

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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MINUTES
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
SIXTEENTH PLENARY SESSION
June 22nd and 23rd, 1978

The regular monthly meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council was held in Anchorage, Alaska at the Anchorage Westward-Hilton Hotel. An attendance roster of Council members, the SSC and AP and public is contained as Appendix A.

The Council meeting was called to order on Thursday, June 22nd at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Harold Lokken. The Scientific and Statistical Committee met in the Council offices on June 21st, again at 7:00 a.m. June 22nd and concurrently with the Council on the 22nd and 23rd. The Advisory Panel met June 21st and again on the morning of the 22nd in the Aleutian Room of the Anchorage Westward-Hilton.

The preliminary agenda for the Council meeting was approved and is included as Appendix B. Minutes of the May meeting were approved provisionally and are included as Appendix C.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Appendix D)

Executive Director identified a surplus of funds (as discussed at last Council meeting) that would be returned to NOAA. These were operating monies not expected to be used during FY 78.

GAO Audit

A General Accounting Office (GAO) audit will be performed the week of July 10th. This is not a financial audit, but one of operating methods, start-up problems, relationships with ADF&G and NMFS. They also plan to review our relationships with the fishing industry, particularly crab. Background material on Council organization and operating methods is being compiled to be sent to the GAO team for their review.

The Council felt this was an excellent opportunity to present the problems of delay in implementing management plans. The review is being conducted at the request of the House Subcommittee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. It will cover several of the Regional Councils.

Council members were asked to visit the Council offices during the week of July 10th if possible and discuss problems and policies with the GAO audit team.

MAFAC Recommendations

The Council had received a reply from Mr. Leitzell to its recommendation that James Campbell and Ron Skoog be appointed to MAFAC assuring consideration of the nominations. The Council reaffirmed their desire for confirmed membership on MAFAC. The Executive Director was asked to continue his efforts in this direction.

October Council Meeting

The Council changed the date of the October meeting from October 26 and 27 to November 2nd and 3rd, to avoid conflict with the Council's Chairmen's meeting on October 24th and 25th. There is a MAFAC meeting following the Chairmen's meeting on the 26th and 27th and the Council Chairmen have been invited to attend.

Council Resolution on Reduction of Allocation to Those Nations Restricting Imports from the United States of Similar Species

This Resolution, passed by the Council in February, 1978, has been supported by the Caribbean, Mid-Atlantic, New England, South Atlantic and the Pacific Councils. The Gulf of Mexico supported the intent, but felt it was not in their purview, under the FCMA, to address such a resolution. The resolution was not brought before the Western Pacific Council for comment.

Mr. Ray Arnaudo, State Department representative on the Council, said copies of the Resolution had been sent to the governments specifically mentioned in the Resolution, Japan and Korea. The Koreans had responded favorably by allowing exports of pollock and hake to Korea, although there would be some restrictions. Japanese reaction seems to indicate they are prepared to make adjustments in trade positions to accommodate needs.

SSC REPORT (Appendix E)

Hydraulic Clam Harvesting-Eastern Bering Sea

The Scientific and Statistical Committee reported that Mr. Thomas J. Kawling of Tetra Tech., Inc., made an informal slide presentation to the Committee in which he explained the methodology they planned to use to accomplish the main objectives of this contract.

The Committee reported they were satisfied with the discussion and have confidence that Tetra Tech, Inc. will be able to meet the objectives of the contract by developing a well designed sampling scheme.

Draft Report on the Joint Ventures Contract with the University of Alaska

The Scientific and Statistical Committee reviewed this report and considered it deficient in several respects in its present form.

The SSC nominated a special subcommittee to meet with the author, review and evaluate the material collected and assist in further analysis and format change of a final report. The members of the subcommittee: George Rogers Chairman, Don Collinsworth, Ed Miles and Richard Marasco, will meet with the author and submit a report at the July meeting. The Council concurred with the SSC recommendations and this has been identified for the July meeting agenda.

Bering Sea Herring Biology Contract

The SSC discussed the progress of this contract but was unable to make any recommendations with the information on hand. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game appears to be on schedule at this time and work seems to be progressing well.

Tanner Crab Regulations

The SSC reviewed the recommendations made by the Regulation Review Committee and felt they were complete as presented. They recommend they be implemented. They pointed out that after review and changes, the regulations are now at the point they were when originally submitted to the Secretary.

Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP Proposed Amendments

The Committee discussed proposed changes for the Gulf of Alaska FMP and recommends that, with the exception of the reallocation of Pacific cod in the Chirikof area, which should be accomplished without amending the plan, the Council implement the plan, as is, as soon as possible. The SSC feels the 1978 plan could be carried over into 1979 until further revisions are implemented.

Scallop Proposal

The SSC reviewed the letter from Bob Wyman of Northern Aurora Fisheries in which he requested Council support in having the ADF&G regulation governing ring size for scallop dredges amended. The SSC felt that although they do not have scientific information available they see no problem with this and recommended the Council support this proposal, but feels there should be an agreement to have an observer aboard during scallop operations.

Bering Sea Shrimp Fishery

The SSC discussed the appointment of a MPDT for this fishery. They suggested that NMFS act as the lead agency with Rob Wolotira of NMFS as Team Leader and Jerry McCrary and Fred Gaffney of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as team members.

Halibut MPDT

The SSC recommended a lead agency not be appointed in this fishery, but suggested as team members Dick Myhre and Steve Hoag of IPHC, Jim Balsiger and Richard Marasco of NMFS, Phil Rigby ADF&G and Don Gunderson of the University of Washington. They listed several individuals who they felt could be contacted for additional data and assistance.

FMP ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

The SSC suggested an annual report on each management plan. They believe the report should serve as a performance audit of the plan detailing its effect on regulations, fisheries progress, enforcement, and management.

Development of EIS's

The SSC recommended to the Council that in its development of FMP's in plans when the OY is set equal to or less than the ABC a finding of no significant impact was possible.

Troll Salmon Plan

The SSC reviewed some questions regarding limited entry and OY from the Salmon Planning Team. Don Collinsworth announced the Planning Team would be meeting in Juneau the following week.

BERING SEA HERRING FISHERY

Mr. Jim Hemming, project leader for Dames & Moore reported on the progress of the socio-economic herring study being conducted for the Council. They had already spent over 40 calendar field days on this project, contacting over 30 villages. Although they had sent letters to leaders of villages in Western Alaska most villages were not fully aware of the study and some were reluctant to give information. The Bering Sea herring fishery was very large and spawning was earlier than normal this season.

ADVISORY PANEL REPORT

Mr. Keith Specking, Chairman of the Advisory Panel, introduced Mr. Jim Edenso who has been appointed the coordinator of bottomfish development for the State of Alaska.

Mr. Specking reported the AP had met on Wednesday, June 21st and again in a short meeting on the 22nd. They heard reports from members of the audience and from panel members. (Appendix F)

o Mr. Al Cominsky of the National Weather Service, Marine Service Branch, gave a short briefing on the recent activities of the Weather Service in Alaska, describing improved ice programs with emphasis on the Bering Sea.

o Sara Hemphill, Acting Executive Director of the Alaska Fisheries Development Corporation, voiced her concern over the delay in the implementation of the amendment to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP which the Council had requested at the May Council meeting.

o As a result of the delay in the adoption of the emergency regulations, the Advisory Panel moved the Council secure legal counsel who would be responsible only to the Council. They felt the Council had not used all tools available to it in pushing the emergency regulations through.

o Mr. Bob Alverson, AP member, reported to the Panel that a halibut management plan was needed, as the current treaty (IPHC) with Canada expires in April of 1979. The Panel endorsed the development of a halibut management plan and that efforts begin immediately. Also, that the Council consider emergency regulations for implementation if the halibut management plan has not been approved by the time the Halibut Convention expires in the event that no other U.S./Canadian interim agreement or settlement has been reached.

o Panel member Bob Alverson reported to the Panel on the Ottawa U.S.-Canada negotiations of June 19th and 20th.

o The Advisory Panel reviewed the Tanner Crab Regulations as revised by the Regulation Review Committee and gave Kim White, Chairman of that Committee, their general comments and suggestions. They recommended the regulations, combined with their comments and suggestions, be approved by the Council.

o The AP discussed the joint venture foreign permit application for the Soviet processing vessel SULAK. They recommended the permit not be granted at this time but that it be referred to the SSC, asking them to develop a statistical analysis of the expected by-catch and recommend the percentage of species that would be allowed. Also, time and area restrictions should be developed to give the maximum protection to the developing the domestic bottomfish industry.

o The Advisory Panel adopted a Resolution (included in the AP Report) urging the Council review the need for changes in the FCMA. They urged that more responsibility for final action on regulations should be granted to the Region.

COAST GUARD ENFORCMENT REPORT

Cmdr. Ralph Giffin, U.S. Coast Guard, gave the Coast Guard enforcement report pointing out that since the last Council meeting three reports of violations and eleven citations had been issued to foreign ships off Alaska.

He said that they are conducting some extended boardings of foreign fishing vessels. They stay aboard long enough to observe entire fishing evolutions, including the catch logging process. They have observed that some South Korean ships have had a much higher proportion of certain incidentally taken species in their trawls than have been reported by other Korean ships under similar circumstances. The problem has been brought to the attention of the State Department.

Mr. Arnaudo, State Department Representative on the Council, reported they had brought this to the attention of the Koreans and this will be discussed more thoroughly. (The Coast Guard enforcement report is included as Appendix G.)

Commander Giffin is leaving and Commander Pete Busick, now Commander of the USCGC MODOC will be his replacement. The Council and Admiral Duin commended Commander Giffin on his excellent job performance as Chief OIL, 17th Coast Guard District.

UPDATE-CURRENT FISHERIES

U.S. Herring Fishery in Bering Sea

o Ken Middleton, ADF&G, reported on the U.S. herring fishery in the Bering Sea. From the first delivery on May 10th, 16 operators took 6,961 metric tons of herring. Approximately 35 purse seine boats took 92 percent of the catch. The remaining 8 percent was taken by gillnet gear, both drift and set. Approximately 24 to 36 units participated for the entire season in the gillnet fishery. The approximate ex-vessel value of the herring taken was \$2,323,000.

Although several methods of processing were used, the majority of the fish were salted for later reprocessing. The average roe recovery for the season was 8.2 percent. The majority of the herring were harvested in the Nunavachak area.

Twelve foreign transport vessels were present at Kulukak Bay in the constructive port area. The majority of them stayed there the entire season. (Appendix H)

No capelin were reported taken by the processors this season, though many schools were observed.

Six 32 foot Bristol Bay gillnetters were converted to purse seines and actually participated this season, five with very limited success and one that took close to 200 tons. Later in the season some experienced gillnetters from outside Bristol Bay, mainly from Southeastern, did very well. The roe percentage of their deliveries was 1 to 2 percent higher per delivery than the purse seine fleet. Without exception, all the operators indicated they would be back for the 1979 season. The majority planned larger operations with some refinements of their procedures.

Ten commercial operators participated in the roe-on-kelp harvest in the Togiak area. Many of the kelp processors commented that the egg deposition on kelp was lighter than usual this year, and though there was a lot of spawning, it appeared to be more widespread with fewer layers of spawn on individual plants.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab Fishery (Appendix I)

Marty Eaton, ADF&G, presented a report on the Bering Sea Crab fishery. The first week in June some vessels began experiencing some deadloss. The ADF&G has documented 217,079 pounds for the 1978 season, much less than in previous years. The catch of 3,687,466 pounds in June was landed by 52 boats making 72 landings with a CPUE of 84. The increase in CPUE in June is attributed to the reduction in gear since many vessels ceased fishing in May. The season for C. bairdi closed June 15.

Foreign Fishing Activities

Craig Hammond, NMFS, gave a report on the foreign fishing activities off Alaska. A total of 307 individual foreign fishing and support ships engaged in fishing off Alaska during May, an increase of 62 over last month and a decrease of 30 from May 1977 (250 Japanese, 35 Soviet, 12 South Korean and 1 Taiwanese). A more complete report is included as Appendix J.

OBSERVER REPORT ON INCIDENTAL CATCH

Dr. Frank Fukuhara of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center reported on the observer reports from the Japanese longline Pacific cod fishery west of 157° West in the Gulf. At the May meeting the Council had requested the Center to give high priority to observer coverage of this fishery. Dr. Fukuhara said the most recent report from an observer aboard a longliner in the Aleutians indicates an incidence of 4.25 halibut/mt of catch in waters 150-250 m deep.

On June 8th an observer was placed on the SHINKO MARU No. 3 and his most recent report indicated this vessel, while fishing for cod for three days in the Gulf of Alaska, had an incidence of one halibut per metric ton. On June 10th an observer was placed aboard another ship expected to fish at least part of the time in waters less than 500 m.

During the week of June 4-10, the total number of foreign long-liners fishing off Alaska was 13. (Appendix K)

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP ON VARIOUS SUBCOMMITTEES

The meeting opened on Friday morning, June 23rd, with discussion of Council membership on the various committees. Council members Harville, Wendler and Sandison were appointed to the review committee for the Ocean Salmon Plan.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION OF LIMITED ENTRY COMMISSION

Vice Chairman Tillion brought up the fact that although we are not involved with limited entry in the management of all species, he would like to be in contact with someone from the Limited Entry Commission so that we have access to all data available. After discussion it was decided this was an administrative problem and the Executive Director was directed to pursue this matter.

FOREIGN PERMIT REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Foreign Permit Review Committee met and reported back to the Council on the application of the USSR ship SULAK for a joint venture in the Gulf of Alaska. Before submitting the comments of the Committee, Chairman Specking acknowledged a wire from Mr. Ed Furia of the New England Fish Company of Seattle.

Mr. Specking reported the Committee discussed the application at length and made no motion for approval or disapproval. The Committee recommended however, that restrictions should be placed on the SULAK permit identical to those on the permit issued to KMIDC. The Committee recommended the SSC study the matter and develop a statistical analysis of expected by-catch as recommended by the Advisory Panel in their report to the Council.

The Council made no recommendation for approval or disapproval. Council member Mace moved "That the NPFMC recommends that if the Secretary issues a permit to the SULAK for taking pollock, that permit would be contingent upon the same restrictions as apply to the KMIDC permit and that those restrictions be listed." The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

SALMON TROLL PLAN

The subject of the salmon troll plan was discussed on both days of the meeting. The most prevailing problem seemed to be with the limited entry portion of the plan.

Council member Tillion pointed out the need to have the plan in effect by the 1979 season in order to restrict the growing fishery in

the Fairweather Grounds. He moved that if we do not have a plan in place we should emphasize that when the plan does come into effect, no one will be allowed to fish outside of three miles that hasn't fished there prior to the 1978 season, that is in the 3 years prior to December 1, 1977. That interim permits could be granted now but when the plan is in effect they would not necessarily get permanent permits. Mr. Wendler seconded the motion and Council member Harville spoke in support of the motion.

Don Collinsworth, ADF&G and Planning Team member, said they were working on the plan and that there would be a meeting of the Plan Development Team in Juneau the following week. They would follow the direction of the Council in revising the plan and would come back to the Council with a draft by the July meeting.

Council member Rietze pointed out this would put a lid on people outside 3 miles but would continue to permit unrestricted growth inside 3 miles and this would cause enforcement problems.

Mr. Carl Rosier stated the Alaska Board of Fisheries is working on this and had set up zoning restrictions at their Spring meeting of the Board. The Board would work closely with the Council in this matter.

The Council also heard from Mr. Alan Adasiak of the Limited Entry Commission who stated the fishery could be restricted to some extent by this provision, and that the Commission would then look further into restriction by quota.

The motion was restated "Move that when our FMP becomes effective, there will be no one allowed to fish outside three miles who doesn't hold an interim limited entry permit based on fishing in 1977 or prior years." Chairman Lokken pointed out it would be appropriate that anyone showing evidence of having fished in the offshore waters during these years be then permitted to fish after the plan becomes effective. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Dr. Bevan said it was his assumption that this did not take anything back with regard to limited entry in the plan. It offers specific advice on how to limit participation but still asks the team to look at means of controlling effort in that area in the future.

SSC REPORT

The Council unanimously passed a motion to accept the report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee. (Appendix E)

HALIBUT MPDT

The Council unanimously passed a motion nominating a MPDT for this fishery but stated no lead agency was necessary to direct the multi-agency

drafting team. The team, as suggested by the SSC, consists of: Dick Myhre and Steve Hoag of the IPHC, Jim Balsiger, Richard Marasco of NMFS, Phil Rigby of ADF&G and Don Gunderson of the University of Washington. The Council also suggested several others the team could draw on for their expertise. The Executive Director was directed to contact the IPHC asking for their cooperation.

The Council directed the development of this plan start immediately with the understanding development would cease if a satisfactory agreement could be reached with Canada prior to April 1, 1979.

BERING SEA SHRIMP MPDT

The Council unanimously passed a motion setting up a MPDT for this fishery. They nominated Rob Wolotira of NMFS as team leader and directed NMFS appointed lead agency. Jerry McCrary and Fred Gaffney of ADF&G was nominated as team members.

PACIFIC COUNCIL RESOLUTION REQUESTING MORE OBSERVERS AND EARMARKING FOREIGN FEES FOR THAT AND OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDER THE FCMA

Council member Wendler spoke in favor of this Resolution asking that the North Pacific Council endorse it. He commented that fishermen, during the public hearing process, were displeased with the inadequate number of observers on the foreign fleets. The Pacific Council supported increasing the number of observers to increase coverage on foreign fleets. NMFS faces the problem that while observer costs are reimbursed by foreign governments this comes after the fact and NMFS has to get an appropriation to cover operating expenses. They believe there should be no budgetary constraints limiting the ability to observe the foreign fleets and funds provided should be made available for prompt use by NMFS. The Pacific Council had suggested that fees paid by foreign fleets to fish in the FCZ should be earmarked for this purpose.

Mr. Rietze questioned the cost effectiveness of additional observer coverage if it exceeded 20 percent and cautioned the Council that analysis of the need before such a step was taken should be made.

Council member Mace moved the North Pacific Council support this Resolution, it was seconded and passed unanimously.

OBSERVERS FOR JOINT VENTURES

Mr. Bob French, who runs the observer program for NWAFC, NMFS, is planning to have observers on any processing ships involved in joint ventures off Alaska. The Council went on record requesting observers on all joint venture operations. Council member Wendler moved to this effect, it was seconded and passed unanimously.

JAPANESE TANNER CRAB PROPOSAL

Harry Rietze commented relative to the Japanese request for bringing their crab fishery south of 58° North. He considered it a reasonable request and that in the terms of the FCMA it is a responsible action that would not be in conflict with the PMP or FMP. It would not increase the 15,000 mt FAC. He proposed to the Council that they support action amending the PMP for Tanner crab to permit the Japanese to fish south of 58° and west of 173°. It would be only for the remainder of this season or until the FMP comes into effect.

Bart Eaton moved that the PMP be amended to allow the Japanese factory ship operations to complete their season below 58° west of 173° with the condition that C. bairdi be returned to the ocean.

Mr. Rietze stated that perhaps we would need to put a southern limit in effect for clarity of the regulation. The motion was amended to include a 54° southern limit. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

TANNER CRAB REGULATIONS

Mr. Kim White, Chairman of the Regulation Review Committee, reported the Committee had met in Juneau and reviewed the Tanner crab regulations published as the proposed rule making in the Federal Register May 16, 1978. They had made several recommendations and presented them to the Advisory Panel and the Scientific and Statistical Committee for their review and comments. (Appendix L)

He said the Advisory Panel had made several additional recommendations which he would incorporate into the amendments. Several of these had been either overlooked by the Review Committee or were housekeeping in nature.

Vice Chairman Tillion moved that the Council accept these recommendations as the Council's comments to the Secretary, Mr. Eaton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

It was pointed out that these regulations, after review by the Review Committee, SSC and AP, were at the same point as originally submitted to the Secretary as the Council's recommendation in January. After the Council submitted the first draft regulations to the Secretary, they were rewritten and printed in the Federal Register without further review by the Council. Council member Harville said he felt the only review which should be made when the Council submits the draft regulations is to determine if they are legal and in compliance with the FCMA and other pertinent law.

SCALLOP PROPOSAL

The Council reviewed a letter from Mr. Bob Wyman of Northern Aurora Fisheries regarding ring size for scallop dredges. Mr. Wyman had written the Council asking for their support in having the ADF&G regulation regarding ring size modified so 3" rings would be legal gear for the area west of Port Moller in the Bering Sea.

Mr. Nick Szabo, AP member and Chairman of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, stated that Mr. Wyman had not as yet made a request to the Board and that the normal time for such a request would be at the Spring Board meeting.

The Council directed the Executive Director to advise Mr. Wyman to direct his request to the State. They stated however, they had no problem with this as the Council has no fishery management plan for scallops and amount of fishing effort planned was small.

STAFF STUDY ON COST OF FMP'S

The Executive Director said the cost to track complete costs (for all agencies) for an FMP would be approximately \$4,200 per plan, per year. This would cover staff time and communication by telephone or letter to keep track of time and costs from other organizations who are working on the plans.

Council member Campbell moved the matter be tabled, it was seconded and passed unanimously.

PROPERTY DISPOSAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council discussed methods of handling major property items purchased by contractors using Council funds. The Executive Director was asked to look into the possibility of selling unneeded items to the contractor at the close of a contract and report back to the Council at the July meeting.

H.R. 9708

Council member Harville presented a written summary on the Commerce re-organization Bill to the Council for their review. No action was taken. (Appendix M)

HEARING SCHEDULE

The Council established that the hearings for the Troll Salmon Plan should be held immediately before the September Council meeting in Sitka. The hearings will be in Ketchikan, Petersburg, Pelican and Sitka, with a Council meeting to follow in Sitka on the 28th and 29th of September.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Council heard testimony from several persons. These include:

- o Statement by the North Pacific Longline/Gillnet Association of Japan asking for changes in the regulations of the FMP for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish. (Appendix N)
- o Statement by the Japanese Tanner Crab Industry asking that their operation for the remainder of the 1978 season be permitted in the area south of 58° N. latitude. (Appendix O)
- o Sara Hemphill, Acting Executive Director of the Alaska Fisheries Development Corporation, presented her concerns over the delay in the implementation of the changes in the regulations for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish PMP to protect U.S. blackcod fishermen off Southeastern Alaska.
- o Wally Pererya, Vice President of Marine Resources Company, asking for support of a recommendation for approval of the permit application for the SULAK.
- o Dr. Donald Bevan, pointed out the Act does not protect observers as U.S. officials onboard foreign vessels.
- o Bob Alverson, Manager of the Fishing Vessel Owners Association, voiced a complaint regarding extension of time given to some halibut vessels to remove gear from the water after the last open period for halibut fishing and on by-catch problems in joint ventures.
- o Robert Ely, attorney for KMIDC/Davenny Joint Venture proposal, gave a report on this venture.

LEITZELL'S TRIP TO ALASKA

Mr. Rietze announced that Terry Leitzell, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of NMFS, Washington, D.C., is planning a trip to Alaska from July 9 thru 16. Anchorage is on his agenda and he will be in the Council offices. The Council stated this would be an opportunity to discuss some of the problems we have been having in implementing our management plans. They urged that as many Council members, SSC and AP members as possible should talk with Mr. Leitzell regarding these problems.

UPDATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS AND PMP REVISIONS

The Executive Director reported that the PMP revisions requested by the Council at the May meeting (to protect the U.S. blackcod fishing off southeastern Alaska as it would be protected under the FMP when implemented) should be in effect July 2. A wire was sent to the Secretary as requested

by the Council immediately after the May meeting, followed by a second wire two weeks later since no response or action on the request had been received. He called Washington, D.C. this morning and was told the changes had gone to the Federal Register and after a 10-day review period they expect it to be in effect by July 2nd. That will close the area to foreign longlining east of 140° West and close the 3 critical longline areas off Southeastern Alaska to all foreign trawling.

On the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery FMP, the review period for proposed rule making ended June 6th. The most optimistic estimate that he has been able to get from Washington on implementation is mid or late July. The comment period for the Tanner Crab FMP and regulations for 1978 ends June 30th. Implementation will probably take six weeks to two months after the close of the comment period.

The Council has received a request to revise the FMP's for both Tanner Crab and Gulf of Alaska Groundfish, with revisions to Washington by June 30. The Executive Director said this could not be done and Council should consider the revision schedule for both plans at this meeting.

Since the delay in the implementation of the FMP's occurs in the Central Office, the Chairman suggested that the Executive Director go back to Washington to spend some time going through the procedure with them and perhaps ease this problem.

Council member Eaton said that this would be a good point to discuss with Mr. Leitzell on his trip to Anchorage. Mr. Rietze said Bob Schoning would also be at the July Council meeting. He will be on a special assignment for Mr. Leitzell attempting to look at the relationship of the Councils and NMFS/NOAA and that would be a real opportunity to go into some of these problems.

Council member Harville said that he feels two extremely productive ways to make these points will be the GAO audit, that group is designed to address exactly these kinds of questions, and talking with Bob Schoning. He feels the Region is the place where basic decisions should be made regarding management plans and regulations. He feels a greater degree of authority should be delegated to the Regions.

After further discussion the Council asked Dr. Bevan, Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Development of Fishery Management Plans, if the Committee could take on the task of drawing up something to be presented to Leitzell as the Council policy. Dr. Bevan said this could be done and the Committee would meet and report back to the Council.

AMENDMENTS TO GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FMP

The Council discussed the proposed amendments to the FMP for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery During 1978. The Executive Director

suggested asking that the 1978 plan be extended until at least the first quarter of 1979. The decision was reached that no amendments would be requested until after the FMP for 1978 is implemented. Then the amendment process could be started. The Council moved to have the revised plan to the Council December, 1978, and, following appropriate reviews and hearings, have plan in effect by September 30, 1979. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON PLAN DEVELOPMENT (Appendix P)

Dr. Bevan presented a report of the evening meeting of the committee.

Council member Wendler moved the Council accept the recommendation of the Subcommittee, it was seconded and passed unanimously.

COUNCIL POSITION ON HALIBUT IN U.S./CANADA NEGOTIATIONS

Chairman Lokken discussed the U.S. position on halibut with the Council, asking if they wanted a two or three year moratorium for U.S./Canada agreement. The Council moved to set a limit not to exceed two years. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

ADVISORY PANEL RESOLUTION TO AMEND FCMA

The Council acknowledged the AP Resolution urging amendments to the FCMA that would place review authority for regulations and plans in the NMFS Regional offices.

SOVIET COOPERATION

Mr. Ray Arnaudo announced the State Department had received a response to the U.S. request for a U.S./Soviet fishing agreement allowing U.S. fishermen to fish in the Soviet CFZ. There would be a meeting in Washington, D.C. concerning this in the next two weeks. He will keep Council informed of progress and will report again at the next Council meeting.

AMENDMENTS TO GROUND FISH FMP IN THE GULF OF ALASKA (Appendix Q)

The Council considered 11 amendments requested for this plan, as to whether or not they should be adopted and for which year.

1. The Council moved to affirm its earlier action recommending increasing the foreign allowable catch of Pacific cod west of 157° West from 6200 mt to 7600 mt.
2. The Council agreed to remove the provision in the FMP that restricts the length of individual tows to 1 hour for American fishermen.

3. The Council took no action on the request from the North Pacific Longline Gillnet Association to change the OY for blackcod in the FMP from 13,000 to 15,000 metric tons.
4. The Council took no action on the proposed amendment from the North Pacific Longline Gillnet Association requesting the Davidson Bank area be opened for foreign fishing.
5. The Council moved that the area between 3 and 12 miles and between 169° and 170° West longitude be opened for foreign longline fishing only.
6. The Council said that the FMP provision specifying that "no more than 25 percent of a nation's FAC may be taken during the periods January 1 to May 31 and December 1 to December 31 combined," was directed at the trawl fishery and was not intended to apply to longliners.
7. The Council recommended that the foreign longline fishery be exempt from Section 8.3.2.3 of the foreign regulations in the FMP which provides that all of a nation's fishery in a statistical area be closed once the allocation for any 1 species has been taken.
8. The SSC had recommended no change in the prohibition against foreign longlining landward of the 500 meter isobath east of 157° West longitude, therefore no action on this request was taken by the Council.
9. The Council moved to reject a proposal made by Ketchikan Pisces, Inc. of Ketchikan asking that a limited joint venture foreign fishing operation east of 150° West longitude for sablefish be allowed.
10. A formal request that periodic reviews of the closure to foreign fishing east of 140° West longitude be made. The Council took no action since this was already being done.
11. The Council took no action on a request that all reserves and non-utilized DAH be reassessed and reallocated to the foreign fishery at the earliest possible time since this is current Council policy.

The Executive Director was directed to forward the Council's recommendation to Leitzell which would "increase the combined TALFF and reserve from 6,230 mt to 7,600 mt in the area of the designated longline fishery for Pacific cod west of 157° West longitude." This is to be done with the stipulation that if there is any possibility that it will delay implementation of the entire FMP, the Council withdraws its recommendation for revision at this time and will plan to resubmit it after implementation of the plan.

The Council adjourned at 1:30 p.m. June 23, 1978.