



NPFMC Moves to Postpone GOA TBM Indefinitely

By Ernie Weiss, AEB Natural Resources Director



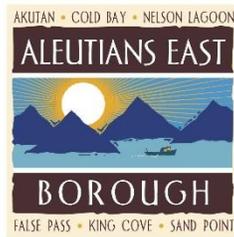
The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) voted 8 - 3 on December 13th to stop action on Gulf of Alaska Trawl Bycatch Management. The ‘motion to postpone action...indefinitely’ by ADF&G Commissioner Sam Cotten seemed the only solution as the Council became ‘stuck on a sandbar,’ an analogy by Council Member Roy Hyder from Oregon, describing the impasse between supporters of a GOA groundfish catch share plan, and those opposed to the rationalization plan.

The current action has been in development by the Council since 2012. An earlier attempt to rationalize GOA groundfish began in 2003, but was halted in 2007 at the request of then newly-elected Governor Sarah Palin. There are several other rationalized fisheries established in and around the waters of the Aleutians East Borough: Pacific Halibut went to an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) system in 1993, pollock in the Bering Sea was rationalized under the American Fisheries Act in 1998, and BSAI Crab Rationalization was implemented in 2005.

The Aleutians East Borough presented [Resolution 17-11](#) to the Council in favor of the no action alternative in the analysis, plus some ‘common sense regulation changes’ the Borough has advocated for in the past. Several local trawl fishermen also gave compelling testimony at the meeting. At the end of the meeting during Staff Tasking, Commissioner Cotten proposed looking at several of the WGOA fishermen ideas, including smaller trip limits and timing of the season and apportionments.

Other Council Actions from the December NPFMC meeting include setting the 2017 groundfish total allowable catch (TAC) for both the [BSAI](#) and [GOA](#), establishing a new charter halibut recreational quota entity (RQE), and integrating electronic monitoring (EM) into the North Pacific Observer Program.

Reminder:



AEB Fishermen's Meeting Winter Fisheries Teleconference

Wednesday
December 21, 2016 2PM

TELECONFERENCE audio/participation to be available at the following sites:

King Cove Harbor House
Sand Point Borough office
False Pass City Office
Anchorage AEB office

Meeting to be broadcast live on KSDP at www.apradio.org

Agencies Representatives available at this teleconference meeting:

- U. S. Coast Guard, Kodiak.
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Kodiak.
- NMFS Alaska Region, Juneau.
- Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle.
- North Pacific Observer Program & A.I.S. observer providers.
- Other fisheries enforcement representatives.

Please contact Ernie Weiss at (907) 274-7557 or eweiss@aeboro.org for further information.

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