1. Opening of the Meeting

Alexander Glubokov (Russia) served as the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting. A list of the participants is provided in Appendix 1.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mikhail Stepanenko (Russia) served as a rapporteur to compile the S&T report. The following individuals served as the contact point from each party for email exchange – Japan (Orio Yamamura), the Russian Federation (Alexander I. Glubokov), the United States (Patricia Livingston), the Republic of Korea (In-Ja Yeon), Poland/EU (Adam Augustynowicz). The People's Republic of China did not participate in the email exchanges.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

3.1. The agenda (Appendix 2) was adopted.

4. Discussion of Science Issues

4.1. Update catch and effort statistics
4.1.1. The United States and Russian Federation provided the updated pollock catch statistics by year and region (Appendix 3).

4.2. Review results of trial fishing
4.2.1. There was no trial fishing reported by the Parties for 2014. Summary of trial fishing on pollock in the Convention Area for the years 1993-2014 is presented in Appendix 4 – Table 3.

4.3. Review results of research cruises
4.3.1. Russian Federation reported that it conducted echointegration and midwater trawl (EI MWT) pollock survey in the northwestern Bering Sea (Russian and US EEZs) in August-September 2013 and the same survey is planning in September-October 2014 onboard the R/V TINRO. Russian pollock studies showed that in recent years there were some year classes above average abundance – in 2006, 2008, 2012 and there were year
classes average abundance – in 2009-2011, 2013. In this regard, the pollock biomass in the Western Bering Sea is stable on average level since 2010 (Appendix 5).

4.3.2. Poland/EU question to US. Did the US conduct a research cruise in the area of Eastern Bering Sea in 2014?

4.3.3. The United States responded that they conducted an Eastern Bering Sea (EBS) groundfish and crab survey from 3 June to 6 August 2014 aboard the chartered vessels FV *Vesteraalen* and FV *Alaska Knight*. The United States also conducted an Aleutian Islands Bottom Trawl survey (June 5 – August 13) aboard the chartered vessels FV *Sea Storm* and FV *Alaska Provider*. The results of these cruises, that will include pollock stock assessments, are expected to be reported at the end of September 2014. The NOAA ship *Oscar Dyson* also conducted a summer pollock acoustic trawl survey (12 June to 13 August 2014), working in the western and northwestern Bering Sea. The ship surveyed both sides of the U.S.-Russia Convention Line going back and forth from the U.S. EEZ to the Russian Federation EEZ as part of a cooperative study of Bering Sea pollock with Russia’s Pacific Fisheries Research Institute (TINRO-Center) in Vladivostok. Walleye pollock were detected throughout the surveyed area. Many juveniles were found throughout area (mainly observed west of 170° W). The survey measured that the Eastern Bering Sea temperatures were warmer than in the past 8 years. The report of this cruise will be reported at the end of September 2014.

4.3.4. Poland/EU question to Japan. Did Japan conduct a salmon gillnet survey in the central Bering Sea in 2013 and 2014?

4.3.5. Japan responded that it conducted salmon surface trawl surveys in the central Bering Sea from 20 July to 10 August in 2013 and from 23 July to 12 August in 2014. No pollock was caught in the central Bering Sea area in both years.

4.3.6. Poland/EU question to US. According to Bacheler et. al. (2010) pollock spawn in two pulses spanning 4-6 weeks: first in late February then again in mid - late April in the Eastern Bering Sea. Is it possible that a similar spawning pattern occurred in the Bogoslof area?

4.3.7. The United States responded that survey of Bogoslof Island area is timed for late February-early March when aggregations of spawning pollock are expected each year. The surveys of the past indicated that some pollock were in the process of spawning or would spawn shortly after the end of February. It is unlikely that there is any major spawning in April as the spawning locations are expected to progress northwards as warming occurs.

The Russian Federation added that time series of ichthyoplankton and midwater trawl surveys conducted by Russia in late 1980th and early 1990th in entire Bering Sea including Bogoslof Island area demonstrated that in the Bering Sea there are two distinct pollock spawning group: ‘shelf’(spawning along the shelf) and ‘basin’(spawning in deep water). The main spawning of ‘basin’ pollock take place in the Bogoslof Island area late February and early March and off central Aleutian Island (Kanaga Sound) in middle
March. Summary data of the Eastern Bering Sea pollock spawning and reproduction described in paper published by Stepanenko et al. (Fisheries Science, vol. 80, number 1, 2014).

4.3.8. Japan question to Russia. On the page 8 of Russia’s submission, a figure compares “total stock biomass” and “trawl surveys’ data”. How was the “total stock biomass” estimated?

4.3.9. Russia responded that total stock pollock biomass was estimated on the basis of surveys and fish statistics data by modelling method.

4.4. Review the status of Aleutian Basin Pollock stocks
4.4.1. The United States submitted the summary on status of Pollock stocks in the U.S. EEZ of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Island Area (Appendix 4).

4.4.2. Russian pollock studies conducted in 2013-2014 showed that the pollock biomass in the Western Bering Sea is stable since 2010 (Appendix 5).

4.4.3. The United States and Russian Federation provided the information about stocks status for the Bering Sea by region.

The following table extracted from the U.S. document summarises the status and catch specifications of the walleye pollock stocks in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands (BSAI) management areas in the U.S. EEZ. All units are in metric tons. *The catches for 2014 are through 02 August 2014.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Age 3+ Pollock Biomass</th>
<th>Overfishing Level (t)</th>
<th>Acceptable Biological Catch (t)</th>
<th>Total Allowable Catch (t)</th>
<th>Catch (t)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. E Bering Sea</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>4,620,000</td>
<td>918,000</td>
<td>813,000</td>
<td>813,000</td>
<td>810,395</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>9,620,000</td>
<td>2,450,000</td>
<td>1,270,000</td>
<td>1,253,000</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>8,340,000</td>
<td>2,470,000</td>
<td>1,220,000</td>
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<td>1,375,000</td>
<td>1,261,900</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>8,045,000</td>
<td>2,795,000</td>
<td>1,369,000</td>
<td>1,276,650</td>
<td>972,313*</td>
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<td>2. Aleutians</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>242,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>33,100</td>
<td>19,000</td>
<td>1,285</td>
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<td>261,000</td>
<td>44,500</td>
<td>36,700</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>251,000</td>
<td>39,600</td>
<td>32,500</td>
<td>6,600</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>266,000</td>
<td>45,600</td>
<td>37,300</td>
<td>4,100</td>
<td>2,964</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>259,525</td>
<td>42,811</td>
<td>35,048</td>
<td>9,350</td>
<td>1,746</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Bogoslof</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>110,000</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>176</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>110,000</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>156</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>67,100</td>
<td>13,400</td>
<td>10,100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>57</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>67,063</td>
<td>13,413</td>
<td>10,059</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>123</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

EBS—The EBS pollock spawning biomass in 2008 was at the lowest level since 1980, but has increased by 71 percent since then. The 2008 low was the result of extremely poor recruitments from the 2002-2005 year classes. Recent and projected increases of biomass are fuelled by slightly above average recruitment from the 2006 year class and very strong recruitment from the 2008 year class along with reductions in average fishing mortality from 2009-2012. Spawning biomass is projected to be 23% above B_{msy} in 2014. Based on US fishery management status determination criteria, the pollock stock in the EBS is not being subjected to overfishing, is not overfished, and is not approaching an overfished condition.

Aleutians – The estimated spawning biomass reached a minimum level of about B_{23\%} in 1999 and then has generally increased, with a projected value of B_{33\%} for 2014. Spawning biomass for 2014 is projected to be 79,029 t. The pollock stock in the Aleutian Islands is not being subjected to overfishing, is not overfished, and is not approaching an overfished condition.

Bogoslof: The trend in estimated biomass in the Bogoslof Island area has been steadily down. The low biomass was detected in 2012 (67,100 t). The latest survey by NOAA ship *Oscar Dyson* estimated the 2014 pollock biomass to be 112,000 t. This is an increase from 2012. The pollock stock in the Bogoslof Island area, while low in biomass, is not subjected to overfishing as directed fishing has been set at zero and as defined by US fisheries management interpretations. However it is not possible to determine whether this stock is overfished or whether it is approaching an overfished condition since there is insufficient information about the population dynamics of the stock.
4.5. Factors affecting recovery of the stocks
4.5.1. No new information was provided.

4.6. The effects of the moratorium and its continuation
4.6.1. No new information was provided.

4.7. Methodologies to determine Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) and Allowable Harvest Level (AHL)
4.7.1. Japan proposed to discuss about establishing a new rule for setting an AHL below the recovery level of the Convention.
No new information was provided.

4.8. Recommendation on AHL
4.8.1. No new information was provided.

4.9. Research Plans

5. Discussion of Enforcement and Management Issues
5.1. Violations of the Convention.
5.1.1. No new information was provided by the US Coast Guard.

5.2. Terms and conditions for trial fishing for the following year
5.2.1. The Committee recommended that the terms and conditions for trial fishing in 2015 remain the same as in the previous years.

6. Other Issues and Recommendations
6.1. Future Meetings of the Scientific and Technical Committee.
6.1.1. The 2015 meeting of the Committee will be held via email exchanges as in 2010-2014. The 2015 meeting will be chaired by USA.

7. Report to the Annual Conference
7.1. The Chair of the Scientific and Technical Committee will convey the Scientific and Technical Meeting Report to the Annual Conference.

8. Closing Remarks
8.1. The Chair thanked all for participating in the virtual meeting process.
THE 19th SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING
OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
OF THE POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA
hosted by the Russian Federation

List of Participants

China

Japan

Tadaaki Kakinuma, Deputy Director, International Affairs Division, Resource
Management Department Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ), Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF), tadaaki_kakinuma@nm.maff.go.jp

Takeshi Sato, Section Chief, International Affairs Division, Resource Management
Department, FAJ, MAFF, takeshi_sato2@nm.maff.go.jp

Hiroshi Nishida, Deputy Director, Resource and Environment Research Division,
Resource Enhancement Promotion Department, FAJ, MAFF,
hiroshi_nishida@nm.maff.go.jp

Ryouichi Nakamura, Section Chief, Resource and Environment Research Division,
Resource Enhancement Promotion Department, FAJ, MAFF,
ryouichi_nakamura@nm.maff.go.jp

Toshinori Uoya, Deputy Director, Fisheries Management Division, Resource
Management Department, Fisheries Agency, MAFF, toshinori_uoya@nm.maff.go.jp

Mitsunori Yoshida, President, Japan Overseas Fishing Association,
22m.yoshida@jdsta.or.jp

Junichiro Okamoto, Councilor, Japan Overseas Fishing Association,
jokamoto@jdsta.or.jp

Naohiko Akimoto, Manager, Japan Overseas Fishing Association, naohiko@sol.dti.ne.jp

Keizou YABUKI, Director, Fisheries Management Division, Hokkaido National
Fisheries Research Institute, Fisheries Research Agency, yabuki@fra.affrc.go.jp
Orio YAMAMURA, Head, Higher Trophic Levels Group, Fisheries Management Division, Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute, Fisheries Research Agency, contact person orioy@fra.affrc.go.jp

Tomonori HAMATSU, Senior Researcher, Higher Trophic Levels Group, Fisheries Management Division, Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute, Fisheries Research Agency, newmory@fra.affrc.go.jp

Koji ODA, Section Chief, International Affairs Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Government of Japan, kouji_oda@nm.maff.go.jp

**Republic of Korea**

In-Ja Yeon, Scientist, Fisheries Resource Management Division, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, head of the Republic Korea delegation, contact person, ijyeon@korea.kr

Seok-Gwan Choi, Scientist, Fisheries Resource Management Division, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, sgchoi@korea.kr

Jong-Hee Lee, Scientist, Fisheries Resource Management Division, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, jonghlee@korea.kr

Kyujin Seok, Scientist, Fisheries Resource Management Division, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, aquatopia@korea.kr

Jeongseok Park, Fisheries Negotiator, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, jeongseok.korea@gmail.com/ icdmomaf@chol.com

Chungmo Jung, Deputy Director, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, ijames@hanmail.net

Tae Won Kim, Director, Korean Overseas Fishing Association, kodefa2@kosfa.org

**Poland and the European Union**

Louise Head, head of the Poland/EU delegation, Louise.head@ec.europa.eu

Adam Augustynowicz, Management of Marine Resources Division, Fisheries Department Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, contact person, adam.augustynowicz@minrol.gov.pl

National Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Gdynia

Jerzy Janusz, Department of Biology and Fish Resources Conservation, jjanusz@mir.gdynia.pl
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Fisheries Department, Warsaw

Tomasz Nawrocki – Director, tomasz.nawrocki@minrol.gov.pl

Marta Kaniewska – Królak, Head of Unit, Management of Marine Resources Division, marta.kaniewska@minrol.gov.pl

**Russian Federation**

Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO)

Alexander I. Glubokov, Centre of International Fisheries Cooperation, Head of the Russian Federation delegation, contact person, glubokov@vniro.ru

Pacific Scientific Research Fisheries Centre (TINRO-Center)

Igor V. Melnikov, Deputy Director, melnikov@tinro.ru

Mikhail A. Stepanenko, Leading Scientist, mikhail.stepanenko@tinro-center.ru

**United States**

National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

James Balsiger, Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, Juneau, Alaska, Jim.Balsiger@noaa.gov

Douglas Mecum, Deputy Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, Juneau, Alaska Doug.Mecum@noaa.gov

Patricia Livingston, Division Director, Resource Ecology and Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), Seattle, Washington, Head of the United States delegation, contact person Pat.Livingston@noaa.gov

Loh-Lee Low, International Coordinator, AFSC/Alaska Region, Seattle, Washington, Loh-Lee.Low@noaa.gov

Paul Niemeier, Foreign Affairs Specialist, Office of International Affairs, Silver Spring, Maryland, Paul.Niemeier@noaa.gov

Matthew Brown, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Alaska Enforcement Division, Office for Law Enforcement, Juneau, Alaska, Matthew.Brown@noaa.gov

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Niel Moeller, Office of the General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation, Seattle, WA
niel.moeller@noaa.gov

Jonathan Pollard, Deputy Alaska Regional Counsel, Office of the General Counsel,
Alaska Region, Juneau, Alaska, Jonathan.Pollard@noaa.gov

U.S. Department of State

Michael Clark, Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of Marine Conservation, Washington,
D.C., clarkml2@state.gov

United States Coast Guard

CAPT Phillip Thorne, Chief of Enforcement, U.S. Coast Guard District 17, Juneau,
Alaska, Phillip.R.Thorne@uscg.mil

CDR Christopher Barrows, Deputy Chief, Law Enforcement, U.S. Coast Guard District
17, Juneau, Alaska, Chris.M.Barrows@uscg.mil

CDR Daniel Schaeffer, Chief, Fisheries and Marine protected Species Enforcement, U.S.
Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D.C., Daniel.E.Schaeffer@uscg.mil

LCDR James Binniker, U.S. Coast Guard Liaison, Office for Law Enforcement, Silver
Spring, Maryland, James.A.Binniker@uscg.mil

LT Karl. H. Mueller, International Section Leader, U.S. Coast Guard District 17, Juneau,
Alaska, Karl.H.Mueller@uscg.mil

North Pacific and Bering Sea Fisheries Advisors

David Benson, Director of Government Relations, Trident Seafoods Corporation, Seattle,
Washington, daveb@tridentseafoods.com

David Benton, Juneau, Alaska, davebenton@gci.net

Alvin Burch, Executive Director, Whitefish Trawlers Association, Kodiak, Alaska,
alaska@ptialaska.net

Mark Gleason, Executive Director, Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers, Seattle, Washington,
markhgleason@gmail.com

John Henderschedt, Executive Director, Fisheries Leadership and Sustainability Forum,
Seattle, Washington, john.henderschedt@duke.edu

Howard “Dan” Hull, Hull Fisheries LLC, Anchorage, Alaska, dnhull@alaska.net
Frank Kelty, City of Unalaska, Unalaska, Alaska, fkelty@ci.unalaska.ak.us

Nicole Kimball, Federal Fisheries Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage, Alaska, nicole.kimball@alaska.gov

Simon Kinneen, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, Nome, Alaska, simon@nsedc.com

Paul MacGregor, Partner, Law Firm of Mundt, MacGregor, Happel, Falconer, Zulauf, and Hall, Seattle, Washington, and General Counsel for the At-Sea Processors Association, Seattle, Washington, pmacgregor@mundtmac.com

Christopher Oliver, Executive Director, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Anchorage, Alaska, chris.oliver@noaa.gov

William Tweit, Distant Waters Program Manager, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, Washington, tweitwmt@dfw.wa.gov

Marlyn Twitchell, Consultant, Seattle, Washington, mjtwitchell@msn.com
Appendix 2

AGENDA
for the 19th Scientific and Technical Committee Virtual Meeting

hosted by the Russian Federation
1 - 15 September 2014

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Appointment of the Rapporteur (Russian Federation will undertake this task)
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Discussion of Science Issues
   4.1 Update catch and effort statistics
   4.2 Review results of trial fishing
   4.3 Review results of research cruises
   4.4 Review the status of Aleutian Basin pollock stocks
   4.5 Factors affecting recovery of the stocks
   4.6 The effects of the moratorium and its continuation
   4.7 Methodologies to determine Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) and Allowable Harvest Level (AHL)
   4.8 Recommendation on AHL
   4.9 Research plans
5. Discussion of Enforcement and Management Issues
   5.1 Violations of the Convention
   5.2 Terms and Conditions for Trial Fishing for the following year
6. Other Issues and Recommendations
7. Report to the Annual Conference
8. Closing Remarks
### Appendix 3

**All-nation historical catch of pollock from the Bering Sea, in metric tons, 1977-2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Olyotorskiy-Karagin (W of 170W)</th>
<th>Navarin Region (E of 170W)</th>
<th>Donut Hole</th>
<th>Bogoslof</th>
<th>Aleutian Region</th>
<th>Eastern Bering Sea</th>
<th>Total Bering Sea</th>
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<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>265 000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7 625</td>
<td>978 370</td>
<td>1 250 995</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>417 000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6 282</td>
<td>979 431</td>
<td>1 402 713</td>
<td>1 402 713</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>546 000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9 504</td>
<td>935 714</td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>825 000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>58 156</td>
<td>958 280</td>
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<td>1 841 436</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1 133 000</td>
<td></td>
<td>181 200</td>
<td>55 516</td>
<td>973 502</td>
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<td>976 000</td>
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<td>363 400</td>
<td>57 978</td>
<td>955 964</td>
<td>1 989 942</td>
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**Sources of Data**
Reported by the Parties to the Convention
**US data through 2 August 2014, Russian data through 4 September 2014**
Statistic areas in the Bering Sea

- Olyutorskiy-Karagin
- Navarin Region
- Donut Hole
Bogoslof (518) area