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News & Notes

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

February 2014

Election of Officers and Appointments

The Council's Advisory Panel unanimously elected Becca Robbins-Gisclair as Chairman of the Advisory Panel, and Lori Swanson and Ernie Weiss as Co-Vice Chairs. The SSC re-appointed Pat Livingston as Chair, and Robert Clark as Vice Chair.

Thanks for Hosting!

The Council would like to thank the many generous industry sponsors who contributed to the reception given during the Council meeting. The seafood was delicious, the music was good, and there was a lot of talk about fish.

Electronic Agenda

All documents, motions, and related information will be available through the electronic agenda. Following the meeting, and as possible during the meeting, motions and handouts will be uploaded. The agenda and its attachments will be accessible through our website at npfmc.org under the meetings tab, or through npfmc.legistar.com.



Observer Program

The Council received a report from the agency about the proposed outline for the June 2014 Annual Report, a discussion paper on prioritizing regulatory amendments to the observer program, and an update on electronic monitoring (EM) cooperative research for 2014-2015. The Council's Observer Advisory Committee (OAC) and SSC provided comments on the Annual Report outline, and the Council directed staff to incorporate those comments as they prepare the annual report, noting that NMFS has already indicated that there may be some requests they will not be able to include in this first report. With respect to the regulatory amendments, the discussion paper identified four existing priorities for agency staff working on observer program issues: 1. the annual report and the annual deployment plan; 2. electronic monitoring; 3. the observer tendering activity regulatory amendment; and 4. the CDQ Pacific cod fishery amendment. The Council agreed with this precedence, and identified two additional priorities for the list: 5. regulatory amendment to change coverage category (full to partial) for small CPs and combination (CP/CV) vessels; and 6. regulatory amendment to change coverage category (partial to

full) for BSAI trawl Pacific cod CVs. The Council did not prioritize among the remaining three regulatory amendments, which will not be worked on until the Council directs otherwise.

The Council endorsed the recommendations of the OAC with respect to electronic monitoring, which approved the concept of the 2014 EM cooperative research plan, and supported an industry workshop to occur February 17-18 in Juneau to develop details of the cooperative research. The Council also intends to form a Fixed Gear EM Workgroup, with industry, agency, and EM service provider representation, to inform Council decisions and recommendations to NMFS on integrating EM into the observer program. **The Council is soliciting for interested persons representing the fixed gear fleet (longline and pot gear, of all vessel sizes) and EM service provider companies, to be on the Workgroup. Please provide a letter of interest to the Council by March 15.** The Council does not intend for the Workgroup to meet before the April Council meeting, and will provide specific tasking to the Workgroup at the April meeting. The Council's motion on the purpose and composition of the EM Workgroup, and the OAC's report, are available on the Council website. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Vessel Caps

During its December 2013 meeting, the Council received separate industry proposals to amend the halibut and sablefish IFQ Program. The two December 2013 proposals replaced earlier proposals to increase sablefish A share use caps and halibut and sablefish vessels caps that had been reviewed by the IFQ Committee, Advisory Panel, and Council in 2013. Public testimony was received both for and against increasing the vessel caps, particularly in the Gulf of Alaska, suggesting there was not a consensus to move these proposals forward. In response, the Council requested a discussion paper that would summarize management issues identified for each species, regulatory area, and vessel category. The Council specifically requested summary data that addresses consolidation, prevalence of vessels and crew QS holders that are capped under the current limit, and the effects of setting separate vessel caps in halibut Area 4 and sablefish Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands regulatory areas on both overall (all area) vessel caps, and the remaining areas under the overall caps if separate westward caps are adopted. Contact Jane DiCosimo on halibut and sablefish management issues.

Halibut Management

Charter (Guided Sport) Fishery

The Council received a report on the status of a proposal to incorporate the charter sector into the commercial halibut individual fishing quota (IFQ) fisheries in Area 2C (Southeast) and Area 3A (Southcentral). Catch Accountability Through Compensated Halibut (CATCH) is a collaboration of the Alaska Charter Association and the South East Alaska Guides Organization to design a pool-based catch sharing plan for the charter halibut fisheries in these areas. The conceptual approach would allow these charter halibut fisheries to supplement each annual allocation by purchasing commercial halibut quota shares (QS) and holding it in a common pool for all charter anglers. A holding entity would purchase QS from willing QS holders. These transferred QS would be used to increase the annual bag and size limits in each area for all charter anglers.

CATCH provided an executive summary, full report, and a supplemental economic study (these are posted on the Council's website) that fulfilled a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Fisheries Innovation Fund grant. Council staff will work with CATCH staff to assist them in streamlining the "common pool" concept, which is described in the report, to actionable items that NMFS could implement in Federal regulations. In October, the Council will review the specific CATCH proposal for a regulatory amendment and a discussion paper that examines if the current Community Quota Entity Program could be used as a model for the program.

Definition of Sport Fishing Guide Services

The Council adopted a preferred alternative to revise and clarify sport fishing guide services for Pacific halibut to remove a requirement that a guide is required to be onboard the same vessel as the angler when guided services is provided to the angler during the fishing trip. The preferred alternative includes two elements. The first element is a revised combination of Alternative 2, options 1 and 3 from the Council's analysis, as follows.

"Sport fishing guide services, for purposes of §§ 300.65(d) and 300.67, means assistance, for compensation or with the intent to receive compensation, to a person who is sport fishing, to take or attempt to take fish halibut by being on board a vessel with such person accompanying or

physically directing the sport fisherman in sport fishing activities during any part of a charter vessel fishing trip. Sport fishing guide services do not include services provided by a crew member. "

The second element defines 'compensation' based on Alternative 2, Option 2b in the analysis, as follows.

"Compensation means direct or indirect payment, remuneration, or other benefits received in return for services, regardless of the source; in this paragraph, "benefits" includes wages or other employment benefits given directly or indirectly to an individual or organization, and any dues, payments, fees, or other remuneration given directly or indirectly to a fishing club, business, organization, or individual who provides sport fishing guide services; and does not include reimbursement for the reasonable daily expenses for fuel, food, or bait."

The preferred alternative incorporates the recommendations developed cooperatively by State and Federal enforcement and management staffs. The Council noted its intent to review proposed Federal regulatory text for this action prior to submission of the proposed rule to the Secretary for approval. Staff Contact is Jane DiCosimo.



Source: CATCH

Area 4A Pots

The Council also initiated a regulatory amendment to follow up on its April 2013 recommendation that the IPHC allow the retention of halibut in Area 4A that are harvested incidentally in sablefish pots in the BSAI when IFQs are held to cover the harvests of both species. The Council informed the IPHC that Federal regulations would need to be amended to identify pots as legal gear for halibut, at a minimum. The Council also reported that it may consider implementation of a discard mortality rate and/or maximum retainable allowance for this fishery. The IPHC supported the concept in principle and directed that IPHC staff assist with the Council's continued development of accompanying Federal regulations provided that the Council analyzes methods to: 1) limit the directed fishing for halibut using pot gear; 2) consider appropriate methods for the timing of pot removal; and 3) the marking of buoys (radar reflectors). The IPHC would schedule action to revise its definition of legal gear, after it reviewed the proposed additional limitations on the use of the gear at a future IPHC annual meeting. Federal regulations from Council action and IPHC annual management measures would need to be implemented simultaneously. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

BSAI Halibut Bycatch

The Council reviewed a discussion paper that addressed the following topics: 1) summary of closures due to halibut PSC limits; 2) historical bycatch amounts relative to current PSC limits; 3) halibut PSC mortality by sector in BSAI target fisheries for pollock, Pacific cod and yellowfin sole, as well as a summary of halibut bycatch mortality in fisheries prosecuted by the Amendment 80 CPs; 4) and potential long-term options to reduce halibut bycatch.

The Council requested an expanded discussion paper focused on three topics: effects on the halibut stock, changes necessary to allow deck sorting, and voluntary measures to minimize halibut bycatch. The first paper will summarize the status of the BSAI halibut resource and the impact of halibut PSC in the BSAI trawl and fixed gear groundfish fisheries on halibut stock biomass, the reproductive potential of the halibut stock, and short and long-term halibut yields to the directed halibut fisheries. This report is scheduled tentatively for June 2014.

A second report was requested to identify the observer sampling protocols and regulatory changes necessary to allow deck sorting of halibut on BSAI trawl catcher processors to reduce the halibut discard mortality rate. Experimental studies have documented significant reductions in halibut mortality that occur when halibut are returned to the water within 30 minutes. Deck sorting of halibut would require an amendment to Federal regulations that govern the domestic observer program. Current regulations require all halibut to be retained until accounted by an observer, which enables

accounting of halibut PSC. This report by NMFS staff is scheduled tentatively for October 2014.

The Council also requested a reports by BSAI groundfish sectors (AFA CP, AFA CV, A80, FLC, CDQ) on progress for voluntarily implementing measures in their cooperative and/or inter-cooperative agreements to minimize halibut PSC, including:

- Development of effective and verifiable measures for halibut avoidance
- Individual accountability and use of incentives to reduce PSC.

These reports are scheduled for June 2014. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.

Steller Sea Lions

On January 29 2014, the National Marine Fisheries Service was issued a short-term extension for the completion of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Measures EIS to April 7, 2014. This allows sufficient time for briefings of the motion to extend the SSL EIS deadline to August 15 2014, filed on January 10, 2014. If the court grants the full extension, and should the draft Biological Opinion conclude that the Council's preferred alternative forwarded in October, 2013 results in Jeopardy to the wDPS of SSL or Adverse Modification to its critical habitat, the Council will have the opportunity to work with the Agency to develop a Reasonable and Prudent Alternative. In this case, regulations will be in place by January 1, 2016. If the Court does not grant the full extension, or if the BiOp does not conclude JAM, then the Agency will complete the EIS and rulemaking in time to have regulations in place by January 1, 2015. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

Grenadiers

The Council selected its final preferred alternative (Alternative 2) to add all grenadier species in its own unique subcategory (in addition to the forage fish and prohibited species categories) under the ecosystem component category in both the BSAI and GOA groundfish fishery management plans. The preferred alternative includes actions to: (1) Prohibit directed fishing for grenadiers; (2) Establish a maximum retainable amount of 8 percent; (3) Require record keeping and reporting; (4) Define grenadier species codes; (5) Establish a separate management category for grenadiers in the FMP; and (6) Include product recovery rates. The Council encourages continued efforts by the NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center to conduct an informal stock assessment to provide information needed to monitor the status of the grenadier stocks. Contact Jane DiCosimo for more information.

Pacific Cod Assessment Models

The Joint Groundfish Plan Teams request proposals for BSAI and/or GOA Pacific cod models by February 28, 2014 for Plan Team review in March 2014 and SSC review in April 2014. Contact Jane DiCosimo or Dr. Grant Thompson, at the NMFS AFSC, for more information.



Staff Tasking

In addition to discussing the relative priority of previously tasked projects, the Council initiated one new project, provided clarifications on the GOA sablefish pot gear analysis and the MRA analysis, and discussed tasking for its various committees, including establishment of a fixed gear electronic monitoring workgroup. The Council also spent considerable time reviewing a draft bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and providing comments and guidance relative to Council positions on several issues addressed in the bill. Additionally, the Council tasked staff to do the following:

- send a letter to NMFS expressing interest in participating in the re-evaluation of critical habitat for the western Distinct Population Segment of Steller sea lions.
- develop a spreadsheet with qualitative and quantitative information (by area, vessel category, and QS category) to assist the Council with understanding the various concerns regarding changing halibut and sablefish vessel caps. Included would be information about ways to increase the caps in Area 4 only.

Upcoming Meetings

Scallop Plan Team meeting.
February 25-26, 2014. Land's End Resort, Homer AK

Crab Plan Meeting: May 5-8, 2014.
Juneau (TBD)

Groundfish Plan Team Meetings:
September 23-September 27

AI Pacific Cod

The Council reviewed an update discussion paper on a catcher vessel apportionment of AI Pacific cod (area 541/542) with a regionalized delivery requirement to AI shoreplants. After reviewing the discussion paper and receiving recommendations from the Advisory Panel and testimony from the public, the Council initiated an analysis of Aleutian Islands community protection measures. The proposed action would prioritize a portion of the AI Pacific cod directed fishing allowance (TAC remaining after CDQ and ICA) for delivery to shoreplants in the Aleutian Islands management area, with some constraints on the amount and dates by which the measure would be removed. The proposed action also reserves an amount of harvest the trawl CV sector can take from BS in the A season, such that their entire allocation is not harvested in the BS. In addition, the Council requests industry sectors work together on developing additional alternatives to be brought back to the Council for consideration that may achieve the following goals in the AI Pacific cod fisheries:

- Maintain functional Aleutian Islands shore plants west of 170 degrees
- Maintain trawl and fixed gear sector access to AI Pacific cod fisheries
- Minimize pre-emption of the AI CV cod fishery by the BS CV cod fishery

The problem statement and alternatives are posted on the Council website. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

GOA Pacific Cod Pot Sector

The Council reviewed a discussion paper describing past and present levels of participation and harvest in the pot sector of the GOA Pacific cod fishery. Discussion particularly focused on whether or not the fishery has changed since LLP reduction in 2011, or since the Council began exploring changes to the management of the GOA trawl sector in 2012. The Council decided not to initiate a separate action analyzing whether or to what extent the pot cod sector is being impacted by changing patterns of participation. However, the Council noted that participation in the sector might be influenced by the development of a quota-based trawl fishery, and that some impacts may not be obvious when looking only at GOA-wide annual summary data. The Council directed staff to continue tracking this issue within the context of GOA Trawl Bycatch Management agenda items. Staff contact is Sam Cunningham.

Ecosystem Policy

The Council adopted an ecosystem approach and vision statement, as Council policy. The ecosystem approach has been out for public review since December, and at this meeting, the Council integrated minor revisions. The adopted policy is posted on the Council website, and includes three parts: a value statement, the vision statement, and an implementation strategy. The intent is to affirm the importance of healthy ecosystems for maintaining sustainable fisheries, and synthesize the Council's policy on ecosystem-based management. The Council recognizes that challenges are potentially in store with respect to climate change, and the ecosystem approach, will help the Council find opportunities to learn from, adapt, and improve management in the future. The policy will work in concert with existing comprehensive management objectives such as the groundfish management approach adopted through the Programmatic Groundfish SEIS. The Ecosystem Committee will continue work to evaluate the implications of the ecosystem policy on Council near- and long-term actions, in the form of an action plan. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Bering Sea FEP

The Council reviewed a discussion paper on considerations for developing a Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP), and chose to initiate work on such an FEP. The Council heard support for developing the FEP from its advisory bodies and the public, along with suggestions for how the document could be structured to be used by the Council. The Council decided that potential objectives for the FEP should be developed through a Council scoping process, perhaps a series of stakeholder meetings in Anchorage, Nome, and Seattle. The Council identified the geographic scope of the FEP as the eastern Bering Sea large marine ecosystem area, but clarified that they did not intend to the FEP to include the Aleutian Islands. The scoping will inform a future Council discussion about the structure of the FEP, and how to assess the potential workload. The Council will also consider the linkages between a BS FEP, new information with respect to the Programmatic SEIS (scheduled for April), and the Ecosystem Committee's action plan for the Council's adopted ecosystem policy, as this process moves forward. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

CDQ Pacific Cod Fishery

The Council received a discussion paper on the feasibility of easing regulations for small Community Development Quota (CDQ) hook-and-line vessels in order to develop a village-based Pacific cod directed fishery. The discussion paper revealed opportunities and areas of concern for the Council to consider while proceeding with regulatory changes.

Based on this information, the Council initiated an analysis for review in June 2014. In addition to the no action alternative, this analysis will consider the viability and impacts from three other alternative scenarios. In the first, the maximum retainable amount of CDQ Pacific cod kept as a proportion of the CDQ halibut targeted fishery would increase from 20 percent to 100 percent for vessel \leq 46' length overall (LOA). The next alternative will evaluate the possibility of creating new CDQ Licenses Limitation Program (LLP) licenses similar to a Community Quota Entity LLP framework. In this model CDQ groups would receive a restricted number of annual non-transferable LLP licenses for their hook-and-line catcher vessel \leq 46' LOA. Options for observer coverage requirements and halibut bycatch requirements could be built off of this license. The final alternative for analysis will include direct exemptions of CDQ hook-and-line vessels \leq 46' LOA from groundfish LLP requirements and full observer coverage (i.e., placing them in the partial observer category). The analysis will also consider alternatives to a vessel monitoring system (VMS), such as GPS electronic monitoring, and other opportunities to minimize the physical challenges that may be associated with the installation and use of VMS on small vessel. Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

Community Fishing Association Workshop

The Council held a workshop to gain perspective on community protection measures that have developed within or alongside allocative quota-based management programs in other U.S. regions. The purpose of the workshop was to inform the Council and other North Pacific stakeholders on what action might be required to facilitate the inclusion of community fishing associations (CFAs) in a GOA Bycatch Management Program. Presenters from Cape Cod (Mass.) and the California central coast spoke about how rationalization affected fishery participation in their communities, how they have positioned themselves to manage quota, how that quota is used to achieve community objectives, and how those objectives are determined. Representatives from NMFS Greater Atlantic Region office (formerly Northeast Region) weighed in on key sticking points in the implementation process that were particularly important, or could have benefitted from explicit Council action during the development stage.

Stakeholders in attendance participated in an open question-and-answer session with the speaker panel. Themes from the Q&A discussion included: whether other programs addressed bycatch reduction, and how CFA-like structures further that objective; how CFAs engage the non-fishing elements of their community in the goal setting process; at what point, or to what extent, the Council has oversight of CFA operations; how CFAs provide opportunities for "new entrants"; the relative importance of receiving an initial allocation to achieving CFA goals; and whether other mechanisms – such as regionalization of landings – could achieve similar outcomes.

Staff will prepare a summary of the workshop discussion, and it will be made available on the Council website. Staff contact is Sam Cunningham.

GOA Tendering

The Council reviewed an updated report on tendering activity in the GOA pollock and Pacific cod fisheries at this meeting. After considering the report, the Council requested an updated report for the February 2015 meeting. The updated report should include 2014 GOA pollock and Pacific cod tendering activity, tendering activity in the Pacific cod fishery by gear for areas 610, 620, and 630, and , to the extent practicable, tendering activity for both pollock and Pacific cod east and west of the 157° west longitude.

The Council recognized that recent changes in the GOA pollock and Pacific cod fisheries are potentially linked to the development of a GOA trawl bycatch management action, and therefore noted the importance of continuing to monitor the GOA pollock and Pacific cod fisheries for changes in tendering activity during the 2014 fishing season. The Council made it clear during their deliberation on this action that they will continue to focus on the development of GOA trawl bycatch management and maintain the existing control dates associated with that action. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

Crab Prohibited Species Catch

The Council reviewed a discussion paper on crab PSC in groundfish fisheries focused upon 4 crab stocks: Bristol Bay red king crab, Bering Sea snow crab, Bering Sea Tanner crab and Saint Matthew blue king crab. This paper builds upon iterative reviews of the crab PSC issue by the Council and attempts to focus an increasingly broad analysis of treatment of crab PSC measures in groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea. After much discussion the Council moved to take a step back from its previous focus on specific stocks and instead develop a process for how best to move forward iteratively to address complicated crab bycatch issues in the Bering Sea groundfish fisheries. The nature of the Council's motion was to select a candidate stock (snow crab) and request that analysts assemble all relevant information including spatial maps overlaying the existing snow crab closure with bycatch by gear type and survey data, to compile size and sex of crabs caught as bycatch by gear type, as well as overall bycatch amounts by gear type and other pertinent information. This information would help inform the impact of groundfish bycatch on the overall stock as well as the efficacy of the current closure area for trawl gear. In this way a template could be developed for development of groundfish management measures for bycatch of any crab stock as needed. The Council also requested further considerations of data and methodologies available to evaluate setting biomass-based PSC limits in groundfish fisheries for crab stocks. As a first step, the Council's CPT will review available data at the May CPT meeting (and have a specific discussion of biomass based limits for multiple species) and provide input to analysts on appropriate data and methodologies to consider. The SSC will then have the opportunity provide input in June with the staff discussion paper available for Council review in October. The full motion is on the Council's website. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Chinook Economic Data Report

The Council reviewed a report on the status of the Amendment 91 Chinook Salmon Economic Data Report (EDR) program and related data collection measures implemented in relation to Amendment 91 to the BSAI Groundfish FMP. The EDR is a mandatory reporting requirement under 50 CFR 679.65 for all entities participating in the American Fisheries Act (AFA) BSAI pollock trawl fishery. This report provided an overview of information collected under the first year of the data collection program (2012) and information summarized by the three surveys: Chinook salmon PSC Allocation Compensated Transfer Report (CTR), Vessel Fuel Survey, and Vessel Master Survey. All of these surveys were created to augment existing information to better monitor the efficacy of management measures for Chinook salmon PSC in the BSAI pollock fishery. EDR results were not available in conjunction with the Council's review of Chinook salmon PSC at the October 2013 meeting and thus were provided at this meeting to both update the Council as well as to provide information on current reporting requirements prior to further Council review of Chinook and chum management in the Bering Sea pollock fishery in June. Upon review of the report, the Council indicated it's intent to retain the survey forms as currently configured for the time being, while allowing for consideration of regulatory amendments or other modifications if needed in the future. The EDR report is available on the Council's website. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Economic SAFEs

The SSC provided a review of the annual groundfish economic SAFE report for the BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries as well as the first BSAI Crab economic SAFE report. The Groundfish economic SAFE report presents the economic status of the groundfish fisheries of Alaska in terms of economic activity and outputs using estimates of catch, prohibited-species catch (PSC), ex-vessel prices and value (i.e., revenue), the size and level of activity of the groundfish fleet, and the weight and gross value of (i.e., F.O.B. Alaska revenue from) processed products. The Crab SAFE report presents information on economic activity in commercial crab fisheries currently managed under the FMP for Bering Sea and Aleutian and Islands King and Tanner Crab (BSAI crab), with attention to the subset of fisheries included in the Crab Rationalization (CR) Program. Statistics on harvesting and processing activity; effort; revenue; labor employment and compensation; operational costs; and quota ownership, usage and disposition among participants in the fisheries are provided.

Comments to analysts for future work on these documents are contained in the SSC minutes.

Canyons Workshop

The Council hosted a workshop on Monday, February 3 to provide a public forum to review the outputs of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center model to predict areas of likely coral abundance in the Pribilof and Zenchug canyons, to facilitate discussion between AFSC and stakeholders to discuss possibilities for collaboration in order to survey areas of coral abundance, and to identify and develop tools for coral impact reduction. The results of the workshop will inform a discussion paper that will be reviewed by the Council at the April, 2014 meeting. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 2/14/14

April 7-15, 2014 Anchorage, AK	June 2-10, 2014 Nome, AK	October 6-14, 2014 Anchorage, AK
MSA Reauthorization: Update BS Canyons: Discussion Paper Observer EM: Update Fishery Cooperatives (Am 80, CGOA rockfish, AFA): Reports BS pollock fishery Chinook salmon IPA and chum ICA reports VMS Discussion paper: Enforcement Committee Review BSAI Crab Co-op Report Template: Discuss SSL EIS: Action as necessary (T) GOA Trawl Bycatch Management: Discussion paper; Review draft EDR forms Am 80 5-year review Ecosystem Cttee Report on ecosystem action planning Round Island Transit: Final Action Scallop SAFE: PT report and OFL/ABC specifications BS and GOA Salmon PSC Genetics: Update EFH 5-year Review: Update PSEIS SIR: Review Research Priorities database: SSC Review Pacific cod assessment models: SSC Review	BSAI PSC Halibut Stock Impacts: Discussion paper Sector reports on BSAI halibut PSC measures Observer Advisory Committee report Observer Program Annual Report Observers for Tendering: Initial Review Electronic Monitoring: Report Crab ROFR contract terms: Initial Review CDQ P.cod fishery development: Initial Review BSAI crab ABC/OFLs for 4 stocks: Approve; PT report GOA pot sablefish: Initial Review (T) Norton Sound RKC LLPs: Discussion paper Bering Sea Chinook/chum salmon bycatch: Disc. paper BS Trawl Excluder EFP: Review/consultation Bering Sea FEP: Update/scoping of objectives Research Priorities	BSAI Halibut Deck Sorting: Discussion paper (T) AI Pcod Allocation: Initial Review VMS Discussion paper: Review Draft Observer Annual Deployment Plan: Review Observers for Tendering: Final Action (T) Charter Halibut Common Pool: CATCH report/Disc paper GOA Trawl Bycatch Management: Action as necessary (T) Crab ROFR contract terms: Final Action ROFR Aleutia PQS: Final Action CDQ P.cod fishery development: Final Action (T) BSAI Crab bycatch: Discussion paper BSAI Crab SAFE report: set ABC/OFL for 6 stocks: PT report GOA pot sablefish: Final Action (T) Preliminary groundfish catch specs: Approve; PT report GOA Skate MRA revisions: Initial Review MRA calculation all fisheries: Discussion Paper ITEMS BELOW NOT YET SCHEDULED IFQ Vessel Cap 'spreadsheet' discussion paper Greenland Turbot allocation: Initial Review EFH 5-year Review (2015) GOA Tendering (Feb 2015) Observer coverage on small CPs: Discussion paper Observer coverage on BSAI trawl CVs: Discussion paper 3 other observer changes: (lower priority)

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
EFH - Essential Fish Habitat
EFP - Exempted Fishing Permit
EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan
FLL - Freezer longliners

HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
ICA - Inter-cooperative Agreements
IPA - Incentive Program Agreements
LLP - Limited License Plan
MPA - Marine Protected Area
MRA - Maximum Retainable Allowance
PSEIS - Programmatic Supplemental Impact Statement
PSC - Prohibited Species Catch
RKC - Red King Crab
ROFR - Right of First Refusal
SIR - Supplemental Information Report
SSC - Scientific and Statistical Committee
SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation

Future Meeting Dates and Locations

April 7-15, 2014, Anchorage
June 2-10, 2014, Nome
October 6-14, 2014 Anchorage
December 8-16, 2014, Anchorage
February 2-10, 2015, Seattle
April 6-14, 2015, Anchorage
June 1-9, 2015, Sitka
October 5-13, 2015 Anchorage
December 7-15, 2015, Anchorage

(T) = Tentative