

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman  
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

411 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 103136  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

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

November 19, 1984

## DRAFT AGENDA

63rd Plenary Session  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

December 5-7, 1984  
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will meet in the Captain Cook Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska, December 5-7, 1984. The Council will convene at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, December 5, along with the Council's Advisory Panel, to hear reports on domestic and foreign fisheries, Coast Guard enforcement, joint venture operations, and on the consequences of large scale trawling off Alaska. They will also hear staff reports and public testimony, and discuss agenda items C-2 (Halibut Management), C-9 (Proposed regulations on net discards), D-2/3 (Groundfish), C-4 (Joint venture allocations), and C-5 (Foreign allocations). However, the Council does not expect to make decisions on these agenda items until Thursday or Friday when they will have recommendations from the Advisory Panel and SSC available to them. Persons wishing to testify on those subjects will be able to do so on Wednesday before the Council and Advisory Panel and need not be present on Thursday and Friday when the Council reaches a decision.

The agenda is structured so that the Council's Permit Review Committee will meet on Monday and Tuesday to consider the relative merits of joint ventures proposed for 1985, foreign directed fishing allocations for 1985, and foreign vessel permit applications. The Committee will use the Council's new policies on permit and allocations review adopted in September as the basis for their recommendations. The Permit Review Committee will take public testimony on U.S. and foreign applications on Monday, December 3.

The Council's SSC will meet starting at 11 a.m. on Monday and may hold an evening session. On Tuesday morning the Permit Review Committee will meet with the SSC to discuss groundfish harvest levels, recommended apportionments of the harvest to U.S. and foreign fisheries, and alternative approaches to allocating amounts of incidental species. At 10 a.m. the Permit Review Committee will meet alone to develop its final recommendations to the Council on joint venture and foreign allocations. The SSC will continue meeting alone on Tuesday to develop its recommendations on groundfish.

Reports of the SSC and Permit Review Committee will be available to the Council when it meets commencing on Wednesday. The Council will take action on adopting comprehensive goals, the structure of the Advisory Panel, and halibut management on Thursday, December 6. Groundfish harvest levels and allocations to joint ventures and foreign nations will be scheduled for action on Friday. The Council will also review foreign vessel permit applications on Friday.

As noted above, the Advisory Panel will meet with the Council on Wednesday. On Thursday the AP will meet alone to develop recommendations on halibut management and groundfish related issues. There will be a Finance Committee meeting at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday. Other plan team and workgroup meetings may be held on short notice during the Council meeting. They will be posted in the hotel lobby. All meetings are open to the public.

#### Special Note on Review of Allocations

The Council and its Permit Review Committee will review applications for joint ventures and foreign directed fishing operations proposed for off Alaska in 1985. As a basis for their recommendations, the Committee and Council will use their Interim Policy on Joint Ventures and Allocations and Policy on the Review of Foreign Fishing Vessel Permit Applications, both adopted in September 1984 after lengthy public comment. In particular the Council will make recommended allocations to each joint venture operation based on their individual requests and the amounts of groundfish available for harvest by these types of operations. The Council will recommend ceilings by operation on both target and incidental species catches. These will be binding and be placed in the foreign receiving vessel's permit to operate. The basis for the recommendations will be the criteria listed in Table 1 of the Interim Policy. The Committee and Council will have written testimony on the extent to which each company and country fulfill these criteria. They also strongly encourage company and country representatives to give oral testimony at their meetings. Copies of the two new policies are available at the Council offices.

#### Special Note on Apportionments of Fully Utilized Groundfish Species

Since 1978 the groundfish fisheries off Alaska have been a mixture of foreign directed fisheries, U.S. trawlers delivering shoreside or to foreign vessels in joint operations, U.S. longliners fishing mainly for sablefish, and, in a more recent development, large U.S. catcher/processors targeting mainly on Pacific cod. Recent expansion of the U.S. fishery has resulted in U.S. trawlers and longliners taking well over 600,000 mt, more than one-third of the average annual groundfish harvest off Alaska. It is anticipated that this expansion will continue, especially as new U.S. catcher/processors enter the fishery.

While this expansion is very desirable and a basic goal of the Magnuson Act it brings greater complexities to management. The Act and the Council's groundfish fishery management plans give first priority to totally-U.S. harvesting and processing operations, second priority to U.S.-foreign joint fishing operations, and lowest priority to foreign fisheries. In other words, when certain species are in short supply, the requirements of fully U.S. operations will be satisfied first at the expense first of foreign fisheries, and then of joint ventures.

It is anticipated that in 1985 sablefish and Pacific ocean perch in the Gulf of Alaska and possibly the Aleutians will be fully utilized by totally-U.S. operations. In December the Council will thoroughly review the status and yields of these and other groundfish stocks off Alaska to determine how much should be harvested and how the harvest should be allocated between U.S. fisheries (DAP), joint ventures (JVP), and foreign directed fisheries (TALFF).

The Council will need to decide how to manage the bycatch of species fully harvested and processed by U.S. industry but taken in small quantities by joint ventures and foreign fisheries. For example, the regulations for the Gulf of Alaska require that the 1985 sablefish DAP must be set equal to the OY because the definition of DAP in the plan says, ". . . initial DAP amounts for each species or species group established for the beginning of a fishery year shall equal the amount of those species harvested by domestic fishermen during the previous year plus any additional amounts the (NMFS) Regional Director finds will be harvested by the growing domestic fishery." The lower boundary on DAP, then, is the amount of sablefish actually harvested by U.S. fishermen in 1984, which equalled or surpassed the OY in the Eastern and Central areas.

It is the NOAA General Counsel's opinion that if the 1985 DAP for sablefish is set equal to the OY ( at least in the Eastern and Central areas, and probably in the Western Area), then JVP and TALFF for sablefish must equal zero. That means that joint venture and foreign fisheries which would take any sablefish at all could not be permitted next year.

Given the above, the Council needs to consider what management tools might be available in the short term to continue joint venture (or foreign) fisheries which take sablefish as a bycatch, if the Council decides they should be continued.

For joint ventures it may be possible to require that all incidentally caught sablefish be returned to the catcher vessels so that they retain the fish and can dispose of them as they will. They can then be counted as DAP and a zero JVP would not shut off the fishery. However, this would result in all U.S. fishermen fishing from the common pool of DAP sablefish. Very likely, the combined harvest of the longline and trawl fisheries would achieve the OY prior to October 1985. If so, early winter joint venture fisheries could not operate. A possible solution would be to allocate sablefish between the directed U.S. longline fishery and the incidental U.S. trawl fishery.

Similarly the Council will need to consider how to treat incidental catches of Pacific ocean perch and any other species where demand exceeds supply. These issues will be the subject of lengthy Council discussion in December. The Council will take public testimony on these subjects on Wednesday, December 5 and take action on Friday, December 7. Oral and written testimony is strongly encouraged on this particular agenda item.

#### Special Note on First Council Meeting in 1985

The Council was originally scheduled to meet in early January 1985 with the Board of Fisheries in Sitka, Alaska. Because of scheduled U.S.-Canada negotiations on salmon during January, the joint meeting has been rescheduled to February 6-8, 1984, in Sitka. An agenda will be available January 18. The meeting will be held at the Centennial Building.

DRAFT

63rd Plenary Session

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

December 5-7, 1984

- A. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
- B. SPECIAL REPORTS
  - B-1 Executive Director's Report
  - B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADF&G
  - B-3 Foreign Fisheries Report by NMFS
  - B-4 Enforcement and Surveillance Report by U.S. Coast Guard
  - B-5 Joint Venture Wrap-up for 1984
  - B-6 Development of Large-Scale Trawling in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea and its Economic and Ecological Impacts (Lee Alverson).
- C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS
  - C-1 Comprehensive Fishery Management Goals
    - (a) Workgroup Report
    - (b) Discussion and adoption of goals
    - (c) Appointment of teams to develop objectives for shellfish, groundfish, salmon and herring and review halibut objectives.
    - (d) Approve schedule of events
  - C-2 Halibut Fishery Management
    - (a) Workgroup Report
    - (b) Review methods for achieving management goals and decide short-term and long-term courses of action.
  - C-3 Advisory Panel Operations
    - (a) Workgroup Report
    - (b) Review alternatives and adopt policy.
  - C-4 Joint Ventures
    - (a) Review of joint venture requests for 1985.
    - (b) Permit Review Committee recommendations.
    - (c) Council recommendations on joint venture allocations.
  - C-5 Foreign Allocations
    - (a) Review foreign allocations request for 1985.
    - (b) Review of Japanese enforcement problems and past estimates of catch.
    - (c) Permit Review Committee recommendations.
    - (d) Council recommendations on foreign allocations.

C-6 Foreign Vessel Permit Applications

Review and make recommendations on permits for 1985.

C-7 Groundfish Data Monitoring

Review program and funding needs.

C-8 SSC Appointments

Approve SSC members for two-year term.

C-9 Net Discard Regulations

Council has been asked by NMFS to develop regulations preventing discard of fishing gear at sea. Staff will be suggesting a national regulation.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 Herring FMP

Approve letter requesting Secretary to provide data needed for plan development.

D-2 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

- (a) Stock status and OYs for 1985. Recommend emergency regulations for new OYs, if necessary.
- (b) Management of O-TALFF or O-JVP species
- (c) Final recommendations on DAP, JVP, and TALFF for 1985.
- (d) Status report on cul-de-sac management
- (e) Deadline for proposed changes to plan or regulations.

D-3 Bering Sea and Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP

- (a) Stock status and TACs for 1985.
- (b) Management of O-TALFF or O-JVP species.
- (c) Final recommendations on DAP, JVP, and TALFF for 1985.
- (d) Industry workgroup report on crab and halibut bycatch solutions in Southeastern Bering Sea.
- (e) Deadline for proposed changes to plan or regulations.

E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

E-1 Status of Contracts and Proposals

- (a) Contract 84-1: Sea Lion Pup Census - Final Approval
- (b) Contract 84-2: Chinook Troll Data Analysis - Final Approval
- (c) Groundfish Data Monitoring funding.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

G. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT AGENDA

Scientific and Statistical Committee

December 3-4, 1984

The SSC will convene at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, December 3, 1984 and may hold an evening session if necessary. The SSC will meet with the Council's Permit Review Committee from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 4. The SSC will then meet alone from 10:00 a.m. until business is completed. All meetings will be held in the Adventure Room of the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage. All meetings will be open to the public.

Monday: 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (SSC alone)

D-2/3 Groundfish FMPs

- (a) Stock status, OYs and TACs for 1985.
- (b) Discuss management of 0-TALFF or 0-JVP species.
- (c) Final recommendations on DAP, JVP, and TALFF for 1985.

Tuesday: 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. (SSC and Permit Review Committee)

Joint discussion of allowable groundfish harvests and their apportionment to DAP, JVP and TALFF in 1985.

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. - noon (SSC alone)

D-2/3 Groundfish FMPs (continued)

Tuesday: 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. (SSC alone)

C-7 Groundfish Data Monitoring

Review program and funding needs.

D-1 Herring FMP

Approve letter requesting Secretary to provide data needed for plan development.

C-1 Comprehensive Fishery Management Goals

Last chance for SSC comments.

C-9 Net Discard Regulations

Review draft national regulation for preventing discard of fishing gear at sea.

E-1 Contracts and Proposals

- (a) Approve Sea Lion Pup Census Contract 84-1.
- (b) Approve Chinook Troll Data Analysis Contract 84-2.
- (c) Approve funding for groundfish data monitoring.

Additional Items

Review Plan Team members.

DRAFT AGENDA

Advisory Panel

December 5-6, 1984

The Advisory Panel will meet with the Council starting at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 5. The AP will meet alone on Thursday to develop their recommendations for the Council. All meetings are open to the public and will be held in the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage.

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. (with Council)

(See Council Agenda)

Thursday: 8:30 a.m. (AP alone all day)

C-2 Halibut Fishery Management

Develop AP recommendations for presentation to Council at 11:00 a.m., Thursday.

C-7 Groundfish Data Monitoring

Review program and funding needs (need AP recommendations to Council by 3:00 p.m. Thursday).

Thursday: 11:00 a.m.

C-9 Net Discard Regulations

Review draft regulations preventing discard of fishing gear at sea.

Thursday: 1:30 p.m.

D-2/3 Groundfish FMPs

- (a) Develop recommended OYs and TACs for 1985.
- (b) Management of 0-TALFF or 0-JVP species.
- (c) Final recommendations on DAP, JVP, and TALFF for 1985.