North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

411 West 4th Avenue Anchorage, Alaska 99510



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 103136 Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Telephone: (907) 274-4563

Certified James O.

Campbell, Chairma

Date

76th Plenary Session
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
March 18-20, 1987
Hilton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met March 18-20, 1987, at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. The Scientific and Statistical Committee and Advisory Panel began Monday, March 16, and the Bycatch Committee met on Thursday, March 19.

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, Vice Chairman
Don Collinsworth
Mark Pedersen for
Joseph Blum
RADM Edward Nelson
Oscar Dyson
Elizabeth Montagne for Robt. Ford

Robert U. Mace for Randy Fisher Robert McVey Henry Mitchell John Harville John Peterson John Winther Larry Cotter

NPFMC Staff

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

Ron Miller Ron Rogness Terry Smith Helen Allen Peggy Kircher

Support Staff

Jim Balsiger, NMFS-NWAFC Jay Ginter, NMFS Craig Hammond, NMFS John Pedrick, NOAA-GC Jim Brooks, NMFS Fred Gaffney, ADF&G Loh-Lee Low, NMFS-NWAFC Jon Pollard, NOAA-GC Bill Robinson, NMFS Ron Berg, NMFS

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Phil Mundy, Chairman
Bill Aron
Gordon Kruse for Douglas Eggers
Larry Hreha
Bill Clark
Robert Burgner

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

Advisory Panel

Nancy Munro, Chairman
Bob Alverson, Vice Chairman
Rupe Andrews
Al Burch
Ron Hegge
Rick Lauber
John Woodruff
Joseph Chimegalrea
Terry Baker

Pete Isleib
Thorn Smith
Cameron Jensen
Ron Peterson
Lamar Cotten
Daniel O'Hara
Ed Fuglvog
Oliver Holm
Dave Woodruff

General Public

It was estimated that over 100 people attended the Council meeting during its session, including the following:

Fred Kirkes, American President Lines Woody Knebel, Columbia Wards Fisheries Hugh Reilly, American High Seas Fisheries Assn Stan Crothers, M.A.F., New Zealand Stephen Johnson, American High Seas Fisheries Harold Jones, Kodiak Bob Miller, Seattle Ben Muse, CFEC Y. Biao, China Nat'l Marine Fisheries Mary Truitt, Alamar Bill Orr, AFTA Steve Hughes, NRC Phil Werdal, Jubilee Fisheries Gary Westman Steve Grabacki, Graystar Dean Paddock, Bristol Bay Driftnetters Earl Kari, Anchorage Chuck Meacham, ADF&G Phil Chitwood, MRCI George Gardner, Ketchikan Arni Thomson, ACC John Dooley, California Peter Block, NorFish Kenneth M. Allread, Kodiak Yuuji Niimi, Nippon Suisan (USA) Inc.

Rod Moore, Rep. Don Young Bill Woolf, Sen. Murkowski Joe Plesha, Seattle Peter Moore, AFDF Walter Eichner, USGAO Vic Horgan, OBSI Kurt Schelle, CFEC Li Shanxun, CNMFC Bill Dowd, Mrs. Paul's Mick Stevens, ProFish Barry Collier, PSPA Rodger Davies, DSFU David Fraser Ed Zeasor, Mrs. Paul's Robt. Morgan, Oceantrawl Stuart Lutton, Kodiak Norm Stadem, Anchorage Ted Evans, AFTA Arne Aadland, NPFVOA Chris Blackburn, Kodiak Fred Yeck, Oregon Larry Garrison, Washington Jerome Selby, Kodiak Emory Washington, Florida David Harville, Kodiak

O. Rae Elde/Almar
Chris Jones, CNMFS
M. Morimoto, Japan Fisheries Agency
T. Yamamoto, Japan Fisheries Agency
Paul Peyton, DGED
James Crutchfield, NRC
Jacqueline Lindauer, Anchorage
Cindy Lowry, Greenpeace
Mat Oahert, Kodiak
Chip Threinen, Kodiak
Eric Maisonpierre, AJVF
James Major, Kodiak
Lynn Gabriel, Anchorage
Lee Daneker, Fishing Co. of Alaska
Bryan Strelisk, Sea-Land

Vern Hall, Kodiak
K. Nagao, Japan Consulate
Noni Burno, Kodiak
Jeff Stephan, UFMA
Jay Hastings, Seattle
K. Kobayashi, JDSTA
Rich Listowski, Juneau
Bill Dalton, Kodiak
J. Spicciani, Kodiak
Steve Smith, Kemp Fish
John Levy, Chignik
Charles Yates, Seattle
Sam Hjelle, Glacier Fish
J. Cleveland, Sea-Land

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chairman Jim Campbell.

Mr. Campbell introduced John Pedrick, NOAA General Counsel in Juneau, and Elizabeth Montagne attending as the State Department representative. Also in attendance was Mr. Walter Eichner of the U.S. General Accounting Office in Seattle.

Mr. Branson asked that Mr. Eichner be added to the agenda to report on the seafood safety study GAO is preparing for Congress.

The agenda was approved as submitted, with the addition of Mr. Eichner's presentation.

Bob Mace moved to approve the minutes of the December 1986 meeting. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and carried with no objection. The minutes of the January 1987 meeting were not yet available for approval.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

Jim Branson presented the Executive Director's report as provided in Council notebooks. Subjects covered were the recent Chairmen's meeting in Puerto Rico, 1988 Council meeting schedule, progress on sablefish limited entry and the groundfish management alternative survey.

Mr. Branson suggested to Council members that the Policy and Planning Committee should meet prior to selecting 1988 meeting dates to discuss the need for changes in the current amendment cycle and review the composition of plan teams. The Council concurred with this suggestion and the Committee will meet prior to the May meeting to develop recommendations for Council consideration. The meeting for the Policy & Planning Committee was set for April 22-23 in Anchorage.

O. R.m. College Colleg

Vern Pall, Rodiah
V. Bagao, Japan Consulata
Nont Burno, Rodiak
Jeri Stophan, PFIS
Jap Bestings, Seatole.
K. Kobarashi, JPSTA
K. Kobarashi, JPSTA
K. Kobarashi, Juneau
Sich Listovski, Juneau
Sich Listovski, Juneau
John Letton, Kodiak
Sueve Smith, Komp Fish
John Levy, Chignik
John Levy, Chignik
John Levy, Chignik
John Levy, Chignik
John Levy, Sacutla

A. CALL TO CABER, APPROVAL OF ACEADA, UND MINUTES OF PRHYLOGS METTING

The american was celled to order at 9:03 a.e. by Chairman Jin Campbell.

No. Campbell introduced sphn Pedrick, NOAA General Counsel in Juneau, and Presidentes State Lepartmant rengesentative. Also in extendance was Mr. Walter Element of the U.S. General Acquating Office in Searcles.

Mr. Branson asked that Mr. Fichner he added to the agenda to report on the sectiond safety steey OAD is preparing for Congress.

The agenda was approved as substitled, with the addition of Wr. Eichner's presentation.

bob Mace moved to approve the pinopes of the December 1966 meeting. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and carry d with no objection. The singues of the January 1987 meeting were not yet available for approval.

A. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Emecutive biractor's Report

Jim Branson presenced the Executive Director's report as provided in Connection orebooks. Subjects covered were the recent Chairmen's creting in Puerro Kico, 1986 Conrell meeting schedule, programs on sabledish limited entry and the groundfish most gament alternative surver.

'ar. Branson suggested to Council members that the Poifey and Planging Countitee should neet prior to selecting 1988 meeting dates to discuss the need for changes in the current erandment cycle and review the composition of plan teams. The Council concurred with this suggestion and the Council meet prior to the May meeting to develop recommendations for Council consideration. The meeting for the Policy & Planning Committee was set in April 22-23 in Anchorage.

Seafood Safety Study

Mr. Eichner reported that the General Accounting Office (GAO), an information-gathering office for the United States Congress, is doing a study on the safety of seafoods and labelling of seafood products. He is in Alaska to gather information which will help in their assessment. The National Marine Fisheries Service and the National Fisheries Institute also are studying the possibility of a federal inspection system similar to the USDA inspection of meat products. These two studies will be used by Congress in considering the feasibility of a seafood inspection program.

B-1(a) Report on Alaska Region NMFS & Northwest Center Budgets

Bob McVey, Director, Alaska Region, NMFS reported on the Region's FY 1987 funding. The total operational budget is about \$3.7 million, which represents a reduction of 7.5% to cover shortfalls elsewhere in NMFS. The budget covers 47 full time, permanent employees, most of them in Juneau. They are also recruiting for six additional employees at this time. The \$3.7 million budget is broken down as follows:

Fisheries Management Division - 23%
Habitat Conservation - 15%
Industry Services - 3%
Marine Mammals & Endangered
Species - 4%
Enforcement - 35%
Other Regional Activities - 20%

Regarding the FY 1988 budget which has been presented to Congress, the total amount proposed for NMFS is \$99.5 million for operations, research and facilities, down from \$162 million in FY 1987. Under that budget, however, the Alaska Region would receive a relatively minor cut of approximately \$200,000 and three people from the Habitat Conservation staff. Even that cut is in the funding which might be restored if the proposed licensing fees are approved. NMFS is asking comments and suggestions from the Regional Councils with regard to the FY 1989 budget.

Dr. Aron, Director of the Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center, briefed the Council on the Center's FY 1987 funding. Dr. Aron pointed out that, according to 1985 catch statistics, about half the total tonnage of fish landed from the United States' EEZ comes from Northwest and Alaska waters. When catch statistics for 1986 are available, that share should escalate. Catches from the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, under the direct jurisdiction of this Council, account for most of the share.

Even though the Council, Alaska Region and the Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center deal with fisheries contributing at least 35% of the nation's value in fisheries, the Center's ability to spend money has been substantially reduced, even with limited inflation. Increased costs of pay raises and employee benefits have been borne by the agency without Congressional supplementals. Even at level funding, the amount of work the dollar will buy will continue to decline.

Salifoci Sefery Study

Est. Schner reported that the General Accounting Office (600) an informations genering office for the United States Congress, is doing a study on the safety of sectoods and labelling of sectood products, the factor to Alaska to gother information witch will help in their assessment. The Sational Marine stahmies Service and the Mational Tisher es Institute also are studying the possibility of a tederal inspection system similar to the USDA inspection at mean products. These two stamies will be used by Congress in considering the Gastbility of a septect inspection progres.

bel(a) Report on Alaska we for MEES & Moreheset Center Budgets

Bob McVey, birector, alaska Region, MMFS reported on the Augicn's NY 18-7 canding. The total operational Europe about \$3.1 million, which reprove ints a reduction of 1.5% to cover therefolls elsewhere in Mail. The budget cover 47 cell time, permanent orplayees, rost of them in Juneau. They are also recuriting out in additional employees of this time. The \$3.7 million bedget is broken down as follows:

33; <u>:</u>		Tisheries deparement Division
1:31		Pahleet Conservation
Ÿ,ċ		Industry Services
		We from Hamania & Endougored
%V		នងរៀមមន្តិ
35%	••	วัสสุดธิวชาใหม่
ुँचपु		Other Regions? Activities

Regarding the FY 1930 budget which has been presented to Corporer, the total amount perford for NMTS is \$99.5 million for operations, research and feetilities, down from \$162 million in UY lady. Under that outset, however, the Alocka Region would receive a relatively minor cut as approximately \$200,000 and three recplainted to histicat Conservation stell. Even that certism the lunding which might be resucted if the proposed literaing for and approved. EMFU is obtain comments and appearable from the Regional Councile with regard to the TV 1988 hadget.

Dri from, Director of the Northvest a Alarka Fisharias Center briefed the Council on the danter. FY 1987 funding. Ft. Aron pointed out that according to 1965 catch states, about holf the total temage of fish landed from the United States. SEZ comes from New Invest and Alaska waters. Then catch states for 1986 are available, that share should escalat. Conches from the fering Sua and Gulf of Alaska, under the direct jurisate ton of this council, account for acet of the share.

Even though the Council, Assals Region and the Northwest & Alaska Fisherics Centur deal with fisheries contributing at least 35% of the magnon's value in fisheries, the Gater's ability to speak coney been subsurnatelly reduced, even with limited in bution. Increased cones of pay rises and ampleyes benefits have been lorne by the agency without Conressional supplementain. Even at level lunding, the amount of work the dellar will only wish continue to cecline. In terms of the FY 1988 budget, the cuts in the NMFS budget would have fairly substantial impacts on the Center. For example, both the COBB & MURRE research vessels have been eliminated from the NOS budget which will affect the Center even though it's not in their budget. Other major reductions include \$8 million for U.S.-Canada salmon programs which will have an impact on Center programs at Auke Bay and in their Coastal Zone Division. The Marine Mammal Laboratory will lose \$1.2 million of its base and there would be cuts in the Center's REFM program. Cuts to the Center would essentially reduce their program by about 40%; some of that would be restored in the contingency program, tied to the passage of the fishing license bill. Dr. Aron also pointed out that their computer is obsolete and that parts are no longer being made for it.

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report

Southeast Troll Fishery. Since the October 1 opening of the Southeast winter troll fishery, approximately 22,000 chinook salmon have been landed. The winter fishery will close April 14 and is projected to take 30,000-35,000 chinooks. Last year's harvest was 22,000. The average price paid to fishermen is currently \$3.50-\$4.00 per pound.

Tanner crab. In the Bering Sea, 26.9 million pounds of \underline{C} . opilio have been harvested since January 15. Another 12 million pounds of \underline{C} . bairdi were harvested in the Gulf of Alaska and the Aleutians. Most areas opened in January. The Western Aleutians opened November 1.

B-3 NMFS Management Report

Bill Robinson reported that the GOA FMP Amendment 15 final rule was filed with the Federal Register on March 9 and will be effective after the 30-day cooling off period expires on April 8. The emergency rule currently implementing the single OY-target quota framework procedures, the crab closures around Kodiak, and the improved reporting requirements for catcher-processors will need to be extended until the final rule takes effect.

A notice of availability of a Secretarial amendment repealing the Tanner Crab FMP and its implementing regulations was published in the Federal Register on March 2. Comments will be accepted until April 22.

The final rule for BSAI Amendment 10 is currently being reviewed by OMB and is expected to be filed with the <u>Federal Register</u> on March 16. All of the amendment except for the field order authority will take effect immediately upon filing because the 30-day cooling off period has been waived.

The Alaska Region has also submitted a regulatory amendment for both the BSAI and GOA plans bringing the federal sponsorship of the State of Alaska fish ticket system for catch data collection into greater conformity in the implementing regulations of the two FMPs and making it clear that landings of fish from the EEZ, even if landed to a floating processor in the territorial sea or internal waters of the state, require a fish ticket.

NMFS also announced the impending closure of the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf to directed fishing for sablefish with trawl gear, effective at noon, Saturday, March 21, in order to reserve the remaining uncaught portion of the in terms of the FV 1968 budget, the court in the TAFS budget would have fairly substituted impaces on the Center. For excepte, both the COFF I HIRRE the Center are accounted the contex are united to not in their budget. Other tagor reductions the Center are accounted to the factor of the respections factories to the for U.S.-Canada talmen programs which will have an impact on Center programs at Auko May and in their Constal Rone Davisjon. The Marine Fammal Laboratory will lose \$1.7 million of its bare and there would be cutted to the Center's PREM program. Cuts to the Center would essentially reduce their program by about 40%; some of the residual decreased in the contangency program by about 40%; some of the residual decreased in the contangency program, thed to the passage of the rishing license till. Or. Aron also program, the to the their parts are no longer being made for it.

b-2 Françstia Fisheries Report

Southeast Tiell Fishery. Since the October I opening of the Southerst winter the Leil fishery, appreximently 23,000 chimok salmen have been landed. The invest fishery with coordaptil 14 and is projected to take 30,000-35,000 chimooks. Test year's harvest was 21,000. The average price paid to fishermen is correctly \$5.50-\$4.00 per pound.

Tabmer crub. In the Boring Sea, 76.9 million pounds of C. opilio have been harvested since largery 15. Another 12 million pounds of C. Erindi wore harvested in the Chif of Alaska and the Alertana Born creas opened in January. The Western Aleuthars opened weverbor 1.

F-2 (Hims Management Appart

Fill Hobinson reported that the GGA Fig. mendment it final rule was filed with the Mederal kegister on March 9 and will be effective after the Meday course of persod expires on April 8. The emergency rule currently independing the single Of-raight quote framework procedures, the crab closures around Kedink, and the improved reporting requirements for agtoher-processors will need to be exceeded until the final rule takes effect.

A socied of availability of a Secretarial amendata reperture the Tanner Grab 1901 and its implementing regulations was prolished in the Federal Register on March 1. Comments will be accepted until April 22.

The final rule for SSAI Amerikant O is currently being reviewed by OMB and is expected to be filled with the Federal Repister on Earth 16. All of the amendment except for the rield order suchority will take offect intended upon tiling because the 30-day cooling bir period has been valved.

The Alaska Region best also submitted a regulatory amendment for both the BSAT and GOA plans bringing the Sederal appropriate of the Stade of Maska fish ticker system for catch data collection into greater conformity in the implementing regulations of the two bills and making at clear that landings of fish from the boll, even if landed to a floating processor in the territorial sea or internal waters of the scate, require a fish bicket.

FFE also ancounced the impending closure of the destern Ecgalatory Area of the Culf to directed fishing for sablefish with trawl game, effective at poop, Establey, March 11, an order to reserve the remaining uncaught portion of the

trawl quota for bycatch. This will delay prohibiting retention of sablefish by trawlers and the accompanying waste. NMFS is monitoring fishing in the Central Regulatory Area and expects to take similar action there well before the trawl quota is reached.

Mr. Robinson told the Council that NMFS will require all sablefish longline fishermen who intend to participate in the fishery in the Gulf of Alaska beginning April 1 to register for the area in which they intend to fish. They will also be required to register for new areas if they move from an area that is being closed to one that remains open.

The Council was also informed that the Region has obtained \$350,000 to replace funding lost by ADF&G for administering the State fish ticket program for groundfish. A contract has been negotiated with ADF&G to begin collecting fish tickets in various ports where groundfish are landed and enter them into a data base system at NMFS in Juneau. A data base administrator will be hired to routinely manage the system. The Region also will have two new staff members in the near future, both to work with catch and effort data.

Groundfish Fisheries. The total U.S. processed catch through late February was 53,425 mt with about 45,000 mt coming from the Bering Sea and Aleutians area. Catch composition was 28,632 mt pollock, 1,110 mt sablefish, 14,331 mt Pacific cod, 8,208 mt rock sole, and 1,144 mt various other species.

Joint ventures harvested 377,322 mt, all from the Bering Sea and Aleutians. Catch composition was 358,985 mt pollock, 16,208 mt Pacific cod and 2,129 mt various other species.

Foreign fisheries harvested only 15,293 mt by late February, mostly Pacific cod in the Bering Sea. There was concern expressed by the Council over foreign directed fisheries on pollock in the international waters of the Bering Sea (i.e., the "donut hole"). Little information is available on this fishery. The Council is strongly encouraging all nations to provide accurate, timely catch information on their operations in the "donut."

Foreign Transhipment. Craig Hammond told the Council that he has received several inquiries recently in regard to regulations concerning transhipment of product from the U.S. catcher/processor fleet to foreign flag transport vessels. As a result, NMFS has reviewed their established enforcement policy and in early March mailed a letter to the Council and all the permitted catcher/processor vessels. The Magnuson Act clearly prohibits foreign fishing within the territorial sea. That definition of fishing includes such activities as the transfer of fish and fish products and supplying of fuel, provisions, fishing gear and supplies. The definition does not allow the transfer of fish products from a U.S. flag catcher/processor to a foreign flag transport vessel or a foreign flag vessel to provide support to a U.S. flag vessel within the territorial sea. NOAA's interpretation of the Act does not, however, prohibit such transfers if they occur within the confines of a port or an established roadstead. Such transfers can occur beyond the territorial sea, more than three miles offshore, but in that situation it is viewed as a joint venture operation and the foreign flag vessel must have a joint venture permit and comply with the area's reporting requirements.

- 11

crawl quots for by mech. This will deleg prohibiting retention of sublective by treaters and the accompanying washe. TMPS is monitoring fishing in the Central Regulatory Area and expects to take similar action there well before the trawl quota is reached.

Modelinson teld the Council that EMFT will nearize all sablaitah lengling itchermen who intend to participate in the fishery in the Gulf of Alaska beginning April I to register for the vent in which they intend to fish. They will also be required to sensor for new areas if they move from an area that is being closed to one that remains open.

The Council we size informed that the Region has obtained \$350,000 to replace functing loss by ADECE for administering the State finh riches program for groundfield. A contract has been negotiated with iDFEC to depin collecting that ifekets in valious ports where groundish are tended and enter them into a deta base system at NECS in Juneou. A data hase confusionary will be hired to touthely manages the system. The Region alor will have two new small members in the near future, both to work with catch and close data.

Groundfish (isberies. The total U.S. processed cauch through late Pobrucry was 53,425 mm with about 45,000 mt coming from the Bering Sea and Aleutlans area. Catch composition was 28.622 mt pollock, 1,110 mt schlerish; 14,334 mt Pack to cod, 8,108 mt rock sole, and 1,144 m various other apecies.

Juint vertexes harvegred 177,322 mt. clifrom the Bering Sea and Aleutines. Come accountaint was 250.055 mt. pollock, 16,208 mt Pacific account 2,129 mt extens the species.

Foreign figheries harvested this 15.193 mt by late lebraary, mostly Pacific cod in the bering bid. There was concern expressed by the Courth ever foreign directed visharies on nollock in the international waters of the herrong Sea (i.e., the "donut hole"). If the information is not liable on this fishery. The Council is strongly encouraging all hardons to provide acqurate, theely catal differentian on their operations in the council.

Poweign Transhipment. Craig Harmond cold the Council that to has received. several inquiries recently in tagard to regulations concerning transhipment of product from the U.S. decaher/prodessor flest tosforeign tlag transport vessels. As a result, whis has reviewed their established enforcement poince and in early March mulled I letter to the Council and all the resmitued carcast/processor vessels. The Magnuson Act clearly prohibits foreign fishing within the berifterial sea. That delimition of fishing includes such socialities as the transfer of figh and fish products and supplying or fuel, provintion, similar gran and supplies. The definition does not rliew the transfer of fish produces from a U.S. flag catches forcessor to a loreign flag transport vessel or a foreign/flag tedet to provide augmort to a d.S. flag venceh within the cerritogial sea. WCAA's forespreserion of the Ant down not, however, prohibit such consernations they occur within the confines of a post or an established sociatead. Such transfere ohn accabeyond the Cerritorial sea, more than above wiles offshore out in then satuation in is viewed as a joint venture operation ad the fulcien liep . . sel most have a juint venture permit and comply with the area's renounce; raquirer nes.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council concurred with NMFS' plans to extend the emergency rule implementing sections of Amendment 15 to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan until the plan goes into effect.

The Council also discussed foreign vessels, particularly those from Poland, fishing in the "donut" area while waiting joint ventures to begin. Council members expressed their continuing concern with the lack of information on the fish harvested in this zone. It was suggested that the Council may base future privileges to operate in the U.S. EEZ on the foreign country providing this harvest information.

B-4 Coast Guard Reports on Activities

U.S. Coast Guard enforcement efforts off Alaska through February 28 totaled 113 cutter days and 224 aircraft hours. Nineteen notices of violation and written warnings have been issued to foreign vessels and 4 to those from the U.S. vessels. The infractions were mainly for failure to maintain required logs and reports. A Japanese longliner was issued a notice of violation for failure to provide assistance to an NMFS observer as required, and a Chinese processor was cited for conducting fisheries support activities without a NMFS observer on board as well as logbook violations and not keeping its International Radio Call Sign legible.

The Coast Guard reported recent problems with Polish fishing vessels entering U.S. territorial waters without first obtaining Coast Guard approval and stressed the importance of vessels from the Soviet Union, Poland, and China complying with the appropriate regulations regarding entry into U.S. territorial waters or ports.

The Coast Guard also warned that they will be citing vessels running with their high intensity work lights on because of the hazard to navigation, particularly in congested or restricted waters. The lights may obscure navigational lights, deteriorate night vision, and blind other vessels.

B-5 Joint Venture Operations

Joint ventures with five countries reported catching about 430,000 mt by early March. U.S. trawlers delivered 235,407 mt to the Japanese, 170,516 mt to the Koreans, 20,000 to the Soviets, 200 mt to the Poles and 5,500 mt to the Chinese. The harvest stands at about 22 percent of the total requested at the December Council meeting. Fifty-two U.S. trawlers made deliveries in January and 92 in February, a considerable expansion over the first two months of 1984-86.

B-6 Predator-Prey Interactions

Pat Livingston of the Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center gave a presentation on predator-prey interactions among fish species.

40B13/AN -7-

COUNCIE RISCESPION AND ACTION

The Council compared with h FS' plans to excend the chergoson role capitementics sections of Amendment 15 to the Colf of Alser Coundfiel Methody Maragament Plan until the plan goes into effect.

The Council also discussed foreign vessels, particularly those from Poland, ideling in the "dorse" area thile waiting folen ventures to begin. Council members appeared their continuing concern with the leck of information on the fink harvested in this zero. It was suggested that the Council may has future privileges to operate in the U.S. EEZ on the tenedigt country providing this har est information.

B-4 Coast Coard Euports on Activities

U.S. Grass Guard enforcement amonts off Alaska through Webmary 20 cocaled 113 country days and the entrait hours. Nigeteen notices of violetion and violetion in the last such appears. A department was insent a notice of violetion for influence to provide assistance to an it. PS observer as required, and a Chinash processor was afted for conducting fisherian support activities withour a NeW discover an board as well as logbook violetions and and the heaping its cornered and Radio Cali Cign egible.

The Coast Guard reportse recent problems with Politsh Ching veges entering U.S. terriceral vaters without lire obtaining Corer Guard reproved and stressed tes importance of yessels from the Soviet buten, Teland, and China complying with the appropriate resolutions regarding entry fito U.S. centitorial waters or ports.

The loast Guard also warmed that they will be circular vessels rounting with theatr high intensity work lights on because of the bazard to mayigation, porticularly in seriested or matricted waters. The lights may obscurately inticted waters, and blind other vessels.

6-5 Toint Ventere Operations

Joint ventures with five rountries reported carching shout 430,000 mt by early darch. U.S. rrawiers delivered 235,407 mt to the inpanese, 170.516 mt of the korsans, 20,000 to the Soviets, 200 mt to the Poles and 5,000 mt to the Chinese. The invest stands of about 2 percent of the total riquested at the December Conneil meeting. Fifty-two U.S. trowlers mark deliveries in January and S. in February, a considerable expansion over the lifest two months of 1004-86.

B-6 Predator-Proy Enteractions

Pat Divingation of the Worthwest & alaska Wisheries (eller gave a presentation or predator-proj interactions among figh species.

C-1 Legislative Update

The Council received a briefing on several bills that have been introduced since the beginning of the 100th Congress. There appears to be considerable interest in Washington, DC, in addressing the problem of plastics pollution of the marine environment. H.R. 474, H.R. 940, S. 62, S. 559, S. 560, and S. 633 all focus on various aspects of plastics pollution. The Senate is expected to ratify Annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships in the near future.

The issue of the reflagging of foreign vessels is also being considered by Congress. Representative Young introduced a bill, H.R. 438, on January 7, 1987, that prohibits the reflagging of foreign built fishing, fish processing, and tender vessels as U.S. vessels after October 31, 1986. The Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation, Merchant Marine, and Coast Guard Subcommittees of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee will hold a joint hearing on H.R. 438 in Washington, DC, on April 29, 1987, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 1334 of the Longworth Office Building. Senators Stevens and Murkowski have introduced S. 377 that would impose a ten-year moratorium on the ability of foreign built vessels to engage in fish processing under the U.S. flag.

The Council was also briefed on the latest move by the Reagan Administration to implement user fees on commercial and recreational marine fisheries as well as Coast Guard user fees. The current proposal is to levy the fees as part of a Marine Fisheries Conservation Assurance Program. The fee schedule would require a \$6 federal permit to fish in marine waters for commercial and recreational fishermen, a \$25 stamp for buyers or sellers of certain marine fish, a landing tax of 1% of exvessel value of certain fish landed for commercial purposes and a \$25 federal game fish stamp for certain species. Most of the fees would double in two years under this proposal. The Administration is also discussing Coast Guard user fees that could raise \$355 million in FY88 and \$466 million annually thereafter. No draft legislation on either marine fisheries or Coast Guard user fees has, as yet, been circulated.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Council members agreed that they should urge the immediate ratification of Annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

Rod Moore, fisheries aide to Representative Don Young, told the Council that the appropriate action would be to convey their concern to the State Department and urge that the ratification documents be transmitted to the Senate as soon as possible. Letters to the appropriate Congressional committees would also be appropriate.

Bob Mace moved to take the actions suggested by Mr. Moore. The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen and carried unanimously.

C-2 Halibut Management

Ron Miller gave a status report on 1987 regulations for the halibut fishery adopted by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) in January.

40B13/AN -8-

U-1 Legislative Update

The Council received a briefing or several bills that have been introduced since the beginning of the ECUTA Geogress. There appears to be considerable interest in Mashington FC, in addressing the problem or plastice pollution of the marine environ and a. R. 474, H.P. 849, S. 63, B. 559, S. 560, and S. 633 all recub on verticus aspects of plantice pollution. The Senate is appeared to ratify Amers V to the International Geographics for the Fresentian of Pollution from Ships in the near inture.

The issue of the rellagging of foreign vessels in also long considered by Compress. Espresentative Young introduced a hill, H.R. 608, on Jonney 7. 1987, that prohibite the reliagging of foreign built lishing, fish processing, and tender vessels as U.S. vessels alica October 31, 1986. The Ficheries and Wildlife Conservation, Merchant Marine, and Const and Subcommittees of the house Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee will hold a joint hearing on h.R. 438 in Weshington, BC, on April 19, 1987, at 2:00 a.m. in Room 1324 of the Longworth Office but ding. Senators Stevens and burkewski have introduced the Longworth Office but ding. Senators Stevens and burkewski have introduced S. 377 that would impose a ten-year moratoric on the Johnston of Foreign built vels to engage in fish processing under the U.S. flag.

The Council was also briefed on the latest moved by the Rearan Administration to implement use fees on conmercial and refrentional marine lisheries as well as Coast User Lees. The current proposal is to lavy the fees of part of a harrest Fisheries Conservation Assortance Program. The fee schedule would require a \$6 indexal permit to fish in marine vacors for corrected and recreational fishermen, a \$25 stamp for thems or sellers of collect marine fish, a landing text of \$25 stamp for value of the text in this landed for commercial purposes and a \$25 federal game fish stamp for certain species, along the fees would double to two years under this proposal. The Administration is also discussing Coast Guard user fees that could raise legislation on either useful user fees bro, as year legislation on either useful user fees bro, as year been circulated.

CCUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Council members agreed that they should argo the immediate relification of Annew V to the atternational Convention for the artistic of Polibilian for Ships (CARPOL).

Not Note, fishering adde to Representative Don Young, cold the Council that the appropriate action would be a convey that concern to the State Department and argo that the ratification documents be transmitted to the Senate as soon as possible. Letters to the appropriate Congressional consitted, would also be appropriate.

Bob Mace noved to take the actions suggested by Mr. Moore. The action was seconded by Sudy Petersen ped carried accordnously.

C-2 Ralibut Management

Son Miler pure a status report on 1987 regularions for the halthur filler, aloped by the laternational Racific Malibut Commission (1960) to Jamery.

The Council, in response to testimony at the January Council meeting, recommended several actions to the IPHC: (1) that the halibut stocks in Areas 4A and 4B be managed as discrete stocks to aid the fishermen of Atka in achieving reasonable access to the halibut resource; (2) that they consider adopting an opening scheme for Area 4B similar to those in effect in Areas 4C and 4E (one day on/one day off, or two days on/one day off); and (3) that the IPHC explore all methods to minimize unlawful fishing, including preseason hold inspections.

In January the Council was also asked to support a proposal to create Areas 4F around Atka with a quota of 400,000 lbs, and Area 4G within Bristol Bay with a quota of 500,000 lbs. The Council determined that since the main aspect of the proposed opening in the nursery area was biological, the matter properly fell within the jurisdiction of the IPHC.

The Commission did not adopt an opening scheme for Area 4B similar to those in effect in Areas 4C and 4E. Also, the Commission decided that the stocks in Areas 4A and 4B should be managed as a unit rather than as discrete stocks. Because of a lack of necessary funding, the Commission decided against mandatory preseason hold inspections.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

There was some discussion on the actions taken by IPHC. Bob McVey explained to the Council the reasoning behind the Commission's actions. He pointed out that although proposals by the Pribilovians for special measures to assure them a larger share of the quota were not adopted by the Commission, they did institute a special trip limit of 10,000 lbs. per vessel until 40% of the quota has been taken; after that time, trip limits would be off and there would be open fishing for residents and non-residents alike though still on a 1 day on, 1 day off routine.

C-3 Non-profit Fishery Research Foundation

Ron Miller reported that since the January 1987 meeting in Anchorage to discuss the creation of a private, non-profit fishery research foundation the steering committee has been reviewing a resolution to be distributed to the industry. Another meeting will be held in the near future in Anchorage to allow representatives from the industry to discuss and act on the resolution.

Rod Moore of Representative Don Young's office has refined draft legislation that would allow industry organizations created to fund fisheries research to require mandatory assessments on members. The legislation is to be introduced in the near future.

C-4 APPRISE

Ole Mathisen, University of Alaska-Juneau, reported on the progress of the Association of Primary Production and Recruitment in Subarctic Ecosystems (APPRISE) project being conducted by School of Fisheries & Science (University of Alaska-Juneau), the Institute of Marine Science at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, the Oceanic Institute in Hawaii, and the NMFS Auke Bay Laboratory. The goal of the project is to develop a predictive capability for

The Ocupeal, in response to testimony so the Jonusty Council meeting, reconstanted several socions to the IPIO: (1) that the balibut stools in Areas 40 and 45 be managed as discrete choice of the hisbainen of Atlantachieving reasonable notes as the halibut resource: (2) that they consider adopting an opening sename for Area 6F sheller to those in effect in Areas 4C and 4E (one day on/one day only or two days on/one day onlore day only or two days on/one day onlore all methods to minimist noticers (ishing, including precesson hold increasons.

In Jacuary the Council was also asked to support a proposal to create areas 4F around Atka with a quara of 400,000 lbs, and Area 4C within a letel Bey with a quota of 500,000 lbs. The Council decermined that since the main aspect of the proposed opening in the nursery area was biological, the matter proposed within the jurisdiction of the TFBC.

The Commission did not dopt as opting scheme for Area 4B similar to those in affect in areas 40 and 4E. Also, the Commission decided that the stocke in Areas 4A and 4B should be managed as a unit rather then as discipte arocked because of a lack of necessary funding, the Commission decided evaluationed and another.

COUNTIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

There was some discussion on the actions cakes, by iPHC. Bob Privay emploised to circlemental the recenting behind the Countasion's actions. He pointed out that although proposals by the Pribliovians for coecial measures to assure there a larger share or the quots were not adopted by the Countssion they did the special into this test of 10,000 ibs. per vessel until et? of the quote has been taken; after that that the true limits would be open fishing for residents and non-residents either though still on a day on, I day of the residents.

G-J - Won-profit Wishery kesearch Foundation

von Miller reported thet since the January 1937 meeting to Anchorage to discuss the creation of a prevate, non-profit fishery research foundation that of earling committee has have sevicedate a resolution to be distributed to the industry. Another meeting will be hald in the noar return in Anchorage to allow representatives from the industry of discuss and not on the resolution.

Rod Moore of Representative bor Young's office has refined draft legislation that would allow industry organizations created to fure fisheries research to require mandatory assessments on members. The legislation is to be introduced in the near future.

C-4 KPERISE

Ole Mathinsus, University of Alaska-Juneaus reported on the progress of the Association of Frunary Production and Vecruisment in Subayetsa Mossychome (AFFAIS) project being conducted by School of Fisherias & Science (University of an aska-Juneau), the institute of Marine Science at the University of Asska-Juneauks, the Oceanic Institute in Bewall, and the UNES have the Laboratory. The goal of charge is to devilor a predictive capability for

larval recruitment which may be applicable to more extensive, less accessible fisheries areas.

C-5 Limited Entry

Bill Robinson, NMFS-Alaska Region, reported on his experience with limited access systems while working on an exchange program in Australia last year.

Stan Crothers of the New Zealand Fisheries Management Agency, working in Washington D.C. on an exchange from New Zealand, gave a presentation on their progress with limited access programs using individual trade quotas.

C-6 Other Business

(a) Sablefish Limited Entry

The Council received a status report from Bob Alverson on industry efforts to develop recommendations on limited access proposals for the sablefish fishery. The Fishing Vessel Owner's Association and North Pacific Longline Coalition (Sitka) sent out a questionnaire to all fishermen who landed sablefish in 1986. Responses are coming in but the results are too preliminary to analyze at this time. Mr. Alverson requested the Council establish the following schedule for sablefish limited entry: Between the March Council meeting and April, the Council solicit public comments for a long-term sablefish management program, to include traditional management schemes as well as limited entry options; review those proposals at the May meeting and choose those proposals to be further developed and instruct the plan team to redraft them for the September meeting; at the September meeting, Council would review the plan team's draft and send out the proposals for public comment with a final decision at the December Council meeting. Mr. Alverson said they feel that timing is important in this issue and that once they get into the 1988 season it will be almost impossible for the Council and industry to develop any coherent plan.

Mr. Alverson told the Council that they have obtained the services of a University of Washington law student, Bill Mounts, who would be willing to work as a liaison between industry and the Council and NMFS in drafting of regulations for any program devised. They have also secured commitments from industry for \$25,000 to be used as matching funds for this work.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended the Council adopt the schedule proposed by Bob Alverson.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council felt that they should stay with the original plan -- to wait for specific proposals from industry before developing a schedule of analysis, public review and implementation. If, at the May meeting, the industry comes forward with some proposals they can agree to, then the Council could ask the plan team to prepare them for Council and public review.

40B13/AN -10-

larvel recruitment which may be applicable no more extensive, less accessible fisheries areas.

C-5 Limited Energ

bill Robinson, NEPS-Alask Region, reported on his organistee with limitied accors systems while working on he exchange program in Australia last year.

Stan Crethers of the lew Lealand lishering Management Agency, working in Mashington P.C. on an exceange from New Zaaland, gave a preschtation on their programs with limited access proposes using individual trade cootas.

C-6 Ciner Susiness

(a) Sublefieh Limited Errry

The Council received a status report from Bob Alverson on industry efforts to develop recommendations to instruct access proposals for the sablefish ditherv. The Fishing Vessel Owner's Association and North Pacific Longline Condition (Sitha) sent out a questioundre to all dishersen who landed sablufish in 1985. Responses are coming to but the results are too preliminary to gralvee at this time. In. Alwerson requested the Constit establish the following schoole for cablefish limited every fermeen the March Council meeting and april, the Louisia colicie public conseque for a long-some subjected management program, to include traditional mathematic schemes as well as limiter energ options; review those proposals at the May meeting and choose those proposals to be further developed and instruct the tight to reach to redrain them for the September meanings of the Asprember magtine, founcil would review the plan team's drort and send out the grossals for public Comment with a final decision at the incomber Council meeting. Mr. Alverson sail they feel that diming is apportant in this desue and that once they get into the 1928 season fit will be almost impossible for the Composit out transtry to develop any coherent plan.

Mr. Alverson told the Council test they have obtained the services of a Berveller, and the would be officing to Berveller, by the would be officing to work as a limited between industry and the Council and haps in desiring of regularions for any program leviet. They have also secured constraints from industry for 525,000 to be used as actabing funds for this verie.

Caport of the Advisory Papel:

The Edvisory Fanel recommended the Council sampt the schedule proposed by Bob Aiverson.

COURCES PINCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council feat they should stay with the original plan - to wait far specific proposals from industry before downloping a schedule of analysis, public rowten and implementation. If, at the has meeting, the industry considered with some proposals they con aprice to, then the Council could call the plan team to prepage them for Council and public review.

(b) Next Allocation of TALFF

The Council discussed the next foreign allocation release, scheduled for April. Mr. Branson reported that there is approximately 32,000 mt of unallocated TALFF and that normally the April allocation is half of that total. The major species available are pollock, 3,700 mt; yellowfin sole, 3,404 mt; Arrowtooth flounder, 3,730 mt; other flounder, 9,958 mt; and Pacific cod, 8,760 mt. The Allocations Board meets April 1 in Washington and the Council agreed that Clarence Pautzke should attend along with a Council member of the Chairman's choosing. It was suggested that in order to expose Council members to this process, the assignment should be rotated among them.

As far as recommendations to the Board, it was pointed out that the main issue would be whether the foreign countries have been living up to their part of the industry agreements.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 King and Tanner Crab FMP

(a) Annual King and Tanner Crab Hearing in Seattle.

The Council held its annual king and Tanner crab hearing in Seattle on March 4. With membership of the Alaska Board of Fisheries changing, no one from the Board could attend. Approximately ten members of the public attended the hearing. A summary of public testimony was provided in Council notebooks.

(b) Crab Management Committee Update

The Crab Management Committee met with members of the Crab Plan Team to review the first working draft of a combined King and Tanner Crab FMP for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. A report of that meeting was provided to Council members. With the advice provided them, the plan team will work on a new draft and meet again with the committee prior to the next Council meeting. They hope that after the May meeting the plan team will have enough direction to further revise the fishery management plan and complete the associated economic and environmental impact studies during the summer. The revised plan and decision documents will be inserted into the 1988 crab management cycle which calls for the new plan to be implemented sometime in late 1988.

Public Testimony

Arne Aadland/Thorn Smith, NPFVOA, recommended the extension of the 1987 <u>C. opilio</u> fishery in the northwest portion of the Bering Sea since this area is not surveyed well. This year the <u>opilio</u> harvest guideline is lower and fishermen hope that if CPUE remains high the season will be extended by NMFS. NPFVOA is concerned that with budget cuts ADF&G may not be able to monitor CPUE rates as closely as in prior years and that this could affect the outcome of the season extension decision.

NPFVOA is developing a proposal for next year that will look at the possibility of lowering the minimum size limit for king crab. The current minimum size limit is $6\frac{1}{2}$ ". The Association asked the Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center to examine this question and preliminary results from the

40B13/AN -11-

(b) Ext Alleration (c)

The Compain discussed the next foreign allocation relades, scheduled for april. Mr. Briefold reported that there is approximately 32,000 or of unallocated TALPF and that pointly the april relocation is in H of that could. The major apends available are pollock, 3,700 mt; vailoving sole. Sale and Alfocation thunder, 3,730 mt; other flounder, 9,950 mt; and Facific cod, 8,700 mt. The allocations Board here april 1 in Pathington and the countil agreed that Clavence Pautake should attend along with a Council mamb r or Chairman's choosing. To was suggested that the order to expose Council members to this process, the assignment planted the rocated among them.

As few as recommendations to the board, it was pointed out that the main issue would be whether the foreign countries have been living up to their part of the intervencents.

D. FOREST BANAGEMENT PLANS

Por Ling and Tenner OrableMP

(c) Annual Ming and lames Crab Hearing in Restile.

The Council held it: comed hims and Tanner cost hearing in Seattle on March a. "Ath rembership of the Adacks Board of Fisher es chapping, no cost row to hourd could abroard. Approximately ten members of the public strended the bearing. A semmany of public testiony was provided in Courcil notebacks.

(b) Oak Ausgement Committee Undage

The (rab Management Committee met with members of the Crab Plan Team to usview the lire; we impersize of a combined was and remost Crab the review Sea and Aleutra belonds. A report of that and if you provide a to Conneil menters. Then the senter provided them, the pian team will work on a review droft and made a rate much the committees prior to be next Council white. They appear the itay meeting the pion of a will have enough direction to dustres revise the fishery management plan and complete the assectated economic and complete the assectated economic and everyoners in the consents will be inserted into the summer. The revised evolution deciries consents will be inserted into the summer in late 1965.

Public Mestimony

Arne Ascland/Thorn Smith, APFVA, recommended the astension of the 1987 C. optio fishery in the conthwes, portion of the Lardan Sas since this area is at auryeyed well. This year the optio heave a guideline is later and fisheren there that if CPUE remains high the season will be entired by MMFS. MIFVOA is concerned that it budget outs ADFEC may not be able to moditor CPUE reses as closel, as in prior years and that the could offect the outcomest the sector entension drivation.

PIPVOA is developmed a proposal for next year that will look at the possibility of lowering the minimus size iterition king that. The corrent minimus size limit is $(\hat{\epsilon}^{(i)}_t, \hat{\ })$ The Association size the Northwest & Alaska Michaeles Center to examine this question and prolimity results from the

analysis suggest that reduction of the size limit may not have an adverse effect on reproductive potential. Further analysis at the Center is planned.

Their Association favors leaving the current Tanner Crab FMP in place.

Arni Thomson, Alaska Crab Coalition. Mr. Thomson participated in the development of the new king and Tanner crab FMP and favors suspension of the current Tanner crab plan.

He also proposed that managers consider a split king crab season (fall/spring) in Bristol Bay to test the feasibility of eventually having a combined king and <u>C. bairdi</u> crab fishery immediately prior to the <u>C. opilio</u> fishery. One advantage of the proposal is that meat recovery or yield will be increased. The Coalition believes that harvesting half the guideline in the winter/early spring months will provide the same number of king crab to the fishery but at a higher average weight which could produce a higher exvessel value of the catch. Another advantage would be that by scheduling king and Tanner crab fisheries together, start-up costs and handling of crab will be reduced. The proposal will be developed further by the Coalition and submitted to the Board of Fisheries and Council in the future.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council approved the Committee's report and time schedule and expressed appreciation for the work done by the Committee, plan team, and industry groups.

D-2 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan

(a) 1987 Pollock Apportionments

In December the Council apportioned the pollock quota of 84,000 mt in the Gulf for 1987 as follows: DAP-83,700 mt; JVP-300 mt; TALFF-0 mt. That decision was based primarily on the NMFS industry survey conducted in November and testimony at the December Council meeting. Subsequent reevaluation of DAP requirements by Regional staff indicated there was a much as 21,900 mt available for other than DAP use from the target quota of 84,000 mt. Regional Director Bob McVey recommended that amount be transferred from DAP to JVP (21,900 mt) with the reserve to be held for either category as needed (20% of TQ = 16,800 mt). Under Secretary Calio asked the Council to comment on this recommendation.

Jim Balsiger, Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center, reported on preliminary pollock stock assessment from the ongoing hydroacoustic survey by the MILLER FREEMAN. He stressed that these data were collected on the first of three legs of the survey and are very preliminary. He gave the Council four basic pieces of information: (1) the geographic area of aggregation is smaller than last year; (2) the density of aggregation is less than last year; (3) the first layer, at 100 fathoms, was all three-year-old fish and the second layer, 5 fathoms from the bottom, contained all sizes; and (4) the gonad maturation is similar to past years. Based on these preliminary data, Mr. Balsiger said they have no reason to believe that there will be an increase in the abundance of pollock in the Gulf this year.

40B13/AN -12-

analysts suppost that reduction of the size limit may not have an adverse effect on reproductive potential. Further analysis at the Cent of it plantid.

Their Association favols lecving the concent Tasser Urab WH in place.

Arni Thoman, Alacka Crab Coaldcion. Mr. Thomason participated in the exelopment of the new king and Tanger crob. For and Ervers shapes sion of the crowser crab miss.

He also proposed that managers donaider a split king crab senson (fall/spring) in Bristol Bay to test the fearibility of creatually having a combined ting and C. beird crab fishery immediately prior to the C. opilin fishery. One advantage of the proposal is that neat accovery or yield will be increased. The Gualithon believes that hervesting half the guideline is the vinter/early spring months will provide the same number of bits crab to the fishery but at a higher average weight which could produce a higher exceed value of the catch. Another advantage would be that by scheduling if any Enger clob finaries tegether, swatt-up costs and harding of crab will be requeed. The proposal will be developed further by the Countilon and submitted to the Board proposal will be developed further by the Countilon and submitted to the Board

COUNCIE DE CUSSION AND ACTION

The Gauncil approved the Committee's repart and time schedule and dappesed appresed to spressed appreciation set the work dene by the Committee, plan tear, and industry proups.

D-2 culf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Consgenent Plan

(a) 1997 rollock Appearstonments

In terember the ocuncil apportioned the pollock quote of 84,000 mt in the Gull for 1967 as follows: DAC-83.760 mt; AVF-300 mt; AVF-0 mt. Then decision. Was based primerily on the MSFS industry curvey conducted in November and desciment at the December Council meeting. Suisedness needs and the periods by deplaced staif indicated there was a much are 21,000 mt available for other that DAF use from the Larger quera of 24,00 mt. Regional Director Rob McVey recommended that amount be transferred from bay to JUF (21,900 mt) with the freshive to be held for either category at needed (20% of C21,900 mt). Under George tary Califf asked the Ocurcil to comment on this accommendation.

Jim balsign: Northwest & Alacka Fisheries Gente, reports on preliminary pollock stock assessment from the ongoing hydroscoustic survey by the MMTITE PREHAM. He strussed that these data vere collected on the line of three logs of the survey and are very preliminary. The cave the Council from basic places of information: (1) the prographic area of agregation is smaller than last year; (2) the density of aggregation is hass than larm year; (3) the first layer, at 100 fathoms, was all three-ver-old fish and the second layer. I fathoms from the option, contribed all sizes; and (4) the gonad maturation is similar to past years. Based on these profiminary data, Mr. Palackar shad they have no reason to believe than there will be an ancrease in the abundance of pollock in the Guli this year.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended the Council request NMFS to provide updated information at the May meeting regarding TQs, DAP potential, and JVP plans. This would include: (1) any new and pertinent biological information (including results from the hydroacoustic surveys and age/length studies); (2) the results of a formal survey of DAP processors, including an estimate of DAP processing capacity ready but not able to get fish; and (3) an indication of the number of vessels gearing up for shoreside delivery.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC declined to consider the matter of Gulf of Alaska pollock apportionments among DAP, JVP and TALFF, as the issues did not include matters of science.

<u>Public Testimony</u> for all groundfish items is found in Appendix I to these minutes.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Council members felt it was important to give the Regional Director direction to finalize the apportionments for 1987, but also felt that the final results of the acoustical survey would be helpful before making any recommendation.

There was also some concern whether the Council should go outside its established procedure and make changes at this point in time and with very preliminary information.

Don Collinsworth moved to adopt the AP's recommendation with regard to the apportionment of pollock to DAP and JVP in the Gulf, which is:

That the Council request NMFS to provide updated information at the May meeting regarding TQs, DAP potential, and JVP plans. This would include:

- (1) any new and pertinent biological information (including results from the hydroacoustic surveys and age/length studies);
- (2) the results of a formal survey of DAP processors, including an estimate of DAP processing capacity ready but not able to get fish; and
- (3) an indication of the number of vessels gearing up for shoreside delivery.

In the interim, the Council recommends that the Regional Director not release any pollock to JVP in the Gulf.

The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and carried 9 to 1, with Rudy Petersen voting against and Bob McVey abstaining.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended the Council request NIEs to provide undeted intermation at the May meeting regarding TCs, DAP potential, and JVP plans. This would factude: (1) and new and partiment blodogical intermentian (including results from the hydroscoustic surveys and speciength stadies); (1) the results of a formal survey of DAP processors, including an estimate of DAP processing capacity ready but not; able to set tish; and (3) so indication of the number of vessels geating up for shorteded delivery.

Report of the Scientistic and biguistical Committee

The SSC declined to consider the matter of Gulf of Alaska pollock apportionments are to DAP, JVF and TALFF, earths is mes did not include matters of schence.

Public Testimony for all groundwish items is found in Appendix I to these sinures.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Council members felt it was important to give the degions! Director direction to timalize the apportionments for 1907, but also felt that the final results of the scoustical survey would be helpful before meting buy recommendation.

There was also some concern whether the Council should to outside its established procedure and make therees at this pent in time and with very preliminary information.

Don Collingwest moved to adopt the AP's recommendation with resure to the apportionment of pollock to DAP and LVI in the Gulf, which his:

That the Courcil request WFS to provide andance i formation at the Moraceting regarding Trip, DAP potential, and BVP pases. This world include:

- (1) any new and partament biological information (i riceing results from the hydroacoustic surveys and egg/length stedies);
- the results of a formal survey of MP processors, indicating an estimate of PAP processing capacity ready but not able to get fish; and
- (3) on inclearion of the number of wessels gearing up for sharefide delivery.

in the interim the Council recommends that the Resignal Director for release any pollock of JVP in the Cuir.

Who motion was seconded by Henry Estabell and carrier 9 to 1, with Redriverses voting against and hob McVey anatosning.

(b) AMENDMENT 16

Amendment 16 to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan addresses the following issues:

Establish a minimum size limit for sablefish.

Alternative 1: Do nothing (i.e., no minimum size limits).

Alternative 2: Establish a single minimum size limit for all gear (include consideration of a 22-inch limit).

Alternative 3: Establish a minimum size limit for fixed gear only (i.e., hook-and-longline and pots).

DAP priority within 100 miles of Unalaska Island.

Alternative 1: Do nothing (i.e., no area restrictions on foreign processors receiving fish from U.S. fishermen).

Alternative 2: Establish year-round area closures. Two sub-alternatives consider square approximation of a 100-mile circle centered on Unalaska Island.

Alternative 3: Establish seasonal area closures. Two sub-alternatives consider January through June closures of the 100-mile zones and the entire Bering Sea.

Alternative 4: Establish a fee structure for foreign processors who receive joint venture fish.

Revise the definition of prohibited species.

Alternative 1: Do nothing.

Alternative 2: Clarify, but not substantially alter, definition.

Improve catch recording requirements.

Alternative 1: Do nothing.

Alternative 2: Require fishing and transfer logbooks for all DAP vessels.

Alternative 3: Require the logbooks only from DAP catcher/processors and mothership/processors.

Fishing season framework.

Alternative 1: Do nothing (i.e., the setting of seasons will require a plan amendment).

Alternative 2: Establish a fishing season framework to allow the annual setting of seasons, using a more efficient notice procedure.

40B13/AN -14-

TINCTÉS COUNCIL METING LARCH 1997

(b) AMERICANT AL

Amendment 16 to the Gulf of Alaks Groundfish Mishary Monopement Blan addresses the collecting fasses:

Patabilish a minimum cira limit, for sablelich.

Alternative 1: Do nothing (i.e., no minimum size Medits).

Alterretive in Eucartish a surgle minimum size that for all year (toched consideration of a 22-inch limit).

*lucruative : Fstallish a minimum sine limit or liked pear only (1.e), hook-ard-long.ine and pors).

Oak printity within 100 miles of Unalaska lalend.

Alternative 1: No nothing (i.e., no crea restrictions on foreign processors receiving lightfrom U.S. fishermen).

Alternative 2: Establish year-round area closures. The sub-alternatives consider square approximation of a 100-mileatrole centered on Unalsake Island.

Alternative of furablish sessones area cleaures. Two sub-alcernatives conscient January through June cleaure, of the 10 -asie zone, and the enters Fering Sec.

Alternative 4: Establish a fee attracture for foreign processors who receive joins venture fish.

Revise the definition of prohibited special.

Alternative in Do nothing.

Alternative 2: Clarify, but not subscentially cherry definition.

Improve cauch recording requirements.

Albertorive 1: Do nothing.

Autornactive 2: Require fishing and transfer loop oks for all PAP vessels.

Alternative 3: Require the logbooks only from DAF catcher/processors and mothership/processors.

Finding season framework.

Alternative is no working (i.e., the setting of seasons will require oplan amendment).

Alternative 2: Establish a fishing season fromework to allow the conust actions of seasons, using a more afficient nearly procedure.

Expand the existing halibut PSC framework to include all traditional "prohibited species" (i.e., halibut, salmon, king and Tanner crabs).

Alternative 1: Do nothing (i.e., no bycatch limit other than for halibut can be placed on the groundfish fishery; no authority to set PSC limits on foreign fisheries; when halibut PSC limit is reached, just bottom trawl fisheries close).

Alternative 2: Establish a framework measure to control bycatches of all prohibited species. Will provide authority to set PSC limits for all traditional prohibited species on all domestic and foreign groundfish fisheries.

Update Gulf of Alaska FMP descriptive sections, reorganize chapters, and incorporate Council policy as directed.

Alternative 1: Do nothing (i.e., existing plan would remain out of date and difficult to use).

Alternative 2: Update FMP, reorganize chapters, and incorporate Council policy as directed. This alternative address includes several administrative changes, a description of rockfish management strategies, a revised list of target species, and clarification of legal gear.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Complete comments of the SSC are found in their minutes, Appendix II.

Establish a minimum size limit for sablefish. The SSC pointed out that the analysis provided in the draft amendment indicates that a size limit would not increase the total yield from the stock in view of the current low fishing mortality. While the analysis indicates that there is a possibility of some economic gain to be realized by applying a size limit to the catches of longliners, it must be understood that these gains will be rapidly dissipated if constraints are not placed on the level of effort deployed in the fishery. Given these conclusions, the SSC suggested that if the Council wishes to implement a size limit for the longline fishery, serious consideration must be given to simultaneous implementation of a program to limit effort. They questioned the advisability of continuing public review of the amendment without addressing limitation of effort.

DAP priority within 100 miles of Unalaska Island. The SSC concluded that the catch/effort equation used in the RIR did not provide the data needed to determine how this action would affect both DAP and non-DAP fishermen. They recommended that the analysis and conclusions based on this CPUE model be removed from the RIR. The SSC made specific recommendations to the plan teams for amending the RIR and recommended the proposal be sent out for public review after the modifications are made.

Revise the definition of prohibited species. The SSC recommended that this proposal be sent out for public review.

Empand the emisting halibut PSC transwork to include all tradictional "probibited species" (i.e., halibut, salmon, king and Tahaer urabs).

Alternative 1: No conting (i.e., so bycatch italt other than for halibut can be placed on the groundfish fishery; so authoring to set PSC limits on foreign fisheries; when inlibut PSC limit is reached, just bettem trawl disheries close).

Alternative 2: Eshablish a framework measure or control bycotched of all prohibited species. Will provide authority, so see 180 limits for all creditional prohibited spaties on all domestic and foreign encunciish fisheries.

Leate Gulf of Alaska WMF descriptive sections, recognize charters, and incorporate Council policy as directed.

Airernative :: Do actuals [l.e., exicting place touid remain out of date and difficult to use).

Abbermative 2: Update PMP, reorganize chapters, and itemporate Council policy as diversed. This substructive address includes several colaistrative changes a description of rocklish mene, mene strategies, a revised list of temper species, and charific mon of legal gear.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Complete comments of the SSC are found in their minutes, Ambendix II.

Establish a minimum size limit for shlofish. The PSC printed our that the analysis provider in the draft amendment inducates that a size limit would not increase the total yield from the stock an view of the current low lishing mottality. While the analysis inducates that there is a possibility of some economic gain to be restined by applying a size limit to the carches of loughtness, it must be tracestated by applying a size limit to the carches of loughtness, it must be tracestated on the level of affort deployed in the itshery. If constants are not placed on the level of affort deployed in the itshery liven those conclusions, the longitue islery, serious consideration make to simultaneous include any errors of the separation of the supendant questioned the acvisability of continuing public review of the accordant without, diressing limitetion of effort.

PAR priority within 100 miles of Unclaska island. The SSC concled 4 that the catch/effort equation used in the PIR did not provide the data notical to determine now this action would affect both PAR and non-DAR fishermen. They recommended that the amilysis and conclusions based on this CRUE model be removed from the RIR. The SSC made specific recommendations to the plant for amending the FIR and recommended the proposal be sen out for public review after the medicions are made.

Revise the definition of probibited section. The SSU recommender that obtain proposal be sent out for public review.

Improve catch recording requirements. The SSC noted that the proposal goes beyond the original reason for the amendment, which was to allow the verification of the amount of groundfish being caught by catcher/processors and mothership/processors. They support the collection of information that is required for fisheries management and research, but feel that it is premature to use this amendment to initiate and define a DAP reporting system. The SSC found that the proposal as presented fails to provide the reader with sufficient information on the types of information to be collected and that the proposal also requires extensive editing. They recommended a fourth alternative be added to the package: "Apply the 'Cumulative Product Log' and the 'Transfer Logbook' recording requirements to catcher/processor mothership/processor vessels." With the additional alternative and clarification, the SSC recommended the proposal be sent out for public review.

Fishing season framework. The SSC recommended sending this proposal out for public review after minor editorial changes.

Expand the existing halibut PSC framework to include all traditional "prohibited species" (i.e., halibut, salmon, king and Tanner crabs).

The SSC recommended sending this proposal out for public review after the plan team makes some minor changes for the sake of clarification.

Update Gulf of Alaska FMP descriptive sections, reorganize chapters, and incorporate Council policy as directed. The SSC recommended sending this proposal out for public review but stressed the need for the revision to proceed with attention to the need for consistency with the BSAI groundfish fishery management plan.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Establish a minimum size limit for sablefish. The AP recommended this proposal be sent out for public review. Although they recognized the model in the RIR/EA indicates little impact, the majority of the AP felt that it is an important issue that needs to be addressed. The AP also recommended that if the proposal goes out for public review the CPUE model should be translated into language more easily understood by the public.

DAP priority within 100 miles of Unalaska Island. The AP recommended and amended version of the alternatives for this proposal be sent out for public review:

Alternative 1: Do nothing (no area restrictions on foreign processors receiving fish from U.S. fishermen).

Alternative 2: Establish a year-round area closure not to exceed the small square (the area bounded by 52°30' and 55°N. latitude between 164° and 169°W. longitude). Fishing within that area would be allowed only for those fishing for DAP operators.

Alternative 3: Establish a year-round area closure not to exceed the small square (the area bounded by 52°30' and 55°N. latitude between 164° and 169°W. longitude). Fishing within that area would be allowed for those delivering to DAP operators or for those delivering to foreign processors laying outside the small square.

Alternative 4: Establish seasonal area closures within the small square.

Alternative 5: Establish a fee structure for foreign processors who receive joint venture fish.

Improve cated recording recognoment. The SSC noted that the proposal cost beyond the original reason for the emerciaent, which has to allow the verification of the amount of groundiled being caught by catcher/processors and anchering/processors. They compart the collection of information that is required for indexies management and research, but feel that it is preacture to use this amendment in initiated and define a bar reporting system. The SSC course the proposal as presented fails to provide the reader with the proposal as presented fails to provide the reader with sufficient information on the types of information of be collected and that the proposal also requires extensive aditing. They reconsended a fourth alternative be reded to the package: "Apply the 'Combative Product Log' and the 'Trensfer loggook' reconsister and the additional strengthy and clarification, the SSC reconsended the proposal be sent out for public review.

Fishing seasor camework. The SSC recommended sending has proposal out for public review after about editorial charges.

Expend the cristing helifut PSC fromework to include all traditional "prohibited species" (1.0., hallbut, schoon, king had Tanner crobs).
The SSC recommeded pending this proposal cut for public review after the plant deem makes some minor charges for the sake of cirrification.

Epdace Gulf of Alaska WNP descriptive socijons, recognicité chapters, and incorporate Gouncil policy en directed. The SSC recommended sending this proposed one for public review but streamed the need for the revision to proceed with accountion to the need for consistency with the SSAE proundiich fishery maeagement plan.

Report of the Advisory Parel

Establish a minimum size limit for sablefice. The AP recommended this proposal be sent out for public review. Although they recognized the model in the AP/EA indicates little impact, the majority of the AP felt that it is an important issue that needs to be addressed. The AP also recommended that if the proposal goes out for public review the CrOR model should be cranslated into I nowe easily understood by the public.

UNP priority within 100 miles of Unwlarka Island. The AP recommended and camended version of the alternatives for this proposal be sent our for public raview:

Alternative 1: Do nothing (no area resurictions on foreign processors receiving finh from U.S. Habbermen).

Aiternative 2: Establish a year-tound area closura not to exceed the small square (the area bounded by 50°20° and 55°W. latitude between 164° and 165°W. templade). Clatting within that area would be allowed only for those fishing for DAI operators.

Alternative 3: Astablish a year-round ones closure not to exceed the small square (the mea bounded by 52°30' and 55°3), landrode between 169° and 165°W. Longitude). Fishing within that area would be allowed for those delivering to DAP operators or for those delivering to foreign processors laying outside the small square.

Alternative 4: Establish sensonal are, closures within the small square, Alternative 5: Establish a fee structure for lessing processors who receive joint venture tish.

Alternative 6: Spread out JVP allocations over a number of seasons within the year.

After extensive discussion and testimony about the RIR document the AP recommended numerous changes to the authors. One major cause of concern was uncertainty over what problem this proposal is trying to solve. For example:

- (a) In the RIR the plan team focused on getting fish to shore.
- (b) The proposer testified that the key problem is Americanization.
- (c) Much testimony centered on widespread fears about concentrating fishing effort on spawning stocks.

Revise the definition of prohibited species. The AP recommended this proposal be sent out for public review.

Improve catch recording requirements. The AP recommended sending this proposal out for public review, incorporating the SSC's recommendation for a fourth alternative.

Fishing Season Framework. The AP recommended this proposal be sent out for public review with Alternative 2 amended to include additional criteria for proposal evaluation. That criteria would include an analysis of whether seasons would have an allocative impact.

Expand the existing halibut PSC framework to include all traditional "prohibited species" (i.e., halibut, salmon, king and Tanner crabs). The AP recommended a rewritten and amended proposal be sent out for public review which would:

- (1) Clearly outline examples of how this may impact a particular fishery.
- (2) Clearly outline how PSC limits will be determined, enforced, and appealed.
- (3) More clearly state the cost/benefit analysis.

They also recommended a third alternative be added: "Defer the issue of bycatch of prohibited species to the Bycatch Subcommittee."

Update Gulf of Alaska FMP descriptive sections, reorganize chapters, and incorporate Council policy as directed. The AP recommended this proposal be sent out for public review.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Establish a minimum size limit for sablefish.

Don Collinsworth moved to send the proposal out for public review, incorporating the AP's suggestions for clarification. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell, and failed 8 to 3, with Collinsworth, Mitchell and Winther voting for the motion.

Several Council members felt that the analysis did not have compelling enough arguments to prove the benefits of a size limit on sablefish and that it would be a waste of time and effort to continue with this proposal for public

Alternative 6: pread out .WP allocations over a number of seasons within the year.

liter extensive discussion and testimony above the RTR document the Arter preciperated numerous compas to the actions. One rejor cause of condown west undertainty course what problem this proposal is trying to solve. For example:

- (a) In the KIR the plan team focused on gatting fish to she as.
- (b) The proposes teaufiled that the cay numbers is Americanication.
- (c) Buch teathment contened on widespread fears about dender trotier fishing effort on spawning stocks.

Payise the definition of probabilid concise. The Af receive that rungues had been public review.

Improve cared recording requirements. The AP macommended sending this proposal one jet public review, incorporating the SSC's recommendation for a courch alternative.

Fishing Season Francovek. The AP recommended this provers, he sent out for public raview with Alternative 2 amended to include additional criteria or proposal evaluation. That oriteria would include an analysis of what pressure round have an alternative impoce.

Supend the entiting halfbut PSC Transvork to include the traditional "prohibited species" (i.e., halfbur, taken, birg and Tarner etabs). The AP reconvended a rewritten and omended proposal be sent out for public review with would:

- (1) Clearly outline esamples of how this may improve a particular tithery.
- (2) Clearly outline low PSC limits will be determined, onfoloed, and appealed.
 - (3) Hore clearly stare the cost/benefit malyeis.

They also reconnected a third eltermattre betadest "Poler the fisher of bycatch of prohibited species to the Bycatch Subcommissee."

Update Gulf of Alaska File descriptive sections, represents obspects, and incorporate Genetal policy as arrected. The Alexandreaded tide proposal be seve out for public revies.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Establish a minimum size limit for sablefish.

Don Collinsworth moved to sond the proposed out for public resident, acceptrating the AF's suggestions for objection. The modes was serended by Henry Mirchell, and failed 8 to 3, with collinsworth, Mirchell and Warther wotting for the mother.

Several (council members felt that the analysis did not brya compositing agonghisting and char it would a significant to prove the benefits of a size limitation subjects to prove the benefits of continue with this proposal for public to a warter of the fauld effort to continue with this proposal for public

review. It was also pointed out that the SSC recommended that a size limit be considered only in connection with a limited entry proposal for the fishery.

Mr. Collinsworth said he made the motion because it is consistent with the AP's recommendation. He also commented that in conversations with fishermen the sablefish size limit has been discussed as a way of regulating the catch which would be an economic advantage.

DAP priority within 100 miles of Unalaska Island.

Don Collinsworth moved to adopt the AP's recommendations, including the six alternatives:

Alternative 1: Do nothing (no area restrictions on foreign processors receiving fish from U.S. fishermen).

Alternative 2: Establish a year-round area closure not to exceed the small square (the area bounded by 52°30' and 55°N. latitude between 164° and 169°W. longitude). Fishing within that area would be allowed only for those fishing for DAP operators.

Alternative 3: Establish a year-round area closure not to exceed the small square (the area bounded by 52°30' and 55°N. latitude between 164° and 169°W. longitude). Fishing within that area would be allowed for those delivering to DAP operators or for those delivering to foreign processors laying outside the small square.

Alternative 4: Establish seasonal area closures within the small square.

Alternative 5: Establish a fee structure for foreign processors who receive joint venture fish.

Alternative 6: Spread out JVP allocations over a number of seasons within the year,

and that the plan team address the concerns of the SSC regarding the CPUE model, before sending out for public review. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and carried, 7 to 4, with Dyson, Mace, M. Pedersen, and R. Petersen voting against.

There was considerable discussion and debate on this amendment proposal, particularly on whether there was sufficient time to develop the new alternative (6) and get the package out for the 30-day public review period. It was suggested that the plan team could obtain additional technical help from the Regional Office, the Center and the Auke Bay Lab. Many felt that if the proposal was approved for public review it should contain the maximum and most diverse alternatives possible.

Further discussion on the alternatives and, specifically Alternative 6, addressed whether the alternatives were appropriate to the objective of the proposal, priority for domestic processors. Some felt that Alternative 6, spreading JVP allocations over a number of seasons within the year, was another issue and should not be addressed under this proposal. There was also some concern whether the plan team would be able to properly analyze the wide range of alternatives suggested. The Council also discussed whether this proposal would address only pollock or all species in the Bering Sea.

John Winther moved to restrict analysis of this proposal to pollock. The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen and carried, 8 to 3, with John Peterson, Mitchell, and Collinsworth voting against.

40B13/AN -18-

review. It was also pointed cut that the SSC recommended that a size limit be considered only in connection with a limited entry proposal for the fishery.

ir. Collingworth said he made the morion because it is consistent with the AP's recommendation. He also commenced that in conversations with disherment the scalefich size limit has been dishered as a very or regulating the natch which would be an economic advantage.

DAP projective within 160 miles of Uralasta Taland.

No. Colimsworth roved to adopt the AP's reconsident, including the sin allegratives:

Alterstive 1: For motring (no area restrictions on foreign processors receiving fish from U.S. fisherenn).

Alternative 1: Establish a year-round trea closure not to enced the small square (che area bounded by 5 30° and 55°N. Latitude blowden 1(4° and 169°W. Lanitude). Firning cithic that orea could be allowed only for those dishing for DAP operators.

Airstustive 5: Establish a year-round area closure one to exceed the small square (the area bounded by 52°30' and 55°V. latitude be teen 164° and 165°V. longitude). Fishing vithin that area would be allowed for those delivering to UAE operators or for those delivering to foreign processors legitic the small square.

Plearnetive 4: Establish teasonal area closures within the small square, litermetive 3: Establish a security for foreign processors who receive foint venture fish.

Alternative 6: Spread out JVP allocations over a number of seasons within the rear,

and the slam bean address the concerns of the SSC regarded the CPUS model, before sending out for public review. The metion as seconded by thin Peterson and carried, 7 to 8, with Dyso., Mace, M. Pedersen, and F. Beterson volume against.

There was considerable discussion and debate on this creation to providely previously or whether there was sufficient time to develop the new ellernative (6) and set the package out for the 30-day public review period. It was suggested that the plan team could about additional technical help from the Regional Office, the Center and the Aula bay Lab. Many felt that the proposal was approved for public review it should contain the excious and should diverse alternatives possible.

Further discuspion on the alternatives and, specifically alternative 5, addressed whether the alternatives were appropriate to the objective of the proposal, prioring for domestic processors. Some felt that Alternative 6, specifing JVP allecations over a number of seasons within the year, was another issue and should not be addressed under this proposal. There was also some concern whether the plan team would be able to proparly and year the vide range of alternatives suggested. The Council also discuss d whether this acres of alternatives only nollecter all species in the Berling Fed.

doin Winther moved to restrict analysis of this proposal to polled. The section was seconded by Kudy Peterser and carried, 8 to 2, with John Petersor, Mitchell, and Collinsmorth voling goding.

Mr. McVey suggested that between now and the May meeting the plan team and staff could work with industry to prepare a well-developed Alternative 6 along with supporting documents. The Council could approve it for public review at that time and make a final decision in September. If, by January 1, there were compelling conservation reasons for implementing the final decision, perhaps it could be done by emergency rule. Jon Pollard, NOAA-GC, told Council members that he could not predict whether an emergency rule could be used at that time.

Some Council members felt that there isn't a problem to be dealt with, that Americanization of the shoreside processing industry is taking place as quickly as possible now; others felt that the proposal should be developed and sent out for public review.

The Council instructed the plan team to proceed with the proposal for public review, completing as much analysis as possible.

Revise the definition of prohibited species.

Henry Mitchell moved to sent the proposal out for public review. The motion was seconded by Mark Pedersen and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Improve catch recording requirements.

Don Collinsworth moved to adopt the AP's recommendations, which was to send the proposal out for public review including a fourth alternative (Apply the "Cumulative Product Log" and the "Transfer Logbook" recording requirements to catcher/processor and mothership/processor vessels. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

There was some concern about the broad scope of the data that would be required under such a program. John Harville pointed out that industry cooperation is a must for logbooks to be effective. He suggested that the development of the details of this proposal should include industry participation. Mr. McVey said that they will work with industry to clarify NMFS' specific needs and to find some common ground.

Fishing season framework.

Don Collinsworth moved to send out this proposal with the AP's recommendation to amend Alternative 2 to include additional criteria for proposal evaluation, including analysis of whether seasons would have an allocative impact. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Expand the existing halibut PSC framework to include all traditional "prohibited species" (i.e., halibut, salmon, king and Tanner crabs).

Mr. McVey suggested that between now and the May meeting the plan term and staff could work with industry to prepar a well-developed Alternative 6 along with supporting comments. The douncil could approve it for public review at that time and make a final decreton in September. It, by Jaruary 1, there were compelling concervation reasons for implementing the final decision, pulses it could be done by emergency rule. For the Politari, WOAA-CC, told countil members that he dould not predict whether an emergency rule could be used as that the could not predict whether an emergency rule could be

Some Council members felt lithat there isn't a problem to be dealer which that Americanisaries of the choreside processing diductry is acking place parquickly as possible new; obsers felt the proposal challe be developed and cent out for public review:

The Council sistructed the plan team to proceed with the proposal for public review, completing as much analysis as possible.

Revise the definition of prohibited species.

Henry Mitchell accedit sent the proposal out for public review. The otion was seconded by Mark Federace and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Laprove sauch recording requirements.

DON Goldinsworth seved to adipt the AP's recommendations, which was to send the proposal out is public review inclusing a longth electionalise (Appl the "Gunulatin Producting" and the "Transfer Lopbook" sacording requirements to conteler/processor and sotherwitp/processor vescels. The motion was seconded by Bob EdVey and, unore being no objection, it was so triared.

There was some concern about the broad scope of the data that would be required under such a progret. John faiville jointed out that industry concertion is a must for logbooks to be effective. The suppressed that the conscious colopment of the details of that proposal should include feducity participation. As NeVey said that they will work with the industry to clarify participation needs and to find common ground.

lishing decisor in amework.

ben Collinsworth roved to send out this proposal with the AP's recommendation of amend Alternative 2 to include idditional orithmal richt proposal evaluation, including analysis of whether seasons would have an allocative implies. The ration was the conded by bub Bace and, there being a objection, it was superfered.

Expand the existing haliful PSC framework to include all traditional "problimited species" (i.e., balibut, salmon, king and Tanger cross).

Don Collinsworth moved to adopt the AP's recommendation: to send out for public review a rewritten and amended proposal which would:

- (1) Clearly outline examples of how this may impact a particular fishery.
- (2) Clearly outline how PSC limits will be determined, enforced, and appealed.
- (3) More clearly state the cost/benefit analysis, and

that a third alternative be added: "Defer the issue of bycatch of prohibited species to the Bycatch Subcommittee." The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Update Gulf of Alaska FMP descriptive sections, reorganize chapters, and incorporate Council policy as directed.

Don Collinsworth moved to send this proposal out for public review. The motion was seconded by Larry Cotter and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. Oscar Dyson was not present for this vote.

There was some concern about the work going into a revision with the current objective of combining the two groundfish plans. However, Steve Davis told Council members that the chapters being updated will have to be done, even for a combined plan. Bob Mace asked that staff come back to the Council with a workable schedule for combining the two groundfish plans.

D-3 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands FMP.

Amendment 11.

Amendment 11 to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP addressed the following issues (those marked with an asterisk are common to both the Gulf and Bering Sea FMPs):

*Establish a minimum size limit for sablefish.

Alternative 1: Do nothing (i.e., no minimum size limits).

Alternative 2: Establish a single minimum size limit for all gear (include consideration of a 22-inch limit).

Alternative 3: Establish a minimum size limit for fixed gear only (i.e., hook-and-longline and pots).

*DAP priority within 100 miles of Unalaska Island.

Alternative 1: Do nothing (i.e., no area restrictions on foreign processors receiving fish from U.S. fishermen).

Alternative 2: Establish year-round area closures. Two sub-alternatives consider square approximation of a 100-mile circle centered on Unalaska Island.

Sen Collinerrah moved to adopt the AP's recommendation: to send out- or public raview a revolution anded proposal which would:

- (1) Clearly outsite examples of now this may impact a particular fishery.
- (2) Clearly outline how PSC limits will be determined, enforced, and appealed.
 - (3) More clossly state the dost/benefit and size and

that a third alternative be added: "Defer the issue of bycatch of promised species or the dyester of Subcommittee." The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

ipdate full of Alaska her descriptive sections, reorganise thaptens, and incorporate Geometic Policy as directed.

then Colatinswee himoved to rend this proporal out for public review. The medica was secrated by facty Contar and, there being no objection, it was so truexed. Oscar Dysags was not present for this vote.

There was some concern about the work going into a revision with the current objective of combining the two propositish plants. However, Stave Davis not Council members that the chapters being updated will have to be deter even it. a combined plant. Bob sace asked that storf come back so the Conteil with a workeble schedule for combining the two groundlish plans.

Del Bering Legibleation Inlands PMP.

Amendment II.

Amendment 11 to the Bering Sen/Aleurian Islands Groundlish EFF addressed the following issues (cores marked with an asserisk are common to both the Golf and Bering Sea EIPa):

Harablish a minimum wise limit for sablefish.

Alternative it for nothing (i.e., no mistans size limits).

Alternative :: Establish a single minimum sive limit for all gent (include consideration of a 22-inch limit).

Alternative 5: Retablish a siminur size limit for fixed gear only (i.e., book-and-Largline and pots).

SDAP priority within 100 miles of Veelaska Island.

Alcernative 1: Do nothing (i.e. no area restriction on foreign processors receiving file from U.S. (thermal).

Alternative 2: Establish year-round area closures. The sub-alcernarives consider square approximation of a 100-reffer direle centered on the slacks island.

Alternative 3: Establish seasonal area closures. Two sub-alternatives consider January through June closures of the 100-mile zones and the entire Bering Sea.

Alternative 4: Establish a fee structure for foreign processors who receive joint venture fish.

*Revise the definition of prohibited species.

Alternative 1: Do nothing.

Alternative 2: Clarify, but not substantially alter, definition.

*Improve catch recording requirements.

Alternative 1: Do nothing.

Alternative 2: Require fishing and transfer logbooks for all DAP vessels.

Alternative 3: Require the logbooks only from DAP catcher/processors and mothership/processors.

Revise definition of acceptable biological catch (ABC).

Alternative 1: Do nothing.

Alternative 2: Amend definition to conform with that used by Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Increase Upper value of optimum yield (OY) range.

Alternative 1: Do nothing (upper value remains 2.0 million mt).

Alternative 2: Raise upper value of OY range to 2.4 million mt.

Alternative 3: Equate upper value of OY range to annual sum of EY/ABCs.

-21-

Prohibit pollock roe-stripping.

Alternative 1: Do nothing.

Alternative 2: Prohibit JVP roe-stripping.

Alternative 3: Prohibit JVP and DAP roe-stripping.

Alternative 4: Establish semi-annual JVP pollock allocation.

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

Alternative 3: Establish seasonal area closures. Two sub-alternatives consider landary through dura closures of the 100-mile zones and the entire Berton Sec.

Alternative 4: Establish a fee structure for foreign processors win receive joint venture fish.

*Revise the definition of prohibited species.

Alternative it Do brohing.

Attennetive 2: Clarify, but not substantially after, definition.

Fing cove catch recording requirements.

Alternative ! Do nothing.

Alternative 2: Require fishing and transfer Repocks for all DAP vesse's.

Alternative 3: Require the logbroks only from DAP entoher/processors and mothership/processors.

Lavine definition of acceptable biological cotch (ARC).

Alternacive 1: De mothing.

Alternative 2: Amend definition to conform with that used by Preffic Fishery Management Council.

Increase Upper value of optimum yield (OV) range.

Alternetive I: 60 nothing (upper value remains 2.0 mil for mt).

Alternative 2: Raine upper value of OY range to 2.4 million mt.

Alternative 3: Equate upper value of OV range to sanual one of EY/ABCs.

Problète pollock recestripping.

Alternative 1: Do nothing.

Alternative 2: Prohibit aVP ros-saripping.

atterrative 3: Probibit JVP and PAP ros-stripping.

Alternative 4: Retablish semi-annual WVP policek . Hocation.

Sublic testimon, for this agenda item is found in appendix I.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Complete comments of the SSC are found in their minutes, Appendix II. Please refer to the Gulf of Alaska agenda item, D-2, for comments on the first four proposals, common to both plans.

Revise definition of acceptable biological catch (ABC).

The SSC recommended this proposal be sent out for public review. In addition, they recommended that the plan team add the following definition of threshold to the proposal:

The threshold is defined as the minimum size of a stock that allows sufficient recruitment so that the stock can eventually reach a level that produces MSY.

Increase upper value of optimum yield (OY) range.

The SSC suggested to the team a number of editorial changes to the proposal and recommended it be sent out for public comment after those changes are made.

Prohibit pollock roe-stripping.

The SSC recommended this proposal be sent out for public comment.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Please refer to the Gulf of Alaska agenda item, D-2, for comments on the first four proposals, common to both plans.

Revise the definition of acceptable biological catch (ABC).

The AP recommended sending this proposal out for public review.

Increase upper value of optimum yield (OY) range.

The AP recommended this proposal be sent out for public review, with two changes:

- (1) Deletion of all editorial comments. An example of editorial comments is on page 73 which describes Alternative 3 as the most "conservative and protective."
- 2) Amend Alternative 3 to read: "Annually set the upper end of the OY range equal to annual estimates of EY/ABC but not to exceed 2.0 million metric tons."

Prohibit pollock roe stripping.

The AP recommended the proposal be sent out for public review.

40B13/AN -22-

Report of the Sci nutfic and Supported Committee

Complete commands of the SeC are found in their minutes, appendin 77. Please refer to the Gulf of Alaska agends item. 1-1, for comments on the first four oregenals, comments to both plans.

Revise designition of cocessable biological catch (ARC).

The SSC recommended this proposal be sunt out for public review. In addition, they recommended that the plan team add the following definition of threshold to the proposal:

The throshold is defined as the minimum size or a steel that allows sufficient recruitment so that the stock can eventually reach a level that produces MSY.

Increase upper value of optimum yield (OY) range.

The SSC sugristed to the ream a number of editorial charges to the proposal and recommended it be sent out for abbie comment after those charges are made.

Prohibite pollock roo-studeping.

The MSC recommended this proposal be sent out for public comment.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Please refer to the Gulf of Alaska aganda item, 0-2, for comments on the first four proposais, common to both plans.

Revise the delimition of acceptable biological catch (ADC).

The AP recommended sending this proposal out for public review.

. Increase upper value of optiming yield (OY) wanger

The AP recommended this proposal be sent out for public review, with two changes:

- (3) Falerion of all editorial comments. An eraspie of editorial domments is on page 73 which describes Alternative 2 as the most "conservative and protective."
- i) At end Alternative 3 to read: "Annually set the upper end of the OV-range equal to manual estimates of FY/Ard but not to enceed 2.0 million metric cone."

Probibit policek row stripping.

The AP recommended the proposal has said out for public review.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION ACTION

Council discussion and action on the following proposals is found under the Gulf of Alaska agenda item, D-2:

Establish a minimum size limit for sablefish. DAP priority within 100 miles of Unalaska Island. Revise the definition of prohibited species. Improve catch recording requirements.

Revise definition of acceptable biological catch (ABC).

Don Collinsworth moved to adopt the AP recommendation to send the proposal out for public review after incorporating the definition of threshold suggested by the SSC. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and, there being objection, it was so ordered.

Increase the upper value of optimum yield (OY) range:

Mark Pedersen moved to send the proposal out for public comment after making the editorial changes proposed by the SSC and incorporating the AP's suggestion for Alternative 3 into a new, fourth alternative: "Annually set the upper end of the OY range equal to annual estimates of EY/ABC but not to exceed 2.0 million metric tons. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and carried with John Winther objecting. Mr. Dyson was not present for the vote.

Prohibit pollock roe-stripping.

Bob Mace moved to drop this proposal from the package. The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen and failed, 6 to 4, with Mace, McVey, M. Pedersen, and R. Petersen voting in favor. Mr. Dyson was not present for the vote.

The reason for this motion was previous testimony by the original proposers of the amendment indicating they wished to withdraw it.

Henry Mitchell moved to send this proposal out for public review. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and carried, 6 to 4, with Mace, McVey, M. Pedersen and R. Petersen voting against. Mr. Dyson was not present for the vote. Mr. Mitchell pointed out that public testimony indicated some people still feel there is a need for this proposal to be analyzed and public testimony solicited.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob McVey reported on the GATT negotiations with Japan. Negotiators have been successful in gaining IQ considerations on pollock and herring. It won't be a formal agreement, but an exchange of letters. Under pollock there will be a new quota category for which the initial allocation will be 100,000 tons round weight and will be available for any willing buyer and seller with no qualification other than a legitimate contract. There is also a mechanism for increasing the amount if needed. This should be functional by the first of April. On herring, the Japanese IQ will be broken into two parts, with one for Pacific herring at 50,000 tons round weight; quota shares will be divided

40B13/AN -23-

COUNCEL DESCUSSION ACTION

Council discussion and action on the following proposals is found under the Gulf of Alasks agends item, D-2:

Establish a sinimum size limit for sabletich, the priority within 100 males of Unalaska laland. Revise the definition of prohibited specie. Improve capture requirements.

Revice verifitation of scceptable biological estch (AHC).

on Collinsworth moved to adopt the AP recommendation to send the proposal out for public review after theorem, the delimits on the should surgested by the SSC. The motion was seconded by John Deleased, there being objection; it was so ordered.

increase the upper relue of optimum yield (TT) range

Mark Pedersen moved to send the proposal and for public comment when making the editorial changes proposed by the SAC and incorporating the AFF suggestion to Aite dative 3 foca a new, fourth afternative; "Avriably set the upper and of the CY came equal to around estimates of SYABC but not to exceed 3.0 million metric cons. The motion was seconded by Heary Mischell and carried with John Windher objecting. Mr. Dyson was not presenting the your.

Fighibic rollock regestripping.

Reb Made moved to drop this proposal conditions was accounted by Sady Petursen and Italia, 6 () A, with More, levery M. Pedersen, and R. Petersen voting in layer. Mr. b. or was not present for the vote.

The readon for this motion was pravious testimony by the original proposess or the ame dwent indicating they wished to withdraw it.

Henry Nitchell moved to sand this proporal out for public rowlew. The notion was seconded by John Parerson and carried, 6 to 4, with Nove, MoVe, M. Federsen and R. Peterson volung against. Or Dyson was not present for the vote. Mr. Mitchell princed out that public testimony indicated some people still fiel there is a need for this proposal to be shelved and public testimony solicited.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sob McVey apported on the CASE negotiations with Japan. Negotiators lave been successful in saining 10 considerations on policer and herring. It won't be a formal egreement, but an eachinge of letters. (Soder policek Engre vill be a new quota category for which the initial ellocation will be a lof,000 toru round weight and will be available for any willing lugar and eller with no qualification other than a legitimate contract. There is also a machanica for reasing the amount if needed. This about be functional by the first of factuaring, the Japanese Them is broken into two parts, with one for Pecific Learing of 50,000 tens mound weight; another shares will as divided for Pecific Learing of 50,000 tens mound weight; another shares will as divided.

equally among traders and users. A more detailed report will be prepared upon completion of the negotiations.

Paul Fuhs, Mayor of Unalaska, commented on the video he had shown during public testimony. He apologized for the controversy caused, but said that it was shown in good faith. The film was recorded about five weeks ago and there was no deliberate intent to misrepresent the facts. The point was to stress the importance of managing stocks conservatively.

Council member <u>Larry Cotter</u> asked to have a report at the May Council meeting on the issue of "dumping" excess fish so that the Council can have more information in order to discuss the problem. Al Burch was asked by the Council to prepare a report for the May meeting.

Paul MacGregor. Mr. MacGregor expressed concern over the Council's discussion on the impending TALFF releases. He reported on the progress of various projects provided for in the 1987 Japanese-U.S. industry agreements: (1) a Japanese research cruise has been scheduled; (2) a delegation is on the way to Nelson Island to implement a program to try to develop a groundfish fishery with Nelson Island residents; (3) they have agreed to put more money into a pink salmon project in Unalakleet; (4) have pursued negotiations with KEG fishermen for a project in Norton Sound later this summer; (5) they have contacted every U.S. processor they can about the availability of import quotas in Japan; and (6) have been active participants and supporters of negotiations between the United States and Japan on herring and pollock IQs.

F. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Campbell adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20.

40B13/AN -24-

TIBUTUS COUNCID NORTHE MARCH 1987

equally smong traders and users. A more detailed report will be prepared upon completion of the negetiations.

Paul vulus, Maror of Unaleska, combented on the video he had shown during public testimon, if apologized for the controversy consed, but said that i was shown in good haith. The film was recorded about five weeks ago and there was no deliberate intent to misrepresent the lacts. The point was to some the importance of managing stocks conservatively.

Council member carry Corner asked to have a report at the May Council meeting on the issue of "duaping" ercess fish so that the Gouncil can have more incommetion in order to discuss the problem. Al Burch was asked by the Council to proper a report for the May seating.

lawi Merograph. Mr. MacGregor expressed concern over the Council's discussion on the impending TAIFF releases. He reported on the programs of various projects recyided for in the 1981 Japanese-U.S. industry expresented: (1) a dapanese research cruise has been scheduled; (1) a delegarion in on the wor to dapanese research cruise has been scheduled; (1) a delegarion in on the wor to distance residents; (2) they have agreed to put more money into a pink salmon project in Unitablect (4) have pursued negotiations with AFC fishermen for a project in Morten Sound later this cameer; (5) they have controlled every U.S. processor they can about the availability of report queens in Japan and to be supported of supported of supported described in Japan and supported of supported negotiations between the United States and Japan on berring and poilont IGs.

F. CHAIRMAR'S REMARKS AND AUGOURNATUT

Chairman Campbell adjourned the meeting of 12:00 p.m. on Fridgy, Sarch 20.