Position: Alaska Sea Grant State Fellow – Assistant Fishery Analyst

Supervisors: Diana Evans (Fishery Analyst) and David Witherell (Deputy Director)

Major Duties and Responsibilities

The position serves as an assistant fishery analyst, working closely with other biologists and economists in the identification and analysis of issues pertaining to fishery management plan development and amendments, with specific focus on potential effects of management measures on fish stocks and other resources. Duties of the position include:

1. Preparing issue papers to assist the Council in the formation of fisheries policy.
2. Analyzing fishery data and preparing biological, environmental, and regulatory impact analyses for use in the amendment of fishery management plans.
3. Presenting results of analyses and issue papers to the Council and its advisory bodies.
4. Attending Council meetings, committee meetings, and other meetings. May include travel to Seattle, Juneau, Kodiak, or other locations (travel funded by the NPFMC).

Potential Projects

Research activities during the fellowship may include working on some of the following projects:

- **Assisting in the preparation of a cutting-edge Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) for the Bering Sea.** The Council is interested in developing an FEP that is structured to benefit fishery management decisionmaking, and sets up a framework for considering policy choices and tradeoffs affecting managed species and the ecosystem. For example, the Council will be working closely with the Alaska Fisheries Science Center to utilize modeling capacity and other tools to evaluate the resiliency of Council management strategies, and communicate management tradeoffs in the decisionmaking process. The development of the FEP may include various components, for example, an assessment of North Pacific fishery management with respect to ecosystem-based management principles; a synthesis of the Bering Sea ecosystem as it relates to fisheries; consideration of non-traditional sources of knowledge; identification of fishery impact considerations for agencies authorizing non-fishing activities; and an assessment of risk associated with fishery management practices. Staff will work with the Council’s Ecosystem Committee, in addition to the Council, for review of FEP workproducts.

- **Assisting the preparation of an analysis to implement electronic monitoring (EM) as a complement to human observers in the groundfish and halibut fisheries monitoring program for the North Pacific.** The information currently collected by observers onboard fishery vessels provides essential scientific data for managing the groundfish fisheries and minimizing bycatch. The Council is actively engaged in developing EM technology for catch estimation onboard small, fixed gear vessels that have trouble accommodating a human observer. While EM has been shown to be effective as a tool to ensure compliance with self-reported monitoring tools, it has yet to be used as part of an integrated catch estimation program. The Council has committed to a pre-implementation year in 2016, and has appointed an agency-industry EM Workgroup to help
shepherd the development of the program. The analysis to consider integrating EM into the Observer Program will need to evaluate different implementation options in order to balance the tradeoffs between data quality and cost to industry and the agency. Staff will work with the EM Workgroup and agency staff to develop options for the pre-implementation year, and evaluate those and other considerations in a comprehensive Council analysis for review in 2016.

- **Assisting with the analysis of regulatory changes to the Observer Program.** In 2013, the Council implemented a restructured Observer Program that made important changes to how observers are deployed, how observer coverage is funded, and the vessels and processors that must have some or all of their operations observed. As with all new programs, there have since been requests to revise specific details of how the program was implemented. These discrete analyses provide an opportunity to track a Council management change through the analytical and regulatory process, including full Council and Observer Advisory Committee review.