

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES

August 23, 1978

The Advisory Panel met in the Easter Island Room of the Capt. Cook Hotel August 23, 1978, and again on August 24, 1978. Executive Director Branson reviewed the agenda with the Advisory Panel. There was some discussion of the replacement of Advisory Panel members.

Agenda Item 22, Lost and discarded fishing gear, was discussed and members asked if this was also a problem with foreign fishermen. A motion was passed to ask the Council Chairman to request data from the Japanese at the public testimony portion of the Council meeting about this problem.

Agenda Item 3, Foreign fee schedule. It was noted the comment period to the Secretary of Commerce ends August 29, 1978. After discussion, a motion was passed to recommend increasing Pacific ocean perch price to the same as rockfish, \$378 per ton. Herring should be priced for two seasons: April 15 - June 15 at \$991 per ton; and the rest of the year at \$100 per ton.

Agenda Item 8, Revisions to the Tanner Crab 1978 FMP for 1979. A motion was passed to accept the plan as it is with minor number changes.

Also, a recommendation for a study by the SSC or State of Alaska, or others to review the justification for biodegradable panels on crab pots. This recommendation came from a member of the MPDT of the King Crab Fishery Plan. The Advisory Panel also requested a review of the current available data.

On the Japanese request that they be allowed to fish south of 58° N., 173° East, the Panel suggested delay of a decision until after the 1979 American fishing season. The Panel recommended no changes in lines for foreign fishing. American fishery may develop to a greater extent in the future, and the Council would have the option to change as was done in 1978. The Panel also objects to the request to retain C. bairdi south of 58° by the Japanese.

Part of the rationale is NMFS estimate of substantial reduction in C. bairdi crab in the future and feel the American fleet will move into C. opilio fishery. We are obligated to protect rights of American fishermen.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game presented their report on the herring study they are conducting for the NPFMC.

The Management Plan Development Team for the shrimp plan presented the plan up to date.

Agenda Item 14, Unused herring. The Advisory Panel voted to not release the DAH of 2,000 tons of herring in the Bering Sea to foreign fishermen.

Agenda Item 15, Reserve of groundfish. The Advisory Panel voted to support the release of blackcod, flounder, and Pacific cod, but recommended not to release Pacific ocean perch and sablefish.

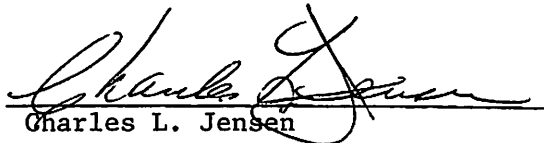
The Advisory Panel supports the SSC recommendation on the fishing agreement with U.S.S.R. to not make research mandatory and change the wording from "shall" to "allow."

Agenda Item 20, Clean-up Study of Aleutian Islands. The Advisory Panel voted the project should be dropped as the damage to the environment would be greater if World War II items were removed.

Agenda Item 22. Discussion on this item led the Advisory Panel to suggest to the Council that a program be set up to survey the insurance companies, Coast Guard, and fishery organizations to compile data for the evidence of the problems caused by the discarded gear.

On the problem of joint venture, the Advisory Panel voted that from the information available to them, the request for 130,000 mt of pollock for the KMIDC venture was not realistic (as related to the 1979 distribution of OY).

The Advisory Panel voted to accept the Halibut Plan as written and urged the Council to distribute it to the public as soon as possible.


Charles L. Jensen
Acting Chairman

9/17/78
Date