

North Pacific Fishery Management Council - Overview and Challenges

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NPFMC Overview

- Magnuson Stevens Act
- NPFMC - Ecosystem Based Management
- NPFMC - Importance to WA State
- Major Challenges

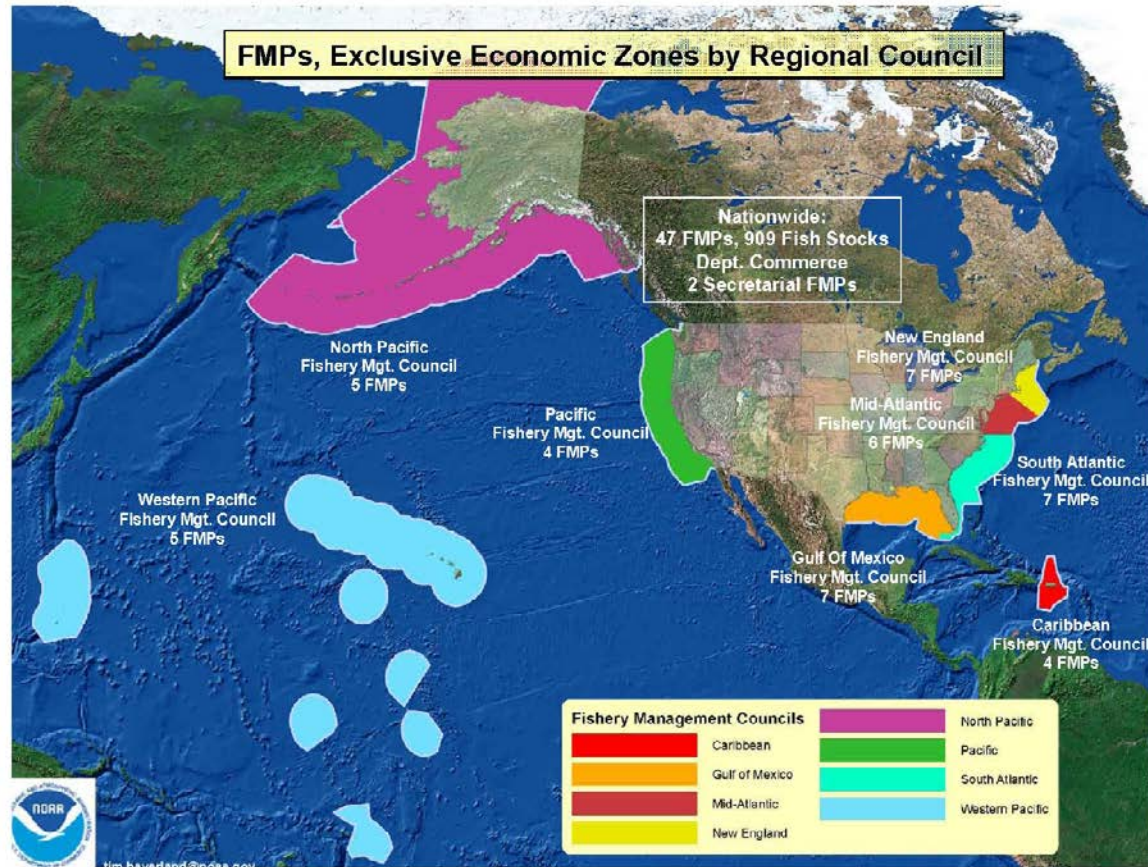


Magnuson – Stevens Act – Foundation of Council Management

- First enacted in 1976.
- Extend US jurisdiction in the EEZ to 200 miles
- Objective is optimum yield of our seafood resources
- Established Regional Council system for management of federal waters fisheries



Eight Regional Fishery Management Councils



Magnuson – Stevens Act – Foundation of Council Management

- Reauthorized several times to better address overfishing and overcapacity.
- Most recent reauthorization in 2006.
- Anticipates transition to Ecosystem Based Fishery Management (EBFM)
- Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) levels are established by science body (SSC), Councils may set TAC at or below ABC.



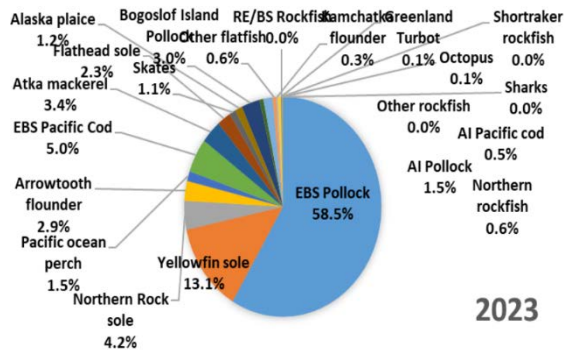
Magnuson – Stevens Act – Foundation of Council Management

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



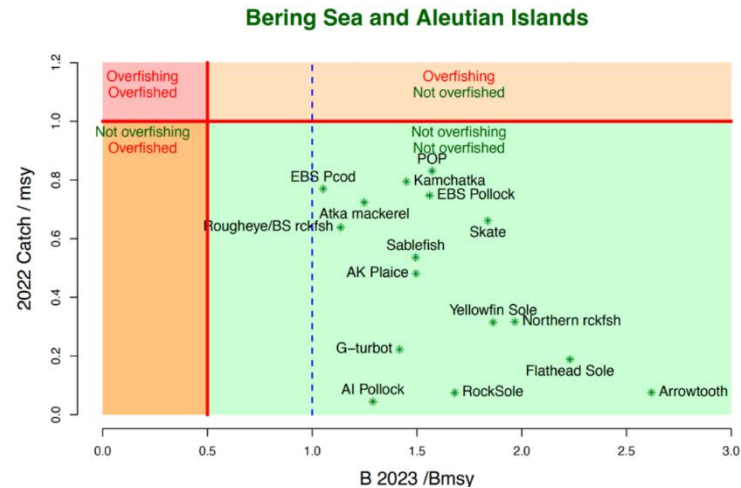
Bering Sea Groundfish

Relative ABC Catch Limits



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

Stock Status

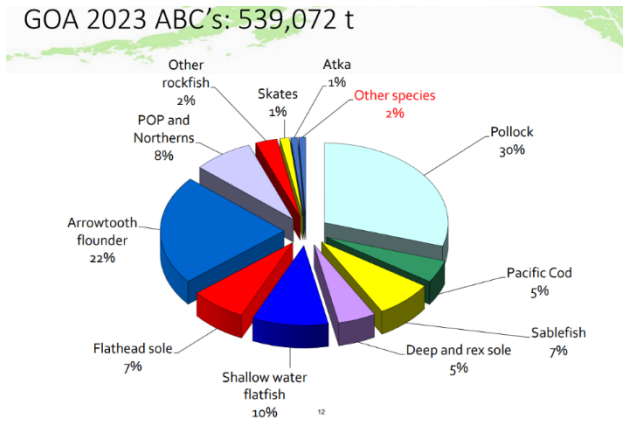


No stocks overfished or subject to overfishing



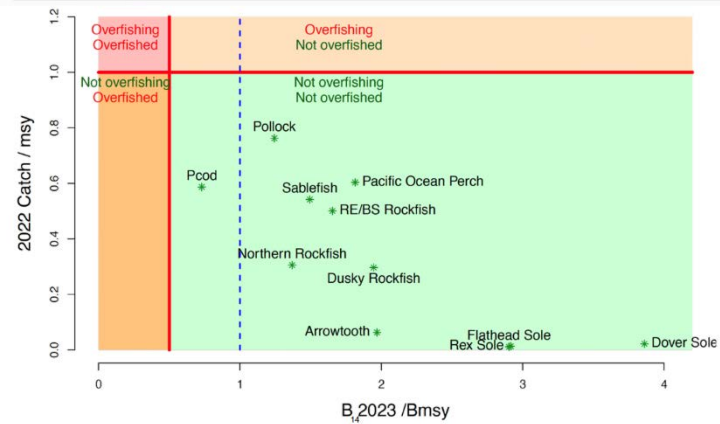
Gulf of Alaska Groundfish

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



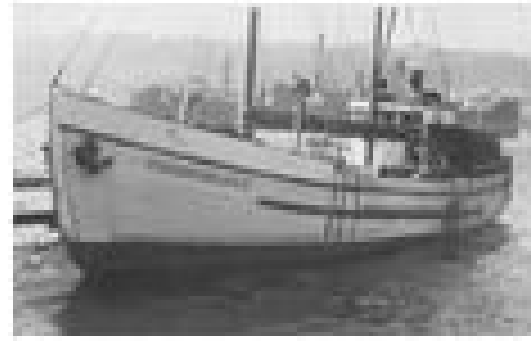
Importance of Fisheries off Alaska

- 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



Importance to Washington State

- 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. (Ties that Bind 2015)
- Commercial fishing generated \$671.2 million in business output through the Port of Seattle in 2017, mostly from Alaska fisheries (Port of Seattle 2019).
- Fishing and seafood processing contributed \$8.8 billion in economic output to Washington in 2012 (Maritime cluster study), mostly from Alaska fisheries.



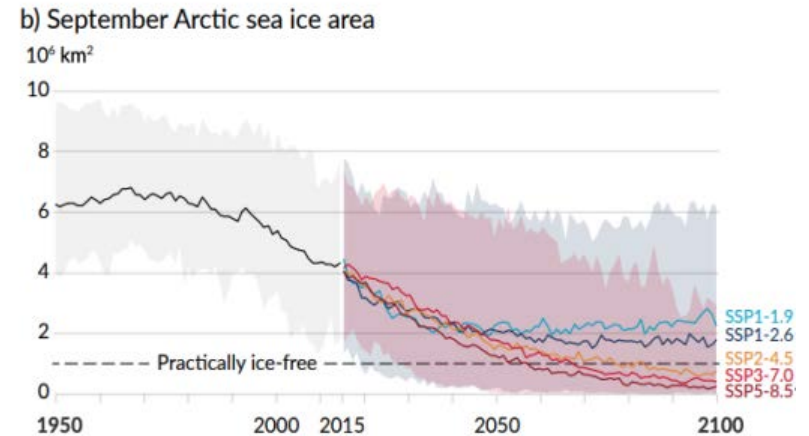
NPFMC – Major Challenges

- 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
- Maintaining Adequate Monitoring Program

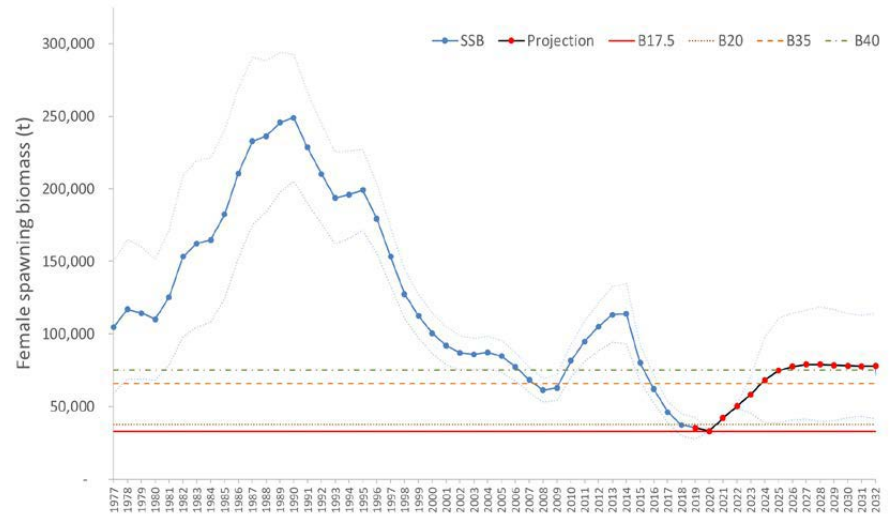
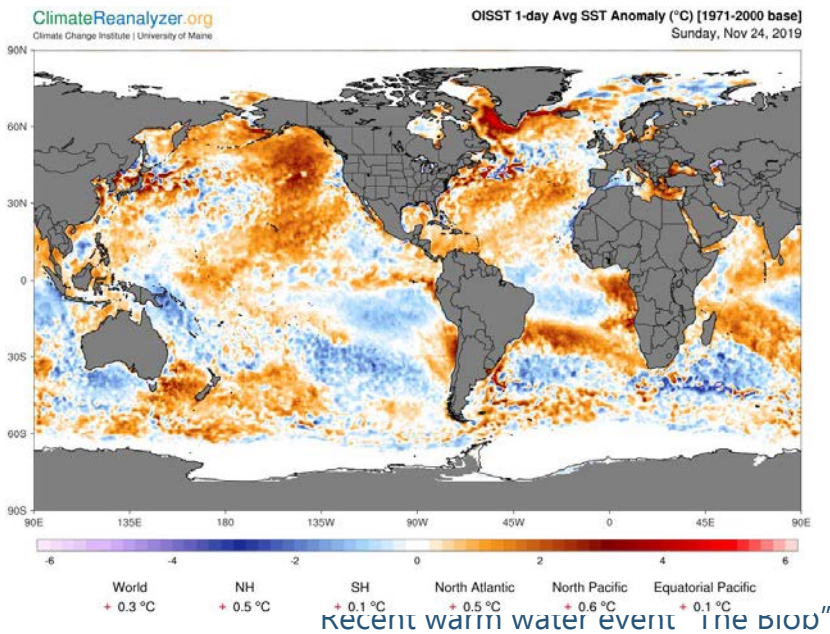


Healthy and productive now, what about the future?

- 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



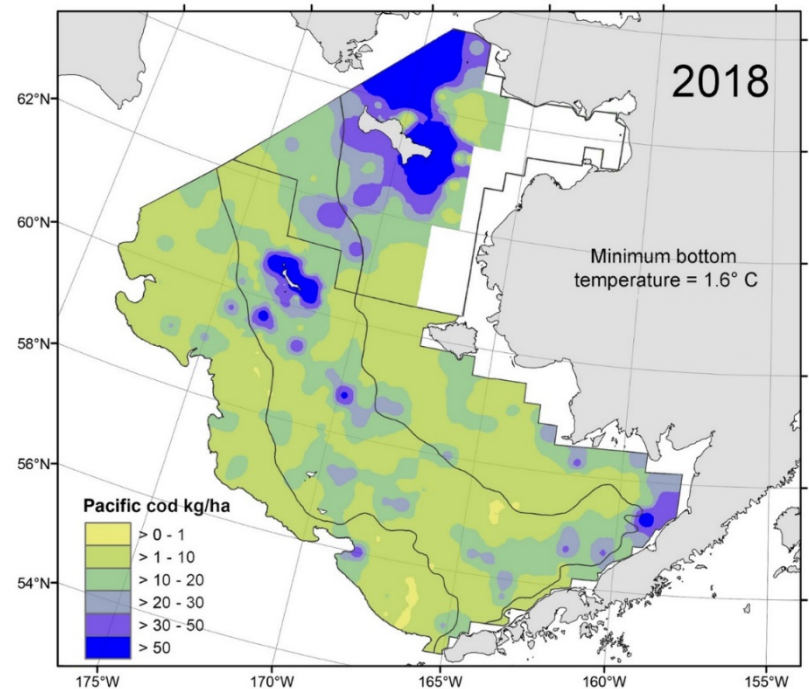
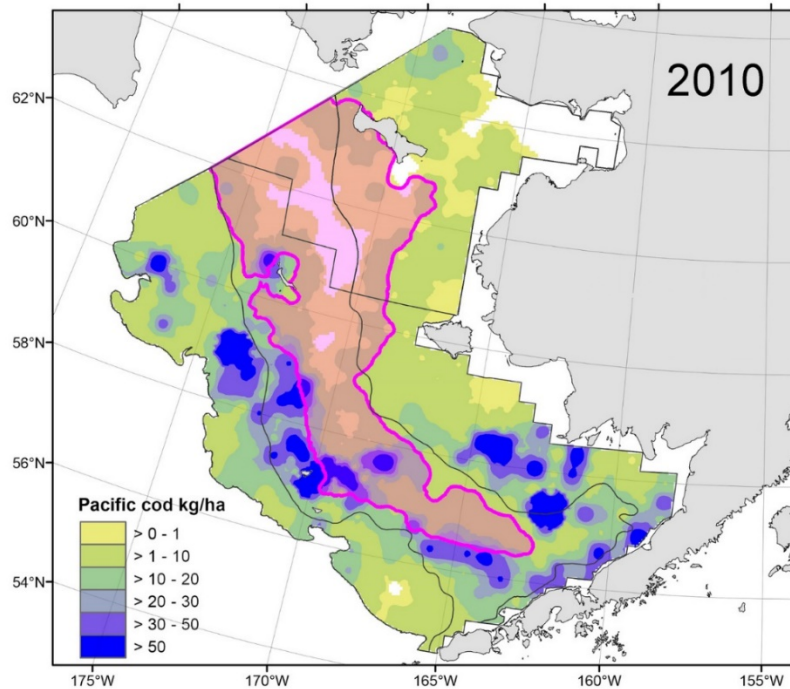
Pacific Cod “Crash” – a dramatic example of climate change impacts



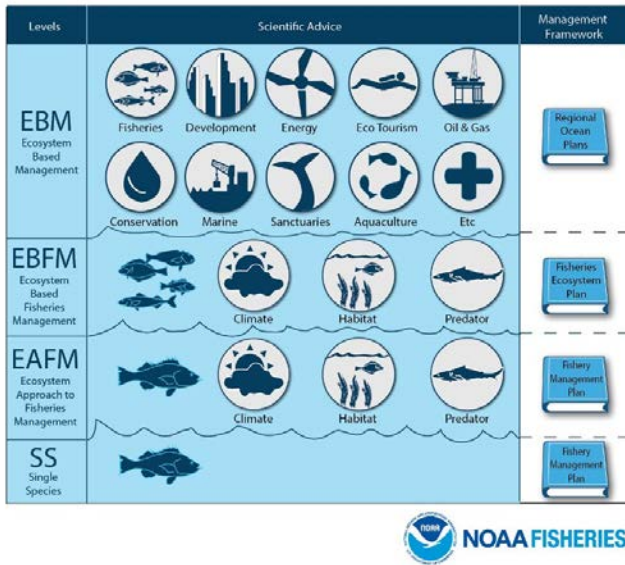
Gulf of Alaska Cod population



Pacific Cod “Shift” – another example of climate change impacts



Ecosystem Based Fishery Management

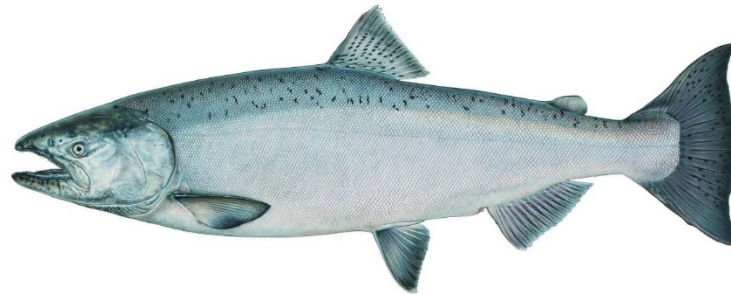


- Ecosystem Indicators
- Use of TK and LK
- Bering Sea FEP
- Climate change models
- Recent Workshops



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



Monitoring Populations and Harvest

- Climate change adds to the challenge.
- Resources aren't increasing but requirements are.
- New technologies help but are not a panacea.



Questions?

