

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

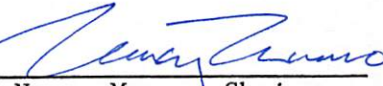
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Certified: 

Nancy Munro, Chairman

Date: 4.8.88

## ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES September 21-23, 1987 Anchorage, Alaska

The Advisory Panel for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in the Westward Hilton Hotel on September 21-23, 1987. The following members were present:

Nancy Munro, Chairman  
Robert Alverson, Vice Chairman  
Rupe Andrews  
Terry Baker  
Al Burch  
Lamar Cotten

Barry Fisher  
Oliver Holm  
Pete Isleib  
Cameron Jensen  
Rick Lauber

Dan O'Hara  
Ron Peterson  
Thorn Smith  
Rich White  
John Woodruff

Minutes of the May 18-20, 1987 Advisory Panel meeting were approved as read.

### C-5 Permit Review Policy

The AP recommends that the Council adopt the Policy and Planning Committee's changes to the Joint Venture Policy Statement. The motion carried unanimously.

The AP encourages the Council to (1) encourage and support U.S. participation in PICES, and (2) to encourage a bilateral agreement with the Soviets for immediate control of effort in the donut hole. The motion carried unanimously.

The AP urges the Council to review the concerns expressed by the Western Alaska Cooperative Marketing Association about the inshore yellowfin sole operations, direct the staff to provide an assessment of bycatch and any negative impacts, and to act accordingly. The motion carried unanimously.

The AP recommends that the Council require all midwater pollock fishermen to install operable cod end catch indicators as a matter of permit conditions and licenses. The motion carried unanimously.

C-6 Halibut Management

The AP voted to send out a revised version of the Halibut Management Goals for public comment with a vote on final approval in December. The revised version changes the words of goal #5 to read: "Assure that any resource allocation is fair and equitable to the fishermen concerned..." The motion carried unanimously.

The AP felt that the word "promote" implied that the Council's goal was just that--to promote resource allocation.

The AP voted not to send out halibut management proposals for public review at this time. The AP recommends that the Council solicit proposals for calendar year 1989 by the late spring meeting of 1988. This would allow the staff to develop analyses over the summer, the Council to review the analyses and vote to send out appropriate proposals for public review at the September meeting, and vote on a final decision to be made at the December meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

C-7 Sablefish Management

The AP encourages the Council to direct preparation of an analysis of two management options--license limitation and share quota system. The AP recognizes that as the analysis proceeds there may be changes in the options themselves or the number of options considered. The motion carried unanimously.

C-9 Future of Groundfish Management

The AP recommends that the Council adopt a revised Statement of Commitment on future groundfish management (see attached). The motion carried unanimously.

D-2 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Crab

The AP recommends that the draft Bering Sea Crab FMP go out for public comment. The motion carried 13 to 2.

On another matter regarding crab management the AP recommends that the Council review the ADF&G regulation requiring crab gear removal within seven days for safety reasons. The motion carried unanimously.

D-3 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish

The AP recommends that the Council accept Amendment 16 although we note with unease that several data bases used in the document, particularly rockfish and POP, are based on 1984 data. The motion carried unanimously.

The AP urges the Council to direct the plan team to address the confusion surrounding the NMFS regulation regarding the definition of directed fishing. Evidently, the definition indicates that if the catch of a given species exceeds 20% then the operation is assumed to be targeting. The question concerns 20% of what? Each tow? The daily catch? Or the total catch on board? The motion carried unanimously.

The AP received the Resource Assessment Documents (RAD) for both the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea at the beginning of our meeting Monday morning. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the AP to provide a thoughtful review. The AP requests that the Council direct the staff to deliver the RAD documents to AP members at least five working days prior to a meeting. The motion carried 14 to 1.

After receiving the plan team report on the Gulf of Alaska RAD and recognizing that there will be additional data which will be analyzed prior to the December meeting. The AP voted to accept the PT's recommendations of ABCs and use those numbers as preliminary TACs. The motion carried 14 to 1.

Major points of discussion included:

- (1) Concern over the increase in the pollock ABC in a year when the hydroacoustic survey failed.
- (2) Concern over the high ABC for flounders with no new data since 1984. The AP recognizes additional data should become available from the 1987 trawl survey.
- (3) Concern over lumping Pacific ocean perch with other rockfish which results in a net loss of 4,000 mt for the category.

In light of the expected changes in data between now and the December meeting the AP refrained from recommending apportionments between DAP, JVP, and TALFF. The motion carried 15 to 1.

The AP heard testimony from NMFS and ADF&G regarding rockfish management in the Gulf of Alaska for 1988. After substantial discussion it became apparent that there was still numerous unanswered questions and confusion over the federal and state roles in management.

The AP urges the Council to recommend that the appropriate people from NMFS and ADF&G work out the issues not covered in the RAD or FMP and provide the Council with a written response. The motion carried unanimously.

#### D-4 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish

The AP received the Bering Sea Resource Assessment Document at the beginning of the meeting and thus had a limited opportunity to give it a critical review. In addition, although Council staff commented on the document, Dr. Low was not available.

The AP voted to accept the PT's recommendations for ABC and use those numbers as preliminary TACs. The motion carried unanimously.

The AP discussed the question of Bering Sea pollock and the unresolved question of the interrelationship of Eastern Bering Sea and donut hole stocks. The PT explained the uncertainty regarding an interrelationship and that the existing RAD, therefore, does not consider the impact of fishing in the donut hole on Eastern Bering Sea stocks.

#### Miscellaneous

The AP requests that a draft copy of the prior meeting's minutes be placed in their notebooks at the beginning of each meeting.

Statement of Commitment

As Passed by the Policy and Planning Committee  
Anchorage, Alaska  
September 2, 1987

On December 7, 1984 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council adopted nine comprehensive management goals designed to provide a sense of direction for the course of its fishery management decisions over the next decade. The Council's comprehensive goals are consistent with, and supplemental to, the National Standards of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

By adopting the nine goals, the Council made a commitment to (1) assure future productivity of fish stocks, (2) support the stability and economic well-being of the fish industry and the communities dependent upon that industry, and (3) efficiently manage the resources within its jurisdiction for the benefit of the citizens of the U.S.

~~Rapid~~ Expansion of the domestic fleet harvesting fish within the EEZ off Alaska has made compliance with the MFCMA's National Standards and achievement of the Council's comprehensive goals more difficult, ~~if not impossible~~ under current management regimes. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council therefore is committed to ~~aggressively~~ pursue ~~implementation of~~ alternate management methods that will support the Comprehensive Goals adopted by the Council and achieve more productive and rational effort and harvest levels in the groundfish fishery.

To fulfill this commitment the Council will:

1. Develop strategies for license limitation or use of individual transferable quotas in the sablefish longline fishery. This will begin at the September 1987 meeting and the Council intends final implementation of the selected management strategy for the 1989 season.

2. ~~Implement~~ Consider a management strategy for the groundfish fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea by 1990. Establish a workgroup to consider the need for and impacts of alternative management techniques for groundfish with a full analysis report due by the late spring meeting of 1988. [Concurrent with this effort the Council at the December 1987 meeting will consider a moratorium on new entry into the fishery to address overcapitalization in the harvesting sector. The moratorium would allow the Council time to develop an overall strategy for groundfish management. At the December 1987 meeting the Council will consider:
- (a) Effects of a moratorium on the fishing industry and on the management process.
  - (b) Various criteria for inclusion in the fisheries under a moratorium, including, but not limited to:
    - (1) Harvest and sale of groundfish prior to moratorium date.
    - (2) Keel laid prior to moratorium date.
    - (3) Firm evidence of financial commitment for vessel construction or conversion prior to moratorium date.
  - (c) Alternative effective dates, including, but not limited to:
    - (1) December 31, 1987
    - (2) December 31, 1988
    - (3) Date of final Council action.]
3. Consider effort management in the halibut and crab fisheries.