



North Pacific Fishery Management Council Takes Action to Address Distressed Stocks



The North Pacific Fishery Management Council during the December meeting. Photo by Ernie Weiss, Aleutians East Borough Natural Resources Director.

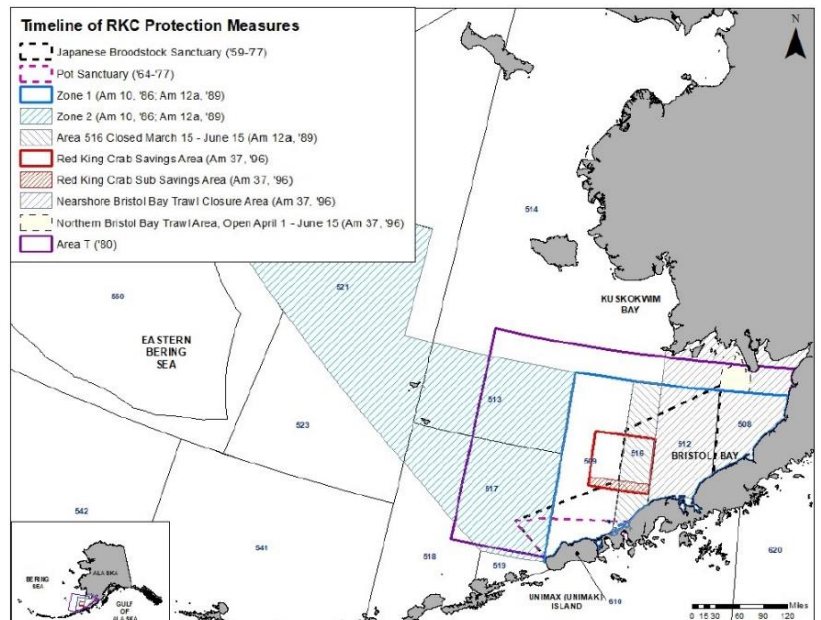
At their December meeting in the Anchorage Hilton, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council took measured steps to address chum salmon bycatch. The Council directed the newly formed Salmon Bycatch Committee to develop management recommendations for the Council to review at their April meeting, when salmon bycatch genetic studies will also be available. Over 40 individuals testified and 145 written comments submitted on the chum bycatch issue. Representatives of western Alaska

advocated for a chum bycatch cap for the pollock industry, and a cap is included in the [Council motion](#).

The Council also took several actions to bolster depleted BSAI snow and red king crab stocks. The Council tasked the Crab Plan Team to work on trawl and non-trawl crab bycatch limits, and consider area closures for the groundfish fisheries. The council also initiated an analysis of implementing closures of the Red King Crab Savings Area and Subarea, and a closure of Area 512 for pot cod. And the Council chose a preliminary preferred alternative for the Snow Crab Rebuilding plan, set for final action in February, to ‘set target rebuilding time frame for the number of years necessary to rebuild the stock to the B_{MSY} level at a probability $\geq 50\%$. The stock will be considered “rebuilt” once it reaches B_{MSY} .’ The Council also selected the option to allow the directed fishery to open, based on the state harvest strategy while the snow crab stock is rebuilding.

The Council set groundfish specifications for the [Gulf of Alaska](#) and the [Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands](#).

The Council also set final action on the Cook Inlet Salmon FMP amendment for April 2023, and [added options](#) for analysis to the 2 viable alternatives. The Council also recommended charter halibut management measures for IPHC regulatory areas 2C and 3A. [Appointments](#) to the SSC and AP were announced at the end of the December meeting. The Council newsletter with a complete summary of the December meeting can be found [here](#) when posted.



The Alaska Board of Fisheries Completes the Bristol Bay meeting; Up next: AYK

The Bristol Bay Finfish meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries was held in the cavernous first floor Hall of the Dena’ina Center in Anchorage November 29 - December 1, 2022. The Summary of the meeting actions can be found [here](#). The seven-member board had only six members in attendance for the meeting, with one vacant seat. Member

Jensen was recused from proposals 34, 35, 42-48 and 57-59, due to a family member permit ownership in the Bristol Bay drift net fishery, leaving just five members to consider those proposals.

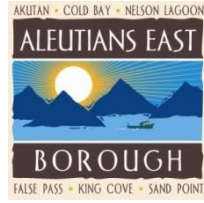
The Board postponed Proposals 11, 12 & 13 related to the Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan, until the Statewide meeting in March, and added one extra day to that meeting. The Board had designated the Nushagak River Kings a Stock of Concern in October. The department was able to publish the required Action Plan just days before the meeting, and several public testifiers favored delaying consideration of the Nushagak proposals due to the late notice. Board Member John Jensen will also be recused from proposals 11, 12 & 13 at the statewide meeting.

The Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim (AYK) meeting will be held January 14-18 at the Egan Center in Anchorage. The Board will consider the 3 proposals adopted from ACRs during the AYK meeting, including Proposal 170, formerly ACR 1, to establish a vessel pot limit of 500 pots and an overall fishery pot limit of 10,000 pots for the North Peninsula District Dungeness crab fishery. Written public comment has favored the vessel pot limit but not the overall fishery pot limit. Local crab fishermen requested the Board to move consideration of Proposal 170 to the Statewide meeting in March, without success.

AEB Winter Fisheries Meeting 12/20/2022

The Aleutians East Borough Natural Resources Department will host the annual Winter Fisheries meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 10 a.m. Login information can be found on the flyer below. Agency representatives will provide overviews of upcoming 2023 winter fisheries and give updates on any regulation changes of note. Some of the upcoming 2023 local State-water fisheries guideline harvest levels and opening dates:

- [South Peninsula Tanner Crab](#) Eastern District 525,000 lbs., Western District 575,000 lbs. Open Jan. 15, 2023.
- [South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod](#) pot gear 4,196,059 lbs., opens March 7, 2023 or 7 days after fed season closes, jig gear Pcod 740,481 lbs., opens 48 hours after federal A season closes.
- [Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific cod](#) pot gear 38,316,000 lbs., open 7 days after fed BSAI pot cod <60ft closes; jig gear Pcod 100,000 lbs., open May 1, 2023.



AEB Fishermen's Winter Fisheries Meeting **Wednesday December 20, 2022 at 10 a.m.**

via Zoom/virtual meeting

Zoom meeting login information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84001815596?pwd=TVVMYnpsZzVuSVpLbU1HZVB0SFpBQT09>

or by phone: 1 253 215 8782

- Meeting ID: 840 0181 5596
- Passcode: 667647

Meeting scheduled to be broadcast live on local radio KSDP and at www.apradio.org

Winter Fisheries updates from:

- U. S. Coast Guard, Kodiak.
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Kodiak.
- NMFS Sustainable Fisheries, Alaska Region, Juneau.
- Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle.
- North Pacific Observer Program
- NMFS Office of Law Enforcement

Reports from

- AEB Natural Resources Department
- Local Fishermen Organizations

For more information please contact Aleutians East Borough:

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