

North Pacific Fishery

Appendix B
Management Council

Elmer Rasmuson, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

Suite 32, 333 West 4th Avenue
Post Office Mall Building



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April 25, 1977

Draft Agenda
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Sixth Plenary Session
Loussac Library, 5th and F Streets
Anchorage, Alaska
April 27-28, 1977

The Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Advisory Panel will meet in conjunction with the Council and then proceed to separate meetings if desired.

Location and time of Scientific and Statistical Committee and Advisory Panel meetings will be announced at the time.

There will be a public hearing beginning at 3:30 p.m., April 27.

A closed meeting of the Council to hear matters of a security classified nature has been cleared by the Secretary of Commerce and is scheduled from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., April 27.

Convene 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 27, 1977, downstairs in the Loussac Library.

1. Approve the agenda
2. Approve the minutes of the March 21-22, 1977 Council meeting

Executive Director's Report

3. Financial report
4. Budgeting and contracts
5. Procurement standards
6. Staff report
 - a. Contract school
 - b. Personnel bill
 - c. Auditor
7. Executive Director's meeting, Charleston, South Carolina, March 29-30
8. Council information program
9. R/V OREGON
10. Statement of Organization, Practices and Procedures

Communications

11. Resignation from the Advisory Panel
- 11a. Letter from Jack Cotant
12. Letter from Ambassador Ridgway on IPHC notification
13. Request for advisor to MAFAC

14. April 13 summary of permits issued to foreign ships
15. Letter from NOAA on Council request for fishery development money
16. Request from NMFS for Council assistance in developing fishery programs
- 16a. Request from Rep. Osterback re: committee program for fisheries development
17. Letter from Governor Ray designating Frank Haw as her representative to the North Pacific Council
18. Request from NMFS for Council consideration of changes to the FCMA of 1976
19. Request from NMFS for Council participation in Optimum Yield Workshop
20. Letter from CGD17 on Canadian-U.S. Short-term Agreement

New Business

21. Request for Council review of HR 1833 (Aquaculture Bill)
22. Review permit application for Anyo Maru No. 11
- 22a. Development of management plan for Eastern Bering Sea Clam Fishery

Old Business

23. Report on fish waste disposal problem (NWAFC)
24. Progress report on tanner crab processing capacity study (University of Alaska)
25. Report on foreign ownership of U.S. fishing vessels (Ken Olsen)

26. Report from Gulf of Alaska Trawl Plan Drafting Team
(Bert Larkin)
27. Report from Tanner Crab Plan and Troll Salmon Plan
Drafting Teams (Don Collinsworth)
28. Status of tanner crab in the Bering Sea (NWAFC)
29. Report from High Seas Salmon Study Team (Pennoyer/
Burgner)
30. Report from Halibut Management Study Group
31. Scientific and Statistical Committee Report
32. Advisory Panel Report
33. Recommendations for developing socio-economic studies
for determination of optimum yield (Scientific and
Statistical Committee)
34. Appointment of new Advisory Panel member
35. Report on permit applications from 31 independent
Japanese crab boats (Mr. Rietze)
36. John Harville's testimony at oversight hearings on
P.L. 94-265, April 14, 1977

Appendix C.

Attachments for Fifth Plenary Session of the North Pacific
Fishery Management Council, Anchorage, Alaska, March 21 and
21, 1977

1. List of attendees
2. Draft agenda
3. February meeting minutes
4. Executive Director's report
5. Fishery Conservation Transition Act
6. Kennedy-Stevens Commercial Fishing Revitalization Act - SB 187
7. Statement of Policy by the Alaska Fishery Council March 8, 1977
8. Letter from the Association of Pacific Fisheries
9. Letter from Ambassador Ridgway to Elmer Rasmuson dated February 24, 1977
10. Letter from Secretary Kreps to Rasmuson
11. U.S.-Canadian Short-term Agreement
12. NMFS Extended Jurisdiction Tables
13. List of public presentations
14. House Resolution #27
15. Ostrosky's Korean Report (April 24, 1977)
16. Korean Marine Industry Development Corporation Proposal
17. New England Fish Company Proposal
18. U.S.C.G. - Extended Jurisdiction Report by Cmdr. Giffin
19. Scientific and Statistical Committee Report - Alverson, (including report of Socio-economic meeting in Juneau)
20. Advisory Panel Report
21. Report on the Foreign Permit Application review
22. A report by Cotant on the Pacific Salmon Troll Plan public hearing

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P.L. 94-265, April 14, 1977

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

CHAIRMAN

Mr. Elmer Rasmuson
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North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Fifth Plenary Session
March 21-22, 1977
Anchorage, Alaska

The Fifth Plenary Session of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council was convened by Chairman Elmer Rasmuson at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Monday, March 21st in the Wellington Room of the Holiday Inn in Anchorage. Council members present were:

Mr. Elmer Rasmuson - Chairman
Mr. Harold Lokken - Vice-Chairman
Mr. Henry Eaton
Mr. Douglas Eaton
Mr. John Harville
Mr. James Brooks
Mr. Jim Barry
Mr. Clem Tillion
Mr. Bob Mace
Rear Admiral John Hayes
Mr. Donald McKernan
Mr. Harry Rietze
Mr. Henry Wendler
Mr. Nick Schowengert

Absent was:

Mr. Chuck Meacham

Advisory Panel members present were:

Mr. Jack Cotant, Chairman
Mr. Nick Szabo, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Keith Specking
Mr. Robert Alverson
Mr. Oral Burch
Mr. Harry Wilde
Mr. Paul Guy
Mr. William Burke
Mr. Kenneth Olson
Mr. Rick Lauber
Mr. Ray Lewis

Mr. Truman Emberg
Mr. Knute Johnson
Ms. Judith Ayres
Mr. Robert Starck

Scientific and Statistical Committee members present were:

Mr. Dayton Alverson, Chairman
Mr. Steve Pennoyer, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Jack Robinson (for Bob Loeffel)
Mr. Edward Miles
Mr. George Rogers
Mr. Donald Rosenberg
Mr. Carl Rosier
Mr. Charles Woelke
Mr. Donald Bevin

Staff members present were:

Executive Director Jim Branson
Assistant Executive Director Mark I. Hutton
Executive Secretary Florence Mynarski
Administrative Officer Judy Willoughby
Clerk typist Janet Murray

Approximately 36 persons from the general public were in attendance and are listed in attachment No. 1.

A copy of the draft agenda for the Council meeting is included as attachment No. 2.

The Chairman requested all those wishing to make a public presentation to sign in, giving their name, affiliation, subject to be presented and the approximate time required. Public testimony was scheduled for 3:30 p.m., Monday afternoon.

Notice of an Advisory Panel meeting was given for 11:00 a.m. in the Cordova Building, Room 509, located at 6th and Cordova.

The agenda was approved after reaffirming there would be a Coast Guard presentation on extended jurisdiction activities. The minutes of the previous meeting (Attachment No. 3) were deferred for Council review until the second day.

Mr. Jim Branson, Executive Director, presented his Director's report (Attachment No. 4) to the Council in which he discussed the following items.

o The statement of Income and Expenses which showed the Council receiving its first operating grant, totalling \$54,000 for the month of March;

o The second half FY77 Council budget estimated at \$427,000, which is \$39,000 less than previously estimated resulting from a more accurate assessment of Council meeting expenses.

o A summary of the Council budget which included the following: Expenditures through the first half of FY77 totalling \$200,000; Council operations for the second half of FY77 totalling \$427,000; development of 4 1/2 management plans, \$175,000; and contract requests of \$200,000 totalling \$1,002,000 for FY77.

o Consideration of the concept of budgeting by management plans which Branson reported would require involvement by the Scientific and Statistical Committee and guidance by the Council.

o A report that Council staff insurance matters had been temporarily resolved.

o The need for the Council to contract fiscal auditing services to fulfill requirements of the law.

o Authorization for the Executive Director and the Assistant Executive Director to sign for grant awards.

o The Executive Director's Conference in Charleston, South Carolina and a proposed logo and letterhead design.

The Chairman reactivated a budget subcommittee to consider the proposed second half FY77 Council budget and asked them to report with recommendations on Tuesday. The Chair also requested the staff to handle solicitation of bids for audit contracts for the Council bookkeeping system.

The Council unanimously approved a motion to authorize the Chairman, the Executive Director and the Assistant Executive Director to sign grant awards.

The Council unanimously approved a motion to approve Branson's travel to attend the Regional Council Executive Directors' meeting in Charleston, South Carolina on March 28-30.

The Chairman requested the Council to authorize three signatories to the Council's banking system; the Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director and the Administrative Officer.

The Fishery Conservation Transition Act and the amendment to it (attachment #5) was discussed. It was pointed out that 10 Governing International Fishery Agreements had been approved by Congress thru the Act and that it reduced Council review time of foreign fishing permit applications to seven days, effective through 1977.

The Kennedy-Stevens Commercial Fishing Revitalization Act (Senate Bill 187) (attachment No. 6) was introduced to the Council. The possibility of funding increases was discussed as several million dollars could be designated to the Regional Fishery Management Councils for fishery development work. The money would come from import tariffs collected on fisheries products. There was no Council action.

A Statement of Policy by the Alaska Fishery Council dated March 8, 1977 was introduced (attachment No. 7). It dealt with the priorities of various processing potentials and was deferred until the afternoon's public presentation. Reports have been scheduled by foreign and domestic processors which will present proposals both pro and con.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee announced it would meet in the Council headquarters office starting at 11 a.m. As an agenda topic the Council asked the SSC to consider a resignation letter by Dr. Bernie Skud from the SSC and recommend an action to the Council during Tuesday's SSC report.

A letter from the Association of Pacific Fisheries (attachment #8) was introduced by Branson. It dealt with the need for industry relief from certain commercial fish processing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) effluent guidelines. Council member Henry Eaton, labeled the proposed EPA requirements as being unnecessarily harmful to the fish processing industry because of major errors in the basic data used by EPA, relating to primarily incorrect biological baseline assumptions and faulty economic conclusions. Eaton said that most plants would be forced to close rather than comply because of the financial burden of installing necessary equipment. This question was referred to the SSC for study and comment.

The Council also discussed Coastal Zone Management (CZM), estuarine zoning and EPA requirements. The SSC was asked to consider the effects of each as they might technically relate to Public Law 94-265.

A letter from Ambassador Ridgway to Elmer Rasmuson dated 24 Feb., 1977 (attachment No. 9) was considered by the Council. This letter acknowledged the North Pacific Fishery Council request to renegotiate The Convention for the Preservation of Halibut Fishing in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, The Convention for the Protection, Preservation Extention of the Sockeye Salmon Fishery of the Fraser River System and The International Convention for the High Seas Fishery of the North Pacific Ocean. The letter discussed the Department of State posture in the upcoming renegotiations and was cited by the Chair as an example of an increasing willingness of the DOS to communicate on matters of renegotiation and of interest to the Council.

The Chair requested the record to show that this Council insists on total involvement in the earliest formulative stages of any renegotiation with the INPFC, the IPHC or the Salmon Treaty.

A letter from Secretary Kreps to Elmer Rasmuson dated 3 March, 1977 (attachment No. 10) was discussed by the Council. The Council considered the response by Secretary Kreps (to an earlier request by the Chair for Council involvement in all pertinent renegotiations) to be inadequate, particularly in light of the cooperative letter received by Ambassador Ridgway of DOS.

The Council discussed the importance of a good relationship with the State Department but re-emphasized the necessity of working thru the Department of Commerce.

James Brooks, a Council member, stated he felt the intent expressed in the letter from Kreps was important. He said it raised a basic question of whether or not this Council wished to operate under Governing International Fisheries Agreements and Council Fishery Management Plans or DOS/DOC internationally negotiated plans which would take precedent over Council plans.

Council discussion following Brooks' remarks indicated that most of the Council members did not feel that we would ever be excluded from negotiations on international transboundary stocks and that all internationally negotiated plans would in the future be in conformity with Public Law 94-265 and require a Governing International Fishery Agreement.

The Chair commented that Brooks' and the Council's concerns must be resolved and cited halibut management as an example. He said the Management Plan must have total input from all parties concerned with the renegotiation of complex treaties involving transboundary stocks and other complicated fisheries management problems. Further discussions on this matter were deferred until Tuesday morning.

The U.S.-Canadian short-term agreement was discussed by the Council. A major interpretive problem existed, Branson said, in the identification of the State as a management entity. Kim White (NOAA legal counsel) reported on the interpretation of Article VIII, Section II, of the agreement, (attachment No. 11). White said "management entities" could include State management but would not allow the State enforcement powers over non-residents on the high seas. Department of State representative Schowengerdt commented that the first sentence of Article VIII, Section I clarified this problem: "The two parties recognize that each shall manage fisheries within its jurisdiction within the terms of its domestic laws." Any reference to state enforcement beyond three miles was felt to be incorrect. References to the applicability of reciprocal regulations were considered confusing.

Correspondence was introduced from Governor Hammond to Secretary of State Vance regarding the renegotiation of the International Pacific Halibut Convention. In response to this letter the Council discussed approaches to renegotiation of the Halibut Convention. The Chair concluded they needed a recommendation, based on all facts and alternatives, of possible Council positions.

Applications for vessel permits to fish within the Fishery Conservation Zone were received for the Republic of Korea, the Republic of China, the Polish Peoples Republic and the Union of Soviet and Socialist Republics. Branson reported that the 7 day review period had expired and there was no time for the Council to comment on the applications.

Schowengerdt stated that 49 Japanese permit requests had been hand-carried to the meeting and would be submitted for Council recommendations. The Chair assigned the review of these applications to the ad hoc committee on foreign fishing applications as chaired by Keith Specking of the Advisory Panel. The meeting to discuss applications was scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

The concept of budgeting for management plans was discussed. Branson explained that the Council could budget for each management plan for proposed travel and per diem expenses, but probably not labor. Branson said that he would like guidance from the Council and the budget committee as to guidelines for the development of management plan budgets. Brooks was asked to work with the budget review committee to represent the State.

An update on National Marine Fisheries Service extended jurisdiction activities was presented by Harry Rietze, Director for NMFS, Alaska. Rietze distributed extended jurisdiction tables and charts which are included in their entirety as attachment No. 12. His review involved a summary of approved foreign fishery permits, the foreign allocations by nations by species and the total allowable catch figures for all species in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea for 1977. Rietze noted the following highlights: (1) Japan was issued 335 fishing permits to catch 1,168,000 metric tons (MT) off Alaska for 1977: (2) The Soviet Union was issued 207 fishing permits to catch 373,000 MT off Alaska for 1977: (3) Republic of Korea was issued 28 permits to catch 81,000 MT off Alaska for 1977: (4) Tiawan was issued four permits to catch 5,500 MT in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands for 1977: and (5) Poland was issued 14 permits to catch 7,000 MT in the Gulf of Alaska for 1977. This represents 1,634,500 metric tons of which approximately 1,375,500 MT will come from the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and 259,000 MT will come from the Gulf of Alaska.

The current 1977 allocation represents a reduction of approximately 11% from the total foreign catch in 1975. No reliable catch statistics were available as yet for 1976. The summary further indicated that the number of foreign fishing vessels fishing off Alaska was reduced to 54% of last year (1,081 vessels in 1976 and 588 vessels in 1977).

Rietze also said that the 1.6 million metric tons allocated to foreign fishermen off Alaska represented 80% of the total national foreign allocation. He said the foreign allocation of Alaskan pollock alone will represent almost 53% of the total national foreign allocation.

The only vessels reported fishing in the Fishery Conservation Zone through March 16th were 58 Japanese vessels and 49 Soviet vessels. A further breakdown of location and activity for each group of vessels is included in the report.

The increase in Polish fishing permit applications in one year from zero to 14 vessels was questioned. Rietze explained that all of the 14 vessels had to be licensed for the Pacific Ocean but that by regulations only four boats could fish pollock in the Gulf of Alaska at any one time and the catch would be restricted to the present quota.

The Council adjourned for lunch.

The Council convened at 3:30 p.m. to hear public testimony.

A list of the scheduled presentations is included in attachment No. 13.

Mr. Ed Naughton, Business Manager for the Kodiak Shrimp Trawlers reported that the BLM/OCS Biological Baseline Data Study was being curtailed because of funding problems. Naughton emphasized the importance of this information as it related to fisheries assessment work and urged the Council to look into this problem.

Mr. Hank Ostrosky, representing the Kvichak, Naknek Native Cooperative presented an Alaskan Legislative House Resolution No. 27 (Attachment No. 14) which criticized the Council for its lack of responsiveness in seeking Native Alaskan inputs into Council activities. Mr. Ostrosky also presented a memorandum dated April 24th, 1972 (attachment #15) which discussed an old proposal for a U.S.-Korean joint commercial fishing venture.

Mr. David Nanalook from the village of Togiak in Bristol Bay stated that there was not enough representation from the Bristol Bay area and that this could become a serious problem. A list of the four Western Alaska Advisory Panel members was requested to be sent to Mr. Nanalook. The Chair encouraged that input from the area to be channeled thru the Panel members.

Mr. Robert Mill from the Alaska World Enterprises, Inc. presented a proposal to provide lighter than air (blimps) equipment to the USCG for FCMA surveillance and enforcement.

Mr. Bill Karvonen, a commercial fisherman from Anchorage, testified on his concern for the future of commercial fishing and the commercial fishing lifestyle. He also commented on high seas salmon fishing.

Mr. Nick Szabo, vice-chairman of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and vice-chairman of the Advisory Panel reported that after harvest levels are set for tanner crab in the eastern Bering Sea by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the Board might then have to promulgate an emergency closure on certain Bering Sea tanner crab stocks if overfishing occurs and catch per unit effort drops during the 1977 season.

Mr. Bob Davenny, President of R.E. Davenny Company and representing the Korean Marine Industry Development Corporation (KMIDC) presented a KMIDC proposal (attachment No. 16). The proposal would offer a contract for American fishermen to catch pollock and sell their catch directly to floating Korean processors.

Mr. Edward Furia, and Mr. Clayton Cook testified on behalf of New England Fish Company (NEFCO) of Seattle. Their report (attachment No. 17) was based on their interpretation of how the FCMA should treat foreign processing/domestic fishing operations and NEFCO's opinions on foreign/domestic joint fishing operation.

The public testimony portion of the meeting was closed. The Council adjourned until 8:30 a.m. Tuesday morning, March 22.

Tuesday, March 22, 1977
8:30 a.m.
Holiday Inn

Chairman Elmer Rasmuson called the second day of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's fifth plenary session to order.

Council members present were:

Mr. Elmer Rasmuson
Mr. Harold Lokken
Mr. James Brooks
Mr. Harry Rietze
Mr. Henry Eaton
Mr. Douglas Eaton
Mr. Nick Schowengerdt
Mr. Jim Barry
Mr. Henry Wendler
Mr. John Harville
Rear Admiral John Hayes
Mr. Clem Tillion
Mr. Bob Mace
Mr. Donald McKernan

Absent was:

Mr. Charles Meacham

Advisory Panel members present were:

Mr. Jack Cotant
Mr. Nick Szabo
Mr. Keith Specking
Mr. Robert Alverson
Mr. Ken Olsen
Mr. Oral Burch
Mr. Robert Starck
Mr. Sig Jaeger
Mr. Raymond Lewis
Ms. Judith Ayres
Mr. Harry Wilde
Mr. Paul Guy
Mr. William Burke
Mr. Rick Lauber
Mr. Truman Emberg
Mr. Knute Johnson

Scientific and Statistical Committee members present were:

Mr. Lee Alverson
Mr. Steve Pennoyer
Mr. Carl Rosier

Mr. Don Rosenberg
Mr. Don Bevan
Mr. Charles Woelke
Mr. Jack Robinson
Mr. George Rogers
Mr. Edward Miles

Executive Staff present were:

Jim Branson
Mark I. Hutton
Florence Mynarski
Judy Willoughby
Janet Murray

Commander Ralph Giffin United States Coast Guard, reported to the Council on Coast Guard extended jurisdiction activities. Giffin said that the Coast Guard earlier had serious questions regarding the enforcement of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act. He reported that congressional relief actions eliminating the requirement for having the foreign fishery permit displayed in the wheel house had helped. Additionally, he said that because Canada had not signed a GIFA there was a question as to the interpretation of the interim agreement between U.S. and Canada. Giffin said the Coast Guard was concerned about the uncertainty of whether to enforce Canadian violations under the FCMA or under the joint U.S.-Canadian agreement. Giffin also said high seas salmon enforcement was set forth in the regulations in the INPFC.

Giffin stated that by February 28 the Coast Guard had received the necessary guidelines to begin enforcing the FCMA. During the first week of March they had deployed six cutters and flew 12 aircraft patrols. Most of the cutters and aircraft had National Marine Fisheries Service agents on board.

Commander Giffin stated that attitudes onboard the Japanese and Soviet fishing vessels were very good. As an example, the Soviet stern trawler MYS VORONINA was cited for a few illegal halibut on board. The Russian fleet commander, when informed of the violation, directed the vessel to return to Russia although more than 2 1/2 months remained on her trip.

The U.S.C.G. has sighted at least 70% of the vessels permitted to be in the waters off Alaska and has boarded 21%. Giffin said these percentages were satisfactory and hoped the Coast Guard could maintain them as foreign ship numbers increased in the summer months.

Giffin said that the Coast Guard had interpretative problems with the 1977 U.S.-Canadian agreement and the enforcement of that agreement.

McKernan commented on the outstanding job that the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Marine Fisheries Service had done to prepare for the March 1st implementation of the FCMA. All of the Council members concurred and unanimously decided to offically commend these two agencies.

The Council asked Donald McKernan to draft a resolution commending the U.S. Coast Guard and the NMFS for their timely and efficient implementation of the FCMA on March 1, 1977.

Dr. Lee Alverson, Chairman of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, reported on the SSC meeting held on March 21, 1977 at 11:00 a.m. in the Council office (attachment No. 19). Alverson reported that all members were present except Bernie Skud. Bob Loeffel was represented by Jack Robinson. Five major topics were discussed during the meeting: (1) the status of reports regarding socio-economic needs for management plans, (2) the development of a high seas management plan, (3) scheduling of management plans under development, (4) support for coded wire tagging recovery studies, and (5) contract funding and management plan costs.

A report on Procedures and Socio-economic Data Needs for Determination of Optimum Yield for Fishery Management was submitted to the full SSC for consideration. The report dealt with a description of the methodology and an outline of research strategies to identify relevant data availability. It will be reviewed in final form by the Committee with recommendations to the Council for the April meeting.

Alverson reported that a meeting was held in Juneau on March 7 to consider ways of resolving the Council need to develop specific data related to the harvesting capacity of the U.S. tanner crab fleet. He said that several short-term studies on tanner crab harvesting, processing and marketing have been initiated and will include the following: (1) consumption patterns and trends, (2) harvesting capacity, (3) processing capacity, (4) potential new markets, and (5) institutional factors. By mid-May the Committee expected to have the first short-term tanner crab economic study completed. Portions of the short-term study are related to a more comprehensive long-term marketing study currently underway by the University of Alaska Sea Grant staff and scheduled for completion in 1978.

Alverson said there were four other related projects that were being considered or were underway: (1) consideration of data requirements for shellfish plans, (2) consideration of data requirements for groundfish plans, (3) a review of limited entry in Alaska and Canadian fisheries, and (4) development of fisheries management systems.

The SSC had considered a high seas salmon management plan and recommended to the Council that it be developed separately from the ocean salmon plan dealing with the troll salmon fishery. The drafting team should include Dr. Bergner, University of Washington, Mr. Pennoyer, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Mr. Fredin, National Marine Fisheries Service, Mr. Regnart, ADF&G and Mr. Parker, ADF&G. The NMFS was recommended as the lead agency for High Seas Salmon Management Plan development.

Alverson commented that the plan would be unique. It would have no total allowable catch and no domestic fishery. He said the only purpose of the plan would be to deal with the Japanese fishery to develop strategies for controlling this fishery. It would also establish a posture for renegotiation of the International North Pacific Fishery Convention. Alverson asked the Council to evaluate its goals and objectives regarding the high seas interception of North American salmon and provide subsequent specific guidelines to the management team.

Alverson reported that the scheduling of management plans would proceed in accordance with the present deadline. Part of the SSC felt that there was inadequate time to prepare the appropriate analysis and documentation of socio-economic data. They felt a failure to properly document such plans would jeopardize the plan's acceptance. However, the SSC felt that a delay until October would not make better data available and actually much of the socio-economic data might ultimately be developed through the hearing process.

Alverson reported that the SSC is requesting Council support for the coded wire tag recovery program off Southeast Alaska. The total amount of funding required is \$58,000. The Committee felt that if the funding was not identified within the next several weeks the project could not be initiated on time.

Alverson stated that contract funding and management plan cost for a high seas salmon plan would more likely be \$15,000-20,000 rather than \$10,000 as previously estimated.

Alverson said the SSC recommended accepting the resignation letter of Bernie Skud and would look for a new appointee. They also recommended the Council retain Mr. Skud as a special advisor to the SSC because of his special expertise in halibut management.

The SSC recommended the Council accept the resignation of Mr. Bob Loeffel on the SSC and approve as his replacement, Mr. Jack Robinson from the Oregon Department of Fish and Game.

The SSC studied the question of research and the effects of organic fish waste effluent from seafood processing plants. Alverson said that the Committee would make some comments but generally would like to put together a more formal report to submit to the Council.

In their review the Committee reported that the Water Pollution Control Act dealt with effluent standards and was not concerned directly with the quality of receiving water. Alverson further stated that the Act requires the standards to be applied to the effluent even though it can be proven that the discharge creates no harmful effects at levels to which it is diluted in receiving waters. He said that if the Council wished to resolve this issue it would require a change in the law.

Alverson asked the Council to schedule a special presentation for the next Council meeting by the Northwestern Alaska Fisheries Center. The presentation would deal with abundance trends and recruitment for tanner crab in the eastern Bering Sea.

Concluding the SSC report Dr. Alverson requested the following action by the Council; (1) affirmation of support for the University of Alaska Sea Grant economic study proposal for tanner crab, (2) confirm high seas salmon plan development team and lead role, (3) consider scheduling for management plans (4) resolve funding for coded wire tag salmon recovery study, (5) act on proposal for new membership and maintenance of Mr. Skud as a consultant on matters relating to management of halibut resources and, (6) consider presentation on INPFC renegotiation at the session. And (7) consider a presentation at the next meeting from the Northwestern Alaska Fishery Center concerning abundance trends for tanner crab for the Bering Sea.

Retirement of the R/V OREGON was discussed. The possibility that there might not be a NOAA research vessel assigned to Alaska to carry on trawl surveys was considered important. The Chair and the Executive Director agreed to look into the problem.

The Council unanimously approved a motion "which authorized the Council to write the Secretary of Commerce concerning the need for continuing research vessel support and indicating we believe it will be very difficult, if not impossible, for us to carry out the responsibilities given the Council unless we have adequate scientific monitoring of the stocks of fish and the effects of fisheries on these stocks."

The Council discussed the potential effects from such a letter. The Chair expressed his reluctance in using a letter as the only means of forwarding the Council's position on this problem. The Chairman then discussed the broader question of the real need for concerted action on specific requests such as this. He felt that this problem should be an important agenda at the Portland meeting of Council Chairmen in September.

Some Council members also favored the utilization of the Congressional delegation to support Council proposals. The Council also asked the budget committee to work with this problem.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee, after studying and recommending changes in a Sea Grant Tanner Crab Market Economic Study, recommended to the Council that this study should be endorsed. The SSC further stated that the proposal fell within the immediate needs of the Council and the information would prove valuable in the development of the tanner crab management plan.

The Council unanimously approved a motion to endorse, with no financial commitment, the grant proposal as recommended by the SSC and dealing with tanner crab market economics.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee recommended the Council support the coded wire salmon recovery project off southeast Alaska. The project was felt to be very important as it provided a mechanism for identifying separate stocks of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia salmon. The total cost of the project was estimated at \$58.7K. Timing very considered very important on this project. A decision must be made by April 15th as to funding and beginning the project.

The Council unanimously approved the motion which modified the Council budget to include the coded wire salmon recovery project. The possibility of involving the Pacific Council was approved.

The need for high seas salmon management planning team was discussed by the SSC. It was noted that this team would likely develop the posture for the North Pacific Council in its upcoming renegotiation of the INPFC structure. In an effort to have the Council prepared for such a negotiation, the SSC recommended the immediate formation of the planning team.

The Council unanimously approved this recommended and authorized a high seas salmon management plan. They further designated the NMFS as the lead agency. The Council further requested a report at the April meeting regarding progress to date by this salmon planning team.

A report on the tanner crab management plan and the groundfish trawl fishery management plan for the Gulf of Alaska indicated

these two plans would be ready for Council approval by the June meeting. The groundfish trawl management plan for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands was scheduled to be presented to the Council at the Council's August meeting. The Council unanimously approved a motion which accepted this schedule for the three management plans.

The Council unanimously approved a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Bob Loeffel from the Scientific and Statistical Committee and accept as his replacement Mr. Jack Robinson from the Oregon Department of Fish and Game.

The Council heard a preliminary report that the future status of tanner crab in the Bering Sea might be on a decline. The report being compiled by the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, NMFS will be ready for Council presentation at the April Council meeting. Alverson, said he would present the report which is being written by Sumerton and Low at that time. The Council unanimously approved the motion requesting this presentation and scheduling it for April 28.

Jack Cotant, Chairman of the Advisory Panel, presented an Advisory Panel report (attachment No. 20). Regarding the foreign ownership question, Cotant stated that more time was required and the Advisory Panel would report back to the Council at the April meeting. He said the Advisory Panel was concerned about the loss of the M/V OREGON for fisheries work. The Panel felt that the Council could not discharge its duties if this vessel was not replaced. Cotant said that the Panel requested Council investigation into this problem. The Panel also submitted a resolution to the Council urging the Council to recommend an indepth and broader marketing study for all seafood products in the domestic market front. More details were requested by the Chair.

In conclusion, Cotant said that the Advisory Panel would like the Council to consider a better method for public participation and public awareness of Council business.

The Council discussed this problem. It was referred to the Chairman and Executive Director for study recommendations for the Council.

The Council budget which had been deferred for review by the Budget Committee was resubmitted for approval. The Budget Committee consisted of McKernan, Hayes, Rietze, Brooks, Rasmuson and Branson. In their deliberations they discussed specific modifications of the budget to reflect a line item for the management plan drafting teams and also for the corrected operating budget.

The Council approved a motion to accept the budget as submitted by the Committee with certain modifications.

Mr. Keith Specking, Chairman of the subcommittee studying foreign permit applications and an Advisory Panel member presented his report from the subcommittee (attachment No. 21). He reported that the subcommittee met at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 21 to consider new foreign fishing permit applications presented to the Council by the State Department. The subcommittee recommended disapproval of 31 applications of Japanese independent tanner crab catcher/processor boats for the Bering Sea. The subcommittee further reviewed the 18 applications for Japanese snail potfishing boats in the Bering Sea with an added observation that in 1975 and 1976 years there was a catch reported but no observed snail fishery in the Bering Sea. No recommended action. The committee had no comments on either the nine Japanese trawl permit applications for the Soyo Maru or the one Japanese refrigerator support vessel.

Specking said that the Committee reasons for recommending disapproval of the 31 permit applications were: (1) the present approved crab factory ship and their catcher boats are capable of taking the entire tanner crab allocation and (2) it appears that the independants would not be able to comply with two requirements of the DOC regulations which (a) require a U.S. observer on board to monitor the catch and (b) that crab must be processed only on designated factory ships. Specking said that his committee would like to review the permit applications prior to Council meetings and would also like to receive a summarization of permits prior to their review.

Schowengerdt indicated his approval of the subcommittee's recommendations. He said that the Department of State was working on a computer summarized form for all permit applications. He hoped that in the near future he could provide the Council subcommittees with a summary for their use in permit application reviews.

The Council approved a motion to accept the subcommittee recommendation to disapprove permit applications at this time for 31 independent tanner crab boats and approve the remaining permit applications.

Council member Brooks noted that disapproval of the applications from the independent crab boats because of the inability or failure to provide catch statistics and/or carry U.S. observers might become a precedent in renegotiating the INPFC and developing the high seas salmon management plan.

The Council unanimously approved the minutes without corrections or additions.

Jack Cotant reported on his attendance at the Pacific Council public hearing held in Seattle on their Salmon Troll Management Plan. His report and a copy of his testimony are included as attachment No. 22. In addition to Cotant's report, Council member Wendler presented his views on the meeting. He stated that there appeared to be a developing inconsistency in the size limits for troll caught king salmon which might create problems off southeast Alaska. Also, Wendler said that the closure for Oregon and Washington June chinook trolling could displace boats into Alaska's offshore salmon troll fishery. Both Cotant and Wendler felt that the uncertainty of the interpretation of the U.S.-Canada agreement would affect Alaskan salmon management.

The Council discussed limited entry concepts as they might apply in the salmon troll management plan. They subsequently approved a motion to direct the management plan drafting team to consider limited entry as a component in the North Pacific Council Ocean Troll Salmon Management Plan.

The Council discussed the problems with halibut management. Reports and recommendations from the Advisory Panel had suggested complete abrogation of the halibut treaty. Others had suggested renegotiation of the International Pacific Halibut Convention to come into conformity with Public Law 94-265.

In discussion the concepts of such a proposed change, the Council identified many complex areas which would require much indepth study to resolve. Based on this discussion the Chair recommended to the Council that a task force be formed to study the proposed renegotiation structure of the International Pacific Halibut Convention. The Chair recommended Mr. Bernard Skud, Mr. Harold Lokken, Mr. Gordon Jensen, Mr. Lee Alverson and Mr. Steve Penoyer and any other Council members that wanted to serve to serve on the task force.

The Chairman asked the task force to generally review all factual information regarding halibut management and to present an evaluation of what the Council's steps should be in the renegotiation process. Timing was considered important because of the proposed summer meeting to discuss renegotiation with Canada. The task force was reminded that they were not being asked to develop a management plan for halibut.

There was a discussion as to the very complicated and inter-related problems of managing halibut and transboundary stocks. These issues were expected to be brought forth by the task force in their recommendations to the Council.

A recommendation to approve the task force and their assignment as set forth by the Chairman was moved and approved by the Council.

The Council discussed the Japanese GIFA and the accompanying staff summary. Two discrepancies were discussed; (1) one dealt with differences between Atlantic and Pacific reporting procedures and (2) the other dealt with the lack of a clause to handle gear loss.

The Council unanimously approved a motion to schedule Council meetings for the fourth Thursday and Friday of every month starting in May. The next Council meeting will be April 27-28, 1977, Wednesday and Thursday at the Loussac Library in Anchorage.

A motion by Hank Eaton to adjourn was accepted by all. The fifth plenary session of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council adjourned at 12:00 noon.