

Dan Hull  
Chairman  
Chris Oliver  
Executive Director

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

www.npfmc.org



# News & Notes

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

February 2016

## Council Reception

The Council members and public enjoyed an informal reception at the Benson Hotel during the Council meeting in Portland. Thank you to the Midwater Trawlers Cooperative and other members of the industry who organized and donated to make it possible. It provided a good opportunity to meet those involved in the Council process.

## Council Appointments

The Chairman made several appointments. Dr. Ian Stewart of the IPHC was appointed to the SSC for a one-year term. Two new members were appointed to the Scallop Plan team (which meets next week): Ken Goldman and Ben Williams. Williams is a fisheries scientist for ADFG in Juneau, and Goldman is a Groundfish and Shellfish research biologist for ADFG in Homer. Additionally, Miranda Westphal was appointed to the BSAI Crab Plan Team. Westphal is the ADFG Area Management Biologist in Dutch Harbor. We welcome them in these new roles.



## GOA Trawl Bycatch Management

The Council is in the midst of scoping alternatives for a new management structure in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish trawl fisheries. A complete description of the alternatives under consideration can be found on the Council's GOA Trawl Bycatch Management web page (under the Bycatch Controls tab). While the alternatives include many details, they can be generally described as follows:

- Alternative 1: No action; the fisheries will continue under the existing License Limitation Program, and existing prohibited species catch (PSC) limits are unchanged.
- Alternative 2: Allocate groundfish and PSC quotas to harvester-processor cooperatives, based on the qualifying catch history of the members' LLP licenses.
- Alternative 3: Allocate only PSC quotas to harvester-processor cooperatives, based on equal shares, some measure of dependency on (and engagement in) the fishery, or some combination of the two.
- Alternative 4: Set aside 5% - 15% of the species allocated (PSC and/or groundfish quotas) for use by a Community Fisheries Association or an Adaptive Management Program; can be selected alongside Alternative 2 or Alternative 3.

At this meeting, the Council reviewed the following components of the proposed action alternatives: the distribution of active and "latent" trawl LLP licenses, the structure and formation of harvest cooperatives, active participation requirements, and the use of vessel capacity as a basis for allocating halibut and Chinook salmon PSC quota. The Council also discussed the ways in which the two primary action alternatives (Alts. 2 & 3) address the defined goals and objectives for the program, and received extensive public testimony on the subject.

The Council will continue to analyze all Alternatives, and aims to review a Draft Environmental Impact Statement in late 2016. Based on public comments and the Council's discussion, staff has been instructed to provide additional information on the following topics: how the Alternatives might affect the value of an LLP license; the likelihood of "new entry" by vessels that are not typically engaged in GOA trawling; metrics that appropriately capture "active participation"; the potential for, and effects of, industry consolidation; factors that might influence cooperatives' willingness to share bycatch information with each other; observer coverage costs; and the steps required to initiate an electronic monitoring program for trawl vessels.

The Council will discuss this issue again at the June 2016 meeting in Kodiak, AK. The purpose of the meeting is to continue exploring the details of the proposed alternatives and to receive public testimony from local stakeholders. No final action on the selection of a preferred alternative is expected at that time. The Council's "work plan" calls for a review of the following topics: measures that are intended to promote community stability (vessel caps, processing caps, delivery requirements, CFAs, and Adaptive Management), observer program issues and related vessel costs, proposed season date changes for pollock and Pacific cod, and the effects of existing and potentially reduced PSC limits. The Council further directed staff to bring back some preliminary analysis of new additions to Alternative 3, with particular attention paid to PSC allocation based on "dependency" and participation in an inter-cooperative agreement (as defined in the Council's motion). Staff contact is Sam Cunningham.

## GOA Tendering Activity Report

The Council received a GOA tendering activity report updated with 2015 tender activity data. In April 2013, the Council had tasked staff to prepare a brief report on GOA tendering activity in response to the reported increase in tendering activity, specifically in the area 620 pollock and Pacific cod fisheries. The 2015 data showed that there were no noticeable increases in area 620 pollock or Pacific cod tendering. After receiving the updated tendering report, the Council noted that GOA pollock and Pacific cod tendering data is important for understanding other aspects of the GOA fisheries as the Council continues to develop the GOA trawl bycatch management action. The Council requested that in the future, an abbreviated annual tendering report be included in NMFS' December In-season Annual Management Report. Staff contacts are Matt Robinson and Jon McCracken.

## EFH Summit

The Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability forum is organizing the National Essential Fish Habitat Summit, May 17-19, 2016 in Annapolis, MD. The summit will convene Council and NOAA Fisheries habitat experts to assess and identify opportunities, challenges, and successful approaches to implementing MSA habitat authorities. More information is available at <http://www.fisheriesforum.org/our-work/special-projects/efh-summit>. Staff contact is Steve MacLean.

## Observer Issues: Electronic Monitoring

The Council approved a purpose and need statement and alternatives for the analysis to integrate electronic monitoring (EM) into the Observer Program. The analysis is currently scheduled to come back for initial review in October 2016. The Council acted on the Fixed Gear EM Workgroup's recommendations, and the Workgroup will continue to work with analytical staff on the details of how EM can be implemented over the next several months. The Workgroup is comprised of industry members, EM service providers, and representatives of the various management and enforcement agencies.

The Workgroup also provided initial recommendations on EM pre-implementation pools for 2017, with which the Council concurred. The Council endorsed expanding the longline EM pre-implementation pool to 90 vessels in 2017, and expanding the eligibility criteria to include longline vessels of any size, although priority will still be given to vessels that have trouble accommodating a human observer. Additionally, the Council endorses establishing a pot gear EM pre-implementation pool in 2017, with the target of including 30 vessels. On the basis of this endorsement, the agency and the Workgroup will seek out funding to support the EM work in 2017, as observer fees cannot be used for EM until the analysis to integrate EM as part of the Observer Program has been completed and implemented in regulation.

In staff tasking, the Council also had a discussion about the path forward for using EM in the trawl fisheries, particularly looking ahead to what may be needed under a GOA trawl bycatch program. The Council requested that staff provide a discussion about the process of developing the EM program for fixed gear, including junctures where key policy or scientific input has been necessary, and how the Workgroup's experience with developing a fixed gear EM program will be applicable to or different from the development of an EM program for the trawl sector.

Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## Observer Tendering

The Council received a discussion paper and heard a staff presentation on the deployment of observers on tender vessels, and moved forward with: 1) a request to NMFS to further analyze and address potential bias in the Observer Annual Report, 2) a discussion paper to examine options for changing the definition of a "fishing trip" for the purposes of observer coverage, including transporting observers on tender vessels and deploying from tender vessels, and 3) a request to NMFS to move forward with requiring tender operators to use tLandings.

The Council acknowledged concerns about potential bias affecting data quality, and therefore requested that NMFS more closely evaluate observer data from catcher vessels delivering to tenders. In June 2016, NMFS will evaluate whether creating a separate stratum in the 2017 ADP for catcher vessels delivering to tenders would address data concerns.

The Council also initiated a discussion paper, on a longer timeframe, to explore practicable alternatives to allow greater flexibility for the deployment of observers. This discussion paper will examine options for changing the definition of a "trip" for purposes of observer coverage, and will include options to transport observers on tender vessels and deploy them from tender vessels. The discussion paper should consider how these options address the concerns of smaller catcher vessels bearing disproportionate costs. The Council received feedback from NMFS expressing safety concerns about allowing observer transfers at sea to be a standard operation procedure as part of the Observer Program. While the Council noted that safety is paramount, they encouraged exploring the subject of transfers at sea with the goal of finding an acceptable solution.

The tLandings recordkeeping and reporting requirement would provide data that would be invaluable in the analysis of tender vessel delivery patterns, to identify any bias in observed versus unobserved fishing behavior and for general catch accounting. The tLandings action was separated from this issue and will proceed as an independent RIR/IRFA.

Staff contacts are Matt Robinson and Diana Evans

## Halibut Management Framework

Based upon a motion by the Council in December 2015, the Halibut Management Framework was updated in January 2016 and presented for comment at the 2016 annual meeting of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). The revised Framework was also reviewed by the Council's SSC at the February Council meeting, with a focus on the research priorities section of the document. The Council is awaiting formal comment from the IPHC, but based upon discussions at the IPHC meeting, and based upon the SSC's review of the research priorities section, the Council approved a motion which provided additional direction and focus for the Framework, specifically in the research priorities area. Pending formal input from the IPHC, the Framework will be updated once again for Council review at the April 2016 meeting. Council contact is Chris Oliver.

## Observer Coverage for BSAI Trawl CVs

The Council took final action by recommending a preferred alternative for an amendment to allow catcher vessels (CVs) to choose to be in the full observer coverage category for all of their trawl activity in the BSAI. Any CV owner may select full coverage for the following year by notifying NMFS of their choice prior to an October 15 deadline. Owners must reaffirm this choice each year. Those who do not meet the notification deadline will remain in the partial observer coverage category, and will be required to log trips in ODDS during the following year.

This action was responsive to public comment that was initially received during the rulemaking process for the 2013 restructuring of the Observer Program. The operators of vessels that fish both AFA pollock and limited access Pacific cod stated that full observer coverage would allow them to better comply with the halibut bycatch accountability measures required by their AFA inter-cooperative agreement, and would eliminate situations where one observer must be traded out for another in order to move between pollock and cod target fisheries. Since 2013, NMFS has allowed CV owners to voluntarily carry full coverage observers during their BSAI trawl activity. However, those vessels were still considered part of the partial coverage category. As a result, owners paid both the partial coverage ex-vessel fee and the daily cost of full coverage. This action relieves vessel owners who select full coverage from the requirement to pay the partial coverage fee.

The Council determined that allowing owners to make an annual choice is the best way to accommodate evolving business plans, and does not compromise NMFS's ability to create and implement an Annual Deployment Plan (ADP) that meets the Observer Program's objectives. The October 15 notification deadline was selected as a compromise between the status quo for the volunteer policy (December 1) and an earlier alternative (July 1). October 15 allows vessel

owners time to develop a fishing plan for the upcoming year and to sign onto their inter-cooperative agreement, while also providing sufficient time for NMFS to finalize the ADP and make necessary changes to ODDS prior to the start of the season (January 20). While the Council does not expect CVs that are not eligible for AFA cooperatives to select full coverage in the near-term, the preferred alternative provides flexibility to accommodate such requests if they do arise. Staff contact is Sam Cunningham.

## Defining Where Observer Can be Discharged

The Council initiated an analysis of a regulatory amendment to expand the definition of where an observer can be discharged at the end of a fishing trip. This discussion paper will look at allowing observers to be discharged at ports with a regularly scheduled air service, but not necessarily with a resident FPP-holding processor as required by current regulations. The Council initiated this action in response to cost concerns for fishermen who cannot return to their home port to disembark their observer. Staff contacts are Matt Robinson and Diana Evans.

## Halibut Deck Sorting

The Council reviewed an application to allow trawl vessels in the BSAI to conduct on-deck sorting of halibut as a means of reducing halibut bycatch mortalities in 2016. The Council supports the application, which, if approved by NMFS, will allow deck sorting on Amendment 80, CDQ, and trawl limited access operations from May through the end of the year. The Council also received a presentation on the results of the 2015 deck sorting efforts, which resulted in halibut savings of approximately 150 mt of halibut. The Council expressed their appreciation for the hard work of all the trawl sector participants who made it effective in 2015, as well as the industry representatives and agency staff who worked out the methods to be used in 2016. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## WAI Red King Crab

The Council reviewed a discussion paper on the potential removal of a portion of the Western Aleutian Island red king crab (WAI RKC) stock from the federal FMP. The portion that could be removed occurs between 171° and 179° west longitude, which defines the boundaries of the State of Alaska's Adak management district. The Council initiated an analysis to further explore this potential action. If adopted, the WAI RKC stock in the Adak District would be solely under State management authority with the rationalized Petrel Bank portion of the stock remaining in the FMP. In moving forward with an analysis, the Council adopted a purpose and need statement that cited potential though unsubstantiated, separation of RKC by deep water trenches in the WAI, an absence of fishing activity in the area for over a decade, the likelihood that future State management would be tailored to a small boat fishery, and the history of effective crab conservation by the state of Alaska. Staff contact is Jim Armstrong.

## Upcoming Meetings

### Council Coordination Committee

February 24-25, Washington DC

### CIE reviews:

Pacific cod Feb 16-19 (AFSC)

Sablefish May 10-12 (Juneau)

EBS pollock May 16-20 (AFSC)

### Observer Outreach meetings:

March 3, 2pm - Sitka Sounds

Science Center, Karsh

Classroom, 834 Lincoln St

#200, Sitka AK

March 31-April 2 - Kodiak, AK:

Observer program staff will be

available at the NOAA booth at

ComFish Alaska

### Technical Subcommittee of the Can-U.S. Groundfish Committee:

April 26-27

(Newport, OR)

### Crab Plan Team: May 9-13

Anchorage

### Electronic Monitoring

#### Working Group: May 11 –

teleconference/meeting Traynor

Room, Bldg 4, AFSC

July 27-28 – Anchorage

Aug 31 – teleconference

### Observer Advisory

Committee: May 12-13 –

Traynor Room, Bldg 4, AFSC

### National EFH Summit

May 17-19, Annapolis, MD

[www.fisheriesforum.org/our-](http://www.fisheriesforum.org/our-work/special-projects/efh-summit)

[work/special-projects/efh-](http://www.fisheriesforum.org/our-work/special-projects/efh-summit)

[summit](http://www.fisheriesforum.org/our-work/special-projects/efh-summit)

## IFQ Program Review Outline

In a follow-up to the December Council meeting, the SSC and the AP had a chance to weigh in on the scoping document for a forthcoming halibut/ sablefish IFQ program review. The review proposes using quantitative and qualitative analyses to focus on the changing status of the fisheries in relation to the 10 original policy objectives of the program.

The analysts had extensive discussion with the SSC on the availability of data, among other issues. For example, data on crew employment does not appear to extend throughout the lifetime of the program, and a discussion ensued about the ways to address this data deficiency. It was also noted that analysts should be careful in asserting causality based on trends observed in the data, due to the extensive history of the IFQ program and the potentially confounding effects of factors outside of the IFQ program itself.

The AP provided some additional bullets of guidance for scope and direction of the review including having a short discussion of the underlying authority bodies for the program.

The Council supported the SSC and the AP feedback. The Council also provided specific direction to include an analysis of a proposal from the Native Village of Eyak's for an allocation of IFQ. The analysts have been directed to describe the request, the Native Village of Eyak's past litigation on the IFQ program, and its requests for tribal consultation on IFQ allocations.

The review is tentatively scheduled for the October Council meeting. Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

## Norton Sound Red King Crab

The final Norton Sound red king crab assessment was reviewed by the SSC, AP and Council in order to set catch specifications for the 2016 fishery. This stock has a separate specifications timing in order to accommodate the CDQ fishery which can open in early May. The stock is healthy, with an estimated mature male biomass for this stock above its target level ( $B_{MSY\ proxy} = 4.53$  million lb) with an OFL calculated by the Tier4a control rule. The SSC recommended an OFL of 0.71 million lb and an ABC of 0.568 million lb which used a 20% buffer from the OFL. The stock is not overfished nor is overfishing occurring on this stock. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

## Crab Modeling Workshop

The SSC received a report from a crab modeling workshop that occurred in January. The workshop focused upon the continued development of a generic crab modeling framework and software development (GMACS) and progress on the application of this approach for BSAI crab stock assessments. The SSC acknowledged the extensive effort of the GMACS team since the project began and the progress that continues to unfold. The plan is to migrate the assessment for Saint Matthew blue king crab into GMACS for the 2016/2017 assessment cycle with an initial review of that assessment at the June SSC meeting. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

## BSAI Crab Bycatch

The Council reviewed a discussion paper on EBS snow crab bycatch measures and data available to evaluate the efficacy of current snow crab PSC management measures in BSAI groundfish fisheries. The *Chionoecetes opilio* Bycatch Limitation Zone (COBLZ) is a triggered area closure for trawling in the Bering Sea when sector-specific PSC limits are reached. Sectors which reach their limit must fish outside of the closure. The Council moved to initiate an analysis of revising the snow crab PSC limit that is annually specified based on a rate applied to the total survey abundance estimate of snow crab. The analysis will evaluate application of the rate to the total population estimate from the snow crab assessment (instead of the survey number only) as well as options to: 1) Remove the minimum and maximum *C. opilio* PSC limit for trawl vessels in the COBLZ; 2) Reduce the *C. opilio* PSC limit to (suboptions: 0.10 %, 0.075%, or 0.05 %) of the total abundance of *C. opilio*; and 3) Reduce the maximum and/or minimum *C. opilio* PSC limit for trawl vessels in the COBLZ by (suboptions: 10%, 15%, or 50%).

The Council also initiated a discussion paper to outline the steps and information needed to consider the appropriateness of revising or implementing PSC limits or other management measures to minimize Bristol Bay red king crab PSC in directed groundfish fisheries.

Staff contact for BSAI crab bycatch issues is Diana Stram.

## BSAI Trawl Limited Access Yellowfin Sole Fishery

At this meeting, the Council reviewed a discussion paper that examined participation and effort in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) yellowfin sole trawl limited access fishery to determine the need to limit entry in the offshore fishery. In October 2015, the Council received public testimony from a few participants in the offshore fishery of the BSAI yellowfin sole trawl limited access fishery. Testimony indicated that several new vessels entered the fishery during 2015, and that the new entrants were negatively impacting the ability of historical participants to maintain yellowfin sole harvest and may be increasing halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) in the fishery.

After reviewing the discussion paper and hearing public testimony, the Council initiated an analysis to limit access for catcher vessels in the offshore portion of the BSAI yellowfin sole trawl limited access fishery. The Council's purpose and need statement identified that limiting access for catcher vessels could have three primary benefits:

- 1) ensure that the limited access fishery continues

## Staff Tasking

The Council received a presentation from Dr. Rick Methot, NOAA Fisheries Senior Scientists for Stock Assessments, on the NOAA initiative for a national framework for prioritization of stock assessments. The Council expresses its appreciation to Dr. Methot and to NOAA Headquarters for the presentation and on-going efforts to develop this framework. The Council endorses the comments of the SSC pertinent to this issue and looks forward to reviewing the Stock Prioritization Process as it relates to NPFMC managed groundfish stocks following NOAA's planned trade-off evaluation. It is expected that this information will be available during the upcoming 2017 harvest specifications process.

The Council reviewed the NMFS Climate Science Strategy Alaska Regional Action Plan, which explains efforts underway to produce, deliver, and use climate-related information in fishery management and science. The Council appreciated the opportunity to review the action plan, and generally supports the approach outlined in the document, although they agreed with specific comments highlighted by the SSC, to be sent back to the agency. The Council also affirmed the importance of maintaining funding for the existing fishery-independent annual and biennial surveys, while supporting new funding for spring and fall surveys to identify the effects of climate change.

The Council's Legislative Committee met during the Council week, and discussed comments on NOAA's draft guidance for review of catch share plans, an update on the request for review of recusal determinations, the status of potential hearings on MSA reauthorization, the status of implementing legislation for the North Pacific Fisheries Convention, and informational reports from all-Council legislative liaison Dave Whaley. These issues will be further discussed at the upcoming CCC meeting, February 24-25 in Washington, DC.

Also during Council deliberation on staff tasking, it was noted that a proposal to limit access to the Bering Sea Pacific cod fishery for catcher vessels may be discussed at a future meeting.

to provide benefits to historic participants; 2) mitigate the risk that a "race for fish" could develop; and 3) maintain the consistently low rates of halibut bycatch in this fishery. The Council also recognized that when the total allowable catch (TAC) for BSAI yellowfin sole assigned to the limited access fishery is relatively high, opportunities for new entrants could be provided without unduly constraining historic participants.

The initiated analysis includes two alternatives. Alternative 1 is no action, while Alternative 2 would limit catcher vessels participating in the directed BSAI yellowfin sole trawl limited access fishery. Under Alternative 2, a catcher vessel must have an LLP that is credited with a least one directed fishery landing in the yellowfin sole limited access fishery made to a mothership or catcher/processors between 2008 through 2015:

Suboption 2.1	in any year
Suboption 2.2	in any two years

The Council also included an option that would relieve the limits on access for catcher vessels if the TAC assigned to the yellowfin sole trawl limited access fishery is equal to or greater than:

Suboption 2.1.1	15,000 mt
Suboption 2.1.2	20,000 mt
Suboption 2.1.3	25,000 mt

Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

The Ecosystem Committee and the Council reviewed modifications to the presentation and inclusion of elements in the groundfish management workplan. The workplan serves as a bridge between the Council's groundfish management policy, established in the 2004 Programmatic EIS, and subsequent activity under the groundfish FMPs. The workplan will be reviewed in detail at a future meeting with consideration given to all 45 management objectives identified in the policy. The review of accumulated actions under the workplan will allow for a look back at the Council's accomplishments since the management objectives were last reviewed. Additionally, the Council will examine the current suite of active and pending management issues and have the opportunity to identify any further actions needed to better fulfill the policy's management objectives. Staff contact is Jim Armstrong.

**DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 2/12/2016**

April 4-12, 2016 Anchorage, AK	June 6-14, 2016 Kodiak, AK	October 3-11, 2016 Anchorage, AK
<p>Fishery overlap with Pribilof corals: NMFS Report (T) EFH 5-year Review: <b>Review Draft Report; Eco Cttee review</b></p> <p>Halibut Management Committee: Report (T) Halibut Management Framework: <b>Update</b> BSAI Halibut Abundance-based PSC: <b>Staff workgroup report</b> Halibut DMRs methodology: <b>Discussion paper</b> MSE Process: Update from IPHC (T) Charter Halibut RQE Program: <b>Initial Review (T)</b></p> <p>Salmon Genetics: Report on recent data Salmon genetics spatial/temporal refinement: <b>Discussion paper</b> Pollock ICA Reports/ IPA Reports Co-op Reports (AFA, Am 80, GOA Rockfish, BSAI Crab) PNCIAC report AI groundfish offshore sector limited access, and AI Pcod A/B season split: <b>Discussion paper</b></p> <p>Scallop SAFE and catch specifications: <b>Approve, PT report</b></p> <p>Groundfish Policy and Workplan: <b>Review Management Objectives</b></p>	<p>Observer Program Annual Report, OAC report</p> <p>GOA Trawl Bycatch Management: <b>Review Discussion paper, action as necessary</b></p> <p>Tanner Crab Custom Processing Cap: <b>Initial Review (T)</b></p> <p>BSAI Crab: <b>Plan team report, OFL/ABC for 3 stocks</b></p> <p>BSAI Crab 10-year Review: <b>Review Report</b></p> <p>Squid to Ecosystem Component Category: <b>Initial Review</b></p> <p>Research Priorities: <b>Determine priorities</b></p>	<p>Stock Assessment 101 Training</p> <p>EM Integration: <b>Initial Review</b> Observer Program 2017 Annual Deployment Plan: <b>Review</b> Observer Lead Level 2: <b>Discussion paper</b></p> <p>2017 Charter halibut management measures for analysis Area 4 Halibut IFQ Leasing: <b>Initial Review</b> Halibut/sablefish IFQ Program 10-year Review: <b>Review Draft (T)</b></p> <p>BSAI Crab: <b>Plan team report, OFL/ABC for 6 stocks</b></p> <p>AFA 10-year Review: <b>Review Draft (T)</b></p> <p>Stock Structure Workgroup Report Groundfish Harvest Specifications: <b>Proposed specs</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>ITEMS BELOW NOT YET SCHEDULED</b></p>		
<p>BSAI YFS TLA Fishery limited entry: Initial Review Charter Halibut permit leasing: Discussion paper Observer discharge location: Discussion paper Observer deployment trip determination and transfer: Disc paper Bering Sea FEP: Review Draft FEP Remove WAI Red King Crab from FMP: Initial Review Bristol Bay red king crab PSC: Discussion paper Bering Sea Snow Crab PSC Limits: <b>Initial Review</b> Observer Insurance Requirements: <i>Disc paper for Reg Am</i></p>		

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  
EM - Electronic monitoring  
EFH - Essential Fish Habitat  
EFP - Exempted Fishing Permit  
EIS - Environmental Impact Statement  
FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan  
FLL - Freezer longliners  
GOA - Gulf of Alaska  
GKC - Golden King Crab  
GHL - Guideline Harvest Level

HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern  
IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota  
ICA - Inter-cooperative Agreements  
IPA - Incentive Program Agreements  
LLP - Limited License Plan  
MRA - Maximum Retainable Allowance  
PSC - Prohibited Species Catch  
RKC - Red King Crab  
RQE - Recreational Quota Entity  
SIR - Supplemental Information Report  
SSC - Scientific and Statistical Committee  
SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation  
SSL - Steller Sea Lion  
TAC - Total Allowable Catch  
TLAS - Trawl Limited Access Sector  
YFS - Yellowfin sole  
VMS - Vessel Monitoring System

**Future Meeting Dates and Locations**

*April 4 - 12, 2016, Anchorage*  
*June 6-14, 2016, Kodiak*  
*October 3 - 11, 2016 Anchorage*  
*December 5-13, 2016, Anchorage*  
*January 28 – February 7, 2017, Seattle*  
*April 3-11, 2017, Anchorage*  
*June 5-13, 2017, Juneau*  
*October 2-10, 2017, Anchorage*  
*December 4-12, 2017, Anchorage*

**(T) = Tentative**