

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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FINAL ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES North Pacific Fishery Management Council September 26-29, 2011 Dutch Harbor, Alaska

The following (20) members were present for all or part of the meetings:

Kurt Cochran
Craig Cross
John Crowley
Julianne Curry
Jerry Downing
Tom Enlow
Tim Evers

Jeff Favour
Becca Robbins Gisclair
Jan Jacobs
Bob Jacobson
Alexus Kwachka
Chuck McCallum
Matt Moir

Theresa Peterson
Ed Poulsen
Neil Rodriguez
Lori Swanson
Anne Vanderhoeven
Ernie Weiss

Minutes of the June 2011 meeting were approved.

C-1(b) Salmon FMP

The AP recommends that the Council release the analysis for public review with Alternative 3 as their preliminary preferred alternative and include additional discussion on preventing unregistered fishing in the areas excluded from the FMP.

Motion passed 18/0.

C-3(a) Crab Economic Data Collection

The AP recommends that the Council refine the catcher vessel and processor/floating processor EDR alternatives as shown in Attachment 1. Refine catcher processor EDR alternatives to be consistent with the catcher vessel and processor changes. In addition, catcher processors should be revised to capture consistent data for any operation type (CV/Processor). *Motion passed 19/0.*

A motion to recommend the Council send this to a workgroup composed of industry, crew, other stakeholder, Council and AFSC staff and other economists to refine alternatives and incorporate any relevant recommendations from the CIE review, failed 7/12.

Minority Report on Crab EDR - A minority of the AP felt that the crab EDR action is a significant one and may have implications for data reporting in other catch share programs. It is therefore important to ensure that we're collecting accurate data to address the issues we want to monitor. The current alternatives take an approach of eliminating inaccurate data and additional work is warranted to develop better ways of asking for some of these data elements rather than eliminating them (leasing and crew payment details in particular). This type of work is best suited for a committee, and committee work is the approach we've used in the development of EDRs in the past. A committee can incorporate additional stakeholders and will give us the benefit of including any relevant recommendations from the CIE review.

Signed by: Becca Robbins Gisclair, Jeff Farvour, Tim Evers, Theresa Peterson, Alexis Kwachka, Chuck McCallum, Julianne Curry.

C-3(c) BSAI Crab SAFE report and catch specifications

The AP recommends that the Council approve the BSAI Crab SAFE report as well as the Crab Plan Team's recommended OFLs and ABCs for crab stocks in the BSAI area. *Motion passed 19/0.*

C-3(d) Pribilof Island Blue King Crab Rebuilding Plan

The AP recommends that the Council delay action until December on this issue to allow further analysis of the impact of the revised OFL and impacts on additional fisheries. *Motion passed 20/0.*

The AP recommends that the Council add an Option 2c under Alternative 2 to read:

Option 2c: Vessels fishing for Pacific cod with pot gear in the existing Pribilof Island Habitat Conservation Zone (PIHCZ) must carry 100% observer coverage. Pacific cod pot fishing in the PIHCZ will be closed for the year if total PIBKC bycatch across all fisheries reaches:

- i) 20%
- ii) 30%

of the overall trigger closure cap. *Motion passed 20/0.*

The AP recommends that the Council revise Alternative 5 so that no closure extends beyond the boundaries of the Pribilof Island blue king crab management area. *Motion passed 20/0.*

C-3(e) Bering Sea Tanner Crab Rebuilding

The AP recommends the Council move forward with development of a problem statement and alternatives. *Motion passed 18/0.*

C-2(a) Groundfish Harvest Specifications for 2012/2013

The AP recommends that the Council approve groundfish specifications for the Gulf of Alaska as listed in the table on pages 36 and 37 of the Joint Plan Team minutes. The TACs should be set equal to ABC for all species for 2012/13 except Pacific cod, which would be adjusted as shown on page 4 of the action memo, as well as approve the PSC limits as detailed on page 4. *Motion passed 12/8.*

Minority Report on proposed specifications for 2012 - *A minority of the AP opposed this motion because they felt that the Halibut PSC limits were set too high and should be reduced in the 2012 harvest specifications for all the reasons set forward in the minority report under the C-2(b) Halibut PSC agenda item.*

Signed by: Becca Robbins Gisclair, Julianne Curry, Theresa Peterson, Tim Evers, Chuck McCallum, Alexis Kwachka, Jeff Farvour.

The AP recommends that the Council roll over Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area groundfish ABCs and OFLs contained in the table on page 26 of the Joint Plan Team minutes, and roll over and approve 2012/13 TACs as shown on the table. *Motion passed 20/0*

The AP recommends that the Council approve preliminary BSAI PSC specifications and seasonal apportionments as shown in Tables 7a, b and c on pages 2 and 3 of the action memo.
Motion passed 20/0.

Revised AP tables are included as Attachment 2.

C-2(b) Gulf of Alaska Halibut PSC Limits

The AP recommends to the Council that this action be done through an amendment to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP to set halibut PSC limits in regulations. The AP recommends revising Alternative 2, option 1 to read:

Option 1: Reduce the halibut PSC limit for HAL gear

- a) For CP sector
 - a. 5 percent
 - b. 10 percent
 - c. 15 percent
- b) For CV sector
 - a. 5 percent
 - b. 10 percent
 - c. 15 percent

Further, the AP recommends that the document be released for public review with the following additions:

1. Comparison of the first wholesale value for halibut and groundfish.
2. Benefits to the CEY and revenue impacts for stakeholders in the first year of the action and subsequent years.
3. Expanded discussion of rationale for seasonal apportionments for halibut PSC throughout the year.
4. Incorporate a discussion of total halibut biomass trends.
5. Clearly specify when referring to exploitable biomass, total biomass, or female spawning biomass.
6. Expanded discussion of community impacts (municipal services, processing workers, processor labor, and shipping) for groundfish and halibut dependent communities.
7. Ecosystem impacts of reduced arrowtooth flounder harvest.
8. Add newest stock status information from the 2012 specification process.
9. Incorporate results of the IPHC/Council workshop anticipated to occur in spring 2012.

The AP recommends that the Council review and revise the problem statement.

Motion passed 11/8/1.

Minority Report on Halibut PSC - A minority of the AP supported the following motion:

The AP recommends the Council adopt the following Alternative as a PPA for implementation through the 2012 catch specification process:

Alternative 2, option 2(b) to reduce the halibut PSC limit for trawl gear by 10%.

Suboption 1: Apply the full trawl PSC limit reduction to the 5th season

Suboption 2: (a): AFA/Amendment 80/Rockfish Program sideboard limits will be applied as percentages against the GOA Halibut PSC limit

Gulf-wide exploitable biomass has decreased by over 50% over the last decade and the directed commercial and halibut charter fisheries have faced huge reductions. As a matter of conservation and equity, it is incumbent on us to reduce halibut bycatch now.

The minority felt that a 10% reduction represented a compromise from the 15% overwhelmingly requested in the written public comments. Understanding that the hook and line sector has taken reductions in PSC limits in 1995 and through sector splits, the reduction here is applied only to trawl. The minority felt that applying the PSC limit reduction to the 5th season significantly reduces economic impacts to the groundfish fisheries (\$1.08 million vs. \$6.75 million). Applying sideboard limits as a percentage applies reductions equitably between fisheries, otherwise under suboption 2 (b) other fisheries end up with a greater than 10% reduction. The minority felt the analysis was ready to release for public review and should be moved forward for action through the 2012 catch specification process.

Signed by: Becca Robbins Gisclair, Alexis Kwachka, Tim Evers, Theresa Peterson, Chuck McCallum, Ernie Weiss, Julianne Curry, Jeff Farvour.

C-4 Observer Report

The AP received a report from staff on the Observer Advisory Committee meeting. No action was taken.

C-5(a) CQE Vessel Use Caps – Halibut Management

The AP recommends that the Council move forward with final action adopting Alternative 2 as revised in bold.

Alternative 2. Revise current regulations such that:

- No vessel may be used, during any fishing year, to harvest more than 50,000 lbs of IFQ halibut derived from quota share held by a CQE; and no vessel may be used, during any fishing year, to harvest more than 50,000 lbs of IFQ sablefish derived from quota share held by a CQE.
- The vessel would also be subject to the same vessel use caps applicable in the overall IFQ Program. **The existing vessel use caps for the IFQ Program that would be applicable under Alternative 2 are: 1% of Area 2C halibut IFQ TAC and 0.5% of the entire halibut IFQ TAC; 1% of Southeast sablefish IFQ TAC and 1% of the entire sablefish IFQ TAC.**

Grandfathered QS holders over the individual cap cannot lease CQE quota.

Motion passed 19/0.

C-5(b) CQE in Area 4B – Halibut Management

The AP recommends that the Council send the analysis out for public review with the following changes:

To revise Alternative 2 language on the ownership entity, on page 45 of the analysis, to read, ***“A non-profit entity, approved by NMFS as the holder of the Adak community allocation of Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab will be recognized as the CQE for the community of Adak.”***

The governing body in the community (City of Adak) must approve the CQE to operate on behalf of the community.

Motion passed 17/0.

C-5(c) Area 4B Fish-up – Halibut Management

The AP recommends that the Council move forward with final action on the analysis, and that the analysis include discussion on the effects of fish-up on the price of D class quota, and the original intent of D class quota in the IFQ program. *Motion passed 14/3/1.*

D-1(d) Discussion paper on GOA pollock D season

The AP recommends that the Council take no further action on this item. *Motion passed 20/0.*

D-1(e) BS & AI Pcod Sector Split Discussion Paper

The AP heard a report from staff. No action was taken.

D-2 Staff Tasking – Outreach Report

The AP received a report from staff on the Rural Community Outreach Committee meeting. The AP recommends that the Council adopt the short-term priorities listed on page 8 of the Rural Outreach Committee report. *Motion passed 19/0.*

The AP requests the Council ask the IFQ Implementation Committee to clarify a regulation noted on page 61 of the CQE discussion paper (footnote 52), to specifically address:

1. further clarification of the reason for regulation,
2. whether it's really applicable to current IFQ management, and
3. whether it should be maintained or rescinded.

Motion passed 19/0.