

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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CERTIFIED:

MINUTES

50th Plenary Session
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
September 21-23, 1982
Centennial Building
Sitka, Alaska

Chairman

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council convened its 50th plenary session on Tuesday, September 21, 1982, at 2:45 p.m. at the Centennial Building in Sitka, Alaska. The meeting continued until 11:25 a.m. on Thursday, September 23.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee met on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 21 and 22, 1982, at the Centennial Building.

The Advisory Panel met Monday through Wednesday, September 21-23, at the Centennial Building.

Council members, Scientific and Statistical Committee members, Advisory Panel members, and general public in attendance are listed below:

Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
Harold E. Lokken, Vice-Chairman
Robert Mace, for John Donaldson
Larry Six, for John P. Harville
Leroy Sowl, for Keith Schreiner
Don Collinsworth, for Ron Skoog
Chris Dawson, for Ray Arnaudo
Rolland Schmitten

James O. Campbell
RADM Richard Knapp
Rudy Petersen
Robert W. McVey
Joe Demmert, Jr.
Keith Specking
Jeffrey R. Stephan

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Donald Rosenberg, Chairman
Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman
William Aron
John Clark

Al Millikan
Larry Hreha
Steve Langdon

Advisory Panel

Robert Alverson, Chairman
A. W. Boddy, Vice-Chairman
Larry Cotter

Greg Baker
Al Burch
Jesse Foster

Richard Goldsmith
Joe Kurtz
Ray Lewis
James O'Connell
Jack Phillips
Walter Smith
Ed Wojeck

Eric Jordan
Rick Lauber
Kristy Long
Al Otness
Don Rawlinson
Tony Vaska

NPFMC Staff

Jim H. Branson, Executive Director
Clarence Pautzke, Deputy Director
Jeffrey Povolny
Steve Davis

Peggy McCalment
Judy Willoughby
Jim Glock
Peggy Hough

Support Staff

Phil Chitwood, NMFS
LCDR Paul Blayney, USCG
James M. Meehan, NMFS
Peter Fricke, NMFS
Steve Pennoyer, ADF&G
Cass Parsons, Governor's Office
Loh-lee Low, NWAFC
David Fitch, NOAA/GC
Thorn Smith, NOAA/GC

Craig Hammond, NMFS
CDR Choate Budd, USCG
Robert Gorrell, NMFS
Fred Gaffney, ADF&G
Eulalie Sullivan, ABoF
Robert Otto, NMFS
Vidar Weststad, NWAFC
Charles Meacham, Jr., ADF&G

General Public

Carl Kerr, F/V BARANOF QUEEN, Sitka
Phil Wyman, Sitka
Vaughn Blankenship, Sitka
Pete Esquiro, NSRAA, Sitka
Bill Sheffield, Sheffield Enterprises, Anchorage
Ron Miller, Juneau
John Schmiedtke, Nordstern A.G., Seattle
Flore Lekanof, Sr., St. George Tanaq Corporation, Anchorage
Anthony B. Mercurief, St. George Tanaq Corporation, Anchorage
Daniel Flynn, United Fishermen of Alaska, Anchorage
Iliodar Philemonof, St. George Tanaq Corporation, Anchorage
Art Petraborg, Jr., Sitka
Carl Rush, Sitka
Don Martens, Office of the Canadian Consulate General, Seattle
Tom Stewart, Petersburg Vessel Owners Association, Petersburg
Henry Porter, Yak-tat Kwaan, Yakutat
Walt Pasternak, Alaska Trollers Association, Sitka
G. I. Goldschmidt, Mt. Edgecumbe
Donald Cooper, Alaska Legal Services, Anchorage
Eric Olsen, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union, Seattle
Don Bierce, F/V CHARBES, Sitka
Michael Mayo, Seward Fishermen's Association, Sitka
Dick Carlton, Port Alexander Fish and Game Advisory Board, Port
Alexander
Ruth Derosier, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union, Seattle
Christopher Pace, F/V ESTHER, Petersburg

Donald A. Swisher, Japan Deep Sea/Hokuten Trawlers Association,
Seattle
Paul MacGregor, Japanese North Pacific Longline and Gillnet Association, Seattle
John Wilcox, Juneau
Ron Reed, Kent, WA
Dick Griffin, Sitka
Jon Newstrom, KLAN Radio, Sitka
Karl R. Helberg, ATFMA Corporation, Anacortes, WA
Erik Sandlund, Sitka
Lonnie Chestnut, F/V RADAR, Sitka
Jay D. Hastings, Japan Fisheries Association, Seattle
Steven A. Lock, Shelton, WA
Jim Mathison, Crescent, OR
Brant Poovey, Sitka
Brian Murray, Sitka
Mike Rynoki, Sitka
Bill Arndel, Anchorage
Julie Bohannan, Sitka
Ben Grussendorf, Sitka
Larry D. Strink, Sitka
Don Wells, Sitka
Ronald W. Workman, Alaska Trollers Association, Sitka
Barbara C. Workman, Alaska Trollers Association, Sitka
Dee Neal, Sitka
John Garth, Sitka
Bob Brendis, Alaska Trollers Association, Sitka
James Todaxi, Alaska Trollers Association, Ketchikan
Jerry Bowen, Mt. Edgecumbe
Charles E. Wilbur, Sitka
Gari Smart, Sitka
Earl E. Krygier, Alaska Trollers Association, Juneau
Ray Golden, Sitka
Sue Sturm, Sitka
Joe Collins, Sitka
Earl Richards, City and Borough of Sitka, Sitka
Willie Osballen, Sitka
M. M. Penensovich, Sitka
Alice DuBois, Sitka
Bill Lee, Sitka
Kenneth Proctor, Sitka
Robert Edwards, Jr., Sitka
Andy Lilestrand, Sitka
James Lornodge, Port Alexander
Marc Moats, Sitka
Ann Howell, Sitka
Lee Krause, Mt. Edgecumbe
Bill Willis, Sitka
Janey Reed, Soldotna
Ron Reed, Soldotna
Ernie Stewart, Sitka
Thomas Uber, Sitka
R. Outline, Peterburg
S. Lamas, Port Alexander

Kathleen Mitchell, Port Alexander
Linda Hoven, Port Alexander
Greg Beam, Sitka
Tom Eggenlind, Sitka
Dennis Beam, Sitka
Wayne Finch, Sitka
Tory O'Connell, Sitka
Tom Will, Juneau
L. Joyce Davis, Sitka
Michael Hannaman, Sitka
Ross Bingham, Sitka
Jim Goddard, Sitka
Carol Goddard, Sitka
Bruce Bachen, Sitka
Natt Donohue, Ward Cove
John Santi, Sitka
Bob Santi, Sitka
Stuart Robards, Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Sitka
Ann Lowe, Sitka
Mae Wood, Alaska Trollers Association, Sitka
George Howard, Sitka
George Williams, Alaska Trollers Association, Sitka
Joe Wood, Alaska Trollers Association, Sitka
John T. Cleaver, Alaska Trollers Association, Sitka
Gail Johansen, Sitka
Henry Mitchell, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, Anchorage
Virginia Olney, Alaska Trollers Association, Sitka
Herbert Sarrikko, Sitka
Perfenia Pletnikoff, Jr., Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association,
St. Paul Island
Max Lestenkoff, Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association,
St. Paul Island
B. Langenbaugh, Sitka Sentinel, Sitka
Marguerite Esquire, Sitka
Daisy Jones, Sitka
Nancy Phillips, Pelican
Debbie Wirta, Sitka
David Pearson, Sitka
Norman Staton, Sealaska Corporation, Juneau
Michael Deman, Juneau
Ahna Iredale, Sitka
Richard P. Harris, Juneau
Ken Schooland, Sitka
Linda Baker, Sitka
Charles H. Bundrant, Trident Seafoods, Seattle
Chris Mitchell, Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, Anchorage
Michael Litman, Alaska Trollers Association, Sitka
Paul Schreiber, Sitka
Richard Conner, Sitka
Pat Kehoe, Sitka
Rod Elstart, Sitka
Bruce Worden, Sitka
Frances Worden, Sitka
Dick Randolph, Alaska Legislature, Fairbanks

Suzanne Wainleguthy, Sitka
Earle Johnson, Sitka
Paul Mitchell, Anchorage
Cheryl Easterwood, Sitka
Bonnie Richards, Sitka
Harold Thompson, Sitka Sound Seafoods, Sitka
Janet Mahor, Alaska Longline Fishermens Association, Mt. Edgecumbe
Bill Lagen, American Pacific Whaling Company, Bellevue, WA
Larry Calvin, Sitka
Arni Thomson, Seattle
David Wallen, Port Alexander
Randy Gluth, Sitka
Linda Olin, Sitka
Sharon Gwinn, Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, Anchorage
Kerth Yates, Sitka
Toru Fukui, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association, Tokyo

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

Chairman Tillion called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. on September 21, 1982. The Chairman introduced newly-appointed Council members Rudy Petersen and Jeffrey Stephan; Larry Six, alternate for Dr. John Harville and Executive Director designee for the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission; Joseph Greenley, Executive Director of the Pacific Fishery Management Council; Milstead Zahn and Eulalie Sullivan, Executive Director and Assistant Director of the Alaska Board of Fisheries; CDR Choate Budd, recently assigned to the 17th Coast Guard District; and Doug Larson, who will join the Council staff as economist on October 1.

Harold Lokken moved adoption of the agenda; seconded by Bob Mace. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

The Executive Director noted a correction to the July 1982 minutes on page 23 under section D-5, Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP, changing that paragraph to read: "The motion was subsequently withdrawn and the Council agreed that gulfwide OY would equal ABC and that ABC would be set at 75% of EY."

Bob Mace moved approval of the July minutes with the recommended correction; seconded by Keith Specking. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

The Council review group for the National Standards Guidelines met on August 10 to discuss the latest draft of the Guidelines and commented by letter to NMFS on August 16. They found the Guidelines to be substantially the same as the ones upon which the Council commented last year.

The Executive Director asked the Council if it wished to consider increasing the number of SSC members to twelve and appointing Dr. Donald Bevan to the SSC. Dr. Bevan was formerly a member of the North Pacific SSC before his appointment to the Council. Mr. Branson noted that if the Council decided to do this, the SSC Charter would have to be changed.

Rolland Schmitt suggested that since SSC membership terms expire in December 1982, the Council postpone action on this matter until the December meeting. *The Council concurred and it was so ordered.*

Mr. Branson reported that a U.S. industry observer was placed aboard a ship belonging to the National Common Squid Drift Fishery Association of Japan in accordance with an agreement signed by the Association and Pacific Seafood Processors. Funding for this program, about \$12,500, came mostly from industry sources, including Pacific Seafood Processors, Western Alaska Cooperative Marketing Association, Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, the Office of International Fisheries in the Governor's Office, and the Council.

The Council and Alaska Board of Fisheries have scheduled a work session in Juneau on September 30 to discuss methods for streamlining and coordinating Council and Board activities during joint meetings. Mr. Branson asked Council members which of them might be able to attend. *Keith Specking and Chairman Tillion volunteered to attend the meeting.*

In a letter dated September 10, 1982, Congressman Don Young asked the Council to discuss the fishery provisions of the Law of the Sea Treaty and suggested that the Council make a formal recommendation to the Administration. Several other Councils have already discussed the LOS treaty; the Gulf Council took a position against signing the treaty and the New England Council is also expected to take a position. The Executive Director suggested that if the Council wishes to become involved, it may wish to place a discussion of LOS on the December meeting agenda.

Don Collinworth suggested that a brief workshop to familiarize the Council with the various papers available on the LOS fishery provisions be held just before the December meeting, before the Council considers adoption of a formal position to be sent to the President. *The Council concurred and it was so ordered.*

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Fred Gaffney said that the first closure of a Pacific coast domestic groundfish fishery in the FCZ occurred in Southeast Alaska on August 2 after approximately 1,250 mt of sablefish had been harvested. Following the closure, effort shifted substantially to the Yakutat area. Inside the Southeastern archipelago the sablefish fishery in Chatham Strait closed on September 15

and in Clarence Strait on September 30. Preliminary catch figures as of September 17 were: Chatham Strait, 400 mt; Clarence Strait, 150 mt; Southeastern outside, 1,250 mt; Yakutat east of 140°W, 370 mt; and Yakutat west of 140°W, 200 mt.

The fledgling eastern Aleutian Islands herring fishery, which first occurred last year with a total catch of 704 mt, has already taken more than four times that amount since it opened on August 5. Approximately 60% of the 3,240 mt catch to date has been processed for human consumption, with the remainder utilized as bait for the local crab fisheries. The harvest was taken by seven purse seine vessels fishing in State waters. The average price paid to the fishermen was \$300 per ton.

The king crab fishery opened on September 15. Due to poor abundance levels, the projected harvest is 43.4 million pounds, less than half the 88.8 million pounds taken in 1981.

B-3 Report on Foreign Fisheries by National Marine Fisheries Service

Phil Chitwood reported that foreign catches in the Bering Sea through August 1982 were 680,073 mt, just over 51% of the 1,328,016 mt TALFF. Pollock comprised 82.8% of the catch, flounders 11.7%, Pacific cod 1.9%, Atka mackerel 0.4%, and all other species 3.2%.

Foreign catches in the Gulf of Alaska through August totaled 66,895 mt, slightly less than 27% of the 250,660 mt TALFF. The majority of the catch was pollock and Pacific cod, at 56.1% and 20.7% respectively, followed by 8.5% flounders, 6.3% rockfish, 2.6% sablefish, and 5.8% other species.

Craig Hammond said that the number of foreign vessels operating off Alaska peaked at 484 during July, but dropped to 308, mostly Japanese, after the high seas salmon fleet departed in late August. As of September 15 only 239 foreign vessels remained, mostly from the Japanese groundfish fleet.

As of September 20 there were 65 observers aboard foreign vessels off Alaska. Forty were in the Bering Sea, six in the Aleutians, and 19 in the Gulf of Alaska.

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

LCDR Paul Blayney reported that since the July Council meeting the Coast Guard issued five reports of violation and five citations to six Japanese, one Taiwanese, and two South Korean vessels and seized one Japanese vessel.

The Japanese stern trawler KORYO MARU NO. 23 was seized on July 29 in the central Bering Sea for underlogging its catch by 139 mt, 43%. The most severe logging discrepancies were found in Pacific cod and turbot.

Reports of violation and citations were issued for failure to submit required activity messages 24 hours before departure from the FCZ, failure to return prohibited species to the sea in a timely manner, and failure to properly maintain readability of International Radio Call Signs.

B-5 Joint Venture Update

Through August 28, joint ventures had harvested 95,676 mt in the Bering Sea and Aleutians and 74,503 mt in the Gulf of Alaska. Thirty American vessels and 16 foreign vessels worked for the eight individual operations in the Bering Sea; the six Gulf of Alaska operations employed 23 U.S. and 25 foreign vessels.

By mid-September Marine Resources Company's yellowfin sole fishery, which began in April, had taken 34,500 mt, about 80% target species. The eight U.S. catchers and four to five Soviet processors employed in the operation expected to take their total 37,000 mt by September 30. The Atka mackerel fishery was scheduled to end in late September with a projected catch of about 16,500 mt, 60% Atka mackerel.

The second Universal Seafoods/Nippon Suisan joint venture ended on August 23 with a total catch of 11,400 mt, mostly pollock. Three U.S. trawlers, GOLDEN FLEECE, STARWARD, and NEAHKAHNIE, fished in this operation from Unimak Pass to the Pribilofs.

The third Westward Trawlers/Taiyo Fishery Company joint venture began on September 25 with four to five U.S. trawlers and one Japanese processor. They hope to catch and process 10,000 mt of pollock in the Bering Sea.

The joint venture between Swiftsure Fisheries and Chong Shing Enterprises of Taiwan has not yet begun for lack of a vessel permit, still under processing in Washington, D.C.

B-6 NMFS Report on Status of Yellowfin Sole Stocks

The Council reviewed a new report on the status of yellowfin sole stocks, a major fishery resource of the eastern Bering Sea ranking second in abundance only to walleye pollock. Using a numeric population simulator the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center examined the response of the yellowfin sole population to various levels of exploitation. The results indicated that population biomass will remain high through at least 1985, with abundance of primary age groups in the fishable stock (ages 8 through 17) expected to range between 1.4 and 2 million mt in 1985.

Long-term equilibrium yields were also examined using the PROBUB ecosystem model. Calculations based on the model indicated that the equilibrium biomass of yellowfin sole, that which is in equilibrium with other components of the ecosystem, ranges from

880,000 to 1,328,000 mt. Annual catches of as much as 175,000 mt were found to maintain the population within this range and was considered an estimate of the long-term EY.

The Center report concluded that the biomass of yellowfin sole is currently at the upper end of a natural cycle in abundance and exceeds the intermediate levels of abundance which keep the overall ecosystem in equilibrium. Catches of 200,000 mt or more were recommended to take advantage of the current surplus.

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 Election of Council Officers

Terms for the Council Chairman and Vice-Chairman expired on August 10, 1982. Council action was required to elect officers to serve for the next one-year term.

Rolland Schmitt nominated *Clem Tillion* and *Harold Lokken* to serve as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively. The nomination was seconded by *Robert Mace*. *Tillion* and *Lokken* were unanimously voted Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the next one-year term.

C-2 Call for Nominations for Advisory Panel Membership

Terms of current Advisory Panel members will expire in December. The Council issued a call for nominations for AP membership. Resumes of the nominees will be reviewed by the AP Nominating Committee just before the December meeting and the Council will make appointments during the meeting. Appointments will become effective with the January meeting when the new AP will reorganize itself with election of officers and appointments to subcommittees. The Council instructed the staff to publicize the call for nominations for AP membership in the Council Newsletter and prepare a list of nominees for review by the AP Nominating Committee.

C-3 Review of Advisory Panel Operations

The Advisory Panel met for an extra day in Sitka to discuss their operations and suggest improvements to make their operation more efficient. The Advisory Panel reviewed a redesigned meeting agenda and supporting materials tailored to the operations of the AP. Specific points of consideration for Council action on FMPs were laid out in a format of questions tailored to AP expertise rather than in the form used for materials submitted to the SSC. The AP recommended that the Council's agenda be modified for the AP's meetings so that oral reports are not unnecessarily duplicated and industry and consumer issues are highlighted with questions and analysis. The AP requested that the full Panel or its appropriate subcommittee be scheduled to meet whenever possible or as necessary to maximize input from the SSC and other groups while optimizing timing of recommendations to the Council.

The AP agreed that sub-panels for each fishery would not be preferred over the current AP makeup because many of the AP members represent multi-species interests. Additionally, the use of sub-panels would prohibit those with specific interests in more than one fishery to adequately participate in the event that meetings had to be held simultaneously.

The AP pointed out the need for timely appraisal of the SSC's opinions on OY levels. They said that they are not looking for an analysis of what the cohort analysis shows or the methodology of specific derivations of ABC, but do request they receive SSC reports on various PDT and PMT positions.

The Advisory Panel stressed that it needs to have PDT/PMT reports in hand before their meetings so the reports are not absolutely new to members when they come to a meeting. They asked that more involvement of the PDT/PMT be coordinated with the AP before Council meetings.

The AP suggested designating subcommittees to attend meetings a day early to sit with the SSC or its subcommittee when PMT/PDT reports are presented. AP members felt they have not in the past had a good flow of information on SSC decisions. The AP feels it is best suited for expressing socioeconomic impacts on the industry and consumers, but it cannot report to the Council without knowing the SSC's position concerning stock analyses or SSC reviews of PMT/PDT positions. The AP considers the arguments pro and con to be of utmost importance to the Council and asked the staff to help them to elaborate the pro and con arguments on controversial issues.

AP members stated that they have been confused as to what degree the Council wants the AP to be informed by the PMT/PDT or SSC. They feel they cannot adequately function without some interface with those groups before making decisions for Council consideration. It was noted that the Council has, occasionally in the past, taken action on management plans without AP input when schedules have overlapped.

The AP felt that if subcommittees are developed, they should report to the AP. The entire AP would make final recommendations to the Council, as some members may not be able to attend all subcommittee meetings, and most of them represent multi-species interests and can provide different insights into the problem areas.

The Council instructed the staff to work with the Advisory Panel to implement as many of their suggestions as possible within budgetary restraints.

C-4 Taiyo/Western Alaska Fisheries Joint Venture Permit

The Executive Director reviewed the history of approval of a permit for Taiyo Fishery Company and Western Alaska Fisheries to participate in a joint venture in the Bering Sea and Gulf of

Alaska. On August 23 the draft permit application was received from Taiyo for four to six U.S. draggers to catch 9,500 tons of pollock, 300 tons of Pacific cod, and 200 tons of other species for processing aboard the Japanese surimi trawler TENYO MARU. Taiyo had hoped to begin operations on September 23 and since the Council was not scheduled to meet until late September, the Executive Director polled Council members by telephone to ask if they wished to make a recommendation on the permit application before the Council meeting. He was able to contact all voting members except Joe Demmert and Keith Specking. Those contacted recommended approval of the application before the meeting.

The Department of State and NMFS Permits and Regulations Section were notified by telephone on September 1 that the Council recommended approval of the permit. Written approval was sent to NMFS on September 2.

C-5 Update on Halibut Moratorium

Thorn Smith explained the notice and comment period process under which the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the halibut moratorium would be published in the Federal Register. A copy of the draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was presented to the Council for review.

The Advisory Panel recommended that the Council conduct hearings on the methodology and advisability of the proposed halibut moratorium and schedule hearings so as not to jeopardize the moratorium's scheduled implementation before the 1983 season.

Chairman Tillion said that the Council has already fulfilled its obligation to hold public hearings on the proposed moratorium. Thorn Smith agreed that public hearing requirements have been met, noting that additional comments can be accepted during the Proposed Rulemaking notice period. The first 30-day comment period occurs after publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; the second is the 30-day delayed effectiveness period.

Jim Branson explained that the Council may need an extra meeting in February to make a first cut on the limited entry decision.

Public Testimony

John T. Mayer testified in support of the Council's efforts to implement the halibut moratorium, but recommended that implementation be delayed for one year so that more data will be available. He urged the Council to hold hearings in small fishing communities before making a decision on limited entry. He said he prefers short seasons over limited entry.

Council Action

Jeff Stephan voiced opposition to using January 1, 1978 as the starting date for determining participation when the moratorium goes into effect. He felt it was an arbitrarily-chosen date and that the proposed rule should be worded to include anyone who has harvested halibut commercially.

Joe Demmert suggested that anyone who fished before January 1, 1983 be allowed to participate once the moratorium is implemented.

Rudy Petersen endorsed the AP's recommendation for additional public hearings during the administrative review period.

Jim Campbell felt that for the purposes of proposed rulemaking, the date should be published as January 1, 1978 so the public will have something about which to comment.

Chairman Tillion said that going back too far would be "stretching a political point," but urged the Council to make some kind of decision. He preferred January 1, 1978 as the earliest date for determining "current participation."

Harold Lokken moved that the Council adopt as its preferred option a beginning date of January 1, 1978 for determining current participation in the halibut fishery, with the understanding that given sufficient rationale, the date could be changed; seconded by Bob McVey. Upon call for the question the motion carried on a vote of 8 to 3, with Joe Demmert, Jeff Stephan, and Rudy Petersen in objection.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 Salmon FMP

Jim Glock reported that the 1982 troll season for chinook ended on July 29 and for other salmon on September 20. Preliminary data indicate that coastwide salmon harvests were approximately 10% over 1981 levels despite conservation measures. The Council and Board of Fisheries are scheduled to take action on 1983 troll salmon management measures at their joint meeting in Juneau on January 4-6, 1983. The Salmon PDT is preparing a report on chinook salmon stocks from Oregon to Southeast Alaska including stock status, distribution, and management options for presentation to the Council and Board of Fisheries and for use by the U.S. delegation in preparing their chinook management position for the U.S./Canada salmon negotiations.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game presented a preliminary in-season report on the Southeast Alaska troll fishery through September 17, 1982. It was made clear that salmon catch data in this report were very preliminary, based on initial in-season tabulation of fish tickets. The 1982 winter troll fishery occurred from October 1, 1981 to April 14, 1982. Fishing during

the winter season is restricted to the areas of Southeast Alaska lying inside (east of) the surf line. All outer coastal areas, including the FCZ, are closed during the winter fishery. Approximately 12,500 chinook salmon were harvested in the winter troll fishery, with 4,800 being landed before January 1, 1982. The 1982 winter season catch increased by about 2,900 fish, or 30% over the 1981 catch, as a result of increased landings during the late fall/early winter period from October 1 through December 31.

The pre-season management plan for the 1982 summer season included a target harvest of 224,500 chinook salmon, determined by subtracting the winter catch of 12,500 and a pre-season estimated net fisheries catch of 20,000 from the Council-/Board-determined OY of 255,500 chinook salmon plus an estimated 1,500 fish from Southeast Alaska hatcheries. The most current estimate of the summer troll season chinook catch through July 29 is about 229,500 fish. This includes an estimated 84,000 fish harvested during the 23-day period from May 15 through June 6 and an estimated 145,500 during the 42-day period June 17 through July 28. Preliminary data indicate that approximately 200,000, or 83% of the 1982 season troll chinook salmon catch, were taken in State waters, with about 42,000 or 17%, reported having been taken in the FCZ.

Preliminary in-season data indicate the total commercial chinook salmon harvest by all fisheries was approximately 287,000 fish. This includes a total season (winter plus summer) troll fishery harvest of 242,000 and an incidental net fisheries harvest of about 45,000, approximately 25,000 of which occurred after closure of the chinook troll fishery on July 28. The large late season incidental net catch occurred as a result of an apparent increase in chinook abundance and/or availability coupled with large middle and late run pink salmon returns which necessitated extensive purse seine fishing to harvest them. The incidental purse seine harvest of approximately 30,000 chinooks accounted for about 67% of the total incidental net harvest and represented an all time high incidental catch. The previous high incidental net catch was 24,000 in 1945.

Data on 1982 chinook salmon spawning escapements in Southeast Alaska systems is still being compiled, but preliminary data indicate that although total escapements were slightly below 1981 levels, they remained well above average escapements during the 1975-80 period. A detailed summary of 1982 Southeast Alaska chinook salmon escapements is being prepared for the Council/Board meeting in January.

Preliminary catch data indicate that approximately 525,000 coho salmon were harvested by the troll fishery from June 17 to the beginning of the 10-day closure on July 29. Following the re-opening of the troll fishery on August 8 to all species except chinook salmon, an estimated 725,000 coho salmon were harvested through September 20, for a total season harvest of approximately

1.250 million coho/salmon. Combined with an estimated harvest of 550,000 coho salmon by the net fisheries, the total commercial coho harvest was about 1.8 million by all gear types in Southeast Alaska. This represents the largest coho catch since 1951, when 3.3 million coho were harvested. The total coho catch for the season is expected to reach near 2 million.

Public Hearing

The Council held a public hearing on troll salmon management on Tuesday night, September 21, 1982, in Sitka. A summary of testimony received at that hearing is made a part of these Minutes as Appendix I.

Pacific/North Pacific Council Natural Chinook Stock Policy

The SSC reviewed the draft management policy for natural chinook stocks presented to the Council in July and, at the Council's direction, presented the following policy statement, agreed upon by members of the Pacific Council section of the Inter-Council Salmon Coordinating Committee, for Council consideration:

"It is the policy of the Pacific Fishery Management Council to restore or maintain important natural spawning stocks of salmon to optimal levels as presently included or to be set forth in the goals, objectives, strategies, and definitions of its salmon management plan."

Joe Greenley, Executive Director of the Pacific Council, explained that the revised natural chinook stock management policy endorsed by the Pacific and North Pacific SSCs has not yet been formally approved by the Pacific Council. He noted that the Pacific Council SSC felt this would be a sufficient statement of intent for the present time.

Bob Mace moved that the North Pacific Council adopt a statement similar to that proposed by the Pacific Council's SSC; seconded by Rolland Schmitten.

Dr. Dayton Alverson, chief U.S. negotiator to the U.S./Canada delegation, suggested that if the North Pacific and Pacific Councils are considering this policy statement in the context of a coastwide policy, it should be discussed with the Canadians as well, particularly in light of the current treaty negotiations.

Rolland Schmitten said that some of the Congressional delegations have wanted to develop this natural chinook stock policy for the Councils, and since the Councils have been given the option to develop it for themselves, he felt that the Councils (Pacific and North Pacific) should move forward with something.

Bob Mace withdrew his motion and moved that the Council adopt the foregoing policy statement as a tentative policy for natural chinook stock management, to be finalized at the December meeting; seconded by Rolland Schmitten. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

D-2 Bering-Chukchi Sea Herring FMP

Jim Glock told the Council that the revisions to the Bering-Chukchi Sea Herring FMP recommended at the July meeting have been incorporated into the document and revised sections of the Plan were given to the Council for review.

The major changes are in the section dealing with optimum yield. OY would have two components: one for the winter fishery and one for the summer fishery in the Aleutian Islands area. Both components of OY would be available only to domestic fishermen and joint ventures. The proposed revision which addresses the summer fishery provides for an adjustment to ABC to take into account herring stocks that spawn in the Aleutians and Alaska Peninsula areas. Also included is an apportionment of not more than 2000 mt in the FCZ for the summer food and bait fishery. Additional harvest in State waters would be at the discretion of ADF&G and would not be affected by the FMP; however, the FMP would take into account the actual harvest when the winter apportionment is determined.

Other revisions provide additional safeguards for northern stocks found offshore by reducing the potential surplus left after the spring inshore fishery before making allocations to the winter offshore fishery.

The Environmental Impact Statement and Regulatory Impact Review, which must accompany the revised Plan for resubmission to the Secretary of Commerce, will not be finalized until after the Council's decision on revisions to the FMP.

The SSC reviewed the FMP revisions and said that the changes appeared to satisfy the Council's instructions to the PMT. The SSC received the document too late, however, for an in-depth investigation. Their preliminary review focused on the following issues:

1. The SSC felt the new draft will have limited authority to conserve the herring resource, as the priority herring fisheries are managed by the State in State waters. The FMP does not control or influence harvest in State waters and Council conservation authority is limited only to the offshore fisheries.
2. The SSC felt there is no scientific basis for limiting the offshore harvest to 50% of the available surplus and setting a maximum offshore harvest level of 10,000 mt. In the previous draft of the Plan, surplus stocks not harvested in the inshore fisheries were allocated directly to the offshore fisheries.
3. The SSC suggested that the stock components of the Aleutian Islands/Alaska Peninsula fishery in the FCZ be identified and procedures developed to set harvest levels for those

stocks. There is no limit on the harvest of these stocks in State waters and the SSC feared that large harvests in the Aleutians could impact stocks already harvested in other areas.

4. The SSC said that the establishment of a Federal domestic logbook program, an authority contained in no other Council FMP and not applicable to joint venture fishermen, is discriminatory.
5. The SSC noted a significant departure in the definition of Optimum Yield from the definition contained in the last draft, conceptually different from the original Herring FMP.

The SSC felt that the revisions constitute a major change in concept and procedure from the previous draft and should undergo further scientific and public review. The SSC recommended, therefore, that the Bering-Chukchi Sea Herring FMP be sent to the public for review prior to Council action to resubmit the Plan for Secretarial review.

The AP recommended that the Plan neither be acted upon nor sent back to Secretarial review until the December meeting, when comments and reports from the State and NMFS biologists are available.

Public Testimony

Henry Mitchell, Executive Director of the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, asked the Council to hold a public hearing in Bethel so that the people most affected by the revisions to the Plan would have an opportunity to comment.

Council Action

Rolland Schmitt moved that the Council send the revised sections of the Bering-Chukchi Sea Herring FMP to the public for review and that the Council accept public testimony and take final action on the Plan at the December meeting; seconded by Joe Demmert. Upon call for the question, the motion carried with Robert Mace in opposition.

Chairman Tillion assured Mr. Mitchell that the Council would try, if at all possible, to hold a public hearing in Bethel before the December Council meeting.

D-3 Bering Sea/Aleutian Island King Crab FMP

Status of the FMP

The Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King Crab FMP, Regulatory Impact Review, and draft implementing regulations were submitted to the Secretary for review on June 1. The Secretarial review period began on June 10 and was scheduled to end on August 9; however,

review has been extended pending receipt of revisions to the RIR, draft regulations, and final EIS. These documents are nearing completion and it is anticipated that Secretarial action on the FMP will occur before the December meeting.

1982 NMFS Crab Survey Results

Bob Otto reported that results of the 1982 NMFS eastern Bering Sea crab survey can be termed "bleak" at best, with all stocks except St. Matthew blue king crab showing significant declines in abundance.

Bristol Bay and Pribilof Islands red king crab stocks are at the lowest abundance level on record, with a 1982 estimate of 4.4 million legal males compared to 46.6 million as recently as 1978. The projected 1982 catch for these crab stocks is 10 to 20 million pounds. The catch was 130 million pounds in 1980 and 33 million in 1981.

The abundance of legal Pribilof Islands blue king crab is estimated at 2.2 million individuals, about half the 1978-81 average. Although distribution is similar to previous years, trends in abundance of pre-recruits and size frequency information indicate declining abundance in the future. The projected 1982 catch is 6 million pounds, one-third less than the 9 million pounds taken in 1981.

The August 1982 blue king crab fishery in St. Matthew took a record 9 million pounds compared to 4.6 million pounds in 1981. The NMFS survey estimate for this stock is 6.8 million legal males, more than twice the 3.1 million estimated for 1981. Distribution of legal crab was similar to that of 1981. Though size frequency information indicates declining recruitment, abundance in 1983 is expected to be above average.

Both C. bairdi and C. opilio Tanner crab stocks show diminishing stock abundance. Abundance of C. bairdi is estimated at 10.1 million legal males, down about 30% from 14 million in 1981. Pre-recruit abundance and size frequency data indicate increasing recruitment that may be reflected in the 1983 fishery. The 1982 fishery produced 11 million pounds compared to 30 million pounds in 1981.

Abundance of large C. opilio is estimated at 10.8 million individuals south of 58°N, down from 15.7 million in 1981. The Northern District, however, showed a 50% increase in large males, 10.9 million in 1982 over 6.5 million in 1981. Pre-recruit abundance and size frequency information tentatively indicates increasing recruitment north of 58°N, although recruitment patterns for this species are somewhat unknown due to localized differences in growth rates.

Korean hair crab abundance in the Pribilof District, Bristol Bay, and Northern District is estimated at 7.7 million individuals, down more than 50% from the 1981 level of 15.9 million. The 1982

catch is projected to be less than half the 2.4 million pounds taken in 1981, primarily because of poor market conditions rather than changes in abundance. Distribution of hair crab shows that the vast majority of the stock is located near the Pribilofs, and most are landed incidentally to the Tanner crab fisheries.

D-4 Tanner Crab FMP

Amendment #8 to the Tanner Crab FMP, a housekeeping amendment designed to eliminate inconsistencies between State and Federal Tanner crab regulations, was approved by the Council for public review at the July meeting. The proposed amendment addressed inconsistencies found in regulations regarding pot limits, gear placement, size limits, gear restrictions, ABC/OY, and fishing seasons. Council action was required at this meeting to approve the amendment for submission to Secretarial review. For purposes of clarity in the Minutes, regulatory proposals will be addressed by subject and alternatives which would bring the FMP and Federal regulations into exact conformity with State regulations are indicated by an asterisk (*).

Pot Limits.

1. Eliminate all existing Federal pot limits.
2. Maintain status quo.
- *3. Bring Federal pot limits into exact conformity with State regulations; remove limits for Cook Inlet and add limits for the Southeast, Prince William Sound, and Kodiak areas.

The SSC believes that pot limits are not a viable management tool because they cannot be enforced and, therefore, recommended that the Council eliminate all existing Federal pot limits.

The Advisory Panel recommended that the Council adopt State regulations except in FCZ waters in the Southeast Area to bring pot limits into conformity with State regulations. (The Southeast Area fishery occurs entirely in State waters, thus there is no need for Federal pot limits in that area.)

Jeff Stephan moved that the Council bring Federal pot limits into exact conformity with State regulations, except for the Southeast Area where the fishery occurs entirely in State waters; seconded by Joe Demmert. Upon call for the question, the motion carried on a vote of 7 to 4, with Rolland Schmitten, Harold Lokken, Robert McVey, and Rudy Petersen in objection.

Gear Placement.

- *1. Eliminate the 72-hour provision for on-the-grounds pot storage prior to the season opening.

2. Maintain status quo of 72-hour provision prior to the season opening in all districts. (The State has no provision for on-the-grounds storage prior to the season opening in any district.)

The 72-hour provision for on-the-grounds pot storage before season opening was originally designed to provide fishermen the opportunity to transfer their gear to the grounds in areas where considerable time was required to get to the grounds, and/or where sufficient pot loading/unloading facilities were lacking. With the use of pot storage areas at sea, construction of new port facilities, and problems associated with enforcement of this regulation, the SSC recommended that the 72-hour provision be eliminated.

The Advisory Panel recommended eliminating the 72-hour provision in all areas except the Bering Sea. They felt that due to geographic location, abundance of crab resources, and the lack of new port facilities, the Bering Sea presents special problems for getting gear off dry storage areas or from at-sea storage areas fairly. The 72-hour provision, coupled with the tank inspection, was devised to provide a fair start for fishermen in the Bering Sea. The AP felt that elimination of this provision would inflict an unreasonable burden on the Bering Sea fleet. The Advisory Panel asked the Council to discuss this subject with the Board of Fisheries in December and to adopt the Advisory Panel's recommendation.

Don Collinsworth moved that the Council eliminate the 72-hour provision statewide; seconded by Harold Lokken.

Jeffrey Stephan moved to amend the motion to eliminate the 72-hour provision in all areas but the Bering Sea.

Mr. Collinsworth, maker of the original motion, said he could not accept Mr. Stephan's proposed amendment. Mr. Stephan subsequently withdrew the proposed amendment.

Harold Lokken then moved to amend the motion to eliminate the 72-hour provision in all areas but the Bering Sea; seconded by Rudy Petersen. Upon call for the question on the amendment, the motion failed on a vote of 4 to 7, with Joe Demmert, Keith Specking, Robert McVey, Jeffrey Stephan, Jim Campbell, Don Collinsworth, and Chairman Tillion in objection.

Upon call for the original question, the motion carried on a vote of 7 to 4, with Rolland Schmitten, Harold Lokken, Robert Mace, and Rudy Petersen in opposition.

Size Limit.

- *1. Establish a minimum size limit of 3.1 inch (78 mm) carapace width for male C. opilio Tanner crab.
2. Maintain status quo.

The SSC was not provided with the scientific data upon which the proposed management measure was based and, in light of the rapid expansion of the fishery, recommended that an analysis of this issue be initiated and results reported to the Council during 1983. The SSC recommended that the Council adopt the 3.1 inch minimum size limit for the interim.

The Advisory Panel also recommended establishing the 3.1 inch minimum size limit for male C. opilio.

Don Collinsworth moved that the Council adopt the 3.1 inch size limit for male C. opilio Tanner crab; seconded by Harold Lokken. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Gear Restrictions.

- *1. Prohibit the use of side-loading Tanner crab pots in the Yakutat District within the Southeastern management area.
2. Maintain status quo. All side-loading pots with Tanner boards and top-loading pots are legal with restrictions only on tunnel-eye opening size.

The SSC reviewed a report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game which summarized the results of an on-board observer program conducted January through March, 1981 in the Yakutat Tanner crab fishery. While the report indicated differences in the incidental catch with various types of gear, it failed to provide costs and benefits that would be generated by prohibiting the use of side-loading Tanner crab pots in the Yakutat District. The SSC recommended that the report on gear restrictions in the Yakutat crab fishery being developed by the Council staff include a cost/benefit analysis of the various options. The SSC also recommended that an analysis be undertaken by ADF&G and NMFS to determine the overlap of crab fisheries and halibut concentrations in the Gulf and eastern Bering Sea. The SSC recommended that the Council delay action on gear restrictions until the analysis has been completed.

The Advisory Panel recommended that the Council vote to prohibit the use of side-loading pots in the Yakutat District.

Don Collinsworth moved that the Council adopt the prohibition on side-loading Tanner crab pots in the Yakutat District within the Southeastern management area; seconded by Harold Lokken. Upon call for the question, the motion carried on a vote of 7 to 4, with Robert McVey, Jeffrey Stephan, Rolland Schmitten, and Rudy Petersen in objection.

Fishing Seasons.

- *1. Update all season dates to coincide with those currently employed by the State of Alaska.

2. Maintain status quo. (Considerable variance exists between the FMP, Federal regulations, and State regulations.)

The SSC felt that the proposed amendment represents modification of the seasons for the Chignik and South Peninsula management areas in accordance with criteria for fishing seasons set out in the FMP. The proposed amendment, however, moves up the opening date of the western Aleutians fishery by two months. The rationale for this action, as well as the impact of the measure on the resource, were not provided to the SSC. The SSC, therefore, recommended that before the Council takes final action to modify fishing seasons for the western Aleutians management area, the Council should review biological, social, weather, and economic factors used to substantiate the adjustments.

The AP recommended that the Council change all season dates to coincide with those currently employed by the State. They also recommended that the Plan Development Team draft language to enable the FMP to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate date changes whenever appropriate on a regional basis and to allow the Council to better adjust to changes in season opening dates either proposed from within the Council or by the Board of Fisheries.

Don Collinsworth moved that the Council adopt season dates currently employed by the State of Alaska; seconded by Jeffrey Stephan. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Allowable Biological Catch/Optimum Yield

1. Update ABC/OY values.
2. Maintain status quo. (Values differ from State guidelines and actual stock conditions in several areas.)

The SSC recommended that the process used to derive ABC in the fishery management plan be spelled out in detail and that OY be set equal to DAH so long as DAH is less than or equal to the upper limit of ABC. They felt that this course of action would facilitate the plan amendment and recommended that the Council adopt this framework approach over the numerical one proposed in the amendment.

The AP recommended that the Council take no action on this part of the amendment package and that this proposal be studied by the Plan Development Team and written into a framework format so that ABC and OY can reflect latest surveys without constant amendment of the FMP.

Don Collinsworth moved that the Council adopt the proposal of the SSC that OY equals DAH so long as it is less than or equal to ABC; seconded by Bob Mace.

Jay Hastings, speaking on behalf of the Japan Fisheries Association, objected to the proposed amendment to the derivation of OY and ABC on the grounds that it represents a change in methodology rather than the intent of the amendment package to bring ABC and OY values into conformity with State regulations.

Upon call for the question, the motion carried unanimously.

The Executive Director asked the Council's permission to sever the ABC/OY question from the amendment package and to handle it as a separate item in the framework amendment. *There being no objection, it was so ordered.*

D-5 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

Sablefish Pot Gear Ban

At the July meeting the Council voted 6 to 5 to limit pot fishing for sablefish in the FCZ east of 140°W to the grounds between Cape Addington and Dixon Entrance. The staff's understanding of this motion was that only hook and line gear may be used for directed sablefish fishing in the FCZ east of 140°W to Cape Addington, that pots cannot be used for sablefish in the area between Cape Addington and 140°W, and that trawlers can take sablefish only incidentally.

The taped record of the July meeting is not at all clear on the actual motion and, therefore, the transcript of Council discussion and public testimony does not really clarify the question. The Executive Director asked the Council to clarify the intent of the July motion to make sablefish an exclusive hook and line fishery in the FCZ east of 140°W longitude to Cape Addington.

Public Testimony

Richard Goldsmith, testifying on behalf of the Coalition for Open Ocean Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners Association, said that trawls should not be prohibited for the taking of sablefish in the questioned area. He felt that anything more than a ban on pot gear could set a dangerous precedent for future exclusion of other gear types.

Jake Phillips, Tom Stewart, Wilbur Rolland, Greg Baker, and Monte Chestnut, testifying on behalf of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, reported that direct, positive effects for U.S. fishermen have resulted from the Japanese longliners' offer and willingness to delay their fishing activities until October 1 in favor of American fishermen in the Yakutat west of 140°W area. It appears that domestic effort in that area has increased in the absence of foreign longliners. They reported that the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association has asked the Japanese Longline and Gillnet Association to extend their exclusion from that area, and the two groups are presently working toward an agreement.

Paul MacGregor, representing the Japanese North Pacific Longline and Gillnet Association, said that the Japanese Association will be making some additional accommodations for domestic fishermen off Southeast Alaska. The Association agreed not to target on sablefish until October 1, a total period of slightly more than 60 days. They have also agreed to provide as much data as possible on productive areas in the Yakutat east of 140°W area for the benefit of U.S. fishermen.

Regional Director Robert McVey thanked the Japanese North Pacific Longline and Gillnet Association for its cooperation with American fishermen and said that this kind of action goes a long way toward making the Council's job easier.

Neither the SSC nor the AP offered any comments on the Council's action at the July meeting.

The Council agreed to defer further action to clarify their motion to ban sablefish pots east of 140°W until the December meeting.

Preliminary Pollock Abundance Estimates

Loh-lee Low of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center presented preliminary estimates of pollock abundance in the Gulf of Alaska which indicated extremely high numbers of pollock exist in the central and western Gulf. He estimated that the 1983 surplus production for the entire Gulf will be approximately 194,000-373,000 mt: 66,600-127,280 mt in the Western Gulf of Alaska; 113,000-216,700 mt in Central Gulf of Alaska; and 14,000-29,000 mt in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska. Confidence levels for the Gulf of Alaska West of 147°W range from a low of 180,000 mt to a high of 508,000 mt. These preliminary figures are part of a report prepared by the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center for the annual meeting of the INPFC.

D-6 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

On August 9, 1982 the Council released Amendment #6 to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP, one part of which proposed to establish a Fishery Development Zone (FDZ) north of Unimak Pass in the Bering Sea for the exclusive use of domestic fishermen. The second part of the amendment was a proposal to allow foreign longliners access to waters less than 500 m deep in the Winter Halibut Savings Area year round. Currently they must fish deeper than 500 m from December 1 to May 31 in order to minimize their halibut by-catch.

The Council received reports on the Fishery Development Zone from the Plan Maintenance Team at the May and July meetings. The PMT reported on the FDZ's effect on the ability of the foreign fishery to catch their historic allocations and on the potential foreign catch of prohibited species, concluding that the impact on foreign fisheries would be negligible. There is some potential for increased foreign prohibited species catches, but

previous Council action on prohibited species regulations would limit the foreign by-catch in any case. Foreign longliners would be denied access to traditional Pacific cod grounds under the FDZ proposal and may not be able to find other comparable grounds in the U.S. FCZ. A copy of the PMT's reports from the May and July meetings are made a part of these Minutes as Appendix II.

The PMT also reported to the Council at the July meeting on the proposal to lift the depth restriction on foreign longliners in the Winter Halibut Savings Area and recommended that the amendment, if approved, include the stipulation that when the by-catch of Pacific halibut by all foreign longliners reaches 75% of the 1978-81 by-catch level (105 mt), the restriction be reactivated administratively to slow the halibut by-catch. If foreign longliners are permitted to fish year-round at depths less than 500 m in that area, they will be in a better position to catch Pacific cod, a species of great interest to them as well as to the U.S. fishery.

The SSC reviewed the proposed amendment for a Fishery Development Zone and determined that this amendment does not constitute a conservation issue and that it is, to the contrary, clearly an allocation to encourage development of the domestic fishery. The SSC was unable to provide the Council with a specific recommendation, but noted the following:

1. It is impossible to evaluate whether the establishment of the FDZ would result in an increase in CPUE in the area. The SSC noted that increases in CPUE would have a favorable impact on profitability of the domestic fleet and, therefore, might stimulate development; but, if stock migration in and out occurs in the area and the foreign fleets harvest the migratory stocks, then increases in CPUE may or may not occur.
2. The establishment of the Fishery Development Zone would eliminate gear conflicts between foreign and domestic fleets. The SSC noted, however, that establishment of an exclusive development zone is not the only way to reduce or eliminate gear conflicts.
3. Displacement of foreign fleets to other areas could result in failure to achieve the established OYs in light of the prohibited species amendment and the projected increase in catch rate of incidental salmon in other areas.

The SSC recommended the following as a better statement of the proposed amendment to allow foreign longline fisheries in the Winter Halibut Savings Area:

"This amendment proposes to modify the present regulation prohibiting foreign longlining shallower than 500 m in the Winter Halibut Savings Area from December 1 through May 31 so that the depth restriction in any given year is imposed

only when the by-catch of Pacific halibut in that year in the entire Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands management area by all foreign longliners exceeds 105 mt."

The SSC felt that the proposed amendment would provide an incentive for foreign longliners to minimize their catch of halibut and said that if the intent of the current regulation is to protect young halibut, the SSC would support the amendment.

The Advisory Panel recommended that the Council adopt the proposed Fishery Development Zone, as the area contains a high concentration of Pacific cod which will allow U.S. fishermen the advantage of higher production unencumbered by the foreign fleet. Shoreside facilities located near the FDZ have lined up domestic vessels to deliver cod this winter and next spring and the FDZ is logistically near enough to shore-based processors to deliver fresh fish if the catch per vessel is high. The AP felt that the proposed FDZ represents a significant step towards helping U.S. processors and for future U.S. processing employment and is in keeping with the purpose and intent of the MFCMA. They believe that foreign longliners can adequately obtain their catches elsewhere in the Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands area and that their production of 800 mt normally taken from the area enclosed by the FDZ would not be totally lost.

The AP had considered a motion to allocate 80% of the resource in the FDZ first to domestic operations and second to joint ventures, and to put 20% of the OY in the FDZ in reserve to be allocated to joint ventures if warranted. The motion was defeated on a vote of 9 to 8.

The Advisory Panel recommended removing the depth restriction for foreign longliners in the Winter Halibut Savings Area year round, provided that their incidental catch of halibut does not exceed 75% of their historical by-catch.

Public Testimony

Michael Mayo, speaking on behalf of the Seward Fishermen's Association, testified in favor of the Fishery Development Zone. He felt that removing foreign fleets from all U.S. waters is the only solution to the domestic fisherman's problems.

Donald Swisher, representing the Japan Deep Sea and Hokuten Trawlers Associations, testified against the proposed FDZ. He said he knows of no American fisherman who has not been able to fish in the FDZ because of the foreigners' presence. He said there is no conservation issue involved, and no matter where the foreign fleets fish, they can take no more than their TALFF. Mr. Swisher said there were only two recorded gear conflicts in the FDZ area, and only one involved a fishing vessel (Korean).

Paul MacGregor, speaking for the Japanese North Pacific Longline and Gillnet Association, said it would be impossible for the Japanese fleet to make up from other areas the potential catches

lost from the FDZ area. He said that the original FDZ proposal was not intended to prohibit longliners from the area, but rather was aimed at foreign trawl vessels.

Mr. MacGregor said the North Pacific Longline and Gillnet Association asks the Council to seriously consider exempting longline vessels from the 500 m depth restriction in the Winter Halibut Savings Area.

Richard Goldsmith, speaking for the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners Association and the Coalition for Open Ocean Fisheries, testified against adoption of the FDZ proposal in the absence of an evaluation of economic advantages and disadvantages to shore-side processors and their wet fish trawlers, the salt cod fleet, factory trawler operations, and joint venture trawlers. NPFVOA and the coalition are generally opposed to the establishment of special interest areas in the FCZ for any fishery.

Charles H. Bundrant, President of Trident Seafoods Corporation, testified in support of the proposed FDZ. He said that the economic viability of Trident's shore-based plant on Akutan Island will depend to a considerable extent on the Council's and Secretary's action regarding conservation and management of the groundfish fishery for the benefit of U.S. citizens. He was not opposed to allowing joint venture processors to continue buying fish from the zone. A copy of Mr. Bundrant's written testimony is made a part of these Minutes as Appendix III.

Council Action

Bob Mace moved that, subject to future review, the Council approve the establishment of a Fishery Development Zone for submission to the Secretarial review; seconded by Jeffrey Stephan.

Rudy Petersen objected to the motion on the basis that there is no economic data available to support the proposed action. He felt that economic justification would be required under the National Standards, and said the Council should not undertake this action without adequate justification.

Mr. Petersen moved that the motion be tabled until a thorough economic analysis can be completed and commented upon by the SSC and AP; seconded by Harold Lokken. Upon call for the question, the motion to table failed on a vote of 7 to 4, with ~~Robert Meyer~~, Jeffrey Stephan, Robert Mace, Joe Demmert, Jim Campbell, Keith Specking, and Chairman Tillion voting against.

Upon call for the original question for adoption of the FDZ, the motion carried with two abstentions, Rolland Schmitt and Rudy Petersen.

Harold Lokken moved that the Council approve the proposal to exempt foreign longliners from the 500 m depth restriction in the Winter Halibut Savings Area; seconded by Keith Specking. Upon call for the question, the motion carried with Rudy Petersen in objection.

E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

E-1 Status of Contracts and RFPs

Funding for Contracts

Council action was required to approve continued funding for the Incidental Salmon Catch Study, Contract #81-5, and funding for the Halibut Limited Entry Sociocultural Study.

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee recommended approval of the second year's funding for the Incidental Salmon Catch Study pending a favorable recommendation from the SSC.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of \$25,000 for Phase II of the Halibut Limited Entry Sociocultural Study. Although many members of the Committee felt that the study should be expanded, time and financial constraints necessitate a short project to be finished in time for use when the Council decides on limited entry questions in late winter.

SSC and AP Reports

The SSC recommended that the Council approve a second year's funding for the Incidental Salmon Catch Study.

The SSC reviewed the Phase I report of the Sociocultural Study and recommended that the report be considered a draft at this time and not finalized as a Council document until comments from the Council, staff, SSC, and AP have been considered by the authors and appropriate modifications made.

The SSC pointed out that the data upon which the report is based are very limited and made the following recommendations to the authors of the report:

1. That the title of the report be modified to reflect that the report is based on limited data;
2. That the "Recommendations" section of the report be dropped from the Phase I report and included in the report after completion of Phase II; and
3. That most of the material in the appendices be deleted, leaving only the summary of the news service received and the objectives provided by the Council.

The SSC recommended modification of the study proposal for Phase II as follows:

1. That the contractor interact with the Council's Halibut Limited Entry Steering Committee during the second phase of the study, at a cost of about \$500; and

2. That the time frame for the study be modified for final review by the Council at the March 1983 meeting.

The Advisory Panel recommended that the Council proceed with Phase II of the socioeconomic study, but found Phase I inaccurate in several historical statements and in its interpretation of the opinions of Southeast Alaska and Seattle fishermen. They recommended that the Council issue a statement that the Phase I report is a draft, that the Council finds it incomplete and in some instances inaccurate, and that the deficiencies of the report will be corrected and completed before final distribution as a Council document.

Public Testimony

Robert Chevalier, a small boat halibut, rockfish, and sablefish fisherman from the Sitka area, voiced serious concerns over technical errors in the Phase I report. He said he is vehemently opposed to limited entry and does not see how limited entry would reduce cold storage time for halibut products nor how a limited entry scheme could be enforced. He asked the Council to assure the public that every effort will be made to get as much information as possible on the public's reaction to the limited entry proposal before taking final action.

Dr. Donald McCaughran, Executive Director of the International Pacific Halibut Commission, said that the Phase I report is technically incorrect and/or inaccurate in many sections and suggested that the study be re-contracted.

Council Action

Keith Specking moved that the Council adopt the recommendations of the Finance Committee, SSC, and AP for technical improvements to the Phase I report on the Sociocultural Study and approve funding for Phase II of the Sociocultural Study and the second year of the Incidental Catch Salmon Study; seconded by Jeffrey Stephan. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Marine Mammal Workshop

In July the Council and SSC tentatively committed up to \$10,000 for a workshop on marine mammal/fisheries interactions and modeling. The Marine Mammal Commission committed \$5,000 and other agencies will be requested to contribute once costs have been estimated.

The SSC recommended that the Marine Mammal Workshop be postponed until the fall of 1983 to allow for full participation by U.S. scientists and the opportunity to invite specific foreign scientists.

The Council concurred and it was so ordered.

E-2 FY 83 Budget Review

At the July meeting the Council approved an FY 83 budget of \$957,600. Shortly after that meeting the NMFS Central Office required the staff to submit a new budget at 90% of FY 82 funding, or \$830,700. This represented a reduction of \$126,900 from the approved FY 83 budget.

At its September meeting the Finance Committee reviewed a memorandum from William Gordon summarizing the current status of NMFS funding and future projects. The Committee agreed to postpone further budget action until at least the December meeting in hopes that Congress will have passed a budget for FY 83 by that time.

The Council concurred and it was so ordered.

Other Financial Considerations

The Executive Director asked for Finance Committee approval to spend up to \$15,000 for an Apple computer system for the Council headquarters. The Finance Committee instructed the Executive Director to use his discretion on this item.

E-3 Financial Status Report

Information item only; no action required.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no further public comments presented to the Council.

G. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MEETING SUMMARY, CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Advisory Panel member Eric Jordan thanked the Council for holding the meeting in Sitka and said that the Sitka fishing community would like the Council to visit Sitka every year.

Chairman Tillion issued a special thank you to the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, Alaska Trollers Association, and Sitka Sound Seafoods for the dinner party held on Wednesday night in honor of the Council's fiftieth meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the fiftieth plenary session of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council adjourned on Thursday, September 23, 1982, at 11:23 a.m.