

Eric A. Olson
Chairman
Chris Oliver
Executive Director

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

www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc



News & Notes

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

April 2009

AP Appointments

The Council appointed Becca Robbins Gisclair to the Advisory Panel for the remainder of the year to fill a vacancy left by John Moller. Ms. Gisclair is the Policy Director for the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association and has an extensive background in working with Alaska communities. We welcome Becca, and want to thank John Moller for his service.

Goodbye to a Friend

Dave Woodruff passed away April 6, 2009. Dave was a member of and valuable contributor to the NPFMC Advisory Panel for many years. Dave always paid attention to and participated in AP deliberations and always made an effort to contribute to the work of the AP, regardless of if he was directly impacted by the outcome. Dave was a strong presence in and very knowledgeable about the Alaska fishing industry and will be missed.



Chinook Salmon Bycatch Management Measures

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council took final action on Chinook salmon bycatch management measures for the Bering Sea pollock fishery. The Council unanimously voted to limit the number of Chinook salmon that can be taken in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery by adopting a Chinook salmon bycatch management program that includes strong incentives for the annual reduction of salmon bycatch in the pollock fishery at all levels of salmon abundance and salmon encounters. The Council received extensive staff presentations on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), regulatory impact review (RIR) and supplemental materials provided for this meeting, including the preliminary comment analysis report (CAR) summarizing and responding to comments received during the 80-day public comment period on the analysis and the results of Council outreach to rural communities. The comment analysis report also provided revised supplemental materials in order to assist the Council at final action.

The Council took public testimony over multiple days from over 200 individuals representing a diverse group of stakeholders, including coastal and interior Alaskan subsistence and commercial salmon fishermen, Alaska Native tribes, rural community representatives, community development quota (CDQ) groups, pollock fishing interests across Alaska and the Pacific Northwest, environmental, governmental and other interest groups, and Canadian representatives from the Upper Yukon. The Council had initiated an

extensive outreach effort since the fall of 2008 in order to ensure that interested rural stakeholders were aware of the issue and potential action by the Council at this meeting.

Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery has been a prominent issue for over a decade. In recent years, Chinook salmon bycatch in the fishery has steadily increased, reaching over 120,000 fish in 2007, although levels since that time have decreased dramatically. Genetic information indicates that a substantial portion of the Chinook bycatch is bound for Western Alaskan rivers. The pollock fishery harvests approximately 1 million metric tons of pollock each year at a wholesale value of nearly \$1 billion. The pollock fishery also supports thousands of jobs throughout Alaska, and is a key component of the Western Alaska CDQ Program. The Council's action was intended to balance the need to reduce bycatch of Chinook that support subsistence and commercial fisheries and contribute to escapement throughout Western Alaska and Canada with the potential costs of bycatch restrictions on the pollock fishery.

The Council's action provides two options for the pollock sectors: fish under a lower cap level or participate in an incentive program and fish under a higher cap level. Under the first option, the fleet as a whole may choose to fish under a simple hard cap of 47,591 which would be divided by season and sector as described below. Once each sector reaches its specific cap, it would be prohibited from continuing to fish pollock for the remainder of the season. Alternatively, vessels may choose to submit to the National Marine Fisheries Service one or more private sector bycatch reduction incentive plan agreements (IPA) which, if approved, would be subject to a higher hard cap of 60,000 fish. The agreement(s) must be reviewed and approved by

Upcoming meetings

Crab Plan Team meeting and Data Weighting

Workshop: May 11-15, AFSC, Seattle. The CPT will meet May 11-12; 15 while the data weighting workshop will convene May 13-14. Agendas for both meetings will be posted on the Council website shortly.

ACL workshop: May 21-22, AFSC, Seattle.

Groundfish Plan Team Meeting Dates, 2009.

September 16-18, and November 16-20.

Crab Plan Team meeting: September 14-15, 2009.

Other meetings coming up but not yet scheduled: time and place to be determined.

Rural Outreach Committee

IFQ Implementation Committee

Comprehensive Data Collection Committee

NMFS and describe how management under such an agreement will minimize bycatch at any level of Chinook salmon bycatch encounters.

The Council expects that a bycatch reduction IPA would provide incentives for each participating vessel to reduce bycatch in any condition of salmon abundance in the ocean and would be expected to result, over time, in bycatch well below not only the upper level allowed (60,000) but also, over time, well below 47,591 fish per year on average over time. The Council action recognizes salmon encounters in the pollock trawl fishery are highly variable and a hard cap alone may not be sufficient to promote salmon savings in extremely low encounter years. Each year, the pollock industry would be required to submit a detailed evaluation of its program to the Council and provide the opportunity for an independent review of the program. This annual report must include:

1. comprehensive explanation of incentive measures in effect in the previous year,
2. how incentive measures affected individual vessels, and
3. evaluation of whether incentive measures were effective in achieving salmon savings beyond levels that would have been achieved in absence of the measures

If one or more IPAs are approved, vessels participating in an IPA will be issued a proportion of the higher hard cap. However, to ensure that the pollock fishery significantly reduces bycatch in all years, the Council also imposed a performance standard. Under the established performance standard, if any sector (e.g., catcher vessels, catcher-processors, vessels delivering to motherships, or CDQ groups) operating under an IPA exceeds its proportion of 47,591 fish three times in any 7-year period, the sector's maximum bycatch limit will be permanently reduced to its proportional share of the 47,591 fish cap. Once a seasonal cap for a sector is reached, pollock fishing in the Bering Sea is closed for the remainder of the season for that sector. The unused portion of each sector cap at the end of the A season may roll to the B season (intra-sector). Sector (and inshore cooperative) allocations are fully transferable. Vessels that do not choose to fish under an IPA in a year when an IPA has been approved will be limited to a proportion of a lower ("opt out") cap of 28,496.

Bycatch sector allocations are as follows:

- A-season: 32.9% offshore catcher/processors; 8.0% motherships; 49.8% inshore catcher vessels; 9.3% CDQ
- B-season: 17.9% offshore catcher/processors; 7.3% motherships; 69.3% inshore catcher vessels; 5.5% CDQ

These sector allocations are based seventy-five percent on sector bycatch history (2002-2006) and 25 percent proportional to pollock allocations to each sector under the American Fisheries Act (AFA). Pending approval by the Secretary of Commerce, implementation of the new Chinook bycatch management program is anticipated by January of 2011. The full Council motion on this item is posted on the Council's website.

Also related to this agenda item, the Council passed two additional motions: the first regarding a data collection program and the second regarding a letter to be sent to the U.S. Department of State. The Council requested NMFS to develop a discussion paper concerning a data collection program for the pollock fleet that would provide the information necessary to evaluate the salmon bycatch program to ensure that it is meeting the Council's intent. That paper would be reviewed by the Council's Comprehensive Economic Data Collection committee, which would report to the Council in June. At that time, the Council can take further action to direct staff concerning further development of this data collection program. While the Council motion for annual reports reflects an expectation for detailed information relative to the IPA activities, it recognizes some economic data will be voluntary pending a regulatory requirement for such information. The Council expressed its intent to supplement committee membership with some members of the Council's salmon bycatch committee to ensure that persons with detailed knowledge of and interest in the salmon bycatch issue are represented on the committee for this particular issue.

The Council will also send a letter to the U.S. State Department to provide a summary of its action and further details regarding the action by the Council, the expectations of bycatch reduction, and the additional requirements related to taking this action, including pollock industry data collection, improved bycatch sampling protocols and genetic analyses, and increased monitoring requirements.

At the June meeting, the Council will receive the requested discussion paper from NMFS and the committee report on data collection. The Council will also discuss the chum salmon management measures that are being considered concurrently. The scoping period for chum salmon management measures in the pollock fishery ended March 23rd, 2009. A scoping report will be provided, as well as the staff discussion paper describing the historical bycatch levels for chum salmon in the pollock fishery and the Council's draft suite of alternatives for chum salmon management. The Council will review and refine its alternatives in June and discuss the timeframe for that forthcoming analysis. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

EFP for Halibut Sorting on Deck

The Council forwarded to NMFS the SSC's review of an exempted fishing permit (EFP) application that has been submitted to NMFS, to investigate on-deck sorting of Pacific halibut as a means of reducing halibut bycatch mortalities on Amendment 80 vessels. The SSC recommended approval of the EFP. The EFP would allow three Best Use Cooperative (BUC) non-pelagic trawl vessels to sort halibut removed from a codend on the deck, and release those fish back into the water after accounting for halibut condition. All groundfish and halibut harvested would be within the BUC's allocation for groundfish and halibut mortality. The first phase of the experiment would begin in mid-May, 2009, and continue until the end of June, 2009, when a sufficient number of halibut have been sampled and assessed for condition and likelihood of survival. Upon review and approval by NMFS, the second phase of the EFP may allow EFP participants to carry out additional groundfish fishing up to the BUC's allocation by applying any saved halibut mortality from EFP work. The Council will receive a report on the experiment at its conclusion. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Bristol Bay Walrus and Groundfish Fishery Interactions

In October 2008, the Council received comments from the public about concerns over interactions between trawl fishing activities and Pacific walrus and their habitat in northern Bristol Bay, and requested a discussion paper on the groundfish fishery in the Northern Bristol Bay Trawl Area (NBBTA), information on Pacific walrus, and a description of conflicts that have occurred between fishing activities and walrus or their habitat. At the April 2009 meeting, the Council reviewed the discussion paper and received additional public comment. Several public comments focused on concerns over bycatch of halibut in the yellowfin sole fishery in the NBBTA. Also, the Council was informed of an agreement between certain northern Bristol Bay halibut fishermen and the Best Use Cooperative whereby yellowfin sole trawl vessels are willing to voluntarily avoid fishing in the southwest portion of the NBBTA as well as an area southwest of the of the Nushagak Peninsula to avoid conflicts with local halibut fishermen.

In light of this voluntary agreement, the Council directed staff to update the discussion paper with 2009 groundfish fishery data, and include information on bycatch of halibut and walrus prey items (clams, other invertebrates). After the 2009 fishery, as conducted under the voluntary constriction of the fishing grounds, the Council will have new information on the performance of the yellowfin sole fishery and new bycatch data. The Council also requested the revised discussion paper include new information on walrus if it becomes available.

The Council also requested that a separate

discussion paper be prepared that describes procedures for how the Council might designate an additional walrus protection zone around a new, emerging walrus haulout on the west side of Hagemeister Island. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service noted that this haulout is now used annually, and the Agency is concerned over potential disturbance of walrus at this site from fishing activities. The Council requested that the discussion paper include information on how such a protection area might be designed to allow vessel transit through Hagemeister Strait, and the mechanisms for establishing a corresponding protection area in State waters. Staff contacts are Bill Wilson and Diana Evans.

EFH 5-year review

The Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Final Rule and each of the Council's fishery management plans (FMPs) require that a review of EFH components in the FMPs be completed every 5 years. At this meeting, the SSC reviewed staff's proposed approach to complete the 5-year review requirement. NMFS, Council, and ADFG staff members have been asked to prepare an initial evaluation of the FMPs' EFH text, for review by the joint Crab and Groundfish Plan Teams at their September 2009 meeting (the Scallop Plan Team review will not occur until February 2010, and as there is not a Salmon Plan Team, staff will consult with salmon experts for their recommendations). This evaluation, and the Plan Teams' recommendations, will be synthesized into a draft summary report which will be presented to the SSC, AP, and Council to review in December, 2009. Once the Council has approved the final summary report, they will decide whether changes to the EFH text in any of the FMPs is warranted, and if necessary, FMP amendments will be initiated. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Development of HAPC proposal criteria

Under the Council's existing habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC) identification process, the Council will periodically issue a call for proposals for candidate areas that focus on a specific priority habitat types to be identified as HAPC.

At this meeting, the SSC reviewed the existing rating criteria for evaluating HAPC proposals. There are four criteria listed in the EFH final rule as considerations for HAPC: importance of ecological function, sensitivity, stress, and rarity. The SSC formed a workgroup to improve on the definitions, and will discuss a revised draft for the June 2009 meeting. The Council will be considering whether to set new HAPC priorities and initiate another HAPC proposal cycle in June 2009.

Council Meeting June and October reminder

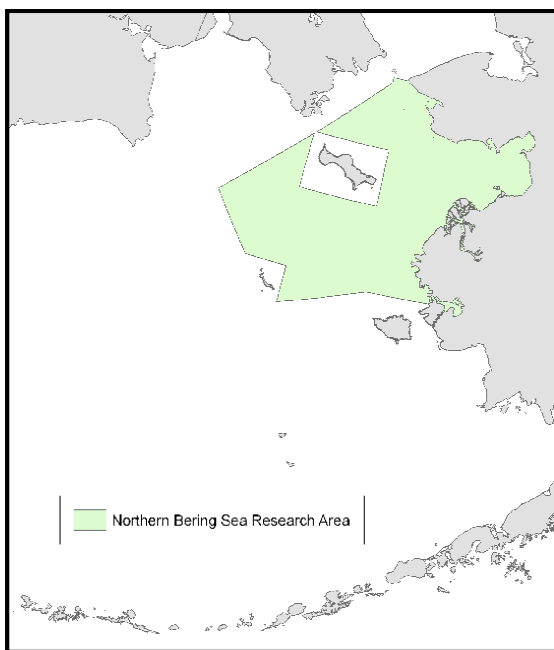
A reminder that the June meeting, originally scheduled for Dutch Harbor, will be held in Anchorage, Alaska at the Hilton, starting the week of June 1st. Also, the October meeting will be STARTING on a Thursday (October 1), for the AP and SSC, and the Council will start on Saturday, October 3. That meeting is also at the Hilton. A schedule of the meetings through 2010 is available on our website. Check there for the latest news.

Scallop Management

The 2009 Scallop Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report was compiled by the Scallop Plan Team, which meets annually to review the status of stocks and to update the SAFE report. The SSC reviewed the SAFE report and made a number of suggestions for inclusion in the document next year. Management of scallop stocks is delegated to the State of Alaska under a Federally-approved FMP. The State manages scallops by region in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska. During the 2007/08 season, 8 of 9 registration areas were open for scallop fishing. Of these 8 areas only 5 had fishing effort occurring in them. Scallop harvests within these areas are limited by the Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) established by the State. Information on scallop stocks is provided by biennial surveys in two regions and by the statewide scallop observer program. New video survey technology is being utilized to provide additional information on scallop stocks. The scallop stocks in Alaska are neither overfished nor approaching an overfished condition. The 2009 Scallop SAFE report and the minutes from the Scallop Plan Team are available on our website. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Northern Bering Sea Research Area meeting

At an evening meeting during the Council week, Pat Livingston, Director of the Resource Ecology and Fisheries Management Division of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), gave a short presentation on the approach and schedule the AFSC is planning for developing a research plan for the Northern Bering Sea Research Area (NBSRA). The NBSRA was established by the Council and became effective in 2008, and is currently closed to bottom trawl fishing. The Alaska Fisheries Science Center is assisting the Council in developing a scientific research plan to study the effects of bottom trawling on the benthic community, and to provide information to help with developing future protection measures in the NBSRA for crab, marine mammals, endangered species, and the subsistence needs of Western Alaska communities. The research plan is intended to be ready within two years, and under its guidelines, the Council may allow research and experimental bottom trawl fishing in this area. The powerpoint presentation and notes from the scoping meeting are available on the Council website. If you would like to be involved in the next phase of public input on the development of the research plan, please contact Pat Livingston (pat.livingston@noaa.gov) or Diana Evans.



Amendment 80 Coop Formation

In April 2009, the Council postponed final action to modify Amendment 80 cooperative formation until June due to time limitations. There are five alternatives included in this action.

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

Despite the Council's postponement of this action, the AP did review the analysis and recommend the Council approve Alternative 1 (status quo), which would leave in place a minimum of three unique quota share holders holding at least non quota share permits are required to form a cooperative. The AP also recommended the Council select the GRS Suboption, which shall the GRS in aggregate to all cooperatives if this calculation meets or exceeds the GRS requirement. Finally, the AP recommended the Council approve the following modified purpose and need statement:

As the GRS increases, participants may have increased difficulties meeting the GRS requirements. Allowing cooperatives to aggregate the GRS among all cooperatives could provide additional assurance to cooperatives that a minimum amount of retention is met without requiring specific vessel owners to form a cooperative with other vessel owners who may not share common goals or operating procedures. An aggregate cooperative GRS would continue to further the goals of maximizing groundfish retention while providing some additional flexibility for vessel owners.

Final action is scheduled for June 2009. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

GOA Fixed Gear LLP Recency

At the April meeting, the Council took final action on Gulf of Alaska fixed gear recency, voting 10-1 on the final motion to add gear-specific (pot, hook-and-line, and jig) Pacific cod endorsements to Western and Central GOA fixed gear LLP licenses. Vessels will be required to hold a Pacific cod endorsement to participate in the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the Western and Central GOA. Licenses will qualify for a gear-specific Pacific cod endorsement if they meet following landings or catch thresholds during the qualifying period (from 2002 through December 8, 2008): 1 landing for jig gear, 10 mt for <60 ft MLOA pot and hook-and-line CVs, 50 mt for ≥60 ft MLOA pot and hook-and-line CVs, and 50 mt for pot and hook-and-line CPs.

Approximately 210 of 883 Central GOA CV licenses and 93 of 264 Western GOA CV licenses are estimated to qualify for a gear-specific Pacific cod endorsement under the selected CV thresholds. An estimated 17 of 31 Western GOA CP licenses and 20 of 49 Central GOA CP licenses will qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement under the 50 mt threshold. Licenses are eligible to qualify for more than one gear-specific endorsement, if they have qualified landings using more than one gear type.

All licenses that qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement will be fully transferable. The Council considered an option to make the Pcod endorsement extinguishable upon transfer of the license to another vessel or owner if the license only qualifies based on 07 and 08 catch. The Council expressed concern that designating these endorsements nontransferable would have a disproportionate impact on the value of these licenses, and elected to make all licenses fully transferable. Groundfish harvest history will be fully credited to all 'stacked' licenses. Licenses are 'stacked' when there are multiple LLPs with duplicate gear designations and area endorsements assigned to a single vessel. The Council removed an option to divide catch history among 'stacked' licenses at the December 2008 meeting because of concerns that such an approach could complicate implementation of the action.

The Council exempted hook-and-line CPs from the catch thresholds if they voluntarily stood down from the GOA Pacific cod fishery as part of the informal halibut PSC co-op in 2006, 2007, or 2008. Catcher processor licenses that receive a hook-and-line Pacific cod endorsement under this exemption will be limited to participating in the offshore sector in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries. The Council also considered an option to exempt fixed gear vessels from the Pacific cod endorsement requirement during the Western GOA B season. The exemption would be intended to aid in the full harvest of the WGOA B season Pacific cod TAC, which has not been fully harvested since the 60/40 seasonal TAC split was implemented in 2001. The Council noted during its deliberations that as part of another proposed action, it is also currently considering

exempting vessels from the crab sideboards during the WGOA B season. The Council decided to complete review of the proposed crab sideboard exemption prior to considering other exemptions to license requirements during the B season.

There are two provisions in the motion to expand entry opportunities for small vessels and residents of coastal communities. Currently, vessels less than 26 ft LOA are exempt from the LLP requirement in the GOA, but there are no other small boat exemptions. The amendment exempts vessels using jig gear and operating with 5 or fewer jig machines, up to 30 hooks per line, and one line per machine from the LLP requirement. There is no vessel length limit on the jig gear exemption.

There are 21 communities eligible under the Community Quota Entity (CQE) Program located in the GOA management areas, including West Yakutat. These communities qualified under the CQE program because they have fewer than 1,500 residents, lack direct road access, have direct access to saltwater, and have historic participation in the halibut and sablefish fisheries. The communities were identified under Amendment 66 to the GOA FMP and are eligible to purchase catcher vessel halibut and sablefish Quota Share (QS) on the open market. In order to provide increased opportunities for CQE communities to participate in the GOA Pacific cod fishery, the CQEs in the Western and Central GOA management areas may request fixed gear groundfish licenses with a Pacific cod endorsement. These licenses will have an MLOA of 60 ft and gear designations will be assigned as follows:

- Western GOA LLPs will be endorsed for pot gear
- In the Central GOA, CQEs will have 6 months after implementation to notify NMFS regarding the gear endorsement that will be assigned to CQE LLPs. However, if the CQE does not notify NMFS, the following rule will be applied to assign gear endorsements: for each CQE, LLPs will be split 50% pot gear and 50% hook-and-line gear. If there is an odd number of licenses then the additional LLP will be give a pot designation.

Each CQE community may request the number of licenses shown in the table in the motion (on the website). Only 11 of the 21 communities located in the GOA management areas have formed CQEs. Communities will be eligible to request licenses once they have formed a CQE. If all 21 communities form CQEs, the maximum number of licenses that may be requested includes 50 Central GOA licenses (by 17 CQE communities) and 21 Western GOA licenses (by 4 CQE communities).

Licenses requested by CQEs must be used by a person who is a resident of the community. Additional information on residency requirements, vessel assignments to licenses, and annual reporting requirements is included in the Council motion. The motion also includes a table showing the number of licenses that may be requested by each CQE community.

The final motion is available on the Council website. Staff contact is Jeannie Heltzel.

During its April 2009 meeting, the Council received a report from staff indicating that the draft Biological Opinion on the effects of the *status quo* Alaskan groundfish fisheries on Steller sea lions (SSL) and other listed species is still scheduled to be released in August 2009. Part of the staff report on the BiOp schedule included reference to a letter received by the Council from the Marine Conservation Alliance (MCA) that recommended incorporation of new information on Steller sea lions into the draft BiOp, prior to its release. Based on public comment, and its concurrence with the issues raised in the MCA letter, the Council requested that NMFS incorporate this new information into the draft BiOp before its release and report back to the Council on how this may affect the BiOp schedule. The new information requested includes the results of the 2009 SSL pup survey, the results of the 2009 partial nonpup survey, and the information contained in a new report from the Alaska SeaLife Center on SSL natality rates in the Gulf of Alaska. Staff contact is Bill Wilson.



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-271-2809 ph
907-271-2817 fax
www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc

News and Notes April 2009 A publication of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council

GOA Fixed Gear Vessel Capacity

The Council has expressed interest in exploring ways to limit entry of high capacity 58 ft to 60 ft LOA vessels into the GOA Pacific cod fisheries. One approach that was identified in the fixed gear recency action was to add a vessel capacity endorsement (i.e., width or simple gross tonnage) to fixed gear licenses. Currently, LLP licenses have a maximum length overall (MLOA) designation, but there is no limit on the width or tonnage of the vessel that may be assigned to a license. The capacity endorsement that was proposed in the fixed gear recency motion would have provided such a limit by restricting vessels to a 1-to-3 width to length ratio, based on the length overall of the vessel currently assigned to the license. Licenses assigned to vessels that exceeded this ratio would have been grandfathered at their present width to length ratio.

At the April meeting, the Council reviewed a discussion paper prepared by NMFS staff that described regulatory, enforcement, and safety concerns with the proposed width to length restriction. Staff indicated that vessel width can be defined in regulation, but requiring vessels to be surveyed could impose substantial costs on participants if width measurements are required to be certified by a marine surveyor. Enforcement staff expressed concern that vessel width may be difficult to measure in the field. Finally, establishing regulations that discourage specific vessel configurations may conflict with National Standard 10 (promote safety at sea).

As a result of the concerns expressed in the discussion paper, public testimony, and during AP and Council deliberations, the Council removed the capacity endorsement component from the fixed gear recency motion. The Council also removed language from the fixed gear recency purpose and need statement that specifically addressed the vessel capacity issue, and requested that staff bring back another discussion paper in June, to be presented in conjunction with the GOA Pacific cod sector split action, describing potential ways to address the capacity issue within the fixed gear fleet. The paper will focus on the language that the Council removed from the purpose and need statement:

Fishery policies have created incentives that encourage nontraditional efficiency improvements for the less than 60 ft LOA vessel class. [One] intent of the proposed amendment..... is to preserve the traditional vessel operational efficiencies within the fisheries.

The Council requested that the paper explore possible alternative width to length ratio restrictions, and any other solutions to the vessel capacity issue suggested by the public (e.g., trip limits or other output controls). Please send suggestions for approaches to the vessel capacity issue to Council staff by May 1, 2009. Staff contact is Jeannie Heltzel.

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 4/13/09

June 1, 2009 Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel	October 1, 2009 Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel	December 1, 2009 Anchorage, AK Hilton Hotel
Status Quo SSL BiOp: Discuss Schedule SOPPs proposed rule: Review/comment GOA P cod sector split: Refine Alts for parallel waters GOA Vessel Capacity: Discussion paper (T) Am 80 Lost Vessel Replacement: Initial Review Am 80 Cooperative Formation: Final Action Permit Fees: Initial Review CGOA Rockfish Program: Review Alternatives BSAI Crab Regional Delivery Relief: Initial Review BSAI Crab Amendments: Discussion Papers MPA Nomination Process: Discuss & action as nec. (T) BSAI Fixed Gear Parallel Fisheries: Final Action BS Chum Salmon Bycatch: Refine Alternatives ACL Requirements: Discuss workplan; action as nec. BS Bottom Trawl Sweeps: Initial Review Salmon Bycatch Data Collection: Cttee Rpt, Disc Paper BSAI Crab: SAFE report/crab rebuilding plan alternatives BSAI Skates Complex: Initial Review Rural Outreach Committee: Direction (T) HAPC Process: Action as necessary Northern BS Research Plan: Review Outline Groundfish PSEIS: Discuss/Review objectives & workplan	Status Quo SSL BiOp: Review (T) BS&AI P.cod Split: Discuss plan/action as necessary GOA P.cod sideboards for crab vessels: Initial Review (T) GOA P cod sector split: Initial Review AI Processing Sideboards: Initial Review (T) Am 80 Lost Vessel Replacement: Final Action Permit Fees: Final Action Observer Program Implementation Analysis: Review; OAC Report; and action as necessary (T) BSAI Crab Regional Delivery Relief: Final Action (T) BSAI Crab Amendments: Discussion papers Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Proposals: Review & action as nec. CQE Program: Review ACL Requirements: Action as necessary BS Bottom Trawl Sweeps: Final Action GOA Tanner & Chinook Bycatch: Discussion Paper St Matthew+Pribilof BKC& opilio rebuilding: Preliminary Review (T) BSAI Crab: Approve SAFE and OFLs BSAI Skates Complex: Final Action BSAI/GOA Squid Complex: Initial Review Groundfish Proposed Catch Specifications: Approve AI FEP addendum: Review/Discuss (T) 5 Year Research Priorities: Approve	GOA P.cod sideboards for crab vessels: Final Action (T) GOA P cod sector split: Final Action AI Processing Sideboards: Final Action (T) CGOA Rockfish Program: Action as necessary BS Chum Salmon Bycatch: Action as necessary ACL Requirements: Action as necessary St Matthew+Pribilof BKC& opilio rebuilding: Initial Review (T) Bristol Bay Trawl Closure & Walrus: Discussion Papers (T) BSAI/GOA Squid Complex: Final Action Groundfish Final Catch Specifications: Approve EFH 5-Year Evaluation: Review (T)

AI - Aleutian Islands
 GOA - Gulf of Alaska
 SSL - Steller Sea Lion
 BOF - Board of Fisheries
 FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan
 CDQ - Community Development Quota
 VMS - Vessel Monitoring System
 EFP - Exempted Fishing Permit
 BiOp - Biological Opinion
 (T) Tentatively scheduled

TAC - Total Allowable Catch
 BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
 IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
 GHL - Guideline Harvest Level
 EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
 LLP - License Limitation Program
 SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation
 MPA - Marine Protected Area
 ACL - Annual Catch Limit
 HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern

Future Meeting Dates and Locations

June 1-, 2009 in Anchorage
 October 1-, 2009 in Anchorage (AP, SSC start on THURSDAY)
 (Council on Saturday)
 December 7-, 2009 in Anchorage
 February 8-, 2010 in Portland OR
 April 6-, 2010 in Anchorage (start on Tuesday)
 June 7 -, 2010 in Stika