

**Joint Work Session
Kodiak Island Borough/City of Kodiak
April 17, 2012**

Fisheries Report and Overview

1) Just a Little More Background

- Navigating the North Pacific Council Process (booklet)
- National Standards under the MSFCMA
- Article VIII of the Alaska Constitution
- Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy, Escapement Goal Policy, Mixed Stock Fishery Policy, Wild Stock Priority

2) A Developing Process for the Local Governments

- Change to Fisheries Workgroup (from Fisheries Subcommittee)
- Additional members from Borough Assembly and City Council
- Meet monthly (target first Monday of each month, 9 am)
- Broad, fluid, informal discussion of topics among members and with public participants (not just three-minute public statements at beginning of meeting)
- Use Kodiak Fisheries Advisory Committee (KIB/City appointments) as conduit for identification of issues (Fisheries and Oceanic Research Board as well?)
- Have Fisheries Analyst work with the KFAC, and bring forward their recommendations to the Joint Borough/City (at work sessions or other appropriate opportunities)
- Fisheries Analyst also to identify to KIB/City the pertinent industry and community interests involved; work with KIB/City lobbyists (e.g., Brad Gilman) and Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Specialist
- Fisheries Analyst to provide summary of potential effects or pros/cons of issues, and promote dialogue
- Emerging purpose

- a) Learn about future effects and impacts of fishery decisions, rather than just take short-term positions
- b) Promote free-flow of information and broad discussion and consideration by the public and the local governments of pertinent issues
- c) Promote Kodiak as a “fishing community that is open for business”
- d) Deal with economic effects and social consequences

3) A Selection of Issues

- Future of FITC (now: Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center). With recent reorganization, pending retirement of senior staff, and perceived lack of coordination with seafood processors on the waterfront, does the Assembly/Council wish to engage to assist the University of Alaska’s presence in Kodiak?
- Lease space for NOAA Fisheries in the Kodiak Fisheries Research Center (Near Island). In the face of increasing pressure on the federal government budget, the NMFS (NOAA Fisheries) is concerned about what they perceive as very high lease costs for their personnel and laboratories in Kodiak. Does the KIB/City wish to engage them in conversations, with an eye toward maintaining their presence in Kodiak (rather than having them move to Juneau and Seattle)?
- Stock assessment surveys by NOAA Fisheries. NMFS conducts annual groundfish (and crab) stock assessment surveys in the Bering Sea and biennial surveys in the Gulf of Alaska. These surveys, along with detailed statistical analyses, set the stage for responsive setting of annual harvest levels. These surveys are very expensive to conduct and, given their high frequency in Alaska compared to some other regions in the country, their funding is constantly in jeopardy. The KIB/City recently wrote a letter to the Alaska Congressional delegation supports continued funding.
- Protection of Steller sea lions, under the Endangered Species Act and the MSFCMA. Protective measures have been imposed in spatial (no-transit and closed-fishing rookery areas, partly closed haul-out areas, etc.) and temporal (seasonal apportionments of annual fishing levels) fashions, and impose an overarching limitation on creativity and adaptability for fishery regulation (e.g., through fear and avoidance of Section 7 consultations).
- Karluk Lake nutrient enrichment (fertilization project). The Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association has submitted a detailed proposal to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, asking them to approve KRAA application of aqueous N and P fertilizer to Karluk Lake to rehabilitate the lacustrine ecosystem and restore high productivity of sockeye salmon. The USFWS will be conducting a compatibility determination (for the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan) and an environmental assessment (for NEPA purposes) prior

to issuing a special use permit. KRAA has received support from the KIB; the City may wish to express explicit support as well.

- North Pacific Fishery Management Council to meet in Kodiak, June 4-12, 2012 (less than two months from now). In addition to proceedings, which include meetings of the Advisory Panel (Elks Lodge?), the Scientific and Statistical Committee (Fishermen's Hall or KI), and the Council itself (Convention Center), there will likely be a community reception (Wednesday, June 6; Near Island?) and a beach bar-be-que (Buskin River Beach House?). Individual members of the Borough and the City governments may wish to attend portions of these meetings, and should speak directly/informally with members of the North Pacific Council.
- Bycatch of Chinook salmon in Gulf of Alaska (non-pollock) trawl fisheries. The North Pacific Council recently took action to limit the bycatch of Chinook salmon in the pollock trawl fisheries of the central and western GOA to 25,000 per year and to require full retention of all salmon taken in the pollock trawl fisheries. They are following up that action with a proposal to limit the annual Chinook salmon bycatch in the remaining central and western GOA trawl fisheries to possibly 5,000, 7,500, 10,000 or 12,500 fish.
- Rockfish program lawsuit. A group of processors led by Trident Seafoods has sued the federal government to prohibit implementation of the revised rockfish program. The previous version of the rockfish program (entitled the rockfish pilot program) had included requirements for harvesters to form direct linkages with prescribed processors for delivery of rockfish in the central GOA. The new, current program does not include such processor linkages, nor other provisions such as processor shares. The lawsuit contends that the final rule for the North Pacific Council's action in Amendment 88 is unlawful because it violates the MSFCMA, NEPA, and the APA.
- Limitation of other gear on P.cod jig vessels. The North Pacific Council is engaging in very preliminary analysis (discussion paper) of a proposal from local Kodiak fishermen to restrict the presence (and use) of other types of fishing gear on vessels that are using jig gear to target Pacific cod. This proposal is meant to protect the jig fleet from unwanted competition and to help avoid any problems with potential misreporting of catch.
- GOA halibut PSC. At the June meeting in Kodiak, the North Pacific Council is scheduled to take final action on amendments to the prohibited species catch limits for halibut bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska trawl and fixed gear groundfish fisheries. The current PSC limit for the GOA trawl fisheries is 2,000 metric tons, which was established in 1986, and 300 mt for GOA fixed gear fisheries which was established in 1995. Options under consideration would reduce one or both these sectors' PSC limits by 5, 10, or 15 percent. Estimated benefits of halibut bycatch reduction to the halibut charter sector range up to potentially 38,700 pounds increase in availability, almost entirely in Area 3A (southcentral Alaska).

Increases to halibut IFQ holders are estimated to range up to 327,300 pounds, and an estimated first wholesale value of \$1.36 – 2.61 million. Costs to the groundfish trawl and fixed gears fleets, if behavior does not change and the full estimated catch is foregone, range up to \$9.61 million per year.

4) Summary of Work to Date

- Attended two meetings of the Fisheries Workgroup (nee, Fisheries Subcommittee).
- Attended and reported at two Joint Work Sessions of the Kodiak Island Borough and the City of Kodiak. At the first JWS, a “Fisheries 101” presentation was provided; at this second JWS, these notes and discussion are being provided.
- Attended an annual meeting of the International Pacific Halibut Commission, and prepared a brief written report to the KIB/City.
- Attended two meetings of the Kodiak Fisheries Advisory Committee.
- Attended one meeting of the Kodiak Regional Planning Team.
- Attended one meeting of the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association.
- Attended two meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.
- Attended a meeting of the Joint Protocol Committee of the NPFMC and the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

SEC. 301. NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FISHERY 16 U.S.C. 1851

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

(a) IN GENERAL.--Any fishery management plan prepared, and any regulation promulgated to implement any such plan, pursuant to this title shall be consistent with the following national standards for fishery conservation and management:

98-623

(1) Conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery for the United States fishing industry.

(2) Conservation and management measures shall be based upon the best scientific information available.

(3) To the extent practicable, an individual stock of fish shall be managed as a unit throughout its range, and interrelated stocks of fish shall be managed as a unit or in close coordination.

(4) Conservation and management measures shall not discriminate between residents of different States. If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign fishing privileges among various United States fishermen, such allocation shall be (A) fair and equitable to all such fishermen; (B) reasonably calculated to promote conservation; and (C) carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of such privileges.

104-297

(5) Conservation and management measures shall, where practicable, consider efficiency in the utilization of fishery resources; except that no such measure shall have economic allocation as its sole purpose.

(6) Conservation and management measures shall take into account and allow for variations among, and contingencies in, fisheries, fishery resources, and catches.

(7) Conservation and management measures shall, where practicable, minimize costs and avoid unnecessary duplication.

104-297

- ~ (8) Conservation and management measures shall, consistent with the conservation requirements of this Act (including the prevention of overfishing and rebuilding of overfished stocks), take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities in order to (A) provide for the sustained participation of such communities, and (B) to the extent practicable, minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities.

104-297

- ~ (9) Conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable, (A) minimize bycatch and (B) to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch.

104-297

(10) Conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable, promote the safety of human life at sea.

97-453

(b) GUIDELINES.-- The Secretary shall establish advisory guidelines (which shall not have the force and effect of law), based on the national standards, to assist in the development of fishery management plans.

Article 8 - Natural Resources

§ 1. Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest.

§ 2. General Authority

The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people.

§ 3. Common Use

Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use.

§ 4. Sustained Yield

Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses.

§ 5. Facilities and Improvements

The legislature may provide for facilities, improvements, and services to assure greater utilization, development, reclamation, and settlement of lands, and to assure fuller utilization and development of the fisheries, wildlife, and waters.

§ 6. State Public Domain

Lands and interests therein, including submerged and tidal lands, possessed or acquired by the State, and not used or intended exclusively for governmental purposes, constitute the state public domain. The legislature shall provide for the selection of lands granted to the State by the United States, and for the administration of the state public domain.

§ 7. Special Purpose Sites

The legislature may provide for the acquisition of sites, objects, and areas of natural beauty or of historic, cultural, recreational, or scientific value. It may reserve them from the public domain and provide for their administration and preservation for the use, enjoyment, and welfare of the people.

§ 8. Leases

The legislature may provide for the leasing of, and the issuance of permits for exploration of, any part of the public domain or interest therein, subject to reasonable concurrent uses. Leases and permits shall provide, among other conditions, for payment by the party at fault for damage or injury arising from noncompliance with terms governing concurrent use, and for forfeiture in the event of breach of conditions.

§ 9. Sales and Grants

Subject to the provisions of this section, the legislature may provide for the sale or grant of state lands, or interests therein, and establish sales procedures. All sales or grants shall contain such reservations to the State of all resources as may be required by Congress or the State and shall provide for access to these resources. Reservation of access shall not unnecessarily impair the owners' use, prevent the control of trespass, or preclude compensation for damages.

§ 10. Public Notice

No disposals or leases of state lands, or interests therein, shall be made without prior public notice and other safeguards of the public interest as may be prescribed by law.

§ 11. Mineral Rights

Discovery and appropriation shall be the basis for establishing a right in those minerals reserved to the State which, upon the date of ratification of this constitution by the people of Alaska, were subject to location under the federal mining laws. Prior discovery, location, and filing, as prescribed by law, shall establish a prior right to these minerals and also a prior right to permits, leases, and transferable licenses for their extraction. Continuation of these rights shall depend upon the performance of annual labor, or the payment of fees, rents, or royalties, or upon other requirements as may be prescribed by law. Surface uses of land by a mineral claimant shall be limited to those necessary for the extraction or basic processing of the mineral deposits, or for both. Discovery and appropriation shall initiate a right, subject to further requirements of law, to patent of mineral lands if authorized by the State and not prohibited by Congress. The provisions of this section shall apply to all other minerals reserved to the State which by law are declared subject to appropriation.

§ 12. Mineral Leases and Permits

The legislature shall provide for the issuance, types and terms of leases for coal, oil, gas, oil shale, sodium, phosphate, potash, sulfur, pumice, and other minerals as may be prescribed by law. Leases and permits giving the exclusive right of exploration for these minerals for specific periods and areas, subject to reasonable concurrent exploration as to different classes of minerals, may be authorized by law. Like leases and permits giving the exclusive right of prospecting by geophysical, geochemical, and similar methods for all minerals may also be authorized by law.

§ 13. Water Rights

All surface and subsurface waters reserved to the people for common use, except mineral and medicinal waters, are subject to appropriation. Priority of appropriation shall give prior right. Except for public water supply, an appropriation of water shall be limited to stated purposes and subject to preferences among beneficial uses, concurrent or otherwise, as prescribed by law, and to the general reservation of fish and wildlife.

§ 14. Access to Navigable Waters

3

Free access to the navigable or public waters of the State, as defined by the legislature, shall not be denied any citizen of the United States or resident of the State, except that the legislature may by general law regulate and limit such access for other beneficial uses or public purposes.

§ 15. No Exclusive Right of Fishery

No exclusive right or special privilege of fishery shall be created or authorized in the natural waters of the State. This section does not restrict the power of the State to limit entry into any fishery for purposes of resource conservation, to prevent economic distress among fishermen and those dependent upon them for a livelihood and to promote the efficient development of aquaculture in the State. [Amended 1972]

§ 16. Protection of Rights

No person shall be involuntarily divested of his right to the use of waters, his interests in lands, or improvements affecting either, except for a superior beneficial use or public purpose and then only with just compensation and by operation of law.

§ 17. Uniform Application

Laws and regulations governing the use or disposal of natural resources shall apply equally to all persons similarly situated with reference to the subject matter and purpose to be served by the law or regulation.

§ 18. Private Ways of Necessity

Proceedings in eminent domain may be undertaken for private ways of necessity to permit essential access for extraction or utilization of resources. Just compensation shall be made for property taken or for resultant damages to other property rights.

[Return to Alaska Constitution Table of Contents](#)

© Copyright 2012, State of Alaska, all rights reserved

5 AAC 39.222. Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries

(a) The Board of Fisheries (board) and Department of Fish and Game (department) recognize that

(1) while, in the aggregate, Alaska's salmon fisheries are healthy and sustainable largely because of abundant pristine habitat and the application of sound, precautionary, conservation management practices, there is a need for a comprehensive policy for the regulation and management of sustainable salmon fisheries;

(2) in formulating fishery management plans designed to achieve maximum or optimum salmon production, the board and department must consider factors including environmental change, habitat loss or degradation, data uncertainty, limited funding for research and management programs, existing harvest patterns, and new fisheries or expanding fisheries;

(3) to effectively assure sustained yield and habitat protection for wild salmon stocks, fishery management plans and programs require specific guiding principles and criteria, and the framework for their application contained in this policy.

(b) The goal of the policy under this section is to ensure conservation of salmon and salmon's required marine and aquatic habitats, protection of customary and traditional subsistence uses and other uses, and the sustained economic health of Alaska's fishing communities.

(c) Management of salmon fisheries by the state should be based on the following principles and criteria:

(1) wild salmon stocks and the salmon's habitats should be maintained at levels of resource productivity that assure sustained yields as follows:

(A) salmon spawning, rearing, and migratory habitats should be protected as follows:

(i) salmon habitats should not be perturbed beyond natural boundaries of variation;

(ii) scientific assessments of possible adverse ecological effects of proposed habitat alterations and the impacts of the alterations on salmon populations should be conducted before approval of a proposal;

(iii) adverse environmental impacts on wild salmon stocks and the salmon's habitats should be assessed;

(iv) all essential salmon habitat in marine, estuarine, and freshwater ecosystems and access of salmon to these habitats should be protected; essential habitats include spawning and incubation areas, freshwater rearing areas, estuarine and nearshore rearing areas, offshore rearing areas, and migratory pathways;

(v) salmon habitat in fresh water should be protected on a watershed basis, including appropriate management of riparian zones, water quality, and water quantity;

(B) salmon stocks should be protected within spawning, incubating, rearing, and migratory habitats;

(C) degraded salmon productivity resulting from habitat loss should be assessed, considered, and controlled by affected user groups, regulatory agencies, and boards when making conservation and allocation decisions;

(D) effects and interactions of introduced or enhanced salmon stocks on wild salmon stocks should be assessed; wild salmon stocks and fisheries on those stocks should be protected from adverse impacts from artificial propagation and enhancement efforts;

(E) degraded salmon spawning, incubating, rearing, and migratory habitats should be restored to natural levels of productivity where known and desirable;

(F) ongoing monitoring should be conducted to determine the current status of habitat and the effectiveness of restoration activities;

(G) depleted salmon stocks should be allowed to recover or, where appropriate, should be actively restored; diversity should be maintained to the maximum extent possible, at the genetic, population, species, and ecosystem levels;

(2) salmon fisheries shall be managed to allow escapements within ranges necessary to conserve and sustain potential salmon production and maintain normal ecosystem functioning as follows:

(A) salmon spawning escapements should be assessed both temporally and geographically; escapement monitoring programs should be appropriate to the scale, intensity, and importance of each salmon stock's use;

(B) salmon escapement goals, whether sustainable escapement goals, biological escapement goals, optimal escapement goals, or inriver run goals, should be established in a manner consistent with sustained yield; unless otherwise directed, the department will manage Alaska's salmon fisheries, to the extent possible, for maximum sustained yield;

- (C) salmon escapement goal ranges should allow for uncertainty associated with measurement techniques, observed variability in the salmon stock measured, changes in climatic and oceanographic conditions, and varying abundance within related populations of the salmon stock measured;
 - (D) salmon escapement should be managed in a manner to maintain genetic and phenotypic characteristics of the stock by assuring appropriate geographic and temporal distribution of spawners as well as consideration of size range, sex ratio, and other population attributes;
 - (E) impacts of fishing, including incidental mortality and other human-induced mortality, should be assessed and considered in harvest management decisions;
 - (F) salmon escapement and harvest management decisions should be made in a manner that protects non-target salmon stocks or species;
 - (G) the role of salmon in ecosystem functioning should be evaluated and considered in harvest management decisions and setting of salmon escapement goals;
 - (H) salmon abundance trends should be monitored and considered in harvest management decisions;
- (3) effective management systems should be established and applied to regulate human activities that affect salmon as follows:
- (A) salmon management objectives should be appropriate to the scale and intensity of various uses and the biological capacities of target salmon stocks;
 - (B) management objectives should be established in harvest management plans, strategies, guiding principles, and policies, such as for mixed stock fishery harvests, fish disease, genetics, and hatchery production, that are subject to periodic review;
 - (C) when wild salmon stocks are fully allocated, new fisheries or expanding fisheries should be restricted, unless provided for by management plans or by application of the board's allocation criteria;
 - (D) management agencies should have clear authority in statute and regulation to
 - (i) control all sources of fishing mortality on salmon;
 - (ii) protect salmon habitats and control non-fishing sources of mortality;
 - (E) management programs should be effective in
 - (i) controlling human-induced sources of fishing mortality and should incorporate procedures to assure effective monitoring, compliance, control, and enforcement;
 - (ii) protecting salmon habitats and controlling collateral mortality and should incorporate procedures to assure effective monitoring, compliance, control, and enforcement;
 - (F) fisheries management implementation and outcomes should be consistent with regulations, regulations should be consistent with statutes, and effectively carry out the purpose of this section;
 - (G) the board will recommend to the commissioner the development of effective joint research, assessment, and management arrangements with appropriate management agencies and bodies for salmon stocks that cross state, federal, or international jurisdictional boundaries; the board will recommend the coordination of appropriate procedures for effective monitoring, compliance, control, and enforcement with those of other agencies, states, or nations;
 - (H) the board will work, within the limits of its authority, to assure that
 - (i) management activities are accomplished in a timely and responsive manner to implement objectives, based on the best available scientific information;
 - (ii) effective mechanisms for the collection and dissemination of information and data necessary to carry out management activities are developed, maintained, and utilized;
 - (iii) management programs and decision-making procedures are able to clearly distinguish, and effectively deal with, biological and allocation issues;
 - (I) the board will recommend to the commissioner and legislature that adequate staff and budget for research, management, and enforcement activities be available to fully implement sustainable salmon fisheries principles;
 - (J) proposals for salmon fisheries development or expansion and artificial propagation and enhancement should include assessments required for sustainable management of existing salmon fisheries and wild salmon stocks;

- (K) plans and proposals for development or expansion of salmon fisheries and enhancement programs should effectively document resource assessments, potential impacts, and other information needed to assure sustainable management of wild salmon stocks;
- (L) the board will work with the commissioner and other agencies to develop effective processes for controlling excess fishing capacity;
- (M) procedures should be implemented to regularly evaluate the effectiveness of fishery management and habitat protection actions in sustaining salmon populations, fisheries, and habitat, and to resolve associated problems or deficiencies;
- (N) conservation and management decisions for salmon fisheries should take into account the best available information on biological, environmental, economic, social, and resource use factors;
- (O) research and data collection should be undertaken to improve scientific and technical knowledge of salmon fisheries, including ecosystem interactions, status of salmon populations, and the condition of salmon habitats;
- (P) the best available scientific information on the status of salmon populations and the condition of the salmon's habitats should be routinely updated and subject to peer review;
- (4) public support and involvement for sustained use and protection of salmon resources should be sought and encouraged as follows:
- (A) effective mechanisms for dispute resolution should be developed and used;
- (B) pertinent information and decisions should be effectively disseminated to all interested parties in a timely manner;
- (C) the board's regulatory management and allocation decisions will be made in an open process with public involvement;
- (D) an understanding of the proportion of mortality inflicted on each salmon stock by each user group, should be promoted, and the burden of conservation should be allocated across user groups in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal statutes, including AS 16.05.251 (e) and AS 16.05.258 ; in the absence of a regulatory management plan that otherwise allocates or restricts harvests, and when it is necessary to restrict fisheries on salmon stocks where there are known conservation problems, the burden of conservation shall be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to each fisheries' respective use, consistent with state and federal law;
- (E) the board will work with the commissioner and other agencies as necessary to assure that adequately funded public information and education programs provide timely materials on salmon conservation, including habitat requirements, threats to salmon habitat, the value of salmon and habitat to the public and ecosystem (fish and wildlife), natural variability and population dynamics, the status of salmon stocks and fisheries, and the regulatory process;
- (5) in the face of uncertainty, salmon stocks, fisheries, artificial propagation, and essential habitats shall be managed conservatively as follows:
- (A) a precautionary approach, involving the application of prudent foresight that takes into account the uncertainties in salmon fisheries and habitat management, the biological, social, cultural, and economic risks, and the need to take action with incomplete knowledge, should be applied to the regulation and control of harvest and other human-induced sources of salmon mortality; a precautionary approach requires
- (i) consideration of the needs of future generations and avoidance of potentially irreversible changes;
- (ii) prior identification of undesirable outcomes and of measures that will avoid undesirable outcomes or correct them promptly;
- (iii) initiation of any necessary corrective measure without delay and prompt achievement of the measure's purpose, on a time scale not exceeding five years, which is approximately the generation time of most salmon species;
- (iv) that where the impact of resource use is uncertain, but likely presents a measurable risk to sustained yield, priority should be given to conserving the productive capacity of the resource;
- (v) appropriate placement of the burden of proof, of adherence to the requirements of this subparagraph, on those plans or ongoing activities that pose a risk or hazard to salmon habitat or production;
- (B) a precautionary approach should be applied to the regulation of activities that affect essential salmon habitat.

(d) The principles and criteria for sustainable salmon fisheries shall be applied, by the department and the board using the best available information, as follows:

(1) at regular meetings of the board, the department will, to the extent practicable, provide the board with reports on the status of salmon stocks and salmon fisheries under consideration for regulatory changes, which should include

(A) a stock-by-stock assessment of the extent to which the management of salmon stocks and fisheries is consistent with the principles and criteria contained in the policy under this section;

(B) descriptions of habitat status and any habitat concerns;

(C) identification of healthy salmon stocks and sustainable salmon fisheries;

(D) identification of any existing salmon escapement goals, or management actions needed to achieve these goals, that may have allocative consequences such as the

(i) identification of a new fishery or expanding fishery;

(ii) identification of any salmon stocks, or populations within stocks, that present a concern related to yield, management, or conservation; and

(iii) description of management and research options to address salmon stock or habitat concerns;

(2) in response to the department's salmon stock status reports, reports from other resource agencies, and public input, the board will review the management plan, or consider developing a management plan, for each affected salmon fishery or stock; management plans will be based on the principles and criteria contained in this policy and will

(A) contain goals and measurable and implementable objectives that are reviewed on a regular basis and utilize the best available scientific information;

(B) minimize the adverse effects on salmon habitat caused by fishing;

(C) protect, restore, and promote the long-term health and sustainability of the salmon fishery and habitat;

(D) prevent overfishing; and

(E) provide conservation and management measures that are necessary and appropriate to promote maximum or optimum sustained yield of the fishery resource;

(3) in the course of review of the salmon stock status reports and management plans described in (1) and (2) of this subsection, the board, in consultation with the department, will determine if any new fisheries or expanding fisheries, stock yield concerns, stock management concerns, or stock conservation concerns exist; if so, the board will, as appropriate, amend or develop salmon fishery management plans to address these concerns; the extent of regulatory action, if any, should be commensurate with the level of concerns and range from milder to stronger as concerns range from new and expanding salmon fisheries through yield concerns, management concerns, and conservation concerns;

(4) in association with the appropriate management plan, the department and the board will, as appropriate, collaborate in the development and periodic review of an action plan for any new or expanding salmon fisheries, or stocks of concern; action plans should contain goals, measurable and implementable objectives, and provisions, including

(A) measures required to restore and protect salmon habitat, including necessary coordination with other agencies and organizations;

(B) identification of salmon stock or population rebuilding goals and objectives;

(C) fishery management actions needed to achieve rebuilding goals and objectives, in proportion to each fishery's use of, and hazards posed to, a salmon stock;

(D) descriptions of new or expanding salmon fisheries, management concern, yield concern, or conservation concern; and

(E) performance measures appropriate for monitoring and gauging the effectiveness of the action plan that are derived from the principles and criteria contained in this policy;

(5) each action plan will include a research plan as necessary to provide information to address concerns; research needs and priorities will be evaluated periodically, based on the effectiveness of the monitoring described in (4) of this subsection;

(6) where actions needed to regulate human activities that affect salmon and salmon's habitat that are outside the authority of the department or the board, the department or board shall correspond with the relevant authority, including the governor, relevant boards and commissions, commissioners, and chairs of appropriate legislative committees, to describe the issue and recommend appropriate action.

(e) Nothing in the policy under this section is intended to expand, reduce, or be inconsistent with, the statutory regulatory authority of the board, the department, or other state agencies with regulatory authority that impacts the fishery resources of the state.

(f) In this section, and in implementing this policy,

- (1) "allocation" means the granting of specific harvest privileges, usually by regulation, among or between various user groups; "allocation" includes quotas, time periods, area restrictions, percentage sharing of stocks, and other management measures providing or limiting harvest opportunity;
- (2) "allocation criteria" means the factors set out in AS 16.05.251 (e) considered by the board as appropriate to particular allocation decisions under 5 AAC 39.205, 5 AAC 75.017, and 5 AAC 77.007;
- (3) "biological escapement goal" or "(BEG)" means the escapement that provides the greatest potential for maximum sustained yield; BEG will be the primary management objective for the escapement unless an optimal escapement or inriver run goal has been adopted; BEG will be developed from the best available biological information, and should be scientifically defensible on the basis of available biological information; BEG will be determined by the department and will be expressed as a range based on factors such as salmon stock productivity and data uncertainty; the department will seek to maintain evenly distributed salmon escapements within the bounds of a BEG;
- (4) "burden of conservation" means the restrictions imposed by the board or department upon various users in order to achieve escapement, rebuild, or in some other way conserve a specific salmon stock or group of stocks; this burden, in the absence of a salmon fishery management plan, will be generally applied to users in close proportion to the users' respective harvest of the salmon stock;
- (5) "chronic inability" means the continuing or anticipated inability to meet escapement thresholds over a four to five year period, which is approximately the generation time of most salmon species;
- (6) "conservation concern" means concern arising from a chronic inability, despite the use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a stock above a sustained escapement threshold (SET); a conservation concern is more severe than a management concern;
- (7) "depleted salmon stock" means a salmon stock for which there is a conservation concern;
- (8) "diversity", in a biological context, means the range of variation exhibited within any level of organization, such as among genotypes within a salmon population, among populations within a salmon stock, among salmon stocks within a species, among salmon species within a community, or among communities within an ecosystem;
- (9) "enhanced salmon stock" means a stock of salmon that is undergoing specific manipulation, such as hatchery augmentation or lake fertilization, to enhance its productivity above the level that would naturally occur; "enhanced salmon stock" includes an introduced stock, where no wild salmon stock had occurred before, or a wild salmon stock undergoing manipulation, but does not include a salmon stock undergoing rehabilitation, which is intended to restore a salmon stock's productivity to a higher natural level;
- (10) "escapement" means the annual estimated size of the spawning salmon stock; quality of the escapement may be determined not only by numbers of spawners, but also by factors such as sex ratio, age composition, temporal entry into the system, and spatial distribution within the salmon spawning habitat;
- (11) "expanding fishery" means a salmon fishery in which effective harvesting effort has recently increased significantly beyond historical levels and where the increase has not resulted from natural fluctuations in salmon abundance;
- (12) "expected yields" mean levels at or near the lower range of recent historic harvests if they are deemed sustainable;
- (13) "genetic" means those characteristics (genotypic) of an individual or group of salmon that are expressed genetically, such as allele frequencies or other genetic markers;
- (14) "habitat concern" means the degradation of salmon habitat that results in, or can be anticipated to result in, impacts leading to yield, management, or conservation concerns;
- (15) "harvestable surplus" means the number of salmon from a stock's annual run that is surplus to escapement needs and can reasonably be made available for harvest;
- (16) "healthy salmon stock" means a stock of salmon that has annual runs typically of a size to meet escapement goals and a potential harvestable surplus to support optimum or maximum sustained yield;
- (17) "incidental harvest" means the harvest of fish, or other species, that is captured in addition to the target species of a fishery;

- (18) "incidental mortality" means the mortality imposed on a salmon stock outside of directed fishing, and mortality caused by incidental harvests, interaction with fishing gear, habitat degradation, and other human-related activities;
- (19) "inriver run goal" means a specific management objective for salmon stocks that are subject to harvest upstream of the point where escapement is estimated; the inriver run goal will be set in regulation by the board and is comprised of the SEG, BEG, or OEG, plus specific allocations to inriver fisheries;
- (20) "introduced stock" means a stock of salmon that has been introduced to an area, or portion of an area, where that stock had not previously occurred; an "introduced salmon stock" includes a salmon stock undergoing continued enhancement, or a salmon stock that is left to sustain itself with no additional manipulation;
- (21) "management concern" means a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a salmon stock within the bounds of the SEG, BEG, OEG, or other specified management objectives for the fishery; a management concern is not as severe as a conservation concern;
- (22) "maximum sustained yield" or "(MSY)" means the greatest average annual yield from a salmon stock; in practice, MSY is achieved when a level of escapement is maintained within a specific range on an annual basis, regardless of annual run strength; the achievement of MSY requires a high degree of management precision and scientific information regarding the relationship between salmon escapement and subsequent return; the concept of MSY should be interpreted in a broad ecosystem context to take into account species interactions, environmental changes, an array of ecosystem goods and services, and scientific uncertainty;
- (23) "mixed stock fishery" means a fishery that harvests fish from a mixture of stocks;
- (24) "new fishery" means a fishery that new units of effort or expansion of existing effort toward new species, areas, or time periods, results in harvest patterns substantially different from those in previous years, and the difference is not exclusively the result of natural fluctuations in fish abundance;
- (25) "optimal escapement goal" or "(OEG)" means a specific management objective for salmon escapement that considers biological and allocative factors and may differ from the SEG or BEG; an OEG will be sustainable and may be expressed as a range with the lower bound above the level of SET, and will be adopted as a regulation by the board; the department will seek to maintain evenly distributed escapements within the bounds of the OEG;
- (26) "optimum sustained yield" or "(OSY)" means an average annual yield from a salmon stock considered to be optimal in achieving a specific management objective other than maximum yield, such as achievement of a consistent level of sustained yield, protection of a less abundant or less productive salmon stock or species, enhancement of catch per unit effort in sport fishery, facilitation of a non-consumptive use, facilitation of a subsistence use, or achievement of a specific allocation;
- (27) "overfishing" means a level of fishing on a salmon stock that results in a conservation or management concern;
- (28) "phenotypic characteristics" means those characteristics of an individual or group of salmon that are expressed physically, such as body size and length at age;
- (29) "rehabilitation" means efforts applied to a salmon stock to restore it to an otherwise natural level of productivity; "rehabilitation" does not include an enhancement, which is intended to augment production above otherwise natural levels;
- (30) "return" means the total number of salmon in a stock from a single brood (spawning) year surviving to adulthood; because the ages of adult salmon (except pink salmon) returning to spawn varies, the total return from a brood year will occur over several calendar years; the total return generally includes those mature salmon from a single brood year that are harvested in fisheries plus those that compose the salmon stock's spawning escapement; "return" does not include a run, which is the number of mature salmon in a stock during a single calendar year;
- (31) "run" means the total number of salmon in a stock surviving to adulthood and returning to the vicinity of the natal stream in any calendar year, composed of both the harvest of adult salmon plus the escapement; the annual run in any calendar year, except for pink salmon, is composed of several age classes of mature fish from the stock, derived from the spawning of a number of previous brood years;
- (32) "salmon" means the five wild anadromous semelparous Pacific salmon species *Oncorhynchus sp.*, except steelhead and cutthroat trout, native to Alaska as follows:
- (A) chinook or king salmon (*O. tshawytscha*);
 - (B) sockeye or red salmon (*O. nerka*);
 - (C) coho or silver salmon (*O. kisutch*);
 - (D) pink or humpback salmon (*O. gorbuscha*); and

(E) chum or dog salmon (*O. keta*);

(33) "salmon population" means a locally interbreeding group of salmon that is distinguished by a distinct combination of genetic, phenotypic, life history, and habitat characteristics, comprised of an entire stock or a component portion of a stock; the smallest uniquely identifiable spawning aggregation of genetically similar salmon used for monitoring purposes;

(34) "salmon stock" means a locally interbreeding group of salmon that is distinguished by a distinct combination of genetic, phenotypic, life history, and habitat characteristics or an aggregation of two or more interbreeding groups which occur within the same geographic area and is managed as a unit;

(35) "stock of concern" means a stock of salmon for which there is a yield, management, or conservation concern;

(36) "sustainable escapement goal" or "(SEG)" means a level of escapement, indicated by an index or an escapement estimate, that is known to provide for sustained yield over a 5 to 10 year period, used in situations where a BEG cannot be estimated due to the absence of a stock specific catch estimate; the SEG is the primary management objective for the escapement, unless an optimal escapement or inriver run goal has been adopted by the board, and will be developed from the best available biological information; the SEG will be determined by the department and will be stated as a range that takes into account data uncertainty; the department will seek to maintain escapements within the bounds of the SEG;

(37) "sustainable salmon fishery" means a salmon fishery that persists and obtains yields on a continuing basis; characterized by fishing activities and habitat alteration, if any, that do not cause or lead to undesirable changes in biological productivity, biological diversity, or ecosystem structure and function, from one human generation to the next;

(38) "sustained yield" means an average annual yield that results from a level of salmon escapement that can be maintained on a continuing basis; a wide range of average annual yield levels is sustainable; a wide range of annual escapement levels can produce sustained yields;

(39) "sustained escapement threshold" or "(SET)" means a threshold level of escapement, below which the ability of the salmon stock to sustain itself is jeopardized; in practice, SET can be estimated based on lower ranges of historical escapement levels, for which the salmon stock has consistently demonstrated the ability to sustain itself; the SET is lower than the lower bound of the BEG and lower than the lower bound of the SEG; the SET is established by the department in consultation with the board, as needed, for salmon stocks of management or conservation concern;

(40) "target species" or "target salmon stocks" means the main, or several major, salmon species of interest toward which a fishery directs its harvest;

(41) "yield" means the number or weight of salmon harvested in a particular year or season from a stock;

(42) "yield concern" means a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite the use of specific management measures, to maintain expected yields, or harvestable surpluses, above a stock's escapement needs; a yield concern is less severe than a management concern, which is less severe than a conservation concern;

(43) "wild salmon stock" means a stock of salmon that originates in a specific location under natural conditions; "wild salmon stock" may include an enhanced or rehabilitated stock if its productivity is augmented by supplemental means, such as lake fertilization or rehabilitative stocking; "wild salmon stock" does not include an introduced stock, except that some introduced salmon stocks may come to be considered "wild" if the stock is self-sustaining for a long period of time;

(44) "action point" means a threshold value for some quantitative indicator of stock run strength at which an explicit management action will be taken to achieve an optimal escapement goal.

History: Eff. 9/30/2000, Register 155; am 11/16/2000, Register 156; am 6/22/2001, Register 158

Authority: AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 39.223. Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals

(a) The Department of Fish and Game (department) and the Board of Fisheries (board) are charged with the duty to conserve and develop Alaska's salmon fisheries on the sustained yield principle. Therefore, the establishment of salmon escapement goals is the responsibility of both the board and the department working collaboratively. The purpose of this policy is to establish the concepts, criteria, and procedures for establishing and modifying salmon escapement goals and to establish a process that facilitates public review of allocative issues associated with escapement goals.

(b) The board recognizes the department's responsibility to

(1) document existing salmon escapement goals for all salmon stocks that are currently managed for an escapement goal;

(2) establish biological escapement goals (BEG) for salmon stocks for which the department can reliably enumerate salmon escapement levels, as well as total annual returns;

(3) establish sustainable escapement goals (SEG) for salmon stocks for which the department can reliably estimate escapement levels when there is not sufficient information to enumerate total annual returns and the range of escapements that are used to develop a BEG;

(4) establish sustained escapement thresholds (SET) as provided in 5 AAC 39.222 (Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries);

(5) establish escapement goals for aggregates of individual spawning populations with similar productivity and vulnerability to fisheries and for salmon stocks managed as units;

(6) review an existing, or propose a new, BEG, SEG and SET on a schedule that conforms, to the extent practicable, to the board's regular cycle of consideration of area regulatory proposals;

(7) prepare a scientific analysis with supporting data whenever a new BEG, SEG, or SET, or a modification to an existing BEG, SEG, or SET is proposed and, in its discretion, to conduct independent peer reviews of its BEG, SEG, and SET analyses;

(8) notify the public whenever a new BEG, SEG, or SET is established or an existing BEG, SEG, or SET is modified;

(9) whenever allocative impacts arise from any management actions necessary to achieve a new or modified BEG, SEG or SET, report to the board on a schedule that conforms, to the extent practicable, to the board's regular cycle of consideration of area regulatory proposals so that it can address allocation issues.

(c) In recognition of its joint responsibilities, and in consultation with the department, the board will

(1) take regulatory actions as may be necessary to address allocation issues arising from implementation of a new or modified BEG, SEG, and SET;

(2) during its regulatory process, review a BEG, SEG, or SET determined by the department and, with the assistance of the department, determine the appropriateness of establishing an optimal escapement goal (OEG); the board will provide an explanation of the reasons for establishing an OEG and provide, to the extent practicable, and with the assistance of the department, an estimate of expected differences in yield of any salmon stock, relative to maximum sustained yield, resulting from implementation of an OEG.

(d) Unless the context requires otherwise, the terms used in this section have the same meaning given those terms in 5 AAC 39.222(f).

History: Eff. 6/22/2001, Register 158

Authority: AS 16.05.251

5 AAC 39.220. Policy for the management of mixed stock salmon fisheries

(a) In applying this statewide mixed stock salmon policy for all users, conservation of wild salmon stocks consistent with sustained yield shall be accorded the highest priority. Allocation of salmon resources under this policy will be consistent with the subsistence preference in [AS 16.05.258](#), and the allocation criteria set out in 5 AAC [39.205](#), 5 AAC [75.017](#), and 5 AAC [77.007](#).

(b) In the absence of a regulatory management plan that otherwise allocates or restricts harvest, and when it is necessary to restrict fisheries on stocks where there are known conservation problems, the burden of conservation shall be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to their respective harvest on the stock of concern. The board recognized that precise sharing of conservation among fisheries is dependent on the amount of stock-specific information available.

(c) The board's preference in assigning conservation burdens in mixed stock fisheries is through the application of specific fishery management plans set out in the regulations. A management plan incorporates conservation burden and allocation of harvest opportunity.

(d) Most wild Alaska salmon stocks are fully allocated to fisheries capable of harvesting available surpluses. Consequently, the board will restrict new or expanding mixed stock fisheries unless otherwise provided for by management plans or by application of the board's allocation criteria. Natural fluctuations in the abundance of stocks harvested in a fishery will not be the single factor that identifies a fishery as expanding or new.

(e) This policy will be implemented only by the board through regulations adopted (1) during its regular meeting cycle; or (2) through procedures established in the Joint Board's Petition Policy (5 AAC [96.625](#)), Subsistence Petition Policy (5 AAC [96.625\(f\)](#)), Policy for Changing Board Agenda (5 AAC [39.999](#)), or Subsistence Proposal Policy (5 AAC [96.615](#)).

History: Eff. 5/29/93, Register 126

Authority: [AS 16.05.251](#) (h)

Sec. 16.05.730. Management of ~~»wild«~~ and enhanced stocks of fish.

(a) Fish stocks in the state shall be managed consistent with sustained yield of ~~»wild«~~ fish stocks and may be managed consistent with sustained yield of enhanced fish stocks.

(b) In allocating enhanced fish stocks, the board shall consider the need of fish enhancement projects to obtain brood stock. The board may direct the department to manage fisheries in the state to achieve an adequate return of fish from enhanced stocks to enhancement projects for brood stock; however, management to achieve an adequate return of fish to enhancement projects for brood stock shall be consistent with sustained yield of ~~»wild«~~ fish stocks.

(c) The board may consider the need of enhancement projects authorized under AS 16.10.400 and contractors who operate state-owned enhancement projects under AS 16.10.480 to harvest and sell fish produced by the enhancement project that are not needed for brood stock to obtain funds for the purposes allowed under AS 16.10.450 or 16.10.480(d). The board may exercise its authority under this title as it considers necessary to direct the department to provide a reasonable harvest of fish, in addition to the fish needed for brood stock, to an enhancement project to obtain funds for the enhancement project if the harvest is consistent with sustained yield of ~~»wild«~~ fish stocks. The board may adopt a fishery management plan to provide fish to an enhancement project to obtain funds for the purposes allowed under AS 16.10.450 or 16.10.480(d).

(d) In this section, "enhancement project" means a project, facility, or hatchery for the enhancement of fishery resources of the state for which the department has issued a permit.



KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH / CITY OF KODIAK

KODIAK FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE



NAME	HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE	FAX NO.	CELL PHONE	EMAIL
Large Pot Vessels Jeffrey Stephan PO Box 2917 Kodiak, AK 99615	486-4568	486-3453	486-8362		jstephan@ptialaska.net
Large Trawl Vessels <u>Vacant</u>					
Large Longline Vessels Chris Holland 1530 E. Kouskov St. Kodiak, AK 99615	486-3764				pomega@gci.net
Jig Vessels Chuck Thompson Len Carpenter (Alternate)	486-3338				dsfisheries@yahoo.com fishtalerulz@yahoo.com
Crewmembers Steve Branson PO Box 451 Kodiak, AK 99615 Terry Haines (Alternate)	486-1098			539-5610	bransons@alaska.com yohaines@alaska.com
Large Processors Julie Bonney PO Box 788 Kodiak, AK 99615		486-3033	486-3461		ibonney@gci.net
ADFG Advisory Committee Oliver Holm PO Box 3865 Kodiak, AK 99615	486-6957				chicken@gci.net
Business Community (non fishing related) Rolan Ruoss 1134 Wolkoff Lane Kodiak, AK 99615					rolan@ptialaska.net
Conservation Community Theresa Peterson PO Box 347 Kodiak, AK 99615	486-2991			539-1927	theresa@akmarine.org
Small Pot Vessels Norman Mullan PO Box 92 Kodiak, AK 99615					Bean.mullan@gmail.com
Small Trawl Vessels Jay Stinson PO Box 3845 Kodiak, AK 99615	486-6933				pelagic@ptialaska.com

Roster continued on the next page....



KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH / CITY OF KODIAK

KODIAK FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE



NAME	HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE	FAX NO.	CELL PHONE	EMAIL
Small Longline Vessels					
Alexus Kwachka 326 Cope Street Kodiak, AK 99615					island1@ptialaska.net
Salmon/Herring Net Vessels					
<u>Vacant</u>					
Kodiak Rural Communities					
<u>Vacant</u>					
Small Processors					
Mike Woodruff 105 Marine Way Kodiak, AK 99615		486-8100			mwoodruff62@yahoo.com
Lodge Charter Boat Operators					
Jim Hamilton 1617 Selief Lane Kodiak, AK 99615		486-4538			jimhkodiak@qci.net
Citizen at Large					
<u>Vacant</u>					
Assembly Representative					
Sue Jeffrey PO Box 3363 Kodiak, AK 99615	486-4712	486-1237		907-957-0493	sue.jeffrey@assembly.kodiakak.us
City of Kodiak Representative					
<u>Vacant</u>					
Other Contacts:					
Jack Hill					jp7hills@att.net
Jeremie Pikus					jpikus@msn.com
Dale Christofferson					crisco@ptialaska.net
Duncan Fields					dfields@ptialaska.net
Jerry Bongen					jbongen@mac.com
Joe Sullivan					jsullivan@mundtmac.com
Amy Kniazowski					akniazowski@city.kodiak.ak.us
Rick Gifford					rgifford@kodiakak.us
Matt Moir					mmoir@npsi.us
Mike Martin - Brechan Enterprises					mmartin@qci.net

STAFF:

TREVOR BROWN (FACILITATOR) 486-5557 trevor@kodiak.org

KODIAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 100 EAST MARINE WAY
 SUITE 300
 KODIAK, AK 99615

**KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH****FISHERIES AND OCEANIC RESEARCH BOARD**

NAME	HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE	CELL PHONE	EMAIL
BOROUGH MAYOR Jerome Selby 710 Mill Bay Road, Room 101 Kodiak, AK 99615	486-4833	486-3391 (fax)		jerome.selby@assembly.kodiakak.us
CITY OF KODIAK MAYOR Carolyn Floyd 710 Mill Bay Road, Room 216 Kodiak, AK 99615				mayor@city.kodiak.ak.us
VILLAGE MAYOR (ROTATING SEAT) Vacant				
FISHERY INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER Interim Representative Brian Himelbloom, Associate Professor 118 Trident Way Kodiak, AK 99615		486-1529		bhimmelbloom@alaska.edu
NOAA FISHERIES / AFSC KODIAK LABORATORY Robert Foy, Laboratory Director Kodiak Fisheries Research Center 301 Research Court Kodiak, AK 99615	481-2909	486-1711 481-1701 (fax)	539-2908	robert.foy@noaa.gov
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME REGION IV Steve Honnold, Regional Supervisor 211 Mission Road Kodiak, AK 99615	487-4970	486-1873 486-1841 (fax)	942-7763	steve.honnold@alaska.gov
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Gary Wheeler, Refuge Manager Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge 1390 Buskin River Road Kodiak, AK 99615	487-2777	487-0226 487-2144 (fax)	942-2837	gary_wheeler@fws.gov
U.S. COAST GUARD SUPPORT CENTER KODIAK Vacant				
ALUTIIQ MUSEUM AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPOSITORY Sven Haakanson, Executive Director 215 Mission Road, Suite 101 Kodiak, AK 99615		486-7004 ext.27		sven@alutiiqmuseum.org
KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Stewart McDonald, Superintendent 722 Mill Bay Road Kodiak, AK 99615	486-0410	481-6200 481-6218 (fax)	942-5068	smcdonald01@kodiakschools.org

Roster continued on the next page....



KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH

FISHERIES AND OCEANIC RESEARCH BOARD

NAME	HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE	CELL PHONE	EMAIL
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA KODIAK COLLEGE Barbara Bolson, Director 117 Benny Benson Drive Kodiak, AK 99615-6643	481-3112	486-1220 486-1250 (fax)	360-850-7761	bbolson@kodiak.alaska.edu
NON-VOTING EX-OFFICIOS BOROUGH MANAGER Rick Gifford 710 Mill Bay Road, Room 125 Kodiak, AK 99615		486-9301 486-9374 (fax)	539-0040	rgifford@kodiakak.us
CITY MANAGER Aimee Kniazowski 710 Mill Bay Road, Room 218 Kodiak, AK 99615		486-8640		akniazowski@city.kodiak.ak.us
KODIAK FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE LIAISON Matt Moir Alaska Pacific Seafood Manager 627 Shelikof Avenue Kodiak, AK 99615	486-2687	486-3234 486-5164 (fax)	539-2687	mmoir@npsi.us

This board is governed by Kodiak Island Borough Code 2.150

STAFF:

BOROUGH ASSISTANT CLERK, JESSICA KILBORN 486-9311 jkilborn@kodiakak.us

**OFFICE OF THE BOROUGH CLERK
710 MILL BAY ROAD
ROOM 101
KODIAK, AK 99615**



Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center

SFOS > Division > KSMSC

KSMSC Home	
About KSMSC	
Teaching	
Research	
Service	
Our Students	
KSMSC Faculty & Staff	
Facilities	
<hr/>	
SFOS Home	
For Students	
SFOS Faculty & Staff	
News & Events	
SFOS Divisions	
Directory	
Contact Us	
mySFOS	
Webmail	

keywords

last name

Contact us:
 Kodiak Seafood and Marine
 Science Center
 118 Trident Way
 Kodiak, AK 99615-7401
 Tel: 907-486-1500
 Fax: 907-486-1540



Kodiak webcam

About Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center

After three decades as the **Fisheries Industrial Technology Center**, the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences Kodiak facility will now be called the **Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center**. University of Alaska Board of Regents approved the change in December 2011 with the support of the SFOS dean, UAF chancellor and UA president.

The name change was recommended at the end of a program review conducted in 2011 and is intended to more fully describe the work being done at the center. The Fishery Industrial Technology Center was created in 1981 by the Alaska Legislature to provide research support for Alaska's seafood industry. The program was one of several grouped together to create the UAF [School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences](#) in 1987.

The mission of the UAF Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center is to increase the value of Alaska's fishing industry and marine resources through research, technological development, education and service.

Alaska's commercial fishing industry

Alaska accounts for more than 60% of the continental shelf area and more than half the shoreline of the entire United States. Alaska's share of wild fish harvested for human food is about 75% of the US total, worth upwards of \$3.0 billion annually.

Created by the Alaska Legislature in 1981, Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center (formerly FITC) works with the industry to develop new solutions to industry's problems. We direct our efforts in five areas: seafood harvesting technology, seafood processing technology, seafood quality and safety, contaminants, and collaborative ecosystems research.

Located in Kodiak, Alaska, at the center of Alaska's fishing industry, the KSMSC is housed in a 20,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art facility built on Near Island in 1991.

Promoting the sustainable use of Alaska fisheries through collaborative research, application, education and information transfer in areas of:

Seafood safety

- Safe handling and preservation techniques
- Spoilage: factors affecting shelf life and microbial growth
- Marine biotoxins: Harmful Algal Blooms, such as PSP and domoic acid

Seafood quality

- Nutritional content
- Effects of capture, handling and processing procedures
- Effects of changing ocean conditions

Bycatch reduction

- Gear and techniques to reduce capture of non-target species, including marine mammals

Product markets and development

- Novel and enhanced markets for underutilized species
- Non-consumptive uses: biodiesel, pharmaceuticals
- Adding value through post-processing enhancement
- Full utilization of seafood byproducts
- Technology transfer

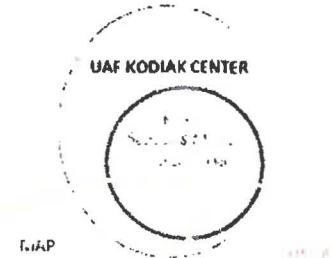
Environmental concerns

- Offal discharge management
- Energy-efficient processing
- Competition between humans, commercial interests and protected species

Marine Advisory Program extension

More than 75% of Alaska's 710,000 residents live on the coastline. Marine Advisory Program scientists work within these communities to increase economic diversification and to conserve marine resources through access to technical assistance and training.

- Kodiak MAP Agent:
[Julie Matweyou](#) - Supporting economic development in the Kodiak region
- Statewide MAP Specialists:
 Marine Mammals - [Kate Wynne](#)
 Seafood Marketing - [Quentin Fong](#)
 Seafood Technology - [Chuck Crapo](#)



KSMSC Monthly Activity Reports

The KSMSC faculty and staff provide monthly updates for those interested in the teaching, research and public service at KSMSC. Please contact us with questions.

- ~ [March 2012](#)
- ~ [Jan. & Feb. 2012](#)
- ~ [December 2011](#)
- ~ [September 2011](#)
- ~ [August 2011](#)
- ~ [July 2011](#)
- ~ [June 2011](#)
- ~ [May 2011](#)
- ~ [May 2011 +](#)
- ~ [April 2011](#)
- ~ [March 2011](#)
- ~ [February 2011](#)
- ~ [January 2011](#)
- ~ [December 2010](#)
- ~ [November 2010](#)

[KSMSC History](#)

[Policy Council](#)

[Useful Links](#)

Modified 27 January 2012. Questions or comments to [web coordinators](#).
UAF is an AA/EO employer and educational institution.

[KSMSC Internal Resources](#) [Internal Resources](#) [mySFOS](#) [Google Mail](#) [Webmail](#) [Sitemap](#)

Personalize your online experience to stay up-to-date on news, events and other information you care about. [View my dashboard](#) [Sign In](#)



[Our Government](#) [Our Departments](#) [Our Services](#) [Our Community](#)

[Print Page](#) | [Email Page](#)

[Interpretive Center](#)

[Hours of Operation](#)

[Facility Use](#)

[Tours](#)

[Search](#)

38°F

You are here: [Home](#) > [Our Departments](#) > Kodiak Fisheries Research Center

Kodiak Fisheries Research Center

About our Facility

Welcome to the Kodiak Fisheries Research Center (KFRC), Kodiak Island Borough's 45,937 square foot multi-agency laboratory and office building.

Research Center

This state of the art facility is unique because it brings together primary fisheries research agencies under one roof. These are:

- [National Marine Fisheries Service](#)
- [Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#)

A separate six-unit dormitory building accommodates visiting scientists and students and three conference rooms offer contemporary meeting space to tenants and the general public.

Background

The concept for the \$20 million dollar project was spurred forward after the disastrous Exxon-Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) of 1989 and the building was completed in 1998, funded in part by EVOS criminal, state, and federal settlements.

Kodiak's ecosystem is abundant in scenic beauty, marine habitat, commercial fishing resources and research opportunities. Our goal is to enrich each visitor's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world.

The KFRC is committed to the preservation, enhancement and management of the North Pacific marine ecosystem and its resources

Mission Statement

To enrich public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the rich and diverse ecosystems of the Kodiak Island Archipelago by providing an educational and interactive overview of the wildlife, marine life, commercial fishing resources and fisheries research programs on the island.

Contact

Woody Koning, Director
Jessica Basuel, [Martha Barnett](#)
Receptionist/Interpretive Specialist
301 Research Court
Kodiak, AK 99615
Ph: (907) 481-1800
Fax: (907) 481-1830

Hours:

Monday – Friday 8:00 to 4:30
CLOSED WEEKENDS



1. [How do I reserve a meeting room or space at the KFRC?](#)
2. [I'm a teacher and would like to plan a field trip to the KFRC for my class. What do I need to do?](#)

Kodiak Laboratory



The Kodiak Laboratory in the Kodiak Fisheries Research Center (KFRC) is now the primary facility for the Alaska Fisheries Science Center's (AFSC) [RACE Shellfish Assessment Program](#). The KFRC facility also provides offices and research support for other NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) program activities including: [RACE Groundfish Assessment Program](#), [North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program](#), [National Marine Mammal Laboratory](#), [Alaska Regional Office](#), [Sustainable Fisheries](#).

Visitors can appreciate the Kodiak Fisheries Research Center's 25,000 square-foot complex, which includes office space, conference rooms, an interpretive center, a running seawater laboratory, conventional laboratories, a freestanding aquarium, a touch tank, and a research library. The Kodiak Laboratory [Picture Gallery](#) highlights some of the species contained in the touch tank and freestanding aquarium. An extensive museum collection at the facility contains the regions most common species of crabs, shrimps, marine snails, bivalves, and a variety of fishes. [More on facilities...](#)



See our list of [regional links](#) for information about Kodiak Lab affiliations and community services/information.

Highlights:

2011 EBS crab report (DRAFT). [Go there >>](#)

[Webmaster](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Accessibility](#)

Search

- Membership
- Public Meetings & Archives
- Halibut
- Catch Shares/Allocation
- Conservation Issues
- Habitat Protections
- Aloutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan
- Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum
- Protected Species
- Non Targeted Species Management
- Annual Catch Limits
- Observer Program
- Resources & Publications
- Bycatch Controls
- Fishery Management Plans

Protected Species

[STELLER SEA LION, Archives](#)

[Steller Sea Lion](#) | [Fur Seal](#) | [Seabirds](#) |

BSAI Groundfish Fisheries Biological Assessment

In November 2010, the National Marine Fisheries Service released a final Biological Opinion on the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish fisheries.

[2010 BSAI Groundfish Biological Opinion](#)

In 2011 the States of Alaska and Washington [commissioned a review](#) of the BiOp. The [review](#) was released in July 2011. A public meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2011 in Anchorage to provide opportunity for the authors to receive feedback on the draft report. The ADF&G and WDFW are [accepting comments](#) through September 1, 2011.

On July 6, 2011 the Council received a [letter](#) from James. W. Balsiger, Administrator, NOAA Alaska Region regarding a scientific review of the BiOp to be conducted by the [Center for Independent Experts](#). No date has yet been scheduled for this review.

The [Archives](#) page contains previous Biological Opinions, SSL research reports, Council actions and other documents.

Protected Species

- [Steller Sea Lion](#)
- [Fur Seal](#)
- [Seabirds](#)



Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association

104 Center Avenue, Suite 205
Kodiak, AK 99615

(907) 486-6555
fax (907) 486-4105



The Honorable Mark Begich
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

April 11, 2012

Dear Senator Begich,

There is a critical situation in Kodiak; since 2008, there's been a failure in the returns of Karluk Lake sockeye salmon, which will have continuing negative effects for many years. Action is required to restore the Karluk system. Karluk Lake is located on the southwest side of Kodiak, within lands included in the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. We ask your assistance to convey to the Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the need to immediately begin active rehabilitation of this crucially important salmon stock.

Historically, Karluk is one of the most productive salmon runs on Kodiak. Returns to Karluk affect management decisions and fishing opportunity for a much wider area. Declines in sockeye runs affect subsistence, commercial and recreational fishing. Lost fishing time and revenue have significant implications for the economy.

Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association (KRAA) is working toward rehabilitation of Karluk. Analysis shows that nutrients in Karluk Lake are unlikely to support the numbers of juvenile salmon needed to restore the system. This lack of nutrients has wider repercussions to the ecosystem as a whole, and KRAA has worked with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge to develop a proposal to restore nutrients and thus productivity to this system—a safe and effective strategy previously employed at Karluk Lake (1986-1990). In February, 2012, KRAA submitted to USFWS a proposal for the application of nutrients to Karluk Lake to restore productivity, increase juvenile salmon survival and, ultimately, bolster adult sockeye returns.

USFWS has formed a review team and has indicated they will first conduct a compatibility determination, prior to allowing a NEPA process (public scoping, Environmental Assessment, etc.). The *Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan: Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge* (2008) was developed with close involvement and input from the public and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. It includes provisions for fisheries enhancement, rehabilitation and restoration. In fact, Karluk Lake nutrient enrichment is cited as a prime example of fishery restoration projects that may be conducted on the Refuge.

At present, there are a number of salmon enhancement projects occurring on the Kodiak Refuge, and KRAA would like to implement enrichment projects at other lakes within Refuge boundaries. However, we are concerned that our current proposal may be viewed as an opportunity to amend and restrict the provisions for salmon rehabilitation and enhancement in the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

KRAA seeks an affirmation of the compatibility of salmon enhancement and rehabilitation projects on the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, an expedited NEPA process and the Special Use Permits required to carry out salmon enhancement and rehabilitation. We ask your support of rehabilitation of Karluk sockeye and the KRAA Karluk Lake Nutrient Enrichment proposal.

We will be happy to supply you with the complete proposal to the KNWR/USFWS and an economic impact report. These documents can also be found on our website: <http://www.kraakodiak.org>.

Thank you for your time and support,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Brennan', is written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Brennan,
Executive Director

Karluk Lake Nutrient Enrichment

Sockeye salmon returns to Karluk Lake, on the west side of Kodiak Island, have failed since 2008, and future runs are projected to be poor through at least 2017. This has a serious impact on the communities and fisheries, and is likely to persist unless action is taken to restore Karluk sockeye run strength. The Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association (KRAA) proposes rehabilitation of Karluk Lake by adding essential nutrients to improve the habitat, thereby increasing Karluk sockeye growth and survival.

Introduction

Karluk Lake, located within the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS), has historically been the largest producer of salmon on Kodiak Island. Fisheries along much of the west side of Kodiak are managed based on annual Karluk salmon runs and fishery closures to protect Karluk sockeye have reduced harvest of all salmon. The 2011 salmon harvest was down 83% from 1987-2007 averages (a period of good Karluk sockeye production) in Karluk-affected fishing areas. The 2011 Karluk sockeye salmon harvest was down 93% from the 1987-2007 average.

If harvest volumes returned to the 1987-2007 average at today's prices, it is estimated that salmon fisheries in Karluk-affected areas would generate 1,088 jobs and \$145.6 million in the US economy. These jobs and income are in jeopardy because of weak Karluk sockeye runs.

Due to 2008-2011 weak Karluk sockeye runs, fishing restrictions and reduced salmon harvest volume (from 1987-2007 baseline harvest) result in a cumulative loss of \$53 million to Kodiak commercial fishermen (\$13.3 million annually; ex-vessel earnings) and \$85 million to the Kodiak processing industry (\$21.3 million annually; first wholesale value less payments to fishermen). It is estimated that 255 jobs have been lost or forgone in Kodiak, due to weak Karluk sockeye runs.

Background

It is important to understand a little of the life history and survival strategies of sockeye salmon. Typically juvenile sockeye salmon will hatch and rear in a freshwater lake for as many as 3 years before going to the ocean. The survival of those juvenile fish is highly dependent on their freshwater environment. Juvenile sockeye in freshwater prey upon small invertebrates called zooplankton. Zooplankton, in turn, feed on phytoplankton, or algae. Phytoplankton are plants, dependent on nutrients and sunlight for optimal production. Nutrients are supplied to the freshwater environment by the decomposing carcasses of returning adult salmon and by run-off from the surrounding watershed. If this food web is disrupted, it can affect juvenile sockeye salmon survival with disastrous results.

Nitrogen and phosphorous, in adequate concentrations, are critical to the support of food webs within these lakes. When lakes experience lower than normal nutrient levels, growth of algae (phytoplankton) can be limited. In turn, zooplankton and then juvenile salmon do not have adequate food to attain healthy growth and promote survival in the lake or, subsequently, in the marine environment.

In the Karluk system, the reduction in adult sockeye salmon production since 2008 followed several years of reduced zooplankton biomass as well as reduced nutrient levels in Karluk Lake. These negative trends in system productivity followed several years of high escapement of adult sockeye salmon to the Karluk system, in excess of intended escapement goals, between 1999 and 2003.

The data suggests that these overescapements resulted in high densities of juvenile sockeye salmon rearing in Karluk Lake, which then exerted elevated grazing pressure on zooplankton populations in the lake. The food web was severely disrupted. Overgrazing and competition for available food resources likely resulted in reduced food supply, poor growth, and poor survival of juvenile sockeye salmon. The outcome of these conditions may have led to the reduced numbers of adult sockeye salmon returning to

Karluk Lake beginning in 2008. Recent, repeated years of depressed Karluk sockeye runs and chronic underescapement have now diminished the flow of marine-derived nutrients into Karluk Lake. When runs fail, so does a lake's ability to produce large numbers of juvenile sockeye salmon.

Nutrient Enrichment

Karluk Lake is currently in a state of reduced productivity. It is unlikely that the system will return to previous, naturally high levels of productivity without intervention. KRAA has partnered with Dr. Dana Schmidt, former principal limnologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), to assess the nutrient status of Kodiak area lakes and determine their suitability for nutrient enrichment. Karluk Lake was identified as likely to respond to a program of nutrient enrichment. It is proposed that essential nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) be added to Karluk Lake for a period of five to eight years in order to promote phytoplankton growth and availability to zooplankton, which then would improve the food base for juvenile sockeye salmon. Increased growth and survival of juvenile sockeye salmon in the lake would help promote higher marine survival and elevate returns of adult sockeye salmon to Karluk Lake.

Higher sockeye returns benefit subsistence, sport and commercial harvesters while also providing for higher and sustainable escapement of sockeye salmon into Karluk Lake. This would reestablish the input of historic levels of marine-derived nutrients, via salmon carcasses, to the lake rearing environment.

Nutrient enrichment is not a new strategy for Karluk Lake, or for 26 other lakes in the State of Alaska. Karluk Lake was enriched from 1986-1990 by ADF&G, with support from USFWS and KRAA. The current proposed approach is modeled after existing nutrient enrichment projects in Alaska and Canada and supported by more than 30 years of research in this field. These controlled additions of nitrogen and phosphorous, coupled with an adaptive management strategy, offer a safe and proven method of rehabilitation for Karluk Lake.

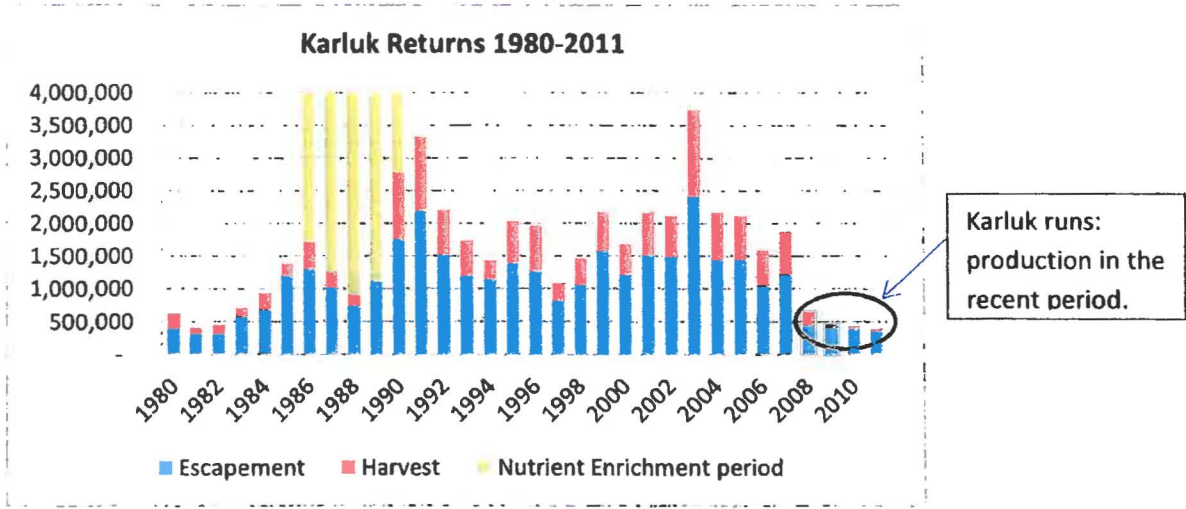
Project Status

Currently, sockeye salmon runs and escapement, lake nutrient concentrations, and primary productivity are at or near all-time lows identified in the 130-year historic record, and inferred in the 2,200 year paleolimnological record.

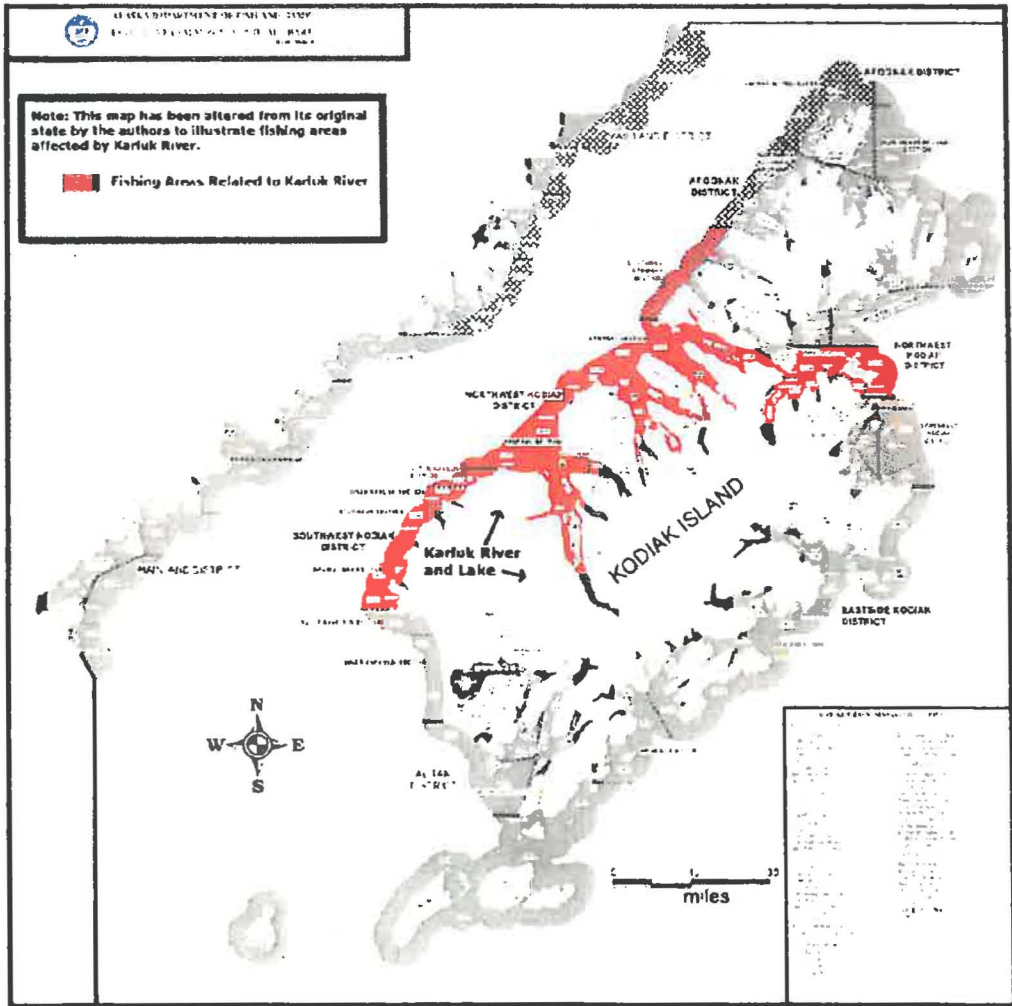
In contrast to the 1980s, when ADF&G employed a number of limnologists and actively participated in enhancement and rehabilitation projects, at present the lack of familiarity with current enrichment strategies and techniques has made it incumbent on KRAA to re-educate the agencies involved about the merits, safety, and need for this project. KRAA has worked extensively with ADF&G to provide a comprehensive proposal to inform and educate readers unfamiliar with the principles of nutrient enrichment. Subsequent to significant expansion of the proposal and extensive review by ADF&G, KRAA submitted the proposal to the USFWS in February of this year.

KRAA has sought to initiate nutrient enrichment in both 2011 and, now, 2012. Each year that this project is delayed is another year before fishermen in Kodiak can begin to realize its benefit. Nutrient enrichment is not a "quick fix." It is a conservative, scientific approach to restoring the productive capacity of Karluk Lake. Benefits realized by juvenile sockeye salmon in the first and second years of nutrient enrichment will not translate to subsistence, commercial and sport fisheries until adult sockeye salmon return two, three and four years later. Therefore, it is imperative that KRAA receive approval to re-start the nutrient enrichment and rehabilitation of Karluk Lake at the first possible opportunity.

The *Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan: Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge* (2008) specifically states that fisheries restoration and enhancement projects are allowed on the Refuge. In fact, the former enrichment project at Karluk is given as a prime example of fishery restoration projects that may be permitted on the Refuge. It is KRAA's hope that the USFWS will join us in solving the critical problem with Karluk Lake productivity. KRAA seeks an affirmation of the compatibility of nutrient enrichment at Karluk Lake, and other salmon enhancement and rehabilitation projects on the Refuge.



Kodiak Salmon fishing Areas Affected by Karluk Sockeye Returns



Source: ADFG Map, altered by McDowell Group.

Search

- Membership
- Public Meetings & Archives
- Halibut
- Catch Shares/Allocation
- Conservation Issues
- Resources & Publications
- Bycatch Controls
 - Salmon Bycatch
 - Bering Sea Chinook Bycatch
 - Bering Sea Chum Bycatch
 - Gulf of Alaska Salmon Bycatch
 - Crab Bycatch
 - BSAI Crab Bycatch
 - Gulf of Alaska Crab Bycatch
 - BSAI/GOA Halibut Bycatch
- Fishery Management Plans

Gulf of Alaska Salmon Bycatch

Pacific salmon are taken as bycatch in the GOA groundfish fisheries, in which they are considered prohibited. Although five species of salmon are caught in the fisheries, the Council has been concerned about Chinook salmon, as the species with the highest bycatch in recent years. Chinook salmon bycatch primarily occurs in trawl fisheries, in the central and western regulatory areas. Between 2003 and 2010, the pollock target fishery accounted for an average of three-quarters of intercepted Chinook salmon, while other, primarily nonpelagic, trawl fisheries for flatfish, rockfish, and Pacific cod accounted for the remainder.

In 2011, the Council approved Chinook salmon prohibited species catch (PSC) limits for the GOA pollock fisheries in the central and western regulatory areas. Once these annual limits are reached, the pollock fishery in the respective regulatory area will be closed. The Council is also considering other, comprehensive management measures to address Chinook salmon bycatch in the GOA trawl fisheries.

Documents and Council Motions

2011

- GOA Chinook bycatch [Final Motion](#) – 6/11
- GOA Chinook bycatch [Public Review draft](#) – 6/11
- GOA Chinook bycatch [motion](#) – 4/11
- GOA Chinook bycatch [Initial Review draft](#) – 4/11
- GOA Chinook bycatch [motion](#) – 2/11
- GOA Chinook bycatch [workplan, cooperative discussion paper](#) – 2/11

2010

- GOA Chinook bycatch [motion](#) – 12/10
- GOA Chinook bycatch [discussion paper](#) – 12/10
- GOA [Chinook bycatch](#) discussion paper - 4/10

2009

- [Chinook and Bairdi bycatch in GOA fisheries](#) discussion paper - 10/09
- GOA Salmon and Crab bycatch [discussion paper](#) – 4/09

2008

- [Salmon and Crab](#) bycatch in the GOA fisheries discussion paper - 12/08
- GOA salmon/crab bycatch [discussion paper](#) - 6/08

2005

- [Salmon and Crab bycatch paper, maps](#) - 12/05
- [Crab/Salmon Bycatch](#) discussion paper – 10/05



605 West 4th, Suite 306, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252 • Phone: (907)271-2809 • Fax: (907) 271-2817
 Copyright 2011 © North Pacific Fishery Management Council, All Rights Reserved. Disclaimer

Eric A. Olson
Chairman
Chief, Office
Executive Director

605 W 4th St Ste 600
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 271-2850
(907) 271-2817

www.npfmc.org



News & Notes

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

April 2012

New Appointments

Chairman Olson announced appointments to the SSC and Plan Teams. Dr. Craig Faunce of the AFSC has been appointed to the GOA Groundfish Plan Team. Dr. Brad Harris of Alaska Pacific University and Mr. Quinn Smith of ADF&G in Juneau have been appointed to the Gulf of Alaska Plan Team and Dr. Storm Drossel and Dr. Henry Cheng have both been appointed to the SSC. Dr. Drossel will replace Doug Woodby from ADF&G and Dr. Cheng will serve as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife representative. Bob Clark was elected as Vice Chair and will serve in that capacity for the remainder of the year.

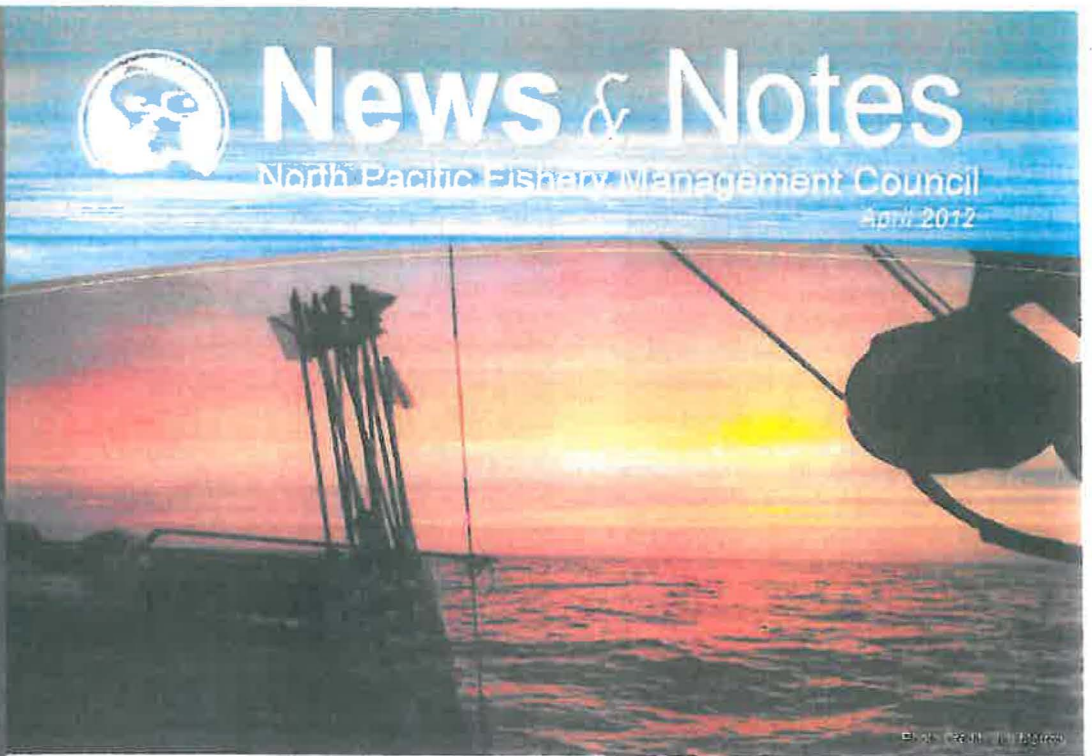
Denny Lassus, the Council representative for USF&W, will be leaving the Council due to a job change. We thank him for his time and contributions and wish him luck in his new endeavors.

Upcoming meetings

Crab Plan Team: May 7-10, Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK

NPFMC/IPHC Workshop: April 24-25, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Seattle

Joint Groundfish Plan Team Public Meeting: May 1, AFSC, Seattle



Halibut Issues

Commercial IFQ Fisheries

The Council took final action on an IFQ proposal submitted in 2009 to allow IFQ derived from Category D quota share (QS) to be fished on Category C vessels in Area 4B, also known as "fish-up." This is a similar action to one that was implemented for Area 3B and Area 4C in 2007. The Council considered, but did not expand, its action to Area 4A. The Council action would relieve a restriction placed on IFQ halibut fishery participants and would further program goals by increasing the amount of IFQs that may be harvested by the small boat fleet and increasing safety at sea for that fleet. This action would affect up to 12 Area 4B Category D QS holders, who hold < 3% of IFQs and a few owners of larger vessels upon which these IFQs would be allowed to be fished.

The Council also adopted recommendations from its IFQ Implementation Committee to rank four discussion papers that the Council previously had requested. The Council identified a 2009 proposal to consider allowing halibut to be retained in sablefish pots fished by sablefish IFQ holders who also hold halibut IFQs to account for the retained halibut. This proposal was forwarded to the Council by the International Pacific Halibut Commission which retains authority on the proposed action, since the proposed action also would affect the sablefish IFQ fishery, which is

under Council management. The Council could review an analysis of the effects of the proposed action and provide a recommendation on whether to expand the legal gear to include pot gear to the IPHC prior to its January 2013 meeting.

The Council's second priority was to develop a discussion paper to allow the use of pot gear in the Gulf of Alaska sablefish IFQ fisheries, after a new gear committee was formed and provided further recommendations to the Council. The remaining two proposals, as amended by the Council, were a) to assess whether the problem of unharvested halibut IFQ in Area 4 is attributable to the current vessel IFQ cap or are there other factors, and 2) to exempt A shares from the current vessel cap and set a separate sablefish A share vessel cap (for all areas). These lower priority issues will be scheduled for Council review after its higher priority action for halibut management actions (i.e., Area 2C/Area 3A Catch Sharing Plan, Gulf of Alaska Halibut Bycatch Reduction, and Observer Program Restructuring) are implemented.

The Council also requested that a recent paper on sablefish discard mortality rates be reviewed at the Joint Groundfish Plan Team meeting in September 2012. The Council suggested that another proposal to revise sablefish product recovery rates in the IFQ longline fishery could be addressed under an industry experimental fishing permit. Contact Jane DiCosimo for more information.

Halibut Catch Sharing Plan

After reviewing several staff reports, the Council amended its preferred alternative on the charter halibut catch sharing plan (CSP) and identified a new preliminary preferred alternative for final action in October 2012. The Council identified a new preferred alternative for each of the three main parts of the CSP: 1) allocations to the commercial and charter sectors, 2) compensated reallocation from the commercial sector to charter sector through the use of Guided Angler Fish (or GAF), and 3) management measures to keep the charter sector to its allocation in each area.

2012 Preliminary Preferred Alternative

Allocations. The Council recommended adoption of the Logbook Program under the CSP. The Council recommended using an adjustment factor based on the five-year average (2006–2010) of the difference between the harvest estimates provided by the logbooks and Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS), with the adjustment factor reduced by the amount of harvest attributed to skipper and crew. Application of this adjustment factor would result in the following changes to the October 2008 CSP preferred alternative charter allocations:

Area 2C adjustment factor = 5.6%

Area 2C current CSP allocation in Tier 1 = 17.3%

Adjusted CSP allocation = $(17.3\% * 5.6\%) + 17.3\% = 18.3\%$

Area 2C current CSP allocation in Tiers 2 through 4 = 15.1%

Adjusted CSP allocation = $(15.1\% * 5.6\%) + 15.1\% = 15.9\%$

Area 3A adjustment factor = 15.4%

Area 3A current CSP allocation in Tier 1 = 15.4%

Adjusted CSP allocation = $(15.4\% * 15.4\%) + 15.4\% = 17.8\%$

Area 3A current CSP allocation in Tiers 2 through 4 = 14.0%

Adjusted CSP allocation = $(14.0\% * 15.4\%) + 14.0\% = 16.2\%$

Guided Angler Fish Program

• GAF would be issued in numbers of fish.

Conversion of IFQ pounds to numbers of fish would be based on the average weight of GAF from the previous year.

- In the first year of the GAF program, the GAF weight to number of fish conversion factor would be based on the previous year's data or most recent year without maximum size limit in effect.
- Define the leasing limitation from one IFQ share holder as 10% of IFQ holdings or 1500 pounds in Area 2C and 15% or 1500 pounds in Area 3A, whichever is greater.
- Include a requirement to mark GAF by removing the tips of the upper and lower lobes of the tail and report the length of retained GAF halibut to NMFS through the NMFS approved electronic reporting system.
- A complete review within five years of the start of the GAF program, taking into account the economic effects of both sectors.

The Management Matrix would be replaced by the 2012 approach for setting annual management measures for the charter sector. This would result in 1) an annual analysis of potential management measures using the most current charter halibut harvest data and IPHC staff recommendation for a combined charter and commercial catch limit for each area, 2) review by committee, AP, SSC, and Council, 3) Council recommendation on appropriate management measures for each area to the IPHC, 4) consideration and adoption of the Council's Area 2C/3A CSP and area management measure(s) by the IPHC, and 5) implementation by NMFS of annual management measures.

Additional options for analysis

1) Allocations

Area 2C: At a combined catch limit of <5 mlbs, establish the CSP allocation at the upper end of the original range proposed for the CSP (20.8%); at a combined catch limit of ≥ 5 - <9 mlbs, establish the CSP allocation at the upper end of the original range proposed for the CSP (18.6%). At combined catch limits of ≥ 9 mlbs, maintain the original target CSP allocation of 15.1%.

Area 3A: At a combined catch limit of <10 mlbs, establish the CSP allocation at the

upper end of the original range proposed for the CSP (18.9%); at a combined catch limit of ≥ 10 - <20 mlbs, establish the CSP allocation at the upper end of the original range proposed for the CSP (17.5%). At combined catch limits of ≥ 20 mlbs, maintain the original target CSP allocation of 14.0%.

Note: Under the 2012 model, the +/- 3.5% range around the allocation would be removed, and the Council would be annually recommending management measures that minimize the difference between the projected harvest and the target allocation, without exceeding the allocation.

2) Separate accountability of wastage
The Council requested that the analysis consider separate accountability of wastage for the charter and commercial sectors. If adopted, a new proposed rule would describe the method that the Council would expect to be used by the IPHC when it set a combined catch limit for each area and adopted the Council's CSP.

Final action on the CSP preliminary preferred alternative is scheduled for October 2012, with the intent that implementation occur for 2014. In a separate motion later in the meeting the Council asked for a discussion paper to address different federal and state definitions of a charter guide in order to close a loophole that results in fishing practices that are inconsistent with Council intent. A future action would be required to revise the definition in federal regulations. Jane DiCosimo is the Council staff contact on this issue.

Scallop Management

The 2012 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 the following year. Management of scallop stocks is delegated to the State of Alaska under a Federally-approved FMP. The State manages the weather-vane scallop stock by region in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska. Scallop harvests within registration 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 weather-vane scallop stock in Alaska is neither overfished nor approaching an overfished condition. The SSC (responsibility of ABG + TEF) met in Sitka to discuss scallop meets for the 2012/13 fishery. The 2012 Scallop SAFE report and the minutes from the Scallop Plan Team are available on our website. Staff contact is Diane S. Tom.

Groundfish Programmatic SEIS

As announced in the February 2012 newsletter, the Council is evaluating its 2004 Groundfish Programmatic SEIS, and whether the time is right to revise it. The decision will take into account many different factors, and the Council is soliciting input from various sources to assist in the Council discussion, scheduled to occur in June at the Council meeting in Kodiak. On March 29, the Council hosted a stakeholder listening session to ask for stakeholder input on whether the existing groundfish management objectives continue to be relevant, or are in need of revision. **The Council continues to solicit written comments on the following questions:**

- Are the Council's current groundfish management approach, policy goal statements, and objectives still relevant?
- How is the Council doing relative to achieving its groundfish management objectives?
- Are there new objectives that ought to become part of the groundfish management policy?

Comments submitted to the Council office will be accepted until May 1, after which they will be compiled into a written report along with comments from the stakeholder session, for the Council's review at the June Council meeting.

At the March/April meeting, the Council's SSC also provided input on whether the scientific basis for the 2004 Groundfish Programmatic SEIS is still relevant, and whether, in combination with other more recent environmental assessments, the Council is able to understand the environmental impacts of the current groundfish management program. The SSC provided a detailed review of

these questions in their minutes (available on the Council website). In June, staff will compile SSC and stakeholder input, as well as a discussion paper from NMFS about ways the PSEIS may provide analytical efficiencies for other Council actions, and ways in which other Councils may meet programmatic NEPA requirements, for the Council's discussion. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

EFH Consultation Criteria

At the last two meetings, the Council has been discussing whether there is a need to formalize its role in the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation process that is undertaken by NMFS. The Council has an opportunity, and in some instances a statutory obligation, to comment on actions by Federal agencies that may affect habitats of direct concern to the Council. In response to input from NMFS and the Council's Ecosystem Committee, the Council has adopted a formal policy for EFH consultation, in order to ensure that activities that are of relevance to the Council are brought to their attention in a timely fashion, and not overlooked. As part of the policy, the Council has established a structured process for regular reports from NMFS, and has identified specific criteria that can be used to guide the agency in determining whether an activity is likely to be of particular interest to the Council. The complete EFH consultation policy is posted on the Council website. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Bering Sea Canyons

During staff meetings, the Council initiated a discussion paper to examine new information on two Bering Sea submarine canyons, Zhanzhong and Pribilof Canyons. The Council has requested that the Alaska Fisheries Science Center review existing and new scientific information on the canyons, their habitat, and fish associations in these areas, and has requested staff to provide information on fishing activity within the canyons and past actions for protection in the areas, and to identify the process for any potential future actions. The intent is for the discuss on paper to help the Council to understand what is known about issues related to protection of these canyons. Further specifics on the scope of the discussion paper are included in the Council minutes, which is posted on the Council website. Staff contact is Diane Evans.

Habitat Conservation Area Boundary

Amendment 95 to the BSAI Groundfish FMP created a number of habitat conservation areas (HCAs) in which bottom trawling is prohibited, including the Nunivak Island – Blain Straits – Kusibokwin Bay HCA (Nunivak HCA). The southern boundary of the Nunivak HCA was established after consultation with an industry and Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) working group, with the understanding that the working group would continue to communicate and share information and consider modifying the boundary line, if appropriate. Since early 2011 the working group has been meeting to share information and reconsider the southern boundary of the Nunivak HCA. At this meeting, the Council heard joint testimony from industry and community representatives requesting additional time to complete a proposal. The Council voted to reschedule the matter to no earlier than October 2012. Staff contact is Steve Meekler.

GOA Pacific Cod

Jig Gear Limits

The Council requested an expanded discussion paper on limiting other gear types on board vessels jigging for Pacific cod in the GOA.

Under the new sector split management structure, there could be incentives to increase the duration of one sector's season at the expense of another, specifically extending the longline or pot seasons by misreporting catch as jig-caught and/or increasing the likelihood that the jig sector will attain 90% of its allocation and receive a 1% step-up.

The expanded paper will include further discussion on the management issues already identified, suggestions from the AP, and recommendations from the Enforcement Committee.

The paper will discuss possible gear type limitations, such as deployable groundfish gear, other groundfish gear types, and the number of jig gear hooks allowed on board. The ability for a vessel to fish two gear types concurrently will also be evaluated.

The discussion will compare State and Federal regulations being considered because the Federal approach could differ from the State's, complicating reporting and catch accounting for individual gear types. The discussion will also evaluate the degree of flexibility afforded in possible Federal regulations verses ensuring accurate catch reporting.

The discussion will include descriptions of possible mixed-gear fishing trip scenarios and opportunities for jig vessels to operate other gear left on fishing grounds during a previous trip or left by another vessel to circumvent a jig-only gear restriction. The discussion will also touch upon possible operation standards to prevent jig vessels from operating other fishing gear during a jig-only fishing trip. Council staff contact is Sarah Melton.

Jig Parallel Fishery

The Council moved to take no further action on the reverse parallel concept for the GOA Pacific cod jig fishery, which was also the determination made at the Joint Protocol Committee meeting. It is very likely that jig fishermen will have access to fish outside three miles through an extended Federal A season without the necessity of implementing a reverse parallel fishery.

The Pacific cod jig fishery will continue to be managed under the sector split allocations, which can increase

1% each year (up to a 6% maximum) if 90% of the TAC is taken in a given year. Based on the 2012 experience in the jig sector thus far, this step up is expected in 2013 and 2014.

As the Federal TAC steps increases 1% each year, the likelihood there will be a dual fishery with access to Federal and State waters during the favorable fishing period from mid-March to late May increases as well. Therefore, fish on both sides of the three-mile line will be available through an extended A season even in the absence of a reverse parallel fishery.

Further, under the status quo, the State has the option to open the GHL fishery in mid-March and have catch accrue to the State quota, rather than to the Federal/parallel TAC, to ensure that the full GHL is taken and fish are not stranded or rolled over to other gear types. Council staff contact is Sarah Melton.

Revising "A" Season Dates

The Council considered a discussion paper concerning a potential action to revise the A season opening dates for the Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod fisheries. After considering the paper and public testimony, the Council elected to take no further action at this time. The Council's rationale for not advancing an action is that such a change would likely be disruptive to the various fleets in the fisheries that are in the process of adapting to a division of the Pacific cod total allowable catches among different sectors that NOAA Fisheries implemented at the start of the 2012 fishing season. Given the uncertainties associated with that transition and the variety of interactions among the various fleets and management areas that could be induced by the action, the Council elected to take no further action. Staff contact is Mark Fina.

Council to Meet in Kodiak

The next Council meeting is scheduled for June 4–June 12. The Council will be meeting at the new Kodiak Harbor Convention Center starting on the 6th, the AP will be meeting at the Elks Lodge starting on the 4th, and the SSC will be meeting at Fishermen's Hall, also starting on the 4th. As always, the Council meeting will be broadcast, this time using Webex. Look for a link to be posted on the Council's webpage closer to the meeting date. The agenda will be published next month and also available on the website.

BSIERP Management Strategy Evaluation

The Council received a report from a two-day workshop to evaluate a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) project in conjunction with the Bering Sea Integrated Ecosystem Program (BSIERP). The work BSIERP is developing to assess coupled oceanographic and biological models of the Eastern Bering Sea will specifically focus on walleye pollock, Pacific cod, and arrowtooth flounder and their fisheries. The fully integrated model provides a tool needed to conduct a formal assessment methods (including application of multi-species models). The MSE project is evaluating tradeoffs among different management control rules that can be tested and evaluated against alternative climate scenarios. The workshop provided stakeholders an opportunity to provide input on the goals and objectives of the MSE and the specific control rules to be tested. The Council will receive periodic updates as the project progresses. Staff contact is Diana Hagan.

GOA Trawl Sweep

At the April 2012 meeting, the Council took final action on a management measure requiring elevating devices on nonpelagic trawl sweeps for vessels targeting flatfish in the Central Gulf of Alaska. The purpose of the action is to reduce unobserved crab mortality in the Central Gulf of Alaska from the potential adverse effects of nonpelagic trawl gear used for flatfish fishing. The Council initiated this action in conjunction with final action on the GOA Tanner crab PSC measures, which created area closures around Kodiak to protect Tanner crab.

The management measure would combine a gear and performance standard to raise the elevated section of the sweep at least 2.5 inches, measured next to the elevating device. To achieve this performance standard, elevating devices would be required along the entire length of the elevated section of the sweep. To allow for some flexibility around the requirement, there would be two possible sweep configurations that meet the performance standard. In the first configuration, elevating devices that are spaced up to 65 feet apart must have a minimum clearance height of 2.5 inches when measured next to the elevating device. In the second configuration, the elevating devices may be spaced up to 95 feet apart, but they must have a minimum clearance height of 3.5 inches when measured next to the elevating device. In either case, the minimum spacing of the elevated devices is no less than 30 feet.

The Council also extended the exempted section from 180 feet to 185 feet to accommodate hammerlocks attached to net and door bridles. This change would apply to nonpelagic trawl gear used in both the BS and the Central GOA. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

Council Accepts Email Comments

The April meeting was the first meeting the Council accepted public comments via email at npmc.comments@noaa.gov. While there may be a few issues to iron out, many comments arrived this way for the Council notebooks. When commenting via email, please include the agenda item, your full name and affiliation, and have them submitted before the published deadline. If you have questions, please call the office.

At this meeting, the Council reviewed a discussion paper regarding the use of and requirements of VMS in the North Pacific fisheries and other regions of the U.S. When the discussion paper was tasked in October 2011, the Council noted that there is uncertainty regarding whether a major change to or expansion of VMS requirements is necessary in the North Pacific, there is interest in reviewing the current state of the North Pacific VMS requirements in addition to other regions' application of VMS. As requested by the Council, the discussion paper was reviewed by the IFQ Implementation Committee and the Enforcement Committee.

After reviewing the discussion paper and listening to public testimony, the Council requested the discussion paper be expanded to identify the needs for management, enforcement, compliance, and safety in the fisheries and what is the appropriate technology for meeting those needs. The Council also requested that the expanded discussion paper should include:

- Targeted species, gear, and area declarations;
- Geo-fencing and the implications and cost ramifications to the fishing fleet and agency for use of this capability;
- Increase poll rates and the implications of this change to both the fishing fleet and enforcement agencies (for example, potentially smaller closed areas, economic impacts to the fishing fleet and the agency, management benefits associated with increased polling);
- Potential data transfer applications or electronic log books;
- Electronic monitoring and the tradeoffs between this technology and VMS;
- Purpose and need for VMS requirements in other U.S. regions and whether VMS used in these other regions has been successful in meeting the purpose and need; and
- Potential for including VMS cost in the observer fee.

The expanded discussion paper is scheduled for review at the October 2012 meeting. Staff contact is Jon McCracken.

Protected Resources

The Council reviewed a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) regarding the conservation of migratory birds. The MOU focuses on avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts on migratory birds and strengthening migratory bird conservation through collaboration between NMFS and FWS. The Council drafted a letter in support of the MOU and approved NMFS and FWS to work directly with the Council as they implement provisions of the MOU.

The Council reviewed and provided comment on a draft Notice of Intent (NOI) from NMFS Alaska Region to begin compiling an Environmental Impact Statement for Steller sea lion protection measures in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish fisheries FMP. The NOI includes a timeline for completion of the EIS. The public scoping period will run from May - October 2012, and will conclude with a scoping meeting in conjunction with the October Council meeting in Anchorage. The Council also chose to reinvigorate the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee (SSLMC) with Larry Colter as Chairman. The Council will be seeking nominations for the Committee. Please send a letter of interest to the Council by April 23, 2012. The Council website for more information about the SSLMC and EIS. Staff contact: Steve MacLean.

NOI for EIS
April 23, 2012
Rev. 11

Chum Salmon Bycatch

The Council reviewed an analysis of chum salmon PSC management and made a number of modifications for future review of a revised draft. The Council also received updated reports on the genetic stock composition of samples from the 2010 Bering Sea groundfish fisheries bycatch of chum and Chinook salmon.

The Council's suite of alternatives include PSC limits for either June and July or for the entire B-season, as well as triggered area closures with provisions for a rolling hot spot (RHS) program. The Council received detailed reports from Council and NMFS staff on the analysis of the alternatives on subsistence and commercial fisheries, adult equivalency estimates of bycatch to river system by genetic stock aggregation (i.e., the estimated number of salmon in the bycatch returning to streams in any given year), impacts to the directed pollock industry and impacts to other marine resources and cumulative impacts. The Council and the public expressed concern regarding the potential for management measures for chum salmon to impact rates of Chinook salmon bycatch later in the B-season. In response to this, the Council made a number of modifications to the suite of alternative management measures with the intent to better develop measures that might minimize western Alaskan chum salmon without undermining the efforts to minimize the bycatch of Chinook salmon in the pollock fishery.

The Council moved to include a new alternative that relies primarily on the RHS program as the primary management tool, with suggestions for modification to a RHS program to increase the efficacy of the program and to focus efforts on balancing conserving western Alaskan chum with efforts to conserve Chinook. The Council further requested that additional information be included in a subsequent analysis regarding the necessary provisions of the RHS program that would need to be in regulation. The full Council motion as well as a revised description of alternatives following Council action at this meeting is posted on our website. Initial review of a revised analysis is scheduled for October 2012. The revised document will be available on the Council's website by the first week in September. Staff contact is Diana Stram.

HAPC Skate Egg Sites

The Council made an initial review of the analysis to identify skate egg sites as Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC). Options c and d will be removed from Alternative 3, which would have prohibited the use of all gear types (including longline and pot gear) within skate egg HAPC. A new option was added to Alternative 2 to require NMFS to monitor areas of skate egg concentration. Under this option, NMFS would monitor skate egg concentration HAPC for changes in egg density and other potential effects of fishing. The industry would support collection of data in evaluation of monitoring and management efforts relative to those HAPC.

The analysis will also be revised to include additional information. The analysis will be expanded to evaluate the use of the most updated VMS technology to monitor activity in and around skate egg concentration sites. Council, NMFS, and OLE staff, together with industry, will discuss the use of increased polling rates and geo-fencing to monitor fishing activity. Gear descriptions and potential fishery impacts will be updated to reflect the most recent changes in gear type technology, and survey trawl gear will be differentiated from commercial trawl gear. A description of the methodology used in determining target catch rates in skate sites will be added, as will descriptions of existing fishery closures that may overlap these sites. The analysis will also include other revisions suggested by the SSC to the extent practicable.

A revised analysis is being prepared for initial review, tentatively scheduled for June. Council staff is Sarah Melton.

BSAI Crab ROFR

The Council reviewed its pending action to modify rights of first refusal on processor shares (POS) in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fisheries. The Council had requested that stakeholders consider issues that arise under the proposed actions. Stakeholders convened a voluntary workshop to discuss potential changes to the proposed actions in March. Going into the meeting, the Council's alternatives included: 1) revisions to the timeline for exercise and performance of rights; 2) the removal of a bond under which the right licenses; 3) applying the right only to processor shares (rather than processor shares and other assets in the transaction); 4) prohibiting the use of PO outside of the community benefiting from the right of first refusal without the consent of that community; and 5) requiring additional notice to NMFS and the right holder from POS holders concerning the use and transfer of individual processing quota and POS to ensure that the status of rights could be better monitored. In response to testimony from stakeholders, the Council added an alternative that would allow rights to arise in a new community if a right holder failed to exercise the right when it is triggered. The Council also included an alternative under which the right would apply to POS and any assets based in the community holding the right (but not to assets that are not based in that community). The Council requested staff prepare an initial review draft of the analysis for consideration at a upcoming meeting. Staff contact is Mark Pitt.

The Council received an update from NMFS on progress with implementing observer restructuring, which covered a number of different topics. The agency noted that the availability of Federal **startup funding** for implementation of the program looks promising. Implementation of the program in 2013 is currently on track. The **proposed rule** will publish shortly. NMFS noted that very few substantive changes have been made to the proposed rule since the Council reviewed it in October 2011, and those were primarily made directly in response to Council comments. However, one exception is to the program provision stating that a vessel selected for observer coverage is required to have an observer onboard. The original language allowed a vessel to have either an observer or an **electronic monitoring** system onboard. The Council noted dissatisfaction with this change, and opted to comment formally on the proposed rule. The Council requested NMFS to consider allowing vessels to take an electronic monitoring camera in lieu of an observer, in order to facilitate the continued development of electronic monitoring, and suggested options to achieve this intent. In their report, the agency did identify that specific funds have been allocated to the development of electronic monitoring capacity in 2013, within the restructured observer program.

The agency has scheduled **public hearings** associated with the proposed rule: in Seattle, WA, and Newport, OR, in mid-April; and in Juneau, AK in early May. The exact locations will be available on the NMFS and Council websites after the proposed rule is published. Additionally, the agency will be hosting a workshop in Kodiak during ComFish. Further **outreach** is planned to familiarize fishers with the registration system and other aspects of the restructured program, beginning at an evening session of the June Council meeting in Kodiak, and continuing in the fall. The pre-solicitation notice for the **observer contract** has also been published.

The draft **deployment plan** for 2013 will be available September 1, 2012 and will then be reviewed by the Observer Advisory Committee, the Plan Teams, and the Council. However, the Council requested that NMFS also provide a report in June about their progress in developing criteria about how to allocate the limited number of observer days in the partial coverage category. Staff contact is Diana Evans.

Upcoming Meetings:

April 12, 1:30-2:30 p – Kodiak Comfish, Kodiak, AK
Restructured observer program presentation

April 17, 1-4 pm – Seattle, WA
Public hearing on observer program proposed rule.

April 19, 1-4 pm – Newport, OR
Public hearing on observer program proposed rule.

May 2, 1-4 pm – Juneau, AK
Public hearing on observer program proposed rule.

June - week of June 4, Kodiak

October - week of October 1, Anchorage Hilton

December - week of December 3, Anchorage Hilton

2013

February - week of February 4, Portland, OR

April - week of April 1, Anchorage Hilton

June - week of June 3, Juneau, AK

October - week of September 30, Anchorage Hilton

December - week of December 9, Anchorage Hilton

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 4/6/12

June 4 - 12, 2012 Kodiak, AK	October 1-9, 2012 Anchorage, AK	December 3-11, 2012 Anchorage, AK
<p>SSL EIS scoping (T)</p> <p>Limit Other Gear on Jlg Vessels: <i>Expanded Discussion Paper</i></p> <p>Halibut workshop report: <i>Review</i></p> <p>GOA Halibut PSC: <i>Final Action</i></p> <p>GOA comprehensive halibut bycatch amendments: <i>Disc paper</i></p> <p>BSAI halibut PSC limit: <i>Discussion paper (T)</i></p> <p>BSAI Greenland turbot allocation: <i>Discussion paper</i></p> <p>BSAI Crab Binding Arbitration - GKC: <i>Workgroup report</i></p> <p>BSAI Crab ROFR: <i>Initial Review (T)</i></p> <p>Binding Arbitration Issues (lengthy season, publishing decisions, IPQ Initiation): <i>Discussion Paper</i></p> <p>Revise FLL GOA cod sideboards: <i>Discussion paper</i></p> <p>FLL Vessel Replacement: <i>Initial Review</i></p> <p>BSAI Flatfish specification flexibility: <i>Discussion Paper</i></p> <p>HAPC - Skate sites: <i>Initial Review (T)</i></p> <p>Crab Plan Team Report: <i>Set Catch Specifications for 4 stocks</i></p> <p>Prohibit BKC Rebuilding Plan: <i>Final Action</i></p> <p>BSAI Tanner Crab rebuilding plan: <i>Revise Alternatives</i></p> <p>5-Year Research Priorities: <i>Review and Approve</i></p> <p>PSEIS: <i>Review comments & reports; action as necessary</i></p> <p>Total catch and ACLs: <i>Discussion paper (T)</i></p> <p>Grenadiers: <i>Discussion paper (T)</i></p> <p>GOA pollock EFP: <i>Review (T)</i></p>	<p>SSL EIS scoping (T)</p> <p>Observer Deployment Plan: <i>OAC report; action as necessary</i></p> <p>Halibut CSP: <i>Final Action</i></p> <p>Definition of Fishing Guide: <i>Discussion Paper</i></p> <p>BSAI Chum Salmon Bycatch: <i>Initial Review</i></p> <p>Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Leasing prohibition: <i>NMFS Disc. paper (T)</i></p> <p>Retention of 4A halibut in BSAI sablefish pots: <i>Disc. paper (T)</i></p> <p>VMS Use and Requirements: <i>Expanded Discussion Paper</i></p> <p>BSAI Crab active participation requirements: <i>Initial Review</i></p> <p>BSAI Crab Cooperative Provisions for Crew: <i>Discussion paper</i></p> <p>BSAI Crab ROFR: <i>Final Action (T)</i></p> <p>BS Habitat Conservation Area Boundary: <i>Review</i></p> <p>Northern Bering Sea Research: <i>Discussion paper</i></p> <p>AFA Vessel Replacement GOA Sideboards: <i>Initial Review</i></p> <p>FLL Vessel Replacement: <i>Final Action</i></p> <p>Groundfish Catch Specifications: <i>Adopt proposed specifications</i></p> <p>HAPC - Skate sites: <i>Final Action (T)</i></p> <p>BSAI Crab SAFE: <i>Final OFL/ABC specifications for 6 stocks</i></p> <p>BSAI Tanner Crab rebuilding plan: <i>Initial Review (T)</i></p>	<p>AI Risk Assessment: <i>Report (T)</i></p> <p>Charter Halibut: <i>Recommendations for 2013</i></p> <p>GOA Chinook Bycatch All Trawl Fisheries: <i>Initial Review</i></p> <p>H/S IFQ Disc papers (GOA sablefish pots, unharvested halibut, sablefish A-shore caps) (T)</p> <p>BSAI Crab active participation requirements: <i>Final Action</i></p> <p>BBRKC spawning area/fishery effects: <i>Updated Discussion paper</i></p> <p>AFA Vessel Replacement GOA Sideboards: <i>Final Action</i></p> <p>Groundfish Catch Specifications: <i>Adopt Final specifications</i></p> <p>BSAI Tanner Crab rebuilding plan: <i>Final Action (T)</i></p> <p>ITEMS BELOW FOR FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <p>Crab PSC numbers to weight: <i>Discussion paper</i></p> <p>Crab bycatch limits in BSAI groundfish fisheries: <i>Disc paper</i></p> <p>BS Canyons: <i>Updated AFSC report; Fishing activities and management discussion paper</i></p> <p>MPA Nominations: <i>Discuss and consider nominations</i></p>

AI - Aleutian Islands
 AFA - American Fisheries Act
 BIOp - Biological Opinion
 BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
 BKC - Blue King Crab
 BOF - Board of Fisheries
 CQE - Community Quota Entitlement
 CDQ - Community Development Quota
 EDR - Economic Data Reporting
 EFP - Exempted Fishing Permit
 EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
 EFH - Essential Fish Habitat
 FLL - Freezer longliners
 GOA - Gulf of Alaska

GKC - Golden King Crab
 GHL - Guideline Harvest Level
 HAPC - Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
 IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
 IBQ - Individual Bycatch Quota
 MPA - Marine Protected Area
 PSEIS - Programmatic Supplemental Impact Statement
 PSC - Prohibited Species Catch
 RKC - Red King Crab
 ROFR - Right of First Refusal
 SSC - Scientific and Statistical Committee
 SAFE - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation
 SSL - Steller Sea Lion
 TAC - Total Allowable Catch

Future Meeting Dates and Locations
 June 4-12, 2012 - Boat Western, Kodiak
 October 1-9, 2012 - Hilton Hotel, Anchorage
 December 3-11, 2012 - Anchorage
 February 4-12, 2013 - Portland
 April 1-9, 2013, Anchorage
 June 3-11, 2013, Juneau
 September 30-Oct 6, 2013 Anchorage
 December 8-17, 2013, Anchorage

(T) Tentatively scheduled

TENTATIVE MEETING AGENDA

Joint Protocol Committee of the
Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Monday, March 19, 2012
Anchorage Hilton Hotel - Aleutian Room
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Board members: John Jensen, Mike Smith, and Sue Jeffrey
Council members: Eric Olson, Dave Benson, and Ed Dersham

1. Opening Business (Mr. Jensen will Chair)
 - Call to order
 - Introductions
 - Approve Agenda
2. Staff Reports:
 - A. Status of Tanner Rebuilding
 - i. Review pending actions
 - B. Status of GOA Halibut Bycatch
 - i. Review pending action
 - C. Status of Salmon Bycatch
 - i. Review of actions on BS Chinook
 - ii. Review of actions on GOA Chinook
 - iii. Review of pending action on BS chum salmon bycatch
 - D. Status of GOA Pacific cod (discussion papers)
 - i. Reverse parallel jig fishery
 - ii. Revise "A" season opening date in GOA
 - iii. Limiting other gear on board while jig fishing
 - E. Close state waters to bottom gear in Prince William Sound
 - F. Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC increase
 - G. Remove minimum TAC in Bristol Bay red king crab fishery
 - H. Statewide scallops
3. Public Testimony
4. Committee discussion on reports
5. Determination of next committee meeting and/or full Joint Board meeting
6. Miscellaneous business
7. Adjourn

