

Public Testimony

Crab

Arni Thomson, Alaska Crab Coalition

Sablefish and Halibut IFQs

See attachment 1 to this appendix.

Halibut - Pribilof Proposal

Phil Arterburn, Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn.

Moratorium

Deming Cowles, Alaska Crab Coalition
Chris Blackburn, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank
Dave Fraser, American High Seas Fisheries Assn
Thorn Smith, North Pacific Longline Assn
John Iani, Pacific Seafood Processors Assn
Jim Ellis, Shipyard Assn.

International Fisheries

Deming Cowles, United Fishermen's Assn
Paul MacGregor, American Factory Trawlers Assn.
Greg Baker, Westward Seafoods

Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish

Chris Nerison, Cordova District Fishermen United
Dave Galloway, Ocean Phoenix Group
Chris Blackburn, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank
Dean Paddock, Bristol Bay Driftnet Fishermen
Robert Czeisler, Ocean Phoenix Group
Paul Clampitt, FVOA
Penny Pagels, Greenpeace
Steve Hughes, Midwater Trawlers
Dave Olney, F/T Eureka
Bert Larkins, AFTA
Vince Curry, Steve Hughes, Dave Fraser, Dave Benson
Greg Baker, Westward Seafoods
Joe Plesha, Trident Seafoods
Sinclair Wilt, Alyeska Seafoods
Dave Stanchfield, John Gruber, F/V Sea Wolf
Fred Yeck, Oregon

Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands, continued

Gary Westin, Midwater Trawlers
Thorn Smith, North Pacific Longline Assn
Bob Wurm, KLVOA
Gary Cadd, Kenai Peninsula Sportfishing Assn
Leonard Herzog, Bristol Bay fisherman
Toby Rilling, Cordova

Bycatch Amendment

Bob Trumble, International Pacific Halibut Commission
Gary Cadd, Kenai Peninsula Sportsfishing Assn
Fisheries Conservation Action Group: Kris Norosz, Linda Kozak, Shari Gross, Linda Behnken,
Arni Thomson, Thorn Smith, Drew Scalzi.
Loren Flagg, Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Assn
Chris Chavasse
Thorn Smith, North Pacific Longline Assn
Dave Little, Clipper Seafoods
Bill Atkinson, Alaska Frontier Co.
Gary Nathstein, Polmar Fisheries
Dave Fraser, AHSFA
Steve Hughes, Midwater Trawlers
Phil Chitwood, Arctic Alaska Fisheries
John Iani, PSPA
Chris Blackburn, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank m;
Al Burch, Alaska Dragners Assn
Dave Fraser, AHSFA
Linda Kozak, KLVOA
Arni Thomson, ACC
George Anderson/Steve Johnson, Fishing Company of Alaska
Paul MacGregor, AFTA
Sylvia Ettefaugh, Seattle
Dean Paddock, Bristol Bay Driftnetters Assn
David Bill, Qaluyaat Fisheries
Bruce Cotton, Long John Silvers

Gulf of Alaska Groundfish

Chris Blackburn, Alaska Grfsh Data Bank
Joe Plesha, Trident Seafoods
Don Rawlinson, Peter Pan Seafoods
Beth Stewart, Aleutians East Borough
Brad Resnick, Aleutian Dragon Fisheries
George Anderson, FCA
Bob Trumble, IPHC
Dan Falvey
Linda Kozak, KLVOA
Linda Behnken, ALFA

December 2, 1991

Public Hearing on Sablefish and Halibut IFQs

9:07am

Council Members present: Hegge, Judith Freeman for Blum, Dyson, Alverson, Lauber, Mitchell, Tillion, Cotter, Kyle

9:09am

Michael G. Wiley, Seward.

Been involved in fishery (halibut) since 1970 as a small boat fisherman. Would like to see an end to the 24-hour halibut fishery. Congratulates Council on action, but identifies shortcomings. Nothing to address sport fishing. In Seward and Homer guiding and fishing for halibut very important. Designated ports another problem. It is not reasonable for small boats to travel too far to deliver. Can't get rid of those delivering 1,000 pounds or less but plan structured that way now. Designed plan basically for sablefish and now imposing that on halibut fishermen. Big boats will be more efficient but this will harm small boats and take free enterprise out of the system. Make plan flexible.

9:16am

(Dave Flannagan responding to questions about primary port delivery)

If you want to land outside state, have to clear through primary ports; tranship, will also have to do so; if want to ship in foreign commerce, through primary port; all other landings can be done through out state at any port; advance notice requirements will all be the same.

9:20am

Geo Plagenz Homer.

Sect. 3.5, initial allocation and quota share; has submitted written testimony; presented for Council members' notebooks; (Great Expectations) Does support IFQs to safeguard biomass, reduce danger in fisheries, better product for consumer and better price for fisherman: problem -- all quota goes to owner; halibut fishery conducted now on a share basis; not fair or legal to give all fish to vessel owners just because it's easier to figure out. In order for vessel owners to own fish they would have to have paid tax, workers' compensation, etc. They have benefitted by not paying these. Doesn't believe they can have their cake and eat it too. Wants Council to amend the language of initial allocation to allow for the legal rights of crew and skippers.

9:26am

Warren Brown, City of Seldovia.

17 years as a fisherman and a City Councillor. City Council passed a resolution stating please do not approve IFQs until economic analysis completed on coastal communities affected. Implementation of plan as stated would have a devastating effect. Inconveniences of selling in a non-primary port will make it difficult to sell the two canneries for sale now in Seldovia. Seldovia depends solely on fishing and processing. If any of that is taken, devastating to its economy. Fish & Game Advisory also voted in favor of the City Council's resolution. The IFQ program as stated is unacceptable. There are too many flaws in the proposal and it's not the answer yet. Bona fide crew member a joke. An alternative would be to keep qualifying years for vessels 89-90, with the same for a crew member and then maybe 6 months commercial fishing time. Don't keep deck hand completely out of it. Throw the bona fide crew-member provision completely out and let shares be sold on the open market. Estimates the small boat fleet in Seldovia could be cut by about 60%.

9:35am **Commander Larry Hardwig** Adak Naval Station

Two types of people on Adak, military and civilian. Period on island only two years. A lot of people stationed on island do fish commercially. Hope Council will change plan to accommodate Adak. Atka would receive a CDQ in area 4B, but Adak would not. Proposed that shares be allocated for two year periods. Not fair that those stationed on Adak in past, but no longer there would receive QS, while those there now would get none. 5th or 6th largest town in Alaska but they've never had a Council hearing there. The whole IFQ question is a surprise to them. They are not suffering from too many fishermen and congested grounds like other communities, they don't have too many boats.

9:42am **David Wittmire**, Homer

Long lining for 12 years for salmon and herring. Has questions on plan

1. p. 9, Section 2 discards. Don't understand why freezer long-liners are exempt.
2. p. 8, c(ii) leasing. Freezer/long-liners may sell shares for use in that category, but catcher boats may lease up to 10 percent. It appears there are two standards for the two categories. Curious why the different rules for the two vessel categories.

Jay Ginter noted that the implementation team noted the same discrepancy as far as discards were concerned. Mr Hegge stated that the matter was addressed at the last Council meeting and was left to the implementation team. Assumed that freezer long-liners would remain under a PSC cap. Mr Cotter stated that it was the Council's intention that freezer long-liners not be allowed to own QS or IFQs, and that they would have to discard. They can own sablefish QS and IFQs. Mr Hegge stated that leasing was prohibited by freezer long-liners because they were not owner operated, and it was the Council's intention to maintain the fleet as it has been operating.

9:50am **John Woodruff** Icicle Seafoods.

Council must consider downstream effects of its actions. He had four concerns as follows:

1. implementation plan not available long enough for adequate airing; more time needed to review plan and its impacts carefully;
2. enforcement and costs. Primary ports have increased coverage and some others may have none. Enforcement from fishing grounds will be virtually impossible, leaving potential for under-logging.
3. the percentage of fish caught and processed in Alaska by Alaskans will drop;
4. unclear whether IFQs and QS would stay with the long-line fleet or be available to other gear groups. Council should give more time and seek as much public input as possible before adopting a final version of the plan.

9:54am **Stan Weikal**, Mount Vernon, Washington

Individual vessel owner for 13 years. Opposed to privatization of the resource even though he would come out OK. Concerned about the short time available to review and comment. The two committees established by the Council did not have representatives of individuals, they were composed of "lobbying"

groups. Differentiation between those who own and lease boats. There is nothing to verify that waivers come from filers of fish tickets. This could be open to forgery, unless some definite means of determining who signed documents. Concerned that allocating by-catch to people in other fisheries and not passing on to those in directed fishery an amount of fish because they won't be discarding. Concerned about the leasing aspect as presently drafted. Cannot lease more than 10%. Many will receive small quotas that will not be feasible to use in some areas. Concerned about transfer of shares--i.e., his wife has been business partner but never worked on boat. Upon his death, the Quota Shares will not be able to be transferred to his wife. She will be precluded from running the business the way they would like.

10:00am **Kevin Hogan**

Own and operate own boat, since 1974. Small operation. Received plan 19 hours prior. Thinks implementation plan will create a large bureaucracy. Has four years College and he can't understand it. Believes fishermen will have trouble understanding the system. The use of past catch histories to determine quota will reward those who cheated. Concerned that halibut just added in to implementation plan, it should be addressed separately. Sablefish and halibut are two separate and different fisheries. Crew classification is objectionable should have opportunity to participate in the fishery. Traditional management such as gear limitations, area management, could be used instead.

10:20am **Sylvia Ettefagh**

Small boat fisherman out of Wrangell. totally opposed to allocating the resource, but something has to be done. Agree with the Seldovia testimony regarding small communities. Have been working in fisheries for 10 years to accrue enough to get a permit, mostly in salmon. Not in fisheries long enough to accrue quotas. If hadn't been for the halibut opening, they couldn't have made it this year. Need to provide for crewmen, too. Consider downstream effects. Those who have been trying to get into a fishery over the years are being left out.

10:25am **C.K. Weaverling, Mayor, City of Cordova**

Submitted written testimony. In case of Cordova fishermen, quota would be too small to be economically feasible. Others would be locked out completely; will affect employment, with downstream effects on community. Urge Council to consider more traditional management schemes. Cordova should get a CDQ. IFQs will create winners and losers. The losers will be small boat owners and those wanting to get into the fishery.

10:30am **Donald C. Nesbitt**

Small boat fisherman. Glad Council making decision, doesn't agree with it. Halibut and sablefish fisheries should be separated, not considered together. Basing qualifications on poundage is a problem for those like him who just started last year. He didn't get any fish, therefore not eligible. He does not believe that is right;

10:33am **Laura Cooper, North Pacific Fisheries Protection Association**

Submitted synopsis of testimony. Thinks it's impossible to implement and enforce this program. It cannot be fixed by fine tuning, it should be thrown out. Does not believe it can be implemented and enforced for \$4 million per year. Commander Kyle has stated that some parts of the system are unenforceable. Excludes large number of fishermen--crewmen, they could be included and required to prove their participation, same as owners. Thinks the proposed system violates the Magnuson Act. Wants to see everyone treated fairly and equitably. System is likely to annihilate the small boat fleet. It is structured so that bigger boats with financial backing will be able to buy shares and small boats forced out. Believes 75 percent of quotas will change hands in a short period. This is economic engineering to protect those who have. Also financial backing will come from foreign investors. Putting quotas into foreign control defeats

purpose of Act. The plan will devastate local Alaska communities; and related business and services. Need social impact assessment. The last SEIS was 2-3 years ago, with an update earlier this year. Major response to IFQs is negative and the Council needs to address this. Need to rationalize fisheries, but this particular program has too many flaws. Throw it out and immediately impose a moratorium and stringent management techniques to buy time, then review quotas with use it or lose it provision, auction, etc. A full SEIS should be prepared for each management proposal and then put out for public review. There are less radical and more equitable programs available. It has been rumored that those Council members voting for IFQs are doing so because of a link with the inshore/offshore issue. It is believed that members have to vote for this proposal in return for an inshore allocation. Believes if vote for this, will confirm that Council system is not working.

[Applause]

10:44 am Jim Eastwood

Petersburg vessels and crew member for 12 years. In favor of the IFQ plan. Only plan to solve wastage of the resource. He does have some concerns. These include:

1. in the case of crewmen who have been on board vessels, poundage should be taken from fish ticket landings.
2. the cost of the plan is going to be expensive. He believes the estimates contained in the plan are naive. Residents of Petersburg willing to pay a fish tax to cover administrative costs. He sees difficulties with the next two years. He believes a moratorium should be instituted immediately.

10:48am Stanley H. Mack, Mayor of Sand Point.

Submitted a resolution with regard to the IFQ program. Sand Point in similar situation to Cordova, Seldovia, and other small communities. Appreciates Council's efforts. Sand Point is a fishing community; there are not other resources there to depend upon. Fishing supports their economy, through taxes on fish. This is also relied upon for capital improvements. Pride at being able to keep up their education system. Only boat owners who have participated personally should get Quota Shares. Fishermen need to seek a year round operation. This will deny them that flexibility. Also, one of the benefits of the system has been seen as the provision of fresh fish all year round. He is not sure that canneries will want to remain open to process this fish all year.

10:57am Anna Borland, Homer

Fished 10 years, long lining halibut 8 years. When started in halibut fishery, thought she would be able to work her way up in fishery. Will be precluded from doing this under plan because of crew-member definition. She has risked her life on deck, but will get nothing out of it. All she has ever done is fish, and this plan will prevent her from continuing. Believes in preserving the industry, but not this way. Thinks there are other ways to preserve fish, such as trip limits, big and little boat quotas, spread season over summer when weather is good and gear restrictions. Urges Council to change definition of bona fide crew member and allow someone who has been in the industry to buy into system. Also make quotas non-transferable, with unused shares going into a pool for re-allocation to new people. A quota share a right to fish, not a right to sell the right to fish to somebody else.

11:02am **Steve Hoag**, representing the IPHC

Supports IFQ program. Thinks it will solve many problems in the fishery. Has technical comments regarding implementation. Largest concern is that of monitoring and funding for monitoring. Accurate catch statistics are critical to their work, and monitoring may be difficult. IFQ program means longer seasons and burden on data collection programs. Supports exemption of halibut long-line fleet from PSC. Think there will be lower by-catch rates with this program. If not, return to PSC limits. Re, exemption of freezer long-liners - don't see it as a serious problem. Supports having some sort of PSC limit for freezer long-liners as well as an incentive program to eliminate the perception that they're being allowed privileges.

11:10am **Mako Haggerty**, Homer

Fished halibut for last seven years. Doesn't like IFQ program. Doesn't think it's an equitable program or addresses the issues that should be addressed. Bona fide crewmen definition will eliminate a lot of people who have participated in the fishery. Believe the costs will be prohibitive especially for those who have to buy into the program, or those who receive very small quota shares. If conservation is the aim of the system, it has been negated by the freezer long-liner category. p. 9 C(iii) of the plan, concerning hired skippers should be deleted. Does not believe there should be two classes of people created in the halibut fishery. High-grading is a problem. Need an economic impact analysis for communities. He thinks the Council could have gotten away with implementing black cod IFQs, but since they added halibut they are experiencing widespread opposition.

11:17am **Bill Kaltenecker**, Cordova

Fished for eight years. Worked every year to increase the quantity and quality of fish they delivered. If allocate IFQs based on what he did three years ago, will not be able to meet present day costs. Cordova will not survive if this plan is introduced. Most people are against the system because it does not allocate quotas fairly. Resources should be allocated fairly to those who are in the industry.

11:21am **Brad A. Kimberlin** Fairbanks

Few fishermen in Fairbanks. Started in skiffs in 1984, building up their participation. Now have three boats. Under plan, may as well sell up. By putting halibut in with sablefish will force all small boats out of industry. Suggestions:- anyone with fish ticket landings should get a minimum quota with an additional amount for each year fished; crew classification is unacceptable. Current program favors out-of-state owners. Don't want the whole fishing industry ending up in Washington. Small coastal communities will suffer if this plan goes ahead. Vessel classification is a problem. A 54 foot boat is under 60 feet, but this is very different from a very small boat.

11:27am **Paul Lints**, Kasilof

Represent small boat fleet. Been halibut fishing for 13 years. Small boat fleets and small communities will be adversely affected if this plan is implemented. System isn't geared for small boats. Something has to be done; but this program is not for small boat fleet. Thinks projected costs of implementation and enforcement are projected too low; the cost will be passed onto the fisherman. There is no "small boat" category; they can't go out to fish during inclement weather like the 60 foot boats in the same category. Economic impact analyses of affected communities should be done.

11:32am **Paul K. Seaton**, K. N. S Marine, Anchor Point

Has two boats over 60 feet. Wants sablefish and halibut to be allowed to be harvested by pots in the Gulf of Alaska. Submitted comparison of fisheries by pot and long-line. IFQ plan does not solve the problems it

purports to solve. There are other ways, such as the use of alternative gear.

11:37am **John Rate, Homer**

Fished salmon for 20 years, with 14 in halibut. Wishes to re-iterate comments of previous speaker. There are alternatives to IFQs, need compelling reasons to do this. Submitted August issue of National Fisherman with photo on cover. Shows what has happened under salmon limited entry. More than 40 percent of salmon fishermen having trouble meeting loans. Same will happen in halibut fishery. Learn from history, no such thing as a stable fishery. People crash as stocks fluctuate. This is the nature of the beast.

11:42am **Shari Gross, HANA**

35 companies represented in the group, both big and small, up and down the coast. HANA is an integral part of the industry. Troubled with proposal. Major concern is for the resource and the impact on health of stocks. IFQs pose a serious threat to the resource unless monitoring and enforcement is tight, which is costly. Plan will cause transportation delays resulting in even lower quality fish. Remote places like Hoonah will have to pile fish up until there is enough to justify transportation. The regulations are unworkable for processors. Can't imagine how data will flow from remote locations. Not in favor of IFQs, but if it must be, at least it should be a well thought out and designed system with 100 percent enforcement. The program should protect small coastal communities, and not discriminate between Alaska, Washington and Oregon.

11:49am **Bill Dignon, Hoonah Cold Storage**

Hoonah is 50 miles west of Juneau. It is 100 percent U.S. owned, and processes 2.5 million pounds of sablefish and halibut. Submitted letter objecting to IFQs on the basis that there was not enough time to review plan. Believes monitoring and enforcement will be inefficient and expensive. Hoonah is a small boat community which will lose out under this plan. It would be handicapped by not being a primary port. They are seeking the designation of Hoonah as a primary port.

11:53am **Terry Barry, Manager, Hoonah Cold Storage**

Same comments as previous testimony. Plan leaves a lot of questions unanswered and unclear, don't think it's the time to implement, more study is required. The plan will not only affect Hoonah Cold Storage, it would affect the whole town. Believes quotas will migrate out of the hands of small fishermen. Hate to see fishermen lose their livelihood.

11:56am **Questions to Dave Flannagan from Mr Cotter.**

Is it true that fish cannot be unloaded at a primary port?

Mr Flannagan replied: There is no difference between a primary port and a non-primary port. Both need six hours advance notice. Fish received in Hoonah would only have to go through a primary port if it were involved in foreign commerce.

11:59am lunch

1:16pm reconvene

1:18pm **Larry Powers, Kenai**

Would lose about \$350,000 investment in last 3 yrs under this program. Has fished halibut since 1978 until 1984. Because of the safety factor, need larger boat. Feel larger boats have had an advantage for quite some time. After brother drowned, began investing in a larger boat. 1989 buying halibut license year after year, but between 1984 until the present trying to get bigger boat. Still in process. Has not bought any gear yet. Concerned about his children, how will they get into fishery? Fish belong to everyone who wants to fish for them. Quota program good one, but everyone should have same amount. Should file for quota by certain day every year and fish for them during a certain time every year.

1:23 **Matt Donohoe, Sitka**

Fished for six years. Representing people who feel they have not had their point of view represented before the Council. Submitted petitions with over 200 signatures from people involved in the fishing industry. Also submitted Sitka resolution (No. 9147) requesting the Council not to approve IFQs. Have not had a public hearing in Sitka or the South east for years. Public process has not been adequately followed because there has not been adequate information available. The plan was only available in the last week, and people have not had time to digest it and comment. Council doesn't realize that plan has potential to destroy the economic base in the coastal communities. A social and economic study needs to be done on what this plan will do to their economic base specifically, not in general.

1:30pm **Buck Laukitis, False Pass Fish and Game Advisory, City of False Pass**

Read letter from Mayor of False Pass. They would likely be eligible for CDQ. They have been expanding the dock to assist in getting into groundfish, and development of current fisheries. IFQ plan not acceptable unless acceptable CDQ plan is incorporated. Current CDQ provisions in plan not acceptable because IPHC area 4A is not included at this time. All waters in BS/AI should be included. Still too many questions to be answered and inappropriate to vote on it at this time.

1:34pm **Howard Pendell, Sitka**

Some current concerns center around migration of IFQs into a few hands and larger boats. His suggestion to allay this concern is to tie initial QS allocation to a permit. A person would be allowed to buy and fish one more permit. This would allow for upgrading through the sale of a lower value permit, and the purchase of a higher value one. This would be like a multi-tiered limited entry system. Guarantees the diversity of the fleet and addresses the concerns of small communities. Guarantees are also there for larger vessels.

1:40pm **Linda Behnken, ALFA**

Thinks the implementation plan goes a long way in working out questions and concerns of various groups. One reservation they have, section 2F(2) allowing trawlers to purchase IFQs for halibut; they want it removed. This is a fixed gear fishery, and trawlers shouldn't be included in the plan. Unless fleet can be assured they can harvest their IFQs without the PSC cap there will still be a race for fish. Mortality will be reduced without race for fish. It is essential that the Council make that commitment to the fleet. Discards for which IFQ not held should be allowed. Generally speak in favor of plan. Like to see work groups continue their work.

1:46pm **Charlie Spud, Nunivak Island Fishermen's Association.**

Representing over 1,000 fishermen in their villages. Main concern has to do with the proposed CDQ program. Prefer a strong CDQ program, as described in Council preferred alternative. For halibut management, continue to receive 50% of catch limit for Area 4B as CDQ. Current poundage is not enough

for development in their area. CDQs were seen as a way of helping the communities get into fishing.

1:54pm **Steve Tvenstrup, Kenai**

Been in fishing since 1978. In 1986 purchased a Cook Inlet permit. He estimates he would get 10,000 pounds, but most of the money from this would go to enforcement. Does not want to get paid and watch the grass grow, like from Exxon. Just started black cod last year.

1:59pm **Ed Fuglvog**

Support IFQs and urge Council to move ahead with implementation of plan.

2:00pm **Brian L. King, Cordova**

Salmon and herring fisherman. Has problems with limitation on transferability. IFQ holders can buy salmon or herring permit, but salmon or herring permit holders cannot buy QS. IFQs can work as a management tool without restricting their sale. Only restriction on transferability should be that buyer be a U.S. citizen.

2:03pm **James Swift, Sitka**

Congratulate Council on work so far. Original idea was to reduce fleet in an overcapitalized fishery. Need an IFQ program. Needs to be done as soon as possible. There are more salmon boats coming into sablefish and halibut fishery this year. One concern is Section 2F(2) regarding by-catch for draggers and pot fisherman under a by-catch program. Doesn't think that is needed.

2:05pm **David O. Osterback, Sand Point**

Third-generation fisherman in long-line and other fisheries. With Peninsula Marketing Association. Current system involves death and damage to people and vessels. Management system needs to be changed but do not agree with current plan. A lot of unknowns. No opportunity to review the implementation document thoroughly. Concerns are:

1. small boat fleet would just about be eliminated from Halibut fishing - quotas will be too small to warrant participation (boats up to 50 ft);
2. QS will be too expensive for Alaska residents to buy.

Believe small communities should get preferential treatment in all fisheries. Not allowed fish shrimp, tanner crab or king crab in our own area. IFQs as presented here is not a solution. Council should establish a committee of halibut fishermen from all areas to develop a plan.

2:10pm **Alvin D. Osterback, Aleutians East Borough. Peninsula Marketing Association**

Reiterate comments above. Set aside a portion of fishery to area where residents of area will fish. If continue with plan as is, will create a class of large-boat fishermen.

2:35pm **Will Tillion**

Submitted a card only, "please vote yes on IFQs."

2:36pm **Drew Sparlin** Southcentral Longliners Association

Fished from age of ten. Current problems formed by greed. Fishermen able to overcome problems, but not possible to have a viable business under IFQs. Fishermen able to solve problems without bureaucratic involvement. Small guy without financial backing cannot survive. Plan needs to be reassessed in the context of the resource not how fishermen will benefit or how to cut them out. Pot fishery good idea. Tier method is great. Don't remove opportunity. Please continue efforts, but more in resource conservation mode.

2:46pm **Jeff Stephan**, United Fishermen's Marketing Association

Like to have public hearings immediately adjacent to Council deliberation. Draw attention to need for a Social Impact Analysis on this issue. Council needs to be fully aware of the social impacts before taking action. Draft implementation plan does include most of the issues needing clarification, but many matters are policy issues the Council needs to address. Continue to be opposed, but social impact assessment necessary if Council plans to go ahead.

2:52pm **Charlie Johnson**, boat owner

Sablefish, Crab, Pacific Cod fisherman from Kodiak. If this plan goes through, he might receive a good windfall, but not in favor of IFQs. Need impact studies regarding the impact on coastal communities. Believes coastal communities will shrivel up and die. There are a lot of other options which could be considered prior to this type of plan.

2:54pm **James E. Phillips**

A lot of things in implementation plan he doesn't like but a lot of things he does like. Doesn't satisfy everyone's needs, but neither did the Magnuson Act. Invited the Council to go ahead and implement the plan, please.

2:55pm **Jerome Selby**, Mayor of Kodiak Borough

Kodiak Borough stands opposed to concept of IFQs. Sees no conservation advantage from the plan, and the economic devastation of Alaskan coastal towns. System not in accord with Magnuson Act. Will cost a lot to implement. Create privileged class of fishermen and deny access to others. Quotas end up in overseas control through financial control. 72 percent of salmon permits are not owned by Kodiak Island residents. Thinks IFQs would be even worse than this. Should be no vested interest on Council -- suggest none of them or families should be eligible for quota shares. Table issue until April, publish changes, hold public hearings in April before going any further with policy.

3:03pm **Drew Scalzi**, North Pacific Fisheries Association, Homer.

Although their association endorsed plan, they still have concerns. The vote was 58 percent in favor. This reflects the level of concern. Participated in implementation team and feel the group put aside personal thoughts and worked on the issues at hand. Concerns:

1. Bona fide crewman, intent is great, but in halibut fishery it will penalize those who work toward eligibility and reward those who

falsify records;

2. also section 2F(2), door could conceivably be opened for trawl to buy long-line IFQs. If this is possible, take it out.
3. Still endorse 32 foot boat class to keep small boat fleet intact.

Believe work groups should continue.

3:07pm **Steve Fish**

Has been fishing halibut since 1975 and black cod since 1979. A vote not for IFQs is a vote for the status quo which stinks. Happy to pay implementation costs, and happy to buy Quota Shares. Plan is not perfect, but nothing is. Council has been working on this program for a long time, those who come up at the last minute have not followed the process and don't understand all the ramifications. Critical to maintain the combined implementation team/group to continue working into implementation. The other concern - by-catch provision for trawlers, take it out.

3:10pm **Kris Norosz, Petersburg Vessel Owners Association**

Association been in existence since 1930s. Witnessed all year fishery reduced to 24 hours. This is economically and ecologically disastrous. Industry participation is crucial in developing management regime. The implementation plan has helped to clarify many of the questions and problems. Still believe IFQ best solution to problems facing industry. Imperative that adequate enforcement, violators vigorously prosecuted and stiff penalties. There is no difference between primary ports and secondary ports, and the difficulty in selling salmon canneries in Seldovia is a result of the salmon market and poor performance. The transition into IFQs must be thorough, and should be done for 1994. Bareboat charter agreements section needs to be expanded. Agree that with IFQ system in place there will be no need for PSC limits, Council needs to clarify whether all permit holders have bona fide crew member status, and halibut fishermen in over 10 years but not qualified. Feel the trawl by-catch provision is inappropriate and suggest it be removed. Hope Council passes IFQs at this meeting.

3:17pm **Ron J. Kuczek, Anchorage**

This is first appearance before Council. Amazed at decisions Council has made in name of conservation. IFQs is worst yet. Sablefish and halibut plan before council blatantly against conservation. Develop a program which does not discriminate. Addressed a number of comments to the Secretary of Commerce. Cited conflicts of interest. An in-depth analysis is required to determine impacts.

3:24pm **Rick Weber, False Pass commercial fisherman**

Fished since 1977. Three aspects of concern: Social and economic, implementation costs, and qualification determination. Social/economic impacts of the plan will devastate many coastal communities in this state. Many rural coastal communities have developed through open access fishery. Oppose this plan, not specifically IFQs. Need social impact analysis. Vessel ownership is an irrelevant criteria for initial allocation.

3:29pm **Jere Murray, Seldovia.**

Seldovia Native Association is opposed to halibut and sablefish plan as presented. Eliminate many of those in Seldovia and limit upgrading. Seldovia Village Tribe, opposed as presented. Need to participate in CDQ program. Personal comments: concept of bona fide crew member be removed from plan completely; remove the 1988-90 participation -- go back to 84. To ensure that fishing power not be concentrated, lower

QS cap especially in 3A/3B to 1/10 of 1%. After initial allocation, let free enterprise system work. Immediately implement an alternative plan to eliminate derby and spread fishing throughout year.

3:38pm **Nancy Lande, South/Central Alaska Long-line Enterprise**

Represents a small boat organization of vessels 38 feet and under. Majority are in halibut fishery. Haven't had enough time or opportunity to comment on the plan. A plan of this magnitude deserves a one-on-one meeting in their own community. Need clarification of the freezer long-line exemption on by-catch, and where they fit in under definitions. Do halibut fishermen need sablefish IFQs for by-catch? Stressed halibut fishery is different from sablefish, they want the opportunity to work with the Council on specifics of halibut management, not have it lumped in with sablefish.

4:07pm **Jack Hill**

26 years in fishing. Statement that halibut will be available year round is incorrect. IPHC has asked for four or five month closure of the fishery. Costs of implementation too high. Plan flawed in who will qualify for shares, e.g. can crew of halibut boat for three years and not qualify, but fish for shark in Florida for four months and qualify? Should fix the flaws now before going any further. Sablefish and halibut are two different fisheries. Should be addressed separately. Teams should have more time to address the issues.

4:11pm **David T. Wenzlau, Juneau**

Been a crewman for 12 years on black cod and halibut vessels. Crew are back bone of industry, and should be included. Oppose transferable permits. Boat owners should not get all quota. If the present plan is implemented, there will be a loss of crewman. The Council's actions do not serve the public interest, they serve narrow sectional interests.

4:14pm **Chris Moss, Homer**

Although in favor of IFQs, current plan needs some changes. Crewmen should be included in the system. IFQs for by-catch in trawl fisheries should be removed. Quota in 3A and 3B should be valid for either area. When the TAC in one area is reached it should be closed, with the balance available in the other area.

4:17pm **Neil Huff**

Fishing sablefish for 15 years. In favor of IFQ plan. High time something was done. Not looking forward to having to participate in present saturated fisheries.

4:18pm **Beth Stewart, Peninsula Marketing Association, Aleutian East Borough.**

Representing fishermen on Aleutian Islands. While opposed to the scheme have tried to be constructive. Still cannot support. Program will result in lost revenues to communities because more fish will be landed outside their communities which rely on fish taxes. Enforcement is a problem. The system invites abuse. Vessel owners will be rewarded, not those who actually fished. The program removes the ability for communities to rely on the sea for livelihood and survival.

4:21pm **Leroy Cabana**

Owner/operator of a 45 foot vessel. System far too complicated. Council has tried to please everybody, but plan works to advantage of large processors and large companies. No-one will get a large allocation, and will have to buy quotas. Not fair in market because having to compete with large companies with money.

4:26pm **Tim Cabana**

Operates, 54 foot vessel. Too many questions about current plan. Too complicated. Something needs to be done, but this isn't it.

4:29pm **Bill Sullivan, Homer**

Limited time to review plan and to discuss with other fishermen. Plan says it aims to create minimum disruption, but it could destroy the industry. Fished halibut since 1981 but won't qualify as a bona fide crewman, yet salmon fishermen can qualify. Allowance should be made for small boats in the system. Strongly opposed to this system of IFQs.

4:36pm **Margaret Salmon**

Speaking on behalf of crew members who have worked their way through to owning their own vessel. They will not qualify as bona fide crew members. Women and natives will not be able to purchase quota unless they can borrow money. IFQs will not protect most small boat owners. Socio/economic impact has not been studied. This needs to be done prior to implementing the plan. All agree something must be done, but the up and coming young have no say in how this thing is being developed.

4:41pm **Paul Clampitt**

In favor of the plan. Been working on the program now for ten years. Current plan not perfect, nothing will be, but nothing insurmountable that could not be corrected. Tired of fishing in any weather that comes up during an opening. Cannot enforce what is happening now. Crew will lose jobs with trip limits. Can allow crew to buy into system, so they can have ownership.

4:46pm **Thorn Smith North Pacific Long Line Association**

Unable to obtain copy of plan to read thoroughly. Attended meetings of implementation groups in Seattle and got impression that enforcement and monitoring would be complicated. Don't know what it will cost, and where the money will come from. Freezer long-liners will be out of the system because of limits on transferability. Sablefish and halibut are two distinct fisheries and should be treated as such. Opposed to this particular system. Should design a system which is simple with free transferability. Would recommend a moratorium in the meantime. These comments related more to Pacific cod than the halibut or sablefish.

4:54pm **Per Odegaard**

2nd generation halibut fisherman. Safety is a major factor. Time to do something. The proposed system is not perfect, but there are still good reasons for it. The number of injuries per year has risen dramatically. This is clearly the result of the derby style of fishing. It is time to get on with it.

4:56pm **Mark Lundsten, F/V Masonic**

Think the document is good, despite typing and spelling errors. Covers questions well. Proofreading needed. Continuing the two committees and the holding of public meetings are good ideas. Question of the lifting of PSC is a tricky one. Overage and underage needs to be looked at. Overage could be deducted from next years catch. IPHC is a conservative organization, if it says it can make the system work, then that is a vote of confidence. The CDQ program is good. Should be flexibility in bare boat charter provisions. The idea from Sitka has some merit and is worthy of consideration.

5:02pm **Eric Olson, Jack Knudsen Fishing Vessel Owners Association**

[Eric Olson] Owner/operator for 8 years, fishing for 23 years. Easy to tear the system apart. Haven't heard anything new today. Have heard that conservation not taken care of. Without plan - no conservation. At least with plan there is a chance. The plan is designed to preserve the structure of the fleet, the status quo won't do that. Vessels will have to diversify into other fisheries. It is time to get on with it.

[Jack Knudsen] Can support 1 year moratorium on PSC, but still thinks will need to do something like quarterly by-catch limits in the future to avoid a race for fish. Favors an even more restrictive bona fide crew member definition. Like to see crucifiers legalized for halibut again. Better trained observers would be able to tell if crucifiers being used too harshly.

5:12pm **Jack Crowley, Fishing Vessel Owners Association**

Long line fishermen are operating 2 - 3 days without sleep. This is no way to run a rail road. If the Council has any feeling for its fellow man, put the system in place. Currently getting fresh Canadian fish all year round, but it is not as good as Alaskan fish. All the fresh fish is a result of the Canadian ITQ program. Alaskan fish is available for a few days.

5:16pm **John Crowley, Fishing Vessel Owners Association**

Everyone opposing system today had little participation. If these people get in, those with a long history of participation will lose out. In favor of ITQ system. Hope the fishery can be preserved.

5:18pm **Bruce Forde, Deep Sea Fishermens Union**

Fishing since 1965. Have been writing to Council to preserve open access so I could buy boat. But have now changed my mind. Too many boats. IFQs along with a provision that you have to be on board the vessel should keep quotas in the hands of the industry.

5:20pm **Bruce Jackson, Deep Sea Fishermens Union**

Union established in 1912, with 304 members. Most frightening concern is status quo. Urge Council to put system to Secretary of Commerce.

5:21pm **James Herman**

Agrees with quota on halibut. Bad weather prevented his fishing full day from 1987 - 1990. 1991 good weather, but no halibut in Cook Inlet. A quota based on a three year catch would not be good. On the whole the scheme is good, may get cheaper insurance rates because of improved safety. Hope to be able to pick a day of good weather when can make money.

5:24pm **Brian Harber, Deep Sea Fishermens Union**

Eight years since the halibut moratorium crashed in Washington DC. The issue of the cost of implementation is not an issue. Fishermen will pay the cost. Believes a bureaucratically managed fishery is better than no fishery at all. Members won't get anything out of this other than the right to fish the species from which they make the majority of their income. Support bona fide crew member provision, freezer long-line split, and ownership cap.

5:31pm **Jerald D. Eidem**

Attended last meeting and presented comments, will continue at this meeting. Support IFQs, but need an additional allocation to Cook Inlet fishermen to take account of bad weather and the Exxon oil spill. Have three daughters who have fished with him, but who do not qualify under the definition of bona fide crew members. May need a CDQ for Cook Inlet. May need 50 percent CDQ for women. Hopes it is not true that people with under 1,000 pounds will not be able to participate.

5:36pm **Chris Chavasse**

Resource is a common stock. There is no data west of the international date line. The subsistence issue is not addressed. In the estimates of funding, nothing is included for educating fisheries managers and those in the industry.

5:39pm **Pete Farris,**

Against IFQs at this stage. Plan seems far from perfect. Plan needs to be re-worked a lot. Against plan the way it is, but not against IFQs per se.

5:42pm **Robert Newman, King Cove**

Had 30 years fishing in King Cove. Also King Cove Council Member. Oppose IFQs. Concerned younger generation will not be able to participate. The system will create bankruptcies. Heard the decision on IFQs had already been made. Concerned about this given expense of travelling from King Cove.

5:45pm **Don Bridges, Kenai**

Against present plan. Too complicated. Sablefish and halibut are two separate and distinct fisheries.

5:46pm **Vic Horgan, Ocean Beauty Seafoods**

IFQs are a catch-22 between resource protection and something that can be afforded. Any system must be able to be monitored and enforced adequately. This program will result in losses to the State of Alaska. It favors other States over Alaska. The Canadian system requires more money, and Alaska has more boats and more fishermen. Advocates licence limitation with use it or lose it trip limits. Urges Council to reject program now and move on.

5:50pm **Paul Gronholdt, Sand Point**

Everyone he talked to in Sand Point is opposed to IFQs. It is poor policy. There is no money for monitoring

and enforcement. It is unAmerican, it is management from Hell.

5:51pm Linda Kozak, Kodiak Long-line Vessel Owners Association

Provided written comments. The Magnuson Act places conservation first. Believes high-grading will occur. The IPHC recommends 5 percent for overages, but what about sablefish? Sees difficulties in allocating ABC under an IFQ system. Fish stocks may shift. Under an IFQ system there is pressure to hold TACs at higher levels. The restrictions imposed in the plan could lead to inflexibility. The provision for an owner to be on board is OK, but could run into difficulties with corporations or partnerships. Feels Council needs legal opinions on this. Restrictions on transferability should be dropped. Any-one who wants to buy quota should be able to do so. Implementation cost of \$4 million is too conservative. IPHC has said that it is not happy with the monitoring and enforcement proposal. Based on Canadian and New Zealand experience, believe \$10 million more realistic. Concerned at concerted push for IFQs. Need to step back and examine program before moving forward. Wants to know why social impact analysis not completed.

6:00pm Marty Phelps

Opposed to IFQs. Further work needs to be done.

6:01pm Lloyd Cannon, All Alaska Seafoods

46 years fishing. Against IFQs. Been involved in 5 or 6 fisheries which have cycled down and up. Would have been bankrupt if couldn't have switched sideways. Under IFQs, in a few years everyone will be broke. Under IFQs people cannot switch sideways. IFQs would disenfranchise a lot of young people in Alaska. If there are too many people let some of them go broke. Let the capitalist system work.

6:06pm Linda Behnken, personal behalf

Wish to lend strong support to the Sitka proposal of allocations of blocks of quota, and having them tied to permits. Have seen the IFQ issue polarize the industry in Sitka. Believes this measure will ensure added support. Not new, raised three years ago, and again nine months ago. System would prevent quota accumulation as some fear. Fleet will remain diverse. Will ensure entry level will be able to be maintained. Will simplify the system. Vessel classes will become less relevant. Would like the Council to discuss this idea seriously.

6:09pm Adjournment

