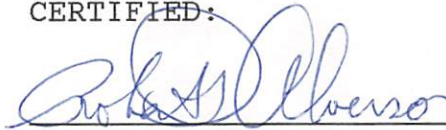


CERTIFIED:



Robert Alverson, Chairman

ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES

MARCH 25, 1980

The Advisory Panel convened Tuesday, March 25th in the Alaska Room of the Anchorage Westward/Hilton Hotel. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Alverson at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The following Panel members were present: Bob Blake, Ed Linkous, Alvin Burch, Ken Olsen, William Scott, Ray Lewis, Chuck Jensen, A.W. "Bud" Boddy, Don Rawlinson, Dan O'Hara, Jack Phillips, Truman Emberg, Sig Jaeger and Chairman Robert Alverson.

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on March 25, 1980, at 9:30 a.m., by Chairman Robert Alverson.

B. APPROVAL OF ADVISORY PANEL AGENDA

The agenda was approved as amended: (The subject of lost blackcod pot gear was added to agenda Item H).

C. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY AP MINUTES

The minutes from the February 6, 1980 Advisory Panel meeting were approved.

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jim Branson presented the report, summarizing the written report included with the agenda package. In brief, he reviewed the Secretary of Commerce's objections to the salmon management plan; said that the new fisheries attache in Tokyo is Mr. Bob Iverson and the fur seal hearing before the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee has been postponed. Tony Vaska from the AP will be available to attend that meeting when the date has been finalized. It is tentatively scheduled for April 29, 1980.

E. SPECIAL REPORTS

The special reports were for informational purpose only and there is no AP comment.

F. OLD BUSINESS

F-2. A Request by the Federal Republic of Germany through the European Economic Community for 1980 Quota off Alaska of 16,000 Metric Tons.

The AP aproved a motion addressing fisheries allocations for nations with no historical fisheries off Alaska. The Panel believed the following should be taken into account regarding allocations to nations offering reciprocal market arrangements:

1. Whether or not the benefits to be accrued from any reciprocal market offer will be realized by Joint Venture programs or from shore based processors.
2. That the agreed amounts of reciprocally purchased products from the U.S. processor or fishermen is from the same geographic area as the original TALFF.

3. Regarding this specific request by the Federal Republic of Germany; they should indicate specifically what fisheries product they are referring to (groundfish, salmon, crab) when they speak of buying fisheries products in trade for an allocation in the FCZ.

4. That the specific reciprocal proposal be directed to U.S. private industry by the Federal Republic of Germany with respect to prices and other considerations as mentioned above.

These concerns were shared by all AP members.

F-3. Akutan, Akun Islands proposed 12 mile closure as a joint venture permit restriction.

The Advisory Panel reviewed the letter from Terry Leitzell which commented on the delay (through publishing in the Federal Register for comment) of the Akutan, Akun Islands restrictions on foreign processing. The Panel reviewed the key statement in the letter: "Lacking information on localized stocks in the BS/A draft FMP we could not conclude that the area restriction is necessary to prevent substantial harm to the fishery resource." The Panel also reviewed material prepared by Dr. Low-Lee-Loh and the Bering Sea Management Plan Drafting Team regarding the status of stocks near the Akutan, Akun area and any potential conservation purpose served by the closure. The AP had no further comments or recommendations on the subject.

F-4. Limited Entry Report.

The AP considered the presentation of the Limited Entry working committee meeting in Juneau and had no comments. On a related manner, however, the AP nominated Jeff Stephan, Alan Ottness and Bob Alverson to participate in the review of the "Halibut Limited Entry" RFP and other documents concerning Limited Entry for halibut. The results are to be presented in April.

G. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

G-1. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP.

The AP reviewed the proposed amendment list, and on the advice of Jack Phillips, deleted proposed Amendment No. 7 as inappropriate while there was still foreign participation in the blackcod fishery in the GOA. That amendment would establish blackcod as a directed longline species. Instead, Amendment No. 7 was redrafted to prohibit foreign trawling in Southeast and Yakutat districts.

The Panel believed that Amendment no. 8 should be changed to: prohibit foreign longlining east of 150 degrees west longitude for black cod.

A motion was passed unanimously to add to the amendment package for the GOA a provision that would require biodegradable panels on blackcod pots fished in the GOA.

Public Hearing. The AP considered and approved the public hearing schedule for April/May and suggested that a hearing be held in Anchorage during the April Council meeting period; a time frame suited for a large segment of the fishing community before fishing seasons begin. The AP also requested that a second hearing be held in Seattle during a time to be chosen by the NPFMC staff.

The AP briefly reviewed the Release of Reserves issue for the Gulf Groundfish Fishery. The review centered around the continuing need to evaluate the performance and progress of the U.S. Fishery (including Joint Ventures) in relation to the DAH and Reserve. Phil Chitwood of the NMFS advised the Panel of the current status of blackcod fishery in the GOA: a seemingly controversial foreign fishery relative to blackcod reserves. Based on the report by Chitwood and other information, the Panel felt there

were no OYs threatened by individual nations nor fishing impaired by a country approaching OY, except Poland. The AP also listened to testimony from Ed Naughton representing KMIDC, who indicated there would be 6 vessels participating shortly in the GOA for the Joint Venture: the F/V's Pelgas, Misty, Captain Banjo, Paragon II, Morning Star and Cornucopia.

Based on the reports and public testimony, the AP unanimously adopted a position recommending no release of any reserves in the GOA until the matter is reconsidered for the May 2, 1980 proposed release.

	<u>W</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>E</u>
Allocation (Japan)	750 mt.	1270 mt.	570mt.
Taken to date (Japan)	52.4 mt.	390 mt.	217.8 mt.
Allocation (USSR)		400 mt.	
Taken to Date (USSR)		51 mt.	
Allocation (Korea)	415 mt.		
Taken To Date (Korea)	.3 mt.		

G-2. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP.

The AP reviewed the proposed amendment list and adopted it for the public hearings with no additional comments.

Regarding the public hearing schedule, the AP suggests that the BS/A proposed amendment list be considered during the hearing to be held in Anchorage during the same time as the GOA groundfish hearing.

The AP reviewed the release of reserves information for the April 2, 1980 release. NFMS reported on the status of the JV fisheries indicating the JV operations may need all of the JV quota plus reserve allocations to fill their projections. Exact information on the catch of the operation was not available, however, as it would violate the confidentiality law. The AP also listened to Ed Naughton on behalf of KMIDC, who indicated an additional 5 vessels may be operating in the BS/A shortly. He also indicated the JV would utilize 3 more processing vessels for their operations if justified by early catch rates.

The AP unanimously approved a motion to withhold any Release of Reserves currently scheduled for April 2, 1980 in the Bering Sea.

Dr. Low-Lee-Loh of NMFS gave an excellent presentation on the multi-year multi-species approach to the fishery management plan. It was adopted for inclusion during the public hearing in Anchorage.

#### G-3. Tanner Crab off Alaska FMP.

The AP considered the complex issue of a closing date for the C. opilio fishery in the Bering Sea. The Panel's consideration of the matter began with a review of the report prepared by the Management Plan Drafting Team in order to understand the complex relationship that exists between the rationale for a closing date

for the C. opilio season and the implications of precluding a U.S. harvest as well as a relationship to the beginning of the king crab season. The AP acknowledged the Drafting Team's statement that there is no known biological reason for an August 15 closure. The Panel also approved the recommendation of the Team to express to the Council their intent to have the closing date options for the C. opilio season in the Bering Sea handled by the in season field order authority provision of the plan. The AP noted that the step insured the freedom of options necessary for the Council to consider the issue with the Alaska Board of Fisheries in the Joint Meeting.

The AP noted also that the issue of the C. opilio closure was related to opening of the king crab season. The Panel then reviewed the parallel issues defining the Board of Fisheries need for the particular king crab opening regulations; those addressed by the Plan Drafting Team outlined the need to have the current gear off the ground in advance of king crab season. They did not agree with the Tanner Crab Management Plan Drafting Team's comment that it was important to remove crab pots from the grounds before the opening of king crab season for enforcement concerns. It was also pointed out that the 1978 C. opilio domestic harvest was 30 million pounds valued at \$.30 a pound ex-vessel price or \$9 million. The cost of dry storage amounts to \$3,477,600, which represents 38.5% of the value of the 1978 fishery. This represents 8.5 cents per lb. for the 1978 C. opilio fishery.

The processor giveth, the board taketh away.

The AP considered the issue of random pot storage and unanimously approved the following motion: that random pot storage be allowed east of 165 degrees west longitude in the Bering Sea and that the industry be encouraged to set pots in a NE/SW direction. The AP intends the recommendation to supercede the present defined pot storage area in the plan. The action reflected a compromise on

the part of crab and trawl interests present to minimize the impact on trawling operations of total random pot storage.

The AP discussed items 5 and 6 on the Drafting Team report regarding size limits for opilio and recruits only for shrimp. The Panel expressed concern for an OY based on a 4½ inch size limit for opilio, but at this time does not recommend changing the size limit by regulation. That issue, plus a recruit fishery issue, was deferred until it has been discussed at the joint workshop scheduled for Saturday morning.

G-4. High Seas Salmon Fishery off the Coast of Alaska East of 175 degrees east longitude FMP.

The AP passed the following resolution with reference to the Troll Salmon Plan:

The AP reviewed the issue of the 1980 Troll Salmon Fishery Management Plan. The review included an appraisal of the status of the Council's proposed amendment for 1980, comments that have been recieved on the proposed amendment, the important chinook conservation and allocation issues, the handtroll issue and the possible sources of action. The Panel has a deep concern for conservation and allocation issues regarding chinook salmon both of Alaskan and non-Alaskan origin. They feel the best available information has been used to outline the 1980 amendment and that the Council is actively collecting more information to be used for the 1981 fishery. The AP has therefore adopted the following motion:

"That the Council express to the Secretary of Commerce that it has used the best available information in preparing the troll salmon management plan for 1980. Further, that it is the feeling of Council that it has been responsive to problems in the fishery concerning chinook salmon and that it has taken positive steps to



conserve and perpetuate those salmon stocks. Evidence of Council intent in this area lies in initiation of a legal minimum length, closed season and areas, line limits, limited entry and fisheries enhancement programs. Further, that the Council prefers not to except a reduced quota for chinook salmon in the Southeast Alaska troll fishery, until documented new data in the fishery is made available to the Plan Development Team and the Council for consideration. In addition, the Council is urged to stand on its position favoring the ban of handtrolling in the FCZ."

G-5. Bering/Chukchi Sea Herring Draft FMP:

The AP had no comment with regards to the Bering/Chukchi Sea herring FMP. There was no request for action at this time.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H-2. May Council Meeting.

A motion was passed unanimously to add to the amendment package for the GOA a provision that would require biodegradable panels on black cod pots fished in the GOA.

Although the subject of salmon surpluses is not an agenda item for this Council meeting, a consensus of the Advisory Panel has agreed that it should be referred to the Council in these minutes.

Some of the Panel members believe that ratification of the INPFC did not relieve the Council of its obligation to domestic fishermen to provide for the processing of salmon, surplus to domestic processing capabilities.

Specifically, they suggest the Council has the responsibility and the authority to provide for the Joint Venture operations which would provide a market for such surplus salmon.

They request the Council to consider the development of a Fishery Management Plan for the salmon net fisheries of Alaska which would provide for such Joint Ventures.