

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

## News and Notes



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## 2007 Appointments Announced

The Council announced the following re-appointments for 3 year terms to the Advisory Panel: Craig Cross, Jan Jacobs, Kent Leslie, Matt Moir, and John Moller. Appointed for another year to the end of the 3 year term is Julianne Curry. New members to the panel (also 3 year terms) include Mike Martin of Kodiak and Tina McNamee from Sitka.

The Council re-appointed 13 members of the Scientific and Statistical Committee with two changes: Steven Hare will be replaced with Bill Clark of the IPHC, and Mark Hermann retired from the SSC.

A full list of AP, SSC, and Council members and their contact information and terms is available on our website.

## Call for Nominations

The Council is calling for nominations for a resource economist for the *Scientific and Statistical Committee* for 2007. The appointment is a one year term, with attendance expected at 5 annual meetings. Deadline for nominations is January 26, 2007. Please contact Chris Oliver for additional information.

The Council is seeking nominations for the *Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC)* for the king and Tanner crab fisheries of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) area. Appointments are 2 years, with all members up for reappointment at the same time. The role of the PNCIAC is to provide the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Council advice in the areas of management related to BSAI king and Tanner crab fisheries. Deadline for nominations is January 26, 2007. Appointments will be made at the February 2007 Council meeting. Please contact the Council office for further information.



**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**

## 30th Anniversary Celebration

The Council celebrated the 30 year anniversary of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council with a gala celebration banquet on Saturday evening. The event featured Chair Stephanie Madsen as Master of Ceremonies and a special video keynote speech by Senator Ted Stevens. Over 350 people attended, including members of the original council, Clem Tillion and Bart Eaton; former Council chairmen, Rick Lauber and Dave Benton; and former Executive Directors, Jim Branson and Dr. Clarence Pautzke. Welcoming remarks were provided by Assistant Administrator for Fisheries Dr. Bill Hogarth, and the Alaska Regional Administrator Dr. Jim Balsiger. Paul MacGregor introduced a video of a historic flight documenting illegal foreign fishing in the 1980s. A Jeopardy game, hosted by Glenn Reed with contestants Frank Kelty, Paul MacGregor, and John Iani, provided many laughs. The evening was capped off with dancing and music by the After Six Orchestra.

Special recognitions were given to past and present Scientific and Statistical Committee members for their hard work and dedication, to Al Burch for 27 years on the Advisory Panel, and to former Council member Arne Fuglvog who left for Washington D.C. to join the staff of Senator Lisa Murkowski. Council staff was presented with the first annual Bob Mace Distinguished Service Award for their role in supporting the Council and service to the North Pacific Fisheries. All-in-all, it was a wonderful evening, and we are looking forward to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2016.

## Upcoming Meetings

**SSL Mitigation Committee.** Anchorage, Hilton January 8-9  
**Aleutian Islands Ecosystem Team** workshop. Seattle, January 10-12  
**Scallop Plan Team** meeting. Anchorage, AK (location TBD) February 22-23  
**Crab Plan Team** meeting. Seattle, Week of February 19 (TBD). Check Council website for more information  
The April **Council meeting** begins **MARCH 26th in Anchorage.** It's a change from our regular April Council meeting schedule.

# Halibut Management

The Council adopted a number of actions to manage the charter halibut fishery. First, the Council received a report on the status of the **guideline harvest level (GHL)** from ADF&G Sportfish Division staff. ADF&G staff projected that 2006 charter halibut harvests exceeded the GHL by more than 40 percent in Area 2C and 8 percent in Area 3A. The Scientific and Statistical Committee will review ADF&G reports that describe the statistical methods used to project charter harvests at a future meeting.

The Council reviewed a staff discussion paper on a proposed amendment to the North Pacific Halibut Act, which could provide the Council with authority to recommend that the Secretary of Commerce delegate limited authority to the State to regulate sport caught halibut. The Council learned that this may be a long-term solution because the Magnuson-Stevens Act was reauthorized on December 9, 2006 without such authorizing language. The State is meanwhile proposing State legislation that would once again allow charter data sharing with NMFS for implementation and enforcement purposes. State legislation is necessary for implementation of a Federal limited entry program.

The Council reviewed a discussion paper on implementation costs associated with its April 2006 preferred alternative for a 5-fish annual charter halibut limit in Area 2C to reduce charter halibut harvests. This action was initially selected due to a 22 percent overage of the 1.432 M pound GHL in that area. In June 2006, NMFS recommended that the Council reconsider its preferred alternative due to costs and the resultant need to shift funds away from other enforcement activities. At this meeting, the Council rescinded its April 2006 preferred alternative and requested that the previous analysis to reduce charter halibut harvests to the Area 2C GHL be augmented by adding a number of proposed management measures in the revised analysis. Proposed measures include:

- 1) 1 trip per vessel per day;
- 2) no retention of halibut catch by skippers and crew;
- 3) annual catch limits of: (i) 4 halibut, (ii) 5 halibut;
- 4) 1 fish bag limit for June, July, August, or entire season;
- 5) trophy size limit for second fish of: (i) 45 inches, (ii) 50 inches, (iii) 55 inches, or (iv) 60 inches;
- 6) season closure date of: (i) August 15, (ii) August 31, (iii) September 15;
- 7) day of the week closure (pick a specific day); and/or
- 8) minimum size limit of 32 inches.

The intent is that these measures can be additive to achieve the needed level of harvest reduction. Initial review of the draft analysis is scheduled for April 2007 and final action is scheduled for June 2007. The Council will request that NMFS prioritize implementation of its preferred alternative for the 2008 charter fishing season. The Council supported plans by ADF&G to use its emergency order authority for the 2007 charter season to prohibit retention of fish by skippers and crew and limit the number of lines fished to the number of clients on board to reduce charter harvests in Area 2C and Area 3A.

At its February meeting, the Council will schedule a review of the Pacific Council's Area 2A halibut catch sharing plan and the regulatory process for implementing annual regulations. Staff from NMFS Northwest Regional Sustainable Fisheries Division and General Counsel, Pacific Council, and State of Washington will be invited to participate. The Council also will send a letter to the International Pacific Halibut Commission, acknowledging its request for a dialogue on this issue. The Council letter will report on the above described course of action to end GHL overages, request that the IPHC separate charter and non-charter removals in its annual report, and report back at a future meeting on mortality estimates of released halibut in charter and commercial hook-and-line fisheries. The Council also requested two discussion papers from ADF&G: (1) to describe which measures and what process the State would employ under delegated management authority to keep charter halibut harvests to their respective GHLs in Areas 2C and 3A, and (2) on hook and release mortality estimates of sport caught rockfish.

The Council reviewed a discussion paper of alternatives and options to implement a **limited entry program** (moratorium) on entry into the charter halibut fishery using a control date of 12/9/05. The Council clarified options for implementing such a program based on recommendations from staff, Charter Halibut Stakeholder Committee, Advisory Panel, and SSC. The revised suite of issues and options adopted by the Council for analysis is posted on the Council halibut web page. Initial review of the draft analysis is scheduled for February 2007 and final action is tentatively scheduled for April 2007.

The Council adopted staff, committee, and AP recommendations to revise the alternatives and options for **long-term solutions** to manage the charter halibut sector. The Council also added one allocation options for analysis: equal to the 2005 charter halibut harvest converted to a percentage (16 percent in Area 2C and 13 percent in Area 3A). The Council further requested a staff discussion paper for April 2007, which would address potential management issues associated with separating a decision on establishing the charter sector allocation from a decision on management measures that would allow a hard allocation to be implemented and enforced, in the event that the Council wishes to act on setting an allocation to the charter sector before it acts on setting potential harvest control measures. Contact Jane DiCosimo for more information.

## Groundfish Workplan

The Council will approve revised priorities for groundfish management actions in February, 2007. A draft of the revised priorities is available on the Council website. Workplan items reflect actions that are intended to continue implementation of the groundfish management policy approved by the Council in 2004. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

## **BSAI Crab Management**

Based on public testimony and a recommendation from the Advisory Panel, the Council passed a motion directing staff to develop protocols concerning data collected under crab rationalization Economic Data Reporting (EDR) program. The protocols would apply to two general areas, maintaining data confidentiality and assessing the quality of the data to ensure accuracy. To maintain confidentiality, the Council directed staff to develop protocols for specifying aggregation requirements to avoid revealing proprietary data of fishery participants. The direction concerning data quality included several areas of interest to the Council. First, the Council recommended that staff develop descriptions of data, their quality, deficiencies, and variability. These descriptions, in turn, would be used to draft protocols specifying appropriate scope of use for the data. In addition, descriptions would be used to determine appropriate revisions to the EDR questionnaires. The Council directed staff to prepare a discussion paper describing these protocols, incorporating industry input to the extent possible. The Council expressed its intent that the discussion paper describing the protocols and their supporting rationale would be subject to Council and industry review. Staff contact is Mark Fina.

## **Seabird Protection Measures**

The Council heard a presentation of an Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (EA/RIR/IRFA) on changing seabird protection measures in the hook and line groundfish and halibut fisheries in Alaskan waters. The proposed action would impose new regulations that would eliminate requirements for using seabird avoidance measures in inside waters of the State and would impose new performance standards for seabird deterrent devices on small hook and line vessels fishing in outside waters. Options include classifying waters in the entrances to Dixon Entrance and Chatham Strait as EEZ waters for seabird avoidance regulations only, removing the requirements for a Seabird Avoidance Plan on hook and line vessels, and eliminating the "other device" requirement for certain classes of small vessels. The Council requested that SSC comments on the draft analysis be included in a revised document and that the analysis include the AP's suggested alternative that considers changing the weather standard for seabird deterrence under 30 knot and 45 knot wind conditions. The Council also requested that the analysis include an option to allow use of a buoy bag for seabird deterrence on vessels 32 ft LOA or less fishing in IPHC Area 4E or eliminating the use of seabird deterrent devices on this class of vessels in 4E. The Council requested that with these additions to the analysis the EA/RIR/IRFA be sent out for public review. Details are available on the Council's website. The Council is scheduled to take final action on this issue in February 2007. Staff contact is Bill Wilson.

## **FMP Consultation**

The Council received an update on the FMP-level Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act. NMFS has notified the Council that the agency requires more time to complete the consultation, and that the draft Biological Opinion (BiOp) will be ready for Council and public review by early June 2007. NMFS noted that the BiOp would be presented to the Council, AP, and SSC at the June 2007 meeting. This could then be followed with a review by the SSL Mitigation Committee and the public over the summer. At the October 2007 meeting the Council would receive comments and recommendations for changes in SSL protection measures from the SSLMC, and would hear public comments. NMFS noted that independent peer review comments on the draft BiOp also would be available at the October 2007 meeting. Staff contact is Bill Wilson.

## **EFP for AI Pollock**

The Aleut Enterprise Corporation (AEC) has requested an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to continue testing the use of commercial fishing vessel hydroacoustic equipment for acoustic surveys of pollock in the central Aleutian Islands area. In February 2006, the Council approved an EFP to conduct this research, and at the December 2006 meeting heard a report on the results of the 2006 surveys. The AEC has requested approval of an EFP to continue this study in 2007 with some modifications to the experimental design, including expansion of the survey area and a 3,000 mt limit for harvest of pollock for scientific study and compensation fishing. The research will be conducted in coordination with scientists from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center; Steve Barbeaux will be Principal Investigator. An Environmental Assessment and a formal Section 7 consultation have been completed. The Biological Opinion indicates that the study will not jeopardize Steller sea lions nor adversely modify their designated critical habitat. The SSC and AP support the study, and the Council recommended that the EFP be granted. Staff contact is Bill Wilson.

## **BSAI Crab Processing Caps**

The Council also tasked staff to develop a discussion paper that would review the effects of changes to the custom processing use caps in the West region for the Aleutian Islands golden king crab and red king crab fisheries. The possible revision in use caps would be intended to address inefficiencies in these fisheries that might arise from the application of use caps to processing in remote regions. Staff contact is Mark Fina.

# Arctic Ocean Management

The Council received a staff discussion paper on possible options for expanding Council management of fishery resources of the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. The document is available on the Council's web site. After receiving a report from the SSC and hearing public comment, staff was tasked with developing an expanded evaluation of options for management of Arctic Ocean EEZ fish resources. The Council's motion was:

For waters north of Bering Strait, the Council moves to develop an analysis that would include the following alternatives:

1. Status quo for those waters.
2. Amend the existing scallop FMP, the BSAI groundfish FMP, and the BSAI king and Tanner crab FMP to prohibit commercial fishing in the Chukchi Sea.
3. Adopt a new FMP for the waters north of Bering Strait for any species not covered by an FMP (including krill and other forage species) with the following sub options:
  - a) Close all Federal waters to commercial fishing until such time as the Council develops a policy for opening the waters to select commercial fishing practices, or
  - b) Close all Federal waters north of Bering Strait to commercial fishing for forage species, and all waters north of a line at Point Hope to commercial fishing for all species

Council and NMFS staff will develop this document for review by the Council at its April 2007 meeting. Staff contact is Bill Wilson.

# Vessel Incentive Program

The Council took final action to remove regulations originally designed to reduce the rate at which Pacific halibut and red king crab are incidentally caught in trawl fisheries in the GOA and BSAI management areas. The regulations promulgated for the Vessel Incentive Program (VIP) were designed to increase the amount of harvested groundfish total allowable catch (TAC) in the BSAI and GOA groundfish trawl fisheries by reducing prohibited species catch (PSC) rates. However, the program has not performed as intended by the Council because of costs associated with enforcement, and the relatively small number of vessels impacted by the regulation.

The Council identified Alternative 3, option 2 as their preferred alternative. The VIP program would thus be eliminated by removing the VIP from federal regulations (the FMP would remain unchanged, however). The analysis will be sent to the Secretary of Commerce for final approval. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

# BSAI Salmon Bycatch

The Council approved an exempted fishing permit (EFP) for the pollock fleet to operate under an exemption to the regulatory chum and Chinook salmon savings area closures in the BSAI. In October 2005, the Council took final action on Amendment 84(a), electing to exempt vessels participating in a voluntary rolling hot spot (VRHS) system from regulatory salmon savings area closures and to exempt the non-pollock trawl fleet from the Chum salmon savings area closure. Regulations to promulgate this action are delayed due to concerns regarding the potential promulgation of regulations that include key operational components of the salmon bycatch reduction Inter-Cooperative Agreement (ICA). Thus, this EFP is being issued to test the operational flexibility of these key components of the ICA for bycatch reduction under the VRHS system and as such exempts vessels participating in the VRHS system from the savings area closures from January 20<sup>th</sup> to November 1, 2007. It does not, however, address the application of the Chum Salmon Savings Area (SSA) closure to the non-pollock trawl fleet which will only be addressed through eventual implementation of Amendment 84(a). The EFP will sunset in the event that regulations for Amendment 84(a) are in place prior to the end date of the EFP. The Council was also updated on preliminary results from a similar EFP which was conducted during the B season of 2006. The current EFP is being pursued to augment results from this study over a full fishing year.

At the upcoming February 2007 meeting, the Council will be updated regarding the implementation of regulations for Amendment 84(a), as well as review a discussion paper on the process for developing interim bycatch caps and updated spatial analysis of salmon bycatch for refining the alternatives to be analyzed under amendment package 84(b-1). The Council will have the opportunity to review and refine alternatives for the 84(b-1) analysis at the February meeting. A workshop will be convened at the SSC in April 2007 to evaluate the current status of knowledge with respect to stock origin of AYK salmon species and bycatch in the North Pacific trawl fisheries. This workshop is intended to provide the Council with the most up-to-date information for crafting salmon bycatch management measures. Additional information on the alternatives under consideration by the Council for salmon bycatch management measures is available on the Council website. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

# Groundfish Management

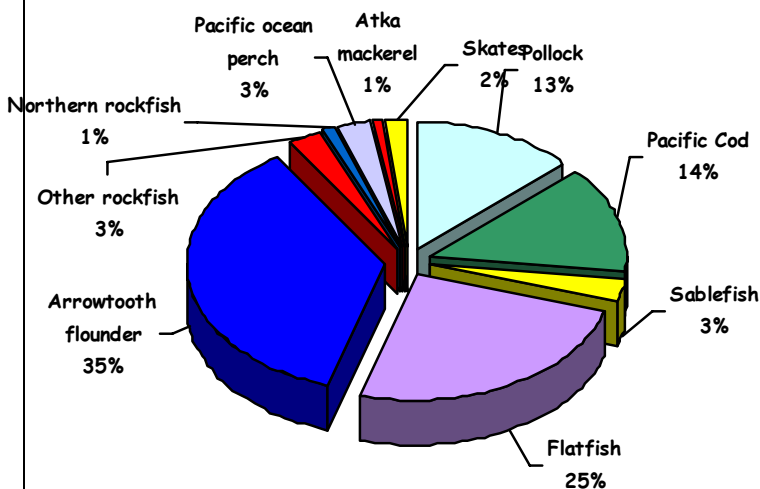
## 2007-2008 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications

The Council approved the 2006 Gulf of Alaska Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report and recommended final catch specifications for the 2007 and 2008 groundfish fisheries. Annual assessments are no longer required for long-lived GOA species since new data during years when no groundfish surveys are conducted are limited. These species include the rockfishes, flatfishes, and Atka mackerel. No GOA groundfish survey was conducted in 2006, so only the executive summaries of these assessments are presented in this year's SAFE report, with full assessments included for pollock, Pacific cod, sablefish and Northern rockfish. Full assessments for all species will be provided next year following the 2007 GOA groundfish trawl survey. Proposed and final specifications are now specified for a period of up to two years. This requires specifying OFLs, ABCs and TACs for 2007 and 2008.

The sum of the GOA Plan Team's recommended ABCs for 2007 is 490,327 mt. The sum of the ABCs decreased 2% compared with last year. The ABC levels increased in flathead sole (3%), arrowtooth flounder (3%), Pacific Ocean perch (3%) and pelagic shelf rockfish (2%). The species with ABCs that declined relative to 2006 are pollock (-21%), sablefish (-4%), rex sole (-1%), and northern rockfish (-3%).

The abundances of Pacific cod, Dover sole, flathead sole, arrowtooth flounder, Pacific ocean perch, roughey rockfish, northern rockfish, and dusky rockfish are above target stock size. The abundances of pollock and sablefish are below target stock size. The relative abundances of other deep-water flatfish, shallow-water flatfish, rex sole, shortraker rockfish, demersal shelf rockfish, other pelagic shelf rockfish, other slope rockfish, thornyhead rockfish, Atka mackerel, and skates are unknown. None of the groundfish stocks are overfished nor are they approaching an overfished condition.

2007 ABCs for GOA groundfish by species groups are shown below:



For most stocks, the Council established TACs equal to ABCs with some exceptions. These exceptions include Pacific cod, where the quota was reduced approximately 24.1% 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). The Council recommended OFLs, ABCs and TACs for 2007 and 2008 are attached. The SAFE Report for the GOA groundfish and additional information on the summary of GOA groundfish stocks may be viewed at: [www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/stocks/assessments.htm](http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/stocks/assessments.htm).

### Other Species:

In June of 2005, the Council took final action to change to the other species complex specifications in the GOA under amendment 69 to the GOA FMP. The TAC calculation for other species was modified such that the Council may recommend a TAC at or below 5% of the sum of the target species TACs during the annual specifications process. The Council's intent was to establish a TAC level to meet incidental catch needs in other directed fisheries and provide the potential to establish this TAC at a higher level, which could allow for directed fishing on the complex but be placed low enough to prevent excessive harvest of a single targeted species or on the complex as a whole. This interim measure is intended to provide additional flexibility in responding to potential conservation concerns as they arise until more comprehensive management changes can be made to the other species complex (i.e., analysis of individual species level assessments). Based on information provided to the Council by the Plan Team in the annual GOA SAFE report as well as recommendations from the Advisory Panel, the Council established TAC for the other species complex at 4,500 mt. This will meet incidental catch needs in other groundfish fisheries (as well as allow for limited directed fishing within the complex), but is low enough to alleviate any conservation concerns regarding exclusive targeting on any one member of the species complex.

### Halibut discard mortality rates.

Halibut discard mortality rates are set by the Council on a 3-year cycle for non-CDQ fisheries based on an average of the past 10 years. The Council approved the Halibut discard mortality rates for use in 2007-2009 GOA non-CDQ fisheries as recommended by the International Pacific Halibut Commission, and these can be found on the Council's website.

### Prohibited Species Catch Limits:

The Council adopted the following halibut prohibited species catch limits, by season and gear apportionment for 2007-2008. These can be found on the Council's website.



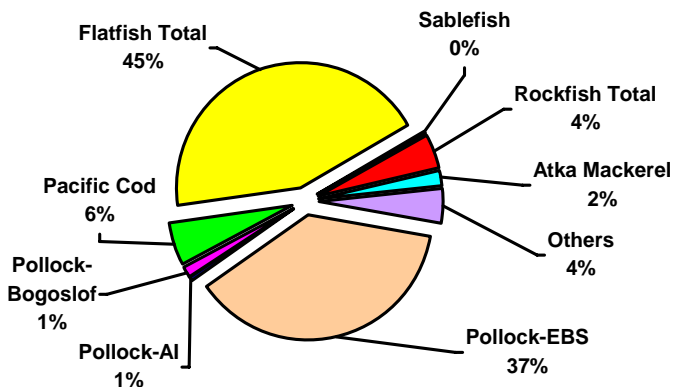
#### Dark rockfish amendment:

In 2005, the Council initiated an amendment to remove dark rockfish from the GOA FMP. Dark rockfish are currently part of the pelagic shelf rockfish complex, although they are primarily located in nearshore waters. Removing them from the FMP entails turning dark rockfish over to the State for management. This was previously done in 1998 in the GOA for Black and Blue rockfish, two other primarily nearshore rockfish species. The Council in April 2006 requested that an additional alternative be included to evaluate removing dark rockfish from the BSAI FMP. Dark rockfish are included in the other rockfish complex in the BSAI. Initial review of this GOA/BSAI dark rockfish amendment is scheduled for February 2007. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

#### ***Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Groundfish Specifications***

The Council established final catch specifications for the 2007 and 2008 BSAI groundfish fisheries. The sum of the recommended ABCs for 2007 is 2,676,000 mt, approximately 327,000 mt below the sum of the 2006 ABCs. This is still nearly 700,000 mt above the 2 million mt cap, which was adopted as an overall ecosystem conservation measure. The general trend of BSAI groundfish biomass and ABCs is down for 13 stocks due to poor recruitment in recent years, particularly walleye pollock and Pacific cod, and up for 6 stocks (5 flatfish and Pacific ocean perch or POP). Total biomass for 2007 (17 million mt) is roughly equal to last year's estimate, as arrowtooth flounder continues to increase (nearly doubling in biomass between 2005 and 2007).

**BSAI Exploitable Biomass Year 2007**  
Year 2007 Total = 17 MMT  
(down 1.3% from 2006)



The 2006 bottom trawl and echo-integration surveys estimated an Eastern Bering Sea **pollock** biomass of *roughly half* of the 2005 estimates. The stock remains above the Maximum Sustainable Yield level, but has declined from a peak in 2003 by 19% per year. The decline is expected to continue until 2008, after which biomass is projected to increase as a result of an apparently strong 2005 year-class. A series of 4 below-average recruitments has contributed to the decline.

This year's bottom trawl survey resulted in a biomass estimate for **Pacific cod** of 518,000 t, down about 14% from the 2005 estimate and close to the previous minimum in 1991. Model estimates of abundance are higher than were predicted last year.

Abundance is projected to continue to decrease during 2007-2009 because recruitments during 2000-2004 are below average. Recommendations from an industry sponsored review for changes to the model will be examined in the next assessment cycle. The Council supports an Alaska Fisheries Science Center workshop in 2007 to evaluate the Pacific cod model. **Sablefish** population abundance is moderate, compared to past peaks. Spawning biomass is expected to be stable. Survey abundance increased 8 percent between 2005 and 2006. Total flatfish biomass increased 24 percent from last year. The **yellowfin sole** stock was moved to Tier 1 status; better information allowed for higher catches with no increase in risk. **Greenland turbot** continues to be the only flatfish species that remains low in abundance compared to 1970 levels. Both the EBS and AI **arrowtooth flounder** (ATF) biomass estimates are peaking. For the first time since 1999, the EBS shelf survey estimate of ATF biomass decreased slightly, but it is still the second highest value in the series. The **northern rock sole** biomass estimate increased by 12 percent this year and is expected to decline due to low recruitment in the last decade. Total rockfish biomass was up 13 percent from last year. The **POP** biomass estimate increased by *roughly half*, which was caused by an increased survey biomass of 15% and a change in the estimate of natural mortality in the model. The biomass estimate for **Atka mackerel** decreased 18 percent from 2006. While above average recruitment occurred during 1998-2001, recruitment during 2002-2004 are below average. None of the groundfish stocks is overfished or approaching an overfished condition.

**The Council adopted total TACs for all species equal to 2 million mt, based on a recommendation from BSAI fishery sectors and the AP.** The pollock and Pacific cod TACs decreased 84,500 mt and 17,000 mt, respectively. The Pacific cod TAC was reduced further by 3 percent for state water fishery catches. The POP and yellowfin sole TACs were increased substantially.

The **prohibited species catch (PSC)** limits were revised. The PSC for *C. opilio* (snow) crabs was set at 4.023 million crabs. The PSC for herring was set at 1,787 mt. Remaining PSC limits remained the same as in 2006, except that 100 mt of halibut PSC was moved from Pacific cod and split between the first period allocations of yellowfin sole and rock sole. New halibut discard mortality rates were adopted for the 2007 CDQ fisheries and 2007-2009 non-CDQ fisheries, based on IPHC recommendations. Tables and numbers for PSCs and halibut discard mortality rates can be found on the Council's website.

The Council briefly discussed new information provided by Auke Bay Lab scientists on potential changes to **sablefish pot gear regulations** and encouraged their research efforts to address potential management changes to state or federal regulations regarding escape rings, biodegradable panels, and at-sea storage of pots. Staff contact on BSAI groundfish specifications is Jane DiCosimo.

# Bering Sea Habitat Conservation

The Council reviewed several reports pertaining to Bering Sea Habitat Conservation, and finalized alternatives for analysis. The analysis stems from action taken by the Council in February 2005 to conserve essential fish habitat (EFH) from potential adverse effects of fishing on the seafloor. The alternatives focus on open and closed areas to bottom trawling, as well as gear modifications for bottom trawl gear. The Council reviewed a staff paper on an open area approach that would utilize fishing data through 2005, as well as modifications to the northward boundary based on varying threshold levels of historic fishing. The Council selected open area alternatives for analysis that focus on a modified open area from the EFH EIS as well as one based on low trawl effort intensity. Limiting the trawl fishery to those areas traditionally fished may provide a precautionary approach by setting aside relatively pristine areas before they become impacted.

The Council also received a report from Dr. Craig Rose from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center on gear modification to reduce the impacts of bottom trawl fisheries. His preliminary results indicate that rollers on the sweeps of bottom trawl gear can reduce bottom contact without decreasing the efficiency of the net to catch some target species.

Dr. Craig Rose of the AFSC held a workshop to discuss the practical implementation of using disks or disk clusters on sweeps of bottom trawls in the Bering Sea. Dr. Rose presented the results of two seasons of research cruises, which proved the disk modifications to be effective in reducing the impact to benthic invertebrates. Participants discussed the logistical implementation of regulations on disk and sweep design as well as issues with enforcement. The durability and methods to attach the disks to the sweeps were also issues. The industry is currently working with net manufacturers to design products that will be cost effective and easy to maintain and replace. NMFS representatives provided input on possible ways to design a certification process for sweep manufacturers. Spacing of the disk clusters was presented as a topic for future research. Gear modification will be examined in further detail in the Bering Sea Habitat Conservation analysis.

The Council also reviewed scientific information on the Pribilof, Middle, and Zhemchug canyons; a summary of current research on Skate nurseries and the degree of overlap of fisheries in the EBS; and a draft schedule for the next HAPC process. The final motion is available on the Council web site. An initial review of this analysis is scheduled for April, 2007. Staff contact is Cathy Coon.

# Habitat Areas of Particular Concern

The Council received a staff report on the NPFMC HAPC process at its December meeting. HAPCs are site-specific areas of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) of managed species. Identification of HAPCs provides focus for additional conservation efforts for those habitat sites that are ecologically important, sensitive to disturbance, exposed to development activities, or rare. The Council's first implementation of HAPCs occurred in August, 2006 and focused on hard coral areas in the Gulf of Alaska and Aleutian Islands, as well as seamounts in the EEZ. In April 2007, the Council will schedule a discussion of possible HAPC priorities and determine a schedule for solicitation of HAPC proposals. Staff contact is Cathy Coon.

# Trawl Recency

The Council received a preliminary report summarizing the impacts of respective alternatives under consideration in the proposed amendment package. They reviewed the current problem statement as well as alternatives and options. The Council reviewed a set of tables showing the number of LLPs, by management area and fleet designation, that would meet the threshold criteria for the analysis (one landing and two landings) over the respective qualifying periods (1995-2005 and 2000-2005). The briefing also provided preliminary results on the potential effects of Component 5, which would add new LLPs to the Aleutians Islands sub-management area for those vessels achieving the threshold groundfish landings requirements in either the parallel waters fishery over the qualifying periods or landings in the 2006 State waters fishery.

Using data presented, Council members and the public can gain perspective on the relative differences in the number of LLPs that would achieve the threshold levels of groundfish landings under the various combinations of fleet, management area and qualification periods. The Council may select options to include or exclude several fleet components, including LLPs for AFA trawl CVs in the BSAI and GOA, LLPs for Amendment 80-qualified vessels and LLPs assigned to vessels less than 60 feet in length. Data were presented to show the respective effects of these choices. The Council clarified their intent that the analyses should show length data for LLPs assigned to vessels meeting the threshold criteria and those not meeting the threshold criteria, to determine whether the less than 60 foot fleet component would be affected disproportionately by the amendment.

The full analysis is currently being completed by Council staff and is tentatively scheduled for presentation at the February meeting. Staff contact is Jim Richardson.

# Gulf Rationalization

The Council received a staff presentation on the current status of the alternatives, elements, and options under consideration to rationalize the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries. The Council elected to defer further action on the Gulf rationalization program, or any other new IFQ type programs, due to three factors. First, the effects of reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act (MSA) on the existing alternatives should be fully evaluated prior to continuing development of the program; second, Alaska's newly-elected governor, Sarah Palin, requested the Council to take no action on this matter for a period of 10 months; third, the 18-month review of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands crab rationalization program, scheduled to be delivered to the Council in March 2007, could inform the Council's decision on the development of a rationalization program for the Gulf fisheries. The Council expressed its intent to defer action, at least until regulations or guidelines are developed implementing the revisions to the MSA, as those regulations pertain to new legal requirements for Limited Access Privilege programs (such as Gulf rationalization).

To address concerns expressed by participants in the Gulf fisheries during this hiatus, the Council tasked staff to develop a discussion paper exploring the goals, objectives, elements and options of a division of the Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod fishery among various sectors. In addition, the Council requested staff to develop a discussion paper on identifying and removing latent licenses from the Gulf groundfish sectors that are subject to the license limitation program. The paper should discuss how an action to remove latent licenses would interact with the ongoing action to remove latent licenses from BSAI and GOA trawl fisheries. Staff contact is Mark Fina.

## *Gulf Sideboards*

In response to public testimony and an Advisory Panel recommendation, the Council directed staff to prepare a discussion paper summarizing all sideboards currently applicable to Gulf of Alaska fisheries. The paper will briefly describe the sideboards established under the AFA cooperative program, the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab rationalization program, the non-AFA trawl catcher processor cooperative program, and the Central Gulf of Alaska rockfish pilot program and summarize the effects of these sideboards on Gulf fisheries. This review is intended to ensure that sideboards are serving their intended purpose of preventing participants in rationalization programs from taking advantage of the flexibility offered by their participation in rationalized fisheries to increase their participation in limited access fisheries. The paper could be used by the Council to develop options to revise sideboards to more appropriately balance the interests of sideboarded participants and those participants intended to be protected by the sideboards. Staff contact is Mark Fina.

# MRA accounting period adjustment

At its December 2006 meeting, the Council took final action to modify the accounting period for the maximum retainable allowance (MRA) for certain Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands species for the non-AFA trawl catcher processor sector. MRAs limit the amount of each non-directed species that may be retained to a percentage of directed species catch. Under current regulations, accounting is instantaneous. So, a vessel must be in compliance with the MRA at all times during a fishing trip. The Council's action modified the MRA accounting period for non-directed catch of Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands yellowfin sole, rock sole, flathead sole, "other flatfish", and arrowtooth flounder and Bering Sea Pacific ocean perch and Atka mackerel. Under the revised accounting period, vessels must be in compliance with the MRA for these species at each of the following times:

1. a directed fishing closure,
2. an offload or transfer of any fish or fish product from the vessel,
3. entering or leaving an area subject to a directed fishing closure,
4. changing fishing gear, and
5. the end of a weekly reporting period.

In addition, the Council applied the modified MRA accounting period to Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod and Aleutian Islands Atka mackerel fishing outside of Steller sea lion critical habitat. To ensure adequate protection for Steller sea lions, the instantaneous MRA accounting period would be applied to non-directed catch of Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod and Aleutian Islands Atka mackerel in Steller sea lion critical habitat. Under this rule, a new accounting period would begin on entering or exiting Steller sea lion critical habitat.

The change in accounting period is intended to aid the non-AFA trawl catcher processor fleet in retaining catch, by allowing vessels to retain in excess of the MRA percentage early in a trip, if directed species catch is relatively low. This added flexibility could also ease compliance with the minimum groundfish retention standard (GRS), which will be implemented in 2008.

On implementation, the change in MRA accounting will be applicable to all of the non-AFA trawl catcher processor sector prior to the implementation of the Amendment 80 cooperative program. After implementation of Amendment 80, the change would apply only to participants in the non-AFA catcher processor limited access fishery (but not to cooperative fishing). Staff contact is Mark Fina.



**DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 12/15/06**

February 5, 2007 Portland, Oregon	March 26, 2007 Anchorage, Alaska	June 4, 2007 Sitka, Alaska
<p>Update on MSA: <b>Review and Action as necessary</b></p> <p>GOA cod split: <b>Review Discussion paper on sector splits and latent licenses (T)</b></p> <p>List of Fisheries for 2007: <b>SSC review of methodology</b></p> <p>Review SSLMC Proposal ranking tool (<b>SSC only</b>)</p> <p>Seabird Interactions EA/RIR/IRFA: <b>Final Action</b></p> <p>BS and AI split for Pacific cod: <b>Review discussion paper</b></p> <p>Pacific cod genetics workshop (SSC only)</p> <p>Charter Halibut Mgmt: <b>Initial review of moratorium</b></p> <p>Area 2A Halibut Catch Sharing Plan: <b>Receive Report</b></p> <p>AFA Coop reports: <b>Review</b></p> <p>AI Crab Custom Processing Caps: <b>Discussion Paper (T)</b></p> <p>Crab Vessel Use Caps: <b>Review Information (T)</b></p> <p>VMS Requirements: <b>Initial Review</b></p> <p>GOA arrowtooth MRA: <b>Review discussion paper (T)</b></p> <p>Trawl LLP Recency: <b>Initial review (T)</b></p> <p>Salmon Bycatch (B-1): <b>Discussion Paper/refine alternatives</b></p> <p>BSAI Am 84: <b>Update</b></p> <p>CDQ Am. 71/22: <b>Discussion paper on Alternatives and Legal Opinion</b></p> <p>CDQ regulation of harvest: <b>Initial Review (T)</b></p> <p>BS Habitat Conservation: <b>Preliminary Review</b></p> <p>EFH AI Open Area Adjustment: <b>Initial Review</b></p> <p>Dark rockfish: <b>Initial Review</b></p> <p>Rockfish Management: <b>CIE Review Summary (SSC Only)</b></p> <p>PSEIS Workplan: <b>Review and approve</b></p> <p>AI FEP: <b>Report and Action as necessary</b></p> <p>BSAI Crab Overfishing Definition: <b>Initial review</b></p>	<p align="center">Joint meeting with Alaska BOF (T)</p> <p>National Bycatch Report: <b>Update</b></p> <p>GOA Sideboards: <b>Review Discussion Paper (T)</b></p> <p>BSAI Crab 18 month review: <b>Receive Draft Report</b></p> <p>BS and AI split for Pacific cod: <b>Action as necessary</b></p> <p>Charter Halibut Mgmt: <b>Final action on moratorium</b></p> <p>Charter Halibut State/Fed Mgmt: <b>Review discussion paper</b></p> <p>Charter Halibut GHM Measures: <b>Initial review of analysis</b></p> <p>Charter Halibut Allocation: <b>Discussion paper/action as necessary</b></p> <p>Comprehensive Socioecon. Data Collection: <b>Workgroup report</b></p> <p>Crab Data Collection Protocols: <b>Review (T)</b></p> <p>VMS Requirements: <b>Final Action</b></p> <p>Cost Recovery: <b>Discussion Paper (T)</b></p> <p>Observer Program: <b>Report and action as necessary</b></p> <p>Trawl LLP Recency: <b>Final Action (T)</b></p> <p>Salmon Bycatch (B-1): <b>Finalize alternatives (T)</b></p> <p>Salmon Bycatch Workshop (SSC)</p> <p>CDQ Am. 71/22: <b>Action as necessary</b></p> <p>CDQ regulation of harvest: <b>Final Action (T)</b></p> <p>Arctic management: <b>Review discussion paper</b></p> <p>BS Habitat Conservation: <b>Initial Review (T)</b></p> <p>HAPC Priorities and Timing: <b>Review/Action as necessary</b></p> <p>EFH AI Open Area Adjustment: <b>Final Action</b></p> <p>Other Species: <b>Discussion paper</b></p> <p>Dark rockfish: <b>Final Action</b></p> <p>Rockfish Management: <b>Action as necessary</b></p> <p>Scallop SAFE: Review</p> <p>AI FEP: <b>Initial Review</b></p> <p>BSAI Crab Overfishing Definition: <b>Final Action</b></p>	<p>Receive Draft BiOp: <b>Review and Comment</b></p> <p>BSAI Crab 18 month review: <b>Receive Final Report</b></p> <p>Charter Halibut Permanent Solution: <b>Action as necessary</b></p> <p>Charter Halibut GHM Measures: <b>Final action</b></p> <p>Cost Recovery: <b>Action as necessary</b></p> <p>Observer Program: <b>Action as necessary</b></p> <p>Salmon Bycatch (B-1): <b>Initial Review (T)</b></p> <p>CDQ Am. 71/22: <b>Action as necessary</b></p> <p>Arctic management: <b>Action as necessary</b></p> <p>BS Habitat Conservation: <b>Final Action (T)</b></p> <p>AI FEP: <b>Final Review (T)</b></p>

TAC - Total Allowable Catch  
 BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands  
 IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota  
 GHM - Guideline Harvest Level  
 HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern  
 LLP - License Limitation Program  
 VIP - Vessel Incentive Program  
 PSC - Prohibited Species Catch

AI - Aleutian Islands  
 GOA - Gulf of Alaska  
 SSL - Steller Sea Lion  
 BOF - Board of Fisheries  
 FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan  
 CDQ - Community Development Quota  
 ESA - Endangered Species Act  
**(T) Tentatively scheduled**

**Future Meeting Dates and Locations**

*February 5 - 13, 2007 in Portland*  
**March 26 - April 2, 2007 in Anchorage (note dates)**  
*June 4 - 12, 2007 in Sitka*  
*October 1 - 9, 2007 in Anchorage*  
*December 3 - 11, 2007 in Anchorage*

## North Pacific Council Recommendations for BSAI Groundfish Specifications for the 2007-2008 Fisheries (mt)

Species	Area	2006				2007			2008		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch***	OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock*	EBS	2,090,000	1,930,000	1,478,500	1,486,004	1,640,000	1,394,000	1,394,000	1,431,000	1,318,000	1,318,000
	AI	39,100	29,400	19,000	1,742	54,500	44,500	19,000	50,300	41,000	19,000
	Bogoslof	50,600	38,000	10	0	48,000	5,220	10	48,000	5,220	10
Pacific cod**	BSAI	230,000	194,000	188,180	186,882	207,000	176,000	170,720	154,000	131,000	127,070
Sablefish	BS	3,680	3,060	2,440	1,027	3,520	2,980	2,980	3,290	2,970	2,970
	AI	3,740	3,100	2,620	1,033	3,320	2,810	2,810	3,100	2,800	2,800
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	144,000	121,000	90,686	97,648	240,000	225,000	136,000	261,000	245,000	150,000
Greenland turbot	Total	14,200	2,740	3,500	1,935	15,600	2,440	2,440	16,000	2,490	2,490
	BS		1,890	2,700	1,433		1,680	1,680		1,720	1,720
	AI		850	800	502		760	760		770	770
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	166,000	136,000	12,000	12,794	193,000	158,000	20,000	208,000	171,000	30,000
Northern rock sole	BSAI	150,000	126,000	41,500	36,430	200,000	198,000	55,000	271,000	268,000	75,000
Flathead sole	BSAI	71,800	59,800	19,500	17,871	95,300	79,200	30,000	92,800	77,200	45,000
Alaska plaice	BSAI	237,000	188,000	8,000	17,263	241,000	190,000	25,000	252,000	199,000	60,000
Other flatfish	BSAI	24,200	18,100	3,500	3,155	28,500	21,400	10,000	28,500	21,400	21,400
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	17,600	14,800	12,600	12,784	26,100	21,900	19,900	25,600	21,600	21,600
	BS		2,960	1,400	1,036		4,160	2,160		4,080	4,080
	AI total		11,840	11,200	11,748		17,740	17,740		17,520	17,520
	WAI		5,372	5,085	5,495		7,720	7,720		7,620	7,620
	CAI		3,212	3,035	3,184		5,050	5,050		5,000	5,000
	EAI		3,256	3,080	3,069		4,970	4,970		4,900	4,900
Northern rockfish	BSAI	10,100	8,530	5,000	3,761	9,750	8,190	8,190	9,700	8,150	8,150
Shortraker	BSAI	774	580	596	202	564	424	424	564	424	424
Rougheye	BSAI	299	224	223	202	269	202	202	269	202	202
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,870	1,400	1,050	570	1,330	999	999	1,330	999	999
	BS		810	460	153		414	414		414	414
	AI		590	590	417		585	585		585	585
Atka mackerel	Total	130,000	110,000	63,000	61,117	86,900	74,000	63,000	64,200	54,900	54,900
	WAI		41,360	20,000	14,563		20,600	9,600		15,300	15,300
	CAI		46,860	35,500	39,230		29,600	29,600		22,000	22,000
	EAI/BS		21,780	7,500	7,324		23,800	23,800		17,600	17,600
Squid	BSAI	2,620	1,970	1,275	1,414	2,620	1,970	1,970	2,620	1,970	1,970
Other species	BSAI	93,800	70,400	29,000	26,469	91,700	68,800	37,355	91,700	68,800	58,015
<b>Total</b>	<b>BSAI</b>	<b>3,481,383</b>	<b>3,057,104</b>	<b>1,982,180</b>	<b>1,970,303</b>	<b>3,188,973</b>	<b>2,676,035</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>3,014,973</b>	<b>2,642,125</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>

\*pollock TAC respecified by 17,003 mt AI rollover

\*\*cod TAC reduced 3% mt and respecified by 1,588 mt from state water rollover \*\*\*catch thru

\*\*\*catch thru 11/4/06 (includes CDQ).

North Pacific Fishery Management Council Groundfish Specifications for 2007, 2008

Stock/Assemblage	2006					2007			2008		
	Area	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch	OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
<b>Pollock</b>	W (61)		29,187	29,187	24,985		25,012	25,012		30,308	30,308
	C (62)		30,775	30,775	27,155		20,890	20,890		25,313	25,313
	C (63)		18,619	18,619	17,034		14,850	14,850		17,995	17,995
	WYAK		1,809	1,809	1,572		1,398	1,398		1,694	1,694
	Subtotal	110,100	80,390	80,390	72,396	87,220	62,150	62,150	105,490	75,310	75,310
	EYAK/SEO	8,209	6,157	6,157	0	8,209	6,157	6,157	8,209	6,157	6,157
<b>Total</b>	<b>118,309</b>	<b>86,547</b>	<b>86,547</b>	<b>72,396</b>	<b>95,429</b>	<b>68,307</b>	<b>68,307</b>	<b>113,699</b>	<b>81,467</b>	<b>81,467</b>	
<b>Pacific Cod</b>	W		26,855	20,141	14,247		26,855	20,141		27,846	20,885
	C		37,873	28,405	21,091		37,873	28,405		39,270	29,453
	E		4,131	3,718	21		4,131	3,718		4,284	3,856
	<b>Total</b>	<b>97,600</b>	<b>68,859</b>	<b>52,264</b>	<b>35,359</b>	<b>97,600</b>	<b>68,859</b>	<b>52,264</b>	<b>86,000</b>	<b>71,400</b>	<b>54,194</b>
<b>Sablefish</b>	W		2,670	2,670	2,074		2,470	2,470		2,458	2,458
	C		6,370	6,370	5,467		6,190	6,190		6,159	6,159
	WYAK		2,280	2,280	1,651		2,280	2,280		2,269	2,269
	SEO		3,520	3,520	3,092		3,370	3,370		3,353	3,353
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17,880</b>	<b>14,840</b>	<b>14,840</b>	<b>12,284</b>	<b>16,906</b>	<b>14,310</b>	<b>14,310</b>	<b>15,803</b>	<b>14,238</b>	<b>14,239</b>
<b>Deep-water flatfish<sup>1</sup></b>	W		420	420	8		420	420		430	430
	C		4,139	4,139	364		4,163	4,163		4,296	4,296
	WYAK		2,661	2,661	12		2,677	2,677		2,763	2,763
	EYAK/SEO		1,445	1,445	10		1,447	1,447		1,494	1,494
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,008</b>	<b>8,665</b>	<b>8,665</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>10,431</b>	<b>8,707</b>	<b>8,707</b>	<b>11,412</b>	<b>8,983</b>	<b>8,983</b>
<b>Rex sole</b>	W		1,159	1,159	352		1,147	1,147		1,122	1,122
	C		5,506	5,506	2,937		5,446	5,446		5,327	5,327
	WYAK		1,049	1,049	0		1,037	1,037		1,014	1,014
	EYAK/SEO		1,486	1,486	0		1,470	1,470		1,437	1,437
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>3,289</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>11,600</b>	<b>8,900</b>	<b>8,900</b>
<b>Shallow-water flatfish<sup>2</sup></b>	W		24,720	4,500	237		24,720	4,500		24,720	4,500
	C		24,258	13,000	7,369		24,258	13,000		24,258	13,000
	WYAK		628	628	0		628	628		628	628
	EYAK/SEO		1,844	1,844	1		1,844	1,844		1,844	1,844
	<b>Total</b>	<b>62,418</b>	<b>51,450</b>	<b>19,972</b>	<b>7,607</b>	<b>62,418</b>	<b>51,450</b>	<b>19,972</b>	<b>62,418</b>	<b>51,450</b>	<b>19,972</b>
<b>Flathead sole</b>	W		10,548	2,000	462		10,908	2,000		11,464	2,000
	C		25,195	5,000	2,650		26,054	5,000		27,382	5,000
	WYAK		2,022	2,022	1		2,091	2,091		2,198	2,198
	EYAK/SEO		55	55	0		57	57		60	60
	<b>Total</b>	<b>47,003</b>	<b>37,820</b>	<b>9,077</b>	<b>3,113</b>	<b>48,658</b>	<b>39,110</b>	<b>9,148</b>	<b>51,146</b>	<b>41,104</b>	<b>9,258</b>
<b>Arrowtooth flounder</b>	W		20,154	8,000	2,011		20,852	8,000		21,164	8,000
	C		134,906	25,000	25,400		139,582	30,000		141,673	30,000
	WYAK		15,954	2,500	25		16,507	2,500		16,754	2,500
	EYAK/SEO		6,830	2,500	65		7,067	2,500		7,172	2,500
	<b>Total</b>	<b>207,678</b>	<b>177,844</b>	<b>38,000</b>	<b>27,501</b>	<b>214,828</b>	<b>184,008</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>218,020</b>	<b>186,763</b>	<b>43,000</b>
<b>Other slope<sup>3</sup></b>	W		577	577	237		577	577		577	577
	C		386	386	509		386	386		386	386
	WYAK		317	317	96		319	319		319	319
	EYAK/SEO		2,872	200	16		2,872	200		2,872	200
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,394</b>	<b>4,152</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>5,394</b>	<b>4,154</b>	<b>1,482</b>	<b>5,394</b>	<b>4,154</b>	<b>1,482</b>
<b>Northern rockfish<sup>3</sup></b>	W		1,483	1,483	970		1,439	1,439		1,383	1,383
	C		3,608	3,608	4,034		3,499	3,499		3,365	3,365
	E		0	0	0		0	0		0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,673</b>	<b>5,091</b>	<b>5,091</b>	<b>5,004</b>	<b>5,890</b>	<b>4,938</b>	<b>4,938</b>	<b>5,660</b>	<b>4,748</b>	<b>4,748</b>

North Pacific Fishery Management Council Groundfish Specifications for 2007, 2008

Stock/Assemblage	2006					2007			2008		
	Area	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch	OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pacific ocean perch	W	4,931	4,155	4,155	4,199	4,976	4,244	4,244	5,030	4,291	4,291
	C	8,806	7,418	7,418	8,288	8,922	7,612	7,612	9,019	7,694	7,694
	WYAK		1,101	1,101	1,258		1,140	1,140		1,153	1,153
	SEO		1,587	1,587	0	3,260	1,640	1,640	3,296	1,659	1,659
	E(subtotal)		3,190	2,688	2,688	1,258	3,260	2,780	2,780	3,296	2,812
	Total	16,927	14,261	14,261	13,745	17,158	14,636	14,636	17,345	14,797	14,797
Shortraker	W		153	153	89		153	153		153	153
	C		353	353	291		353	353		353	353
	E		337	337	248		337	337		337	337
	Total	1,124	843	843	628	1,124	843	843	1,124	843	843
Rougheye	W		136	136	57		136	136		137	137
	C		608	608	129		611	611		614	614
	E		239	239	145		241	241		242	242
	Total	1,180	983	983	331	1,148	988	988	1,197	993	993
Pelagic shelf rockfish	W		1,438	1,438	554		1,466	1,466		1,752	1,752
	C		3,262	3,262	1,770		3,325	3,325		3,973	3,973
	WYAK		301	301	173		307	307		366	366
	EYAK/SEO		435	435	1		444	444		531	531
	Total	6,662	5,436	5,436	2,498	6,458	5,542	5,542	8,186	6,622	6,622
Demersal rockfish	SEO	650	410	410	141	650	410	410	650	410	410
Thornyhead rockfish	W		513	513	195		513	513		513	513
	C		989	989	385		989	989		989	989
	E		707	707	169		707	707		707	707
	Total	2,945	2,209	2,209	749	2,945	2,209	2,209	2,945	2,209	2,209
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	1,500	875	6,200	4,700	1,500	6,200	4,700	1,500
Big skate	W		695	695	66		695	695		695	695
	C		2,250	2,250	1,146		2,250	2,250		2,250	2,250
	E		599	599	251		599	599		599	599
	Total	4,726	3,544	3,544	1,463	4,726	3,544	3,544	4,726	3,544	3,544
Longnose skate	W		65	65	34		65	65		65	65
	C		1,969	1,969	673		1,969	1,969		1,969	1,969
	E		861	861	139		861	861		861	861
	Total	3,860	2,895	2,895	846	3,860	2,895	2,895	3,860	2,895	2,895
Other skates	Total	2,156	1,617	1,617	930	2,156	1,617	1,617	2,156	1,617	1,617
Other Species	Total	NA	NA	13,942	3,601	NA	NA	4,500	NA	NA	4,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>633,393</b>	<b>501,366</b>	<b>292,776</b>	<b>193,612</b>	<b>615,879</b>	<b>490,327</b>	<b>269,912</b>	<b>629,541</b>	<b>511,837</b>	<b>286,173</b>



North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
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Anchorage, AK 99501

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Permit #69

### **NPFMC Tentative Meeting Dates for 2007-2008\***

	<b>February</b> Week of/ Location	<b>April</b> Week of/ Location	<b>June</b> Week of/ Location	<b>October</b> Week of/ Location	<b>December</b> Week of/ Location
2007	5/Portland	<b>March 26th/Anchorage</b>	4/Sitka	1/Anchorage	3/Anchorage
2008	TBA	Anchorage	TBA	Anchorage	Anchorage

\*Meeting dates subject to change depending on availability of meeting space. Any changes will be published in the Council's newsletter.