

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Harold E. Lokken, 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 265-5435

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

February, 1978

Advisory Panel Report

The Advisory Panel met February 22nd with eight members present for half the meeting and a ninth member present for the last half of the day. The Panel felt that even though there was no quorum requirement it was compelled to go ahead and act on matters of concern, even though perhaps not all interests that are represented on the Panel were present.

The first item was Item 9 in the packet material. This concerns the proposals for studies on the social and economic impacts for commercial herring fishery on the AYK area and western Alaska. The Panel appointed Bob Alverson, Harry Wilde and Don Rawlinson to review these proposals. The AP and SSC will meet the first week in March in Juneau to go over these proposals together.

The second item of business was under Tab 4 in the packet material. This concerns the 15,000 metric ton OY for foreign fishing north of 58° in the Bering Sea. The Panel feels that the 58° line should be retained and they felt that the reasons given in the summary statement adequately supported the Council's position in arriving at this figure.

The third item of business was under Tab 19 in the packet material, dealing with the problems of the troll salmon observer program. The Panel did not wish to make any recommendations on the observer program at this time. They wish to encourage the Alaska Trollers Association and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to attempt to resolve their problems between themselves without injecting the Council or the Panel until they have an opportunity to work out a joint agreement.

On the matter of the joint ventures policy, the Panel feels that the joint ventures policy statement should be viewed as a temporary document and feels that it needs further clarification and strengthening. They specifically felt that clarification needed would be:

- (1) that permits continue to be routed through the Council in the normal manner; this may be implied but it is not specifically stated in the policy that these joint venture permits would go the normal route through the Council and not just to the Secretary of Commerce.

(2) In the policy statement, there were several suggestions on the policy statement that precede the eleven guidelines, that the word "may" be changed to "shall" in that paragraph so that it would read, "In implementing this policy, the Secretary of Commerce shall also take into consideration one or more of the following..." and then list the eleven guidelines. The Panel felt that perhaps this was too loosely drawn and that it was not necessary for the Secretary to consider these.

(3) The third thing was that the Panel generally agreed with the Pacific Council's comments on the joint venture policy. In particular, they agreed with the comments listed in the last part of their letter dealing with the paragraph that precedes the eleven guidelines and which amends guideline number 2 and number 3 which adds additional guidelines.

The Panel also felt that the Council should retain its previous position to delay considering any joint venture permit proposals until after July 1st.

The next item of business for the Advisory Panel concerned AP vacancies. The Advisory Panel recommends that Joe DeMantle, Jr. of Tuluksak and Emil Berikoff of Unalaska fill the vacancies created by Paul Guy and Bob Starck. In making these appointments the Panel felt that the spirit of the law conveys that there should be a balance between geographical areas and user groups and various interests on the Panel and felt there should be someone from the Kuskokwim area and also from the Alaska Peninsula Aleutian Islands area.

The Advisory Panel also requests that a letter be sent to Advisory Panel members who have outstanding absence records, inquiring if they wish to continue serving on the Panel. The AP is very concerned about the fact that a few of the Panel members have rarely attended and that they are occupying a seat that could be filled by someone who is able to take a more active part in Panel business.

Concerning the Limited Entry Conference to be held in Denver, Colorado, the Panel requests the Council, including members of the Advisory Panel, to participate in that conference with a balanced representation.

The Advisory Panel considered the optimum yield guidelines. This is agenda Item #12 and it is the Panel's opinion that these guidelines probably contained good aspects of how to arrive at optimum yield. However, the Panel asks that these be clarified to determine whether these are optional guidelines or whether they are mandatory and have to be strictly adhered to in arriving at an OY determination.

The Advisory Panel also feels that it should be clarified as to whether these are subject to future modifications and review since this concept of OY seems to be ever changing.

The Panel considered the Japanese proposal for modifying the 58° line in the Bering Sea and have reviewed at great length the basis for the establishment of that line. Considerable testimony was heard from Sig Jaeger of the North Pacific Vessel Owners Association. Although the Panel was sympathetic with the problems the Japanese fishermen may have to face regarding ice, they recommend that the Council retain the present position in respect to the 58° latitude line.

Advisory Panel members Bob Alverson, Ken Olson and Joe Kurtz were appointed as a subcommittee to develop permit fee structures based on fish prices.

The next item of consideration for the Advisory Panel was index tab #18 and the Panel approved the cycle of management plan development. The process of review and development is considered complicated and cumbersome, but necessary if the plan development is to be accomplished.

The Advisory Panel recommends that the Council send a Resolution to the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of State supporting the letter from Governor Hammond written on February 14th. This letter deals with foreign allocations to nations that have import restrictions on U.S. products involving the same species. It was the feeling of the Panel that a Resolution should be sent by the Council to support the Governor's position on this matter.