

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

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3/12/86

DRAFT AGENDA

71st Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

March 19-21, 1986
Anchorage Hilton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will convene at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 19, at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska, and continue through mid-day on Friday, March 21. Other meetings to be held at the Hilton the week of March 17, are:

<u>Committee/Panel</u>	<u>Beginning</u>
Scientific and Statistical Committee	1:00 p.m., Monday, March 17
Advisory Panel	1:00 p.m., Monday, March 17
Sablefish Management Committee*	10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 18
Finance Committee*	3:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 18
Board of Fisheries/Council	
Teleconference	3:00 p.m., Thursday, March 20

*At Council Offices

Other meetings may be held on short notice. The Council will meet in closed session at lunch on Wednesday and Thursday to discuss personnel matters. All other meetings are open to the public.

MAIN ISSUES

Of the items requiring Council attention in March the following are expected to involve the most discussion and public comment:

King and Tanner Crab Issues

The Council has been informed by NOAA General Counsel that the current Tanner crab plan is neither an efficient or viable way to manage the crab fisheries, especially with respect to curtailing seasons on short notice when crab stocks are not abundant and harvestable yields taken quickly. The Council will discuss several options for its future role in crab management including, but not limited to, reworking the plan and/or suspending the regulations. The Council will also review the status of the King Crab FMP and regulatory actions by the Board of Fisheries to determine if any plan amendments are necessary. A teleconference on Thursday will focus on crab-related issues.

Groundfish Issues

The Council will review the latest draft of the new Gulf of Alaska groundfish plan and approve for public review proposed Amendment 10 to the Bering Sea and Aleutians Groundfish Fishery Management Plan, which addresses the following issues:

1. Inseason reapportionments between JVP and DAP.
2. Inseason adjustments of harvest levels and seasons.
3. Measures to limit bycatches of fully U.S.-utilized and prohibited species.
4. Priority access by DAP fisheries to groundfish stocks.

There will be status reports on Council-recommended regulatory amendments on single species closures and sablefish gear allocations and NMFS's implementation of trawl restrictions around Kodiak and in the Eastern Bering Sea. The Council will also consider sablefish management in the Gulf of Alaska, and when to close the directed sablefish fishery in the Bering Sea and Aleutians in order to leave sufficient bycatch for other target fisheries.

In January the Council recommended that yellowfin sole/flounder joint venture fisheries in the Bering Sea be limited to a total C. bairdi bycatch of 320,000 crabs. Because of concerns with the derivation of this limit and its application Bering Sea-wide, it will be reconsidered by the Council at this meeting.

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 on the registration table before public comment begins on that agenda item. Additional cards generally are not accepted after testimony has begun. A general comment period (Agenda Item F) is scheduled toward the end of each meeting for comment on matters not on the current agenda.

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- A. CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
- B. SPECIAL REPORTS
 - B-1 Executive Director's Report
 - B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADF&G
 - B-3 Foreign Fisheries Report by NMFS
 - B-4 Enforcement and Surveillance Report by U.S. Coast Guard
 - B-5 Joint Venture Report
 - (a) Status of joint ventures
 - (b) NMFS report on bycatch guidelines
- C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS
 - C-1 Legislative Update
 - C-2 Domestic Observer Program
Review of State and Federal efforts to establish programs.
 - C-3 Sablefish Management
Workgroup report and further direction by Council.
 - C-4 Other Business
- D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS
 - D-1 Salmon FMP
Approve alternatives for revising the FMP to go to public review.
 - D-2 King and Tanner Crab FMPs
 - (a) Consider future of Tanner Crab FMP.
 - (b) Review status of King Crab FMP and delegation of authority to ADF&G.
 - (c) Review Board action on regulatory proposals.
 - (d) Summary of Seattle hearing.
 - (e) Determine need for plan amendments.

D-3 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

- (a) Status reports on regulatory amendments on single species closures and management of sablefish gear allocations, and NMFS implementation of trawl closures around Kodiak.
- (b) Initial review of draft goals/objectives and FMP and further Council direction to Plan Team.

D-4 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

- (a) Status report on the regulatory amendment for single species closures and NMFS implementation of trawl restrictions in the Eastern Bering Sea.
- (b) Approve proposed Amendment 10 and associated decision documents for public review.
- (c) Reconsideration of Tanner crab bycatch limits on yellowfin sole/flounder trawl fisheries.
- (d) Develop recommendations to NMFS on when to stop the directed sablefish harvest in order to leave sufficient bycatch for other target fisheries.

E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

Hold exit audit of Council grants.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

G. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT MINUTES

69th Plenary Session
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
December 10-14, 1985
Anchorage Hilton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met December 10-14, 1985 at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. The Scientific and Statistical Committee began on Sunday, December 8, and the Advisory Panel on Monday, December 9. The Permit Review Committee met Sunday and Monday. During the week the Finance Committee, Advisory Panel Nominating Committee and the Gulf of Alaska Workgroup also met.

Members of the Council, Scientific and Statistical Committee, Advisory Panel and general public in attendance are listed below.

Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman
Rudy Petersen
Don Collinsworth
Henry Mitchell
Oscar Dyson
Russ Cahill for
Bill Wilkerson
RADM Robert Lucas
Larry Snead/Stetson Tinkham
for the State Department

Robert U. Mace for
John Donaldson
Robert McVey
John Peterson
John Harville
Sara Hemphill
John Winther
Jon Nelson for
Robert Gilmore

NPFMC Staff

Jim H. Branson, Executive Director
Clarence Pautzke
Judy Willoughby
Steve Davis
Jim Glock
Will Barber

Ron Miller
Ron Rogness
Terry Smith
Helen Allen
Peggy Kircher

Support Staff

Joe Terry, NMFS-NWAFC
Ron Berg, NMFS
Craig Hammond, NMFS
Pat Travers, NMFS
Bill Robinson, NMFS

Gary Stauffer, NMFS-NWAFC
Loh-Lee Low, NMFS-NWAFC
Fred Gaffney, ADF&G
Jim Balsiger, NMFS-NWAFC
Jim Brooks, NMFS

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Don Rosenberg, Chairman
Bill Aron
Douglas Eggers
Larry Hreha
Tom Northup

Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman
Robert Burgner
Don Bevan
Scott Marshall

Advisory Panel

Larry Cotter, Chairman
Bob Alverson, Vice-Chairman
Thorn Smith
Tom Stewart
Ron Hegge
Pete Isleib
Rick Lauber
Don Rawlinson
Cameron Sharick
Richard White
John Woodruff

Terry Baker
Joseph Chimegalrea
Al Burch
Barry Fisher
Oliver Holm
Nancy Munro
Al Osterback
Julie Settle
Walter Smith
Dave Woodruff
Eric Jordan

General Public

It was estimated that approximately 250 people attended the Council meeting during its five-day session, including the following:

Clem Tillion, Halibut Cove
Joe Erickson, Sunmar Shipping, Inc.
Neal Grodon, N.P. Oceans Services
Chris Jones, China Nat'l Fisheries
Dean Paddock, BB Driftnetters Assn.
Nobuko Tokaji, NPLLA
Bonar Petersen, Chalice Trlrs
David Harville, Koidak Western Trawlers
Li Shanxun, China Nat'l Fisheries
Don Spencer, Quest Export Trading Co.
Tong Jianguo, China Nat'l Fisheries
Burton Parker, Kodiak
Ron Peterson, Seattle
Y.S. Shin, Korean Won Yang Fisheries
Phil Chitwood MRCI
E.H. Zeaser, Mrs. Paul's Kitchens
Jack Hill, Kodiak
Gary Embree, Washington
T. Teukamara, Japan Overseas Fishery Fdn.
Terry Thomas, Arctive Venture Fisheries
Elizabeth Haslovf, AK Dept. of Commerce
Chester Peterson, Seattle
Steve Drage, Oregon
Dan Marvin, Oregon
Fred Yeck, Oregon
Vera Hoffman, Anchorage

Bart Eaton, Seattle
Ralph Angason, King Salmon
Barry Collier, PSPA
D.W. Lerch, MARCO
Eileen Cooney, NOAA/OGC
Lois DuPey, Int'l Ocean Oppor.
James Nanlon, " " "
Richard Lyon, N. Pacific Corp.
Tomasz Pintowski, Polish Embassy
Kathleen Lee Alaskan JV Fisheries
Ken Wallach, Anchorage
Scot E. Land, Anchorage
Russ Moore, Unalaska
Don Johnson, Anchorage
W.T. Pereyra, ProFish Int'l
Ken Lee, Silla American
Rodger T. Davis, Washington
Louis Y. Iani, E.F. Inc.
F.G. Baker, AK Dept of Commerce
Norman C. Anderson, Seattle
Christopher D. Peterson, Seattle
Al Geiser, Oregon
Dave Olney, Washington
Gary Loverich, Washington
D.W. Lerch, Marco Int'l
Paul MacGregor, Seattle

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J. Gissberg, Regional Fisheries Attache
I. Fraser, Washington
Raymond Hall, Oregon
Ben Hogeuoll, Oregon
Chang Yoou, Security Pacific Trading Co.
Percy Hadley, Oregon
Gary Westman, Washington
Mary Truitt, Alaska Maritime
Eric Raisoupiou, AJVF
Hal Bernton, Daily News
Frank Schnider, Joint Venture
Henry Kim, Northwest JV Fisheries
Jack Hill, Kodiak
Ken Kobayoshi, JDSTA
Alec Brindle, Columbia Wards Fisheries
Ed Zyblut, Dept. Of Fisheries/Oceans, Canada
Eva L. Holm, Kodiak
Bill Lercia, MARCO
Jim Hubbard, Sitka
Bill Dalton
Bill Diederick, VanDeKamp's Frozen Foods
Patrick Johnston, Seattle
Bob Dooley, California
Rick Listowski, CFEC
S. Takaoka, NPL (Japan)
Robert J. Wienhold, MMS/DOI
John Kingeter, Anchorage
Karl Ohls, Douglas
H. Takagi, JFA, Washington, DC
Donald W. Johnson, Kodiak
Chuck Meacham, ADF&G, Anchorage
Ted West, Alaskan Fisheries
Philip J. Chung, Cal-Alaska
Phil Gunsolus, Vessel Mgmt Inc.
Einar H. Pedersen, Washington
Kirk Beiningen, ODF&G
Tom Brown, Homer
John C. Cleveland, Anchorage
Steve Hughes, NRC
Ron Philemenof, St. Paul Islands
Steve Kelin, MMS
F.C. Robinson, Oregon
Gary Baker, Washington
John Jemewouk, Elim, Alaska
Serge Astra, Juneau
Jeff Stephan, Kodiak
C. Jensen, Kodial
Donald Hansen, Anchorage
Chris Mitchell, AFDF
Charles Christensen, Petersburg Vessel Onrs
Richard A. Leslie, Anchorage
David Quarders, California
J. R. Gilbert, Seattle
Jim Reynolds, UAF, Fairbanks

A. Yamastuta, Taiyo Fisehry Co.
Lori Hamilton, Washington
Joao Vieira, Oregon
Bonar Peterson, Seattle
Dave Seibel, Oregon
Steve Grabacki, Graystar
John Zuck, Anchorage
Jen-Chyuan Lee, Taiwan
Peggy McCalment, Alaska Contact
Ronnie Wrenn, Starboard Alaska
Mick Stevens, ProFish Int'l
MA Russell, Alaskan Fisheries Co.
Stephen B. Johnson, Seattle
Steven M. Dickins, JDSTA/HTA
Terry Cosgrove, Seattle
Ernie Johnson, Eagle River
Gill Wilson, Anchorage
Lori Hamilton, F/V Muir
Doug Turnbull, Seattle
U.S. Marine Corp.
Patrick Johnston, Seattle
Percy Hadley, Oregon
Kurt Schelle, CFEC
Mark Lundsten, Washington
N. Tokaji, NPL (Japan)
D.C. Harrison, Anchorage
Paul L. Schilling, Anchorage
M.K. Lee, Samho Moolsan
Spike Jones, Oregon
Penni Johnson, Kodiak
M. Walker, State of Alaska
N. Yasunari, Tokyo
J.H. Russell, Alaskan Fisheries
Chris Blackburn, Kodiak Daily Mirror
Timothy Thomas, Seattle
Jack Hill, Kodiak
Joe Gnagy, Steuart Fisheries
Konrad Uri, Washington
R.K. Dearborn, Sea Grant
Dennis Petersen, NPVOA
Gary Wertman, Washington
John Daly, Alaska World Trade
Kris Poulsen, Seattle
A.R. Hauver, Anchorage
Brian Kelly, AK Pacific Seafoods
John Enge, Anchorage
Rob Bellamy, Kodiak
Gerald Sanger, USF&WS
Mig Thompson, Sitka
Steve Ross, Seattle
Vern Hall, Kodiak
Bernie Burkholder, Kodiak
Laura Pillifant, Anchorage
Saree Gregory, Fairbanks

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Alan Burkholder, ACFRU, UAF
Neil Shuckerow, Int'l Seafoods
Hugh Reilly, Westward Trawlers, Inc.
Joe Kurtz, Seldovia
Mrytle Johnson, m Mome
Ray Etiych, KTVA-TV, Anchorage

Cindy Lowry, Greenpeace
David Allison, Juneau
Tim Keeney, NOAA, GC
Bill Young, Anchorage
Austin Kibbee, Dutch Harbor
Chriss Swaney, Anchorage Times

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

Jim Campbell called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 10. Chairman Campbell introduced Stetson Tinkham and Larry Snead from the State Dept. Mr. Tinkham will be replacing Ray Arnaudo on the Council. Mr. Campbell also introduced Dr. Charles Broches, aide to Congressman Miller, and John Gissberg, the State Dept's attache in Tokyo.

Jim Branson reviewed the agenda and suggested the Council hear reports on the Japanese and Korean industry-to-industry meetings (found under agenda item C-8 in these minutes). John Peterson expressed concern that "DAP" was not mentioned specifically on the agenda. It was understood that DAP would be discussed when determining groundfish harvest levels apportionments for 1986. The agenda was accepted with these additions.

Bob Mace moved to accept the minutes of the September 1985 Council meeting. Russ Cahill seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Jim Branson announced an executive session of the Council for noon on Tuesday to discuss AP nominations.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

Mr. Branson reviewed the Executive Director's report in Council notebooks. He told Council members that the level funding for the remainder of the fiscal year is still in doubt. The Council has received 25% of the initial '85 funding pending Congressional action on the FY85 budget. At this level of funding the Council will not be able to forward any liaison funds to Oregon, Washington or Alaska for the first quarter.

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADF&G

The 1985 statewide salmon harvest is estimated at approximately 144.5 million fish, a new record. Since the October 1 opening of the Southeast winter troll fishery, 15,137 chinook have been landed, a higher level than expected because of greater fishing effort.

A total of 2.4 million pounds of Tanner crab have been taken in Cook Inlet since the November 1 opening date. In the Bering Sea the opilio catch is estimated at 0.3 million pounds. The total catch of king crab in the Bering Sea for 1985 is estimated at slightly over 9 million pounds.

B-3 Foreign Fisheries Report by NMFS

By mid-December foreign fleets in the Gulf of Alaska harvested 37,541 mt of groundfish, including 28,000 mt pollock and 9,000 mt cod. In the Bering Sea

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and Aleutians the foreign harvest was 933,919 mt, which included 741,228 mt pollock, 48,000 mt cod, 93,000 mt yellowfin sole, 24,000 mt other flatfish and 21,000 mt turbot. By mid-December U.S. industry harvested and processed about 105,000 mt of groundfish off Alaska. Pacific cod accounted for nearly 52,000 mt, pollock for 35,000 mt and sablefish for nearly 15,000 mt.

B-4 Enforcement and Surveillance Report by U.S. Coast Guard

Through December 1 Coast Guard enforcement effort off Alaska totaled 773 cutter days and 1,996 aircraft patrol hours covering over 7.5 million square miles of ocean. Since their last report to the Council in September Coast Guard efforts have resulted in one vessel seizure, three reports of violation, and six written warnings to foreign fishing vessels.

The Taiwanese processor GOLDEN DRAGON NO. 1 was seized on October 4 near Kodiak after boarding personnel found approximately 55 lbs of processed halibut and 150 lbs of processed and round sablefish secreted in the vessel's freezer holds. The vessel was assessed \$100,000 of which \$10,000 had to be paid before releasing the vessel. The remaining \$75,000 is to be paid in three installments by the end of July 1986. The vessel will not be allowed to leave the FCZ until the full assessment is paid or an irrevocable letter of credit is provided.

The Coast Guard also reported that surveillance flights spotted four Taiwanese gillnet vessels near 47°30'N 160°15'E with salmon being processed on deck. A report with photographs provided to the State Department helped convince the

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American Institute of Taiwan to develop and enforce a mutually-agreeable high seas gillnet fishery plan prohibiting gillnet vessels from fishing north of 35°N latitude. The Coast Guard made no further sightings of Taiwanese gillnet vessels.

Seven Coast Guard overflights in June and July sighted twelve Japanese gillnet vessels operating outside of agreed-upon areas for the Japanese high seas salmon fishery. Because of bad weather and several vessels covering their hull numbers, identifying the vessels was difficult. However, their description fits very closely the profile of the Japanese landbased salmon gillnet vessels. The Cutter JARVIS was diverted to this area but was unable to locate the vessels. Additional flights in late July produced no further sightings. Four flights and eleven cutter days were committed to observe the Japanese mothership gillnet fleet but no infractions were observed.

C130 flights were used last summer to monitor the high seas squid gillnet fleets from Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. Eleven missions were flown and with the exception of the Taiwanese vessels mentioned above and one Korean squid gillnet vessel, all vessels sighted were Japanese. Several were sighted north of the agreed-upon northern boundary for this fishery and some had obscured their hull markings. Photos were taken and forwarded to the State Department. The Coast Guard STORIS was diverted to the area but there was no evidence of salmon being caught or retained on the fifteen Japanese squid gillnet vessels boarded.

B-5 Joint Venture Wrap-up for 1985

The total joint venture catch off Alaska through mid-December was 879,882 mt. In the Gulf of Alaska joint venture trawlers harvested 237,354 mt pollock, 2,376 mt flatfish, 2,248 mt Pacific cod, and 1,851 mt Atka mackerel. In the Bering Sea and Aleutians, the harvest was 375,922 mt pollock, 171,819 mt flatfish including yellowfin sole, 40,840 mt Pacific cod, and 37,766 mt Atka mackerel.

During 1985 there were 28 different joint venture company arrangements employing over 100 U.S. trawlers off Alaska. This year's joint venture catch increased significantly over previous years: 581,168 mt in 1984; 350,901 mt in 1983; 179,556 mt in 1982; 95,501 mt in 1981; 33,425 mt in 1980 and 1,507 mt in 1979. Joint venture harvests probably will exceed one million metric tons in 1986.

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 Legislative Update

There has been no progress on MFCMA reauthorization to date. Congress may abandon efforts to adopt a phase-out amendment, or they may amend purposes provision of the Magnuson Act to state Councils can accomplish phase-out through OY decisions.

C-2 AP Operations

The AP Nominating Committee recommended that the existing panel be reappointed and fully reviewed next December. They also recommended appointing Rupe Andrews to fill the vacancy created by Bob Hunter's resignation. Henry Mitchell moved to endorse the recommendations of the AP Nominating Committee. Bob Mace seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

C-3 Crab/Salmon Interceptions by Joint Ventures

Thorn Smith, NPVOA, submitted a report of the industry workgroup dealing with crab interceptions in the Bering Sea. The workgroup was unable to agree on one proposal. Several proposals were submitted by the workgroup and during public testimony and Council discussion, several more were identified. There was considerable public testimony on this subject (Appendix I to these minutes).

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended the Council wait until January to decide on how to control king crab interceptions by trawlers in the Bering Sea. However, they felt it is imperative the Council reach a decision then to deal with the conservation problem.

The AP also commented on salmon bycatch during 1985 and felt that regulatory measures were not warranted now; however they recommended closely monitoring joint venture bycatches with a view toward regulatory action if performance

deteriorates. They also were concerned with salmon and other prohibited species interception by domestic catcher/processors and felt that an observer programs was warranted.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC received a presentation by the industry workgroup on joint venture crab interception, but had no specific comments.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Jim Branson indicated that Jerry Reeves, NMFS crab biologist, has said the stocks of red king crab in the pot sanctuary are seriously declining and the Council should consider closing the area to all fishing. Bob McVey pointed out that a Tanner crab opening is scheduled in that area on January 15; if there is a conservation problem it may be necessary to issue a rule-related notice (formerly called field order) closing at least a portion of the area. John Peterson pointed out that the Council has new information on the stocks and some action should be taken. He also noted that encouraging development of underdeveloped fisheries in the area could jeopardize traditional, more valuable and economically productive fisheries.

The Council was provided with a draft of the summarized proposals for public review. Henry Mitchell moved to adopt the proposals for public review, with any necessary editing changes by staff. The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. (The final copy of

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proposals sent out for public comment is included as Appendix II to these minutes.)

John Peterson moved that the following condition be placed on 1986 permits for joint venture and directed foreign fishing operations for yellowfin sole, flounder, cod and flatfish: that no fishing be permitted in the pot sanctuary in Bristol Bay; that this restriction may be lifted provided the Council adopts a system for reduction or elimination of incidental catch of king crab; and that the restriction prevail if no such system were developed. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and failed, 7-4, with Cahill, Mitchell, Peterson, and Winther in favor.

Pat Travers noted that restrictions should be placed on permits at the beginning of the year as amending issued permits was very cumbersome.

Mr. McVey said he needs Council direction about the Tanner crab season due to open in January. Field order authority would not apply and an emergency order would be necessary. After some discussion and advice from Pat Travers the Council asked the Regional Director to use his discretion on this issue after receiving more status of stocks information from the Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center.

Fred Gaffney presented a discussion paper on the bycatch of king crab in the Gulf of Alaska and requested Council guidance on how to proceed. It was Council consensus to establish an industry workgroup similar to that for the Bering Sea and to put this issue on the January agenda. Oscar Dyson expressed interest in getting such a workgroup together.

C-4 Sablefish Hook and Line Fishery in Gulf of Alaska

The Council discussed an offer from NMFS to publish a notice in the Federal Register stating that participation in the Gulf of Alaska hook and line sablefish fishery after September 26, 1985 may not be the basis for participation credit if the council implements limited entry in the fishery at some time in the future.

Public Testimony is included in Appendix I to these minutes.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended the Council reject the NMFS offer to publish a cut-off date. They recommended that the Council develop a long-range policy regarding fisheries development, allocations and incidental harvests in the groundfish fisheries before giving further considerations to limited entry.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Council members discussed the ramifications of publishing the cut-off date as offered by NMFS. It was noted that such action would not restrict the Council's options. They could proceed with studying the situation and a limited access program were established, this date, or any other the Council may want, could be used. Nor would this action preclude the Council from establishing a management regime other than limited access for the fishery.

Council members indicated concern over the availability of funds for the studies and public hearings necessary to pursue a limited access program. Mr. Campbell said it would be necessary to contract out any such work. Pat Travers said there would not be a legal with this approach. Council members agreed that some action is necessary in the rapidly growing sablefish fishery, but that they should instead develop long-term goals for the whole groundfish complex rather than a single species.

John Winther moved to accept NMFS' offer to publish a September 26, 1985 cut-off date for any further credit for entry into the hook and longline sablefish fishery for use in any future limited access program. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and carried 7-4, with Dyson, Mace, Rudy Petersen and John Peterson voting against.

John Peterson suggested that the Council Gulf of Alaska Workgroup be asked to develop a recommendation on how the Council should proceed on this issue; not a limited entry plan or management regime, just guidance on how to proceed now that the date has been approved.

C-5 Joint Ventures

Public Testimony for this agenda item is found in Appendix I.

Report of the Permit Review Committee

The Permit Review Committee reviewed joint venture requests estimated from the NMFS survey of industry and from permit applications. Some figures were

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adjusted after public testimony. The Committee recommended approval of the JVPs shown in Tables A-C in their report (Appendix III) and of all joint venture requests in Table 1 of those minutes, subject to the availability of JVP. The Committee it important that the Council make very clear to all countries that as TALFF decreases the Committee and Council will closely examine how each country satisfies the criteria in the Council's policy on allocations and joint ventures, with particular attention paid to the transfer of capital through investment to U.S. industry, transfer of technology, purchase of U.S. products, and the extent that a foreign country's products compete with U.S. processed products. Violations records also will be important.

During discussions of the Permit Review Committee it was noted that a Portuguese internal waters joint venture for 8,000 mt cod in the Bering Sea/Aleutians was not included in the NMFS survey of JVP. The Committee recommended that JVP estimates be adjusted to indicate this operation.

The Permit Review Committee also reviewed DAP for the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutians based on the NMFS survey of industry. There was considerable discussion of how to verify the accuracy of the estimates. While no solution was immediately apparent, it was noted that if the annual review of DAP had its own agenda item, industry response may increase and provide more accurate estimates. The Committee adopted the DAP estimates presented in Tables A-C (Appendix III), subject to adjustments in January. The Committee also recommended that NMFS intensify its efforts to improve the DAP reporting system from industry and suggested the Council Chairman appoint a workgroup to assist NMFS in this project.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION for this agenda item will be found under Agenda item C-6.

C-6 Foreign Allocations

Public Testimony for this Agenda item is found in Appendix I.

Report of the Permit Review Committee

The Committee approved the TALFFs shown in Tables B-C, pending Council action, and went on to discuss high seas salmon interceptions by Japan. The Committee was deeply concerned about the lack of progress on reducing the interceptions and felt that a strong message should be sent to the State Department urging resolution of this problem. The Committee recommended that the Council recommend that the State Department withhold any TALFF for Japan until there is satisfactory progress in reducing the high seas interceptions.

The Committee also noted foreign nations fish on pollock and other stocks outside the U.S. FCZ in the "donut" area, that these stocks may frequent the U.S. FCZ, and that information is needed on the approximate composition and tonnage of those catches. It was the consensus of the Committee that the Council request the U.S. Dept. of State to strongly discourage countries from fishing in the international waters of the Bering Sea. They also suggested that foreign nations fishing that area be asked to provide catch statistics.

The Permit Review Committee also reviewed a request from the Highliners Association to attach permit conditions requiring foreign ships, including transports, working in fisheries off Alaska to check in and out of the U.S. zone for an in-port inspection by the U.S. Coast Guard. Admiral Lucas noted that with the present level of funding and manpower the Coast Guard would not be capable of undertaking these new inspection duties. He volunteered to have his Chief of Law Enforcement meet with NMFS law enforcement officers to review the request and respond to the Council in January.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Council discussion and motions on allocations occurred during discussions of the total harvest figures for both the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutians and will be found under those agenda items. The following motions were made concerning foreign allocations for 1986:

Henry Mitchell moved to eliminate any TALFF for Poland for 1986. The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and carried 7 to 3 with Mace, McVey, Rudy Petersen voting no and Sara Hemphill abstaining. Mark Pedersen was sitting in for Russ Cahill during this vote.

Mark Pedersen moved that Japan receive 77% of the available TALFF in the Bering Sea; Korea, 22%, and the People's Republic of China, 1%. The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and carried 9 to 2 with Sara Hemphill and John Peterson voting no. Mark Pedersen was sitting in for Russ Cahill during this vote.

Don Collinsworth moved to recommend to the Secretary of State that allocation of TALFF to Japan be withheld until the issue of Japanese interception of salmon is resolved. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and carried unanimously. Jim Brooks was sitting for Bob McVey during this vote and Mark Pedersen was sitting in for Russ Cahill.

C-7 Foreign Vessel Permit Applications

Report of the Permit Review Committee

Among the 542 permit applications received for 1986, 36 of the foreign vessels were defined as serious violators according to the Council's policy. The Committee recommended that the Council express its continuing concerns over these serious violations and recommend that sanctions be imposed by the foreign nation involved on skippers and companies involved in repeated violations. The Committee recommended approval of the applications for foreign vessels planning to participate in joint ventures in 1985, contingent upon available JVP. The Committee also reviewed directed fishing permits for four chinese vessels, new to the Alaska FCZ, and recommended approval for those vessels, contingent on there being TALFF available.

C-8 Other Business

Clem Tillion reported briefly on the results of the industry-to-industry meetings with Japan. Ron Jensen sent a telegram to be read to the Council. He said that the memorandum of understanding signed this year supports a greater than historic average for Japan's allocation of TALFF. They took this

position because of the efforts Japan has made to support the developing U.S. industry. Japan has committed to finance the building of two, large-scale surimi processing plants on shore in Alaska and has committed to purchase increased amounts of U.S.-processed pollock products and to ensure that no viable commercial transaction between the U.S. and Japan be inhibited by import quotas or discriminatory non-tariff trade barriers. He asked that the Council support Japan's TALFF requests.

Wally Pereyra, Al Burch and Greg Baker spoke on the U.S./Korea industry-to-industry agreements. Korean joint ventures increased from 100,000 mt in 1984 to 181,900 mt in 1985, representing \$18 million in exvessel value to American fishermen. The number of Korean companies and U.S. fishing vessels involved in joint ventures increased as did the target species and areas of operation. The following plans for 1986 were agreed upon: (1) Joint venture purchases of U.S.-harvested fish will be 253,000 mt; (2) imports of U.S. fishery products into Korea will be increased by 20%; (3) discussions will be continued on mutually beneficial business relationships between U.S. and Korean partners; and (4) there will be increased purchases of support services in the U.S.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

The Council received reports from the Gulf of Alaska Plan Team on the status of stocks in the Gulf of Alaska and the Plan Team's recommendations for ABCs. The Plan Team said they still support a zero-ABC for pollock in the Gulf

although the SSC, using a different approach, is suggesting an ABC of 166,600 mt for the Western and Central areas combined (50,000 of this would be designated for a fishery outside the Shelikof Strait area).

Public Testimony for this Agenda item is found in Appendix I.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC reviewed the Plan Team report on the status of Gulf of Alaska groundfish stocks and a report prepared by Natural Resources Consultants on the status of pollock stocks. The SSC agreed with the Plan Team's ABCs for all species except pollock, Pacific ocean perch, and Atka mackerel.

The SSC feels that the harvest level for pollock in Shelikof Strait can be set to allow the 1987 spawning biomass to remain at or above the projected 1986 level, approximately 100,000 mt. It is not clear why the pollock biomass is declining faster than the model projects; either natural mortality is significantly higher than used in the model, or some of the population is not returning to or being detected in the Shelikof Strait. If the resource is being redistributed, then an additional harvest outside Shelikof from January to April could be encouraged. Such a harvest would provide important information on the status of pollock throughout the Gulf. Therefore, the SSC recommended harvesting 50,000 mt outside Shelikof during January-April to allow fishery data collection to make future ABC determinations. The SSC pointed out that their recommendation of 100,000 mt ABC for the stocks being surveyed in Shelikof Straits assumes that the 1984 year class is strong. In

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the Eastern Management area, the SSC felt there would be little risk in harvesting 16,600 mt as in 1985.

In setting OYs for Pacific cod and flounder the SSC recommended that the Council address the incidental catch of halibut and other species.

For the Pacific ocean perch complex, the SSC recommended an ABC of 10,500 mt, distributed to management areas in the same manner used by the Team. Within the complex, POP is depressed and the SSC recommended that the Council take that into consideration in establishing the OY for the species complex. The SSC recommended that in rewriting the Gulf FMP, POP be managed as an individual species.

For Atka mackerel, the SSC recommended an ABC of 4,700 mt for the Western area and bycatch amounts only in the Central and Eastern Areas. For rockfish, Thornyhead and squid, the SSC had no data for setting ABC. (The final SSC minutes are included as Appendix IV.)

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended adoption of the Plan Team's OYs for pollock, rockfish, Atka mackerel, thornyhead, squid and other species, but recommended OYs of 40,000 mt for Pacific cod and 33,500 mt for flounder. The AP recommended setting the OY for POP at 75% of the Plan Team's recommended ABC of 6,500 mt. The Eastern OY should remain at 875 mt, with the harvest emphasis on bycatch. They also recommended the Council continue its rebuilding effort for POP and set OY using past rebuilding schedules. For

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sablefish, the AP recommended an OY of 15,000 mt distributed as follows: SE/E Yakutat - 23%; W. Yakutat - 17%; Central - 41%; and Western - 19%. The AP was concerned with reports that trawlers may target on sablefish and disrupt the fisheries on other species. They recommended that NMFS issue a public statement that they will manage the fishery in accordance with Amendment 14.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council began the process of setting ABCs and OYs for the Gulf of Alaska by adopting the SSC's recommendations (See SSC Minutes, Appendix IV) and then making appropriate adjustments. Following are the motions and a brief summary of discussions. (The final table of ABCs, OYs, etc. is found in Appendix V)

Don Collinsworth moved to adopt the SSC's recommendations for ABCs in the Gulf of Alaska for 1986. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and carried with no objection.

Don Collinsworth moved to adopt the OYs as adopted by the Advisory Panel. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and carried with no objection.

POLLOCK

Henry Mitchell moved to amend the OY for pollock to increase the OY in the Western/Central Areas by 15,000 mt to be used for DAP needs later in the year.

Sara Hemphill seconded the motion. The motion failed 8 to 3 with Hemphill, Mitchell and Rudy Petersen voting in favor.

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Henry clarified that his intent was that the 15,000 mt would be in addition to the 100,000 mt proposed and would be for use throughout the year for DAP requirements indicated during public testimony.

John Peterson moved that the OY for pollock be set as follows: 75,000 mt for the Shelikof Strait, to be divided into three equal portions and released on a trimester basis; 75,000 mt outside of Shelikof, of which 50,000 mt is to be harvested by April 10; any remaining outside by April 10 would be forfeited.

Russ Cahill seconded the motion. The motion failed, 9 to 2, with John Peterson and Cahill voting in favor. Bob McVey expressed doubt that this process could be implemented by emergency rule; Pat Travers said that any of the options being discussed would require a plan amendment and that emergency regulations could be in place by the first of the year.

Don Collinsworth moved that the Council set the pollock OY as follows: 100,000 mt in the Central/Western Gulf; 50,000 for outside Shelikof to be harvested between January 15 and April 10, and 16,600 mt for the Eastern Gulf with the understanding that the Council would discuss apportioning the 100,000 mt throughout the year so that no more than 100,000 mt mortality would be imposed on the Shelikof spawning stocks. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and carried with no objection.

PACIFIC COD

Henry Mitchell moved to amend the OY for Pacific cod in the Gulf to a total of 100,000 mt to be apportioned as follows: 28,000 mt in the Western Gulf;

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56,000 mt in the Central Gulf; and 16,000 mt in the Eastern Gulf. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and failed, 8 to 3, with Dyson, Hemphill and Mitchell in favor. Those against felt this was too large an increase over last year.

Don Collinsworth moved to set the OY for Pacific cod at 75,000 mt, apportioned as follows: 21,000 mt in the Western Gulf; 42,000 mt in the Central Gulf; and 12,000 mt in the Eastern Gulf. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and carried with John Peterson objecting.

FLOUNDER

Sara Hemphill moved to set the total OY for flounders at 100,000 mt. The motion was seconded by Oscar Dyson, but was subsequently withdrawn. Ms. Hemphill said the reason for the motion was to provide an opportunity for development. John Peterson said that because of the high rates of bycatch in the flounder fishery he could not support this motion. Mr. McVey and other Council members agreed.

John Peterson moved to set the OY for flounder at 25,000 mt. The motion was seconded by John Winther, but subsequently withdrawn.

None of the motions to amend the flounder OY carried; therefore the flounder OY remained the same as presented on the table - 14,380 mt, divided as follows: Western - 5,360 mt; Central- 5,000 mt; Eastern - 4,020 mt.

PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH

There were no motions to change the OY for Pacific ocean perch, therefore it remained at the level presented - 3,702 mt, divided as follows: Western Gulf - 1,316 mt; Central Gulf - 1,500 mt; Eastern Gulf - 875 mt.

SABLEFISH

Oscar Dyson moved to divide the 15,000 mt sablefish OY as follows: 7,500 mt to the Central and Western Area and 7,500 mt to the other areas. The motion was seconded but subsequently withdrawn.

Henry Mitchell moved that the sablefish OY be set at 15,000 mt, but distributed according to the "old" method. This would distribute the OY as follows: Western - 2,820 mt; Central - 5,130 mt; Western Yakutat - 2,745 mt; and E. Yakutat/Southeast - 4,305 mt. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and failed, 8 to 3, with Campbell, Cahill and Mitchell in favor.

The Sablefish OY remained at 15,000 mt, distributed as follows: Western - 2,850 mt; Central - 6,150 mt; W. Yakutat - 2,550 mt; E. Yakutat - 1,104 mt; S.E. Outside - 2,346 mt.

ROCKFISH

Rudy Petersen moved that the OY for rockfish be 5,000 mt. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and carried with no objection. The distribution was to be 600 mt for S.E. Central Outside and 4,400 mt for the remaining Gulf.

THORNYHEAD, SQUID AND OTHER SPECIES

The Council recommended status quo on these species.

D-1(b) Review of DAP and JVP for 1986

The Council then reviewed DAP needs for 1986. Public Testimony for all groundfish items is found under Appendix I.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC evaluated NMFS' industry survey results and final catches for 1984 and 1985. Without projected physical capacity and percent capacity utilization data, the SSC was unable to comment on the estimates. However, they did emphasize that if industry needs were overstated, available fish may go unharvested and result in the loss of potential economic benefits.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended that no JVP be released until July 1, 1986, at which time there would be a fair indication of what the U.S. industry needs. The AP recommended zero TALFF for all species in the Gulf of Alaska for 1986.

Report of the Permit Review Committee

The Permit Review Committee was concerned with the accuracy of the DAP estimates in the NMFS survey and suggested that NMFS review their procedures for next year to try to elicit more accurate responses and to cover all parties involved. The Committee suggested increasing pollock DAP by 8,000 mt in the Gulf to account for the Portuguese internal waters joint venture not covered in the survey. They presented a table of suggested DAPs for Council consideration (See Permit Review Committee report, Append- ix III.)

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

DAP Figures

As with the ABCs and OYs, the Council moved to adopt the DAPs presented and then proceeded with adjustments.

POLLOCK

Henry Mitchell moved to set pollock DAP at 40,000 mt. The motion was seconded by Russ Cahill and carried, 8 to 3, with Campbell, Hemphill and John Peterson voting against.

Sara Hemphill moved that the pollock DAP for outside of Shelikof from January 15 to April 10 be 5,000 mt. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and carried with no objection.

PACIFIC COD

Henry Mitchell moved to set the DAP for Pacific cod at 20,000 mt. Sara Hemphill seconded the motion which failed 8 to 3, with Hemphill, Mace and Mitchell voting for.

Several Council members said that things are happening so rapidly in this fishery that the Council should give industry the chance to develop it.

Henry Mitchell moved to set the Pacific cod DAP at 30,000 mt. Sara Hemphill seconded the motion which failed, 6 to 5, with Cahill, Dyson, Hemphill, Mace and Mitchell voting for.

Don Collinsworth moved to set the Pacific cod DAP at 45,000 mt. Sara Hemphill seconded the motion which carried, 7 to 4, with Dyson, Mitchell, John Peterson and Winther voting against.

Henry Mitchell moved to change the OY for Pacific cod to 35,000 mt. The motion was seconded by Oscar Dyson and carried 8 to 3, with Campbell, John Peterson and Winther voting against.

Bob McVey pointed out that if TALFF is precluded in the Gulf, foreign operations may move to the Bering Sea and possibly interfere with the domestic factory trawlers. Henry Mitchell disagreed; he felt that this action would not interfere with the domestic operations.

FLOUNDERS

No changes were made in the Flounder DAP figures - 9,384 mt total: 3,252 mt in the Western Gulf; 2,916 mt in the Central Gulf; and 3,216 mt in the Eastern Gulf.

PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH

As reflected in the table, the DAP exceeded OY. The OY was set to take into consideration the rebuilding schedule for Sebastes alutus.

Bob McVey moved to set the POP DAP equal to OY - 3,702 mt total. The motion was seconded by Russ Cahill and carried with no objection.

SABLEFISH

John Winther moved to set the sablefish DAP equal to OY - 15,000 mt. The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and carried with no objection.

ATKA MACKEREL

Atka mackerel DAP in the Gulf of Alaska was set at zero.

ROCKFISH

Bob Mace moved to set the rockfish DAP equal to OY - 5,000 mt. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey and carried with no objection.

THORNYHEAD, SQUID AND OTHER SPECIES were set at status quo.

See Appendix IV for the approved Gulf of Alaska table for 1986 ABCs, OYs, DAPs, JVPs, DAHs, and TALFFs.

There was considerable discussion about the 20,000 mt pollock reserve in the Western/Central Gulf and how it would be utilized. Council members felt it would be important to protect this reserve for domestic use.

Bob Mace moved to recommend to the Regional Director that he put the 20,000 mt pollock reserve in the DAP at the beginning of the year; if, by mid-year or August, there was a surplus in DAP and NMFS determines there's a need for JVP, then a reapportionment of surplus DAP to JVP could be made. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

John Peterson suggested that before any reapportionment is made that NMFS canvass the U.S. industry to be sure there isn't a need; Mr. McVey said that they normally do a second survey in the spring.

The table for DAP figures was adopted as amended with no objection.

Later in the meeting the Council discussed again the release of pollock reserves.

Russ Cahill moved to ask the Regional Director not to release the reserves to DAP until after the roe fishery is completed in order to meet the needs of the domestic industry as they occur. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill

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which carried 6 to 4, with Hemphill, Mitchell, John Peterson and Winther voting against. Mr. Campbell was not present for this vote.

JVP Harvest Figures

POLLOCK

Sara Hemphill moved to allocate 35,000 mt pollock for JVP outside the Shelikof area and at the same time give direction to the Regional Director to release the reserves to JVP at the beginning of the year. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and carried with no objection.

Don Collinsworth moved to adopt the remaining JVP figures as presented for discussion purposes. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and carried with no objection.

John Peterson moved that 40,000 mt pollock JVP be released immediately for harvest anytime the joint ventures are ready to begin and that the remaining 60,000 mt be released at the rate of 15,000 mt per quarter. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and failed, 8 to 2, with Collinsworth and John Peterson voting for; Mr. Campbell was not present for the vote.

Sara Hemphill moved that the joint venture roe fishery in Shelikof Strait begin on February 15. The motion was seconded by Oscar Dyson and carried with no objection. Mr. Campbell was not present for the vote. In discussion the motion was clarified that it would apply only to the joint ventures and would not affect the opening of the outside fishery which would occur on January 15.

FLOUNDER

It was pointed out that the flounder OY doesn't need to be restrained for bycatch reasons now because of the new bycatch mechanism provided for in Amendment 14.

Bob Mace moved that the flounder OY in the Western Gulf be set at 23,000 mt with the corresponding increase in the total flounder OY. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and carried with no objection.

John Peterson moved to reduce the flounder OY in the Central Gulf to 8,000 mt. The motion was seconded by John Winther and failed, 9 to 2, with John Peterson and Winther voting in favor. Mr. Peterson felt this action would reduce TALFF in a fishery where bycatch is a problem.

ATKA MACKEREL, ROCKFISH, THORNYHEAD, SQUID AND OTHER SPECIES

No changes were made in the table for Atka mackerel, rockfish, thornyhead, squid and other species. It was pointed out that NMFS will insert some numbers into the thornyhead, squid and other species columns for DAP and JVP in support of those fisheries.

Bob Mace moved to adopt the final table of JVP figures as amended. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and carried with no objection.

Steve Davis pointed out that there are two potential TALFFs in the Gulf; one

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for Pacific cod and one for flounder, both in the Central Gulf. Mr. Davis also reviewed the trawl halibut bycatch estimates based on the OYs and DAP/JVP apportionments. Using the halibut mortality rates suggested by IPHC, the actual mortality limit of 2,000 mt would not be exceeded with the current harvest levels adopted by the Council.

D-1(c) Set Halibut PSCs

Included in Amendment 14 was a framework procedure for annually setting halibut bycatch limits.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended the PSC be equivalent to 2,000 mt of halibut mortality, to be determined during the 1986 season based on established mortality rates by gear type. In the case of foreign longlining and/or domestic trawl operations, if the mortality rate can be shown (based on observer information) to be less than expected, then additional fishing time should be allowed. The AP encouraged conservation and observation.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC felt that the Plan Team's recommended bycatch rate of 0.038 mt of halibut per metric ton of groundfish was a reasonable starting point, but urged the development of halibut bycatch limits based on the appropriate bycatch and mortality rates for each fishery. The SSC also stressed the importance of a domestic observer program for effective monitoring of

bycatches in the domestic fisheries. However, recognizing the realities of declining budgets, the SSC urged the Council to explore alternative methods that could be used to implement the program with various industry groups.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council endorsed the halibut PSC limit of 2,000 mt mortality as provided for in the framework developed in Amendment 14.

John Peterson moved to set the halibut PSC limit for halibut in the Gulf of Alaska at 2,000 mt (mortality) as recommended by the Halibut Commission and the Advisory Panel. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and carried with no objection.

Based on information on bycatch rates in the bottom trawl fisheries, the halibut PSC was set at 1,885 for the DAP fishery and 322 mt for the JVP fishery.

Henry Mitchell pointed out that the AP had also recommended that during 1986, based on observed incidental harvests and halibut mortality rates observed for different gear groups, the Regional Director allow for additional fishing time if actual mortality was less than expected. It was the consensus of the Council that the motion would include a provision for the Regional Director, on advice of observer coverage and Council staff, to look at increased fishing time where mortality rates are actually lower than those expected.

D-1(d) Management of zero-TALFF and zero-JVP Species

The discussion and action on this subject occurred during the setting of harvest levels. The Council recommended that an emergency rule be used to provide bycatch amounts of Pacific ocean perch and Other rockfish to joint venture and foreign fisheries as necessary. The amounts needed are to be subtracted from the buffer that exists between the OY and ABC levels for these species.

D-1(e) Set OY, DAP, JVP, and TALFF for 1986

These totals were set during discussion and action under item D-1(a) and (b). The table of final figures is included as Appendix V to these minutes.

Gulf of Alaska FMP Workgroup

Sara Hemphill gave a brief report on the progress of the Council's workgroup on the Gulf of Alaska FMP. The workgroup presented a draft goals statement and objectives for a long-range plan for Gulf of Alaska groundfish. Ms. Hemphill asked Council members to comment directly to her on the goals statement. The workgroup will meet again at the January Council meeting.

D-2 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands FMP

(a) Review status of stocks and set new TACs if appropriate.

Jim Glock presented the Plan Team's recommended changes to the TACs for the Bering Sea/Aleutians area based on new information from INPFC and the NWAFC.

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The Council was also provided with a summary of public comments received on the preliminary TACs set in September.

The Plan Team recommended that the TAC for the Pacific ocean perch complex be adjusted upward from 1,000 mt to 1,600 mt because it now includes all five species in the POP complex. They also recommended raising the Aleutian Islands TAC for POP from 3,800 mt to 11,250 mt. They recommended the TAC for the "other rockfish" category be revised downward by subtracting the POP complex: Bering Sea TAC - 450 mt, and Aleutians TAC - 1,425 mt. For Sablefish, the Aleutians TAC was revised upwards from 2,625 mt to 4,200 mt based on improved stock status; the Bering Sea TAC was revised downward from 1,875 mt to 1,600 mt. For Pacific cod, the combined TAC was revised upward to 181,900 mt. The combined TAC for yellowfin sole was revised downward to 230,000 mt based on survey information indicating a 30% decline in the biomass.

Public Testimony for this agenda item is found in Appendix I.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC concurred with the Plan Team's recommendations on EYs for pollock, Pacific cod, yellowfin sole, other flatfish, and Atka mackerel. For Turbot, the SSC recommended managing the two species, separately with an EY of 35,000 mt for Greenland turbot and 20,000 mt for Arrowtooth flounder. For Pacific ocean perch, the SSC felt that in light of the concern for Sebastes Alutus and to maintain consistency with their recommendation to separate S. Alutus in the Gulf plan, they recommended an EY of 10,200 mt for S. Alutus

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only. Their recommendation for the "other rockfish" category EY (8,900 mt) was adjusted upward to account for the rockfish species removed from the POP category. A summary of the EYs and TACs recommended by the SSC is found in the SSC Minutes (Appendix IV). The SSC recommended that the ABC for the Bering Sea/Aleutians groundfish complex be set at 2.0 million mt and the total TAC be set by the Council near the upper end of the OY range of 1.4-2.0 million mt.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended adoption of the SSC's recommended TACs with the exception of pollock, Greenland turbot and Pacific cod. For conservation reasons the AP recommended the TAC for these species be set at 1,100,000 mt for pollock, 22,000 mt for Greenland turbot, and 18,000 mt for Pacific cod. The AP recommended the Council use the NMFS DAP and JVP survey results for working purposes and recommended no foreign directed fishing for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands. They also recommended the Council set bycatch rates for fully-utilized DAH species in the Bering Sea at 1985 catch levels. They also recommended that prior to making a decision on separation of TACs for the Bering Sea and Aleutians that further analysis of the impacts be completed.

The AP unanimously approved a motion to request the Council to encourage the foreign fishing operations in the Bering Sea to continue to voluntarily refrain from fishing in the FDZ between June 1 and September 15 during 1986. Existing closures of December 1 through May 31 would be kept in place.

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The AP also discussed the issue of foreign nations fishing on pollock and other stocks outside the U.S. FCZ, specifically in the so-called "donut hole." It was noted that these stocks may also move into the U.S. FCZ and that information is needed on the approximate composition and tonnage of that catch. The AP recommended to the Council that a strong message be sent to the Dept. of State to discourage countries from fishing in the international waters of the Bering Sea.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

After hearing staff, SSC and AP reports, and public testimony the Council adopted the TACs for the Bering Sea recommended by the SSC for discussion purposes.

TACs

Bob Mace moved to approve the TACs recommended by the SSC (See SSC Minutes, Appendix VI). The motion was seconded by Russ Cahill and carried with no objection.

Henry Mitchell moved to amend the pollock TAC to 1.3 million mt. Sara Hemphill seconded the motion which failed, 6 to 5, with Collinsworth, Dyson, Hemphill, Mitchell, and R. Petersen voting in favor.

Henry Mitchell moved to approve the division of Greenland turbot and arrowtooth flounder TACs in the Bering Sea with the Greenland turbot TAC set at 22,000 mt and arrowtooth flounder set at 20,000 mt. The motion was

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seconded by John Winther and carried, 7 to 4, with Cahill, Hemphill, Mace, and R. Petersen voting against.

Bob Mace moved to set the TAC for Pacific cod at 200,000 mt with any available TALFF restricted to longline only in the Northwest Pribilof Islands. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and failed, 8 to 3, with Cahill, Mace and John Peterson voting in favor.

Sara Hemphill moved to set the TAC for cod at 220,000 mt with the same restrictions, but subsequently withdrew the motion.

Henry Mitchell move to set the TAC for Pacific cod at 229,000 mt. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and carried, 6 to 5, with Campbell, Cahill, Mace, R. Petersen, J. Peterson, and Winther voting against.

DAPs

Bob Mace moved to approve the DAP figures presented by the Permit Review Committee. The motion was seconded by John Winther and carried, as amended below, with no objection.

Oscar Dyson moved to amend the motion to move 5,000 mt from the DAP for turbot to the Pacific cod DAO. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and carried with no objection.

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JVPs

Bob Mace moved to approve the JVP figures presented by the Permit Review Committee. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and carried, as amended below, with no objection.

Don Collinsworth moved to set the Atka mackerel JVP at 30,800 mt. The motion was seconded and carried with no objection.

It was noted that in the Pacific ocean perch, sablefish and Other rockfish categories there was nothing left for bycatch. Staff was instructed to revise these figures for bycatch needs.

A table incorporating Council actions was prepared for review. Mr. Branson noted that the table should be amended to reflect the Chinese request for 13,450 mt yellowfin sole in the Bering Sea rather than the Gulf.

Bob Mace moved to amend the table to reflect this request. The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and carried with no objection.

Mr. McVey pointed out that there is no provision for foreign bycatch of Other rockfish or Pacific ocean perch in the Aleutians. Jim Branson suggested that all the turbot surplus be taken out of the Bering Sea and then no bycatch for a foreign turbot fishery would be required in the Aleutians. Mr. McVey also pointed out that this may preclude the Hokuten fleet from targeting on turbot.

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Henry Mitchell moved to raise the TAC for Greenland turbot to 28,000 mt. The motion was seconded by Mace and carried with no objection.

Henry Mitchell moved to reduce the squid TAC to 5,000 mt and the Other flatfish TAC to 124,200 mt to bring the total TAC to 2.0 million. The motion was seconded and carried with no objection.

Henry Mitchell moved that bycatch amounts be made available through the year out of reserves if necessary to accommodate the target TALFF fisheries in the Aleutian Islands. Motion seconded by Sara Hemphill and carried with no objection.

Sara Hemphill moved to move 5,000 mt Greenland turbot into JVP. The motion was seconded and carried with no objection.

Sara Hemphill moved to change the OY for Greenland turbot to 33,000 and add the additional 5,000 mt to the JVP column. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell. The motion was amended to reduce Other flatfish TAC by 5,000 mt to keep the TAC at 2 million and carried with no objection.

TALFF

Henry Mitchell moved that the directed foreign trawl fishery for cod in the Bering Sea be restricted to longline only conducted in Areas 1 and 2 north of 55°N latitude and west of 170°W longitude. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and carried with no objection.

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Henry Mitchell moved that the Regional Director be requested to apportion sufficient reserves of cod in the Bering Sea to accommodate foreign trawl bycatch requirements. The motion was seconded by John Winther and carried with no objection.

Bob McVey moved to reinstate the 5,000 mt TAC for Other Flatfish and take it out of the Other Species category to allow for a TALFF for Other Flatfish to enable that fishery to take place The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and carried with no objection.

Mr. McVey said he was still concerned with the zero amounts in the Arrowtooth flounder DAP because the target fishery on Greenland turbot is going to take substantial amounts. Bob Mace suggested that the Regional Director use his authority to accommodate this problem using reserves if necessary. It was the consensus of the Council that this was their intent.

A revised Bering Sea table was prepared for the Council later Saturday morning. There was some discussion about making sure there was enough TALFF in the Bering Sea to allow for the foreign longliners' operation.

Don Collinsworth moved to give direction to the Regional Director to remove for the Reserve category and place in the Gulf an additional amount of cod to bring the TALFF allocation in the Gulf to 15,520 mt and the 21,980 mt in the Bering Sea with the trawl bycatch added and then move the remaining 36,426 mt back into the Reserve category. Restrictions in Footnote 3 of the Bering Sea Table would apply. The motion was seconded by John Winther and carried with Rudy Petersen objecting.

Don Collinsworth moved that both the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea tables be approved as amended (See Appendices V and VI). The motion was seconded by John Peterson and carried with no objection.

E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Currently, the Council is only supporting one contract, for Groundfish Data Monitoring, from programmatic funds for \$145,000 with ADF&G. The objective of this project is to enhance the ability of ADF&G to provide timely, high quality fisheries catch data from shoreside deliveries of groundfish. The information will be aggregated by ADF&G and input to PacFIN for reporting to state, federal and Council groundfish managers. A progress report was received in September and forwarded for SSC review.

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee was briefed on the budgets of the Alaska Region and Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center. The Committee requested Mr. Branson be asked to write a second letter supporting an increase in the Center's funding, with particular emphasis on groundfish stock assessment.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Don Collinsworth pointed out that there is a critical need for funding for a domestic observer program. He suggested that an outline of needs or a

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proposal be developed and be send to Congressional delegates to ask that they introduce it for funding with a fiscal note attached. It was decided that Mr. McVey's and Mr. Collinsworth's staff would get together to prepare a proposal.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. David Harrison, a Bristol Bay fisherman again stressed the negative impact of the interception of salmon by the Japanese on Western rural Alaskans.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Campbell adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m. on Saturday, December 14.

Public Testimony

Agenda C-3: Crab/Salmon Interceptions by Joint Ventures

Ted Evans, Alaska Factory Trawlers, said that the Factory Trawlers had only recently become involved in the industry workgroup and that they are trying to gather information to formulate a position. They feel they can co-exist with the crab industry. The Eastern Bering Sea is the only place where the cod are concentrated in quantities to make the fishery viable. Basically, they are proposing that the area between 160°W and 162°W and north to 58°N be off limits to the trawlers, leaving the rest of the area open to trawling.

Mick Stevens, ProFish International, stressed that the Council should be dealing with these problems with a comprehensive fishery plan, not on a problem-by-problem basis. He is submitting a plan amendment for the BSAI FMP which may help the Council in this effort.

Margaret Dawson, Westward Trawlers, felt that there was no need for closures at this time. Last year they harvested 100,000 mt of pollock and caught only 89 crab. They will continue to participate in the industry workgroup.

Ron Peterson, Seattle, WA, told the Council he felt this issue had become a severe conservation problem and urged the Council to close the Pot Sanctuary to all trawling until the effects of trawling on the crab stocks can be determined.

Kris Poulsen, Coalition of Concerned Crab Fishermen, complimented Thorn Smith on a good job with the industry workgroup but said that the lack of progress is because of the diversity of interests involved. Crab stocks cannot improve until they are protected from incidental harvest by trawlers.

Tom Casey, Kirkland, WA, said that there are several other areas outside the Pot Sanctuary where yellowfin sole can be found and that the protection of crab stocks is vital to the survival of crab fishermen.

Barry Fisher, Midwater Trawl Co-op, said the reason they are asking for continued limited access to the area is that they feel it holds the only feasible economic concentrations of yellowfin sole. They have developed operating plans with their fleet last year which kept them under the level set by the Council.

Bonnar Petersen, Owner, F/V SILVER CHARLIE, said that the midwater trawlers are concerned and have worked hard at reducing the incidental catch of crab. They tried ten different types of gear; last year they had only about 0.5 a crab per metric ton of sole. In the Marine Resource joint ventures they are strictly monitored.

Dave Fraser, Cape Flattery Fisheries, Inc., said he has been active in the industry workgroup for crab interception. If there is a PSC for crab, he felt

it should be equitable to all fisheries. He suggested that a cap on the incidental catch would be a mechanism to make operations most responsible and accountable.

Phil Chitwood, Marine Resources, reviewed their history for crab incidental catch in the yellowfin sole/flounder joint ventures. The catch of king crab was reduced from 14.5 crab per mt in 1983 to 3.5 in 1985; Tanner crab was reduced from 10.5 crab per mt in 1983 to 2.7 in 1985; and halibut was reduced from 4.1 per mt in 1983 to 1.2 per mt in 1985. He stressed that whatever action the Council takes should be equitable to all fisheries.

Steve Drage, F/V COHO, cited two reports on fishing off the ice edge outside the Pot Sanctuary; he stressed that the concentration of sole outside the Pot Sanctuary occurs after the ice moves out, in June or after.

Dennis Petersen, F/V OCEAN SPRAY, said that this is basically becoming an allocation issue between American fishermen. One alternative would be to get some sort of industry or NMFS participation in a survey during the early part of the year to look at stock status. If stocks are as bad as they say, then all hard-on-bottom trawling should be prohibited in the area. He said he doesn't feel that midwater trawling is a problem.

Al Geiser, F/V HAZEL LORRAINE, said that he participated in the flounder joint venture for the first time this year and that MRC keeps a close watch on incidental catch of crab.

Fred Yeck, F/V BLUE FOX, said that the MRC fishermen recognize there is a problem but any action must take into consideration the needs of the trawl fishery; they need to fish in April and May for economic viability.

Lyle Yeck, F/V RAVEN, also participates in the yellowfin sole fishery. He stressed their need for access to the Pot Sanctuary during April and May.

Dave Harville, Kodiak Western Trawlers, said that to single out the trawl fleet might be damaging to a developing American fishery. The Council should also take into consideration the value of the food source they are supplying and the removal of crab predators from that area.

Steve Hoag, IPHC, stressed that the Pot Sanctuary is probably the most important halibut nursery area on the coast and has been closed to halibut fishing since 1967.

Byron North, F/V PEGASUS, participates in the flounder fishery in the Bering Sea. He said that if trawlers keep their gear in good order the incidental catch can be controlled. Last year his bycatch was reduced from 7 crabs per ton to 1 crab per ton.

Jeff Stephan, UFMA, said their organization believes a conservation crisis does exist and asked the Council to put the issue on the January agenda for emergency action. They believe there are sufficient concentrations of yellowfin sole outside the Pot Sanctuary. They appreciate the progress to date, but feel that not much more can be made through gear technology. He submitted three alternatives: (1) total closure of the Pot Sanctuary to bottom trawling; (2) Trawl closures in the area of 163°30'N, 58°15'E to bottom

trawling; (3) six-month closure of the entire pot sanctuary from April to August to bottom trawling.

Frank Schnider, F/V COHO, stressed the need for trawlers to fish the Pot Sanctuary during April and May.

Dave Seibel, stressed the gear improvements and feels they can keep the incidental catch under control.

Bob Alverson, FVOA, briefly reviewed their position which was included in the industry workgroup report. They encouraged the Council to send it out for public review and put it on the January calendar for emergency action.

Percy Hadley, F/V QUEEN VICTORIA, believes the proposal submitted by the yellowfin sole fleet, presented by Barry Fisher, addresses the problem of conservation and yet gives them a means to retain the yellowfin sole fishery as a viable fishery.

Spike Jones, F/V ROYAL QUARRY, said the Council should study all incidental catch in all fisheries and assess the costs to fishermen before making any decisions.

Loreen Hamilton, Port Townsend, was a NMFS observer. She has seen a lot of derelict pots with crab. She also participated in a study on crab predation and pollock studies. She felt that it would not be productive for the Council to make a decision on the basis of the information they now have.

Gary Loverich, Nor'Eastern Trawl Systems, reviewed his letter on the gear now being used in Alaska. His observation of the gear in tests leads him to believe that the newer gear will greatly reduce incidental catch problems.

Gary Westman, F/V ROSELLA, has participated in the flounder fishery since 1982. He feels the trawlers are probably doing the crab stocks some good by harvesting their predators.

Raymond Hall, F/V LESLIE LEE, participates in the yellowfin sole joint venture. He believes the decline in crab stocks is cyclical and not a result of bycatch problems in the yellowfin sole fishery.

Chester Petersen, F/V PACIFIC CHALLENGER, feels they should be able to fish in the Pot Sanctuary in April and May.

Ben Hogevoll, F/V CAPE KIWANDA, participates in the yellowfin sole joint venture. He said they can't fish north of the Pot Sanctuary before April because of ice, and asked the Council to give them a chance to prove they can reduce the incidental catch of crab.

Al Burch, Alaska Draggers Assn., supports the AP's recommendation that the industry workgroup continue to work on the problem and try to come up with an answer for the January meeting.

Jon Adams, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union. They asked the Council to stop all trawling on the nursery grounds.

Agenda C-4: Sablefish Hook and Longline Limited Entry in the Gulf of Alaska

Thorn Smith, NPFVOA, said they feel the Council should develop a comprehensive policy for development of the groundfish fisheries before looking at any kind of limited entry program. Mr. Smith also read a letter into the record from the Coalition for Open Oceans. The letter is filed with the Council notebook for this meeting.

Bob Alverson, FVOA, said the only alternatives to limited entry would be to shorten fishing time and institute trip limits which also result in large enforcement costs and eliminate the most efficient operations.

Bart Eaton, said that fishermen are getting mixed signals. The Secretary of Commerce felt there were enough fishermen in the black cod fishery to suggest a cut-off date, but the Fisheries Loan Corporation is encouraging investment into the black cod fishery. Publishing a cut-off date will give the Council an opportunity to study the situation.

Jack Barr, Fishing Company of Alaska, said this measure unjustly favors one segment of the industry over another which in violation of the MFMCA. Urged the Council to consider needs of all participants.

Jeff Stephan, UFMA, does not support the establishment of a cut-off date for participation in the sablefish fishery.

Spike Jones, F/V ROYAL QUEEN, said he feels the Council would be wasting its time in studying limited entry for sablefish.

Jon Adams, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union, supports study of limited entry for sablefish and the cut-off date of September 26, 1985.

Gary Embry, DSFU, also supports this action. They can see sablefish going the same way as halibut did; if limited entry isn't instituted, then there should be some specific opening/closing dates.

Jack Knutsen, Fishing Vessel Owners Assn, said he used to be opposed to limited entry programs but it seems to be the only rational way of managing the black cod fishery to keep it from becoming overcapitalized and reverting to a pulse-type fishery.

Mark Lundsten, FVOA, agreed with Mr. Knutsen. The fishery is full right now and need of stability; he encouraged the Council to accept the Secretary's offer to publish the September 26, 1985 cut-off date.

Jim Hubbard, Sitka, supports limited entry for the sablefish fishery and the 9/26 moratorium date.

Dave Harville, ADA, said that they have been assured all along during the sablefish negotiations last year that they had the option of going into the sablefish fishery; now they may be kept from doing so and that is not fair. Against the 9/26 cut-off date for participation in the sablefish fishery.

Michael Mayo, Sitka, in favor of limited entry in the sablefish fishery because it is becoming chaotic; there were 193 boats in the Central Gulf

sablefish fishery last year. Suggested three openings for sablefish: April 1, June 1, and August 1.

Ludger Dochtermann, Alaska Coastal Community Alliance, against any form of limited entry because it is anti-free enterprise. Fishermen should have the right to diversify into any fishery.

Agenda items C-5, C-6, C7: JVs, Foreign Allocations, & Foreign Permits

Hugh Reilly, Westward Trawlers, supported a reasonable and timely release of allocations to Japan. Domestic industry has developed through cooperation with Japan and they have supported development of surimi plants, etc.

Al Osterback, Sand Point, said that salmon is an integral part of their economy and it is essential that the interceptions by Japan be stopped.

Jay Hastings, Japan Fisheries Assn., said that release of allocations to Japan is integral to their fulfillment of recent industry agreements.

Dean Paddock, Bristol Bay Driftnetters Assn, asked that the Council recommend withholding Japan's directed allocation until some resolution on the salmon interception is found.

Tomasz Pintowski, Polish Embassy, reminded the Council of Poland's activities in the past and the money they spend on support for their vessels - fuel, provisions, etc.

Jeff Sanders, Western Alaska Salmon Coalition. They are interested in the conservation and enhancement of the salmon habitat and asked the Council to make a Japan allocation contingent upon resolution of the salmon interception problem.

Cindy Lowry, Greenpeace. Concerned about the impact of the high seas interception of salmon on the resources. Also, the high mortality of marine mammals and sea birds in this same fishery. They urged the Council to cut off TALFF for Japan because of their unwillingness to negotiate a successful resolution.

Nancy Davis, Quest Alaska, Inc., urged the Council to support Poland's request for a 50,000 mt allocation in addition to their 50,000 JV request. They have been a cooperative partner and their request is a 1:1 ratio.

Harold Sparks, Nunam Kitlutsisti, presented several statements to the Council on salmon interceptions. These are a part of the Council record and filed in the Council notebook for the meeting. Urged the Council to recommend zero TALFF for Japan until interceptions are stopped.

David C. Harrison, Anchorage. Stressed the importance of salmon stocks to rural Alaskans.

Agenda D-1: Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

Ludger Dochtermann, Alaska Coast Community Alliance, said the bycatch of crab in the Kodiak area is devastating to the local fishermen. Would like to see observers placed on catcher/processors.

Joe Gnagey, Steuart Fisheries, said that the Plan Team's recommendation of zero-ABC for pollock in the Gulf is sending shock waves throughout the industry. They think the stocks will support a harvest in excess of 200,000 mt; this should provide enough to provide for joint ventures and allow the domestic industry to develop.

Don Johnson, Kodiak, said that NMFS should update their trawl techniques used in surveys; he disagrees with the assessment for pollock in the Gulf.

Jack Knutsen, FVOA, re: sablefish. He thinks the information on sablefish is poor and that 18,000 mt is too much; they agree with the AP recommendation. Eventually there will have to be a size limit for sablefish.

Wally Pereyra, ProFish Int'l, supported the SSC's recommendation for pollock OYs and suggested Council adopt them. He recommended that the season for pollock in the Western Gulf not be split so that the JVs will have the maximum opportunity to take the fish during the winter period. He also suggested that the JV fisheries in Shelikof not begin before Feb. 15. This would encourage exploring outside Shelikof.

Leroy Cossette, Uganik Bay Seafoods, objects to joint ventures for pollock in Shelikof Strait because domestic processors cannot compete with foreign prices.

Mick Stevens, ProFish Int'l, said he feels there is a very significant difference in the industry DAP survey and actual performance.

Jon Adams, DSFU, re: halibut mortality. He supports the AP's recommendation for a 2,000 mt mortality rate for halibut in the Gulf of Alaska. Also believes the sablefish OY should be below 18,000 mt because of insufficient stock data.

Gary Embry, DSFU, agrees with Jon Adam's testimony and urged the Council to adopt a very conservative approach for the sablefish OY.

Ted Evans, AFTA, said that there is a significant increase in domestic demand for pollock. He would like to see 40,000 mt held for the post-Shelikof Strait fishery to allow a constant supply for the new surimi plants coming on line. For Pacific cod, he would like to see the harvest remain at the historic level; ABC is too high. Supports zero-TALFF in the Gulf. On sablefish, he agrees with the SSC's recommendation for 18,000 mt, supports the distribution proposed by the Plan Team, and is very concerned that their fishery will be closed down because of excessive bycatch of sablefish.

Bernie Burkholder, Dominion Fisheries, Inc., is concerned that bycatches will shut down the trawl fisheries. Also, he is against limited entry for sablefish because he and a lot of others have invested in equipment to get into this fishery in 1986.

Harold Thompson, Sitka Sound Seafoods, supports AP recommendation of 15,000 mt for sablefish. Urged the Council to support only the joint ventures who have participated in helping develop the domestic fisheries.

Bob Alverson, FVOA, supports the AP's recommendation for the halibut PSC limit of 2,000 mt mortality in the Gulf. In reference to trawlers targeting on their 20% sablefish allocation, he feels that it is an "in-house" problem that should be dealt with by the trawlers. Urged the Council to give the Regional Director all the tools he needs to deal with the fisheries in a timely manner.

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Longliners Assn, is against the 9/26 cut-off date for sablefish. He is in favor of the 15,000 mt OY for sablefish in the Gulf. Also in favor of the 2,000 mt halibut PSC and a 5% trip limit for trawlers on sablefish or some other method that would allow them to stay within the limit and keep the fishery going year-round.

Tim Thomas, F/V MARK I, feels the timing of the NMFS pollock survey is off; he was there from February 1 to April 15 when the pollock were congregated and no NMFS personnel were in evidence.

Mark Lundsten, FVOA, said that for the health of the resource, there should be a size limit on sablefish; too many immature fish are being harvested. Supports a 15,000 mt OY for sablefish and the 2,000 mt PSC for halibut. Feels the only way this can be enforced is through a domestic observer program.

Eric Jordan, Sitka, supports the AP recommendation on the sablefish OY and distribution.

Ron Hegge, ALFA, supports AP recommendation on sablefish and the 2,000 halibut PSC.

John Jemewouk, Craig Willoya, Myrtle Johnson, KEG Fisheries Co-op, stressed the importance of joint ventures with Japan and urged the Council not to withhold their allocation.

William Nicholson, Joe McGill, Ray O'Neill, Bristol Bay Herring Marketing Co-op, also depend on their arrangements with Japanese longliners and it is important to their economy.

Mike Mayo, Sitka, said he feels the survey for sablefish is in error; he thinks there's more available than the Plan Team says.

Jeff Stephan, UFMA, shares Rob Alverson's concerns that the trawlers will target on sablefish and shut down other fisheries. Requested that the cod and flatfish OYs be set as low as possible. He supports the 2,000 mt halibut PSC and urged the Council to move forward on a domestic observer program.

Tom Stewart, Petersburg Vessel Owners' Assn, supports AP recommendations for Gulf OYs.

Steve Johnson, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn., supported the SSC's approach to the pollock OY to encourage exploration of stocks outside Shelikof. He feels the ABC recommendations are too conservative based on the NRC analysis. Also

asked the Council to take a close look at the DAH estimates for pollock; he thinks they are unrealistic. In regard to zero-TALFF and zero-JVPs, he asked the Council to set bycatch figures which would allow these fisheries to continue.

Paul MacGregor, Japan Longline Assn, said that the OY for Pacific cod in the Gulf has been kept below ABC to protect halibut; but now that Amendment 14 is in place, this should no longer be necessary; he recommended an OY of 100,000 mt for Pacific cod in the Gulf. He also said that in the past DAP projections have not been reached and suggested the Council take that into consideration. Mr. MacGregor reminded the Council that continued JV fishing operations are important to domestic fishermen.

Steve Hughes, NRC, said that on the basis of the study they did for pollock in the Gulf, they feel the OY could be set within a range of 120-160,000 mt. They agree that the pollock biomass has decreased in the Shelikof Strait, but do not agree that those stocks comprise the vast majority of the stocks in the Western and Central areas of the Gulf.

Frank Bohannon, Northern Deep Sea Fisheries, Inc., said he is concerned about the low ABCs for pollock in light of the NRC report. Feels that NMFS surveys are underfunded and do not cover the whole resource. Last year their CPUE was up even though the size of the fleet was increased. He feels an OY of 200,000 mt for 1986 is conservative. Urged the Council to use the NRC report as a guideline. Mr. Swasand, who was with Mr. Bohannon, said that DAP figures should be reasonable and there should be enough bycatch allowed for target fisheries to go forward. Japan should be given at least their historic allocation.

Al Burch, ADA, said that in 1986 four groups will be targeting on cod; to set the OY too low will send a message to industry that will slow Americanization. A PSC will protect the halibut so he feels the pollock estimates in the Gulf are too conservative. After DAP and bycatch needs are protected, he would like to see the excess pollock released to joint ventures; this is very important to the Kodiak economy. Urged the Council to reject AP's recommendation to delay joint ventures until July 1. Mr. Burch also said that he supports a domestic observer program. In regard to the cut-off date for sablefish participation, he feels it is not fair for the draggers who have been assured the ability to diversify.

Thorn Smith, NPFVOA, supports the NRC assessment of pollock stocks in the Gulf and urged the Council to set reasonable DAP figures and to establish adequate PSCs for fully-utilized species. Agreed with the 2,000 mt halibut PSC.

Dave Harville, Kodiak Westward Trawlers, encouraged joint venture allocations in Shelikof Strait and was concerned with DAP estimates which he felt were unrealistic. Does not agree with delaying the Shelikof season.

Byron Kelly, Alaska Pacific Seafoods, told of plans for processing surimi in 1986. They estimate that they will need a maximum of 16,400 mt of pollock and it's important for them to have it spread throughout the year.

Charles Christensen, Petersburg Vessel Owners Assn., feels the SSC recommendation of 18,000 mt for sablefish is too high, both for conservation and market reasons. He supports the AP's recommendation of 15,000 mt. Also would like to suggest a size limit be placed on sablefish.

Richard White, is concerned with the sablefish distribution; he urged the Council to support the Plan Team's apportionment. He also suggested there be a minimum size of 22" for sablefish.

Danny Graham, Eldaw Alaska, Ltd., is concerned that decisions are being based on economic reasons rather than conservation. Agrees with the AP's recommendation on sablefish; he would rather have less fish now and allow them to grow. He also agreed that a size limit of 22-23" is necessary for sablefish.

Jim Hubbard, Sitka, agreed with the Plan Team's recommendations for sablefish and sees no reason to redistribute. He also supports a size limit for sablefish.

Annie Burnham, Alaska Joint Venture Fisheries, supports the SSC recommendations on pollock; the suggestion to open the Shelikof fishery on February 15 is a good one; it will provide an opportunity to explore stocks outside Shelikof. Also concerned that DAP estimates may not be realistic. Also questioned the zero-ABC recommended by the Plan Team for pollock; based on the NRC report this would seem unnecessary.

Terry Baker, Arctic Alaska Seafoods, supports the Plan Team apportionment for sablefish and recommends no TALFF in GOA. This will increase domestic opportunity for exports both to Japan and European countries. He feels that 80,000-90,000 mt for DAP is realistic.

Alec Brindle, Ward Cove Packing Co., reviewed their plans for 1986; for shoreside facilities to be economically viable they need year-round supply of fish in close proximity to plants.

Mr. Leppink, Shoney's Inc. Shoney's would buy all American-processed product for their restaurant chain if it was available. This year they used over 40 million pounds of cod. Urged the Council to do whatever is necessary to foster development of the U.S. fishing and processing industries.

Agenda D-2: Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

Steve Johnson, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers/Hokuten Trawlers, feels the TAC for pollock in the Bering Sea could go as high as 1.3 million mt. Does not believe zero-TALFF and zero-JVP are necessary if adequate bycatch amounts are set aside for target fisheries. Splitting the TAC between the Bering Sea and Aleutians is not necessary; there would be no benefit at this time.

Ted Evans, AFTA, feels that Pacific cod should be reserved for the domestic fleet. Stocks are expected to decline and should be preserved. It's difficult for him to comment on the TACs because figures in the Resource Assessment Document are constantly changing. Pollock should also be strictly for domestic fishermen.

Bart Eaton, Trident Seafoods, recommends zero-TALFF. Also encourages separating turbot species. Reviewed Trident's plans for the coming year. Concerned about the shift of effort that may come out of the Gulf into the Bering Sea.

Mick Stevens, ProFish Int'l, stressed the importance of having sufficient resource for domestic fishermen. Recommends the Council not link allocations for Japan to the salmon interception problem.

Jay Hastings, Japan Fisheries Assn., stressed that the industry agreements with Japan are linked to their allocations.

Jeff Sanders, Western Alaska Coalition, is interested in conservation and enhancement of salmon habitats. Opposed to high seas interception of salmon and urged Council to make allocations contingent on resolution.

Barry Collier, Pacific Seafood Processors Assn, read a telegram into the record from Bob Morgan which is filed with the Council notebook for this meeting. Mr. Collier said that testimony at this meeting has shown that the DAP estimates for 1986 are realistic. Recommended that the Council request the same industry compromises in the FDZ for 1986.

Phil Chitwood, MRC, supports status quo on Atka mackerel. Without observers it would be very difficult to split out the POP complex.

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Longliners, supports AP recommendation on Pacific cod. Urged the Council to support the domestic industry.

Paul MacGregor, Japan Longline Assn., suggested the Council use reserves to allow the codfish fishery in the Pribilofs. Their CPUEs remain high even though the domestic trawlers say they can't find sufficient concentrations.

Thorn Smith, NPFVOA, said that they support the allocation of the maximum TALFF available for support of the industry agreements.

Ed Zeasor, Mrs. Paul's Kitchens, said that a large amount of pollock fillet blocks is important to their operation. If the product was available in sufficient quantities at a reasonable price, they would buy all American product.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

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FTS 271-4064

December 13, 1985

TO PERSONS INTERESTED IN PROPOSALS ADDRESSING CRAB AND HALIBUT BYCATCH IN THE EASTERN BERING SEA TRAWL FISHERIES

Enclosed for your review and comment is a set of proposals offered by fishing groups and North Pacific Fishery Management Council members addressing the bycatch of crab and halibut in the Eastern Bering Sea trawl fisheries. Written comments on these proposals or alternative proposals should be received at the Council office before January 7, 1986. They should be addressed to:

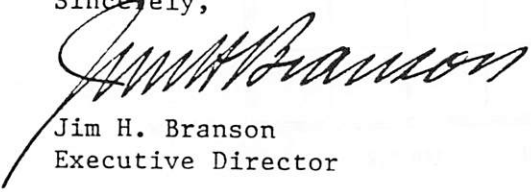
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

ATTN: Trawl Bycatch Comments

The proposals and the written comments will be considered by the Council at the January 13-17, 1986 Council meeting in Sitka where they are expected to adopt regulations to control the crab and halibut bycatch. Any proposal adopted by the Council in January will be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for implementation as an emergency regulation for the 1986 season.

THE PROPOSALS INCLUDED HEREIN ARE EXAMPLES OF THE TYPES OF MEASURES UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL. IN ADDRESSING THE BYCATCH ISSUE, THE COUNCIL WILL NOT BE LIMITED TO CONSIDERING ONLY THE PROPOSALS LISTED HERE, BUT MAY CONSIDER OTHERS DURING THE REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD OR DURING THE JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING.

Sincerely,

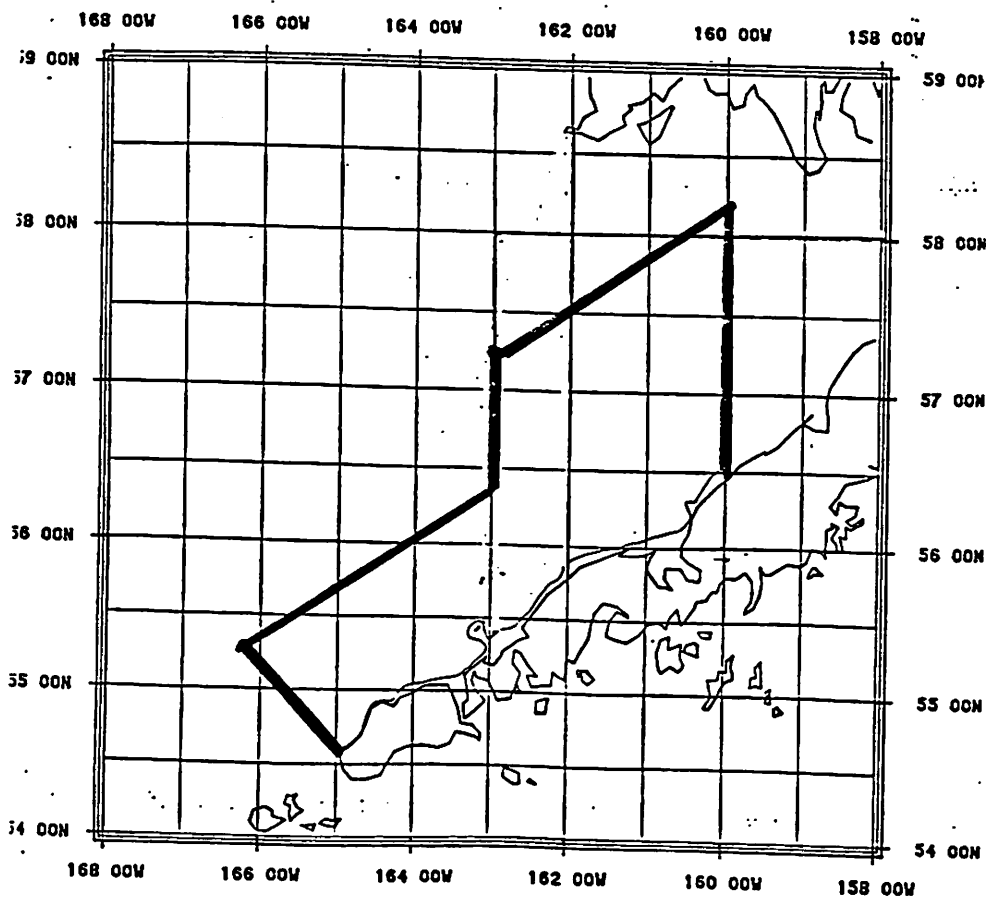

Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

PROPOSALS FOR REDUCTION OF CRAB BYCATCH IN THE BRISTOL BAY POT SANCTUARY:

I. PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY CRAB AND HALIBUT FISHERMEN

A. Submitted by Crab Fishermen Coalition

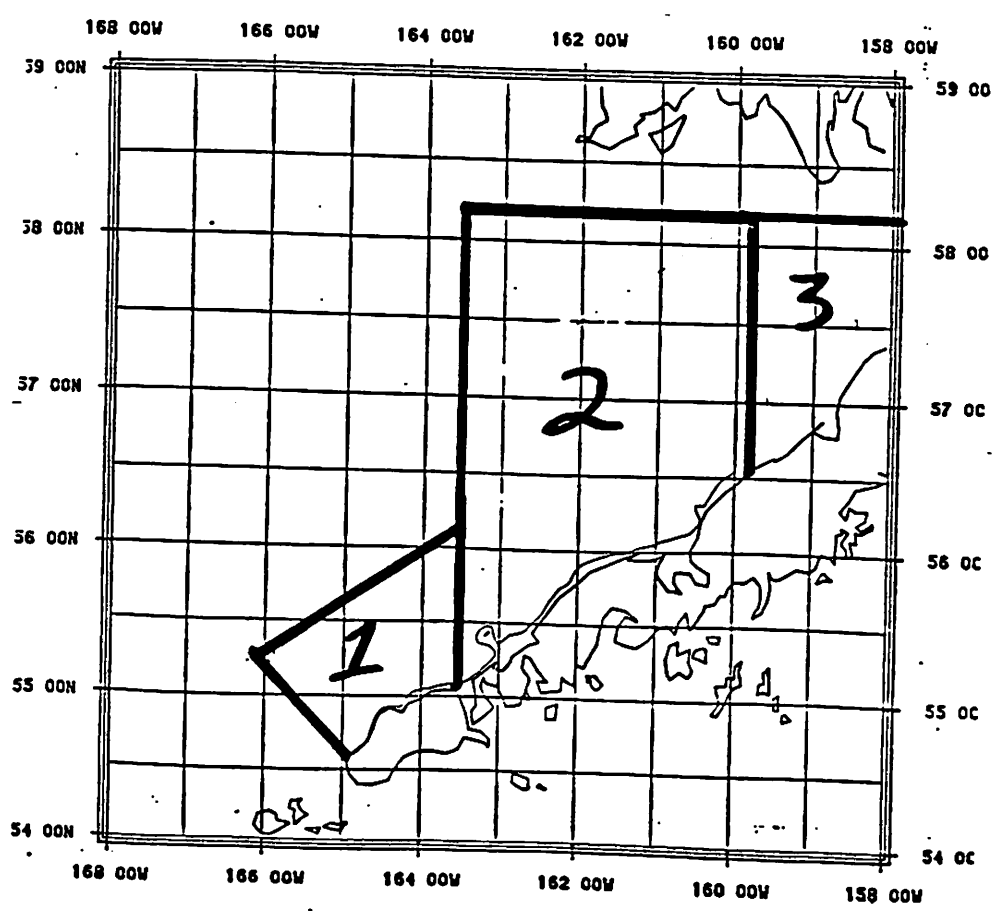
Restore and re-establish the jurisdiction of the pot sanctuary (see chart below) in the Eastern Bering Sea from Cape Saricheff east to Bristol Bay. It is requested that no trawling be permitted in this area by either foreign or domestic fishermen.



B. Submitted by Fishing Vessel Owners' Association

The FVOA proposes the following:

- (a) In that area of the existing pot sanctuary extending from the westernmost point of the sanctuary to a line at 163'30" (Area 1), no flounder fishing would be permitted. Bottom trawl activities for cod and pollock, however, would be allowed to operate with a 25,000 halibut bycatch level.
- (b) There would be no trawl activities in that area from 163'30" eastward to 159'45" with a northern boundary at 58'15" (Area 2) during 1986.
- (c) There would be a cap of 25,000 halibut for trawl activities in that area north of the Alaska Peninsula, south of 58'15" and eastward of 159'45" (Area 3).



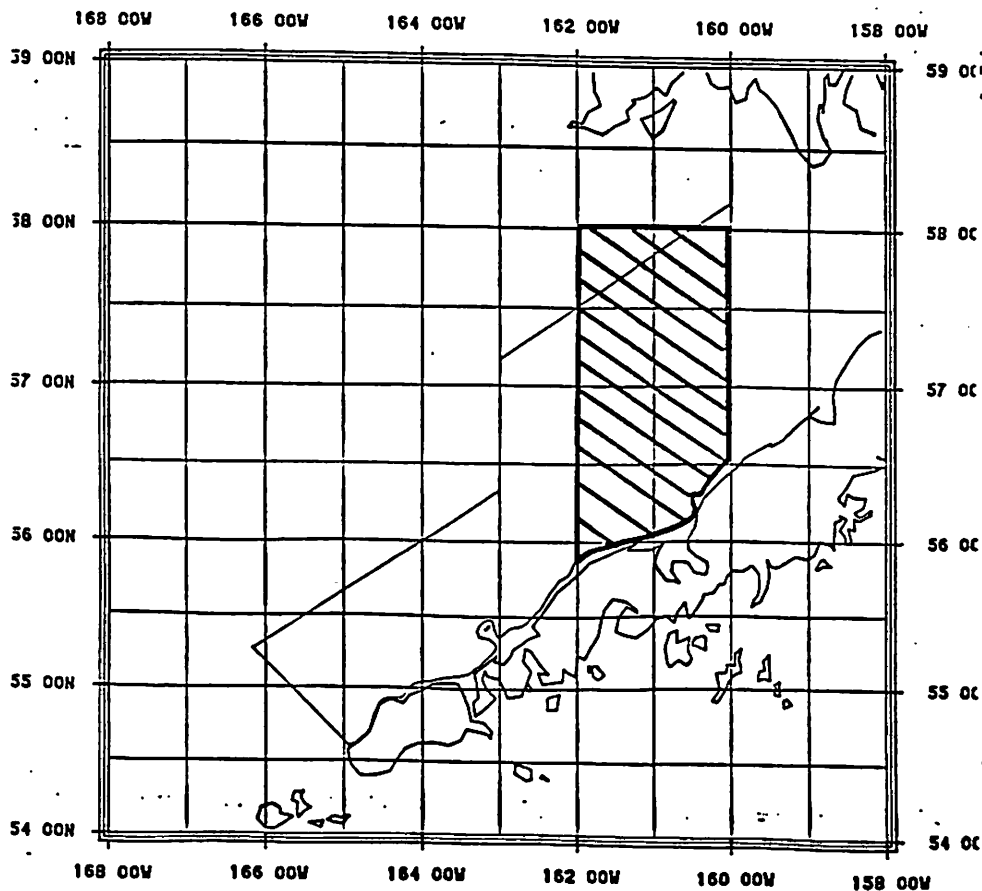
II. PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY TRAWL GROUPS

NOTE: Industry groups have recently engaged in a series of negotiations to determine ways to reduce the crab and halibut bycatch in the Eastern Bering Sea trawl fisheries. The trawl participants in the negotiations wish to make it clear that their proposals listed immediately below are their current positions in those negotiations. Their statements address only their respective fisheries since they believe it is not proper for one trawl group to propose restrictions for other trawl fisheries. A comprehensive trawl proposal may eventually be offered combining the proposals from all trawl groups.

A. Submitted by the Alaska Factory Trawlers

Close the area south of 58°N between 160° and 163°W to on-bottom cod and pollock trawling. This closure would not apply to waters landward of the 25 fathom depth line and mid-water trawling.

Rationale: Each trawl fishery has its own unique circumstances, and any restrictive measure should apply to that specific fishery only. Our proposed solution applies to on-bottom cod and pollock fisheries only. Other measures may have to apply to the yellowfin sole fishery; however we are not presently in a position to suggest specific restrictions for that fishery.



B. Submitted by Joint Venture Flounder Trawlers

(1) King Crab

a. King crab bycatch areas divided into zones 1 and 2 as shown on the chart on the following page for the joint venture flounder trawl fishery. Joint venture bottom trawling for flounders will cease in Zones 1 and 2 if and when a cap of 155,000 king crab is taken.

b. Joint venture bottom trawling in Zone 1 for flounders will cease on June 1 whether or not the 155,000 crab cap has been taken.

c. Joint venture bottom trawling for flounder outside of Zones 1 and 2 will cease when a cap (in number of crab) of 2 crab per metric ton multiplied by the JVP allocation tonnage of yellowfin sole and other flounder caught outside of Zones 1 and 2.

(2) Tanner Crab

Joint venture bottom trawling for flounder will cease when a cap (in number of crab) of 4.4 crab multiplied by the JVP allocation tonnage for flounder and yellowfin sole is taken.

(3) Halibut

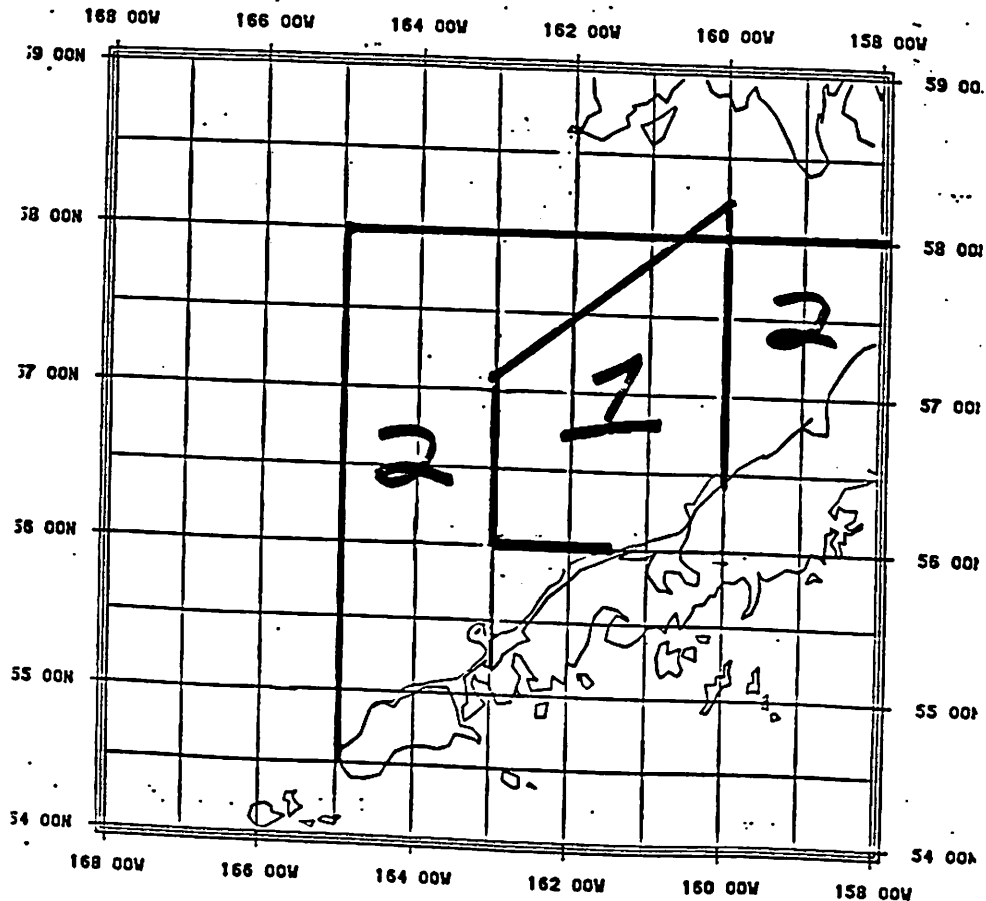
a. JV bottom trawling for flounders to cease in the pot sanctuary when a cap of 85,000 halibut are taken.

b. Outside the pot sanctuary JV bottom trawling for flounders shall cease when JV bottom trawling for flounders takes a cap (in weight) equal to 1% of the JVP tonnage for the flounder fishery.

(4) Distribution of Caps

All caps to be proportioned to individual JV operations on the basis of the percentage of the JVP tonnage of yellowfin sole and other flounder.

Rationale: To maintain the economic viability of our fishery, we need to fish in April and May. During that period the only commercially exploitable stocks of flounder are located in and adjacent to the Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary. We can keep our bycatch of crab and halibut at very low levels by moving our operations to crab-free areas and refining gear to make it fish cleanly. The cap of 155,000 king crab, which actually comprises a removal of about 26,000 female crabs, guarantees that our operation will not have a significant biological impact on the king crab stocks.



The boundaries to the above zones are:

Zone 1: The eastern boundary follows the 160° east line from the Alaska Peninsula to 58°10' north latitude. The northern boundary extends southwest from 58°10' north latitude to the intersection of the 163° east line and 57°10' north latitude. The western boundary follows the 163° line south to 56° north latitude. The southern boundary is the 56° line from 163° longitude eastward to the Alaska Peninsula.

Zone 2: This zone extends seaward along the 165° east longitudinal line from the Alaska Peninsula to 58° north then eastward to the Alaska Peninsula.

C. Submitted by the Pollock Trawlers

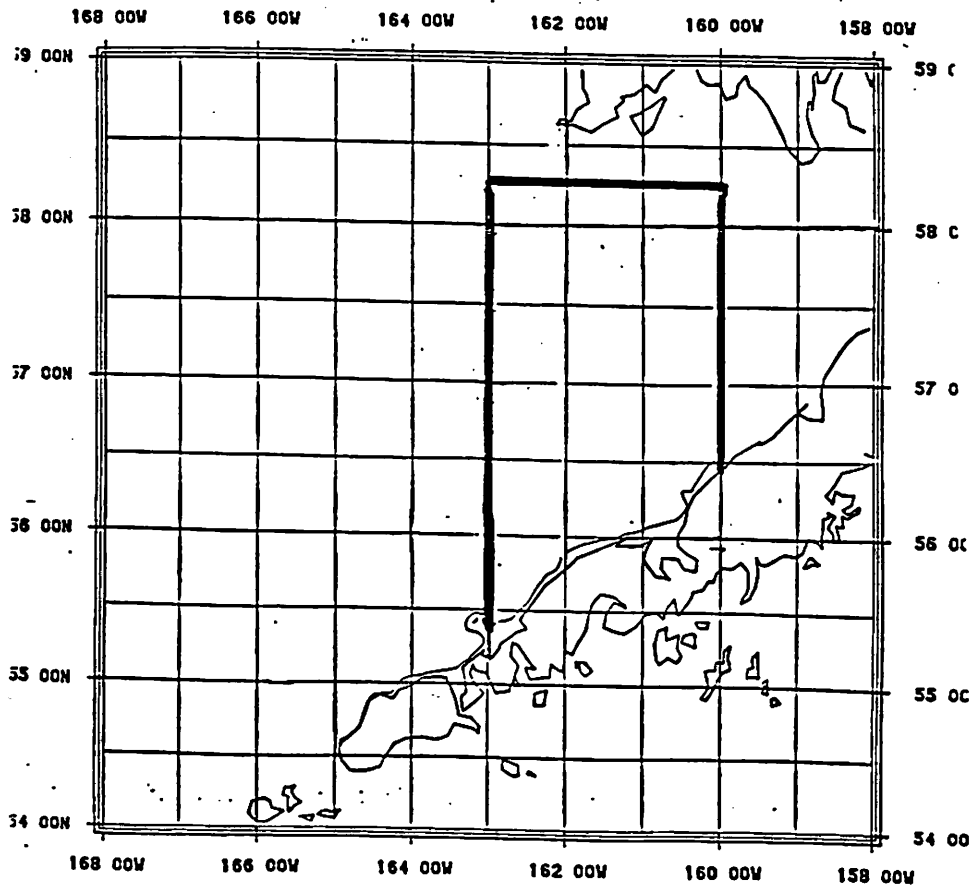
No time/area restrictions apply to pollock joint ventures until data indicate these fisheries impose harm on king crab stocks.

III. PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY OTHER INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS

A. Submitted by the North Pacific Fishing Vessels Owners Assn

A one-year moratorium (for 1986) on all trawling in the area south of 58°15' between 160° and 163° latitude.

Rationale: The moratorium is designed to protect the principle habitat of the female king crab stocks. It is NPFVOA's intention that this proposal may be amended as a result of the ongoing work of the industry incidental catch workgroup.

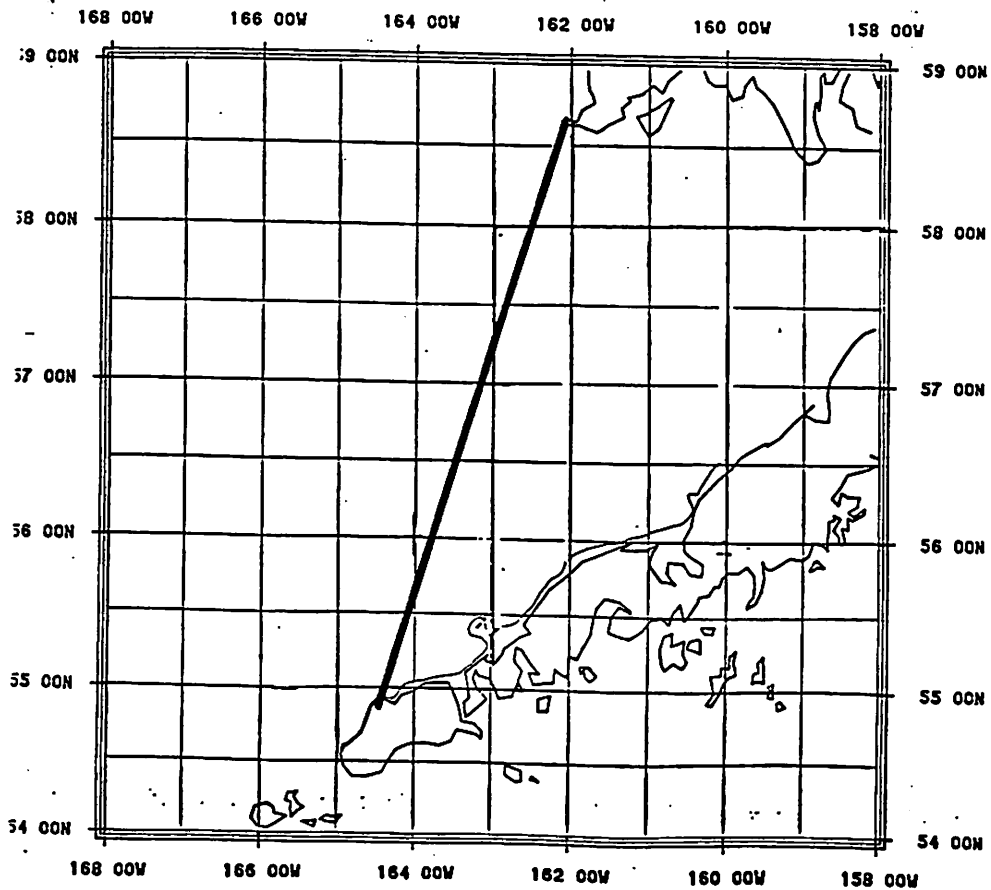


B. Submitted by Ocean Spray Fisheries

1. (a) The Council should delay action until NMFS conducts a crab survey in the pot sanctuary in February to double-check the results from the survey conducted in June; and,

(b) If the Council should deem that there is a significant biological problem with female red king crab in the existing pot conservation area and/or any other area as outlined by other closure proposals and closes the area to domestic fisherman, both pot and trawling, then the area east of a line from Cape Newenham to Cape Mordvinof (see chart below) be closed to all foreign trawling under an emergency order for one year and be reviewed after that one year is up.

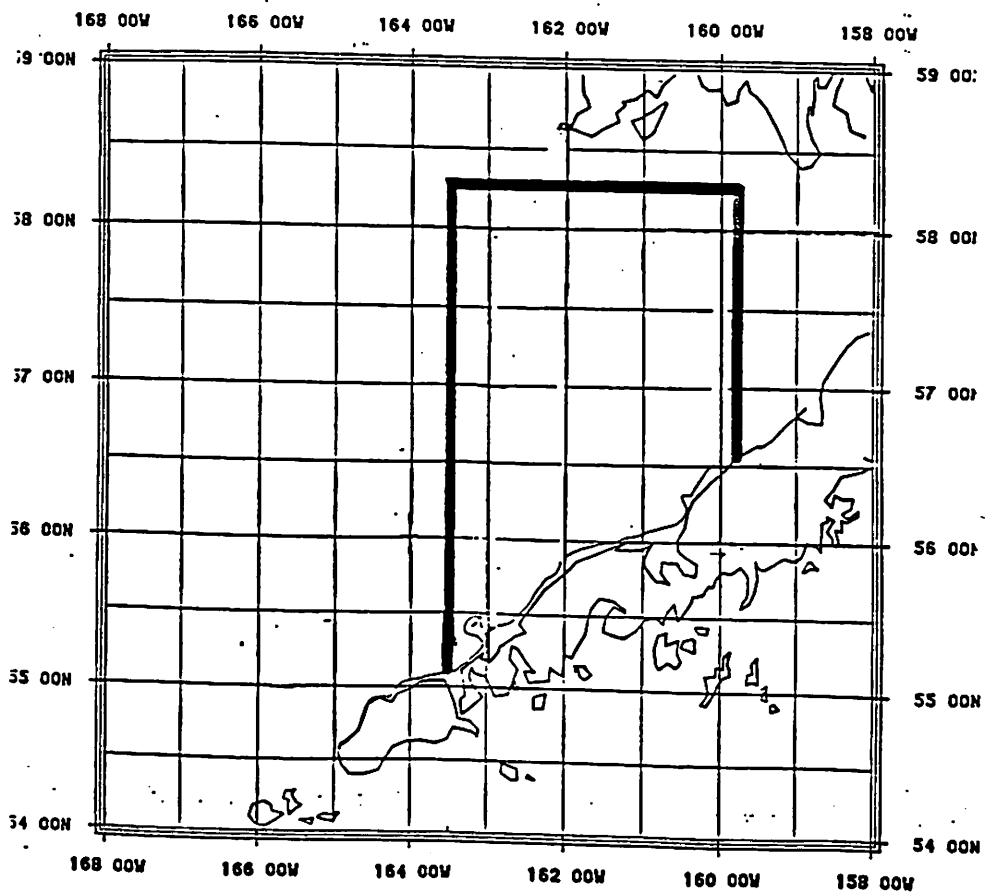
(c) Domestic midwater trawling would be allowed to continue and not be burdened with any closures within the Newenham-Mordvinof line.



C. Submitted by United Fishermen's Marketing Association

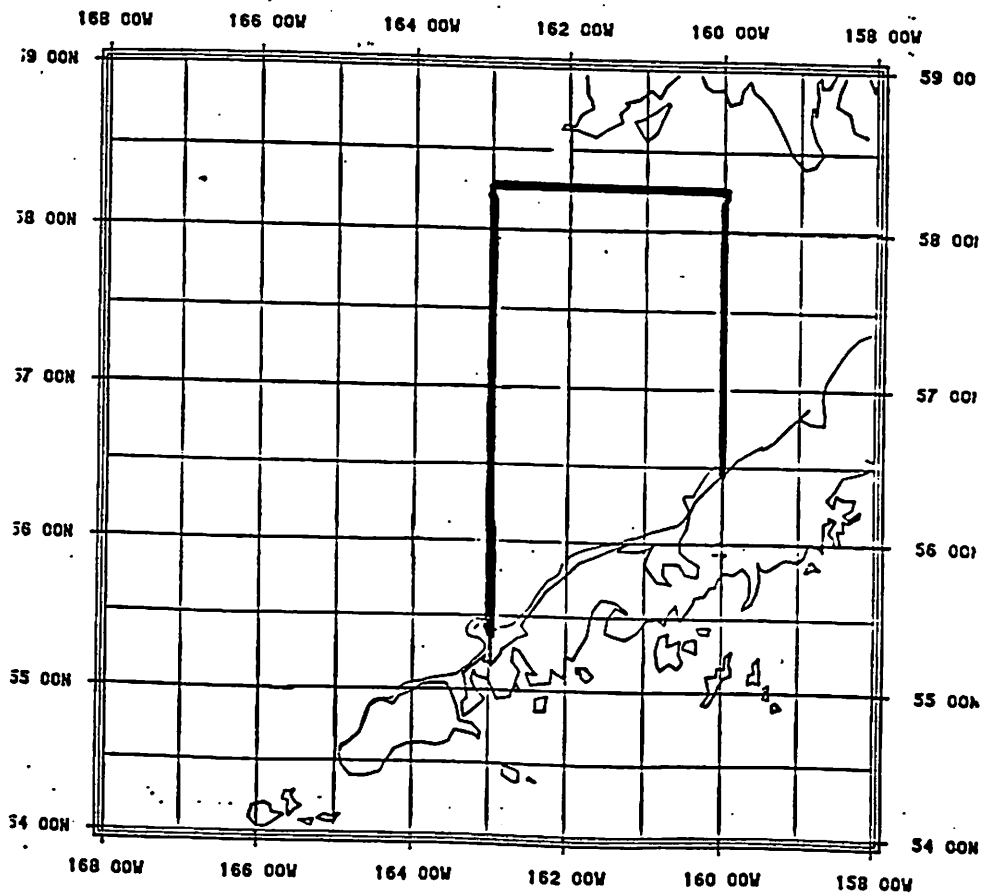
In order of preference:

1. A total closure of pot sanctuary to on-bottom trawling.
2. A closure of the area bound by $163^{\circ}30''$ to the West, $58^{\circ}15''N$ and $159^{\circ}45''$ to the East, (see chart below) to bottom trawling.
3. A five-month closure (April-August) of the pot sanctuary to bottom trawling.



B.

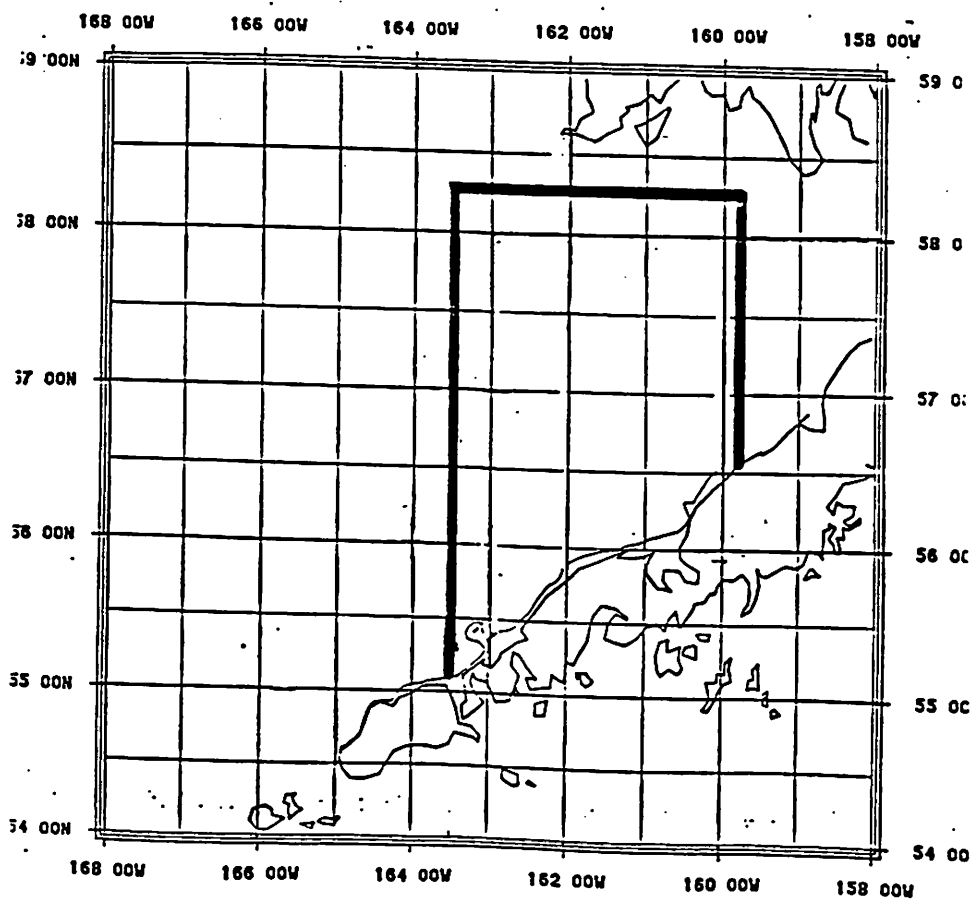
The area south of 58°15" between 160° and 163° latitude (see chart below) would be closed to all fishing for one year.



IV. PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

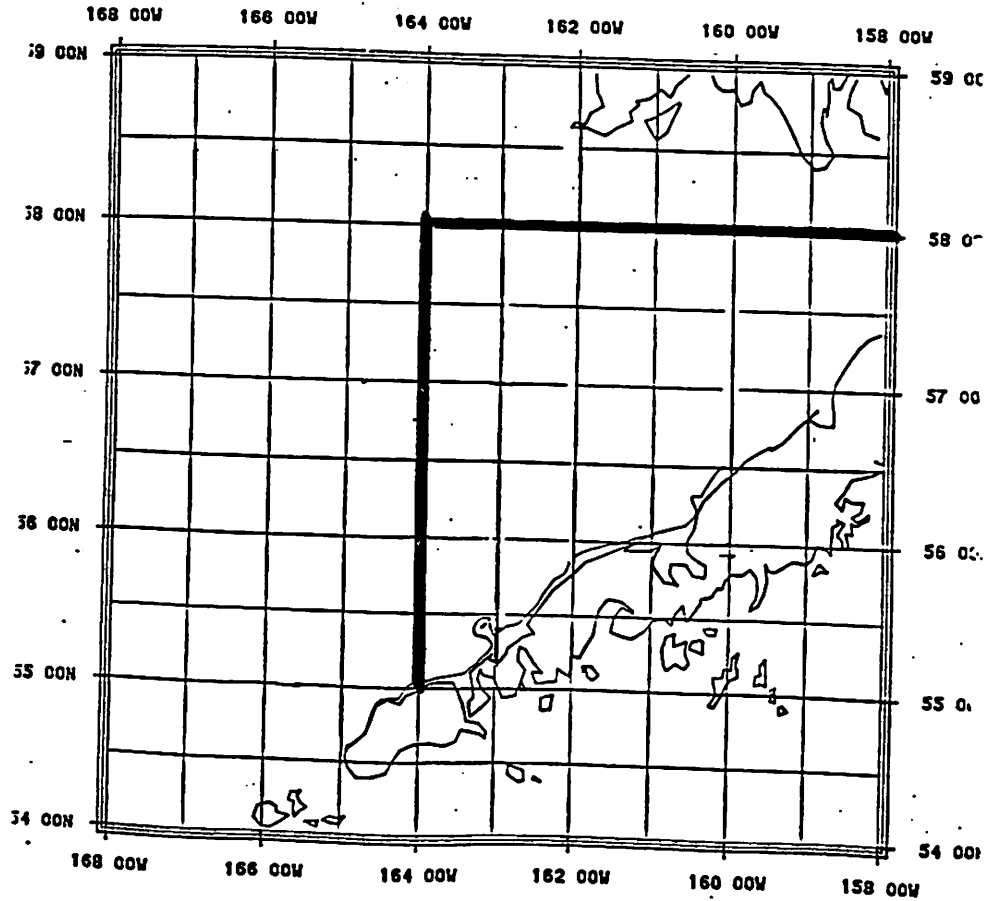
A.

A closure of the area 163°30" to 159°45" East longitude North to 58°15" would apply to all trawling. A yet to be determined cap on the number of halibut and crab taken as bycatch outside of that area would be placed on all trawling.



C.

A total closure to all crab and trawl fishing in the area bounded by 164° longitude, 58° latitude and the Alaska Peninsula.



DRAFT

Permit Review Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

December 8-9, 1985

The Council's Permit Review Committee met on December 8-9, 1985 at the Westward Hilton to review joint venture requests, DAP and JVP estimates, foreign vessel permit applications and foreign allocations for 1986. In attendance were Admiral Lucas (Chairman), Rudy Petersen, John Peterson, Oscar Dyson, Henry Mitchell, Bob Mace, and John Winther. Non-voting members representing the Advisory Panel included Barry Fisher, Rick Lauber, Cameron Sharick and Al Burch.

DAP Considerations

The Committee reviewed Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands DAP estimates based on a NMFS survey of industry. There was considerable discussion of how to verify the accuracy of the estimates. While no solution was immediately apparent, one concern expressed was that if the annual review of DAP had its own agenda item, there may be greater industry response.

The Committee focused on the needs for DAP pollock and Pacific cod. Pacific cod DAP in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands was increased by 8,000 mt after testimony by representatives of Portugal who are planning to purchase Pacific cod in 1986 but who did not respond to the NMFS survey. There was concern expressed by industry that if the pollock set aside for DAP in the Gulf of Alaska was not harvested and no joint ventures were allowed in Shelikof early in the year, there could be considerable pressure for a TALFF later on.

The Committee adopted the DAP estimates presented in Tables A - C, subject to adjustments being made in January, and recommended that NMFS intensify its efforts to improve the DAP reporting system from industry. We suggest that the Council Chairman appoint a work group to assist NMFS in this project. The Committee noted that the DAPs are not adjusted for the U.S./Japanese industry agreement to purchase 54,000 mt pollock and 20,000 mt DAP other than pollock during 1986.

JVP Considerations

The Committee reviewed the JVPs estimated from the NMFS survey of industry and from permit applications. There was considerable public testimony concerning the company by company requests and some adjustments were made. The Committee approved the JVPs indicated in Tables A - C for the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands. These are based on the requests listed in Tables 1 and 2 (attached). Public testimony indicated that all joint ventures appear willing to shift their tonnage requests from the Gulf of Alaska to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands, if joint ventures are curtailed in the Gulf.

The Committee unanimously approved all the joint venture requests in Table 2 subject to the availability of JVP. The Committee wants to make it very clear to all countries that as TALFF decreases, the Committee and the Council will closely examine how each country satisfies the criteria in the Council's policy on allocations and joint ventures, with particular attention paid to the transfer of capital through investment to U.S. industry, transfer of technology, purchase of U.S. products, and the extent that a foreign country's products compete with U.S. processed products. Violations records also will be important.

Portuguese Internal Waters Request

The Portuguese have requested an internal waters permit from the State of Alaska to conduct a joint venture for 8,000 mt cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutians. Representatives of the Portuguese testified that their estimates were not included in the NMFS survey of JVP. The Committee recommended that this adjustment be made to the JVP estimate. Admiral Lucas noted that he represented the Council on the committee that reviews internal waters permit requests for the State of Alaska and would follow the situation closely.

Review of Foreign Vessel Permit Applications (C-7)

The Committee reviewed foreign vessel permit applications for 1986. Among the 542 permit applications received, 36 of the foreign vessels are defined as serious violators according to the Council's policy. The Committee recommends

that the Council express its continuing concerns over these serious violations and recommend that sanctions be imposed by the foreign nation involved on skippers and companies involved in repeated violations.

The Committee reviewed the foreign vessels that plan to participate in joint ventures in 1986, and approved them contingent upon there being JVP available.

The Peoples Republic of China is the only country that has not fished before in the Alaska FCZ. The Committee reviewed the directed fishing permits for four vessels, the Geng Hai, the Yan Yuan 1, the Kai Chuang, and the Hai Feng 2021 and recommends approval for these vessels to operate in the FCZ contingent upon there being TALFF available.

The Highliners Association Letter

The Committee reviewed a request from the Highliners Association (dated December 6, 1985) to attach permit conditions requiring foreign ships, including transports, working in fisheries off Alaska to check in and out of the U.S. zone for an in-port inspection by the U.S. Coast Guard. The Committee noted that the Coast Guard at its present level of funding and man power would not be capable of undertaking these new inspection duties. Admiral Lucas volunteered to have his Chief of Law Enforcement meet with NMFS Law Enforcement officers to review the letter and develop possible solutions to the problems involved in this request.

Joint Venture Interceptions of Crab

John Peterson suggested that the Permit Review Committee examine the issue of crab interception by joint ventures and possibly develop conditions and restrictions for joint venture permits. The Committee took limited public testimony on this issue, but decided it was better considered before the full Council.

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High Seas Salmon Interceptions

The Committee reviewed a letter of December 6, 1985 from the Department of State to the Council Chairman reporting the current status of U.S./Japan talks concerning Japanese interceptions of North American origin salmon. The Committee discussed the issue and was deeply concerned over the seeming lack of progress toward a resolution of the problem. It was noted that the U.S. and Japan will meet on December 18 and feels there should be a very strong message sent that this problem must be resolved and that delaying tactics by the Japanese are unacceptable.

The Committee passed a motion to request the Council to recommend that no directed fishing allocations be made to Japan until meaningful steps are taken by Japan to resolve the salmon interceptions issue. The steps that Japan takes must be satisfactory to the U.S. delegation that is negotiating this issue.

Fishing in the Bering Sea outside the U.S. FCZ

The Committee discussed the issue of foreign nations fishing on pollock and other stocks outside the U.S. FCZ, specifically in the so-called "donut area." It was noted that these stocks may also frequent the U.S. FCZ and we need to know the approximate composition and tonnage of that catch. It was the consensus of the Committee that the Council send a strong message to the Department of State requesting that countries be discouraged from fishing in the international waters of the Bering Sea. - also disc about *data on those catches*

Company Bycatch Allocations

The Committee had intended to develop methods for setting bycatch limits on joint venture permits. A series of questions to aid in this development was given to Committee members. Further consideration was delayed until the Council determines which species will be fully U.S.-utilized and where JVP will be available.

1986 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Revised DAP and JVP (mt)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>DAP</u> ^{1/}	<u>JVP</u> ^{2/}	<u>DAH</u>	<u>1986 ABC</u> ^{3/}	<u>SSC</u>
Pollock	W/C	94,875	233,960		75,600	
	E	1,841	0		16,600	
Pacific cod	W	25,531	4,361		37,500	
	C	26,094	5,119		76,000	
	E	8,157	0		22,500	
Flounder	W	3,252	15,590		23,000	
	C	2,733	0		101,000	
	E	332	0		17,000	
Pacific ocean perch	W	4,449	0		1,755	
	C	2,696	0		2,015	
	E	790	0		2,730	
Sablefish	W	8,119	0		2,500	
	C	9,342	0		11,562	
	W.Yak.				2,200	
	E.Yak.	4,012 ^{4/}	0		846	
	S.E.Out.				1,692	
Atka Mackerel	W	0	4,540		4,678	
	C	0	0		500	
	E	0	0		100	
Other Rockfish	S.E.Central					
	Outside	1,916	0		600	
	Remaining Gulf	5,320	0		1,700	
Thornyhead	GW	0	0		3,750	
Squid	GW	0	0		5,000	
Other Species	GW	0	200		NA	
TOTAL		199,459	263,770		410,828	

^{1/} Estimated from NMFS Survey. Not adjusted for U.S./Japanese industry agreement for purchase of 54,000 mt DAP pollock products and 20,000 mt Other DAP products from GOA/BSA in 1985.

^{2/} Adjusted for U.S./Japanese industry agreement.

^{3/} ABC recommended by Plan Team.

^{4/} Survey estimates are for all Eastern districts combined.

~~Table 1~~ Preliminary TACs and Apportionments for Bering Sea Groundfish for 1986 (all in metric tons).

Species	Area	1985 TAC	1986 TAC	Initial 1986 TAC	NMFS DAP Survey	Revised JVP	DAH	Initial TALFF	Potential TALFF
Pollock	BS	1,200,000	1,100,000	935,000	141,755	529,416	671,171	263,829	428,829
POP	BS	1,000	1,200	1,020	7,154	5	7,159	0	0
Rockfish	BS	1,120	450	383	6,377	13	6,390	0	0
Sablefish	BS	2,625	2,250	1,913	5,843	13	5,856	0	0
Pacific cod	BS	220,000	150,940	128,299	109,217 ^{1/}	42,615	151,832	0	0
Yellowfin sole	BS	226,900	229,000	194,650	880	120,400	121,280	107,720	73,370
Turbots	BS	42,000	32,000	27,200	3,633	0	3,633	23,567	28,367
Other flatfish	BS	109,900	133,200	113,220	3,638	88,000	91,638	21,582	41,562
Atka mackerel	BS	37,700	800	680	0	0	0	680	800
Squid	BS	10,000	7,500	6,375	0	0	0	6,375	7,500
Other species	BS	37,580	39,400	33,490	50	1,046	1,096	32,394	38,304
TOTAL			1,696,740	1,442,229	278,547	781,508	1,060,055	456,147	618,732

^{1/} Includes 6,805 mt (85%) of 8,000 mt Portugal request for DAP cod.

DECEMBER 10, 1985

Table 2 Preliminary harvest levels and apportionments for the Aleutian Islands Groundfish for 1986 (all in metric tons).

Species	Area	1985 TAC	1986 TAC	Initial 1986 TAC	NMFS DAP Survey	JVP	DAH	Initial TALFF	Potential TALFF
Pollock	AI	100,000	100,000	85,000	18,039	10,804	28,843	56,157	71,157
POP	AI	3,800	11,250	9,563	8,289	100	8,389	1,174	2,861
Rockfish	AI	5,500	1,425	1,211	7,414	35	7,449	0	0
Sablefish	AI	1,875	4,200	3,570	5,106	0	5,106	0	0
Pacific cod	AI	*****	30,960	26,316	19,177 ^{1/}	4,215	23,392	2,924	7,568
Yellowfin sole	AI	*****	1,000	850	150	0	150	700	850
Turbots	AI	*****	10,000	8,500	1,771	0	1,771	6,729	8,229
Other flatfish	AI	*****	3,800	3,230	554	0	554	2,676	3,246
Atka mackerel	AI	*****	30,000	25,500	0	54,740	54,740	0	0
Squid	AI	*****	2,500	2,125	0	0	0	2,125	2,500
Other species	AI	*****	11,800	10,030	60	25	85	9,945	11,715
TOTAL			206,935	175,895	60,560	69,919	130,479	82,430	108,126

^{1/} Includes 1,195 mt (15%) of 8,000 mt Portugal request for DAP cod.

DECEMBER 10, 1985

TABLE C.

TABLE 1. JOINT VENTURE REQUESTS (MT) COMBINED BY COUNTRY FOR 1986.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Pollock</u>	<u>P. cod</u>	<u>A. mackerel</u>	<u>Yellowfin S.</u>	<u>Flatfish</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Japan	525,000	8,500	5,000	20,000	19,000	5,000 ^{1/}	582,500
ROK	179,430	9,310	35,180	15,300	11,140	2,590	252,950
USSR	3,200	19,200	17,100	85,100	56,500	925 ^{2/}	182,025
Taiwan	1,000	4,900	--	--	3,500 ^{4/}	600	10,000
Poland	50,000	2,400 ^{6/}	--	--	--	--	52,400
China	15,550	4,000	2,000	--	13,450 ^{3/}	--	35,000
Portugal ^{5/}	--	8,000	--	--	--	--	8,000
TOTAL	774,180	56,310	59,280	120,400	103,590	9,115	1,122,875

^{1/} Includes Pacific cod, Atka mackerel, and flounders.

^{2/} Includes 25 mt rockfish and 75 mt POP from Aleutians.

^{3/} All flatfish including Yellowfin sole, turbot and other flounders.

^{4/} Includes 1,300 mt turbot.

^{5/} Internal waters request.

^{6/} Bycatch.

TABLE 2. JOINT VENTURE REQUESTS BY COMPANY FOR 1986

<u>JAPAN</u> ^{1/}	<u>Company</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Pollock</u>	<u>Pacific cod</u>	<u>Atka mackerel</u>	<u>Yellowfin sole</u>	<u>Flatfish</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
1.	Whitney Fidalgo/Ohtori	BSA	23,300	358	UNKNOWN	1,226	1,164	--	26,048
		GOA	<u>20,900</u>	--	--	--	--	--	<u>20,900</u>
			44,200	358		1,226	1,164	--	46,948
2.	Westward Trawlers/Taiyo	BSA	111,750	545	--	1,862	1,768	--	115,925
		GOA	<u>29,450</u>	--	--	--	--	--	<u>29,450</u>
			141,200	545	--	1,862	1,768	--	145,375
3.	Westward Trawlers/Kanai	BSA	UNKNOWN	270	UNKNOWN	949	901	--	2,120
		GOA	UNKNOWN	--	--	--	--	--	UNKNOWN
				270		949	901	--	2,120
4.	Alyeska Ocean/Hoko	BSA	28,200	333	--	1,138	1,082	--	30,753
		GOA	<u>11,400</u>	--	--	--	--	--	<u>11,400</u>
			39,600	333	--	1,138	1,082	--	42,153
5.	Peter Pan/Nichiro	BSA	14,950	750	UNKNOWN	2,564	2,436	--	20,700
		GOA	<u>10,450</u>	--	--	--	--	--	<u>10,450</u>
			25,400	750		2,564	2,436	--	31,150
6.	Northern Deep Sea Fisheries/Nippon Suisan	BSA	129,500	696	--	2,379	2,261	--	134,836
		GOA	<u>41,800</u>	--	--	--	--	--	<u>41,800</u>
			171,300	696	--	2,379	2,261	--	176,636
7.	Alaska Contact/Anyo Group	BSA	UNKNOWN	368	UNKNOWN	1,256	1,194	--	2,818
		GOA	UNKNOWN	--	--	--	--	--	UNKNOWN
				368		1,256	1,194	--	2,818

1/ BSA tonnages are minimum estimates and may be revised upwards.
Japanese requests identified so far by company sum to only 460,594 mt.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Pollock</u>	<u>Pacific cod</u>	<u>mackerel</u>	<u>sole</u>	<u>Flatfish</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>JAPAN (Continued)</u>								
8. Alaska Contact/Nansei Group	BSA	UNKNOWN	856	UNKNOWN	2,923	2,777	--	6,556
	GOA		--		--	--	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN
			<u>856</u>		<u>2,923</u>	<u>2,777</u>		<u>6,556</u>
9. Profish/Hamaya	BSA	UNKNOWN	--	--	--	--	--	UNKNOWN
10. Profish/Matsubun	BSA	UNKNOWN	--	--	--	--	--	UNKNOWN
11. North Pacific Cooperative Fisheries/Japan Longliners	GOA	--	2,000	--	--	--	100	2,100
12. Westward Trawlers/Hokkaido Fisheries	BSA	2,300	318	--	1,087	1,033	--	4,738
	GOA	--	--	--	--	--	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN
		<u>2,300</u>	<u>318</u>	--	<u>1,087</u>	<u>1,033</u>		<u>4,738</u>
JAPAN TOTAL	BSA	405,000	6,500	5,000	20,000	19,000	--	455,500
	GOA	<u>120,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	--	--	--	<u>5,000</u> ^{1/}	<u>127,000</u>
	B/G	525,000	8,500	5,000	20,000	19,000	5,000	582,500

1/ "Others" in GOA will include Pacific cod, flounders and Atka Mackerel.

	<u>Company</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Pollock</u>	<u>Pacific cod</u>	<u>Atka mackerel</u>	<u>Yellowfin sole</u>	<u>Flatfish</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>SOUTH KOREA</u>									
13.	Cal-Alaska/Marine Ent.	BSA	3,460	230	680	420	280	60	5,130
		GOA	<u>1,640</u>	<u> </u>	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> 30</u>	<u>1,670</u>
			5,100	230	680	420	280	90	6,800
14.	Alaska JV/Samho Moolsan	BSA	17,660	800	2,360	1,470	980	280	23,550
		GOA	<u>7,680</u>	<u> 130</u>	<u> 260</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> 260</u>	<u> 120</u>	<u>8,450</u>
			25,340	930	2,620	1,470	1,240	400	32,000
15.	Alaska JV/Nambug	BSA	8,100	500	1,500	900	600	--	11,600
		GOA	<u>4,000</u>	<u> 50</u>	<u> 100</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> 150</u>	<u> --</u>	<u>4,300</u>
			12,100	550	1,600	900	750	--	15,900
16.	ProFish/Namyang Frozen Foods	BSA	--	500	1,500	1,500	1,000	500	5,000
17.	ProFish/Namyangsa	BSA	--	1,000	5,000	1,200	800	500	8,500
		GOA	<u>5,000</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>	<u>5,000</u>
			5,000	1,000	5,000	1,200	800	500	13,500
18.	ProFish/Dongwon	BSA	--	1,500	5,500	1,800	1,200	--	10,000
		GOA	<u>12,900</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>	<u>12,900</u>
			12,900	1,500	5,500	1,800	1,200	--	22,900
19.	ProFish/Silla	BSA	15,000	850	2,700	1,680	1,120	200	21,550
		GOA	<u>6,100</u>	<u> 150</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> 150</u>	<u> 100</u>	<u>7,800</u>
			21,100	1,000	4,000	1,680	1,270	300	29,350
20.	ProFish/Dongbang	BSA	5,500	300	1,000	660	440	100	8,000
		GOA	<u>2,640</u>	<u> 50</u>	<u> 80</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> 80</u>	<u> 50</u>	<u>2,900</u>
			8,140	350	1,080	660	520	150	10,900
21.	JV Fisheries/Oyang	BSA	8,000	--	1,200	720	480	--	10,400
		GOA	<u>10,800</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>	<u>10,800</u>
			18,800	--	1,200	720	480	--	21,200
22.	Alaska JV/Daerim	BSA	2,000	500	2,000	1,590	1,060	100	7,250
		GOA	<u>7,700</u>	<u> 100</u>	<u> 500</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> 50</u>	<u>8,350</u>
			9,700	600	2,500	1,590	1,060	150	15,600

<u>Company</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Pollock</u>	<u>Pacific cod</u>	<u>Atka mackerel</u>	<u>Yellowfin sole</u>	<u>Flatfish</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>SOUTH KOREA (Continued)</u>								
23. N.W. JV Fisheries/Hansung	BSA	12,200	800	1,600	240	160	--	15,000
	GOA	<u>13,900</u>	--	--	--	--	--	<u>13,900</u>
		26,100	800	1,600	240	160	--	28,900
24. N.W. JV Fisheries/Sajo	BSA	--	550	4,000	900	600	--	6,050
	GOA	<u>6,250</u>	--	--	--	--	--	<u>6,250</u>
		6,250	550	4,000	900	600	--	12,300
25. Arctic Venture/Transocean	BSA	3,600	200	700	420	280	100	5,300
	GOA	<u>1,800</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	--	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>2,000</u>
		5,400	250	750	420	330	150	7,300
26. Alaska Contact/ Korean Wonyang	BSA	16,000	900	2,900	1,800	1,200	250	23,050
	GOA	<u>7,500</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>250</u>	--	<u>250</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>8,250</u>
		23,500	1,050	3,150	1,800	1,450	350	31,300
KOREA TOTAL	BSA	91,520	8,630	32,640	15,300	10,200	2,090	160,380
	GOA	<u>87,910</u>	<u>680</u>	<u>2,540</u>	--	<u>940</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>92,570</u>
		179,430	9,310	35,180	15,300	11,140	2,590	252,950
<u>U.S.S.R.</u>								
27. Marine Resources Co.	BS	3,000	19,200	--	85,100	56,500	825	164,625
	AI	<u>200</u>	--	<u>17,100</u>	--	--	<u>100</u> ^{1/}	<u>17,400</u>
USSR TOTAL		3,200	19,200	17,100	85,100	56,500	925	182,025
<u>TAIWAN</u>								
28. Alaska Contact	BSA	--	1,000	--	--	800	--	1,800
	GOA	<u>500</u>	<u>2,800</u>	--	--	<u>1,200</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>5,000</u>
		500	3,800	--	--	2,000	500	6,800
29. Windjammer Seafoods	BSA	500	1,100	--	--	1,500	100	3,200
TAIWAN TOTAL	BSA	500	2,100	--	--	2,300	100	5,000
	GOA	<u>500</u>	<u>2,800</u>	--	--	<u>1,200</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>5,000</u>
		1,000	4,900	--	--	3,500	600	10,000

^{1/} Includes 75 mt POP and 25 mt Other rockfish from Aleutians.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Pollock</u>	<u>Pacific cod</u>	<u>Atka mackerel</u>	<u>Yellowfin sole</u>	<u>Flatfish</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>POLAND</u>								
30. Alaska JV Fisheries	BSA	14,000	800	--	--	--	--	14,800
	GOA	<u>3,500</u>	--	--	--	--	--	<u>3,500</u>
		17,500	800	--	--	--	--	18,300
31. ProFish International	BSA	12,000	800	--	--	--	--	12,800
	GOA	<u>3,000</u>	--	--	--	--	--	<u>3,000</u>
		15,000	800	--	--	--	--	15,800
32. Quest Alaska	BSA	14,000	800	--	--	--	--	14,800
	GOA	<u>3,500</u>	--	--	--	--	--	<u>3,500</u>
		17,000	800	--	--	--	--	18,300
POLAND TOTAL	BSA	40,000	2,400 ^{1/}	--	--	--	--	42,400
	GOA	<u>10,000</u>	--	--	--	--	--	<u>10,000</u>
		50,000	2,400	--	--	--	--	52,400
<u>PRC</u>								
33. Internat'l Ocean Opportunities	GOA	5,218	1,360	--	--	4,484	--	11,062
34. North Pacific International	GOA	5,166	1,320	1,000	--	4,483	--	11,969
35. Marco Seattle	GOA	<u>5,166</u>	<u>1,320</u>	<u>1,000</u>	--	<u>4,483</u>	--	<u>11,969</u>
PRC TOTAL	GOA	15,550	4,000	2,000	--	13,450	--	35,000
<u>PORTUGAL</u> ^{2/}								
36. Pascoal and Filhos	BSA	--	8,000	--	--	--	--	8,000
<hr/>								
GRAND TOTALS	BSA	540,220	46,830	54,740	120,400	88,000	3,115	853,305
	GOA	<u>233,960</u>	<u>9,480</u>	<u>4,540</u>	--	<u>15,590</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>269,570</u>
	TOTAL	774,180	56,310	59,280	120,400	103,590	9,115	1,122,875

1/ Represents bycatch in pollock fishery. From testimony to Permit Review Committee.

2/ Internal waters request.

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December 9, 1985

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ANSBK FOSTER LAW SEA

RADM Robert Lucas
Chairman, Permit Review Committee
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Anchorage, Alaska

Re: Japanese Joint Venture Fisheries off Alaska for 1986

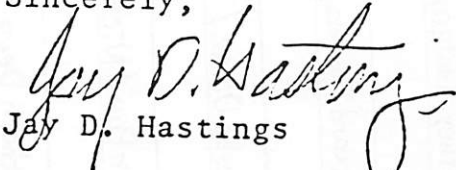
Dear Admiral Lucas:

As I indicated in my testimony yesterday, the Japanese fishing companies have been attempting to estimate their individual 1986 joint venture target levels for the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska since the conclusion of the U.S./Japan industry meeting two weeks ago here in Anchorage. Yesterday afternoon the Japanese delegation here contacted the individual Japanese companies in Japan to determine the best possible estimates for each company. The attached Table is a compilation of those best estimates and must be considered preliminary.

Unfortunately, the Table still reflects a number of unknowns. You will note that these unknowns are particularly difficult for the smaller Japanese companies. This is because the smaller companies face more complications in planning their annual fishing operations between the Bering Sea/Aleutians and Gulf of Alaska without knowing how much resource may be available in the Gulf of Alaska for joint ventures. Of course, if a significant amount of Japanese joint ventures in the Gulf must be transferred to the Bering Sea, this will seriously complicate 1986 joint venture planning for all the companies.

Again, we are sorry for these unknowns. But business planning by the Japanese companies is critical for efficient operation of their joint ventures and this planning must ultimately be based upon the established regulatory regime for the fishing year. However, we feel that your Committee can approve or tentatively approve the Japanese permit applications based upon the aggregate amounts projected by the Japanese companies on a national basis. If adjustments have to be made for either directed or bycatch species for Japanese operations as a whole, we feel that it will be much less burden for the Council and much more efficient from the standpoint of business planning to work these adjustments out internally among the various Japanese joint venture operations.

Sincerely,


Jay D. Hastings

Attachment

JAPAN

Joint Venture Requests by Company for 1986

Company	Area	Pollock (BSA) (GoA)	Pacific cod (BSA)	Atka mackerel (BSA)	Yellowfin sole (BSA) Flatfish	Others (GoA)	Total (BSA) (GoA)	
Whitney Fidalgo/Ohtori	BSA	23300	358	unknown	2390		26048	These figures si
	GoA	20900						
Westward Trawlers/Taiyo	BSA	111750	545	—	3630	—	20900	minimum quantities
	GoA	29450					115925	
Alyeska Ocean/Hoko	BSA	28200	333	—	2220	—	29450	and final revision
	GoA	11400					30753	
Peter Pan/Nichiro	BSA	14950	750	unknown	5000	—	11400	will be made to
	GoA	10450					20700	
Northern Deep Sea Fisheries/Nippon Suisan	BSA	129500	696	—	4640	—	10450	increase subject
	GoA	41800					134836	
Westward Trawlers/Kanaï	BSA	unknown	270	unknown	1850	—	41800	Others in GoA
	GoA	unknown					2120	
Alaska Contact/Anyo Group	BSA	unknown	368	unknown	2450	unknown	unknown	flounders, Pacific
	GoA	unknown					2818	
Alaska Contact/Nansei Group	BSA	unknown	856	unknown	5700	unknown	unknown	cod and Atka
	GoA	unknown					6556	
Profish/Hamaya	BSA	unknown	—	—	—	unknown	unknown	mackerel.
Profish/Matsubun	BSA	unknown	—	—	—	unknown	unknown	
? /Hokkaido Fisheries	BSA	2300	318	—	2120		unknown	
	GoA	—					4738	
North Pacific Cooperative Fisheries/Japan Longliners	GoA	—	2000			unknown	unknown	
						100	2100	
Total	BSA	405000	6500	5000	Yellowfin sole 20000 flatfish 19000		455500	
	GoA	120000	2000			5000	127000	
	B/G	525000	8500	5000	39000	5000	582500	

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman
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Certified by *Jim H. Branson*

Date: 12/21/85

MINUTES

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Scientific and Statistical Committee
December 8-11, 1985
Anchorage, Alaska

The Scientific and Statistical Committee of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in Anchorage on December 8-11, 1985 at the Westward Hilton. Members present were:

Donald Rosenberg, Chairman	Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman
William Aron	Bud Burgner
Larry Hreha	Scott Marshall
Don Bevan	Doug Eggers
Tom Northup	John Burns

C-3 Crab/Salmon Interceptions by Joint Ventures

The SSC received a presentation by the industry workgroup on the data collection activities and the proposals being developed by the industry. The SSC has no comments on this subject at this time.

D-1 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

D-1(a) Status of Stocks and Recommended ABC

The SSC reviewed the Gulf of Alaska Team report on the Status of Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Stocks dated November 18, 1985 and received presentations from the Team and the public on each species or species group. A summary of the SSC recommendations regarding ABC for each group is provided in Table 1. These recommendations are based on the following:

A. Pollock

Two reports served as important source documents during the SSC's discussion of the status of the Gulf of Alaska pollock resource: (1) a report prepared by the Plan Team in November entitled "Status of Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Stocks, 1985," and (2) a report titled "Critique of Gulf of Alaska Pollock Stocks and Their Management" prepared by Natural Resources Consultants (NRC). Prior to commenting on the contents of either of these reports, the SSC would like to state that it is generally recognized and as was pointed out in the NRC report that any attempt to produce a biomass estimate for the Gulf must address (1) the size of the on-bottom component in Shelikof Strait, (2) the

TABLE 1
SSC MINUTES
ACCEPTABLE BIOLOGICAL CATCH WORKSHEET

Species	Area	1985 OY	1985 Catch ^{1/}	PT ABC	SSC ABC	Council ABC
Pollock	W/C	305,000	269,144	75,600	150,000 ^(a)	
	E	16,600	1	16,600	16,600	
Total		321,600	269,145	92,200	166,600	
Pacific cod	W	16,560	8,422	37,500	37,500	
	C	33,540	4,589	76,000	76,000	
	E	9,900	59	22,500	22,500	
Total		60,000	13,070	136,000	136,000	
Flounder	W	10,400	456	23,000	23,000	
	C	14,700	1,943	101,000	101,000	
	E	8,400	38	17,000	17,000	
Total		33,500	2,437	141,000	141,000	
Pacific ocean perch	W	1,302	871	1,755	2,800	
	C	3,906	29	2,015	3,300	
	E	875	32	2,730	4,400	
Total		6,083	932	6,500	10,500	
Sablefish	W	1,670	2,149	2,500	2,500	
	C	3,060	3,899	11,562	11,600	
	W.Yak.	1,680	2,483	2,200	2,200	
	E.Yak.	1,135		846	800	
	S.E.Out.	1,435	2,890 ^{2/}	1,692	1,700	
Total		8,980	11,421	18,800	18,800	
Atka Mackerel	W	4,678	1,869	4,678	4,700	
	C	500	1	500	(bycatch only)	
	E	100	0	100	(bycatch only)	
Total		5,278	1,870	5,278	4,700	
Rockfish	S.E. Central					
	Outside	600	590	600	(b)	
	Remaining Gulf	4,400	101	1,700	(b)	
Total		5,000	691	2,300		
Thornyhead	Gulf-wide	3,750	40	3,750	(b)	
Squid	Gulf-wide	5,000	12	5,000	(b)	
Other Species	Gulf-wide	22,460 ^{3/}	2,261	n/a	n/a	
TOTAL		471,651	301,879	417,328		

^{1/} 1985 catch as of December 2.

^{2/} 1985 catch for E. Yakutat and Southeast Outside Districts combined.

^{3/} Set by formula (5% of sum of other nine species categories).

(a) 50,000 mt restricted to be harvested between January 15 and April 10 outside the defined Shelikof Straits fishing area.

(b) No data to recommended ABC.

size of the off-bottom component in Shelikof Strait, and (3) the size of the components outside of Shelikof Strait during the spawning period. The importance of the first and third components mentioned above has been discounted by the Team. This was done because of the view that these two components of the population are relatively small. The Team states (November 18, 1985, page 12):

"Although there is evidence of spawning pollock elsewhere in the Gulf besides Shelikof Strait, we do not know of any concentrations that are important or large compared to the Shelikof spawning group. We conclude that most pollock in the Central and Western Gulf spawn in the Shelikof Strait region."

The Team used the NMFS 1985 hydroacoustic survey to obtain an estimate of the size of the biomass. As indicated in Table 4 of the Team report the 1985 acoustic survey produced a biomass estimate of 700 kt. This estimate provided the basis for the three ABC options developed by the Team.

The approach taken by Natural Resource Consultants to estimate the size of the biomass differs from the one used by the Team in several respects. First, NRC attempted to quantify the on-bottom component in Shelikof Strait. This was accomplished by increasing the Team's biomass projection for 1986 by 10.5%. This adjustment factor was obtained by averaging two estimates of the on-bottom part of the population: (1) 14% which was calculated from the results of a 1981 trawl survey and (2) 7% determined from the 1983 bottom trawl and acoustic surveys. The 1986 biomass projection was also modified to take into account movement of pollock during the spawning period by increasing the Shelikof Strait estimate by an additional 25%. Lastly, 381,200 t was added to account for the outside components, yielding 1,000,000 mt for the total Gulf of Alaska biomass.

Information was available to the SSC concerning the relationship between the on-bottom and off-bottom Shelikof Strait components. In 1983 NMFS conducted both bottom trawl and acoustic surveys in the Strait, their activities indicated that 7% of the total biomass was on the bottom. The SSC believes that results obtained from the 1981 survey are of limited usefulness because the off-bottom and on-bottom components were not surveyed during the same time period. It would have been appropriate for the Team to increase the acoustic estimate by 7% to produce a combined figure for the Shelikof Strait. The 10.5% used by NRC was considered inappropriate given the limited usefulness of the 1981 survey results.

The importance of pollock movement into and out of Shelikof Strait and its significance in estimating the size of the biomass is not quantifiable. Sufficient data are not available to establish role or the importance of migration. Any quantitative estimate of the importance of this factor should be viewed with caution.

Accounting for the quantity of pollock present outside of the Strait is made difficult by the lack of data. Both fisheries and surveys have occurred in this area in the past. The fact that none of the surveys outside the Strait have coincided in time with the acoustic ones in the Strait makes their results of limited usefulness. Movement of larger fish to outside waters is considered one possible explanation for the 500,000 t difference between the

1985 projected and acoustic biomass estimates for the off-bottom Shelikof Strait component.

In summary, there is uncertainty associated with knowledge of the size of the pollock biomass in the Gulf of Alaska.

ABC - Western and Central Management Areas

The SSC would like the Council to note that in developing our recommendations on ABC for the management areas the SSC has used different methodology than the Team. The SSC believes, as we pointed out in September, that the fluctuating nature of pollock stocks requires examination of abundance trends for several years to forecast where the stock is likely to be in future years. The best projection of future recruitment indicates that poor recruitment will have occurred this year (1985) and will continue in 1986 but that 1987 should see strong recruitment of the 1984 year class. The projected spawning biomass in Shelikof Strait that resulted from various recruitment scenarios is provided in Figure 3 of the Team report, with the scenarios described above being marked C or D.

The SSC believes that the 1986 harvest of the fish being surveyed in Shelikof Strait can be set at a level that will allow the 1987 spawning biomass to remain at or above the projected 1986 level. That harvest is approximately 100,000 mt.

The Team points out that the model has always overestimated the biomass as determined by the survey. Why the biomass is declining at a rate greater than the model projects is difficult to explain. Either the level of natural mortality is significantly higher than that used in the model or a portion of the population is not returning to or being detected in Shelikof Straits. The SSC is unable to determine if this observed difference is due to higher levels of natural mortality or because of a redistribution of the resource.

If redistribution of the resource is taking place then an additional harvest outside the Shelikof Straits during the January - April period could be encouraged. Such a harvest during the time of the Shelikof Straits fishery would provide the Council important information of the status of pollock throughout the Gulf. The SSC recommendation that a harvest outside Shelikof Straits during the January - April period should be no more than 50,000 mt.

We wish to point out that this recommendation is not based upon reliable biological data. However, we feel it is a reasonable estimate that will allow a fishery to collect data necessary to make future ABC determinations. If we are dealing with a single stock which spawns within the Straits then the 50,000 mt will not be harvestable. If catches are made they will be from fish that are not indexed by the survey.

The SSC, therefore, recommends that the ABC for pollock in the Central and Western management areas be set at 150,000 mt with the condition that 50,000 mt of this ABC is available only for harvest outside the Shelikof Strait area during the period of January 15 through April 10. The SSC has requested the Team to provide the Council a description of the area of the Shelikof Strait area.

As we did in September, the SSC would like to point out that our recommendation of 100,000 mt ABC for the stocks being surveyed in Shelikof Straits is based on the assumption that the 1984 year class is strong. Should this year class not be strong, this level of harvest could be excessive and corrective reductions in catch will be necessary in 1987.

ABC - Eastern Management Areas

The SSC notes that the Team does not provide a recommendation on the ABC for this management area. The current OY for the area was established in the original plan and is the lower end of the MSY range.

No current surveys of the area are being made nor is there a fishery taking place which would allow us to evaluate the appropriateness of the OY. The SSC feels that there would be little risk in allowing a harvest at this level.

B. Pacific Cod

The SSC concurs with the Team that the Pacific cod stock appears to be in good condition and stable and we concur with the Team's recommendation on ABC (136,000 mt) and its distribution within the Gulf. In setting a OY, the Council needs to address the incidental catch of halibut and other species.

C. Flounder

The SSC concurs with the Team regarding the ABC and distribution of the flounder resources. In setting a OY, the Council needs to address the incidental catch of halibut and other species.

D. Pacific Ocean Perch Complex

The Team points out that five species are included in the Pacific ocean perch complex, with Pacific ocean perch (S. Alutus) being the major species of commercial interest. The Team, in developing its recommendation for ABC, examined the best available information on the EY of S. Alutus. The team then took the midpoint of the EY ranges (6,500 mt) to be ABC. That Gulfwide ABC was then distributed among the management areas.

Since five individual species are currently being managed within the complex, the SSC feels the ABC should be for the total complex. The SSC, using the same procedure as the Team but using an EY midpoint for the complex (10,500 mt), recommends a Gulfwide ABC of 10,500 mt. This ABC is distributed in the management areas in the same manner as used by the Team.

Within the complex, Pacific ocean perch is depressed and the Council should take that into consideration in establishing the OY for the species complex. The ABC recommended by the SSC is for the complex. If the Council wishes to rebuild S. Alutus, then the OY for the complex will need to be set below the ABC for this species.

The SSC recommends in the rewrite of the plan that Pacific ocean perch be separated and managed as an individual species. It may be possible to include the other four species in the "other rockfish" category.

E. Sablefish

As was reported at the last meeting, the sablefish stocks appear to have recovered from their depressed conditions of the late 1970s and early 1980s. Data from the U.S./Japan cooperative longline and trawl surveys provide a biomass estimate of 537,000 mt Gulfwide. This indicates that the condition of the stocks are good. The Team, in developing its recommendation on ABC, considered two criteria. The first was based upon the Council's previous EY level (12,600 mt). The Team notes that this passed management strategy has resulted in a stock biomass that is higher and therefore the Team considers that the 12,600 mt represents the lower end of the range for a 1986 ABC.

The second criterion used by the Team is based upon the historic catch levels (25,000 mt) which were taken in the foreign fisheries. This level (25,000 mt) was considered by the Team to be the upper limit of the 1986 ABC. The Team did note that average harvest levels at 25,000 mt did coincide with reductions in the sablefish stocks.

Because these values had not been rigorously determined and because of the uncertainty in the assessment of the stock levels, the Team recommends that ABC for 1986 should be set at the midpoint of the range (18,800 mt). The SSC concurs with that recommendation.

The recent trawl and longline surveys also indicate a different distribution of the resource between the management areas and the Team has recommended that the Gulfwide ABC be apportioned accordingly.

The SSC would like to point out that the original FMP divided the OY according to the average foreign longline harvest for a number of preceding years. We were unable to determine which years were selected. The percentages used were:

SHU	CHI	KOD	YAK	SE
15.9%	10.9%	18.2%	26.8%	28.2%

In 1979, the numbers of management areas was reduced to three, with the resulting percentages being:

Western	Central	Eastern
16%	29%	55%

The number of areas used was further revised in 1982. The numbers used were:

Western	Central	YAK	SE
16%	29%	27%	28%

An examination of the 1982 pot index numbers for Southeastern and CPUE figures for 1982 foreign fishery led to further revisions. To reflect a 50% reduction in the pot index numbers, relatively constant CPUEs for the foreign longline fishery, and the Council's desire to promote rebuilding of the stock, optimum yields were adjusted. The percentages that correspond with the modifications made are:

Western	Central	WYAK	EYAK/SE
19%	34%	18%	28%

To assist the Council in setting an OY the SSC requested that the Team provide us with tables indicating the distribution of the biomass by depth. These data are provided in Table 2 and 3.

Table 2.

1984 % RPW BY AREA (based on RPN of Sigler & Clausen, 1985)
By Council Management Areas

Depth (m)	SE/EYAK	WYAK	CENTRAL	WESTERN	TOTAL
100 -200	2.7%	3.8%	25.4%	5.6%	37.5%
200 -300	3.0%	2.6%	16.3%	2.7%	24.5%
300 -400	2.9%	1.7%	11.1%	2.2%	17.8%
400 -500	0.9%	0.6%	2.0%	1.3%	4.8%
500 -600	0.8%	0.7%	2.3%	0.9%	4.7%
600 -700	0.6%	0.4%	2.2%	0.6%	3.9%
700 -800	0.7%	0.4%	2.3%	0.3%	3.7%
800 -900	0.8%	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%	1.9%
900 -1000	0.7%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
All Depths:	13%	11%	62%	14%	100%

1985 % RPW BY AREA (based on RPN of Sigler & Clausen, 1985)
By Council Management Areas

Depth (m)	SE/EYAK	WYAK	CENTRAL	WESTERN	TOTAL
100 -200	2.8%	5.7%	32.2%	4.6%	45.4%
200 -300	1.6%	1.3%	14.1%	2.1%	19.0%
300 -400	3.0%	1.4%	8.6%	2.0%	14.9%
400 -500	1.0%	0.7%	1.9%	1.3%	4.8%
500 -600	0.8%	0.8%	1.9%	1.0%	4.6%
600 -700	0.6%	0.5%	1.6%	0.9%	3.7%
700 -800	0.7%	0.5%	1.7%	0.4%	3.3%
800 -900	0.7%	0.5%	1.7%	0.3%	3.2%
900 -1000	0.6%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
All Depths:	12%	12%	64%	13%	100%

* Prepared by the GOA Plan Team for the SSC. December 11, 1985.

Table 3.
1984 % RPW BY AREA (based on RPN of Sigler & Clausen, 1985)
By Council Management Areas

Depth (m)	SE/EYAK	WYAK	CENTRAL	WESTERN	TOTAL
100-1000	13%	11%	62%	14%	100%
200-1000	17%	12%	58%	13%	100%
300-1000	20%	12%	53%	14%	100%
400-1000	23%	15%	46%	16%	100%

1985 % RPW BY AREA (based on RPN of Sigler & Clausen, 1985)
By Council Management Areas

Depth (m)	SE/EYAK	WYAK	CENTRAL	WESTERN	TOTAL
100-1000	12%	12%	64%	13%	100%
200-1000	17%	11%	58%	15%	100%
300-1000	21%	14%	49%	17%	100%
400-1000	22%	17%	42%	19%	100%
1985 OY:	29%	19%	34%	19%	100%

Note: The Yakutat INPFC area is partitioned according to the relative amounts of habitat area in the 200-1,000m depth strata as follows:

West Yakutat:	81.3%
East Yakutat:	18.8%

* Prepared by the GOA Plan Team for the SSC. December 11, 1985.

F. Atka Mackerel

No new information has been provided on the status of the Atka mackerel stocks other than that provided last year. The SSC, therefore, recommends that ABC is set at 4,700 mt for the Western management area and bycatch amounts only for the Central and Eastern areas.

G. Other Rockfish

No further information was provided the SSC which would allow us to provide the Council with a recommendation of ABC for the "other rockfish" category. The SSC, therefore, sees no reason to modify the OYs from those established by the Council last year. The SSC would like to note that the Team is concerned that a harvest of a level higher than 1,700 mt may not be sustainable. The SSC has no data to indicate that it can or cannot be sustained.

H. Thornyhead and Squid

The SSC has no data to allow the determination of ABC and see no reason to recommend changes from the status quo.

D-1(b) Review of 1986 DAP and JVP Estimates

The SSC, in an attempt to assist the Council evaluate projected DAPs and JVPs for 1986, prepared tables (Tables 4 and 5) that contain NMFS survey results and final catches for 1984 and 1985. In the absence of projected physical capacity and percent capacity utilization data, the SSC was unable to comment on the estimates. However, the SSC would like to emphasize that any upward bias contained in the estimate may result in available fish going unharvested with the loss of potential economic gain.

D-1(c) 1986 Halibut PSC Limits

The SSC heard a report from the Team that summarized the halibut PSC framework implemented by Amendment 14 and described information that was developed to assist the Council in the implementation of the framework. The SSC wishes to compliment the Team for their effort. The report that they prepared focuses attention of critical issues and presents information that should be useful in the development of PSC limits.

It was brought to the attention of the SSC that the Team is recommending that the Council use a bycatch rate of 0.038 t of halibut per metric ton of groundfish to derive initial PSC limits. This bycatch rate represented the weighted average for the joint ventures of Taiwan and Spain that operated in the Central Gulf during 1984. While the SSC feels that this is a reasonable starting point, it urges that the development of halibut bycatch limits be based on the appropriate bycatch and mortality rates for each fishery.

The SSC recognized the merits of the framework for implementation of halibut PSC limits. However, the informational requirements for such a framework are large. The PSC concept with accountability provided by mandatory observers has been highly successful in reducing the bycatch of prohibited species. However, without the accountability provided by observer coverage, the PSC

Table 4. Comparisons of NMFS survey results and Final DAP and JVP catches for 1984 (in metric tons)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>DAP</u>			<u>JVP</u>		
		<u>NMFS Survey</u>	<u>Final Catch</u>	<u>Difference (Survey-Catch)</u>	<u>NMFS Survey</u>	<u>Final Catch</u>	<u>Difference (Survey-Catch)</u>
Pollock	W	230	0	+230	300	8,006	-7,706
	C	24,130	329	+23,801	210,000	199,014	+10,986
	E	300			0	0	
Pacific Cod	W	500	49	+451	250	298	-48
	C	11,691	2,124	+9,567	14,621	4,125	+10,496
	E	120	34	+86	0	0	
Flounders	W	0	5	-5	10	556	-546
	C	102	240	-138	8,615	2,696	+5,919
	E	300	152	+148	0	0	
Pacific Ocean Perch	W	0	116	-116	1,770	0	+1,770
	C	622	19	+603	2,000	0	+2,000
	E	460	3	+457	0	0	
Rockfish	G-W	395	520	-125	500	2,032	-1,532
Sablefish	W	600	240	+360	50	275	-225
	C	1,541	2,807	-1,266	110	216	-106
	WYK	1,344			0	0	
Atka Mackerel	W	0	31	-31	400	577	-157
	C	0	0		1,500	7	+1,493
	E	0	0		0	0	
Squid	G-W	100			10	0	+10
Thornyhead rockfish	G-W	0			50	0	+50

Table 5. Comparisons of NMFS survey results and Final DAP and JVP catches for 1985 (in metric tons).

Species	Area	DAP			JVP					
		NMFS Survey	Final Catch	Difference (Survey-Catch)	NMFS Survey	Final Catch	Difference (Survey-Catch)			
Pollock	W	9,371	6,497	+2,874	293,250 ^{1/}	237,354 ^{1/}	+55,896 ^{1/}			
	C		2,583	-2,583						
	E	2	1	+1				0	0	
Pacific Cod	W	2,460	778	+1,682	7,327	304	+7,023			
	C	8,624	893	+7,731	10,073	1,943	+8,130			
	E	766	58	+708	0	0				
Flounders	W	400	8	+392	102	320	-218			
	C	1,781	52	+1,729	498	2,056	-1,558			
	E	627	38	+589	0	0				
Pacific Ocean Perch	W	1,302	658	+644	0	212	-212			
	C	3,906	1	+3,905	0	43	-43			
	E	875	31	+844	0	0				
Rockfish	G-W	4,600	182	+4,418	0	45	-45			
Sablefish	W	1,670	2,040	-370	0	84	-84			
	C	3,060	3,785	-725	0	133	-133			
	WYK				0	0				
Atka Mackerel	W	0	0		4,678	1,848	+2,830			
	C	BC ^{2/}	0					0	3	-3
	E	BC	0					0	0	
Squid	G-W	0			0					
Thornyhead rockfish	G-W	0	26	-26	0	10	-10			

^{1/} Combined Western and Central.

^{2/} BC = Bycatch amount.

limit concept will have limited success in controlling bycatch of prohibited species.

With the gradual replacing of foreign and joint venture fisheries with domestic fisheries we will lose a highly effective fisheries monitoring program, as well as necessary information to implement the PSC limit concept. The cost of equally effective domestic fisheries monitoring is substantial. Preliminary estimates of the annual costs of domestic fisheries monitoring program including twenty percent observer coverage, fish ticket processing, port sampling for size and age, aging, and data analysis for a fully developed domestic groundfish fishery in Alaska is up to four million dollars annually. With the realities of declining budgets facing NPFMC, NMFS and ADF&G, funding and implementation of essential domestic groundfish fishery monitoring programs by conventional methods is not likely to occur in the near term. The SSC urges the Council to explore alternative methods that could be used to implement this program with various industry groups.

D-1(d) Zero TALFF and Zero JVP

The SSC does not have any specific comments to offer on this issue at this time. It would, however, like to state that allowing the harvest of fully-utilized species in non-target fisheries is necessary if full benefits are to be realized from the harvest of Gulf of Alaska fishery resources.

D-2 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish

A. Status of Stocks and EYs

The SSC reviewed the document entitled "Supplement to the Resource Assessment Document for Bering Sea/Aleutians Groundfish for 1985" dated November 1985. We would like to provide the following comments regarding the proposed EYs.

Split EYs

As was noted in our September minutes the team has proposed a split of the EY and TAC for Pacific cod, yellowfin sole, turbot, other flatfish, Atka mackerel, squid and other species. The SSC was not presented any biological evidence that we felt supported dividing the EYs as proposed.

Pollock

The SSC reviewed the data and method used by the Team to establish their recommendation of EY for pollock. The SSC believes this is the best estimate of EY at this time.

Pacific Cod

The SSC concurs with the Team's analysis which indicates that the EY has decreased from the 1984 value but has increased over the value proposed in the July RAD.

Yellowfin Sole

The SSC concurs with the Team's analysis that the EY has decreased from the 1984 EY.

Turbots

The Team points out one component of this resource, that of Greenland turbot, is depressed, suffering from a dramatic decline in juveniles since 1980. The Team also notes that the other component, arrowtooth flounders, is increasing in abundance. The SSC recommends that immediate split of this species category with the establishment of a separate EY and TAC. The EY values would be as follows: Greenland turbot 35,000 mt and Arrowtooth flounder 20,000 mt.

Other Flatfish

The SSC concurs with the Team recommendations for this category.

Sablefish

The SSC concurs with the Team recommendations for this category.

Pacific Ocean Perch and Other Rockfish

The Team, in developing these EY recommendations, is recommending the Council view POP as a complex comprising of five species. The SSC feels that in light of the concern for S. Alutus and to maintain consistency with our recommendation to separate S. Alutus in the Gulf plan, the SSC does not support the Team's recommendation. Therefore, the SSC EY recommendation is for S. Alutus only.

The SSC's recommended EYs for the "other rockfish" category reflect an upward adjustment of the Team's EYs to account for the rockfish species removed from POP category.

Atka Mackerel, Squid, and Other Species

The SSC recommends that the Council accept the Team proposed EYs for these species.

A summary of the SSC recommended EYs is provided in Table 6.

B. ABC and OY for the Complex

The SSC notes that the ABC for the groundfish complex is approximately 2,000,000 mt based upon our recommendations for EY. The plan provided that the OY can range from 1.4 million mt to 2.0 million mt. The SSC recommends that the ABC is set at 2.0 million mt and the OY be set by the Council near the upper end of this range.

Table 6
SSC Recommendation on EY and TAC Comments

<u>Species</u>	<u>EY</u>	<u>Initial TAC</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Pollock			
EBS	1,100,000	1,200,000	See SSC Minutes
Aleutian	100,000	100,000	
Pacific Cod	249,300	?	See SSC Minutes
Yellowfin Sole	230,000	230,000	May be used to balance
Greenland Turbots	35,000	35,000	See SSC Minutes
Arrowtooth Flounder	20,000	20,000	
Other Flatfish	137,500	137,500	May be used to balance
Sablefish			
EBS	3,000	2,250	See SSC Minutes
Aleutian	4,200	4,200	See SSC Minutes
Pacific Ocean Perch			
EBS	1,100	825	See SSC Minutes
Aleutian	9,100	6,800	See SSC Minutes
Other Rockfish			
EBS	1,100	825	See SSC Minutes
Aleutian	7,800	5,800	See SSC Minutes
Atka Mackerel	30,800	30,800	
Squid	10,000	10,000	
Other Species	35,900	35,900	May be used to balance

Note:

1. ABC \approx 2,000,000 mt.
2. The SSC recommends that OY is set at or near 2,000,000 mt.

C. Initial TACs

Based upon an OY for the complex of nearly 2.0 million mt, the SSC reviewed the TACs as proposed by the Council at the September meeting for public review and those proposed by the Team in the supplement.

Based upon the SSC review of the species EYs and our recommendation that the OY is set at 2,000,00 mt, the SSC provides the following guidance to the Council in their TAC discussion. TAC numbers used by the SSC in our deliberations are provided in Table 6. SSC notes on this table are as follows:

Pollock-EBS

The "Supplement to the Resource Assessment Document for the Bering Sea/Aleutians Groundfish for 1985" provides an estimate of the total biomass of 7.3 million mt for 1985. This estimate represents a decrease from equivalent estimates of 11.0 million mt in 1979 and 8.8 million mt in 1982. The SSC was told by the Team that the biomass in 1986 is projected to remain at the 1985 level. The size of the biomass is expected to increase in 1987 as the 1982 and 1984 year classes are recruited to the fishery. Given the conservative exploitation rate used by the Team to arrive at EY and the forecasted increase in the size of the biomass, the SSC feels that the TAC could safely be increased beyond the 1.1 mt (EY) level. No concern was voiced over action that would set TAC at 1.2 mt.

Pacific Cod

In our deliberations on EY for Pacific cod, the domestic industry expressed concern that they do not feel, as a result of their fishing experience, that the EY was as high as the survey date indicated. This led the SSC to examine the model being used in further detail.

The model used by the Team to develop their EY recommendation assumes that the same exploitation rate is applied across all fishable age groups. In practice, we know that this is not the case. The exploitation rate on each age group will vary. It is difficult to predict what the exploitation rate in 1986 will be for each age class. After detailed discussion with the Team, it was concluded that the optimal exploitation rate produced by the model for 5, 6 and 7 year old fish are appropriate. However, the optimal rate is considered to be high for the 8, 9 and 10 year olds. Fewer numbers of these fish in the population and their dispersion throughout the Bering Sea led to this conclusion. Lower exploitation rates should be applied to these age classes. For younger fish, ages 3 and 4, two issues should be considered. While it is felt that age 4 fish are fully recruited to the fishery, age 3 fish are not. It might also be desirable to carry some of these fish over into future years to increase the number of large fish available to the fishery. Both of these arguments could be used to support less intense exploitation of these two year classes.

In conclusion, issues raised in this discussion could be used to support setting initial TAC below EY. The SSC was unable to specify how far below because of the lack of information on the appropriate exploitation rate for 3 and 4, as well as 8, 9 and 10 year old fish.

Greenland Turbot

Information on the total biomass of this resource is currently not available but it has been noted that there is a continuing decline in juvenile fish. The Team took this decline into consideration in developing their EY recommendations. The SSC noted that historic catches ranging from 30,000 to 63,000 mt resulted in the recruitment of large numbers of juveniles. Therefore, the SSC did not feel compelled to recommend setting the initial TAC below the EY.

Sablefish, Pacific Ocean Perch, and Other Rockfish

The SSC recommends that the TAC be set below the EYs for these species to provide for rebuilding.

C. Splitting TACs

The SSC was not provided any evidence that we feel supported the dividing the TACs into additional management areas. Members of the SSC briefly reviewed the Council staff report entitled "The Benefits and Costs of Setting Separate TACs for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Areas and the Elimination of TALFF in the Aleutian Islands." Several members of the SSC feel that the document is flawed. We urge that the contents of the document not be used by the Council at this time. Further, we recommend this document be given to the Plan Team, NMFS and ADF&G for review.

The SSC has requested on numerous occasions that decision documents be supplied to it in advance of a meeting to ensure thorough review. It must be recognized that if the SSC is to operate in an effective manner, a reasonable amount of time must be allotted for review. In the future it is the hope of the SSC that documents such as this be subjected to review by the Team, NMFS and ADF&G and provided to the SSC in sufficient time for review.

D. Management Problems Associated with TAC

The SSC discussed the regional management, problems encountered last year. When a TAC is reached, the region is required by regulation to close all or part of a management area unless the TAC is increased from the non-specific operational reserve. Because the FMP contains no guideline as to the amount of resources that may be allocated to TAC, the Region uses the EYs as guidelines when it increases TAC. Last summer, however, the Region imposed a cost on certain fishermen when it closed the groundfish fishery seaward of 200 fathoms when the sablefish TAC was reached, although it was re-opened a few weeks later. This same problem is expected to occur again early in 1986 and will probably involve other species.

The SSC recommends that the Council appoint a workgroup to work closely with the Region to develop guidelines to mitigate the above problem and reduce the likelihood of premature closure of the Bering Sea fisheries.

E. Review of 1986 DAP and JVP Estimates

The SSC did not have time to gather the information on survey results and final catches for the Bering Sea/Aleutians area.

E-1 Contracts and Proposals

The SSC reviewed the proposal entitled "Discard Catch in U.S. Commercial Marine Fisheries, Analysis and Recommendations." This proposal is to study discard issues for five fisheries. Out of these five, only one fishery, the Alaskan/North Pacific groundfish fishery, is under the direct jurisdiction and primary interest of the NPFMC.

A second discard issue in the western Pacific high seas driftnet salmon fishery is of interest to the Council, but is a topic that has been actively addressed by the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission and the U.S. section of the Commission. It is doubtful that the proposed study will add significantly to the knowledge base. Therefore, there is no need for the Council to pursue a further study of this salmon fishery.

Regarding the Alaskan/North Pacific groundfish fishery, the proposed project would seek answers to four questions:

1. What are the levels of magnitude and proportions of discard in terms of both numbers of organisms and biomass? .
2. What species are affected, both target and bycatch?
3. What are the associated population dynamic effects (growth, survival, mortality, reproduction) on those species?
4. How do discards affect associated communities and ecosystems in terms of predator/prey interactions and biological energy turnover?

Regarding answers to questions 1 and 2, the data base and the computer analytical system have been well established to address current and future needs of the Council. It is unlikely that the proposed project will improve this ability significantly.

Regarding answers to question 3, it probably cannot be answered. The SSC does not consider the answers to this question to be important at this time.

Regarding answers to question 4, the proposed project will similarly not be able to determine how discards affect associated communities and ecosystems. In practice, this issue has always been considered by the Council in its stock assessment and management process.

The SSC does not feel the proposal is of high priority for Council funding.

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH 1986 ABCs, OYS, DAPs, JVPs, TALFF, and PSCs (MT) Approved by NPFMC 12/14/85

Species	Area	1986 ABC	1986 OY	Reserves 20% OY	1986 DAP	1986 JVP	1986 DAH	TALFF
Pollock	Western/Central	100,000	100,000	20,000	40,000	40,000	80,000	0
	Out. Shel.(1/15-4/10)		50,000	10,000	5,000	35,000	40,000	0
	Eastern	16,600	16,600	3,320	13,280	0	13,280	0
	Total	116,600	166,600	33,320	58,280	75,000	133,280	0
Pacific Cod	W	37,500	29,951	5,990	9,600	2,521	12,321	11,640
	C	76,000	33,049	6,610	19,600	2,959	22,559	3,860
	E	22,500	12,000	2,400	9,600	0	9,600	0
	Total	136,000	75,000	15,000	39,000	5,480	44,480	15,520
Flounders	W	23,000	5,360	1,072	3,252	1,036	4,288	0
	C	101,000	5,000	1,000	2,916	1,084	4,000	0
	E	17,000	4,020	804	3,216	0	3,216	0
	Total	141,000	14,380	2,876	9,384	2,120	11,504	0
Pacific ocean perch	W	2,800	1,316	0	1,316	0	1,316	0
	C	3,300	1,511	0	1,511	0	1,511	0
	E	4,400	875	0	875	0	875	0
	Total	10,500	3,702	0	3,702	0	3,702	0
Sablefish	W	2,500	2,850	0	2,850	0	2,850	0
	C	11,600	6,150	0	6,150	0	6,150	0
	W. Yakutat	2,200	2,550	0	2,550	0	2,550	0
	E. Yakutat	800	1,104	0	1,104	0	1,104	0
	S.E.Outside	1,700	2,346	0	2,346	0	2,346	0
	Total	18,800	15,000	0	15,000	0	15,000	0
Atka Mackerel	W	4,700	4,678	936	0	3,742	3,742	0
	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	4,700	4,678	936	0	3,742	3,742	0
Rockfish	S.E. Central							
	Outside	n/a	600	0	600	0	600	0
	Remaining Gulf	n/a	4,400	0	4,400	0	4,400	0
Total		5,000	0	5,000	0	5,000	0	
Thornyhead	GW	n/a	3,750	750	1,500	1,500	3,000	0
Squid	GW	n/a	5,000	1,000	2,000	2,000	4,000	0
Other Species	GW	n/a	14,656	2,931	5,862	5,862	11,724	0
TOTAL			307,766	56,813	139,728	95,704	235,432	15,520

TABLE 2.

NPFMC Approved OY, TACs and Apportionments for the Combined Bering Sea
and Aleutian Groundfish in 1986 (all in metric tons).12/14/85 9:30am

Species	Area	1986 TAC	DAP	JVP	DAH	Potential ITALFF ^{1/}	15% RESERVE
Pollock	BS	1,200,000	141,755	690,000	831,755	188,245	
	AI	100,000	18,039	10,804	28,843	56,157	
Pacific ocean perch	BS	825	576	194	770	55 ^{2/}	
	AI	6,800	6,340	460	6,800	0 ^{2/}	
Rockfish	BS	825	648	143	791	34 ^{2/}	
	AI	5,800	5,791	9	5,800	0 ^{2/}	
Sablefish	BS	2,250	1,826	246	2,072	178 ^{2/}	
	AI	4,200	4,159	28	4,187	13 ^{2/}	
Pacific cod	BSAI	229,000	133,394	50,830	184,224	32,406 ^{3/}	
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	209,500	1,030	127,300	128,330	49,745	
Greenland turbot	BSAI	33,000	5,414	5,000	10,414 ^{4/}	17,636	
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	20,000	1,805 ^{4/}	1,667 ^{4/}	3,471 ^{4/}	13,529	
Other flatfish	BSAI	124,200	4,192	89,550	93,742	11,828	
Atka mackerel	BSAI	30,800	0	30,790	30,790	10 ^{2/}	
Squid	BSAI	5,000	0	0	0	4,250	
Other species	BSAI	27,800	110	1,071	1,181	22,449	
TOTAL		2,000,000	325,079	1,008,092	1,333,170	400,555	266,2

1/ ITALFF = TAC - Reserve - DAH.

2/ Bycatch TALFFs will be adjusted from the Reserve.

3/ Pacific cod ITALFF includes 21,980 mt from Reserve for foreign longliners. An additional 2,000 mt from Reserve may be needed for bycatch. Longline TALFF must be taken north of 55°N and west of 170°W, ice conditions permitting (same restrictions as 1985).

4/ The Greenland turbot fishery takes approximately 1/3 arrowtooth flounder. DAP and JVP have been adjusted accordingly.

5/ Reserve has been adjusted downward for Pacific cod and other species. The remainder is unspecified as to species.

DRAFT MINUTES

70th Plenary Session
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
January 15-17, 1986
Centennial Building
Sitka, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met January 15-17, 1986 at the Centennial Building in Sitka, Alaska. The Scientific and Statistical Committee and Advisory Panel began Monday, January 13. The Permit Review Committee met on Tuesday, January 14, and the Finance Committee met on Thursday, January 16.

Members of the Council, Scientific and Statistical Committee, Advisory Panel and general public in attendance are listed below.

Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman
Rudy Petersen
Don Collinsworth
Russ Cahill for
Bill Wilkerson
RADM Robert Lucas
Oscar Dyson

Robert U. Mace for
John Donaldson
Robert McVey
Henry Mitchell
John Harville
Sara Hemphill
John Winther

NPFMC Staff

Jim H. Branson, Executive Director
Clarence Pautzke
Judy Willoughby
Steve Davis
Jim Glock

Ron Miller
Ron Rogness
Terry Smith
Helen Allen
Peggy Kircher

Support Staff

Joe Terry, NMFS-NWAFC
Ron Berg, NMFS
Craig Hammond, NMFS
Pat Travers, NMFS
Jim Brooks, NMFS

Jim Balsiger, NMFS-NWAFC
Loh-Lee Low, NMFS-NWAFC
Fred Gaffney, ADF&G
Bill Robinson, NMFS

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Don Rosenberg, Chairman
Bill Aron
Douglas Eggers
Larry Hreha
Tom Northup

Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman
Phil Mundy
Don Bevan
John Burns
Terry Quinn

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Advisory Panel

Larry Cotter, Chairman
Bob Alverson, Vice-Chairman
Thorn Smith
Tom Stewart
Ron Hegge
Pete Isleib
Rick Lauber
Don Rawlinson
Walter Smith
Richard White

Terry Baker
Joseph Chimegalrea
Al Burch
Rupe Andrews
Eric Jordan
Nancy Munro
Al Osterback
Julie Settle
John Woodruff
Greg Favretto

General Public

It was estimated that approximately 150 people attended the Council meeting during its session, including the following:

Ken Kobayashi, JDSTA
Lori Hamilton, Washington
Ted Evans, AFTA
Jeff Sanders, W. AK Salmon Coalition
Steve Drage, Oregon
Eric Olsen, Seattle
Gary Westman, Washington
David Harville, Kodiak
Tomasz Pintowski, Polish Embassy
Andrzej Budzinski, Polish Embassy
Richard Draves, Northern Deep Sea Fisheries
Fred File, Petersburg
John White, Bethel
Donald McCaughran, IPHC
Vern Hall, Kodiak
Ted West, Alaska Fisheries
Jim Russell, Alaska Fisheries
Michael Mayo, Sitka
John Bruce, Washington
Charles Pullock, Sitka
Gretchen Bishop, Juneau
Dana Moore, MAP, Sitka
Elizabeth Hastorf, OCFD, Juneau
Paul MacGregor, Japan Longliners
Steve Amos, Sitka
R.D. Dearborn, Sea Grant, Fairbanks
Jon Newstrom, Juneau
H. Hirai, JFA
Ms. Tagachi, Interpreter, JFA

H.A. Larkins, MRCI
Barry Collier, PSPA
Nancy Davis, Quest
Dean Paddock, King Salmon
Frank Schnider, Washington
Gary Embree, Seattle
Arni Thomson, Seattle
Charles Wilson, Seward
Ben Hogevoll, Oregon
Jeff Hendricks, Alyeska Oceans
Ron Peterson, Seattle
Fred Yeck, Oregon
Robt. Chevalier, Sitka
Susan Froetschel, Sitka
Lois DuPey, Seattle
Jan Payne, Sitka
Ann Lowe, Troll PAC
Robert Hagen, Sitka
Paul Roehl, Sitka
Lamin Marenah, Sitka
Dolly Garza, MAP, Sitka
Walt Pasternak, Sitka
Ron Peterson, Seattle
Morris Hansen, Seattle
Charles Wilson, Seward
Steve Fish, Petersburg
Deborah Pearson, NPFVOA
Steve Dickinson, Attorney
S. Takaoka, NPLGA

DRAFT MINUTES
Council Meeting
January 1986

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

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. on Wednesday, January 15, 1986. Minutes of the December meeting were not available for review. Mr. Branson reviewed the agenda which was approved as drafted.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

Mr. Branson's report gave the State Department's initial foreign allocations which differed from the Council's December recommendations. The State Department's allocations were in part based on Department of Commerce recommendations which also differed from the Council's. The Department of Commerce was requested to send the Council their report on the basis for their recommendations on foreign allocations to the State Department. The Council requested this report be prepared prior to the Council's December meeting so that Council members could have the benefit of the recommendations of the Department's Review Committee prior to making their own. A similar process is followed prior to each release of reserves. The Council chose not to reconsider their allocations recommendations made in December for 1986.

Tomasz Pintowski, Polish Embassy, reviewed the Polish joint venture record and their use of American support services. He requested that the Council support the 1986 TALFF allocations requested by Poland.

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Annie Burnham, Alaskan Joint Venture Fisheries, read a letter from Alaska Pacific Marine Services into the record supporting Korea's earlier request for a large directed allocation and noting that a reduction in Korea's allocation was not acceptable because Korea has made every effort to use U.S. products and services.

In the interest of time, the regular reports from ADF&G, NMFS and the Coast Guard were not presented at this meeting. However, the Coast Guard distributed a written summary of patrol efforts through December 1, 1985.

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 Legislative Update

Ron Miller noted that because of the Christmas recess and work on the budget, action on the pending MFCMA reauthorization can be expected no sooner than early March. A foreign fishing fee proposal before Congress would allow the Secretary of Commerce to raise foreign fees if the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of State, found that a foreign nation receiving a fishery allocation in the U.S. EEZ is harvesting anadromous species of U.S. origin at an unacceptable level, or failing to take sufficient actions to benefit conservation and development of U.S. fisheries. The Secretary of Commerce would also be required to make a determination each year of the performance by foreign nations receiving fishery allocations with respect to whether a foreign nation is harvesting anadromous species of U.S. origin or failing to take sufficient action to benefit the conservation and development of U.S. fisheries.

C-2 SSC Appointments and Officers

The SSC reelected Don Rosenberg, Chairman, and Richard Marasco, Vice Chairman for 1986. The Council was asked to fill two SSC positions vacated by Scott Marshall who is assuming new duties for the State and Steve Langdon whose other commitments have precluded his active participation.

Bob McVey moved to appoint Phil Mundy, ADF&G Chief Fisheries Scientist, and Terry Quinn from the School of Fisheries, University of Alaska-Juneau, to the Scientific and Statistical Committee. The motion was seconded by Oscar Dyson and carried with no objection.

C-3 Crab/Halibut Interceptions in Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary

At the December meeting the Council accepted for public review proposals addressing the bycatch of crab and halibut in the Eastern Bering Sea trawl fisheries. The Council was provided with the proposals and a synopsis of public comments received.

Jerry Reeves and Joe Terry, NWAFC, presented their document, "A Biological and Economic Analysis of the Bycatch of Prohibited Species in the Bering Sea Area: Joint Venture Flounder Fishery." Ron Rogness and Terry Smith of the Council staff presented their analysis of the proposals.

Public Testimony is found in Appendix I to these minutes.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC finds that the king crab population in the Bering Sea is depressed, that the recruitment level is low and the prerecruit abundance is declining. They are particularly concerned with the declining number of females and feel that the current status of stocks indicates that the management of red king crab must be approached in a conservative manner. The SSC believes that maximization of the economic value from the use of all fisheries resources in the Eastern Bering Sea is a reasonable goal but any management scheme leading to this goal will result in bycatches. Protection can be provided by employing the following management measures: (1) Time/area closures; (2) a bycatch ceiling; or (3) a combination of the two. Because of the current inability to monitor bycatch in domestic operations, the SSC finds that time/area closures are the appropriate management measure at this time. The SSC provided a table analyzing current management proposals in light of information on crab distribution and potential displacement of the trawl fishery. The SSC did not take into consideration the benefits of removing crab predators because adequate data are not available.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended the following motion for the Council's consideration:

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- (1) In the area defined as 163°30' West to 58°15' North and then east to the shore there shall be no fishing allowed during calendar year 1986 except provided for as follows:
 - (a) Domestic (DAH) trawling on cod shall be allowed in waters of 25 fathoms or less within 163°30' West to 58°15' North and then east to 160°W providing domestic observers are on all fishing and processing vessels engaged in the fishery subject to the proviso that a mechanism exists to close fishing in the event of any perceived damage to king crab and the observer is a NMFS approved observer. Further, NMFS shall develop the procedures necessary to implement the above observer program for presentation at the March Council meeting.
 - (b) Subject to the results of the Summer Crab/Groundfish Survey, a fall 1986 trawl and/or directed crab fishery may be allowed, subject to Council approval, in the event survey results establish the crab resource can sustain a fishery without further damage.
 - (c) A mid-water pollock trawl fishery shall be allowed west of 163°W.
- (2) In the area defined as that portion of the Pot Sanctuary west of 163°30'W, there shall be a PSC limit of 25,000 halibut. This PSC limit shall not apply to mid-water trawl operations. The AP requests the Council to develop a PSC limit on crab within this area.
- (3) In the area outside of that described in paragraph 1 above, a PSC limit of _____ shall apply to all trawl activities.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

John Winther moved to approve the AP recommendation. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell. After considerable discussion, the motion failed, 7 to 3, with Collinsworth, Mitchell and Winther voting in favor.

Henry Mitchell moved to amend the motion to include a PSC limit of 1/2 king crab per ton of groundfish, 200,000 bairdi per ton of groundfish, and 40,000 halibut per ton of groundfish. The motion to amend was seconded by John Winther and failed, 7 to 3, with Collinsworth, Mitchell and Winther voting in favor.

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Mr. McVey asked for clarification in the motion about the request for a report to the Council in March by NMFS on the implementation of an observer program. Mr. Cotter said the main idea was to let them know the progress and what problems had been identified by that time.

Several Council members favored the proposal submitted by the Consolidated Trawlers which they believed to be less restrictive yet would protect the king crab stocks.

Bob Mace moved to adopt the Consolidated Trawlers' proposal as outlined in their comments in the Council notebooks. To this proposal he would add the provision that any trawling east of 162°W and 160°W and south of 58°N to shore within the 25 fathom line off the Alaska Peninsula would be permitted only with an NMFS-approved observer aboard. Rudy Petersen seconded the motion, which was amended several times and later withdrawn.

Mr. McVey told Council members that NMFS would have difficulty justifying an emergency rule for a halibut PSC. With respect to joint venture "caps", Mr. McVey proposed that they be implemented on a trial, voluntary basis for this year before developing regulations.

Don Collinsworth moved the following:

That the Fishery Conservation Zone east of 162°W longitude and south of 58°15'N latitude, bounded on the south and east by the Alaska Peninsula and on the east by 160°W longitude be closed to all commercial fishing during 1986 except that:

a) Domestic (DAH) trawling on Pacific cod shall be allowed in waters of 25 fathoms or less between 162°W latitude and 160°W longitude, providing NMFS approved observers are on all DAP fishing

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and processing vessels engaged in the fishery. Measures to close the fishery if excessive bycatches of crab are taken shall be developed and implemented by NMFS. Catches exceeding 2 red king crab per ton of fish caught will be considered excessive for initial consideration of closure.

b) In the area defined as that portion of the Pot Sanctuary west of 162°W longitude, there shall be a PSC limit of 25,000 halibut on all yellowfin sole/flounder joint venture operations. The total catch of halibut in all yellowfin sole/flounder joint ventures in the Bering Sea in 1986 may not exceed 250,000 fish.

c) The incidental catch (PSC) of red king crab in all yellowfin sole/flounder joint venture fisheries in the Bering Sea in 1986 in the area east of 165°W longitude and south of 58°15'N latitude shall not exceed 135,000 crab and shall not exceed a cap (in number of crab) of 1.5 red king crab per metric ton multiplied by the JVP allocation tonnage of flounder/yellowfin sole caught outside the aforementioned area.

d) Joint venture bottom trawling will cease when a cap (in number of crab) of 3 Tanner crab (C. bairdi) multiplied by the JVP allocation tonnage for flounder and yellowfin sole is taken.

e) Caps on halibut, red king crab and C. bairdi Tanner crab catches shall apply to yellowfin sole/flounder joint ventures in the aggregate. When the cap for any of the 3 species is reached in any of the areas described, all yellowfin sole/flounder joint venture operations will end in that area for the remainder of 1986.

f) It is the Council's intention that these measures apply for one year only and that they be carefully evaluated during 1986.

The motion was seconded by Russ Cahill. The following discussions and amendments took place before final passage of the motion:

John Winther expressed concern that the motion does not address the bycatch on domestic operations. Pat Travers said that an Emergency Rule similar to this could be processed if a domestic flounder fishery develops. Some Council members were concerned that the measures could not be enforced without a domestic observer program.

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Bob Mace said he supports the AP recommendation to allow a fall 1986 trawl fishery and/or directed crab fishery, subject to Council approval, if the summer survey results establish that the crab resource can sustain a fishery without further damage. It was the consensus of the Council that this should be done.

Dr. Harville noted that halibut should be included in paragraph "(a)" of the motion; however, Dr. Low of NWAFC said specific numbers for the bycatch of halibut may be difficult to determine and Mr. McVey reminded Council members that this would be difficult to include in an emergency rule.

Bob Mace moved to add the following paragraph (g) to the motion:

g) If a DAP fishery for yellowfin sole and flounder should develop during 1986, the Council intends that measures as similar as possible as those applying to joint ventures, with provision for NMFS approved observers, if necessary, be developed by NMFS. The motion was seconded by John Winther and carried with Sara Hemphill objecting. Ms. Hemphill was concerned about treating DAP fisheries more restrictively than JVs.

Bob McVey moved to change the wording of the first sentence of paragraph (a), to read ". . . NMFS-approved observers are on all DAP and all JVP processing vessels . . .". The motion was seconded and carried with no objection.

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Bob McVey moved to amend the motion to insert "for yellowfin sole and flounder" after "bottom trawling" in the first sentence of paragraph (d). The motion was seconded and carried with no objection.

Russ Cahill moved to amend the first sentence of the motion by deleting "15'" after "south of 58°N" and by changing the remainder of the sentence to read: "bounded on the south by the Alaska Peninsula and on the east by 160°W longitude be closed to all commercial fishing during 1986 except that: . . ."
The motion was seconded by Bob McVey and carried with no objection.

Russ Cahill moved to amend paragraph (b) by adding the following after the second sentence: "In the area east of 160°W there shall be a PSC limit of 15,000 halibut in the yellowfin/sole fishery. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and carried with no objection.

Bob Mace moved to amend paragraph (a) to delete the words, "between 162°W longitude and 160°W longitude," and insert "in the area described". The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and carried with no objection.

John Winther moved to amend paragraph (c) to read "1 red king crab per metric ton" instead of "1.5 red king crab . . .". The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and carried 9 to 1 with Rudy Petersen voting against.

Pat Travers pointed out that there is another reference to "58°15'N, in paragraph (c), and to make the motion consistent, the 15' should be deleted. The Council agreed.

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Mr. McVey pointed out that by setting the eastern boundary at 160°W and opening that area eastward to fishing the Council would be retaining the 25 fathom curve for DAP trawling as long as observers were aboard. To restrict the DAP trawlers to an area shallower than 25 fathoms doesn't make sense; trawling by DAP fishermen should probably be allowed anywhere east of 160°W as long as they have an observer on board.

Don Collinsworth said that Dr. Otto had identified a problem in paragraph (d), in the second line referring to "3 Tanner crab . . .". The total catch of Tanner crab last year by the JVP was about 821,000 Tanner crab which includes both C. bairdi and opilio. Using the formula in the motion, the total would exceed the total harvest of Tanner crab for last year.

Don Collinsworth moved to amend paragraph (d) by deleting "(C. bairdi)". The same change would be made in paragraph (e). The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and carried with no objection. (After other revisions, "C. bairdi" was re-inserted.

John Winther moved to add paragraph (h) as follows:

h) In the area east of 160°W longitude all DAP fishing vessels and all JVP processing vessels engaged in the groundfish fisheries shall carry NMFS-approved observers. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and carried with no objection.

Henry Mitchell moved to amend the motion to read "red and blue king crab" in place of "red king crab" in paragraphs (c) and (e). The motion was seconded by John Winther and carried with no objection.

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Don Collinsworth said that his earlier amendment to change the rate to 3 Tanner crab per metric ton may inhibit some of the activities further east and north in areas where bycatch of opilio were higher than 3 Tanner crab. He suggested an amendment to liberalize the ability to trawl in that area where it's predominantly opilio but still maintain the protection for bairdi.

Bob Mace moved to change paragraph (d) to delete "(in number of crab) of 3 Tanner crab" to read "320,000 Tanner crab" and delete the words, "multiplied by the JVP allocation tonnage for flounder and yellowfin sole . . .". The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen and carried with no objection.

There was some discussion of a rate to be developed to reflect this number of crab. It was pointed out that the bairdi rate would be the controlling factor and that an opilio rate wouldn't be necessary. Don Collinsworth said that his concern is that there be some encouragement to reduce interceptions should a fishery be conducted in the northern and western area. The Council felt it would be sufficient at this time to strongly encourage industry to keep the bycatch of opilio low; if this is not the case, then there would have to be a cap put on it next year.

The main motion, as amended, carried 9 to 1, with Bob McVey voting no.

The final motion reads as follows:

That the Fishery Conservation Zone east of 162°W longitude and south of 58°N latitude, bounded on the south by the Alaska Peninsula and on the east by 160°W longitude be closed to all commercial fishing during 1986 except that:

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- a) Domestic (DAH) trawling on Pacific cod shall be allowed in waters of 25 fathoms or less in the area described, providing NMFS approved observers are on all DAP fishing and all JVP processing vessels engaged in the fishery. Measures to close the fishery if excessive bycatches of crab are taken shall be developed and implemented by NMFS. Catches exceeding 2 red king crab per ton of fish caught will be considered excessive for initial consideration of closure.
- b) In the area defined as that portion of the Pot Sanctuary west of 162°W longitude, there shall be a PSC limit of 25,000 halibut on all yellowfin sole/flounder joint venture operations. In the area east of 160°W longitude there shall be a PSC limit of 15,000 halibut in the yellowfin sole/flounder fishery. The total catch of halibut in all yellowfin sole/flounder joint ventures in the Bering Sea in 1986 may not exceed 250,000 fish.
- c) The incidental catch (PSC) of red king crab in all yellowfin sole/flounder joint venture fisheries in the Bering Sea in 1986 in the area east of 165°W longitude and south of 58°N latitude shall not exceed 135,000 crab and shall not exceed a cap (in number of crab) of 1 red or blue king crab per metric ton multiplied by the JVP allocation tonnage of flounder/yellowfin sole caught outside the aforementioned area.
- d) Joint venture bottom trawling for yellowfin sole and flounder will cease when a cap of 320,000 Tanner crab (C. bairdi) is taken.
- e) Caps on halibut, red and blue king crab and C. bairdi Tanner crab catches shall apply to yellowfin sole/flounder joint ventures in the aggregate. When the cap for any of the 3 species is reached in any of the areas described, all yellowfin sole/flounder joint venture operations will end in that area for the remainder of 1986.
- f) It is the Council's intention that these measures apply for one year only and that they be carefully evaluated during 1986.
- g) If a DAP fishery for yellowfin sole and flounder should develop during 1986, the Council intends that measures as similar as possible as those applying to joint ventures, with provision for NMFS approved observers, if necessary, be developed by NMFS.
- h) In the area east of 160°W longitude all DAP fishing vessels and all JVP processing vessels engaged in the groundfish fisheries shall carry NMFS approved observers.

There was also discussion about how these regulations will be monitored and timely reporting accomplished. Mr. McVey said he expected NMFS-approved observers to operate much the same as in the foreign fishery; they will submit

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weekly reports and if the catch of any of the species of concern reaches a critical level, the reporting frequency could be accelerated.

Henry Mitchell also requested that the Council authorize Mr. Branson to ask IPHC for an analysis of their suspicions of problems with halibut year classes in the Bering Sea. In addition, if there is going to be observer coverage in domestic operations in those areas, perhaps they could coordinate with IPHC staff to try to tag the halibut caught this year and released overboard.

Mr. McVey said that a permanent amendment for this action should be developed in the regular groundfish amendment cycle because the ability to use an emergency action will not be available next year.

C-4 Halibut Management for 1986

Proposals submitted to IPHC for 1986 halibut management were provided to Council members. The Council is not obligated to submit proposals for Commission consideration, but if they wish to do so, it should be done at this meeting. The Council received no requests to intercede or comment on the directed halibut fishery.

Don McCaughran, Executive Director for IPHC, briefed the Council on the proposed halibut regulations for 1986. He said that processors have indicated that they will not have any halibut inventories by March so the IPHC is considering a opening in early April. Dr. McCaughran said he is concerned about the incidental catch of halibut, particularly in the Bering Sea, and

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asked the Council to closely monitor it so that the directed halibut harvest will not be affected.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

John Winther mentioned that proposed opening dates which fall on a Friday may cause high costs to processors in overtime pay. He was also concerned that the opening in Area 2C is right at the end of a pollock harvest which may also overtax processors. Rudy Petersen stressed the importance of the seasons being spread out.

Jim Campbell suggested that the Council did not need to become actively involved in these decisions and also suggested that a Council member would not need to attend the IPHC annual meeting at the end of January. Council members agreed.

C-5 Policy on Confidentiality of Statistics

The Council was provided with a draft policy to allow Council staff members access to confidential fishery statistics. These data are often needed for proper analysis of the social and economic impacts of proposed management measures. Council members would not have access to unaggregated data.

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Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended approval of the draft policy with some minor editorial changes.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Henry Mitchell moved to adopt the policy on confidentiality of statistics with the changes suggested by the Advisory Panel. Bob Mace seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

C-6 Joint Ventures for 1986

Bycatch requirements for joint ventures were to be set at this meeting. The Council's joint venture policy provides for the Council to use foreign vessel permit restrictions to limit the harvest of fully-DAP and prohibited species by individual joint venture companies. A company's limit would be based on their target tonnage requests and when the limit was reached, the company must stop fishing in an area even if its target goals are unmet.

Public Testimony

Nancy Davis, Quest Alaska, commended the Permit Review Committee for this action. She assured the Council that their operations will be very responsive to these guidelines. Ms. Davis also briefly outlined their operational plans for 1986.

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Report of the Permit Review Committee

The Committee heard a staff presentation concluding that company bycatch limits are needed only for POP and Other rockfish in the Gulf of Alaska in 1986.

Bob McVey told the committee that NMFS would be willing to make a trial run with these two species this year but did not contemplate shutting down any company because its limit of bycatch was reached. Because of the many legal ramifications of using permits to control bycatch, and because the mechanics have yet to be worked out, NMFS recommended that the limits serve only as guidelines this year, not absolute cut-off points. The companies would be monitored and sent warning messages throughout the season, but not shut down.

The Permit Review Committee unanimously recommended that bycatch guidelines be established for each company for voluntary compliance, that would maintain the overall bycatches within JVP-PSCs for POP of 200 mt and 35 mt in the Western and Central Gulf, respectively, and 50 mt Other rockfish and 64 mt salmon in the Western and Central Gulf combined.

The Committee requested that NMFS report at each Council meeting the progress on monitoring these bycatch guidelines. They also recommended that the joint venture policy undergo a major review entailing a reconsideration of company-by-company limits on both bycatch and target species.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Bob Mace moved to adopt the recommendations of the Permit Review Committee.

The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

C-7 Domestic Observer Program

The Council's Domestic Observer Committee met on two occasions to discuss the problems associated with placing observers on domestic fishing vessels off Alaska. The Committee agreed that the following principles should apply to any domestic observer program implemented by the Council:

- (1) The North Pacific Fishery Management Council should have the lead in determining observer placement;
- (2) Observer placement should not be punitive and should be on all gear types;
- (3) Observers should be used to verify bycatches, handling mortalities and to gather data for use in determining equilibrium yield levels;
- (4) The observer program should not be an enforcement program.

The Committee also surveyed insurance brokers and learned that P&I insurance coverage for observers on domestic vessels could be purchased but that the costs varied. The brokers cautioned that while the coverage was available, some underwriters may advise vessel owners against carrying observers because of the increased exposure to risk of loss.

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Funding is a main obstacle to placing observers on domestic vessels. Bob McVey recently submitted a proposal to the NMFS Central Office recommending the establishment of a pilot domestic observer program in Alaska as soon as possible. The program would begin with no more than four observers and a project manager at a cost of approximately \$250,000.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended that the Council support Bob McVey's proposal.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council agreed that funding must be sought for a domestic observer program in order to effectively manage the fisheries off Alaska as they become more and more Americanized. It was pointed out that the industry may have to bear some of the costs of such a program. Henry Mitchell suggested the Council should lobby Congress about this need. Jim Campbell said that he had discussed the matter with Senator Stevens and it is very doubtful that additional funds will be available.

Henry Mitchell moved that the Council send letters in support of Bob McVey's proposal to NMFS-Central Office and the Congressional delegations for Washington, Alaska and Oregon. The motion was seconded by Oscar Dyson and carried with Bob McVey abstaining.

C-8 Management of Fully-U.S. Utilized Groundfish Species

The Council was asked to review a request from NMFS to prepare a regulatory amendment for the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands FMPs to address the issue of area closures when single species OYs are reached.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP, for all species in the Gulf of Alaska except sablefish, thought the Regional Director should be authorized to designate those species whose harvest exceeds OY as a prohibited species.

The Advisory Panel offered the following motion for Council consideration:

In order to establish greater flexibility in both the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea, the Regional Director shall develop regulatory amendment authority as outlined in Bob McVey's letter of 12/10/85.

In the Gulf of Alaska, the AP recommends that 50 CFR Section 672.24(b)(2) be amended by adding the following:

When the Regional Director determines that the share of the sablefish OY assigned to any type of gear for any year and any area or district under this paragraph may be taken before the end of that year, the Regional Director, in order to provide adequate bycatch amounts to ensure continue groundfish fishing activity by that gear group, shall by rule-related notice prohibit directed fishing for sablefish by persons using that type of gear for any period of that year. It is the intent of the regulation to minimize any PSC (waste) over the OY allocation.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC did not take up Agenda Item C-8 or D-3(a) at this meeting; however, at the December meeting they did recommend a workgroup be appointed to work on the problems associated with Bering Sea fully-utilized species.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Bob McVey said he was not certain how effective a bycatch buffer amount would be in discouraging targeting. He would be concerned about the effectiveness of announcing a termination of directed fishing for sablefish by any gear group and still have a buffer remaining. He's not sure where the disincentive would be after the directed amount was taken and only the bycatch buffer remained.

Bob Mace moved to adopt the recommended motion of the Advisory Panel. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and carried 9 to 1, with Rudy Petersen voting against.

Steve Davis brought the Council up to date on sablefish trawl situation in the Gulf. As of the week before the Council meeting approximately 30 tons of sablefish had been landed by trawlers based in Kodiak. It was rumored that fishing was not very successful and there was some doubt whether some participants would continue to target on sablefish at this point in time. Fred Gaffney, ADF&G, said they had estimated that it could take between 5 and 20 weeks to take the 20% sablefish allotted to the trawlers.

C-9 Other Business

Don Rosenberg told the Council that the SSC discussed the need to define many of the terms used within the Council family. The SSC has formed a group which has been working on these definitions. They will meet prior to the next SSC meeting and the SSC will undertake a review of the definitions in March.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 Salmon FMP

The Council was provided with recent actions by the Alaska Board of Fisheries for salmon management for 1986. None of the actions taken by the Board require FMP amendment. A summary of Board recommendations follows:

- (1) Season to open June 20 and continue until troll portion is fully taken (191,000 chinooks).
- (2) Coho and legal size chinook salmon with adipose fin missing must be retained with heads on (FMP currently requires this).

Don Collinsworth also briefed the Council on the status of the new U.S./Canada Salmon Commission. Their first annual meeting is scheduled for February 17. They will review the management plans for the various fisheries on the West Coast, including chinook, and will be reviewing the budget request to Congress. They have also set up panels to advise the Commission on each of the species involved. A more complete report will be available after their first technical meeting.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Sara Hemphill moved to concur with the actions taken by the Alaska Board of Fisheries. The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and carried with no objection.

The Council also was asked to review the schedule for rewriting the Salmon FMP. They asked staff to develop more fully the proposals for revising the Salmon FMP for discussion at the March meeting.

D-2 King and Tanner Crab FMPs

- (a) Review State/Federal management action on 1986 Bering Sea C. bairdi fishery.

Based on recent survey information NMFS has determined that current stocks of C. bairdi and red king crab in the Bering Sea are extremely depressed. A short-term closure of the fishery from January 15 to February 1 was implemented to protect both stocks and provide additional time to determine whether the closure should continue for the remainder of the 1986 season.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC has concern for the status of this resource. It states in the FMP that when Tanner crab stocks have declined to levels below that capable of producing MSY, management measures should promote rebuilding. The SSC believes that the stocks are below the level that can produce MSY and suggests a zero harvest level for 1986.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended closing the area defined to all fishing for the remainder of the year. They did not discuss the bairdi fishery in the remainder of the Bering Sea, outside the area they recommended for closure.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Bob McVey said the 90-day emergency order has the potential to be revised after February 1 based on comments received from the public and the action taken by the Council on restring trawling.

It was the consensus of the Council to support the State/Federal action to close the Tanner fishery. They agreed that future action in this fishery for 1986 should be delegated to the Regional Director and Commissioner based on any new data. Rudy Petersen said he would support the action but reminded the Regional Director that this fishery is very important to fishermen and that should be kept in mind when taking future management action.

(b) Crab FMP amendment proposal deadline (Information only).

The deadline for proposals to amend the crab FMPs was January 10. The Plan Teams will compile the proposals and prepare draft decision documents by the end of February.

(c) Status of King Crab FMP implementation and delegation of management authority to the State (Information only).

Bill Robinson reported that the State still has to accept management authority as outlined in the King Crab FMP and the regulations have to be developed and published for public comment and then published in final form. Bill Gordon has written to Governor Sheffield asking the State to accept the management authority. The State is reviewing statutes and preparing to send regulations to NMFS for review. Don Collinsworth said they hope to make a decision on acceptance of the authority soon; because of budget cuts they are doing an analysis of the costs involved.

(d) Determine need for king crab hearing in Seattle.

Jim Branson mentioned that the Board of Fisheries had not yet received many proposals for changes this year and they may not send anyone to the hearing because of budget constraints. In recent years there has been poor attendance at this crab hearing. NPFVOA's position is that if there aren't any controversial proposals, then they do not see any need for the hearing. They will review the proposal package before making their recommendation. It was suggested that a tentative date be set pending a decision on whether a hearing is necessary. The Plan Team will include a proposal in this amendment cycle to make the annual public hearing discretionary.

D-3 Gulf of Alaska FMP

(a) Management of Gear Shares of Sablefish Allocation in the Gulf of Alaska.

Public testimony in December indicated there would be directed trawling for sablefish in the Gulf during 1986. The Council was asked to review sablefish gear allocations and their intent under Amendment 14 to the Gulf FMP.

It was pointed out that the Council's action under Agenda Item C-8 would take care of this situation. Under a regulatory amendment the Regional Director could use a rule-related notice to prohibit further directed sablefish fishing by a particular gear type if the entire OY would be taken before the end of the year, in order to provide adequate bycatches for groundfish fisheries targeting other species.

(b) Request from State of Alaska for emergency action on crab bycatch in trawls.

At the December Council meeting ADF&G and NMFS presented a discussion paper that summarized the status of the king crab resource in the Kodiak area and the potential damage to those stocks from on-bottom trawling. Observations collected by ADF&G from bottom-trawl vessels have shown high rates of incidental king crab catch in two primary areas, Marmot Flats and Alitak Flats located off Kodiak Island. Chirikof, Tower, and Barnabus Gully were three other areas that crab surveys have identified as important during

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reproduction. The State has asked the Council to take emergency action to protect the crab in these areas.

Fritz Funk, ADF&G, presented a report, "Conservation concerns of the Kodiak King Crab Resource: A Discussion of Management Options."

Public Testimony

Walt Pasternak, Sitka, said that his primary interest is in protecting the habitat for the fisheries in this area. Crab is important because of its depressed state, but other species are of concern, too.

Bill Jacobson, Kodiak, feels that the AP motion would take care of the problem. He was representing himself, not a group.

Ted Painter, Kodiak, said that the areas identified for closure were developed by Bill Jacobson, himself, Al Burch and Dave Harville as a compromise and they think they could live with this arrangement.

In addition, letters were received during the meeting from the Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee and the United Fishermen's Marketing Assn. requesting the Council to take action to protect the crab stocks.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended the following:

(1) That the Council initiate an emergency closure which would be applied to the Alitak, Tower, Marmot Flats, Chirikof and Barnabus Gully areas with the exception of Inner Marmot Bay; and

(2) That industry participants work with the Kodiak Advisory Committee, ADF&G, and federal fisheries staff to develop a long-term approach to solving this problem and to present that approach to the Council at the March meeting.

The AP recognized that there is a critical need for onboard domestic observers in this area.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC was concerned that the data presented in the report did not support the closures described. Discussion with Alaska Department of Fish & Game representatives helped to clarify the reason for this lack of data. Because of this lack of specific information the SSC was unable to examine the proposed closures, their degree of protection to crab stocks, and costs associated with potential groundfish fishery displacement. The SSC recommended that the Council give serious consideration to the Advisory Panel recommendation which was in the process of being formulated.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Bob McVey said that he is concerned that the Council is overloading the system with emergency action; many Council decisions are aimed at emergency action.

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He is also concerned that this is a serious decision to close areas around Kodiak. A time/area closure may be necessary to protect the king crab brood stock around Kodiak island, but it's important to proceed very carefully since closures initiated now may continue for a long period of time.

Bob McVey moved that the Council, State and Federal fishery interests publicize their concern about the king crab brood stock around Kodiak Island in conjunction with a proposal like the AP's and that it be made the basis of a voluntary program for this year, not the subject of an emergency action, and that the subject of closures to protect king crab be put into the Gulf of Alaska groundfish amendment cycle. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and failed, 6 to 4, with Hemphill, Mace, McVey and R. Petersen voting in favor.

Don Collinsworth said he feels it is a serious conservation problem and the normal plan amendment and review cycle is too slow in this case. The Emergency Rule would at least take care of the current season and then would expire. In the meantime, the Council should be devising a workable solution for the future.

John Winther moved to approve the Advisory Panel's recommendations. The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and carried, 7 to 3, with Hemphill, McVey and Rudy Petersen voting against.

John Winther moved to include this action in the Gulf of Alaska FMP rewrite. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. McVey cautioned that if the Council uses the emergency rule this year, it will not be available next year. He also expressed concern about the amount of data available on this question and felt there wasn't enough to act on at this time.

D-4 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands FMP

The Council was provided with a list of proposals to amend the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands FMP during the current amendment cycle. The Plan Team reviewed and prioritized the proposals.

Proposals included:

- (1) Require the use of biodegradable gear (panels in sablefish pots, etc.).
- (2) Establish smaller management units for POP and sablefish.
- (3) Provide for allocations to individual joint venture companies.
- (4) Establish Field Order authority for the Regional Director.
- (5) In-season reallocation within DAH.
- (6) Independent allocations to DAP, JVP, and TALFF.
- (7) Extend the foreign PSC limits for salmon, crabs, and halibut established by Amendment 3, if necessary.
- (8) Raise the upper limit of the OY range to 2.4 million mt.
- (9) The "ecosystem management" approach should be reevaluated and replaced with a more rational management approach.
- (10) The FMP should provide management flexibility to allow priority access to stocks important to the domestic industry.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended developing proposals 4, 5, 6, and 10 and recommend sending proposal 7 out only if it is determined that existing PSC limits will not be extended under the current FMP.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC concurred with the Plan Team's recommendations that high priority for next year be given to the development of proposals 4, 6, and 10. The SSC does not believe, in light of staff and team workloads and decreasing funding, that the other proposals which require plan amendment are of sufficient priority for action at this time.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Henry Mitchell moved to accept the AP recommendation to develop proposals 4, 5, 6, 10, and 7, if necessary, for plan amendment. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Bob McVey brought up that another amendment for protecting king crab in the Bering Sea after the emergency order expires should be included in the cycle.

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E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

The Finance Committee met on January 16. Because of the recently-passed Gramm-Rudman law, the Council's proposed FY86 administrative budget must be revised to the level funding of 1984, or \$982,200. The Council's original proposal was for \$1,179,125.

Reduction of staff salaries (there will be no Federal cost-of-living raise), reduction of Council salaries for operational meetings to FY actual costs, elimination of \$40,000 for the rewrite of the Gulf of Alaska FMP (this will be done by the Plan Teams) and reduction of miscellaneous travel (which covers Plan Team members and consultants) were actions taken to reduce the budget. The Finance Committee recommended that a proposal be submitted to NMFS for \$75,000 to start the studies on sablefish management measures.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Alverson pointed out that, in regard to whether placing caps on bycatch of halibut in the Bering Sea is an emergency, the IPHC staff has proposed no increases in quotas in the Bering Sea and are showing a reduction in some of the juvenile halibut stocks. Mr. Alverson suggested that these comments should be taken into consideration at the IPHC annual meeting in late January.

G. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Campbell made a brief statement on the negotiations on the Japanese interception of North American salmon. Mr. Campbell said that the Council is

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disappointed that the latest negotiations failed to achieve any progress. They had hoped that the good faith gesture on the part of the United States in the partial release of groundfish allocations would allow Japan to negotiate a solution to this issue. This was not the case, and the Council remains firm in their position taken in December opposing any release of allocations until the issue is resolved. Mr. Branson was asked to prepare a letter to Secretary Shultz reaffirming the Council's position.

The Council adjourned to Executive Session at 11:25 a.m.

At 11:45 a.m., the Council was reconvened and Chairman Campbell adjourned the public session at 11:50 a.m. on Friday, January 17.

Public Testimony

Agenda C-3: Crab/Halibut Interceptions in Bristol Bay and
Agenda D-2: King and Tanner Crab FMPs

Bert Larkins, Marine Resources Company Int'l, referred to Mr. McVey's letter regarding a trawl closure for bairdi in the Eastern Bering Sea. Mr. Larkins said he didn't understand how this problem could have arisen so suddenly. Most of the boats who fish for MRCI are small and couldn't necessarily move farther out if they were forced out of the current areas. He said the trawl groups have been trying to come up with a satisfactory solution to the interception of crab, but that crab fishermen haven't participated very much. The exvessel value of the yellowfin sole and flounder fishery in the Bering Sea to the U.S. is in excess of \$150 million. MRCI supports the consolidated trawler proposal.

Walt Pasternak, Sitka. He supports a proposal which would eliminate "hard-on-bottom" trawling in the critical nursery areas. He also supports the FVOA proposal and thinks a cap of 25,000 halibut is too high without observer coverage.

Ted Painter, Oregon, supports a closure of the area north of 58°N and west of 164°W for conservation reasons. If there is going to be a king crab fishery in the future, action must be taken now. Supports the consolidated trawlers' proposal and also supports the AP position on the Kodiak emergency order.

Bill Jacobson, Kodiak, feels the crab areas may be the most fragile in the U.S. and thinks the Council needs to proceed cautiously to avoid destruction of any resource. Supports crab coalition's proposal.

Kevin Kaldestad, Seattle, said the area bounded by 58°N and 164°W should be closed to trawling.

Morris Hansen, F/V ALASKAN MONARCH, Seattle, said his main concern is that the crab are not improving. He supports the proposal by the Coalition of Concerned Crab Fishermen.

Vern Hall, Kodiak, said his main concern is that of the critical status of king crab stocks and this should take priority over yellowfin sole CPUEs. He would support a cod fishery within 25 fathoms with observers aboard.

Arni Thomson, Seattle, is concerned that king crab stocks will not rebound if they are caught in large numbers as bycatch. He supports a closure bounded by 58°N and 164°W and the IPHC's recommendation on halibut caps.

Robert Haerling, Sitka, said he would like to see joint ventures out of the Pot Sanctuary in April and May when crab are most vulnerable. He supports the proposal by the Coalition of Concerned Crab Fishermen.

Kris Poulsen, Seattle, said the Council should look at the complex as a whole and develop a comprehensive plan, not just manage from one year to the next. He supports the original proposal by the Coalition of Concerned Crab Fishermen. Trawlers have the option of fishing elsewhere, but this area is the only place red king crab fishermen can make a living.

Fred Yeck, Consolidated Trawlers, said they have worked hard to come up with a satisfactory proposal while the crab fishermen have not tried to compromise.

Ted Evans, Alaska Factory Trawlers, support the Consolidated Trawler proposal. They have tried to find other places to fish, but these areas are the ones where the best concentrations of fish are. The trawler proposal allows for the protection of the most sensitive crab area for a year.

Dave Harville, Alaska Dragger Assn, said he doesn't feel there is a need for a closure because the predator-prey relationships need to be looked into before such a decision is made. He would support the Consolidated Trawlers proposal.

Hugh Reilly, Westward Trawlers, supports the Consolidated Trawler proposal.

Dave Fraser, fishes with the yellowfin/sole fleet. They recognize there is a problem and they support some sort of moratorium. In the coming year they feel it is imperative to do underwater research with submersibles; more study on the predator-prey relationship, and a more indepth analysis of the economic impact of the various options.

Fred File, Petersburg Vessel Owners Assn., support the proposal by the Coalition of Concerned Crab fishermen.

Gary Loverich, NET Systems, said new gear should lessen the trawl impact on crab.

Gary Embree, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union, supports Proposal IB; crabs and halibut need to be protected for conservation reasons.

Tom Casey, Coalition of Concerned Crab Fishermen, said that crab predators should be removed to protect the crab, but at OY levels and outside the Pot Sanctuary area. Supports closing the area bounded by 58°N & 164°W.

Richard Draves, Northern Deep Sea Fisheries. His company actively supports the Consolidated Trawler proposal.

Ron Peterson, Coalition of Concerned Crab Fishermen, disputed the earlier testimony that crab fishermen have not tried to come to a satisfactory compromise with the trawlers. He said they have tried to become involved and that the trawlers are not giving up anything. The trawlers should not be allowed to fish the area during the molting periods.

Eric Olsen, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union, is concerned with protecting crab and halibut stocks.

Don McCaughran, IPHC, said that halibut stocks in the Bering Sea are not healthy and haven't been for several years. They would like to see a cap on the total halibut bycatch allowed in the Bering Sea. Dr. McCaughran mentioned that the 1980 halibut year class seems to be missing from their surveys and they feel it is the fault of the trawl fishery.

Dr. Lee Alverson, Natural Resource Consultants, spoke on predator/prey relationships, noting that available data, though not extensive, indicate that the removal of groundfish predators in the Bering Sea may be beneficial to the crab stocks.