

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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CERTIFIED:

Chairman

MINUTES

53rd Plenary Session
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
March 29-April 1, 1983
Anchorage Westward Hilton/Old Federal Building
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council convened its 53rd plenary session in conjunction with the Alaska State Board of Fisheries on Tuesday, March 29, 1983 at 9:10 a.m. in the Alaska Room of the Anchorage Westward Hilton, Anchorage Alaska. The joint meeting continued through Wednesday, March 30, 1983. The Council met independently in the Courtroom of the Old Federal Building beginning at 9:19 a.m. on Thursday, March 31, and adjourned at 4:45 p.m. on Friday, April 1.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee met on March 27-28, 1983 in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of the Old Federal Building in Anchorage.

The Advisory Panel also met on March 27-28, 1983, in Room 101 of the Old Federal Building.

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

Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
Harold E. Lokken, Vice-Chairman
Robert McVey
Rudy Petersen
LeRoy Sowl for Keith Shreiner
Keith Specking
Bill Wilkerson/Gene Didonato
RADM Richard Knapp

Robert U. Mace, for
John Donaldson
James O. Campbell
Don Collinsworth
Chris Dawson,
for Ray Arnaudo
Jeffrey R. Stephan

Scientific and Statistical Committee Members

Donald Rosenberg, Chairman
Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman
William Aron
Bud Burgner
John Clark
Steve Langdon

Jack Robinson, for
Larry Hreha
Al Millikan
Don Bevan
John Burns
Jack Lechner

Advisory Panel

Bob Alverson, Chairman
Greg Baker
Bob Blake
Bud Boddy
Al Burch
Larry Cotter
Barry Fisher
Jesse Foster
Dick Goldsmith

Eric Jordan
Joe Kurtz
Rick Lauber
Ray Lewis
James O'Connell
Don Rawlinson
Harvey Samuelson
Walt Smith
Ed Wojack

NPFMC Staff

Jim H. Branson, Executive Director
Clarence Pautzke, Deputy Director
Steve Davis
Jim Glock
Doug Larson

Ron Miller
Judy Willoughby
Helen Allen
Peggy Hough

Support Staff

Pat Travers, NOAA/GC
Thorn Smith, NOAA/GC
James Brooks, NFMS
Lewis Queriolo, NMFS
Carl Rosier, NMFS
Eulalie Sullivan, ABoF&G
Dave Flannagan, NMFS
Marty Eaton, NMFS
Jerry Reeves, NMFS

Mel Seibel, ADF&G
Phil Chitwood, NMFS
Dave Cantillon, ADF&G
Steve Pennoyer, ADF&G
Al Davis, ADF&G
John McMullen, ADF&G
C. Meacham, ADF&G
Bob Otto, NMFS

General Public

Stephan B. Johnson
Nancy Gross
Mel Monsen
N. Stanchfield
Rep. Jack Fuller
Annie Hartmann
B.W. Finley
W.J. Smith
N. Takaji
James A. Guilmet
Charles S. Green

Karen White
Gunnar Knapp
Henry Mitchell
L. French
Kirk Beiningen
Richard Goldsmith
J.F. Smith
Jack W. Jordan
Mike Broili
Jeffery L. Jolly
Egil A. Ellingsen

General Public (continued)

Grace Pleasants
T. Fukji
William H. Nicholson
C. Meacham
R.W. Morley
Ted Painter, Jr.
Walter A. Johnson
Greg Gerhardstein
Gordon Peterson
Gary H. Eils
Gary McMaster
Ronald Jensen
Bob Rockwood
Dick Montgomery
Wm. Hammer
Nancy Stanchfield
Ed Dougherty
Flore Leksinof
Kent Leslie
Judith Ranes
Doug McNair
Joe McGill
Wm. H. Nicholson
John Schmiedtke
Jack E. Crowley
R.B. Fisher
Michael A. Jones
Arne Lee
Lorraine Roesing
Pete Knutsen
Robert L. Stokes
Glenn Satero
Ken Petrie
Paul Kelly
Mark Roy
Charles Bundrant

Dolly Garza
Don Beeson
Charles M. Jones
M. Hunter
Bud Graham
Bill Alwert
Gary A. Salven
Rachel Ireton
Tony Allen
Dennis Watson
Marvin Elving
George Dickson
Richard Wilson
Terry Cook
Don Martens
Joseph H. Datrow
Charles Jones
Agafayd Leksinof
Nathan Jim
Chris Blackburn
Paul J. Hansen
Rodger T. Davies
Dave Pierce
Mark S. Lundsten
Peter Allan
Thomas L. Johnson
Bill Jacobson
Gordon Williams
Jeri Museth
Stanley E. Reddekopp
M. Stevens
Bruce Thomley
Charles Kekoni
Don Giles
Paul MacGregor
Rick Lauber

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

The meeting with the Board of Fisheries was called to order at 9:10 a.m. on March 29 by Clement V. Tillion. Mr. Tillion turned the meeting over to Jim Beaton, Chairman of the Alaska Board of Fisheries for the remainder of the joint meeting. The Council met separately beginning at 9:19 a.m. on March 31 and April 1 with Chairman Tillion presiding. Jim Branson requested that under Agenda item C-4, the Council consider approving the 1984 Salmon PSC Amendment for public review. *The agenda was approved with this addition. Harold Lokken moved to approve the minutes of the January, 1983 meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey and, there being no objection, the motion carried.*

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

Jim Branson introduced Ron Miller, the new Council staff assistant for halibut. He also informed the Council that LeRoy Sowl, Council alternate for Wm. Shreiner, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, has been transferred to Washington, D.C. Mr. Shreiner has designated Jon M. Nelson, USF&WS, as his new alternate.

Mr. Branson advised the Council of the President's Proclamation of the Exclusive Economic Zone and that Senator Packwood has asked the Council for comments on the EEZ.

The Council was told that the Pacific Council has approved the reinstatement of an Alaskan salmon troller on their salmon subpanel, contingent on NMFS approval of additional funding and the appointment of a salmon troller from the Pacific area to the NPFMC Advisory Panel. *Don Collinsworth moved that the Council direct the Executive Director to write to Pacific Council again stressing the importance of the re-appointment of an Alaskan salmon troller on their subpanel. Harold Lokken seconded the motion which carried with no objections.*

Mr. Branson advised the Council of requests from several other Councils to hold a Chairmen's meeting in the spring. *It was the consensus of the Council to advise postponement of a Chairmen's meeting at this time.*

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADF&G

ADF&G's written report on the domestic fisheries for 1982 indicates that the total (JVP+DAP) 1982 statewide pollock catch was 131,245.6 mt, with DAP (Domestic Annual Processing) amounting to only 2,352.4 mt. The total 1982 statewide catch of Pacific cod was 40,804.0 mt of which DAP was 27,030.6 mt. For sablefish, the DAP was 2,062.0 mt and the total catch was 2,197.3 mt.

B-3 Foreign Fisheries Report by NMFS

NMFS submitted a written report on the foreign fisheries. In the Gulf of Alaska, seven joint ventures using 18 foreign processors and 31 U.S. vessels caught a total of 84,102 mt (83,706 mt pollock and 396 mt other species). In the Bering Sea/Aleutians, one joint venture involving two foreign vessels and four U.S. vessels is currently operating. The catch figures were not available.

B-4 Enforcement and Surveillance Report by USCG

A written report was submitted by the Coast Guard. Since the last Council meeting sixteen reports of violation (civil penalty procedures) and seventeen citations (written warnings) have been issued. In addition, two foreign fishing vessels were seized for severe MFCMA infractions.

B-5 Joint Venture Operations

The Council received the following summary of joint ventures for the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea. Seven joint venture companies using up to 31 U.S. trawlers delivering to 18 foreign processing vessels caught 84,102 mt, almost all pollock, in the Shelikof Straits by March 12, 1983. Four of the companies were Japanese and three were from the Republic of Korea. At the time of the Council meeting, several companies were still working and pollock catches are expected to surpass 100,000 mt. This compares to a total groundfish catch by joint ventures last year in the Gulf of Alaska of 74,503 mt, mainly pollock. In the Bering Sea and Aleutians, only the Soviet/Marine Resources Company joint venture has operated so far this year. Their catch, using four U.S. trawlers, was about 3,000 mt of yellowfin sole by March 23 from the Cape Sarichef area.

Chairman Tillion referred to the use of the "fish and chips" policy wherein fishing allocations to foreign countries are often traded for commodities other than fisheries-related benefits that would help the U.S. fishing industry. The Council discussed the possibility of writing a letter to Deputy Asst. Secretary of State Kronmiller to express concern over this policy.

Keith Specking moved that the Executive Director compose a letter to be sent to Mr. Kronmiller on this subject. Bob Mace seconded the motion which carried with no objections.

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 Halibut Moratorium

Report of the Advisory Panel

Bob Alverson reported that the Advisory Panel voted 10 to 6 in favor of the concept of the moratorium. The AP approved the "Dual" moratorium concept (classifying vessels under 5 nt and over 5 nt for purposes of upgrading) by a vote of 9 to 2, with two abstentions. Mr. Alverson read Draft #2 for the "Dual" moratorium as drafted by P.J. Travers into the record. Council members were in possession of a copy of this draft.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

SSC Chairman Don Rosenberg reported that the SSC recognizes that implementation of a moratorium on entry into the halibut fishery is a necessary first step in the Council's desire to encourage the development of an economically viable and efficient year-round domestic hook and line fishery that is unconstrained by regulatory seasons. The SSC felt that the three options being considered by the Council would accomplish this objective if it is stipulated that the tonnage of any new vessel used in the fishery must be less than or equal in size to the one it replaces.

The SSC also discussed the transferability of rights granted under a moratorium. They identified two types of arrangements which could be used to transfer rights. The first, or market method, allows ease of transfer, low administrative costs, and prevention of the development of a black market for the rights; however, several SSC members were concerned over allowing the rights to acquire value which would be collected by the holder upon sale and also felt that allowing this to happen could narrow the range of possible alternatives that could be considered in the development of the final program. The second method, which uses a review board, would have the advantage of allowing the transfer of rights in hardship cases and prevent the rights from acquiring a legal market value; however this method would involve higher administrative costs than the market alternative and could possibly take longer for a transfer to be completed. The SSC also pointed out that if the Council adopts a "vessel" moratorium, the value of the right may be capitalized into the value of the vessel, creating an implicit market for the right.

Jim Branson advised the Council that the present draft does not prevent the incidental halibut harvest in the salmon troll fishery from expanding to a targeted halibut harvest. The draft also does not preclude those who are not eligible under the moratorium from fishing in the exempted area set aside for the Alaskan rural villagers in the Bering Sea and north of 56°N.

Ron Miller, NPFMC staff, proposed two amendments to deal with these situations. The first, submitted by the St. Paul Island Halibut Fishermen, and Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn., reads as follows:

(a)(1) From 12:01 a.m., Alaska Standard Time on May 1, 1983 until 11:59 p.m., Alaska Standard Time on December 31, 1985, no person may harvest and sell halibut for commercial purposes from the Northern Pacific Ocean or the Bering Sea unless that person has lawfully harvested and sold halibut for commercial purposes and reported such sale to the extent required by law at any time between January 1, 1978 and December 31, 1982, provided that residents of rural coastal villages north of 56° latitude may also harvest and sell halibut for commercial purposes in areas of the Bering Sea north of 56°N latitude.

The second, provided by staff, reads as follows:

(4) Nothing in this regulation shall be interpreted to allow those persons who legally harvested and sold halibut incidentally while participating in the Alaskan salmon troll fisheries during the time period described in paragraph (a)(1) to harvest halibut during the term of this moratorium in a manner other than incidentally to the salmon troll fisheries.

Mr. Tillion also suggested the date in section 301.15(a)(1)(B)(ii) be changed to March 31, 1983. The Council requested Pat Travers to incorporate the requested changes into the draft.

Public Testimony

Henry Mitchell, Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn. Has submitted a proposal to be included in the final rule to close the Bering Sea to halibut fishing. Right now anyone can fish in the Bering sea; the current rule did not close it to those who can legally fish halibut. Sees the possibility of a significant increase in effort in Area 4C.

Charles Kekoni, Association of Halibut Fishermen. Most fishermen are inadequately informed on the moratorium. Mr. Kekoni requested the Council to hold more public hearings and postpone a decision on the moratorium. He feels that those fishermen requesting the moratorium are the affluent fishermen, not the smaller ones. The moratorium does not address limitations on incidental catches of halibut in other fisheries; would like to see more pressure put on incidental catches.

Peter Allan, Kodiak Halibut Fishermen. There is a difference in the proposed moratorium and the draft which was originally distributed for public comment. He feels the moratorium is inconsistent with the MFCMA, freezes flexibility of fishermen to diversify, and does not provide for an appeal system.

Richard Goldsmith, Coalition for Open Ocean Fisheries. The moratorium is actually a limited-access system even though it is temporary in nature. The Council has been shortsighted in perceiving the effect it will have on fishermen. It may also have a "domino" effect on other fisheries, foment injustices and limit competition. He feels there are no conservation, marketing, or social reasons for limiting the access for halibut. The proposed moratorium is not resource management, just limiting access.

Stan Reddenkopp, Juneau. He sunk his boat in February. He feels the proposed rule for replacement of vessels is too restrictive. He would like to buy a larger boat, but not in the time frame set up. He would like to suggest a review committee for special hardship cases.

Tom Johnson, Seward. He has been a commercial fisherman since 1970, fishing halibut since 1971. He is wary of the moratorium because it seems to be leading toward the share system method of limited entry. This stifles competition among fishermen. He thinks the size limit on vessels is discriminatory.

Greg Baker, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Assn. Endorses the dual option as presented by the Advisory Panel. The proposed amendment to exclude troll incidental catch might have some possibilities, but has not been in the public comment period or addressed by the AP.

Mark Lundsten, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union. Supports moratorium. Need to limit effort. Feels there should be some sort of method of transferability and urges special care in dealing with this provision.

Public Testimony was concluded.

Council members discussed the moratorium provisions at some length. Harold Lokken said he was concerned with the Pribilof Island section, fearing that it might set a precedent for other villages who want their area to be excluded.

Harold Lokken moved that Section (e) restricting troll gear to an incidental fishery be stricken from the draft. The motion was seconded by Gene Didonato. The motion carried with Bob McVey voting no.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding whether eligibility determination hearings and appeals procedures to consider hardship cases should be provided in the moratorium regulation. Patrick Travers described how someone could call the National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Office or the Council office to get a determination of their eligibility to fish during the moratorium. Mr. Travers also detailed the appeal process that currently exists in the civil penalty proceedings that would be utilized during the moratorium. Mr. Travers then explained that the eligibility criteria in the proposed rule was drafted in a manner that limited agency discretion in determining who could fish during the moratorium. After it was pointed out that this restriction on agency discretion was intended to remove the need for a full-fledged administrative hearing process similar to that used by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, the Council did not further discuss the need for a hardship appeal procedure.

Pat Travers advised the Council of the proposed changes in section (2), "Residents of rural coastal villages of Alaska to the west of 156 degrees west longitude may harvest halibut in areas of the Bering Sea to the north of 56 degrees north latitude and sell that halibut."

Jim Campbell moved that the Council adopt the changes proposed by Pat Travers. The motion was seconded by Keith Specking and carried with no objections.

Mr. Campbell asked that the Council be kept informed of any complaints and/or problems which might arise as a result of the moratorium so they could be addressed. Don Collinsworth suggested a need for a method of tracking the progress for use by

other Councils or states. He suggested that an oversight meeting be held in a a year to evaluate it. *It was the consensus of the Council that the Executive Director shall keep the Council up to date on the moratorium.*

COUNCIL ACTION

Harold Lokken moved that the Council approve the moratorium as revised. The motion was seconded by Keith Specking and carried with Jeff Stephan and Rudy Petersen voting no.

C-2 Halibut Limited Entry

Dr. Robert L. Stokes of Northwest Resources Analysis provided the Council with an overview of his report, "Limited Entry in the Pacific Halibut Fishery: The Individual Quota Option." Dr. Stokes concluded his presentation with three possible alternatives for the Council to investigate: (1) continue development of the share system; (2) devise, from past experience, a license limitation program without fleet reduction; or (3) proceed with the parallel development of both.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Don Rosenberg reported that the SSC reviewed the March 8, 1983 draft of the report, "Limited Entry in the Pacific Halibut Fishery: The Individual Quota Option." The Committee noted that in the absence of an appendix which describes the assumptions and methods used to estimate the benefits and costs of the proposed limited entry program presented in the report, it was impossible for the Committee to complete its review of the document. Because of the interest that exists among members of the fishing community relative to how they would be affected by the share system, the SSC recommends that a condensed version of the document be prepared by Council staff. The SSC will also submit, at a later date, minor editorial comments to the contractor.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Bob Alverson reported that the Advisory Panel advises the Council that all work and expenses on the halibut limited entry study be terminated until September when industry people can get together and study the problem of a particular limited entry scheme. They also suggested that any further studies be written in a less scientific language so that the general public can better understand how such a system would affect them.

Public Testimony

Mark Lundsten, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union. Mr. Lundsten said that for the purpose of designing a limited entry system he would like to see a group specifically appointed to deal with the subject and would like all groups affected by limited entry to have input.

Eric Jordan, Sitka, agreed with Mr. Lundsten's suggestion. Mr. Jordan said he felt that the Council should expend an amount equal to that spent on the halibut limited entry share-quota study on at least two other viable limited entry options. He feels that the only reason many organizations voted for the moratorium is because they saw it as completely separated from a "share quota" limited entry system. He feels that there is great opposition to this particular method of limited entry.

Chuck Kekoni, Association of Alaska Halibut Fishermen, suggested that when the Stokes report goes out to the public, the Council should indicate to the public that it is not a part of the moratorium in order to avoid confusion. He also suggested that in the future, study groups should have equal geographical representation, i.e., representatives from Southeast, Southcentral, Bering Sea, etc.

Public testimony was concluded.

It was the concensus of the Council that the SSC's recommendation to have Council staff prepare a summary of the Stokes report for public distribution should be accepted.

Jim Branson suggested to the Council that a workgroup be appointed to evaluate such a synopsis so that it can be completed and put out for public comment before the next Council meeting. Chairman Tillion said he would appoint such a group.

Don Collinworth suggested that the Executive Director and Council staff, or the workgroup, could re-evaluate and restate the objectives of limited entry. *It was the concensus of the Council that this could be done by staff and workgroup when developing the synopsis.*

C-3 Foreign Permit Applications

The Council received five foreign permit applications for review: Permit #JA-83-0620 for the RYUSHO MARU NO. 18, a Japanese longliner, to receive sablefish from U.S. fishermen; a request for a Soviet joint venture for herring, Permit #JA-83-0566 to add the Gulf of Alaska to the permit of the KYOWA MARU NO. 11; a Spanish joint venture for cod and pollock; and permit #PO-83-0013 for the Portugese vessels VIMEIRO and S. RAFAEL. The Council received public testimony before hearing the Permit Review Committee's report.

Public Testimony

Don Giles, representing Icicle Seafoods, testified against the the permit application submitted by Japan for the longline/sablefish joint venture. Mr. Giles said that Icicle Seafoods and other American processors have the facilities to handle black cod and are ready and willing to do so.

Nancy Gross, City Administrator, City of Akutan. Ms. Gross presented testimony outlining the importance of the fisheries and processors to her city. A large portion of the city budget is derived from taxes on fish. She urged the Council to assist Trident Seafoods in their negotiations with the Portugese and to approve the Portugese permit application.

Paul MacGregor, representing the North Pacific Longline-Gillnet Assn. briefly described the proposed joint venture for the Japanese longline/processor RYUSHO MARU NO. 18 to receive 400 mt of black cod and other incidentally taken species from U.S. longline vessels in the West Yakutat area in August, 1983. He feels this joint venture will provide a market for longline vessels in an area which is remote from traditional U.S. fishing grounds and will promote westward expansion of the U.S. fishery. The operation also affords an opportunity for U.S. longliners to explore a new area without having to incur the costs of running time and fuel expenses and without competition from foreign fishing vessels. Mr. MacGregor cited several other advantages of the operation, which were presented to the Council in written form.

Greg Baker, Sitka longliner, spoke in favor of the Japanese joint venture for black cod. He is part of the group of longliners which would take part in the operation. Because of the travel time between this fishing area and the nearest processor, he feels this venture will not take business away from U.S. processors as fishermen are not likely to participate if they have to deliver to U.S. processors. He feels that without this joint venture, U.S. longliners are not likely to harvest the 400 mt at all. The Japanese are also offering to cease fishing in that area during this joint venture, thus eliminating the competition and possibility of gear conflicts. Mr. Baker feels this joint venture is the most expeditious way to harvest the OY in this particular area.

Charles Bundrant, Trident Seafoods, spoke on the Portugese request for a directed allocation. He asked the Council to request Governor Sheffield to arrange a meeting between Portugese and U.S. officials to facilitate a direct allocation contingent on the Portugese buying a suitable tonnage of salted cod from Trident Seafoods.

Rick Lauber, Pacific Seafood Processors Assn., advised the Council that most of the processors are in opposition to the Japanese joint venture for sablefish. Processors were not contacted before the longliners began plans for this joint venture. He feels that U.S. processors are willing and able to handle the sablefish and he is therefore opposed to the granting of this application.

Public testimony was concluded.

Report of the Permit Review Committee

Committee Chairman Keith Specking reported for the Committee which includes Rudy Petersen, Bob McVey, Joe Kurtz, and Jim Campbell. Deputy Director Clarence Pautzke also attended.

The Committee deferred action on the USSR/Marine Resources joint venture herring request until after agenda item D-2 has been considered.

The Committee recommended against approval of the Japanese sablefish joint venture request based on a desire to encourage the continued development of Alaska's shoreside processing capability.

The Committee recommended that the Council approve the request by the Japanese medium stern trawler, KYOWA MARU NO. 11 to add the Gulf of Alaska to its existing permit to fish for groundfish in the Bering Sea/Aleutians area.

The Committee deferred action on the Spanish request for a Pacific cod and pollock allocation in the Gulf of Alaska because the permit application was administratively incomplete.

The Committee recommended that the Council approve the Portugese request for a Pacific cod and pollock allocation in the Gulf of Alaska only if Portugal commits to buy a major tonnage of Pacific cod from U.S. shore-based processors at an acceptable market price. The Committee recommended that the Council be provided with a signed contract detailing this commitment to purchase before any fishing privileges are granted to Portugal.

Council Action

Jim Campbell moved to deny the joint venture permit application from Spain. Harold Lokken seconded the motion. There being no objections, the motion carried.

Jim Campbell moved that the Council approve the permit application from Japan for the medium stern trawler, KYOWA MARU NO. 11 to add the Gulf to its current bottomfish permit. Bob Mace seconded the motion, which carried with no objections.

Bob Mace moved to approve the application from the RYUSHO MARU NO. 18 for the Japanese sablefish joint venture. The motion was seconded by Harold Lokken and the motion carried 6-4, with Stephan, McVey, Specking, and Campbell voting against.

Keith Specking moved that the Portugese request be approved contingent on the commitment of Portugal to purchase a major tonnage of Pacific cod from U.S. shore-based processors at an acceptable market price, with a signed document detailing this commitment provided to the Council before any fishing privileges are granted. Bob Mace seconded the motion which carried with no objections.

Harold Lokken moved that the Council approve in principle the Marine Resources Co./USSR proposed joint venture under the conditions proposed by Marine Resources Company. Bob Mace seconded the motion, which failed with Stephan, McVey, Specking, Campbell, Collinsworth, and Tillion opposed.

C-4 Other Business

Jim Branson asked the Council to approve for public review the 1984-85 Salmon PSC Amendment for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Groundfish Fishery. The figures for the 1984-85 PSC proposed for public review are: For 1984, the total for salmon would be 38,441 with 35,750 chinook, for 1985, 27,957 with 26,000 chinook.

COUNCIL ACTION

Bob Mace moved that the 1984-1985 Salmon PSC Amendment be approved by the Council for public review. The motion was seconded, and carried with no objection.

D. Fishery Management Plans

D-1 Salmon FMP

Staff Reports

Review of 1982 Salmon Troll Fisheries

Dave Cantillon, Al Davis, and Mel Siebel, ADF&G, reviewed the 1982 troll salmon fisheries for Alaska.

Dave Cantillon briefly described the report, "Salmon Trolling West of Cape Suckling," prepared by the Division of Commercial Fisheries, ADF&G. The report included the status of the king and coho stocks of the Central Gulf of Alaska and the Cook Inlet troll fishery. Mr. Cantillon advised that the troll catch figures in this report are minimal because many trollers may have reported their catch in Southeast.

Salmon PDT Report

Jim Glock, NPFMC, reported for the PDT. The winter troll catch through March 14, 1983, was estimated to be about 22,000 chinook. ADF&G projects the total winter fishery (through April 14) catch will be approximately 25,000-30,000 chinook, more than twice the historical average.

The PDT, in their November 3, 1982 draft report, identified the stock status, distribution and magnitude of conservation needs of important natural north migrating chinook salmon stocks and recommended a general management approach that would directly address the immediate conservation needs of those stocks. The Team concluded that many natural chinook salmon stocks are experiencing extreme conservation problems. The Team recommended

that to avert the possible loss of some severely depressed stocks as viable contributors to the fisheries, and to promote the recovery of depressed stocks, immediate action in the form of harvest reductions is necessary. The Team further recommended that chinook harvest quotas or ceilings be developed and implemented for all ocean salmon fisheries beginning with the 1983 season, and that their implementation be coordinated between jurisdictions where stock distributions overlap. The conservation actions should be coordinated on a coastwide basis.

For the 1983 season, the PDT recommends the following:

The coastwide chinook salmon fisheries should be managed in a coordinated manner consistent with the goals of conservation and stock rebuilding outlined in the draft U.S./Canada Treaty. These included (a) arresting declining trends observed in many important coastal chinook salmon stocks by the end of 1984, and (b) rebuilding those depressed stocks to optimum production levels over the next two cycles, or approximately ten years.

With respect to arresting declining escapement trends, fisheries in Southeast Alaska and certain major fisheries in British Columbia should be managed in 1983 at jointly agreed to levels below recent years. Following the 1983 season, the impact of these actions on chinook escapements should be assessed and the necessity for any further catch reductions in 1984 determined.

Without such joint action between the countries, and with the 1982 level of harvest in Canada, it would be necessary to further reduce the Southeast Alaska harvest impacts to achieve conservation goals for southern U.S. stocks similar to the goals embodied in the proposed treaty. The magnitude of this reduction would probably be equivalent to elimination of directed chinook harvest in Southeast Alaska.

The PDT also addressed the chinook salmon harvest guideline accounting period. The accounting period for the 1981-82 seasons, October 1 through September 30, was originally established to ensure that adequate catch was provided for the winter troll fishery, which occurs from October 1 through April 14. Although this accounting period adequately addresses the objectives of winter fishery management, it contributed to another management problem in 1982. A combination of a lower catch limit and unusually high catch rates resulted in the troll chinook salmon fishery being closed July 28. Between the time the coho season reopened on August 8 and the end of the summer season on September 20, chinook salmon hooked incidentally while fishing for other salmon, primarily coho, had to be released. On

the basis of reported observations by many troll fishermen, large numbers of chinook salmon were hooked and released with a significant (but unknown) mortality of the released fish.

The PDT feels that a reoccurrence of this problem could be prevented in most years by utilizing a different catch accounting period, July 1 through June 30. Under this system, chinook salmon for all fisheries except the troll fishery would be tabulated on a calendar year basis as before. The troll fishery catch would be compiled from July 1 through June 30 of the following year. The primary benefit of this counting period is that it would generally allow the troll fishery to be open to all species fishing through most of the coho season, from approximately July 1 through September 20, less any closures required for coho management. This would eliminate the need for chinook-only closures and the undesirable hook and release mortalities. Past chinook salmon catch rates during the July 1 through September 20 period indicate that adequate catch would normally remain for the winter fishery given current catch limit levels.

Adoption of the July 1 to June 30 accounting period would not impact management of the 1983 fishery since the fishery would still be managed to achieve the 1983 harvest guideline during the October 1, 1982 to September 20, 1983 period. Simultaneously, the accounting of the new OY year would begin on July 1, 1983 and end on June 30, 1984.

The Team believes that adoption of the July 1 - June 30 accounting period has potential merit in the fact that it: (1) virtually eliminates the probability of chinook-only closures, as occurred in 1982, unless harvest guidelines are restricted to the point that the entire amount can be taken in less than the July 1 to September 20 period, and (2) it allows more complete evaluation of the all gear chinook salmon catches, escapements, etc., prior to fulfillment of the harvest ceiling.

Although the Team believes the concept may have substantial merit, the full implications of the new accounting year have not yet been fully analyzed. Concern was expressed by some team members that the new accounting year might: (1) orient management philosophy toward the quota concept, and (2) have some undesirable biological impact on the chinook stocks due to deviating from the traditional harvest patterns. The Team recommended that the Council tentatively approve the July 1-June 30 accounting year pending full evaluation of its impacts and reserve their final decision on implementing the change until the recommended evaluation is complete in January 1984.

Due to the present uncertainty concerning the U.S./Canada treaty and the Southeast Alaska harvest guideline for 1983, the PDT did not offer any new season options at this meeting. However, it was noted that, at the January 1983 joint Council/ Board meeting in

Juneau, the PDT presented three season options based on the 243,000 Southeast Alaska harvest guideline for 1983 contained in the proposed treaty.

Dave Cantillon, ADF&G, briefly discussed the option for changing the OY accounting year. Starting the accounting year on July 1 would ensure that fishing could occur during the peak of the coho season. Chinooks could be taken along with the cohos, thus avoiding the single-species problems. Whether the harvest ceiling could be reached during the July 1-September 20 period would depend on availability, targeting, ratio of values between cohos and kings, etc. From a biological and possibly economic standpoint, it would not be desirable to take the entire harvest of chinooks during a short period, so other means may be necessary to slow down the chinook catch rate. A coho-only fishery in September when the chinook availability is down could be opened if necessary.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Clarence Pautzke, NPFMC, presented the report of the Advisory Panel. The Advisory reaffirmed its action during the January meeting in Juneau regarding salmon issues--the AP went on record as opposed to the proposed U.S./Canada treaty. The AP also advised the Council to request ADF&G to design a season using historical catch data that results in a commercial catch of approximately 285,000 to 288,000 chinook salmon. In addition the Advisory Panel took exception to the Canadian Embassy Memoire (included in the Council notebooks) and stated that the State of Alaska is dedicated to the conservation of chinook salmon. The AP further stated that it deplores the concept of management by threat that leads to the practice of species annihilation, specifically with regard to chinook and Fraser River sockeye salmon, and challenged the Canadians to match the conservation practices on salmon by the Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries, with or without a treaty.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Don Rosenberg reported that the SSC strongly supports the PDT statement that unified coastwide management of chinook salmon is essential. They believe it is not possible to achieve unified coastwide management without implementation of a U.S./Canada Treaty.

The SSC recommends further evaluation of the PDT's proposal to change the troll fishery accounting schedule. This could result in a restriction of the winter troll fishery and would throw the brunt of curtailment onto the spring fishery, including the likelihood of complete closure.

The SSC also recommended that further analyses are needed to form the basis for choice between chinook management options. The analyses should include (1) evaluation of coded wire tags and

other data on stock composition and maturity of chinook taken at different seasons of the year, (2) further evaluation of the extent of hooking mortality of chinook in a coho-only fishery and means of reducing or avoiding this mortality, (3) evaluation of the possible use of selected time-area closures suggested by the PDT to reduce in-season chinook catch rates during the coho season, and (4) consideration of the potential increase in catches during the winter chinook fishery. The SSC is preparing a request for funding to assist the PDT in making these evaluations, and recommends that such evaluations be completed in time for review at the December Council meeting. The evaluations must be completed before the SSC can make any recommendations on regulations for achieving chinook harvest goals.

U.S./Canada Treaty

The Council and Board received a presentation from Michael Hunter, Rob Morley, and Ken Pitre, DFO, Canada, on Canada's salmon conservation efforts and presented average catch figures for 1982.

Mr. Hunter noted that in Canada there is also some opposition to the proposed treaty. He expressed concerns about assumptions behind opposition to the treaty. He said that it cannot be assumed that Canada can continue its current enhancement programs when the original agreement expires; there has been some discussion about loss of funding for the programs.

The following 1982 chinook average-catch statistics were presented:

	<u>1982</u>	<u>1980-81</u>
West Coast Troll	521,000	438,000
North Coast Adults	347,000	321,000
South Coast Adults	404,000	642,000
Jacks (under 5 lbs)	28,000	71,000
TOTAL	1,300,000	1,472,000

Mr. Hunter advised that these figures were first estimates and may be revised at a later date. He pointed out that the figures presented show that Canada has reduced its catches from the 1980-81 levels.

Fundamental to the treaty are two points: (1) there is a critical conservation problem with natural runs of chinooks returning to northern and central B.C. and to the Fraser River, and certain stocks to the Columbia River; and (2) not only must the decline in depressed natural runs be halted, but a rebuilding program must be undertaken. To stop the decline, the technical experts have said a 15 percent reduction in the exploitation rate of these depressed natural stocks is needed. Canada's proposed management plan for 1983, which is consistent with the proposed

treaty (Annex IV), puts the total catch not to exceed 868,000. Breakdown, by fisheries, follows:

<u>Fishery</u>	<u>1980-81 Avg</u>	<u>'83 Catch Ceiling</u>
North Net	96,000	80,000
North Troll	249,000	210,000
North Sport	20,000	17,000
South Net	79,000	16,000
South Troll	260,000	218,000
South Sport	<u>380,000</u>	<u>277,000</u>
TOTAL	1,034,000	868,000

Under a treaty situation, Canada is prepared to manage its fisheries and to close fisheries when these ceilings are achieved. The treaty did not specifically address the question of the West Coast Vancouver Island troll fishery. It is important that the savings from the limitations of fisheries in Alaska and in North and Central B.C. not be transferred into other fisheries--they must end up on the spawning grounds. The concern is that these fish will be "mopped up" on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Also, there is a general obligation in the treaty that interceptions not be allowed to increase over recent levels. Canada would propose, in 1983, to impose a catch ceiling on the west coast of Vancouver Island troll fishery of approximately 500,000 fish and to institute a catch monitoring program to make the best efforts to ensure catch ceilings will be achieved.

Canada feels that these management actions, under the intent of the treaty, would result in halting the decline of the natural chinook stocks and begin the rebuilding process. A situation would be created where the economics and biology of enhancement facilities in Canada and the U.S. can proceed with a greater degree of certainty and more enhancement facilities could be put into place that would contribute to chinook salmon fisheries up and down the coast. Reductions would be required in 1983 in keeping with the treaty; these levels will not necessarily remain the same forever. There are no guarantees, but Canada believes that the best scientific evidence and projections available would give the opportunity in the future for both sides to reassert fisheries on chinooks.

Public testimony was received on this agenda item and is included with these minutes as Appendix I.

Council Action

Harold Lokken moved that a letter be drafted to the Secretary of State outlining the Council's conclusions on the treaty. The motion was seconded by Don Wilkerson and carried unanimously.

The Council concluded that a treaty between Canada and the U.S. is essential if the salmon resources of the two countries are to be saved from destruction. The Council stressed the need for immediate effort by the two countries to reconcile remaining differences in the proposed treaty. Following such efforts, the Council will express its view on the proposed treaty.

In regard to the proposed change in the accounting year, *it was the consensus of the Council that Don Collinsworth would express the Council's concerns to the Board of Fisheries.*

The Council discussed harvest levels for the 1983 season. *It was the consensus of the Council that there would be no change from last year's harvest guideline of 255,500.*

D-2 Herring FMP

Staff Reports

Jim Glock reported on the findings of the Herring Workgroup at their March 2 meeting. The Workgroup made three recommendations for specific changes and recommended that the Council consider specific options in dealing with certain other issues. The recommended changes are:

1. OY apply to the entire herring resource;
2. The Nelson Island biomass not be used in determining the ABC; and
3. reference to a mandatory logbook program be eliminated, but that collection of effort data be allowed if necessary for management.

The Workgroup also recommended that the Council consider the following:

1. a new OY formulation;
2. a "guaranteed" annual 5,000 mt experimental/research fishery in the FCZ by either
 - (a) commercial vessels, or
 - (b) a state-chartered research cruise;and
3. eliminating AIC from OY and the formula for OY determination.

The PDT presented written discussion of the exploitation rate and ABC and their appropriateness for offshore fishing.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Bob Alverson, Chairman of the Advisory Panel, reaffirmed the position the Advisory Panel took during the December 1982 meeting. (The Panel voted 11 to 4 to recommend that no herring

fishing be allowed outside of State waters, and that the herring FMP delegate management to the State of Alaska.) At that meeting, the Panel also recommended that the Bering Sea Herring FMP be amended so that it expresses a need for research to identify stock abundance and segregation before herring are harvested outside three miles.

The Panel voted to advise the Council to deny the joint venture application of Marine Resources Company and the U.S.S.R.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Don Rosenberg reiterated the SSC's support of the herring FMP as submitted for Secretarial review. The SSC feels that the March version of the plan contains adequate measures to protect the subsistence stocks and, therefore, that any offshore allocation provided for by the plan could be safely harvested. In reference to the specific recommendations of the Herring Workgroup, the SSC responded as follows:

(1) That OY apply to the entire herring resource.
The SSC concurs.

(2) That the Nelson Island biomass be exempted in determining the ABC. The SSC concurs and recommends that the March plan be so modified.

(3) That reference to a mandatory logbook program be eliminated, but that collection of effort data be allowed if necessary for management.

The SSC concurs and recommends that the March plan be so modified.

The SSC discussed the remaining Workgroup issues and responded as follows:

(1) A new OY formulation. In light of the plan objectives, the SSC cannot support the new OY formulation or a guaranteed annual offshore fishery. An experimental/research fishery should be evaluated based on the status of the resource and the specific plan for that fishery, and should not be made a part of the FMP.

(2) Eliminating AIC from OY and the OY formula. The SSC opposes this change. They believe that the incidental catch of herring should be included in the total OY and counted in the same manner that all other catches are counted. Further, the SSC sees no scientific merit in establishing herring as a prohibited species. The AIC procedure allows herring to be retained but stops all fishing when the AIC level is reached.

The SSC reported that they were only able to provide a superficial review of the experimental/research fishery proposal. Based upon this, the SSC provided the following:

(1) Given the status of the resource, the SSC feels that an experimental fishery at this time will not be detrimental to the resource. The magnitude of this fishery needs to be assessed based on current information on status of stocks.

(2) The SSC still feels that data on offshore distribution and age structure of the stocks will be of benefit in the development of the management plan.

If the Council wishes to proceed with the development of the research/experimental fishery, the SSC will review any plans in detail and make recommendations on experiment design and magnitude.

Public Testimony

Paul Kelly, Bristol Bay Herring Co-op. This FMP has a large impact on the local fishermen. One of the main concerns is the possibility of an offshore fishery affecting the stocks. Don't have the enforcement capabilities to manage a offshore fishery for herring. Doesn't think the 10,000 mt experimental fishery proposal can be justified.

Joe McGill, Bristol Bay Herring Marketing Co-op (over 200 fishermen). Unanimously opposed to any offshore herring fishery. With good inshore management, local inshore fleet is capable of taking the total harvest.

Henry Mitchell, Bering Sea Fishermens Assn. At the January Council meeting Mr. Mitchell conveyed the Association's disapproval of a herring FMP. They still do not feel there is a need for one at this time. However, they do feel there is a need for further study to get some idea of the biomass.

Mick Stevens, Marine Resources Company. Mr. Stevens said he feels that the priorities of the FMP are overly conservative and highly inequitable. Feels the Council should listen to the recommendations of the SSC. He requested the Council should approve an experimental fishery outside the plan and allow the SSC more time for evaluation. Mr. Stevens also submitted a proposal from Marine Resources Company for a herring research/experimental production project in the Eastern Bering Sea. The proposal was included in Council notebooks and is part of the record of this meeting.

Mark Roy, Bering Sea herring fisherman. Mr. Roy has reservations about the research/experimental fishery proposal from Marine Resources Co. He feels that an experimental fishery of 10,000 mt

seems to be too large and does not believe it falls within the FCMA. Until the problems with the management plan have been solved, and the PDT has come up with an OY, this experimental fishery is not practical.

End of public testimony.

COUNCIL ACTION

Gene Didonato moved that the Council submit the March 1982 Herring FMP for Secretarial review, incorporating the recommendations on the Nelson Island biomass and mandatory logbook changes as expressed in the SSC's report. Bob Mace seconded the motion. The motion failed with Stephan, McVey, Specking, Campbell, Collinsworth, and Tillion voting against.

Harold Lokken moved that the Council approve in principle a research/experimental fishery of 5,000 mt in the FCZ under the conditions proposed by Marine Resources Company and to prepare the FMP to reflect the intent of this motion and the recommendations of the SSC. Bob Mace seconded the motion. The motion failed with Stephan, McVey, Specking, Campbell, Collinsworth, and Tillion opposed.

Don Collinsworth moved that the modified revision package for the FMP, incorporating recommendations #2 and #3 of the Workgroup be prepared. The motion was seconded by Jeff Stephan and carried with no objections.

Bob Mace moved that recommendation #1 of the Herring Workgroup, that the OY apply to the entire herring resource be approved by the Council. Seconded by Gene Didonato. The motion failed with Stephan, McVey, Specking, Campbell, Collinsworth, and Tillion voting against.

McVey moved that AIC be deleted from the OY formula. No second.

Bob McVey then moved that the AIC become a Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) for foreign vessels. No second.

Bob McVey then moved that the PDT make the approved changes to the Plan and submit them to the Council at the May meeting for final approval. Motion seconded by Harold Lokken. There being no objections, the motion carried.

D-3 King Crab FMP

Staff Reports

Status of the FMP

Steve Davis, NPFMC, reported that the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BS/AI) King Crab FMP, the RIR, and implementing regulations were submitted for Secretarial review on June 1, 1982. The review

period has been extended pending receipt of minor editorial and technical changes to the FMP, the final Environmental Impact Statement, and revised set of implementing regulations. It is anticipated that the Secretary will act on the King Crab FMP in the near future.

Problems have been identified in the FMP with the procedure for determining ABC and OY values as described in both the Board's and Council's king crab plans. The problems are caused by significant declines in the number of fertilized female king crab and the overall depressed condition of the crab stocks. While current procedure works well when the crab stocks are healthy, it fails to provide the necessary guidance under poor stock conditions. The PMT submitted a written report, included in the Council and Board notebooks, and Mr. Davis provided an oral presentation which summarized the problems with the procedure and recommended technical changes to solve them. Those changes are shown under 'Council/Board Action' on this agenda item.

Bering Sea and Aleutian King Crab & Westward Region Tanner Crab

Marty Eaton, ADF&G, reported on the results of the 1982-83 king crab commercial fisheries and projected harvest for the 1983-84 fisheries.

A fleet of 11 vessels harvested 63,949 crab weighing 228,921 pounds in the Norton Sound Section of the Bering Sea. The 1982 harvest was 1.1 million pounds less than the 1981 harvest and 300,000 pounds less than the low end of the guideline. The stock status for the same area is increasing and a harvest of 200,000 to 300,000 pounds could be expected using a 10 percent exploitation rate.

A fleet of 96 vessels harvested 8,844,789 pounds of blue king crab in the Northern District before it was closed by emergency order on August 16. The final harvest exceeded the high end of the guideline by almost two million pounds, surpassing the 1981-82 harvest by 4.2 million pounds. NMFS biologists have calculated that 8 to 13 million pounds will be available for harvest in the 1983 fishery.

In the Pribilof District, 4,405,353 pounds of blue king crab was harvested by 122 vessels. The final catch was 600,000 pounds lower than the low end of the forecast. The population of legal males is declining and a 2 to 4 million pound harvest is expected for the 1983-84 season.

In Bristol Bay Area T the final catch of red king crab was 3,001,210 pounds landed by 90 vessels before the season was closed on October 10 to protect female fecundity. The number of legal crab appears to be increasing in the area and a 4 to 9 million pound guideline is projected for 1983.

Ninety-three vessels landed 431,179 pounds of red king crab in Dutch Harbor Area O between November 1 and January 15. The red

king crab populations appear to be severely depressed. Information collected this season suggests that the area also has serious female fecundity problems and chances of large area closures for the 1983-84 season are possible.

Between November 1 and February 15, 49 vessels delivered 1,184,971 pounds of brown king crab. With the decline in red king crab stocks, greater effort is expected to occur in 1983-84. The only information available on brown king crab in this area has been obtained by vessel interviews, which indicate to date fishing has occurred in the Western District. The possibility of crab being available in other areas is highly probable, which should increase the 1983-84 harvest.

In Adak Area R, 72 vessels caught 1,701,818 pounds of red king crab between November 1 and January 15. The stock appears fairly stable and a .5 to 3 million pound harvest is forecast for the 1983-84 season. As of March 20, the harvest of brown king crab was 5.4 million pounds. A closure announcement was made for April 15. The harvest is expected to reach 6.5 million pounds. If the area fished in 1983 continues to produce, a two-to-five million pound harvest could be expected for 1983-84.

A fleet of approximately 350 vessels fished Tanner crab season in the Kodiak District before the entire district was closed in one emergency order. Preliminary final catch figures are near 18.5 million pounds. A survey will be done in July to determine population estimates for 1984. Information gathered during the fishery indicates that the harvest should be equal or greater than 1983 because of the large abundance of prerecruit crab.

In the Chignik area, approximately 70 vessels delivered 3.6 million pounds of Tanner crab between February 10 and March 10. The harvest was at the upper end of the preseason guideline of 2.25 to 3.75 million pounds.

In the South Peninsula District 70 vessels landed 2.7 million pounds, 300,000 pounds less than the forecasted guideline of 3.0 to 4.5 million pounds. Both districts will be surveyed in July of 1983 and an abundance estimate will be available by December. Information collected from the fleet indicated a similar harvest can be expected in 1984.

The Tanner crab fisheries in the Eastern and Western Aleutians were in progress at the time of the report. The harvest, through March 20, for the Eastern Aleutians was 349,000 pounds and 385,000 pounds for the Western Aleutians. The final harvest in the Eastern Aleutians should reach 800,000 pounds and 400,000 pounds in the Western Aleutians. In the Bering Sea, the season was in progress at the time of the report. The Chionoecetes bairdi catch, through March 20, was at one million pounds and the final catch is expected to be near 10 million pounds. The C. opilio harvest through March 20 was two million pounds with an expected harvest of over 20 million pounds.

Results of the 1982 Trawl Survey by NMFS

Bob Otto, NMFS, reported on the trawl survey by the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center. There has been very little change in the status of stocks since last fall. Abundance of king crab in Bristol Bay is the lowest on record. In the Bering Sea there was a problem with unmated mature females last summer and this was part of the reason the fishery was closed earlier than anticipated.

Because of high mortalities of recruitment, two projections have been made. The higher projection would be about 8.7 million crab, about 45 to 46 million pounds with an average weight per crab of approximately 5.3 pounds. The lower of the two projections, based on a higher mortality rate, would be 4.3 million legal crab, about 23 million pounds with an average weight of about 5 pounds per crab. A number of things which happened in the fishery last year may have had some bearing on these projections. Perhaps the very intense fisheries for red king crab in the Bering Sea had something to do with the high mortalities of recruitment through by-catch. There will be a good opportunity to look at this problem over the next year because the effort in the fishery dropped from 540,000 pot lifts to 140,000 in 1982. If the higher mortalities have something to do with the rate of fishing, it should show up this next year.

Dr. Otto also reported that the blue king crab stock is down considerably. The fishery produced about 50 percent less than expected with surveys showing a drop in abundance from about 4.1 million crab to 2.2 million. Size frequency information indicates that there isn't much recruitment coming into this fishery. The projection is not very refined due to lack of available data, but the prognosis is poor. Increases in stock for next year are not expected.

The St. Matthew Island blue king crab fishery was the number one crab fishery in the Bering Sea area last year. The estimate of abundance for legal crab (5.5") was almost twice the previous year. A limited amount of data is available on golden (or brown) king crab biology. After analysis of the available data, the PMT recommends adoption of a legal size of 5.5" for the Northern District while maintaining the size limit of 6.5" in the southern districts of the Bering Sea and Aleutians.

Projected Catches for Bristol Bay Red King Crab

Jerry Reeves, NMFS-Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center, emphasized that the final 1983 harvest projections will have to await their trawl survey analysis this summer. The 1983 catch will probably not exceed 24 million pounds, but could be substantially less if female barrenness and high sublegal mortalities remain significant problems.

COUNCIL/BOARD ACTION:

Bob Mace moved that the Council adopt the PMT's recommendations for the following additions/changes to the King Crab Fishery Management Plan:

To be added to the Bristol Bay ABC section of the FMP: If the female spawning stock drops below the level which maximizes recruitment, either because of reduced clutch size, barrenness, or lowered abundance of mature females, the ABC will be based on the exploitation rates in Table 2 for depressed populations, applied to that part of the male stock above the minimum biological size.

Fifth Step to OY procedure:

If in the case an OY cannot be determined due to the female spawning stock dropping below the level which maximizes recruitment, either because of reduced clutch size, barrenness, or lowered abundance of mature females, the OY will equal the ABC as based on the exploitation rates in Table 2 for depressed populations.

The motion was seconded by Harold Lokken and carried unanimously.

Harry Sundberg, Board of Fisheries, moved that the Board concur with the Council's action. Ron Jolin seconded the motion which carried with no objections.

D-4 Tanner Crab FMP

Staff Reports

Steve Davis, NPFMC, provided the Council with a list of proposed regulatory changes for the 1983-84 Tanner crab fishery which could have a direct effect on the Tanner Crab FMP. Mr. Davis also reported that Amendment 9 of the FMP is in the Regional Office undergoing further development; Amendment 8 will be submitted for Secretarial Review within a few weeks; and Amendment 7 is currently at OMB and no date has been given for final publication and implementation.

Fred Gaffney, ADF&G, reported Tanner crab catches in the Southeastern-Yakutat area totaled approximately 2.9 million pounds in the Southeastern Alaska fishery and 72,000 pounds in the Yakutat fishery during the 1981-82 season. The harvest was a record high for the Southeastern area and a record low for the Yakutat area. During the 1982-83 fishing season the Southeastern fishery produced 962,000 pounds of Tanner crab. This fishery experienced a dramatic increase in fishing effort and an extremely short season. The 1982-83 Yakutat season remains open with very poor catches being reported.

In the Prince William Sound area, the total Tanner crab catch for the 1982-82 fishing season was 2.9 million pounds. Twenty-nine vessels participated in the fishery. The price averaged \$1.45/lb. The harvest was up slightly from the previous season,

but down significantly from the 14-year average of 5.2 million pounds. The 1982-83 season opened by regulation on November 15, 1982. Through March 9, 1.0 million pounds have been harvested. Recruitment to the fishery is generally poor. This situation is likely to continue through the 1983-84 season.

The 1981-82 Tanner crab harvest in Cook Inlet of 2.4 million pounds was 44 percent of the 14-year average. Vessel effort again decreased during the 1981-82 season to a four-year low of 51 boats. Ten processors participated in the fishery; price paid to the fishermen varied from \$1.00 to \$1.70 per pound. Catch per unit of effort declined from 13.8 crabs per pot during the 1980-81 season to 9.8 crabs per pot during the 1981-82 season. For the 1982-83 season, the Southern district opened December, 1982 and closed December 29 with a harvest of 600,000 pounds. To date, 1.0 million pounds from the Kamishak-Barren Island districts and 500,000 pounds for the Outer and Eastern districts have been landed.

Public Testimony for this agenda item is included in Appendix I to these minutes.

E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

E-1 Status of Contracts

Staff Report

The status of current Council contracts was briefly outlined for the Council in a memo from the Executive Director.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Contract 81-5: Incidental Salmon Catch Study. The SSC reviewed the quarterly report for October-December 1982 for the report entitled "Determination of Stock Origins of Chinook Salmon Incidentally Caught in Foreign Trawls in the Alaskan FCZ." The SSC found that work on the contract is proceeding satisfactorily and experiencing no difficulty.

Contract 82-4: Halibut Limited Entry Study. (See Minutes for Agenda item C-2.)

"Phase I Report - Fishermen's Perceptions of Halibut Limited Entry." The SSC determined that the authors of this report have made the revisions requested previously by the SSC. The SSC recommends that the document be released to the public after a qualifying statement has been added to both the Executive Summary and Introduction of the report to indicate that while fishermen's views on limited entry are presented in the report, no attempt was being made to examine their logical validity.

Contract 83-1: Social and Cultural Aspects of the Pacific Halibut Fishery. Due to limited time, the SSC did not review some proposed minor changes in the contract. The contract will be reviewed at the next SSC meeting. Members contacted did not see any problem with the proposed changes.

Proposals for FY/83 Funding

Joint Venture Trawl Logbook Interview and Collection Program.

The SSC reviewed the proposal to provide interim coverage at three major ports for the initial year of the joint venture logbook program. The effort proposed will be supplemental to the existing port sampling program of ADF&G and will rely heavily on that existing program for support. The SSC found that there is a significant cost savings to be realized by utilizing the existing ADF&G program and therefore recommends that the proposal be funded and that the contract be sole sourced to ADF&G.

Feasibility of Using Scale Pattern Analysis Methods to Identify

Bering Sea Herring Stocks. The SSC reviewed this proposal which was developed by the University of Washington and will rely heavily on the collection of scale samples by ADF&G personnel, NMFS foreign observers, and NMFS research vessels. The SSC recommends funding the proposed study and that the contract be sole sourced to the University of Washington. The SSC also noted that at least a second year of funding will be required at approximately the same level in order to effectively complete this work. Additionally, funding must be immediate so that the contractor can establish the required sampling program with ADF&G and NOAA personnel.

Photo-census of Sea Lion Pups in the Gulf of Alaska. The SSC recommends that the proposal for this study be developed and sent out for agency and SSC review. They recommend that the study be funded under this year's programmatic funding, if possible.

Analysis of data on stock distribution and hooking mortality in the chinook fishery. The SSC has identified the need for additional analyses regarding the various options proposed for management of the 1983 chinook salmon season. The required analyses were outlined in the SSC's written minutes. Since agency personnel will not be available to carry out the analyses in the time required, the SSC recommends that the Council provide the required support to carry out this analysis, at a cost of approximately \$20,000 to \$30,000.

FY/84 Programmatic Funds

The SSC reviewed requests for FY/84 programmatic funding and recommends that the two proposals received from the University of Alaska be sent out for agency review. In addition, the SSC has developed four additional proposals which they would like to have submitted for agency review. These additional proposals include Stock Assessment Methodology for Sablefish, Study Effects of Various System-wide Limited Entry Options on Fish Stocks,

Fishermen and Processors, a Lowell Wakefield Symposium on Non-fishing Induced Changes in Populations of Crustaceans, and the Economic Impacts of Fishing Activities on the Central and Western Regions of Alaska.

The SSC reported that in addition to these specific studies, the following additional funding may be required: \$130,000 for scientific studies in support of an experimental/research offshore herring fishery, if approved; \$50,000 for additional studies related to halibut limited entry; \$40,000 for additional research on the sablefish resource as identified by the symposium; and an unknown amount to study fiberglass inserts in king crab pots to reduce the incidental catch of halibut.

COUNCIL ACTION

Keith Specking moved that programmatic funding be approved for the joint venture trawl logbook program and the Bering Sea Herring Scale Analysis. Bob McVey seconded the motion. The motion carried with no objections.

It was the concensus of the Council that the remaining proposals be sent out for agency review.

Jeff Stephan moved that the Council approve the Fishermen's Perception report, with the stipulation recommended by the SSC. The motion was seconded and carried with no objections.

E-2 FY/83 Budget Review

With the passage of the federal budget, NPFMC will receive \$982,000 in administrative funds for FY/83, about 8 percent over the 1982 level. Most of the increase will support the new staff advisor on halibut. Of the \$751,300 approved by the Council for programmatic funds, NMFS has approved \$60,000 for ADF&G's "Management Plan Writing and Development", \$30,000 for a joint venture logbook program, and \$60,000 for herring scale analysis.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

G. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Clem Tillion thanked LeRoy Sowl, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for his contributions to the Council.

The meeting was ajourned at 4:29 p.m. on Friday, April 1, 1983.