

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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## MINUTES

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE  
September 24-26, 1984  
Anchorage, Alaska

The Scientific and Statistical Committee of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in Anchorage on September 24-26, 1984. Members present were:

Donald H. Rosenberg, Chairman  
Richard Marasco, Vice Chairman  
William Aron  
Don Bevan  
Bud Burgner  
Larry Hreha  
Jack Lechner  
John Burns  
Al Millikan  
John Clark

### C-2 Comprehensive Goals

The comprehensive goals developed by the Council sub-group were not taken up by the SSC because we felt that issue was primarily policy related.

### C-3 Plan Team Nomination

The SSC reviewed the nominations from the agencies and others for membership on Council plan teams. The SSC found that all those nominated are qualified to serve on a team. The SSC therefore reviewed the proposed team composition to see if the appropriate expertise was present. This review lead the SSC to make the following recommendations on team composition (Attachment 1).

It should be noted that the individuals and their agencies have not been contacted to see if they can serve.

### C-4 Draft Policy on Joint Ventures

The SSC examined the draft joint venture policy to evaluate how implementation will impact our activities.

The SSC reviewed the criteria in Table 1 and identified those items which are most important to us. These are (1) foreign participation in fisheries research off Alaska; (2) compatibility of joint ventures with other U.S. fisheries and incidental species; (3) reporting of fishing and market information beyond that required by law; and (4) willing of U.S. vessels to take observers.

In light of the mechanism and weighting proposed, the SSC recommends that either the first three items of our items be moved to the higher priority category or that the priority levels be removed and each item allowed a maximum of 5 points.

The SSC does not believe that the willingness of the U.S. vessel to take observers is high in our priorities.

In our discussion the SSC identified items that we felt the Council might wish to address:

1. We felt that one major criteria was missed, that of the potential net economic contribution of the joint venture to the fishing industry. The Council may wish to consider the addition of this item to the list.
2. That you consider eliminating Category A through D in the policy since Category A and B do not relate to joint ventures and because C and D do not seem to us to be a useful separation tool since a joint venture could easily change its status from D to C by a paper transaction. The SSC also notes that the difference between Category C and D is one of the criteria in Table 1.

#### C-5 Groundfish Data Monitoring

The SSC heard a report from Council staff that summarized activities of the Council's Interagency Workgroup on Alaska Groundfish Fishery Data Collection. It was indicated that the group has met several times and has itemized data needs and collection methods. It was felt that a foundation upon which to design a data collection plan exists. To facilitate plan development, the staff recommended that two people each from the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, NMFS Regional office and ADF&G be brought together to finalize the plan. Results of this effort will be reported to the SSC at its December meeting. The SSC supports the recommendation.

#### C-8 Joint Venture Permit Restrictions

##### A. Joint venture closures.

The SSC reviewed the document entitled "Discussion Paper, Joint Venture Closures," dated September 20, 1984. After discussion of the options presented in the document, the SSC felt that option IIb seems the most viable. But a major problem with the implementation exists since the target species are not allocated on an individual joint venture basis. Thus the calculation of a bycatch amount to be allocated to each joint venture will be difficult. The SSC questions the utility of the use of a "rate" alone as a controlling mechanism.

B. Sablefish bycatch.

The SSC has no recommendation on the amount of sablefish bycatch. We do recommend that the Council not take any action on an amount or rate until you have reviewed the estimates of OYs or TAC for sablefish, the DAP and JVP survey results, and the DAPs and JVPs being proposed. These estimates will be covered under agenda item D-3 and D-4.

Once you determine an amount, allocation can be handled by the regional office under the procedures they develop to handle the joint venture closure (A above).

D-1 Herring FMP

The SSC reviewed the results of the Request for Proposals and discussed the possibility of the Council requesting the Secretary to implement a data collection program. The SSC noted that this data collection program will be very expensive and such a request may result in reprogramming of resources from already existing programs. We also noted that we are losing, or about to lose, some of the foreign data sources and that U.S. supported programs are going to be required in order to provide information on which to maximize existing fisheries. The SSC is concerned that a Council's request to implement the herring data collection program will result in a loss of some of the existing programs and, therefore, we do not support the Council making such a request of the Secretary.

The SSC did note that we still need the information.

D-2 Tanner Crab FMP

The SSC reviewed the document entitled: "Conservation, Allocation and Enforcement Aspects of the Use of Pot Limits and Exclusive Areas in the Western Alaska Tanner Crab Fisheries" dated September 1984. Presented in this report are results of an analysis that was done by a working group composed of ADF&G, NMFS/RO and North Pacific Fishery Management Council staff members. This study represents an extension of work that was reviewed when Amendment 10 was initially considered. The SSC stated then that assessment of the merits of these two measures was made difficult by the lack of well defined goals. This still is the case. It was concluded, further, that neither measure addresses a conservation issue. In addition, it was pointed out that the major impact of the measures would be allocative in nature.

A major part of the analysis contained in the report was devoted to development of a model that would allow quantification of the nature of the catch reallocation. The Ad Hoc group is to be commended for their efforts, care must be taken in the interpretation of the quantitative results. In any case, findings of the study which are qualitative in nature are quite interesting and useful. For example, indications that implementation of an exclusive area measure in the Alaska Peninsula could adversely impact Kodiak fleets.

It is important to note that if there are any benefits that would be realized from establishment of either of these measures they are short-term in nature. In the long-run, as additional fishermen enter the fishery and effort expands, benefits will be reduced.

The SSC has no recommendations on the specific proposals.

D-3 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

A. Incidental catch ceiling for the domestic trawl fishery.

The SSC reviewed the draft report of the "Working Group of the Gulf of Alaska Halibut Bycatch Restrictions" dated September 6, 1984. The working group recommends that halibut bycatch limits for the period December 1, 1984 to May 31, 1985 remain at 270 mt in the Western Gulf of Alaska and 768 mt in the Central Gulf. Recommended, in addition, was the apportionment of the halibut bycatch limits to the JVP and DAP fisheries according to the projected harvests prior to implementing the emergency rule and the best estimated DAH plus reserves for the period December 1, 1984 to May 31, 1985. Further, it was recommended that specific bycatch amounts should be attached to each federal joint venture permit. It is suggested that State of Alaska internal waters joint venture permits should be conditioned for halibut bycatch limits in the same manner as federal permits. Two aspects of the DAP part of the bycatch limit is of concern to the SSC: (1) enforceability and (2) allocation of the bycatch limit among various DAP participants. At present, the ability to monitor incidental catch of prohibited species is limited. With respect to allocation, the current draft recommendation does not specify how the bycatch limit will be allocated among various DAP participants.

The SSC recommends that the Council approve an emergency regulation that is consistent with recommendations 1 and 2 of the draft working group report. Additionally, the Council should request that the NMFS-RO start to use the ADF&G observer information in its management of the halibut bycatch (Item 3 in the draft report).

The SSC also recommends that the Council support Item 4 and ask the State of Alaska to condition their internal waters joint venture permits.

The SSC is concerned that the Council is not moving toward a long term solution of the prohibited species and incidental catch problem.

B. Southeast Alaska cul-de-sacs.

The SSC was told by the plan team that they are preparing an amendment to the FMP to solve the cul-de-sac problem. The amendment package is nearing completion and is scheduled for presentation in January. The SSC recommends the Council approve this emergency regulation.

C. Release of preliminary 1985 OY, DAP and JVP estimates.

The SSC reviewed the status of stocks report dated August 29, 1984 as developed by the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan Maintenance Team. This report indicates that the current condition of stocks is as follows:

<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Depressed</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
Pollock	Sablefish	Atka mackerel	Pacific ocean perch	Thornyheads
Pacific cod			Other rockfish	
Flounders				
Squid				
Other species				

We were told that results of the 1984 NMFS tri-annual Gulf of Alaska Survey will be available prior to the December Council meeting. Results of this survey will make it possible to reevaluate the draft OYs recommended by the Team. Species of concern include POP, sablefish and Atka Mackerel. The SSC recommends that the Council send out for public review the proposed OYs (Table 2 in this report).

The SSC reviewed the results of the 1985 NMFS survey of DAP and JVP. During the summer the SSC had received information on the survey methods. The results of the 1985 survey provided by the NMFS are contained in Table 1.

Regulation requires that initial DAH be set at either the value obtained by the survey or the catch for the previous year, whichever is greater. The SSC, therefore, reviewed the DAP and JVP values in the survey taking into consideration this requirement. The projected 1984 harvest by DAP and JVP were provided us by the NMFS (dated 9/21/84). Where necessary, these values were further reduced to be consistent with the proposed OYs (indicated by \* in Table 2). The results of these adjustments is presented in Table 2.

The SSC recommends that these adjusted DAPs and JVPs be sent out for public review.

Examination of Table 1 and 2 indicates that the proposed DAP (Table 2) for two species, POP and sablefish, are either less than or equal to survey results for DAP (Table 1) and that this results in no proposed JVP and TALFF. It should also be noted that the survey DAPs (Table 1) in some cases exceed the proposed OYs.

Realization of full benefits to be derived from use of Gulf of Alaska fishery resources will require that bycatch quantities of POP and sablefish be allowed in fisheries that target on other species. In Table 2, footnote 1, the SSC stated that these needs would be met by utilizing fish held in the reserve. A situation could arise where the reserve may not be large enough to meet those needs. When this happens, action would have to be taken to reduce the OYs to accommodate the bycatch or the other target fishery not be allowed to proceed.

Prior to the Council's December meeting, the extent of this problem should be closely examined to determine the nature of actions required to accommodate these bycatches and to establish bycatch amounts. Once bycatch amounts are established, consideration should be given on how to apportion it among various participants. Transfer of apportionments should be considered.

#### D. Other.

The SSC noted that joint ventures which occur in internal waters are being reported as DAP in the catch statistics and in the estimates of DAH when the catch occurred in state waters.

TABLE 1  
 1985 GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH  
 INITIAL 1985 INDUSTRY SURVEY OF DAP AND JVP  
 SSC MINUTES

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>DAP</u>	<u>JVP</u>	<u>DAH</u>
POLLOCK	W/C	2,023	185,100	187,123
	E	5	0	5
TOTAL		2,028	185,100	187,128
PACIFIC COD	W	600	5,965	6,565
	C	8,691	8,200	16,891
	E	120	0	120
TOTAL		9,411	14,165	23,576
FLOUNDERS	W	400	800	1,200
	C	1,486	1,800	3,286
	E	227	0	227
TOTAL		2,113	2,600	4,713
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH	W	3,000	6,951	9,951
	C	6,683	500	7,183
	E	136	0	136
TOTAL		9,819	7,451	17,270
SABLEFISH	W	1,752	114	1,866
	C	6,035	290	6,325
	W.YAK	0	0	0
	E.YAK	0	0	0
	S.E.OUT	3,016	0	3,016
TOTAL		10,803	404	11,207
ATKA MACKEREL	W	0	3,400	3,400
	C	0	500	500
	E	0	0	0
TOTAL		0	3,900	3,900
ROCKFISH	GW	2,947	1,765	4,712
THORNYHEAD	GW	0	0	0
SQUID	GW	0	0	0
OTHER SPECIES	GW	62	605	667
TOTAL		37,183	215,990	253,173

TABLE 2  
1985 GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH  
SSC MINUTES

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>OY</u>	<u>RESERVE</u>	<u>DAP<sup>2/</sup></u>	<u>JVP<sup>3/</sup></u>	<u>DAH</u>	<u>TALFF</u>
POLLOCK	W/C	400,000	80,000	2,023	190,000	192,023	127,977
	E	16,600	3,320	5	0	5	13,275
TOTAL		416,600	83,320	2,028	190,000	192,028	141,252
PACIFIC COD	W	16,560	3,312	600	5,965	6,565	6,683
	C	33,540	6,708	8,691	8,200	16,891	9,941
	E	9,900	1,980	120	0	120	7,800
TOTAL		60,000	12,000	9,411	14,165	23,576	24,424
FLOUNDERS	W	10,400	2,080	400	800	1,200	7,120
	C	14,700	2,940	1,486	3,000	4,486	7,274
	E	8,400	1,680	300	0	300	6,420
TOTAL		33,500	6,700	2,186	3,800	5,986	20,814
P. OCEAN PERCH	W	2,700	540 <sup>1/</sup>	2,160*	0*	2,160	0
	C	7,900	1,580 <sup>1/</sup>	6,320*	0*	6,320	0
	E	875	175	136	0	136	564
TOTAL		11,475	2,295	8,616*	0*	8,616	564
SABLEFISH	W	1,670	334 <sup>1/</sup>	1,336*	0*	1,336	0
	C	3,060	612 <sup>1/</sup>	2,448*	0*	2,448	0
	W. YAK	1,680	336 <sup>1/</sup>	1,344	0	1,344	0
	E. YAK	1,135	0	1,135	0	1,135	0
	S. E. OUT	1,435	0	1,435	0	1,435	0
	TOTAL		8,980	1,282	7,698*	0*	7,698
ATKA MACKEREL	W	4,678	936	0	3,400	3,400	342
	C	20,836	4,167	0	500	500	16,169
	E	3,186	637	0	0	0	2,549
TOTAL		28,700	5,740	0	3,900	3,900	19,060
ROCKFISH	GW	7,600	1,520	2,947	1,765	4,712	1,368
THORNYHEAD	GW	3,750	750	40	10	50	2,950
SQUID	GW	5,000	1,000	100	10	110	3,890
OTHER SPECIES	GW	28,780	5,756	150	1,400	1,550	21,474
TOTAL		604,385	120,363	33,176	215,050	248,226	235,796

\*Indicates of downward adjustment of results obtained from the NMFS Regional office survey.

FOOTNOTES

- 1/ Most of the reserves will be apportioned to DAP. Some reserves may be needed for bycatch in joint venture and foreign fisheries for other species.
- 2/ DAP is set equal to the greater of the NMFS survey results or the projected NMFS 1984 catch, but less than or equal to 80% of the OY.
- 3/ JVP is set equal to the greater of the NMFS survey results of the projected NMFS 1984 catches, but less than or equal to the remainder of 80% of OY minus DAP.



D-4 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

The SSC reviewed the Resource Assessment Document for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish dated July 1984. This document contains the team's recommended proposed catch levels (TACs) for the 1985 season.

The SSC received an update of the status of stocks from the NWAFC which results from their analysis of stock conditions as reflected in the 1984 survey. This update indicated that the EY values for some species were different than those which the team used in developing its recommendation. The changes are:

Pollock (BS)	1,100,000	down from	1,200,000
Pollock (AI)	100,000	down from	120,000
Pacific Cod	347,000	up from	178,400
Turbots	57,500	down from	64,200
Other species	46,700	down from	51,200

Based upon these changes in EYs, the SSC recommends that the proposed TACs for the 1985 season be changed. The proposed changes in TAC are presented in Table 3. The SSC recommends the TACs as proposed in Table 3 be sent out for public review.

With respect to selected species which the TAC changes were suggested, the SSC has the following comments:

- (1) Pacific cod - The Plan Team recommended a TAC of 178,400 mt, based on the EY in the July 1984 RAD. Dr. Low, NWAFC, revealed that results of the 1984 field season show that EY is greater than 178,400 and that, it may be as much as 347,400 mt. Based on this information, the SSC felt that the TAC could be higher. The SSC recommends that the proposed 1985 TAC be at least equal to the 1984 TAC, or 210,000 mt.
- (2) Turbots - The Team has suggested a TAC for Turbots that produces on an exploitation rate of approximately twenty percent. In light of the presentation we received from the NWAFC, that of a decline in the CPUE for greenland turbot, the SSC feels that a lower exploitation rate would be appropriate. The SSC, therefore, recommends a reduction to a TAC to 50,000 mt which lowers the exploitation rate to approximately 17%.
- (3) Yellowfin sole and other flatfishes - The SSC suggests a change in the method of calculation of the final adjustment of the TACs to force a fit to 2,000,000 mt. In past years only yellowfin sole has been used. The SSC suggests that the necessary adjustment be apportioned to yellowfin sole and to other flatfish in proportion to their EYs.

As we did in the Gulf of Alaska, the SSC reviewed the results of the 1985 NMFS survey of DAP and JVP (Table 4). In a similar manner, we adjusted the DAP and JVP estimates to take into account the projected 1984 harvest. The adjusted values of DAP and JVP are presented in Table 3. The SSC recommends that these adjusted values of DAP and JVP be sent for public review.

TABLE 3

## 1985 BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GROUND FISH

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>TAC</u>	<u>DAP</u> <sup>1/</sup>	<u>JVP</u> <sup>2/</sup>	<u>DAH</u>	<u>RESERVE</u> <sup>3/</sup>	<u>TALFF</u>
POLLOCK/BS	1,100,000	6,826	274,500	281,326		653,674
POLLOCK/AI	100,000	300	10,000	10,300		74,700
POP/BS	680	578 <sup>4/</sup>	0	578		0
POP/AI	3,800	100	2,310	2,410		820
ROCKFISH/BS	1,120	600	20	620		332
ROCKFISH/AI	5,500	5	535	540		4,135
SABLEFISH/BS	2,600	1,979	100	2,079		131
SABLEFISH/AI	3,360	100	417	517		2,339
PACIFIC COD	210,000	62,940	40,000	102,940		75,560
YELLOWFIN SOLE	288,700	3,076	57,000	60,076		185,319
TURBOTS	50,000	0	2,000	2,000		40,500
FLATFISH	139,840	907	22,000	22,907		95,957
ATKA MACKEREL	37,700	0	32,045	32,045 <sup>4/</sup>		0
SQUID	10,000	0	30	30		8,470
OTHER SPECIES	46,700	1,000	2,800	3,800		35,895
TOTAL	2,000,000	78,411	443,757	522,168	300,000	1,177,832

TABLE 4

1985 BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GROUND FISH  
 INITIAL 1985 INDUSTRY SURVEY OF DAP & JVP

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DAP</u>	<u>JVP</u>	<u>DAH</u>
POLLOCK/BS	6,826	274,500	281,326
POLLOCK/AL	0	2,875	2,875
POP/BS	4,360	1,010	5,370
POP/AI	0	2,310	2,310
ROCKFISH/BS	600	10	610
ROCKFISH/AI	0	535	535
SABLEFISH/BS	1,979	10	1,989
SABLEFISH/AI	0	417	417
PACIFIC COD	62,940	18,150	81,090
YELLOWFIN SOLE	3,076	57,000	60,076
TURBOTS	0	2,000	2,000
FLATFISH	907	21,824	22,731
ATKA MACKEREL	0	56,360	56,360
SQUID	0	0	0
OTHER SPECIES	0	600	600
TOTAL	80,688	437,601	518,289

#### FOOTNOTES

As noted in the Gulf of Alaska, realization of full benefits from this groundfish complex will require provision for bycatch.

- 1/ DAP is set equal to the greater of the NMFS survey results or the projected NMFS 1984 catch, but less than or equal to 85% of the TAC.
- 2/ JVP is set equal to the greater of the NMFS survey result or the projected NMFS 1984 catch, but less than or equal to the remainder of 85% of the TAC minus the DAP.
- 3/ In cases where JVP or TALFF is equal to or approaching zero, some reserves may be apportioned to those fisheries for bycatch. Currently, these fisheries are POP/BS, Atka mackerel and possibly sablefish/BS and rockfish/BS.
- 4/ In these cases the survey indicates a demand for the species far in excess of the available resource (EY). The management mechanism in the plan will allow these values to be adjusted upward by the Regional Director to at least the EY. This adjustment will come from reserve.

E-1 Contracts and Proposal Projects

A. Contract 84-2 - Chinook Troll Data Analysis

The SSC has received the draft final report for Contract 84-2. Members of the SSC indicated that they wanted additional time in the review of the report. Delay of final approval apparently did not cause either the contractor or the staff any problems. Therefore, the SSC delayed its consideration of the contract until our December meeting. Additionally the SSC recommended to the staff that they send the draft report to the salmon team for their review.

B. Programmatic Funds

The SSC reviewed the updated programmatic funds request for FY85. In light of the NMFS response on the request for herring research funding, the SSC concurs with the tentative list for FY85, that domestic groundfish data programs were of high priority. The SSC was informed that there was no need for the king crab research support and therefore recommends that it be deleted from the list. The SSC will be receiving a draft plan on groundfish monitoring at our December meeting and therefore will be able to better recommend actual programs for funds at that meeting.

TEAM COMPOSITION

Salmon Team

Jim Glock	NPFMC
Mike Fraidenburg	WDF
Aven Anderson	NMFS-RO
Mel Seibel	ADFG
Paul Larson	ADFG
Rod Kaiser	ODFW
Steve Ignell	NWAFc
Phil Roger	CRITFC

Herring Team

Jim Glock	NPFMC
Vidar Wespestad	NWAFc
Bob Lebida	ADFG
Aven Anderson	NMFS-RO
*Robert Trumble	WDF
*Dave Bernard	ADFG
*Larry Melloy	ADFG

King Crab Team

Jim Glock	NPFMC
Ray Baglin	NMFS-RO
Marty Eaton	ADFG
Fred Gaffney	ADFG
Jerry Reeves	NWAFc
*Tom Shirley	UA
*Bob Otto	NWAFc

Tanner Crab Team

Steve Davis	NPFMC
Jerry Reeves	NWAFc
Ray Baglin	NMFS-RO
Bill Colgate	ADFG
*Phillip Mundy	UA
*John Hillsinger	ADFG
*Bob Otto	NWAFc

\*SSC additions

Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Team

Steve Davis	NPFMC
Steve Hoag	IPHC
Gary Stauffer	NWAFc
Joe Terry	NWAFc
Jeffrey Fujioka	NWAFc
Fred Gaffney	ADFG
Fritz Funk	ADFG
Ron Berg	NMFS
*Barry Bracken	ADFG
*Robert Fagen	UA

Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Team

Jeff Povolny	NPFMC
Rick Deriso	IPHC
Loh-Lee Low	NWAFc
Abby Gorham	UA
Phil Rigby	ADFG
Pete Jackson	ADFG
Ron Berg	NMFS-RO
*Jim Blackburn	ADFG

\*SSC additions