

PLEASE NOTE

This mailing contains the Newsletter recapping the December Council meeting and the draft agenda for the January meeting.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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NEWSLETTER

12/19/89

COUNCIL PROHIBITS POLLOCK ROE-STRIPPING AND SETS GROUND FISH QUOTAS FOR 1990

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met last week in Anchorage to consider a prohibition on pollock roe-stripping and discard practices, to set groundfish quotas and apportionments to U.S. and joint venture fisheries, and to take final action on a revised halibut trip limit scheme for Area 4C. These items and others listed below recap Council actions for the week.

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Sablefish Limited Access Decision will Highlight January Agenda

The North Pacific Council will meet the week of January 15 at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage. Final action is scheduled on sablefish management alternatives, including a license system, individual fishing quotas, and annual fishing allotments. Any new system adopted would take effect in 1991. Other agenda topics include a review of proposals for amendments to the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish fishery management plans and a determination of which proposals should go to the plan teams for analysis. Proposals identified for inclusion in the 1990 amendment package will be brought back to the Council in April for approval to release to public review. Final decisions on the chosen amendments will be made in June. The Council will also receive refined management alternatives to address the inshore-offshore allocation issue from its Fishery Planning Committee. A joint meeting with the International Pacific Halibut Commission is scheduled for the morning of January 17.

Council Bids Farewell to Tony Knowles

The Council bid farewell to Tony Knowles who vacated his seat as a voting Council member from Alaska to run for the office of Governor of the State of Alaska. Mr. Knowles was appointed to the Council in August 1988. He served on various committees including those for Data Gathering, Finance, Fishery Planning, Habitat, and Magnuson Act Reauthorization.

New Advisory Committee Memberships

Five new members were appointed to the Council's Advisory Panel:

George Anderson
Kevin Kaldestad
David Little
Jay Skordahl
Robert Wurm

Members reappointed to the Advisory Panel for another one-year term are:

Alvin Burch	Edwin Fuglvog	Don O'Hara
Phil Chitwood	Vic Horgan, Jr.	Harold Sparck
Paul Clampitt	Pete Isleib	Dave Woodruff
Lamar Cotten	Richard Lauber	John Woodruff
Dave Fraser	Nancy Munro	Lyle Yeck

Members appointed to the Council's new Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee are:

Arne Aadland	Spike Jones	Kaare Ness
Phil Chitwood	Kevin Kaldestad	Konrad Uri
Don Giles	Robert W. Miller	Rich White

Council Approves Emergency Action on Roe-Stripping, Quarterly Allocations of Pollock

The Council requested the Secretary of Commerce to take emergency action to prohibit pollock roe-stripping off Alaska for 1990. The Council intends that roe not be extracted unless the male and female pollock carcasses are further processed into products of commercial commerce. Pollock under 30 cm in overall length may be discarded. However, there is no exception for "unfit" pollock. The Council wants the ban to apply to both at-sea and onshore processors. Because NOAA General Council has warned that the Magnuson Act may not allow restrictions on the type of processing for onshore plants, the Council will ask the State of Alaska to take parallel action within its jurisdiction to ban roe-stripping.

To complement the roe-stripping ban, the Council took emergency action to allocate quarterly the pollock harvest in the Western/Central Gulf of Alaska for 1990. The area's total allowable catch (TAC) of 70,000 mt will be divided into quarterly increments of 17,500 mt. The Shelikof District quota of 6,250 mt, a component of the larger W/C Gulf TAC, will be available only in the first quarter. No action was taken for quarterly allocations of pollock in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands management area.

In addition, the Council approved for public review the revised environmental assessment/regulatory impact review (EA/RIR) for Amendment 19/14 to address pollock roe-stripping in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands management areas on a longer-term basis. Several new alternatives and options were included: Alternative 6 to prohibit pollock fishing during the roe season in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands; Alternative 6A to establish two TAC components for pollock - one for fishing during the roe season and another for fishing outside the roe season; and options to Alternatives 4, 5 and 6 restricting all directed fishing for pollock in the Gulf of Alaska to midwater trawl. The revised document is expected to be made available to the public in mid-January. Parties wishing to receive a copy should contact the Council offices at (907) 271-2809. Final Council action on this issue is expected at the April meeting.

Northern Sea Lion Populations in Serious Decline

The National Marine Fisheries Service reported a very serious decline in the Northern Sea Lion population off Alaska. Their numbers worldwide have dropped from 217,000 animals in 1960 to 66,000 animals in 1989, a 70% decline. By area, the decline is as follows:

<u>Area</u>	<u>1960-70</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>% Change</u>
U.S.S.R.	23,000	3,000	-87%
Alaska-wide	172,000	53,000	-69%
Aleutians	100,000	20,000	-80%
Bering Sea	7,000	1,000	-86%
Gulf of Alaska	58,000	22,000	-62%
Southeast Alaska	7,000	9,000	+29%
British Columbia	14,000	6,000	-57%
WA-OR-CA	8,000	4,000	-50%
Worldwide	217,000	66,000	-70%

The numbers of pups and adults have decreased by about 50% near Marmot Island and by about 78% near Seguam Island in the past four years alone. NMFS scientists emphasized that this is a real decline, not a redistribution of the population.

The Council concurs in the seriousness of the situation. While the exact causes are unclear and may be natural, the decline is of sufficient magnitude to require concerted action to mitigate and reverse the downward trend. The Council has called on the Secretary of Commerce to (1) intensify research on the causes of the decline with particular regard for man-made impacts; (2) initiate an aggressive program to educate the fishing industry on fishing strategies that will minimize incidental capture or inadvertent harassment of sea lions; and (3) establish a working group of scientists, fishery managers, and members of the fishing industry and environmental community to determine what can be done immediately to help reverse the population decline.

The Council is prepared to take an active role in resolving this critical problem. They are concerned with the health of the total ecosystem, which includes both the sea lion population and a vital U.S. fishing industry that supplies more than two-thirds of the groundfish from the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and most of the salmon harvested in this country. The Environmental Defense Fund has petitioned the Secretary of Commerce to designate immediately all populations of Northern Sea Lions as "endangered." The Secretary is now considering whether to designate the Northern Sea Lion as "endangered" or "threatened." Either designation could have enormous consequences for the North Pacific fishing industry. Resolving this problem expeditiously will depend on the cooperation of all interested parties.

Comment Period Still Open on Sablefish Management Alternatives

In January the North Pacific Council will take final action on proposed management alternatives for the fixed gear (hook and line and pot) sablefish fishery off Alaska. The alternatives are: continued open access management with no new measures proposed at this time; continued open access with optional, vessel-specific, annual landing limits; individual fishing quotas (IFQs); and license limitation.

A draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Regulatory Impact Review, which analyzes the management alternatives, and a summary document were made available on November 17. Interested persons wishing to receive one or both of these documents should contact the Council office. A public review period is currently underway with written comments due by January 2, 1990. Oral comments will be accepted at the Council's January meeting in Anchorage. In accordance with Council policy, comments received by the deadline will be included in staff summaries and provided to Council members. Written comments received after the deadline will be stamped "Late Comment" and made available to Council members only upon their request. Written submissions during the Council meeting will be limited to transcriptions of oral testimony.

Observer Program Update

The Council received an update on the domestic observer program which will begin January 1, 1990. A Notice of Proposed Rule Making with details of the program was published in the Federal Register on December 6 and the 15-day comment period will end on December 21.

The proposed regulations contain an exemption from carrying an observer if none is available. The Council recommended that the exemption be removed from the regulations, and that exemptions be allowed under only very extraordinary circumstances. There was a general feeling that such categorical exemptions as now in the rule could make the program meaningless.

Considerable guidance is given by NMFS in the preamble to the proposed rule. It was evident from public testimony and Council discussion that three areas may warrant additional review:

(1) Period for accounting for observer coverage for those boats that require less than full coverage. The issue is whether a vessel in the 30% coverage level should be held accountable for that coverage quarterly or semiannually. There was discussion that quarterly accounting might make the program overly burdensome on the smaller vessels which have shorter trips and seasons.

(2) Costs of taking an observer. Smaller boats bear a larger burden in paying the costs of an observer. Larger vessels with higher throughput will be able to absorb the costs much more easily. NMFS may want to consider ways to defray some of the costs to the smaller vessels without degrading the effectiveness of the program.

(3) Duplicative observer coverage. Industry raised concerns about requiring observers at shore plants and also on the vessels that deliver to that same shoreplant. NMFS may want to consider ways to minimize these redundancies in observer coverage.

The Council will receive further status reports on the observer program in January.

Industry Needs to Obtain Observers for 1990

To participate in the 1990 groundfish fishery off Alaska, industry must obtain NMFS-certified observers and pay their costs. The NMFS observer plan calls for 100% observer coverage on vessels 125 ft. or larger, and all shoreside processing plants which process over 10,000 mt of groundfish per year. Vessels and plants not qualifying for 100% coverage will receive 30% coverage during the year. Industry must obtain observers from the list of certified contractors. This list may be expanded during the year.

Alaska Observers, Inc.
516 Broad St., Suite 204
Seattle, WA 98109
(206) 728-8141

Frank Orth & Associates
10900 N.E. 4th St., Suite 930
Bellevue, WA 98004
(206) 455-9693

Data Contractors, Inc.
600 West 41st Ave, Suite 203
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 561-2055

Pacific Observers, Inc.
University of Washington/
Fisheries Research Institute
4055 21st Avenue West
Seattle, WA 98199
(206) 285-3480

Oregon State University
Int'l Development & Research
Observer Program
Corvallis, OR 97331
(503) 737-2683

Saltwater, Inc.
540 L Street, Suite 202
Anchorage, AK 99502
(907) 276-3241

Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Quotas for 1990

For 1990 the combined harvest limits or total allowable catches (TACs) of groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska will be nearly 298,000 mt. The entire quota is allocated to the wholly domestic processing sector of the industry (DAP), the first year the Council has not allocated a portion of the Gulf groundfish quota to joint ventures (JVP).

Harvest levels for each management area are shown in Table 1. The DAP allocations were determined by the Council on the basis of recent NMFS surveys of U.S. processor industry needs for 1990.

The Council continues to be concerned over the decline in pollock stocks in the Gulf. However, the magnitude of this decline differs between the two models used by the plan team in the analysis. The team believes that the projections utilizing a stock synthesis model, tuned to the bottom trawl surveys and assuming a poor 1987 year class, are most appropriate for projecting yield for 1990. The preliminary results from the 1989 bottom trawl surveys conducted in the Kodiak area tend to support the team's approach. The Council has set a pollock quota of 73,400 mt of which 70,000 mt is apportioned to the Western/Central Regulatory Area. The Council also approved an emergency rule which would apportion the W/C quotas as follows:

First quarter:	W/C Area	11,250 mt
	Shelikof District	6,250 mt
Second quarter:	W/C Area	17,500 mt
Rest of year:	W/C Area	35,000 mt

Unused W/C quota from one quarter will roll over into the next period; the Shelikof TAC is to be taken only during the first quarter. The Council intends that this quarterly apportionment will enable data collection from this fishery throughout the year and that a portion of the quota will be reserved until after the Gulfwide hydroacoustic survey is conducted next spring. The Council also will limit harvests of pollock from Shelikof Strait since hydroacoustic surveys in the Strait continue to show low spawning biomass levels.

The SSC and plan team Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) recommendations for Pacific cod varied between 60,500 mt and 120,000 mt, and the Council chose the Advisory Panel's (AP) recommended range mid-point of 90,000 mt for the 1990 TAC. Cod stocks continue to be healthy.

Flatfish are believed to be virtually unexploited and in excellent condition. However, industry interest in these species is fairly low, and the Council therefore set harvest limits to accommodate projected domestic harvesting and processing needs. For 1990, flatfish will be split into three categories: deep water flatfish, shallow water flatfish, and arrowtooth flounder. These management categories will allow industry to target on preferred deep water species where halibut bycatch problems are reduced compared to other flatfish categories.

The Council reviewed new data on sablefish gathered during the 1989 longline surveys. These surveys indicate a decline in Gulf sablefish relative abundance and the Council is concerned over the potential lack of recruitment to this population in the near future. The Council agreed with the AP's TAC recommendation of 26,000 mt.

The slope rockfish assemblage is believed by the team to be at low levels, but may be increasing. Of concern to the team is the potential disproportionate harvest of the higher value shorttraker and roughey rockfish species in this complex. Until the comprehensive observer program is under way, the Council adopted the team's recommended ABC of 17,700 mt for this group of rockfish and set TAC at this level in order to maintain an appropriate exploitation rate on the individual species within the complex.

No new information was available for pelagic shelf rockfish, and the Council chose an ABC/TAC of 8,200 mt as recommended by the team and the SSC. Because data are insufficient with which to determine an ABC for demersal shelf rockfish, the Council adopted the recommendations from the State of Alaska for a TAC of 470 mt for the Southeast Outside District. Demersal shelf rockfish TAC was set slightly above last year to accommodate anticipated bycatch needs. Thornyhead rockfish continue to appear healthy, although the team noted that a decline in relative abundance based on the longline survey suggests that current quotas may not be sustainable. The Council decided to maintain 1989 harvest levels by setting a 1990 TAC of 3,800 mt for this species.

Council Takes Emergency Action to Apportion Halibut Prohibited Species Catch in Gulf Groundfish Fisheries

Prompted by industry concerns over the possibility of early groundfish fishery closures in the Gulf of Alaska in 1990, the Council approved an emergency measure to apportion gear-specific halibut Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits by quarter. The measure, if approved by the Secretary of Commerce, will be in effect for two 90-day periods, affecting the first and second quarters of the year. The 2,000 mt bycatch limit for trawl gear and the 750 mt limit for fixed gear will be apportioned as follows:

Trawl gear: 30% (600 mt) first quarter
 30% (600 mt) second quarter
 40% (800 mt) third and fourth quarters combined.

Pot and longline gear: 20% (150 mt) first quarter
 60% (450 mt) second quarter
 20% (150 mt) third and fourth quarters combined

The Council's intent is to spread the bycatch limits over the year to the greatest extent possible, helping to alleviate concerns over economic hardships resulting from fisheries closing earlier than expected. Unused PSC from any quarter will be rolled over into the next.

The Regional Director is charged with monitoring all Gulf fisheries and will utilize observed halibut bycatch rates in calculating halibut mortality estimates. For the early part of 1990, the Council has recognized that sufficient observer coverage may be unavailable in some fisheries with which to account actual mortality. Therefore, the Council has requested that a bycatch work group, comprised of plan team and NMFS and Council staff members, establish interim bycatch rates for the first quarter of 1990, using all available data.

TABLE 1

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH: Council recommendations for 1990 ABC, TAC, DAP, and JVP (in metric tons).

Species	Area	1989				1990 Council Recommendations			
		ABC	TAC	DAP	JVP	ABC	TAC	DAP	JVP
Pollock 1/	W/C	72,000	65,750	65,750	0	63,750	63,750	63,750	
	Shelikof		6,250	6,250	0	6,250	6,250	6,250	
	E	3,375	200	200	0	3,400	3,400	3,400	
	Total	75,375	72,200	72,200	0	73,400	73,400	73,400	0
Pacific cod	W	13,500	13,500	13,500	0	29,500	29,500	29,500	
	C	52,000	52,000	52,000	0	59,500	59,500	59,500	
	E	5,700	5,700	5,700	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	Total	71,200	71,200	71,200	0	90,000	90,000	90,000	0
Flatfish/ deep 2/	W	111,500	3,200	3,200	0	16,300	3,650	3,650	
	C	384,300	31,800	21,800	10,000	77,700	15,300	15,300	
	E	58,900	1,000	1,000	0	14,400	3,050	3,050	
	Total	554,700	36,000	26,000	10,000	108,400	22,000	22,000	0
Flatfish/ shallow 3/	W					30,200	3,570	3,570	
	C		Not specified in 1989			52,200	6,180	6,180	
	E					2,100	250	250	
	Total					84,500	10,000	10,000	0
Arrowtooth flounder	W					27,000	4,450	4,450	
	C		Not specified in 1989			141,000	23,170	23,170	
	E					26,600	4,380	4,380	
	Total					194,600	32,000	32,000	0
Sablefish	W	4,900	3,770	3,770	0	3,800	3,770	3,770	
	C	13,900	11,700	11,700	0	11,800	11,700	11,700	
	W. Yakutat	5,300	4,550	4,550	0	4,600	4,550	4,550	
	E. Yak/SE Out	6,800	5,980	5,980	0	6,000	5,980	5,980	
	Total	30,900	26,000	26,000	0	26,200	26,000	26,000	0
Slope rockfish 4/	W	5,774	5,774	5,774	0	4,300	4,300	4,300	
	C	8,452	8,452	8,452	0	7,700	7,700	7,700	
	E	5,774	5,774	5,774	0	5,700	5,700	5,700	
	Total	20,000	20,000	20,000	0	17,700	17,700	17,700	0
Pel.shelf rkfish.	W	1,000	500	500	0	1,400	1,400	1,400	
	C	4,800	2,400	2,400	0	5,800	5,800	5,800	
	E	800	400	400	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	Total	6,600	3,300	3,300	0	8,200	8,200	8,200	0
Dem.shelf rkfish.	SE Outside	Unknown	420	420	0	unknown	470	470	0
Thornyheads	GW	3,800	3,800	3,800	0	3,800	3,800	3,800	0
Other species	GW	n/a	11,646	11,146	0	30,340	14,179	14,179	0
GULF OF ALASKA TOTAL		762,575	244,566	234,066	10,000	637,140	297,749	297,749	0

1/ Council's intent is quarterly apportionment of W/C pollock TAC, January-June 1990, with Shelikof TAC part of first quarter.

2/ Deep water flatfish are flathead, rex, and Dover sole.

3/ Shallow water flatfish include rock sole, yellowfin sole, butter sole, starry flounder, and other flatfish not specifically defined.

4/ Plan Team and SSC note that 1990 ABC would be 35,100 mt if apportioned as rougheye and shortraker rockfish at 5,000 mt, POP at 15,700 mt, and other pelagic shelf rockfish at 14,400 mt, and only with observers.

Halibut Mortality Limit for 1990: 2,000 mt trawl, 750 mt pot and longline.

Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Specifications for 1990

NMFS projections of 1990 domestic processing (DAP) demand for BSAI groundfish total over 2.1 million metric tons; 85% of the projected DAP demand is for pollock. After consideration of DAP requests and public testimony, the Council set Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and allocations to domestic and joint venture processing as shown in Table 2. Domestic processors will continue their rapid displacement of joint ventures and receive 75% of the initial allocations. Fifteen percent will be set aside as reserves, and just over 10% will be available for directed joint venture fishing.

Directed joint venture fisheries will be limited to yellowfin sole and other flatfish. Table 2 also shows the projected amount of other groundfish which will be required in a yellowfin sole target fishery of 163,753 mt. These bycatch needs will be accommodated by releases from reserves and will be retainable. If DAP fisheries proceed as projected, 1990 will result in the smallest joint venture harvest off Alaska since 1982.

On the domestic side, demand for pollock continues to increase. NMFS projections total over 1.8 million metric tons of pollock for the BSAI area in 1990. Demand for other groundfish species is little changed. Total groundfish harvest continues to be limited by the 2.0 million metric ton upper limit to optimum yield. Most groundfish stocks appear to be healthy. Greenland turbot is the notable exception - continued recruitment failure led the plan team to recommend a reduced Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) of 7,000 mt. A 1990 TAC of 7,000 mt will discourage additional targeting on this species while allowing a small directed fishery and its retention as bycatch.

Bering Sea Bycatch

After consideration of the results of a simulation model of projected bycatch demand and industry testimony, the Council voted to approve preseason apportionments of the Amendment 12A bycatch limits for red king crab, C. bairdi Tanner crab, and Pacific halibut. These apportionments distinguish only between DAP and JVP fisheries; further division of apportionments between DAP flatfish and DAP other fisheries were left to NMFS staff to work out in consultation with industry.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Zone 1</u>	<u>Zone 2</u>
<u>C. bairdi</u>		
Tanner Crab (animals)		
DAP	600,000	2,000,000
JVP	<u>400,000</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>
TOTALS	1,000,000	3,000,000
Red King Crab (animals)		
DAP	150,000	N/A
JVP	<u>50,000</u>	N/A
TOTAL	200,000	
Pacific Halibut (mt catch)	Zones 1 & 2H	BSAI-wide
DAP	3,740	4,533
JVP	<u>660</u>	<u>800</u>
TOTAL	4,400	5,333

TABLE 2

**Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish
Council Recommendations for 1990 ABCs, TACs, and DAP and JVP Apportionments (all in metric tons)**

Species	Area	1989		1990						Estimated JVP Groundfish Bycatch Needs	
		ABC	TAC	ABC	TAC	Reserve 15%	TAC less 15%	DAP	JVP	Rate (mt/mt)	Amount (mt)
Pollock	BS	1,340,000	1,319,000	1,450,000	1,280,000	192,000	1,088,000	1,088,000		0.1371	22451
	AI	117,900	13,950	153,600	100,000	15,000	85,000	85,000			
Pacific Cod		370,600	226,079	417,000	227,000	34,050	192,950	192,950		0.0429	7025
Yellowfin sole		241,000	193,952	278,900	207,650	31,148	176,503	12,750	163,753		
Greenland turbot		20,300	8,000	7,000	7,000	1,050	5,950	5,950		tr.	1
Arrowtooth flounder		163,700	7,800	106,500	10,000	1,500	8,500	8,500		0.0002	33
Rock sole		171,000	77,148	216,300	60,000	9,000	51,000	51,000		0.0999	16359
Other flatfish		155,900	63,906	188,000	60,150	9,023	51,128	10,200	40,927	0.0859	14066
Sablefish	BS	2,800	2,800	2,700	2,700	405	2,295	2,295		tr.	1
	AI	3,400	3,400	4,500	4,500	675	3,825	3,825			
Pacific Ocean perch	BS	6,000	4,250	6,300	6,300	945	5,355	5,355		tr.	1
	AI	16,600	5,100	16,600	6,600	990	5,610	5,610			
Other rockfish	BS	400	340	500	500	75	425	425		tr.	1
	AI	1,100	935	1,100	1,100	165	935	935			
Atka mackerel		21,000	20,285	24,000	21,000	3,150	17,850	17,850			
Squid		10,000	925	10,000	500	75	425	425			
Other species		59,000	15,774	55,500	5,000	750	4,250	4,250		0.0112	1834
TOTALS		2,700,700	1,963,644	2,938,500	2,000,000	300,000	1,700,000	1,495,320	204,680		

1/ 1989 TAC through November 27, total is less than 2,000,000 due to 36,356 mt nonspecific reserves.

Halibut Regulations Changed for Area 4C

In response to local fishermen requests, the Council approved a measure for Area 4C (Pribilof Islands) which will extend the current 10,000 pound trip limits to cover the entire quota for the Area in 1990 and beyond. Previously the 10,000 pound trip limits covered the first half of the quota, with 20,000 pound limits for the remainder. The Council felt that such a measure would increase the opportunity for local vessels to participate in the Central Bering Sea halibut fishery. Vessel clearance requirements for non-local vessels will remain the same as in the past. The Council also approved a recommendation to the International Pacific Halibut Commission that the halibut fishing season for Area 4C begin on June 25 when weather conditions generally are better.

Salmon Management Cycle Postponed Until January Meeting

Because of the large number of major issues before the Council at the December meeting, approval of a management cycle for salmon fisheries in the EEZ was postponed until the January 1990 meeting. In September 1989, the Council approved an amendment to the salmon FMP which deferred regulations for salmon fisheries in the EEZ to the State of Alaska. However, the Council has emphasized that it wishes to retain federal oversight and therefore in January will review a status report on the final amendment to the Salmon FMP and will establish a management cycle for future Council actions on these fisheries. Several proposed plan amendments, received during October 1989, also will be examined by the Council in January.

Foreign Vessel Permit Review

The Council recommended approval of all foreign vessel permits for 1990 joint ventures with only a few exceptions. It was noted that all joint ventures will be conducted in the Bering Sea and Aleutians and will be allowed to commence on January 1. The foreign vessel permits were approved under the following conditions:

1. Permits should be issued only to those nations which are providing fishery information for operations in the Donut Hole. The Council continues to believe that extensive harvests of groundfish in the Donut are impacting U.S. stocks and that this information is critical for fisheries conservation and management.
2. Permits should be issued only for operations directly supporting joint ventures. The Council does not want foreign vessels to utilize the EEZ in support of fisheries operating in the Donut area. This is the same recommendation the Council made last year.
3. The Council recommended denial of a 1990 permit for the Korean processing vessel SHIN YANG HO (KS-90-0122). This vessel was seized in 1986 and its master charged for several violations against a NMFS observer, including assault and sexual harassment. The Council received a report indicating that this case has been settled for \$220,000 and that its master had been dismissed by the vessel's parent company. However, given the severe violation and the relatively small fine, the Council recommended that this vessel be prohibited from participating in any fishery in the EEZ.
4. The Council also recommended withholding permits from the vessels SHINWA MARU, ORIENTAL CRANE, WLOCZNIK, and NOVOYELNYA which have pending violations. Permits may be provided once their cases have been settled.

Council Continues Work in Defining the Inshore-Offshore Issue

After receiving considerable public testimony, a report of its Fishery Planning Committee (FPC), and recommendations of its Advisory Panel. The Council adopted the following revised inshore-offshore problem statement and reworked management alternatives.

Problem Statement

The finite availability of fishery resources, combined with current and projected levels of harvesting and processing capacity and the differing capabilities of the inshore and offshore components of the industry, has generated concern for the future ecological, social and economic health of the resource and the industry. These concerns include, but are not limited to, localized depletion of stocks or other behavioral impacts to stocks, shortened seasons, increased waste, harvests which exceed the TAC, and possible pre-emption of one industry component by another with the attendant social and economic disruption.

Domestic harvesting and processing capacity currently exceeds available fish for all species in the Gulf of Alaska and most species in the Bering Sea. The seafood industry is composed of different geographic, social, and economic components which have differing needs and capabilities, including but not limited to the inshore and offshore components of the industry, which may be defined as follows:

- 1) Inshore: Includes fishing vessels that deliver product for processing to inshore and offshore (stationary or minimally mobile) processing facilities, and vessels which are dependent upon frequent shoreside logistical support.
- 2) Offshore: Includes highly mobile fishing vessels which have onboard facilities to process their own catch, mothership processors which are sufficiently mobile to pursue species throughout its range, and those processors which do not depend upon frequent shoreside logistical support.

The Council will address these concerns through the adoption of appropriate management measures to advance the conservation needs of the fishery resources in the North Pacific and to further the economic and social goals of the Act.

. . .continued on next page

Management Alternatives

1. Status quo with no change in regulations to address the problem.
2. Use traditional management tools including but not limited to: trip limits, periodic allocations, super-exclusive registration areas, and gear sizes.
3. Allocate the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) between inshore and offshore components of the industry. This could be done with or without specific operational areas.
4. Prohibit some or all of the offshore components of the industry from the Gulf of Alaska, except as specifically provided for by the Council, and in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands, allocate a portion of the TAC between inshore and offshore components of the industry and define operational areas.

In addition to the above, at the discretion of the Council, provide for future management options for disadvantaged communities.

- (i) Yukon-Kuskokwim Fisheries Task Force Proposal
 - (ii) Kokechik Fishermen's Association
 - (iii) Community Development Quotas
5. Allocate TAC on basis of species (for example, just pollock) and vessel length (for example, partition the BSAI TAC 50-50 between vessels over 150' and those less than 150'. A threshold for the GOA might be 125').
6. Use a combination of the following measures: ban pollock roe-stripping everywhere, delay opening of GOA pollock season until after roe season, split pollock into roe, non-roe seasonal quotas, and divide GOA pollock area into separate districts.
7.
 - Establish an immediate moratorium on new harvesting and processing capacity;
 - Exempt vessels under 40 ft or in the pipeline; and
 - Establish a cut-off date.

The Fishery Planning Committee, directed to continue refining the alternatives, is scheduled to meet Monday, January 15, in Anchorage. The Council will revisit the inshore-offshore issue at its January meeting and task staff with analysis and preparation of an amendment to the groundfish fishery management plans. In June the Council will receive an amendment package for approval for public review during the summer. This schedule would allow for a final decision in September and implementation sometime in 1991.

Upcoming Meetings

Plan Team Work Session	January 3 1:30 p.m.	Room 2079, Bldg 4 AFSC, Seattle
Groundfish PAAG Meeting	January 4 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Room 2079, Bldg 4 AFSC, Seattle
AP Meeting begins	January 14 1:30 p.m.	Hilton Hotel Anchorage
SSC Meeting begins	January 15 10:30 a.m.	Hilton Hotel Anchorage
Fishery Planning Committee	January 15	TBA Anchorage
Council Meeting begins	January 16 8:00 a.m.	Hilton Hotel Anchorage
Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Crab Committee	January 26 10:00 a.m.	NMFS Montlake Lab Auditorium, Seattle
International Pacific Halibut Commission	January 29-February 1	Seattle
Pacific Salmon Commission	February 5-9	Vancouver, BC
Council Meeting Schedule for Rest of 1990:		
	April 23-27	Hilton Hotel, Anchorage
	June 25-29	Hilton Hotel, Anchorage
	September 24-28	Sheraton Hotel, Anchorage
	December 3-7	Hilton Hotel, Anchorage

From the Council staff to all of you, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Don W. Collinsworth, Chairman
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December 19, 1989

DRAFT AGENDA

**90th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
January 16-19, 1990
Hilton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska**

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will convene at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 16, at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska, and continue through Friday, January 19. Other meetings to be held during the week are:

Committee/Panel

Advisory Panel
Scientific & Statistical Committee
Fishery Planning Committee

Beginning

1:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 14
10:30 a.m., Monday, Jan. 15
10:30 a.m., Monday, Jan. 15

All meetings, except the Executive Session of the Council at noon on Wednesday, are open to the public. Other committee and workgroup meetings may be scheduled on short notice during the week.

INFORMATION FOR PERSONS WISHING TO TESTIFY AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Those wishing to testify at Council meetings on a specific agenda item must fill out and deposit a registration card in the box at the registration table **before** public comment begins on that agenda item. Additional cards are generally not accepted **after** public comment has begun. A general comment period is scheduled toward the end of each meeting for comment on matters not on the current agenda.

Submission of Written Testimony at Council Meeting. Some agenda items have a formal, published deadline for written comments (for example, item C-5). For those items, written comments submitted after the published deadline or at the Council meeting, other than simple transcripts of oral testimony, will be stamped "LATE COMMENT." They will not be summarized or analyzed in preparation for the Council meeting, nor will they be placed in the Council member notebooks. All "LATE COMMENTS" will be placed in a special notebook, marked as such, and made available to the Council members only upon their request.

DRAFT AGENDA

**90th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
January 16-19, 1990
Hilton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska**

A. CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA, AND MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

B. REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

(Reports normally given by NMFS, ADF&G and the Coast Guard are not expected at this meeting because of the short time since their reports in December. New developments or items of special interest will be covered in the Executive Director's Report.)

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 Northern Sea Lions

Status report from National Marine Fisheries Service.

C-2 Domestic Observer Program

Receive status report on observer program. Provide guidance to NMFS as necessary.

C-3 SOPP

Review of Central Office comments on Council's proposed Statement of Organization, Practices and Procedures.

C-4 NMFS Marine Recreational Fisheries Action Plan

Council review and comment on proposed plan.

C-5 Sablefish Management

Final Council consideration of limited access alternatives for the longline and pot fisheries.

C-6 Halibut Management

- (a) Joint meeting with IPHC Commissioners on halibut management issues of mutual interest.
- (b) Consider rescheduling to April the initial limited access considerations for halibut. Refine alternatives as appropriate.

C-7 Future Management Planning for Groundfish and Crab

Review limited access planning schedule for groundfish and crab fisheries and determine whether it should be modified in any way or abandoned.

- C-8 Inshore-Offshore Allocation
Receive Fishery Planning Committee Report. Review revised alternatives, tasking and analytical needs. Provide direction on development of an amendment.
- C-9 Fishery Research Priorities
Review recommendations from staff, plan teams, and SSC and forward research priorities to NMFS.
- C-10 SSC Membership and AP Officers
Council approval of SSC membership and new AP officers.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

- D-1 General Groundfish
 - (a) Select proposals for further analysis in amendment cycle.
 - (b) Discuss bycatch planning for 1990-91.
 - (c) Status report on emergency actions and regulatory amendments, including a prohibition of pots without halibut exclusion devices. Take further action as necessary.
- D-2 Salmon Plan
Receive report on status of Amendment 3, annual cycle, and proposal review. Take further action as necessary.
- D-3 Crab FMP
Review State of Alaska's observer program for crab fisheries. Determine if expansion of federal observer program to include crab fisheries is necessary at this time.

E. FINANCIAL REPORT

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

G. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Hilton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska
January 16-19, 1990

December 19, 1989

TUESDAY 1/16	WEDNESDAY 1/17	THURSDAY 1/18	FRIDAY 1/19
<p>8:00 <u>Council</u> A Call to Order/ Approval of Agenda B-1 ED Report C-1 Northern Sea Lions C-2 Observer Program C-3 SOPP C-4 Marine Rec. Fish Plan</p> <p>9:00 C-5 Sablefish Mgmt</p>	<p>8:00 <u>Council</u> C-6 Halibut Mgmt- Joint Meeting w/IPHC Commissioners</p>	<p>8:00 <u>Council</u> D-1 General Groundfish</p>	<p>8:00 <u>Council</u> Continue as necessary</p>
<p>12:00 Lunch Recess</p> <p>1:00 Reconvene C-5 Sablefish Mgmt cont'd</p> <p>5:00 Recess</p>	<p>12:00 Executive Session</p> <p>1:30 Reconvene C-7 Future Mgmt Planning C-8 Inshore- Offshore</p> <p>5:00 Recess</p>	<p>12:00 Lunch Recess</p> <p>1:00 Reconvene D-2 Salmon FMP D-3 Crab FMP C-9 Fishery Research Priorities C-10 Approve SSC/AP Officers E Financial Report</p> <p>5:00 Recess</p>	

NOTES: The above agenda items may not be taken in the order in which they appear and are subject to change as necessary; other items may be added. Advisory Panel and SSC agendas are on separate attachments.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 1990 ADVISORY PANEL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

1:30 PM Election of Officers
 C-5 Sablefish Management
 C-1 Northern Sea Lions
 D-1 General Groundfish (if time allows)

5:00 PM* Recess

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

9:00 AM C-4 NMFS Marine Recreational Fisheries Plan
 C-7 Future Management Planning for Groundfish and Crab
 C-2 Observer Program

12:00 Noon Recess for Lunch

1:00 PM Reconvene
 C-8 Inshore-Offshore Allocation

5:00 PM* Recess

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

9:00 AM D-1 General Groundfish

12:00 Noon Recess for Lunch

1:00 PM Reconvene
 D-1 General Groundfish, continued
 D-3 Crab FMP
 C-9 Fishery Research Priorities

5:00 PM* Adjourn

*Meeting may be extended depending on progress and desire of panel members.

**PROPOSED SCHEDULE
JANUARY 1990 SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

10:30 AM C-1 Northern Sea Lions
C-2 Sablefish Management

12:00 Noon Recess for Lunch

1:30 PM Reconvene
D-1 General Groundfish

5:00 PM* Recess

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

8:00 AM C-8 Inshore-Offshore Allocation
C-9 Fishery Research Priorities
C-2 Observer Program

12:00 Noon Recess for Lunch

1:30 PM Reconvene
-Discussion of methodology for setting ABC
-Develop criteria for experimental/exploratory fisheries

4:00 PM* Adjourn

*Meeting may be extended depending on progress and desire of committee members.