

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council - Overview and Review of Policy C-3002

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# NPFMC Overview

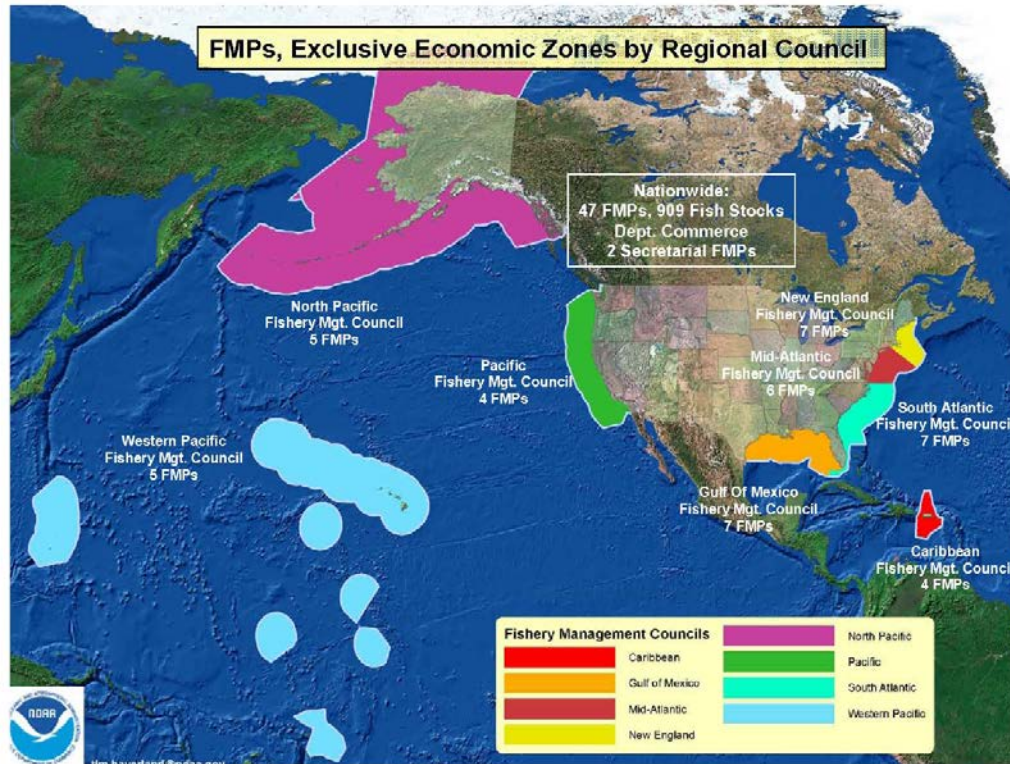
- Magnuson Stevens Act
- Sustainable Management and Ecosystem Based Management
- Importance to WA State and US
- Major Challenges



# Magnuson – Stevens Act – Foundation of Council Management

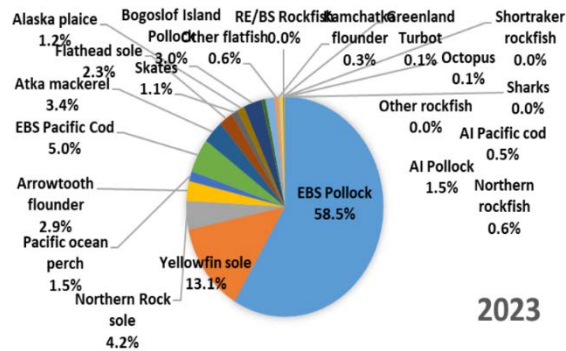
- Ten National Standards must be addressed, including:
  - Conservation, prevent overfishing
  - Optimum Yield
  - Community Stability
  - Promote safety at sea
  - Minimize bycatch
- Council role is to balance competing objectives in an inclusive and transparent forum.





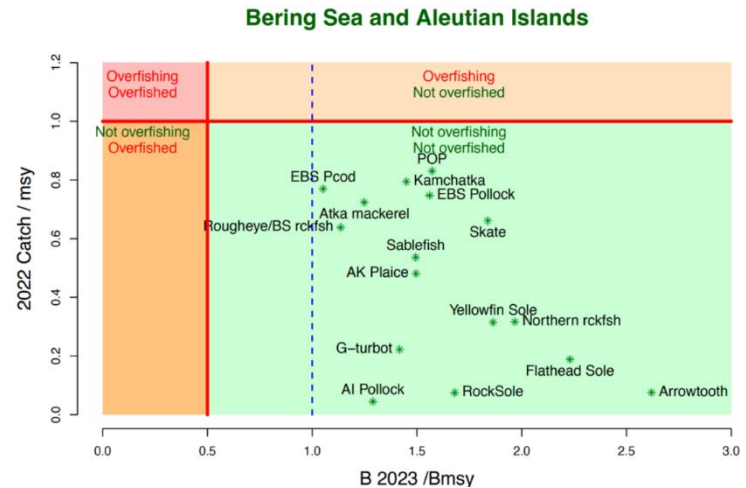
# Bering Sea Groundfish

## Relative ABC Catch Limits



Sum of 2023 BSAI ABCs = 2,993,080 mt  
 Sum of 2023 BSAI TACs = 2,000,000 mt

## Stock Status

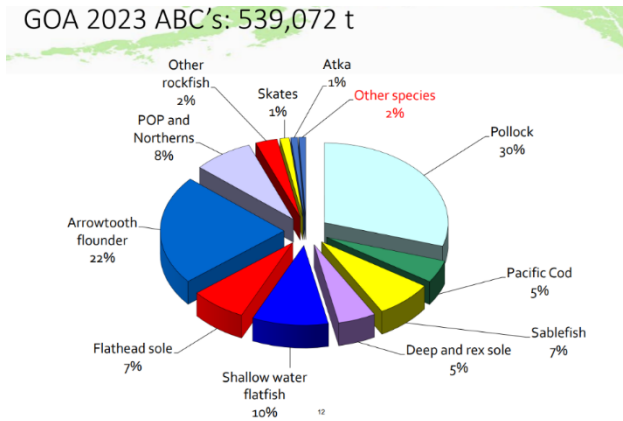


**No stocks overfished or subject to overfishing**



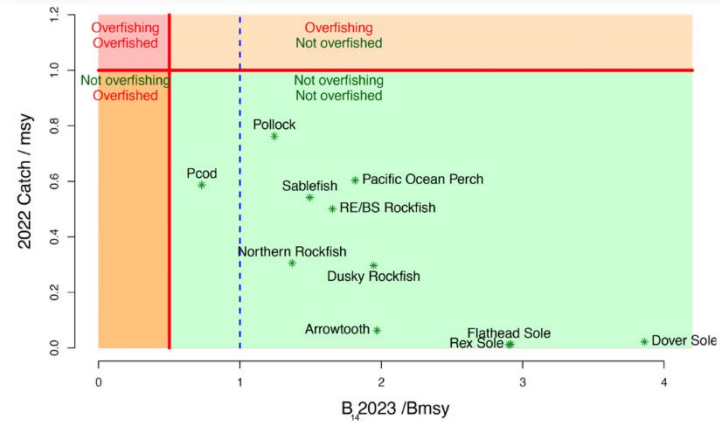
# Gulf of Alaska Groundfish

## Relative Catch Limits



**Sum of 2023 ABCs = 539,072 mt**  
**Sum of 2023 TACs = 468,796 mt**

## Stock Status

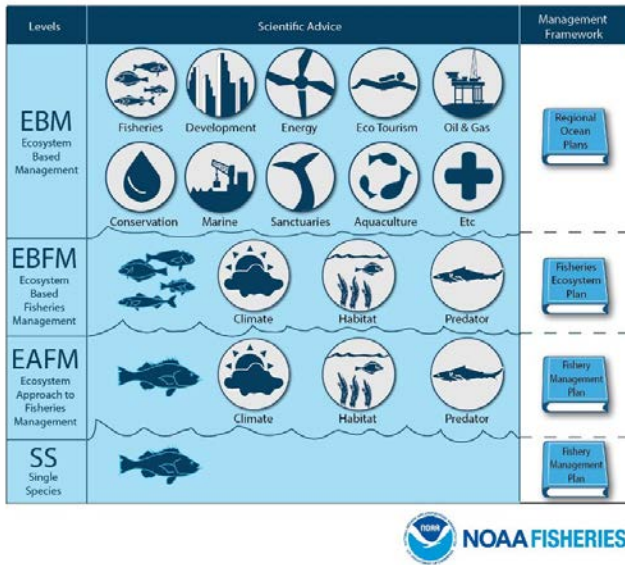


**No stocks overfished or subject to overfishing**





# Ecosystem Based Fishery Management



- Ecosystem Indicators
- Use of TK and LK
- Bering Sea FEP
- Climate change models
- Recent Workshops



# Importance of Fisheries off Alaska

- 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 almost 40 years
- 2.5 million metric ton harvest in 2017 is 3% of global harvest of 80 million mt
- Alaska fisheries, including NPFMC and state managed salmon fisheries contribute \$1.3 billion annually in labor earnings to the economy of the Puget Sound region.





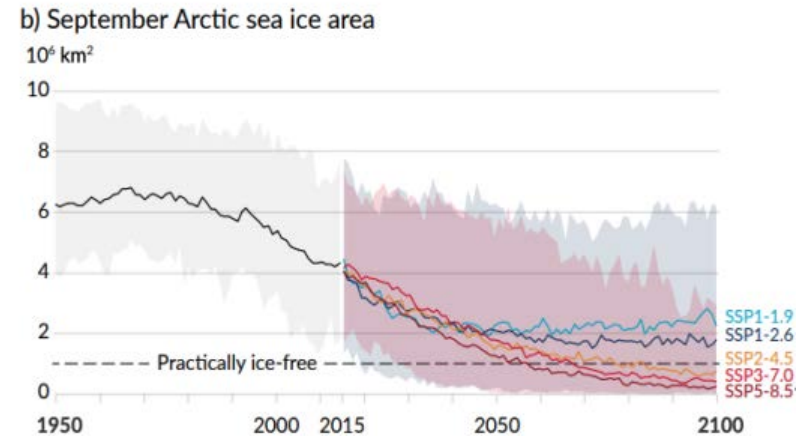
# NPFMC – Major Challenges

- Adapting to Climate Change – Resource management in a less predictable environment
- Transition to Ecosystem Based Fishery Management
- Balancing Local Subsistence needs with Seafood Production for National Benefit
- Integrating Traditional Knowledge, Local Knowledge and Subsistence into MSA process
- Minimizing Bycatch



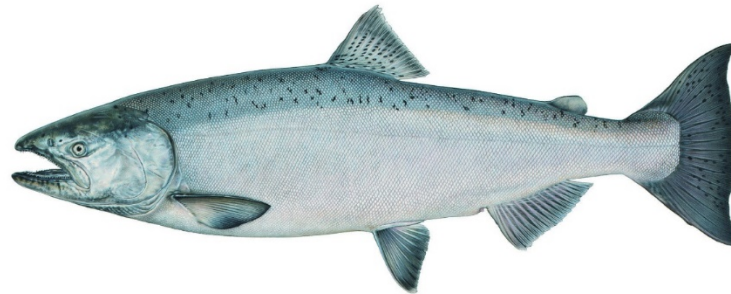
# Healthy and productive now, what about the future?

- Ecosystem changes include decreased sea ice, warmer temperatures, acidification.
- Keeping fisheries productive and sustainable will be a major challenge.
- Food security, domestic seafood supply, Alaska and Puget Sound economy, and protecting subsistence culture



# Bycatch of chinook salmon

- BSAI Trawl
  - Pollock 30,058
  - Non-Pollock 6,024
- Total 36,082
- Limit 60,000
- GOA Trawl
  - Pollock WGOA 7,088
  - Pollock CGOA 14,412
  - Other fisheries 2,675
- Total 24,715
- Limit 33,340



# Review of Policy C-3002

- Some portions are not consistent with Federal Law
  - Specific Policy 1 regarding CDQ
- Many portions are duplicative of Federal Law
  - Specific Policy 2 regarding IQ and General Policy 1
- Not consistent with PFMC policy
  - PFMC Policy (C-3603) revised in 2000 uses a different format, also duplicative of Federal law
- Current policy provides little value to NPFMC reps as it does not address current challenges.
  - Reflects the issues of 1996.
- Policy has appearance of prioritizing WA benefits over AK benefits. Council has a 6-5 AK majority, so benefits for WA arise from mutual benefit solutions. Current policy does not encourage collaborative solutions.
  - General Policy 2



# Alternative approaches

- Repeal current policy without replacement
  - MSA provides clear guidance on conservation, sustainability and benefits to the Nation and fishery dependent communities. Avoids unnecessary duplication with Federal law and possible lack of conformity if/when Congress modifies MSA.
- Repeal and replace with guidance similar to current PFMC policy (C-3603)
  - Many similar issues and challenges, and both are important to WA economy and communities. Stakeholder engagement forums are analogous. NPFMC does not interact with tribal treaty rights, but does interact with indigenous peoples who are seeking greater autonomy and recognition.
- Repeal and replace with NPFMC specific guidance
  - May create appearance of lower 48 vs Alaska, a divisive dynamic.



# Questions?

