200           | 19,000           |
|                       | Bogoslof | 58,400           | 7,970            | 10               | 9                | 22,000           | 156              | 50               | 22,000           | 156              | 50               |
| Pacific cod           | BSAI     | 212,000          | 182,000          | 176,540          | 163,587          | 205,000          | 174,000          | 168,780          | 251,000          | 214,000          | 207,580          |
| Sablefish             | BS       | 3,210            | 2,720            | 2,720            | 876              | 3,310            | 2,790            | 2,790            | 2,970            | 2,500            | 2,500            |
|                       | AI       | 2,600            | 2,200            | 2,200            | 1,055            | 2,450            | 2,070            | 2,070            | 2,200            | 1,860            | 1,860            |
| Atka mackerel         | Total    | 99,400           | 83,800           | 76,400           | 72,274           | 88,200           | 74,000           | 74,000           | 76,200           | 65,000           | 65,000           |
|                       | EAI/BS   |                  | 27,000           | 27,000           | 26,433           |                  | 23,800           | 23,800           |                  | 20,900           | 20,900           |
|                       | CAI      |                  | 33,500           | 32,500           | 29,541           |                  | 29,600           | 29,600           |                  | 26,000           | 26,000           |
|                       | WAI      |                  | 23,300           | 16,900           | 16,300           |                  | 20,600           | 20,600           |                  | 18,100           | 18,100           |
| Yellowfin sole        | BSAI     | 224,000          | 210,000          | 210,000          | 103,808          | 234,000          | 219,000          | 219,000          | 227,000          | 213,000          | 213,000          |
| Northern rock sole    | BSAI     | 301,000          | 296,000          | 90,000           | 48,593           | 243,000          | 240,000          | 90,000           | 245,000          | 242,000          | 90,000           |
| Greenland turbot      | Total    | 14,900           | 7,380            | 7,380            | 4,284            | 7,460            | 6,120            | 6,120            | 6,860            | 5,370            | 5,370            |
|                       | BS       |                  | 5,090            | 5,090            | 2,074            |                  | 4,220            | 4,220            |                  | 3,700            | 3,700            |
|                       | AI       |                  | 2,290            | 2,290            | 2,210            |                  | 1,900            | 1,900            |                  | 1,670            | 1,670            |
| Arrowtooth flounder   | BSAI     | 190,000          | 156,000          | 75,000           | 28,931           | 191,000          | 156,000          | 75,000           | 191,000          | 157,000          | 75,000           |
| Flathead sole         | BSAI     | 83,800           | 71,400           | 60,000           | 19,424           | 83,100           | 69,200           | 60,000           | 81,800           | 68,100           | 60,000           |
| Other flatfish        | BSAI     | 23,100           | 17,400           | 17,400           | 2,155            | 23,000           | 17,300           | 17,300           | 23,000           | 17,300           | 17,300           |
| Alaska plaice         | BSAI     | 298,000          | 232,000          | 50,000           | 13,698           | 278,000          | 224,000          | 50,000           | 314,000          | 248,000          | 50,000           |
| Pacific ocean perch   | BSAI     | 22,300           | 18,800           | 18,800           | 14,780           | 22,400           | 18,860           | 18,860           | 22,200           | 18,680           | 18,680           |
|                       | BS       |                  | 3,820            | 3,820            | 623              |                  | 3,830            | 3,830            |                  | 3,790            | 3,790            |
|                       | EAI      |                  | 4,200            | 4,200            | 3,867            |                  | 4,220            | 4,220            |                  | 4,180            | 4,180            |
|                       | CAI      |                  | 4,260            | 4,260            | 3,879            |                  | 4,270            | 4,270            |                  | 4,230            | 4,230            |
|                       | WAI      |                  | 6,520            | 6,520            | 6,411            |                  | 6,540            | 6,540            |                  | 6,480            | 6,480            |
| Northern rockfish     | BSAI     | 8,540            | 7,160            | 7,160            | 3,087            | 8,640            | 7,240            | 7,240            | 8,700            | 7,290            | 7,290            |
| Shortraker            | BSAI     | 516              | 387              | 387              | 198              | 516              | 387              | 387              | 516              | 387              | 387              |
| Blackspotted/Rougheye | BSAI     | 660              | 539              | 539              | 194              | 669              | 547              | 547              | 650              | 531              | 531              |
| Other rockfish        | BSAI     | 1,380            | 1,040            | 1,040            | 586              | 1,380            | 1,040            | 1,040            | 1,380            | 1,040            | 1,040            |
|                       | BS       |                  | 485              | 485              | 193              |                  | 485              | 485              |                  | 485              | 485              |
|                       | AI       |                  | 555              | 555              | 393              |                  | 555              | 555              |                  | 555              | 555              |
| Squid                 | BSAI     | 2,620            | 1,970            | 1,970            | 353              | 2,620            | 1,970            | 1,970            | 2,620            | 1,970            | 1,970            |
| Other species         | BSAI     | 80,800           | 66,700           | 50,000           | 26,653           | 88,200           | 61,100           | 50,000           | 88,200           | 61,100           | 50,000           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | BSAI     | <b>2,638,226</b> | <b>2,208,666</b> | <b>1,681,546</b> | <b>1,315,879</b> | <b>2,462,945</b> | <b>2,121,880</b> | <b>1,677,154</b> | <b>2,826,396</b> | <b>2,467,484</b> | <b>1,996,558</b> |

\*2009 catches through November 7 from AKR Catch Accounting including CDQ

North Pacific Fishery Management Council Recommendations for Gulf of Alaska Groundfish OFLs, ABCs and TACs for 2010-2011 Fisheries

| Stock/<br>Assemblage          | Area         | 2009   |         |         |        | 2010    |         |         | 2011    |         |         |        |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
|                               |              | OFL    | ABC     | TAC     | Catch  | OFL     | ABC     | TAC     | OFL     | ABC     | TAC     |        |
| <b>Pollock</b>                | W (61)       |        | 15,249  | 15,249  | 14,935 |         | 26,256  | 26,256  |         | 34,728  | 34,728  |        |
|                               | C (62)       |        | 14,098  | 14,098  | 14,006 |         | 28,095  | 28,095  |         | 37,159  | 37,159  |        |
|                               | C (63)       |        | 11,058  | 11,058  | 12,135 |         | 19,118  | 19,118  |         | 25,287  | 25,287  |        |
|                               | WYAK         |        | 1,215   | 1,215   | 1,221  |         | 2,031   | 2,031   |         | 2,686   | 2,686   |        |
|                               | Subtotal     |        | 58,590  | 41,620  | 41,620 | 42,297  | 103,210 | 75,500  | 75,500  | 135,010 | 99,860  | 99,860 |
|                               | EYAK/SEO     |        | 11,040  | 8,280   | 8,280  |         | 12,326  | 9,245   | 9,245   | 12,326  | 9,245   | 9,245  |
| Total                         |              | 69,630 | 49,900  | 49,900  | 42,297 | 115,536 | 84,745  | 84,745  | 147,336 | 109,105 | 109,105 |        |
| <b>Pacific cod</b>            | W            |        | 21,567  | 16,175  | 14,243 |         | 27,685  | 20,764  |         | 34,265  | 25,699  |        |
|                               | C            |        | 31,521  | 23,641  | 23,380 |         | 49,042  | 36,782  |         | 60,698  | 45,524  |        |
|                               | E            |        | 2,212   | 1,991   | 778    |         | 2,373   | 2,017   |         | 2,937   | 2,496   |        |
|                               | Total        |        | 66,600  | 55,300  | 41,807 | 38,401  | 94,100  | 79,100  | 59,563  | 116,700 | 97,900  | 73,719 |
| <b>Sablefish</b>              | W            |        | 1,640   | 1,640   | 1,341  |         | 1,660   | 1,660   |         | 1,488   | 1,488   |        |
|                               | C            |        | 4,990   | 4,990   | 4,780  |         | 4,510   | 4,510   |         | 4,042   | 4,042   |        |
|                               | WYAK         |        | 1,784   | 1,784   | 1,774  |         | 1,620   | 1,620   |         | 1,450   | 1,450   |        |
|                               | SEO          |        | 2,746   | 2,746   | 2,803  |         | 2,580   | 2,580   |         | 2,320   | 2,320   |        |
|                               | Total        |        | 13,190  | 11,160  | 11,160 | 10,698  | 12,270  | 10,370  | 10,370  | 11,008  | 9,300   | 9,300  |
| <b>Deepwater flatfish</b>     | W            |        | 706     | 706     | 8      |         | 521     | 521     |         | 530     | 530     |        |
|                               | C            |        | 6,927   | 6,927   | 428    |         | 2,865   | 2,865   |         | 2,928   | 2,928   |        |
|                               | WYAK         |        | 997     | 997     | 4      |         | 2,044   | 2,044   |         | 2,089   | 2,089   |        |
|                               | EYAK/SEO     |        | 538     | 538     | 2      |         | 760     | 760     |         | 778     | 778     |        |
|                               | Total        |        | 11,578  | 9,168   | 9,168  | 442     | 7,680   | 6,190   | 6,190   | 7,847   | 6,325   | 6,325  |
| <b>Shallow-water Flatfish</b> | W            |        | 26,360  | 4,500   | 96     |         | 23,681  | 4,500   |         | 23,681  | 4,500   |        |
|                               | C            |        | 29,873  | 13,000  | 8,195  |         | 29,999  | 13,000  |         | 29,999  | 13,000  |        |
|                               | WYAK         |        | 3,333   | 3,333   | 1      |         | 1,228   | 1,228   |         | 1,228   | 1,228   |        |
|                               | EYAK/SEO     |        | 1,423   | 1,423   |        |         | 1,334   | 1,334   |         | 1,334   | 1,334   |        |
|                               | Total        |        | 74,364  | 60,989  | 22,256 | 8,292   | 67,768  | 56,242  | 20,062  | 67,768  | 56,242  | 20,062 |
| <b>Rex sole</b>               | W            |        | 1,007   | 1,007   | 342    |         | 1,543   | 1,543   |         | 1,521   | 1,521   |        |
|                               | C            |        | 6,630   | 6,630   | 4,162  |         | 6,403   | 6,403   |         | 6,312   | 6,312   |        |
|                               | WYAK         |        | 513     | 513     | 1      |         | 883     | 883     |         | 871     | 871     |        |
|                               | EYAK/SEO     |        | 846     | 846     |        |         | 900     | 900     |         | 888     | 888     |        |
|                               | Total        |        | 11,756  | 8,996   | 8,996  | 4,505   | 12,714  | 9,729   | 9,729   | 12,534  | 9,592   | 9,592  |
| <b>Arrowtooth flounder</b>    | W            |        | 30,148  | 8,000   | 1,517  |         | 34,773  | 8,000   |         | 34,263  | 8,000   |        |
|                               | C            |        | 164,251 | 30,000  | 22,813 |         | 146,407 | 30,000  |         | 144,262 | 30,000  |        |
|                               | WYAK         |        | 14,908  | 2,500   | 56     |         | 22,835  | 2,500   |         | 22,501  | 2,500   |        |
|                               | EYAK/SEO     |        | 12,205  | 2,500   | 52     |         | 11,867  | 2,500   |         | 11,693  | 2,500   |        |
|                               | Total        |        | 261,022 | 221,512 | 43,000 | 24,438  | 254,271 | 215,882 | 43,000  | 250,559 | 212,719 | 43,000 |
| <b>Flathead sole</b>          | W            |        | 13,010  | 2,000   | 303    |         | 16,857  | 2,000   |         | 17,520  | 2,000   |        |
|                               | C            |        | 29,273  | 5,000   | 3,115  |         | 27,124  | 5,000   |         | 28,190  | 5,000   |        |
|                               | WYAK         |        | 3,531   | 3,531   |        |         | 1,990   | 1,990   |         | 2,068   | 2,068   |        |
|                               | EYAK/SEO     |        | 650     | 650     |        |         | 1,451   | 1,451   |         | 1,508   | 1,508   |        |
|                               | Total        |        | 57,911  | 46,464  | 11,181 | 3,418   | 59,295  | 47,422  | 10,441  | 61,601  | 49,286  | 10,576 |
| <b>Pacific ocean perch</b>    | W            |        | 4,409   | 3,713   | 3,805  | 3,332   | 2,895   | 2,895   | 3,220   | 2,797   | 2,797   |        |
|                               | C            |        | 9,790   | 8,246   | 8,027  | 12,361  | 10,737  | 10,737  | 11,944  | 10,377  | 10,377  |        |
|                               | WYAK         |        | 1,108   | 1,108   | 1,147  |         | 2,004   | 2,004   |         | 1,937   | 1,937   |        |
|                               | SEO          |        | 2,044   | 2,044   | 1      |         | 1,948   | 1,948   |         | 1,882   | 1,882   |        |
|                               | E (subtotal) |        | 3,741   | 3,152   | 3,152  | 1,148   | 4,550   |         |         | 4,396   |         |        |
|                               | Total        |        | 17,940  | 15,111  | 15,111 | 12,980  | 20,243  | 17,584  | 17,584  | 19,560  | 16,993  | 16,993 |
| <b>Northern rockfish</b>      | W            |        | 2,054   | 2,054   | 1,946  |         | 2,703   | 2,703   |         | 2,549   | 2,549   |        |
|                               | C            |        | 2,308   | 2,308   | 1,942  |         | 2,395   | 2,395   |         | 2,259   | 2,259   |        |
|                               | E            |        |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |        |
|                               | Total        |        | 5,204   | 4,362   | 4,362  | 3,888   | 6,070   | 5,098   | 5,098   | 5,730   | 4,808   | 4,808  |
| <b>Rougheye</b>               | W            |        | 125     | 125     | 80     |         | 80      | 80      |         | 81      | 81      |        |
|                               | C            |        | 833     | 833     | 100    |         | 862     | 862     |         | 869     | 869     |        |
|                               | E            |        | 326     | 326     | 100    |         | 360     | 360     |         | 363     | 363     |        |
|                               | Total        |        | 1,545   | 1,284   | 1,284  | 280     | 1,568   | 1,302   | 1,302   | 1,581   | 1,313   | 1,313  |
| <b>Shortraker</b>             | W            |        | 120     | 120     | 151    |         | 134     | 134     |         | 134     | 134     |        |
|                               | C            |        | 315     | 315     | 192    |         | 325     | 325     |         | 325     | 325     |        |
|                               | E            |        | 463     | 463     | 207    |         | 455     | 455     |         | 455     | 455     |        |
|                               | Total        |        | 1,197   | 898     | 898    | 550     | 1,219   | 914     | 914     | 1,219   | 914     | 914    |

| Stock/<br>Assemblage      | Area     | 2009           |                |                |                | 2010           |                |                | 2011           |                |                |
|---------------------------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                           |          | OFL            | ABC            | TAC            | Catch          | OFL            | ABC            | TAC            | OFL            | ABC            | TAC            |
| Other slope               | W        |                | 357            | 357            | 401            |                | 212            | 212            |                | 212            | 212            |
|                           | C        |                | 569            | 569            | 385            |                | 507            | 507            |                | 507            | 507            |
|                           | WYAK     |                | 604            | 604            | 82             |                | 273            | 273            |                | 273            | 273            |
|                           | EYAK/SEO |                | 2,767          | 200            | 11             |                | 2,757          | 200            |                | 2,757          | 200            |
|                           | Total    | 5,624          | 4,297          | 1,730          | 879            | 4,881          | 3,749          | 1,192          | 4,881          | 3,749          | 1,192          |
| Pelagic shelf<br>rockfish | W        |                | 819            | 819            | 716            |                | 650            | 650            |                | 607            | 607            |
|                           | C        |                | 3,404          | 3,404          | 2,143          |                | 3,249          | 3,249          |                | 3,035          | 3,035          |
|                           | WYAK     |                | 234            | 234            | 177            |                | 434            | 434            |                | 405            | 405            |
|                           | EYAK/SEO |                | 324            | 324            | 1              |                | 726            | 726            |                | 680            | 680            |
|                           | Total    | 5,803          | 4,781          | 4,781          | 3,037          | 6,142          | 5,059          | 5,059          | 5,739          | 4,727          | 4,727          |
| Demersal<br>rockfish      | Total    | 580            | 362            | 362            | 137            | 472            | 295            | 295            | 472            | 295            | 295            |
| Thornyhead<br>rockfish    | W        |                | 267            | 267            | 230            |                | 425            | 425            |                | 425            | 425            |
|                           | C        |                | 860            | 860            | 275            |                | 637            | 637            |                | 637            | 637            |
|                           | E        |                | 783            | 783            | 152            |                | 708            | 708            |                | 708            | 708            |
|                           | Total    | 2,540          | 1,910          | 1,910          | 657            | 2,360          | 1,770          | 1,770          | 2,360          | 1,770          | 1,770          |
| Atka mackerel             | Total    | 6,200          | 4,700          | 2,000          | 2,221          | 6,200          | 4,700          | 2,000          | 6,200          | 4,700          | 2,000          |
| Big skate                 | W        |                | 632            | 632            | 68             |                | 598            | 598            |                | 598            | 598            |
|                           | C        |                | 2,065          | 2,065          | 1,656          |                | 2,049          | 2,049          |                | 2,049          | 2,049          |
|                           | E        |                | 633            | 633            | 87             |                | 681            | 681            |                | 681            | 681            |
|                           | Total    | 4,439          | 3,330          | 3,330          | 1,811          | 4,438          | 3,328          | 3,328          | 4,438          | 3,328          | 3,328          |
| Longnose skate            | W        |                | 78             | 78             | 62             |                | 81             | 81             |                | 81             | 81             |
|                           | C        |                | 2,041          | 2,041          | 880            |                | 2,009          | 2,009          |                | 2,009          | 2,009          |
|                           | E        |                | 768            | 768            | 175            |                | 762            | 762            |                | 762            | 762            |
|                           | Total    | 3,849          | 2,887          | 2,887          | 1,117          | 3,803          | 2,852          | 2,852          | 3,803          | 2,852          | 2,852          |
| Other skates              | Total    | 2,806          | 2,104          | 2,104          | 1,007          | 2,791          | 2,093          | 2,093          | 2,791          | 2,093          | 2,093          |
| Other species             | Total    | 8,720          | 6,540          | 4,500          | 2,327          | 9,432          | 7,075          | 4,500          | 9,432          | 7,075          | 4,500          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              |          | <b>632,498</b> | <b>516,055</b> | <b>242,727</b> | <b>163,382</b> | <b>693,253</b> | <b>565,499</b> | <b>292,087</b> | <b>743,559</b> | <b>605,086</b> | <b>328,464</b> |

**DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 12/21/09**

| February 8, 2010<br>Portland, OR Benson Hotel  | April 6, 2010<br>Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel  | June 7, 2010<br>Sitka, AK   |
|--|--|---|
| IPHC Report<br>AFA Coop Reports/SeaShare<br>Catch Shares Task Force: <b>Comment</b><br>NS2 proposed rule: <b>SSC Review/Comment</b><br>Marine Spatial Planning: <b>Comment</b><br>BSFRF/NOAA Crab Survey: <b>Report</b><br><br>Am 80 Lost Vessel Replacement: <b>Initial Review</b><br>Am 80 Cooperative Formation: <b>Final Action</b><br><br>CGOA Rockfish Program: <b>Preliminary Review</b><br><br>Obs Program Implementation Plan: <b>Progress/ OAC Report</b><br><br>BSAI Crab ROFR: <b>Initial Review</b><br>BSAI WAG: <b>Initial Review (T)</b><br>Economic Data Collection: <b>Disc paper (T)</b><br>Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Proposals: <b>Review &amp; action as necessary</b><br>CQE Program: <b>Review/Disc paper</b><br><br>BS Chum Salmon Bycatch: <b>Review proposed area closures;<br/>and analytical methods</b><br><br>Groundfish ACL Requirements: <b>Initial Review</b><br><br>Bering Sea P.cod TAC stranding: <b>Discussion paper</b><br>Halibut PSC Limits: <b>Discussion paper (T)</b><br>H&L Catch Accounting: <b>Discussion paper</b><br><br>AI FEP addendum: <b>Report and action as necessary</b><br>EFH report: <b>SSC review</b><br>HAPC Criteria and Schedule: <b>Review/Adopt</b><br>SSC Workshop | SSL Biological Opinion: <b>Review and action as necessary</b><br><br>BS&AI P.cod Split: <b>Discuss plan/action as necessary</b><br>GOA P.cod sideboards for crab vessels: <b>Initial Review</b><br><br>Am 80 Lost Vessel Replacement: <b>Final Action</b><br><br>CGOA Rockfish Program: <b>Initial Review</b><br><br>BSAI Crab ROFR: <b>Final Action</b><br>BSAI WAG: <b>Final Action (T)</b><br><br>Northern BS Research Plan: <b>Review Progress</b><br><br>Groundfish ACL Requirements: <b>Final Action (T)</b><br><br>GOA Tanner Crab Bycatch: <b>Initial Review (T)</b><br>GOA Chinook Salmon Bycatch: <b>Discussion paper (T)</b><br><br>Crab ACLs: <b>Preliminary Review</b><br>Crab Rebuilding Plans: <b>PT report; Preliminary Review</b><br><br>Scallop SAFE: <b>Plan Team Report</b><br>Scallop ACLs: <b>Preliminary Review (T)</b><br>EFH 5-Year Evaluation/HAPC Priorities: <b>Final Review and action<br/>as necessary</b> | MPA Discussion Paper: <b>Review (T)</b><br><br>GOA P.cod sideboards for crab vessels: <b>Final Action (T)</b><br><br>CGOA Rockfish Program: <b>Final Action</b><br><br>Observer Program Restructuring: <b>Initial Review (T)</b><br><br>Hagermeister Island: <b>Initial Review (T)</b><br><br>BSAI Chum Salmon Bycatch: <b>Finalize alternatives</b><br><br>Arrowtooth Flounder MRA: <b>Initial Review</b><br><br>GOA Tanner Crab Bycatch: <b>Final Action (T)</b><br><br>Crab ACLs: Initial <b>Review</b><br>Crab Rebuilding Plans: <b>Initial Review</b><br><br>Scallop ACLs: Initial <b>Review (T)</b> |

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

EFP - Exempted Fishing Permit

BiOp - Biological Opinion

(T) Tentatively scheduled

TAC - Total Allowable Catch

BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota

GHL - Guideline Harvest Level

EIS - Environmental Impact Statement

LLP - License Limitation Program

SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation

MPA - Marine Protected Area

ACL - Annual Catch Limit

HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern

**Future Meeting Dates and Locations**

*February 8-, 2010 in Portland OR*

*April 6-, 2010 in Anchorage (start on Tuesday)*

*June 7 - , 2010 in Sitka*

*Oct 4-, 2010 in Anchorage (Captain Cook)*

*Dec 6- 2010 in Anchorage Hilton*

*January 31-February 8, 2011-Seattle*

*March 28-April 5, 2011-Anchorage*

*June (TBA)*

*September 26-, 2011 in Unalaska*