

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

Suite 32, 333 West 4th Avenue
Post Office Mall Building



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3136DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Telephone: (907) 274-4563
FTS 271-4064

March 20, 1981

DRAFT AGENDA

Thirty-Ninth Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
March 25-27, 1981
Westward Hilton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will convene at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25, in the Westward Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska, and will adjourn about 5 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 1981. The meeting may be extended into Saturday depending on progress on the agenda. The Council will meet jointly with the Alaska Board of Fisheries on Wednesday and Thursday. Discussion will focus mainly on the 1981 troll salmon amendments and the final form of the King Crab FMP. The Council will also give final consideration to the portion of Amendment #1 to the Bering Sea Groundfish FMP proposing a six-month closure of INPFC Areas I and II.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee will meet from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, in the Council's Conference Room.

The Advisory Panel will meet in the Kenai/Aleutian Room of the Westward Hilton Hotel from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24.

All meetings are open to the public.

INFORMATION ON THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Pre-registration will be required for all public comments which pertain to a specific agenda topic. Pre-registration is accomplished by informing the Agenda Clerk early in the meeting of the agenda item to be addressed and the time required. Public comments may be scheduled for C. OLD BUSINESS, D. NEW BUSINESS, and E. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS. There will be a general comment period, agenda item G., scheduled for late afternoon on Friday for testimony on matters not on the current agenda.

A G E N D A

A. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

B-2 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Report on Domestic Fisheries

B-3 NMFS Report on Foreign Fisheries

B-4 U.S. Coast Guard Report on Enforcement and Surveillance

B-5 Coast Guard Briefing on Proposed Safety Standards

B-6 AP Report on Non-Agenda Items

C. OLD BUSINESS

C-1 Progress Report on Trawler Logbook Program

C-2 Other Old Business as Appropriate

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1 Korean Joint Venture Permit

D-2 Other New Business as Appropriate

E. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

E-1 Salmon FMP

Final Council approval of 1981 amendments is scheduled for this Council meeting. The Council also must discuss various issues relating to limited entry in the offshore troll fishery.

E-2 Herring FMP

The Council may need to make one final review of the FMP before it, together with the FEIS and DRA, are sent to Washington, D.C. to begin Secretarial review.

E-3 King Crab FMP

The Council and Board will discuss the Draft Joint Statement of Principles For Management of Domestic Fisheries and determine whether the PDT should begin redrafting parts of the FMP. The Council should finalize remaining choices of preferred options deferred from the December meeting and discuss the pot storage areas suggested by the Ad Hoc Crab Pot Storage Workgroup.

E-4 Tanner Crab FMP

Council and Board will need to discuss any significant inconsistencies between the FMP and State regulations and determine if a new amendment (#8) is necessary.

E-5 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

No action required. Amendment #10, approved by the Council in February, should begin Secretarial review in early April.

E-6 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

Council should give final consideration to the portion of Amendment #1 proposing a six-month closure of INPFC Areas I and II to all trawling. Amendment #1 will be ready to send to the Secretary of Commerce after that decision is made.

F. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

F-1 Status of Contracts and RFP's

F-2 New Research Proposals

RFP on incidental salmon catch should be available from the SSC.

F-3 Financial Status Report

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

H. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

Suite 32, 333 West 4th Avenue
Post Office Mall Building



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3136DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Telephone: (907) 274-4563
FTS 271-4064

DRAFT AGENDA SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE March 24, 1981

The SSC subgroup for king crab will meet at 9:00 p.m., Monday evening, March 23rd, in the Council Conference Room. The SSC subgroup for salmon will meet at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 24th, in the conference room. The SSC meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m., following the SSC salmon subgroup meeting.

1. Salmon FMP (E-1)

Amedment #2 to the FMP is to be considered by the Council for final approval to go for secretarial review. The Washington Department of Fisheries has presented some data which the SSC needs to review in order to make their recommendation to the Council. These data were mailed directly to the SSC from the WDF. A staff member from the WDF will be available to answer questions.

2. King Crab FMP (E-3)

The SSC needs to review the latest draft Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King Crab FMP. Important issues include OY determination, registration areas, gear storage areas, etc. This document will be handed out to the SSC members at the beginning of the meeting.

3. Herring FMP (E-2)

At the December 1980 meeting, the SSC recommended that the AIC formulation in the Herring FMP was the best available approach to set a limit for incidental catch. This AIC formula was however, changed by the Council at the December meeting in response to concerns with the original AIC formula. A summary of the original formulation, the altered formula and the reason for the change is included under item E-2 in the Council notebooks. The SSC may wish to comment on the altered formula as they have not had the opportunity to do so.

4. Contracts

80-6 "A Study to Determine the Applicability of Limited Entry in the Halibut Fishery Off Alaska." The SSC needs to make a recommendation to the Council regarding final approval of this contract.

70-4 "Analysis of Southeastern Alaska Troll Fisheries Data." This report was mailed to SSC members on 03/16 and can be reviewed at the next SSC meeting.

5. Research

The SSC needs to determine whether the RFP "Determination of Stock Origins of Chinook Incidentally Caught in Foreign Trawls in the U.S. Eastern Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska FCZ" should go out for response from interested groups.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3136DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Suite 32, 333 West 4th Avenue
Post Office Mall Building



Telephone: (907) 274-4563
FTS 271-4064

MINUTES

Thirty-Eighth Plenary Session
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Anchorage Westward Hilton
Anchorage, Alaska
February 26-27, 1981

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council convened at 9 a.m. on Thursday, February 26, 1981, in the Anchorage Westward Hilton Hotel and continued through Friday, February 27, when it adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

The Advisory Panel convened on Wednesday, February 25, 1981, at 9 a.m. in the Anchorage Westward Hilton Hotel and adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee met on February 24-25, 1981 in the Council conference room. SSC Subgroups for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Groundfish FMP and the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP met on Monday, February 23, with members of the Plan Development Teams and the Advisory Panel groundfish subgroups.

Council members, Scientific and Statistical Committee members, Advisory Panel members, and general public in attendance are listed below:

Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
Harold E. Lokken, Vice-Chairman
Don Collinsworth, for Ron Skoog
Leroy Sowl, for Keith Schreiner
Chris Dawson, for Ray Arnaudo
Robert Mace, for John Donaldson
Gene Didonato, for Rolland
Schmitt

Donald Bevan
Charles Meacham
Robert W. McVey
RADM Richard Knapp
Douglas B. Eaton
James O. Campbell
John P. Harville

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Donald Rosenberg, Chairman
Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman
Ed Miles
Jack Lechner
John Clark

Al Millikan
Larry Hreha
John Burns
William Aron

Advisory Panel

Robert Alverson, Chairman
A. W. "Bud" Boddy, Vice-Chairman
Paula Easley
Jesse Foster
Weaver Ivanoff
Joseph Kurtz
Raymond Lewis
Alan Otness
Don Rawlinson
Jeff Stephan
Tony Vaska

Alvin Burch
Larry Cotter
Truman Emberg
Richard Goldsmith
Eric Jordan
Richard Lauber
Ken Olsen
Jack Phillips
Lewis Schnaper
Konrad Uri

Support Staff

LCDR Peter Busick, USCG
Ron Naab, NMFS
Loh-lee Low, NWAFC
Fred Gaffney, ADF&G
Guy Thornburgh, ADF&G
James Brooks, NMFS
Pat Travers, NOAA
John Gissburg, AG's Office

Phil Chitwood, NMFS
Phil Rigby, ADF&G
Joe Terry, NWAFC
George Utermohle, ADF&G
Mark Miller, ADF&G
Dick Marshall, NMFS
Steve Pennoyer, ADF&G
Bill Robinson, NMFS

NPFMC Staff

Jim Branson, Executive Director
Judy Willoughby
Elise Zuspan
Jim Glock
Steve Davis

Peggy McCalment
Peggy Hough
Jim Richardson
Jeff Povolny

General Public in Attendance

Rodger T. Davies, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union, Seattle
Roy I. Jackson, Natural Resources Consultants, Seattle
Rance Morrison, ADF&G, Homer
John Schmiedtke, Nordstern, A.G., Seattle
Jurgen Radvan, Nordstern, A.G., Bremerhaven, West Germany
Dean J. Adams, Fishing Vessel Owners Association, Seattle
Don Martens, Office of the Canadian Consulate General, Seattle
Dennis Petersen, Ocean Spray Fisheries, Seattle
Phil Fuller, Trans-Pacific International, Seattle
Steven B. Johnson, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association/Hokuten
Trawlers Association, Seattle
Shiro Yoshimega, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association, Tokyo
Jack McMahan, Anchorage
Jay D. Niederer, F/V FAIRWEATHER, Juneau
John J. Dirken, Anchorage
Jay D. Hastings, Japan Fisheries Association, Seattle
Glenn Satero, Fishing Vessel Owners Association, Seattle
Toru Fukui, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association, Tokyo
Greg Baker, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, Sitka

Benjamin Oksoktaruk, Anchorage
Paul MacGregor, Japanese North Pacific Longline and Gillnet
Association, Seattle
Roy A. Barnes, National Audubon Society, Anchorage
Jeanne Luth, Anchorage
John Williams, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, Juneau
Mike Ecomomoe, Anchorage
Mick Stevens, Marine Resources Company, Seattle
Norman Cohen, Nunam Kitlutsisti
Harold Sparcks, Nunam Kutlutsisti
Japanese Delegation from Japan Fisheries Association, Hokuten
Trawlers Association, and Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association
and their interpreters
Approximately 50 persons who did not register with the Agenda Clerk

A. CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES OF THE
PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clem Tillion. The Chairman welcomed Chris Dawson, alternate for Ray Arnaudo, from the State Department. Membership certificates were presented to new Advisory Panel members in attendance and Vice-Chairman Lokken presented a certificate of appointment to Chairman Tillion.

The Executive Director recommended amending the agenda to include under item B-8 Confirmation of New SSC Members and to delete item B-5, Report on Law of the Sea. The agenda was approved as amended.

Chairman Tillion called for approval of the minutes of the December and January Council meetings. *The minutes were approved as submitted.*

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

Staff travel since the January meeting was minimal because of budgetary restrictions. After a careful review of the proposed meeting schedule for the remainder of the fiscal year, it appears that one or more meetings could be canceled, depending on what action or non-action results from the February and March meetings.

John Garner has been contracted to work as a consultant with the Limited Entry Workgroup. He plans to hold a meeting in March to get a better idea of what the workgroup feels they need and want from limited entry and what they expect from the halibut fishery. A report from the workgroup is expected for the March meeting.

Copies of proposed implementing legislation for the renegotiated International Pacific Halibut Convention as submitted to Congress during the last session was presented for Council review and comment.

The Executive Director recommended appointment of an ad hoc workgroup from the Council family to revise the Council's Standard Operating Practices and Procedures, which have not been revised since 1977. *It was the consensus of the Council that the staff should prepare a draft document to be reviewed by two Council members, one SSC member, and one AP member. The revised document would then be brought to the Council for approval at the April meeting.*

The Executive Director introduced Steve Davis, plan coordinator for the crab plans, who joined the staff in early February. Steve has recently completed his work for a master's degree from the University of Washington.

B-2 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Report on Domestic Fisheries

Fred Gaffney presented updated statistics on the 1981 Tanner crab and king crab fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game 1980 Annual Catch Summary for Salmon, Herring, Groundfish, and Shellfish.

The 1980 commercial salmon harvest for all species totaled approximately 110.3 million fish. This harvest exceeded 1979 harvest levels and is the third largest documented harvest in Alaska's history, surpassed only by harvests of 1934 and 1936 during the largely unregulated period of Alaskan salmon fishing. The total catch included 63.4 million pinks, 33.2 million sockeyes, 9.9 million chums, 3 million cohos, and 670,000 chinooks.

The 1980 commercial bait herring harvest totaled 11.7 million pounds for all regions. Sac roe harvest was 72.8 million pounds and roe on kelp harvest was 1.5 million pounds. Price per pound for bait herring varied from 2¢ for Security Cove and Goodnews Bay product to a high of 20¢ for Cook Inlet product. Sac roe prices ranged from 10¢ per pound for Norton Sound and Togiak district product to a high of 35¢ in Kodiak and Chignik. Roe on kelp brought from 50¢ in the Togiak district to \$1.40 for Norton Sound product.

Domestic catches of groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska totaled 6,054 mt during 1980. Major components of the catch included pollock, which comprised 34% of the catch; sablefish, dressed weight, 25%; and Pacific cod, 15%.

Domestic groundfish catches in the Bering Sea totaled 37,436 mt during 1980. Pollock comprised 35% of the total; flounders, 33%; Pacific cod, 29%; and all others, 3%.

Total shellfish catch for 1980 was approximately 366 million pounds, 50% king crab, 33% Tanner crab, 13% shrimp, and 4% Dungeness crab and other shellfish.

B-3 NMFS Report on Foreign Fisheries

Ron Naab reported a typical winter fishery off Alaska during January 1981. As of February 20, 123 Japanese, 23 South Korean, 16 Polish, one Soviet, one Taiwanese, and one West German vessel were operating off Alaska, for a total of 165.

Japanese effort was concentrated in the Bering Sea, where 88 vessels fished for pollock and flounders; 24 vessels fished in the Aleutian Islands for pollock and 11 were in the Gulf of Alaska fishing for Pacific cod. South Korean effort was heaviest in the Bering Sea, where 17 vessels fished for pollock; four vessels were in the Gulf of Alaska receiving pollock from U.S. vessels; and two fished the Aleutian Islands for mackerel and pollock. Polish effort was concentrated in the Gulf of Alaska where 14 stern trawlers fished for pollock; single vessels fished in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands areas for pollock. Taiwan and West Germany each had one vessel in the Bering Sea fishing for pollock and one Soviet vessel participated in a joint venture with American fishermen for pollock in the Bering Sea.

The total number of foreign vessels fishing off Alaska in 1980 was 625, 80% Japanese. This number is one-half the 1976 level before institution of the MFCMA, and 50 vessels less than 1979 due to limited Soviet allocations.

Phil Chitwood reported that foreign vessels operating in the Bering Sea took 1.3 million mt of the 1.5 million mt TALFF during 1980. Pollock comprised 78% of the total catch; flounders, 12%; Atka mackerel, 3%; Pacific cod, 2%; and all other species, 5%. The 1981 Bering Sea catch through January 31 was 38,850 mt, 3% of the 1.2 million mt TALFF.

B-4 United States Coast Guard Report on Enforcement and Surveillance

CDR Peter Busick reported that since the December Council meeting the Coast Guard had issued eight reports of violation and two citations to six Polish vessels. Most of the infractions involved improper maintenance of daily catch logs. As of February 15, the 1981 patrol effort had logged 48,864 miles, made 712 sightings, and 57 boardings.

B-6 Report on U.S./Canada Negotiations

Harold Lokken reported that a meeting was held in January to clarify the October 1980 record, examine potential actions for 1981, and explore alternative proposals to resolve outstanding problems. No negotiation of positions took place. The next meeting is scheduled for late April-early May. Potential action for this meeting includes setting in motion the proposed interception limitation, implementation of the Noyes Island agreement, Canadian reduction south of the Alaska/B.C. boundary, and some cutback in Canadian troll fishing. Key issues remaining include what happens regarding the Yukon, 1982-84 actions by

Canada on the trans-boundary rivers, further clarification of the specific actions to be taken by Canada in the boundary area, the Fraser formula, and treaty duration.

B-7 Report on Expanded Observer Program

Dr. Richard Marasco of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center said that the expanded observer program authorized by the American Fisheries Promotion Act will cost about \$5 million annually and will employ 550 to 600 American observers. The current program, which provides about 14% overall coverage, costs \$1 million annually. The expanded program is scheduled to begin in early 1982. Dr. Marasco predicted there would be no problem getting recruits to fill the new observer positions.

B-8 SSC and AP Appointments

SSC Vacancies

The SSC asked for Council confirmation of Drs. John Clark and Steve Langdon to fill vacancies on the Committee. Dr. Clark is Chief Fisheries Scientist, Commercial Fisheries Division, with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Dr. Langdon is with the Department of Anthropology of the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

The SSC also requested Council concurrence for Dr. John Burns to have an alternate on the SSC. Dr. Burns feels that his schedule for the next few months will preclude his participation in SSC activities and, unless he has an alternate, will be forced to resign.

Donald Bevan moved that the Council confirm the appointment of John Clark to the SSC; seconded by Charles Meacham. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Dr. Bevan suggested that the AP Nominating Committee, chaired by Charles Meacham, review the qualifications of Dr. Langdon and discuss the advisability of allowing Dr. Burns to have an alternate.

On Friday, Charles Meacham reported that the Nominating Committee felt that any alternate for Dr. Burns should have similar expertise and should be confirmed for a specified length of time.

It was the consensus of the Council that Dr. Burns should be allowed to designate an alternate for the next two meetings until he can determine how long his schedule will preclude his participation in SSC activities.

Don Collinsworth moved that the Council confirm the appointment of Dr. Steve Langdon to the SSC; seconded by Bob Mace. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Advisory Panel Vacancy

In December the Council appointed seven new members to the Advisory Panel. One of these appointments, Rosalie Moore, was unable to accept the position. Council policy allows the Chairman to make interim appointments for Advisory Panel vacancies. Chairman Tillion asked for Council confirmation of the appointment of Keith Specking to the vacant position.

Bob Mace moved that the Council confirm the appointment of Keith Specking to the Advisory Panel; seconded by Charles Meacham. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

C. OLD BUSINESS

C-1 Joint Venture Data Workgroup Report

The Joint Venture Data Workgroup met in Seattle on January 21 to discuss development of a data collection program which would provide CPUE and other data on groundfish from American fishermen. Implementation of a trial program asking volunteer fishermen to record data was suggested by the workgroup. They suggested that ADF&G would be the appropriate agency to analyze and disseminate information collected in the program.

Phil Rigby, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, said the Department is enthusiastic about initiating such a program as soon as possible. He said the Department has funding to partially support the program, but he was unable to make a definite commitment.

The AP concurred with the workgroup's recommendation for institution of a one-year experimental logbook program requiring reporting by statistical areas 1° longitude by ½° latitude. The AP requested that the agencies responsible for collecting logbook information be the respective states involved in the Council. They stressed the necessity for anonymity of vessel performances and suggested that performances be presented in vessel classes ranging from one to four, depending on vessel size.

The SSC encouraged development of the logbook program, if possible in conjunction with the logbook program being developed by the Pacific Council, and in cooperation with existing logbook programs. The SSC identified three members, Al Millikan, Jack Lechner, and Richard Marasco, to work on a Council task force to assist with development of the program.

It was the consensus of the Council that the Joint Venture Data Workgroup should proceed to develop the voluntary logbook program and requested regularly scheduled progress reports.

C-2 Ad Hoc Crab Pot Storage Workgroup Report

The Ad Hoc Crab Pot Storage Workgroup, chaired by Dick Goldsmith, met in Seattle on January 20. The workgroup recommended a new

gear storage area in Area T north of the Bristol Bay crab grounds. They felt that utilization of the new area would reduce fuel costs for fishermen. Other suggested storage areas included locations in Areas O, T, and Q in depths of 25 fathoms or less, Area R in depths of 30 fathoms or less, and an area in Area Q bounded by the following coordinates: 61°N latitude, 61°30'N latitude, 169°W longitude, 169°30'W longitude.

The SSC had no comments on this report. The Advisory Panel deferred action on the new pot storage areas until the March meeting.

Donald Bevan moved that the Council accept the report of the Ad Hoc Crab Pot Storage Workgroup and instruct the Plan Development Team to develop this option for inclusion in the Plan; seconded by Bob Mace. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1 Incidental Take of Dall Porpoise/Chinook Salmon Harvest

Following renegotiation of INPFC in 1978, the Japanese were granted a three-year exemption from the incidental take permit requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act for their high seas salmon gillnet fishery in the FCZ. That exemption expires in June 1981. Recommendations of the Council for or against granting the permit were solicited from National Marine Fisheries Service. NMFS is currently exploring two alternatives for action. These include allowing the Japanese to continue to take marine mammals in the FCZ by granting a permit or recommending legislative action to extend the permit exemption under the Marine Mammal Protection Act; or prohibiting the continued take of marine mammals by the Japanese salmon fishery in the FCZ. NMFS has scheduled a hearing on the permit application in Seattle on March 5.

Dr. Bill Aron, Director of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, reported on the status of Dall porpoise stocks. He said it appeared that the Japanese are taking less than replacement yield and the Dall porpoise population is growing. The Center is working to develop a memorandum of understanding for a joint research program with the Japanese to develop necessary data to determine whether the incidental take is adversely affecting the Dall porpoise population and explore gear modifications which could solve or reduce the problem. Last year the Japanese took between 6,000 and 8,000 animals incidental to their high seas salmon gillnet fishery from an estimated Dall porpoise population of 560,000 to 1.3 million animals.

It was the consensus of the Council that the Executive Director should send a letter to NMFS recommending that a permit be granted to Japan under the Marine Mammal Protection Act to take marine mammals incidental to their high seas salmon gillnet fishery in the FCZ.

Bill Robinson, National Marine Fisheries Service, gave a report on the 1980 salmon catch and effort by the Japanese mothership gillnet fleet and estimated interceptions of western Alaska salmon. The source for the 1980 catch and effort statistics was INPFC document 2378. The analysis of these data and estimates of interceptions of western Alaska salmon stocks were conducted by Dr. Michael Dahlberg of NMFS. Four Japanese motherships and 172 catcher boats fished 3.1 million tans of gillnet in 1980 for a total catch of 7.4 million salmon. The total included 2.4 million sockeyes, 3.1 million chums, 561,000 pinks, 656,000 cohos, and 704,000 chinooks. The 1980 chinook catch was an increase of 460% over 1979 levels, and is the largest total chinook catch since initiation of the International Convention for the High Seas Fishery of the North Pacific Ocean (INPFC). NMFS estimates that 388,400 chinook salmon of western Alaska origin were included in this total. Chinook salmon intercepted by the mothership fleet averaged six pounds and were in their second and third years of ocean life. The single greatest area of interception was the central Bering Sea north of the U.S. FCZ, where 74% of western Alaska chinook interceptions occurred.

Public testimony was received from Harold Sparcks and Norman Cohen, representing the limited entry fishermen of the Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta. They supported closure of INPFC areas I and II to all trawling to protect western Alaska chinook salmon stocks, particularly in light of Mr. Robinson's report. They felt that the data extrapolated by Dr. Dahlberg to arrive at the percentage of western Alaska chinooks intercepted was too low because of failure to account for net drop-out. Mr. Sparcks said that including the drop-out rate would increase interceptions to approximately 600,000. They said they have testified before the Council on 14 different occasions, before Congress and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and still have found no relief. They asked for the Council's help to guarantee the perpetuation of the western Alaska subsistence and commercial fisheries.

Steve Pennoyer presented a table showing the impact of the foreign chinook harvest on western Alaska stocks for the years 1965 through 1980. He said it appears this may be an allocation problem for a species which could be totally utilized by domestic fishermen. A copy of the table is attached to these Minutes as Appendix I.

D-2 Other New Business as Appropriate

AP Membership on Plan Development Teams

The Advisory Panel requested that one or two members from each AP subgroup be allowed to participate in Plan Development Team meetings. They feel this relationship with the PDT is essential to insure the AP's effectiveness in responding to the Council on management decisions.

The Executive Director pointed out that this request is contrary to the policy for Plan Development Team meetings which was endorsed by the Council at the December meeting.

It was the consensus of the Council that this question should be deferred until the April meeting.

Report of the Permit Review Committee

The Permit Review Committee, chaired by Bart Eaton, met on February 25, 1981 to develop a procedure for reducing allocations in lieu of permit sanctions to foreign nations committing serious violations. The Committee recommended the following procedure as the Council's recommendation to the State Department for handling serious, repeated violations.

For any violation warranting seizure of the offending ship, that foreign nation's allocation for the following year shall be reduced by the average annual catch of the type of ship committing the violation. Average annual catch figures will be provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

State Department representative Chris Dawson said the Department would be glad to consider the policy, but feels they cannot be locked in to a proposed reduction of a specific amount.

It was the consensus of the Council that the Executive Director should forward this policy to the State Department as the Council's recommendation for handling, and hopefully, deterring repeated violations.

E. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

E-1 Salmon FMP

Proposed CFEC Study on Salmon Limited Entry

At the January meeting, the Council voted to postpone discussion of limited entry until further information was obtained from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. After the Council adjourned, the Board of Fisheries approved new regulations for hand trollers removing all differential time and area restrictions between hand and power trollers and limiting hand trollers to one gurdy and one sport line or four sport lines in an attempt to control the total catch of the hand troll fleet. If this action were implemented in the FCZ, the need for limited entry in the hand troll fleet would be eliminated. However, because the action effectively eliminates professional hand trolling, the Secretary of Commerce may not accept it.

The Council staff asked CFEC to make a preliminary proposal for obtaining information on the number of fishermen who would be permitted to fish under different qualifying schemes. CFEC estimated that such a program would cost between \$38,000 and \$40,000.

The Finance Committee reported that funds were simply not available in the budget to cover this expense.

Steve Pennoyer said that rough data is available on the number of boats which delivered for two or three consecutive years from the outer district. He will attempt to compile that information for the Council.

Inter-Council Salmon Plan Development Team Membership

At the Inter-Council Salmon Coordinating Committee meeting in November, 1980, the Committee asked the salmon plan coordinators of the two Councils to compile a list of concerns and suggestions for coordinating data exchange and management strategies. The plan coordinators suggested that a team be formed to lay the groundwork for a coastwide chinook plan. In a letter to Lorry Nakatsu, the Executive Director suggested Dave Cantillion of ADF&G, Bill Robinson of NMFS, and Jim Glock, Council plan coordinator, for membership on the Inter-Council Salmon Plan Development Team.

The Advisory Panel requested that Lewis Schnaper be included on the Inter-Council Salmon PDT.

Bob Mace moved that the Council endorse the concept of a coastwide chinook salmon plan and give the Executive Director authority to appoint the North Pacific Council's members of the Plan Development Team; seconded by Jim Campbell. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Status of Salmon Amendment

The salmon amendment DEIS and DRA were sent to the Secretary of Commerce for review in mid-January. The DEIS has been filed with EPA and the NEPA comment period began February 6. The amendment is on schedule and the NEPA comment period will end on March 23.

Enforcement of Limited Entry Regulations in the FCZ

NMFS and the U.S. Coast Guard presented a written report on enforcement of limited entry regulations for trollers in the FCZ. It was the conclusion of the report that enforcement of any scheme designed to limit the number of power and/or hand trollers in the FCZ off Alaska would be difficult and costly. The basic objective of enforcement would be to determine that only authorized trollers were operating in the FCZ. This would require frequent offshore patrols to determine vessel identities and precise locations of fishing. Because rapid identification would be the key to effective enforcement, each troll vessel authorized to operate in the FCZ should be clearly marked with an identifier unique to that vessel. Authority to require such identifiers on all troll vessels is absent in the FMP. Initiation of an identification system for trollers in the FCZ was recommended by NMFS and the Coast Guard.

E-2 Herring FMP

The Council approved the Herring FMP for submission to the Secretary of Commerce at the December 1980 meeting. The final EIS, draft Regulatory Analysis, and final edit of the FMP have been completed. The package will be submitted to the Secretary during the first week of March.

E-3 King Crab FMP

John Harville presented for Council review a Draft Joint Statement of Principles between the Council and Board of Fisheries for management of domestic fisheries. He suggested that it be adopted as a discussion document for review by the Board of Fisheries and public, for action by the Council and Board at their joint session in March. The agreement, designed for joint management of the king crab fishery, will lay the groundwork for co-management of other domestic fisheries and sets forth the roles both entities will play in achieving the most effective and efficient management of selected domestic fisheries off Alaska. A copy of the Draft Joint Statement of Principles is attached to these Minutes as Appendix II.

It was the consensus of the Council that the Draft Joint Statement of Principles should be sent to the Board of Fisheries and public for review for discussion and possible action by the joint Council/Board session in March.

E-4 Tanner Crab FMP

Due to the new Administration's freeze on final regulations, Amendment #6 to the Tanner Crab FMP, which provides for various minor technical changes, was not published in the Federal Register as scheduled. The freeze will be lifted on March 30, 1981 unless there is an extension.

The Secretarial review period for Amendment #7, which established new OY's for C. bairdi and C. opilio Tanner crab, was completed on February 20, 1981. A decision should be available in early March. Final implementation is scheduled for late June, 1981.

E-5 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

Council action scheduled for the March meeting included approval of the final form of Amendment #10 for submission to Secretarial review, a decision on the sablefish OY for the Eastern Regulatory Area, and review of proposed 1982 amendments.

The Council released Amendment #10 to public review on January 2, 1981. A public hearing was held in Sitka on January 31. Testimony received at that hearing indicated that the OY for sablefish in the Eastern Regulatory Area may be too high.

Phil Rigby, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and PDT member, reviewed the five main issues addressed by the Plan Development Team during development of Amendment #10. Those issues were:

1. The present condition of Pacific Ocean perch stocks and impact the proposed closure would have on POP.
2. The present condition of sablefish and the impact the proposed closure would have on sablefish.
3. Recent catches of prohibited species and impact the proposed closure would have on prohibited species.
4. Recent gear conflicts and impact the proposed closure would have on future occurrences.
5. The impact of the proposed closure on the foreign fishing fleet.

Scientific evidence available to date indicates that stocks of sablefish and Pacific Ocean perch are severely depressed in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska. Harvestable sablefish stocks in the southeastern area have continued to decline even with OY set below EY. The size range available to domestic fishermen has been found to be even less when foreign trawlers are in the vicinity. Pacific Ocean perch stocks are prevented from rebuilding due to their slow growth rate and high rates of trawl landings. POP landings have accounted for 20% to 45% of the trawl catch by Japanese vessels in the Eastern area; CPUE has dropped from 4.16 mt/hour in 1968 to 1.50 mt/hour in 1978 and 1979. Recent NMFS surveys show improved recruitment, but foreign trawl landings are basically removing the annual production, preventing stock improvement.

The SSC examined Gulf of Alaska POP catch data and sablefish CPUE data, POP CPUE data for the southeastern and Yakutat areas, Gulf of Alaska foreign groundfish catch data, results of a Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center Report on the abundance of sablefish by Hughes and Zenger, 1981, and reports on the number and magnitude of gear losses incurred. The SSC determined that a conservation issue does exist because Pacific Ocean perch in this area are severely depressed. They recommended that the ABC and OY for POP in the Eastern Regulatory Area be reduced from the present ABC of 29,000 mt and OY of 14,400 mt to 875 mt each. The SSC recommended setting DAH for Pacific Ocean perch in this area at 500 mt. This DAH would be used only as an incidental catch to facilitate development of a domestic groundfish fishery. They recommended that TALFF for Pacific Ocean perch be set at 375 mt to enable the Council to avoid the difficulties associated with declaring Pacific Ocean perch a prohibited species.

The SSC also recommended that only mid-water trawling be allowed, i.e., doors and nets shall not be in contact with the seabed, and trawl gear shall consist only of mid-water trawl doors and nets without roller gear. It was noted that this method of protecting Pacific Ocean perch from foreign trawlers will require a significant increase in observer coverage. In the absence of

increased observer coverage, the only immediate relief for Pacific Ocean perch stocks would be closure of the Eastern Regulatory Area to foreign trawling.

The SSC determined that a conservation issue does not exist for the sablefish resource, and concluded that ABC should remain at 10,500 mt and OY at 7,500 mt. They believe that foreign catches of sablefish and halibut will be reduced as a result of the mid-water gear restriction.

The Advisory Panel adopted Option 2 as their preferred alternative for Amendment #10. Foreign trawling would be prohibited in the Eastern Regulatory Area, POP TALFF would equal zero, POP DAH would equal 500 mt, and sablefish OY would not be increased over current levels.

A synopsis of enforcement costs of proposed amendment options in the Eastern Regulatory Area was submitted to the Council by the U.S. Coast Guard and NMFS. The report concluded that prohibiting foreign trawling in the entire Eastern Regulatory Area would be the easiest and least expensive alternative to enforce.

Public testimony was received from Eric Jordan, Advisory Panel member and commercial fisherman from Sitka. He favored Option 2 for conservation reasons and because of gear conflicts, enforcement problems, and high incidental catches of prohibited species. He was concerned that the Pacific Ocean perch allocation may be released by the State Department before the Council took action on this amendment.

Jay Hastings, representing Japan Fisheries Association and Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association, testified in favor of the communications code which they proposed for inclusion in the amendment package. He said this communications system has been successful in the Gulf of Mexico where it is used between American and Japanese tuna fishermen.

Steve Johnson, testifying on behalf of Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association, felt that resource problems could be handled by means other than total closure. He said the Japanese do not feel they can fish economically with pelagic gear, although the practical effect of the pelagic gear restriction would force them to experiment with the gear.

Glenn Satero, the Alaska Trollers Association, said he was convinced that much of the foreign trawl effort is concentrated off the Fairweather Grounds. He also felt that Coast Guard boardings are often made too late, after the foreign trawlers have destroyed any evidence of violations.

Paul MacGregor, representing the Japanese North Pacific Longline and Gillnet Association, said that the '75-'76 year classes of sablefish stocks will enter the fishery in 1981 and that stocks have improved under the current OY.

Jack Phillips and Greg Baker, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, addressed the problem of gear conflicts in the Eastern Regulatory Area. They said that sign language is the only communication method which has worked in the past and had no objection to amending the FMP with the proposed communications system if it would help the situation.

Mr. Phillips said a conservation issue exists for sablefish stocks; he must now catch 10,000 fish per trip to equal the weight of 7,000 fish 13 years ago. Members of ALFA agree that the sablefish OY is too high and that numbers and average size of fish are down.

Don Collinsworth moved that the Council adopt as its preferred alternative for Amendment #10 Option 3, amended as follows:

- 1. Foreign trawling will be prohibited in the Eastern Regulatory Area east of 140°W longitude.*
- 2. Foreign trawling will be allowed between 140°W and 147°W longitude from January 1 through December 31 with pelagic gear only.*
- 3. POP TALFF in the Yakutat District equals 375 mt.*
- 4. POP DAH equals 500 mt.*
- 5. Sablefish OY will not be increased over the current OY.*

The motion was seconded by Donald Bevan. The Council unanimously adopted Option 3 as amended.

Bob McVey moved that the Japanese communications proposal be included as an appendix to Amendment #10 for the FMP; seconded by Bob Mace. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

E-6 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

Amendment #1 to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP was released to public review on October 20, 1980. Public hearings were held in Dutch Harbor, Nome, Bethel, Seattle, Kodiak, and Anchorage. Council action at this meeting was required to determine the final form of Amendment #1 for submission to Secretarial review.

Dr. Loh-lee Low of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center explained the Plan Development Team's preferred options for the derivation of OY, management objectives, the fishing year, domestic fishery area restrictions and in-season time and area adjustments, foreign fishery restrictions and in-season time and area adjustments, closure of INPFC areas I and II to all trawling from October 1 to March 31, and procedures for controlling incidental catches of prohibited species. A copy of the Plan Development Team report dated February 11, 1981 is made a part of these Minutes as Appendix III.

Derivation of OY

After reviewing Amendment #1, the SSC recommended adoption of Option 1 as proposed by the PDT, which establishes an OY range of 1.4 to 2.0 million mt, incorporating release procedures included in Option 2 for greater flexibility.

The Advisory Panel also approved Option 1 with the reserve release procedures proposed in Option 2.

Management Objectives

The SSC approved the PDT's proposed management objectives.

The Advisory Panel concurred with the reworded objectives, but suggested that the following statement precede them: "The order of the objectives does not indicate priority."

Fishing Year

Both the SSC and AP approved adoption of the calendar year fishing year.

Domestic Fishery Area Restrictions

The SSC concurred with the PDT that domestic trawlers should be permitted to operate more freely in Areas A and B. However, the SSC strongly recommended that new and expanding domestic fisheries be required to utilize gear which will have the least adverse impact on non-targeted resources.

The Advisory Panel recommended that experimental fishing by U.S. fishermen in Area B, the Winter Halibut Savings Area, be continued during 1981 with close monitoring by observers.

The AP majority recommended that there be no trawling by anyone in Area A, the Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary, other than trawling by U.S. crabbers for the purpose of obtaining bait.

The minority filed a statement signed by Richard Goldsmith, Konrad Uri, Don Rawlinson, and Alvin Burch in opposition to the majority's action. They felt that such a closure of Area A would inhibit the developing U.S. groundfish fishery and said that no scientific information supported the majority's actions.

In an effort to resolve this conflict, the Advisory Panel majority and minority met with Council members Don Bevan and Bart Eaton in attendance. Agreement was reached to allow domestic trawling in Area A so long as the incidental catch of halibut was 1% of the directed catch or less. Incidental catch rates will be analyzed twice, at 10,000 mt intervals. If after the first 10,000 mt the incidental catch of halibut is over 1%, that operation will be allowed a second chance to correct its incidental catch rate. If the incidental catch rate has not been reduced to 1% or less after the second 10,000 mt, that operation

The SSC concurred with the Plan Development Team's recommendation for areas A through F in the amendment package.

Foreign Fishery Area Restrictions

Both the Advisory Panel and SSC concurred with the Plan Development Team that the NMFS Regional Director should have authority to issue field orders adjusting time and/or area closures for conservation reasons.

Domestic Fishery, In-Season Adjustment of Time and Area

The Council agreed to proceed with the experimental domestic trawl fisheries in Areas A and B as outlined above and encouraged fishermen to strive for an incidental halibut catch rate of less than 1% of directed catch.

Written testimony was received from Don Baker, president of the Kodiak Halibut Fishermen's Association, opposing all trawl activity in Area A in order to protect halibut stocks.

Maps showing the original and modified Areas A and B are made a part of these Minutes as Appendix IV.

- Cape Sarichef Light (54°36'N - 165°55'42"W)
- 54°55'N - 165°30'W
- 56°20'N - 165°30'W
- 56°30'N - 165°00'W
- 56°30'N - 166°00'W
- 56°00'N - 166°00'W
- 56°00'N - 167°45'W
- 55°30'N - 166°47'W
- 55°30'N - 170°00'W
- 52°40'N - 170°00'W
- Cape Sarichef Light (54°36'N - 164°55'42"W)

Area B also changed as a result of modifications to Area A. Area B's coordinates taken from the Advisory Panel's map are as follows:

- Cape Sarichef Light (54°36'N - 164°55'42"W)
- 54°55'N - 165°30'W
- 56°20'N - 165°30'W
- 57°40'N - 161°40'W
- 57°40'N - 160°00'W
- Intersection of 160°00'W with Alaska Peninsula

will be restricted to pelagic gear. The experimental fishery will be conducted in Area A as modified by the Advisory Panel. The exact coordinates of the modified Area A were not vocalized by the Advisory Panel, but were determined from a map presented to the Council to be as follows:

The Advisory Panel adopted the PDT's recommendation with nine opposing votes. Those in opposition felt that adoption of the proposal could result in resource and gear conflicts between the Japanese and domestic fishermen due to expected increased domestic participation in the cod fishery.

Foreign Fishery, In-Season Adjustments of Time and Area

Both the SSC and AP concurred with the PDT's recommendation that the Regional Director should be given authority to issue field orders adjusting time and/or area closures for conservation reasons and to prevent serious gear conflicts.

Closure of INPFC Areas I and II to All Trawling From October 1 to March 31

The SSC considered time/area closures an extreme approach for solving the prohibited species issue because, although they are the easiest management regime to enforce, they are the least flexible and may preclude realization of optimum yield from the fishery. The SSC felt that time/area closures may be best suited for short-term relief of specific problems for protection of single species. For these reasons, the SSC, though not in total agreement, opposed the proposed time/area closure.

The SSC considered incidental catches of prohibited species in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands area and concluded that:

1. Considering all sources of high seas interception of chinook salmon, there is a significant removal of fish which would otherwise return to Alaskan streams and rivers to spawn.
2. An important component of foreign fishing effort which intercepts chinook salmon of Alaskan origin is the trawl fleet operating in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands area.
3. From a biological perspective, the best available data for the salmon stocks in question indicate that a conservation issue does not exist at this time.
4. The magnitude of foreign interceptions of chinook salmon may contribute significantly to problems of management of the chinook resource and has reduced the yield that could be taken by domestic fishermen.
5. Environmental features of the region present severe difficulties in assessing escapement, thus requiring a conservative approach to assure proper management of the resource.

In view of the above, the SSC recommended:

1. That the prohibited species amendment dated February 25, 1981 be released for public review immediately.
2. That all possible efforts be made to achieve a satisfactory and long-term solution to the problem of incidental catches of prohibited species, including chinook salmon.
3. That the resulting management regime for protecting prohibited species be implemented by October 1, 1981.

The SSC felt that time/area closures are undesirable as an interim measure to address the incidental catch of prohibited species in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands trawl fishery. The SSC majority concluded that some domestic fishermen would benefit and others would lose from institution of such a time/area closure.

The SSC minority felt that the conservation of prohibited species in the Bering Sea is of utmost importance to continued productivity of the species and stocks involved, and the present magnitude of incidental harvest is cause for concern. Until such time as a permanent solution is found, steps should be taken to address the problem on an interim basis. The minority deemed specific time and area closures of the Bering Sea trawl fisheries to be the only interim measures available to the Council which could reduce the rate of incidental harvest of prohibited species. The minority recommended a four-month closure, November through February, to be instituted in either Areas I and II or statistical blocks numbered 1, 4, 5, 6, and 8. The minority preferred closure of statistical blocks 1, 4, 5, 6, and 8.

The Advisory Panel voted to amend the proposed closure so that INPFC Areas I and II would be closed only to foreign trawling from October 1 to March 31.

Testimony was received from Steve Johnson, representing the Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association and Hokuten Trawlers Association. He said the Bering Sea is the principal seafood producer in the world, and that in relationship to the size of the fishery, the catch of prohibited species is minimal. He believes that time and area closures would divide the area and reduce efficiency of operation. Mr. Johnson felt the Nunam Kutlutsisti proposal is an overly-harsh solution to the incidental catch problem. Mr. Johnson said that Japan has imposed voluntary restrictions to reduce their directed catch of chinook salmon in INPFC Areas I and II by 1/6 of the 1980 total. The Japanese also propose to voluntarily reduce their incidental trawl catch of king salmon by 10% from 1980 levels, and additional concessions will be discussed with United States officials to attempt to reach an agreement which is responsive to western Alaskans.

Harold Sparcks and Norman Cohen again testified in favor of the six-month winter closure. They urged institution of the closure through an amendment to the PMP for implementation by October 1, 1981.

John Schmeidtke, representing Nordstern, A.G., testified that closure of INPFC Areas I and II to foreign trawling may force Nordstern to terminate its joint venture operation. He noted that their incidental catches of salmon of all species have ranged from four to eight fish per week; they have had no accidental catches of halibut, herring, or king crab. He felt that incidental catches can be avoided when necessary.

Nordstern's operations were hampered by bad weather and poor fishing in December and January. They are still working with Alaska Foods to purchase U.S. fish products, but have not yet been able to take delivery. The training program is working well and they would like to continue with the observer program.

Henry Mitchell, Executive Director of the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, and Mel Monsen, their staff biologist, testified in favor of the winter closure. They said that western Alaskans are looking for a long-term solution and BSFA will help the Council in any way they can to achieve this goal.

Roy Jackson, testifying on behalf of the Highliners Association, opposed the closure of INPFC Areas I and II because of its detrimental effects on the developing American trawl fishery.

Phil Fuller, operations manager for Trans-Pacific International, owners of the ARCTIC TRAWLER, said the closure would stifle present and future domestic trawl operations in the area. He said the ARCTIC TRAWLER had delivered 900,000 pounds of fishery products since the December Council meeting and had a nine-months catch of 10 million pounds of true cod and pollock from the Aleutian Chain and Unimak Pass areas. He stressed that domestic expansion of the groundfish industry could create significant economic benefits for the residents of Alaska.

Mick Stevens, representing Marine Resources Company, opposed the closure because it would inhibit their company's opportunity to investigate the areas for potential economically viable fisheries. Marine Resources began their Soviet joint venture in the eastern Bering Sea pollock fishery on February 21. Mr. Stevens reported good fishing in spite of inclement weather and said they look forward to a successful operation.

Donald Bevan moved that the Council accept the SSC and Plan Development Team recommendation for derivation of OY, management objectives, the fishing year, domestic fishery in-season time and area adjustments, foreign fishery area restrictions and in-season time and area adjustments, and domestic fishery area restrictions as modified by the Advisory Panel; seconded by Bart Eaton. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Don Collinsworth moved that Council action on the closure of INPFC Areas I and II to all trawling from October 1 to March 31 be deferred until the March meeting; seconded by Donald Bevan. The Council unanimously approved this action and encouraged the parties to work toward an equitable solution which provides some protection and security for the fishermen of western Alaska.

Donald Bevan moved that the Council recommend that National Marine Fisheries Service take steps to amend the PMP in order to offer relief for the chinook interception problem in time for the winter fishery; seconded by Charles Meacham. Hearing no objection, it was so ordered.

Bob Mace moved that the Council send Amendment #3 for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP to public review; seconded by Donald Bevan. The Council unanimously approved this action.

F. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

F-1 Status of Contracts and RFP's

Contracts

Council approval was required for final payment on Contract 80-5, "A Study of the Offshore Chinook and Coho Salmon Fishery Off Alaska"; Contract 80-6, "A Study to Determine the Applicability of Limited Entry in the Halibut Fishery Off Alaska"; and Contract 81-3, "Halibut/ Crab Pot Study."

The SSC received the modified final report for Contract 80-6 too late to take action at the February meeting, and will be prepared to make its recommendation in March.

The SSC approved the final reports for Contracts 80-6 and 81-3 for final payment.

Requests for Proposals

The SSC modified the draft RFP for a study on the compilation and evaluation of data on the feeding habits and food requirements of marine mammals in the Bering Sea and recommended that the RFP be released as amended.

Finance Committee Recommendations

The Finance Committee met on February 25, 1981 to consider approval for final payments on Contracts 80-5, 80-6, and 81-3.

The Committee recommended final payment of \$6,067.75 for Contract 80-5 to Natural Resources Consultants and denied payment of the cost overrun of \$2,912.

The Finance Committee recommended final payment for the Halibut/Crab Pot Study in the amount of \$50,000 upon receipt of billing.

The Finance Committee also reviewed the FY81 administrative budget and projected expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year. Projections indicate that the Council could have a \$44,000 deficit by the end of September. In an attempt to allow the Council to operate within its budget, the Finance Committee recommended the following measures:

1. Change the location of the May Council meeting from Kodiak to Anchorage for an approximate savings of \$13,500.
2. In the event that the April Council meeting will not require reports from the AP and/or SSC, both the AP and SSC meetings should be canceled and expenses not authorized. Approximate savings would be \$18,800.
3. Tentatively cancel the September Council meeting for an approximate savings of \$29,000.
4. Looking to the possibility of even more stringent budgetary limitations in FY82, the Committee suggested changes to the attendance policy for Advisory Panel members. The existing policy states that three consecutive unexcused absences will warrant loss of membership. The new policy will allow AP members to attend meetings if an Advisory Panel report is required for the Council, but any member choosing not to attend when his particular expertise is not required will be excused. The Committee hopes to achieve substantial savings with this elimination of non-essential travel.

Charles Meacham moved that the recommendations of the Finance Committee for contract payments and expenditure modifications be accepted, noting that the SSC and AP chairmen should be invited to attend the April meeting; seconded by Donald Bevan. The Council unanimously approved this action.

F-2 New Research Proposals

The SSC reviewed a draft RFP to design an experiment to evaluate the accuracy of herring aerial savings biomass estimates. They learned that ADF&G has received substantial support from the Alaska Legislature to conduct an internal evaluation of the herring assessment technique, and therefore, the SSC recommended that this RFP be withheld. Results of ADF&G's self evaluation should be available by September, 1981.

The SSC postponed its recommendation on the proposed RFP to determine the stock origins of chinook salmon incidentally caught in foreign trawls in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska until the March meeting.

F-3 Financial Status Report

Financial Status Reports for December, 1980 and January, 1981 were submitted for information only.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No further public testimony was received by the Council.

H. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Tillion noted a letter received from Ron Skoog which suggested reducing the number of Council meetings to four per year to better distribute the workload of support agency personnel. Discussion of the letter will be placed on the agenda for the April meeting.

Charles Meacham briefly reviewed Law of the Sea activities. The next meeting begins on March 9 in New York City.

The Executive Director reminded the Council that the March meeting will be in joint session with the Board of Fisheries to take final action on 1981 amendments to the Troll Salmon FMP and discuss joint management of the king crab fishery. Council members were asked to plan for the possibility of a four-day meeting, continuing into Saturday, March 28.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

LIST OF APPENDICES

- I. Table: Potential Impact of Foreign Chinook Harvest on Western Alaska Stocks
- II. Joint Statement of Principles Between North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries for Joint Management of Domestic Fisheries
- III. Report of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Plan Development Team, 2/11/81
- IV. Maps Showing Former and Modified Areas A and B in the Bering Sea