



---

# Fish News

Sept. 2, 2011

---

## NMFS Extends 45-day Comment Period Deadline for Halibut Catch Sharing Plan

*By Ernie Weiss, AEB Natural Resources Director*

The House Special Committee on Fisheries held a meeting yesterday (Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011) at the Anchorage Legislative Information Office. The agenda topic was the halibut ***catch sharing plan*** proposed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The big news at the meeting: NMFS has extended the 45-day comment period deadline on the draft rule from September 6<sup>th</sup> until September 21<sup>st</sup>. The rule would implement a catch sharing plan (CSP) for the guided sport and commercial fisheries for Pacific halibut in waters of International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Regulatory Areas 2C (Southeast Alaska) and 3A (Central Gulf of Alaska).



**NMFS has extended the comment period deadline on the draft rule of the halibut catch sharing plan to Sept. 21, 2011.**

At the committee meeting, invited presenter Stephanie Moreland of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) talked about the state's role in estimating the halibut biomass. Vice-Chair of the Committee, Representative Craig Johnson, questioned the state's ability to accurately estimate the biomass.

"We have a high degree of confidence in our estimates," Moreland said.

Glen Merrill of NMFS explained the proposed regulation and announced the comment period deadline extension. Other invited presenters at the meeting were representatives from United Fishermen of Alaska, the Alaska Charter Association and the Halibut Coalition.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) adopted the CSP at the October 2008 meeting. The plan has the following components:

- Allocations are established for the charter and commercial fishing sectors in Areas 2C & 3A
- Annual implementation of charter angler harvest limits
- Authorizes annual transfer of commercial halibut IFQ to charter operators

Charter boat operators in Area 2C have exceeded the Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) every year since the implementation of GHL's in 2003. The IPHC is expected to adopt the plan at the Anchorage meeting in late January 2012.

**To find out how to submit comments, click [here](#).**

---

## **NPFMC Meets Sept. 26 - Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> in Dutch Harbor**



The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is scheduled to meet September 26 - Oct. 4, 2011 at the Grand Aleutian Hotel in Dutch Harbor. Some of the major issues include:

- Initial review of a revised Salmon Fish Management Program (FMP).
- Adopt proposed 2012 groundfish harvest specifications.

- Halibut Management: Initial Review/Final Action on CQE vessel use caps.
- Initial review of CQE in Area 4B (Adak).
- Observer Program: Review OAC Report and restructuring regulations.
- Discussion paper on GOA pollock D season.
- Discussion paper on BS & AI Pacific cod split.

Click on the link below for the Council agenda:

[Council Agenda](#)

## October's Fish Board Meeting to Deal with Coordination of Parallel P. cod Seasons

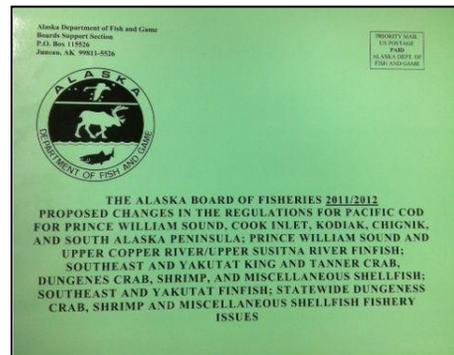


The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) meeting in Anchorage (October 6th - 10<sup>th</sup>) will focus on several changes, including the coordination of federal and state Pacific cod fishing season dates. A couple of years ago, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council divided P. cod between the various gear types. However, that action caused a bit of confusion. For example, some of the fishermen didn't catch their entire quota in the WGOA during the federal season. Typically, the state season begins seven days after the federal season ends. But if one part of the quota isn't completed, the federal season doesn't officially end and state season doesn't officially begin. The BOF will review licensing and reporting requirements for parallel P. cod fisheries for coordination with federal P. cod fisheries during the meeting.

For more on this proposal and others, visit the link below:

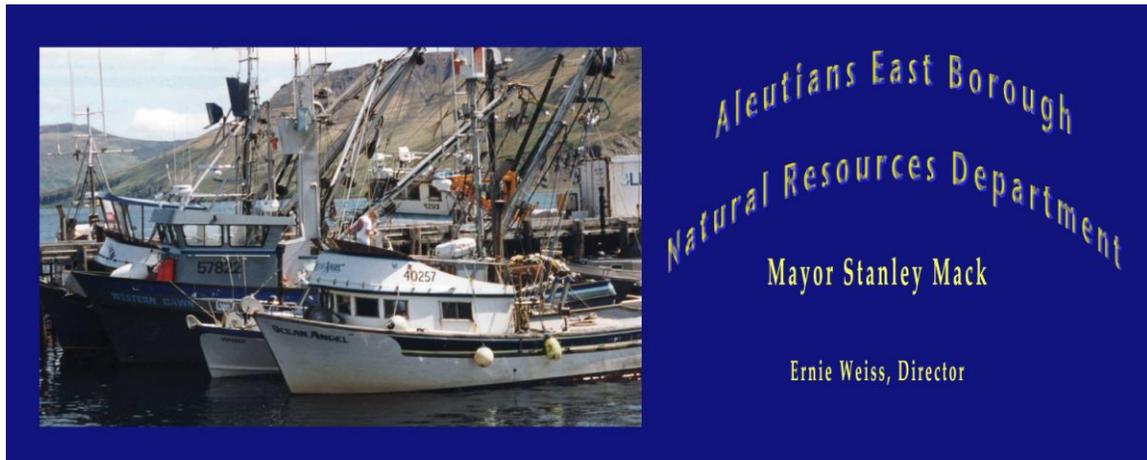
[BOF 2011 - 2012 Proposal Book](#)

See [Fish Calendar of Meetings](#) below for a link to the agenda.



# AEB's Natural Resources Director Creates New Website to Improve Communication

The Borough's Natural Resources Director Ernie Weiss has created a [new website](#)



to inform AEB residents of upcoming meetings and improve lines of communication. The website is: [www.aebfish.org](http://www.aebfish.org). The website will help to serve as Ernie's main avenue of communication with the public. It also lists the meetings he will be attending. *Fish News* will follow up with reports from Ernie after he attends the meetings to help keep AEB fishermen informed.

---

## Calendar of Fish Meetings

Organization	Date	Location	Agenda Link
WASSIP A.P. Meeting	Sept. 21 - 22, 2011	Anchorage	(agenda not available yet)
NPFMC Meeting	Sept. 26 - Oct. 4, 2011	Grand Aleutian Hotel: Makushin Room - Dutch Harbor	<a href="#">NPFMC Agenda</a>
BOF Workshop	Oct. 4 - 5, 2011	Coast Intl. Inn - Anchorage	<a href="#">BOF Agenda</a>
BOF Meeting	Oct. 6 - 10, 2011	Coast Intl. Inn - Anchorage	<a href="#">BOF Agenda</a>

---

*You are reading FISH NEWS, published quarterly by the Aleutians East Borough to help keep the lines of communication open among Alaska's commercial fishing interests. If you would like to have FISH NEWS delivered to you via e-mail subscription, send an e-mail message to [ltanis@aeboro.org](mailto:ltanis@aeboro.org) . For more information about our fisheries, our people, and our communities, please visit us at [www.aleutianseast.org](http://www.aleutianseast.org) and check out our new blog at <http://aebfishblog.blogspot.com/> .*