

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

News and Notes



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Portland in February

The Council held their 180th meeting in Portland, Oregon this February. The SSC and the AP held elections. Tom Enlow was re-elected Chairman of the AP, with John Henderschedt and Joe Childers serving as Vice Chairmen. In the SSC, Pat Livingston was elected Chair, and Dr. Keith Criddle was elected Vice-Chair. Additionally, the Council appointed Dr. Lew Queirolo to serve as a member on the Scientific and Statistical Committee to replace Mark Hermann who resigned. Dr. Queirolo is currently a regional economist for NMFS, Alaska Region, and has been involved in the council process since 1980.

The Council also approved appointments for the Pacific Northwest Crab Advisory Committee: Steve Minor, Chair; Keith Colburn; Lance Farr; Phil Hanson; Kevin Kaldestad; Garry Loncon; Gary Painter; Rob Rogers; Vic Sheibert; Gary Stewart; Tom Suryan; and Arni Thompson, Secretary (non-voting). These appointments serve two year terms, with meetings twice a year.

Upcoming Meetings

Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee: April 16 - Proposal Scoring Subcommittee (DeMaster, Hills, Hennen, Mabry) in Juneau (NMFS conference rm); April 17-19 - full committee, Juneau (NMFS); May 7-10 (the 10th may not be required but Larry asked that we reserve it) - Seattle, AFSC; June 19-21 - Seattle, AFSC

Scallop Plan Team: February 22-23 Anchorage Hilton

Crab Plan Team: May 22-24 AFSC, Seattle

Halibut Charter Stakeholder Committee: February 27-28, NPRB Conference room, Anchorage

Pcod stock assessment workshop: April 24-25, AFSC, Seattle

Groundfish Workplan

The Council has approved a revised set of priority actions for implementing its groundfish management policy. This workplan will be reviewed each June, or more frequently as necessary. The workplan with status report is posted on the Council's website. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Charter Halibut

The Council reviewed a draft analysis of a moratorium (limited entry program) for the charter halibut sector in IPHC Areas 2C and 3A, using a moratorium date of December 9, 2005. The Council revised several proposed options for the program and identified a preliminary preferred alternative for analysis. The expanded range of options and the preliminary preferred alternative are posted on the Council's website. The revised analysis will be available for review in early March. Final action is scheduled to occur at the March 2007 Council meeting. Implementation of the moratorium is planned for 2009, if approved by the Council and Secretary of Commerce.

In March, the Council is also scheduled to review the first draft of an analysis to reduce charter halibut harvests in Area 2C to the GHL of 1.432 M lb. The 2006 estimate of charter halibut harvest in that area exceeded the GHL by more than 40%. 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 4 or 5 halibut; 4) 1 fish bag limit for June, July, August, or entire season; 5) trophy size limit for second fish of 45 to 60 inches; 6) season closure date of August 15, August 31, or September 15; 7) day of the week closure; and/or 8) minimum size limit of 32 inches. The draft will be available for review in mid-March. Final action is scheduled for the June Council meeting, and if approved, would be implemented for the 2008 season. The Council noticed the public that it may request an analysis of Area 3A GHL measures at the March meeting, since that fishery has also exceeded its GHL since 2004.

The Charter Halibut Stakeholder Committee will meet in Anchorage on February 27-28, 2007 to provide recommendations to the Council on: 1) final action for a charter halibut moratorium; 2) separating the decision on an allocation between the commercial and charter sectors from the rest of the permanent solution; 3) State proposals to move towards delegation of limited authority to manage the charter sector; and 4) permanent solution options. Staff contact on charter halibut issues is Jane DiCosimo.

BSAI Pcod Area Split

The Council was presented with an updated discussion paper regarding apportionment of BSAI Pacific cod sector allocations between the BS and AI subareas, should the ABC/TAC be split in the future. Included in the updated discussion paper was 2004 and 2005 retained catch data and Pacific cod destined for fishmeal production. In addition, the paper included a discussion of an option that would make Bering Sea and Aleutian Island subarea LLP endorsements into an area-wide endorsement for the Pacific cod fishery.

At this meeting, the Council voted to postpone any further action on apportioning BSAI Pacific cod sector allocations between the BS and AI subareas until February 2008, pending additional information from the Trawl Latent License action and ongoing BSAI Pacific cod biological research. However, the Council requested that the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee take into consideration the ongoing discussions concerning apportioning BSAI Pacific cod sector allocations between the BS and AI sub-areas as necessary. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

Gulf Sector Split and LLP Recency

The Council received a staff presentation concerning a potential action to divide the Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod total allowable catches among various sectors and a potential action to remove latent LLP licenses from Gulf of Alaska non-trawl fisheries. The Council indicated its intent to consider addressing these issues through separate (but coordinated) actions. The Council requested staff to prepare a draft purpose and need statement for each action for consideration at the March/April meeting, based on the suggestions from the Advisory Panel minutes and public testimony. This will also allow the Council to receive further public input concerning possible purpose and need statements and elements and options for consideration in March. The purpose and need statement and provisions developed by the Advisory Panel, and included in their minutes, are available on the Council web site.

The Council also received public testimony requesting it to address a perceived problem with the current 300,000 pound trip limit in the Western Gulf pollock fishery. Testifiers asserted that the use of tenders has allowed some participants in the fishery to circumvent the intended effect of the trip limit. The Council had previously received a discussion paper from staff on this issue at its February 2005 meeting and requested staff to bring that discussion paper to the March/April Council meeting for consideration of further action on this issue. Staff contact is Mark Fina.

BSAI & GOA Trawl LLP Recency

The Council received two staff presentations under this agenda item. The first report was a summary of ongoing actions to revise the License Limitation Program. This report reviewed current and upcoming actions relating to LLP licenses, specifically: the BSAI & GOA trawl recency amendment; the proposed action to divide the BS & AI allocations of Pacific cod into two stocks; and the proposed action to make sector allocations of Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod and to remove latent licenses from the Gulf of Alaska fisheries. The report emphasized the need for coordination of management measures among these three actions, since some of the areas and actions overlap.

The Council received a second staff report on the results of the groundfish license limitation analysis for BSAI and GOA trawl CVs and CPs. The Council has been developing this amendment since December 2005, focusing on alternatives and options to be addressed and the respective effects on active and latent LLPs. The information presented at this meeting included summary sections from the RIR/EA/IRFA analysis being prepared for this amendment, describing the impacts of implementation of the various alternatives, components and options on different fishing fleets and areas. Staff noted that the analysis of impacts will be expanded to: (1) provide an analysis of any differential impacts by geographic areas within Alaska and the Pacific Northwest for LLPs holders that would lose endorsements, and (2) a discussion of LLPs within the AFA trawl CV sector to assist the Council with their review of Component 3.

The Council directed staff to prepare two discussion papers on: (1) evaluating how elimination of endorsements will impact access to allocations and sideboards established under AFA/Am80/GOA rockfish (2) the effects of different alternatives for gear/area endorsement criteria on LLP program, the process necessary to provide the necessary data to support the alternatives under consideration, and preliminary assessment of implementation issues. The full text of the motions can be viewed on the Council website.

The requested two discussion papers will be presented to the Council at the March/April meeting. At that time the Council may refine the alternatives and provide further direction. The staff contact for this item is Jim Richardson.

AI Fishery Ecosystem Plan

The Council adopted a draft goal statement for the Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan, which will be reviewed at the March/April meeting. The goal statement is as follows:

The goal of this FEP is to provide enhanced scientific information and measurable indicators to evaluate and promote ecosystem health, sustainable fisheries, and vibrant communities in the Aleutian Islands region.

Further information is available on the Council's website, at www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/ecosystem/Ecosystem.htm. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

BSAI Crab Management

The Council received staff discussion papers concerning a few different aspects of the rationalization program in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fisheries. The first paper discussed development of a potential amendment to exempt custom processing from processor share caps in the Western Aleutian Islands king crab fisheries. The proposed action could be similar to the statutory amendment to the program in the recent Magnuson Stevens Act reauthorization, which exempts custom processing in the North region of the Bering Sea *C. opilio* fishery from the processing share caps in that fishery. After public testimony and input from the Advisory Panel, the Council elected to extend the potential amendment to include options to exempt custom processing from the caps in all of the traditionally small crab fisheries included in the program:

- the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery,
- the Western Aleutian Islands red king crab fishery,
- the Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery,
- the St. Matthews blue king crab fishery, and
- the Pribilof red and blue king crab fishery.

The Council requested staff to develop a draft purpose and need statement for the action for Council consideration. Possible rationales for the action include enhancement of competition, contingencies in the event of a processor breakdown, processing efficiencies, enabling full harvest of the TAC, and sustaining coastal communities.

The second paper discussed the potential elimination of the harvest share use cap exemption for vessels fishing cooperative allocations. The Council has expressed concern that the rapid fleet consolidation that occurred under the program in its first year may have displaced crew and caused economic disruption for communities. After reviewing the discussion paper (an updated version of a paper received by the Council at its October 2006 meeting) and hearing public testimony, the Council stated its intent to continue to track fleet consolidation in the fishery. The Council adopted a motion recommended by the Advisory Panel, which requests staff to update the paper and its analysis of fleet consolidation and vessel use caps as a part of the 3-year review of the crab rationalization program.

The Council also discussed the proposed scope of 18-month review of the rationalization program, which is scheduled for consideration by the Council at its March/April meeting. As a part of the motion adopting the rationalization program, the Council requested that the staff prepare a review of two aspect of the program 18 months after program implementation. At the time, the Council defined the scope of the analysis as follows:

The analysis is to examine the effects of the 90/10 A share/B share split and the binding arbitration program on the distribution of benefits between harvesters and processors. After receiving the analysis, the Council will consider whether the A share/B share split and the arbitration program are having their intended effects and, if not, whether some other A share/B share split is appropriate. In addition, staff shall prepare an analysis of the application of the 90/10 Class A/Class B split and regionalization to captain and crew shares (C shares) for consideration by the Council 18 months after fishing begins under the program. The analysis is to examine

the landings patterns of C shares to determine whether the distribution of landings among processors and communities of C shares differs from the distribution of landings of the general harvest share pool. After receiving the analysis, the Council will consider whether to remove the 90/10 Class A/Class B split from C shares, which is scheduled to take effect three years after the beginning of fishing under the program.

Based on public testimony and an Advisory Panel recommendation, the Council requested that staff include in the review an examination of the distribution of landings of B shares among processors and communities, and a comparison of that distribution with the distribution of landings of harvest shares in the general pool (i.e., A shares). This addition to the report is intended to assist the Council in considering the effects of the program's A share/B share structure on landings patterns and communities.

Based on public testimony and a recommendation from the Advisory Panel, the Council initiated consideration of an amendment to the criteria used to determine a person's eligibility to purchase captain and crew shares (C shares) in the crab fisheries governed by the rationalization program. Currently, a person must be an 'active participant' in the fisheries, defined as having participated in a landing during the 365 days preceding the C share purchase. Testimony suggested that this requirement is overly burdensome to former participants wishing to secure a new position in the fisheries, who were unable to participate in the first year of the program because of fleet consolidation. Relaxing participation criteria could facilitate share purchase by persons wishing to reenter the fisheries.

Public testimony also prompted the Council to direct staff to prepare two letters requesting information concerning the status of the crew loan program included in the crab rationalization program. That loan program has yet to be implemented, due in part to the need for Congressional appropriation. The first letter would be directed to the Alaska, Washington, and Oregon congressional delegations asking for an update concerning the status of any efforts in Congress to authorize implementation of the program. The second letter would be to NOAA Fisheries requesting an update concerning the status of the cost recovery monies set aside to support the loan program.

In response to public testimony, the Council requested staff to prepare a discussion paper concerning a potential amendment to the crab rationalization program that would permit the transfer of harvest shares to cover an overage after the time of landing. The provision would be intended to reduce the potential for enforcement actions related to unintended overages, in the event the fisherman can acquire shares to cover the overage within a reasonable time. The Council also directed staff to include discussion of the application of an equivalent provision to the Central Gulf of Alaska rockfish pilot program. Staff contact is Mark Fina.

Dark Rockfish

The Council reviewed an EA/RIR/IRFA which addresses the management of dark rockfish under both the GOA and BSAI FMPs. This species is currently contained in the pelagic shelf rockfish (PSR) assemblage in the GOA and in the other rockfish complex in the BSAI. It comprises a small proportion of the total biomass in each complex, is more often found in nearshore waters, and is caught in State fisheries. Removing this species from these FMPs would turn management for this species in both State and Federal waters over to the State of Alaska. The Council recommended the release of the document for public review following inclusion of suggestions from the SSC. Copies of the public review draft will be available from the Council in early March. Final action for this analysis is scheduled for the April Council meeting. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

AI Habitat Conservation Area

The Council received a staff report on an initial draft EA/RIR/IRFA on proposed modifications to the Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area (AIHCA), which was adopted in 2005 as part of a suite of conservation measures to minimize potential adverse effects of fishing in the Aleutian Islands subarea. The AIHCA prohibits the use of non-pelagic trawl fishing gear in designated areas of the AI to reduce the effects of fishing on corals, sponges, and hard-bottom habitats. Most fishing areas that have been trawled repeatedly in the past remain open.

During the June 2006 meeting, fishery participants requested that open area boundaries be slightly modified to allow fishing in areas historically fished and to prevent bottom trawling in areas that have not been repeatedly fished. One location near Agattu Strait had been historically fished and was included into the closure area. A second location near Buldir Island was included in the portions of the AIHCA open to bottom trawling but has some documented presence of sponges. The proposed amendment would open the Agattu area and close the Buldir area.

The Council recommended the analysis be made available for public review, with final action scheduled for the March 2007 Council meeting. Staff contact is Cathy Coon.

SSL Proposal Ranking Tool

The Council's SSC received a detailed presentation on the updated Proposal Ranking Tool (PRT) developed by the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee (SSLMC). The SSLMC has revised the PRT based on previous SSC comments, and after review of the PRT at the February meeting, the SSC acknowledged that the PRT is ready for use by the SSLMC in the proposal review process. The SSLMC plans to receive briefings on the proposals that have been received, and will begin the proposal ranking process at its April and May meetings. SSLMC meeting announcements and agendas are posted on the Council's web site. Staff contact is Bill Wilson.

BSAI Salmon Bycatch

The Council reviewed a discussion paper from staff providing an overview of the bycatch of salmon species, preliminary spatial analysis of bycatch patterns, and a review of methodologies for establishing bycatch caps. This information was provided to assist the Council in their discussion of refining alternatives for the Amendment 84B analysis.

The 2006 bycatch of Chinook salmon in BSAI trawl fisheries reached a historic high of 87,524 fish. Preliminary indications of bycatch of Chinook in the 2007 A season show very high numbers again, with the Chinook salmon savings area triggered on February 6, and bycatch numbers over 42,000 thus far this season. Chum salmon bycatch dropped to 327,690 in 2006 from a historical high of over 700,000 in 2005. Amendment 84 is anticipated to be implemented by August 2006. In the meantime, the pollock fleet operated under an EFP which grants an exemption to the savings area closures.

The Council is currently working to refine alternatives for analysis under amendment package 84B, with particular focus on modified salmon savings area closures and caps for analysis. The Council moved to appoint a workgroup to work with staff in examining the appropriate methodology for establishing trigger caps and hard caps for the analysis. Nominations are solicited for a salmon bycatch workgroup to discuss appropriate methodologies for trigger and hard caps on salmon species. **Please contact the Council office no later than March 15 if you are interested.**

The Council indicated that it may also consider fixed- area closures with no associated trigger limits for analysis under the forthcoming amendment package. Spatial areas for candidate closures are being assessed currently by staff and will be brought forward to the Council for consideration prior to refining the alternatives for analysis.

A salmon bycatch workshop will be convened in conjunction with the March SSC meeting. This workshop is a follow up to the 2006 salmon bycatch workshop. Topics to be included in the workshop presentations are: pollock fishery and salmon bycatch patterns, updated genetic stock of origin information, status of AYK salmon stocks, BASIS program information on salmon species, and fleet response behavior in conjunction with voluntary closures. The information provided in the workshop is intended to assist the Council in refining the alternatives at the March/April meeting. The range of alternatives under consideration for Amendment package 84B, as well as additional information on salmon bycatch are available on the Council website at: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/bycatch/bycatch.htm. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Vessel Monitoring System

The Council reviewed an initial draft of a comprehensive Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) program for Alaska. In December 2005, the Council initiated an analysis to increase the number of commercial fishing vessels operating in the EEZ off Alaska that are subject to requirements to carry a transmitting VMS. A VMS combines a global positioning system (GPS) and a radio, and sends periodic signals to overhead satellites so the location of the vessel carrying it can be tracked remotely. The Council developed alternatives over several meetings in 2006. During a review in October 2006 the Council prepared a problem statement to accompany the purpose and need statement, and requested analysis of three new options: (1) exempt vessels deploying dinglebar gear; (2) exempt troll fishermen operating in federal waters who keep legal halibut as bycatch in their fishery; (3) exempt vessels with minimal annual landings of halibut or sablefish IFQ below the thresholds of 1,000, 5,000, and 10,000 pounds.

After much deliberation, the Council decided to postpone indefinitely any further work on a comprehensive VMS program. The Council noted that other tools may be available to address specific problems or enforcement needs for different circumstances, and a comprehensive solution may not be optimal. Staff contact is Cathy Coon.

Seabird Avoidance Regulations

Based on an EA/RIR/IRFA and new data presented by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on short-tailed albatross, the Council approved a revision to seabird deterrence regulations in the hook and line fisheries. For inside waters, which include southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, and Cook Inlet, use of seabird deterrence will not be required. Waters not considered "inside" include the entire EEZ and three areas of southeast Alaska: outer Chatham Strait, Dixon Entrance, and outer Cross Sound. In these waters, the use of seabird deterrence devices by all hook and line vessels will continue to be required but performance standards for small vessels (>26 ≤55 ft LOA) will change, depending on vessel rigging and vessel length. The Council also approved eliminating the "other device" requirement and the seabird avoidance plan. The Council's motion is available on the Council's web site, including maps delineating inside and outside waters. The Council also approved of proceeding with analysis of a trailing amendment to exempt small vessels from seabird deterrence regulations in IPHC Area 4E. Staff contact is Bill Wilson.

FMP Consultation Schedule

The Council received an update from NMFS on the agency's plans for completing a revised draft of the Draft Revised Steller Sea Lion Recovery Plan (recovery plan). NMFS reported that it intends to reprioritize completion of another draft of the recovery plan prior to completing a draft Biological Opinion (BiOp). Based on public comment and Council discussion, the Council recommended to NMFS that a work plan and schedule for completion of the revised draft recovery plan, which would include a series of scientific workshops, a white paper on ESA-listed species recovery criteria, and continued development of the draft BiOp, be developed by Council and agency staffs and brought to the Council at its March/April meeting. The Council recommended to NMFS that the work plan include a process for independent peer review of the draft revised recovery plan. The Council may schedule a special Council meeting, likely in August, to review a revised recovery plan as well as results of the peer review. Staff contact is Bill Wilson.

List of Fisheries

The SSC received a detailed presentation from NMFS analysts on the process the agency uses to develop the annual List of Fisheries (LOF). The SSC had an opportunity to explore various questions the SSC has raised in recent years, including concerns over reliance on data sets that may be many years old and not characteristic of how some fisheries are prosecuted now. The SSC suggested some alternative analysis strategies the agency may consider. NMFS indicated that, in the future, it intends to publish the draft LOF for the coming calendar year in time for the annual June Council meeting. For the LOF for 2008, NMFS intends to provide to the Council the draft prior to the June 2007 Council meeting; at this meeting the SSC will also receive a report (Perez 2006) on the data and analysis protocols used to classify fisheries in the LOF for 2007. Additional information on SSC comments on the LOF process is provided in the SSC meeting minutes posted on the Council's web site. Staff contact is Bill Wilson.

Joint Meeting Scheduled

The Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries will meet jointly on Wednesday afternoon, March 28, 2007 in conjunction with the Council's March/April 2007 meeting. The Council and BOF will discuss issues of mutual interest, including the recently postponed BOF proposals to change the management of the State waters Pacific cod fishery in the Western Gulf of Alaska. These proposals, numbers 182, 183, and 185 were not approved by the BOF pending joint discussions at the March meeting. Staff contacts are Jane DiCosimo and Bill Wilson.

Crab Overfishing Definitions Revision

The Council took initial review of an Environmental Assessment (EA) which evaluates proposed changes to the current overfishing definitions for BSAI crab stocks. The analysis reviews three alternative means of establishing a set of overfishing levels (OFLs) that provide objective and measurable criteria for identifying when a BSAI crab fishery is overfished or when overfishing is occurring, in compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Three alternatives are analyzed in the document:

Alternative 1: (Status Quo) Fixed values for the status determination criteria: minimum stock size threshold (MSST), maximum sustainable yield (MSY), optimum yield (OY), and maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT) for the BSAI king and Tanner crab stocks.

Alternative 2: Use a proposed tier system and OFL setting process to annually set OFLs for each crab stock. A review process by the Crab Plan Team, SSC and Council is included in this alternative. OFLs would be adopted by the Council in June before the annual trawl survey.

Alternative 3: Use a proposed tier system and OFL setting process to annually set OFLs for each crab stock. A review process by the Crab Plan Team, SSC and Council is included in this alternative. OFLs would be calculated after the survey data are available in late August. The Council would review the status of the stocks, the OFLs, and the TACs in October or December.

The Council chose not to release the document for public review at this time and instead requested that the document be revised according to substantive comments provided by the SSC and scheduled for a subsequent initial review in June 2007. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

Bering Sea Habitat Conservation

The Council received a preliminary draft analysis of alternatives to minimize the effects of fishing on habitat in the Bering Sea. The analysis tiers off the action taken by the Council in February 2005 to conserve essential fish habitat (EFH) from potential adverse effects of fishing. The alternatives focus on open and closed areas to bottom trawling, as well as gear modifications for bottom trawl gear. The Council revised the alternatives and options to include the addition of options to prohibit bottom trawling around St. Matthew and St. Lawrence Island to protect blue king crab habitat, and options for bottom trawl closures in the Nunivak Islands, Etolin Strait, and Kuskokwim Bay areas. In addition, the AP and SSC suggested several additions and revisions to improve the analysis. The Council requested an initial review of the document with these changes at the March/April 2007 meeting. Additional information and the Council's motion are available on the Council web site. Staff contact is Cathy Coon.

Miscellaneous Items

Under the Staff Tasking agenda item, the Council tasked staff to prepare a discussion paper for June regarding options to address the issue of halibut subsistence permits for rural residents living outside of approved rural communities. The Council also requested a letter of appreciation be sent to the AI FEP writing team for their efforts to date, and requesting that they be allowed to continue working on this project for the next couple of months. The minutes from the December 2006 meeting were approved.

NPFMC Tentative Meeting Dates for 2007-2008*

	February Week of/ Location	April Week of/ Location	June Week of/ Location	October Week of/ Location	December Week of/ Location
2007	7/Portland	March 26th/Anchorage Hilton	4/Sitka**	8/Anchorage Hilton	3/Anchorage Hilton
2008	4/Seattle	March 31/Anchorage Hilton	2/TBA	September 29/ Anchorage	1/Anchorage Hilton

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

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 2/20/07

March 26, 2007 Anchorage, Alaska	June 4, 2007 Sitka, Alaska	* October 1, 2007 Anchorage, Alaska
Joint meeting with Alaska BOF (T) Revised NEPA process: Review and comment SSL Recovery/consult schedule: Discuss/action as necessary National Bycatch Report: Update GOA Sideboards: Review Discussion Paper (T) GOA sector split: Review problem statement and develop alternatives GOA latent licenses: Review problem statement and develop alternatives WGOA pollock trip limit: Review discussion paper BSAI Crab 18 month review: Receive Report Charter Halibut Mgmt: Final action on moratorium Charter Halibut State/Fed Mgmt: Review discussion paper Charter Halibut GHM Measures: Initial review of analysis Charter Halibut Allocation: Discussion paper/action as necessary Committee Report/action as necessary Charter halibut: Review sportfish mortality; ADFG logbook data Comprehensive Socioecon. Data Collection: Workgroup report Crab Data Collection Protocols: Review (T) Observer Program: Report and action as necessary Trawl LLP Recency: Disc paper on interactions Trawl LLP Recency: Disc paper on implementation issues Salmon Bycatch (B-1): Update on workgroup Salmon Bycatch Workshop (SSC) CDQ Am. 71/22: Discussion paper on Alternatives and legal opinion (T) Arctic management: Review discussion paper BS Habitat Conservation: Initial Review (T) HAPC Priorities and Timing: Review/Action as necessary EFH AI Open Area Adjustment: Final Action Other Species: Discussion paper Dark rockfish: Final Action Scallop SAFE: Review AI FEP: Initial Review SOPPS: Review and action as necessary (T)	Draft MMPA LOF for 2008: Action as necessary (T) SSLMC Report on proposal review: Action as necessary (T) SSL Recovery Plan: Review progress and related ESA discussion paper GOA sector split: Action as necessary GOA latent licenses: Action as necessary BSAI Crab Custom Processing: Discussion paper BSAI Crab 'Active Participation': Discussion paper After the Fact Transfers: Discussion paper Charter Halibut Permanent Solution: Action as necessary Charter Halibut GHM Measures: Final action Halibut Subsistence Rural Definition: Discussion paper Cost Recovery: Discussion Paper (T) Observer Program: Committee rpt/ action as necessary (T) Trawl LLP Recency: Initial Review (T) Salmon Bycatch (B-1): Workgroup report/refine alternatives CDQ Am. 71/22: Action as necessary CDQ regulation of harvest: Initial Review (T) Arctic management: Action as necessary BS Habitat Conservation: Final Action (T) Research Priorities: Review PSEIS Priorities: Review AI FEP: Final Review (T) BSAI Crab Overfishing Definition: Initial Review (T)	Revised NEPA process: Comment GOA sector split: Initial Review (T) GOA latent licenses: Initial Review (T) BSAI Crab custom processing: Initial Review (T) Charter Halibut Permanent Solution: Action as necessary Observer Program: Action as necessary (T) Trawl LLP Recency: Final Action (T) Salmon Bycatch (B-1): Initial Review (T) GOA arrowtooth MRA: Initial Review/Final action (T) CDQ regulation of harvest: Final Action (T) Other Species: Initial Review (T) Groundfish specifications and SAFE: Initial action BSAI Crab SAFE BSAI Crab Overfishing Definition: Final Action (T)

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
 SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation
 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

March 26 - April 2, 2007 in Anchorage

June 4 - 12, 2007 in Sitka

*** August meeting to comment on SSL recovery plan (T)**

October 1 - 9, 2007 in Anchorage

December 3 - 11, 2007 in Anchorage

February 4 - , 2008 in Seattle

March 31 - , 2008 in Anchorage



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NPRB Seeks Nominations for Advisory Panel

The North Pacific Research Board is seeking nominations for its Advisory Panel. The Advisory Panel represents user groups and other interested parties from the various regions within the Board's purview. Advisory Panel members advise the Board on accomplishing its overall mission of fielding a high caliber, comprehensive research program that will improve our understanding of the North Pacific, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean ecosystems and their fisheries, and help to sustain and enhance the living marine resources. The Board believes it is important to incorporate meaningful community involvement throughout its science program from planning to oversight and review. The Advisory Panel has a significant advice-giving role, with active involvement in setting research priorities and defining questions, though it does not participate in reviewing research proposals. Advisory Panel members serve two-year terms and the Board covers travel, food and lodging for panel members.

Nominations and self-nominations may be submitted to the Board by email to cpautzke@nprb.org, or by regular mail to: Clarence Pautzke, Executive Director, North Pacific Research Board, 1007 West 3rd Avenue, Suite 100, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Deadline for nominations is **Friday, March 30, 2007**. Please include a brief 1-2 page resume and full contact information, including email address. Please visit the Board's web site at www.nprb.org for more information about the Board and its activities.