

# Kodiak Fisheries Work Group

Thursday, December 16, 2015, 8:30 a.m.  
Borough Conference Room

## BOROUGH CHAIRING

The Fisheries Work Group is an informal meeting of representatives of the City of Kodiak and Kodiak Island Borough to discuss issues with its Fisheries Analyst. Although additional items not listed on the agenda are sometimes discussed, no formal action is taken. Items that require formal action are placed on a regular City Council and/or Borough Assembly meeting agenda. Public comments at committee meetings are NOT considered part of the official record. Public comments intended for the "official record" should be made at a regular City Council or Borough Assembly meeting. A quorum of the Assembly and/or the City Council may be present at this meeting.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Limited to Three Minutes per Speaker)
2. **AGENDA ITEMS**
  - a. Representative Louise Stutes Report
  - b. Fisheries Analyst Report
    - Update on NPFMC Meeting
      - Discussion About NPFMC Gulf Trawl Bycatch Management Alternative 4 (Heather and Paddy)
    - Update on Kodiak Marine Research Community and Facilities
    - Update on Magnuson Stevens Act Reauthorization and Other Federal Actions
  - c. Economic Analysis Update
    - Professional Services Contract Award ..... 1
  - d. Discussion With/About Processors
  - e. Update on Small Boat Issues
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Limited to Three Minutes per Speaker)
4. **WORK GROUP CLOSING COMMENTS**
5. **SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME**
6. **ADJOURNMENT**

**7. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- B3 NMFS Comments on Alaska Board of Fisheries Pcod Proposals..... 2
- Board of Fish Preliminary Summary of Actions – Pcod..... 5

December 4, 2015

Bud Cassidy, Borough Manager  
Kodiak Island Borough  
710 Mill Bay Road, Room 125  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Dear Mr. Cassidy,

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the scope and budget of our proposal to provide fisheries-related economic consulting services. In the table below we provide professional services budgets for each of the four tasks defined in our revised scope of work.

**Project Budget by Task**

	Hours	Budget by Task
<b>Professional Services</b>		
Secondary Data Collection	96	\$10,560
Database Development	64	\$7,040
Primary Research (Interviews)	32	\$3,680
Impact Analysis and Reporting	120	\$15,000
<b>Total Professional Services Hours</b>	<b>352</b>	
<b>Total Professional Services Cost</b>		<b>\$36,280</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Travel and Per diem		\$2,500
<b>Total Proposed Project Budget</b>		<b>\$38,780</b>

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any additional questions about the scope of work or budget. We appreciate this opportunity to provide our professional services to the Kodiak Island Borough, the City of Kodiak, and the Fisheries Work Group.

Sincerely,



Jim Calvin, Principal  
McDowell Group, Inc.  
Phone: 907-586-6130  
Email: jim.calvin@mcdowellgroup.net



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

*National Marine Fisheries Service*  
*P.O. Box 21668*  
*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

November 10, 2015

Tom Kluberton, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Mr. Kluberton:

The National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region (NMFS), appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to management of the State of Alaska (State) Pacific cod fisheries that the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) will be addressing at its meeting in Anchorage on November 30, and December 1, 2015.

If adopted, three of the proposals (Proposals 10, 11, and 15) would increase State Pacific cod guideline harvest levels (GHLs) that would require changes in Federal management to ensure that total harvests of groundfish species under State GHL and Federal fisheries would not exceed the acceptable biological catch (ABC) limit for Pacific cod. We would accommodate any increase in State Pacific cod GHLs by reducing the Federal total allowable catch (TAC) limit in the appropriate area so that total allocation of the State GHL and the Federal TAC does not exceed the ABC in that area. This is the current process we use to accommodate State GHL fisheries. If the Board recommends increasing the Pacific cod State GHLs in one or more areas at its upcoming meeting, NMFS would revise its Federal TAC limits in that area so that the revised TAC limits would be effective beginning on January 1, 2016.

We have additional comments on Proposals 1, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 18, which have implications for Federal fisheries or management.

**Proposal 1: Add purse seine gear as an additional gear type to share the 10 percent jig allocation in the Chignik Area State-waters Pacific cod fishery.**

Although this proposal would not affect Federal fisheries, NMFS would need to coordinate with the State to revise our Interagency Electronic Reporting System, eLandings system, to allow for the reporting of groundfish by seine gear.



**Proposal 9: Reduce waters closed for the protection of Steller sea lions during the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Chignik Area.**

This proposal would repeal closures to fishing for Pacific cod with pot gear in Steller sea lion critical habitat from 0 to 3 nm around the Sutwik Island, Lighthouse Rock, Spitz Island, and Mitrofanina haulouts in the State parallel fishery. These areas are currently closed to Pacific cod fishing with pot gear to conserve prey for Steller sea lions (see 68 FR 204, January 2, 2003). These areas are not closed to fishing for Pacific cod with jig gear.

If adopted, this change would require NMFS to reinitiate formal consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on effects of the Federal and State parallel groundfish fisheries on the endangered western distinct population segment of Steller sea lions (WDPS). On November 24, 2010, NMFS issued an ESA section 7 biological opinion on effects of the Federal and State parallel groundfish fisheries off Alaska on species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. Because the action analyzed in that biological opinion included the area closures adopted by the State during the parallel groundfish fisheries, any change to those closures would require NMFS to reinitiate consultation on the effects of the groundfish fisheries as modified by the reduction in areas closed to fishing around Steller sea lion haulouts.

A new biological opinion would assess the impact of this change and whether the Federal and State parallel groundfish fisheries are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the WDPS or adversely modify its designated critical habitat. Depending on the outcome of this biological opinion, NMFS could be required to further restrict Federal fisheries to avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of the WDPS or adversely modifying its designated critical habitat.

Due to this proposal's potential to reduce the availability of an important prey species for endangered Steller sea lions, we encourage the Board to maintain the existing closure to Pacific cod pot gear in the vicinity of haulouts.

**Proposals 10 & 11: Increase the South Alaska Peninsula Area State-waters Pacific cod fishery GHl from 30 to 40 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska ABC.**

As noted earlier, these proposals would result in NMFS reducing the Federal TAC for all participants in the Western Gulf of Alaska to account for the increased State GHl in the South Alaska Peninsula. Under current Federal regulations, the TAC is apportioned by sectors that include vessels using specific gear types (e.g., pot or hook-and-line gear) and vessel operational types (i.e., catcher vessels or catcher/processors). Adoption of a significantly larger GHl could require NMFS to close directed fishing to participants in the Federal Pacific cod fishery because some sector allocations in the Western GOA are already very small and further reductions in the TAC needed to accommodate a larger GHl fishery may prohibit a Federal directed fishery for these sectors. The hook-and-line catcher vessel and trawl catcher/processor sectors are the two sectors most likely to face a closure to directed fishing.

**Proposal 14: Calculate GHLS for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) State-waters Pacific cod fisheries based on federal ABC for subareas of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area.**

NMFS supports this proposal to clarify the method for calculating the State GHL fisheries based on the appropriate ABC in each subarea.

**Proposal 15: Expand the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict State-waters Pacific cod fishery boundaries and increase the state-waters fishery GHL from 3 to 9 percent of the Federal BSAI ABC.**

This proposal would increase the size of the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict. This proposal would require NMFS to update the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict boundaries in the NMFS Catch Accounting System to oversee the Federal overfishing levels.

If adopted, this proposal would open state waters south of 55 degrees 30 minutes N lat. from 167 degrees W long. to 170 degrees W long. to fishing for Pacific cod in the state-waters fishery. This area includes the Bogoslof Area, which is designated as a special aquatic foraging area within critical habitat for Steller sea lions. This proposal would open the western portion of the Bogoslof Area to fishing for Pacific cod in the state-waters fishery including the Unmak Island and Uliga Island Steller sea lion haulouts. This area (from 168 degrees W long. to 170 degrees W long.) is closed to Pacific cod fishing in the Federal fishery to conserve prey for the WDPS of Steller sea lions.

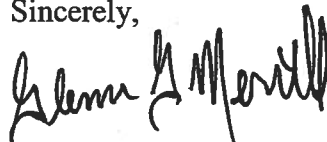
This change to the State GHL Pacific cod fishery would not require an ESA section 7 consultation. However, NMFS is concerned that fishing in these areas may have negative consequences for Steller sea lions. When the Board adopted the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict State GHL Pacific cod fishery in 2012, it maintained closures in areas currently closed to Federal fishery participants to minimize potential impacts on Steller sea lion prey resources in these areas. We encourage the Board to maintain these existing closure areas to conserve nearshore prey for Steller sea lions.

**Proposal 18: Align AI District state-waters Pacific cod season opening and closing dates with recent changes to federal Pacific cod management.**

NMFS supports this proposal to clarify the AI District state-waters Pacific cod season opening and closing dates.

Thank you for considering our comments. Glenn Merrill from my staff will be attending the Board meeting and will be available to answer questions for the Board.

Sincerely,

  
James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.  
Administrator, Alaska Region



Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
**Board of Fisheries**  
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 Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
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**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
**November 30 – December 1, 2015**  
**ALASKA PENINSULA, ALEUTIAN ISLANDS-BERING SEA, CHIGNIK PACIFIC COD**  
**Anchorage, AK**

**PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

(This summary is informational only. The actions indicated below will have legal affects in regulations that provide the sole legal action of the board.)

**Board Members Present**

Tom Kluberton, Chair  
 Fritz Johnson  
 Orville Huntington  
 Robert Mumford

John Jensen, Vice-Chair  
 Sue Jeffrey  
 Reed Morisky

*C=Carried, F=Failed, C/A=Carried as Amended, F/A=Failed as Amended, N/A=No Action, T=Tabled*

**Alaska Peninsula, Chignik, Aleutian Islands-Bering Sea Pacific Cod (21)**

<b>SUBJECT (# Proposals)</b>			<i>Audio tracking info*</i>
<b>Action</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Description</b>	
<b>CHIGNIK PACIFIC COD (9 proposals)</b>			
N/A (7-0)	1	Add purse seine gear as an additional gear type to share the 10 percent mechanical jigging machine and hand troll (jig) gear allocation in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery. <i>No action based on lacking statutory authority.</i>	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 2:30:27
N/A	2	Allow bycatch retention of Pacific cod in the Chignik Area salmon seine fishery. <i>This proposal will be heard at the Pacific cod meeting and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.</i>	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 2:38:18
N/A	3	Apportion the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod allocation for pot vessels by vessel length. <i>No action based on lacking statutory authority.</i>	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 2:41:40
F (0-7)	4	Establish daily pot gear fishing periods for the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 2:43:36
C (7-0)	5	Change date that gear limits may be removed in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 2:48:12



**Board of Fisheries**

**2015 AK Peninsula, Aleutian Islands-Bering Sea,  
Chignik Pacific Cod Summary of Actions**

<b>SUBJECT (# Proposals)</b>			<i>Audio tracking info*</i>
<b>Action</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Description</b>	
<b>F</b> (0-7)	<b>6</b>	Include a change in designation of Chignik Area from a superexclusive registration area to a nonexclusive registration area after October 30 in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 2:57:15
<b>C/A</b> (7-0)	<b>7</b>	Change pot storage regulations for the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fishery. <i>The board substituted the proposal with language found in RC 31.</i>	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 3:18:28
<b>F</b> (1-6)	<b>8</b>	Limit the number of pots in the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Chignik Area to 60 per vessel.	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 3:25:27
<b>T</b>	<b>9</b>	Reduce waters closed for the protection of Steller sea lions during the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Chignik Area. <i>The board expressed its interest in considering this proposal pursuant to determining the impacts of a Section 7 consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service. The board tabled the proposal until impacts of a Section 7 consultation are understood.</i>	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 3:37:44
<b>SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA PACIFIC COD (4 Proposals)</b>			
<b>F</b> (0-7)	<b>10</b>	Increase the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 30 percent to 35 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch.	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 5:31:05
<b>N/A</b>	<b>11</b>	Increase the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 30 percent to 40 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch. <i>No action based on action taken on Proposal 10.</i>	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 5:40:27
<b>N/A</b>	<b>12</b>	Apportion the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod allocation for pot vessels by vessel length. <i>No action based on lacking statutory authority.</i>	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 5:40:52
<b>C/A</b> (7-0)	<b>13</b>	Resolve conflict in pot storage regulations for the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fishery. <i>The board substituted the proposal with language found in RC 31.</i>	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 5:42:09
<b>BERING SEA-ALEUTIAN ISLANDS PACIFIC COD (8 Proposals)</b>			
<b>C/A</b> (7-0)	<b>14</b>	Calculate guideline harvest levels for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands state-waters Pacific cod fisheries based on federal acceptable biological catch for subareas of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area. <i>The board substituted the proposal with language found in RC40.</i>	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 5:01:45
<b>C/A</b> (7-0)	<b>15</b>	Expand the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery boundaries and increase the state-waters fishery guideline harvest level from three percent to nine percent of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands acceptable biological catch. <i>Amended to increase the GHL to 6.4 percent of the federal Bering Sea subarea acceptable biological catch and expand the western fishing boundary to 170 W</i>	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 4:07:17





**Board of Fisheries**

2015 AK Peninsula, Aleutian Islands-Bering Sea,  
Chignik Pacific God Summary of Actions

SUBJECT (# Proposals)			Audio tracking info*
Action	Proposal	Description	
		<i>long with the exception of "no fishing areas" as established in 50 CFR 679 -Table 12, and 3 nautical mile haul out closures in Table 5 as well as closed waters in western portion of area.</i>	
N/A	16	Increase guideline harvest level for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery from three percent to seven percent of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands acceptable biological catch. <i>The board took no action based on action taken on Proposal 15.</i>	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 5:17:44
F (0-7)	17	Increase the vessel size limit from 58 to 125 feet overall length for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery.	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 5:18:13
C/A (7-0)	18	Align Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season opening and closing dates with recent changes to federal Pacific cod management. <i>Amended to remove references to 5 AAC 28.647(d) based on actions taken on Proposal 14.</i>	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 5:20:49
N/A	19	Modify vessel size limit for longline vessels in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod B season based on remaining guideline harvest level. <i>The board took no action based on action taken on Proposal 14.</i>	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 5:24:36
C (7-0)	20	Define waters between 175° W long to 178° W long as the Adak District in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery.	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 5:25:58
C/A (7-0)	21	Update state-waters Pacific cod management plans of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands with current federal references for Steller sea lion protection. <i>The board substituted the proposal with language found in RC27.</i>	12-01-15_bof_pcod: 5:27:51

\* The audio tracking information correlates with the meeting audio available at the bottom of each meeting page. The entry "bof\_worksession\_10\_15\_14" indicates the meeting day. The start time indicates when board discussion on the proposal began according to the meeting audio.

**Miscellaneous Business:**

- There were no items handled under miscellaneous business.