North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Community considerations in Federally-managed fisheries

April 2005
Why are Fisheries Off Alaska so important to communities?

- Would rank in the top 10 producing countries
- Represent 50% of total U.S. catch
- Catch between 3 and 5 billion pounds of groundfish annually - for 28 years
- Are the number one private sector employer in Alaska
- Are second only to oil in revenue to the State
360,000 square miles of fishable continental shelf

47,000 miles of coastline
Alaska Landings
2.5 million mt

Groundfish: 81%
Salmon: 15%
Shellfish: 2%
Herring: 2%
Nearshore: 0%
Ex-Vessel Value of Alaska Landings
Average Annual Ex-Vessel value = $822 Million

- Groundfish: 50%
- Salmon: 28%
- Shellfish: 21%
- Herring: 1%
- Nearshore: 0%
Major species in the GOA
~4 million tons total biomass

- Arrowtooth: 32%
- Rockfish: 19%
- Pollock: 17%
- Flatfish: 16%
- P. Cod: 11%
- Sablefish: 5%
- Rockfish: 19%
Major species in the BSAI
>20 million mt biomass

- Pollock-EBS: 50%
- Flatfish Total: 33%
- Pacific Cod: 7%
- Pollock-Bogoslof: 1%
- Pollock-Alaska Intermediate: 1%
- Sablefish: 0%
- Rockfish Total: 2%
- Atka Mackerel: 3%
- Others: 3%
Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish
Harvest Limits 1981-2003
Vessels range from:

Small skiffs - longline and jig fishing

Mid-size seine, trawl and longline vessels

Large trawl, longline and crab vessels

Very large catcher/processors
Background on the Council

**Origin:** the NPFMC is one of 8 regional councils established by the Magnuson Act of 1976 to manage fisheries in federal waters. The North Pacific Council is unique in that jurisdiction is specific to waters off only one state.

**Structure:** 11 voting members: AK (6), WA (3), OR (1), and 1 from NMFS; and 4 non-voting members (USFWS, USCG, PSMFC, State Dept).

**Function:** The Council maintains 5 fishery management plans (GOA Groundfish, BSAI Groundfish, Crab, Scallop and SE Salmon troll). Approval and implementation of these FMPs is effected through our partnership with NOAA Fisheries.

**Process:** Council meets 5 times/year, concurrently with its advisory groups: Advisory Panel (21 members from various constituencies), Scientific and Statistical Committee. Public testimony is taken at all meetings, for all issues.
Management Partnership Including:

- NOAA Fisheries/Alaska Fisheries Science Center
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game
- Alaska Board of Fisheries
- International Pacific Halibut Commission
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Stakeholder Involvement and Public Process

The Council process was established specifically to allow for better public involvement in fishery management decision-making.

Public participation occurs at all levels, from proposals to change the regulations, to deliberations at plan team and advisory panel

Public testimony before the advisory panel, scientific and statistical committee, and to the Council.
Changes to fishery regulations require a number of steps including proposal, development of alternatives, analysis and review, decision, and rulemaking. There are opportunities for public input into the process at each step, as indicated in blue boxes of the flow chart.
Final Approval

- Decisions must conform with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Act, and other applicable law including several executive orders.
Magnuson-Stevens Act requirements

• National Standard 8 – must provide for sustained participation of communities and minimize adverse impacts
• Section 303(a)(9) – fishery impact statement for participants and communities
• Section 303(b)(6) – limited entry must take into account historical practice, cultural and social framework, and communities
Fishery Management Plans

The Council prepares and modifies fishery management plans (FMPs) for fisheries under its jurisdiction. Each of the 5 FMPs contains a suite of management tools that together characterize the fishery management regime for fisheries off Alaska.

- Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP
- Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP
- Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab FMP
- Alaska Scallop FMP
- Alaska Salmon FMP
FMP Amendments

- Amendments to the FMP or its regulations are considered at each meeting by the Council, with proposed amendments submitted by both the resource agencies and the public. As a result, the FMPs and fishery regulations are dynamic and are continuously changing as new information or problems arise.
Community Protection

Coastal community needs are accommodated in various ways:

- Proposed management actions include assessment of social and community impacts based on development and maintenance of coastal community profiles
- Sablefish/halibut IFQ program designed with specific safeguards to maintain coastal community fleets
- Sea Lion protection measures modified to ease burden on small, local vessels
- Regulations developed to recognize and maintain halibut subsistence fishery
- Regional delivery requirements as well as IPQs, built into crab rationalization program
- IFQ community purchase program
- GOA ‘rationalization’ community provisions and committee process
- CDQ Program
Community Development Quota Program

- Benefits 65 remote coastal communities in Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands since 1992
- Sets aside 10% of pollock TAC, 7.5% of all other groundfish and crab TACs, and halibut set aside
- Since 1992, nearly $125 million in wages, education, and training benefits provided to over 25,000 western AK residents
- 2003 total revenues of the six CDQ groups was about $88 million combined
- Asset value of all 6 CDQ groups is currently around $300 million