

AK LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FILES SCOMM 147 31593

BSAI Crab Rationalization

Issues

- 1) tracking consolidation with potential revision to vessel use caps
- 2) MSA reauthorization included a provision exempting custom processing in the North region (Pribilofs) from processing share use caps to improve efficiency in processing
- 3) Council is considering a similar amendment exempting custom processing in the Western Aleutians from processing share use caps
- 4) 18 month review
 - a. examining arbitration and 90/10 A share/B share split
 - b. potential application of 90/10 A share/B share split to "C" shares

Must coordinate with state, if any category 2 or 3 revisions are suggested
(biggest issue highlighted by industry is late TAC announcement)

- 5) Three year review will examine program comprehensively
- 6) Dispute over potential exemption from St George landing requirement

Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Rationalization

Salmon Bycatch

- On hold pending assessment of Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions and State of Alaska (Governor) request
- Primary Alternatives include:
 1. limited access (jig sector only)
 2. cooperative/limited access (with no processor component, jig only)
 3. IFQ (low producing vessels only)
 4. IFQ/cooperative with limited processor entry
 5. IFQ/cooperative with processor associations
 6. IFQ with harvest share allocation to processors
 7. Cooperative/limited access with processor associations
- Council is pursuing interim measures
 - 1) Pacific cod sector split – interaction with State waters fisheries must be considered in deciding appropriate allocations
 - 2) LLP revisions in the Gulf – potentially removes latent LLPs and revises endorsement structure – Council has yet to specify alternatives and options

Review of Sideboards

The Council is undertaking a comprehensive review of all GOA sideboards in all programs (AFA/Amendment 80/CGOA rockfish/crab rationalization) to ensure they are neither overly restrictive nor ineffective

Salmon Bycatch

Summary:

- Record amounts of bycatch of chum and Chinook salmon in BSAI pollock trawl fisheries since 2003: >700,000 chum salmon in 2005, >80,000 Chinook salmon in 2006
- Chinook bycatch likely to have high % of WAK stocks, chum likely to have some % of WAK stocks but larger proportion are Asian origin
- Overall reason for increased bycatch unknown but likely some combination of increase in salmon abundance and possible changes in fishing practices due to regulatory closure configurations
- Council actions seek to craft innovative management measures that are more flexible to changing environmental conditions than fixed regulatory closures and are responses to changes in salmon abundance

State involvement:

- No formal State involvement outside of Council process.

Major Issues and timeline:

- Series of management actions by the Council:
- Amendment 84 approved to exempt pollock fleet from regulatory closures pending participation in a voluntary rolling hotspot (VRHS) system
- VRHS system: Vessels with high bycatch rates are subject to weekly closures (ranging 4-7 days) with financial penalties imposed for non-compliance.
- Formal implementation by the end of 2007 (currently EFP).
- Additional management measures under consideration include new closures and biomass-based caps
- Alternatives for new closures and caps being refined for analysis in February/April 2007 with analysis anticipated for 2007
- Alternatives and analysis for individual bycatch quotas (IBQs) in 2008/2009.
- Workshop at SSC on salmon bycatch in April 2007. Focus on salmon bycatch patterns, fleet behavior in response to VRHS closures and genetic information on salmon stock of origin

Essential Fish Habitat- Bering Sea Habitat Conservation

Chapter Habitat

Summary

- The North Pacific Council and NMFS closed several areas in the Gulf of Alaska and 95% of the Aleutian Islands area to protect benthic habitat in 2005.

State Involvement

- The state is expected to pass mirror regulations for the AI and state managed fisheries in March 2006.
- State involvement may also include passing mirror regulations for non pelagic trawl gear in state waters in Western Alaska to provide subsistence buffer zones for communities.

Major Issues/Timeline

- Bering Sea Habitat protection is currently being evaluated.
- The Bering Sea evaluation is two fold:
 - Focus on gear modification for the flatfish trawl fleet to reduce bottom contact.
 - Analyzing methods for potential northward expansion of the bottom trawl fishery.
- Time line for the initial analysis is April 2007, with possible Council decision in June.
- Additional action could occur through HAPC initiatives.

Charter Halibut

Summary:

Management issue since 1993 when commercial longliners raised concerns about growth trends in the charter fisheries in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. The Council considered a number of management strategies to limit growth (including limited entry, quota share program, and guideline harvest levels) with three stakeholder committees. Area 2C and 3A Guideline Harvest Levels, 1.432 M lb and 3.65 M lb were implemented in 2004. The GHGs have been exceeded every year, by increasing percentages; in 2006, the Area 2C and 3A GHGs were exceeded by >40% and 8%, respectively. The Council recommended a 5-fish annual limit for Area 2C charter fishery, along with an ADF&G emergency order to prohibit retention of charter fish by crew. The Council rescinded its action due to high implementation costs. The Council is considering short and long term solutions to limit charter harvests.

State involvement

- The Council relies exclusively on Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sportfish Division to provide data to analyze the effects of proposals to limit charter halibut harvests. Staff also advises the Council and its stakeholder committees.
- ADF&G Commissioner enacted an emergency order to limit harvests by skippers and crew on charter boats in Area 2C in 2006. The Council encouraged ADF&G to act again in 2007.
- ADF&G staff has drafted Congressional legislation to amend the North Pacific Halibut Act to allow the councils to delegate limited authority for managing sport halibut to the states. The Council would analyze biological, social, and economic effects of such delegation to the State of Alaska, if Congressional legislation is enacted.
- ADF&G staff has drafted state legislation to allow sharing of State data with Federal enforcement agencies. State action is required to implement the charter halibut limited entry program.
- ADF&G staff has drafted state legislation for a limited entry program for charter operators.

Charter Halibut (continued)

Timeline:

- The Council is scheduled for review and action in February and April 2007, respectively, to limit entry into the charter halibut fisheries in Southcentral and Southeast Alaska using December 9, 2005 as the last date of participation. The proposed program would provide licenses to Gulf of Alaska coastal communities. The earliest implementation could occur is 2009.
- The Council is scheduled for review and action in April and June 2007, respectively, to limit harvests in the charter halibut fisheries in Southcentral and Southeast Alaska because of over runs of 8% and >40%, respectively. Proposed measures include: 1) 1 trip per vessel per day; 2) no retention of halibut catch by skippers and crew; 3) annual catch limits of 4 or 5 halibut; 4) 1 fish bag limit for June, July, August, or entire season; 5) trophy size limit for second fish between 45 to 60 inches; 6) season closure date of August 15, August 31, or September 15; 7) day of the week closure (pick a specific day); and/or 8) minimum size limit of 32 inches. The earliest implementation could occur is 2008.
- The Council, through its stakeholder committee, is developing options for a share-based program, either client-days or quota shares, with which to manage the fisheries for the long term. The proposed program could include options to increase charter sector harvest with compensation to the commercial sector, increase fishing opportunity to recreational anglers as demand grows, opportunity for charter sector growth in areas that are currently underdeveloped, and maintain stability in coastal communities. This could allow the State to hold commercial QS/IFQ and transfer the poundage/percentage to the charter sector, when needed to meet demand. No timeline has been set.
- The IPHC, in January, approved a one-fish bag limit for 2007 (June 15-June 30 in Area 3A and June 15-July 30 in Area 2C). There is considerable controversy over this action.

Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum

Chapter Halibut (continued)

- The Council has collaborated with 4 State agencies and 10 Federal agencies to create the Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum (AMEF)
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in September 2006
- Purpose: to improve coordination and cooperative understanding between Federal and State agencies on issues of shared responsibilities related to the marine ecosystems off Alaska's coast
 - increase awareness among member agencies of salient regional issues, existing or potential user conflicts, and relevant ecosystem developments
 - achieve efficiencies by sharing information regarding ecosystem efforts and goals, and by reducing or removing duplicative ecosystem efforts
 - ensure that activities undertaken or contemplated by member agencies are complementary where possible and achieve effective results for ecosystem sustainability and utilization
- The AMEF does not have independent jurisdiction or authority and does not regulate any activity
- Initial focus of the AMEF: the Aleutian Islands marine ecosystem
- Intent is to meet 1-2 times per year
 - first meeting was in September 2006, next proposed for March 2007

Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan

- The Council is developing a fishery ecosystem plan (FEP) for the Aleutian Islands
- The FEP is a policy and scientific document that will help decisionmakers to understand the ecosystem context of fishery actions
- The FEP takes into account all fisheries occurring in the Aleutian Islands, including State fisheries
- Final action for the FEP is scheduled for June 2007

Arctic Ocean Fishery Management Plan Initiative

- The Council is considering options for management of fishery resources in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas
- There is currently no policy statement or federal management to address commercial fishing in the Arctic EEZ
- Ocean warming trends and receding ice conditions may create potential fishery development
- Three existing FMPs partly cover the region: Salmon, Scallop and Crab
- The Council plans to develop a policy and options for Arctic fishery management with one option being to close Arctic EEZ waters to commercial fishing

Currently the only commercial fishery in EEZ waters in the Arctic is a small State-managed crab fishery near Kotzebue. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the State may manage EEZ fisheries in the absence of a Federal FMP. Under current State statutes, all fishing in any waters of the State or the EEZ is prohibited unless specifically authorized by statute or regulation (AS 16.05.920(a)). Thus, all fisheries in Arctic waters of the State and the adjacent EEZ not currently authorized under existing regulations are closed under this statute.

Crab Overfishing Definitions

Summary:

- Analysis of revised status determination criteria for BSAI Crab stocks
- State/Federal management of crab fisheries (overfishing definitions are under Federal measures)

State involvement:

- Analysis will be provided to the Board of Fisheries (BOF)
- Implementation of new overfishing levels for crab stocks may result in the BOF choosing to modify harvest strategies for many stocks
- Rebuilding plans for snow crab, St. Matthew blue king crab and Tanner crab may need to be revised through Council and BOF process

Major issues/timeline:

- EA/RIR/IRFA for initial review in February, final action possibly in June 2007
- Implementation likely for 2008 fisheries
- Scheduling of BOF consultation not yet determined
- Short-term harvests of some stocks (snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, EBS Tanner crab) may be constrained

Steller Sea Lion Protection Measures

Summary

- listed as endangered (western population) or threatened (eastern population) under the Endangered Species Act

State Involvement

- The Council and NMFS have imposed a complex suite of regulations in the pollock, cod, and Atka mackerel fisheries to protect SSLs. These regulations are mirrored in State statutes in "parallel fisheries". Some "State water" fisheries, however, do not mirror all SSL protection measures, but to date these State water fisheries are considered by NMFS to have negligible impacts on SSLs.
- The State has recently considered proposals to modify pollock and cod fisheries in State waters. The principal concern over changes in existing State cod and pollock fisheries is whether additional SSL protection measures may have to be taken in Federal fisheries to compensate for the impacts of the State fisheries on SSLs. The Council and BOF have worked through these issues in a Joint Protocol Committee, and recently new cod and pollock fisheries have been established in State waters in the Aleutian Islands.¹
- Currently the BOF is considering changes in the western GOA cod fisheries in State waters. The Council and NMFS may ask the BOF to delay action to examine potential impacts of these changes on SSLs and on Federal fisheries.
- BOF action could trigger formal Section 7 consultation

¹ For 2006 & 2007, new parallel fishery was approved for P. cod west of 170° in AI based on 3% of Federal BSAI TAC. Effective beginning in 2007, new State waters fishery for pollock was approved between 174° and 178° in AI at 3,000 mt (reduced in 2007 by 3,000 mt as approved in the Federal EFP) under different regs than the Federal AI pollock fishery.

Steller Sea Lion Protection Measures (continued)

Major Issues/Timeline

- The Council and NMFS are currently part of a new Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act. The State's "parallel" cod and pollock fisheries are part of this process; State water fisheries are not. The focus of this consultation is on the Council's Fishery Management Plans and whether current fishery management in the EEZ comports with new information on Steller sea lions.
- It is hoped by industry that the consultation will lead to a Biological Opinion that relaxes some SSL protection measures, but it is not likely that there will be appreciable changes in the existing SSL protection measures until scientific studies can more clearly demonstrate the role of fisheries in the past SSL decline. This process should be completed in early 2008 – with any allowed regulation changes in effect for 2009.
- The State has recently considered proposals to modify pollock and cod fisheries in State waters. The principal concern over changes in existing State cod and pollock fisheries is whether additional SSL protection measures may have to be taken in Federal fisheries to compensate for the impacts of the State fisheries on SSLs. The Council and BOF have worked through these issues in a Joint Protocol Committee, and recently new cod and pollock fisheries have been established in State waters in the Aleutian Islands.
- Currently the BOF is considering changes in the western GOA cod fisheries in State waters. The Council and NMFS may ask the BOF to delay action to examine potential impacts of these changes on SSLs and on Federal fisheries.
- BOF action could trigger formal Section 7 consultation.

Community Development Quota Program

Summary:

- Recent amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Act (through the Coast Guard and Maritime Transp. Act of 2006 and reauthorization of the MSA in 2007) changed the allocation process, fisheries management, oversight aspects, and in some cases, the allocations to, the CDQ Program.
- Percentage allocations among the groups were fixed at percentages in place on March 1, 2006 (unless revised through decennial review process)
- The allocation to the CDQ Program for any *directed* fishery in the BSAI (except halibut, sablefish, pollock, and crab) shall be 10.7% effective 1/1/08.
- The 10.7% allocation includes all directed and non-target harvest combined.
- The MSA sets requirements for the groups' BODs, creates a CDQ Panel, and establishes limits on non-fisheries investments (max of 20% of annual investments).
- Community development plans (and amendments), no longer represent the groups' application for quota, and are no longer required to be submitted to the State and NMFS.
- Establishes a decennial review (starting in 2012) to potentially revise allocations among the groups. MSA includes criteria by which to conduct the review, but CDQ Panel shall assign weighting of the criteria. A group's allocation could be reduced by a maximum of 10% every 10-year cycle.

State involvement/issues:

- The MSA requires the State of Alaska to conduct the decennial review by 1) evaluating the groups' performance based on the criteria, and then 2) making a determination as to whether each group's allocation will be revised as a result. The SOC assumes this role only if State law prevents the State from making the determination.
- On Jan. 19, 2007, NMFS received a determination from the State that the State does not have the legal authority to adjust CDQ allocations and thus cannot undertake the allocation adjustment responsibilities in the MSA.

Major issues/timeline:

- The Council & NMFS are developing regulatory amendment packages to respond to the MSA amendments. Four rulemaking packages are expected in 2007

Trawl Recency

Summary

- The Council is developing an amendment to remove unused (latent) fishing permits from the BSAI and GOA trawl fisheries. The concern is possible future re-entry into the groundfish fisheries by trawl permit holders who have not participated recently.
- Re-entry of latent permits could reduce average revenues and introduce inefficiencies for permit holders who have a history of participation and a dependence upon the respective groundfish trawl fisheries.

State Involvement/Concerns

- While too many permits is the concern over most of the BS and GOA, there is a concern that there are too few permits in the Aleutian Islands. Given the development of the groundfish fisheries at Adak, there may not be sufficient non-AFA trawl permits in the AI.
- The State waters groundfish fishery at Adak has been restricted to waters within 3-miles, and participants need access to federal waters during portions of the year when Pacific cod and other groundfish species are concentrated beyond the 3-mile limit.
- Options included in the amendment evaluate whether any of the proposed alternatives have a disproportionate effect on: (a) small vessels < 60 feet, or (b) permits with Alaskan ownership.

Major issues/timeline

- EA/RIR/IRFA for initial review in March/April, with final action possibly as early as June.
- Implementation could take place in 2008.
- Interaction with other Council actions relating to groundfish permits (LLPs) including the BS/AI Pacific cod split, and consideration of a program to remove latent licenses in the GOA will require management coordination that has the potential to delay implementation of this amendment.

BSAI Amendment 80

BSAI Amendment 80

- Objective of this action is to reduce bycatch, minimize waste and improve utilization of fish resources
- Action would provide specific groundfish allocations to the H&G trawl CP sector (26 vessels) and allow the formation of cooperatives for the H&G trawl CP sector. Estimated implementation January 1, 2008.
- Allocation would include yellowfin sole, rock sole, flathead sole, Atka mackerel, and AI Pacific Ocean perch
- Action would increase the allocation to CDQ program to 10.7 percent for each directed fishery of the BSAI. Effective January 1, 2008. Halibut, sablefish, pollock, and crab are excluded.
- Action would increase halibut PSQ to CDQ program by 50 mt starting in year 3
- Action would result in overall halibut PSC savings of 150 mt annually after 4 years, in addition to a crab PSC (red king crab, snow crab, and Tanner crab) savings
- Action would create sideboards for H&G trawl sector vessels in GOA

BSAI Amendment 85

BSAI Amendment 85

Summary:

- Action revised BSAI Pacific cod allocations to all gear sectors: hook-and-line (CP & CV); pot (CP & CV); jig; <60' longline/pot; trawl CV; non-AFA trawl CP; AFA trawl CP; and CDQ sector.
- Objective was to change allocations to better reflect actual historical use of the resource (i.e., account for roll-overs), considering social and community factors.
- Action incorporates recent amendments to the MSA pertaining to the CDQ Program (increase in CDQ allocation from 7.5% to 10.7% of the BSAI Pacific cod TAC).
- Action provides allocations to an overall sector; it does not convey allocations to individuals or cooperatives.
- Action also divides the halibut PSC allocated to the overall trawl Pacific cod sector among the trawl CV, AFA trawl CP, and non-AFA trawl CP sectors. Similarly, it divides the halibut PSC allocated to the overall hook-and-line Pacific cod sector among the hook-and-line CP and CV sectors.
- Action changes the seasonal allocations to the jig sector (increases the amount in the first trimester and reduces the amount in the third trimester).

State involvement:

- Other than having participated in the development and approval of the action through the Council process, there is no State role. This action pertains to the management of the Federal BSAI Pacific cod TAC.
- In 2006, the State initiated a State water AI Pacific cod fishery (equal to 3% of the BSAI Pacific cod ABC). The allocation to this fishery reduces the amount remaining for all gear sectors that fish cod in BSAI Federal waters.

Major issues/timeline:

- Council approved the action in April 2006.
- FMP amendment has been published in the Federal register; comment period ends February 5, 2007. Proposed rule should be published soon (with revised supporting analysis to be consistent with MSA amendments).
- If approved by the SOC, implementation expected for 2008 fisheries (in tandem with BSAI Amendment 80).

From: Jim Marcotte [mailto:jim_marcotte@fishgame.state.ak.us]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 1:10 PM
To: Rep. Peggy Wilson
Cc: Rep. Paul Seaton; 'Tim M Barry'
Subject: *****SPAM***** Follow-up on Board of Fisheries presentation

Dear Representative Wilson,

One of the follow-up questions from the House Fisheries committee meeting yesterday was whether or not there is an opinion from the Department of Law regarding the imputed value of subsistence harvests in calculating potential "financial interest" when evaluating ethics act conflicts. I checked with Lance Nelson of the Department of Law yesterday and he indicated that there isn't a formal opinion on this. He added that he did not think the amount of harvest at an individual or household level that the amounts would constitute a "significant" level, which is similar to sport or hunting harvests. I hope that helps.

Thank you again for the opportunity to meet with the committee. Please let me know if there are additional questions.

Jim Marcotte
Executive Director, Board of Fisheries
465-6095

Charles Armand Piedra
619 West 11th St.
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-463-3703
January 7, 2007

The Honorable Paul Seaton
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Seaton,

I am writing you to seek your help with the VMS requirements soon to be before the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. I am writing on behalf of myself and other small boat fishermen who will be negatively impacted by the VMS rules if some common sense changes are not made to the plan. I am an Alaska salmon power troll fisherman with a 40 foot wood vessel built in 1928. I have owned and operated my own vessel in the salmon fishery since 1970. I have never been issued a fisheries or boundary violation in all those years. I understand the VMS is being used to collect data and keep track of large vessels engaged in groundfish fisheries in the EEZ such as trawling and this is appropriate for these mega producers. These catcher ships that are also at-sea floating factories need to be monitored due to these vessels' size and potential to cause negative impacts to fish stocks and ocean ecosystems. Small vessel operators such as trollers do not have this kind of potential due to our size and fishing gear. We are small businessmen. We should not be burdened with the same equipment or rules as operators whose revenues exceed ours by 20-fold or more. To say it simply, in all aspects this is a David and Goliath issue.

Even with proposed federal grants small vessel owners will still be burdened with a lot of extra costs they can not afford each year. For instance, the electric system on my vessel, like a lot of other small fishermen's vessels, cannot handle one of these Skytracs systems and would need immediate expensive upgrade work before the VMS could even operate. Who will pay for this and how? The proposed federal grants don't even come close. We have heard an annual fee, estimated at this time to be around \$450, will be levied. Another unaddressed problem with these rules is: Who is going to repair these systems in Alaska? Repair businesses for these systems currently do not exist in Southeast Alaska, and small fishermen cannot afford the time or cost of sending them out of the region for repair. Therefore, if these rules are put in place, and a fisherman's system breaks down, his season is over - period! Also, the research I have done shows the VMS units are like cell phones and would need to be replaced every four years at a cost of approximately \$2,000! Many small fishermen simply cannot afford this extra cost.

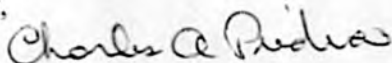
In Southeast Alaska, small salmon boats are operated mostly in State waters and should not need the VMS at all. The Alaska Dept of Fish and Game has an excellent catch statistics reporting program in the salmon fisheries, and at present, harvest reports are collected daily from buyers. Salmon fisherman cannot hide anything from the government; we are already required by law to report our catch statistics, as are the buyers and processors. As for safety issues, all small documented vessels such as mine already carry a mandatory—and expensive—satellite EPIRB; a mandatory—and expensive—self-deploying canister life raft; and mandatory—and expensive—aerial signaling devices. If we are in distress, these safety devices enable the Coast Guard to locate us when we call in a mayday on our mandatory VHF radios, which are required to be on channel 16 at all times. And this is only a partial list of all the safety equipment and devices required now by the Coast Guard. This inventory of mandatory safety equipment is expensive to maintain and replace, and the costs increase every year. Adding a VMS requirement will, quite simply, put a number of small salmon fishermen out of business. Are we being unfairly prevented by Government agencies from making a living?

Perhaps the VMS could be used as an enforcement tool, making fisheries violators in smaller vessels install the VMS as part of the punishments they receive. But why should law-abiding business persons be saddled with a program like this? Why should the government violate the right of privacy of law-abiding citizens and small businesses? If the VMS is made mandatory, litigation is sure to follow.

Here are some examples of things that could be done with the VMS rules to make them fair for small operators. Exempt all AK licensed salmon trolling vessels, power and hand. Exempt all Federal Fisheries Permit holders who have less than 5000 Lbs of IFQ. Exempt all AK licensed salmon gillnet boats. Exempt all AK licensed salmon seine vessels. Exempt all AK licensed small fishing vessels fishing in state waters the definition of a small vessel being 64 feet or less overall. Exempt all IFQ fishermen who have less than 10,000 lbs of halibut or sablefish combined. Exempt all halibut IFQ fisherman who hold less than 5,000 lbs of halibut and fish in state waters. Exempt all AK licensed small vessel fishermen who live in rural Alaskan villages. Exempt all Alaska Native small boat fishermen with incomes less than the national poverty level.

If nothing else, the impacts of the proposed VMS requirements to small fishing operations need to be studied thoroughly and made public. I am requesting that you bring these issues before the Council and that all the members consider carefully the jobs and livelihoods you could destroy by prematurely imposing the costly burden of VMS on small operators who simply cannot afford it.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Piedra

cc: Governor Palin
cc: Senator Kim Elton
cc: Senator Bert Stedman
cc: Albert Kookesh
cc: Representative Beth Kerttula
cc: Representative Bill Thomas Jr.
cc: Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
cc: Representative Paul Seaton
cc: Representative Peggy Wilson
cc: Representative Berta Gardner
cc: U.S. Senator Ted Stevens
cc: U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski
cc: U.S. Congressman Don Young
cc: Commissioner Denby Lloyd
cc: Representative- Elect Andrea Doll

Charles Armand Piedra
619 West 11th St.
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-463-3703
January 7, 2007

The Honorable Paul Seaton
State Capitol
Juneau Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Seaton,

Please find attached a letter and some information about the vessel monitoring system (VMS) and new regulations that may soon be put in place by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council later this month. I am very concerned about the burden these regulations would impose on me and other small boat fishermen. I am asking you to study the proposed rules, and initiate appropriate action in the legislature to oppose the VMS requirements, at least for small vessels fishing mostly in state waters.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Piedra III

Charles Armand Piedra III

'Gators by the tail

Riled up Florida fishermen file suit over VMS requirement

By Hoyt Childers

Without a doubt, the irony was unintentional. But NOAA could hardly have picked a worse date

— Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Day — to saddle law-abiding reef fishermen with vessel monitoring systems, which many of them regard as the maritime equivalent of an electronic ankle bracelet.

Satellite tracking of reef fish vessels, would allow government to look over their shoulders 24-7 in an alarming new way on the 65th anniversary of the attack that threw their parents and grandparents into an epic fight for freedom.

"This is the camel's nose coming into the tent," says Hernando Beach, Fla., reef fisherman Dan Carlson, a combat veteran who flew helicopters in Vietnam.

"I worked for the government for 28 years," Carlson says. "I suspect that what they want to do is drive small operators out of business."

Such opinions are common among Gulf of Mexico fishermen and have precipitated a court challenge to the VMS requirement.

The challenge appears to have had an effect already. A source familiar with the case says NOAA is considering a VMS delay, perhaps until mid-January. NMFS

officials say the VMS law is to monitor compliance in closed and protected areas and to "track and prosecute violations."

Probably no issue has so riled so many fishermen here since the Florida net ban conflict in 1994.

"It's the whole Big Brother thing," says Lee Starling, a Key West fisherman. "They are overextending their jurisdiction."

Whether Gulf of Mexico vessel monitoring is in fact an overextension of federal authority will be decided in court. Will Ward, owner of Captain's Finest Seafood in St. Petersburg and spokesman for the Gulf Fishermen's Association, says the association is challenging the vessel monitoring law on privacy grounds, among others.

"There's myriad of reasons we feel like they've violated constitutional law," Ward says.

St. Petersburg attorney Mike Mastry filed the lawsuit in federal court in Tampa on Oct. 23.

Mastry says there are unique elements of this case that favor the plaintiffs even though other fisheries, such as Northeast scallops, already have mandatory VMS, but he didn't want to tip his hand too soon.

"I'm glad we've been chosen to take up the fight for them," he says.

Ward emphasizes that he didn't really



Like many Gulf of Mexico reef fisherman, Richard Waites believes that requiring the regular tracking of vessels with an electronic ankle bracelet violates the Constitution.

want to go to court but that the vessel monitoring law has backed fishermen into a corner.

"They've singled out the commercial fishing industry," he says. "We felt like we had no other avenue to pursue than litigation."

Fishermen are unified on this issue, he says. "Longline, hook and line, divers, small-, large-scale, they are outraged."

Just down the coast from St. Pete is another major reef fish port, the historic fishing village of Cortez. Cortez survived the Florida net ban largely because Walter Bell, president of A.P. Bell Fish Co., had the foresight to establish a viable longline fleet. Now, virtually every vessel in port, longliners and bandit boats alike, will have to have a VMS onboard.

Richard Waites, captain of the F/V Rachel J. Belle, the fleet flagship, doesn't necessarily oppose tracking repeat offenders, but like Ward, doesn't feel it's fair to penalize fishermen who have clean records.

"I've never done anything," he says. "It doesn't seem right that they want to track somebody who's never been in trouble. You almost need an attorney on the boat with you."

Ward says he hopes the lawsuit will force some common sense into the law.

"Gulf Fishermen's position supports VMS for a proven history of violations," he says. "My hope is that we can bring this back to NMFS and bring this back to the drawing board. I want to work with law enforcement and find a solution. We want illegal fishing activity to stop."

As of Nov. 1, NMFS had approved only two systems, the Thrane & Thrane Gold TT-3026D and the Boatrac FMCT-GPS, for the vessel monitoring program. According to NMFS, purchase and installation of the Boatrac unit should cost \$3,495, and \$3,800 for the Thrane & Thrane.

For small operators and part-time fishermen, especially, the upfront cost of the monitoring system is a major burden.

NOAA is providing \$3.25 million in federal grants to reimburse fishermen for purchase and installation costs, but fishermen have to apply for the money. The maximum grant will be \$3,095, the purchase cost of the Boatrac FMCT-GPS, the least expensive of the two options.

But the same funding also is earmarked for reimbursement of VMS costs in other fisheries — such as Pacific groundfish — that NMFS expects to



The Sea Fox, dockside at Madeira Beach, is one of many Florida reef boats that was slated to carry VMS.

Rando had outgrown the canal and relocated to Bayou Bienvenue a few years before the storm. "I was gettin' too old for that lake, man. It beats the hell out of you," says Rando, who'd traded his shrimp trawl, which is required in the deeper waters of the lake, for a set of skimmer nets. "Skimmin' you're always in calm water," he says. "It's a lot easier on the body there."

To slip under a walkway that crossed the mouth of the 17th Street Canal, larger Bucktown boats, like Rando's 32-footer, are rigged with distinctive collapsible booms that the fishermen call mousetraps, "because if they

ever come down on you, that's what you'd look like — a mouse in a trap," Rando explains. With unwieldy skimmer nets, however, there's no way of passing under that walkway, so Rando, whose father and grandfather worked the lake from Bucktown, made the emotional decision to give up his slip on the canal.

Counting his boat, those of several other Bucktowners who'd converted to skimming for the August white shrimp season, plus those who were running from Katrina, at least a dozen skiffs from Bucktown rode out the storm at Bayou Bienvenue.

Moving to the east put them closer to the eye of the storm, but with a floodgate across the bayou, the location had proven to be a safe harbor in the past. "A bunch o' times, a bunch o' people have run down there from storms," Rando says. "They figured they'd be safe, because when they close the gates the water quits comin' up in there, or comes up real, real slow."

"But nobody knew it was gonna come like that. The levees broke and everything went to hell there. They had boats scattered every which way you can think of."

"Petsey Bordes' boat was upside down — with the riggin' stuck down in the mud, the boat was suspended over top o'

the marsh.

"I had to go get mine out o' the trees," Rando says. "It was an ordeal."

"We didn't know where it was for six weeks. Finally, one o' my partners with the Wildlife, he was flyin' in a helicopter with the Homeland Security people. They saw my boat and told me where it was. I got lucky there."

"It was about a mile and a half or so from where I tied it up, up in the trees about a hundred yards from the nearest water. It took me five months to get it out o' there."

"It had a hole in it where it settled down on a tree stump when the water left. The boat didn't sink, it hap-

pened when the water left out, so I didn't get no water in the boat. The motor's all good."

"Me and one of my brothers went back there and jacked it up, got it off the ground. We stripped all the runnin' gear off and screwed a patch on the bottom so it'd float."

Sidelined by the storm, Rando has been working as an electrician. Weekends find him back at Bayou Bienvenue, getting his boat ready.

"Everything I've been wantin' to do for the last couple years, I'm doin' it now," he says. "I put a new cabin on it, fixed the bottom, put new ice holds in it."

Nobody's boat at Bayou Bienvenue escaped unscathed — the single boat that didn't break free from its moorings was punctured by a piling when the water receded. "Eight or 10 of us sunk," Rando says. "We took a beatin' in that place there." Still, every boat but one was salvageable.

Most of the boats in Bucktown were lost.

The 17th Street Canal opens into the lake from the south, and its mouth is unprotected. The skiffs are tied with their sterns to the bank, and they take a beating when any north breeze pushes a chop across the lake and funnels it into the canal. So when Katrina passed to the

east and sent hurricane-force northerly wind into the canal, the dozen or so boats in there broke loose and piled up on a highway bridge that crossed the canal. If that didn't destroy them, they met their fates a few days later when the corps brought in the cranes.

"They were grabbin' everything in sight," says James Kenmure Jr., whose 36-footer landed on top of the heap. "It was out of the water, on top of the bridge and on top of all the trash on the bridge. But there were no holes in it. The cops came and says, 'You gotta get off that boat.' But I told 'em, 'You'll have to kill me.'"

"It ain't much of a boat, but it's my boat," says Kenmure, who'd been living aboard his 36-footer, though he rode out the storm shoreside. "They worked around it. I lost the cabin, the steering, but all I know is it floats! I was tickled to death with that."

By the opening day of the August white shrimp season, which fell eight days shy of Katrina's anniversary, Kenmure's boat wasn't yet ready to go to work. Still, he was down at the Bonabel boat launch, offering moral support to the few fishermen who were going out to test the lake.

As the fishermen iced down drinks and lunches, no one said he expected the shrimp to be as thick as they were the previous year when, after Katrina, the five or so boats that were still fishable loaded up like Bubba Gump. Unfortunately, they were unable to capitalize on the abundance.

"After the storm, they had all the shrimp in the world, but no factories," Anderson recalls. "They were loadin' up their pickups with shrimp, but there was nothin' to do with 'em."

Bonabel is a public launch, owned by Jefferson Parish. For the sake of the 15 or so Bucktowners who are back in action, the parish put a six-month suspension on an ordinance that normally prohibits mooring overnight at the facility.

"So that helps us where they can still fish out there and have a good local place for the fishing fleet to park," Russell Boudreaux explains.

Boudreaux, a Bucktown firefighter and fisherman, is the prime mover behind an effort to reinvigorate an earlier push to create a permanent harbor for the Bucktown fleet. In the aftermath of Katrina, with federal funds flowing,

he just might pull it off.

In the 1970s, Bucktown fishermen convinced the parish council to build them a marina. Though a fine breakwater was built across the mouth of a cove, immediately to the west of the 17th Street Canal, the project lost momentum when it came time to deepen the new harbor.

"The dredging costs were prohibitive," Boudreaux says. "Then, about 10 or 12 years ago, they got the Coast Guard to build their facility there, and that way they got them to pick up the dredging cost, which was several million dollars."

"It's just a vacant harbor right now, so I figure if you've got local fishermen that need a place to tie, and it was orig-



Work is underway on the new floodgate system at the entrance to the 17th Street Canal.

inally built and designed and permitted for those same people that need a place, it's only common sense to me that that's where they should go."

With the help of Louisiana State University fisheries agent Mark Schexnayder, Boudreaux is working to secure funds from the federal rebuilding effort to build 24 new slips in the harbor, "and maybe, with the parish's help, to get an additional 10 slips for some of the fellows who have outgrown the canal with their larger boats — the 40-footers and such."

"They were members of our Bucktown fleet, and they're very interested in getting in there," Boudreaux, who says he was "brought to Bucktown from the hospital," describes himself as a bulldozer, "tryin' to push all the right people into doin' the right thing."

In addition to offering the fleet even better protection than it had in the 17th Street Canal, Boudreaux predicts the commercial marina "will bring some character, having those shrimp boats back in Bucktown."

"If we get the community to stand back up and have our fishing fleet, it'll maintain our culture and heritage." NF

Commercial fisherman Robert Fritchey is author of "Wetland Riders." He lives in Golden Meadow, La.

UNIQUE BODY OF SALTWATER

More than 600 square miles in area, Lake Pontchartrain is the nation's second largest inland saltwater lake. Unlike the largest — Utah's Great Salt Lake — Lake Pontchartrain is an estuary that communicates with the Gulf of Mexico.

Tidal waters from Lake Borgne are injected into the lake via Chef Menteur Pass and the Rigolets Strait, at the lake's eastern end. These salty waters render the lake brackish enough to support an abundance of seafood species that includes blue crabs, brown and white shrimp, and a variety of marine finfish.

According to NMFS, which pooled shrimp landings from Pontchartrain and Borgne, those waters yielded an average 760,970 pounds of shrimp annually from 1956 through 2000. Brown shrimp averaged 520,960 pounds, and white shrimp 240,010 pounds. — R.F.

Charting the way forward

Fishermen take part in a Boston symposium on fishing and ecosystem conservation

By Linc Bedrosian

It is appropriate that Boston hosted the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea's 2006 symposium. After all, the Bay State has a cape named for its abundance of codfish, a species that for some 400 years has symbolized the region's fishing industry.

If cod's abundance energized New England's early economies, its current scarcity symbolizes the tough times the region's groundfish industry is experiencing now. And so with an eye toward preserving a fishing future — here and throughout the world — an international field of marine scientists, gear technology experts and fishermen gathered in a large ballroom at the Seaport Hotel. The five-day symposium was dedicated to fishing technology in the 21st century and finding ways to integrate fishing and ecosystem conservation.

For the first four days, the symposium's varied presentations examined biological and socioeconomic issues relating to bycatch, discards, fishing gear impact on sensitive habitats, and the per-

formance of fishing gear used in fisheries surveys. On the last day, the symposium focused on the fishermen's role, seeking their input on collaborative research projects and on socioeconomic and other effects that science and management measures have on harvesters and other stakeholders.

The stakeholder forum sought to answer the question, "Where do we go from here?" A four-member panel and moderator Jerry Fraser of *National Fisherman* faced the challenge of inspiring dialogue among leaders from the fishing industry, academia, science and conservation organizations.

One of the forum's goals was building stronger relationships between fishermen and scientists in order to incorporate fishermen's knowledge into stock assessments and management planning, especially through cooperative research projects, such as resource surveys, gear modification studies, mapping of critical fish habitat, tagging and migration studies, among other projects.

In the United States, stock surveys can create tension between harvesters, scientists and regulators. Fisheries in a n a g e m e n t requirements often clash with fishermen's need to pursue their livelihood.

Several years ago in New England, for example, groundfish stock surveys led to harsh

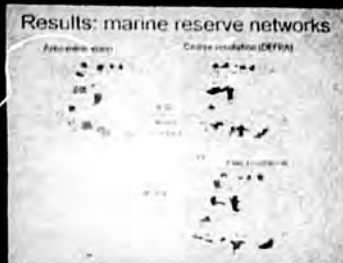
restrictions. Groundfish fishermen, correctly, as it turns out, asserted that the surveys had been flawed by improperly rigged gear. Fishermen later worked with NMFS researchers to rectify the survey sampling problem.

The affair, now known as "Trawlgate," is just one that panelist Paul Howard has seen in his 10 years as the New England council's executive director. Howard advocates increasing cooperative research projects that let regulators take advantage of fishermen's experience and knowledge. Cooperative research funding in New England yields valuable data collection, Howard noted. For example, the use of electronic logbooks provides "real-time data with great discard information," he said. "The more comprehensive and complete the data is, the more buy-in we'll get from fishermen and managers."

Getting fishermen to buy into the management process is critical, agreed panelist Michael Andersen, an assessment biologist with the Danish Fishermen's Association. Today, Andersen works more as a liaison between fishermen and scientists.

If regulators and scientists want fishermen to buy into survey data, they must recognize that harvesters are trying to earn a living, he says. "Fishing is done for money. Therefore, sometimes when scientists approach fishermen, it's difficult for fishermen to accept reduction in catch."

Fishermen will make necessary sacrifices to promote sustainable fishing, he said, if their losses can be made up elsewhere. "We're not just discussing protection of environment. We're also affecting fishermen, their towns, their livelihood."



JERRY FRASER

The five-day conference on fishing technology in the 21st century drew upward of 250 scientists from 38 countries.

Panelist Paul Starr, an international consultant and fisheries scientist, splits his time working in Canada and New Zealand. Starr told the audience that in New Zealand, stock assessment data comes from fishermen and observers.

"They don't make a distinction between sources," he explained. "The fishermen's data is just as valid."

Moreover, Starr said, in New Zealand and Canada, the fishing industry pays for data collection. "Essentially, you've got to do it yourself," he says. "What happens is that government doesn't necessarily have that priority." New Zealand fishermen fund data collection through the country's individual transferable quota system.

Covering data collection costs also ends fears of fisheries management agencies not having enough money to conduct surveys. Starr said one stakeholder group he works with realizes that "unless they volunteer to collect information, they won't be there down the road."

In the afternoon, participants discussed how management tools and gear development might promote a better balance between conservation concerns and fishing industry needs. Can fishing gear be too efficient?

The more efficient, the better, said Andersen, who believes that such gear will promote responsible fishing.

"You can have less impact by being more efficient. We need to make gear more efficient, not less," he says. "One of the good ways to reduce impact on the environment is to have more efficient fishing gear."



New Englanders Frank Mirarchi (left) and Carl Bouchard, both draggersmen, took part in discussions with scientists.

LINC BEDROSIAN

bring into the VMS fold early in 2007. Fishermen should apply as soon as possible, says Kim Amendola, spokeswoman for the NMFS Southeastern Science Center.

"In January or February they will just be in competition with other fishermen," she says. "We're waiting to see if Congress will earmark any more money."

The cost equation is further complicated by the fact that many smaller Gulf of Mexico vessels don't have electrical systems that can handle the additional amperage and will need expensive upgrades, says Leeville, La., snapper fisherman Wayne Werner.

"These VMS systems are not designed to go on small boats," he says. "It's going to be tough for them."

One fisherman with such a problem is Starling in Key West. His 39-foot Antares, the last of the Key West No. 1 wooden hulls, still has the original Graymarine diesel, and his electrical system just isn't up to the task.

"I'm going to have to put a different battery system in," Starling says.

Besides the initial expense, fishermen have to pay annual fees for monitoring communications expenses that should

cost \$480 for the Thrane & Thrane and \$660 for the Boatracs unit, according to NMFS.

Gulf fishermen also have been concerned that the increased frequency of VMS transmissions could exponentially raise their annual VMS service-provider costs as vessels fish — or simply navigate near — closed areas.

"In Stock Island, when you pull out, you're right next to the [Florida Keys National Marine] Sanctuary," Starling says.

But Beverly Lambert, Southeast VMS program manager with NOAA law enforcement, says the agency would cover the costs of transmissions that are more frequent than once per hour.

"Those extra polling reports will be reimbursed by NOAA," she says, adding that the transaction would be between NOAA and the service provider.

There is also a hassle factor.

The VMS must operate on any permitted reef fish vessel 24 hours a day, seven days a week, regardless of whether the vessel is fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. Before each trip, vessel operators have to notify NMFS — via either phone or an onboard VMS terminal — what they will be fishing for and what

gear they will use.

For fishermen in Key West, this issue is particularly irksome. When Starling leaves port, he can run west into the Gulf or east into the Atlantic. Either way, he has to keep the system operating, even though the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council shot down a VMS component to its marine protected area Amendment 14.

"The thing about it is, what if I'm fishing in the South Atlantic?" Starling asks. "They don't understand our fishery. They've got no business in the South Atlantic."

And finally, fishermen just don't trust the government to keep a database of their hot spots secure, or in fact not to use it against them in the future, Starling says.

"Their goal is to double the sanctuary size," he says. "They will end up using that information to find out where we're fishing; they'll take the best."

Carlson agrees.

"Somebody knows what's going on," he says. "I know they're releasing our information. This is going to be information they can use."

And Waites worries that he'll see his fishing spots for sale on the Internet in a

few years.

An official NOAA publication states that "computers and monitors showing vessel location data are maintained in secure rooms, and access to these rooms is restricted to authorized personnel," but this does little to reassure fishermen, who routinely hear that some other government database containing private citizen information — such as VA medical records — has been compromised.

It does little to reassure fishermen who have seen state and federal management consistently erode their livelihoods and way of life over the past decade.

They survived gillnet bans in Texas, Louisiana and Florida, longline closures on both coasts and two years of devastating hurricanes only to learn that the government that seems powerless to help after natural disaster has the wherewithal to track their every movement as if they were common criminals.

The VMS law has struck a nerve, and it reveals another Florida gulf — one between fisheries and managers.

"They're just trying to drive people out," Carlson reiterates. **NF**

Hoyt Childers is National Fisherman's Gulf/South Atlantic bureau chief.

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North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Major Issues Summary

BSAI Crab Rationalization
Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Rationalization
Salmon Bycatch
Essential Fish Habitat/Bering Sea Habitat Conservation
Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum
Aleutian Islands Ecosystem Plan
Arctic Ocean Fishery Management Plan
Crab Overfishing Definitions
Steller Sea Lion Protection Measures
Community Development Quota Program
Trawl Recency
BSAI Amendment 80
BSAI Amendment 85

BSAI Crab Rationalization

Issues

- 1) tracking consolidation with potential revision to vessel use caps
- 2) MSA reauthorization included a provision exempting custom processing in the North region (Pribilofs) from processing share use caps to improve efficiency in processing
- 3) Council is considering a similar amendment exempting custom processing in the Western Aleutians from processing share use caps
- 4) 18 month review
 - a. examining arbitration and 90/10 A share/B share split
 - b. potential application of 90/10 A share/B share split to "C" shares

Must coordinate with state, if any category 2 or 3 revisions are suggested
(biggest issue highlighted by industry is late TAC announcement)

- 5) Three year review will examine program comprehensively
- 6) Dispute over potential exemption from St George landing requirement

Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Rationalization

- On hold pending assessment of Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions and State of Alaska (Governor) request
- Primary Alternatives include:
 1. limited access (jig sector only)
 2. cooperative/limited access (with no processor component, jig only)
 3. IFQ (low producing vessels only)
 4. IFQ/cooperative with limited processor entry
 5. IFQ/cooperative with processor associations
 6. IFQ with harvest share allocation to processors
 7. Cooperative/limited access with processor associations
- Council is pursuing interim measures
 - 1) Pacific cod sector split – interaction with State waters fisheries must be considered in deciding appropriate allocations
 - 2) LLP revisions in the Gulf – potentially removes latent LLPs and revises endorsement structure – Council has yet to specify alternatives and options

Review of Sideboards

The Council is undertaking a comprehensive review of all GOA sideboards in all programs (AFA/Amendment 80/CGOA rockfish/crab rationalization) to ensure they are neither overly restrictive nor ineffective

Salmon Bycatch

Summary:

- Record amounts of bycatch of chum and Chinook salmon in BSAI pollock trawl fisheries since 2003: >700,000 chum salmon in 2005, >80,000 Chinook salmon in 2006
- Chinook bycatch likely to have high % of WAK stocks, chum likely to have some % of WAK stocks but larger proportion are Asian origin
- Overall reason for increased bycatch unknown but likely some combination of increase in salmon abundance and possible changes in fishing practices due to regulatory closure configurations
- Council actions seek to craft innovative management measures that are more flexible to changing environmental conditions than fixed regulatory closures and are responses to changes in salmon abundance

State involvement:

- No formal State involvement outside of Council process.

Major Issues and timeline:

- Series of management actions by the Council:
- Amendment 84 approved to exempt pollock fleet from regulatory closures pending participation in a voluntary rolling hotspot (VRHS) system
- VRHS system: Vessels with high bycatch rates are subject to weekly closures (ranging 4-7 days) with financial penalties imposed for non-compliance.
- Formal implementation by the end of 2007 (currently EFP).
- Additional management measures under consideration include new closures and biomass-based caps
- Alternatives for new closures and caps being refined for analysis in February/April 2007 with analysis anticipated for 2007
- Alternatives and analysis for individual bycatch quotas (IBQs) in 2008/2009.
- Workshop at SSC on salmon bycatch in April 2007. Focus on salmon bycatch patterns, fleet behavior in response to VRHS closures and genetic information on salmon stock of origin

Essential Fish Habitat- Bering Sea Habitat Conservation

Charter Habitat

Summary

- The North Pacific Council and NMFS closed several areas in the Gulf of Alaska and 95% of the Aleutian Islands area to protect benthic habitat in 2005.

State Involvement

- The state is expected to pass mirror regulations for the AI and state managed fisheries in March 2006.
- State involvement may also include passing mirror regulations for non pelagic trawl gear in state waters in Western Alaska to provide subsistence buffer zones for communities.

Major Issues/Timeline

- Bering Sea Habitat protection is currently being evaluated.
- The Bering Sea evaluation is two fold:
 - Focus on gear modification for the flatfish trawl fleet to reduce bottom contact.
 - Analyzing methods for potential northward expansion of the bottom trawl fishery.
- Time line for the initial analysis is April 2007, with possible Council decision in June.
- Additional action could occur through HAPC initiatives.

Charter Halibut

Summary:

Management issue since 1993 when commercial longliners raised concerns about growth trends in the charter fisheries in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. The Council considered a number of management strategies to limit growth (including limited entry, quota share program, and guideline harvest levels) with three stakeholder committees. Area 2C and 3A Guideline Harvest Levels, 1.432 M lb and 3.65 M lb were implemented in 2004. The GHGs have been exceeded every year, by increasing percentages; in 2006, the Area 2C and 3A GHGs were exceeded by >40% and 8%, respectively. The Council recommended a 5-fish annual limit for Area 2C charter fishery, along with an ADF&G emergency order to prohibit retention of charter fish by crew. The Council rescinded its action due to high implementation costs. The Council is considering short and long term solutions to limit charter harvests.

State involvement

- The Council relies exclusively on Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sportfish Division to provide data to analyze the effects of proposals to limit charter halibut harvests. Staff also advises the Council and its stakeholder committees.
- ADF&G Commissioner enacted an emergency order to limit harvests by skippers and crew on charter boats in Area 2C in 2006. The Council encouraged ADF&G to act again in 2007.
- ADF&G staff has drafted Congressional legislation to amend the North Pacific Halibut Act to allow the councils to delegate limited authority for managing sport halibut to the states. The Council would analyze biological, social, and economic effects of such delegation to the State of Alaska, if Congressional legislation is enacted.
- ADF&G staff has drafted state legislation to allow sharing of State data with Federal enforcement agencies. State action is required to implement the charter halibut limited entry program.
- ADF&G staff has drafted state legislation for a limited entry program for charter operators.

Charter Halibut (continued)

Timeline:

- The Council is scheduled for review and action in February and April 2007, respectively, to limit entry into the charter halibut fisheries in Southcentral and Southeast Alaska using December 9, 2005 as the last date of participation. The proposed program would provide licenses to Gulf of Alaska coastal communities. The earliest implementation could occur is 2009.
- The Council is scheduled for review and action in April and June 2007, respectively, to limit harvests in the charter halibut fisheries in Southcentral and Southeast Alaska because of over runs of 8% and >40%, respectively. Proposed measures include: 1) 1 trip per vessel per day; 2) no retention of halibut catch by skippers and crew; 3) annual catch limits of 4 or 5 halibut; 4) 1 fish bag limit for June, July, August, or entire season; 5) trophy size limit for second fish between 45 to 60 inches; 6) season closure date of August 15, August 31, or September 15; 7) day of the week closure (pick a specific day); and/or 8) minimum size limit of 32 inches. The earliest implementation could occur is 2008.
- The Council, through its stakeholder committee, is developing options for a share-based program, either client-days or quota shares, with which to manage the fisheries for the long term. The proposed program could include options to increase charter sector harvest with compensation to the commercial sector, increase fishing opportunity to recreational anglers as demand grows, opportunity for charter sector growth in areas that are currently underdeveloped, and maintain stability in coastal communities. This could allow the State to hold commercial QS/IFQ and transfer the poundage/percentage to the charter sector, when needed to meet demand. No timeline has been set.
- The IPHC, in January, approved a one-fish bag limit for 2007 (June 15-June 30 in Area 3A and June 15-July 30 in Area 2C). There is considerable controversy over this action.

Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum

Chapter Halibut (continued)

- The Council has collaborated with 4 State agencies and 10 Federal agencies to create the Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum (AMEF)
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in September 2006
- Purpose: to improve coordination and cooperative understanding between Federal and State agencies on issues of shared responsibilities related to the marine ecosystems off Alaska's coast
 - increase awareness among member agencies of salient regional issues, existing or potential user conflicts, and relevant ecosystem developments
 - achieve efficiencies by sharing information regarding ecosystem efforts and goals, and by reducing or removing duplicative ecosystem efforts
 - ensure that activities undertaken or contemplated by member agencies are complementary where possible and achieve effective results for ecosystem sustainability and utilization
- The AMEF does not have independent jurisdiction or authority and does not regulate any activity
- Initial focus of the AMEF: the Aleutian Islands marine ecosystem
- Intent is to meet 1-2 times per year
 - first meeting was in September 2006, next proposed for March 2007

Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan

- The Council is developing a fishery ecosystem plan (FEP) for the Aleutian Islands
- The FEP is a policy and scientific document that will help decisionmakers to understand the ecosystem context of fishery actions
- The FEP takes into account all fisheries occurring in the Aleutian Islands, including State fisheries
- Final action for the FEP is scheduled for June 2007

Arctic Ocean Fishery Management Plan Initiative

- The Council is considering options for management of fishery resources in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas
- There is currently no policy statement or federal management to address commercial fishing in the Arctic EEZ
- Ocean warming trends and receding ice conditions may create potential fishery development
- Three existing FMPs partly cover the region: Salmon, Scallop and Crab
- The Council plans to develop a policy and options for Arctic fishery management with one option being to close Arctic EEZ waters to commercial fishing

Currently the only commercial fishery in EEZ waters in the Arctic is a small State-managed crab fishery near Kotzebue. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the State may manage EEZ fisheries in the absence of a Federal FMP. Under current State statutes, all fishing in any waters of the State or the EEZ is prohibited unless specifically authorized by statute or regulation (AS 16.05.920(a)). Thus, all fisheries in Arctic waters of the State and the adjacent EEZ not currently authorized under existing regulations are closed under this statute.

Crab Overfishing Definitions

Summary:

- Analysis of revised status determination criteria for BSAI Crab stocks
- State/Federal management of crab fisheries (overfishing definitions are under Federal measures)

State involvement:

- Analysis will be provided to the Board of Fisheries (BOF)
- Implementation of new overfishing levels for crab stocks may result in the BOF choosing to modify harvest strategies for many stocks
- Rebuilding plans for snow crab, St. Matthew blue king crab and Tanner crab may need to be revised through Council and BOF process

Major issues/timeline:

- EA/RIR/IRFA for initial review in February, final action possibly in June 2007
- Implementation likely for 2008 fisheries
- Scheduling of BOF consultation not yet determined
- Short-term harvests of some stocks (snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, EBS Tanner crab) may be constrained

Steller Sea Lion Protection Measures

Summary

- listed as endangered (western population) or threatened (eastern population) under the Endangered Species Act

State Involvement

- The Council and NMFS have imposed a complex suite of regulations in the pollock, cod, and Atka mackerel fisheries to protect SSLs. These regulations are mirrored in State statutes in "parallel fisheries". Some "State water" fisheries, however, do not mirror all SSL protection measures, but to date these State water fisheries are considered by NMFS to have negligible impacts on SSLs.
- The State has recently considered proposals to modify pollock and cod fisheries in State waters. The principal concern over changes in existing State cod and pollock fisheries is whether additional SSL protection measures may have to be taken in Federal fisheries to compensate for the impacts of the State fisheries on SSLs. The Council and BOF have worked through these issues in a Joint Protocol Committee, and recently new cod and pollock fisheries have been established in State waters in the Aleutian Islands.¹
- Currently the BOF is considering changes in the western GOA cod fisheries in State waters. The Council and NMFS may ask the BOF to delay action to examine potential impacts of these changes on SSLs and on Federal fisheries.
- BOF action could trigger formal Section 7 consultation

¹ For 2006 & 2007, new parallel fishery was approved for P. cod west of 170° in AI based on 3% of Federal BSAI TAC. Effective beginning in 2007, new State waters fishery for pollock was approved between 174° and 178° in AI at 3,000 mt (reduced in 2007 by 3,000 mt as approved in the Federal EFP) under different regs than the Federal AI pollock fishery.

Steller Sea Lion Protection Measures (continued)

Major Issues/Timeline

- The Council and NMFS are currently part of a new Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act. The State's "parallel" cod and pollock fisheries are part of this process; State water fisheries are not. The focus of this consultation is on the Council's Fishery Management Plans and whether current fishery management in the EEZ comports with new information on Steller sea lions.
- It is hoped by industry that the consultation will lead to a Biological Opinion that relaxes some SSL protection measures, but it is not likely that there will be appreciable changes in the existing SSL protection measures until scientific studies can more clearly demonstrate the role of fisheries in the past SSL decline. This process should be completed in early 2008 – with any allowed regulation changes in effect for 2009.

- The State has recently considered proposals to modify pollock and cod fisheries in State waters. The principal concern over changes in existing State cod and pollock fisheries is whether additional SSL protection measures may have to be taken in Federal fisheries to compensate for the impacts of the State fisheries on SSLs. The Council and BOP have worked through these issues in a Joint Protocol Committee, and recently new cod and pollock fisheries have been established in State waters in the Aleutian Islands.
- Currently the BOP is considering changes in the western GOA cod fisheries in State waters. The Council and NMFS may ask the BOP to delay action to examine potential impacts of these changes on SSLs and on Federal fisheries.
- BOP action could trigger formal Section 7 consultation.

Community Development Quota Program

Summary:

- Recent amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Act (through the Coast Guard and Maritime Transp. Act of 2006 and reauthorization of the MSA in 2007) changed the allocation process, fisheries management, oversight aspects, and in some cases, the allocations to, the CDQ Program.
- Percentage allocations among the groups were fixed at percentages in place on March 1, 2006 (unless revised through decennial review process)
- The allocation to the CDQ Program for any *directed* fishery in the BSAI (except halibut, sablefish, pollock, and crab) shall be 10.7% effective 1/1/08.
- The 10.7% allocation includes all directed and non-target harvest combined.
- The MSA sets requirements for the groups' BODs, creates a CDQ Panel, and establishes limits on non-fisheries investments (max of 20% of annual investments).
- Community development plans (and amendments), no longer represent the groups' application for quota, and are no longer required to be submitted to the State and NMFS.
- Establishes a decennial review (starting in 2012) to potentially revise allocations among the groups. MSA includes criteria by which to conduct the review, but CDQ Panel shall assign weighting of the criteria. A group's allocation could be reduced by a maximum of 10% every 10-year cycle.

State involvement/issues:

- The MSA requires the State of Alaska to conduct the decennial review by 1) evaluating the groups' performance based on the criteria, and then 2) making a determination as to whether each group's allocation will be revised as a result. The SOC assumes this role only if State law prevents the State from making the determination.
- On Jan. 19, 2007, NMFS received a determination from the State that the State does not have the legal authority to adjust CDQ allocations and thus cannot undertake the allocation adjustment responsibilities in the MSA.

Major issues/timeline:

- The Council & NMFS are developing regulatory amendment packages to respond to the MSA amendments. Four rulemaking packages are expected in 2007

Trawl Recency

Summary

- The Council is developing an amendment to remove unused (latent) fishing permits from the BSAI and GOA trawl fisheries. The concern is possible future re-entry into the groundfish fisheries by trawl permit holders who have not participated recently.
- Re-entry of latent permits could reduce average revenues and introduce inefficiencies for permit holders who have a history of participation and a dependence upon the respective groundfish trawl fisheries.

State Involvement/Concerns

- While too many permits is the concern over most of the BS and GOA, there is a concern that there are too few permits in the Aleutian Islands. Given the development of the groundfish fisheries at Adak, there may not be sufficient non-AFA trawl permits in the AI.
- The State waters groundfish fishery at Adak has been restricted to waters within 3-miles, and participants need access to federal waters during portions of the year when Pacific cod and other groundfish species are concentrated beyond the 3-mile limit.
- Options included in the amendment evaluate whether any of the proposed alternatives have a disproportionate effect on: (a) small vessels < 60 feet, or (b) permits with Alaskan ownership.

Major issues/timeline

- EA/RIR/IRFA for initial review in March/April, with final action possibly as early as June.
- Implementation could take place in 2008.
- Interaction with other Council actions relating to groundfish permits (LLPs) including the BS/AI Pacific cod split, and consideration of a program to remove latent licenses in the GOA will require management coordination that has the potential to delay implementation of this amendment.

BSAI Amendment 80

BSAI Amendment 80

- Objective of this action is to reduce bycatch, minimize waste and improve utilization of fish resources
- Action would provide specific groundfish allocations to the H&G trawl CP sector (26 vessels) and allow the formation of cooperatives for the H&G trawl CP sector. Estimated implementation January 1, 2008.
- Allocation would include yellowfin sole, rock sole, flathead sole, Atka mackerel, and AI Pacific Ocean perch
- Action would increase the allocation to CDQ program to 10.7 percent for each directed fishery of the BSAI. Effective January 1, 2008. Halibut, sablefish, pollock, and crab are excluded.
- Action would increase halibut PSQ to CDQ program by 50 mt starting in year 3
- Action would result in overall halibut PSC savings of 150 mt annually after 4 years, in addition to a crab PSC (red king crab, snow crab, and Tanner crab) savings
- Action would create sideboards for H&G trawl sector vessels in GOA

BSAI Amendment 85

Summary:

- Action revised BSAI Pacific cod allocations to all gear sectors: hook-and-line (CP & CV); pot (CP & CV); jig; <60' longline/pot; trawl CV; non-AFA trawl CP; AFA trawl CP; and CDQ sector.
- Objective was to change allocations to better reflect actual historical use of the resource (i.e., account for roll-overs), considering social and community factors.
- Action incorporates recent amendments to the MSA pertaining to the CDQ Program (increase in CDQ allocation from 7.5% to 10.7% of the BSAI Pacific cod TAC).
- Action provides allocations to an overall sector; it does not convey allocations to individuals or cooperatives.
- Action also divides the halibut PSC allocated to the overall trawl Pacific cod sector among the trawl CV, AFA trawl CP, and non-AFA trawl CP sectors. Similarly, it divides the halibut PSC allocated to the overall hook-and-line Pacific cod sector among the hook-and-line CP and CV sectors.
- Action changes the seasonal allocations to the jig sector (increases the amount in the first trimester and reduces the amount in the third trimester).

State involvement:

- Other than having participated in the development and approval of the action through the Council process, there is no State role. This action pertains to the management of the Federal BSAI Pacific cod TAC.
- In 2006, the State initiated a State water AI Pacific cod fishery (equal to 3% of the BSAI Pacific cod ABC). The allocation to this fishery reduces the amount remaining for all gear sectors that fish cod in BSAI Federal waters.

Major issues/timeline:

- Council approved the action in April 2006.
- FMP amendment has been published in the Federal register; comment period ends February 5, 2007. Proposed rule should be published soon (with revised supporting analysis to be consistent with MSA amendments).
- If approved by the SOC, implementation expected for 2008 fisheries (in tandem with BSAI Amendment 80).



Celebrating 30 Years of Sustainable Fisheries

December 2006



Senator Ted Stevens

A member of the Senate for 37 years, Ted Stevens is Alaska's senior Senator. Stevens' tenure in the Senate makes him the fourth-most senior member among his colleagues, and first among Republicans. Stevens most recently holds the positions of Senate President Pro Tempore and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, which has oversight of the Departments of Commerce and Transportation. Stevens is the co-author of the governing law for managing fisheries in the United States, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which was renamed in his honor in 1996.

Ted Stevens was a highly decorated pilot in World War II, supporting the Flying Tigers of the 14th Air Force. Following the war he graduated from UCLA and Harvard Law School, and practiced law in Washington, D.C. In the early 1950s he moved to Alaska, at the time a territory of the U.S. He practiced law in Fairbanks, and subsequently was appointed U.S. Attorney in Fairbanks.

After working in Washington DC for several years as a legislative counsel and as Solicitor (chief counsel) of the Department of the Interior, Stevens returned to Alaska to practice law in Anchorage. In 1964 he was elected to the Alaska House of Representatives. In his second term in Alaska's legislature he became the House Majority Leader. Following the death of Senator E.L. Bob Bartlett in December of 1968, Governor Walter Hickel appointed Stevens to fill the vacancy. Under Alaska law, Stevens sought election in 1970, and has won re-election every time since.

Known as a "Work Horse" of the Senate, Stevens tries to find time for his hobbies: tennis, reading, and his favorite pastime - reeling in his catch while fishing. The 71-pound Kenai Peninsula King Salmon he caught is displayed in his Washington, D.C. office.

When tough issues arise in the Senate, Ted's motto has always been, "Do what's best for Alaska." And he has.



Message from the Chair:

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. The Magnuson-Stevens Act has been very successful at achieving its objectives off Alaska through the efforts of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, NOAA Fisheries, and fishing industry participants. The success of the management program is due to many, many people who have contributed a substantial portion of their

lives to the stewardship of our resources and management of our fisheries. This booklet commemorates these people and the contributions they have made over the past 30 years.

Senator Ted Stevens, in particular, deserves special recognition for his tireless efforts to improve the management of our Nation's fisheries. It was 30 years ago that Senator Stevens and others worked to extend the nation's ocean boundaries out to 200 miles, and develop a management system that allows decisions to be made at the regional level, with the affected public having a say in those decisions. We greatly appreciate his ongoing efforts to support the Council process that creates a strong fishing industry in the North Pacific.

Fisheries management in the North Pacific has come a long way since the passage of the Magnuson-Stevens Act in 1976. In the early years, the Council established the foundations of a science based conservation program. The foreign fleet was rapidly replaced by a domestic vessels harvesting groundfish due to policies set forth in the Act and implemented through the Council process. This program was so successful that by the late 1980s the management focus shifted to monitoring and controlling the burgeoning domestic fisheries. By the mid 1990s, the Council was focusing on bycatch and discards, fish habitat, seabirds, and Steller sea lions. Even today, many of these issues require continued attention. In more recent years, the Council has worked to stabilize the fisheries through dedicated access programs and develop an ecosystem-based management approach.

The fact that fish stocks are abundant and productive, and the fisheries remain very profitable, is a testament to the success of the program. I am proud of our process, and there is much to celebrate. Although challenges lay ahead, I believe the future is bright for fisheries off Alaska.

Stephanie D. Madsen

Stephanie D. Madsen



Chairmen's Gallery

1976 - 2006

First Council Chairman
Elmer E. Rasmuson

October 1976 - September 1977



Elmer E. Rasmuson was the first chairman of the North Pacific Council. He was born in Yakutat, Alaska. After graduating from Harvard University in 1930, Rasmuson returned to Alaska, and eventually became president of the National Bank of Alaska, the first statewide banking system in Alaska. Active in public affairs, Rasmuson was mayor of Anchorage, chairman of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, member of the University of Alaska Board of Regents, and commissioner and chairman on the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission. Elmer provided the financial backing for developing domestic fisheries even prior to passage of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Mr. Rasmuson was firmly at the helm as Council chairman, and he steered the Council on the course for sustainable fisheries with the concept that you harvested only the available surplus of fish as determined by the SSC.

Elmer once said to a conference of fishermen and managers in 1984, "Establishment of the council system is the first time in the history of the U.S. that the federal government ever gave management authority to a lay group on a regional level. The first time! Now I will remind you of what happened before that time. Do you want to lose what we have gained? I don't think you do. All right, make it work. The way to get it working is to be involved."

Second Council Chairman
Harold E. Lokken

October 1977 - September 1978



Harold Lokken served as chairman of the North Pacific Council from October 1977-September 1978. He also was the director of the Pacific Fisheries Foundation and served as a commissioner of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, and the International Pacific Halibut Commission. Harold was manager of the Fishing Vessel Owner's Association for over 20 years. Active in fishery public policy, Mr. Lokken helped author the bill that would establish the then 12 mile limit and worked to get it extended to the current 200 mile limit. Clem Tillion described Harold as one of the finest gentlemen he ever knew, and honorable to the core.

At a conference on extended jurisdiction, held in 1977, Harold noted that "Regional Fishery Management Council members are new, and many find themselves in the position of having to make judgments based upon arguments by proponents and opponents alike, where previously they were on only one side of an issue with no responsibility for the verdict. As forces of all persuasions work within the system, history is being made. The rewards will be monumental. Let us hope that the forces of reason prevail."

Third Council Chairman
Clement V. Tillion

October 1978 - August 1983



Clem Tillion moved to Alaska after World War II and immediately got involved in commercial fishing. He served as a Republican in the State legislature for 18 years, with seven terms in the State House and two terms in the State Senate. Clem served as a North Pacific Council member for many years (1976-1983; 1991-1997), and was Council chairman for five years (1978-1983). Clem also served on international boards as a commissioner on the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission and commissioner of the North Pacific Fur Seal Commission. He has described as "a crafty, crusty fisherman" by former Alaska Governor Walter Hickel, who put Clem back on the Council as the governor's Special Assistant for Fisheries. Jim Branson once introduced him saying, "if you don't know Clem, you haven't been in the Alaska Fisheries business, ever."

In the early 1970s he helped establish the salmon limited entry program for the State of Alaska, a highly controversial and novel program for the time, which limited the number of fishermen who could participate in the fishery. In the 80s and 90s, Clem worked to develop the Halibut/Sablefish program and other limited entry programs for Federal fisheries with the North Pacific Council. Throughout his career in fisheries management, Clem has always maintained that the number one goal should be to turn out a quality product to the consumer at a reasonable price.

Fourth Council Chairman
James O. Campbell
October 1983 - August 1988



Jim Campbell came up to Alaska from Gig Harbor on Puget Sound. Jim was president of the largest lumber firm in Alaska, Spenard Builders Supply. He also served as chairman of the Alaska Railroad Corporation after the railroad was purchased by the State from the federal government. Although he was not in the fishing business, he was associated with it for years. Jim was first appointed to the Council in 1978, and served as chairman from October 1983 until August 1988.

Mr. Campbell once noted that "Unlike private business, our job in fisheries management is further complicated because once we've made a decision, and perhaps even before we do, we have to go out and sell the idea. Unlike private business, we cannot just make a decision and force it until it works. We have to sell ourselves and our plan of action. Unless we are prepared to defend and sell our programs, they may never be implemented."

Fifth Council Chairman
John G. Peterson
September 1988 - August 1989



John Peterson graduated from the University of Washington School of Fisheries in 1940. He investigated shark resources in South America, Mexico, and the US West Coast for the California Packing Corporation. He worked for many years in the seafood industry, and was president of the National Fisheries Institute and the Pacific Seafood Processors Association. He was also president and CEO of Ocean Beauty Seafoods in Seattle, and later worked as a seafood consultant. John was a Council member from 1984 to 1990 and served as Council chairman from 1988 through 1989.

John looked at fisheries from the business perspective. In 1984, he argued at a fishery management conference that, "There should be stability in regulations. How in the world can you put together a business plan, if the rules under which you operate are going to be changed? A year and a half or two years is too long to put any change in regulations in place. The system seems very democratic, everybody has a shot at it, everybody has to approve it and that's highly desirable. But somewhere, I think, somehow that can be done more efficiently."

Sixth Council Chairman
Don W. Collinsworth
September 1989 - December 1990



Don Collinsworth was originally an economist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. He was head of ADF&G's Extended Jurisdiction section, which was set up to handle expansion of U.S. authority in the 200 mile zone. Don worked closely with the Council and as a liaison with the U.S. State Department. He eventually served as Commissioner of ADF&G under Governor Sheffield. Don served as Chairman of the Council from September 1989 to December 1990.

Don understood the importance of policy, and once offered the following advice, "Policy is a plan or course of action as pursued by government organization or individual. But why are policies important to us? Why are they important to fisheries management? Well, policies can save time and make us more efficient in dictating a course of action when dealing with repetitive issues. Policy can promote consistency in dealing with a constituency. We must deal in a very consistent way with our public."

Seventh Council Chairman

Richard B. Lauber

March 1991 - August 2000



Before becoming involved in fisheries management, Richard Lauber was a district court judge in Southeast Alaska. Rick, as he is more affectionately known, was one of the original members of the Council family, beginning as an AP member in 1976, through his appointment to the Council in 1990. He was elected chairman in 1991 and served in that capacity until September 2000. Rick was VP of the Pacific Seafood Processors Association. In addition, Lauber served as a senior advisor to the U.S. State Department, helping establish the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission and the Central Bering Sea Treaty.

Lauber was known for encouraging thoughtful Council debate and public input. In 1995, when hearings were held on reauthorizing the Magnuson Stevens Act, Lauber testified, "The North Pacific Council has addressed some very controversial issues such as bycatch, allocations, and conservation. We take great pride in the abundance of fisheries off Alaska. We attribute this sustained abundance to five basic principles that exemplify precautionary management: peer-reviewed scientific advice, defined overfishing levels, conservative harvest levels, complete catch reporting, and comprehensive observer coverage."

Eighth Council Chairman

David Benton

September 2000 - August 2003



David Benton joined the Council during his tenure as Deputy Commissioner for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 1995. He came to Alaska from California in the mid-1970s and worked for the environmental group Friends of the Earth on marine issues. From there, Dave worked for various fishing groups, local governments, and Alaska Native organizations throughout Alaska. In 1987, he went to work for ADF&G where he became the state's international fisheries negotiator, working on behalf of the state on virtually every fisheries treaty in the North Pacific. Dave retired from ADFG in 2000, and was appointed to the Council where he served as Chair. He also served on the North Pacific Research Board, and is currently the Executive Director of the Marine Conservation Alliance.

Benton once noted "The regional council process has been a big success in fostering Alaska's fisheries. The underlying reason for this success is that, in Alaska, the council listens to what the scientists tell them about sustainability. That's why the Alaska model is often cited by groups such as the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy as a model for managing our nation's fisheries. And Alaska fishermen have discovered that a sustainable fishery is good for sustainable businesses and communities."

Ninth Council Chairman

Stephaine Madsen

October 2003 - Present



Stephanie Madsen joined the Council in October 2001 after serving 8 years on the Advisory Panel. Stephanie became the first woman to Chair the North Pacific Council in 2003, and currently also serves as Vice-Chair of the North Pacific Research Board. She is a member of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, the University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Fisheries Advisory Board, has served on NOAA's External Ecosystem Task Team, and was named to the Alaska Climate Impact Assessment Commission recently created by the State legislature. Stephanie has been Vice-President of Pacific Seafood Processors Association since 1999.

Ms. Madsen is known for doing her homework and her ability to communicate and guide the Council through difficult situations. During an interview for Alaska Wildlife News in 2005, Stephanie expressed, "I'm also a real process person and defender of the Council system. I believe that if you are true to the process, you will achieve the greatest results. The process they [Senators Magnuson and Stevens] outlined works. It's a very transparent public process that allows opportunity to express opinions. We also have great science behind the decision making process; it's a very good basic system."

Development of a World Class Fisheries Management Program

Fish have been commercially harvested off Alaska since 1864, when the first schooner and its complement of dory fishermen sailed north to Bristol Bay to catch cod with handlines and setlines. Only 10 years after the U.S. purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867, the salmon fishery became established with the opening of a cannery in Klawok. The salmon fishery quickly expanded in subsequent years with additional canneries built along the Alaska coast. Other domestic fisheries in these early years targeted Pacific cod, sablefish, and halibut using handlines and setlines. By the early 1930s, the Japanese had initiated trawl fisheries for crab, flounders, and pollock in the Bering Sea, but further development of the fishery was suspended with the beginning of World War II.

Major commercial fisheries for groundfish and crab developed in the late 1950s with the resumption of fishing by the Japanese and a developing Soviet distant water fleet. The trawl fleets first focused on yellowfin sole in the Bering Sea, with very large catches (totaling 1.62 million mt) made in the 1959-1962 period. Pacific ocean perch and other rockfish were intensively harvested in the Aleutian Islands area and Gulf of Alaska from 1963-1968 (totaling 1.56 million mt). Over 240 Japanese and Soviet trawl vessels and motherships were operating in these fisheries by 1963. In addition to the trawl fleet, approximately 60 Japanese longline vessels targeted sablefish, rockfish, Greenland turbot, and halibut during the early 1960s. By the end of the 1960s, the foreign trawl fleets shifted their focus to catching and processing pollock as catches of Pacific ocean perch and yellowfin sole decreased.

The foreign fisheries were virtually unregulated through 1965, and thereafter only minimally regulated until the mid-1970s. During this time period, separate agreements were made between the US and foreign nations with fleets fishing off Alaska (Japan, U.S.S.R., South Korea, Taiwan). The bilateral agreements established closure areas intended to minimize gear conflicts and address allocation issues between the different foreign fleets, as well as to protect growing domestic fisheries for crab, shrimp, and halibut. By the early 1970s, about 1,700 vessels were fishing the high seas off Alaska. For the first time in 1973, bilateral

The first Council meeting in Juneau, Alaska, October, 1976



agreements included catch limits for some species, namely pollock and flatfish in the Bering Sea and Pacific Ocean perch and sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska. Thereafter, catch limits were included in all bilateral agreements in effect through the implementation of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (renamed the Magnuson-Stevens Act in 1996).

Passage of the Magnuson-Stevens Act in 1976 marked a new era in fisheries management. This Act established the 200 nm Fishery Conservation Zone (later called the Exclusive Economic Zone), and set up the regional council system to allow fishery management decisions to be made at the more local level. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council, which was (and remains) responsible for developing management plans for fisheries off Alaska, quickly convened and prepared preliminary fishery management plans. These preliminary plans allowed foreign fishing within 200 nm, but under much more restrictive measures designed to arrest the suspected decline of some stocks. During this same period, the North Pacific ecosystem was undergoing an atmospheric driven regime shift. Ocean circulation patterns were drastically altered after 1976, causing changes in ocean upwelling and temperature and resulting in different levels of ocean productivity and diversity. Many species (such as king crab and shrimp) fared poorly under the new conditions, while other species (groundfish such as pollock and flatfish) flourished. Besides salmon and halibut, the other major domestic fishery at that



Dutch Harbor Boats

time was the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery, which collapsed in 1981 due to poor recruitment after the mid-1970s.

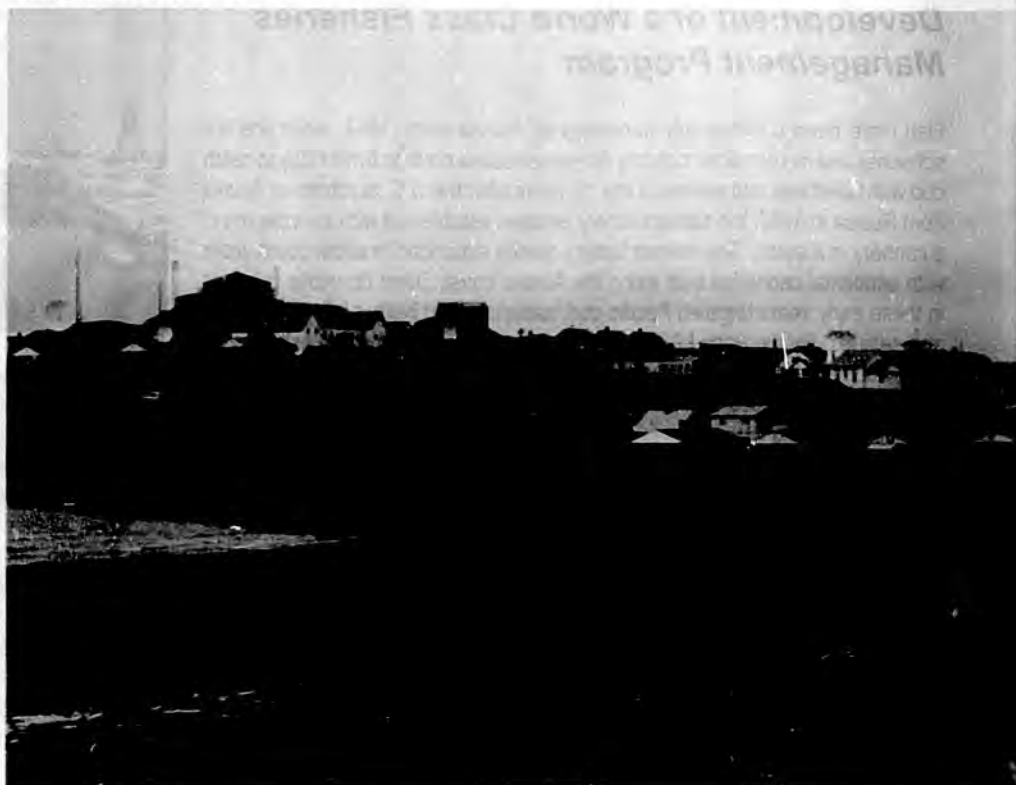
Fishery management plans were implemented for GOA groundfish fisheries in 1979 and BSAI groundfish fisheries in 1982 to replace the preliminary management plans, which had applied only to foreign fisheries. Both FMPs included most of the provisions of the preliminary plans, thus establishing the fundamental basis for future management of domestic fisheries. The primary objectives of the early FMPs were to conserve target groundfish species, and protect certain species utilized by domestic fisheries. The FMPs established allowable catch limits for each target species, and fisheries were closed when the limits were reached. Additionally, an overall optimum yield (OY) limit for groundfish was established, thus limiting the total annual catch of all species combined to 2.0 million mt in the BSAI and 800,000 mt in the GOA management area. Further, the FMPs prohibited retention of all salmon, crabs, shrimp, and halibut taken incidentally in groundfish fisheries (prohibited species), and established trawl area closures to limit bycatch of crab and halibut.

One of the stated goals of the Magnuson-Stevens Act was to encourage the development of domestic fisheries for groundfish off Alaska, and this goal was rapidly achieved in the 1980s. The Act required that domestic operations be given priority in the allocation of optimum yield. As such, domestic fisheries and U.S. vessels participating in joint ventures were allocated as much of the optimum yield as they could potentially catch. Joint ventures

of U.S. catcher vessels delivering to foreign motherships began in 1980, and by 1987 accounted for about 75% of the groundfish catch. Harvests by fully foreign operations had virtually ended by 1988. Throughout this time, the domestic fleet and infrastructure was expanding, and by the end of the decade the entire catch was taken by domestic operations. Americanization of the fishery had occurred more rapidly than anyone had anticipated.

Management efforts in the 1990s focused on limiting effort of the burgeoning domestic groundfish fleet. By 1991, the fleet already had excess capacity, with vessels competing for the allowable catch limits. Despite challenges to raise the OY limit in the BSAI, the Council chose not to raise the limit because of concerns regarding stock assessment uncertainty and potential ecosystem effects. By 1992, the fleet had grown to over 2,200 vessels, including about 110 trawl catcher processors (factory trawlers). The symptoms of overcapacity intensified; the 'race for fish' resulted in shorter fishing seasons and bitter allocation disputes. One of the most contentious issues during the early 1990s was the allocation of pollock among trawl catcher vessels delivering shoreside and the trawl catcher processor fleet. By the mid-1990s, the primary allocation disputes among gear types were also settled for Pacific cod in the BSAI management area.

To more directly address the overcapacity problem, the Council, working together with the NOAA Fisheries Alaska Regional office, aggressively pursued capacity limitations in all managed fisheries. An Individual Fishing Quota program for halibut and sablefish fisheries was adopted in 1992. A moratorium on new vessel entry for groundfish and crab fisheries was implemented in 1996, with a more restrictive license limitation program in place by 2000. In 1998, the American Fisheries Act was passed by Congress and implemented



The Consulate General of Japan meets with Clarence Pautzke



by the Council and NOAA Fisheries the following year. The Act limited access to the Bering Sea pollock fisheries only to qualifying vessels and processors, eliminated a number of large catcher processor vessels from the fleet, and established a system of fishery cooperatives that allows for individual catch and bycatch accountability. In 1999, the Council adopted a very restrictive limited entry program for the scallop fishery. With only 9 vessels permitted in the statewide fishery, participants now operate in a rational manner by working together as a cooperative.

Measures implemented in the 1990s also were designed to limit impacts on target and bycatch species, marine mammals and seabirds, and habitat, and provide opportunities for disadvantaged coastal communities along the Bering Sea. A comprehensive domestic groundfish observer program, funded by participating vessels, was instituted in 1990

to provide the basis for controlling catch within allowable levels and monitoring bycatch levels. Closure areas and bycatch limits were established for chinook and chum salmon taken in Bering Sea trawl fisheries. Additional year-round trawl closure areas were established to reduce bycatch and protect habitat for Bering Sea crab stocks. In 1990, Steller sea lions were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, and numerous measures were implemented over the following decade to minimize potential interactions with fisheries and potential competition for prey. These measures included incidental take limits, 3 nm no entry buffer zones, 10 nm no trawl zones around rookeries, 20 nm no pollock fishing zones, seasonal and spatial dispersal of pollock and mackerel fisheries, and a prohibition on the harvest of forage fish.

In more recent years, the Council has worked to stabilize the fisheries through dedicated access programs. The BSAI crab fisheries were rationalized, with a share-based cooperative program beginning with the 2005 season. Access to the BSAI Pacific cod fishery was limited with LLP endorsements and refined sector allocations. In 2006, the Council adopted a rationalization program for the BSAI non-AFA trawl catcher-processor fleet. The Council has also been working for several years on developing a dedicated access privilege program for GOA groundfish fisheries.

The Council has also continued to develop an ecosystem-based approach for fisheries management. Extensive marine protected areas were implemented in 2006 to conserve

essential fish habitat, and habitat areas of particular concern. To date, over 358,000 nm² of the EEZ have been closed to bottom trawling. In addition, over 5,400 nm² have been set aside as 'marine reserves', where no commercial bottom fishing is allowed. These areas include coral gardens, *Primnoa* coral thickets, and all seamounts off Alaska. The Council is currently in the process of developing a fishery ecosystem plan for the Aleutian Islands area. Further, an Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum was established to increase communication among federal and state agencies involved in managing marine resources and activities. Ecosystem issues are likely to be a major topic for the Council to grapple with in the coming years.



Members of the Advisory Panel listen to a presentation. Dutch Harbor, October 2006.

Council Members 1976 - 2006

The Council in 2006. Standing, left to right: McKie Campbell, Ed Rasmuson, Admiral Jim Olson, Doug Hoedel, Bill Tweit, Dave Benson, Roy Hyder and Lenny Corin. Seated, left to right: Eric Olson, Dave Hanson, Stephanie Madsen, Arne Fuglvog, Sue Salveson and John Bundy



The Council in 1976. Left to Right: Jim Brooks, Commissioner-Alaska Department of Fish & Game; CDR Ralph Giffin, U.S. Coast Guard; Don Moos, Director-Washington Dept of Fisheries; John Harville, Executive Director-Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission; Don McKernan, University of Washington; Chuck Meacham, Director-International Fisheries & External Affairs, Office of Alaska Governor; John Donaldson, Director-Oregon Fish & Wildlife Department; Clem Tillion, Alaska Senator and commercial fisherman; Lorry Nakatsu, U.S. State Department; Governor Jay Hammond, Alaska Governor; Elmer Rasmuson, National Bank of Alaska, elected first Council chairman; Jan Rife, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Harry Rietze, Director-Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service; Harold Lokken, retired halibut fisherman, first Council Vice Chairman; Bart Eaton, commercial crab fisherman; Henry Eaton, commercial fisherman.



Scientific and Statistical Committee 1976 - 2006

Alverson, Dayton
12/76 - 12/78

Atkinson, Milo
1/98 - 9/98

Aron, Bill
9/80 - 12/95

Balsiger, Jim
6/94 - 6/97

Berkeley, Steve
6/00 - 12/02

Bevan, Donald
12/76 - 8/79
12/82 - 4/90

Burgner, Robert
9/79 - 12/88

Burns, John
12/79 - 12/92
Clark, William
12/86 - 12/93

Clark, John
1/81 - 12/84

Collinsworth, Donald
4/77 - 10/78

Criddle, Keith
1/93 - Present

Crutchfield, James
12/78 - 5/79

Eggers, Douglas
2/85 - 12/02

Fay, F.H. "Bud"
1/93 - 12/93

Fukuhara, Frank
9/78 - 2/80

Hare, Steven
1/99 - Present

Hartmann, Jeff
1/00 - 10/02

Herrmann, Mark
4/01 - Present

Hills, Susan
1/94 - Present

Hollowed, Anne
4/03 - Present

Hreha, Larry
10/79 - 9/83

Hunt, George
4/01 - Present

Huppert, Dan
4/90 - 1/95

Kimura, Dan
9/97 - 2/03

Kloieski, Steve
1/98 - 6/99

Kruse, Gordon*
1/90 - 12/92; 1/03 - present

Langdon, Steve
3/81 - 12/84

Larkins, H.A.
2/80 - 9/80

Larson, Doug
3/95 - 12/00

Lechner, Jack
12/78 - 12/84

Livingston, Pat**
10/03 - Present

Loeffel, R.
12/76 - 2/77

Macinko, Seth
12/96 - Present

Marasco, Richard
9/79 - 12/04

Marshall, Scott
2/85 - 5/85

Meuter, Franz
1/04 - Present

Miles, Edward
12/76 - 7/82

Miller, Marc
4/91 - 4/97

Millan, Al
5/78 - 12/84

Mundy, Phil
1/86 - 12/86

Northrop, Tom
2/85 - 12/86

Pennoyer, Steven
12/75 - 12/80

Picher, Ken
10/02 - Present

Quinn, Terrance
1/86 - Present

Rigby, Phil
1/93 - 12/96

Robinson, Jack
3/77 - 10/79

Rogers, George
12/76 - 12/80

Rosenberg, Donald L.
12/76 - 12/92

Rosier, Carl
12/76 - 10/78

Sampson, Dave
1/03 - Present

Schmidt, Dana
1/88 - 12/89

Skud, B.E.
12/76 - 2/78

Tagart, Jack
12/88 - 10/03

Tyler, Albert
1/94 - 12/01

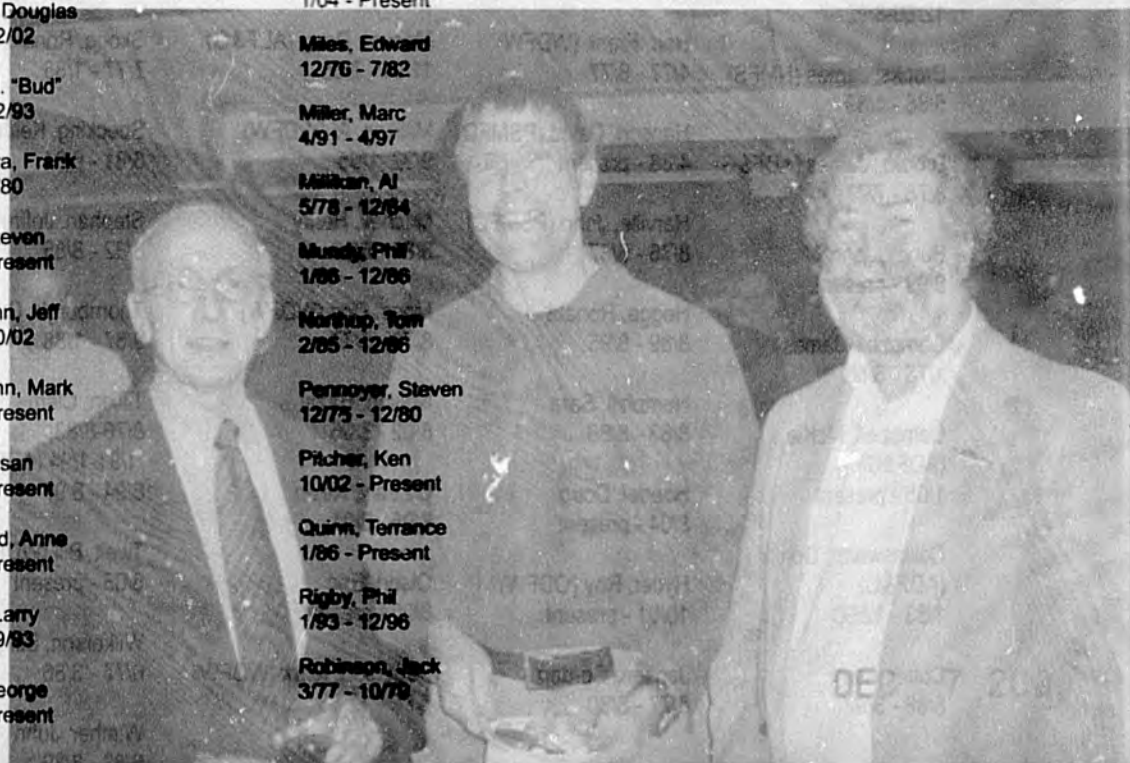
Wallace, Farron
12/03 - Present

Weeks, Hal
9/93 - 4/00

Woelke, C.E.
12/76 - 5/78

Woodby, Doug
1/03 - Present

* Chair
** Vice Chair



Alverson, Robert 8/88 - 8/94	Darm, Donna (WDFW) 4/92-9/92	Knowles, Tony 8/88 - 12/89	Pennoyer, Steve (NMFS) 1/89 - 5/00	<u>Members from USEWS</u> Jan Riffe James Barry Donald Hales Leroy Sowl Gordon Watson Keith Shreiner Robert Putz Robert Gilmore W. Steiglitz Jon Nelson Steve Rideout E. Robinson-Wilson Doug Alcorn Tony DeGange Lenny Corin
Anderson, Stosh 8/01 - 8/04	DeHart, Doug 6/98 - 2/99	Koenings, Jeff (WDFW) 6/05 - present	Penny, Bob 8/00 - 10/02	
Austin, Dennis (WDFW) 6/96 - 5/05	Demmert, Jr. Joe 8/80 - 8/83	Krygier, Earl (ADF&G) 1/95 - present	Pererya, Walter 8/90 - 8/99	
Balsiger, Jim (NMFS) 6/00 - present	Duffy, Kevin (ADF&G) 9/01 - 10/04	Kyle, Joe 8/97 - 8/00	Petersen, Rudy 8/82 - 8/88	
Barker, Morris (WDFW) 1/95 - 4/97	Dyson, Oscar 8/85 - 8/94	Lauber, Richard 1/90 - 8/00	Peterson, John 8/84 - 8/90	
Behnken, Linda 8/92 - 8/01	Eaton, D. Bart 8/76 - 8/82	Lokken, Harold 8/76 - 8/84	Rasmuson, Ed 8/03 - present	
Benson, David 8/03 - present	Eaton, Henry 8/76 - 8/77	Madsen, Stephanie* 8/01 - present	Rasmuson, Elmer 8/76 - 11/77	<u>Members from USCG</u> RADM J.B. Hayes RADM R. Duin CDR Ralph Griffin RADM R. Knapp RADM R. Lucas CDR Richard Clark RADM E. Nelson CDR George White RADM D. Ciancaglini RADM R. Ruffe CDR Joe Kyle RADM R. Ruitta CDR Terry Cross CAPT Bill Anderson CAPT Vince O'Shea RADM Terry Cross RADM Tomas Barrett CAPT Rich Preston RADM James Underwood RADM Jim Olson CAPT Mike Cerne RADM Gene Brooks LCDR Lisa Ragone
Benton, David 12/94-8/00 (ADF&G); 8/00 - 8/03	Ellis, Ben 1/03 - 8/06	Mace, Bob (ODFW) 8/76 - 6/01	Rietz, Harry (NMFS) 8/76 - 4/80	
Berg, Ron (NMFS) 4/92 - 6/93	Evans, Dale (NMFS) 9/91 - 4/92	McKernan, Donald 8/76 - 5/79	Rosier, Carl (ADF&G) 1/91 - 12/94	
Bevan, Donald 11/79 - 8/82	Fluharty, David 9/94 - 8/03	McVey, Robert (NMFS) 5/80 - 5/88	Salveson, Sue (NMFS) 12/97 - present	
Blum, Joe (WDFW) 12/86-8/92	Fuglvog, Arne 8/03 - 8/06	Meacham, Sr. Charles 8/76 - 8/81	Samuelsen, Robin 8/93 - 8/02	
Brooks, James (NMFS) 5/88 - 1/89	Hau, Frank (WDFW) 4/77 - 6/77	Mecum, Doug (ADF&G) 11/04 - 7/05	Skoog, Ronald (ADF&G) 7/77 - 1/83	
Brooks, James (ADF&G) 8/76 - 7/77	Hanson, David (PSMFC) 4/88 - present	Millikan, Al (WDFW) 9/92 - 1/95	Specking, Keith 8/81 - 8/84	
Bundy, John** 8/99 - present	Harville, John (PSMFC) 8/76 - 5/87	Mitchell, Henry 8/84 - 8/93	Stephan, Jeffrey 8/82 - 8/85	
Campbell, James 1/78 - 8/88	Hegge, Ronald 8/89 - 8/95	Moos, Don (WDFW) 8/76 - 3/77	Thornburgh, Guy (PSMFC) 9/87 - 1/88	<u>Members from State Dept.</u> Lorry Nakatsu Carl Price Ray Arnaudo Chris Dawson Charles Walters Robert Ford Jeff Miotke George Herrfurth William Dilday Stetson Tinkham Kevin Riddle
Campbell, McKie (ADF&G) 1/05 - present	Hemphill, Sara 8/83 - 8/86	Nelson, Hazel 8/02 - 8/05	Tillion, Clem 8/76-8/83, 1/91-1/94 (ADF&G); 8/94 - 8/97	
Collinsworth, Don (ADF&G) 1/83 - 12/90	Hoedel, Doug 8/04 - present	O'Leary, Kevin 8/95 - 8/01	Tweit, Bill (WDFW) 6/05 - present	
Cotter, Larry 8/86 - 8/92	Hyder, Roy (ODFW) 10/01 - present	Olson, Eric 8/05 - present	Wilkersen, Bill (WDFW) 6/77 - 3/86	
	Jensen, Gordon 8/77 - 8/90	Pederson, Mark (WDFW) 6/86 - 12/86	Winther, John 8/83 - 8/89	* Chair ** Vice Chair

Aadland, Arne 1/88 - 12/89	Cotant, Jack 11/76 - 8/78	Granger, Pete 1/88 - 12/88	Kurtz, Joseph 11/76 - 2/85	Osterback, Alvin 3/85 - 12/86	Steele, Jeff 1/00 - 12/03
Acuna, Erika 1/99 - 12/99	Cotter, Larry 1/81 - 6/85	Gross, Shari 8/78 - 9/79	Lauber, Rick 11/76 - 12/89	Otness, Alan 12/76 - 2/81	Stephan, Jeffrey 2/79 - 12/05
Alverson, Robert D. 12/76 - 8/88	Cotton, Bruce 1/94 - 12/97	Gundersen, Justine 1/96 - 4/00	Lecture, John 2/84 - 9/84	Paddock, Dean 1/92 - 12/98	Stevens, Michael 1/92 - 12/95
Alstrom, Ragnar 1/96 - 12/02	Crome, Cora 1/04 - 2/06	Guy, Paul 11/76 - 1/78	Leslie, Kent 1/03 - Present	Pagels, Penny 1/92 - 12/94	Stewart, Beth 1/91 - 12/95
Anderson, George 1/90 - 12/91	Cross, Craig 1/96 - Present	Hanson, John 2/78 - 12/78	Lewis, John 4/96 - 4/99	Parsons, Charles 1/81 - 2/81	Stewart, Tom 1/83 - 12/86
Andrews, Rupe 1/86 - 12/87	Crowley, John 9/88 - 12/88	Hegge, Ron 3/85 - 6/89	Lewis, Raymond P. 11/76 - 5/84	Peterson, Ron 1/87 - 12/89	Szabo, Nick 12-76 - 8/79
Ayres, Judy 11/76 - 5/77	Curry, Julianne 6/06 - Present	Henderschedt, John** 1/01 - Present	Linkous, Ed 1/79 - 4/80	Pfundt, Byron 1/92 - 12/94	Turk, Teresa 1/97 4/98
Baker, Terry 1/88 - 12/88	Demantle, Joe 2/78 - 12/79	Highleyman, Scott 1/96 - 12/96	Little, David 1/90 - 12/94	Phillips, Jack O. 1/79 - 1/84	Uri, Konrad 1/81 - 5/81
Baker, Greg 12/81 - 7/83	Dietrich, Kim 2/01	Holm, Oliver 3/85 - 12/87	Long, Kristi 12/81 - 5/83	Pletnikoff, Perfenia 1/91 - 12/93	Vaska, Anthony 12/79 - 2/85
Barker, Pat 9/83 - 2/85	Donohue, Joe 9/89 - 12/89	Horgan, Vic 1/90 - 12/90	Lure, Loretta 1/91 - 12/91	Poulsen, Ed 1/05 - Present	Ward, Robert 2/97 - 12/01
Beaton, James 11-76 - 8/78	Easley, Paula 1/81 - 3/81	Huntington, S 11-76 - 2/78	Macklin, Sharon 12/79 - 12/80	Rawlinson, Don 9/77 - 12/86	Welfelt, Carlene 6/77 - 8/79
Benson, Dave 1/93 - 6/03	Elias, Ton 1/93 - 12/93	Isleib, Pete 3/85 - 12/90	Madsen, Stephanie 1/93 - 9/01	Ridgway, Michelle 4/00 - Present	White, Richard 3/85 - 12/88
Berikoff, Emil 2/78 - 12/78	Ellis, Ben 1/01 - 12/02	Ivanoff, Weaver 7/80 - 12/83	Maloney, Pete 1/90 - 4/96	Roos, John 1/91 - 12/97	Wilde, Sr. Harry 12/76 - 3/80
Blake, Robert 1/81 - 2/85	Emberg, Truman .G. 11/76 - 5/81	Jacobs, Jan 1/04 - Present	Mayhew, Tracey 11/01 - 12/03	Rowley, Jon 1/88 - 12/88	Wojeck, Edward 3/82 - 3/84
Blott, Tim 1/98 - 12/99	Enlow, Tom* 11/01 - Present	Jacobson, Jon 9/77 - 12/78	Miller, Jack 1/91 - 12/91	Samuelsen, Harvey 5/82 - 2/85	Woodruff, Dave 3/85 - 12/91
Boddy, A.W. "Bud" 11/76 - 2/85	Ernest, Mark 1/88 - 12/88	Jacobson, Bill 1/02 - 12/04	Moir, Matt 1/05 - Present	Schnaper, Lewis 1/81 - 12/81	Woodruff, John 3/85 - 1/93
Boisseau, Dave 1/00 - 12/03	Falvey, Dan 1/92 - 12/04	Jacobson, Bob 1/05 - Present	Moller, John 1/04 - Present	Scott, William 12/79 - 4/80	Wurm, Robert 1/90 - 12/97
Bruce, John 1/91 - 12/05	Fanning, Chris 1/96 - 12/00	Jaeger, Gig 11/76 - 9/80	Moller, Sandra 1/03 - 12/03	Settle, Julie 3/85 - 12/86	Yeck, Lyle 1/89 - 12/02
Burch, Alvin 12/79 - Present	Favretto, Gregory 3/85 - 12/86	Jensen, Charles 11/76 - 5/80	Morrow, Jeb 1/05 - Present	Sevier, John 1/92 - 12/96	Yutzenka, Grant 6/96 - 12/99
Burch, Orel L. 11-76 - 12-79	Fisher, Barry 1/83 - 12/88	Johnson, K. 11/76 - 12/78	Moss, Robert 11/76 - 10/78	Sharick-Jensen, Cameron 3/85 - 12/87	Zharoff, Fred 1/88 - 11/89
Burke, William 11/76 - 8/77	Foster, Jesse 2/79 - 9/83	Jolin, Ron 1/83 - 12/83	Munro, Nancy 3/85 - 12/90	Skordahl, Jay 1/90 - 12/91	
Cadd, Gary 1/92 - 12/92	Fraser, David 1/90 - 12/05	Jones, Spike 1/94 - 12/01	Nelson, Hazel 1/94 - 12/01	Smith, Thorn 12/85 - 12/87	
Childers, Joe** 1/05 - Present	Fuglvog, Arne 1/96 - 6/03	Jordon, Eric 7/80 - 9/86	Norosz, Kris 1/01 - 12/04	Smith, Steve 1/89 - 4/89	
Chimegalrea, Joseph 3/85 - 12/87	Fuglvog, Ed 3/87 - 12/91	Jordon, Melody 1/99 - 12/00	O'Connell, James 3/82 - 9/84	Smith, Walter 7/82 - 12/86	
Chitwood, Phil 1/89 - 6/93	Gage, Jay S. 11/76 - 8/77	Kaldestad, Kevin 1/90 - 12/94	O'Hara, Dan J. 12/76 - 12/91	Sparck, Harold 1/89 - 1/95	
Chlupach, Robin 1/79 - 9/80	Ganey, Steve 2/96 - 12/99	Kandianis, Teresa 1/99 - 12/05	Ogden, Doug 1/93 - 12/00	Specking, Keith 12/76 - 3/81	
Clampitt, Paul 1/89 - 12/90	Gilbert, John 1/89 - 12/89	Kilborn, Mitch 1/03 - 12/04	Olson, Eric 6/02 - 12/04	Starck, R. 12/76 - 1/78	
Collier, Barry 12/83 - 3/85	Goldsmith, Richard 2/81 - 5/83	Kinneen, Simon 1/05 - Present	Olsen, Kenneth O. 12/76 - 5/82		

Staff takes a break. Lunch, or the standard ice cream run (circa 1988).



Helen Allen, Executive Secretary
 Gail Bendixen, Administrative Officer*
 Darrell Brannan, Senior Economist
 Jim Branson, Executive Director
 Jim Cornelius, Economist
 Cathy Coon, Fisheries Analyst*
 Steve Davis, Deputy Director
 Jane DiCosimo, Senior Plan Coordinator*
 Elaine Dinneford, Fisheries Analyst*
 Maggie Duff, Plan Coordinator
 Diana Evans, NEPA Specialist*
 Mark Fina, Senior Economist*
 Jim Glock, Plan Coordinator
 Chuck Hamel, Economist
 Russell Harding, Economist
 Marcus Hartley, Senior Economist
 Mike Herschberger, Plan Coordinator
 Mark Hutton, Deputy Director
 Peggy Kircher, Secretary*
 Nicole Kimball, Fisheries Analyst*
 Doug Larson, Economist
 Denby Lloyd, Plan Coordinator
 Dorothy Lowman, Special Advisor
 Peggy McCalment, Executive Secretary
 Jon McCracken, Economist*
 Ron Miller, Special Advisor
 Janet Murray, Secretary
 Florence Mynarsky, Executive Secretary
 Irma Nelson, Secretary
 Chris Oliver, Executive Director*
 Brent Paine, Plan Coordinator
 Clarence Pautzke, Executive Director
 Jeff Povolny, Plan Coordinator
 Diane Provost, Database Programmer
 Jim Richardson, Economist*
 Linda Roberts, Graphic Design/Secretary
 Ron Rogness, Economist
 Maria Shawback, Graphic Design/Secretary*
 Terry Smith, Senior Economist
 Regina Stewart, Secretary
 Diana Stram, Plan Coordinator*
 Dick Tremaine, Economist
 Maria Tsu, Economist
 Hal Weeks, Plan Coordinator
 Becky Wetzler, Bookkeeper
 Judy Willoughby, Administrative Officer
 Bill Wilson, Plan Coordinator*
 David Witherell, Deputy Director*
 Elise Zuspan, Bookkeeper

*Current staff

Staff preparing books for the meeting, 12/92.



Darrell Brannan, Gail Bendixen, and David Witherell with Gail's big fish!



Jim Glock, 1988



Staff Barbecue, June 2000



Staff in Dutch, October 2006



Council Staff 1976-2006



Standing, left to right:
Franz Mueter, Doug
Woodby, Ken Pitcher,
George Hunt, Farron
Wallace, Steven Hare,
Terrance Quinn II Seat-
ed, left to right: David
Sampson, Gordon
Kruse, Pat Livingston,
Anne Hollowed (Not
present: Seth Macinko,
Keith Criddle, Mark
Hermann, Sue Hills)



Pictured L to R, seated:
Joe Childers, John
Bruce, Matt Moir, Duncan
Fields, Al Burch, Tom
Enlow, John Moller, Cora
Crome. Standing: Simon
Kinneen, John Hender-
schedt, Jeb Morrow, Craig
Cross, Jeff Stephan,
Jim Preston, Michelle
Ridgway, Bill Jacobson,
Jan Jacobs, Kent Lesille,
Dave Fraser, Ed Poulsen.
(Not pictured: Lori
Swanson, Lisa Butzner,
Bob Gunderson, Julianne
Curry.)



Standing, L to R: Gail
Bendixen, Jane DiCosimo,
Mark Fina, Elaine Din-
neford, Chris Oliver, David
Witherell, Peggy Kircher,
Jim Richardson. Seated:
Maria Shawback, Diana
Stram, Bill Wilson, Cathy
Coon, Nicole Kimball, Diana
Evans. (Not Pictured: Jon
McCracken.)

AP, SSC, and Staff, 2006





Stephanie Madsen

Council Member 9/01-10/02
Council Chair 10/02 - Present

A Process Junkie

Hello, my name is Stephanie and I am a Council addict.

It happened gradually. First attending a meeting or two in the late 80's to attending every meeting since 1993. From a casual observer to a full blown voting council member!

As an Unalaska City Council member keenly interested in the first inshore/offshore allocation, I innocently dropped in and out of a few meetings. That is when I experienced an almost immediate desire to become part of "the Council family." One of my first memories of trying to become a member is sitting in the Advisory Panel as they developed their TAC recommendations for the Council. Motion, amendment, amendment to the amendment, failed amendments to finally.....a substitute motion—I was hooked!

In 1993, I took my first real leap when Chairman Lauber appointed me to an AP vacancy. For a few years I did not expand on my "usage" which would have taken me across the hall to the Council room. But that ended in 1995 when I discovered the next level of addiction—the testimony table. I traveled across the hall to present the AP minutes, the responsibility of the Vice-Chair. Your name is called, your heart begins to race, and your mind goes blank as you approach. That "rush" is magnified when you have to respond to a question.

As with most addictions, mine is progressive. After nine years on the AP I was appointed to the Council by Governor Knowles in 2001 and reappointed by Governor Murkowski in 2004. My addiction spread to include not only attending meetings but intense studying of documents from discussion papers to EAs to EISs, not yet on a daily basis but steady use none the less. I always got a rush when making motions but making motions at the Council table was mainline use! If only it had stopped there.

In October of 2002, I moved from making motions to chairing the meeting. This may be the ultimate high for a process junkie. I am still active in this addiction but have come to realize.....I am not alone. In fact, looking around the room I see more than a hand full of "family" who has had this addiction much longer than me. I believe some may be in denial...and I challenge my readers to look at themselves because process junkies come from all sectors, gear types, and registration areas, regardless of sex and age.

I am in my fourth year as Council Chair and although my addiction seems under control I continue to crave developing alternatives, providing rationale for decisions and the continual review of documents in addition to attending meetings.

Addicts have a code of anonymity so I cannot name my fellow addicts but they know who they are and my message to them....there is hope. With term limits or new administrations, my Council role will someday change and it is my goal to provide all of the process junkies out there a place to go— a twelve step program to recovery. So if you have more than one of any of the following list of behaviors see me during a break and sign up now for inclusion in our recovery efforts.

1. Craving to make or second a motion.
2. Scheduling family vacations around five Council meetings a year and a dozen or more committee meetings.
3. Nervous feeling if not carrying a document of at least 75 pages.
4. Anxiety if there is an issue on the Council agenda that does not require you to testify.
5. Desire to serve on most committees regardless of the issue.

Seriously, addiction aside, we must defend the council system which includes the process. I believe if you are true to the process, you will achieve the greatest results. The process works....there is a role for process junkies and I am proud to be one.



Bill Tweit, Eric Olson and Stephanie Madsen aboard a USCG C-130 flight, Kodiak, June 2006



John Bundy

Council member 8/99 - Present

Council Vice Chair 10/95 - Present

Everyone involved with fisheries and the Council in Alaska has a story about how it all happened. Mine started in 1961. Selected by the University Presbyterian Church in Seattle as part of a four-person team of students to spend the summer helping out local churches and youth programs in Alaska, I had the opportunity to visit much of the interior, from Chicken to Wasilla, then a very small community. My imagination was captured by Alaska and its people and, from that time forward, I looked for opportunities to return. The following winter presented an irresistible opportunity to work as a seaman on the vessel North Star, which was operated by the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. A retired WWII Victory Ship, the North Star had five cargo holds and carried its own landing crafts to take cargo ashore. At the time, the vessel was the primary source of supplies to many Alaska Native coastal communities. I dropped out of the University of Washington and worked on the vessel for the period April to November, 1962 during which we made two voyages to supply virtually every Alaska Native village from Tyonek to Barrow, including the 15 communities of Norton Sound.

30 years later, another opportunity arose. In the interim, I had been practicing law in Seattle for 23 years. The task was to assist my client, Glacier Fish Company, in drafting a proposal to the Norton Sound CDQ group, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC), to lease its share of pollock under the CDQ program recently adopted by the Council. This was an opportunity to be reacquainted with the 15 Norton Sound communities and their people. Glacier was successful in the competition for the business relationship with NSEDC. I left the practice of law the following year and joined Glacier fulltime in June 1993 where I worked primarily with Sam Hjelle and Erik Breivik who has managed the business since its inception in 1982. Erik, NSEDC

and I put together an ownership group in 1997 that bought out the other Glacier partners effective January 1, 1998.

Service on the Council since 1999 has been a privilege and the best education possible for learning about Alaska's spectacular marine resources and the people and communities that depend on them. The big allocation battle of pollock inshore-offshore was settled by the American Fisheries Act of 1998. Since then, there has been better cooperation and communication among members as the Council worked on issues important to all stakeholders. These have included, among many others, Steller Sealion protection measures, numerous bycatch reduction measures, Alaska groundfish Programmatic SEIS, crab rationalization, H&G fleet rationalization, and the EFH/HAPC actions to protect sea mounts and vast unfished areas off the Aleutians. Of course, allocation issues will always be on the agenda, but the big themes since AFA have been (a) better management to increase the wealth of people directly involved in earning their livings from the sea, and (b) protection of the natural environment to sustain healthy commercial fisheries for future generations. Thanks to the Council and the leadership of chairpersons I have served with (Rick Lauber, Dave Benton and Stephanie Madsen), and to Senator Stevens and Congressman Young, Alaska is finally recognized by the public, Congress and world seafood markets as the gold standard when it comes to sustainability and successful fisheries management. The procedures and standards set by our Council have provided the major themes and guidelines for good management in the current Senate and House versions of Magnuson Stevens Act reauthorization.

Work on the Council can be tedious. Indeed, it would be impossible without the support of a professional staff that the Council has enjoyed through the years. The most interesting part of the process has been the public input which brings insight, often with welcome humor, to help solve difficult issues. Almost without exception, the people I have seen involved in this process are creative and passionate about this common enterprise and it has been an honor to be a part of it.

It's all part of the Council Process.... Benson, Hyder, Bundy, Madsen and Rasmuson during the April 2006 meeting at the Hilton in Anchorage.





Chris Oliver

Executive Director 2002-present

Deputy Director, 1992-2002

Go North, Young Man

My experience in North Pacific fisheries began nearly 17 years ago, just as the fisheries were being fully 'Americanized', and just in time to experience some of the most significant, and controversial,

management programs being developed anywhere in the world. Inshore-offshore I and sablefish and halibut IFQs topped the list of course. For a (relatively) young fisheries biologist type from Texas, I felt fortunate to be part of the development of these innovative, cutting edge fisheries management programs – something Clarence had promised me when he offered me the Gulf of Alaska Plan Coordinator position, and to which he had alluded a year earlier when we met at an SSC meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council in New Orleans. Which takes me back to my "how I got to Alaska" story...

After finishing grad school I was employed as a research associate at the Ag-Eco Department of Texas A&M, working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife (and Fisheries) Department and the Gulf of Mexico Council on a bioeconomic model being used to help manage the large and lucrative Texas shrimp fishery. I made a presentation of this research at the 1989 annual conference of the American Fisheries Society in Anchorage. Though we did manage to milk that model for several research grants, the soft money was coming to an end by mid-1990, and I had to face the reality of finding a 'real' job. In June of 1990 I ended up accepting a marine biologist III position with TPWD to be stationed in Seabrook, Texas, scheduled to report for duty on August 1. I rented a little house on Galveston Bay, about a 5 minute boat ride from the Seabrook office, and started the task of moving from College Station, including several 4 hour round trips to repaint the interior of the house, repair some loose boards on the pier, and various other fixer-up tasks.

As I was leaving the Ag-Eco Building one sunny day in July, with the last of my cubbyhole and research associate position packed up in a cardboard box, I was passing the 'jobs' bulletin board in the hallway, and notice out of the corner of my eye a 3X5 inch index card with a brief announcement of a job in Anchorage, Alaska. Having always harbored dreams of Alaska, and having fell in love with it when visiting the year before, I stopped and read the index card, only to be chagrined that the job closing date had expired the week before! Nevertheless, with nothing to lose, I called the number and wound up speaking for nearly an hour with then Deputy Director Steve Davis. Next thing I know I am on a plane headed to Anchorage for a job interview, to be held on a Thursday, with me supposed to be reporting to work in Seabrook, Texas the following Monday.

To make a long story short, I called my would-be supervisor in Texas at 8 am sharp on Monday, to inform him that I "was gonna be late for work". The conversation went something like this:

Me: "umm, Mr Stork, I'm afraid I am going to be a bit late to work."

Mr. Stork: "well, that's not a great way to start your first day on the job where are you and how soon will you be here?"

Me: "umm, well, uh, umm, I am in Anchorage. Alaska."

(long silence)

Mr. Stork: "what the hell are you doing in Alaska on your first day of work?"

Me: "well, I apologize for this Mr Stork, but when I say late for work, I mean REAL late....fact is I am not going to be there at all. I accepted a job in Alaska that I simply could not turn down. It all happened really fast....."

All by way of making the point that, for a person with a desire to work in the arena of fisheries policy, with a regional management Council, with THE North Pacific Council (already recognized as the best managed fishery in the country)...well, it was an opportunity that I simply could not pass up. And it was far and away the best career move I could have ever made (never mind that I told Maggie it "was only for a couple years").

One of my first experiences in the new job was also one of my most memorable (Clarence likes to recount this one too). About a month after joining the Council staff, I found myself sitting in front of the SSC, somehow conscripted (or tricked) into presenting the status of stocks and Plan Team report to the SSC. Talk about suddenly feeling very lonely and stupid. When the discussion turned to arrowtooth flounder in the Bering Sea, I further found myself informing Dr. Bill Aaron that a significant portion of the preceding year's catch was



Managing Our Nation's Fisheries Conference, Washington DC, March 2005.



actually misidentified, as in reality it was Kamchatka flounder. Well, Dr. Aaron, flatfish expertise notwithstanding, had no knowledge of said Kamchatka flounder, and immediately recessed the SSC meeting to run over to our offices and start a flurry of emails, telephone calls, and library research. I was not sure whether I had done something impressive, or had inadvertently cut my North Pacific career short by providing bad information to the SSC, or even worse, by embarrassing the Center Director! As it turned out I was right, and even more importantly, Dr. Aaron forgave me. So I survived my first test.

Nearly seventeen years later I can say without reservation how fortunate I have been to have this opportunity to help manage the best managed fishery in the United States, perhaps in the entire world. Former colleagues from the South always speak with respect and envy about working in the fisheries off Alaska. While the results are obvious, what they do not see is the people that make this program a success. The luxury we enjoy of state-of-the-art scientific expertise from the NMFS, the great working relationship our Council has with the NMFS Alaska Region and Science Center. A sophisticated, knowledgeable fishing industry which fully embraces the science-based, conservative management approach that breeds long-term sustainability. The individuals and characters that have made their mark and instilled their wisdom on the process through the years.

From my time here in the North Pacific, there are a few that have to be noted. Clarence Pautzke – perfect mix of scientific expertise, administrative savvy, and common sense (and my mentor). And, during my time, three of the greatest Council leaders ever, nationwide – Rick Lauber, David Benton, and now Stephanie Madsen. And from 'the agency'... Rich Marasco – SSC Chairman extraordinaire and one of the finest gentlemen ever. Jim Balsiger, as good a bureaucrat as you can find, a leader, and a dear friend. Sue Salvesson, the backbone of the agency here in Alaska and another dear friend. Doug DeMaster – more of the same. Having experience in other parts of the country, I can really appreciate the importance of not only having this caliber of folks, but also having the great working relationship that exists between the state and federal agencies, the Council, and the fishing industry here in the North Pacific.

And a few of the other standout characters... Henry Mitchell hey, some of us really miss him! Wally Pereyra – still wanting that final debate with Penny Pagels. Larry Cotter – orator extraordinaire. Linda Benhken – similar to Larry, but even more passion and much better looking. John Bruce – a rock. Clem Tillion – what can I say that hasn't been said??? (if not by others, by Clem himself). Bob Mace.....nothing else need be said. And, last but definitely not least, the Council staff, which over the years has been the highest quality group of professionals I have ever been associated with, or could ever imagine being associated with. From past staff like Helen Allen, Marcus Hartley, Hal Weeks, Steve Davis, and Darrell Brannan... to the current staff of David Witherell and Gail Bendixen and Mark, Jane, Nicole, the Dianas, Bill, Jon, Jim, Cathy, Elaine, Maria, Peggy - the very best cohort ever! It is my distinct pleasure to work with each and every one, and to now call Alaska home.



Slayin the Silvers. Prince William Sound, June 2004