

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES
Westward Hilton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska
March 24, 1981

Don
Rawlinson

The Advisory Panel convened Tuesday, March 24, 1981, at the Anchorage Westward Hilton at 9:10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The following panel members were present: Al Burch, Eric Jordan, Jeff Stephan, Dan O'Hara, Larry Cotter, Richard Lauber, Bud Boddy, Keith Specking, Richard Goldsmith, Robert Blake, Jesse Foster, Paula Easley, ~~Don Collinsworth~~, Truman Emberg, Ray Lewis, Ken Olsen, Lewis Schnaper, and Chairman Robert Alverson.

A. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Alverson. Agenda Items B-5 and D-1 were eliminated because reporting representatives were unavailable, and the amended agenda was approved by all Advisory Panel members.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report. Clarence Pautzke presented the Executive Director's report. The report included an update on meeting schedules in April and May, an exemption from the need for a marine mammal permit for the Japanese mothership salmon fishery, and progress of the Limited Entry Workgroup. The AP suggests that the Halibut Limited Entry Workgroup meet as soon as possible. (See United Fishermen of Alaska's Resolution dated March 12, 1981 in the Council notebook for further reference).

B-2 ADF&G Report on Domestic Fisheries. Mark Miller presented a report on domestic fisheries. He reported that over 100 million pounds of ground-fish were caught in the FCZ in 1980; 70% was from joint-ventures.

B-3 NMFS Report on Foreign Fisheries. Phil Chitwood reported on foreign fisheries.

B-4 U.S. Coast Guard Report on Enforcement and Surveillance. No reports were made.

B-5 Coast Guard Briefing on Proposed Safety Standards. No reports were available.

B-6 AP Report on Non-Agenda Items. No action.

C. OLD BUSINESS

C-1 Progress Report on Trawler Logbook Program. Mark Miller presented a progress report on the program for trawl/longline logbooks. The AP suggests to the Council that longline logbooks be similar to the IPHC and NMFS longline black cod and halibut logbooks.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1 Korean Joint-Venture Permit. No reports were made.

D-2 Other New Business as Appropriate. The AP unanimously recommends the Council write a letter to the Department of State and Commerce recommending a transfer of 1,000 mt from unallocated groundfish TALFF in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands to the Taiwan allocation, with the provision that this 1,000 mt be earmarked for the Highly Enterprise Corporation, which is conducting a joint-venture with the St. George Tanaq Corporation.

E. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

E-1 Salmon FMP

The AP took the following action on the Salmon Proposals. The AP adopted the proposed objectives listed on agenda item E(1)b.

I. Management Objectives

The AP adopted I.B., the proposed objectives.

II. Regulatory Proposals

1. Optimum Yield: The AP voted 9 to 8 in favor of maintaining the OY status quo (286,000 - 320,000 chinook). The minority of AP members was concerned with the conservation needs of the Southeast Alaska chinook stocks, and recommended reducing the OY.
2. Chinook Season: The AP voted 13 to 3 in favor of 2.b., a season from May 15 through September 20.
3. Coho Season: The AP voted 11 to 1 to allow fishing for other species during closures and also a coho season of June 15 through September 20.
4. Area Closures: The AP unanimously voted for 4.d., the status quo, keeping the entire FCZ east of Cape Suckling open.

5. Gear Restrictions. The AP voted with one opposing vote to maintain the status quo: 6 lines north of Cape Spencer, 4 lines south of Cape Spencer for power trollers. The AP unanimously approved 2 gurdies or 4 sport lines for hand trollers. The AP suggests to the Council that the troll fishery be managed so that historical catch levels between hand and power troll groups be preserved. This motion passed 13 to 2.
6. Reporting Requirements. The AP adopted the proposed action with a 13 to 2 vote that all fishermen must submit fish tickets or an equivalent document before leaving Alaska waters with salmon on board.
7. Heads-on Landing Requirements. The AP unanimously passed the proposed action: Heads will be retained on fin-clipped fish only.

III. LIMITED ENTRY. The AP briefly discussed limited entry, but no comment was made.

E-2 Herring FMP. No action was required.

E-3 King Crab FMP. The AP approved 11 to 2 with 4 abstentions the following resolution:

Whereas the State has provided successful conservation and management measures sufficient to maintain the biological integrity of the king crab resource while at this same time insuring a favorable economic climate in which the harvesting and processing sectors have prospered;

Whereas the State has provided an opportunity for public review for the purpose of modification of present management philosophy and related regulations through the State Board of Fisheries process;

Whereas the need does not exist for additional management and conservation measures by the federal government;

The AP recommends to the Council that they approve the Draft Statement of Principles between the NPFMC and The Alaska Board of Fisheries; and that the management plan referred to in that Joint Statement of Principles be accepted as the Management Plan used to manage the King Crab Fishery with the clarification that in regard to Section 5.4 titled "Exclusive Registration Areas", Option 1, titled "Maintain Status Quo" be adopted with the addition of a sentence which says: "The State Board of Fisheries shall have authority to designate exclusive and non-exclusive registration areas".

The minority report is reflected in the letter from Richard Goldsmith to Clem Tillion dated March 23, 1981.

The specific regulations of the king crab plan were not taken up by the AP as the majority viewpoint of 11 to 2 felt these were best handled by the Board of Fisheries.

E-4 Tanner Crab FMP. The AP suggests the Council ask the State of Alaska to change its season closure date to one established by the field order process so that Tanner crab fishing can continue as long as possible.

E-5 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP. No action was required.

E-6 Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP Amendments #1 and 3. The AP approved the following proposals:

I. Closure of INPFC Areas I and II to all foreign trawling from October 1 to March 31. A resolution from United Fishermen's Association supporting a trawl closure was distributed to the AP, item E(6)g for reference. This motion passed 14 to 0 with 1 abstention.

II. Clarification by the Council of domestic fishery restrictions in Area A, the Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary.

With respect to the rewording of the restrictions on domestic fishermen in Area A, the AP did not adopt the rewording as suggested in agenda item E(6)e. Upon consideration of adopting the rewording, the AP voted 4 to 4, hence taking no action.

The AP, however, does suggest that in the rewording document E(6)e, the date 1982 be omitted so the restriction does not expire at the end of a plan year.

The AP then chose to reaffirm to the Council its concern over any trawl fishing in Area A and with a vote 9 to 5 and 1 abstention suggests that Area A be closed to all domestic trawl activity.

III. The AP concurred on the April 22, public hearing on Amendment #3, and requests a Seattle hearing as well on Amendment #3.